LATIN SERIES · VOLUME 93

Sorrows

Ovid

Tristia · Epistulae ex Ponto

Sorrows

With the Letters from the Black Sea

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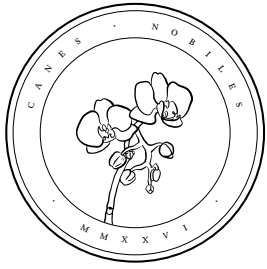
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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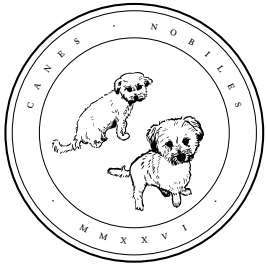

Volume 93 of the Canes Nobiles Latin interlinear texts

The Latin text follows Wheeler's Loeb text
of the Tristia and the Epistulae ex Ponto, of 1924

Set from the Perseus Digital Library's canonical Latin corpus, with corrections

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

Tristia II and IV.10 are each one poem in the edition; their episodes,
and every English section title, are this press's. ∗∗∗ marks a lost verse.

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OVID

Tristia

Sorrows

I.1 · THE BOOK SENT TO ROME

Ovid sends his little book to Rome without him, dressed as an exile's book should be: no purple, no cedar oil, no polished ends, its blots his tears. It is to greet the places he loved, say he lives but is not safe, and not defend him; a fair reader will weigh the storms and fear in which it was written. It should keep away from the Palatine, whence the thunderbolt struck him, unless anger has softened and someone hands it on. At home it should shun the three books that teach love and tell the fifteen books of changed forms that his fortune is now one of them. The road is long; it must hurry.

Parve — nec invideo — sine me, liber, ibis in urbem.
Little nor I-begrudge without me, book, you-will-go into the-city.

ei mihi, quod domino non licet ire tuo!
ah me, that for-master not it-is-allowed to-go your!

vade, sed incultus, qualem decet exulis esse;
go, but unadorned, such-as befits of-an-exile to-be;

infelix habitum temporis huius habe.
unhappy the-dress of-time this have.

nec te purpureo velent vaccinia fuco — 5
nor you with-purple let-veil hyacinths dye

non est conveniens luctibus ille color —
not is suitable to-mourning that color

nec titulus minio, nec cedro charta notetur,
nor the-title with-vermilion, nor with-cedar-oil the-paper let-be-marked,

candida nec nigra cornua fronte geras.
white nor on-black the-horns brow may-you-wear.

felices ornent haec instrumenta libellos;
happy let-adorn these trappings little-books;

fortunae memorem te decet esse meae.
of-fortune mindful you it-befits to-be my.
nec fragili geminae poliantur pumice frontes,
nor with-brittle the-twin let-be-polished pumice edges,
hirsutus sparsis ut videare comis.
shaggy with-scattered that you-may-seem locks.
neve liturarum pudeat; qui viderit illas,
nor-let of-blots it-shame; who shall-have-seen them,
de lacrimis factas sentiet esse meis.
from tears made will-perceive to-be my.
vade, liber, verbisque meis loca grata saluta:
go, book, and-with-words my places dear greet:
contingam certe quo licet illa pede.
I-shall-touch at-least with-which it-is-allowed them foot.
siquis, ut in populo, nostri non inmemor illi,
if-anyone, as in a-people, of-us not unmindful there,
siquis, qui, quid agam, forte requirat, erit,
if-anyone, who, what I-may-do, by-chance may-ask, shall-be,
vivere me dices, salvum tamen esse negabis;
to-live me you-will-say, safe still to-be you-will-deny;
id quoque, quod vivam, munus habere dei.
that too, that I-live, a-gift to-have of-a-god.
atque ita tu tacitus — quaerenti plura legendus —
and so you silent by-the-questioner more to-be-read
ne, quae non opus est, forte loquare, cave!
lest, what not need is, by-chance you-may-speak, beware!
protinus admonitus repetet mea crimina lector,
at-once reminded will-recall my charges the-reader,
et peragar populi publicus ore reus.
and I-shall-be-prosecuted of-the-people a-public by-the-mouth defendant.

tu cave defendas, quamvis mordebere dictis;
you beware you-may-defend, although you-will-be-bitten with-words;
causa patrocinio non bona maior erit.
a-cause to-advocacy not good greater will-be.
invenies aliquem, qui me suspiret ademptum,
you-will-find someone, who me may-sigh-for taken-away,
carmina nec siccis perlegat ista genis,
poems nor with-dry may-read-through those cheeks,
et tacitus secum, ne quis malus audiat, optet,
and silent with-himself, lest anyone ill-disposed may-hear, may-wish,
sit mea lenito Caesare poena levis.
may-be my softened Caesar punishment light.
nos quoque, quisquis erit, ne sit miser ille, precamur,
we too, whoever he-shall-be, lest may-be wretched he, pray,
placatos miseris qui volet esse deos;
appeased to-the-wretched who will-wish to-be the-gods;
quaeque volet, rata sint, ablataque principis ira
and-whatever-things he-shall-wish, ratified may-be, and-taken-away of-the-prince the-anger
sedibus in patriis det mihi posse mori.
seats in ancestral may-he-grant to-me to-be-able to-die.
ut peragas mandata, liber, culpabere forsan
that you-may-carry-out the-commissions, book, you-will-be-blamed perhaps
ingeniique minor laude ferere mei.
and-of-talent less than-the-praise you-will-be-reckoned my.
iudicis officium est ut res, ita tempora rerum
of-a-judge the-duty is as the-things, so the-times of-things
quaerere. quaesito tempore tutus eris.
to-seek. sought the-time safe you-will-be.
carmina proveniunt animo deducta sereno;
poems come-forth from-a-mind drawn-out calm;

nubila sunt subitis tempora nostra malis.
clouded are by-sudden times our evils.
carmina secessum scribentis et otia quaerunt;
poems the-retirement of-the-writer and leisure seek;
me mare, me venti, me fera iactat hiems.
me the-sea, me the-winds, me the-wild tosses storm.
carminibus metus omnis obest; ego perditus ensem
to-poems fear all is-in-the-way; I lost the-sword
haesurum iugulo iam puto iamque meo.
going-to-stick in-throat now I-think and-now my.
haec quoque quod facio, iudex mirabitur aequus,
these-things too that I-make, a-judge will-wonder-at fair,
scriptaque cum venia qualiacumque leget.
and-the-writings with indulgence of-whatever-sort will-read.
da mihi Maeoniden et tot circumice casus,
give me the-Maeonian and so-many cast-around misfortunes,
ingenium tantis excidet omne malis.
the-talent amid-so-great will-fall-away all evils.
denique securus famae, liber, ire memento,
finally careless of-fame, book, to-go remember,
nec tibi sit lecto displicuisse pudor.
nor to-you may-be read to-have-displeased shame.
non ita se nobis praebet Fortuna secundam,
not so herself to-us shows Fortune favorable,
ut tibi sit ratio laudis habenda tuae.
that by-you may-be the-reckoning of-praise to-be-held your.
donec eram sospes, tituli tangebar amore,
while I-was safe, of-title I-was-touched by-love,
quaerendique mihi nominis ardor erat.
and-of-seeking to-me a-name the-ardor was.

carmina nunc si non studiumque, quod obfuit, odi,
poems now if not and-the-pursuit, which harmed, I-hate,
sit satis; ingenio sic fuga parta meo.
let-it-be enough; by-talent so flight gotten my.
tu tamen i pro me, tu, cui licet, aspice Romam.
you still go for me, you, to-whom it-is-allowed, look-at Rome.
di facerent, possem nunc meus esse liber!
the-gods would-make, I-could now my-own to-be book!
nec te, quod venias magnam peregrinus in urbem,
nor you, because you-come great a-stranger into the-city,
ignotum populo posse venire puta.
unknown to-the-people to-be-able to-come think.
ut titulo careas, ipso noscere colore;
though of-a-title you-may-lack, by-the-very you-will-be-known color;
dissimulare velis, te liquet esse meum.
to-dissemble you-may-wish, you it-is-clear to-be mine.
clam tamen intrato, ne te mea carmina laedant;
secretly still enter, lest you my poems may-harm;
non sunt ut quondam plena favoris erant.
not they-are as once full of-favor they-were.
siquis erit, qui te, quia sis meus, esse legendum
if-anyone shall-be, who you, because you-may-be mine, to-be to-be-read
non putet, e gremio reiciatque suo,
not may-think, from lap and-may-throw-out his,
“inspice” dic “titulum. non sum praeceptor amoris;
“look-at” say “the-title. not I-am the-teacher of-love;
quas meruit, poenas iam dedit illud opus.”
which it-deserved, the-penalty already has-paid that work.”
forsitan expectes, an in alta Palatia missum
perhaps you-may-expect, whether to the-high Palatine sent

scandere te iubeam Caesareamque domum.
to-climb you I-may-bid and-Caesar's house.
ignoscant augusta mihi loca dique locorum!
let-forgive august me places and-the-gods of-the-places!
venit in hoc illa fulmen ab arce caput.
came on this that the-thunderbolt from citadel head.
esse quidem memini mitissima sedibus illis
to-be indeed I-remember most-gentle in-seats those
numina, sed timeo qui nocuere deos.
divinities, but I-fear who have-harmed gods.
terretur minimo pennae stridore columba,
is-terrified by-the-least of-a-feather whir the-dove,
unguibus, accipiter, saucia facta tuis.
by-claws, hawk, wounded made your.
nec procul a stabulis audet discedere, siqua
nor far from the-folds dares to-depart, if-any
excussa est avidi dentibus agna lupi.
snatched has-been of-the-greedy from-the-teeth lamb wolf.
vitaret caelum Phaethon, si viveret, et quos
would-shun the-sky Phaethon, if he-lived, and which
optarat stulte, tangere nollet equos.
he-had-wished foolishly, to-touch would-not-wish the-horses.
me quoque, quae sensi, fateor Iovis arma timere:
me too, which I-have-felt, I-confess of-Jove the-arms to-fear:
me reor infesto, cum tonat, igne peti.
me I-think by-hostile, when he-thunders, fire to-be-aimed-at.
quicumque Argolica de classe Capherea fugit,
whoever Argive from fleet Caphereus has-fled,
semper ab Euboicis vela retorsit aquis;
always from Euboean sails has-turned-back waters;

et mea cumba semel vasta percussa procella
and my skiff once by-vast struck storm
illum, quo laesa est, horret adire locum.
that, by-which harmed it-was, dreads to-approach place.
ergo cave, liber, et timida circumspice mente,
so beware, book, and with-timid look-around mind,
ut satis a media sit tibi plebe legi.
that enough by middle may-be for-you the-common-people to-be-read.
dum petit infirmis nimium sublimia pennis
while he-seeks with-weak too lofty-things wings
Icarus, aequoreas nomine fecit aquas.
Icarus, sea-like by-his-name made waters.
difficile est tamen hinc, remis utaris an aura,
difficult it-is still from-here, with-oars whether-you-may-use or the-breeze,
dicere: consilium resque locusque dabunt.
to-say: counsel and-the-thing and-the-place will-give.
si poteris vacuo tradi, si cuncta videbis
if you-shall-be-able to-one-at-leisure to-be-handed-over, if all-things you-shall-see
mitia, si vires fregerit ira suas,
gentle, if force shall-have-broken anger its,
siquis erit, qui te dubitantem et adire timentem
if-anyone shall-be, who you hesitating and to-approach fearing
tradat, et ante tamen pauca loquatur, adi.
may-hand-over, and before still a-few-things may-speak, approach.
luce bona dominoque tuo felicior ipso
on-a-day good and-than-master your happier himself
pervenias illuc et mala nostra leves.
may-you-arrive there and the-evils our may-you-lighten.
namque ea vel nemo, vel qui mihi vulnera fecit
for those either no-one, or who to-me wounds made

solus Achilleo tollere more potest.
alone in-Achilles' to-remove way can.

tantum ne noceas, dum vis prodesse, videto —
only lest you-may-harm, while you-wish to-help, see

nam spes est animi nostra timore minor —
for the-hope is of-mind our than-fear less

quaeque quiescebat, ne mota resaeviat ira
and-which was-at-rest, lest stirred may-rage-again the-anger

et poenae tu sis altera causa, cave!
and of-punishment you may-be a-second cause, beware!

cum tamen in nostrum fueris penetrale receptus,
when still into our you-shall-have-been sanctuary received,

contigerisque tuam, scrinia curva, domum,
and-shall-have-reached your, the-cases curved, home,

aspicies illic positos ex ordine fratres,
you-will-see there placed in order your-brothers,

quos studium cunctos evigilavit idem.
whom pursuit all kept-awake the-same.

cetera turba palam titulos ostendet apertos,
the-rest crowd openly titles will-show open,

et sua detecta nomina fronte geret;
and their uncovered names on-brow will-wear;

tres procul obscura latitantes parte videbis, —
three far in-dark lurking part you-will-see,

sic quoque, quod nemo nescit, amare docent.
so too, as no-one knows-not, to-love they-teach.

hos tu vel fugias, vel, si satis oris habebis,
these you either may-shun, or, if enough of-face you-shall-have,

Oedipodas facito Telegonosque voces.
Oedipuses see-to-it and-Telegonuses you-call.

deque tribus, moneo, si qua est tibi cura parentis,
and-of three, I-warn, if any is to-you care of-your-parent,
ne quemquam, quamvis ipse docebit, ames.
not any, although he-himself will-teach, may-you-love.
sunt quoque mutatae, ter quinque volumina, formae,
there-are too changed, thrice five volumes, forms,
nuper ab exequiis carmina rapta meis.
lately from the-funeral poems snatched my.
his mando dicas, inter mutata referri
to-these I-entrust that-you-may-say, among the-changed to-be-reckoned
fortunae vultum corpora posse meae.
of-fortune the-face bodies to-be-able my.
namque ea dissimilis subito est effecta priori,
for it unlike suddenly was made to-the-former,
flendaque nunc, aliquo tempore laeta fuit.
and-to-be-wept-over now, at-some time joyful it-was.
plura quidem mandare tibi, si quaeris, habebam,
more indeed to-entrust to-you, if you-ask, I-had,
sed vereor tardae causa fuisse morae;
but I-fear of-slow the-cause to-have-been delay;
et si quae subeunt, tecum, liber, omnia ferres,
and if what-things come-to-mind, with-you, book, all you-were-to-carry,
sarcina laturo magna futurus eras.
a-load to-the-carrier great going-to-be you-were.
longa via est, propera! nobis habitabitur orbis
long the-road is, hurry! by-us will-be-inhabited the-world
ultimus, a terra terra remota mea.
furthest, from land land removed my.

Ovid prays to the gods of the sea as a storm rises: one god's anger need not be all the gods'. Waves rise like mountains, winds clash from every quarter, and the helmsman does not know what to flee or seek. He fears not death but this death, unburied in the sea, and is glad his wife is spared the sight. Caesar sentenced him to exile, not death, and he sails not for gain but to the Sarmatian shore. If his fault was folly, not crime, and he was loyal to Augustus, let the gods spare him. At last the clouds seem to thin.

Di maris et caeli — quid enim nisi vota supersunt? —
Gods of-the-sea and of-the-sky what indeed except prayers remain?

solvere quassatae parcite membra ratis,
to-loosen of-the-shattered spare the-limbs ship,

neve, precor, magni subscribite Caesaris irae!
nor, I-pray, of-great endorse Caesar to-the-anger!

saepe premente deo fert deus alter opem.
often pressing a-god brings a-god other help.

Mulciber in Troiam, pro Troia stabat Apollo;
Mulciber against Troy, for Troy stood Apollo;

aequa Venus Teucris, Pallas iniqua fuit.
fair Venus to-the-Teucrians, Pallas unfair was.

oderat Aenean propior Saturnia Turno;
hated Aeneas nearer the-Saturnian to-Turnus;

ille tamen Veneris numine tutus erat.
he still by-Venus' divinity safe was.

saepe ferox cautum petiit Neptunus Ulixen;
often fierce the-wary attacked Neptune Ulysses;

eripuit patruo saepe Minerva suo.
snatched-him from-uncle often Minerva her.

et nobis aliquod, quamvis distamus ab illis,
and to-us some, although we-stand-apart from them,
quis vetat irato numen adesse deo?
who forbids against-an-angry a-divinity to-be-present god?
verba miser frustra non proficientia perdo.
words wretched in-vain not profiting I-waste.
ipsa graves spargunt ora loquentis aquae,
the-very heavy sprinkle the-mouth of-the-speaker the-waters,
terribilisque Notus iactat mea dicta, precesque
and-terrible the-South-Wind tosses my words, and-the-prayers
ad quos mittuntur, non sinit ire deos.
to whom they-are-sent, not allows to-go the-gods.
ergo idem venti, ne causa laedar in una,
so the-same winds, lest cause I-be-harmed in one,
velaque nescio quo votaque nostra ferunt.
and-the-sails I-know-not whither and-the-prayers our carry.
me miserum, quanti montes volvuntur aquarum!
me wretched, how-great mountains are-rolled of-waters!
iam iam tacturos sidera summa putes.
now now going-to-touch the-stars highest you-would-think.
quantae diducto subsidunt aequore valles!
how-great parted sink the-sea valleys!
iam iam tacturas Tartara nigra putes.
now now going-to-touch Tartarus black you-would-think.
quocumque aspicio, nihil est, nisi pontus et aer,
wherever I-look, nothing is, except sea and air,
fluctibus hic tumidus, nubibus ille minax.
with-waves this swollen, with-clouds that threatening.
inter utrumque fremunt inmani murmure venti.
between both roar with-huge murmur the-winds.

nescit, cui domino pareat, unda maris.
knows-not, which master it-should-obey, the-wave of-the-sea.
nam modo purpureo vires capit Eurus ab ortu,
for now purple strength takes the-East-Wind from the-rising,
nunc Zephyrus sero vespere missus adest,
now Zephyr in-late evening sent is-present,
nunc sicca gelidus Boreas bacchatur ab Arcto,
now the-dry cold Boreas rages from the-Bear,
nunc Notus adversa proelia fronte gerit.
now the-South-Wind with-opposed battles front wages.
rector in incerto est nec quid fugiatve petatve
the-helmsman in uncertainty is nor what either-to-flee or-to-seek
invenit: ambiguis ars stupet ipsa malis.
he-finds: by-doubtful art is-stunned itself evils.
scilicet occidimus, nec spes est ulla salutis,
doubtless we-are-perishing, nor hope is any of-safety,
dumque loquor, vultus obruit unda meos.
and-while I-speak, face overwhelms the-wave my.
opprimet hanc animam fluctus, frustraque precanti
will-crush this breath the-billow, and-in-vain with-praying
ore necaturas accipiemus aquas.
mouth going-to-kill we-shall-take-in the-waters.
at pia nil aliud quam me dolet exule coniunx:
but dutiful nothing other than me grieves-for exiled my-wife:
hoc unum nostri scitque gemitque mali.
this one of-my she-both-knows and-laments evil.
nescit in inmenso iactari corpora ponto,
she-knows-not in boundless to-be-tossed bodies sea,
nescit agi ventis, nescit adesse necem.
she-knows-not to-be-driven by-winds, she-knows-not to-be-near death.

o bene, quod non sum mecum conscendere passus,
O well, that not I-have with-me to-embark allowed,
ne mihi mors misero bis patienda foret!
lest for-me death wretched twice to-be-suffered might-be!
at nunc, ut peream, quoniam caret illa periclo,
but now, though I-may-perish, since lacks she danger,
dimidia certe parte superstes ero.
by-half surely part surviving I-shall-be.
ei mihi, quam celeri micuerunt nubila flamma!
ah me, with-how swift have-flashed the-clouds flame!
quantus ab aetherio personat axe fragor!
how-great from the-ethereal resounds pole crash!
nec levius tabulae laterum feriuntur ab undis,
nor more-lightly the-planks of-the-sides are-struck by the-waves,
quam grave balistae moenia pulsat onus.
than heavy of-a-ballista walls strikes weight.
qui venit hic fluctus, fluctus supereminet omnes:
which comes here billow, billows overtops all:
posterior nono est undecimoque prior.
behind the-ninth it-is and-the-eleventh before.
nec letum timeo; genus est miserabile leti.
nor death I-fear; the-kind is wretched of-death.
demite naufragium, mors mihi munus erit.
take-away the-shipwreck, death to-me a-gift will-be.
est aliquid, fatove suo ferrove cadentem
it-is something, either-by-fate his-own or-by-sword falling
in solida moriens ponere corpus humo,
in solid dying to-lay the-body ground,
et mandare suis aliqua et sperare sepulcrum
and to-entrust to-his-own some-things and to-hope-for a-tomb

et non aequoreis piscibus esse cibum.
and not for-the-sea's fishes to-be food.
fingite me dignum tali nece, non ego solus
suppose me worthy of-such death, not I alone
hic vehor. inmeritos cur mea poena trahit?
here am-carried. undeserving why my punishment drags?
pro superi viridesque dei, quibus aequora curae,
O gods-above and-green gods, to-whom the-seas are-a-care,
utraque iam vestras sistite turba minas,
both now your stop crowd threats,
quamque dedit vitam mitissima Caesaris ira,
and-which gave life most-gentle of-Caesar the-anger,
hanc sinite infelix in loca iussa feram.
this allow unhappy to the-places ordered I-may-carry.
si quantam merui, poena me perdere vultis,
if as-great-as I-have-deserved, by-punishment me to-destroy you-wish,
culpa mea est ipso iudice morte minor.
the-fault my is the-very judge than-death less.
mittere me Stygias si iam voluisset in undas
to-send me Stygian if already he-had-wished into waves
Caesar, in hoc vestra non eguisset ope.
Caesar, for this your not he-would-have-needed help.
est illi nostri non invidiosa cruoris
there-is for-him of-our not grudged blood
copia; quodque dedit, cum volet, ipse feret.
abundance; and-what he-gave, when he-shall-wish, he-himself will-take.
vos modo, quos certe nullo, puto, crimine laesi,
you only, whom surely by-no, I-think, charge I-have-harmed,
contenti nostris iam, precor, este malis!
content with-our now, I-pray, be evils!

nec tamen, ut cuncti miserum servare velitis,
nor still, though all wretched to-save you-may-wish,
quod periit, salvum iam caput esse potest.
what has-perished, safe now the-head to-be can.
ut mare considat ventisque ferentibus utar,
though the-sea may-settle and-the-winds favoring I-may-use,
ut mihi parcatis, non minus exul ero.
though me you-may-spare, not less an-exile I-shall-be.
non ego divitias avidus sine fine parandi
not I wealth greedy without end of-acquiring
latum mutandis mercibus aequor aro,
the-broad for-exchanging wares sea I-plow,
nec peto, quas quondam petii studiosus, Athenas,
nor I-seek, which once I-sought eager, Athens,
oppida non Asiae, non loca visa prius,
towns not of-Asia, not places seen before,
non ut Alexandri claram delatus ad urbem
not that of-Alexander the-famous carried to city
delicias videam, Nile iocose, tuas.
the-delights I-may-see, Nile playful, your.
quod faciles opto ventos, — quis credere posset? —
that favorable I-wish-for winds, who to-believe could?
Sarmatis est tellus, quam mea vela petunt.
Sarmatian is the-land, which my sails seek.
obligor, ut tangam laevi fera litora Ponti;
I-am-bound, that I-may-touch of-the-left the-wild shores Pontus;
quodque sit a patria tam fuga tarda, queror.
and-that may-be from my-country so flight slow, I-complain.
nescio quo videam positos ut in orbe Tomitas,
I-know-not what I-may-see placed that in world the-Tomitans,

exilem facio per mea vota viam.
narrow I-make by my prayers the-way.
seu me diligitis, tantos conpescite fluctus,
whether me you-love, so-great check billows,
pronaque sint nostrae numina vestra rati;
and-favorable may-be to-our divinities your ship;
seu magis odistis, iussae me advertite terrae:
or-whether more you-hate, to-the-ordered me turn land:
supplicii pars est in regione mei.
of-punishment a-part is in the-region my.
ferte — quid hic facio? — rapidi mea corpora venti!
carry what here am-I-doing? swift my body winds!
Ausonios fines cur mea vela volunt?
Ausonian borders why my sails wish?
noluit hoc Caesar. quid, quem fugat ille, tenetis?
did-not-wish this Caesar. why, whom drives he, do-you-hold?
aspiciat vultus Pontica terra meos.
let-look-on the-face the-Pontic land my.
et iubet et merui; nec, quae damnaverit ille,
both he-orders and I-have-deserved; nor, which shall-have-condemned he,
crimina defendi fasque piumque puto.
charges to-be-defended both-right and-dutiful I-think.
si tamen acta deos numquam mortalia fallunt,
if still deeds the-gods never mortal deceive,
a culpa facinus scitis abesse mea.
from fault a-crime you-know to-be-absent my.
immo ita si scitis, si me meus abstulit error,
nay so if you-know, if me my carried-off error,
stultaque mens nobis, non scelerata fuit,
and-foolish the-mind to-us, not criminal was,

quod licet et minimis, domui si favimus illi,
as it-is-allowed even for-the-least, the-house if I-have-favored that,
si satis Augusti publica iussa mihi,
if enough of-Augustus the-public orders to-me,
hoc duce si dixi felicia saecula, proque
this leader if I-have-called happy the-ages, and-for
Caesare tura piis Caesaribusque dedi, —
Caesar incense to-the-dutiful and-to-the-Caesars I-have-given,
si fuit hic animus nobis, ita parcite divi!
if was this mind to-us, so spare gods!
si minus, alta cadens obruat unda caput!
if less, high falling may-overwhelm the-wave my-head!
fallor, an incipiunt gravidae vanescere nubes,
am-I-deceived, or begin heavy to-vanish the-clouds,
victaque mutati frangitur unda maris?
and-conquered of-the-changed is-broken the-wave sea?
non casu, vos sed sub condicione vocati,
not by-chance, you but under condition called,
fallere quos non est, hanc mihi fertis opem.
to-deceive whom not it-is-possible, this to-me you-bring help.

Ovid recalls his last night in Rome. Caesar's order left him no time to prepare. Only one or two friends stayed, his daughter was away in Libya, and the house mourned like Troy falling. Under the moon he prayed to the Capitol's gods to tell Caesar that his fault was an error, not a crime. He made excuses to delay and turned back again and again until the morning star rose, and left as if torn from his own limbs. His wife begged to share his exile, yielded, and fell senseless after he left, living on only to help him.

Cum subit illius tristissima noctis imago,
When comes-up of-that most-sad night the-image,
qua mihi supremum tempus in urbe fuit,
which for-me the-last time in the-city was,
cum repeto noctem, qua tot mihi cara reliqui,
when I-recall the-night, in-which so-many to-me dear-things I-left,
labitur ex oculis nunc quoque gutta meis.
slips from eyes now too a-drop my.
iam prope lux aderat, qua me discedere Caesar
already near the-day was-at-hand, in-which me to-depart Caesar
finibus extremae iusserat Ausoniae.
from-the-borders of-farthest had-ordered Ausonia.
nec spatium nec mens fuerat satis apta parandi:
nor time nor mind had-been enough fit for-preparing:
torpuerant longa pectora nostra mora.
had-grown-numb by-long hearts our delay.
non mihi servorum, comites non cura legendi,
not to-me of-slaves, companions not care of-choosing,
non aptae profugo vestis opisve fuit.
not of-suitable for-an-exile clothing or-means was.

non aliter stupui, quam qui Iovis ignibus ictus
not otherwise I-was-stunned, than who of-Jove by-the-fires struck
vivit et est vitae nescius ipse suae.
lives and is of-life unaware himself his.
ut tamen hanc animi nubem dolor ipse removit,
when still this of-mind cloud grief itself removed,
et tandem sensus convaluere mei,
and at-last senses recovered my,
adloquor extremum maestos abiturus amicos,
I-address for-the-last-time sad going-to-depart friends,
qui modo de multis unus et alter erant.
who just-now out-of many one and another were.
uxor amans flentem flens acrius ipsa tenebat,
my-wife loving me-weeping weeping more-bitterly herself was-holding,
imbre per indignas usque cadente genas.
a-shower over undeserving continually falling cheeks.
nata procul Libycis aberat diversa sub oris,
my-daughter far Libyan was-away apart under shores,
nec poterat fati certior esse mei.
nor she-could of-fate more-informed to-be my.
quocumque aspiceres, luctus gemitusque sonabant,
wherever you-might-look, mourning and-groaning were-sounding,
formaque non taciti funeris intus erat.
and-the-look not of-silent funeral inside was.
femina virque meo, pueri quoque funere maerent,
woman and-man at-my, children too funeral grieve,
inque domo lacrimas angulus omnis habet.
and-in the-house tears corner every has.
si licet exemplis in parvis grandibus uti,
if it-is-allowed with-examples in small great to-use,

haec facies Troiae, cum caperetur, erat.
this the-look of-Troy, when it-was-being-taken, was.
iamque quiescebant voces hominumque canumque,
and-already were-quieting the-voices both-of-men and-of-dogs,
Lunaque nocturnos alta regebat equos.
and-the-Moon nocturnal high was-guiding horses.
hanc ego suspiciens et ad hanc Capitolia cernens,
her I looking-up-at and by her the-Capitol discerning,
quae nostro frustra iuncta fuere Lari,
which to-our in-vain joined were Lar,
"numina vicinis habitantia sedibus," inquam,
"divinities in-neighboring dwelling seats," I-say,
"iamque oculis numquam templa videnda meis,
"and-now by-eyes never temples to-be-seen my,
dique relinquendi, quos urbs habet alta Quirini,
and-gods to-be-left, whom the-city holds high of-Quirinus,
este salutati tempus in omne mihi.
be greeted time for all by-me.
et quamquam sero clipeum post vulnera sumo,
and although late the-shield after wounds I-take-up,
attamen hanc odiis exonerate fugam,
nevertheless this of-hatred relieve flight,
caelestique viro, quis me deceperit error,
and-to-the-heavenly man, what me has-deceived error,
dicite, pro culpa ne scelus esse putet,
tell, for a-fault lest a-crime to-be he-may-think,
ut quod vos scitis, poenae quoque sentiat auctor.
that what you know, of-the-punishment too may-feel the-author.
placato possum non miser esse deo."
appeased I-can not wretched to-be the-god."

hac prece adoravi superos ego, pluribus uxor,
with-this prayer I-worshiped the-gods-above I, with-more my-wife,
singultu medios impediente sonos.
sobbing middle impeding sounds.
illa etiam ante Lares passis adstrata capillis
she even before the-Lares with-spread prostrated hair
contigit extinctos ore tremente focos,
touched the-extinguished mouth trembling hearths,
multaque in adversos effudit verba Penates
and-many against the-opposite poured-out words Penates
pro deplorato non valitura viro.
for lamented not going-to-avail husband.
iamque morae spatium nox praecipitata negabat,
and-now of-delay the-time night hastening was-denying,
versaque ab axe suo Parrhasis Arctos erat.
and-turned from pole its-own the-Parrhasian Bear was.
quid facerem? blando patriae retinebar amore,
what was-I-to-do? by-seductive of-country I-was-held love,
ultima sed iussae nox erat illa fugae.
the-last but of-ordered night was that flight.
a! quotiens aliquo dixi properante "quid urgues?
ah! how-often someone I-said hurrying "why do-you-press?
vel quo festinas ire, vel unde, vide."
either where you-hurry to-go, or from-where, consider."
a! quotiens certam me sum mentitus habere
ah! how-often fixed me I-have lied to-have
horam, propositae quae foret apta viae.
an-hour, for-intended which might-be suitable journey.
ter limen tetigi, ter sum revocatus, et ipse
three-times the-threshold I-touched, three-times I-was called-back, and itself

indulgens animo pes mihi tardus erat.
indulging the-mind the-foot to-me slow was.
saepe "vale" dicto rursus sum multa locutus,
often "farewell" having-said again I-have many-things spoken,
et quasi discedens oscula summa dedi.
and as-if departing kisses last I-gave.
saepe eadem mandata dedi meque ipse fefelli,
often the-same instructions I-gave and-me myself I-deceived,
respiciens oculis pignora cara meis.
looking-back with-eyes at-pledges dear my.
denique "quid propero? Scythia est, quo mittimur," inquam,
finally "why do-I-hurry? Scythia it-is, where we-are-sent," I-say,
"Roma relinquenda est. utraque iusta mora est.
"Rome to-be-left is. each just delay is.
uxor in aeternum vivo mihi viva negatur,
my-wife for ever living to-me living is-denied,
et domus et fidae dulcia membra domus,
and the-house and of-the-faithful the-sweet members house,
quosque ego dilexi fraterno more sodales,
and-whom I loved in-brotherly way comrades,
o mihi Thesea pectora iuncta fide!
O to-me by-Thesean hearts joined faith!
dum licet, amplectar: numquam fortasse licebit
while it-is-allowed, I-shall-embrace: never perhaps it-will-be-allowed
amplius. in lucro est quae datur hora mihi."
more. in profit is which is-given the-hour to-me."
nec mora, sermonis verba inperfecta relinquo,
nor delay, of-speech the-words unfinished I-leave,
complectens animo proxima quaeque meo.
embracing in-mind nearest each my.

dum loquor et flemus, caelo nitidissimus alto,
while I-speak and we-weep, in-the-sky brightest high,
stella gravis nobis, Lucifer ortus erat.
a-star heavy to-us, Lucifer risen had.
dividor haud aliter, quam si mea membra relinquam,
I-am-divided not otherwise, than if my limbs I-were-leaving,
et pars abrumpi corpore visa suo est.
and part to-be-broken-off from-body seemed its has.
sic doluit Mettus tunc cum in contraria versos
so grieved Mettus then when in opposite turned
ultores habuit proditionis equos.
avengers he-had of-treachery horses.
tum vero exoritur clamor gemitusque meorum,
then indeed rises the-shout and-groaning of-my-people,
et feriunt maestae pectora nuda manus.
and strike sad breasts bare hands.
tum vero coniunx umeris abeuntis inhaerens
then indeed my-wife to-the-shoulders of-the-departing clinging
miscuit haec lacrimis tristia verba meis:
mingled these with-tears sad words my:
“non potes avelli. simul hinc, simul ibimus,” inquit,
“not you-can to-be-torn-away. together from-here, together we-shall-go,” she-says,
“te sequar et coniunx exulis exul ero.
“you I-shall-follow and the-wife of-an-exile an-exile I-shall-be.
et mihi facta via est, et me capit ultima tellus:
also for-me made the-way was, and me takes the-furthest land:
accedam profugae sarcina parva rati.
I-shall-be-added to-the-exiled a-burden small ship.
te iubet e patria discedere Caesaris ira,
you orders from your-country to-depart of-Caesar the-anger,

me pietas. pietas haec mihi Caesar erit."
me devotion. devotion this to-me Caesar will-be."
talia temptabat, sicut temptaverat ante,
such-things she-was-trying, as she-had-tried before,
vixque dedit victas utilitate manus.
and-hardly gave conquered by-expediency her-hands.
egredior, sive illud erat sine funere ferri,
I-go-out, or that was without a-funeral to-be-borne,
squalidus inmissis hirta per ora comis.
squalid with-let-down shaggy over face hair.
illa dolore amens tenebris narratur obortis
she by-grief mad darkness it-is-told risen
semianimis media procubuisse domo,
half-dead in-the-middle to-have-fallen house,
utque resurrexit foedatis pulvere turpi
and-when she-rose-again fouled with-dust filthy
crinibus et gelida membra levavit humo,
hair and from-the-cold limbs lifted ground,
se modo, desertos modo complorasse Penates,
herself now, the-deserted now to-have-lamented Penates,
nomen et erepti saepe vocasse viri,
the-name and of-snatched-away often to-have-called husband,
nec gemuisse minus, quam si nataeque meumque
nor to-have-groaned less, than if both-of-daughter and-mine
vidisset structos corpus habere rogos,
she-had-seen built body to-have pyres,

et voluisse mori, moriendo ponere sensus,
and to-have-wished to-die, by-dying to-lay-down feeling,
respectuque tamen non periisse mei.
and-out-of-regard still not to-have-perished for-me.
vivat, et absentem, quoniam sic fata tulerunt,
let-her-live, and absent, since so the-fates have-brought,
vivat ut auxilio sublevet usque suo.
let-her-live that with-help may-support ever her.

I.4 · A STORM ON THE IONIAN

The Bear's guardian dips into the ocean, and Ovid crosses the Ionian bold only from fear. Waves high as mountains strike prow and stern, and the sailor, pale, gives up his art and lets the ship run where the waves drive it. Unless the wind changes, he will be carried to forbidden Italy, already in sight; he begs the breeze to obey the great god with him, though he both fears and longs to be driven back. As a wave strikes the side, he begs the sea gods to spare him: Jupiter's hostility is enough.

Tinguitur oceano custos Erymanthidos ursae,
Is-dipped in-the-ocean the-guardian of-the-Erymanthian bear,
aequoreasque suo sidere turbat aquas.
and-sea-like by-its-own star disturbs waters.
nos tamen Ionium non nostra findimus aequor
we still the-Ionian not by-our cleave sea
sponte, sed audaces cogimur esse metu.
will, but bold we-are-compelled to-be by-fear.
me miserum! quantis increscunt aequora ventis,
me wretched! with-how-great swell the-seas winds,
erutaque ex imis fervet harena fretis!
and-upturned from the-lowest boils the-sand straits!

monte nec inferior prorae puppique recurvae
than-a-mountain nor lower on-the-prow and-on-the-stern curved
insilit et pictos verberat unda deos.
leaps and the-painted lashes the-wave gods.
pinea texta sonant, pulsi stridore rudentes,
the-pine fabric sounds, beaten with-whistling the-ropes,
ingemit et nostris ipsa carina malis.
groans and at-our itself the-keel evils.
navita confessus gelidum pallore timorem,
the-sailor having-confessed cold by-pallor his-fear,
iam sequitur victus, non regit arte ratem.
now follows conquered, not guides by-skill the-ship.
utque parum validus non proficientia rector
and-as too-little strong not profiting the-driver
cervicis rigidae frena remittit equo,
of-neck stiff the-reins lets-go to-the-horse,
sic non quo voluit, sed quo rapit impetus undae,
so not where he-wished, but where snatches the-force of-the-wave,
aurigam video vela dedisse rati.
the-charioteer I-see sails to-have-given to-the-ship.
quod nisi mutatas emiserit Aeolus auras,
but unless changed shall-have-sent-forth Aeolus breezes,
in loca iam nobis non adeunda ferar.
into places now by-us not to-be-approached I-shall-be-borne.
nam procul Illyriis laeva de parte relictis
for far Illyrian the-left from side left
interdicta mihi cernitur Italia.
forbidden to-me is-discerned Italy.
desinat in vetitas quaeso contendere terras,
let-it-cease into forbidden I-pray to-strive lands,

et mecum magno pareat aura deo.
and with-me the-great let-obey the-breeze god.
dum loquor, et timeo pariter cupioque repelli,
while I-speak, and I-fear equally and-desire to-be-driven-back,
increpuit quantis viribus unda latus!
has-crashed with-how-great force the-wave the-side!
parcite caerulei, vos parcite numina ponti,
spare of-the-blue, you spare divinities sea,
infestumque mihi sit satis esse Iovem.
and-hostile to-me let-it-be enough to-be Jupiter.
vos animam saevae fessam subducite morti,
you my-life from-savage weary withdraw death,
si modo, qui periit, non periisse potest.
if only, who has-perished, not to-have-perished can.

I.5 · TO A FAITHFUL FRIEND

Ovid writes to the friend who first comforted him when he was stunned and longed to die. Fortune's smile brings friends and her thunder scatters them: barely two or three remain. He asks those few not to fear that loyalty offends the god, since Caesar prizes it even in an enemy, and to work for a softening of his anger. His sufferings outweigh Ulysses': Ulysses had faithful comrades, wandered near home, was a soldier with a goddess's help, and reached home at last. Ovid is weak, deserted, and crushed by Jove.

O mihi post nullos umquam memorande sodales,
O to-me after no ever to-be-remembered comrades,
et cui praecipue sors mea visa sua est,
and to-whom especially lot my seemed his-own was,
attonitum qui me, memini, carissime, primus
astounded who me, I-remember, dearest, first

ausus es adloquio sustinuisse tuo,
dared you-have with-address to-have-supported your,
qui mihi consilium vivendi mite dedisti,
who to-me the-counsel of-living gentle gave,
cum foret in misero pectore mortis amor,
when there-was in wretched breast of-death the-love,
scis bene, cui dicam, positis pro nomine signis,
you-know well, to-whom I-speak, set for name signs,
officium nec te fallit, amice, tuum.
duty nor you escapes, friend, your.
haec mihi semper erunt imis infixa medullis,
these-things for-me always will-be in-deepest fixed marrow,
perpetuusque animae debitor huius ero,
and-perpetual of-life a-debtor this I-shall-be,
spiritus et vacuas prius hic tenuandus in auras
the-breath and empty sooner this to-be-thinned into airs
ibit, et in tepido deseret ossa rogo,
will-go, and on warm will-desert the-bones pyre,
quam subeant animo meritorum oblivia nostro,
than may-steal-upon mind of-merits forgetfulness our,
et longa pietas excidat ista die.
and with-long devotion may-fall-away that time.
di tibi sint faciles, tibi di nullius egentem
the-gods to-you may-be favorable, to-you the-gods of-nothing lacking
fortunam praestent dissimilemque meae.
fortune grant and-unlike to-mine.
si tamen haec navis vento ferretur amico,
if still this ship by-wind were-borne friendly,
ignoraretur forsitan ista fides.
would-be-unknown perhaps that faith.

Thesea Pirithous non tam sensisset amicum,
Theseus Pirithous not so would-have-felt a-friend,
si non infernas vivus adisset aquas.
if not infernal alive he-had-approached waters.
ut foret exemplum veri Phoceus amoris,
that might-be an-example of-true the-Phocian love,
fecerunt furiae, tristis Oresta, tuae.
made-it the-furies, sad Orestes, your.
si non Euryalus Rutulos cecidisset in hostes,
if not Euryalus Rutulian had-fallen on enemies,
Hyrtacidae Nisi gloria nulla foret.
of-the-son-of-Hyrtacus Nisus glory none would-be.
scilicet ut fulvum spectatur in ignibus aurum,
doubtless as tawny is-tested in fires gold,
tempore sic duro est inspicienda fides.
in-time so hard is to-be-examined faith.
dum iuvat et vultu ridet Fortuna sereno,
while she-helps and with-face smiles Fortune serene,
indelibatas cuncta sequuntur opes:
untouched all-things follow riches:
at simul intonuit, fugiunt, nec noscitur ulli,
but as-soon-as she-has-thundered, they-flee, nor is-recognized by-anyone,
agminibus comitum qui modo cinctus erat.
by-throngs of-companions who just-now surrounded was.
atque haec, exemplis quondam collecta priorum,
and these-things, from-examples once gathered of-earlier-men,
nunc mihi sunt propriis cognita vera malis.
now to-me are by-my-own known true evils.
vix duo tresve mihi de tot superestis amici;
hardly two or-three to-me out-of so-many remain friends;

cetera Fortunae, non mea turba fuit.
the-rest Fortune's, not my crowd was.

quo magis, o pauci, rebus succurrite laesis,
by-which more, O few, to-things come-to-the-aid injured,

et date naufragio litora tuta meo,
and give to-the-shipwreck shores safe my,

neve metu falso nimium trepidate, timentes,
nor with-fear false too-much tremble, fearing,

hac offendatur ne pietate deus!
by-this be-offended lest devotion the-god!

saepe fidem adversis etiam laudavit in armis,
often loyalty adverse even he-has-praised in arms,

inque suis amat hanc Caesar, in hoste probat.
and-in his-own loves this Caesar, in an-enemy approves.

causa mea est melior, qui non contraria fovi
the-cause my is better, who not opposing cherished

arma, sed hanc merui simplicitate fugam.
arms, but this I-have-deserved by-simplicity flight.

invigiles igitur nostris pro casibus, oro,
may-you-watch therefore our for misfortunes, I-beg,

deminui siqua numinis ira potest.
to-be-lessened if-any of-the-divinity the-anger can.

scire meos casus siquis desiderat omnes,
to-know my misfortunes if-anyone desires all,

plus, quam quod fieri res sinit, ille petit.
more, than what to-happen the-matter allows, he seeks.

tot mala sum passus, quot in aethere sidera lucent
so-many evils I-have suffered, as-many-as in the-ether stars shine

parvaque quot siccus corpora pulvis habet;
and-small as-many-as dry bodies dust has;

multaque credibili tulimus maiora ratamque,
and-many beyond-credible we-have-borne greater and-ratified,
quamvis acciderint, non habitura fidem.
although they-have-happened, not going-to-have belief.
pars etiam quaedam mecum moriatur oportet,
part even a-certain with-me should-die it-behooves,
meque velim possit dissimulante tegi.
and-me I-would-wish it-could dissembling be-covered.
si vox infragilis, pectus mihi firmius aere,
if a-voice unbreakable, a-breast to-me firmer than-bronze,
pluraque cum linguis pluribus ora forent,
and-more with tongues more mouths were,
non tamen idcirco complecterer omnia verbis,
not still therefore would-I-embrace everything with-words,
materia vires exsuperante meas.
the-matter strength surpassing my.
pro duce Neritio docti mala nostra poetae
in-place-of the-leader Neritian learned the-evils our poets
scribite: Neritio nam mala plura tuli.
write: than-the-Neritian for evils more I-have-borne.
ille brevi spatio multis erravit in annis
he in-brief space many wandered in years
inter Dulichias Iliacasque domos:
between Dulichian and-Ilian homes:
nos freta sideribus totis distantia mensos
us straits by-stars whole distant having-measured
sors tulit in Geticos Sarmaticosque sinus.
fortune has-brought into Getic and-Sarmatian bays.
ille habuit fidamque manum sociosque fideles:
he had and-faithful band and-comrades faithful:

me profugum comites deseruere mei.
me exiled companions deserted my.
ille suam laetus patriam victorque petebat:
he his-own joyful country and-victor was-seeking:
a patria fugi victus et exul ego.
from my-country I-fled conquered and an-exile I.
nec mihi Dulichium domus est Ithaceve Samosve,
nor to-me Dulichium the-home is or-Ithaca or-Samos,
poena quibus non est grandis abesse locis,
a-punishment from-which not it-is great to-be-absent places,
sed quae de septem totum circumspicit orbem
but which from seven the-whole looks-around-on world
montibus, imperii Roma deumque locus.
hills, of-empire Rome and-of-gods the-place.
illi corpus erat durum patiensque laborum:
for-him the-body was hard and-enduring of-labors:
invalidae vires ingenuaeque mihi.
weak the-strength and-gentlemanly mine.
ille erat assidue saevis agitatus in armis:
he was constantly savage harried in arms:
adsuetus studiis mollibus ipse fui.
accustomed to-pursuits soft I-myself was.
me deus oppressit, nullo mala nostra levante:
me a-god has-crushed, no the-evils our lightening:
bellatrix illi diva ferebat opem.
a-warrior to-him goddess was-bringing help.
cumque minor Iove sit tumidis qui regnat in undis,
and-since less than-Jove may-be swollen who reigns in waves,
illum Neptuni, me Iovis ira premit.
him of-Neptune, me of-Jove the-anger presses.

adde, quod illius pars maxima ficta laborum,
add, that of-his part the-greatest invented labors,
ponitur in nostris fabula nulla malis. 80
is-placed in our tale none evils.
denique quaesitos tetigit tamen ille Penates,
finally sought reached still he Penates,
quaeque diu petiit, contigit arva tamen:
and-which long he-sought, touched fields still:
at mihi perpetuo patria tellure carendum est,
but by-me perpetually native land to-be-gone-without is,
ni fuerit laesi mollior ira dei.
unless shall-have-been of-the-injured milder the-anger god.

I.6 · TO HIS WIFE

Ovid's wife is dearer to him than Lyde was to the Clarian poet or Bittis to the Coan. She props up his ruin and has driven off, with brave friends, a man who would have plundered his goods. She is not behind Andromache or Laodamia, and with Homer to sing her she would outshine Penelope, whether she was born to virtue or learned it from the first of women. If his poems had more power, she would stand first among the heroines; as it is, she will live in them forever.

Nec tantum Clario est Lyde dilecta poetae,
Nor so-much by-the-Clarian is Lyde loved poet,
nec tantum Coo Bittis amata suo est,
nor so-much by-Coan Bittis loved her-own was,
pectoribus quantum tu nostris, uxor, inhaeres,
to-heart as-much-as you our, wife, cling,
digna minus misero, non meliore viro.
worthy of-a-less wretched, not of-a-better husband.

te mea supposita veluti trabe fulta ruina est:
by-you my propped as-if by-a-beam supported ruin is:
siquid adhuc ego sum, muneris omne tui est.
if-anything still I am, of-gift all your is.
tu facis, ut spolium non sim, nec nuder ab illis,
you bring-it-about, that a-spoil not I-may-be, nor be-stripped by those,
naufragii tabulas qui petiere mei.
of-shipwreck the-planks who have-sought my.
utque rapax stimulante fame cupidusque cruoris
and-as ravenous goading hunger and-greedy of-blood
incustoditum captat ovile lupus,
the-unguarded tries-to-seize sheepfold the-wolf,
aut ut edax vultur corpus circumspicit ecquod
or as greedy the-vulture a-body looks-around whether-any
sub nulla positum cernere possit humo,
under no laid to-discern it-may-be-able earth,
sic mea nescio quis, rebus male fidus acerbis
so my I-know-not who, to-things ill faithful bitter
in bona venturus, si paterere, fuit.
into the-goods going-to-come, if you-had-allowed, was.
hunc tua per fortis virtus summovit amicos,
him your through brave courage has-driven-off friends,
nulla quibus reddi gratia digna potest.
no to-whom be-returned thanks worthy can.
ergo quam misero, tam vero teste probaris,
so by-as wretched, so true a-witness you-are-proved,
hic aliquod pondus si modo testis habet.
here some weight if only a-witness has.
nec probitate tua prior est aut Hectoris uxor,
nor than-integrity your before is either of-Hector the-wife,

aut comes extincto Laodamia viro.
or the-companion to-her-dead Laodamia husband.
tu si Maeonium vatem sortita fuisses,
you if the-Maeonian bard obtained had,
Penelopes esset fama secunda tuae:
of-Penelope would-be the-fame second to-yours:
sive tibi hoc debes, nullo pia facta magistro,
whether to-yourself this you-owe, no dutiful made teacher,
cumque nova mores sunt tibi luce dati,
and-when with-the-new character were to-you light given,
femina seu princeps omnes tibi culta per annos
the-woman or-whether first all by-you cultivated through years
te docet exemplum coniugis esse bonae,
you teaches the-model of-a-wife to-be good,
adsimilemque sui longa adsuetudine fecit,
and-like to-herself by-long familiarity has-made,
grandia si parvis adsimulare licet.
great-things if with-small to-compare it-is-allowed.
ei mihi, non magnas quod habent mea carmina vires,
ah me, not great that have my songs strength,
nostraque sunt meritis ora minora tuis! —
and-our are than-merits lips smaller your!
siquid et in nobis vivi fuit ante vigoris,
if-anything even in us of-lively was before vigor,
extinctum longis occidit omne malis! —
extinguished by-long has-perished all evils!

prima locum sanctas heroidas inter haberes,
first place the-holy heroines among you-would-have,
prima bonis animi conspicerere tui.
first for-the-good-qualities of-mind you-would-be-seen your.
quantumcumque tamen praeconia nostra valebunt,
however-much still praises our shall-avail,
carminibus vives tempus in omne meis.
in-songs you-will-live time for all my.

I.7 · THE PORTRAIT AND THE METAMORPHOSES

Ovid asks a friend who wears his likeness in a ring to take the poet's ivy from it, since such garlands suit happy poets. A greater likeness is his poems, above all the Metamorphoses, which he burned in his flight, as Thestius' daughter, a better sister than mother, burned the brand of her son's life. Copies survived, and he asks that they be read, though they lack their last polish. He offers six lines to stand at their head, telling the reader that the books were snatched from their author's funeral and that he would have corrected them.

Siquis habes nostris similes in imagine vultus,
If-anyone you-have to-our like in image features,
deme meis hederas, Bacchica serta, comis.
take-away from-my the-ivy, Bacchic garlands, locks.
ista decent laetos felicia signa poetas:
those befit happy fortunate tokens poets:
temporibus non est apta corona meis.
for-temples not is suitable a-crown my.
hoc tibi dissimula, senti tamen, optime, dici,
this to-yourself dissemble, feel still, best-one, to-be-said,
in digito qui me fersque refersque tuo,
on finger who me both-carry and-carry-back your,

effigiemque meam fulvo complexus in auro
and-image my tawny clasped in gold
cara relegati, quae potes, ora vides.
dear of-the-banished, what you-can, the-face you-see.
quae quotiens spectas, subeat tibi dicere forsan
which as-often-as you-look-at, may-come-up to-you to-say perhaps
"quam procul a nobis Naso sodalis abest!"
"how far from us Naso our-comrade is-away!"
grata tua est pietas. sed carmina maior imago
welcome your is devotion. but songs a-greater image
sunt mea, quae mando qualiacumque legas,
are my, which I-entrust whatever-sort that-you-may-read,
carmina mutatas hominum dicentia formas,
songs changed of-men telling forms,
infelix domini quod fuga rupit opus.
unhappy of-its-master which the-flight broke work.
haec ego discedens, sicut bene multa meorum,
these I departing, as well many-things of-mine,
ipse mea posui maestus in igne manu.
myself with-my placed sad in fire hand.
utque cremasse suum fertur sub stipite natum
and-as to-have-burned her-own is-said under the-log son
Thestias et melior matre fuisse soror,
the-daughter-of-Thestius and better than-mother to-have-been sister,
sic ego non meritos mecum peritura libellos
so I not deserving with-me going-to-perish little-books
imposui rapidis viscera nostra rogis:
placed on-swift the-vitals our pyres:
vel quod eram Musas, ut crimina nostra, perosus,
either because I-was the-Muses, as the-charges our, hating,

vel quod adhuc crescens et rude carmen erat.
or because still growing and rough the-song was.
quae quoniam non sunt penitus sublata, sed extant —
which since not were utterly taken-away, but are-extant
pluribus exemplis scripta fuisse reor —
in-more copies written to-have-been I-think
nunc precor ut vivant et non ignava legentem
now I-pray that they-may-live and not idle the-reader
otia delectent admoneantque mei.
leisures may-delight and-may-remind of-me.
nec tamen illa legi poterunt patienter ab ullo,
nor still they to-be-read will-be-able patiently by any,
nesciet his summam siquis abesse manum.
he-will-not-know from-these the-final if-anyone to-be-absent hand.
ablatum mediis opus est incudibus illud,
taken-away from-the-midst work is anvils that,
defuit et scriptis ultima lima meis.
was-lacking and to-the-writings the-last file my.
et veniam pro laude peto, laudatus abunde,
and pardon instead-of praise I-seek, praised abundantly,
non fastiditus si tibi, lector, ero.
not disdained if by-you, reader, I-shall-be.
hos quoque sex versus, in prima fronte libelli
these too six verses, on the-first front of-the-little-book
si praeponendos esse putabis, habe:
if to-be-placed-before to-be you-shall-think, have:
“orba parente suo quicumque volumina tangis,
“bereft of-parent their whoever volumes you-touch,
his saltem vestra detur in urbe locus.
to-these at-least your may-be-given in city place.

quoque magis faveas, haec non sunt edita ab ipso,
and-by-which more you-may-favor, these not were published by himself,
sed quasi de domini funere rapta sui.
but as-if from of-the-master funeral snatched his.
quicquid in his igitur vitii rude carmen habebit,
whatever in these therefore of-fault the-rough song shall-have,
emendaturus, si licuisset, eram."
going-to-correct, if it-had-been-allowed, I-was."

I.8 · TO A FALSE FRIEND

Rivers will flow back to their springs and nature run backward, Ovid says, now that his old friend has proved faithless. A friend of long standing, he abandoned Ovid in his fall, gave him no word of comfort, and did not even follow his departure. He cannot have been born in Rome: he must come from the crags of Pontus, with veins of flint and a tigress for his nurse. Ovid asks him to make up for the fault by a late kindness.

In caput alta suum labentur ab aequore retro
To head high their-own will-glide from the-sea backward
flumina, conversis Solque recurret equis:
the-rivers, turned and-the-Sun will-run-back horses:
terra feret stellas, caelum findetur aratro,
the-earth will-bear stars, the-sky will-be-cleft by-the-plow,
unda dabit flammas, et dabit ignis aquas,
the-wave will-give flames, and will-give fire waters,
omnia naturae praepostera legibus ibunt,
everything of-nature contrary to-the-laws will-go,
parsque suum mundi nulla tenebit iter,
and-part its-own of-the-world no will-hold course,

omnia iam fient, fieri quae posse negabam,
everything now will-happen, to-happen which to-be-able I-used-to-deny,
et nihil est, de quo non sit habenda fides.
and nothing is, about which not may-be to-be-held belief.
haec ego vaticinor, quia sum deceptus ab illo,
these-things I prophesy, because I-was deceived by him,
laturum misero quem mihi rebar opem.
going-to-bring to-wretched whom to-me I-thought help.
tantane te, fallax, cepere oblivia nostri,
so-great you, deceitful-one, have-seized forgetfulness of-us,
afflictumque fuit tantus adire timor,
and-the-afflicted was so-great to-approach fear,
ut neque respiceres nec solarere iacentem,
that neither you-looked-back nor consoled the-prostrate,
dure, nec exequias prosequerere meas?
hard-one, nor the-funeral attended my?
illud amicitiae sanctum et venerabile nomen
that of-friendship sacred and venerable name
re tibi pro vili sub pedibusque iacet?
in-fact to-you for cheap and-under feet lies?
quid fuit, ingenti prostratum mole sodalem
what was-it, by-huge crushed weight a-comrade
visere et adloquiis parte levare tuis,
to-visit and by-addresses in-part to-lighten your,
inque meos si non lacrimam demittere casus,
and-upon my if not a-tear to-let-fall misfortunes,
pauca tamen ficto verba dolore pati,
a-few still with-feigned words grief to-allow,
idque, quod ignoti faciunt, vel dicere saltem,
and-that, which strangers do, even to-say at-least,

et vocem populi publicaque ora sequi, —
and the-voice of-the-people and-public mouths to-follow,
denique lugubres vultus numquamque videndos
finally mournful the-face and-never to-be-seen
cernere supremo dum licuitque die,
to-discern on-the-last while and-it-was-allowed day,
dicendumque semel toto non amplius aevo
and-to-be-said once in-whole not more lifetime
accipere, et parili reddere voce "vale"?
to-receive, and with-matching to-return voice "farewell"?
at fecere alii nullo mihi foedere iuncti,
but did-it others by-no to-me bond joined,
et lacrimas animi signa dedere sui.
and tears of-mind signs gave their.
quid, nisi convictu causisque valentibus essem
what, unless by-intimacy and-by-causes strong I-had-been
temporis et longi iunctus amore tibi?
of-time and long joined in-love to-you?
quid, nisi tot lusus et tot mea seria nosses,
what, unless so-many games and so-many my serious-things you-knew,
tot nossem lusus seriaque ipse tua?
so-many I-knew games and-serious-things myself your?
quid, si dumtaxat Romae mihi cognitus esses,
what, if merely at-Rome to-me known you-had-been,
ascitus totiens in genus omne loci?
admitted so-often into kind every of-place?
cunctane in aequoreos abierunt irrita ventos?
all-things into the-sea have-gone vain winds?
cunctane Lethaeis mersa feruntur aquis?
all-things in-Lethe's sunk are-borne waters?

non ego te genitum placida reor urbe Quirini,
not I you born in-the-peaceful think city of-Quirinus,
urbe meo quae iam non adeunda pede est,
city by-my which now not to-be-approached foot is,
sed scopulis, Ponti quos haec habet ora sinistri,
but by-crags, of-Pontus which this holds shores left,
inque feris Scythiae Sarmaticisque iugis:
and-on wild of-Scythia and-Sarmatian ridges:
et tua sunt silicis circum praecordia venae,
and your are of-flint around the-vitals veins,
et rigidum ferri semina pectus habet,
and hard of-iron seeds breast has,
quaeque tibi quondam tenero ducenda palato
and-who to-you once by-tender to-be-drawn palate
plena dedit nutrix ubera, tigris erat:
full gave a-nurse udders, a-tigress was:
aut mala nostra minus quam nunc aliena putares,
or the-evils our less than now foreign you-would-think,
duritiaeque mihi non agerere reus.
and-of-hardness by-me not you-would-be-charged accused.
sed quoniam accedit fatalibus hoc quoque damnis,
but since is-added to-fatal this too losses,
ut careant numeris tempora prima suis,
that may-lack the-numbers the-times first their,
effice, peccati ne sim memor huius, et illo
bring-it-about, of-fault that-not I-may-be mindful this, and with-that
officium laudem, quo queror, ore tuum.
the-duty I-may-praise, with-which I-complain, mouth your.

Ovid wishes a friend who reads him without hostility a life free of harm. While fortune holds, friends are many; when the sky clouds, a man is alone, as ants never make for empty granaries. Caesar himself approves loyalty to a fallen friend, and Pylades, Achilles' comrade, Theseus, and Nisus were praised for it even by enemies. Ovid rejoices that the friend's eloquence, which he foretold, has not lain hidden. His own life was clean and his old poem a jest, so his charges, though they cannot be defended, can be excused; he asks the friend to excuse them and not desert his cause.

Detur inoffenso vitae tibi tangere metam,
May-it-be-given unhindered of-life for-you to-touch the-goal,
qui legis hoc nobis non inimicus opus.
who read this to-us not hostile work.
atque utinam pro te possent mea vota valere,
and would-that for you could my prayers to-prevail,
quae pro me duros non tetigere deos!
which for me hard not have-touched gods!
donec eris sospes, multos numerabis amicos:
while you-shall-be safe, many you-will-count friends:
tempora si fuerint nubila, solus eris.
times if they-shall-have-been clouded, alone you-will-be.
aspicis, ut veniant ad candida tecta columbae,
you-see, how come to white roofs the-doves,
accipiat nullas sordida turris aves.
receives no squalid the-tower birds.
horrea formicae tendunt ad inania numquam:
granaries the-ants make-for to empty never:
nullus ad amissas ibit amicus opes.
no to lost will-go friend riches.

utque comes radios per solis euntibus umbra est,
and-as a-companion the-rays through of-the-sun for-those-going the-shadow is,
cum latet hic pressus nubibus, illa fugit,
when lies-hidden this pressed by-clouds, that flees,
mobile sic sequitur Fortunae lumina vulgus:
the-fickle so follows of-Fortune the-lights crowd:
quae simul inducta nocte teguntur, abit.
which as-soon-as drawn-over night are-covered, it-goes-away.
haec precor ut semper possint tibi falsa videri;
these-things I-pray that always they-may-be-able to-you false to-seem;
sunt tamen eventu vera fatenda meo.
they-are still by-the-outcome true to-be-confessed my.
dum stetimus, turbae quantum satis esset, habebat
while we-stood, of-a-crowd as-much-as enough would-be, had
nota quidem, sed non ambitiosa domus.
known indeed, but not ambitious the-house.
at simul impulsa est, omnes timuere ruinam,
but as-soon-as struck it-was, all feared the-ruin,
cautaque communi terga dedere fugae.
and-cautious to-common backs gave flight.
saeva neque admiror metuunt si fulmina, quorum
savage nor I-wonder-at they-fear if thunderbolts, by-whose
ignibus adflari proxima quaeque solent.
fires to-be-blasted nearest each are-wont.
sed tamen in duris remanentem rebus amicum
but still in hard remaining things a-friend
quamlibet inviso Caesar in hoste probat,
however hated Caesar in an-enemy approves,
nec solet irasci — neque enim moderatior alter —
nor he-is-wont to-be-angry nor indeed more-moderate another

cum quis in adversis, siquid amavit, amat.
when anyone in adversity, if-anything he-has-loved, loves.
de comite Argolici postquam cognovit Orestis,
about the-companion of-Argive after he-learned Orestes,
narratur Pyladen ipse probasse Thoas.
it-is-told Pylades himself to-have-approved Thoas.
quae fuit Actoridae cum magno semper Achille,
which was of-Actor's-grandson with great always Achilles,
laudari solita est Hectoris ore fides.
to-be-praised wont was by-Hector's mouth the-faith.
quod pius ad Manes Theseus comes iret amico,
that dutiful to the-Shades Theseus as-companion went to-his-friend,
Tartareum dicunt indoluisse deum.
the-Tartarean they-say to-have-grieved god.
Euryali Nisique fide tibi, Turne, relata
of-Euryalus and-of-Nisus the-faith to-you, Turnus, related
credibile est lacrimis inmaduisse genas.
credible it-is with-tears to-have-become-wet cheeks.
est etiam miseris pietas, et in hoste probatur.
there-is even for-the-wretched devotion, and in an-enemy it-is-approved.
ei mihi, quam paucos haec mea dicta movent!
ah me, how few these my words move!
is status, haec rerum nunc est fortuna mearum,
this the-state, this of-things now is the-fortune my,
debeat ut lacrimis nullus adesse modus.
ought that to-tears no to-be-present limit.
at mea sunt, proprio quamvis maestissima casu,
but my are, by-my-own although most-sad misfortune,
pectora processu facta serena tuo.
breasts by-the-advancement made serene your.

hoc eventurum iam tum, carissime, vidi,
this going-to-happen already then, dearest, I-saw,
ferret adhuc istam cum minus aura ratem.
was-bearing still that when less the-breeze ship.
sive aliquod morum seu vitae labe carentis
or-whether some of-character or of-life stain lacking
est pretium, nemo pluris emendus erat:
is a-price, no-one for-more to-be-bought was:
sive per ingenuas aliquis caput extulit artes —
or-whether through liberal anyone the-head has-raised arts
quaelibet eloquio fit bona causa tuo.
any by-eloquence becomes good cause your.
his ego commotus dixi tibi protinus ipsi
by-these I moved said to-you at-once yourself
"scaena manet dotes grandis, amice, tuas."
"a-stage awaits gifts great, friend, your."
haec mihi non ovium fibrae tonitrusve sinistri,
these-things to-me not of-sheep the-entrails or-thunders on-the-left,
linguave servatae pennave dixit avis:
or-the-tongue of-the-watched or-the-feather said bird:
augurium ratio est et coniectura futuri:
augury reasoning is and conjecture of-the-future:
hac divinavi notitiamque tuli.
by-this I-divined and-knowledge I-gained.
quae quoniam vera est, tota tibi mente mihique
which since true it-is, with-whole for-you mind and-for-me
gratulor, ingenium non latuisse tuum.
I-rejoice, talent not to-have-lain-hidden your.
at nostrum tenebris utinam latuisset in imis!
but ours darkness would-that it-had-lain-hidden in deepest!

expediit studio lumen abesse meo.
it-was-expedient for-pursuit light to-be-absent my.
utque tibi prosunt artes, facunde, severae,
and-as to-you profit arts, eloquent-one, severe,
dissimiles illis sic nocuere mihi.
unlike to-them so have-harmed me.
vita tamen tibi nota mea est. scis artibus illis
life still to-you known my is. you-know from-arts those
auctoris mores abstinuisse sui:
of-author the-character to-have-abstained his:
scis vetus hoc iuveni lusum mihi carmen, et istos,
you-know old this by-the-young played by-me song, and those,
ut non laudandos, sic tamen esse iocos.
as not to-be-praised, so still to-be jests.
ergo ut defendi nullo mea posse colore,
so as to-be-defended by-no my to-be-able color,
sic excusari crimina posse puto.
so to-be-excused charges to-be-able I-think.
qua potes, excusa, nec amici desere causam:
by-which you-can, excuse, nor of-a-friend desert the-cause:
qua bene coepisti, sic bene semper eas.
by-which well you-have-begun, so well always may-you-go.

Ovid's ship bears Minerva's name on her helmet, swift under sail or oar. She has carried him safely from Cenchreae through every storm, through the Hellespont to Imbros and Samothrace and on to Tempyra, where he chose to cross Thrace on foot while she sailed back to the Propontis. He prays that she may pass Byzantium and the Black Sea's Greek cities to Tomis, the Milesian city, and promises Minerva a lamb; he asks Castor and Pollux to favor both voyages, his ship's and his own.

Est mihi sitque, precor, flavae tutela Minervae,
There-is for-me and-may-there-be, I-pray, of-golden the-protection Minerva,
navis et a picta casside nomen habet.
the-ship and from the-painted helmet its-name has.
sive opus est velis, minimam bene currit ad auram,
whether need is of-sails, least well it-runs at breeze,
sive opus est remo, remige carpit iter.
or-whether need is of-the-oar, by-the-rower it-plucks its-way.
nec comites volucri contenta est vincere cursu,
nor its-companions with-winged content is to-conquer course,
occupat egressas quamlibet ante rates,
it-overtakes having-gone-out however-much before ships,
et pariter fluctus fert ac salientia longe
and equally the-waves bears and leaping from-afar
aequora, nec saevis victa madescit aquis.
seas, nor by-savage conquered grows-wet waters.
illa, Corinthiacis primum mihi cognita Cenchreis,
she, at-Corinthian first to-me known Cenchreae,
fida manet trepidae duxque comesque fugae,
faithful remains of-anxious both-leader and-companion flight,
perque tot eventus et iniquis concita ventis
and-through so-many happenings and by-unfair stirred winds

aequora Palladio numine tuta fuit.
seas by-Pallas' divinity safe was.
nunc quoque tuta, precor, vasti secet ostia Ponti,
now too safe, I-pray, of-the-vast may-she-cut the-mouths Pontus,
quasque petit, Getici litoris intret aquas.
and-which she-seeks, of-the-Getic shore may-she-enter waters.
quae simul Aeoliae mare me deduxit in Helles,
which as-soon-as of-Aeolian the-sea me led-down into Helle,
et longum tenui limite fecit iter,
and long by-narrow channel made the-journey,
fleximus in laevum cursus, et ab Hectoris urbe
we-bent to the-left our-course, and from of-Hector the-city
venimus ad portus, Imbria terra, tuos.
we-came to the-harbors, Imbrian land, your.
inde, levi vento Zerynthia litora nacta,
thence, by-a-light wind the-Zerynthian shores having-reached,
Threïciam tetigit fessa carina Samon.
Thracian touched the-weary keel Samos.
saltus ab hac contra brevis est Tempyra petenti:
the-leap from this opposite short is to-Tempyra for-one-seeking:
hac dominum tenus est illa secuta suum.
this master far has she followed her.
nam mihi Bistonios placuit pede carpere campos:
for to-me the-Bistonian it-pleased by-foot to-pluck plains:
Hellespontiacas illa relegit aquas
the-Hellespontine she sailed-back waters
Dardaniamque petit, auctoris nomen habentem,
and-Dardania seeks, of-its-founder the-name having,
et te ruricola, Lampsace, tuta deo,
and you by-the-rustic, Lampsacus, safe god,

quodque per angustas vectae male virginis undas
and-what through narrow of-the-carried ill maiden waves
Seston Abydena separat urbe fretum,
Sestos from-Abydene separates city strait,
inque Propontiacis haerentem Cyzicon oris,
and-on Propontic clinging Cyzicus shores,
Cyzicon, Haemoniae nobile gentis opus,
Cyzicus, of-the-Haemonian noble race work,
quaeque tenent Ponti Byzantia litora fauces:
and-which hold of-Pontus Byzantine shores the-jaws:
hic locus est gemini ianua vasta maris.
here the-place is of-the-twin door vast sea.
haec, precor, evincat, propulsaque fortibus Austris
these-things, I-pray, may-she-overcome, and-driven by-strong South-Winds
transeat instabilis strenua Cyaneas
may-she-pass unstable vigorous the-Cyanean
Thyniacosque sinus, et ab his per Apollinis urbem
and-the-Thynian bays, and from these through Apollo's city
arta sub Anchiali moenia tendat iter.
narrow under of-Anchialus walls may-she-stretch her-way.
inde Mesembriacos portus et Odeson et arces
thence the-Mesembrian harbors and Odessus and the-citadels
praetereat dictas nomine, Bacche, tuo,
may-she-pass-by called by-name, Bacchus, your,
et quos Alcathoi memorant e moenibus ortos
and whom of-Alcathous they-tell from the-walls sprung
sedibus his profugos constituisse Larem.
in-seats these fugitive to-have-established Lar.
a quibus adveniat Miletida sospes ad urbem,
from whom may-she-arrive the-Milesian safe to city,

offensi quo me detulit ira dei.
of-the-offended to-where me has-brought-down the-anger god.
haec si contigerint, meritae cadet agna Minervae:
these if shall-have-befallen, to-deserving shall-fall a-lamb Minerva:
non facit ad nostras hostia maior opes.
not makes for our a-victim larger means.
vos quoque, Tyndaridae, quos haec colit insula, fratres,
you too, sons-of-Tyndareus, whom this worships island, brothers,
mite precor duplici numen adesse viae!
gentle I-pray to-the-double divinity to-be-present journey!
altera namque parat Symplegadas ire per artas,
the-one for prepares the-Symplegades to-go through narrow,
scindere Bistonias altera puppis aquas.
to-cleave Bistonian the-other ship waters.
vos facite ut ventos, loca cum diversa petamus,
you see-to-it that winds, places when different we-seek,
illa suos habeat, nec minus illa suos.
that-one its-own may-have, nor less that-one its-own.

The whole book was written on the journey: in December on the Adriatic, then among the Aegean Cyclades on a second ship. Ovid wrote with a trembling hand while waves broke over the deck, and writing eased his cares. Now the storm rises again and the helmsman prays; Ovid fears the sea, and the shore still more, where barbarians wait for plunder. He asks the reader to pardon the book's faults, written not in his gardens but on a wintry sea. Let the storm win; he will end his song as it ends its fury.

Littera quaecumque est toto tibi lecta libello,
Letter whatever is in-whole by-you read little-book,
est mihi sollicito tempore facta viae.
was by-me in-anxious time made of-the-journey.
aut haec me, gelido tremerem cum mense Decembri,
either this me, in-cold I-was-trembling when month December,
scribentem mediis Hadria vidit aquis;
writing amid Adriatic saw waters;
aut, postquam bimarem cursu superavimus Isthmon,
or, after the-two-seaed in-course we-had-crossed Isthmus,
alteraque est nostrae sumpta carina fugae,
and-another was for-our taken ship flight,
quod facerem versus inter fera murmura ponti,
that I-was-making verses amid wild the-roars of-the-sea,
Cycladas Aegaeas obstipuisse puto.
the-Cyclades Aegean to-have-been-astonished I-think.
ipse ego nunc miror tantis animique marisque
myself I now wonder by-so-great both-of-mind and-of-sea
fluctibus ingenium non cecidisse meum.
waves talent not to-have-fallen my.

seu stupor huic studio sive est insania nomen,
whether stupor to-this pursuit or-whether is madness the-name,
omnis ab hac cura cura levata mea est.
all by this care care lightened my was.
saepe ego nimbosis dubius iactabar ab Haedis,
often I the-stormy doubtful was-tossed by Kids,
saepe minax Steropes sidere pontus erat,
often threatening by-Sterope's star the-sea was,
fuscabatque diem custos Atlantidos Ursae,
and-darkened the-day the-guardian of-the-Atlantid Bear,
aut Hyadas seris hauserat Auster aquis,
or the-Hyades with-late had-drained the-South-Wind waters,
saepe maris pars intus erat; tamen ipse trementi
often of-the-sea part inside was; still I-myself with-trembling
carmina ducebam qualiacumque manu.
songs was-drawing-out of-whatever-sort hand.
nunc quoque contenti stridunt Aquilone rudentes,
now too taut creak with-the-North-Wind the-ropes,
inque modum tumuli concava surgit aqua.
and-in the-manner of-a-mound hollow rises the-water.
ipse gubernator tollens ad sidera palmas
himself the-helmsman raising to the-stars palms
exposcit votis, inmemor artis, opem.
begs with-vows, unmindful of-skill, help.
quocumque aspexi, nihil est nisi mortis imago,
wherever I-have-looked, nothing is except of-death the-image,
quam dubia timeo mente timensque precor.
which with-doubtful I-fear mind and-fearing I-pray-for.
attigero portum, portu terrebor ab ipso:
I-shall-have-reached the-harbor, the-harbor I-shall-be-terrified by itself:

plus habet infesta terra timoris aqua.
more has hostile the-land of-fear than-the-water.
nam simul insidiis hominum pelagique laboro,
for at-once from-the-ambushes of-men and-of-the-sea I-labor,
et faciunt geminos ensis et unda metus.
and make twin the-sword and the-wave fears.
ille meo vereor ne speret sanguine praedam,
that from-my I-fear lest it-may-hope blood plunder,
haec titulum nostrae mortis habere velit.
this the-title of-our death to-have may-wish.
barbara pars laeva est avidaeque adsueta rapinae,
barbarian the-part on-the-left is and-to-greedy accustomed plunder,
quam cruor et caedes bellaque semper habent,
which blood and slaughter and-wars always have,
cumque sit hibernis agitatum fluctibus aequor,
and-though may-be by-wintry tossed waves the-sea,
pectora sunt ipso turbidiora mari.
breasts are than-the-very more-turbulent sea.
quo magis his debes ignoscere, candide lector,
by-which more these you-ought to-pardon, candid reader,
si spe sunt, ut sunt, inferiora tua.
if than-hope they-are, as they-are, inferior your.
non haec in nostris, ut quondam, scripsimus hortis,
not these in our, as once, have-we-written gardens,
nec, consuete, meum, lectule, corpus habes.
nor, accustomed-one, my, little-couch, body have-you.
iactor in indomito brumali luce profundo
I-am-tossed in untamed on-a-wintry day deep
ipsaque caeruleis charta feritur aquis.
and-itself by-the-blue paper is-struck waters.

improba pugnat hiems indignaturque quod ausim
shameless fights the-storm and-is-indignant that I-should-dare
scribere se rigidas incutiente minas.
to-write it rigid hurling threats.
vincat hiems hominem! sed eodem tempore, quaeso,
may-conquer the-storm the-man! but at-the-same time, I-pray,
ipse modum statuam carminis, illa sui.
myself a-measure may-I-set to-song, it to-its-own.

II.1 · WHY RETURN TO THE MUSES?

Ovid asks why he returns to the Muses, his crime, when his poems made Caesar condemn him and his Art. Like a defeated gladiator returning to the arena, he hopes the power that wounded him may heal him, since songs often win over the gods and Augustus himself had hymns sung to Ops and Apollo. He admits Augustus' anger is just, but says his fault gave Caesar matter for mercy: Jupiter would be unarmed if he struck every sinner, and Augustus, father of his country, governs with restraint.

Quid mihi vobiscum est, infelix cura, libelli,
What to-me with-you is, unhappy care, little-books,
ingenio perii qui miser ipse meo?
by-talent I-perished who wretched myself my-own?
cur modo damnatas repeto, mea crimina, Musas?
why lately condemned do-I-return-to, my crimes, the-Muses?
an semel est poenam commeruisse parum?
or once is the-penalty to-have-deserved too-little?
carmina fecerunt, ut me cognoscere vellet
songs made, that me to-know should-wish
omine non fausto femina virque meo:
with-omen not lucky woman and-man my:
carmina fecerunt, ut me moresque notaret
songs made, that me and-my-morals should-brand
iam demi iussa Caesar ab Arte mea.
already to-be-removed ordered Caesar from Art my.
deme mihi studium, vitae quoque crimina demes;
take-away from-me (my)-pursuit, of-life too the-crimes you-will-take-away;
acceptum refero versibus esse nocens.
received I-reckon to-verses to-be guilty.

hoc pretium curae vigilatorumque laborum
this reward of-(my)-care and-of-sleepless labors
cepimus: ingenio est poena reperta meo.
I-have-got: for-talent has-been punishment found my.
si saperem, doctas odissem iure sorores,
if I-were-wise, the-learned I-would-hate rightly sisters,
numina cultori perniciosa suo.
divinities to-worshiper deadly their-own.
at nunc — tanta meo comes est insania morbo —
but now so-great to-my companion is madness disease
saxa malum refero rursus ad ista pedem:
the-rocks the-hurt I-bring-back again to those foot:
scilicet ut victus repetit gladiator harenam,
doubtless as the-conquered seeks-again the-gladiator the-arena,
et redit in tumidas naufraga puppis aquas.
and returns into swelling the-shipwrecked ship waters.
forsitan ut quondam Teuthrantia regna tenenti,
perhaps as once the-Teuthrantian realms to-one-ruling,
sic mihi res eadem vulnus opemque feret,
so to-me the-thing same wound and-cure will-bring,
Musaque, quam movit, motam quoque leniet iram;
and-the-Muse, which roused, the-roused too will-soothe anger;
exorant magnos carmina saepe deos.
prevail-upon great songs often gods.
ipse quoque Ausonias Caesar matresque nurusque
himself too the-Ausonian Caesar and-mothers and-daughters-in-law
carmina turrigerae dicere iussit Opi.
songs to-the-turreted to-sing bade Ops.
iusserat et Phoebo dici, quo tempore ludos
he-had-bidden also to-Phoebus to-be-sung, at-what time the-games

fecit, quos aetas aspicit una semel.
he-held, which an-age sees one once.

his precor exemplis tua nunc, mitissime Caesar,
by-these I-pray examples your now, most-merciful Caesar,

fiat ab ingenio mollior ira meo.
may-be-made by talent gentler anger my.

illa quidem iusta est, nec me meruisse negabo —
that indeed just is, nor me to-have-deserved shall-I-deny

non adeo nostro fugit ab ore pudor —
not so-far our has-fled from face shame

sed nisi peccassem, quid tu concedere posses?
but unless I-had-sinned, what you to-grant could?

materiam veniae sors tibi nostra dedit.
the-matter for-pardon lot to-you our has-given.

si, quotiens peccant homines, sua fulmina mittat
if, as-often-as sin men, his thunderbolts should-send

Iuppiter, exiguo tempore inermis erit;
Jupiter, in-brief time unarmed he-will-be;

nunc ubi detonuit strepituque exterruit orbem,
now when he-has-thundered-his-last and-with-the-crash has-terrified the-world,

purum discussis aera reddit aquis.
clear dispersed the-air he-renders the-rains.

iure igitur genitorque deum rectorque vocatur,
rightly therefore and-father of-gods and-ruler he-is-called,

iure capax mundus nil Iove maius habet.
rightly the-spacious universe nothing than-Jove greater has.

tu quoque, cum patriae rector dicare paterque,
you too, since of-the-fatherland ruler you-are-called and-father,
utere more dei nomen habentis idem.
use the-way of-the-god the-name having same.
idque facis, nec te quisquam moderatius umquam
and-this you-do, nor than-you anyone more-moderately ever
imperii potuit frena tenere sui.
of-empire could the-reins to-hold his-own.

II.2 · MY LOYALTY TO CAESAR

Augustus has often pardoned defeated enemies and enriched men who bore arms against him. Ovid's case is better, since he never followed opposing arms. He swears that he always favored Augustus, prayed for his long life, and offered incense for him, and that his books, the Metamorphoses above all, are full of his name. Caesar's glory is not increased by songs, yet even Jupiter enjoys being sung, and a god is won by a little incense as by a hundred bulls.

tu veniam parti superatae saepe dedisti,
you pardon to-the-side conquered often have-given,
non concessurus quam tibi victor erat.
not going-to-grant which to-you the-victor was.
divitiis etiam multos et honoribus auctos
with-riches even many and with-honors increased
vidi, qui tulerant in caput arma tuum;
I-have-seen, who had-borne against head arms your;
quaeque dies bellum, belli tibi sustulit iram,
and-which the-day the-war, of-the-war for-you took-away the-anger,
parsque simul templis utraque dona tulit;
and-the-party at-once to-the-temples each gifts brought;

utque tuus gaudet miles, quod vicerit hostem,
and-as your rejoices soldier, that he-has-conquered the-enemy,
sic victum cur se gaudeat, hostis habet.
so conquered why himself he-should-rejoice, the-enemy has.
causa mea est melior, qui nec contraria dicor
cause my is better, who neither opposing am-said
arma nec hostiles esse secutus opes.
arms nor hostile to-have followed power.
per mare, per terras, per tertia numina iuro,
by the-sea, by the-lands, by the-third divinities I-swear,
per te praesentem conspicuumque deum,
by you present and-conspicuous god,
hunc animum favisse tibi, vir maxime, meque,
this mind to-have-favored you, man greatest, and-me,
qua sola potui, mente fuisse tuum.
in-what alone I-could, in-mind to-have-been yours.
optavi, peteres caelestia sidera tarde,
I-prayed, you-should-seek the-heavenly stars late,
parsque fui turbae parva precantis idem,
and-part I-was of-the-throng small praying the-same,
et pia tura dedi pro te, cumque omnibus unus
and pious incense I-gave for you, and-with all one
ipse quoque adiuvi publica vota meis.
myself too I-helped the-public vows with-mine.
quid referam libros, illos quoque, crimina nostra,
why should-I-mention books, those too, crimes our,
mille locis plenos nominis esse tui?
in-a-thousand places full of-the-name to-be your?
inspice maius opus, quod adhuc sine fine tenetur,
look-into the-greater work, which still without end is-held,

in non credendos corpora versa modos:
into not to-be-believed bodies changed forms:
invenies vestri praeconia nominis illic,
you-will-find of-your the-praises name there,
invenies animi pignora multa mei.
you-will-find of-mind pledges many my.
non tua carminibus maior fit gloria, nec quo,
not your by-songs greater becomes glory, nor whereby,
ut maior fiat, crescere possit, habet.
that greater it-become, to-grow it-could, it-has.
fama Iovi superest: tamen hunc sua facta referri
fame to-Jupiter is-over-abundant: still him his-own deeds to-be-related
et se materiam carminis esse iuvat,
and himself the-matter of-song to-be pleases,
cumque Gigantei memorantur proelia belli,
and-when of-the-Giants are-recounted the-battles war,
credibile est laetum laudibus esse suis.
credible it-is glad in-praises to-be his-own.
te celebrant alii, quanto decet ore, tuasque
you celebrate others, with-as-great it-befits mouth, and-your
ingenio laudes uberiore canunt:
with-talent praises richer sing:
sed tamen, ut fuso taurorum sanguine centum,
but still, as by-poured of-bulls the-blood a-hundred,
sic capitur minimo turis honore deus.
so is-won by-the-least of-incense honor a-god.

An enemy read Ovid's playful verses to Augustus so that his tributes would be judged unkindly, and once Caesar was angry no one could be his friend. Yet Augustus once approved his life as Ovid rode past on the horse Augustus had given him, and Ovid served as a juror without reproach. One storm sank the ship so often safe. Like Actaeon, he saw what he should not, and his modest but honorable house fell, though his talent made his name known to the world.

a! ferus et nobis crudelior omnibus hostis,
ah! cruel and to-us more-cruel than-all an-enemy,
delicias legit qui tibi cumque meas,
trifles has-read who to-you ever my,
carmina ne nostris quae te venerantia libris
songs that-not in-our which you revering books
iudicio possint candidiore legi.
with-judgment could more-candid to-be-read.
esse sed irato quis te mihi posset amicus?
to-be but angry who you to-me could a-friend?
vix tunc ipse mihi non inimicus eram.
hardly then myself to-myself not hostile was-I.
cum coepit quassata domus subsidere, partes
when has-begun shaken the-house to-subside, the-parts
in proclinatas omne recumbit onus,
onto the-leaning all rests weight,
cunctaque fortuna rimam faciente dehiscunt,
and-all-things fortune a-crack making gape,
inque suo cladem pondere tracta ruunt.
and-into by-their-own ruin weight dragged fall.
ergo hominum quaesitum odium mihi carmine quosque
so of-men gained hatred by-me by-song and-whom

debuit, est vultus turba secuta tuos.
it-ought, has the-face the-crowd followed yours.
at, memini, vitamque meam moresque probabas
but, I-remember, and-life my and-morals you-approved
illo, quem dederas, praetereuntis equo.
on-that, which you-had-given, of-(me)-passing horse.
quod si non prodest et honesti gloria nulla
but if not it-helps and of-honorable glory no
redditur, at nullum crimen adeptus eram.
is-rendered, at-least no charge incurred I-had.
nec male commissa est nobis fortuna reorum
nor badly entrusted was to-us the-fortune of-defendants
lisque decem deciens inspicienda viris.
and-suits by-ten ten-times to-be-examined men.
res quoque privatas statui sine crimine iudex,
affairs too private I-settled without charge a-judge,
deque mea fassa est pars quoque victa fide.
and-concerning my confessed has the-party even defeated good-faith.
me miserum! potui, si non extrema nocerent,
me wretched! I-could-have, if not the-last-things had-harmed,
iudicio tutus non semel esse tuo.
in-judgment safe not once to-be your.
ultima me perdunt, imoque sub aequore mergit
the-last-things me ruin, and-the-lowest beneath the-sea sinks
incolumem totiens una procella ratem.
unharmed so-often one storm the-ship.
nec mihi pars nocuit de gurgite parva, sed omnes
nor to-me a-part has-harmed from the-flood small, but all
pressere hoc fluctus oceanusque caput.
have-pressed-down this the-waves and-ocean head.

cur aliquid vidi? cur noxia lumina feci?
why anything did-I-see? why guilty eyes did-I-make?
cur imprudenti cognita culpa mihi?
why to-unwitting known was-the-fault to-me?
inscius Actaeon vidit sine veste Dianam:
unknowing Actaeon saw without clothing Diana:
praeda fuit canibus non minus ille suis.
prey he-was to-hounds not less he his-own.
scilicet in superis etiam fortuna luenda est,
doubtless among the-gods even mischance to-be-atoned is,
nec veniam laeso numine casus habet.
nor pardon wounded divinity chance has.
illa nostra die, qua me malus abstulit error,
on-that our day, on-which me evil carried-off error,
parva quidem periit, sed sine labe domus:
small indeed perished, but without blemish a-house:
sic quoque parva tamen, patrio dicatur ut aevo
so too small still, in-ancestral it-may-be-called that age
clara nec ullius nobilitate minor,
famous nor than-anyone's in-nobility less,
et neque divitiis nec paupertate notanda,
and neither for-riches nor for-poverty to-be-remarked,
unde sit in neutrum conspiciendus eques.
whence may-be to neither conspicuous a-knight.
sit quoque nostra domus vel censu parva vel ortu,
be too our house either in-wealth small or in-birth,
ingenio certe non latet illa meo;
by-talent surely not is-hidden it my;

quo videar quamvis nimium iuvenaliter usus,
which I-may-seem although too youthfully to-have-used,
grande tamen toto nomen ab orbe fero,
great still the-whole a-name from world I-bear,
turbaque doctorum Nasonem novit et audet
and-the-crowd of-the-learned Naso knows and dares
non fastiditis adnumerare viris.
not among-disdained to-number men.

II.4 · RELEGATION, NOT EXILE

Ovid's house has fallen, but so that it may rise if Caesar's anger softens, for the punishment was merciful. His life and property were spared, no senate or judge condemned him, and the edict calls him relegated, not an exile. No punishment is heavier than to displease so great a man, but gods can be appeased: Ovid has seen a vine grow on an elm Jupiter struck, and his hopes and fears come and go like winds.

corruit haec igitur Musis accepta, sub uno
has-fallen this therefore to-the-Muses welcome, under one
sed non exiguo crimine lapsa domus:
but not slight crime collapsed house:
atque ea sic lapsa est, ut surgere, si modo laesi
and it so collapsed has, that to-rise, if only of-the-wounded
ematuruerit Caesaris ira, queat,
has-softened of-Caesar the-anger, it-may-be-able,
cuius in eventu poenae clementia tanta est,
whose in the-outcome of-punishment clemency so-great is,
venerit ut nostro lenior illa metu.
it-has-come that than-our milder it fear.

vita data est, citraque necem tua constitit ira,
life given was, and-short-of death your has-stopped anger,
o princeps parce viribus use tuis!
O prince sparingly powers having-used your!
insuper accedunt, te non adimente, paternae,
besides are-added, you not taking-away, (my)-father's,
tamquam vita parum muneris esset, opes.
as-if life too-little of-a-gift were, riches.
nec mea decreto damnasti facta senatus,
nor my by-decree you-condemned deeds of-the-senate,
nec mea selecto iudice iussa fuga est.
nor my by-a-chosen judge ordered flight was.
tristibus invectus verbis — ita principe dignum —
with-harsh having-inveighed words so of-a-prince worthy
ultus es offensas, ut decet, ipse tuas.
avenged you-have the-offenses, as it-befits, yourself your.
adde quod edictum, quamvis immite minaxque,
add that the-edict, although harsh and-threatening,
attamen in poenae nomine lene fuit:
yet in of-penalty the-name mild was:
quippe relegatus, non exul, dicor in illo,
for relegated, not an-exile, I-am-called in it,
privaque fortunae sunt ibi verba meae.
and-special for-fortune are there the-words my.
nulla quidem sano gravior mentisque potenti
no indeed to-a-sane heavier and-of-mind master
poena est, quam tanto displicuisse viro;
penalty is, than so-great to-have-displeased a-man;
sed solet interdum fieri placabile numen:
but is-wont sometimes to-become appeasable a-divinity:

nube solet pulsa candidus ire dies.
a-cloud is-wont driven-away bright to-go the-day.

vidi ego pampineis oneratam vitibus ulmum,
I-have-seen I with-vine-leafy laden vines an-elm,

quae fuerat saevi fulmine tacta Iovis.
which had-been of-savage by-the-bolt struck Jove.

ipse licet sperare vetes, sperabimus usque;
yourself though to-hope you-forbid, we-shall-hope all-the-way;

hoc unum fieri te prohibente potest.
this one-thing to-be-done you forbidding can.

spes mihi magna subit, cum te, mitissime princeps,
hope to-me great comes, when you, most-merciful prince,

spes mihi, respicio cum mea facta, cadit.
hope to-me, I-look-back-at when my deeds, falls.

ac veluti ventis agitantibus aëra non est
and as the-winds stirring the-air not is

aequalis rabies continuusque furor,
equal rage and-continuous fury,

sed modo subsidunt intermissique silescunt,
but at-times they-subside and-interrupted fall-silent,

vimque putes illos deposuisse suam:
and-force you-would-think them to-have-laid-aside their:

sic abeunt redeuntque mei variantque timores,
so go-away and-return my and-vary fears,

et spem placandi dantque negantque tui.
and hope of-appeasing and-give and-deny you.

By the gods and the fatherland, and praying that Livia prosper with Caesar's son and grandsons, and that Victory attend his camps, Ovid begs Caesar to spare him and put away his thunderbolt. He does not ask to return, only for a milder and nearer exile. He is at the empire's farthest edge, at the mouths of the Danube, among Sarmatians, Getae, and Bastarnae, with only cold, enemies, and a frozen sea beyond. He asks not to lose peace with his country and not to fear capture by barbarians.

per superos igitur, qui dant tibi longa dabuntque
by the-gods-above therefore, who give to-you long and-will-give
tempora, Romanum si modo nomen amant,
times, the-Roman if only name they-love,
per patriam, quae te tuta et secura parente est,
by the-fatherland, which you safe and secure as-parent is,
cuius, ut in populo, pars ego nuper eram, —
of-which, as in the-people, a-part I lately was,
sic tibi, quem semper factis animoque mereris,
so to-you, which always by-deeds and-mind you-deserve,
reddatur gratae debitus urbis amor;
may-be-rendered of-the-grateful due city love;
Livia sic tecum sociales compleat annos,
Livia so with-you wedded may-fill years,
quae, nisi te, nullo coniuge digna fuit,
who, except you, of-no husband worthy was,
quae si non esset, caelebs te vita deceret,
who if not she-were, single you life would-become,
nullaque, cui posses esse maritus, erat;
and-no-one, to-whom you-could be a-husband, was;

sospite sit tecum natus quoque sospes, et olim
safe be with-you (your)-son too safe, and one-day
imperium regat hoc cum seniore senex;
the-empire may-he-rule this with the-elder an-old-man;
ut faciuntque tui, sidus iuvenale, nepotes,
as and-do your, star youthful, grandsons,
per tua perque sui facta parentis eant;
by your and-by of-their-own deeds parent may-they-go;
sic adsueta tuis semper Victoria castris
so accustomed to-your always Victory camps
nunc quoque se praestet notaque signa petat,
now too herself may-she-show and-familiar standards may-she-seek,
Ausoniumque ducem solitis circumvolet alis,
and-the-Ausonian leader with-wonted may-she-flutter-around wings,
ponat et in nitida laurea serta coma,
may-she-place and on shining the-laurel garlands hair,
per quem bella geris, cuius nunc corpore pugnas,
through whom wars you-wage, whose now with-the-body you-fight,
auspicium cui das grande deosque tuos,
auspice to-whom you-give great and-gods your,
dimidioque tui praesens es et aspicis urbem,
and-with-half of-you present you-are and see the-city,
dimidio procul es saevaque bella geris;
with-half far you-are and-savage wars wage;
hic tibi sic redeat superato victor ab hoste,
he to-you so may-return conquered victor from the-enemy,
inque coronatis fulgeat altus equis, —
and-on crowned may-he-shine high horses,
parce, precor, fulmenque tuum, fera tela, reconde,
spare, I-pray, and-thunderbolt your, cruel weapons, put-away,

heu nimium misero cognita tela mihi!
alas too-well to-wretched known weapons to-me!
parce, pater patriae, nec nominis inmemor huius
spare, father of-the-fatherland, nor of-name unmindful this
olim placandi spem mihi tolle tui!
some-day of-appeasing the-hope from-me take-away you!
non precor ut redeam, quamvis maiora petitis
not I-pray that I-may-return, although greater-things to-seekers
credibile est magnos saepe dedisse deos;
credible it-is great often to-have-given gods;
mitius exilium si das propiusque roganti,
milder an-exile if you-grant and-nearer to-one-asking,
pars erit ex poena magna levata mea.
a-part will-be from penalty great relieved my.
ultima perpetior medios eiectus in hostes,
the-last-things I-endure the-midst-of cast into foes,
nec quisquam patria longius exul abest.
nor anyone from-(his)-fatherland farther an-exile is-away.
solus ad egressus missus septemplicis Histri
alone to the-mouths sent of-the-sevenfold Hister
Parrhasiae gelido virginis axe premor —
of-the-Parrhasian by-the-icy maiden pole I-am-pressed
Ciziges et Colchi Tereteaque turba Getaeque
the-Ciziges and Colchians and-the-Teretean throng and-Getae
Danuvii mediis vix prohibentur aquis —
of-the-Danube by-the-midst hardly are-kept-off waters
cumque alii causa tibi sint graviore fugati,
and-while others for-cause by-you have-been graver banished,
ulterior nulli, quam mihi, terra data est.
more-remote to-none, than to-me, land given has-been.

longius hac nihil est, nisi tantum frigus et hostes,
farther than-this nothing is, except only cold and enemies,
et maris adstricto quae coit unda gelu.
and of-the-sea with-contracted which congeals the-water frost.
hactenus Euxini pars est Romana sinistri:
thus-far of-the-Euxine the-part is Roman left:
proxima Basternae Sauromataeque tenent.
nearest the-Bastarnae and-Sauromatae hold.
haec est Ausonio sub iure novissima vixque
this is Ausonian under rule the-last and-hardly
haeret in imperii margine terra tui.
clings on of-the-empire the-edge land your.
unde precor supplex ut nos in tuta releges,
whence I-pray a-suppliant that us into safe-places you-relegate,
ne sit cum patria pax quoque adempta mihi,
lest be with the-fatherland peace too taken-away from-me,
ne timeam gentes, quas non bene summovet Hister,
lest I-fear tribes, which not well keeps-off the-Hister,
neve tuus possim civis ab hoste capi.
nor-lest your I-can a-citizen by the-enemy to-be-taken.
fas prohibet Latio quemquam de sanguine natum
right forbids Latin anyone of blood born
Caesaribus salvis barbara vincla pati.
the-Caesars safe barbarian chains to-suffer.

Two charges ruined Ovid, a poem and a blunder; of the blunder he must keep silent. The other is that he taught obscene adultery in his Art. He suggests that Augustus, burdened with Pannonia, Illyria, Raetia, Thrace, Armenia, Parthia, Germany, and the city and its laws, never had time to read his jests. Had he read them, he would have found no crime: the Art is not stern, but it does not teach Roman brides to break the laws, and four of its verses bar respectable women.

perdiderint cum me duo crimina, carmen et error,
have-ruined though me two charges, a-poem and a-blunder,
alterius facti culpa silenda mihi:
of-the-one deed the-fault to-be-kept-silent by-me:
nam non sum tanti, renovem ut tua vulnera, Caesar,
for not I-am worth-so-much, I-should-reopen that your wounds, Caesar,
quem nimio plus est indoluisse semel.
whom by-far more it-is to-have-grieved once.
altera pars superest, qua turpi carmine factus
the-other part remains, in-which with-a-foul poem made
arguor obsceni doctor adulterii.
I-am-charged of-obscene the-teacher adultery.
fas ergo est aliqua caelestia pectora falli,
right then it-is in-some-things heavenly breasts to-be-deceived,
et sunt notitia multa minora tua;
and there-are than-the-notice many-things smaller your;
utque deos caelumque simul sublime tuenti
and-as the-gods and-heaven at-once lofty watching
non vacat exiguis rebus adesse Iovi,
not there-is-leisure for-small matters to-attend for-Jupiter,
de te pendentem sic dum circumspicis orbem,
on you hanging so while you-survey the-world,

effugiunt curas inferiora tuas.
escape cares lower-things your.
scilicet imperii princeps statione relicta
doubtless of-the-empire the-prince (his)-post abandoned
imparibus legeres carmina facta modis?
in-unequal would-you-read poems made measures?
non ea te moles Romani nominis urguet,
not that you mass of-the-Roman name presses,
inque tuis umeris tam leve fertur onus,
and-on your shoulders so light is-borne the-burden,
lusibus ut possis advertere numen ineptis,
to-trifles that you-could to-turn (your)-divinity foolish,
excutiasque oculis otia nostra tuis.
and-examine with-eyes idle-hours our your.
nunc tibi Pannonia est, nunc Illyris ora domanda,
now by-you Pannonia is, now the-Illyrian coast to-be-tamed,
Raetica nunc praebent Thraciaque arma metum,
the-Raetian now offer and-Thracian arms fear,
nunc petit Armenius pacem, nunc porrigit arcus
now seeks the-Armenian peace, now holds-out the-bow
Parthus eques timida captaque signa manu,
the-Parthian horseman with-timid and-the-captured standards hand,
nunc te prole tua iuvenem Germania sentit,
now you in-offspring your youthful Germany feels,
bellaque pro magno Caesare Caesar obit;
and-wars for great Caesar a-Caesar undertakes;
denique, ut in tanto, quantum non extitit umquam,
in-short, as in so-great, as-great-as not has-existed ever,
corpore pars nulla est, quae labet, imperii.
a-body part none is, which totters, of-the-empire.

urbs quoque te et legum lassat tutela tuarum
the-city too you and of-the-laws tires the-guardianship your
et morum, similes quos cupis esse tuis.
and of-morals, like which you-desire to-be to-yours.
nec tibi contingunt, quae gentibus otia praestas,
nor to-you fall, what to-the-nations the-peace you-provide,
bellaque cum multis inrequieta geris.
and-wars with many restless you-wage.
mirer in hoc igitur tantarum pondere rerum
should-I-wonder in this then of-such the-weight affairs
te numquam nostros evoluisse iocos?
you never our to-have-unrolled jests?
at si, quod mallem, vacuum tibi forte fuisset,
but if, what I-would-prefer, free for-you perhaps it-had-been,
nullum legisses crimen in Arte mea.
no you-would-have-read crime in Art my.
illa quidem fateor frontis non esse severae
that indeed I-admit of-brow not to-be stern
scripta, nec a tanto principe digna legi:
written, nor by so-great a-prince worthy to-be-read:
non tamen idcirco legum contraria iussis
not still for-that-reason of-the-laws contrary to-the-commands
sunt ea Romanas erudiuntque nurus.
are they Roman and-they-teach brides.
neve, quibus scribam, possis dubitare, libellos,
and-lest, for-whom I-write, you-could to-doubt, the-little-books,
quattuor hos versus e tribus unus habet:
four these verses of three one has:
“este procul, vittae tenues, insigne pudoris,
“be far-off, headbands slender, sign of-modesty,

quaeque tegis medios instita longa pedes!
and-you-who cover the-middle flounce long feet!
nil nisi legitimum concessaque furta canemus,
nothing except lawful and-permitted stolen-loves we-shall-sing,
inque meo nullum carmine crimen erit."
and-in my no song crime shall-be."
ecquid ab hac omnes rigide summovimus Arte,
have-I-not from this all strictly barred Art,
quas stola contingi vittaque sumpta vetat?
whom the-stole to-be-touched and-headband assumed forbids?

II.7 · EVERYTHING CAN CORRUPT

If a matron can learn wrong from any poem, she should read nothing: Ennius' Annals tell how Ilia became a mother, and Lucretius' opening names Venus as the mother of the Romans. Fire, medicine, the sword, and eloquence can each harm or help. The games, the circus, the colonnades, and the temples of Jupiter, Juno, Pallas, Mars, and Isis all remind the unchaste of love. His Art warned freeborn women away, and reading tender verse is no crime, since even Vestals see harlots.

"at matrona potest alienis artibus uti,
"but a-matron can of-another arts use,
quodque trahat, quamvis non doceatur, habet."
and-what she-may-draw, although not she-be-taught, she-has."
nil igitur matrona legat, quia carmine ab omni
nothing then a-matron should-read, since poetry from all
ad delinquendum doctior esse potest.
toward wrongdoing more-learned to-be she-can.
quodcumque attigerit, siqua est studiosa sinistri,
whatever she-touches, if-any is fond-of the-perverse,

ad vitium mores instruet inde suos.
to vice morals will-furnish thence her-own.
sumpserit Annales — nihil est hirsutius illis —
let-her-take-up the-Annals nothing is rougher than-them
facta sit unde parens Ilia, nempe leget.
made she-was whence parent Ilia, surely she-will-read.
sumpserit Aeneadum genetrix ubi prima, requiret,
let-her-take-up of-the-Aeneadae mother where first, she-will-ask,
Aeneadum genetrix unde sit alma Venus.
of-the-Aeneadae mother whence be kindly Venus.
persequar inferius, modo si licet ordine ferri,
I-will-pursue below, only if it-is-allowed in-order to-be-borne,
posse nocere animis carminis omne genus.
to-be-able to-harm minds of-poetry every kind.
non tamen idcirco crimen liber omnis habebit:
not still for-that-reason crime book every will-have:
nil prodest, quod non laedere possit idem.
nothing profits, which not to-harm can the-same.
igne quid utilius? siquis tamen urere tecta
than-fire what more-useful? if-anyone still to-burn houses
comparat, audaces instruit igne manus.
prepares, bold he-arms with-fire hands.
eripit interdum, modo dat medicina salutem,
snatches-away sometimes, sometimes gives medicine health,
quaeque iuvet, monstrat, quaeque sit herba nocens.
and-which may-help, it-shows, and-which be an-herb harmful.
et latro et cautus praecingitur ense viator;
both the-robber and the-cautious is-girded with-a-sword traveler;
ille sed insidias, hic sibi portat opem.
the-one but ambush, the-other for-himself carries help.

discitur innocuas ut agat facundia causas;
is-learned harmless that may-plead eloquence cases;
protegit haec sontes, inmeritosque premit.
protects it the-guilty, and-the-undeserving oppresses.
sic igitur carmen, recta si mente legatur,
so then a-poem, with-right if mind it-be-read,
constabit nulli posse nocere meum.
will-be-shown to-no-one to-be-able to-harm mine.
"at quasdam vitio." quicumque hoc concipit, errat,
"but some I-deprave." whoever this conceives, errs,
et nimium scriptis arrogat ille meis.
and too-much to-writings attributes he my.
ut tamen hoc fatear, ludi quoque semina praebent
though still this I-may-admit, the-games too seeds offer
nequitiae: tolli tota theatra iube!
of-wickedness: to-be-removed all the-theaters order!
peccandi causam multis quam saepe dederunt,
of-sinning the-cause to-many how often have-they-given,
Martia cum durum sternit harena solum!
the-Martial when hard strews arena ground!
tollatur Circus! non tuta licentia Circi est:
let-be-removed the-Circus! not safe the-license of-the-Circus is:
hic sedet ignoto iuncta puella viro.
here sits to-an-unknown joined a-girl man.
cum quaedam spatientur in hoc, ut amator eodem
since some walk for this, that a-lover in-the-same-place
conveniat, quare porticus ulla patet?
may-meet, why colonnade any stands-open?
quis locus est templis augustior? haec quoque vitet,
what place is than-temples more-august? these too let-her-shun,

in culpam siqua est ingeniosa suam.
into fault if-any is ingenious her-own.
cum steterit Iovis aede, Iovis succurret in aede
when she-has-stood of-Jupiter in-the-temple, of-Jupiter it-will-occur in temple
quam multas matres fecerit ille deus.
how many mothers made that god.
proxima adoranti Iunonis templa subibit,
near to-one-worshiping of-Juno the-temples it-will-come-to-mind,
paelicibus multis hanc doluisse deam.
over-rivals many this to-have-grieved goddess.
Pallade conspecta, natum de crimine virgo
Pallas seen, a-son from crime the-virgin
sustulerit quare, quaeret, Erichthonium.
reared why, she-will-ask, Erichthonius.
venerit in magni templum, tua munera, Martis,
if-she-come into of-great the-temple, your gift, Mars,
stat Venus Ultori iuncta, vir ante fores.
stands Venus to-the-Avenger joined, the-husband before the-doors.
Isidis aede sedens, cur hanc Saturnia, quaeret,
of-Isis in-the-temple sitting, why her the-Saturnian, she-will-ask,
egerit Ionio Bosphorioque mari.
drove over-the-Ionian and-Bosporan sea.
in Venerem Anchises, in Lunam Latmius heros,
to Venus Anchises, to the-Moon the-Latmian hero,
in Cererem Iasion, qui referatur, erit.
to Ceres Iasion, who may-be-recalled, there-will-be.
omnia perversas possunt corrumpere mentes;
all-things perverse can to-corrupt minds;
stant tamen illa suis omnia tuta locis.
stand still those-things in-their-own all safe places.

et procul a scripta solis meretricibus Arte
and far from written for-only harlots Art
summovet ingenuas pagina prima manus.
bars freeborn the-page first hands.
quaecumque erupit, qua non sinit ire sacerdos,
whoever has-broken-in, where not allows to-go the-priest,
protinus huic dempti criminis ipsa rea est.
straightway from-this of-removed crime herself accused is.
nec tamen est facinus versus evolvere mollis;
nor still is-it a-crime verses to-unroll tender;
multa licet castae non facienda legant.
many-things may chaste not to-be-done read.
saepe supercilii nudas matrona severi
often of-brow bare a-matron stern
et veneris stantis ad genus omne videt.
and of-love standing for kind every sees.
corpora Vestales oculi meretricia cernunt,
bodies Vestal eyes of-harlots behold,
nec domino poenae res ea causa fuit.
nor to-(their)-master of-punishment the-thing that the-cause was.

Ovid confesses his fault: he should have sung Troy, Thebes, or Caesar's deeds rather than love. But his field is small, fit for a skiff on a lake; the Giants or Caesar's acts demand a greater talent, and his attempt seemed to wrong Caesar's might. So he returned to youthful love poems. Caesar thinks his Art teaches adultery, yet no wife learned intrigues from him. His life is modest though his Muse is playful: a book is no index of the mind, or Accius would be savage and Terence a reveler.

at cur in nostra nimia est lascivia Musa,
but why in our excessive is wantonness Muse,
curve meus cuiquam suadet amare liber?
or-why my anyone urges to-love book?
nil nisi peccatum manifestaque culpa fatenda est:
nothing except a-sin and-manifest fault to-be-confessed is:
paenitet ingenii iudiciique mei.
I-repent of-talent and-judgment my.
cur non Argolicis potius quae concidit armis
why not by-Argive rather which fell arms
vexata est iterum carmine Troia meo?
harassed was again in-song Troy my?
cur tacui Thebas et vulnera mutua fratrum,
why was-I-silent-about Thebes and the-wounds mutual of-brothers,
et septem portas, sub duce quamque suo?
and the-seven gates, under leader each its-own?
nec mihi materiam bellatrix Roma negabat,
nor to-me matter warlike Rome denied,
et pius est patriae facta referre labor.
and dutiful is of-the-fatherland deeds to-relate labor.
denique cum meritis impleveris omnia, Caesar,
in-short since with-merits you-have-filled all-things, Caesar,

pars mihi de multis una canenda fuit,
a-part by-me of many one to-be-sung was,
utque trahunt oculos radiantia lumina solis,
and-as draw the-eyes the-radiant lights of-the-sun,
traxissent animum sic tua facta meum.
would-have-drawn mind so your deeds my.
arguor inmerito. tenuis mihi campus aratur;
I-am-charged undeservedly. slender by-me field is-plowed;
illud erat magnae fertilitatis opus.
that was of-great fertility a-work.
non ideo debet pelago se credere, siqua
not therefore ought to-the-sea itself to-trust, if-any
audet in exiguo ludere cumba lacu.
dares in a-small to-sport skiff lake.
forsan — et hoc dubitem — numeris levioribus aptus
perhaps and this I-should-question for-meters lighter fitted
sim satis, in parvos sufficiamque modos:
I-may-be enough, for small and-suffice measures:
at si me iubeas domitos Iovis igne Gigantes
but if me you-bid tamed of-Jove by-the-fire the-Giants
dicere, conantem debilitabit onus.
to-tell, me-attempting will-weaken the-burden.
divitis ingenii est immania Caesaris acta
of-rich talent it-is huge of-Caesar the-deeds
condere, materia ne superetur opus.
to-compose, by-the-matter lest be-surpassed the-work.
et tamen ausus eram; sed detrectare videbar,
and still dared I-had; but to-disparage I-seemed,
quodque nefas, damno viribus esse tuis.
and-what is-wrong, a-harm to-strength to-be your.

ad leve rursus opus, iuvenalia carmina, veni,
to light again work, youthful songs, I-came,
et falso movi pectus amore meum.
and with-false stirred breast love my.
non equidem vellem. sed me mea fata trahebant,
not indeed I-would-wish. but me my fates dragged,
inque meas poenas ingeniosus eram.
and-into my punishments ingenious I-was.
ei mihi, quod didici! cur me docuere parentes
ah me, that I-learned! why me taught (my)-parents
litteraque est oculos ulla morata meos?
and-letter has eyes any delayed my?
haec tibi me invisum lascivia fecit, ob artes,
this to-you me hateful wantonness made, because-of the-arts,
quis ratus es vetitos sollicitare toros.
by-which thought you-have forbidden to-disturb beds.
sed neque me nuptae didicerunt furta magistro,
but neither me brides learned intrigues as-teacher,
quodque parum novit, nemo docere potest.
and-what little he-knows, no-one to-teach can.
sic ego delicias et mollia carmina feci,
so I trifles and soft songs made,
strinxerit ut nomen fabula nulla meum.
has-grazed that name scandal no my.
nec quisquam est adeo media de plebe maritus,
nor anyone is so the-middle from commons a-husband,
ut dubius vitio sit pater ille meo.
that doubtful by-fault be father he my.
crede mihi, distant mores a carmine nostro —
believe me, differ morals from song our

vita verecunda est, Musa iocosa mea —
life modest is, Muse playful my
magnaque pars mendax operum est et ficta meorum:
and-great a-part lying of-works is and invented my:
plus sibi permisit compositore suo.
more itself has-allowed than-the-composer its-own.
nec liber indicium est animi, sed honesta voluntas
nor a-book an-index is of-the-mind, but honorable intention
plurima mulcendis auribus apta ferens.
very-many-things for-soothing ears fitted bringing.
Accius esset atrox, conviva Terentius esset,
Accius would-be savage, a-banqueter Terence would-be,
essent pugnaces qui fera bella canunt.
would-be quarrelsome those-who fierce wars sing.

II.9 · LOVE IN EVERY POET

Ovid was not the only poet of love, only the only one punished for it. Anacreon, Sappho, Callimachus, and Menander wrote of love safely. The Iliad is about an adulteress, the Odyssey about a wife besieged by suitors, and Homer tells of Venus and Mars caught in bed. Tragedy, the gravest genre, is full of love: Phaedra, Canace, Pelops, Medea, Tereus, Aerope, Scylla, and Electra. Aristides, Eubius, and the Sybaritica's author were not exiled, and such books lie open to all by leaders' gifts.

denique composui teneros non solus amores:
in-short I-composed tender not alone loves:
composito poenas solus amore dedi.
for-composed a-penalty alone love I-paid.
quid, nisi cum multo Venerem confundere vino
what, except with much Venus to-mingle wine

praecepit lyrici Teia Musa senis?
taught of-the-lyric Teian the-Muse old-man?
Lesbia quid docuit Sappho, nisi amare, puellas?
Lesbian what taught Sappho, except to-love, the-girls?
tuta tamen Sappho, tutus et ille fuit.
safe still Sappho, safe also he was.
nec tibi, Battiade, nocuit, quod saepe legenti
nor you, son-of-Battus, did-it-harm, that often to-the-reader
delicias versu fassus es ipse tuas.
pleasures in-verse confessed have yourself your.
fabula iucundi nulla est sine amore Menandri,
play of-charming none is without love Menander,
et solet hic pueris virginibusque legi.
and is-wont he to-boys and-maidens to-be-read.
Ilias ipsa quid est aliud nisi adultera, de qua
the-Iliad itself what is else except an-adulteress, about whom
inter amatorem pugna virumque fuit?
between the-lover the-fight and-husband was?
quid prius est illi flamma Briseidos, utque
what first is in-it the-passion of-Briseis, and-how
fecerit iratos rapta puella duces?
made angry snatched the-girl the-leaders?
aut quid Odyssea est nisi femina propter amorem,
or what the-Odyssey is except a-woman for-the-sake-of love,
dum vir abest, multis una petita procis?
while (her)-husband is-away, by-many alone sought suitors?
quis nisi Maeonides, Venerem Martemque ligatos
who except the-Maeonian, Venus and-Mars bound
narrat, in obsceno corpora prensa toro?
tells, in obscene bodies caught bed?

unde nisi indicio magni sciremus Homeri
whence except by-the-evidence of-great would-we-know Homer
hospitis igne duas incaluisse deas?
of-a-guest with-fire two to-have-grown-warm goddesses?
omne genus scripti gravitate tragoedia vincit:
every kind of-writing in-gravity tragedy surpasses:
haec quoque materiam semper amoris habet.
this too the-matter always of-love has.
num quid in Hippolyto, nisi caecae flamma novercae?
is-there anything in Hippolytus, except of-a-blind the-flame stepmother?
nobilis est Canace fratris amore sui.
famous is Canace of-brother for-love her-own.
quid? non Tantalides, agitante Cupidine currus,
what? not the-son-of-Tantalus, driving Cupid the-chariot,
Pisaeam Phrygiis vexit eburnus equis?
the-Pisaean with-Phrygian carried ivory horses?
tingueret ut ferrum natorum sanguine mater,
dipped that the-steel of-(her)-children in-the-blood a-mother,
concitus a laeso fecit amore dolor.
roused by wounded made love resentment.
fecit amor subitas volucres cum paelice regem,
made love sudden birds with (his)-mistress the-king,
quaeque suum luget nunc quoque mater Ityn.
and-she-who her-own mourns now too mother Itys.
si non Aëropen frater sceleratus amasset,
if not Aerope (her)-brother wicked had-loved,
aversos Solis non legeremus equos.
turned-back of-the-Sun not we-would-read horses.
impia nec tragicos tetigisset Scylla cothurnos,
impious nor tragic would-have-touched Scylla buskins,

ni patrium crinem desecuisset amor.
unless (her)-father's lock had-cut-off love.
qui legis Electran et egentem mentis Oresten,
you-who read Electra and lacking mind Orestes,
Aegisthi crimen Tyndaridosque legis.
of-Aegisthus the-crime and-of-Tyndareus'-daughter read.
nam quid de tetrico referam domitore Chimaerae,
for what about the-grim should-I-relate tamer of-the-Chimaera,
quem leto fallax hospita paene dedit?
whom to-death a-deceitful hostess almost gave?
quid loquar Hermionen, quid te, Schoeneïa virgo,
why should-I-speak-of Hermione, why you, Schoeneus'-daughter maiden,
teque, Mycenaeo Phoebas amata duci?
and-you, by-the-Mycenaean Prophetess loved leader?
quid Danaen Danaesque nurum matremque Lyaei
why Danae and-Danae's daughter-in-law and-mother of-Lyaeus
Haemonaque et noctes cui coiere duae?
and-Haemon and the-nights for-whom merged two?
quid Peliae generum, quid Thesea, quique Pelasgum
why of-Pelias the-son-in-law, why Theseus, and-who of-the-Pelasgians
Iliacam tetigit de rate primus humum?
the-Ilian touched from ship first the-ground?
huc Iole Pyrrhique parens, huc Herculis uxor,
hither Iole and-of-Pyrrhus the-mother, hither of-Hercules the-wife,
huc accedat Hylas Iliacusque puer.
hither may-come Hylas and-the-Ilian boy.
tempore deficiar, tragicos si persequar ignes,
by-time I-shall-fail, the-tragic if I-pursue flames,
vixque meus capiet nomina nuda liber.
and-hardly my will-hold the-names bare book.

est et in obscenos commixta tragoedia risus,
there-is also into obscene mixed tragedy laughter,
multaque praeteriti verba pudoris habet;
and-many of-passed-over words modesty has;
nec nocet auctori, mollem qui fecit Achillem,
nor does-it-harm the-author, soft who made Achilles,
infregisse suis fortia facta modis.
to-have-weakened in-his brave deeds measures.
iunxit Aristides Milesia crimina secum,
joined Aristides Milesian crimes with-himself,
pulsus Aristides nec tamen urbe sua est.
driven-out Aristides nor still from-city his-own was.
nec qui descripsit corrumpi semina matrum,
nor he-who described to-be-corrupted the-seeds of-mothers,
Eubius, impurae conditor historiae,
Eubius, of-impure founder history,
nec qui composuit nuper Sybaritica, fugit,
nor he-who composed lately Sybaritica, fled,
nec qui concubitus non tacuere suos.
nor they-who embraces not kept-silent their-own.
suntque ea doctorum monumentis mixta virorum,
and-are these of-learned in-the-monuments mixed men,
muneribusque ducum publica facta patent.
and-by-the-gifts of-leaders public made lie-open.

Roman poets too wrote playful verse. Ennius and Lucretius wrote grave poems, but Catullus sang Lesbia and confessed adultery, and Calvus, Ticidas, Memmius, Cinna, Anser, Cornificius, Cato, Perilla's poet, the poet of the Argo, Hortensius, Servius, and Sisenna all wrote wantonly. Gallus was blamed for his drunken tongue, not for Lycoris. Tibullus taught how to deceive guards and husbands, as did Propertius, and neither bears blame. Ovid followed them, naming no living poet, and never feared his ship alone would sink.

neve peregrinis tantum defendar ab armis,
and-lest foreign only I-be-defended by arms,
et Romanus habet multa iocosa liber.
also the-Roman has many playful book.
utque suo Martem cecinit gravis Ennius ore —
and-as with-his-own Mars sang weighty Ennius mouth
Ennius ingenio maximus, arte rudis —
Ennius in-talent greatest, in-art rough
explicat ut causas rapidi Lucretius ignis,
explains as the-causes of-swift Lucretius fire,
casurumque triplex vaticinatur opus,
and-destined-to-fall the-threefold prophesies fabric,
sic sua lascivo cantata est saepe Catullo
so his-own by-wanton sung was often Catullus
femina, cui falsum Lesbia nomen erat;
woman, to-whom false Lesbia name was;
nec contentus ea, multos vulgavit amores,
nor content with-her, many he-published loves,
in quibus ipse suum fassus adulterium est.
in which himself his-own confessed adultery has.

par fuit exigui similisque licentia Calvi,
equal was of-little and-like the-license Calvus,
detexit variis qui sua furta modis.
revealed in-various who his-own stolen-loves measures.
quid referam Ticidae, quid Memmi carmen, apud quos
why should-I-mention of-Ticidas, why of-Memmius the-song, among whom
rebus adest nomen nominibusque pudor?
to-things is-present the-name and-to-names shame?
Cinna quoque his comes est, Cinnaque procacior Anser,
Cinna too of-these a-companion is, and-than-Cinna more-wanton Anser,
et leve Cornifici parque Catonis opus.
and the-light of-Cornificius and-equal of-Cato work.
et quorum libris modo dissimulata Perillae,
and whose in-the-books lately concealed of-Perilla,
nomine, nunc legitur dicta, Metelle, tuo.
by-name, now is-read called, Metellus, your.
is quoque, Phasiacas Argon qui duxit in undas,
he too, the-Phasian the-Argo who led into waves,
non potuit Veneris furta tacere suae.
not could of-Venus the-thefts to-keep-silent his-own.
nec minus Hortensi, nec sunt minus improba Servi
nor less of-Hortensius, nor are less shameless of-Servius
carmina. quis dubitet nomina tanta sequi?
songs. who would-doubt names so-great to-follow?
vertit Aristiden Sisenna, nec obfuit illi
translated Aristides Sisenna, nor harmed-it him
historiae turpis inseruisse iocos.
into-history foul to-have-inserted jests.
non fuit opprobrio celebrasse Lycorida Gallo,
not was it-a-reproach to-have-celebrated Lycoris to-Gallus,

sed linguam nimio non tenuisse mero.
but (his)-tongue with-too-much not to-have-held wine.
credere iuranti durum putat esse Tibullus,
to-believe one-swearing hard thinks to-be Tibullus,
sic etiam de se quod neget illa viro.
so even about himself because may-deny she to-(her)-husband.
fallere custodes idem docuisse fatetur,
to-deceive guards the-same to-have-taught confesses,
seque sua miserum nunc ait arte premi.
and-himself by-his-own wretched now says art to-be-pressed.
saepe, velut gemmam dominae signumve probaret,
often, as-if a-gem of-(his)-mistress or-a-seal he-were-approving,
per causam meminit se tetigisse manum;
on pretext he-recalls himself to-have-touched (her)-hand;
utque refert, digitis saepe est nutuque locutus,
and-as he-relates, with-fingers often has with-a-nod spoken,
et tacitam mensae duxit in orbe notam;
and a-silent of-the-table he-drew on round mark;
et quibus e sucis abeat de corpore livor,
and what from juices may-go-away from the-body the-bruise,
impresso fieri qui solet ore, docet:
by-a-pressed to-be-made which is-wont mouth, he-teaches:
denique ab incauto nimium petit ille marito,
in-short from the-heedless too seeks he husband,
se quoque uti servet, peccet ut illa minus.
himself too that he-guard, may-sin that she less.
scit, cui latretur, cum solus obambulet, ipsas
he-knows, at-whom it-is-barked, when alone he-walks-about, the-very
cur totiens clausas excreet ante fores,
why so-often closed he-coughs before doors,

multaque dat furti talis praecepta docetque
and-many gives of-theft such precepts and-teaches
qua nuptae possint fallere ab arte viros.
which brides may to-deceive by art (their)-husbands.
non fuit hoc illi fraudi, legiturque Tibullus
not was this to-him to-harm, and-is-read Tibullus
et placet, et iam te principe notus erat.
and pleases, and already you as-prince known he-was.
invenies eadem blandi praecepta Properti:
you-will-find the-same of-seductive precepts Propertius:
destrictus minima nec tamen ille nota est.
branded by-the-least nor still he mark is.
his ego successi, quoniam praestantia candor
these I succeeded, since outstanding candor
nomina vivorum dissimulare iubet.
the-names of-the-living to-conceal bids.
non timui, fateor, ne, qua tot iere carinae,
not I-feared, I-admit, lest, where so-many went ships,
naufraga servatis omnibus una foret.
shipwrecked (though)-saved all one should-be.

Others have written arts of dice and board games, a grave crime to the ancestors, of ball-playing, swimming, and the hoop, of cosmetics, banquet manners, and clay for cups. Such things are written for the smoky days of December and harm no one. Deceived by these examples, Ovid wrote poems that were not sad, but a sad punishment followed his jests, and of so many writers his Muse ruined him alone.

sunt aliis scriptae, quibus alea luditur, artes: —
have-been by-others written, with-which dice is-played, arts:

hoc est ad nostros non leve crimen avos —
this is to our not slight a-crime ancestors

quid valeant tali, quo possis plurima iactu
what are-worth the-knucklebones, with-what you-may very-many throw

figere, damnosos effugiasque canes;
to-score, the-ruinous and-may-escape dogs;

tessera quos habeat numeros, distante vocato
the-die what may-have numbers, the-distant being-called

mittere quo deceat, quo dare missa modo;
to-throw how it-befits, in-what to-give thrown way;

discolor ut recto grassetur limite miles,
differently-colored how along-straight may-advance line the-soldier,

cum medius gemino calculus hoste perit,
when the-middle by-a-double piece enemy perishes,

ut bellare sequens sciat et revocare priorem,
how to-war the-follower may-know and to-recall the-one-before,

nec tuto fugiens incomitatus eat;
nor safely fleeing unaccompanied may-go;

parva sit ut ternis instructa tabella lapillis,
small be how with-three furnished the-board pebbles,

in qua vicisse est continuasse suos;
in which to-have-won is to-have-kept-in-line one's-own;
quique alii lusus — neque enim nunc persequar omnes —
and-what other games nor indeed now shall-I-pursue all
perdere, rem caram, tempora nostra solent.
to-waste, a-thing dear, times our are-wont.
ecce canit formas alius iactusque pilarum,
behold sings the-forms another and-throws of-balls,
hic artem nandi praecipit, ille trochi.
this-one the-art of-swimming teaches, that of-the-hoop.
composita est aliis fucandi cura coloris;
composed has-been by-others of-painting the-care of-complexion;
hic epulis leges hospitioque dedit;
this-one for-banquets laws and-hospitality has-given;
alter humum, de qua fingantur pocula, monstrat,
another the-clay, from which may-be-shaped cups, shows,
quaeque, docet, liquido testa sit apta mero.
and-which, he-teaches, for-clear jar be fit wine.
talia luduntur fumoso mense Decembri,
such-things are-played-at in-smoky month December,
quae damno nulli composuisse fuit.
which a-loss to-none to-have-composed was.
his ego deceptus non tristia carmina feci,
by-these I deceived not sad songs made,
sed tristis nostros poena secuta iocos.
but sad our a-penalty followed jests.
denique nec video tot de scribentibus unum,
in-short nor I-see so-many of writers one,
quem sua perdiderit Musa; repertus ego.
whom his-own has-ruined Muse; found-out I.

Ovid asks what if he had written mimes, which show adulterers and clever wives before maidens, matrons, men, boys, and the senate; the praetor pays dearly for them, and Augustus watches them at his games. If mimes may imitate vice, Ovid deserves a lighter penalty; his poems too have been danced on the stage. Houses display erotic paintings, and Virgil brought arms and the man into a Tyrian bed. Ovid often passed Augustus' review uncensured; his old poem is punished late.

quid, si scripsissem mimos obscena iocantes,
what, if I-had-written mimes obscene jesting,
qui semper vetiti crimen amoris habent,
which always of-forbidden the-crime love have,
in quibus assidue cultus procedit adulter,
in which constantly smart comes-on the-adulterer,
verbaque dat stulto callida nupta viro? 500
and-words gives to-a-stupid a-clever wife husband?
nubilis hos virgo matronaque virque puerque
marriageable these a-maiden and-matron and-man and-boy
spectat, et ex magna parte senatus adest.
watches, and of great part the-senate is-present.
nec satis incestis temerari vocibus aures;
nor enough-that with-unchaste to-be-profaned voices ears;
adsuescunt oculi multa pudenda pati:
grow-used the-eyes many shameful-things to-endure:
cumque fefellit amans aliqua novitate maritum, 505
and-when has-deceived the-lover by-some novelty the-husband,
plauditur et magno palma favore datur;
there-is-applause and with-great the-palm favor is-given;
quodque minus prodest, scaena est lucrosa poetae,
and-what less profits, the-stage is profitable for-the-poet,

tantaque non parvo crimina praetor emit.
and-such not for-little crimes the-praetor buys.
inspice ludorum sumptus, Auguste, tuorum:
examine of-the-games the-costs, Augustus, your:
empta tibi magno talia multa leges.
bought by-you dearly such-things many you-will-read.
haec tu spectasti spectandaque saepe dedisti —
these you have-watched and-to-be-watched often have-given
maiestas adeo comis ubique tua est —
majesty so gracious everywhere your is
luminibusque tuis, totus quibus utitur orbis,
and-with-eyes your, all which uses world,
scaenica vidisti lentus adulteria.
stage you-have-seen indifferent adulteries.
scribere si fas est imitantes turpia mimos,
to-write if right it-is imitating foul-things mimes,
materiae minor est debita poena meae.
for-matter smaller is due penalty my.
an genus hoc scripti faciunt sua pulpita tutum,
or the-kind this of-writing make their-own stages safe,
quodque licet, mimis scaena licere dedit?
and-what is-allowed, to-mimes the-stage to-be-allowed has-granted?
et mea sunt populo saltata poemata saepe,
also my have-been by-the-people danced poems often,
saepe oculos etiam detinuere tuos.
often eyes even they-have-held your.
scilicet in domibus nostris ut prisca virorum
doubtless in houses our as ancient of-men
artificis fulgent corpora picta manu,
by-an-artist's shine bodies painted hand,

sic quae concubitus varios venerisque figuras
so which embraces various and-of-love postures
exprimat, est aliquo parva tabella loco.
may-depict, is in-some small a-picture place.
utque sedet vultu fassus Telamonius iram,
and-as sits in-face confessing the-Telamonian (his)-anger,
inque oculis facinus barbara mater habet,
and-in (her)-eyes crime the-barbarous mother has,
sic madidos siccat digitis Venus uda capillos,
so (her)-wet dries with-fingers Venus dripping hair,
et modo maternis tecta videtur aquis.
and just by-(her)-mother's covered seems waters.
bella sonant alii telis instructa cruentis,
wars sound others with-weapons equipped bloody,
parsque tui generis, pars tua facta canunt.
and-part of-your race, part your deeds sing.
invida me spatio natura coercuit arto,
grudging me in-space nature confined narrow,
ingenio vires exiguasque dedit.
to-talent strength and-small gave.
et tamen ille tuae felix Aeneidos auctor
and still that of-your happy Aeneid the-author
contulit in Tyrios arma virumque toros,
brought into Tyrian arms and-the-man bed,
nec legitur pars ulla magis de corpore toto,
nor is-read part any more of body the-whole,
quam non legitimo foedere iunctus amor.
than by-not lawful bond joined love.
Phyllidis hic idem teneraeque Amaryllidis ignes
of-Phyllis he the-same and-of-tender Amaryllis the-flames

bucolicis iuvenis luserat ante modis.
in-bucolic as-a-youth had-played before measures.
nos quoque iam pridem scripto peccavimus isto:
we too already long-ago in-writing have-sinned that:
supplicium patitur non nova culpa novum;
punishment suffers not new a-fault new;
carminaque edideram, cum te delicta notantem
and-poems I-had-published, when you offenses noting
praeterii totiens inreprehensus eques.
I-passed-by so-often uncensured a-knight.
ergo quae iuvenis mihi non nocitura putavi
therefore what as-a-youth to-me not going-to-harm I-thought
scripta parum prudens, nunc nocuere seni.
writings too-little prudent, now have-harmed an-old-man.
sera redundavit veteris vindicta libelli,
late has-overflowed of-the-old vengeance little-book,
distat et a meriti tempore poena sui.
differs and from of-the-desert time the-penalty its-own.

Not all Ovid's work was light: six books of the Fasti and as many more, dedicated to Caesar and broken off by his fate, a tragedy, and the unfinished Metamorphoses. He asks Augustus to read a little of how he sang Caesar and his house. He never wounded anyone with verse, and many grieve at his fall. He does not ask to return, unless the long punishment wins Caesar over, but for a safer, quieter exile, a penalty equal to his fault.

ne tamen omne meum credas opus esse remissum,
lest still all my you-believe work to-be relaxed,
saepe dedi nostrae grandia vela rati.
often I-gave to-our great sails ship.
sex ego Fastorum scripsi totidemque libellos,
six I of-the-Fasti I-wrote and-as-many books,
cumque suo finem mense volumen habet,
and-with its-own end month the-volume has,
idque tuo nuper scriptum sub nomine, Caesar,
and-this your lately written under name, Caesar,
et tibi sacratum sors mea rupit opus;
and to-you dedicated lot my has-broken work;
et dedimus tragicis scriptum regale cothurnis,
and we-gave to-tragic written royal buskins,
quaeque gravis debet verba cothurnus habet;
and-what weighty ought words the-buskin has;
dictaque sunt nobis, quamvis manus ultima coeptis
and-told have-been by-us, although the-hand last to-the-undertakings
defuit, in facies corpora versa novas.
failed, into shapes bodies changed new.
atque utinam revoces animum paulisper ab ira,
and would-that you-might-recall (your)-mind a-little from anger,

et vacuo iubeas hinc tibi pauca legi,
and at-leisure you-might-bid from-here to-you a-few-things to-be-read,
pauca, quibus prima surgens ab origine mundi
a-few, in-which the-first rising from origin of-the-world
in tua deduxi tempora, Caesar, opus!
into your I-have-brought times, Caesar, the-work!
aspicies, quantum dederis mihi pectoris ipse,
you-will-see, how-much you-have-given to-me of-heart yourself,
quoque favore animi teque tuosque canam.
and-with-what favor of-mind and-you and-yours I-sing.
non ego mordaci destrinxi carmine quemquam,
not I with-biting have-grazed song anyone,
nec meus ullius crimina versus habet.
nor my of-anyone the-crimes verse has.
candidus a salibus suffusis felle refugi:
candid from jests steeped with-gall I-have-shrunk:
nulla venenato littera mixta ioco est.
no with-poisoned letter mixed jest is.
inter tot populi, tot scriptis, milia nostri,
among so-many of-the-people, so-many writings, thousands our,
quem mea Calliope laeserit, unus ero.
whom my Calliope has-hurt, one I-shall-be.
non igitur nostris ullum gaudere Quiritem
not therefore at-our any to-rejoice Quirite
auguror, at multos indoluisse malis;
I-foresee, but many to-have-grieved misfortunes;
nec mihi credibile est, quemquam insultasse iacenti,
nor to-me credible is-it, anyone to-have-insulted the-fallen,
gratia candori si qua relata meo est.
gratitude to-candor if any returned my is.

his, precor, atque aliis possint tua numina flecti,
by-these, I-pray, and others may your divinity to-be-bent,
o pater, o patriae cura salusque tuae!
O father, O of-the-fatherland care and-safety your!
non ut in Ausoniam redeam, nisi forsitan olim, 575
not that into Ausonia I-may-return, unless perhaps someday,
cum longo poenae tempore victus eris;
when by-long of-penalty time overcome you-shall-be;
tutius exilium pauloque quietius oro,
a-safer exile and-a-little quieter I-beg,
ut par delicto sit mea poena suo.
that equal to-the-offense be my penalty its-own.

III.1 · THE BOOK COMES TO ROME

The exile's book speaks, entering the city timidly and asking a friendly reader for a guide. It is no teacher of love, and its faults come from its sad author, the long road, and the barbarous place it was written. A guide leads it past Caesar's forum and the Sacred Way to the Palatine, where Caesar's house bears the oak wreath and laurels. The book begs Caesar to save its father, whose fault was error, not crime. Apollo's library, the temple by the theater, and the Hall of Liberty refuse it, so it asks private hands to take it in.

"Missus in hanc venio timide liber exulis urbem:
"Sent into this I-come timidly the-book of-an-exile city:
da placidam fesso, lector amice, manum;
give gentle to-the-weary, reader friend, a-hand;
neve reformida, ne sim tibi forte pudori:
nor dread, lest I-may-be to-you perhaps a-shame:
nullus in hac charta versus amare docet.
no in this paper verse to-love teaches.
haec domini fortuna mei est, ut debeat illam
this of-master fortune my is, that it-ought it
infelix nullis dissimulare iocis.
unhappy with-no to-disguise jests.
id quoque, quod viridi quondam male lusit in aevo,
that too, which green once badly he-played in age,
heu nimium sero damnat et odit opus!
alas too late he-condemns and hates the-work!
inspice quid portem: nihil hic nisi triste videbis,
look-at what I-carry: nothing here except sad you-will-see,
carmine temporibus conveniente suis.
the-song to-the-times suiting its-own.

clauda quod alterno subsidunt carmina versu,
lame that by-the-alternate sink songs verse,
vel pedis hoc ratio, vel via longa facit;
either of-the-foot this the-nature, or the-road long makes;
quod neque sum cedro flavus nec pumice levis,
that neither I-am with-cedar yellow nor by-pumice smooth,
erubui domino cultior esse meo;
I-have-blushed than-master more-polished to-be my;
littera suffusas quod habet maculosa lituras,
the-letters suffused that has spotted blots,
laesit opus lacrimis ipse poeta suum.
has-marred the-work with-tears himself the-poet his.
siqua videbuntur casu non dicta Latine,
if-any-things shall-seem by-chance not said in-Latin,
in qua scribebat, barbara terra fuit.
in which he-was-writing, barbarian the-land was.
dicite, lectores, si non grave, qua sit eundum,
tell, readers, if not burdensome, by-which it-is to-be-gone,
quasque petam sedes hospes in urbe liber."
and-which I-should-seek seats a-stranger in the-city book."
haec ubi sum furtim lingua titubante locutus,
these-things when I-have stealthily tongue stammering spoken,
qui mihi monstraret, vix fuit unus, iter.
who to-me might-show, hardly was one, the-way.
"di tibi dent, nostro quod non tribuere poetae,
"the-gods to-you may-grant, to-our what not they-have-granted poet,
molliter in patria vivere posse tua.
gently in country to-live to-be-able your.
duc age! namque sequar, quamvis terraque marique
lead come! for I-shall-follow, although both-by-land and-by-sea

longinquo referam lassus ab orbe pedem."
a-distant I-bring weary from world foot."
paruit, et ducens "haec sunt fora Caesaris," inquit,
he-obeyed, and leading "this is the-forum of-Caesar," he-says,
"haec est a sacris quae via nomen habet,
"this is from the-rites which the-way its-name has,
hic locus est Vestae, qui Pallada servat et ignem,
here the-place is of-Vesta, which Pallas guards and the-fire,
haec fuit antiqui regia parva Numae."
this was of-ancient the-palace small Numa."
inde petens dextram "porta est" ait "ista Palati,
thence seeking the-right "the-gate is" he-says "that of-the-Palatine,
hic Stator, hoc primum condita Roma loco est."
here Stator, in-this first founded Rome place is."
singula dum miror, video fulgentibus armis
each while I-admire, I-see with-gleaming arms
conspicuos postes tectaque digna deo.
conspicuous doorposts and-a-house worthy of-a-god.
"et Iovis haec" dixi "domus est?" quod ut esse putarem,
"and of-Jove this" I-said "the-house is?" which that to-be I-should-think,
augurium menti querna corona dabat.
an-omen to-my-mind oaken the-crown was-giving.
cuius ut accepi dominum, "non fallimur," inquam,
of-which when I-learned the-master, "not we-are-deceived," I-say,
"et magni verum est hanc Iovis esse domum.
"and of-great true it-is this Jove to-be the-house.
cur tamen opposita velatur ianua lauro,
why still by-opposed is-veiled the-door laurel,
cingit et augustas arbor opaca comas?
surrounds and the-august tree dark tresses?

num quia perpetuos meruit domus ista triumphos,
surely-not because perpetual has-deserved house that triumphs,
an quia Leucadio semper amata deo est?
or because by-the-Leucadian always loved god it-is?
ipsane quod festa est, an quod facit omnia festa?
itself-whether because festive it-is, or because it-makes everything festive?
quam tribuit terris, pacis an ista nota est?
which he-has-bestowed on-the-lands, of-peace or that the-mark is?
utque viret semper laurus nec fronde caduca
and-as is-green always the-laurel nor in-leaf falling
carpitur, aeternum sic habet illa decus?
is-plucked, eternal so has it glory?
causa superpositae scripto est testata coronae:
the-cause of-the-placed-above by-writing is attested crown:
servatos cives indicat huius ope.
saved citizens it-shows by-this-one's help.
adice servatis unum, pater optime, civem,
add to-the-saved one, father best, citizen,
qui procul extremo pulsus in orbe latet,
who far the-furthest driven in world lies-hidden,
in quo poenarum, quas se meruisse fatetur,
in whom of-the-punishments, which himself to-have-deserved he-confesses,
non facinus causam, sed suus error habet.
not a-crime the-cause, but his-own error has.
me miserum! vereorque locum vereorque potentem,
me wretched! I-fear-both the-place and-I-fear the-mighty-one,
et quatitur trepido littera nostra metu.
and is-shaken with-trembling letter our fear.
aspicis exsangui chartam pallere colore?
you-see with-bloodless the-paper to-be-pale color?

aspicis alternos intremuisse pedes?
you-see the-alternate to-have-trembled feet?
quandocumque, precor, nostro placere parenti
at-some-time, I-pray, to-our to-be-pleasing parent
isdem et sub dominis aspiciare domus!"
the-same and under masters may-you-be-seen house!"
inde tenore pari gradibus sublimia celsis
thence with-course even by-steps lofty high
ducor ad intonsi candida templa dei,
I-am-led to of-the-unshorn the-white temple god,
signa peregrinis ubi sunt alterna columnis,
statues amid-foreign where are alternate columns,
Belides et stricto barbarus ense pater,
the-Belides and with-drawn the-barbarous sword father,
quaeque viri docto veteres cepere novique
and-whatever-things men in-learned old have-conceived and-new
pectore, lecturis inspicienda patent.
breast, for-those-going-to-read to-be-inspected open.
quaerebam fratres, exceptis scilicet illis,
I-was-seeking my-brothers, except doubtless those,
quos suus optaret non genuisse pater.
whom their would-wish not to-have-begotten father.
quaerentem frustra custos e sedibus illis
seeking-them in-vain the-guardian from seats those
praepositus sancto iussit abire loco.
set-over over-the-holy ordered-me to-go-away place.
altera templa peto, vicino iuncta theatro:
another temple I-seek, to-the-neighboring joined theater:
haec quoque erant pedibus non adeunda meis.
these too were by-feet not to-be-approached my.

nec me, quae doctis patuerunt prima libellis,
nor me, which to-learned lay-open first little-books,
atria Libertas tangere passa sua est.
the-halls Liberty to-touch allowed her has.
in genus auctoris miseri fortuna redundat,
on the-family of-the-author wretched the-fortune overflows,
et patimur nati, quam tulit ipse, fugam.
and we-suffer his-sons, which he-bore himself, the-flight.
forsitan et nobis olim minus asper et illi
perhaps both to-us someday less harsh and to-him
evictus longo tempore Caesar erit.
won-over by-long time Caesar will-be.
di, precor, atque adeo — neque enim
gods, I-pray, and even nor indeed
mihi turba roganda est —
by-me the-crowd to-be-asked is
Caesar, ades voto, maxime dive, meo!
Caesar, be-present to-prayer, greatest god, my!
interea, quoniam statio mihi publica clausa est,
meanwhile, since the-station to-me public closed is,
privato liceat delituisse loco.
in-private may-it-be-allowed to-have-hidden place.
vos quoque, si fas est, confusa pudore repulsae
you too, if right it-is, confused by-the-shame of-the-repulse
sumite plebeiae carmina nostra manus.
take plebeian the-songs our hands.

III.2 · FATED TO SEE SCYTHIA

It was in the fates that Ovid should see Scythia and the land under the Bear. Neither the Muses nor Apollo helped their poet. Born for leisure and unused to hardship, he endured the sea and the road, and while he traveled the labor beguiled his cares. Now that he has reached the land of his punishment, he only weeps and longs for Rome and his home. Death has passed him by so often; he asks the gods, whom he finds unfair, to hasten his fate and not keep death's door closed.

Ergo erat in fatis Scythiam quoque visere nostris,
So it-was in the-fates Scythia too to-visit our,
quaeque Lycaonio terra sub axe iacet;
and-which the-Lycaonian land under pole lies;
nec vos, Pierides, nec stirps Letoïa, vestro
nor you, Pierides, nor the-offspring of-Leto, to-your
docta sacerdoti turba tulistis opem.
learned priest crowd brought help.
nec mihi, quod lusi vero sine crimine, prodest,
nor to-me, that I-played truly without crime, does-it-profit,
quodque magis vita Musa iocata mea est,
and-that more than-life the-Muse jested my has,
plurima sed pelago terraque pericula passum
very-many but on-sea and-on-land dangers having-suffered
ustus ab assiduo frigore Pontus habet.
burned by constant cold Pontus holds.
quique fugax rerum securaque in otia natus,
and-who fleeing of-affairs and-free-from-care for leisure born,
mollis et inpatiens ante laboris eram,
soft and incapable before of-labor I-was,
ultima nunc patior, nec me mare portubus orbum
the-extreme now I-suffer, nor me the-sea of-harbors bereft

perdere, diversae nec potuere viae;
to-destroy, different nor could roads;
suffecitque malis animus; nam corpus ab illo
and-sufficed for-evils the-mind; for the-body from it
accepit vires vixque ferenda tulit.
received strength and-hardly to-be-borne bore.
dum tamen et terris dubius iactabar et undis,
while still both on-lands doubtful I-was-tossed and on-waves,
fallebat curas aegraque corda labor:
beguiled cares and-sick hearts labor:
ut via finita est et opus requievit eundi,
when the-road ended was and the-work has-rested of-going,
et poenae tellus est mihi tacta meae,
and of-punishment the-land was by-me touched my,
nil nisi flere libet, nec nostro parcior imber
nothing except to-weep pleases, nor than-our sparer the-shower
lumine, de verna quam nive manat aqua.
eye, from spring than snow flows water.
Roma domusque subit desideriumque locorum,
Rome and-home comes-to-mind and-longing for-places,
quicquid et amissa restat in urbe mei.
whatever and lost remains in the-city of-me.
ei mihi, quod totiens nostri pulsata sepulcri
ah me, that so-often of-our struck tomb
ianua, sed nullo tempore aperta fuit!
the-door, but at-no time opened was!
cur ego tot gladios fugi totiensque minata
why I so-many swords fled and-so-often threatening
obruit infelix nulla procella caput?
overwhelmed unhappy no storm head?

di, quos experior nimium constanter iniquos,
gods, whom I-find too constantly unfair,
participes irae quos deus unus habet,
sharers of-anger whom god one has,
exstimulate, precor, cessantia fata meique
goad-on, I-pray, the-lingering fates and-of-my
interitus clausas esse vetate fores!
death closed to-be forbid the-doors!

III.3 · LETTER FROM A SICKBED

Ill in a strange land with no fit house, food, doctor, or friend, Ovid dictates a letter to his wife. She is in his mind day and night. If he dies here, with no one to close his eyes, let her not tear her cheeks or hair, since he died when he lost his country, and let her bring his bones home in a small urn, so he is no exile in death. His epitaph names the poet of tender loves and asks lovers to wish his bones rest; his books are his greater monument. Let her bring gifts and garlands to his shade.

Haec mea si casu miraris epistula quare
This my if by-chance you-wonder letter why
alterius digitis scripta sit, aeger eram.
by-another's fingers written may-be, sick I-was.
aeger in extremis ignoti partibus orbis,
sick in furthest of-the-unknown parts world,
incertusque meae paene salutis eram.
and-uncertain of-my almost life I-was.
quem mihi nunc animum dira regione iacenti
what for-me now spirit in-a-dread region lying
inter Sauromatas esse Getasque putes?
among Sauromatians to-be and-Getae would-you-think?

nec caelum patior, nec aquis adsuevimus istis,
nor the-climate I-bear, nor to-waters we-have-grown-used those,
terraque nescio quo non placet ipsa modo.
and-the-land I-know-not in-what not pleases itself way.
non domus apta satis, non hic cibus utilis aegro,
not a-house suitable enough, not here food useful for-the-sick,
nullus, Apollinea qui levet arte malum,
no-one, by-Apollo's who may-lighten skill the-evil,
non qui soletur, non qui labentia tarde
not who may-console, not who gliding slowly
tempora narrando fallat, amicus adest.
the-times by-telling may-beguile, a-friend is-present.
lassus in extremis iaceo populisque locisque,
weary in furthest I-lie both-peoples and-places,
et subit adfecto nunc mihi, quicquid abest.
and comes-up to-the-afflicted now me, whatever is-absent.
omnia cum subeant, vincis tamen omnia, coniunx,
everything though may-come-up, you-conquer still everything, wife,
et plus in nostro pectore parte tenes.
and more in our breast than-a-part you-hold.
te loquor absentem, te vox mea nominat unam;
you I-speak absent, you voice my names alone;
nulla venit sine te nox mihi, nulla dies.
no comes without you night to-me, no day.
quin etiam sic me dicunt aliena locutum,
nay even so me they-say strange-things having-spoken,
ut foret amenti nomen in ore tuum.
that was maddened the-name on mouth your.
si iam deficiam, suppressaque lingua palato
if now I-should-fail, and-pressed-down the-tongue to-the-palate

vix instillato restituenda mero,
hardly by-instilled to-be-restored wine,
nuntiet huc aliquis dominam venisse, resurgam,
should-announce here someone the-mistress to-have-come, I-shall-rise-again,
spesque tui nobis causa vigoris erit.
and-hope of-you to-us the-cause of-strength will-be.
ergo ego sum dubius vitae, tu forsitan istic
so I am doubtful of-life, you perhaps there
iucundum nostri nescia tempus agis?
pleasant of-us unknowing time spend?
non agis, adfirmo. liquet hoc, carissima, nobis,
not you-spend, I-affirm. it-is-clear this, dearest, to-us,
tempus agi sine me non nisi triste tibi.
time to-be-spent without me not except sad for-you.
si tamen inplevit mea sors, quos debuit, annos,
if still has-filled my lot, which it-owed, the-years,
et mihi vivendi tam cito finis adest,
and for-me of-living so quickly the-end is-at-hand,
quantum erat, o magni, morituro parcere, divi,
how-much was-it, O great, to-the-going-to-die to-spare, gods,
ut saltem patria contumularer humo?
that at-least in-my-native I-might-be-entombed earth?
vel poena in tempus mortis dilata fuisset,
either the-punishment to the-time of-death postponed would-have-been,
vel praecepisset mors properata fugam.
or would-have-anticipated death hastened the-flight.
integer hanc potui nuper bene reddere lucem;
whole this I-could lately well to-give-back light;
exul ut occiderem, nunc mihi vita data est.
an-exile that I-might-die, now to-me life given is.

tam procul ignotis igitur moriemur in oris,
so far unknown therefore we-shall-die on shores,
et fient ipso tristia fata loco;
and will-become by-the-very sad the-fates place;
nec mea consueto languescent corpora lecto,
nor my in-accustomed will-languish body bed,
depositum nec me qui fleat, ullus erit;
laid-out nor me who may-weep, any will-be;
nec dominae lacrimis in nostra cadentibus ora
nor of-mistress tears on our falling face
accedent animae tempora parva meae;
will-be-added to-life times small my;
nec mandata dabo, nec cum clamore supremo
nor instructions I-shall-give, nor with cry last
labentes oculos condet amica manus;
failing eyes will-close a-friendly hand;
sed sine funeribus caput hoc, sine honore sepulcri
but without funeral-rites head this, without honor of-a-tomb
indeploratum barbara terra teget!
unmourned barbarian land will-cover!
ecquid, ubi audieris, tota turbabere mente,
whether-at-all, when you-shall-have-heard, in-whole you-will-be-troubled mind,
et feries pavida pectora fida manu?
and will-you-strike fearful breasts with-faithful hand?
ecquid, in has frustra tendens tua brachia partes,
whether-at-all, toward these in-vain stretching your arms parts,
clamabis miseri nomen inane viri?
will-you-cry of-wretched the-name empty husband?
parce tamen lacerare genas, nec scinde capillos:
spare still to-tear cheeks, nor tear hair:

non tibi nunc primum, lux mea, raptus ero.
not from-you now first, light my, snatched I-shall-be.
cum patriam amisi, tunc me periisse putato:
when my-country I-lost, then me to-have-perished think:
et prior et gravior mors fuit illa mihi.
both earlier and heavier death was that for-me.
nunc, si forte potes — sed non potes, optima coniunx —
now, if perhaps you-can but not you-can, best wife
finitis gaude tot mihi morte malis.
ended rejoice so-many for-me by-death evils.
quod potes, extenua forti mala corde ferendo,
what you-can, lessen with-brave evils heart by-bearing,
ad quae iam pridem non rude pectus habes.
to which already long not inexperienced breast you-have.
atque utinam pereant animae cum corpore nostrae,
and would-that may-perish the-soul with body our,
effugiatque avidos pars mihi nulla rogos!
and-may-escape greedy part of-me no pyres!
nam si morte carens vacua volat altus in aura
for if death lacking empty flies high in air
spiritus, et Samii sunt rata dicta senis,
the-spirit, and of-the-Samian are ratified the-words old-man,
inter Sarmaticas Romana vagabitur umbras,
among Sarmatian a-Roman will-wander shades,
perque feros manes hospita semper erit.
and-among wild shades a-stranger always will-be.
ossa tamen facito parva referantur in urna:
the-bones still see-to-it small be-brought-back in urn:
sic ego non etiam mortuus exul ero.
so I not even dead an-exile shall-be.

non vetat hoc quisquam: fratrem Thebana peremptum
not forbids this anyone: her-brother the-Theban slain
supposuit tumulo rege vetante soror.
placed-under in-the-tomb the-king forbidding sister.
atque ea cum foliis et amomi pulvere misce,
and them with leaves and of-amomum dust mix,
inque suburbano condita pone solo;
and-in suburban buried place soil;
quosque legat versus oculo properante viator,
and-which may-read verses eye hurrying the-traveler,
grandibus in tituli marmore caede notis:
in-large on of-the-inscription marble cut letters:
Hic ego qui iaceo tenerorum lusor amorum
Here I who lie of-tender the-player loves
ingenio perii Naso poeta meo.
by-talent perished Naso the-poet my.
at tibi qui transis ne sit grave quisquis amasti
but for-you who pass not may-it-be burdensome whoever have-loved
dicere Nasonis molliter ossa cubent.
to-say of-Naso softly the-bones may-lie.
hoc satis in titulo est. etenim maiora libelli
this enough in inscription is. for greater little-books
et diuturna magis sunt monimenta mihi,
and lasting more are monuments to-me,
quos ego confido, quamvis nocuere, daturos
which I trust, although they-have-harmed, going-to-give
nomen et auctori tempora longa suo.
a-name and to-author times long their.
tu tamen extincto feralia munera semper
you still to-the-dead funeral gifts always

deque tuis lacrimis umida serta dato.
and-from your tears moist garlands give.
quamvis in cineres corpus mutaverit ignis,
although into ashes the-body shall-have-changed the-fire,
sentiet officium maesta favilla pium.
will-feel the-duty sad the-ash dutiful.
scribere plura libet: sed vox mihi fessa loquendo
to-write more pleases: but voice for-me tired with-speaking
dictandi vires siccaque lingua negat.
of-dictating the-strength and-dry tongue denies.
accipe supremo dictum mihi forsitan ore,
receive with-last spoken by-me perhaps mouth,
quod, tibi qui mittit, non habet ipse, "vale."
what, to-you who sends, not has himself, "farewell."

III.4 · LIVE HIDDEN

Ovid urges a friend, long dear and proven in his fall, to live for himself and flee the great: the powerful can help, but also harm. Had Ovid lived so, he would be in the city now. Elpenor fell from the roof, Icarus flew too high where Daedalus flew safely, and Dolon and Phaethon died of overreaching. He who has lived hidden has lived well. Ovid recalls the friend's tears at his fall, thanks him for defending him still, and asks him to love Naso's name, which is not yet exiled.

O mihi care quidem semper, sed tempore duro
O to-me dear indeed always, but in-time hard
cognite, res postquam procubuere meae,
known, affairs after fell-down my,
usibus edocto si quicquam credis amico,
by-experience taught if anything you-believe a-friend,

vive tibi et longe nomina magna fuge.
live for-yourself and far names great flee.
vive tibi, quantumque potes praelustria vita:
live for-yourself, and-as-much-as you-can very-illustrious-things avoid:
saevum praelustri fulmen ab arce venit.
savage very-illustrious thunderbolt from citadel comes.
nam quamquam soli possunt prodesse potentes,
for although alone can to-help the-powerful,
non prosint potius, siquis obesse potest.
not may-they-help rather, if-anyone to-harm can.
effugit hibernas demissa antemna procellas,
escapes wintry lowered the-yard storms,
lataque plus parvis vela timoris habent.
and-broad more than-small sails of-fear have.
aspicis ut summa cortex levis innatet unda,
you-see how on-the-top the-cork light may-float wave,
cum grave nexa simul retia mergat onus.
when the-heavy bound together nets may-sink weight.
haec ego si monitor monitus prius ipse fuissem,
these-things I if the-adviser advised before myself had-been,
in qua debebam forsitan urbe forem.
in which I-ought perhaps city I-would-be.
dum tecum vixi, dum me levis aura ferebat,
while with-you I-lived, while me a-light breeze was-bearing,
haec mea per placidas cumba cucurrit aquas.
this my through calm skiff ran waters.
qui cadit in plano — vix hoc tamen evenit ipsum —
who falls on level-ground hardly this still happens itself
sic cadit, ut tacta surgere possit humo;
so falls, that touched to-rise he-can the-ground;

at miser Elpenor tecto delapsus ab alto
but wretched Elpenor the-roof having-slipped from high
occurrit regi debilis umbra suo.
meets the-king a-feeble shade his.
quid fuit, ut tutas agitaret Daedalus alas,
what was-it, that safe plied Daedalus wings,
Icarus inmensas nomine signet aquas?
Icarus vast by-his-name marks waters?
nempe quod hic alte, demissius ille volabat;
surely because this-one high, lower that-one was-flying;
nam pennas ambo non habuere suas.
for wings both not had their-own.
crede mihi, bene qui latuit bene vixit, et intra
believe me, well who has-lain-hidden well has-lived, and within
fortunam debet quisque manere suam.
fortune ought each to-remain his-own.
non foret Eumedes orbus, si filius eius
not would-be Eumedes childless, if son his
stultus Achilleos non adamasset equos;
foolish Achilles' not had-fallen-in-love-with horses;
nec natum in flamma vidisset, in arbore natas,
nor his-son in flame would-he-have-seen, in a-tree his-daughters,
cepisset genitor si Phaëthonta Merops.
had-he-taken the-father if Phaethon Merops.
tu quoque formida nimium sublimia semper,
you too dread too lofty-things always,
propositique, precor, contrahe vela tui.
and-of-purpose, I-pray, draw-in the-sails your.
nam pede inoffenso spatium decurrere vitae
for with-foot unstumbling the-course to-run-down of-life

dignus es et fato candidiore frui.
worthy you-are and fate a-brighter to-enjoy.
quae pro te ut voveam, miti pietate mereris
which for you that I-may-vow, by-gentle devotion you-deserve
haesuraque fide tempus in omne mihi.
and-by-going-to-stick faith time for all to-me.
vidi ego te tali vultu mea fata gementem,
saw I you with-such a-face my fates lamenting,
qualem credibile est ore fuisse meo.
such-as credible it-is on-face to-have-been my.
nostra tuas vidi lacrimas super ora cadentes,
our your I-saw tears over face falling,
tempore quas uno fidaque verba bibi.
in-time which one and-faithful words I-drank.
nunc quoque summotum studio defendis amicum,
now too removed with-zeal you-defend your-friend,
et mala vix ulla parte levanda levas.
and evils hardly by-any part to-be-lightened you-lighten.
vive sine invidia, mollesque inglorius annos
live without envy, and-gentle inglorious years
exige, amicitias et tibi iunge pares,
spend, friendships and to-yourself join equal,
Nasonisque tui, quod adhuc non exulat unum,
and-of-Naso your, which still not is-exiled alone,
nomen ama: Scythicus cetera Pontus habet.
the-name love: Scythian the-rest Pontus holds.

The land nearest the stars of the Bear holds Ovid, burned by frost, beyond which lies only uninhabitable cold. His country and his wife are far away, yet before his mind's eye; his wife both weighs on his ills and lightens them. He would name his friends if fear did not forbid it, so he addresses each in his heart. He asks them to know he holds them in mind, to lighten his ills as each can, and not to deny the exile a faithful hand.

Proxima sideribus tellus Erymanthidos Ursae
Nearest to-the-stars the-land of-the-Erymanthian Bear
me tenet, adstricto terra perusta gelu.
me holds, by-bound land burned frost.
Bosphoros et Tanais superant Scythiaeque paludes
the-Bosporus and the-Tanais lie-beyond and-of-Scythia the-marshes
vix satis et noti nomina pauca loci.
hardly enough and of-a-known names few place.
ulterius nihil est nisi non habitabile frigus.
further nothing is except not habitable cold.
heu quam vicina est ultima terra mihi!
alas how near is the-furthest land to-me!
at longe patria est, longe carissima coniunx,
but far my-country is, far dearest my-wife,
quicquid et haec nobis post duo dulce fuit.
whatever also these to-us after two sweet was.
sic tamen haec adsunt, ut quae contingere non est
so still these-things are-present, that which to-touch not it-is-possible
corpore: sunt animo cuncta videnda meo.
with-body: they-are by-mind all-things to-be-seen my.
ante oculos errant domus, urbsque et forma locorum,
before eyes wander the-house, and-the-city and the-shape of-places,

acceduntque suis singula facta locis,
and-are-added to-their-own each-thing done places,
coniugis ante oculos, sicut praesentis, imago est.
of-my-wife before eyes, as of-one-present, the-image is.
illa meos casus ingravat, illa levat:
she my misfortunes makes-heavier, she lightens:
ingravat hoc, quod abest; levat hoc, quod praestat amorem
makes-heavier by-this, that she-is-away; lightens by-this, that she-shows love
inpositumque sibi firma tuetur onus.
and-imposed on-herself firm guards the-burden.
vos quoque pectoribus nostris haeretis, amici,
you too to-hearts our cling, friends,
dicere quos cupio nomine quemque suo.
to-tell whom I-desire by-name each his-own.
sed timor officium cautus compescit, et ipsos
but fear the-duty cautious checks, and you-yourselves
in nostro poni carmine nolle puto.
in our to-be-placed song not-to-wish I-think.
ante volebatis, gratique erat instar honoris,
before you-wished, and-of-welcome it-was the-equal honor,
versibus in nostris nomina vestra legi.
verses in our names your to-be-read.
quod quoniam est anceps, intra mea pectora quemque
which since is doubtful, within my heart each
adloquar, et nulli causa timoris ero.
I-shall-address, and to-no-one a-cause of-fear I-shall-be.
nec meus indicio latitantes versus amicos
nor my by-disclosure lurking verse friends
protrahit. occulte siquis amabat, amet.
draws-forth. secretly if-anyone loved, let-him-love.

scite tamen, quamvis longe regione remotus
know still, although far in-region removed
absim, vos animo semper adesse meo;
I-may-be, you in-mind always to-be-present my;
et qua quisque potest, aliqua mala nostra levate, 75
and by-what each can, by-some evils our lighten,
fidam proiecto neve negate manum.
faithful to-the-cast-out nor deny hand.
prospera sic maneat vobis fortuna, nec umquam
prosperous so may-remain for-you fortune, nor ever
contacti simili sorte rogetis idem.
touched by-like lot may-you-ask the-same.

III.5 · TO A NEW FRIEND

Ovid knew this man only slightly, yet when others fled his ruin, he came to the stricken house, wept, and embraced him, and he still defends him. Ovid asks him to plead for him with his eloquence. The greater the man, the easier his anger softens: lions spare the fallen, Achilles yielded to Priam's tears, and Alexander was merciful. Ovid's fault was no crime: he sought no one's death and spoke no treason; his eyes saw a crime unknowing. He hopes for a milder place of punishment.

Usus amicitiae tecum mihi parvus, ut illam
The-use of-friendship with-you to-me small, that it
non aegre posses dissimulare, fuit,
not with-difficulty you-could to-dissemble, was,
nec me complexus vinclis propioribus esses
nor me embraced with-bonds closer you-would-have
nave mea vento, forsan, eunte suo.
ship my wind, perhaps, going its-own.

ut cecidi cunctique metu fugere ruinam,
when I-fell and-all from-fear fled the-ruin,
versaque amicitiae terga dedere meae,
and-turned on-friendship backs gave my,
ausus es igne Iovis percussum tangere corpus
dared you-have by-the-fire of-Jove struck to-touch a-body
et deploratae limen adire domus:
and of-a-mourned the-threshold to-approach house:
idque recens praestas nec longo cognitus usu,
and-that new you-show nor by-long known use,
quod veterum misero vix duo tresve mihi.
which of-old-friends to-the-wretched hardly two or-three to-me.
vidi ego confusos vultus visosque notavi,
saw I confused the-face and-seen-it I-marked,
osque madens fletu pallidiusque meo,
and-the-face wet with-weeping and-paler than-mine,
et lacrimas cernens in singula verba cadentes
and tears seeing at each word falling
ore meo lacrimas, auribus illa bibi;
with-mouth my the-tears, with-ears those I-drank;
brachiaque accepi presso pendentia collo,
and-arms I-received with-pressed hanging neck,
et singultatis oscula mixta sonis.
and with-sobbing kisses mingled sounds.
sum quoque, care, tuis defensus viribus absens —
I-am too, dear-one, by-your defended strength absent
scis carum veri nominis esse loco —
you-know dear of-the-true name to-be in-place
multaque praeterea manifesti signa favoris
and-many besides of-manifest signs favor

pectoribus teneo non abitura meis.
in-heart I-hold not going-to-depart my.
di tibi posse tuos tribuant defendere semper,
the-gods to-you to-be-able your-own may-grant to-defend always,
quos in materia prosperiore iuves,
whom in matter more-prosperous you-may-help,
si tamen interea, quid in his ego perditus oris —
if still meanwhile, what in these I lost shores
quod te credibile est quaerere — quaeris, agam,
which you credible is to-ask you-ask, I-may-do,
spe trahor exigua, quam tu mihi demere noli,
by-hope I-am-drawn slight, which you from-me to-take-away do-not,
tristia leniri numina posse dei.
the-sad to-be-softened divinity to-be-able of-the-god.
seu temere expecto, sive id contingere fas est,
whether rashly I-expect, or-whether that to-happen right is,
tu mihi, quod cupio, fas, precor, esse proba,
you to-me, what I-desire, right, I-pray, to-be prove,
quaeque tibi linguae est facundia, confer in illud,
and-what to-you of-tongue is eloquence, bring to that,
ut doceas votum posse valere meum.
that you-may-teach the-prayer to-be-able to-prevail my.
quo quisque est maior, magis est placabilis irae,
by-how-much each is greater, more is-he appeasable in-anger,
et faciles motus mens generosa capit.
and easy movements a-mind noble takes.
corpora magnanimo satis est prostrasse leoni,
bodies for-the-great-hearted enough is-it to-have-laid-low lion,
pugna suum finem, cum iacet hostis, habet:
the-fight its end, when lies the-enemy, has:

at lupus et turpes instant morientibus ursi
but the-wolf and shameful press-on the-dying bears
et quaecumque minor nobilitate fera.
and whatever lesser in-nobility beast.
maius apud Troiam forti quid habemus Achille?
greater at Troy than-brave what have-we Achilles?
Dardanii lacrimas non tulit ille senis.
of-the-Dardanian the-tears not bore he old-man.
quae ducis Emathii fuerit clementia, Porus
what of-the-leader Emathian was clemency, Porus
Dareique docent funeris exequiae.
and-of-Darius teach of-the-funeral the-rites.
neve hominum referam flexas ad mitius iras,
and-lest of-men I-may-relate turned to milder angers,
Iunonis gener est qui prius hostis erat.
of-Juno the-son-in-law is who before an-enemy was.
denique non possum nullam sperare salutem,
finally not I-can no to-hope-for safety,
cum poenae non sit causa cruenta meae.
since of-punishment not may-be the-cause bloody my.
non mihi quaerenti pessumdare cuncta petitum
not by-me seeking to-ruin all-things sought
Caesareum caput est, quod caput orbis erat;
Caesar's head is, which the-head of-the-world was;
non aliquid dixive, elatave lingua loquendo est,
not anything or-have-I-said, or-carried-away the-tongue in-speaking is,
lapsaque sunt nimio verba profana mero:
and-slipped-out are with-excessive words profane wine:
inscia quod crimen viderunt lumina, plector,
unknowing because a-crime saw my-eyes, I-am-punished,

peccatumque oculos est habuisse meum.
and-sin eyes is to-have-had my.
non equidem totam possum defendere culpam,
not indeed the-whole I-can to-defend fault,
sed partem nostri criminis error habet.
but part of-our charge error has.
spes igitur superest facturum ut molliat ipse
hope therefore remains going-to-do that he-may-soften himself
mutati poenam condicione loci.
of-changed the-punishment by-the-condition place.
hos utinam nitidi Solis praenuntius ortus
these would-that of-shining the-Sun the-forerunner rising
afferat admisso Lucifer albus equo!
may-bring with-loosed Lucifer white horse!

III.6 · WHY I CANNOT TELL

Ovid's close friendship with this man cannot be hidden: the friend knew all his secrets but the one that ruined him, and had he known it, Ovid might be safe. Whether care could have avoided it or fate cannot be fought, Ovid does not say. He asks the friend to soften the god's anger and win him a milder place. He cannot safely tell what his eyes saw; he sought no gain, and his fault was error and folly. If that is untrue, let a farther place be found: for a real crime this land would be a suburb.

Foedus amicitiae nec vis, carissime, nostrae,
The-bond of-friendship nor you-wish, dearest, our,
nec, si forte velis, dissimulare potes.
nor, if perhaps you-should-wish, to-dissemble can-you.
donec enim licuit, nec te mihi carior alter,
while indeed it-was-allowed, nor you to-me dearer another,

nec tibi me tota iunctior urbe fuit,
nor to-you me in-whole more-closely-joined city was,
isque erat usque adeo populo testatus, ut esset
and-that was so far to-the-people attested, that it-was
paene magis quam tu quamque ego notus, amor;
almost more than you and-than I known, love;
quique est in caris animi tibi candor amicis —
and-which is toward dear of-mind to-you the-candor friends
cognita sunt ipsi, quem colis, ista viro.
known are to-the-very, whom you-cultivate, those man.
nil ita celabas, ut non ego conscius essem,
nothing so you-concealed, that not I aware might-be,
pectoribusque dabas multa tegenda meis:
and-to-heart you-gave many-things to-be-covered my:
cuique ego narrabam secreti quicquid habebam,
and-to-whom I was-telling of-secret whatever I-had,
excepto quod me perdidit, unus eras.
excepting what me ruined, alone you-were.
id quoque si scisses, salvo fruerere sodali,
that too if you-had-known, safe you-would-enjoy your-comrade,
consilioque forem sospes, amice, tuo.
and-by-counsel I-would-be safe, friend, your.
sed mea me in poenam nimirum fata trahebant:
but my me into punishment doubtless fates were-dragging:
omne bonae claudunt utilitatis iter.
all of-good they-close advantage the-road.
sive malum potui tamen hoc vitare cavendo,
whether evil I-could still this to-avoid by-taking-care,
seu ratio fatum vincere nulla valet,
or-whether reasoning fate to-conquer no avails,

tu tamen, o nobis usu iunctissime longo,
you still, O to-us by-use most-joined long,
pars desiderii maxima paene mei,
part of-longing the-greatest almost my,
sis memor, et siquas fecit tibi gratia vires,
may-you-be mindful, and if-any made for-you favor strength,
illas pro nobis experiare, rogo,
those for us may-you-try, I-ask,
numinis ut laesi fiat mansuetior ira,
of-the-divinity that offended may-become milder the-anger,
mutatoque minor sit mea poena loco,
and-changed less may-be my punishment place,
idque ita, si nullum scelus est in pectore nostro,
and-that so, if no crime is in breast our,
principiumque mei criminis error habet.
and-the-beginning of-my charge error has.
nec breve nec tutum, quo sint mea, dicere, casu
nor brief nor safe, by-what may-be my, to-tell, chance
lumina funesti conscia facta mali;
eyes of-deadly aware made evil;
mensque reformidat, veluti sua vulnera, tempus
and-the-mind dreads, as-if its-own wounds, time
illud, et admonitu fit novus ipse pudor,
that, and by-reminder becomes new itself the-shame,
et quaecumque adeo possunt afferre pudorem,
and whatever-things indeed can to-bring shame,
illa tegi caeca condita nocte decet.
those to-be-covered by-blind hidden night befits.
nil igitur referam nisi me peccasse, sed illo
nothing therefore shall-I-relate except me to-have-sinned, but by-that

praemia peccato nulla petita mihi,
rewards for-the-sin none sought by-me,
stultitiamque meum crimen debere vocari,
and-folly my charge to-deserve to-be-called,
nomina si facto reddere vera velis.
names if to-the-deed to-render true you-wish.
quae si non ita sunt, alium, quo longius absim,
which if not so are, another, where farther I-may-be-away,
quaere; suburbana est hic mihi terra locus.
seek; suburban is this to-me land place.

III.7 · TO PERILLA

Ovid tells his letter to greet Perilla. He lives, but as he would not wish to live, and still writes. Does she still write verse, as he taught her? Nature gave her modesty and rare talent, and only Sappho could surpass her. He fears his fortune has deterred her, but her verse teaches no one to love; let her return to her studies. Age spoils beauty, and fortune turns Croesus into Irus; only the mind's goods are beyond its reach. Caesar took his country, not his talent, and he will be read while Rome rules the world.

Vade salutatum, subito perarata, Perillam,
Go to-greet, quickly traced, Perilla,
littera, sermonis fida ministra mei.
letter, of-speech faithful servant my.
aut illam invenies dulci cum matre sedentem,
either her you-will-find her-sweet with mother sitting,
aut inter libros Pieridasque suas.
or among books and-Pierides her-own.
quidquid aget, cum te scierit venisse, relinquet,
whatever she-will-do, when you she-has-learned to-have-come, she-will-leave,

nec mora, quid venias quidve, requiret, agam.
nor delay, why you-come or-what, she-will-ask, I-may-do.
vivere me dices, sed sic, ut vivere nolim,
to-live me you-will-say, but so, as to-live I-would-not-wish,
nec mala tam longa nostra levata mora;
nor evils by-so long our lightened delay;
et tamen ad Musas, quamvis nocuere, reverti,
and still to the-Muses, although they-have-harmed, to-return,
aptaque in alternos cogere verba pedes.
and-fitting into alternate to-compel words feet.
"tu quoque" dic "studiis communibus ecquid inhaeres,
"you too" say "to-pursuits common whether-at-all do-you-cling,
doctaque non patrio carmina more canis?
and-learned not in-your-father's songs way do-you-sing?
nam tibi cum fatis mores natura pudicos
for to-you with the-fates character nature modest
et raras dotes ingeniumque dedit.
and rare gifts and-talent has-given.
hoc ego Pegasidas deduxi primus ad undas,
this I Pegasid led first to waters,
ne male fecundae vena periret aquae;
lest badly of-fruitful the-vein might-perish water;
primus id aspexi teneris in virginis annis,
first that I-saw tender in of-a-maiden years,
utque pater natae duxque comesque fui.
and-as a-father to-his-daughter both-leader and-companion I-was.
ergo si remanent ignes tibi pectoris idem,
so if remain the-fires in-you of-heart the-same,
sola tuum vates Lesbia vincet opus.
alone your the-bard Lesbian will-conquer work.

sed vereor, ne te mea nunc fortuna retardet,
but I-fear, lest you my now fortune may-hold-back,
postque meos casus sit tibi pectus iners.
and-after my misfortunes may-be in-you the-heart sluggish.
dum licuit, tua saepe mihi, tibi nostra legebam;
while it-was-allowed, your often to-me, to-you ours I-used-to-read;
saepe tui iudex, saepe magister eram:
often of-you the-judge, often the-teacher I-was:
aut ego praebebam factis modo versibus aures,
either I was-offering to-made just-now verses ears,
aut, ubi cessares, causa ruboris eram.
or, when you-were-idle, the-cause of-blushing I-was.
forsitan exemplo, quia me laesere libelli,
perhaps by-the-example, because me harmed little-books,
tu quoque sis poenae fata secuta meae.
you too may-have of-the-punishment the-fates followed my.
pone, Perilla, metum; tantummodo femina nulla
put-away, Perilla, fear; only woman no
neve vir a scriptis discat amare tuis.
nor man from writings may-learn to-love your.
ergo desidiae remove, doctissima, causas,
so of-idleness remove, most-learned, the-causes,
inque bonas artes et tua sacra redi.
and-to good arts and your rites return.
ista decens facies longis vitiabitur annis,
that becoming face by-long will-be-spoiled years,
rugaque in antiqua fronte senilis erit,
and-a-wrinkle on old brow aged will-be,
inicietque manum formae damnosa senectus,
and-will-lay hand on-beauty ruinous old-age,

quae strepitum passu non faciente venit;
which noise step not making comes;
cumque aliquis dicet 'fuit haec formosa' dolebis,
and-when someone will-say 'was this-woman beautiful' you-will-grieve,
et speculum mendax esse querere tuum.
and the-mirror lying to-be you-will-complain your.
sunt tibi opes modicae, cum sis dignissima magnis:
are to-you riches modest, though you-may-be most-worthy of-great:
finge sed inmensis censibus esse pares,
suppose but to-immense fortunes to-be equal,
nempe dat id quodcumque libet fortuna rapitque,
surely gives that whatever it-pleases fortune and-snatches,
Irus et est subito, qui modo Croesus erat.
Irus and is suddenly, who just-now Croesus was.
singula ne referam, nil non mortale tenemus
each lest I-may-relate, nothing not mortal we-hold
pectoris exceptis ingeniique bonis.
of-heart except and-of-talent the-goods.
en ego, cum caream patria vobisque domoque,
behold I, though I-may-lack my-country and-you and-home,
raptaque sint, adimi quae potuere mihi,
and-snatched may-be, to-be-taken-away what could from-me,
ingenio tamen ipse meo comitorque fruorque:
by-talent still myself my am-accompanied and-enjoy:
Caesar in hoc potuit iuris habere nihil.
Caesar over this could of-right to-have nothing.
quilibet hanc saevo vitam mihi finiat ense,
anyone this with-savage life for-me may-end sword,
me tamen extincto fama superstes erit,
me still dead fame surviving will-be,

dumque suis victrix omnem de montibus orbem
and-while her-own the-victor whole from hills world
prospiciet domitum Martia Roma, legar.
will-look-out-on subdued Martial Rome, I-shall-be-read.
tu quoque, quam studii maneat felicior usus,
you too, for-whom of-pursuit may-await a-happier use,
effuge venturos, qua potes, usque rogos!"
escape the-coming, by-which you-can, ever pyres!"

III.8 · WISHES FOR WINGS

Ovid wishes for Triptolemus' chariot, Medea's dragons, or the wings of Perseus or Daedalus, to fly home to his country, his house, and his friends. It is a child's wish: he must pray to Augustus, the god he has felt. Meanwhile he is ill, sleepless, thin, and without appetite; the climate, the water, and the land disagree with him. The image of his fortune stands before his eyes, and he longs to die. Since Caesar spared his life, he asks only for another place of exile.

Nunc ego Triptolemi cuperem consistere curru,
Now I of-Triptolemus would-desire to-stand on-the-chariot,
misit in ignotam qui rude semen humum;
sent into unknown who rough seed ground;
nunc ego Medeae vellem frenare dracones,
now I of-Medea would-wish to-bridle the-dragons,
quos habuit fugiens arce, Corinthe, tua;
which she-had fleeing from-citadel, Corinth, your;
nunc ego iactandas optarem sumere pennas,
now I to-be-moved would-wish to-take-up wings,
sive tuas, Perseu, Daedale, sive tuas:
whether yours, Perseus, Daedalus, or yours:

ut tenera nostris cedente volatibus aura
that tender to-our yielding flights air
aspicerem patriae dulce repente solum,
I-might-see of-my-country sweet suddenly soil,
desertaeque domus vultus, memoresque sodales,
and-of-deserted house the-face, and-mindful comrades,
caraque praecipue coniugis ora meae.
and-dear above-all of-wife the-face my.
stulte, quid haec frustra votis puerilibus optas,
fool, why these-things in-vain with-prayers childish do-you-wish,
quae non ulla tibi fertque feretque dies?
which not any to-you either-brings or-will-bring day?
si semel optandum est, Augusti numen adora,
if once to-be-wished it-is, of-Augustus the-divinity worship,
et, quem sensisti, rite precare deum.
and, whom you-have-felt, duly pray-to god.
ille tibi pennasque potest currusque volucres
he to-you both-wings can and-chariots winged
tradere: det reditum, protinus ales eris.
to-hand-over: let-him-give return, at-once winged you-will-be.
si precer hoc — neque enim possum maiora rogare —
if I-should-pray this nor indeed I-can greater-things to-ask
ne mea sint, timeo, vota modesta parum.
lest my may-be, I-fear, prayers modest too-little.
forsitan hoc olim, cum iam satiaverit iram,
perhaps this someday, when already he-shall-have-sated his-anger,
tum quoque sollicita mente rogandus erit.
then too with-anxious mind to-be-asked he-will-be.
quod minus interea est, instar mihi muneris ampli,
what less meanwhile is, the-equivalent to-me of-a-gift ample,

ex his me iubeat quolibet ire locis.
from these me may-be-bid any to-go places.
nec caelum nec aquae faciunt nec terra nec aurae;
nor sky nor waters suit nor land nor breezes;
ei mihi, perpetuus corpora languor habet!
ah me, perpetual body languor holds!
seu vitiant artus aegrae contagia mentis,
whether impair the-limbs of-a-sick contagions mind,
sive mei causa est in regione mali,
or-whether of-my the-cause is in the-region evil,
ut tetigi Pontum, vexant insomnia, vixque
since I-touched Pontus, vex-me sleeplessness, and-hardly
ossa tegit macies nec iuvat ora cibus;
the-bones covers leanness nor pleases the-mouth food;
quique per autumnum percussis frigore primo
and-which through autumn struck by-cold first
est color in foliis, quae nova laesit hiems,
is the-color in leaves, which new has-harmed winter,
is mea membra tenet, nec viribus adlevor ullis,
that my limbs holds, nor by-strength I-am-raised any,
et numquam queruli causa doloris abest.
and never of-complaining the-cause pain is-absent.
nec melius valeo, quam corpore, mente, sed aegra est
nor better I-am-well, than in-body, in-mind, but sick is
utraque pars aeque binaque damna fero.
each part equally and-twofold losses I-bear.
haeret et ante oculos veluti spectabile corpus
clings and before eyes as-if a-visible body
astat fortunae forma legenda meae:
stands of-fortune the-form to-be-read my:

cumque locum moresque hominum cultusque sonumque
and-when the-place and-the-ways of-the-people and-dress and-sound
cernimus, et, qui sim qui fuerimque, subit,
we-see, and, who I-may-be who and-I-may-have-been, comes-to-mind,
tantus amor necis est, querar ut cum Caesaris ira,
so-great love of-death is, I-should-complain that with Caesar's anger,
quod non offensas vindicet ense suas.
that not offenses he-avenges with-the-sword his.
at, quoniam semel est odio civiliter usus,
but, since once he-has with-hatred in-civil-fashion used,
mutato levior sit fuga nostra loco.
changed lighter may-be flight our place.

III.9 · THE NAME OF TOMIS

Even here Greek cities stand, colonies of Miletus among the barbarians, and the place's name is older than the city. When Medea fled her father on the Argo, he pursued; seeing his sails, she killed her brother Absyrtus, scattered his limbs on the fields, and set his head and hands on a crag, so that their father would stop to gather them. The place was named Tomis, the Cutting, because there the brother's body was cut apart.

Hic quoque sunt igitur Graiae — quis crederet? — urbes
Here too are therefore Greek who would-believe? cities
inter inhumanae nomina barbariae;
among of-inhuman the-names barbarism;
huc quoque Mileto missi venere coloni,
hither too from-Miletus sent came colonists,
inque Getis Graias constituere domos.
and-among the-Getae Greek founded homes.

sed vetus huic nomen, positaque antiquius urbe,
but old to-this the-name, and-than-the-founded older city,
constat ab Absyrti caede fuisse loco.
it-is-agreed from of-Absyrtus the-murder to-have-been for-the-place.
nam rate, quae cura pugnacis facta Minervae
for in-the-ship, which by-the-care of-warlike made Minerva
per non temptatas prima cucurrit aquas,
through not tried first ran waters,
impia desertum fugiens Medea parentem
impious deserted fleeing Medea her-father
dicitur his remos applicuisse vadis.
is-said to-these her-oars to-have-put shallows.
quem procul ut vidit tumulo speculator ab alto,
whom far when saw the-mound the-lookout from high,
"hospes," ait, "nosco, Colchide, vela, venit."
"a-stranger," he-says, "I-know, from-Colchis, sails, comes."
dum trepidant Minyae, dum solvitur aggere funis,
while are-in-panic the-Minyae, while is-loosed from-the-bank the-rope,
dum sequitur celeres ancora tracta manus,
while follows swift the-anchor drawn hands,
conscia percussit meritorum pectora Colchis
conscious struck of-deserts her-breast the-Colchian
ausa atque ausura multa nefanda manu;
having-dared and going-to-dare many unspeakable-things with-hand;
et, quamquam superest ingens audacia menti,
and, although remains huge boldness in-her-mind,
pallor in attonitae virginis ore fuit.
pallor on of-the-thunderstruck maiden the-face was.
ergo ubi prospexit venientia vela "tenemur,
so when she-saw coming sails "we-are-held,

et pater est aliqua fraude morandus" ait.
and the-father is by-some trick to-be-delayed" she-says.
dum quid agat quaerit, dum versat in omnia vultus,
while what she-may-do she-seeks, while she-turns to all-things her-face,
ad fratrem casu lumina flexa tulit.
to her-brother by-chance eyes bent she-brought.
cuius ut oblata est praesentia, "vicimus" inquit:
whose when presented was the-presence, "we-have-won" she-says:
"hic mihi morte sua causa salutis erit."
"this-one for-me by-death his the-cause of-safety will-be."
protinus ignari nec quicquam tale timentis
at-once of-the-unknowing nor anything such fearing
innocuum rigido perforat ense latus,
the-harmless with-stiff she-pierces sword side,
atque ita divellit divulsaque membra per agros
and so tears-apart and-torn-apart limbs through the-fields
dissipat in multis invenienda locis.
scatters in many to-be-found places.
neu pater ignoret, scopulo proponit in alto
and-lest her-father be-ignorant, crag she-sets-out on high
pallentesque manus sanguineumque caput,
and-the-pale hands and-the-bloody head,
ut genitor luctuque novo tardetur et, artus
that the-father both-by-mourning new may-be-delayed and, the-limbs
dum legit extinctos, triste moretur iter.
while he-gathers lifeless, sad may-delay the-journey.
inde Tomis dictus locus hic, quia fertur in illo
thence Tomis called place this, because it-is-said in it
membra soror fratris consecuisse sui.
the-limbs the-sister of-brother to-have-cut-up her.

If anyone in Rome remembers Ovid, let him know he lives among the barbarians. Winter here is endless: snow lasts for years, men wear skins and trousers, beards ring with ice, and wine freezes in the shape of its jar. The Danube freezes and oxen draw Sarmatian wagons across it; the sea freezes and ships stand fixed. Then mounted raiders cross the ice, carry off cattle and captives, shoot poisoned arrows, and burn huts, so no one plows, and no vine, apple, or tree grows on the bare plains.

Siquis adhuc istic meminit Nasonis adempti,
If-anyone still there remembers Naso taken-away,
et superest sine me nomen in urbe meum,
and survives without me the-name in the-city my,
suppositum stellis numquam tangentibus aequor
placed-beneath the-stars never touching the-sea
me sciat in media vivere barbaria.
me let-him-know in the-midst to-live of-barbarism.
Sauromatae cingunt, fera gens, Bessique Getaeque,
the-Sauromatae surround, a-wild race, and-the-Bessi and-the-Getae,
quam non ingenio nomina digna meo!
how not of-talent names worthy my!
dum tamen aura tepet, medio defendimur Histro:
while still the-breeze is-warm, by-the-intervening we-are-defended Hister:
ille suis liquidus bella repellit aquis.
he with-his-own flowing wars repels waters.
at cum tristis hiems squalentia protulit ora,
but when sad winter squalid has-brought-forth face,
terraque marmoreo est candida facta gelu,
and-the-land with-marble is white made frost,

dum prohibet Boreas et nix habitare sub Arcto,
while forbids Boreas and the-snow to-dwell under the-Bear,
tum patet has gentes axe tremente premi.
then it-is-clear these peoples by-the-pole trembling to-be-pressed.
nix iacet, et iactam ne sol pluviaeque resolvant,
the-snow lies, and fallen lest the-sun and-rains may-melt,
indurat Boreas perpetuamque facit.
hardens Boreas and-perpetual makes.
ergo ubi delicuit nondum prior, altera venit,
so when has-melted not-yet the-former, another comes,
et solet in multis bima manere locis;
and is-wont in many two-years-old to-remain places;
tantaque commoti vis est Aquilonis, ut altas
and-so-great of-roused the-force is Aquilo, that high
aequet humo turres tectaque rapta ferat.
it-levels with-the-ground towers and-roofs snatched carries.
pellibus et sutis arcent mala frigora bracis,
with-skins and sewn they-keep-off the-evil cold trousers,
oraque de toto corpore sola patent.
and-the-faces of the-whole body alone lie-open.
saepe sonant moti glacie pendente capilli,
often sound moved with-ice hanging the-hairs,
et nitet inducto candida barba gelu;
and shines with-drawn-over white the-beard frost;
nudaque consistunt, formam servantia testae,
and-bare stand, the-shape keeping of-the-jar,
vina, nec hausta meri, sed data frusta bibunt.
wines, nor drafts of-wine, but given pieces they-drink.
quid loquar, ut vincti concrescant frigore rivi,
why should-I-tell, how bound grow-solid with-cold the-streams,

deque lacu fragiles effodiantur aquae?
and-from the-lake brittle are-dug waters?
ipse, papyrifero qui non angustior amne
itself, than-the-papyrus-bearing which not narrower stream
miscetur vasto multa per ora freto,
mingles with-vast many through mouths strait,
caeruleos ventis latices durantibus, Hister
the-blue the-winds waters hardening, the-Hister
congelat et tectis in mare serpit aquis;
freezes and with-covered into the-sea creeps waters;
quaque rates ierant, pedibus nunc itur, et undas
and-where ships had-gone, on-feet now one-goes, and the-waves
frigore concretas ungula pulsat equi;
by-cold solidified the-hoof strikes of-the-horse;
perque novos pontes, subter labentibus undis,
and-over new bridges, beneath gliding waves,
ducunt Sarmatici barbara plaustra boves.
draw Sarmatian barbarian wagons oxen.
vix equidem credar, sed, cum sint praemia falsi
hardly indeed shall-I-be-believed, but, since may-be the-rewards of-falsehood
nulla, ratam debet testis habere fidem:
none, ratified ought a-witness to-have credit:
vidimus ingentem glacie consistere pontum,
we-have-seen the-huge with-ice to-stand-still sea,
lubricaque inmotas testa premebat aquas,
and-a-slippery unmoved crust was-pressing waters,
nec vidisse sat est; durum calcavimus aequor,
nor to-have-seen enough is-it; the-hard we-have-trodden sea,
undaque non udo sub pede summa fuit.
and-the-wave not wet under foot the-top was.

si tibi tale fretum quondam, Leandre, fuisset,
if for-you such a-strait once, Leander, had-been,
non foret angustae mors tua crimen aquae.
not would-be of-the-narrow death your the-charge water.
tum neque se pandi possunt delphines in auras
then neither themselves curved can the-dolphins into the-airs
tollere; conantes dura coërcet hiems;
to-raise; them-trying hard checks winter;
et quamvis Boreas iactatis insonet alis,
and although Boreas with-tossed may-roar wings,
fluctus in obsesso gurgite nullus erit;
wave in besieged whirlpool no will-be;
inclusaeque gelu stabunt in marmore puppes,
and-shut-in by-ice will-stand in the-marble the-ships,
nec poterit rigidas findere remus aquas.
nor will-be-able stiff to-cleave the-oar waters.
vidimus in glacie pisces haerere ligatos,
we-have-seen in the-ice fish to-stick bound,
sed pars ex illis tum quoque viva fuit.
but part of them then too alive was.
sive igitur nimii Boreae vis saeva marinas,
whether therefore of-excessive Boreas the-force savage sea,
sive redundatas flumine cogit aquas,
or-whether overflowing by-the-river it-compacts waters,
protinus aequato siccis Aquilonibus Histro
at-once leveled by-the-dry North-Winds Hister
invehitur celeri barbarus hostis equo;
rides-in on-swift the-barbarian enemy horse;
hostis equo pollens longeque volante sagitta
the-enemy on-horse powerful and-far with-flying arrow

vicinam late depopulatur humum.
the-neighboring widely ravages land.
diffugiunt alii, nullisque tuentibus agros
flee-apart some, and-none guarding the-fields
incustoditae diripiuntur opes,
unguarded are-plundered the-riches,
ruris opes parvae, pecus et stridentia plaustra,
of-the-country the-riches small, the-flock and creaking wagons,
et quas divitias incola pauper habet.
and which wealth the-inhabitant poor has.
pars agitur vinctis post tergum capta lacertis,
part is-driven bound behind the-back captured arms,
respiciens frustra rura Laremque suum:
looking-back in-vain at-the-fields and-the-Lar its-own:
pars cadit hamatis misere confixa sagittis:
part falls by-barbed wretchedly pierced arrows:
nam volucri ferro tinctile virus inest.
for on-the-winged iron dyed poison is-in.
quae nequeunt secum ferre aut abducere, perdunt,
what-things they-cannot with-them to-carry or to-lead-away, they-destroy,
et cremat insontes hostica flamma casas.
and burns the-innocent hostile flame huts.
tunc quoque, cum pax est, trepidant formidine belli,
then too, when peace is, they-tremble with-fear of-war,
nec quisquam presso vomere sulcat humum.
nor anyone with-pressed plowshare furrows the-ground.
aut videt aut metuit locus hic, quem non videt, hostem;
either sees or fears place this, which not it-sees, the-enemy;
cessat iners rigido terra relicta situ.
lies-idle sluggish in-stiff the-land left neglect.

non hic pampinea dulcis latet uva sub umbra,
not here vine-leafy sweet lies-hidden the-grape under shade,
nec cumulant altos fervida musta lacus.
nor heap high fermenting the-musts vats.
poma negat regio, nec haberet Acontius in quo
fruits denies the-region, nor would-have Acontius on which
scriberet hic dominae verba legenda suae.
he-might-write here for-mistress words to-be-read her.
aspiceres nudos sine fronde, sine arbore, campos:
you-would-see bare without leaf, without tree, plains:
heu loca felici non adeunda viro!
alas places by-a-happy not to-be-approached man!
ergo tam late pateat cum maximus orbis,
so so widely may-lie-open though the-greatest world,
haec est in poenam terra reperta meam!
this is for punishment land found my!

Whoever insults Ovid's misfortunes and prosecutes him without end was born of crags and fed on a beast's milk. Ovid lives in fear among barbarians, and Caesar's anger alone is evil enough. Only a coward tramples the fallen: Ovid is a shade, as Hector dragged by the horses was no longer Hector, and even if every charge were true, he pays heavy penalties. The enemy is crueler than Busiris, Phalaris, and the bull's maker, burned in it first. Ovid asks him to let the wound heal, and wishes he felt Ovid's punishments himself.

Si quis es, insultes qui casibus, improbe, nostris,
If anyone you-are, may-insult who the-misfortunes, shameless-one, our,

meque reum dempto fine cruentus agas,
and-me accused removed the-end bloody may-prosecute,

natus es e scopulis et pastus lacte ferino,
born you-were from crags and fed with-milk wild,

et dicam silices pectus habere tuum.
and I-shall-say flints the-breast to-have your.

quis gradus ulterior, quo se tua porrigat ira,
what step further, to-which itself your may-stretch anger,

restat? quidve meis cernis abesse malis?
remains? or-what from-my do-you-see to-be-absent evils?

barbara me tellus et inhospita litora Ponti
a-barbarian me land and inhospitable the-shores of-Pontus

cumque suo Borea Maenalis Ursa videt.
and-with its-own Boreas the-Maenalian Bear sees.

nulla mihi cum gente fera commercia linguae:
no to-me with the-race wild exchanges of-tongue:

omnia solliciti sunt loca plena metus.
all of-anxious are places full fear.

utque fugax avidis cervus deprensus ab ursis,
and-as the-fleeing greedy deer caught by bears,
cinctave montanis ut pavet agna lupis,
or-surrounded by-mountain as fears the-lamb wolves,
sic ego belligeris a gentibus undique saeptus
so I warlike by peoples on-all-sides fenced
terreor, hoste meum paene premente latus.
am-terrified, the-enemy my almost pressing side.
utque sit exiguum poenae, quod coniuge cara,
and-though it-may-be small of-punishment, that wife dear,
quod patria careo pignoribusque meis:
that country I-lack and-pledges my:
ut mala nulla feram nisi nudam Caesaris iram,
though evils none I-may-bear except bare Caesar's anger,
nuda parum nobis Caesaris ira mali est?
bare too-little to-us Caesar's anger of-evil is?
et tamen est aliquis, qui vulnera cruda retractet,
and still there-is someone, who wounds raw may-reopen,
solvat et in mores ora diserta meos.
may-loose and against ways mouth eloquent my.
in causa facili cuivis licet esse diserto,
in a-cause easy for-anyone it-is-allowed to-be eloquent,
et minimae vires frangere quassa valent.
and the-least strength to-break shattered-things avail.
subruere est arces et stantia moenia virtus:
to-overthrow is citadels and standing walls valor:
quamlibet ignavi praecipitata premunt.
however cowardly cast-down-things press.
non sum ego quod fueram. quid inanem proteris umbram?
not am I what I-had-been. why the-empty do-you-trample shade?

quid cinerem saxis bustaque nostra petis?
why ashes with-stones and-tombs our do-you-attack?
Hector erat tunc cum bello certabat; at idem
Hector was then when in-war he-was-contending; but the-same
vinctus ad Haemonios non erat Hector equos.
bound to the-Haemonian not was Hector horses.
me quoque, quem noras olim, non esse memento:
me too, whom you-knew once, not to-be remember:
ex illo superant haec simulacra viro.
of that remain these phantoms man.
quid simulacra, ferox, dictis incessis amaris?
why the-phantoms, fierce-one, with-words do-you-assail bitter?
parce, precor, Manes sollicitare meos!
spare, I-pray, the-Shades to-trouble my!
omnia vera puta mea crimina, nil sit in illis,
all true suppose my charges, nothing may-be in them,
quod magis errorem quam scelus esse putes,
which more an-error than a-crime to-be you-may-think,
pendimus en profugi — satia tua pectora — poenas
we-pay behold exiled sate your heart the-penalties
exilioque graves exiliique loco.
and-by-exile heavy and-of-exile by-the-place.
carnifici fortuna potest mea flenda videri:
to-a-hangman fortune can my to-be-wept to-seem:
et tamen est uno iudice mersa parum.
and still it-is one judge sunk too-little.
saevior es tristi Busiride, saevior illo,
more-savage you-are than-grim Busiris, more-savage than-him,
qui falsum lento torruit igne bovem,
who false in-slow roasted fire ox,

quique bovem Siculo fertur donasse tyranno,
and-who the-ox to-the-Sicilian is-said to-have-given tyrant,
et dictis artes conciliasse suas:
and with-words the-arts to-have-commended his:
"munere in hoc, rex, est usus, sed imagine maior,
"gift in this, king, is use, but than-the-image greater,
nec sola est operis forma probanda mei.
nor alone is of-the-work the-form to-be-approved my.
aspicis a dextra latus hoc adapertile tauri?
do-you-see on the-right side this to-be-opened of-the-bull?
hac tibi, quem perdes, coniciendus erit.
this-way by-you, whom you-will-destroy, to-be-thrown-in he-will-be.
protinus inclusum lentis carbonibus ure:
at-once shut-in with-slow coals burn:
mugiet, et veri vox erit illa bovis.
he-will-bellow, and of-a-true the-voice will-be that ox.
pro quibus inventis, ut munus munere penses,
for which inventions, that the-gift with-a-gift you-may-repay,
da, precor, ingenio praemia digna meo."
give, I-pray, to-talent rewards worthy my."
dixerat. at Phalaris "poenae mirande repertor,
he-had-spoken. but Phalaris "of-punishment wonderful discoverer,
ipse tuum praesens imbue" dixit "opus."
yourself your present initiate" said "work."
nec mora, monstratis crudeliter ignibus ustus
nor delay, by-shown cruelly fires burned
exhibuit geminos ore gemente sonos.
he-exhibited twin mouth groaning sounds.
quid mihi cum Siculis inter Scythiamque Getasque?
what to-me with Sicilians among both-Scythia and-the-Getae?

ad te, quisquis is es, nostra querella redit.
to you, whoever he you-are, our complaint returns.
utque sitim nostro possis explere cruore,
and-though thirst with-our you-may-be-able to-fill blood,
quantaque vis, avido gaudia corde feras,
and-as-great-as you-wish, with-greedy joys heart may-you-bear,
tot mala sum fugiens tellure, tot aequore passus,
so-many evils I-have fleeing by-land, so-many by-sea suffered,
te quoque ut auditis posse dolere putem.
you too that by-hearing to-be-able to-grieve I-may-think.
crede mihi, si sit nobis collatus Ulixes,
believe me, if may-be with-us compared Ulysses,
Neptuni minor est quam Iovis ira fuit.
of-Neptune less is than of-Jove the-anger was.
ergo quicumque es, rescindere crimina noli,
so whoever you-are, to-reopen the-charges do-not,
deque gravi duras vulnere tolle manus;
and-from heavy hard wound remove hands;
utque meae famam tenuent oblivia culpae,
and-that of-my the-report may-thin forgetfulness fault,
facta cicatricem ducere nostra sine;
the-deeds the-scar to-draw our allow;
humanaeque memor sortis, quae tollit eosdem
and-of-human mindful lot, which raises the-same
et premit, incertas ipse verere vices.
and presses, uncertain yourself fear changes.
et quoniam, fieri quod numquam posse putavi,
and since, to-happen which never to-be-able I-thought,
est tibi de rebus maxima cura meis,
there-is to-you about affairs greatest care my,

non est quod timeas: fortuna miserrima nostra est,
not is-there why you-should-fear: fortune most-wretched our is,
omne trahit secum Caesaris ira malum.
all drags with-itself Caesar's anger evil.
quod magis ut liqueat, neve hoc ego fingere credar,
which more that it-may-be-clear, nor this I to-invent may-be-believed,
ipse velim poenas experiare meas.
yourself I-would-wish the-penalties you-may-experience my.

III.12 · SPRING AT TOMIS

The Zephyrs lessen the cold, and the long winter seems over. In Rome the meadows bloom, the games begin, the young men ride, play ball, and swim in the Aqua Virgo, and the theaters resound. Here the snow only melts, and no vine or tree grows. Yet a ship may come: Ovid will ask the sailor whether he brings news of Caesar's triumph over Germany, and make him his guest. Then he asks if his house is now Scythian, and prays that Caesar make this his place of punishment, not his home.

Frigora iam Zephyri minuunt, annoque peracto
The-colds now the-Zephyrs lessen, and-the-year finished
longior antiquis visa Maeotis hiems,
longer than-former seemed Maeotic winter,
inpositamque sibi qui non bene pertulit Hellen,
and-placed-on on-himself who not well carried Helle,
tempora nocturnis aequa diurna facit.
the-times to-nocturnal equal diurnal makes.
iam violam puerique legunt hilaresque puellae,
now the-violet both-boys gather and-cheerful girls,
rustica quae nullo nata serente venit;
rustic which no born sower comes;

prataque pubescunt variorum flore colorum,
and-the-meadows grow-downy of-varied with-flower colors,
indocilique loquax gutture vernat avis;
and-with-untaught chattering throat sings-in-spring the-bird;
utque malae matris crimen deponat hirundo
and-that of-a-bad mother the-charge she-may-lay-aside the-swallow
sub trabibus cunas tectaque parva facit;
under beams cradles and-houses small makes;
herbaque, quae latuit Cerealibus obruta sulcis,
and-the-blade, which lay-hidden in-Ceres' buried furrows,
exit et expandit molle cacumen humo;
comes-out and spreads tender its-tip from-the-ground;
quoque loco est vitis, de palmite gemma movetur:
and-in-whatever place is the-vine, from the-shoot the-bud is-moved:
nam procul a Getico litore vitis abest;
for far from the-Getic shore the-vine is-absent;
quoque loco est arbor, turgescit in arbore ramus:
and-in-whatever place is the-tree, swells on the-tree the-branch:
nam procul a Geticis finibus arbor abest.
for far from the-Getic borders the-tree is-absent.
otia nunc istic, iunctisque ex ordine ludis
leisure now there, and-to-joined in order games
cedunt verbosi garrula bella fori.
yield of-the-wordy prattling wars forum.
lusus equi nunc est, levibus nunc luditur armis,
the-sport of-the-horse now is, with-light now one-plays arms,
nunc pila, nunc celeri volvitur orbe trochus;
now the-ball, now with-swift is-rolled circle the-hoop;
nunc ubi perfusa est oleo labente iuventus,
now when drenched has-been with-oil gliding the-youth,

defessos artus Virgine tinguit aqua.
wearied limbs in-the-Virgin it-dips water.
scaena viget studiisque favor distantibus ardet,
the-stage thrives and-for-pursuits favor different burns,
proque tribus resonant terna theatra foris.
and-for three resound three theaters forums.
o quater, o quotiens non est numerare, beatum,
O four-times, O how-often not it-is-possible to-count, happy,
non interdicta cui licet urbe frui!
not forbidden to-whom it-is-allowed city to-enjoy!
at mihi sentitur nix verno sole soluta,
but by-me is-felt snow by-spring sun melted,
quaeque lacu durae non fodiantur aquae:
and-which from-the-lake hard not may-be-dug waters:
nec mare concrescit glacie, nec, ut ante, per Histrum
nor the-sea congeals with-ice, nor, as before, over the-Hister
stridula Sauromates plaustra bubulcus agit.
creaking the-Sauromatian wagons herdsman drives.
incipient aliquae tamen huc adnare carinae,
will-begin some still hither to-swim keels,
hospitaque in Ponti litore puppis erit.
and-a-stranger on of-Pontus shore ship will-be.
sedulus occurram nautae, dictaque salute,
diligent I-shall-run-to-meet the-sailor, and-spoken greeting,
quid veniat, quaeram, quisve quibusve locis.
why he-comes, I-shall-ask, or-who or-from-what places.
ille quidem mirum ni de regione propinqua
he indeed strange if-not from region neighboring
non nisi vicinas tutus ararit aquas.
not except neighboring safe has-plowed waters.

rarus ab Italia tantum mare navita transit,
rare from Italy so-great a-sea a-sailor crosses,
litora rarus in haec portubus orba venit.
shores rare to these of-harbors bereft comes.
sive tamen Graeca scierit, sive ille Latina
whether still in-Greek he-shall-know, or-whether he in-Latin
voce loqui — certe gratior huius erit;
voice to-speak surely more-welcome this-one will-be;
fas quoque ab ore freti longaeque Propontidos undis
right too from the-mouth of-the-strait and-of-long Propontis waves
huc aliquem certo vela dedisse Noto —
hither someone with-steady sails to-have-given South-Wind
quisquis is est, memori rumorem voce referre
whoever he is, with-mindful the-rumor voice to-relate
et fieri famae parsque gradusque potest.
and to-become of-report both-a-part and-a-step can.
is, precor, auditos possit narrare triumphos
he, I-pray, heard may-be-able to-tell triumphs
Caesaris et Latio reddita vota Iovi,
of-Caesar and to-Latian paid vows Jove,
teque, rebellatrix, tandem, Germania, magni
and-you, rebel, at-last, Germany, of-great
triste caput pedibus supposuisse ducis.
sad your-head to-the-feet to-have-placed-under leader.
haec mihi qui referet, quae non vidisse dolebo,
these-things to-me who shall-relate, which not to-have-seen I-shall-grieve,
ille meae domui protinus hospes erit.
he to-my house at-once a-guest will-be.

ei mihi, iamne domus Scythico Nasonis in orbe est?
ah me, already-whether the-house Scythian of-Naso in world is?
iamque suum mihi dat pro Lare poena locum?
and-already its-own to-me gives in-place-of Lar the-punishment place?
di facite ut Caesar non hic penetrale domumque,
gods make that Caesar not here the-sanctuary and-home,
hospitium poenae sed velit esse meae.
the-lodging of-punishment but may-wish to-be my.

III.13 · HIS BIRTHDAY

Ovid's birthday has come, useless to him. Why has it followed him into exile? It should have ended his life where it began, in Rome. He will wear no white robe, raise no altar wreathed with flowers, and burn no incense; a funeral altar of cypress and a pyre would suit him better. The day is fit only for mourning: let it come no more to these places while Pontus holds him.

Ecce supervacuus — quid enim fuit utile gigni? —
Behold superfluous what indeed was-it useful to-be-born?
ad sua Natalis tempora noster adest.
at its-own Birthday times our is-present.
dure, quid ad miseros veniebas exulis annos?
hard-one, why to wretched did-you-come of-an-exile years?
debueras illis inposuisse modum.
you-ought to-them to-have-placed an-end.
si tibi cura mei, vel si pudor ullus inesset,
if in-you care for-me, or if shame any were-in,
non ultra patriam me sequerere meam,
not beyond country me would-you-follow my,
quoque loco primum tibi sum male cognitus infans,
and-in-what place first to-you I-was ill known as-an-infant,

illo temptasses ultimus esse mihi,
in-that would-you-have-tried the-last to-be to-me,
inque relinquendo, quod idem fecere sodales,
and-in leaving, as the-same did comrades,
tu quoque dixisses tristis in urbe "vale."
you too would-have-said sad in the-city "farewell."
quid tibi cum Ponto? num te quoque Caesaris ira
what to-you with Pontus? surely-not you too Caesar's anger
extremam gelidi misit in orbis humum?
farthest of-cold has-sent to world ground?
scilicet expectas soliti tibi moris honorem,
doubtless you-expect of-accustomed to-you custom the-honor,
pendeat ex umeris vestis ut alba meis,
may-hang from shoulders the-robe that white my,
fumida cingatur florentibus ara coronis,
smoky may-be-ringed with-flowering the-altar garlands,
micaque sollemni turis in igne sonet,
and-the-grain solemn of-incense in fire may-crackle,
libaque dem proprie genitale notantia tempus,
and-cakes I-may-give properly birth marking the-time,
concipiamque bonas ore favente preces.
and-I-may-conceive good mouth favoring prayers.
non ita sum positus, nec sunt ea tempora nobis,
not so I-am placed, nor are those times to-us,
adventu possim laetus ut esse tuo.
at-arrival I-could glad that to-be your.
funeris ara mihi, ferali cincta cupressu,
of-a-funeral an-altar for-me, with-funereal ringed cypress,
convenit et structis flamma parata rogis.
befits and on-built the-flame prepared pyres.

nec dare tura libet nil exorantia divos,
nor to-give incense pleases nothing prevailing-upon the-gods,
in tantis subeunt nec bona verba malis.
amid so-great come-to-mind nor good words evils.
si tamen est aliquid nobis hac luce petendum,
if still is something by-us on-this day to-be-sought,
in loca ne redeas amplius ista, precor,
to places not may-you-return any-more these, I-pray,
dum me terrarum pars paene novissima, Pontus,
while me of-the-lands the-part almost last, Pontus,
Euxinus falso nomine dictus, habet.
the-Euxine by-false name called, holds.

III.14 · TO THE KEEPER OF HIS BOOKS

Ovid asks a friend, a patron of learned men, to keep his books safe in the city, all but the Art of Love, as orphans of an exiled father, the unfinished Metamorphoses among them. He sends this book as well, written in exile, and asks the reader to pardon its faults. Here there are no books, no listener, and no one who knows Latin; he forgets words, and fears that Pontic words have crept into his verse.

Cultor et antistes doctorum sancte virorum,
Cultivator and priest of-learned holy men,
quid facis, ingenio semper amice meo?
what are-you-doing, to-talent always friend my?
ecquid, ut incolumem quondam celebrare solebas,
whether-at-all, as unharmed once to-celebrate you-were-wont,
nunc quoque, ne videar totus abesse, caves?
now too, lest I-may-seem wholly to-be-absent, do-you-take-care?
suscipis exceptis ecquid mea carmina solis
do-you-take-up excepting whether-at-all my songs alone

Artibus, artifici quae nocuere suo?
the-Arts, to-the-artist which have-harmed their?
immo ita fac, quaeso, vatum studiose novorum,
nay so do, I-pray, of-bards eager new,
quaque potes, retine corpus in urbe meum.
and-in-what-way you-can, keep the-body in the-city my.
est fuga dicta mihi, non est fuga dicta libellis,
was flight decreed for-me, not was flight decreed for-the-little-books,
qui domini poenam non meruere sui.
which of-master the-punishment not have-deserved their.
saepe per externas profugus pater exulat oras,
often through foreign the-fugitive father is-exiled shores,
urbe tamen natis exulis esse licet.
in-the-city still for-the-children of-an-exile to-be it-is-allowed.
Palladis exemplo de me sine matre creata
of-Pallas by-the-example from me without mother created
carmina sunt; stirps haec progeniesque mea est.
the-songs are; stock this and-offspring my is.
hanc tibi commendo, quae quo magis orba parente est,
this to-you I-commend, which by-how-much more bereft of-parent it-is,
hoc tibi tutori sarcina maior erit.
by-this to-you the-guardian the-burden greater will-be.
tres mihi sunt nati contagia nostra secuti:
three to-me are sons the-contagion our having-followed:
cetera fac curae sit tibi turba palam.
the-rest see-to-it a-care may-be to-you crowd openly.
sunt quoque mutatae, ter quinque volumina, formae,
there-are too changed, thrice five volumes, forms,
carmina de domini funere rapta sui.
songs from of-the-master funeral snatched his.

illud opus potuit, si non prius ipse perissem,
that work could, if not before I-myself had-perished,
certius a summa nomen habere manu:
more-certain from the-final name to-have hand:
nunc incorrectum populi pervenit in ora,
now uncorrected of-the-people has-come into mouths,
in populi quicquam si tamen ore mei est.
in of-the-people anything if still mouth mine is.
hoc quoque nescio quid nostris appone libellis,
this too I-know-not what to-our add little-books,
diverso missum quod tibi ab orbe venit.
a-different sent which to-you from world comes.
quod quicumque leget, — si quis leget — aestimet ante,
which whoever shall-read, if anyone shall-read let-him-weigh first,
compositum quo sit tempore quoque loco.
composed at-what it-may-be time and-in-what place.
aequus erit scriptis, quorum cognoverit esse
fair he-will-be to-the-writings, of-which he-shall-have-learned to-be
exilium tempus barbariamque locum:
exile the-time and-barbarism the-place:
inque tot adversis carmen mirabitur ullum
and-amid so-many adversities a-song he-will-wonder-that any
ducere me tristi sustinuisse manu.
to-draw-out me with-sad to-have-endured hand.
ingenium fregere meum mala, cuius et ante
the-talent have-broken my evils, of-which even before
fons infecundus parvaque vena fuit.
the-spring unfruitful and-small the-vein was.
sed quaecumque fuit, nullo exercente refugit,
but whatever it-was, none exercising-it it-has-shrunk-back,

et longo periit arida facta situ.
and from-long has-perished dry made neglect.
non hic librorum, per quos inviter alarque,
not here of-books, by which I-might-be-invited and-nourished,
copia: pro libris arcus et arma sonant.
the-abundance: in-place-of books bows and arms sound.
nullus in hac terra, recitem si carmina, cuius
no-one in this land, I-should-recite if songs, of-whose
intellecturis auribus utar, adest;
going-to-understand ears I-might-make-use, is-present;
non quo secedam locus est. custodia muri
not to-where I-may-withdraw place is. the-guard of-the-wall
summovet infestos clausaque porta Getas.
removes hostile and-the-closed gate the-Getae.
saepe aliquod quaero verbum nomenque locumque,
often some I-seek word and-name and-place,
nec quisquam est a quo certior esse queam.
nor anyone is from whom more-informed to-be I-may-be-able.
dicere saepe aliquid conanti — turpe fateri! —
to-say often something to-me-trying shameful to-confess!
verba mihi desunt dedidicique loqui.
words to-me are-lacking and-I-have-unlearned to-speak.
Threicio Scythicoque fere circumsonor ore,
by-Thracian and-Scythian almost I-am-sounded-around mouth,
et videor Geticis scribere posse modis.
and I-seem in-Getic to-write to-be-able measures.

crede mihi, timeo ne sint inmixta Latinis
believe me, I-fear lest may-be mixed with-Latin
inque meis scriptis Pontica verba legas. 50
and-in my writings Pontic words you-may-read.
qualemcumque igitur venia dignare libellum.
whatever-sort therefore with-pardon deem-worthy the-little-book.
sortis et excusa condicione meae.
of-the-lot and excuse-it by-the-condition my.

IV.1 · POETRY AS CONSOLATION

If Ovid's books are faulty, the times excuse them: he writes not for fame but to keep his mind from his sorrows, as ditch-digger, boatman, shepherd, and spinning girl sing at work. The Muse, who harmed him, is his one companion and knows his fault was an error, not a crime; in her frenzy, like a Bacchant, he forgets his ills. Here the enemy shoots poisoned arrows, and he bears arms himself. With no listener, weeping, he often burns his poems, and asks Rome to take kindly a song no better than his times.

Siqua meis fuerint, ut erunt, vitiosa libellis,
If-any-things in-my shall-have-been, as they-will-be, faulty little-books,
excusata suo tempore, lector, habe.
excused by-their time, reader, hold-them.
exul eram, requiesque mihi, non fama petita est,
an-exile I-was, and-rest by-me, not fame sought was,
mens intenta suis ne foret usque malis.
the-mind intent on-its-own lest might-be continually evils.
hoc est cur cantet vinctus quoque compede fossor,
this is why sings bound too with-a-fetter the-ditcher,
indocili numero cum grave mollit opus.
with-untaught measure when heavy he-softens work.
cantat et innitens limosae pronus harenae,
sings and leaning on-the-muddy bent sand,
adverso tardam qui trahit amne ratem;
against-the-adverse slow who drags stream boat;
quique refert pariter lentos ad pectora remos,
and-he-who brings-back equally pliant to his-breast oars,
in numerum pulsa brachia pulsat aqua.
in rhythm struck arms strikes water.

fessus ubi incubuit baculo saxove resedit
weary when he-has-leaned on-his-staff or-on-a-rock has-sat-down
pastor, harundineo carmine mulcet oves.
the-shepherd, with-reedy song soothes the-sheep.
cantantis pariter, pariter data pensa trahentis,
of-her-singing equally, equally given wool spinning,
fallitur ancillae decipiturque labor.
is-beguiled of-the-maid and-is-deceived the-labor.
fertur et abducta Lyrneside tristis Achilles
is-said and taken-away the-Lyrnesian sad Achilles
Haemonia curas attenuasse lyra.
with-the-Haemonian cares to-have-lessened lyre.
cum traheret silvas Orpheus et dura canendo
when drew the-woods Orpheus and hard by-singing
saxa, bis amissa coniuge maestus erat.
rocks, twice lost his-wife sad he-was.
me quoque Musa levat Ponti loca iussa petentem:
me too the-Muse lightens of-Pontus the-places ordered seeking:
sola comes nostrae perstitit illa fugae;
alone companion of-our she-has-persisted that flight;
sola nec insidias, Sinti nec militis ensem,
alone nor ambushes, of-the-Sintian nor of-the-soldier the-sword,
nec mare nec ventos barbariamque timet.
nor sea nor winds and-barbarism she-fears.
scit quoque, cum perii, quis me deceperit error,
she-knows too, when I-perished, what me deceived error,
et culpam in facto, non scelus, esse meo,
and fault in the-deed, not crime, to-be my,
scilicet hoc ipso nunc aequa, quod obfuit ante,
doubtless by-this very now fair, because she-harmed before,

cum mecum iuncti criminis acta rea est.
since with-me joined of-a-charge charged accused she-was.
non equidem vellem, quoniam nocitura fuerunt,
not indeed I-would-wish, since going-to-harm they-were,
Pieridum sacris inposuisse manum.
of-the-Pierides on-the-rites to-have-laid my-hand.
sed nunc quid faciam? vis me tenet ipsa sacrorum,
but now what shall-I-do? the-force me holds itself of-the-rites,
et carmen demens carmine laesus amo.
and song mad by-song harmed I-love.
sic nova Dulichio lotos gustata palato
so the-new by-the-Dulichian lotus tasted palate
illo, quo nocuit, grata sapore fuit.
by-that, by-which it-harmed, pleasant in-flavor was.
sentit amans sua damna fere, tamen haeret in illis,
feels the-lover his losses generally, still he-clings to them,
materiam culpae persequiturque suae.
the-matter of-fault and-pursues his.
nos quoque delectant, quamvis nocuere, libelli,
us too delight, although they-have-harmed, little-books,
quodque mihi telum vulnera fecit, amo.
and-which to-me the-weapon wounds made, I-love.
forsitan hoc studium possit furor esse videri,
perhaps this pursuit might madness to-be to-seem,
sed quiddam furor hic utilitatis habet.
but something madness this of-usefulness has.
semper in obtutu mentem vetat esse malorum,
always on the-gaze the-mind it-forbids to-be of-evils,
praesentis casus inmemoremque facit.
of-the-present misfortune and-unmindful makes.

utque suum Bacche non sentit saucia vulnus,
and-as her-own the-Bacchant not feels wounded wound,
dum stupet Idaeis exululata modis,
while she-is-stunned in-Idaean having-yelled measures,
sic ubi mota calent viridi mea pectora thyrso,
so when moved grow-warm with-the-green my breast thyrsus,
altior humano spiritus ille malo est.
higher than-human the-spirit that evil is.
ille nec exilium, Scythici nec litora ponti,
it nor exile, of-the-Scythian nor the-shores sea,
ille nec iratos sentit habere deos.
it nor angry feels to-have gods.
utque soporiferae biberem si pocula Lethes,
and-as of-sleep-bearing I-drank if the-cups Lethe,
temporis adversi sic mihi sensus abest.
of-time adverse so from-me the-sense is-absent.
iure deas igitur veneror mala nostra levantes,
rightly the-goddesses therefore I-revere the-evils our lightening,
sollicitae comites ex Helicone fugae,
of-anxious companions from Helicon flight,
et partim pelago partim vestigia terra
and partly on-the-sea partly the-tracks on-land
vel rate dignatas vel pede nostra sequi.
either by-ship having-deigned or on-foot our to-follow.
sint, precor, haec saltem faciles mihi! namque deorum
may-they-be, I-pray, these at-least favorable to-me! for of-the-gods
cetera cum magno Caesare turba facit,
the-rest with great Caesar crowd sides,
meque tot adversis cumulant, quot litus harenas,
and-me with-so-many adversities heap, as-many-as the-shore sands,

quotque fretum pisces, ovaque piscis habet.
and-as-many-as the-strait fishes, and-eggs a-fish has.
vere prius flores, aestu numerabis aristas,
in-spring sooner the-flowers, in-summer-heat you-will-count the-ears-of-grain,
poma per autumnum frigoribusque nives,
the-fruits in autumn and-in-the-colds the-snows,
quam mala, quae toto patior iactatus in orbe,
than the-evils, which whole I-suffer tossed over world,
dum miser Euxini litora laeva peto.
while wretched of-the-Euxine the-shores left I-seek.
nec tamen, ut veni, levior fortuna malorum est:
nor still, when I-came, lighter the-fortune of-evils is:
huc quoque sunt nostras fata secuta vias.
hither too have our the-fates followed ways.
hic quoque cognosco natalis stamina nostri,
here too I-recognize of-birth the-threads my,
stamina de nigro vellere facta mihi.
threads from black fleece made for-me.
utque neque insidias capitisque pericula narrem,
and-though neither ambushes and-of-my-life dangers I-may-tell,
vera quidem, veri sed graviora fide,
true indeed, than-truth's but heavier credit,
vivere quam miserum est inter Bessosque Getasque
to-live how wretched is-it among both-the-Bessi and-the-Getae
illum, qui populi semper in ore fuit!
for-him, who of-the-people always on the-mouth was!
quam miserum est, porta vitam muroque tueri,
how wretched is-it, by-the-gate life and-by-the-wall to-protect,
vixque sui tutum viribus esse loci!
and-hardly of-its-own safe in-the-strength to-be place!

aspera militiae iuvenis certamina fugi,
harsh of-soldiering as-a-young-man contests I-fled,
nec nisi lusura movimus arma manu;
nor except with-going-to-play did-we-move arms hand;
nunc senior gladioque latus scutoque sinistram,
now older both-with-the-sword my-side and-with-the-shield my-left,
canitiem galeae subicioque meam.
the-gray-hair to-the-helmet and-put-under my.
nam dedit e specula custos ubi signa tumultus,
for has-given from the-lookout the-guard when the-signals of-uproar,
induimus trepida protinus arma manu.
we-put-on with-trembling at-once arms hand.
hostis, habens arcus imbutaque tela venenis,
the-enemy, having bows and-steeped darts in-poisons,
saevus anhelanti moenia lustrat equo;
savage on-panting the-walls surveys horse;
utque rapax pecudem, quae se non texit ovili,
and-as ravenous a-beast, which itself not has-sheltered in-the-fold,
per sata, per silvas fertque trahitque lupus,
through crops, through woods both-carries and-drags the-wolf,
sic, siquem nondum portarum saepe receptum
so, if-anyone not-yet of-the-gates within-the-barrier received
barbarus in campis repperit hostis, habet:
the-barbarian in the-fields has-found enemy, he-holds:
aut sequitur captus coniectaque vincula collo
either he-follows captured and-thrown chains on-his-neck
accipit, aut telo virus habente perit.
receives, or by-a-dart poison having perishes.
hic ego sollicitae lateo novus incola sedis:
here I of-an-anxious lie-hidden new inhabitant seat:

heu nimium fati tempora longa mei!
alas too of-fate the-times long my!
et tamen ad numeros antiquaque sacra reverti
and still to measures and-ancient rites to-return
sustinet in tantis hospita Musa malis.
endures amid so-great a-stranger the-Muse evils.
sed neque cui recitem quisquam est mea carmina, nec qui
but neither to-whom I-may-recite anyone is my songs, nor who
auribus accipiat verba Latina suis.
with-ears may-receive words Latin his.
ipse mihi — quid enim faciam? — scriboque legoque,
myself for-myself what indeed shall-I-do? I-both-write and-read,
tutaque iudicio littera nostra suo est.
and-safe in-judgment the-letter our its-own is.
saepe tamen dixi "cui nunc haec cura laborat?
often still I-have-said "for-whom now this care labors?
an mea Sauromatae scripta Getaeque legent?"
or my the-Sauromatae writings and-the-Getae will-read?"
saepe etiam lacrimae me sunt scribente profusae,
often too tears me were writing poured-out,
umidaque est fletu littera facta meo,
and-wet is with-weeping the-letter made my,
corque vetusta meum, tamquam nova, vulnera novit,
and-the-heart old my, as-if new, the-wounds knows,
inque sinum maestae labitur imber aquae.
and-into my-lap of-sad slides a-shower water.
cum vice mutata, qui sim fuerimque, recordor,
when the-turn changed, who I-may-be and-may-have-been, I-recall,
et, tulerit quo me casus et unde, subit,
and, has-brought to-where me chance and whence, comes-to-mind,

saepe manus demens, studiis irata sibique,
often my-hand mad, at-pursuits angry and-at-itself,
misit in arsuros carmina nostra focos.
sent into going-to-burn songs our hearths.
atque ita de multis quoniam non multa supersunt,
and so of many since not many-things survive,
cum venia facito, quisquis es, ista legas.
with pardon see-to-it, whoever you-are, those you-may-read.
tu quoque non melius, quam sunt mea tempora, carmen,
you too not better, than are my times, song,
interdicta mihi, consule, Roma, boni.
forbidden to-me, take-it, Rome, in-good-part.

IV.2 · A TRIUMPH IMAGINED

Ovid imagines the Caesars' triumph over Germany: the Palatine garlanded, incense, sacrifices, Livia and the princes, the Senate and people watching the captive leaders pass, the captured towns and rivers carried by, the Rhine with broken horns, the crowd asking the names, and Caesar borne in his chariot to the Capitol. He can see it only with his mind, but rumor will bring it to him late, and on that day he will lay aside his mourning.

Iam fera Caesaribus Germania, totus ut orbis,
Now wild to-the-Caesars Germany, the-whole as world,
victa potest flexo succubuisse genu,
conquered can with-bent to-have-submitted knee,
altaque velentur fortasse Palatia sertis,
and-the-high may-be-veiled perhaps Palatine with-garlands,
turaque in igne sonent inficiantque diem,
and-incense in the-fire may-crackle and-may-stain the-day,

candidaque adducta collum percussa securi
and-white by-the-drawn-back the-neck struck axe
victima purpureo sanguine pulset humum,
the-victim with-purple blood may-beat the-ground,
donaque amicorum templis promissa deorum
and-gifts of-friendly to-the-temples promised gods
reddere victores Caesar uterque parent,
to-pay victorious Caesar each may-prepare,
et qui Caesareo iuvenes sub nomine crescunt,
and who Caesar's young-men under name grow,
perpetuo terras ut domus illa regat,
perpetually the-lands that house that may-rule,
cumque bonis nuribus pro sospite Livia nato
and-with good daughters-in-law for safe Livia her-son
munera det meritis, saepe datura, deis,
gifts may-give to-deserving, often going-to-give, gods,
et pariter matres et quae sine crimine castos
and equally the-mothers and those-who without crime chaste
perpetua servant virginitate focos;
with-perpetual guard virginity hearths;
plebs pia cumque pia laetetur plebe senatus,
the-common-people dutiful and-with dutiful may-rejoice common-people the-senate,
parvaque cuius eram pars ego nuper eques:
and-small of-which I-was part I lately the-knights:
nos procul expulsos communia gaudia fallunt,
us far driven-out the-common joys escape,
famaque tam longe non nisi parva venit.
and-report so far not except small comes.
ergo omnis populus poterit spectare triumphos,
so all the-people will-be-able to-watch the-triumphs,

cumque ducum titulis oppida capta leget,
and-with of-the-leaders the-titles towns captured will-read,
vinclaque captiva reges cervice gerentes
and-chains on-captive the-kings necks wearing
ante coronatos ire videbit equos,
before garlanded to-go will-see horses,
et cernet vultus aliis pro tempore versos,
and will-see faces in-some according-to the-time turned,
terribiles aliis inmemoresque sui.
terrible in-others and-unmindful of-themselves.
quorum pars causas et res et nomina quaeret,
of-whom part the-causes and the-things and the-names will-seek,
pars referet, quamvis noverit illa parum.
part will-tell, although may-know it little.
"hic, qui Sidonio fulget sublimis in ostro,
"this-one, who Sidonian gleams aloft in purple,
dux fuerat belli, proximus ille duci.
leader had-been of-the-war, next that-one to-the-leader.
hic, qui nunc in humo lumen miserabile fixit,
this-one, who now on the-ground his-gaze wretched has-fixed,
non isto vultu, cum tulit arma, fuit.
not with-that face, when he-bore arms, was.
ille ferox et adhuc oculis hostilibus ardens
that-one fierce and still with-eyes hostile burning
hortator pugnae consiliumque fuit.
the-urger of-battle and-counsel was.
perfidus hic nostros inclusit fraude locorum,
treacherous this-one ours shut-in by-trickery of-the-places,
squalida promissis qui tegit ora comis.
squalid with-long who covers face hair.

illo, qui sequitur, dicunt mactata ministro
by-that-one, who follows, they-say were-sacrificed as-the-minister
saepe recusanti corpora capta deo.
often to-the-refusing bodies captured god.
hic lacus, hi montes, haec tot castella, tot amnes
this the-lake, these the-mountains, these so-many forts, so-many rivers
plena ferae caedis, plena cruoris erant.
full of-wild slaughter, full of-blood were.
Drusus in his meruit quondam cognomina terris,
Drusus in these earned once his-surname lands,
quae bona progenies, digna parente, fuit.
who good offspring, worthy of-his-father, was.
cornibus hic fractis viridi male tectus ab ulva
horns this-one broken green ill covered by sedge
decolor ipse suo sanguine Rhenus erat.
discolored himself with-his-own blood the-Rhine was.
crinibus en etiam fertur Germania passis,
hair behold even is-borne Germany disheveled,
et ducis invicti sub pede maesta sedet,
and of-the-leader unconquered under the-foot sad sits,
collaque Romanae praebens animosa securi
and-the-neck to-the-Roman offering spirited axe
vincula fert illa, qua tulit arma, manu."
chains bears in-that, in-which she-bore arms, hand."
hos super in curru, Caesar, victore veheris
these above in the-chariot, Caesar, victorious you-will-be-borne
purpureus populi rite per ora tui,
purple of-the-people duly through the-faces your,
quaque ibis, manibus circumplaudere tuorum,
and-wherever you-will-go, by-the-hands you-will-be-applauded-around of-your-people,

undique iactato flore tegente vias.
on-every-side thrown flowers covering the-roads.
tempora Phoebea lauro cingetur "io"que
the-temples with-Phoebean laurel will-be-girded and-"io"
miles "io" magna voce "triumphe" canet.
the-soldier "io" with-great voice "triumph" will-sing.
ipse sono plausuque simul fremituque canente
yourself by-the-sound and-by-the-applause at-once and-by-the-roar singing
quadriiugos cernes saepe resistere equos.
the-four-yoked you-will-see often to-stand-still horses.
inde petes arcem et delubra faventia votis,
thence you-will-seek the-citadel and the-shrines favoring to-prayers,
et dabitur merito laurea vota Iovi.
and will-be-given to-deserving the-laurel vowed Jove.
haec ego summotus qua possum mente videbo:
these-things I removed in-what I-can mind shall-see:
erepti nobis ius habet illa loci:
of-snatched from-us the-right it-has it place:
illa per inmensas spatiatur libera terras,
it through boundless walks free lands,
in caelum celeri pervenit illa via;
into the-sky by-swift arrives it way;
illa meos oculos mediam deducit in urbem,
it my eyes middle leads-down into city,
immunes tanti nec sinit esse boni;
exempt of-so-great nor allows to-be good;
invenietque animus, qua currus spectet eburnos;
and-will-find my-mind, where the-chariots it-may-watch ivory;
sic certe in patria per breve tempus ero.
so surely in my-country for a-brief time I-shall-be.

vera tamen capiet populus spectacula felix,
true still will-take the-people spectacles happy,
laetaque erit praesens cum duce turba suo.
and-joyful will-be present with leader the-crowd its.
at mihi fingendo tantum longeque remotis
but by-me by-imagining only and-far removed
auribus hic fructus percipiendus erit,
ears here the-fruit to-be-gathered will-be,
atque procul Latio diversum missus in orbem
and far from-Latium different sent into world
qui narret cupido, vix erit, ista mihi.
one-who may-tell to-the-eager, hardly will-be, those-things to-me.
is quoque iam serum referet veteremque triumphum:
he too now late will-tell and-old triumph:
quo tamen audiero tempore, laetus ero.
at-what still I-shall-have-heard time, glad I-shall-be.
illa dies veniet, mea qua lugubria ponam,
that day will-come, my in-which mourning I-shall-lay-aside,
causaque privata publica maior erit.
and-the-cause than-private the-public greater will-be.

Ovid asks the two Bears, which guide Greek and Sidonian ships, to look on the walls of Rome and tell him whether his wife remembers him, then answers for himself that she does. He pictures her sleepless with grief, bids her weep, and wishes she had mourned his death at home instead of his life. She must not be ashamed to be called an exile's wife: Evadne did not blush for Capaneus. Virtue shows itself in adversity, as Hector's did at Troy, and his misfortune gives her a field for praise.

Magna minorque ferae, quarum regis altera Graias,
Great and-lesser beasts, of-whom you-guide the-one Greek,
altera Sidonias, utraque sicca, rates,
the-other Sidonian, each dry, ships,
omnia cum summo positae videatis in axe,
all-things since the-highest placed you-may-see on pole,
et maris occiduas non subeatis aquas,
and of-the-sea western not you-may-go-under waters,
aetheriamque suis cingens amplexibus arcem
and-the-ethereal with-its-own encircling embraces citadel
vester ab intacta circulus extet humo,
your from untouched circle may-stand-out ground,
aspicite illa, precor, quae non bene moenia quondam
look-at those, I-pray, which not well walls once
dicitur Iliades transiluisse Remus,
is-said the-son-of-Ilia to-have-leapt-over Remus,
inque meam nitidos dominam convertite vultus,
and-toward my shining mistress turn faces,
sitque memor nostri necne, referte mihi.
and-whether-she-may-be mindful of-us or-not, report to-me.
ei mihi, cur timeam? quae sunt manifesta, requiro.
ah me, why should-I-fear? what-things are manifest, I-ask.

cur iacet ambiguo spes mea mixta metu?
why lies with-doubtful hope my mingled fear?
crede, quod est et vis, ac desine tuta vereri,
believe, what is and you-wish, and stop safe-things to-fear,
deque fide certa sit tibi certa fides,
and-about faith certain may-be to-you certain faith,
quodque polo fixae nequeunt tibi dicere flammae,
and-what by-the-pole fixed cannot to-you tell flames,
non mentitura tu tibi voce refer,
not going-to-lie you to-yourself with-voice report,
esse tui memorem, de qua tibi maxima cura est,
to-be of-you mindful, about whom to-you the-greatest care is,
quodque potest, secum nomen habere tuum.
and-what she-can, with-herself the-name to-have your.
vultibus illa tuis tamquam praesentis inhaeret,
to-the-face she your as-if of-one-present clings,
teque remota procul, si modo vivit, amat.
and-you removed far, if only she-lives, she-loves.
ecquid, ubi incubuit iusto mens aegra dolori,
whether-at-all, when has-lain on-just the-mind sick grief,
lenis ab admonito pectore somnus abit?
gentle from the-reminded breast sleep goes-away?
tunc subeunt curae, dum te lectusque locusque
then come-up cares, while you both-the-bed and-the-place
tangit et oblitam non sinit esse mei,
touches and forgetful not allows to-be of-me,
et veniunt aestus, et nox inmensa videtur,
and come fevers, and the-night boundless seems,
fessaque iactati corporis ossa dolent?
and-weary of-the-tossed body the-bones ache?

non equidem dubito, quin haec et cetera fiant,
not indeed I-doubt, but-that these and the-rest may-happen,
detque tuus maesti signa doloris amor,
and-may-give your of-sad signs grief love,
nec cruciere minus, quam cum Thebana cruentum
nor may-you-be-tortured less, than when the-Theban bloody
Hectora Thessalico vidit ab axe rapi.
Hector Thessalian saw from chariot to-be-dragged.
quid tamen ipse precer dubito, nec dicere possum,
what still myself I-may-pray I-doubt, nor to-say I-can,
affectum quem te mentis habere velim.
the-feeling which you of-mind to-have I-would-wish.
tristis es? indignor quod sim tibi causa doloris:
sad are-you? I-am-indignant that I-may-be to-you the-cause of-grief:
non es? at amisso coniuge digna fores.
not are-you? but of-lost husband worthy you-would-be.
tu vero tua damna dole, mitissima coniunx,
you indeed your losses grieve-for, most-gentle wife,
tempus et a nostris exige triste malis,
time and from our spend sad evils,
fleque meos casus: est quaedam flere voluptas;
and-weep my misfortunes: there-is a-certain to-weep pleasure;
expletur lacrimis egeriturque dolor.
is-filled with-tears and-is-carried-off grief.
atque utinam lugenda tibi non vita, sed esset
and would-that to-be-mourned by-you not my-life, but were
mors mea, morte fores sola relicta mea!
death my, by-death you-had-been alone left my!
spiritus hic per te patrias exisset in auras,
spirit this through you native would-have-gone-out into airs,

sparsissent lacrimae pectora nostra piae,
would-have-sprinkled tears breast our dutiful,
supremoque die notum spectantia caelum
and-on-the-last day the-known looking-at sky
texissent digiti lumina nostra tui,
would-have-covered fingers eyes our your,
et cinis in tumulo positus iacuisset avito,
and the-ash in the-tomb placed would-have-lain ancestral,
tactaque nascenti corpus haberet humus;
and-touched at-birth the-body would-have the-ground;
denique, ut et vixi, sine crimine mortuus essem.
finally, as also I-lived, without crime dead I-would-have-been.
nunc mea supplicio vita pudenda suo est.
now my by-punishment life to-be-ashamed-of its-own is.
me miserum, si tu, cum diceris exulis uxor,
me wretched, if you, when you-are-called of-an-exile the-wife,
avertis vultus et subit ora rubor!
turn-away your-face and comes-up face a-blush!
me miserum, si turpe putas mihi nupta videri!
me wretched, if shameful you-think to-me married to-seem!
me miserum, si te iam pudet esse meam!
me wretched, if you already it-shames to-be mine!
tempus ubi est illud, quo te iactare solebas
the-time where is that, in-which yourself to-boast you-were-wont
coniuge, nec nomen dissimulare viri?
of-your-husband, nor the-name to-dissemble of-your-husband?
tempus ubi est, quo te — nisi non vis illa referri —
the-time where is-it, in-which you unless not you-wish those-things to-be-recalled
et dici, memini, iuvit et esse meam?
both to-be-called, I-remember, it-pleased and to-be mine?

utque proba dignum est, omni tibi dote placebam:
and-as of-a-virtuous-woman worthy it-is, in-every to-you gift I-was-pleasing:
addebat veris multa faventis amor.
added to-true-things many of-the-favoring the-love.
nec, quem praeferres — ita res tibi magna videbar —
nor, whom you-would-prefer so a-thing to-you great I-seemed
quemque tuum malles esse, vir alter erat.
and-whom yours you-would-rather to-be, husband other was.
nunc quoque ne pudeat, quod sis mihi nupta; tuusque
now too lest it-may-shame, that you-are to-me married; and-your
non debet dolor hinc, debet abesse pudor.
not ought grief from-here, ought to-be-absent shame.
cum cecidit Capaneus subito temerarius ictu,
when fell Capaneus by-a-sudden reckless stroke,
num legis Euadnen erubuisse viro?
surely-not do-you-read Evadne to-have-blushed for-her-husband?
nec quia rex mundi compescuit ignibus ignes,
nor because the-king of-the-world quelled with-fires fires,
ipse suis Phaëthon infitiandus erat.
himself by-his-own Phaethon to-be-disowned was.
nec Semele Cadmo facta est aliena parenti,
nor Semele to-Cadmus made has-been a-stranger her-parent,
quod precibus periit ambitiosa suis.
because by-prayers she-perished ambitious her-own.
nec tibi, quod saevis ego sum Iovis ignibus ictus,
nor to-you, because by-savage I am of-Jove fires struck,
purpureus molli fiat in ore pudor.
purple soft let-be on face shame.
sed magis in curam nostri consurge tuendi,
but more into care of-us rise of-protecting,

exemplumque mihi coniugis esto bonae,
and-an-example to-me of-a-wife be good,
materiamque tuis tristem virtutibus imple:
and-the-matter with-your sad virtues fill:
ardua per praeceps gloria vadit iter.
steep through headlong glory goes way.
Hectora quis nosset, si felix Troia fuisset?
Hector who would-know, if happy Troy had-been?
publica virtutis per mala facta via est.
public of-virtue through evils made the-road was.
ars tua, Tiphy, iacet, si non sit in aequore fluctus:
art your, Tiphys, lies-idle, if not may-be on the-sea a-wave:
si valeant homines, ars tua, Phoebe, iacet.
if may-be-well men, art your, Phoebus, lies-idle.
quae latet inque bonis cessat non cognita rebus,
which lies-hidden and-in good is-idle not known things,
apparet virtus arguiturque malis.
appears virtue and-is-proved by-evils.
dat tibi nostra locum tituli fortuna, caputque
gives to-you our place of-fame fortune, and-a-head
conspicuum pietas qua tua tollat, habet.
conspicuous devotion where your may-raise, it-has.
utere temporibus, quorum nunc munere facta est
use the-times, by-whose now gift made was
et patet in laudes area lata tuas.
and lies-open for praises a-field broad your.

Ovid writes to a noble friend whose character surpasses his birth, and asks pardon for naming him by signs. Writing to him can do no harm, for Caesar himself suffers to be read in Ovid's verse, and the friend's father long favored Ovid's talent. His fault was an error, not a crime; he prays for a milder exile nearer home. Nearby, in the Taurian land, Iphigenia knew her brother Orestes at the goddess' altar; Ovid wishes the winds that carried Orestes off would bring him back.

O qui, nominibus cum sis generosus avorum,
O who, by-the-names though you-may-be noble of-your-ancestors,
exsuperas morum nobilitate genus,
surpass of-character in-nobility your-birth,
cuius inest animo patrii candoris imago,
of-whose is-in mind of-your-father's candor the-image,
non careat nervis candor ut iste suis,
not may-lack strength candor so-that that its-own,
cuius in ingenio est patriae facundia linguae,
whose in talent is of-paternal the-eloquence tongue,
qua prior in Latio non fuit ulla foro —
than-which earlier in Latian not was any forum
quod minime volui, positis pro nomine signis
what least I-wished, set for name signs
dictus es: ignoscas laudibus ipse tuis.
named you-have-been: may-you-pardon praises yourself your.
nil ego peccavi; tua te bona cognita produnt
nothing I have-sinned; your you good known betray
si, quod es, appares, culpa soluta mea est.
if, what you-are, you-appear, the-fault cleared my is.
nec tamen officium nostro tibi carmine factum
nor still the-duty by-our for-you song done

principe tam iusto posse nocere puto.
the-prince so just to-be-able to-harm I-think.
ipse pater patriae — quid enim est civilius illo? —
himself the-father of-the-fatherland what indeed is more-citizenlike than-he?
sustinet in nostro carmine saepe legi,
endures in our song often to-be-read,
nec prohibere potest, quia res est publica Caesar,
nor to-prevent can, because a-thing is public Caesar,
et de communi pars quoque nostra bono est.
and from common part too our good is.
Iuppiter ingeniis praebet sua numina vatum,
Jupiter to-the-talents offers his divinity of-bards,
seque celebrari quolibet ore sinit.
and-himself to-be-celebrated by-any mouth allows.
causa tua exemplo superorum tuta duorum est,
cause your by-the-example of-the-gods safe two is,
quorum hic aspicitur, creditur ille deus.
of-whom this-one is-seen, is-believed that-one a-god.
ut non debuerim, tamen hoc ego crimen habebo:
though not I-ought, still this I charge shall-have:
non fuit arbitrii littera nostra tui.
not was of-choice the-letter our your.
nec nova, quod tecum loquor, est iniuria nostra,
nor new, that with-you I-speak, is wrong our,
incolumis cum quo saepe locutus eram.
unharmed with whom often spoken I-had.
quo vereare minus ne sim tibi crimen amicus,
by-which you-may-fear less lest I-may-be for-you a-charge as-friend,
invidiam, siqua est, auctor habere potest.
odium, if-any is, the-author to-have can.

nam tuus est primis cultus mihi semper ab annis —
for your was first cultivated by-me always from years
hoc certe noli dissimulare — pater,
this surely do-not dissemble father,
ingeniumque meum (potes hoc meminisse) probabat
and-talent my (you-can this to-remember) he-approved
plus etiam quam me iudice dignus eram;
more even than I judge worthy I-was;
deque meis illo referebat versibus ore,
and-about my with-that he-used-to-speak verses mouth,
in quo pars magnae nobilitatis erat.
in which part of-great nobility was.
non igitur tibi nunc, quod me domus ista recepit,
not therefore to-you now, because me house that received,
sed prius auctori sunt data verba tuo.
but before to-the-author have-been given words your.
nec data sunt, mihi crede, tamen: sed in omnibus actis
nor given they-were, to-me believe, still: but in all acts
ultima si demas, vita tuenda mea est.
the-last if you-should-take-away, the-life to-be-protected my is.
hanc quoque, qua perii, culpam scelus esse negabis,
this too, by-which I-perished, fault a-crime to-be you-will-deny,
si tanti series sit tibi nota mali.
if of-so-great the-sequence may-be to-you known evil.
aut timor aut error nobis, prius obfuit error.
either fear or error to-us, first harmed error.
a! sine me fati non meminisse mei;
ah! allow me of-fate not to-remember my;
neve retractando nondum coeuntia rumpam
nor-lest by-handling not-yet closing I-may-burst

vulnera: vix illis proderit ipsa quies.
wounds: hardly to-them will-help itself rest.
ergo ut iure damus poenas, sic afuit omne
so though justly we-pay the-penalty, so was-absent all
peccato facinus consiliumque meo;
from-sin crime and-design my;
idque deus sentit; pro quo nec lumen ademptum,
and-that the-god feels; for which nor life taken-away,
nec mihi detractas possidet alter opes.
nor from-me taken possesses another riches.
forsitan hanc ipsam, vivam modo, finiet olim,
perhaps this itself, may-I-live only, he-will-end some-day,
tempore cum fuerit lenior ira, fugam.
in-time when shall-have-been milder the-anger, flight.
nunc precor hinc alio iubeat discedere, si non
now I-pray from-here elsewhere he-may-bid to-depart, if not
nostra verecundo vota pudore carent.
our modest prayers shame lack.
mitius exilium pauloque propinquius opto,
milder an-exile and-a-little nearer I-wish,
quique sit a saevo longius hoste locus;
and-which may-be from savage farther enemy a-place;
quantaque in Augusto clementia, si quis ab illo
and-how-great in Augustus clemency, if anyone of him
hoc peteret pro me, forsitan ille daret.
this should-ask for me, perhaps he would-give.
frigida me cohibent Euxini litora Ponti:
cold me confine of-the-Euxine shores Pontus:
dictus ab antiquis Axenus ille fuit.
called by the-ancients Axenus it was.

nam neque iactantur moderatis aequora ventis,
for neither are-tossed by-moderate seas winds,
nec placidos portus hospita navis adit.
nor calm harbors a-stranger ship approaches.
sunt circa gentes, quae praedam sanguine quaerunt;
there-are around races, which plunder with-blood seek;
nec minus infida terra timetur aqua.
nor less treacherous the-land is-feared than-the-water.
illi, quos audis hominum gaudere cruore,
those, whom you-hear of-men to-rejoice in-blood,
paene sub eiusdem sideris axe iacent,
almost under of-the-same star pole lie,
nec procul a nobis locus est, ubi Taurica dira
nor far from us the-place is, where Taurian dread
caede pharetratae spargitur ara deae.
with-slaughter of-the-quivered is-sprinkled the-altar goddess.
haec prius, ut memorant, non invidiosa nefandis
these before, as they-tell, not hateful to-the-wicked
nec cupienda bonis regna Thoantis erant.
nor to-be-desired by-the-good the-realms of-Thoas were.
hic pro supposita virgo Pelopeïa cerva
here for substituted the-maiden of-Pelops'-line deer
sacra deae coluit qualiacumque suae.
the-rites of-the-goddess tended of-whatever-sort her.
quo postquam, dubium pius an sceleratus, Orestes
whither after, doubtful dutiful or wicked, Orestes
exactus Furiis venerat ipse suis,
driven by-the-Furies had-come himself his-own,
et comes exemplum veri Phoceus amoris,
and the-companion the-example of-true the-Phocian love,

qui duo corporibus mentibus unus erant,
who two in-bodies in-minds one were,
protinus evincti tristem ducuntur ad aram,
at-once bound sad are-led to the-altar,
quae stabat geminas ante cruenta fores.
which stood the-twin before bloody doors.
nec tamen hunc sua mors, nec mors sua terruit illum;
nor still this-one his death, nor death his terrified that-one;
alter ob alterius funera maestus erat.
the-one for of-the-other the-death sad was.
et iam constiterat stricto mucrone sacerdos,
and already had-taken-her-stand drawn blade the-priestess,
cinxerat et Graias barbara vitta comas,
had-bound and Greek the-barbarian fillet hair,
cum vice sermonis fratrem cognovit, et illi
when in-the-turn of-talk her-brother she-recognized, and to-him
pro nece complexus Iphigenia dedit.
instead-of death embraces Iphigenia gave.
laeta deae signum crudelia sacra perosae
joyful of-the-goddess the-statue cruel rites hating
transtulit ex illis in meliora locis.
she-transferred from those to better places.
haec igitur regio, magni paene ultima mundi,
this therefore the-region, of-the-great almost last world,
quam fugere homines dique, propinqua mihi est:
which have-fled men and-gods, near to-me is:

aque mea terra prope sunt funebria sacra,
and-from my land near are deadly rites,
si modo Nasoni barbara terra sua est.
if only to-Naso barbarian the-land his-own is.
o utinam venti, quibus est ablatus Orestes,
O would-that the-winds, by-which was carried-away Orestes,
placato referant et mea vela deo!
appeased may-bring-back also my sails the-god!

IV.5 · TO A FRIEND ABOVE ALL

Ovid writes to the friend first among his comrades, whose words revived his dying spirit and who still supports him. He asks him to remain loyal, and does not name him, lest he harm him. He prays that the friend may never need such help, that his wife may match him in goodness, and that his house and descendants may prosper.

O mihi dilectos inter pars prima sodales,
O to-me beloved among part first comrades,
unica fortunis ara reperta meis
sole for-fortunes the-altar found my
cuius ab adloquiis anima haec moribunda revixit,
whose from addresses spirit this dying revived,
ut vigil infusa Pallade flamma solet;
as the-wakeful poured-in Pallas flame is-wont;
qui veritus non es portus aperire fideles
who feared not you-have harbors to-open faithful
fulmine percussae confugiumque rati;
by-the-thunderbolt to-the-struck and-a-refuge ship;
cuius eram censu non me sensurus egentem,
by-whose I-was wealth not me going-to-feel needy,

si Caesar patrias eripuisset opes.
if Caesar ancestral had-snatched-away riches.
temporis oblitum dum me rapit impetus huius,
of-time forgetful while me snatches the-impulse this,
excidit heu nomen quam mihi paene tuum!
has-slipped-out alas the-name how to-me almost your!
tu tamen agnoscis tactusque cupidine laudis,
you still recognize-it and-touched by-desire of-praise,
'ille ego sum' cuperes dicere posse palam.
'that I am' you-would-desire to-say to-be-able openly.
certe ego, si sineres, titulum tibi reddere vellem,
surely I, if you-should-allow, a-title to-you to-render would-wish,
et raram famae conciliare fidem.
and rare for-fame to-win faith.
ne noceam grato vereor tibi carmine, neve
lest I-may-harm with-grateful I-fear you song, nor-lest
intempestivus nominis obstet honor.
untimely of-the-name may-stand-in-the-way the-honor.
quod licet (et tutum est) intra tua pectora gaude
what is-allowed (and safe it-is) within your heart rejoice
meque tui memorem teque fuisse pium,
and-me of-you mindful and-you to-have-been dutiful,
utque facis, remis ad opem luctare ferendam,
and-as you-do, with-oars to help struggle to-be-brought,
dum veniat placido mollior aura deo;
until may-come calm milder breeze god;
et tutare caput nulli servabile, si non
and protect a-head by-no-one savable, if not
qui mersit Stygia sublevet illud aqua;
he-who sank-it from-the-Stygian may-lift it water;

teque, quod est rarum, praesta constanter ad omne
and-yourself, what is rare, show constantly to all
indeclinatae munus amicitiae.
of-undeviating the-duty friendship.
sic tua processus habeat fortuna perennes,
so your advances may-have fortune perennial,
sic ope non egeas ipse iuvesque tuos;
so of-help not may-you-need yourself and-may-you-help your-own;
sic aequet tua nupta virum bonitate perenni,
so may-equal your bride her-husband in-goodness perennial,
incidat et vestro nulla querella toro;
may-fall and on-your no complaint bed;
diligat et semper socius te sanguinis illo,
may-love and always the-partner you of-blood with-that,
quo pius affectu Castora frater amat;
with-which dutiful affection Castor his-brother loves;
sic iuvenis similisque tibi sit natus, et illum
so young and-like to-you may-be your-son, and him
moribus agnoscat quilibet esse tuum;
by-his-ways may-recognize anyone to-be yours;
sic faciat socerum taeda te nata iugali,
so may-make a-father-in-law with-the-torch you your-daughter nuptial,
nec tardum iuveni det tibi nomen avi.
nor late to-young may-give you the-name of-grandfather.

In time the bull bears the plow, the horse the bit, the lion loses its fierceness, grapes ripen, and the plowshare, flint, and adamant are worn away. Time softens every grief but Ovid's: his cares grow, as he understands his ills better. His body fails, he is thin and pale, and he misses the city, his friends, and his wife. His one hope is that death will keep his ills from lasting long.

Tempore ruricolae patiens fit taurus aratri,
In-time of-the-rustic enduring becomes the-bull the-plow,
praebet et incurvo colla premenda iugo;
offers and to-the-curved his-neck to-be-pressed yoke;
tempore paret equus lentis animosus habenis,
in-time obeys the-horse to-pliant spirited reins,
et placido duros accipit ore lupos;
and with-calm hard receives mouth bits;
tempore Poenorum compescitur ira leonum,
in-time of-Punic is-checked the-anger lions,
nec feritas animo, quae fuit ante, manet;
nor ferocity in-the-mind, which was before, remains;
quaeque sui monitis obtemperat Inda magistri
and-which of-her-own to-the-warnings obeys Indian master
belua, servitium tempore victa subit.
beast, servitude in-time conquered undergoes.
tempus ut extensis tumeat facit uva racemis,
time that on-extended may-swell makes the-grape clusters,
vixque merum capiant grana quod intus habent;
and-hardly the-wine may-contain the-grains which within they-have;
tempus et in canas semen producit aristas,
time and into white the-seed draws-out ears,

et ne sint tristi poma sapore cavet.
and lest may-be of-sad fruits flavor takes-care.
hoc tenuat dentem terram renovantis aratri,
this thins the-tooth the-earth of-the-renewing plow,
hoc rigidas silices, hoc adamanta terit;
this hard flints, this adamant wears-away;
hoc etiam saevas paulatim mitigat iras,
this even savage little-by-little softens angers,
hoc minuit luctus maestaque corda levat.
this lessens griefs and-sad hearts lightens.
cuncta potest igitur tacito pede lapsa vetustas
all-things can therefore with-silent foot gliding age
praeterquam curas attenuare meas.
except cares to-lessen my.
ut patria careo, bis frugibus area trita est,
since my-country I-lack, twice with-grain the-threshing-floor trodden has,
dissiluit nudo pressa bis uva pede.
has-burst with-bare pressed twice the-grape foot.
nec quaesita tamen spatio patientia longo est,
nor acquired still by-space patience long is,
mensque mali sensum nostra recentis habet.
and-mind of-evil the-sense our fresh has.
scilicet et veteres fugiunt iuga saepe iuvenci,
doubtless also old flee the-yoke often bullocks,
et domitus freno saepe repugnat equus.
and tamed by-the-bridle often fights-back the-horse.
tristior est etiam praesens aerumna priore:
sadder is even the-present hardship than-the-former:
ut sit enim sibi par, crevit et aucta mora est.
though it-may-be indeed to-itself equal, it-has-grown and increased by-delay it-has.

nec tam nota mihi, quam sunt, mala nostra fuerunt;
nor so known to-me, as they-are, evils our were;
nunc magis hoc, quo sunt cognitiora, gravant.
now more by-this, by-which they-are better-known, they-weigh-down.
est quoque non nihilum vires afferre recentes,
it-is too not nothing strength to-bring fresh,
nec praeconsumptum temporis esse malis.
nor worn-out-before of-time to-be by-the-evils.
fortior in fulva novus est luctator harena,
braver on tawny new is the-wrestler sand,
quam cui sunt tarda brachia fessa mora.
than to-whom are by-slow arms tired delay.
integer est melior nitidis gladiator in armis,
whole is better shining the-gladiator in arms,
quam cui tela suo sanguine tincta rubent.
than whose weapons with-his-own blood stained are-red.
fert bene praecipites navis modo facta procellas:
bears well headlong the-ship just made storms:
quamlibet exiguo solvitur imbre vetus.
by-however slight is-loosened shower the-old-one.
nos quoque quae ferimus, tulimus patientius ante
we too what-things we-bear, we-bore more-patiently before
quam mala sunt longa multiplicata die!
than evils have-been by-long multiplied time!
credite, deficio, nostroque a corpore quantum
believe, I-am-failing, and-our from body as-far-as
auguror, accedunt tempora parva malis.
I-divine, are-added times small to-evils.
nam neque sunt vires, nec qui color esse solebat:
for neither is strength, nor what color to-be was-wont:

vix habeo tenuem, quae tegat ossa, cutem.
hardly have-I thin, which may-cover the-bones, skin.
corpore sed mens est aegro magis aegra, malique
than-the-body but the-mind is sick more sick, and-of-evil
in circumspectu stat sine fine sui.
in contemplation stands without end its-own.
urbis abest facies, absunt, mea cura, sodales,
of-the-city is-absent the-face, are-absent, my care, comrades,
et, qua nulla mihi carior, uxor abest.
and, than-whom none to-me dearer, my-wife is-absent.
vulgus adest Scythicum bracataque turba Getarum:
the-crowd is-present Scythian and-trousered crowd of-the-Getae:
sic me quae video non videoque movent.
so me what I-see not and-I-see move.
una tamen spes est quae me soletur in istis,
one still hope is which me may-console in these,
haec fore morte mea non diuturna mala.
these to-be by-death my not lasting evils.

The sun has twice come round since Ovid's exile, and his friend has not written a line, though others have. Ovid would sooner believe in the Gorgon's snaky hair, the Chimaera, the Sphinx, the Harpies, the Giants, and hundred-handed Gyas than that the friend has stopped caring for him. Mountains, rivers, and seas lie between them, and a thousand causes may keep a letter from arriving; let him write often enough to overcome them all, so that Ovid need not always excuse him.

Bis me sol adiit gelidae post frigora brumae,
Twice me the-sun has-approached of-cold after the-frosts of-winter,
bisque suum tacto Pisce peregit iter.
and-twice its-own touched Fish has-completed journey.
tempore tam longo cur non tua dextera versus
in-time so long why not your right-hand verses
quamlibet in paucos officiosa fuit?
however-much in few dutiful was?
cur tua cessavit pietas, scribentibus illis,
why your has-ceased devotion, writing those,
exiguus nobis cum quibus usus erat?
slight to-us with whom acquaintance was?
cur, quotiens alicui chartae sua vincula dempsi,
why, as-often-as of-some letter its bonds I-took-off,
illam speravi nomen habere tuum?
it have-I-hoped the-name to-have your?
di faciant ut saepe tua sit epistula dextra
the-gods may-make that often by-your may-be letter right-hand
scripta, sed e multis reddita nulla mihi.
written, but of many delivered none to-me.
quod precor, esse liquet. credam prius ora Medusae
what I-pray, to-be is-clear. I-would-believe sooner the-face of-Medusa

Gorgonis anguineis cincta fuisse comis,
of-the-Gorgon with-snaky ringed to-have-been hair,
esse canes utero sub virginis, esse Chimaeram,
to-be dogs the-womb under of-the-maiden, to-be the-Chimaera,
a truce quae flammis separet angue leam,
from fierce which with-flames may-separate snake lioness,
quadrupedesque hominis cum pectore pectora iunctos,
and-four-footed of-a-man with breast breasts joined,
tergeminumque virum tergeminumque canem,
and-the-triple man and-the-triple dog,
Sphingaque et Harpyias serpentipedesque Gigantes,
and-the-Sphinx and Harpies and-serpent-footed Giants,
centimanumque Gyan semibovemque virum.
and-hundred-handed Gyas and-half-bull man.
haec ego cuncta prius, quam te, carissime, credam
these-things I all sooner, than you, dearest, would-believe
mutatum curam deposuisse mei.
changed the-care to-have-laid-aside of-me.
innumeri montes inter me teque viaeque
countless mountains between me and-you and-roads
fluminaque et campi nec freta pauca iacent.
and-rivers and plains nor straits few lie.
mille potest causis a te quae littera saepe
for-a-thousand can reasons from you which letter often
missa sit in nostras rara venire manus;
sent may-be into our rare to-come hands;
mille tamen causas scribendo vince frequenter,
a-thousand still causes by-writing conquer frequently,
excusem ne te semper, amice, mihi.
may-excuse lest you always, friend, to-myself.

Ovid's hair is white and his strength fails. He had hoped to spend his old age at leisure at home among his wife, friends, and pursuits, as a battered ship is drawn into dock, a horse put out to grass, and a soldier retired. The fates willed otherwise: after fifty blameless years, near the turning post, he was driven to the Sarmatian shore. He himself provoked the mildest of men, yet was not denied his life. Nothing withstands Jove's fire; the god's anger did more harm than his fault. Let others take warning.

Iam mea cycneas imitantur tempora plumas,
Now my swan-like imitate temples feathers,
inficit et nigras alba senecta comas.
stains and black white old-age hair.
iam subeunt anni fragiles et inertior aetas,
now come-up years frail and more-sluggish age,
iamque parum firmo me mihi ferre grave est.
and-now too-little firm me to-me to-bear heavy is.
nunc erat, ut posito deberem fine laborum
now it-was-time, that set I-ought an-end of-labors
vivere, me nullo sollicitante metu,
to-live, me no troubling fear,
quaeque meae semper placuerunt otia menti
and-which to-my always have-pleased leisure mind
carpere et in studiis molliter esse meis,
to-enjoy and in pursuits softly to-be my,
et parvam celebrare domum veteresque Penates
and the-small to-frequent house and-the-old Penates
et quae nunc domino rura paterna carent,
and which now a-master fields ancestral lack,

inque sinu dominae carisque sodalibus inque
and-in the-lap of-my-mistress and-dear comrades and-in
securus patria consenuisse mea.
free-from-care in-country to-have-grown-old my.
haec mea sic quondam peragi speraverat aetas:
this my so once to-be-spent had-hoped age:
hos ego sic annos ponere dignus eram.
these I so years to-spend worthy was.
non ita dis visum est, qui me terraque marique
not so to-the-gods seemed has-it, who me both-by-land and-by-sea
actum Sarmaticis exposuere locis.
driven in-Sarmatian have-exposed places.
in cava ducuntur quassae navalia puppes,
into hollow are-drawn battered the-docks ships,
ne temere in mediis dissoluantur aquis.
lest rashly in the-middle they-may-be-dissolved waters.
ne cadat et multas palmas inhonestet adeptus,
lest he-may-fall and many palms may-dishonor having-won,
languidus in pratis gramina carpit equus.
languid in meadows grass crops the-horse.
miles ubi emeritis non est satis utilis annis,
the-soldier when served not is enough useful years,
ponit ad antiquos, quae tulit, arma Lares.
lays-down at ancient, which he-bore, arms Lares.
sic igitur, tarda vires minuente senecta,
so therefore, slow strength lessening old-age,
me quoque donari iam rude tempus erat.
me too to-be-presented-with now the-wooden-sword time it-was.
tempus erat nec me peregrinum ducere caelum,
time it-was nor me foreign to-breathe sky,

nec siccam Getico fonte levare sitim,
nor dry from-a-Getic spring to-relieve thirst,
sed modo, quos habui, vacuos secedere in hortos,
but now, which I-had, empty to-withdraw into gardens,
nunc hominum visu rursus et urbe frui.
now of-men the-sight again and the-city to-enjoy.
sic animo quondam non divinante futura
so my-mind once not divining the-future
optabam placide vivere posse senex.
I-was-wishing calmly to-live to-be-able an-old-man.
fata repugnarunt, quae, cum mihi tempora prima
the-fates have-fought-back, which, though to-me times first
mollia praebuerint, posteriora gravant.
gentle they-provided, the-later weigh-down.
iamque decem lustris omni sine labe peractis,
and-now ten lustra all without blemish completed,
parte premor vitae deteriore meae;
in-part I-am-pressed of-life worse my;
nec procul a metis, quas paene tenere videbar,
nor far from the-turning-posts, which almost to-hold I-seemed,
curriculo gravis est facta ruina meo.
to-the-chariot heavy was made the-ruin my.
ergo illum demens in me saevire coegi,
so him mad against me to-rage did-I-compel,
mitius inmensus quo nihil orbis habet?
milder boundless than-whom nothing world has?
ipsaque delictis victa est clementia nostris,
and-itself by-faults conquered was clemency our,
nec tamen errori vita negata meo est?
nor still to-error life denied my has-been?

vita procul patria peragenda sub axe Boreo,
life far from-my-country to-be-spent under pole Boreal,
qua maris Euxini terra sinistra iacet.
where of-the-sea Euxine the-land left lies.
hoc mihi si Delphi Dodonaque diceret ipsa,
this to-me if Delphi and-Dodona should-say itself,
esse videretur vanus uterque locus.
to-be would-seem empty each place.
nil adeo validum est, adamas licet alliget illud,
nothing so strong is, adamant though may-bind it,
ut maneat rapido firmius igne Iovis;
that it-may-remain than-the-swift firmer fire of-Jove;
nil ita sublime est supraque pericula tendit
nothing so lofty is and-above dangers stretches
non sit ut inferius suppositumque deo.
not may-be that lower and-placed-beneath to-the-god.
nam quamquam vitio pars est contracta malorum,
for although by-fault part was contracted of-evils,
plus tamen exitii numinis ira dedit.
more still of-ruin of-the-divinity the-anger gave.
at vos admoniti nostris quoque casibus este,
but you warned by-our too misfortunes be,
aequantem superos emeruisse virum.
the-equal-of the-gods to-have-earned man.

If his enemy allows it and repents, Ovid will keep silent his name and his deed. But if he burns on with hatred, Ovid's grief will take up arms: though exiled to the edge of the world, Caesar left him all his rights, and the Pierides will give him weapons. His complaint will be heard from east to west, and the enemy will be a charge to all posterity. Ovid is borne to the fight like a bull pawing the sand before the Circus opens, and calls the Muse to sound retreat while the man may still hide his name.

Si licet et pateris, nomen facinusque tacebo,
If it-is-allowed and you-allow, the-name and-the-deed I-shall-keep-silent,
et tua Lethaeis acta dabuntur aquis,
and your to-the-Lethean deeds will-be-given waters,
nostraque vincetur lacrimis clementia seris,
and-our will-be-conquered by-tears clemency late,
fac modo te pateat paenituisse tui;
make only you may-be-clear to-have-repented of-yourself;
fac modo te damnes cupiasque eradere vitae
make only you may-condemn and-may-desire to-erase from-life
tempora, si possis, Tisiphonea tuae.
the-times, if you-could, of-Tisiphone your.
sin minus, et flagrant odio tua pectora nostro,
but-if not, and blaze with-hatred your breast of-us,
induet infelix arma coacta dolor.
will-put-on unhappy arms compelled grief.
sim licet extremum, sicut sum, missus in orbem,
I-may-be though furthest, as I-am, sent into world,
nostra suas istinc porriget ira manus.
our its from-there will-stretch anger hands.

omnia, si nescis, Caesar mihi iura reliquit,
all, if you-know-not, Caesar to-me rights has-left,
et sola est patria poena carere mea.
and only is country the-punishment to-lack my.
et patriam, modo sit sospes, speramus ab illo:
and my-country, if-only he-may-be safe, we-hope-for from him:
saepe Iovis telo quercus adusta viret.
often by-Jove's weapon the-oak scorched is-green.
denique vindictae si sit mihi nulla facultas,
finally of-vengeance if may-be to-me no means,
Pierides vires et sua tela dabunt.
the-Pierides strength and their weapons will-give.
quod Scythicis habitem longe summotus in oris,
that Scythian I-may-dwell far removed on shores,
siccaque sint oculis proxima signa meis,
and-dry may-be to-eyes nearest the-stars my,
nostra per inmensas ibunt praeconia gentes,
our through boundless will-go proclamations nations,
quodque querar notum qua patet orbis erit.
and-what I-may-complain-of known where lies-open the-world will-be.
ibit ad occasum quicquid dicemus ab ortu,
will-go to the-setting whatever we-shall-say from the-rising,
testis et Hesperiae vocis Eous erit.
witness and of-the-Western voice the-East will-be.
trans ego tellurem, trans altas audiar undas,
across I land, across high shall-be-heard waves,
et gemitus vox est magna futura mei,
and of-groaning the-voice is great going-to-be my,
nec tua te sontem tantummodo saecula norint:
nor your you guilty only ages may-know:

perpetuae crimen posteritatis eris.
of-perpetual a-charge posterity you-will-be.
iam feror in pugnas et nondum cornua sumpsi,
already I-am-borne into fights and not-yet horns have-I-taken,
nec mihi sumendi causa sit ulla velim.
nor to-me of-taking a-cause may-be any I-would-wish.
Circus adhuc cessat; spargit iam torvus harenam
the-Circus still is-idle; scatters already grim the-sand
taurus et infesto iam pede pulsat humum.
the-bull and with-hostile already foot beats the-ground.
hoc quoque, quam volui, plus est. cane, Musa, receptus,
this too, than I-wished, more is. sing, Muse, the-retreat,
dum licet huic nomen dissimulare suum.
while it-is-allowed for-this-one the-name to-dissemble his-own.

IV.10.1 · BORN AT SULMO

Ovid, the playful poet of tender loves, tells posterity who he was. His homeland is Sulmo, rich in cool waters, ninety miles from the city. He was born there in the year when both consuls fell by a like fate, heir to an old rank from his great-grandfathers and not a knight made by fortune's gift. He was not the first child: his brother had been born twelve months before, on the same day, so one birthday was kept with two cakes, in the festival of arms-bearing Minerva.

Ille ego qui fuerim, tenerorum lusor amorum,
That I who I-was, of-tender the-player loves,
quem legis, ut noris, accipe posteritas.
whom you-read, that you-may-know, hear posterity.
Sulmo mihi patria est, gelidis uberrimus undis,
Sulmo for-me homeland is, in-cool most-rich waters,

milia qui novies distat ab urbe decem.
miles which nine-times is-distant from the-city ten.
editus hic ego sum, nec non, ut tempora noris,
born here I was, and indeed, that the-time you-may-know,
cum cecidit fato consul uterque pari:
when fell by-fate consul each like:
si quid id est, usque a proavis vetus ordinis heres
if anything that is, right from great-grandfathers an-old of-rank heir
non modo fortunae munere factus eques.
not lately of-fortune by-gift made a-knight.
nec stirps prima fui; genito sum fratre creatus,
nor offspring first I-was; born I-was a-brother begotten,
qui tribus ante quater mensibus ortus erat.
who three before four-times months born had-been.
Lucifer amborum natalibus affuit idem:
the-Morning-Star of-both at-the-birthdays was-present the-same:
una celebrata est per duo liba dies;
one celebrated was with two cakes day;
haec est armiferae festis de quinque Minervae,
this is of-arms-bearing festal-days from the-five Minerva,
quae fieri pugna prima cruenta solet.
which to-become with-fight first bloody is-wont.

The brothers were schooled young by men of the city. The elder was born for the arms of the wordy forum; Ovid was drawn by the Muse, and though his father said that the Maeonian himself left no riches, whatever he tried to write was verse. They took the freer toga and the broad stripe. His brother died at twenty. Ovid held the first offices and was one of a board of three, but the senate remained: he narrowed his stripe, unfit in body and mind for that burden, and the Muses urged leisure.

protinus excolimur teneri curaque parentis
forthwith we-are-schooled tender and-by-the-care of-(our)-parent
imus ad insignes urbis ab arte viros.
we-go to distinguished of-the-city by art men.
frater ad eloquium viridi tendebat ab aevo,
(my)-brother toward eloquence green was-tending from age,
fortia verbosi natus ad arma fori;
the-stout of-the-wordy born for arms forum;
at mihi iam puero caelestia sacra placebant,
but to-me already a-boy heavenly rites pleased,
inque suum furtim Musa trahebat opus.
and-into her by-stealth the-Muse was-drawing work.
saepe pater dixit "studium quid inutile temptas?
often (my)-father said "a-pursuit why useless do-you-try?
Maeonides nullas ipse reliquit opes."
the-Maeonian no himself left riches."
motus eram dictis, totoque Helicone relicto
moved I-was by-(his)-words, and-all Helicon left
scribere temptabam verba soluta modis.
to-write I-tried words freed from-measures.

sponte sua carmen numeros veniebat ad aptos,
of-accord its-own a-poem rhythms came to fitting,
et quod temptabam scribere versus erat.
and what I-tried to-write verse was.
interea tacito passu labentibus annis
meanwhile with-silent step gliding the-years
liberior fratri sumpta mihique toga est,
the-freer by-(my)-brother assumed and-by-me toga was,
induiturque umeris cum lato purpura clavo,
and-is-put-on on-(our)-shoulders with broad the-purple stripe,
et studium nobis, quod fuit ante, manet.
and the-pursuit for-us, which was before, remains.
iamque decem vitae frater geminaverat annos,
and-already ten of-life (my)-brother had-doubled years,
cum perit, et coepi parte carere mei.
when he-died, and I-began a-part to-lack of-myself.
cepimus et tenerae primos aetatis honores,
I-took also of-tender the-first age offices,
eque viris quondam pars tribus una fui.
and-of men once part three one I-was.
curia restabat: clavi mensura coacta est;
the-senate-house remained: of-the-stripe the-measure narrowed was;
maius erat nostris viribus illud onus.
greater was than-our strength that burden.

nec patiens corpus, nec mens fuit apta labori,
neither enduring body, nor mind was fit for-toil,
sollicitaeque fugax ambitionis eram,
and-of-anxious shy ambition I-was,
et petere Aoniae suadebant tuta sorores
and to-seek the-Aonian urged safe sisters
otia, iudicio semper amata meo.
leisure, by-judgment always loved my.

IV.10.3 · THE POETS I KNEW

Ovid courted the poets of that time and thought every bard a god. Macer read him his birds, snakes, and herbs; Propertius recited his fires; Ponticus and Bassus were of his circle; Horace held his ears; Virgil he only saw, and the fates gave Tibullus no time for friendship. Tibullus followed Gallus, Propertius him, and Ovid was fourth. The younger courted him in turn. Corinna, not her real name, stirred his talent. He burned what he thought faulty, and more when he went into exile.

temporis illius colui fovique poëtas,
of-time that I-courted and-cherished the-poets,
quotque aderant vates, rebar adesse deos.
and-as-many-as were-present bards, I-thought to-be-present gods.
saepe suas volucres legit mihi grandior aevo,
often his birds read to-me greater in-age,
quaeque nocet serpens, quae iuvat herba, Macer.
and-which harms snake, which helps herb, Macer.
saepe suos solitus recitare Propertius ignes,
often his wont to-recite Propertius fires,
iure sodalicii, quo mihi iunctus erat.
by-right of-comradeship, by-which to-me joined he-was.

Ponticus heroo, Bassus quoque clarus iambis
Ponticus for-epic, Bassus too famed for-iambics
dulcia convictus membra fuere mei.
sweet of-circle members were my.
et tenuit nostras numerosus Horatius aures,
and held our tuneful Horace ears,
dum ferit Ausonia carmina culta lyra.
while he-strikes on-Ausonian songs polished lyre.
Vergilium vidi tantum: nec avara Tibullo
Virgil I-saw only: nor greedy to-Tibullus
tempus amicitiae fata dedere meae.
time for-friendship the-fates gave my.
successor fuit hic tibi, Galle, Propertius illi;
successor was he to-you, Gallus, Propertius to-him;
quartus ab his serie temporis ipse fui.
fourth from these in-order of-time myself I-was.
utque ego maiores, sic me coluere minores,
and-as I the-elder, so me courted the-younger,
notaque non tarde facta Thalia mea est.
and-known not late made Thalia my was.
carmina cum primum populo iuvenalia legi,
poems when first to-the-people youthful I-read,
barba resecta mihi bisve semelve fuit.
(my)-beard cut for-me either-twice or-once had-been.
moverat ingenium totam cantata per urbem
had-stirred (my)-talent whole sung through the-city
nomine non vero dicta Corinna mihi.
by-name not true called Corinna by-me.

multa quidem scripsi, sed, quae vitiosa putavi,
much indeed I-wrote, but, what faulty I-thought,
emendaturis ignibus ipse dedi.
to-going-to-correct fires myself I-gave.
tunc quoque, cum fugerem, quaedam placitura cremavi,
then too, when I-was-going-into-exile, some going-to-please I-burned,
iratus studio carminibusque meis.
angry at-(my)-pursuit and-at-poems my.

IV.10.4 · WIVES, DAUGHTER, AND PARENTS

Ovid's heart was soft to Cupid's darts, yet no scandal touched his name. He was given a wife almost as a boy, neither worthy nor useful, and briefly; a second was without fault but did not last; the third has stayed and endured being an exile's wife. His daughter twice made him a grandfather. His father died at ninety, and his mother next: happy both, buried before the day of his punishment. If anything remains of the dead, let them know that a blunder, not a crime, caused his exile.

molle Cupidineis nec inexpugnabile telis
soft to-Cupid's nor impregnable darts
cor mihi, quodque levis causa moveret, erat.
heart for-me, and-which a-slight cause would-move, was.
cum tamen hic essem minimoque accenderer igni,
though still such I-was and-by-the-least was-kindled fire,
nomine sub nostro fabula nulla fuit.
name under our scandal none was.
paene mihi puero nec digna nec utilis uxor
almost to-me a-boy neither worthy nor useful a-wife
est data, quae tempus per breve nupta fuit.
was given, who time for a-brief married was.

illi successit, quamvis sine crimine coniunx,
to-her succeeded, although without fault a-wife,
non tamen in nostro firma futura toro.
not still in our lasting going-to-be bed.
ultima, quae mecum seros permansit in annos,
the-last, who with-me late has-stayed into years,
sustinuit coniunx exulis esse viri.
has-endured wife of-an-exiled to-be husband.
filia me mea bis prima fecunda iuventa,
daughter me my twice in-first fruitful youth,
sed non ex uno coniuge, fecit avum.
but not from one husband, made a-grandfather.
et iam complerat genitor sua fata novemque
and already had-filled-out (my)-father his fates and-to-nine
addiderat lustris altera lustra novem.
had-added lusters other lusters nine.
non aliter flevi, quam me fleturus ademptum
not otherwise I-wept, than me going-to-weep taken-away
ille fuit. matri proxima busta tuli.
he was. to-(my)-mother the-next tomb I-bore.
felices ambo tempestiveque sepulti,
happy both and-timely buried,
ante diem poenae quod periere meae!
before the-day of-punishment because they-perished my!
me quoque felicem, quod non viventibus illis
me too happy, because not living them
sum miser, et de me quod doluere nihil!
I-am wretched, and over me because they-grieved nothing!
si tamen extinctis aliquid nisi nomina restat,
if still for-the-dead something except names remains,

et gracilis structos effugit umbra rogos,
and the-slender built escapes shade pyres,
fama, parentales, si vos mea contigit, umbrae,
report, parental, if you my has-reached, shades,
et sunt in Stygio crimina nostra foro,
and are in the-Stygian charges our court,
scite, precor, causam (nec vos mihi fallere fas est)
know, I-pray, the-cause (nor you for-me to-deceive right is)
errorem iussae, non scelus, esse fugae.
a-blunder of-(my)-ordered, not a-crime, to-be exile.

IV.10.5 · EXILE TO TOMIS

He returns to those who ask about his life. His hair was gray when the anger of the offended prince bade him seek Tomis, on the left of the Euxine sea. The cause of his ruin is too well known to need his evidence, and he passes over the wrong his companions and servants did. His mind disdained to yield; he bore as many mishaps by land and sea as there are stars, and reached the Sarmatian shore beside the Getae. There, amid the din of arms, he lightens his fate with song and beguiles the day.

Manibus hoc satis est: ad vos, studiosa, revertor,
For-the-Shades this enough is: to you, eager, I-return,
pectora, quae vitae quaeritis acta meae.
hearts, who of-life ask the-doings my.
iam mihi canities pulsis melioribus annis
already to-me gray-hair driven-off better years
venerat, antiquas miscueratque comas,
had-come, (my)-old and-had-mingled hair,
postque meos ortus Pisaea vinctus oliva
and-after my birth with-Pisan wreathed olive

abstulerat deciens praemia victor eques,
had-carried-off ten-times the-prizes a-victor horseman,
cum maris Euxini positos ad laeva Tomitas
when of-sea Euxine set on the-left the-Tomitans
quaerere me laesi principis ira iubet.
to-seek me of-the-offended prince the-anger bids.
causa meae cunctis nimium quoque nota ruinae
the-cause of-my to-all too-much also known ruin
indicio non est testificanda meo.
by-evidence not is to-be-attested my.
quid referam comitumque nefas famulosque nocentes?
why should-I-tell and-of-companions the-wrong and-servants guilty?
ipsa multa tuli non leviora fuga.
than-itself many-things I-bore not lighter exile.
indignata malis mens est succumbere seque
disdained to-evils (my)-mind has to-yield and-itself
praestitit invictam viribus usa suis;
showed unconquered strength using its-own;
oblitusque mei ductaeque per otia vitae
and-forgetful of-myself and-of-led in leisure life
insolita cepi temporis arma manu;
with-unaccustomed I-took of-the-time the-arms hand;
totque tuli terra casus pelagoque quot inter
and-as-many I-bore on-land mishaps and-on-sea as between
occultum stellae conspicuumque polum.
the-hidden stars and-visible pole.
tacta mihi tandem longis erroribus acto
touched by-me at-last through-long wanderings driven
iuncta pharetratis Sarmatis ora Getis.
joined to-quivered the-Sarmatian shore Getae.

hic ego, finitimis quamvis circumsoner armis,
here I, by-neighboring although I-am-surrounded-with-the-din arms,
tristia, quo possum, carmine fata levo.
(my)-sad, by-what I-can, song fate I-lighten.
quod quamvis nemo est, cuius referatur ad aures,
which although no-one there-is, whose it-may-be-brought to ears,
sic tamen absumo decipioque diem.
so still I-use-up and-beguile the-day.

IV.10.6 · THANKS TO THE MUSE

That he lives and withstands his hardships he owes to the Muse: she is his comfort, rest, and medicine, his guide and companion, who leads him from the Hister to Helicon. She has given him, while he lives, the lofty name that fame gives after the funeral. Envy has bitten none of his work; in an age of great poets he is called no lesser and is read most in the whole world. If the presages of bards hold any truth, he will not be the earth's when he dies. He thanks his candid reader.

ergo quod vivo durisque laboribus obsto,
therefore that I-live and-hard hardships withstand,
nec me sollicitae taedia lucis habent,
nor me of-anxious the-wearinesses light hold,
gratia, Musa, tibi: nam tu solacia praebes,
thanks, Muse, to-you: for you comfort provide,
tu curae requies, tu medicina venis.
you of-care a-rest, you as-medicine come.
tu dux et comes es, tu nos abducis ab Histro,
you guide and companion are, you us lead-away from the-Hister,
in medioque mihi das Helicone locum;
in and-mid to-me you-give Helicon a-place;

tu mihi, quod rarum est, vivo sublime dedisti
you to-me, which rare is, living a-lofty have-given
nomen, ab exequiis quod dare fama solet.
name, after funerals which to-give fame is-wont.
nec, qui detractat praesentia, Livor iniquo
nor, who disparages present-things, Envy with-unjust
ullum de nostris dente momordit opus.
any of our tooth has-bitten work.
nam tulerint magnos cum saecula nostra poetas,
for have-borne great though age our poets,
non fuit ingenio fama maligna meo,
not was to-talent fame grudging my,
cumque ego praeponam multos mihi, non minor illis
and-though I put-before many to-myself, not lesser than-they
dicor et in toto plurimus orbe legor.
I-am-called and in the-whole most world am-read.
si quid habent igitur vatum praesagia veri,
if anything have then of-bards the-presages of-truth,
protinus ut moriar, non ero, terra, tuus.
forthwith though I-die, not I-shall-be, earth, yours.
sive favore tuli, sive hanc ego carmine famam,
whether by-favor I-won, or this I by-song fame,
iure tibi grates, candide lector, ago.
rightly to-you thanks, candid reader, I-give.

V.1 · A FIFTH BOOK OF SORROWS

Ovid sends a fifth book from the Getic shore to join the four before it. Like its poet's fortune, it will be sad. Whoever wants wanton verse should read Gallus, Propertius, or Tibullus; Ovid wishes he had never been one of them. He writes not by art but because his grief must have a voice, as the dying swan sings. Even Phalaris let his victim groan: let the reader pardon his complaints or put the books down. He sends them because he wants to be with his friends in any way he can.

Hunc quoque de Getico, nostri studiose, libellum
This too from the-Getic, of-us devoted-one, little-book
litore praemissis quattuor adde meis.
shore to-the-sent-ahead four add my.
hic quoque talis erit, qualis fortuna poetae:
this too such will-be, as-is the-fortune of-the-poet:
invenies toto carmine dulce nihil.
you-will-find in-the-whole song sweet nothing.
flebilis ut noster status est, ita flebile carmen,
lamentable as our state is, so lamentable the-song,
materiae scripto conveniente suae.
to-the-matter the-writing suiting its.
integer et laetus laeta et iuvenalia lusi:
whole and glad glad-things and youthful I-played:
illa tamen nunc me composuisse piget.
those still now me to-have-composed irks.
ut cecidi, subiti perago praeconia casus,
when I-fell, of-the-sudden I-carry-out the-proclamation misfortune,
sumque argumenti conditor ipse mei.
and-I-am of-the-theme the-founder myself my.

utque iacens ripa deflere Caystrius ales
and-as lying on-the-bank to-lament the-Caystrian bird
dicitur ore suam deficiente necem,
is-said voice his-own failing death,
sic ego, Sarmaticas longe proiectus in oras,
so I, Sarmatian far cast-out on shores,
efficio tacitum ne mihi funus eat.
bring-it-about silent that-not for-me the-funeral may-go.
delicias siquis lascivaque carmina quaerit,
delights if-anyone and-wanton songs seeks,
praemoneo, non est scripta quod ista legat.
I-forewarn, not there-is writings why those he-should-read.
aptior huic Gallus blandique Propertius oris,
fitter for-this-one Gallus and-of-coaxing Propertius mouth,
aptior, ingenium come, Tibullus erit.
fitter, a-talent courteous, Tibullus will-be.
atque utinam numero non nos essemus in isto!
and would-that number not we were in that!
ei mihi, cur umquam Musa iocata mea est?
ah me, why ever Muse jested my has?
sed dedimus poenas, Scythicique in finibus Histri
but we-have-paid the-penalty, and-of-the-Scythian in the-borders Hister
ille pharetrati lusor Amoris abest.
that of-quivered the-player Love is-absent.
quod superest, animos ad publica carmina flexi,
as-for-what remains, my-mind to public songs I-have-turned,
et memores iussi nominis esse mei.
and mindful I-have-bidden of-the-name to-be my.
si tamen e vobis aliquis tam multa requiret,
if still of you someone so many-things shall-ask,

unde dolenda canam, multa dolenda tuli.
whence sorrowful-things I-sing, many sorrowful-things I-have-borne.
non haec ingenio, non haec componimus arte:
not these by-talent, not these we-compose by-art:
materia est propriis ingeniosa malis.
the-matter is from-their-own talented evils.
et quota fortunae pars est in carmine nostrae?
and how-small of-fortune part is in the-song our?
felix, qui patitur quae numerare potest!
happy, who suffers what to-count he-can!
quot frutices silvae, quot flavas Thybris harenas,
as-many-as shrubs the-woods, as-many-as yellow the-Tiber sands,
mollia quot Martis gramina campus habet,
soft as-many-as of-Mars blades the-field has,
tot mala pertulimus, quorum medicina quiesque
so-many evils we-have-endured, of-which the-medicine and-rest
nulla nisi in studio est Pieridumque mora.
none except in pursuit is and-of-the-Pierides the-lingering.
"quis tibi, Naso, modus lacrimosi carminis?" inquis:
"what for-you, Naso, limit of-tearful song?" you-say:
idem, fortunae qui modus huius erit.
the-same, of-fortune which the-limit this will-be.
quod querar, illa mihi pleno de fonte ministrat,
what I-may-complain, that to-me full from spring supplies,
nec mea sunt, fati verba sed ista mei.
nor mine are, of-fate words but those my.
at mihi si cara patriam cum coniuge reddas,
but to-me if dear my-country with my-wife you-should-restore,
sint vultus hilares, simque quod ante fui.
may-be the-face cheerful, and-may-I-be what before I-was.

lenior invicti si sit mihi Caesaris ira,
milder of-unconquered if may-be to-me Caesar the-anger,
carmina laetitiae iam tibi plena dabo.
songs of-gladness now to-you full I-shall-give.
nec tamen ut lusit, rursus mea littera ludet:
nor still as it-played, again my letter will-play:
sit semel illa ioco luxuriata meo.
let-it-be once that in-jest having-run-riot my.
quod probet ipse, canam, poenae modo parte levata
what he-may-approve himself, I-shall-sing, of-punishment only part lightened
barbariam rigidos effugiamque Getas.
barbarism the-stiff and-may-escape Getae.
interea nostri quid agant, nisi triste, libelli?
meanwhile our what may-they-do, except sad, little-books?
tibia funeribus convenit ista meis.
the-pipe to-funeral suits that my.
"at poteras" inquis "melius mala ferre silendo,
"but you-could" you-say "better evils to-bear by-being-silent,
et tacitus casus dissimulare tuos."
and silent misfortunes to-dissemble your."
exigis ut nulli gemitus tormenta sequantur,
do-you-demand that no groans torments may-follow,
acceptoque gravi vulnere flere vetas?
and-received heavy a-wound to-weep do-you-forbid?
ipse Perilleo Phalaris permisit in aere
himself Perillus' Phalaris allowed in bronze
edere mugitus et bovis ore queri.
to-utter bellowings and of-an-ox with-mouth to-complain.
cum Priami lacrimis offensus non sit Achilles,
though by-Priam's tears offended not was Achilles,

tu fletus inhibes, durior hoste, meos?
you weepings check, harder than-an-enemy, my?
cum faceret Nioben orbam Latonia proles,
when made Niobe bereft Latona's offspring,
non tamen et siccas iussit habere genas.
not still also dry it-ordered her-to-have cheeks.
est aliquid, fatale malum per verba levare:
it-is something, fatal evil through words to-lighten:
hoc querulam Procnen Halcyonenque facit.
this complaining Procne and-Halcyone makes.
hoc erat, in gelido quare Poeantius antro
this was-it, in cold why the-son-of-Poeas cave
voce fatigaret Lemnia saxa sua.
with-voice wearied Lemnian rocks his-own.
strangulat inclusus dolor atque exaestuat intus,
strangles shut-in grief and boils-up within,
cogitur et vires multiplicare suas.
is-compelled and strength to-multiply its-own.
da veniam potius, vel totos tolle libellos,
give pardon rather, or whole take-away the-little-books,
si mihi quod prodest hoc tibi, lector, obest.
if to-me what profits this to-you, reader, harms.
sed neque obesse potest, ulli nec scripta fuerunt
but neither to-harm it-can, to-anyone nor writings have-been
nostra nisi auctori perniciosa suo.
our except to-the-author ruinous their.
"at mala sunt." fateor. quis te mala sumere cogit?
"but bad they-are." I-confess. who you bad to-take compels?
aut quis deceptum ponere sumpta vetat?
or who deceived to-lay-down taken forbids?

ipse nec emendo, sed ut hic deducta legantur;
myself nor I-correct, but as here composed let-them-be-read;
non sunt illa suo barbariora loco.
not are they than-their more-barbarous place.
nec me Roma suis debet conferre poetis:
nor me Rome with-her ought to-compare poets:
inter Sauromatas ingeniosus eram.
among the-Sauromatians talented I-was.
denique nulla mihi captatur gloria, quaeque
finally no by-me is-sought glory, and-which
ingeniis stimulos subdere fama solet.
to-talents goads to-put-under fame is-wont.
nolumus assiduis animum tabescere curis,
we-do-not-wish by-constant the-mind to-waste-away cares,
quae tamen inrumpunt quoque vetantur eunt.
which still burst-in and-where they-are-forbidden go.
cur scribam, docui. cur mittam, quaeritis, isto?
why I-may-write, I-have-taught. why I-may-send, you-ask, there?
vobiscum cupio quolibet esse modo.
with-you I-desire in-any to-be way.

Ovid asks his wife whether she turns pale when a letter comes from Pontus. His body is well enough, but his mind is sick and his ills are countless. He urges her to plead with Caesar, the gentlest of men, and reproaches her delay; then he flees to the altar himself and addresses Augustus: his anger was mild, leaving Ovid his life, his citizenship, his property, and the name of relegated, not exile. Ovid does not refuse punishment but asks for a safer place than the besieged Euxine shore.

Ecquid ubi e Ponto nova venit epistula, palles,
Whether-at-all when from Pontus a-new comes letter, do-you-grow-pale,
et tibi sollicita solvitur illa manu?
and by-you with-anxious is-unfastened it hand?
pone metum, valeo; corpusque, quod ante laborum
lay-aside fear, I-am-well; and-the-body, which before of-labors
inpatiens nobis invalidumque fuit,
incapable to-us and-weak was,
sufficit, atque ipso vexatum induruit usu.
suffices, and by-the-very harried has-hardened use.
an magis infirmo non vacat esse mihi?
or more infirm not is-there-leisure to-be for-me?
mens tamen aegra iacet, nec tempore robora sumpsit,
the-mind still sick lies, nor with-time strength has-it-taken,
affectusque animi, qui fuit ante, manet.
and-the-feeling of-mind, which was before, remains.
quaeque mora spatioque suo coitura putavi
and-which with-delay and-with-time its-own going-to-close I-thought
vulnera non aliter quam modo facta dolent.
wounds not otherwise than just-now made ache.
scilicet exiguis prodest annosa vetustas;
doubtless to-small-things helps aged age;

grandibus accedunt tempore damna malis.
to-great are-added with-time losses evils.
paene decem totis aluit Poeantius annis
almost ten whole fed the-son-of-Poeas years
pestiferum tumido vulnus ab angue datum.
pestilent the-swollen a-wound from snake given.
Telephus aeterna consumptus tabe perisset,
Telephus with-eternal consumed wasting would-have-perished,
si non, quae nocuit, dextra tulisset opem.
if not, which harmed, the-right-hand had-brought help.
et mea, si facinus nullum commisimus, opto,
and my, if crime no we-have-committed, I-wish,
vulnera qui fecit, facta levare velit,
wounds he-who made, made to-lighten may-wish,
contentusque mei iam tandem parte doloris
and-content of-my now at-last with-a-part grief
exiguum pleno de mare demat aquae.
a-little the-full from sea may-take-away of-water.
detrahat ut multum, multum restabit acerbi,
should-he-take-away though much, much will-remain of-bitter,
parsque meae poenae totius instar erit.
and-part of-my punishment whole the-equal will-be.
litora quot conchas, quot amoena rosaria flores,
the-shores as-many-as shells, as-many-as lovely rose-gardens flowers,
quotve soporiferum grana papaver habet,
or-as-many-as sleep-bearing grains the-poppy has,
silva feras quot alit, quot piscibus unda natatur,
the-forest beasts as-many-as feeds, with-as-many-as fishes the-wave is-swum,
quot tenerum pennis aera pulsat avis,
as-many-as the-tender with-wings air beats the-bird,

tot premor adversis: quae si comprendere coner,
by-so-many I-am-pressed adversities: which if to-grasp I-should-try,
Icariae numerum dicere coner aquae.
of-the-Icarian the-number to-tell I-should-try water.
utque viae casus, ut amara pericula ponti,
and-that of-the-road the-mishaps, that the-bitter dangers of-the-sea,
ut taceam strictas in mea fata manus,
that I-may-pass-over drawn against my fates hands,
barbara me tellus orbisque novissima magni
a-barbarian me land and-of-the-world the-furthest great
sustinet et saevo cinctus ab hoste locus.
holds and savage surrounded by enemy a-place.
hinc ego traicerer — neque enim mea culpa cruenta est —
from-here I might-be-transferred nor indeed my fault bloody is
esset, quae debet, si tibi cura mei.
there-were, which there-ought, if in-you care for-me.
ille deus, bene quo Romana potentia nixa est,
that god, well on-whom the-Roman power leans has,
saepe suo victor lenis in hoste fuit.
often his-own victor gentle to enemy was.
quid dubitas et tuta times? accede rogaque:
why do-you-hesitate and safe-things fear? approach and-ask:
Caesare nil ingens mitius orbis habet.
than-Caesar nothing huge more-gentle the-world has.
me miserum! quid agam, si proxima quaeque relinquunt?
me wretched! what shall-I-do, if nearest each abandon-me?
subtrahis effracto tu quoque colla iugo?
do-you-withdraw broken you too your-neck yoke?
quo ferar? unde petam lassis solacia rebus?
where shall-I-be-borne? whence shall-I-seek for-weary solaces affairs?

ancora iam nostram non tenet ulla ratem.
an-anchor now our not holds any ship.
videris! ipse sacram, quamvis invisus, ad aram
see-to-it! myself the-sacred, although hated, to altar
confugiam: nullas summovet ara manus.
I-shall-flee: no removes the-altar hands.
Adloquor en absens absentia numina supplex,
I-address behold absent the-absent divinity a-suppliant,
si fas est homini cum Iove posse loqui.
if right is for-a-man with Jove to-be-able to-speak.
arbiter imperii, quo certum est sospite cunctos
arbiter of-empire, whom certain it-is safe all
Ausoniae curam gentis habere deos,
of-Ausonian the-care race to-have the-gods,
o decus, o patriae per te florentis imago,
O glory, O of-country through you flourishing image,
o vir non ipso, quem regis, orbe minor —
O man not than-the-very, which you-rule, world less
sic habites terras et te desideret aether,
so may-you-dwell-on the-lands and you may-long-for the-ether,
sic ad pacta tibi sidera tardus eas —
so to the-promised to-you stars slow may-you-go
parce, precor, minimamque tuo de fulmine partem
spare, I-pray, and-the-smallest your from thunderbolt part
deme! satis poenae, quod superabit, erit.
take-away! enough of-punishment, what shall-remain, will-be.
ira quidem moderata tua est, vitamque dedisti,
the-anger indeed moderated your was, and-life you-have-given,
nec mihi ius civis nec mihi nomen abest,
nor from-me the-right of-a-citizen nor from-me the-name is-absent,

nec mea concessa est aliis fortuna, nec exul
nor my granted was to-others fortune, nor an-exile
edicti verbis nominor ipse tui.
of-the-edict in-the-words am-I-named myself your.
omniaque haec timui, quia me meruisse videbam;
and-all these-things I-feared, because me to-have-deserved I-saw;
sed tua peccato lenior ira meo est.
but your than-the-sin milder anger my is.
arva relegatum iussisti visere Ponti,
the-fields relegated you-ordered-me to-visit of-Pontus,
et Scythicum profuga scindere puppe fretum.
and the-Scythian in-fugitive to-cleave ship strait.
iussus ad Euxini deformia litora veni
ordered to of-the-Euxine misshapen shores I-came
aequoris — haec gelido terra sub axe iacet —
sea this cold land under pole lies
nec me tam cruciat numquam sine frigore caelum,
nor me so tortures never without cold a-sky,
glaebaque canenti semper obusta gelu,
and-the-soil by-whitening always burned-through frost,
nesciaque est vocis quod barbara lingua Latinae,
and-ignorant is of-voice that the-barbarian tongue Latin,
Graecaque quod Getico victa loquella sono est,
and-Greek that by-Getic conquered speech sound is,
quam quod finitimo cinctus premor undique Marte,
as that by-neighboring surrounded I-am-pressed on-all-sides war,
vixque brevis tutum murus ab hoste facit.
and-hardly short safe the-wall from the-enemy makes.
pax tamen interdum est, pacis fiducia numquam:
peace still sometimes is, of-peace confidence never:

sic hic nunc patitur, nunc timet arma locus.
so this now suffers, now fears arms place.
hinc ego dum muter, vel me Zanclaea Charybdis
from-here I so-long-as I-be-changed, either me the-Zanclean Charybdis
devoret atque suis ad Styga mittat aquis,
may-devour and with-her-own to the-Styx may-send waters,
vel rapidae flammis urar patienter in Aetnae,
or of-swift flames may-I-be-burned patiently in Aetna,
vel freta Leucadii mittar in alta dei.
or the-strait of-the-Leucadian may-I-be-sent into deep god.
quod petimus, poena est: neque enim miser esse recuso,
what we-seek, punishment is: nor indeed wretched to-be do-I-refuse,
sed precor ut possim tutius esse miser.
but I-pray that I-may-be-able more-safely to-be wretched.

V.3 · ON BACCHUS' DAY

This is the day poets celebrate Bacchus, and Ovid, under the Bear on the Sarmatian shore, cannot join them. Bacchus too wandered far and labored before he reached heaven, and ought to help one of his worshipers. Ovid asks him for help, and to bend Caesar's divinity with his own, since gods have dealings with one another. He asks the poets at their feast to make the same prayer and to name Naso in their cups, if his candor has earned their favor and he has always praised the poets of his own day.

Illa dies haec est, qua te celebrare poetae,
That day this is, on-which you to-celebrate poets,
si modo non fallunt tempora, Bacche, solent,
if only not deceive-me the-times, Bacchus, are-wont,
festaque odoratis innectunt tempora sertis,
and-festive with-fragrant they-bind temples garlands,

et dicunt laudes ad tua vina tuas.
and speak praises over your wine your.
inter quos, memini, dum me mea fata sinebant,
among whom, I-remember, while me my fates allowed,
non invisa tibi pars ego saepe fui,
not hated by-you a-part I often was,
quem nunc suppositum stellis Cynosuridos Ursae
whom now placed-beneath the-stars of-the-Cynosurid Bear
iuncta tenet crudis Sarmatis ora Getis.
joined holds to-the-raw the-Sarmatian shore Getae.
quique prius mollem vacuamque laboribus egi
and-I-who before soft and-free from-labors spent
in studiis vitam Pieridumque choro,
in pursuits life and-of-the-Pierides the-chorus,
nunc procul a patria Geticis circumsonor armis,
now far from my-country by-Getic am-sounded-around arms,
multa prius pelago multaque passus humo.
many-things before on-sea and-many having-suffered on-land.
sive mihi casus sive hoc dedit ira deorum,
whether to-me chance or this gave the-anger of-the-gods,
nubila nascenti seu mihi Parca fuit,
clouded at-my-birth or for-me the-Parca was,
tu tamen e sacris hederae cultoribus unum
you still from-the sacred of-the-ivy cultivators one
numine debueras sustinuisse tuo.
by-divinity ought to-have-supported your.
an dominae fati quicquid cecinere sorores,
or mistresses of-fate whatever have-sung the-sisters,
omne sub arbitrio desinit esse dei?
all under the-control ceases to-be of-a-god?

ipse quoque aetherias meritis invectus es arces,
yourself too to-the-ethereal by-merits carried you-were citadels,
quo non exiguo facta labore via est.
to-where not by-slight made labor the-road was.
nec patria est habitata tibi, sed adusque nivosum
nor your-country was dwelt-in by-you, but as-far-as snowy
Strymona venisti Marticolamque Geten,
the-Strymon you-came and-the-Mars-worshiping Getan,
Persidaque et lato spatiantem flumine Gangen,
and-Persia and with-broad wandering river the-Ganges,
et quascumque bibit decolor Indus aquas.
and whatever drinks the-dark Indian waters.
scilicet hanc legem nentes fatalia Parcae
doubtless this law spinning fatal the-Parcae
stamina bis genito bis cecinere tibi.
threads to-the-twice born twice sang to-you.
me quoque, si fas est exemplis ire deorum,
me too, if right it-is by-the-examples to-go of-the-gods,
ferrea sors vitae difficilisque premit.
an-iron lot of-life and-difficult presses.
illo nec levius cecidi, quem magna locutum
than-him nor more-lightly I-did-fall, whom great-things having-spoken
reppulit a Thebis Iuppiter igne suo.
drove-back from Thebes Jupiter with-fire his.
ut tamen audisti percussum fulmine vatem,
when still you-heard struck by-the-thunderbolt a-bard,
admonitu matris condoluisse potes,
by-the-reminder of-your-mother to-have-grieved-with-him you-can,
et potes aspiciens circum tua sacra poëtas
and you-can looking around your rites at-the-poets

"nescioquis nostri" dicere "cultor abest."
"some-one of-us" to-say "worshiper is-absent."

fer, bone Liber, opem: sic altera degravet ulmum
bring, good Liber, help: so a-second may-weigh-down the-elm

vitis et incluso plena sit uva mero,
vine and with-shut-in full may-be the-grape wine,

sic tibi cum Bacchis Satyrorum gnava iuventus
so to-you with the-Bacchants of-the-Satyrs the-busy youth

adsit, et attonito non taceare sono,
may-be-present, and with-stunned not may-you-be-silent sound,

ossa bipenniferi sic sint male pressa Lycurgi,
the-bones of-axe-bearing so may-be badly pressed Lycurgus,

impia nec poena Pentheos umbra vacet,
impious nor of-punishment of-Pentheus the-shade may-be-free,

sic micet aeternum vicinaque sidera vincat
so may-flash eternally and-the-neighboring stars may-conquer

coniugis in caelo clara corona tuae:
of-wife in the-sky bright the-crown your:

huc ades et casus releves, pulcherrime, nostros,
hither be-present and the-misfortunes may-you-lighten, most-beautiful, our,

unum de numero me memor esse tuo.
one of the-number me remembering to-be your.

sunt dis inter se commercia. flectere tempta
there-are for-the-gods among themselves exchanges. to-bend try

Caesareum numen numine, Bacche, tuo.
Caesar's divinity by-divinity, Bacchus, your.

vos quoque, consortes studii, pia turba, poetae,
you too, partners of-pursuit, dutiful crowd, poets,

haec eadem sumpto quisque rogate mero.
these same-things taken each ask wine.

atque aliquis vestrum, Nasonis nomine dicto,
and someone of-you, of-Naso the-name spoken,
opponat lacrimis pocula mixta suis,
may-set-against with-tears cups mixed his,
admonitusque mei, cum circumspexerit omnes,
and-reminded of-me, when he-shall-have-looked-around-at all,
dicat "ubi est nostri pars modo Naso chori?"
may-say "where is of-our part lately Naso chorus?"
idque ita, si vestrum merui candore favorem,
and-that so, if your I-have-deserved by-candor favor,
nullaque iudicio littera laesa meo est,
and-no by-judgment letter harmed my has-been,
si, veterum digne veneror cum scripta virorum,
if, of-the-ancient worthily I-revere when the-writings men,
proxima non illis esse minora reor.
nearest not than-them to-be less I-think.
sic igitur dextro faciatis Apolline carmen:
so therefore favoring may-you-make Apollo song:
quod licet, inter vos nomen habete meum.
what is-allowed, among you the-name keep my.

A letter from the Euxine shore speaks, weary from sea and road. Naso, weeping, sent it to his dearest friend. He bears his lot patiently, hoping the god's anger will not last, since his fault was no crime and Caesar's clemency spared his life and property. He longs for his friend's face more than for his country, calls him his Patroclus, Pylades, Theseus, and Euryalus, and remembers how he stood by him when others fled. He vows gratitude, and the letter asks the friend to keep protecting the exile.

Litore ab Euxino Nasonis epistula veni,
The-shore from Euxine of-Naso the-letter I-have-come,
lassaque facta mari lassaque facta via,
and-weary made by-sea and-weary made by-road,
qui mihi flens dixit "tu, cui licet, aspice Romam.
who to-me weeping said "you, to-whom it-is-allowed, look-at Rome.
heu quanto melior sors tua sorte mea est!"
alas by-how-much better lot your than-lot my is!"
flens quoque me scripsit, nec qua signabar, ad os est
weeping too me he-wrote, nor with-which I-was-sealed, to his-mouth was
ante, sed ad madidas gemma relata genas.
before, but to wet the-gem brought cheeks.
tristitiae causam siquis cognoscere quaerit,
of-sadness the-cause if-anyone to-know seeks,
ostendi solem postulat ille sibi,
to-be-shown the-sun demands he for-himself,
nec frondem in silvis, nec aperto mollia prato
nor the-leaf in woods, nor in-open soft meadow
gramina, nec pleno flumine cernit aquam;
grass, nor in-full river does-he-discern water;

quid Priamus doleat, mirabitur, Hectore rapto,
why Priam may-grieve, he-will-wonder, Hector snatched,
quidve Philoctetes ictus ab angue gemat.
or-why Philoctetes struck by a-snake may-groan.
di facerent utinam talis status esset in illo,
the-gods would-make would-that such the-state might-be in him,
ut non tristitiae causa dolenda foret!
that not of-sadness the-cause to-be-grieved-over might-be!
fert tamen, ut debet, casus patienter amaros,
he-bears still, as he-ought, misfortunes patiently bitter,
more nec indomiti frena recusat equi.
in-the-way nor of-an-untamed the-reins refuses horse.
nec fore perpetuam sperat sibi numinis iram,
nor to-be perpetual he-hopes for-himself of-the-divinity the-anger,
conscius in culpa non scelus esse sua.
aware in fault not crime to-be his.
saepe refert, sit quanta dei clementia, cuius
often he-tells, may-be how-great of-the-god the-clemency, of-whom
se quoque in exemplis adnumerare solet:
himself too among the-examples to-count he-is-wont:
nam, quod opes teneat patrias, quod nomina civis,
for, that riches he-may-hold ancestral, that the-names of-a-citizen,
denique quod vivat, munus habere dei.
finally that he-lives, a-gift to-have of-the-god.
te tamen (o, si quid credis mihi, carior illi
you still (O, if anything you-believe me, dearer to-him
omnibus) in toto pectore semper habet;
than-all) in whole heart always he-has;
teque Menoetiaden, te, qui comitatus Oresten,
and-you Menoetiades, you, who accompanied Orestes,

te vocat Aegiden Euryalumque suum.
you he-calls Aegides and-Euryalus his.
nec patriam magis ille suam desiderat et quae
nor country more he his-own longs-for and what-things
plurima cum patria sentit abesse sibi,
very-many with his-country he-feels to-be-absent from-himself,
quam vultus oculosque tuos, o dulcior illo
than the-face and-eyes your, O sweeter than-that
melle, quod in ceris Attica ponit apis.
honey, which in wax the-Attic places bee.
saepe etiam maerens tempus reminiscitur illud,
often even grieving the-time he-recalls that,
quod non praeventum morte fuisse dolet;
which not forestalled by-death to-have-been he-grieves;
cumque alii fugerent subitae contagia cladis,
and-when others fled of-the-sudden the-contagion disaster,
nec vellent ictae limen adire domus,
nor wished of-the-struck the-threshold to-approach house,
te sibi cum paucis meminit mansisse fidelem,
you to-himself with few he-remembers to-have-remained faithful,
si paucos aliquis tresve duosve vocat.
if few anyone either-three or-two calls.
quamvis attonitus, sensit tamen omnia, nec te
though stunned, he-felt still everything, nor you
se minus adversis indoluisse suis.
than-himself less in-adversities to-have-grieved his.
verba solet vultumque tuum gemitusque referre,
the-words he-is-wont and-the-face your and-groans to-recall,
et te flente suos emaduisse sinus:
and you weeping his to-have-grown-wet bosom:

quam sibi praestiteris, qua consolatus amicum
how to-himself you-showed-yourself, by-what consoled your-friend
sis ope, solandus cum simul ipse fores.
you-have help, needing-consolation when at-the-same-time yourself you-were.
pro quibus affirmat fore se memoremque piumque,
for which-things he-affirms to-be himself both-mindful and-dutiful,
sive diem videat sive tegatur humo,
whether the-day he-may-see or may-be-covered by-earth,
per caput ipse suum solitus iurare tuumque,
by head himself his-own wont to-swear and-yours,
quod scio non illi vilius esse suo.
which I-know not to-him cheaper to-be than-his-own.
plena tot ac tantis referetur gratia factis,
full for-so-many and great will-be-returned thanks deeds,
nec sinet ille tuos litus arare boves.
nor will-allow he your the-shore to-plow oxen.
fac modo, constanter profugum tueare: quod ille,
see-to-it only, constantly the-exile you-may-protect: what he,
qui bene te novit, non rogat, ipsa rogo.
who well you knows, not asks, I-myself ask.

It is Ovid's wife's birthday. He puts on white and offers incense and wine at a turf altar, praying that the day come brighter and that her sorrows end with his. The incense smoke drifts toward Italy, fleeing Pontus. Her husband's misfortune has given her virtue its field: Penelope, Evadne, one of Pelias' daughters, and Laodamia are famous for their husbands' misfortunes. He asks the gods and Caesar to spare not him, who deserved his punishment, but her, who grieves undeservedly.

Annuus adsuetum dominae natalis honorem
The-yearly accustomed of-my-mistress birthday honor
exigit: ite manus ad pia sacra meae.
demands: go hands to dutiful rites my.
sic quondam festum Laërtius egerat heros
so once the-festal the-Laertian had-spent hero
forsan in extremo coniugis orbe diem.
perhaps in furthest of-his-wife world day.
lingua favens adsit, nostrorum oblita malorum,
the-tongue favoring may-be-present, of-our forgetful evils,
quae, puto, dedidicit iam bona verba loqui;
which, I-think, has-unlearned already good words to-speak;
quaeque semel toto vestis mihi sumitur anno,
and-which once in-whole the-robe by-me is-taken-up year,
sumatur fatis discolor alba meis;
let-be-taken-up to-fates discordant white my;
araque gramineo viridis de caespite fiat,
and-the-altar grassy green from turf let-be-made,
et velet tepidos nexa corona focos.
and let-veil the-warm woven garland hearths.

da mihi tura, puer, pingues facientia flammas,
give me incense, boy, rich making flames,
quodque pio fusum stridat in igne merum.
and-what dutiful poured may-hiss in fire wine.
optime natalis! quamvis procul absumus, opto
best birthday! although far we-are-away, I-wish
candidus huc venias dissimilisque meo,
bright hither you-may-come and-unlike to-mine,
si quod et instabat dominae miserabile vulnus,
if any and was-pressing on-my-mistress pitiable wound,
sit perfuncta meis tempus in omne malis;
may-she-be finished with-my time for all evils;
quaeque gravi nuper plus quam quassata procella est,
and-which by-heavy lately more than shaken storm has-been,
quod superest, tutum per mare navis eat.
as-for-what remains, safe through sea the-ship may-go.
illa domo nataque sua patriaque fruatur
she home and-daughter her-own and-country may-enjoy
— erepta haec uni sit satis esse mihi —
snatched-away these-things alone let-it-be enough to-be from-me
quatenus et non est in caro coniuge felix,
in-so-far-as and not she-is in dear husband happy,
pars vitae tristi cetera nube vacet.
the-part of-life from-sad the-rest cloud may-be-free.
vivat, ametque virum, quoniam sic cogitur, absens,
may-she-live, and-may-she-love her-husband, since so she-is-compelled, absent,
consumatque annos, sed diuturna, suos.
and-may-she-spend years, but long, her-own.
adicerem et nostros, sed ne contagia fati
I-would-add and ours, but lest the-contagion of-fate

corrumpant timeo, quos agit ipsa, mei.
may-corrupt I-fear, which she-spends herself, my.
nil homini certum est. fieri quis posse putaret,
nothing to-man certain is. to-happen who to-be-able would-think,
ut facerem in mediis haec ego sacra Getis?
that I-should-perform in the-midst-of these I rites Getae?
aspice ut aura tamen fumos e ture coortos
see how the-breeze still the-fumes from the-incense risen
in partes Italas et loca dextra ferat.
into parts Italian and places on-the-right may-carry.
sensus inest igitur nebulis, quas exigit ignis:
sense is-in therefore the-mists, which drives-out the-fire:
consilio fugiunt aethera, Ponte, tuum.
by-design they-flee the-ether, Pontus, your.
consilio, commune sacrum cum fiat in ara
by-design, common the-rite when is-made on the-altar
fratribus, alterna qui periere manu,
for-the-brothers, by-alternate who perished hand,
ipsa sibi discors, tamquam mandetur ab illis,
itself with-itself discordant, as-if it-were-ordered by them,
scinditur in partes atra favilla duas.
is-split into parts black the-ash two.
hoc, memini, quondam fieri non posse loquebar,
this, I-remember, once to-happen not to-be-able I-used-to-say,
et me Battiades iudice falsus erat:
and me the-son-of-Battus judge false was:
omnia nunc credo, cum tu non stultus ab Arcto
all-things now I-believe, when you not foolish from the-Bear
terga, vapor, dederis Ausoniamque petas.
the-back, vapor, have-turned and-Ausonia seek.

haec ergo lux est, quae si non orta fuisset,
this therefore the-day is, which if not risen had,
nulla fuit misero festa videnda mihi.
none was for-wretched festive to-be-seen me.
edidit haec mores illis heroisin aequos,
brought-forth this-day a-character to-those heroines equal,
quis erat Eëtion Icariusque pater.
to-whom was Eetion and-Icarius father.
nata pudicitia est, virtus probitasque, fidesque,
born modesty was, virtue and-integrity, and-faith,
at non sunt ista gaudia nata die,
but not are on-that joys born day,
sed labor et curae fortunaque moribus impar,
but labor and cares and-fortune to-character unequal,
iustaque de viduo paene querella toro.
and-just about widowed almost complaint couch.
scilicet adversis probitas exercita rebus
doubtless by-adverse integrity exercised things
tristi materiam tempore laudis habet.
in-sad matter time for-praise has.
si nihil infesti durus vidisset Ulixes,
if nothing hostile hard had-seen Ulysses,
Penelope felix sed sine laude foret.
Penelope happy but without praise would-be.
victor Echionias si vir penetrasset in arces,
victorious Echionian if her-husband had-penetrated into citadels,
forsitan Euadnen vix sua nosset humus.
perhaps Evadne hardly her-own would-know ground.
cum Pelia genitae tot sint, cur nobilis una est?
since of-Pelias born so-many may-be, why noble one is?

nempe fuit misero nupta quod una viro.
surely was to-a-wretched married because one husband.
effice ut Iliacas tangat prior alter harenas,
bring-it-about that the-Ilian may-touch first another sands,
Laudamia nihil cur referatur erit.
Laodamia nothing why she-should-be-told-of there-will-be.
et tua, quod malles, pietas ignota maneret,
and your, which you-would-prefer, devotion unknown would-remain,
implerent venti si mea vela sui.
should-fill the-winds if my sails their-own.
di tamen et Caesar dis accessure, sed olim,
gods still and Caesar to-the-gods going-to-join, but some-day,
aequarint Pylios cum tua fata dies,
shall-have-equaled the-Pylian when your fates days,
non mihi, qui poenam fateor meruisse, sed illi
not me, who the-punishment I-confess to-have-deserved, but her
parcite, quae nullo digna dolore dolet.
spare, who of-no worthy grief grieves.

Ovid writes to a friend who was once his refuge and his harbor and now seems to be letting the burden drop. A pilot does not abandon a ship in the storm, nor Automedon Achilles' horses; Pylades bore Orestes' insults and stayed. Ovid has done nothing to forfeit his friend's loyalty, and his troubles are past counting: the least of them is greater than the friend thinks. Let him check his anger and not desert him mid-sea.

Tu quoque, nostrarum quondam fiducia rerum,
You too, of-our once the-confidence affairs,
qui mihi confugium, qui mihi portus eras,
who to-me a-refuge, who to-me a-harbor were,
tu quoque suscepti curam dimittis amici,
you too of-the-undertaken the-care dismiss friend,
officiique pium tam cito ponis onus?
and-of-duty the-dutiful so quickly lay-down burden?
sarcina sum, fateor, quam si non tempore nostro
a-burden I-am, I-confess, which if not in-time our
depositurus eras, non subeunda fuit.
going-to-lay-down you-were, not to-be-taken-up it-was.
fluctibus in mediis navem, Palinure, relinquis?
waves in the-midst-of the-ship, Palinurus, do-you-abandon?
ne fuge, neve tua sit minor arte fides.
do-not flee, nor-let your be less than-skill faith.
numquid Achilleos inter fera proelia fidi
surely-not Achilles' amid wild battles of-faithful
deseruit levitas Automedontis equos?
deserted the-fickleness Automedon horses?
quem semel excepit, numquam Podalirius aegro
whom once he-took-up, never Podalirius to-the-sick

promissam medicae non tulit artis opem.
promised of-medical not brought art help.
turpius eicitur, quam non admittitur hospes:
more-shamefully is-thrown-out, than not is-admitted a-guest:
quae patuit, dextrae firma sit ara meae.
which lay-open, to-right-hand firm let-be the-altar my.
nil nisi me solum primo tutatus es; at nunc
nothing except me alone at-first protected you-have; but now
me pariter serva iudiciumque tuum,
me equally save and-judgment your,
si modo non aliqua est in me nova culpa, tuamque
if only not some is in me new fault, and-your
mutarunt subito crimina nostra fidem.
have-changed suddenly charges our faith.
spiritus hic, Scythica quem non bene ducimus aura,
the-breath this, in-Scythian which not well we-draw air,
quod cupio, membris exeat ante meis,
what I-desire, from-limbs may-go-out before my,
quam tua delicto stringantur pectora nostro,
than your by-the-offense may-be-grazed breast our,
et videar merito vilior esse tibi.
and I-may-seem deservedly cheaper to-be to-you.
non adeo toti fatis urguemur iniquis,
not so wholly by-fates are-we-pressed unfair,
ut mea sit longis mens quoque mota malis.
that my may-be by-long mind too moved evils.
finge tamen motam, quotiens Agamemnone natum
suppose still it-moved, how-often from-Agamemnon born
dixisse in Pyladen improba verba putas?
to-have-said against Pylades shameless words do-you-think?

nec procul a vero est quin et pulsarit amicum:
nor far from truth is-it but-that also he-struck his-friend:
mansit in officiis non minus ille suis.
remained in duties not less he his.
hoc est cum miseris solum commune beatis,
this is with the-wretched alone common the-blessed,
ambobus tribui quod solet obsequium:
to-both to-be-given that is-wont deference:
ceditur et caecis et quos praetexta verendos
way-is-given and to-the-blind and to-those-whom the-bordered-toga to-be-feared
virgaque cum verbis imperiosa facit.
and-the-rod with words commanding makes.
si mihi non parcis, fortunae parcere debes:
if me not you-spare, fortune to-spare you-ought:
non habet in nobis ullius ira locum.
not has in us of-anyone anger place.
elige nostrorum minimum minimumque laborum,
choose of-our the-least and-the-smallest labors,
isto, quod reris, grandius illud erit.
than-that, which you-think, greater that will-be.
quam multa madidae celantur harundine fossae,
with-as much the-wet are-hidden reed ditches,
florida quam multas Hybla tuetur apes,
flowery as many Hybla protects bees,
quam multae gracili terrena sub horrea ferre
as many in-slender earthen to granaries to-carry
limite formicae grana reperta solent,
path ants grains found are-wont,
tam me circumstat densorum turba malorum.
so me surrounds of-dense the-crowd evils.

crede mihi, vero est nostra querella minor.
believe me, than-the-truth is our complaint less.
his qui contentus non est, in litus harenas,
with-these who content not is, on the-shore sands,
in segetem spicas, in mare fundat aquas.
on the-crop ears, on the-sea let-him-pour waters.
intempestivos igitur compesce tumores,
untimely therefore check swellings,
vela nec in medio desere nostra mari.
sails nor in the-middle desert our sea.

V.7 · LIFE AMONG THE GETAE

Ovid writes from where the Danube meets the sea. He is wretched, as is anyone who has offended Caesar. His friend says his poems are danced in the theater; Ovid wrote nothing for the stage and seeks no applause, though he is glad to be remembered and cannot give up the poems that harmed him. The Getae and Sarmatians ride armed with bows and poisoned arrows, lawless, in skins and trousers, and the little Greek left is barbarized. No one knows Latin; Ovid must speak Sarmatian, and talks to himself to keep his Latin.

Quam legis, ex illa tibi venit epistula terra,
Which you-read, from that to-you comes letter land,
latus ubi aequoreis additur Hister aquis.
broad where to-the-sea's is-added Hister waters.
si tibi contingit cum dulci vita salute,
if to-you befalls with sweet life health,
candida fortunae pars manet una meae.
bright of-fortune a-part remains one my.
scilicet, ut semper, quid agam, carissime, quaeris,
doubtless, as always, what I-may-do, dearest, you-ask,

quamvis hoc vel me scire tacente potes.
although this even me to-know being-silent you-can.
sum miser; haec brevis est nostrorum summa malorum,
I-am wretched; this brief is of-our the-sum evils,
quisquis et offenso Caesare vivit, erit.
whoever and offended Caesar lives, will-be.
turba Tomitanae quae sit regionis et inter
the-crowd of-the-Tomitan what may-be region and among
quos habitem mores, discere cura tibi est?
what I-dwell ways, to-learn a-care to-you is?
mixta sit haec quamvis inter Graecosque Getasque,
mixed may-be this although among and-Greeks and-Getae,
a male pacatis plus trahit ora Getis.
from badly pacified more draws face Getae.
Sarmaticae maior Geticaeque frequentia gentis
of-the-Sarmatian greater and-Getic the-throng race
per medias in equis itque reditque vias.
through the-middle on horses both-goes and-returns roads.
in quibus est nemo, qui non coryton et arcum
among whom is no-one, who not a-quiver and a-bow
telaque vipereo lurida felle gerat.
and-darts with-viper's livid gall may-carry.
vox fera, trux vultus, verissima Martis imago,
voice wild, savage the-face, truest of-Mars the-image,
non coma, non ulla barba resecta manu,
not hair, not any beard cut by-hand,
dextera non segnis fixo dare vulnera cultro,
the-right-hand not slow with-fixed to-give wounds knife,
quem iunctum lateri barbarus omnis habet.
which joined to-his-side barbarian every has.

vivit in his heu nunc, lusorum oblitus amorum,
lives among these alas now, of-playful forgetful loves,
hos videt, hos vates audit, amice, tuus:
these sees, these the-bard hears, friend, your:
atque utinam vivat non et moriatur in illis,
and would-that he-may-live not and may-die among them,
absit ab invisis et tamen umbra locis.
may-be-absent from hated and still his-shade places.
carmina quod pleno saltari nostra theatro,
songs that in-full to-be-danced our theater,
versibus et plaudi scribis, amice, meis,
with-verses and to-be-applauded you-write, friend, my,
nil equidem feci — tu scis hoc ipse — theatris,
nothing indeed have-I-done you know this yourself for-theaters,
Musa nec in plausus ambitiosa mea est.
Muse nor for applause ambitious my is.
non tamen ingratum est, quodcumque oblivia nostri
not still unwelcome is-it, whatever forgetfulness of-us
impedit et profugi nomen in ora refert.
impedes and of-the-exile the-name into mouths brings-back.
quamvis interdum, quae me laesisse recordor,
although sometimes, which me to-have-harmed I-recall,
carmina devoveo Pieridasque meas,
songs I-curse and-Pierides my,
cum bene devovi, nequeo tamen esse sine illis,
when well I-have-cursed, I-cannot still to-be without them,
vulneribusque meis tela cruenta sequor,
and-with-wounds my weapons bloody I-follow,
quaeque modo Euboicis lacerata est fluctibus, audet
and-which just-now by-Euboean torn has-been waves, dares

Graia Capheream currere puppis aquam.
the-Greek of-Caphereus to-run ship water.
nec tamen, ut lauder, vigilo curamque futuri
nor still, that I-may-be-praised, do-I-keep-awake and-care for-the-future
nominis, utilius quod latuisset, ago.
name, more-usefully which would-have-lain-hidden, do-I-take.
detineo studiis animum falloque dolores,
I-hold-back with-pursuits my-mind and-beguile griefs,
experior curis et dare verba meis.
I-try for-cares and to-give words my.
quid potius faciam desertis solus in oris,
what rather shall-I-do deserted alone on shores,
quamve malis aliam quaerere coner opem?
or-what for-evils other to-seek should-I-try help?
sive locum specto, locus est inamabilis, et quo
whether the-place I-look-at, the-place is unlovable, and than-which
esse nihil toto tristius orbe potest,
to-be nothing in-the-whole sadder world can,
sive homines, vix sunt homines hoc nomine digni,
or-whether men, hardly are-they men of-this name worthy,
quamque lupi, saevae plus feritatis habent.
and-than wolves, of-savage more fierceness they-have.
non metuunt leges, sed cedit viribus aequum,
not they-fear laws, but yields to-force fairness,
victaque pugnaci iura sub ense iacent.
and-conquered combative rights under sword lie.
pellibus et laxis arcent mala frigora bracis,
with-skins and loose they-keep-off evil cold trousers,
oraque sunt longis horrida tecta comis.
and-faces are with-long rough covered hair.

in paucis remanent Graecae vestigia linguae,
in few remain of-the-Greek traces tongue,
haec quoque iam Getico barbara facta sono.
this too now by-Getic barbarian made sound.
unus in hoc nemo est populo, qui forte Latine
one in this no-one is people, who perhaps in-Latin
quaelibet e medio reddere verba queat.
any from the-midst to-render words could.
ille ego Romanus vates — ignoscite, Musae! —
that I the-Roman bard forgive, Muses!
Sarmatico cogor plurima more loqui.
in-Sarmatian I-am-forced very-many-things fashion to-speak.
en pudet et fateor, iam desuetudine longa
behold it-shames and I-confess, now from-disuse long
vix subeunt ipsi verba Latina mihi.
hardly come-up themselves words Latin to-me.
nec dubito quin sint et in hoc non pauca libello
nor I-doubt but-that there-may-be even in this not few little-book
barbara: non hominis culpa, sed ista loci.
barbarisms: not of-the-man the-fault, but that of-the-place.
ne tamen Ausoniae perdam commercia linguae,
lest still of-Ausonian I-may-lose the-commerce tongue,
et fiat patrio vox mea muta sono,
and may-become in-native voice my mute sound,
ipse loquor mecum desuetaque verba retracto,
myself I-speak with-myself and-unaccustomed words I-handle-again,
et studii repeto signa sinistra mei.
and of-pursuit I-repeat the-signs ill-omened my.

sic animum tempusque traho, sic meque reduco
so my-mind and-time I-draw-out, so and-myself I-lead-back

a contemplatu summoveoque mali.
from the-contemplation and-remove of-evil.

carminibus quaero miserarum oblivia rerum:
by-songs I-seek of-wretched forgetfulness things:

praemia si studio consequar ista, sat est.
rewards if from-pursuit I-attain those, enough it-is.

V.8 · TO AN ENEMY WHO REJOICES

Ovid has not fallen so low that his enemy is not lower. Why does he rejoice in his ills? Fortune is fickle, constant only in her fickleness, and Nemesis punishes the proud. Ovid has seen a man who laughed at a shipwreck drown, and one who refused the poor food now beg, and his own flowering was brief. Caesar may yet soften, and if he does, the enemy will see Ovid back in the city and himself in exile.

Non adeo cecidi, quamvis abiectus, ut infra
Not so-far I-have-fallen, although cast-down, that below

te quoque sim, inferius quo nihil esse potest.
you too I-may-be, lower than-whom nothing to-be can.

quae tibi res animos in me facit, improbe? curve
what for-you thing spirits against me makes, shameless-one? or-why

casibus insultas, quos potes ipse pati?
at-misfortunes do-you-jeer, which you-can yourself suffer?

nec mala te reddunt mitem placidumque iacenti
nor evils you render gentle and-calm toward-the-prostrate

nostra, quibus possint inlacrimare ferae;
our, at-which could to-weep wild-beasts;

nec metuis dubio Fortunae stantis in orbe
nor you-fear doubtful of-Fortune standing on wheel

numen, et exosae verba superba deae.
the-divinity, and of-the-hating words proud goddess.
exigit a dignis ultrix Rhamnusia poenas:
exacts from the-worthy the-avenging Rhamnusian penalties:
inposito calcas quid mea fata pede?
with-placed-on do-you-trample why my fates foot?
vidi ego naufragium qui risit in aequora mergi,
saw I the-shipwreck who laughed-at in the-sea to-be-sunk,
et "numquam" dixi "iustior unda fuit."
and "never" I-said "more-just the-wave was."
vilia qui quondam miseris alimenta negarat,
cheap who once to-the-wretched nourishment had-denied,
nunc mendicato pascitur ipse cibo.
now on-begged is-fed himself food.
passibus ambiguis Fortuna volubilis errat
with-steps uncertain Fortune fickle wanders
et manet in nullo certa tenaxque loco,
and remains in no certain and-tenacious place,
sed modo laeta venit, vultus modo sumit acerbos,
but now joyful she-comes, a-face now takes-on bitter,
et tantum constans in levitate sua est.
and only constant in fickleness her-own is.
nos quoque floruimus, sed flos erat ille caducus,
we too have-flourished, but the-flower was that falling,
flammaque de stipula nostra brevisque fuit.
and-the-flame from straw our and-brief was.
neve tamen tota capias fera gaudia mente,
and-lest still with-whole you-may-take wild joys mind,
non est placandi spes mihi nulla dei,
not is of-appeasing the-hope to-me none the-god,

vel quia peccavi citra scelus, utque pudore
either because I-sinned short-of crime, and-as shame
non caret, invidia sic mea culpa caret,
not it-lacks, odium so my fault lacks,
vel quia nil ingens ad finem solis ab ortu
or because nothing huge to the-end of-the-sun from the-rising
illo, cui paret, mitius orbis habet.
than-him, whom it-obeys, milder the-world has.
scilicet ut non est per vim superabilis ulli,
doubtless as not he-is by force to-be-overcome by-anyone,
molle cor ad timidas sic habet ille preces,
a-soft heart to timid so has he prayers,
exemploque deum, quibus accessurus et ipse est,
and-by-the-example of-the-gods, to-whom going-to-be-added also himself he-is,
cum poenae venia plura roganda dabit.
with of-punishment pardon more to-be-asked he-will-give.
si numeres anno soles et nubila toto,
if you-should-count in-the-year suns and clouds whole,
invenies nitidum saepius esse diem.
you-will-find bright more-often to-be the-day.
ergo ne nimium nostra laetere ruina,
so lest too-much at-our you-may-rejoice ruin,
restitui quondam me quoque posse puta:
to-be-restored some-day me too to-be-able think:

posse puta fieri lenito principe vultus
to-be-able think to-happen softened the-prince the-face
ut videas media tristis in urbe meos,
that you-may-see the-middle sad in city my,
utque ego te videam causa graviore fugatum,
and-that I you may-see for-a-cause heavier banished,
haec sunt a primis proxima vota meis.
these are from first nearest prayers my.

V.9 · TO A FRIEND WHO FORBIDS HIS NAME

If the friend allowed it, Ovid would name him often in his poems, and the learned reader would praise him for ages. After Caesar, who gave Ovid his life, the friend has the next thanks: when most shrank from Ovid's shipwreck and watched it from the shore, he alone called him back half-dead. Ovid's Muse strains against the ban like a leashed hound or a horse at the barrier, but he will obey, lest his gratitude harm the friend, and serve him as long as he lives.

O tua si sineres in nostris nomina poni
O your if you-should-allow in our names to-be-placed
carminibus, positus quam mihi saepe fores!
songs, placed how to-me often you-would-be!
te canerem solum, meriti memor, inque libellis
you I-would-sing alone, of-merit mindful, and-in little-books
crevisset sine te pagina nulla meis.
would-have-grown without you page no my.
quid tibi deberem, tota sciretur in urbe,
what to-you I-owed, whole would-be-known in city,
exul in amissa si tamen urbe legor.
an-exile in lost if still city I-am-read.

te praesens mitem nosset, te serior aetas,
you the-present gentle would-know, you the-later age,
scripta vetustatem si modo nostra ferunt,
writings old-age if only our bear,
nec tibi cessaret doctus bene dicere lector:
nor for-you would-cease the-learned well to-speak reader:
hic te servato vate maneret honor.
this to-you saved bard would-remain honor.
Caesaris est primum munus, quod ducimus auras;
of-Caesar is the-first gift, that we-draw airs;
gratia post magnos est tibi habenda deos.
thanks after great is by-you to-be-held gods.
ille dedit vitam; tu, quam dedit ille, tueris,
he gave life; you, which gave he, protect,
et facis accepto munere posse frui.
and make received the-gift to-be-able to-enjoy.
cumque perhorruerit casus pars maxima nostros,
and-when shuddered-at the-misfortunes part greatest our,
pars etiam credi pertimuisse velit,
part even to-be-believed to-have-feared-greatly would-wish,
naufragiumque meum tumulo spectarit ab alto,
and-the-shipwreck my a-mound watched from high,
nec dederit nanti per freta saeva manum,
nor gave to-the-swimmer through straits savage a-hand,
seminecem Stygia revocasti solus ab unda.
half-dead the-Stygian you-called-back alone from wave.
hoc quoque, quod memores possumus esse, tuum est.
this too, that mindful we-can to-be, yours is.
di tibi se tribuant cum Caesare semper amicos:
the-gods to-you themselves may-grant with Caesar always friends:

non potuit votum plenius esse meum.
not could the-prayer fuller to-be my.
haec meus argutis, si tu paterere, libellis
these-things my in-clear, if you should-allow, little-books
poneret in multa luce videnda labor;
would-place in much light to-be-seen labor;
nunc quoque se, quamvis est iussa quiescere, quin te
now too herself, although was bidden to-be-quiet, but-that you
nominet invitum, vix mea Musa tenet.
she-may-name unwilling, hardly my Muse holds.
utque canem pavidae nactum vestigia cervae
and-as a-dog of-the-timid having-found the-tracks doe
latrantem frustra copula dura tenet,
barking in-vain the-leash hard holds,
utque fores nondum reserati carceris acer
and-as the-doors not-yet unbarred of-the-starting-gate eager
nunc pede, nunc ipsa fronte lacessit equus,
now with-foot, now with-the-very forehead provokes the-horse,
sic mea lege data vincta atque inclusa Thalia
so my by-the-law given bound and shut-in Thalia
per titulum vetiti nominis ire cupit.
through the-title of-a-forbidden name to-go desires.
ne tamen officio memoris laedaris amici,
lest still by-the-duty of-a-mindful you-may-be-harmed friend,
parebo iussis — parce timere — tuis.
I-shall-obey the-orders spare to-fear your.

at non parerem, nisi me meminisse putares.
but not I-would-obey, unless me to-remember you-thought.
hoc quod non prohibet vox tua, gratus ero.
in-this which not forbids voice your, grateful I-shall-be.
dumque — quod o breve sit! — lumen vitale videbo,
and-while which O brief may-it-be! light vital I-shall-see,
serviet officio spiritus iste tuo.
will-serve to-duty breath that your.

V.10 · THREE WINTERS

Since Ovid came to Pontus, the Hister has frozen three times and the Euxine three times turned hard, yet he seems gone as long as Troy was besieged. The enemy raids constantly; the town shelters behind small walls, and the farmer plows with arms in hand. Barbarians and Greeks in trousers mix in the town. No one understands him, and the Getae laugh at his Latin. He deserved to lose Rome, he says, perhaps not such a place, then corrects himself: he deserved to lose even his life.

Ut sumus in Ponto, ter frigore constitit Hister,
Since we-are in Pontus, thrice with-cold has-stood-still the-Hister,
facta est Euxini dura ter unda maris.
made has-been of-the-Euxine hard thrice the-wave sea.
at mihi iam videor patria procul esse tot annis,
but to-me now I-seem from-my-country far to-be for-so-many years,
Dardana quot Graio Troia sub hoste fuit.
Dardan as-many-as Greek Troy under enemy was.
stare putes, adeo procedunt tempora tarde,
to-stand-still you-would-think, so proceed the-times slowly,
et peragit lentis passibus annus iter.
and completes with-slow steps the-year its-journey.

nec mihi solstitium quicquam de noctibus aufert,
nor from-me the-solstice anything from the-nights takes-away,
efficit angustos nec mihi bruma dies.
makes narrow nor for-me winter the-days.
scilicet in nobis rerum natura novata est,
doubtless in us of-things the-nature renewed has-been,
cumque meis curis omnia longa facit.
and-with my cares all-things long makes.
an peragunt solitos communia tempora motus,
or complete accustomed the-common times motions,
suntque magis vitae tempora dura meae?
and-are rather of-life the-times hard my?
quem tenet Euxini mendax cognomine litus,
whom holds of-the-Euxine false in-name the-shore,
et Scythici vere terra sinistra freti.
and of-the-Scythian truly land left strait.
innumerae circa gentes fera bella minantur,
countless around peoples wild wars threaten,
quae sibi non rapto vivere turpe putant.
who for-themselves not on-plunder to-live shameful think.
nil extra tutum est: tumulus defenditur ipse
nothing outside safe is: the-mound is-defended itself
moenibus exiguis ingenioque loci.
by-walls small and-by-the-nature of-the-place.
cum minime credas, ut aves, densissimus hostis
when least you-would-believe, like birds, very-dense the-enemy
advolat, et praedam vix bene visus agit.
flies-up, and booty hardly well seen drives.
saepe intra muros clausis venientia portis
often within the-walls closed coming gates

per medias legimus noxia tela vias.
through the-middle we-gather harmful darts streets.
est igitur rarus, rus qui colere audeat, isque
it-is therefore rare, the-country who to-till may-dare, and-he
hac arat infelix, hac tenet arma manu.
with-this plows unhappy, with-this holds arms hand.
sub galea pastor iunctis pice cantat avenis,
under a-helmet the-shepherd on-joined with-pitch sings reeds,
proque lupo pavidae bella verentur oves.
and-instead-of the-wolf timid wars fear sheep.
vix ope castelli defendimur; et tamen intus
hardly by-help of-the-fort are-we-defended; and still within
mixta facit Graecis barbara turba metum.
mixed makes with-the-Greeks barbarian crowd fear.
quippe simul nobis habitat discrimine nullo
for together with-us dwells with-distinction no
barbarus et tecti plus quoque parte tenet.
the-barbarian and of-the-dwelling more too than-half holds.
quos ut non timeas, possis odisse videndo
whom though not you-may-fear, you-could to-hate seeing
pellibus et longa pectora tecta coma.
with-skins and long breasts covered hair.
hos quoque, qui geniti Graia creduntur ab urbe,
these too, who born Greek are-believed from city,
pro patrio cultu Persica braca tegit.
instead-of native dress Persian trousers covers.
exercent illi sociae commercia linguae:
carry-on they of-a-shared commerce tongue:
per gestum res est significanda mihi.
by gesture a-thing is to-be-signified by-me.

barbarus hic ego sum, qui non intellegor ulli,
a-barbarian here I am, who not am-understood by-anyone,
et rident stolidi verba Latina Getae;
and laugh-at stupid words Latin the-Getae;
meque palam de me tuto mala saepe loquuntur,
and-me openly about me safely bad-things often they-speak,
forsitan obiciunt exiliumque mihi.
perhaps they-reproach and-exile me.
utque fit, in me aliquid ficti, dicentibus illis
and-as happens, against me something feigned, speaking they
abnuerim quotiens adnuerimque, putant.
I-have-refused how-often and-nodded, they-think.
adde quod iniustum rigido ius dicitur ense,
add that unjust by-stiff justice is-spoken sword,
dantur et in medio vulnera saepe foro.
are-given and in middle wounds often forum.
o duram Lachesin, quae tam grave sidus habenti
O hard Lachesis, who so heavy a-star to-me-having
fila dedit vitae non breviora meae!
threads has-given of-life not shorter my!
quod patriae vultu vestroque caremus, amici,
that country's face and-yours we-lack, friends,
atque hic in Scythicis gentibus esse queror:
and here among Scythian peoples to-be I-complain:

utraque poena gravis. merui tamen urbe carere,
each punishment heavy. I-deserved still the-city to-lack,
non merui tali forsitan esse loco.
not I-deserved in-such perhaps to-be place.
quid loquor, a! demens? ipsam quoque perdere vitam,
what do-I-say, ah! mad? itself too to-lose life,
Caesaris offenso numine, dignus eram.
Caesar's offended divinity, worthy I-was.

V.11 · AN EXILE'S WIFE

Ovid's wife writes that someone in a quarrel called her an exile's wife. He grieves, not for himself, but because he shames her, and bids her endure. The man is mistaken: Ovid's punishment is milder than his fault. Caesar left him his life, his wealth, and his rights as a citizen, ordering him only to leave his ancestral hearth, and called him relegated, not an exile. Ovid praises Caesar, prays the gods keep him on earth, and tells the man to stop burdening his fortune with a false name.

Quod te nescioquis per iurgia dixerit esse
That you someone through quarrels said to-be
exulis uxorem, littera questa tua est.
of-an-exile the-wife, the-letter complained your has.
indolui, non tam mea quod fortuna male audit,
I-grieved, not so-much my because fortune ill is-spoken-of,
qui iam consuevi fortiter esse miser,
who already am-accustomed bravely to-be wretched,
quam quod cui minime vellem, sum causa pudoris,
as that to-whom least I-would-wish, I-am the-cause of-shame,
teque reor nostris erubuisse malis.
and-you I-think at-our to-have-blushed evils.

perfer et obdura; multo graviora tulisti,
bear-it and endure; much heavier-things you-have-borne,
eripuit cum me principis ira tibi.
snatched-away when me of-the-prince the-anger from-you.
fallitur iste tamen, quo iudice nominor exul:
is-deceived that-one still, whom judge I-am-named an-exile:
mollior est culpam poena secuta meam.
milder has the-fault punishment followed my.
maxima poena mihi est ipsum offendisse, priusque
the-greatest punishment to-me is himself to-have-offended, and-sooner
venisset mallem funeris hora mihi.
had-come I-would-prefer of-death the-hour to-me.
quassa tamen nostra est, non mersa nec obruta navis,
battered still our is, not sunk nor overwhelmed ship,
utque caret portu, sic tamen extat aquis.
and-though it-lacks a-harbor, so still it-stands-out from-the-waters.
nec vitam nec opes nec ius mihi civis ademit,
neither life nor riches nor the-right from-me of-a-citizen took-away,
qui merui vitio perdere cuncta meo.
who deserved by-fault to-lose everything my.
sed quia peccato facinus non affuit illi,
but because to-the-sin a-crime not was-present that,
nil nisi me patriis iussit abesse focis.
nothing except me from-ancestral he-ordered to-be-absent hearths.
utque aliis, quorum numerum comprendere non est,
and-as to-others, of-whom the-number to-grasp not it-is-possible,
Caesareum numen sic mihi mite fuit.
Caesar's divinity so to-me gentle was.
ipse relegati, non exulis utitur in me
himself of-the-relegated, not of-an-exile uses about me

nomine: tuta suo iudice causa mea est.
the-name: safe its-own judge the-cause my is.
iure igitur laudes, Caesar, pro parte virili
rightly therefore praises, Caesar, for part manly
carmina nostra tuas qualiacumque canunt:
songs our your of-whatever-sort sing:
iure deos, ut adhuc caeli tibi limina claudant,
rightly the-gods, that still of-the-sky to-you the-thresholds they-may-close,
teque velint sine se, comprecor, esse deum.
and-you may-wish without themselves, I-pray, to-be a-god.
optat idem populus; sed, ut in mare flumina vastum,
wishes the-same the-people; but, as into the-sea rivers vast,
sic solet exiguae currere rivus aquae.
so is-wont of-small to-run a-stream water.
at tu fortunam, cuius vocor exul ab ore,
but you fortune, whose I-am-called an-exile from mouth,
nomine mendaci parce gravare meam!
with-a-name false spare to-burden my!

A friend urges Ovid to beguile his tearful time with writing. But songs need a glad, peaceful mind, and even the old man Apollo called wise could have written nothing in such a ruin. Fear of the enemy forbids quiet, and disuse has dulled his talent, as weeds take an unplowed field, an idle horse runs last, and a beached skiff rots. Glory no longer moves him, and the Muses caused his exile. With no books or listeners, he is unlearning Latin for Getic and Sarmatian. Still he writes, and burns it, wishing his Art had burned instead.

Scribis, ut oblectem studio lacrimabile tempus,
You-write, that I-may-beguile with-pursuit tearful time,
ne pereant turpi pectora nostra situ.
lest may-perish in-shameful heart our neglect.
difficile est quod, amice, mones, quia carmina laetum
difficult is what, friend, you-advise, because songs a-glad
sunt opus, et pacem mentis habere volunt.
are work, and peace of-mind to-have wish.
nostra per adversas agitur fortuna procellas,
our through adverse is-driven fortune storms,
sorte nec ulla mea tristior esse potest.
than-lot nor any my sadder to-be can.
exigis ut Priamus natorum funere ludat,
you-demand that Priam at-his-children's funeral may-play,
et Niobe festos ducat ut orba choros.
and Niobe festive may-lead that bereft dances.
luctibus an studio videor debere teneri,
by-mournings or by-pursuit do-I-seem to-be-bound to-be-held,
solus in extremos iussus abire Getas?
alone to the-furthest ordered to-go-away Getae?

des licet in valido pectus mihi robore fultum,
you-may-give though by strong a-breast to-me strength supported,
fama refert Anyti quale fuisse reo,
report tells of-Anytus such to-have-been in-the-defendant,
fractа cadet tantae sapientia mole ruinae:
broken will-fall of-so-great wisdom by-the-weight ruin:
plus valet humanis viribus ira dei.
more avails than-human strength the-anger of-a-god.
ille senex, dictus sapiens ab Apolline, nullum
that old-man, called wise by Apollo, no
scribere in hoc casu sustinuisset opus.
to-write in this misfortune would-have-endured work.
ut veniant patriae, veniant oblivia vestri,
though may-come of-country, may-come forgetfulness of-you,
omnis ut amissi sensus abesse queat,
all that of-the-lost sense to-be-absent may-be-able,
at timor officio fungi vetat ipse quietum:
but fear the-duty to-perform forbids itself quiet:
cinctus ab innumero me tenet hoste locus.
surrounded by countless me holds enemy the-place.
adde quod ingenium longa rubigine laesum
add that the-talent by-long rust harmed
torpet et est multo, quam fuit ante, minus.
is-numb and is much, than it-was before, less.
fertilis, assiduo si non renovatur aratro,
the-fertile, by-constant if not it-is-renewed plow,
nil nisi cum spinis gramen habebit ager.
nothing except with thorns grass will-have field.
tempore qui longo steterit, male curret et inter
for-time who long shall-have-stood, badly will-run and among

carceribus missos ultimus ibit equus.
from-the-starting-gates sent last will-go the-horse.
vertitur in teneram cariem rimisque dehiscit,
it-is-turned into soft rot and-with-cracks gapes,
siqua diu solitis cumba vacavit aquis.
if-any long from-accustomed skiff has-been-free waters.
me quoque despera, fuerim cum parvus et ante,
me too despair, I-may-have-been though small even before,
illi, qui fueram, posse redire parem.
to-that, who I-had-been, to-be-able to-return equal.
contudit ingenium patientia longa malorum,
has-crushed the-talent the-endurance long of-evils,
et pars antiqui nulla vigoris adest.
and part of-ancient no vigor is-present.
siqua tamen nobis, ut nunc quoque, sumpta tabella est,
if-any still by-us, as now too, taken tablet has-been,
inque suos volui cogere verba pedes,
and-into their I-have-wished to-compel words feet,
carmina nulla mihi sunt scripta, aut qualia cernis,
songs none by-me have-been written, or such-as you-see,
digna sui domini tempore, digna loco.
worthy of-their master's time, worthy of-place.
denique non parvas animo dat gloria vires,
finally not small to-the-mind gives glory strength,
et fecunda facit pectora laudis amor.
and fruitful makes breasts of-praise the-love.
nominis et famae quondam fulgore trahebar,
of-name and fame once by-the-brightness I-was-drawn,
dum tulit antemnas aura secunda meas.
while bore the-yards the-breeze favorable my.

non adeo est bene nunc ut sit mihi gloria curae:
not so-far is well now that may-be to-me glory a-care:
si liceat, nulli cognitus esse velim.
if it-were-allowed, to-no-one known to-be I-would-wish.
an quia cesserunt primo bene carmina, suades
or because yielded at-first well songs, do-you-urge
scribere, successus ut sequar ipse meos?
to-write, the-successes that I-may-follow myself my?
pace, novem, vestra liceat dixisse, sorores:
by-leave, nine, your may-it-be-allowed to-have-said, sisters:
vos estis nostrae maxima causa fugae.
you are of-our the-greatest cause flight.
utque dedit iustas tauri fabricator aeni,
and-as gave just of-the-bull the-maker bronze,
sic ego do poenas artibus ipse meis.
so I give penalties for-arts myself my.
nil mihi debebat cum versibus amplius esse,
nothing to-me ought with verses more to-be,
cum fugerem merito naufragus omne fretum.
when I-was-fleeing deservedly shipwrecked every strait.
at, puto, si demens studium fatale retemptem,
but, I-think, if mad the-pursuit fatal I-should-try-again,
hic mihi praebebit carminis arma locus.
this to-me will-offer of-song arms place.
non liber hic ullus, non qui mihi commodet aurem,
not a-book here any, not who to-me may-lend an-ear,
verbaque significent quid mea, norit, adest.
and-words may-mean what my, may-know, is-present.
omnia barbariae loca sunt vocisque ferinae,
all of-barbarism places are and-of-voice wild,

omniaque hostilis plena timore soni.
and-all-things of-hostile full with-fear sound.
ipse mihi videor iam dedidicisse Latine:
myself to-me I-seem already to-have-unlearned in-Latin:
nam didici Getice Sarmaticeque loqui.
for I-have-learned in-Getic and-in-Sarmatian to-speak.
nec tamen, ut verum fatear tibi, nostra teneri
nor still, that the-truth I-may-confess to-you, our to-be-held
a componendo carmine Musa potest.
from composing song the-Muse can.
scribimus et scriptos absumimus igne libellos:
we-write and written we-consume with-fire little-books:
exitus est studii parva favilla mei.
the-outcome is of-pursuit small ash my.
nec possum et cupio non nullos ducere versus:
nor I-can and I-desire not no to-draw-out verses:
ponitur idcirco noster in igne labor,
is-placed therefore our in fire labor,
nec nisi pars casu flammis erepta dolove
nor except a-part by-chance from-the-flames snatched or-by-guile
ad vos ingenii pervenit ulla mei.
to you of-talent arrives any my.
sic utinam, quae nil metuentem tale magistrum
so would-that, which nothing fearing such its-master
perdidit, in cineres Ars mea versa foret!
ruined, into ashes Art my turned had-been!

Naso sends his friend the health he lacks: he is sick in body as in mind, racked by pain in his side after a harsh winter. If the friend is well, he is partly well too. Yet this friend, who has given him great pledges and protects him, rarely consoles him with a letter; Ovid asks him to mend this one fault, unless letters were sent and lost. He cannot believe him forgetful, but bids him avoid even a false charge and let letters carry on their old long talks. He ends with "farewell."

Hanc tuus e Getico mittit tibi Naso salutem,
This your from the-Getic sends to-you Naso health,
mittere si quisquam, quo caret ipse, potest.
to-send if anyone, which lacks himself, can.
aeger enim traxi contagia corpore mentis,
sick indeed I-have-drawn the-contagion into-the-body of-the-mind,
libera tormento pars mihi ne qua vacet,
free from-torment part to-me lest any may-be,
perque dies multos lateris cruciatibus uror;
and-through days many with-the-side's tortures I-am-burned;
sic me non modico frigore laesit hiems.
so me with-not moderate cold has-harmed winter.
si tamen ipse vales, aliqua nos parte valemus:
if still yourself you-are-well, in-some we part are-well:
quippe mea est umeris fulta ruina tuis.
for my is by-shoulders propped ruin your.
quid, mihi cum dederis ingentia pignora, cumque
why, to-me when you-have-given huge pledges, and-when
per numeros omnes hoc tueare caput,
through measures all this you-may-protect head,
quod tua me raro solatur epistula, peccas,
that your me rarely consoles letter, do-you-err,

remque piam praestas, sed mihi verba negas?
and-the-thing dutiful you-show, but to-me words deny?
hoc, precor, emenda! quod si correxeris unum,
this, I-pray, correct! but if you-shall-have-corrected one,
nullus in egregio corpore naevus erit.
no in excellent body blemish will-be.
pluribus accusem, fieri nisi possit, ut ad me
with-more-words I-might-accuse, to-happen unless it-could, that to me
littera non veniat, missa sit illa tamen.
a-letter not may-come, sent may-be it still.
di faciant, ut sit temeraria nostra querella,
the-gods may-make, that may-be rash our complaint,
teque putem falso non meminisse mei.
and-you I-may-think falsely not to-remember me.
quod precor, esse liquet: neque enim mutabile robur
what I-pray, to-be is-clear: nor indeed changeable the-strength
credere me fas est pectoris esse tui.
to-believe me right is of-heart to-be your.
cana prius gelido desint absinthia Ponto,
white sooner from-the-cold may-be-lacking wormwood Pontus,
et careat dulci Trinacris Hybla thymo,
and may-lack sweet Trinacrian Hybla thyme,
inmemorem quam te quisquam convincat amici.
unmindful than you anyone may-prove of-your-friend.
non ita sunt fati stamina nigra mei.
not so are of-fate the-threads black my.
tu tamen, ut possis falsae quoque pellere culpae
you still, that you-may-be-able of-false too to-repel fault
crimina, quod non es, ne videare, cave.
charges, what not you-are, lest you-may-seem, beware.

utque solebamus consumere longa loquendo
and-as we-were-wont to-consume long in-speaking
tempora, sermoni deficiente die,
times, for-talk failing the-day,
sic ferat ac referat tacitas nunc littera voces,
so may-carry and may-carry-back silent now the-letter voices,
et peragant linguae charta manusque vices.
and may-perform of-the-tongue the-paper and-hand the-turns.
quod fore ne nimium videar diffidere, sitque
that to-be lest too-much I-may-seem to-mistrust, and-may-it-be
versibus hoc paucis admonuisse satis,
with-verses this few to-have-reminded enough,
accipe quo semper finitur epistula verbo —
receive with-which always is-ended a-letter word
atque meis distent ut tua fata! — "vale."
and from-my may-differ that your fates! "farewell."

V.14 · A MONUMENT FOR HIS WIFE

Ovid tells his wife his books have raised her a monument: she will be read as long as he is, and women will envy her. Riches would have given her less than a lasting name. As sole guardian of his affairs she must keep her loyalty. While he stood, goodness was easy; his ruin now gives her virtue a stage. Penelope, the wives of Admetus and Hector, Iphis' daughter, and the Phylacian wife live in fame; she needs not death but love and faith. His advice only praises what she already does.

Quanta tibi dederim nostris monumenta libellis,
How-great to-you I-have-given in-our monuments little-books,
o mihi me coniunx carior, ipsa vides.
O to-me than-me wife dearer, yourself you-see.

detrahat auctori multum fortuna licebit,
may-take-away from-the-author much fortune it-will-be-allowed,
tu tamen ingenio clara ferere meo;
you still by-talent famous will-be-borne my;
dumque legar, mecum pariter tua fama legetur,
and-while I-shall-be-read, with-me equally your fame will-be-read,
nec potes in maestos omnis abire rogos;
nor you-can to sad wholly to-go-away pyres;
cumque viri casu possis miseranda videri,
and-though of-your-husband by-the-misfortune you-may-be-able pitiable to-seem,
invenies aliquas, quae, quod es, esse velint,
you-will-find some, who, what you-are, to-be would-wish,
quae te, nostrorum cum sis in parte malorum,
who you, of-our though you-may-be in a-share evils,
felicem dicant invideantque tibi.
happy may-call and-may-envy you.
non ego divitias dando tibi plura dedissem:
not I riches by-giving to-you more would-have-given:
nil feret ad Manes divitis umbra suos.
nothing will-carry to the-Shades of-the-rich the-shade his.
perpetui fructum donavi nominis idque,
of-perpetual the-fruit I-have-given name and-that,
quo dare nil potui munere maius, habes.
than-which to-give nothing I-could gift greater, you-have.
adde quod, ut rerum sola es tutela mearum,
add that, as of-things alone you-are the-guardian my,
ad te non parvi venit honoris onus,
to you not of-small comes honor the-burden,
quod numquam vox est de te mea muta tuique
that never voice is about you my mute and-of-your

indiciis debes esse superba viri.
by-the-tributes you-ought to-be proud husband.
quae ne quis possit temeraria dicere, persta,
which lest anyone may-be-able rash to-say, persevere,
et pariter serva meque piamque fidem.
and equally preserve and-me and-dutiful faith.
nam tua, dum stetimus, turpi sine crimine mansit,
for your, while we-stood, shameful without charge remained,
et tantum probitas inreprehensa fuit.
and only integrity unreproached was.
area de nostra nunc est tibi facta ruina;
a-field from our now was for-you made ruin;
conspicuum virtus hic tua ponat opus.
conspicuous virtue here your may-set-up a-work.
esse bonam facile est, ubi, quod vetet esse, remotum est,
to-be good easy is, when, what may-forbid to-be, removed is,
et nihil officio nupta quod obstet habet.
and nothing to-duty the-wife which may-stand-in-the-way has.
cum deus intonuit, non se subducere nimbo,
when the-god has-thundered, not oneself to-withdraw from-the-storm,
id demum est pietas, id socialis amor.
that at-last is devotion, that conjugal love.
rara quidem virtus, quam non Fortuna gubernet,
rare indeed virtue, which not Fortune may-govern,
quae maneat stabili, cum fugit illa, pede.
which may-remain with-stable, when flees she, foot.
siqua tamen pretium sibi virtus ipsa petitum,
if-any still as-a-reward for-itself virtue itself sought,
inque parum laetis ardua rebus adest,
and-amid too-little glad steep things is-present,

ut tempus numeres, per saecula nulla tacetur,
though time you-may-count, through ages no is-it-silent-about,
et loca mirantur qua patet orbis iter.
and places wonder-at where lies-open of-the-world the-way.
aspicis ut longo teneat laudabilis aevo
do-you-see how through-long holds praiseworthy age
nomen inextinctum Penelopea fides?
a-name unextinguished Penelope's faith?
cernis ut Admeti cantetur et Hectoris uxor
do-you-see how of-Admetus is-sung and of-Hector the-wife
ausaque in accensos Iphias ire rogos?
and-having-dared into kindled the-daughter-of-Iphis to-go pyres?
ut vivat fama coniunx Phylaceïa, cuius
how lives in-fame the-wife Phylacean, of-whom
Iliacam celeri vir pede pressit humum?
the-Ilian with-swift her-husband foot pressed ground?
morte nihil opus est pro me, sed amore fideque:
of-death nothing need is for me, but of-love and-of-faith:
non ex difficili fama petenda tibi est.
not from difficult fame to-be-sought by-you is.
nec te credideris, quia non facis, ista moneri:
nor yourself believe, because not you-do, those-things to-be-advised:
vela damus, quamvis remige puppis eat.
sails we-give, although by-the-oarsman the-ship may-go.
qui monet ut facias, quod iam facis, ille monendo
who advises that you-may-do, what already you-do, he by-advising
laudat et hortatu comprobat acta suo.
praises and with-exhortation approves the-acts his.

OVID

Epistulae ex Ponto

Letters from the Black Sea

I.1 · TO BRUTUS: THE NEW BOOKS

Naso, no longer new to Tomis, asks Brutus to house his new books privately, since they dare not enter the public libraries. They are as sad as the earlier ones, but name whom each letter addresses, and all honor Caesar. Like a priest of Isis or Cybele he carries the Julian names, and like those who confess offending a god he repents: guilt grieves him more than exile, and care eats his heart as rust eats iron. If the gods believe him, he may be moved from the Scythian bow.

Naso Tomitanae iam non novus incola terrae
Naso of-the-Tomitan now not new inhabitant land
hoc tibi de Getico litore mittit opus.
this to-you from the-Getic shore sends work.
si vacat, hospitio peregrinos, Brute, libellos
if there-is-leisure, with-hospitality the-foreign, Brutus, little-books
excipe, dumque aliquo, quolibet abde loco.
receive, and-provided somewhere, in-any hide place.
publica non audent intra monimenta venire,
the-public not they-dare within monuments to-come,
ne suus hoc illis clauserit auctor iter.
lest their this to-them may-have-closed author way.
a! quotiens dixi "certe nil turpe docetis:
ah! how-often have-I-said "surely nothing shameful you-teach:
ite, patet castis versibus ille locus!"
go, lies-open to-chaste verses that place!"
non tamen accedunt, sed, ut aspicis ipse, latere
not still they-approach, but, as you-see yourself, to-lie-hidden
sub Lare privato tutius esse putant.
under a-Lar private safer to-be they-think.

quaeris ubi hos possis nullo componere laeso?
do-you-ask where these you-could no to-place harmed?
qua steterant Artes, pars vacat illa tibi.
where had-stood the-Arts, part is-empty that for-you.
quid veniant, novitate roges fortasse sub ipsa.
why they-may-come, the-novelty you-may-ask perhaps under itself.
accipe, quodcumque est, dummodo non sit amor.
receive-them, whatever it-is, provided-that not it-be love.
invenies, quamvis non est miserabilis index,
you-will-find, although not is pitiable the-title,
non minus hoc illo triste, quod ante dedi.
not less this than-that sad, which before I-gave.
rebus idem, titulo differt; et epistula cui sit
in-matter the-same, in-title it-differs; and the-letter to-whom it-may-be
non occultato nomine missa docet.
not concealed name sent shows.
nec vos hoc vultis, sed nec prohibere potestis,
nor you this wish, but nor to-prevent you-can,
Musaque ad invitos officiosa venit.
and-the-Muse to the-unwilling dutiful comes.
quicquid id est, adiunge meis. nihil impedit ortos
whatever that is, join-it to-mine. nothing prevents born
exule servatis legibus urbe frui.
from-an-exile kept the-laws the-city to-enjoy.
quod metuas non est. Antoni scripta leguntur,
what you-may-fear not there-is. of-Antony the-writings are-read,
doctus et in promptu scrinia Brutus habet.
learned and at hand cases Brutus has.
nec me nominibus furiosus confero tantis:
nor me with-names mad do-I-compare so-great:

saeva deos contra non tamen arma tuli.
savage the-gods against not still arms have-I-borne.
denique Caesareo, quod non desiderat ipse,
finally Caesarean, which not needs himself,
non caret e nostris ullus honore liber.
not lacks from our any honor book.
si dubitas de me, laudes admitte deorum,
if you-doubt about me, the-praises admit of-the-gods,
et carmen dempto nomine sume meum.
and the-song taken-away the-name take my.
adiuvat in bello pacatae ramus olivae:
helps in war of-peaceful a-branch olive:
proderit auctorem pacis habere nihil?
will-it-profit the-author of-peace to-have nothing?
cum foret Aeneae cervix subiecta parenti,
when was of-Aeneas the-neck placed-under his-father,
dicitur ipsa viro flamma dedisse viam:
is-said itself to-the-man the-flame to-have-given a-way:
fert liber Aeneaden, et non iter omne patebit?
bears the-book the-son-of-Aeneas, and not way every will-lie-open?
at patriae pater hic, ipsius ille fuit.
but of-his-country the-father this-one, of-himself that-one was.
ecquis ita est audax, ut limine cogat abire
is-anyone so is bold, that from-the-threshold he-may-compel to-go-away
iactantem Pharia tinnula sistra manu?
shaking with-Pharian tinkling sistra hand?
ante deum Matrem cornu tibicen adunco
before of-the-gods the-Mother with-horn the-piper curved
cum canit, exiguae quis stipis aera negat?
when he-plays, of-small who coin the-bronze denies?

scimus ab imperio fieri nil tale Dianae:
we-know by the-command to-be-done nothing such of-Diana:
unde tamen vivat, vaticinator habet.
whence still he-may-live, the-soothsayer has.
ipsa movent animos superorum numina nostros,
themselves move minds of-the-gods-above divinities our,
turpe nec est tali credulitate capi.
shameful nor it-is by-such credulity to-be-taken.
en ego pro sistro Phrygiique foramine buxi
behold I instead-of the-sistrum and-of-Phrygian the-hole boxwood
gentis Iuleae nomina sancta fero.
of-the-race Julian names sacred bear.
vaticinor moneoque. locum date sacra ferenti!
I-prophesy and-I-warn. place give sacred-things to-(one)-carrying!
non mihi, sed magno poscitur ille deo.
not for-me, but for-the-great is-demanded it god.
nec quia vel merui vel sensi principis iram,
nor because either I-have-deserved or have-felt of-the-prince the-anger,
a nobis ipsum nolle putate coli.
by us him not-to-wish think to-be-worshiped.
vidi ego linigerae numen violasse fatentem
saw I of-linen-wearing the-divinity to-have-violated confessing
Isidis Isiacos ante sedere focos.
Isis Isiac before to-sit hearths.
alter, ob huic similem privatus lumine culpam,
another, for to-this like deprived of-sight fault,
clamabat media se meruisse via.
was-shouting in-the-middle himself to-have-deserved street.
talia caelestes fieri praeconia gaudent,
such the-heavenly-ones to-be-made proclamations rejoice,

ut sua quid valeant numina teste probent.
that their how-much may-avail divinities by-witness they-may-prove.
saepe levant poenas ereptaque lumina reddunt,
often they-lighten penalties and-snatched eyes return,
cum bene peccati paenituisse vident.
when well of-sin to-have-repented they-see.
paenitet, o! si quid miserorum creditur ulli,
I-repent, O! if anything of-the-wretched is-believed by-anyone,
paenitet, et facto torqueor ipse meo.
I-repent, and by-the-deed am-tortured myself my.
cumque sit exilium, magis est mihi culpa dolori;
and-though it-may-be exile, more is to-me the-fault for-grief;
estque pati poenam, quam meruisse, minus.
and-it-is to-suffer punishment, than to-have-deserved, less.
ut mihi di faveant, quibus est manifestior ipse,
though to-me the-gods may-favor, to-whom is more-manifest himself,
poena potest demi, culpa perennis erit.
the-punishment can be-removed, the-fault perennial will-be.
mors faciet certe, ne sim, cum venerit, exul:
death will-make surely, that-not I-may-be, when it-shall-have-come, an-exile:
ut non peccarim mors quoque non faciet.
that not I-may-have-sinned death too not will-make.
non igitur mirum, si mens mea tabida facta
not therefore strange, if mind my wasting made
de nive manantis more liquescit aquae.
from snow of-flowing in-the-way melts water.
estur ut occulta vitiata teredine navis,
is-eaten as by-hidden spoiled shipworm the-ship,
aequorei scopulos ut cavat unda salis,
of-the-sea the-rocks as hollows the-wave salt,

roditur ut scabra positum robigine ferrum
is-gnawed as by-rough laid-aside rust iron
conditus ut tineae carpitur ore liber,
stored as of-the-moth is-plucked by-the-mouth the-book,
sic mea perpetuos curarum pectora morsus,
so my perpetual of-cares breast bites,
fine quibus nullo conficiantur, habent.
with-end by-which no they-may-be-consumed, has.
nec prius hi mentem stimuli quam vita relinquet,
nor sooner these the-mind goads than life will-leave,
quique dolet, citius quam dolor ipse, cadet.
and-he-who grieves, sooner than grief itself, will-fall.
hoc mihi si superi, quorum sumus omnia, credent,
this to-me if the-gods-above, whose we-are all, shall-believe,
forsitan exigua dignus habebor ope,
perhaps of-small worthy I-shall-be-held help,
inque locum Scythico vacuum mutabor ab arcu.
and-into a-place Scythian empty shall-be-changed from bow.
plus isto, duri, si precer, oris ero.
more than-that, of-hard, if I-should-pray, mouth I-shall-be.

Ovid writes to Fabius Maximus, of the line that lost three hundred in one day. He lives among enemies with poisoned arrows, in a treeless land of endless winter, where even his dreams torment him. He prays for death and against it, lest he lie in Sarmatian soil. Caesar does not know this place, and his wrath was mild. Ovid asks only for a safer exile, and begs Maximus to plead before a merciful prince. He recalls their friendship, and his wife, from Maximus' house, begs that his grave be nearer.

Maxime, qui tanti mensuram nominis imples,
Maximus, who of-so-great the-measure name you-fill,
et geminas animi nobilitate genus,
and you-double of-mind by-nobility your-birth,
qui nasci ut posses, quamvis cecidere trecenti,
who to-be-born that you-might-be-able, although fell three-hundred,
non omnes Fabios abstulit una dies,
not all the-Fabii took-away one day,
forsitan haec a quo mittatur epistula quaeras,
perhaps this by whom may-be-sent letter you-may-ask,
quisque loquar tecum, certior esse velis.
and-who I-may-speak with-you, more-informed to-be you-may-wish.
ei mihi, quid faciam? vereor ne nomine lecto
ah me, what shall-I-do? I-fear lest the-name read
durus et aversa cetera mente legas.
hard and with-averted the-rest mind you-may-read.
videris. audebo tibi me scripsisse fateri
see-to-it-yourself. I-shall-dare to-you me to-have-written to-confess
* * *
(lacuna)

qui, cum me poena dignum graviore fuisse
who, though me of-punishment worthy heavier to-have-been
confitear, possum vix graviora pati.
I-may-confess, can hardly heavier-things to-suffer.
hostibus in mediis interque pericula versor,
enemies in the-midst and-among dangers I-turn,
tamquam cum patria pax sit adempta mihi:
as-if with my-country peace may-have-been taken-away from-me:
qui, mortis saevo geminent ut vulnere causas,
who, of-death with-savage may-double that wound the-causes,
omnia vipereo spicula felle linunt.
all with-viper's darts gall smear.
his eques instructus perterrita moenia lustrat
with-these the-horseman equipped the-terrified walls surveys
more lupi clausas circumeuntis oves:
in-the-manner of-a-wolf shut-in going-around sheep:
et semel intentus nervo levis arcus equino
and once stretched with-the-string light the-bow of-horsehair
vincula semper habens inresoluta manet.
bonds always having unloosed remains.
tecta rigent fixis veluti velata sagittis,
the-roofs bristle with-fixed as-if veiled arrows,
portaque vix firma summovet arma sera.
and-the-gate hardly with-firm wards-off arms bar.
adde loci faciem nec fronde nec arbore tecti,
add of-the-place the-face neither with-leaf nor with-tree covered,
et quod iners hiemi continuatur hiems.
and that sluggish to-winter is-joined winter.
hic me pugnantem cum frigore cumque sagittis
here me fighting with cold and-with arrows

cumque meo fato quarta fatigat hiems.
and-with my fate the-fourth wearies winter.
fine carent lacrimae, nisi cum stupor obstitit illis:
an-end lack my-tears, except when stupor has-stood-in-the-way to-them:
et similis morti pectora torpor habet.
and like to-death my-breast a-torpor has.
felicem Nioben, quamvis tot funera vidit,
happy Niobe, although so-many deaths she-saw,
quae posuit sensum saxea facta malis!
who laid-down feeling of-stone made by-evils!
vos quoque felices, quarum clamantia fratrem
you too happy, of-whom calling-on their-brother
cortice velavit populus ora novo!
with-bark veiled the-poplar mouths new!
ille ego sum, lignum qui non admittar in ullum:
that I am, wood who not may-be-admitted into any:
ille ego sum, frustra qui lapis esse velim.
that I am, in-vain who stone to-be would-wish.
ipsa Medusa oculis veniat licet obvia nostris,
herself Medusa to-eyes may-come though in-the-way our,
amittet vires ipsa Medusa suas.
will-lose the-strength herself Medusa her.
vivimus ut numquam sensu careamus amaro,
we-live that never of-feeling we-may-lack bitter,
et gravior longa fit mea poena mora.
and heavier by-long becomes my punishment delay.
sic inconsumptum Tityi semperque renascens
so unconsumed of-Tityus and-always being-reborn
non perit, ut possit saepe perire, iecur.
not perishes, that it-may-be-able often to-perish, the-liver.

at, puto, cum requies medicinaque publica curae
but, I-think, when rest and-medicine common of-care
somnus adest, solitis nox venit orba malis.
sleep is-present, from-accustomed night comes bereft evils.
somnia me terrent veros imitantia casus,
dreams me terrify true imitating misfortunes,
et vigilant sensus in mea damna mei.
and are-awake senses to my losses my.
aut ego Sarmaticas videor vitare sagittas,
or I Sarmatian I-seem to-avoid arrows,
aut dare captivas ad fera vincla manus.
or to-give captive to wild chains hands.
aut ubi decipior melioris imagine somni,
or when I-am-deceived of-a-better by-the-image sleep,
aspicio patriae tecta relicta meae.
I-look-at of-country the-roofs left my.
et modo vobiscum, quos sum veneratus, amici,
and now with-you, whom I-have revered, friends,
et modo cum cara coniuge multa loquor.
and now with dear my-wife many-things I-speak.
sic ubi percepta est brevis et non vera voluptas,
so when perceived has-been brief and not true pleasure,
peior ab admonitu fit status iste boni.
worse from the-reminder becomes state that of-good.
sive dies igitur caput hoc miserabile cernit,
whether the-day therefore head this pitiable sees,
sive pruinosi Noctis aguntur equi,
or-whether frosty of-Night are-driven the-horses,
sic mea perpetuis liquefiunt pectora curis,
so my by-perpetual melt heart cares,

ignibus admotis ut nova cera solet.
fires moved-near as new wax is-wont.
saepe precor mortem, mortem quoque deprecor idem,
often I-pray-for death, death too I-pray-against the-same,
ne mea Sarmaticum contegat ossa solum.
lest my the-Sarmatian may-cover bones soil.
cum subit Augusti quae sit clementia, credo
when comes-to-mind of-Augustus what may-be the-clemency, I-believe
mollia naufragiis litora posse dari.
soft to-shipwrecks shores to-be-able to-be-given.
cum video quam sint mea fata tenacia, frangor,
when I-see how may-be my fates tenacious, I-am-broken,
spesque levis magno victa timore cadit.
and-hope light by-great conquered fear falls.
nec tamen ulterius quicquam sperove precorve,
nor still further anything do-I-hope or-pray,
quam male mutato posse carere loco.
than badly changed to-be-able to-lack place.
aut hoc, aut nihil est, pro me temptare modeste
either this, or nothing is, for me to-try modestly
gratia quod salvo vestra pudore queat.
favor which safe your shame could.
suscipe, Romanae facundia, Maxime, linguae,
take-up, of-the-Roman eloquence, Maximus, tongue,
difficilis causae mite patrocinium.
of-a-difficult case gentle the-advocacy.
est mala, confiteor, sed te bona fiet agente,
it-is bad, I-confess, but you good it-will-become pleading,
lenia pro misera fac modo verba fuga.
gentle for wretched make only words flight.

nescit enim Caesar, quamvis deus omnia norit,
knows-not indeed Caesar, although a-god everything may-know,
ultimus hic qua sit condicione locus.
furthest this in-what may-be condition place.
magna tenent illud numen molimina rerum:
great hold that divinity undertakings of-affairs:
haec est caelesti pectore cura minor.
this is than-the-heavenly breast a-care lesser.
nec vacat, in qua sint positi regione Tomitae,
nor he-has-leisure, in what may-be placed region the-Tomitans,
quaerere, finitimo vix loca nota Getae,
to-ask, to-the-neighboring hardly places known Getan,
aut quid Sauromatae faciant, quid Iazyges acres
or what the-Sauromatae may-do, what the-Iazyges fierce
cultaque Oresteae Taurica terra deae,
and-haunted of-the-Orestean the-Taurian land goddess,
quaeque aliae gentes, ubi frigore constitit Hister,
and-what other peoples, when with-cold has-stood-still the-Hister,
dura meant celeri terga per amnis equo.
hard pass on-swift backs over of-the-river horse.
maxima pars hominum nec te, pulcherrima, curat,
the-greatest part of-men neither you, most-beautiful, cares-for,
Roma, nec Ausonii militis arma timet.
Rome, nor of-the-Ausonian soldier arms fears.
dant illis animos arcus plenaeque pharetrae
give them spirit bows and-full quivers
quamque libet longis cursibus aptus equus,
and-as-much it-pleases for-long courses suited the-horse,
quodque sitim didicere diu tolerare famemque,
and-that thirst they-have-learned long to-endure and-hunger,

quodque sequens nullas hostis habebit aquas.
and-that following no the-enemy will-have waters.
ira viri mitis non me misisset in istam,
the-anger of-the-man gentle not me would-have-sent into that,
si satis haec illi nota fuisset humus.
if enough this to-him known had-been ground.
nec me nec quemquam Romanum gaudet ab hoste,
neither me nor anyone Roman he-rejoices by the-enemy,
meque minus, vitam cui dabat ipse, capi.
and-me less, life to-whom gave himself, to-be-taken.
noluit, ut poterat, minimo me perdere nutu.
he-did-not-wish, as he-could, with-the-least me to-destroy nod.
nil opus est ullis in mea fata Getis.
nothing need is of-any for my fates Getae.
sed neque, cur morerer, quicquam mihi comperit actum,
but neither, why I-should-die, anything by-me he-found done,
et minus infestus, quam fuit, esse potest.
and less hostile, than he-was, to-be he-can.
tunc quoque nil fecit nisi quod facere ipse coegi:
then too nothing he-did except what to-do myself I-compelled:
paene etiam merito parcior ira meo est.
almost even than-desert sparer the-anger my is.
di faciant igitur, quorum iustissimus ipse est,
the-gods may-make therefore, of-whom most-just himself is,
alma nihil maius Caesare terra ferat,
nourishing nothing greater than-Caesar the-earth may-bear,
utque fuit sub eo, sic sit sub Caesare terra,
and-as it-was under him, so may-be under a-Caesar the-earth,
perque manus huius tradita gentis eat.
and-through the-hands of-this handed-on race may-it-go.

at tu tam placido, quam nos quoque sensimus illum,
but you so calm, as we too have-felt him,
iudice pro lacrimis ora resolve meis.
a-judge for tears your-mouth open my.
non petito ut bene sit, sed uti male tutius, utque
not do-seek that well it-may-be, but that badly more-safely, and-that
exilium saevo distet ab hoste meum,
the-exile savage may-be-distant from enemy my,
quamque dedere mihi praesentia numina vitam,
and-which have-given to-me present divinities life,
non adimat stricto squalidus ense Getes:
not may-take-away with-drawn squalid sword the-Getan:
denique, si moriar, subeam pacatius arvum,
finally, if I-should-die, may-I-go-under more-peaceful field,
ossa nec a Scythica nostra premantur humo,
the-bones nor by the-Scythian our may-be-pressed earth,
nec male compositos, ut scilicet exule dignum,
nor ill composed, as doubtless for-an-exile worthy,
Bistonii cineres ungula pulset equi,
of-a-Bistonian ashes the-hoof may-strike horse,
et ne, si superest aliquis post funera sensus,
and lest, if survives some after death feeling,
terreat et Manes Sarmatis umbra meos.
may-terrify also the-Shades the-Sarmatian shade my.
Caesaris haec animum poterant audita movere,
of-Caesar these-things the-mind could heard to-move,
Maxime, movissent si tamen ante tuum.
Maximus, they-would-have-moved if still before yours.
vox, precor, Augustas pro me tua molliat aures,
voice, I-pray, the-Augustan for me your may-soften ears,

auxilio trepidis quae solet esse reis,
help to-trembling which is-wont to-be defendants,
adsuetaque tibi doctae dulcedine linguae
and-with-accustomed to-you of-learned sweetness tongue
aequandi superis pectora flecte viri.
of-the-one-to-be-equaled to-the-gods the-heart bend man.
non tibi Theromedon crudusque rogabitur Atreus,
not by-you Theromedon and-savage will-be-asked Atreus,
quique suis homines pabula fecit equis,
and-he-who for-his men fodder made horses,
sed piger ad poenas princeps, ad praemia velox,
but slow to punishments a-prince, to rewards swift,
quique dolet, quotiens cogitur esse ferox,
and-who grieves, as-often-as he-is-compelled to-be fierce,
qui vicit semper, victis ut parcere posset,
who has-conquered always, the-conquered that to-spare he-might-be-able,
clausit et aeterna civica bella sera,
has-shut and with-eternal civil wars bar,
multa metu poenae, poena qui pauca coercet,
many-things by-fear of-punishment, by-punishment who few-things checks,
et iacit invita fulmina rara manu.
and hurls with-unwilling thunderbolts rare hand.
ergo tam placidas orator missus ad aures,
so so calm a-pleader sent to ears,
ut propior patriae sit fuga nostra roga.
that nearer to-country may-be flight our ask.
ille ego sum, qui te colui, quem festa solebat
that I am, who you cultivated, whom the-festive was-wont
inter convivas mensa videre tuos:
among the-guests table to-see your:

ille ego, qui duxi vestros Hymenaeon ad ignes,
that I, who led your the-Hymen to fires,
et cecini fausto carmina digna toro,
and sang for-auspicious songs worthy bed,
cuius te solitum memini laudare libellos,
whose you accustomed I-remember to-praise little-books,
exceptis domino qui nocuere suo,
except to-master which harmed their,
cui tua nonnumquam miranti scripta legebas:
to-whom your sometimes wondering writings you-used-to-read:
ille ego de vestra cui data nupta domo est.
that I from your to-whom given a-bride house was.
hanc probat et primo dilectam semper ab aevo
her approves and first loved always from age
est inter comites Marcia censa suas,
is among companions Marcia reckoned her,
inque suis habuit matertera Caesaris ante:
and-among her-own had the-maternal-aunt of-Caesar before:
quarum iudicio siqua probata, proba est.
by-whose judgment if-any approved, upright is.
ipsa sua melior fama, laudantibus istis,
herself than-her better fame, praising those,
Claudia divina non eguisset ope.
Claudia divine not would-have-needed help.
nos quoque praeteritos sine labe peregimus annos:
we too past without blemish have-spent years:
proxima pars vitae transilienda meae.
the-nearest part of-life to-be-leapt-over my.
sed de me ut sileam, coniunx mea sarcina vestra est:
but about me that I-may-be-silent, wife my a-burden your is:

non potes hanc salva dissimulare fide.
not you-can her safe to-ignore faith.
confugit haec ad vos, vestras amplectitur aras
has-fled she to you, your embraces altars
— iure venit cultos ad sibi quisque deos —
rightly comes worshiped to by-himself each gods
flensque rogat, precibus lenito Caesare vestris,
and-weeping asks, by-prayers softened Caesar your,
busta sui fiant ut propiora viri.
the-tomb of-her may-become that nearer husband.

I.3 · TO RUFINUS: NO CURE FOR LONGING

Ovid thanks Rufinus, whose consoling letter revived him, but no art cures every ill, and love of country undoes its work: even the Ithacan longed to see his home's smoke. Ovid lies at the world's edge, without fruit, vines, or trees, with enemies on either side. The great exiles, Rutilius, the Cynic of Sinope, Neocles' son, Aristides, Patroclus, the Argo's leader, Cadmus, Tydeus, and Teucer, went to kinder places, and none was sent so far. He fears his wound is past healing, but values Rufinus' goodwill.

Hanc tibi Naso tuus mittit, Rufine, salutem,
This to-you Naso your sends, Rufinus, health,
qui miser est, ulli si suus esse potest.
who wretched is, to-anyone if his-own to-be he-can.
reddita confusae nuper solacia menti
given-back to-confused lately solaces mind
auxilium nostris spemque tulere malis.
help to-our and-hope brought evils.
utque Machaoniis Poeantius artibus heros
and-as by-Machaon's the-son-of-Poeas arts hero

lenito medicam vulnere sensit opem,
soothed medical wound felt help,
sic ego mente iacens et acerbo saucius ictu
so I in-mind lying and by-bitter wounded stroke
admonitu coepi fortior esse tuo,
at-the-reminder began braver to-be your,
et iam deficiens sic ad tua verba revixi,
and already failing so at your words I-revived,
ut solet infuso vena redire mero.
as is-wont poured-in the-vein to-return wine.
non tamen exhibuit tantas facundia vires,
not still has-shown so-great eloquence strength,
ut mea sint dictis pectora sana tuis.
that my may-be by-words heart healed your.
ut multum demas nostrae de gurgite curae,
though much you-may-take-away of-our from the-whirlpool care,
non minus exhausto quod superabit erit.
not less than-the-drained what shall-remain will-be.
tempore ducetur longo fortasse cicatrix:
with-time will-be-drawn long perhaps the-scar:
horrent admotas vulnera cruda manus.
shudder-at moved-near wounds raw hands.
non est in medico semper relevetur ut aeger:
not it-is in the-doctor always may-be-relieved that the-sick:
interdum docta plus valet arte malum.
sometimes than-learned more avails art the-evil.
cernis ut e molli sanguis pulmone remissus
you-see how from the-soft blood lung sent-back
ad Stygias certo limite ducat aquas.
to Stygian by-sure path leads waters.

afferat ipse licet sacras Epidaurius herbas,
may-bring himself though sacred the-Epidaurian herbs,
sanabit nulla vulnera cordis ope.
he-will-heal by-no wounds of-the-heart help.
tollere nodosam nescit medicina podagram,
to-remove knotty knows-not medicine gout,
nec formidatis auxiliatur aquis.
nor to-feared helps waters.
cura quoque interdum nulla medicabilis arte est —
care too sometimes by-no curable art is
aut, ut sit, longa est extenuanda mora.
or, though it-may-be, by-long it-is to-be-lessened delay.
cum bene firmarunt animum praecepta iacentem,
when well have-strengthened my-mind precepts lying,
sumptaque sunt nobis pectoris arma tui,
and-taken are by-us of-heart the-arms your,
rursus amor patriae ratione valentior omni,
again love of-country than-reason stronger all,
quod tua fecerunt scripta, retexit opus.
what your have-made writings, has-unwoven the-work.
sive pium vis hoc sive hoc muliebre vocari,
whether dutiful you-wish this or-whether this womanly to-be-called,
confiteor misero molle cor esse mihi.
I-confess for-wretched soft heart to-be me.
non dubia est Ithaci prudentia, sed tamen optat
not doubtful is of-the-Ithacan the-prudence, but still he-wishes
fumum de patriis posse videre focis.
the-smoke from ancestral to-be-able to-see hearths.
nescioqua natale solum dulcedine cunctos
by-I-know-not-what native soil sweetness all

ducit et inmemores non sinit esse sui.
leads and unmindful not allows to-be of-itself.
quid melius Roma? Scythico quid frigore peius?
what better than-Rome? than-the-Scythian what cold worse?
huc tamen ex illa barbarus urbe fugit.
hither still from that the-barbarian city flees.
cum bene sit clausae cavea Pandione natae,
though well it-may-be for-shut-in in-a-cage from-Pandion born,
nititur in silvas illa redire suas.
strives to woods she to-return her-own.
adsuetos tauri saltus, adsueta leones —
accustomed bulls glades, accustomed lions
nec feritas illos impedit — antra petunt.
nor ferocity them hinders caves seek.
tu tamen exilii morsus e pectore nostro
you still of-exile the-bites from breast our
fomentis speras cedere posse tuis.
by-poultices hope to-yield to-be-able your.
effice vos ipsi ne tam mihi sitis amandi,
bring-it-about you yourselves that-not so to-me you-may-be to-be-loved,
talibus ut levius sit caruisse malum.
such that lighter may-be to-have-lacked the-evil.
at, puto, qua genitus fueram, tellure carenti
but, I-think, from-which born I-had-been, the-land lacking
in tamen humano contigit esse loco.
in still human it-has-befallen to-be place.
orbis in extremi iaceo desertus harenis,
of-the-world on furthest I-lie deserted sands,
fert ubi perpetuas obruta terra nives.
bears where perpetual buried land snows.

non ager hic pomum, non dulces educat uvas,
not the-field here fruit, not sweet raises grapes,
non salices ripa, robora monte virent.
not willows on-the-bank, oaks on-the-mountain are-green.
neve fretum laudes terra magis, aequora semper
and-lest the-strait you-may-praise than-the-land more, the-seas always
ventorum rabie solibus orba tument.
of-winds by-the-rage of-suns bereft swell.
quocumque aspicies, campi cultore carentes
wherever you-shall-look, plains of-a-cultivator lacking
vastaque, quae nemo vindicat, arva iacent.
and-desolate, which no-one claims, fields lie.
hostis adest dextra laevaque a parte timendus,
the-enemy is-present right and-left from side to-be-feared,
vicinoque metu terret utrumque latus.
and-with-neighboring fear terrifies each side.
altera Bistonias pars est sensura sarisas,
the-one Bistonian part is going-to-feel spears,
altera Sarmatica spicula missa manu.
the-other by-Sarmatian arrows sent hand.
i nunc et veterum nobis exempla virorum
go now and of-old to-us examples men
qui forti casum mente tulere refer,
who with-brave misfortune mind bore recall,
et grave magnanimi robur mirare Rutili
and heavy of-great-souled the-strength wonder-at Rutilius
non usi reditus condicione dati.
not having-used of-return the-condition given.
Smyrna virum tenuit, non Pontus et hostica tellus,
Smyrna the-man held, not Pontus and hostile land,

paene minus nullo Smyrna petenda loco.
almost less than-no Smyrna to-be-sought place.
non doluit patria cynicus procul esse Sinopeus,
not grieved from-his-country the-cynic far to-be the-Sinopean,
legit enim sedes, Attica terra, tuas.
he-chose indeed seats, Attic land, your.
arma Neoclides qui Persica contudit armis,
the-arms the-son-of-Neocles who Persian crushed with-arms,
Argolica primam sensit in urbe fugam.
Argive the-first felt in city flight.
pulsus Aristides patria Lacedaemona fugit,
driven-out Aristides from-his-country to-Lacedaemon fled,
inter quas dubium, quae prior esset, erat.
between which doubtful, which first might-be, it-was.
caede puer facta Patroclus Opunta reliquit,
a-murder as-a-boy done Patroclus Opus left,
Thessalicamque adiit hospes Achillis humum.
and-the-Thessalian approached as-guest of-Achilles ground.
exul ab Haemonia Pirenida cessit ad undam,
an-exile from Haemonia Pirenian withdrew to wave,
quo duce trabs Colcha sacra cucurrit aqua.
whom leader the-beam on-Colchian sacred ran water.
liquit Agenorides Sidonia moenia Cadmus,
left the-son-of-Agenor Sidonian walls Cadmus,
poneret ut muros in meliore loco.
he-might-set that walls in better place.
venit ad Adrastum Tydeus Calydone fugatus,
came to Adrastus Tydeus from-Calydon put-to-flight,
et Teucrum Veneri grata recepit humus.
and Teucer to-Venus pleasing received the-land.

quid referam veteres Romanae gentis, apud quos
why should-I-recall the-old of-the-Roman race, among whom
exulibus tellus ultima Tibur erat?
for-exiles the-land furthest Tibur was?
persequar ut cunctos, nulli datus omnibus aevis
I-may-pursue though all, to-no-one given in-all ages
tam procul a patria est horridiorve locus.
so far from his-country has-been or-more-rugged place.
quo magis ignoscat sapientia vestra dolenti:
by-which more may-pardon wisdom your one-grieving:
quae facit ex dictis, non ita multa, tuis.
which makes from words, not so many, your.
nec tamen infitior, si possint nostra coire
nor still I-deny, if could our to-close
vulnera, praeceptis posse coire tuis.
wounds, by-precepts to-be-able to-close your.
sed vereor ne me frustra servare labores,
but I-fear lest me in-vain to-save you-may-labor,
neu iuver admota perditus aeger ope.
nor-lest I-may-be-helped by-moved-near lost sick help.
nec loquor haec, quia sit maior prudentia nobis,
nor I-say these-things, because may-be greater prudence to-us,
sed sum quam medico notior ipse mihi.
but I-am than to-the-doctor better-known myself to-me.
ut tamen hoc ita sit, munus tua grande voluntas
though still this so may-be, a-gift your great goodwill
ad me pervenit consuliturque boni.
to me has-come and-is-taken in-good-part.

Ovid tells his wife he is aging early, from years but also from anxiety and toil, as an ox, a field, a horse, or a ship wears out under work that never stops. His labor outweighs Jason's: Jason fled a lesser king, had a short voyage, noble companions, a sturdy ship, guides, Juno and Pallas, and Cupid's arts, and came home; Ovid was abandoned and may die here. His wife too must be aging from his troubles. He prays to see her, kiss her, tell his labors, and offer incense to the Caesars.

Iam mihi deterior canis aspergitur aetas,
Now to-me worse with-white-hairs is-sprinkled age,
iamque meos vultus ruga senilis arat:
and-now my face the-wrinkle aged plows:
iam vigor et quasso languent in corpore vires,
now vigor and battered languish in body strength,
nec, iuveni lusus qui placuere, iuvant.
nor, for-the-young-man games which pleased, please.
nec, si me subito videas, agnoscere possis,
nor, if me suddenly you-should-see, to-recognize could-you,
aetatis facta est tanta ruina meae.
of-age made has-been so-great a-ruin my.
confiteor facere hoc annos, sed et altera causa est,
I-confess to-make this the-years, but also another cause is,
anxietas animi continuusque labor.
anxiety of-mind and-continuous labor.
nam mea per longos siquis mala digerat annos,
for my over long if-anyone the-evils should-distribute years,
crede mihi, Pylio Nestore maior ero.
believe me, than-Pylian Nestor older I-shall-be.
cernis ut in duris — et quid bove firmius? — arvis
you-see how on hard and what than-an-ox firmer? fields

fortia taurorum corpora frangat opus.
strong of-bulls bodies breaks work.
quae numquam vacuo solita est cessare novali,
which never at-empty wont is to-be-idle fallow,
fructibus assiduis lassa senescit humus.
by-crops constant weary grows-old the-ground.
occidet, ad Circi siquis certamina semper
will-fall, at of-the-Circus if-any the-contests always
non intermissis cursibus ibit equus.
with-not interrupted courses shall-go the-horse.
firma sit illa licet, solvetur in aequore navis,
firm may-be she though, will-be-loosened on the-sea the-ship,
quae numquam liquidis sicca carebit aquis.
which never liquid dry will-lack waters.
me quoque debilitat series inmensa malorum,
me too weakens the-series boundless of-evils,
ante meum tempus cogit et esse senem.
before my time compels even to-be an-old-man.
otia corpus alunt, animus quoque pascitur illis:
leisure the-body nourishes, the-mind too is-fed by-it:
inmodicus contra carpit utrumque labor.
immoderate on-the-other-hand plucks each labor.
aspice, in has partis quod venerit Aesone natus,
look, into these parts because came from-Aeson born,
quam laudem a sera posteritate ferat.
what praise from late posterity he-bears.
at labor illius nostro leviorque minorque est,
but the-labor of-him than-ours both-lighter and-less is,
si modo non verum nomina magna premunt.
if only not the-truth names great crush.

ille est in Pontum Pelia mittente profectus,
he has into Pontus Pelias sending set-out,
qui vix Thessaliae fine timendus erat.
who hardly at-Thessaly's border to-be-feared was.
Caesaris ira mihi nocuit, quem solis ab ortu
Caesar's anger me has-harmed, whom of-the-sun from the-rising
solis ad occasus utraque terra tremit.
of-the-sun to the-setting each land trembles.
iunctior Haemonia est Ponto, quam Roma, Sinistro,
more-joined Haemonia is to-the-Pontus, than Rome, Left,
et brevius, quam nos, ille peregit iter.
and shorter, than we, he completed journey.
ille habuit comites primos telluris Achivae:
he had as-companions the-first of-the-land Achaean:
at nostram cuncti destituere fugam.
but our all deserted flight.
nos fragili ligno vastum sulcavimus aequor:
we in-fragile wood vast have-furrowed sea:
quae tulit Aesoniden, densa carina fuit.
which bore the-son-of-Aeson, solid the-keel was.
nec mihi Tiphys erat rector, nec Agenore natus
nor to-me Tiphys was the-helmsman, nor from-Agenor born
quas fugerem docuit quas sequererque vias.
which I-should-flee taught which and-I-should-follow ways.
illum tutata est cum Pallade regia Iuno:
him protected has with Pallas royal Juno:
defendere meum numina nulla caput.
defended my divinities no head.
illum furtivae iuvere Cupidinis artes;
him stealthy helped of-Cupid arts;

quas a me vellem non didicisset Amor.
which from me I-would-wish not had-learned Love.
ille domum rediit: nos his moriemur in arvis,
he home returned: we these shall-die in fields,
perstiterit laesi si gravis ira dei.
shall-have-persisted of-the-offended if heavy the-anger god.
durius est igitur nostrum, fidissima coniunx,
harder is therefore our, most-faithful wife,
illo, quod subiit Aesone natus, opus.
than-that, which underwent from-Aeson born, labor.
te quoque, quam iuvenem discedens urbe reliqui,
you too, whom young departing from-the-city I-left,
credibile est nostris insenuisse malis.
credible it-is at-our to-have-grown-old evils.
o, ego di faciant talem te cernere possim,
O, I the-gods may-make such you to-see may-be-able,
caraque mutatis oscula ferre comis,
and-dear on-changed kisses to-bring hair,
amplectique meis corpus non pingue lacertis,
and-to-embrace with-my a-body not plump arms,
et "gracile hoc fecit" dicere "cura mei,"
and "thin this has-made" to-say "care for-me,"
et narrare meos flenti flens ipse labores,
and to-tell my to-you-weeping weeping myself labors,
sperato numquam conloquioque frui,
hoped-for never and-conversation to-enjoy,

turaque Caesaribus cum coniuge Caesare digna,
and-incense to-the-Caesars with the-wife of-Caesar worthy,
dis veris, memori debita ferre manu!
to-gods true, with-mindful owed to-bring hand!
Memnonis hanc utinam lenito principe mater
of-Memnon this would-that softened the-prince the-mother
quam primum roseo provocet ore diem!
as first with-rosy may-call-forth face day!

I.5 · TO COTTA MAXIMUS: WRITING WITHOUT HOPE

Naso asks Maximus to read his verses but not to look for his talent there, since idleness has spoiled it. He writes reluctantly and lacks the strength to revise. Writing has never profited him, yet like a wounded gladiator he returns to it: wine and dice do not please him, he is too weak for the Sarmatian bow, and verse brings forgetfulness. He seeks no fame; to be a poet among the Getae suffices. His books will hardly reach Rome, which he thinks is silent about his death as it was about his buried fame.

Ille tuos quondam non ultimus inter amicos,
That-one your once not last among friends,
ut sua verba legas, Maxime, Naso rogat.
that his words you-may-read, Maximus, Naso asks.
in quibus ingenium desiste requirere nostrum,
in which talent stop to-look-for our,
nescius exilii ne videare mei.
ignorant of-exile lest you-may-seem my.
cernis ut ignavum corrumpant otia corpus,
you-see how sluggish corrupt leisure body,
ut capiant vitium, ni moveantur, aquae.
how take-on fault, unless they-are-moved, waters.

et mihi siquis erat ducendi carminis usus,
and for-me if-any was of-drawing-out song use,
deficit estque minor factus inerte situ.
fails and-is less made by-sluggish neglect.
haec quoque, quae legitis, siquid mihi, Maxime, credis,
these too, which you-read, if-anything me, Maximus, you-believe,
scribimus invita vixque coacta manu.
we-write with-unwilling and-hardly compelled hand.
non libet in talis animum contendere curas,
not it-pleases on such the-mind to-strain cares,
nec venit ad duros Musa vocata Getas.
nor comes to the-hard Muse called Getae.
ut tamen ipse vides, luctor deducere versum:
as still yourself you-see, I-struggle to-draw-out verse:
sed non fit fato mollior ille meo.
but not becomes than-fate softer it my.
cum relego, scripsisse pudet, quia plurima cerno
when I-reread, to-have-written shames, because very-many I-see
me quoque, qui feci, iudice digna lini.
me too, who made-them, judge worthy to-be-erased.
nec tamen emendo. labor hic quam scribere maior,
nor still I-correct. labor this than to-write greater,
mensque pati durum sustinet aegra nihil.
and-the-mind to-suffer hard endures sick nothing.
scilicet incipiam lima mordacius uti,
doubtless I-shall-begin with-the-file more-bitingly to-use,
et sub iudicium singula verba vocem?
and under judgment each word shall-I-call?
torquet enim fortuna parum, nisi Lixus in Hebrum
tortures indeed fortune too-little, unless the-Lixus into the-Hebrus

confluat, et frondes Alpibus addat Atho?
may-flow-together, and leaves to-the-Alps may-add Athos?
parcendum est animo miserabile vulnus habenti.
to-be-spared is the-mind a-pitiable wound having.
subducunt oneri colla perusta boves.
withdraw from-the-burden necks chafed oxen.
at, puto, fructus adest, iustissima causa laborum,
but, I-think, profit is-present, most-just cause of-labors,
et sata cum multo faenore reddit ager?
and sown-things with much interest returns the-field?
tempus ad hoc nobis, repetas licet omnia, nullum
time to this for-us, you-may-review though all-things, no
profuit — atque utinam non nocuisset! — opus.
has-profited and would-that not it-had-harmed! work.
cur igitur scribam, miraris? miror et ipse,
why therefore I-may-write, do-you-wonder? I-wonder too myself,
et tecum quaero saepe quid inde petam.
and with-you I-seek often what thence I-may-seek.
an populus vere sanos negat esse poetas,
or the-people truly sane denies to-be poets,
sumque fides huius maxima vocis ego,
and-am the-proof of-this the-greatest voice I,
qui, sterili totiens cum sim deceptus ab arvo,
who, barren so-often though I-have-been deceived by field,
damnosa persto condere semen humo?
in-ruinous persist to-bury seed ground?
scilicet est cupidus studiorum quisque suorum,
doubtless is eager of-pursuits each his-own,
tempus et adsueta ponere in arte iuvat.
time and accustomed to-spend in art it-pleases.

saucius eiurat pugnam gladiator, et idem
wounded abjures the-fight the-gladiator, and the-same
inmemor antiqui vulneris arma capit.
unmindful of-old wound arms takes.
nil sibi cum pelagi dicit fore naufragus undis,
nothing for-himself with of-the-sea he-says to-be the-shipwrecked waves,
et ducit remos qua modo navit aqua.
and draws oars where just-now he-swam water.
sic ego constanter studium non utile servo,
so I constantly a-pursuit not useful keep,
et repeto, nollem quas coluisse, deas.
and seek-again, I-would-not-wish whom to-have-worshiped, goddesses.
quid potius faciam? non sum, qui segnia ducam
what rather shall-I-do? not I-am, who sluggish may-draw-out
otia: mors nobis tempus habetur iners.
leisure: death by-us time is-held idle.
nec iuvat in lucem nimio marcescere vino,
nor pleases into the-light by-excessive to-languish wine,
nec tenet incertas alea blanda manus.
nor holds uncertain the-dice coaxing hands.
cum dedimus somno quas corpus postulat horas,
when we-have-given to-sleep which the-body demands hours,
quo ponam vigilans tempora longa modo?
in-what shall-I-spend waking times long way?
moris an oblitus patrii contendere discam
of-custom whether forgetful ancestral to-draw shall-I-learn
Sarmaticos arcus, et trahar arte loci?
Sarmatian bows, and shall-I-be-drawn by-the-art of-the-place?
hoc quoque me studium prohibent adsumere vires,
this too me pursuit forbids to-take-up my-strength,

mensque magis gracili corpore nostra valet.
and-the-mind more than-slender body our avails.
cum bene quaesieris quid agam, magis utile nil est
when well you-shall-have-asked what I-may-do, more useful nothing is
artibus his, quae nil utilitatis habent.
than-arts these, which nothing of-usefulness have.
consequor ex illis casus oblivia nostri:
I-attain from them of-misfortune forgetfulness our:
hanc messem satis est si mea reddit humus.
this harvest enough is-it if my returns ground.
gloria vos acuat, vos, ut recitata probentur
glory you may-sharpen, you, that recited may-be-approved
carmina, Pieriis invigilate choris.
songs, at-the-Pierian keep-watch choruses.
quod venit ex facili, satis est componere nobis,
what comes from easy, enough is-it to-compose for-us,
et nimis intenti causa laboris abest.
and too of-intent the-cause labor is-absent.
cur ego sollicita poliam mea carmina cura?
why I with-anxious should-polish my songs care?
an verear ne non approbet illa Getes?
or should-I-fear lest not may-approve them the-Getan?
forsitan audacter faciam, sed glorior Histrum
perhaps boldly I-may-act, but I-boast the-Hister
ingenio nullum maius habere meo.
than-talent no greater to-have my.
hoc, ubi vivendum est, satis est, si consequor arvo,
this, where to-be-lived it-is, enough is-it, if I-attain in-field,
inter inhumanos esse poeta Getas.
among inhuman to-be a-poet Getae.

quo mihi diversum fama contendere in orbem?
to-what-end for-me a-different by-fame to-strain into world?
quem fortuna dedit, Roma sit ille locus.
which fortune has-given, Rome may-be that place.
hoc mea contenta est infelix Musa theatro:
with-this my content is unhappy Muse theater:
sic merui, magni sic voluere dei.
so I-have-deserved, the-great so have-wished gods.
nec reor hinc istuc nostris iter esse libellis,
nor I-think from-here there to-our a-road to-be little-books,
quo Boreas pinna deficiente venit.
to-where Boreas wing failing comes.
dividimur caelo, quaeque est procul urbe Quirini,
we-are-divided by-the-sky, and-which is far from-the-city of-Quirinus,
aspicit hirsutos comminus Ursa Getas.
looks-at shaggy close-at-hand the-Bear Getae.
per tantum terrae, tot aquas vix credere possum
through so-much of-land, so-many waters hardly to-believe can-I
indicium studii transiluisse mei.
the-evidence of-pursuit to-have-leapt-over my.
finge legi, quodque est mirabile, finge placere:
suppose to-be-read, and-what is wonderful, suppose to-please:
auctorem certe res iuvat ista nihil.
the-author surely thing helps that nothing.
quid tibi, si calidae, prosit, laudere Syenae,
what to-you, if in-hot, may-it-profit, you-should-be-praised Syene,
aut ubi Taprobanen Indica tinguit aqua?
or where Taprobane the-Indian dyes water?
altius ire libet? si te distantia longe
higher to-go it-pleases? if you distant far

Pleiadum laudent signa, quid inde feras?
of-the-Pleiades should-praise the-stars, what thence would-you-bear?
sed neque pervenio scriptis mediocribus istuc,
but neither I-arrive with-writings middling there,
famaque cum domino fugit ab urbe suo.
and-fame with its-master has-fled from the-city its.
vosque, quibus perii, tunc cum mea fama sepulta est,
and-you, for-whom I-perished, then when my fame buried was,
nunc quoque de nostra morte tacere reor.
now too about our death to-be-silent I-think.

I.6 · TO GRAECINUS: HOPE REMAINS

Ovid asks Graecinus, abroad when he fell, whether he grieved, and is sure he did; his absence cost Ovid his best help. He asks for his comfort now, insists his fault was folly, not crime, and asks him not to probe its cause. Hope, the one goddess left on earth, keeps alive the chained digger, the shipwrecked, the sick, the prisoner, and the crucified, and she stopped Ovid's own sword: "tears, not blood, are needed." He asks Graecinus to pray Caesar for him, sure he will not fail an old friend.

Ecquid, ut audisti — nam te diversa tenebat
Whether-at-all, when you-heard for you a-distant was-holding
terra — meos casus, cor tibi triste fuit?
land my misfortunes, the-heart to-you sad was?
dissimules metuasque licet, Graecine, fateri,
you-may-dissemble and-may-fear though, Graecinus, to-confess,
si bene te novi, triste fuisse liquet.
if well you I-know, sad to-have-been is-clear.
non cadit in mores feritas inamabilis istos,
not falls into character harshness unlovable that,

nec minus a studiis dissidet illa tuis.
nor less from pursuits is-at-odds it your.
artibus ingenuis, quarum tibi maxima cura est,
by-arts liberal, of-which to-you the-greatest care is,
pectora mollescunt asperitasque fugit.
breasts grow-soft and-harshness flees.
nec quisquam meliore fide complectitur illas,
nor anyone with-better faith embraces them,
qua sinit officium militiaeque labor.
as allows duty and-of-soldiering the-labor.
certe ego cum primum potui sentire quid essem
surely I when first I-could to-perceive what I-was
— nam fuit attoniti mens mea nulla diu —
for was of-the-stunned the-mind my none long
hoc quoque fortunam sensi, quod amicus abesses,
this too as-fortune I-felt, that as-a-friend you-were-absent,
qui mihi praesidium grande futurus eras.
who to-me a-protection great going-to-be were.
tecum tunc aberant aegrae solacia mentis,
with-you then were-absent of-the-sick the-solaces mind,
magnaque pars animi consiliique mei.
and-a-great part of-spirit and-of-counsel my.
at nunc, quod superest, fer opem, precor, eminus unam,
but now, as-for-what remains, bring help, I-pray, from-afar one,
adloquioque iuva pectora nostra tuo,
and-with-address help breast our your,
quae, non mendaci si quicquam credis amico,
which, not to-lying if anything you-believe friend,
stulta magis dici quam scelerata decet.
foolish rather to-be-called than criminal it-befits.

nec breve nec tutum peccati quae sit origo
nor brief nor safe of-the-sin what may-be the-origin
scribere; tractari vulnera nostra timent.
to-write; to-be-handled the-wounds our fear.
qualicumque modo mihi sunt ea facta, rogare
in-whatever way to-me were those-things done, to-ask
desine: non agites, siqua coire velis.
cease: not may-you-stir, if-any to-close you-wish.
quicquid id est, ut non facinus, sic culpa vocanda est.
whatever that is, as not a-crime, so a-fault to-be-called is.
omnis an in magnos culpa deos scelus est?
every or against the-great fault gods crime is?
spes igitur menti poenae, Graecine, levandae
hope therefore for-mind of-punishment, Graecinus, to-be-lightened
non est ex toto nulla relicta meae.
not is from whole none left my.
haec dea, cum fugerent sceleratas numina terras,
this goddess, when were-fleeing the-criminal divinities lands,
in dis invisa sola remansit humo.
on by-the-gods hated alone remained ground.
haec facit ut vivat fossor quoque compede vinctus,
this makes that may-live the-ditcher too with-fetter bound,
liberaque a ferro crura futura putet.
and-free from the-iron legs going-to-be may-think.
haec facit ut, videat cum terras undique nullas,
this makes that, may-see though lands on-every-side none,
naufragus in mediis brachia iactet aquis.
the-shipwrecked in the-middle arms may-toss waters.
saepe aliquem sollers medicorum cura reliquit,
often someone the-skillful of-doctors care has-left,

nec spes huic vena deficiente cadit.
nor hope to-this-one the-vein failing falls.
carcere dicuntur clausi sperare salutem,
in-prison are-said shut-in to-hope-for safety,
atque aliquis pendens in cruce vota facit.
and someone hanging on the-cross vows makes.
haec dea quam multos laqueo sua colla ligantis
this goddess how many with-the-noose their necks binding
non est proposita passa perire nece!
not has by-the-intended allowed to-perish death!
me quoque conantem gladio finire dolorem
me too trying with-the-sword to-end grief
arguit iniecta continuitque manu,
checked with-thrown-on and-restrained hand,
"quid"que "facis? lacrimis opus est, non sanguine" dixit,
and-"what" "are-you-doing? of-tears need is, not of-blood" she-said,
"saepe per has flecti principis ira solet."
"often through these to-be-bent of-the-prince the-anger is-wont."
quamvis est igitur meritis indebita nostris,
although she-is therefore to-deserts undue our,
magna tamen spes est in bonitate dei.
great still hope is in the-goodness of-the-god.
qui ne difficilis mihi sit, Graecine, precare,
who lest difficult to-me may-be, Graecinus, pray,
confer et in votum tu quoque verba meum.
bring and to prayer you too words my.
inque Tomitana iaceam tumulatus harena,
and-in Tomitan may-I-lie entombed sand,
si te non nobis ista vovere liquet.
if you not for-us those-things to-vow is-clear.

nam prius incipient turris vitare columbae,
for sooner will-begin towers to-shun the-doves,
antra ferae, pecudes gramina, mergus aquas,
caves the-beasts, the-cattle grass, the-diver waters,
quam male se praestet veteri Graecinus amico.
than badly himself may-show to-old Graecinus friend.
non ita sunt fatis omnia versa meis.
not so are by-fates all-things overturned my.

I.7 · TO MESSALINUS

Ovid writes to Messalinus from the Getae, asking whether he still counts him among his followers; even a false claim should be forgiven. Messalinus' father encouraged his talent and was mourned in Ovid's verse, and his brother has not disdained him. His fault is no crime: Caesar called it folly, used his thunder moderately, and left him life, wealth, and hope of return if friends' prayers prevail. He asks a place in the household, and that Messalinus grieve, if not at his sufferings, that he deserved them.

Littera pro verbis tibi, Messaline, salutem
The-letter instead-of words to-you, Messalinus, health
quam legis, a saevis attulit usque Getis.
which you-read, from savage has-brought all-the-way Getae.
indicat auctorem locus? an, nisi nomine lecto,
does-it-show the-author the-place? or, unless the-name read,
haec me Nasonem scribere verba latet?
these me Naso to-write words is-it-hidden?
ecquis in extremo positus iacet orbe tuorum,
whether-any in furthest placed lies world of-yours,
me tamen excepto, qui precor esse tuus?
me still excepted, who I-pray to-be yours?

di procul a cunctis, qui te venerantur amantque
the-gods far from all, who you revere and-love
huius notitiam gentis habere velint.
of-this knowledge race to-have may-wish.
nos satis est inter glaciem Scythicasque sagittas
us enough is-it among ice and-Scythian arrows
vivere, si vita est mortis habenda genus.
to-live, if life is of-death to-be-held a-kind.
nos premat aut bello tellus, aut frigore caelum,
us may-press either with-war the-land, or with-cold the-sky,
truxque Getes armis, grandine pugnet hiems:
and-savage the-Getan with-arms, with-hail may-fight winter:
nos habeat regio nec pomo feta nec uvis,
us may-hold a-region neither with-fruit pregnant nor with-grapes,
et cuius nullum cesset ab hoste latus.
and of-which no may-be-free from enemy side.
cetera sit sospes cultorum turba tuorum,
the-rest may-be safe of-the-cultivators crowd your,
in quibus, ut populo, pars ego parva fui.
among whom, as among-a-people, part I small was.
me miserum, si tu verbis offenderis istis
me wretched, if you by-words are-offended those
nosque negas ulla parte fuisse tuos!
and-us deny in-any part to-have-been yours!
idque sit ut verum, mentito ignoscere debes:
and-that may-be though true, to-the-liar to-pardon you-ought:
nil demit laudi gloria nostra tuae.
nothing takes-away from-praise glory our your.
quis se Caesaribus notus non fingit amicum?
who himself to-the-Caesars known not feigns a-friend?

da veniam lasso: tu mihi Caesar eras.
give pardon to-the-weary: you to-me Caesar were.
nec tamen inrumpo quo non licet ire, satisque est
nor still I-burst-in where not it-is-allowed to-go, and-enough is-it
atria si nobis non patuisse negas.
the-halls if to-us not to-have-lain-open you-deny.
utque tibi fuerit mecum nihil amplius, uno
and-though for-you may-have-been with-me nothing more, by-one
nempe salutaris, quam prius, ore minus.
surely you-are-greeted, than before, mouth less.
nec tuus est genitor nos infitiatus amicos,
nor your has father us disowned friends,
hortator studii causaque faxque mei:
urger of-pursuit and-cause and-torch my:
cui nos et lacrimas, supremum in funere munus,
to-whom we both tears, last at funeral gift,
et dedimus medio scripta canenda foro.
and gave in-middle writings to-be-sung forum.
adde quod est frater, tanto tibi iunctus amore,
add that there-is your-brother, by-so-great to-you joined love,
quantus in Atridis Tyndaridisque fuit:
as-great-as in the-Atridae and-Tyndaridae was:
is me nec comitem nec dedignatus amicum est:
he me neither as-companion nor scorned as-friend has:
si tamen haec illi non nocitura putas.
if still these-things to-him not going-to-harm you-think.
si minus, hac quoque me mendacem parte fatebor:
if not, in-this too me a-liar part I-shall-confess:
clausa mihi potius tota sit ista domus.
shut to-me rather whole may-be that house.

sed neque claudenda est, et nulla potentia vires
but neither to-be-shut it-is, and no power the-strength
praestandi, ne quid peccet amicus, habet.
of-guaranteeing, lest anything may-sin a-friend, has.
et tamen ut cuperem culpam quoque posse negari,
and still as I-would-desire the-fault too to-be-able to-be-denied,
sic facinus nemo nescit abesse mihi.
so a-crime no-one knows-not to-be-absent from-me.
quod nisi delicti pars excusabilis esset,
but unless of-the-offense part excusable were,
parva relegari poena futura fuit.
small to-be-relegated punishment going-to-be was.
ipse sed hoc vidit, qui pervidet omnia, Caesar,
himself but this saw, who sees-through everything, Caesar,
stultitiam dici crimina posse mea:
folly to-be-called the-charges to-be-able my:
quaque ego permisi, quaque est res passa, pepercit,
and-as-far-as I permitted, and-as-far-as has the-matter allowed, he-spared,
usus et est modice fulminis igne sui.
used and has moderately of-the-thunderbolt the-fire his.
nec vitam nec opes nec ademit posse reverti,
neither life nor riches nor took-he-away to-be-able to-return,
si sua per vestras victa sit ira preces.
if his through your conquered may-be anger prayers.
at graviter cecidi. quid enim mirabile, si quis
but heavily I-fell. what indeed strange, if anyone
a Iove percussus non leve vulnus habet?
by Jove struck not light a-wound has?
ipse suas etiam vires inhiberet Achilles,
himself his even strength though-should-check Achilles,

missa gravis ictus Pelias hasta dabat.
sent heavy blows the-Pelian spear was-giving.
iudicium nobis igitur cum vindicis adsit,
the-judgment to-us therefore since of-the-avenger may-be-present,
non est cur tua me ianua nosse neget.
not is-there why your me the-door to-know may-deny.
culta quidem, fateor, citra quam debuit, illa est:
cultivated indeed, I-confess, short-of than it-ought, it has-been:
sed fuit in fatis hoc quoque, credo, meis.
but was among the-fates this too, I-believe, my.
nec tamen officium sensit domus altera nostrum
nor still duty felt house other our
sic: illic vestro sub Lare semper eram.
so: there your under Lar always I-was.
quaeque tua est pietas, ut te non excolat ipsum,
and-which your is devotion, that you not he-may-cultivate yourself,
ius aliquod tecum fratris amicus habet.
a-right some with-you of-your-brother the-friend has.
quid quod, ut emeritis referenda est gratia semper,
what that, as to-the-deserving to-be-returned is thanks always,
sic est fortunae promeruisse tuae?
so is-it of-fortune to-have-deserved your?
quod si permittis nobis suadere quid optes,
but if you-allow us to-urge what you-may-wish,
ut des quam reddas plura precare deos.
that you-may-give than may-return more-things pray-to the-gods.
idque facis, quantumque licet meminisse, solebas
and-that you-do, and-as-far-as it-is-allowed to-remember, you-were-wont
officii causae pluribus esse datis.
of-duty causes to-more to-be given.

quo libet in numero me, Messaline, repone,
what it-pleases in number me, Messalinus, put,
sim modo pars vestrae non aliena domus:
may-I-be only a-part of-your not alien house:
et mala Nasonem, quoniam meruisse videtur,
and evils Naso, since to-have-deserved he-seems,
si non ferre doles, at meruisse dole.
if not to-bear you-grieve, but to-have-deserved grieve.

I.8 · TO SEVERUS: A RAID AND MEMORIES OF HOME

Ovid greets Severus from constant war, the one soldier among the exiles. He tells how the Getae took Aegisos, an old city on the Hister, and its king came with an army and punished them. Four autumns have passed since he left. He misses his friends, wife, daughter, and Rome's forums, temples, theaters, porticoes, and Campus, but not his lost estates and gardens. He would gladly farm or herd even here, were the enemy not at the gate. He pictures Severus in Rome and asks only for a land nearer and free of war.

A tibi dilecto missam Nasone salutem
From to-you beloved sent Naso health
accipe, pars animae magna, Severe, meae.
receive, part of-soul great, Severus, my.
neve roga quid agam. si persequar omnia, flebis;
nor ask what I-may-do. if I-should-go-through everything, you-will-weep;
summa satis nostri si tibi nota mali.
the-sum enough of-our if to-you known evil.
vivimus assiduis expertes pacis in armis,
we-live constant lacking peace in arms,
dura pharetrato bella movente Geta.
hard quivered wars stirring the-Getan.

deque tot expulsis sum miles in exule solus:
and-out-of so-many banished I-am a-soldier in an-exile alone:
tuta, neque invideo, cetera turba latet.
safe, nor I-begrudge, the-rest crowd lies-hidden.
quoque magis nostros venia dignere libellos,
and-by-which more our with-pardon may-you-deem-worthy little-books,
haec in procinctu carmina facta leges.
these in readiness songs made you-will-read.
stat vetus urbs, ripae vicina binominis Histri,
stands an-old city, to-the-bank neighboring of-the-two-named Hister,
moenibus et positu vix adeunda loci.
by-walls and by-position hardly to-be-approached of-the-place.
Caspios Aegisos, de se si credimus ipsis,
the-Caspian Aegisos, about themselves if we-believe themselves,
condidit, et proprio nomine dixit opus.
founded, and by-own name called the-work.
hanc ferus, Odrysiis inopino Marte peremptis,
this the-wild, the-Odrysians by-unexpected war slain,
cepit et in regem sustulit arma Getes.
took and against the-king raised arms Getan.
ille memor magni generis, virtute quod auget,
he mindful of-great race, with-valor which he-increases,
protinus innumero milite cinctus adest.
at-once with-countless soldiery surrounded is-present.
nec prius abscessit, merita quam caede nocentum
nor sooner he-did-depart, by-deserved than slaughter of-the-guilty
audaces animos contuderat populi.
the-bold minds he-had-crushed of-the-people.
at tibi, rex aevo, detur, fortissime nostro,
but to-you, king in-age, may-it-be-given, bravest our,

semper honorata sceptra tenere manu.
always with-honored scepters to-hold hand.
teque, quod et praestat — quid enim tibi plenius optem?
and-you, what also she-does what indeed for-you fuller should-I-wish?
Martia cum magno Caesare Roma probet.
Martial with great Caesar Rome may-approve.
sed memor unde abii, queror, o iucunde sodalis,
but mindful whence I-departed, I-complain, O pleasant comrade,
accedant nostris saeva quod arma malis.
may-be-added to-our savage that arms evils.
ut careo vobis, Stygias detrusus in oras,
since I-lack you, Stygian thrust-down to shores,
quattuor autumnos Pleias orta facit.
four autumns the-Pleiad risen makes.
nec tu credideris urbanae commoda vitae
nor you may-believe of-urban the-comforts life
quaerere Nasonem, quaerit et illa tamen.
to-seek Naso, he-seeks and them still.
nam modo vos animo dulces reminiscor, amici,
for now you in-mind sweet I-recall, friends,
nunc mihi cum cara coniuge nata subit:
now to-me with dear my-wife my-daughter comes-to-mind:
aque domo rursus pulchrae loca vertor ad urbis,
and-from home again of-the-beautiful places I-turn to city,
cunctaque mens oculis pervidet usa suis.
and-all-things the-mind with-eyes sees-through having-used its-own.
nunc fora, nunc aedes, nunc marmore tecta theatra,
now the-forums, now the-temples, now with-marble covered theaters,
nunc subit aequata porticus omnis humo.
now comes-to-mind leveled colonnade every with-the-ground.

gramina nunc Campi pulchros spectantis in hortos,
the-grass now of-the-Campus beautiful looking-toward into gardens,
stagnaque et euripi Virgineusque liquor.
and-pools and channels and-the-Virgin water.
at, puto, sic urbis misero est erepta voluptas,
but, I-think, so of-the-city from-the-wretched was snatched the-pleasure,
quolibet ut saltem rure frui liceat!
any that at-least country to-enjoy may-it-be-allowed!
non meus amissos animus desiderat agros,
not my lost mind longs-for fields,
ruraque Paeligno conspicienda solo,
and-countryside on-Paelignian to-be-gazed-at soil,
nec quos piniferis positos in collibus hortos
nor which pine-bearing placed on hills gardens
spectat Flaminiae Clodia iuncta viae.
looks-at to-the-Flaminian the-Clodian joined road.
quos ego nescio cui colui, quibus ipse solebam
which I I-know-not for-whom cultivated, to-which myself I-was-wont
ad sata fontanas, nec pudet, addere aquas:
to sown-things spring, nor it-shames, to-add waters:
sunt ubi, si vivunt, nostra quoque consita quaedam,
there-are where, if they-live, by-our too planted some,
sed non et nostra poma legenda manu.
but not also by-our fruits to-be-gathered hand.
pro quibus amissis utinam contingere possit
for which lost would-that to-befall could
hic saltem profugo glaeba colenda mihi!
here at-least to-the-exile a-clod to-be-tilled by-me!
ipse ego pendentis, liceat modo, rupe capellas,
myself I hanging, may-it-be-allowed only, on-the-rock she-goats,

ipse velim baculo pascere nixus oves;
myself I-would-wish with-staff to-pasture leaning sheep;
ipse ego, ne solitis insistant pectora curis,
myself I, lest on-accustomed may-press the-heart cares,
ducam ruricolas sub iuga curva boves,
shall-lead rustic under yokes curved oxen,
et discam Getici quae norunt verba iuvenci,
and shall-learn the-Getic which know words bullocks,
adsuetas illis adiciamque minas.
accustomed to-them and-shall-add threats.
ipse manu capulum pressi moderatus aratri
myself with-hand the-handle of-pressed having-guided the-plow
experiar mota spargere semen humo.
shall-try in-moved to-scatter seed ground.
nec dubitem longis purgare ligonibus herbas,
nor I-would-hesitate with-long to-clear hoes weeds,
et dare iam sitiens quas bibat hortus aquas.
and to-give now thirsting which may-drink the-garden waters.
unde sed hoc nobis, minimum quos inter et hostem
whence but this to-us, least whom between and the-enemy
discrimen murus clausaque porta facit?
distinction the-wall and-the-shut gate makes?
at tibi nascenti, quod toto pectore laetor,
but for-you being-born, which in-whole heart I-rejoice,
nerunt fatales fortia fila deae.
spun fatal strong threads goddesses.
te modo Campus habet, densa modo porticus umbra,
you now the-Campus has, with-dense now colonnade shade,
nunc, in quo ponis tempora rara, forum.
now, in which you-spend times rare, the-forum.

Umbria nunc revocat, nec non Albana petentem
Umbria now calls-back, nor not Alban seeking
Appia ferventi ducit in arva rota.
the-Appian with-glowing leads into fields wheel.
forsitan hic optes, ut iustam supprimat iram
perhaps here you-may-wish, that just may-suppress his-anger
Caesar, et hospitium sit tua villa meum.
Caesar, and the-lodging may-be your villa mine.
a! nimium est, quod, amice, petis: moderatius opta,
ah! too-much is-it, what, friend, you-ask: more-moderately wish,
et voti quaeso contrahe vela tui.
and of-wish I-pray draw-in the-sails your.
terra velim propior nullique obnoxia bello
a-land I-would-wish nearer and-to-no exposed war
detur: erit nostris pars bona dempta malis.
may-be-given: will-be from-our part good taken evils.

I.9 · TO COTTA MAXIMUS: ON THE DEATH OF CELSUS

Maximus' letter tells Ovid that Celsus is dead, and he weeps. He recalls how, when his house fell, Celsus stayed, wept as for a brother, held back his hand from suicide, and promised that Maximus would plead with Caesar. Celsus swore he would come to him if Maximus allowed. Ovid gives tears and verse, since he cannot attend the funeral, which Maximus performed. He asks Maximus to keep Celsus' promise: one who serves dead friends can count Ovid among the dead.

Quae mihi de rapto tua venit epistula Celso,
Which to-me about snatched-away your came letter Celsus,
protinus est lacrimis umida facta meis;
at-once was with-tears wet made my;

quodque nefas dictu, fieri nec posse putavi,
and-what wrong to-say, to-happen nor to-be-able I-thought,
invitis oculis littera lecta tua est.
with-unwilling eyes the-letter read your was.
nec quicquam ad nostras pervenit acerbius aures,
nor anything to our has-come more-bitter ears,
ut sumus in Ponto, perveniatque precor.
since we-are in Pontus, and-may-it-come I-pray.
ante meos oculos tamquam praesentis imago
before my eyes as-if of-one-present the-image
haeret, et extinctum vivere fingit amor.
clings, and the-dead to-live imagines love.
saepe refert animus lusus gravitate carentes,
often recalls the-mind games of-gravity lacking,
seria cum liquida saepe peracta fide.
serious-things with clear often carried-out faith.
nulla tamen subeunt mihi tempora densius illis,
none still come-up to-me times more-thickly than-those,
quae vellem vitae summa fuisse meae,
which I-would-wish of-life the-last to-have-been my,
cum domus ingenti subito mea lapsa ruina
when the-house by-huge suddenly my slipping ruin
concidit in domini procubuitque caput.
collapsed on of-its-master and-fell-forward the-head.
adfuit ille mihi, cum me pars magna reliquit,
stood-by he me, when me part great left,
Maxime, fortunae nec fuit ipse comes.
Maximus, of-fortune nor was he a-companion.
illum ego non aliter flentem mea funera vidi,
him I not otherwise weeping my funeral saw,

ponendus quam si frater in igne foret.
to-be-placed than if a-brother on fire were.
haesit in amplexu consolatusque iacentem est,
he-clung in embrace and-consoled the-prostrate has,
cumque meis lacrimis miscuit usque suas.
and-with my tears mingled ever his-own.
o quotiens vitae custos invisus amarae
O how-often of-life the-guardian hated bitter
continuit promptas in mea fata manus!
held-back ready against my fates hands!
o quotiens dixit "placabilis ira deorum est:
O how-often he-said "appeasable the-anger of-the-gods is:
vive nec ignosci tu tibi posse nega"!
live nor to-be-pardoned you to-you to-be-able deny"!
vox tamen illa fuit celeberrima, "respice, quantum
the-voice still that was most-frequent, "consider, how-much
debeat auxilium Maximus esse tibi.
ought a-help Maximus to-be to-you.
Maximus incumbet, quaque est pietate, rogabit,
Maximus will-apply-himself, and-with-what is devotion, will-ask,
ne sit ad extremum Caesaris ira tenax;
lest may-be to the-end Caesar's anger tenacious;
cumque suis fratris vires adhibebit, et omnem,
and-with his-own of-his-brother the-strength he-will-apply, and all,
quo levius doleas, experietur opem."
by-which more-lightly you-may-grieve, will-try help."
haec mihi verba malae minuerunt taedia vitae.
these to-me words of-bad lessened the-weariness life.
quae tu ne fuerint, Maxime, vana cave.
which you lest may-have-been, Maximus, empty beware.

huc quoque venturum mihi se iurare solebat
hither too going-to-come to-me himself to-swear he-was-wont
non nisi te longae ius sibi dante viae.
not except you of-the-long right to-himself giving road.
nam tua non alio coluit penetralia ritu,
for your not with-other he-worshiped inner-shrine rite,
terrarum dominos quam colis ipse deos.
of-the-lands the-lords than you-worship yourself gods.
crede mihi, multos habeas cum dignus amicos,
believe me, many you-may-have though worthy friends,
non fuit e multis quolibet ille minor,
not was of many than-any he lesser,
si modo non census nec clarum nomen avorum
if only not wealth nor famous the-name of-ancestors
sed probitas magnos ingeniumque facit.
but integrity great and-talent makes.
iure igitur lacrimas Celso libamus adempto,
rightly therefore tears to-Celsus we-pour taken-away,
cum fugerem, vivo quas dedit ille mihi:
when I-was-fleeing, to-living which gave he me:
carmina iure damus raros testantia mores,
songs rightly we-give rare attesting character,
ut tua venturi nomina, Celse, legant.
that your going-to-come the-name, Celsus, may-read.
hoc est, quod possum Geticis tibi mittere ab arvis:
this is, what I-can the-Getic to-you to-send from fields:
hoc solum est istic quod licet esse meum.
this alone is there which is-allowed to-be mine.
funera non potui comitare nec ungere corpus,
the-funeral not I-could to-accompany nor to-anoint the-body,

aque tuis toto dividor orbe rogis.
and-from your by-whole am-divided world pyre.
qui potuit, quem tu pro numine vivus habebas,
who could, whom you for a-divinity living held,
praestitit officium Maximus omne tibi.
showed the-duty Maximus all to-you.
ille tibi exequias et magni funus honoris
he for-you the-rites and of-great a-funeral honor
fecit et in gelidos versit amoma sinus,
made and on cold poured amomum breast,
diluit et lacrimis maerens unguenta profusis
washed and with-tears grieving the-ointments poured-out
ossaque vicina condita texit humo.
and-the-bones in-neighboring buried covered ground.
qui quoniam extinctis, quae debet, praestat amicis,
who since to-the-dead, what he-owes, shows friends,
et nos extinctis adnumerare potest.
also us among-the-dead to-count can.

Naso sends Flaccus the health he lacks. A long weakness, without pain or fever, has taken his appetite: no food, not even the gods' nectar, would tempt him, though he dares not say so lest it be called fastidiousness. He cannot sleep, and he is thin and pale. Wine, feasting, and love are not the cause, but the water, the place, and above all his constant anxiety. Flaccus and his brother have kept him afloat; he asks them to keep helping, and to pray their gods to lessen Caesar's anger, not end it.

Naso suo profugus mittit tibi, Flacce, salutem,
Naso to-his-own exiled sends to-you, Flaccus, health,
mittere rem siquis, qua caret ipse, potest.
to-send a-thing if-anyone, which lacks himself, can.
longus enim curis vitiatum corpus amaris
long indeed by-cares spoiled the-body bitter
non patitur vires languor habere suas.
not allows strength the-languor to-have its-own.
nec dolor ullus adest, nec febribus uror anhelis,
nor pain any is-present, nor with-fevers I-am-burned panting,
et peragit soliti vena tenoris iter.
and completes of-accustomed the-pulse tenor its-course.
os hebes est positaeque movent fastidia mensae,
the-mouth dull is and-of-set move disgust table,
et queror, invisi cum venit hora cibi.
and I-complain, of-hated when comes the-hour food.
quod mare, quod tellus, adpone quod educat aër,
what the-sea, what the-land, set-before what rears the-air,
nil ibi, quod nobis esuriatur, erit.
nothing there, which by-us may-be-hungered-for, will-be.

nectar et ambrosiam, latices epulasque deorum,
nectar and ambrosia, the-drinks and-feasts of-the-gods,
det mihi formosa nava Iuventa manu,
may-give me with-beautiful diligent Juventas hand,
non tamen exacuet torpens sapor ille palatum,
not still will-sharpen numb flavor that palate,
stabit et in stomacho pondus inerte diu.
will-stand and in the-stomach a-weight sluggish long.
haec ego non ausim, cum sint verissima, cuivis
these-things I not would-dare, though they-may-be most-true, to-anyone
scribere, delicias ne mala nostra vocet.
to-write, delicacies lest evils our he-may-call.
scilicet is status est, ea rerum forma mearum,
doubtless that state is, that of-things the-shape my,
deliciis etiam possit ut esse locus!
for-delicacies even it-could that to-be place!
delicias illi precor has contingere, siquis
delicacies to-him I-pray these to-befall, if-anyone
ne mihi sit levior Caesaris ira timet.
lest for-me may-be lighter Caesar's anger fears.
is quoque, qui gracili cibus est in corpore, somnus,
that too, which slender food is in body, sleep,
non alit officio corpus inane suo.
not nourishes with-duty the-body empty its-own.
sed vigilo vigilantque mei sine fine dolores,
but I-keep-awake and-keep-awake my without end griefs,
quorum materiam dat locus ipse mihi.
of-which the-matter gives the-place itself to-me.
vix igitur possis visos agnoscere vultus,
hardly therefore you-could seen to-recognize the-face,

quoque ierit quaeras qui fuit ante color.
and-where may-have-gone you-would-ask what was before color.
parvus in exiles sucus mihi pervenit artus,
small into thin the-juice to-me comes limbs,
membraque sunt cera pallidiora nova.
and-limbs are than-wax paler new.
non haec inmodico contraxi damna Lyaeo:
not these by-immoderate have-I-contracted losses Lyaeus:
scis mihi quam solae paene bibantur aquae.
you-know by-me how alone almost are-drunk waters.
non epulis oneror: quarum si tangar amore,
not by-feasts I-am-weighed-down: by-which if I-should-be-touched with-love,
est tamen in Geticis copia nulla locis.
is still in Getic plenty none places.
nec vires adimit Veneris damnosa voluptas:
nor strength takes-away of-Venus ruinous pleasure:
non solet in maestos illa venire toros.
not it-is-wont into sad it to-come couches.
unda locusque nocent et causa valentior istis,
the-water and-the-place harm and a-cause stronger than-these,
anxietas animi, quae mihi semper adest.
anxiety of-mind, which to-me always is-present.
haec nisi tu pariter simili cum fratre levares,
these-things unless you equally like with your-brother lightened,
vix mens tristitiae nostra tulisset onus.
hardly the-mind of-sadness our would-have-borne the-burden.
vos estis fracto tellus non dura phaselo,
you are to-the-broken land not hard boat,
quamque negant multi, vos mihi fertis opem.
and-which deny many, you to-me bring help.

ferte, precor, semper, quia semper egebimus illa,
bring, I-pray, always, because always we-shall-need it,
Caesaris offensum dum mihi numen erit.
Caesar's offended while to-me divinity shall-be.
qui meritam nobis minuat, non finiat, iram,
that deserved for-us he-may-lessen, not may-end, his-anger,
suppliciter vestros quisque rogate deos.
suppliantly your each ask gods.

II.1 · TO GERMANICUS: THE PANNONIAN TRIUMPH

News of Caesar's triumph reaches Ovid even in Scythia, and for once he feels joy, since Caesar's joys belong to all and that house holds nothing private. Through Fame he sees the triumph: crowds, the sun after rain, gifts to the soldiers, the pictured towns and rivers, the captive leaders in chains, most of them pardoned, Bato among them. If the gods spare enemies, Caesar's anger at him can lessen. Ovid foretells Germanicus' own triumph and promises to sing it, if the Getae have not killed him first.

Huc quoque Caesarei pervenit fama triumphi,
Hither too of-Caesar has-come the-report triumph,
languida quo fessi vix venit aura Noti.
weak where of-the-weary hardly comes the-breeze South-Wind.
nil fore dulce mihi Scythica regione putavi:
nothing to-be sweet to-me in-the-Scythian region I-thought:
iam minus hic odio est, quam fuit ante, locus.
now less here in-hatred is, than it-was before, the-place.
tandem aliquid pulsa curarum nube serenum
at-last something driven-off of-cares the-cloud clear
vidi, fortunae verba dedique meae.
I-saw, to-fortune words and-I-gave my.
nolit ut ulla mihi contingere gaudia Caesar,
should-wish-not though any to-me to-befall joys Caesar,
velle potest cuivis haec tamen una dari.
to-wish can-he to-anyone this still one to-be-given.
di quoque, ut a cunctis hilari pietate colantur,
the-gods too, that by all with-cheerful devotion they-may-be-worshiped,
tristitiam poni per sua festa iubent.
sadness to-be-laid-aside on their festivals bid.

denique, quod certus furor est audere fateri,
finally, what certain madness is to-dare to-confess,
hac ego laetitia, si vetet ipse, fruar.
this I gladness, if he-should-forbid himself, shall-enjoy.
Iuppiter utilibus quotiens iuvat imbribus agros,
Jupiter with-useful as-often-as helps rains the-fields,
mixta tenax segeti crescere lappa solet.
mixed clinging with-the-crop to-grow the-bur is-wont.
nos quoque frugiferum sentimus inutilis herba
we too fruit-bearing feel a-useless weed
numen, et invita saepe iuvamur ope.
the-divinity, and with-unwilling often we-are-helped help.
gaudia Caesareae mentis pro parte virili
the-joys of-Caesar's mind for part manly
sunt mea: privati nil habet illa domus.
are mine: of-private nothing has that house.
gratia, Fama, tibi, per quam spectata triumphi
thanks, Fame, to-you, through whom seen of-the-triumph
incluso mediis est mihi pompa Getis.
for-the-shut-in in-the-midst is me the-procession Getae.
indice te didici, nuper visenda coisse
informant you I-have-learned, lately to-be-seen to-have-gathered
innumeras gentes ad ducis ora sui:
countless peoples to of-the-leader the-face their:
quaeque capit vastis inmensum moenibus orbem,
and-which takes-in with-vast boundless walls the-world,
hospitiis Romam vix habuisse locum.
for-lodgings Rome hardly to-have-had place.
tu mihi narrasti, cum multis lucibus ante
you to-me told, when for-many days before

fuderit assiduas nubilus Auster aquas,
had-poured continual cloudy the-South-Wind waters,
numine caelesti solem fulsisse serenum,
by-divinity heavenly the-sun to-have-shone clear,
cum populi vultu conveniente die,
with of-the-people the-face suiting the-day,
atque ita victorem cum magnae vocis honore
and so the-victor with of-great voice honor
bellica laudatis dona dedisse viris,
warlike to-praised gifts to-have-given men,
claraque sumpturum pictas insignia vestes
and-bright going-to-put-on embroidered insignia robes
tura prius sanctis inposuisse focis,
incense first on-holy to-have-placed hearths,
iustitiamque sui caste placasse parentis,
and-the-justice of-his chastely to-have-appeased parent,
illo quae templum pectore semper habet,
in-that which a-temple breast always has,
quaque ierit felix adiectum plausibus omen,
and-wherever he-went happy added to-the-applause the-omen,
saxaque roratis erubuisse rosis;
and-the-stones with-bedewed to-have-blushed roses;
protinus argento versos imitantia muros
at-once with-silver turned imitating walls
barbara cum pictis oppida lata viris,
barbarian with painted towns carried men,
fluminaque et montes et in altis proelia silvis,
and-rivers and mountains and in high battles woods,
armaque cum telis in strue mixta sua,
and-arms with darts in heap mixed their,

deque tropaeorum, quod sol incenderit, auro
and-from of-the-trophies, which the-sun has-kindled, the-gold
aurea Romani tecta fuisse fori,
golden of-the-Roman the-roofs to-have-been forum,
totque tulisse duces captivis addita collis
and-so-many to-have-borne leaders on-captive placed necks
vincula, paene hostis quot satis esse fuit.
chains, almost of-the-enemy as-many-as enough to-be was.
maxima pars horum vitam veniamque tulerunt,
the-greatest part of-these life and-pardon received,
in quibus et belli summa caputque Bato.
among whom also of-the-war the-head and-chief Bato.
cur ego posse negem minui mihi numinis iram,
why I to-be-able should-deny to-be-lessened to-me of-the-divinity the-anger,
cum videam mitis hostibus esse deos?
when I-see gentle to-enemies to-be the-gods?
pertulit hic idem nobis, Germanice, rumor,
brought this the-same to-us, Germanicus, rumor,
oppida sub titulo nominis isse tui.
towns under the-title of-name to-have-gone your.
atque ea te contra nec muri mole nec armis
and them you against neither of-wall by-mass nor by-arms
nec satis ingenio tuta fuisse loci.
nor enough by-nature safe to-have-been of-the-place.
di tibi dent annos, a te nam cetera sumes,
the-gods to-you may-give years, from you for the-rest you-will-take,
sint modo virtuti tempora longa tuae.
may-be only for-valor times long your.
quod precor, eveniet: sunt quiddam oracula vatum:
what I-pray, will-happen: are something the-oracles of-bards:

nam deus optanti prospera signa dedit.
for the-god to-me-wishing favorable signs has-given.
te quoque victorem Tarpeias scandere in arces
you too victorious the-Tarpeian to-climb to citadel
laeta coronatis Roma videbit equis;
glad with-garlanded Rome will-see horses;
maturosque pater nati spectabit honores,
and-mature the-father of-the-son will-watch honors,
gaudia percipiens, quae dedit ipse suis.
joys gaining, which he-gave himself to-his-own.
iam nunc haec a me, iuvenum belloque togaque
already now these-things from me, of-young-men both-in-war and-in-the-toga
maxime, dicta tibi vaticinante nota.
greatest, said to-you prophesying note.
hunc quoque carminibus referam fortasse triumphum,
this too with-songs I-shall-relate perhaps triumph,
sufficiet nostris si modo vita malis,
shall-suffice to-our if only life evils,
imbuero Scythicas si non prius ipse sagittas,
I-shall-have-dyed the-Scythian if not before myself arrows,
abstuleritque ferox hoc caput ense Getes.
and-shall-have-carried-off fierce this head with-sword the-Getan.
quae si me salvo dabitur tua laurea templis,
which if me safe shall-be-given your laurel to-the-temples,
omina bis dices vera fuisse mea.
omens twice you-will-say true to-have-been my.

Ovid, devoted to Messalinus' house from youth, writes to him from the Getae. He made no war on the gods; his fault was grave but harmed only himself. He asks Messalinus not to defend it, since its cause must not be touched, but to bear his plea to the Caesars, joyful now in their triumph, for a milder place of exile. His father, whom Ovid honored, would ask the same, as would his brother; Messalinus himself praised Ovid's talent. Caesar is a mild father, but Ovid, shipwrecked, fears every sea.

Ille domus vestrae primis venerator ab annis,
That of-house your first the-reverer from years,
pulsus ad Euxini Naso sinistra freti,
driven to of-the-Euxine Naso the-left strait,
mittit ab indomitis hanc, Messaline, salutem,
sends from untamed this, Messalinus, health,
quam solitus praesens est tibi ferre, Getis.
which accustomed present he-is to-you to-bring, Getae.
ei mihi, si lecto vultus tibi nomine non est
ah me, if read the-face for-you name not is
qui fuit, et dubitas cetera perlegere!
which was, and you-hesitate the-rest to-read-through!
perlege, nec mecum pariter mea verba relega:
read-through, nor with-me equally my words banish:
urbe licet vestra versibus esse meis.
in-the-city it-is-allowed your for-verses to-be my.
non ego concepi, si Pelion Ossa tulisset,
not I conceived, if Pelion Ossa had-borne,
clara mea tangi sidera posse manu,
the-bright by-my to-be-touched stars to-be-able hand,

nec nos Enceladi dementia castra secuti
nor we of-Enceladus in-the-madness camp having-followed
in rerum dominos movimus arma deos,
against of-things the-lords moved arms gods,
nec, quod Tydidae temeraria dextera fecit,
nor, what of-the-son-of-Tydeus the-reckless right-hand did,
numina sunt telis ulla petita meis.
divinities have-been with-weapons any attacked my.
est mea culpa gravis, sed quae me perdere solum
is my fault heavy, but which me to-ruin alone
ausa sit, et nullum maius adorta nefas.
dared has, and no greater having-attempted wrong.
nil nisi non sapiens possum timidusque vocari:
nothing except not wise I-can and-timid to-be-called:
haec duo sunt animi nomina vera mei.
these two are of-mind the-names true my.
esse quidem fateor meritam post Caesaris iram
to-be indeed I-confess deserved after Caesar's anger
difficilem precibus te quoque iure meis;
difficult to-prayers you too rightly my;
quaeque tua est pietas in totum nomen Iuli,
and-which your is devotion toward the-whole name of-Iulus,
te laedi, cum quis laeditur inde, putas.
you to-be-harmed, when anyone is-harmed from-there, you-think.
sed licet arma feras et vulnera saeva mineris,
but though arms you-may-bear and wounds savage may-threaten,
non tamen efficies ut timeare mihi.
not still you-will-bring-about that you-may-be-feared by-me.
puppis Achaemeniden Graium Troiana recepit,
the-ship Achaemenides the-Greek Trojan received,

profuit et Myso Pelias hasta duci.
profited and to-the-Mysian the-Pelian spear leader.
confugit interdum templi violator ad aram,
flees sometimes of-a-temple the-violator to the-altar,
nec petere offensi numinis horret opem.
nor to-seek of-the-offended divinity shrinks the-help.
dixerit hoc aliquis tutum non esse. fatemur.
may-say this someone safe not to-be. we-confess.
sed non per placidas it mea puppis aquas.
but not through calm goes my ship waters.
tuta petant alii: fortuna miserrima tuta est,
safe-things let-seek others: fortune most-wretched safe is,
nam timor eventus deterioris abest.
for fear of-an-outcome worse is-absent.
qui rapitur spumante salo, sua brachia tendens
who is-snatched-away by-the-foaming sea, his arms stretching
porrigit ad spinas duraque saxa manus,
stretches to thorns and-hard rocks hands,
accipitremque timens pennis trepidantibus ales
and-the-hawk fearing with-wings trembling the-bird
audet ad humanos fessa venire sinus,
dares to human weary to-come bosoms,
nec se vicino dubitat committere tecto,
nor herself to-the-neighboring hesitates to-entrust house,
quae fugit infestos territa cerva canes.
who flees hostile terrified the-doe dogs.
da, precor, accessum lacrimis, mitissime, nostris,
give, I-pray, access to-tears, most-gentle, our,
nec rigidam timidis vocibus obde forem,
nor rigid to-timid voices bar door,

verbaque nostra favens Romana ad numina perfer,
and-words our favoring Roman to divinities carry,
non tibi Tarpeio culta Tonante minus,
not by-you than-the-Tarpeian worshiped Thunderer less,
mandatique mei legatus suscipe causam:
and-of-commission my as-envoy take-up the-cause:
nulla meo quamvis nomine causa bona est.
no in-my although name cause good is.
iam prope depositus, certe iam frigidus aeger,
already almost laid-out, surely already cold sick,
servatus per te, si modo servor, ero.
saved through you, if only I-am-saved, I-shall-be.
nunc tua pro lassis nitatur gratia rebus,
now your for weary let-strive favor things,
principis aeterni quam tibi praestat amor.
of-the-prince eternal which to-you shows the-love.
nunc tibi et eloquii nitor ille domesticus adsit,
now to-you also of-eloquence brilliance that domestic may-be-present,
quo poteras trepidis utilis esse reis.
by-which you-could to-trembling useful to-be defendants.
vivit enim in vobis facundi lingua parentis,
lives indeed in you of-the-eloquent the-tongue father,
et res heredem repperit illa suum.
and the-thing an-heir has-found that its-own.
hanc ego, non ut me defendere temptet, adoro:
this I, not that me to-defend it-may-try, implore:
non est confessi causa tuenda rei.
not is of-a-confessed the-cause to-be-defended defendant.
num tamen excuses erroris origine factum,
whether still you-may-excuse of-error by-the-origin the-deed,

an nihil expediat tale movere, vide.
or nothing it-may-be-expedient such to-stir, see.
vulneris id genus est quod, cum sanabile non sit,
of-a-wound that kind is which, since healable not it-may-be,
non contrectari tutius esse puto.
not to-be-handled safer to-be I-think.
lingua, sile! non est ultra narrabile quicquam.
tongue, be-silent! not is further to-be-told anything.
posse velim cineres obruere ipse meos.
to-be-able I-would-wish ashes to-bury myself my.
sic igitur, quasi me nullus deceperit error,
so therefore, as-if me no has-deceived error,
verba fac, ut vita, quam dedit ipse, fruar;
words make, that life, which gave he-himself, I-may-enjoy;
cumque serenus erit vultusque remiserit illos,
and-when serene he-shall-be and-looks shall-have-relaxed those,
qui secum terras imperiumque movent,
which with-themselves lands and-the-empire move,
exiguam ne me praedam sinat esse Getarum,
small lest me plunder may-allow to-be of-the-Getae,
detque solum miserae mite, precare, fugae.
and-may-give soil to-wretched gentle, pray, flight.
tempus adest aptum precibus. valet ille videtque
time is-present suitable to-prayers. is-well he and-sees
quas fecit vires, Roma, valere tuas.
which he-made the-strength, Rome, to-be-well your.
incolumis coniunx sua pulvinaria servat;
unharmed wife her couches guards;
promovet Ausonium filius imperium;
advances Ausonian his-son the-empire;

praeterit ipse suos animo Germanicus annos,
outruns himself his in-mind Germanicus years,
nec vigor est Drusi nobilitate minor.
nor vigor is of-Drusus than-nobility less.
adde nurus neptesque pias natosque nepotum
add daughters-in-law and-granddaughters dutiful and-sons of-grandsons
ceteraque Augustae membra valere domus;
and-the-other of-the-Augustan members to-be-well house;
adde triumphatos modo Paeonas, adde quieti
add triumphed-over just-now the-Paeonians, add to-quiet
subdita montanae brachia Dalmatiae.
subjected of-mountainous the-arms Dalmatia.
nec dedignata est abiectis Illyris armis
nor disdained it-has cast-down Illyria arms
Caesareum famulo vertice ferre pedem.
Caesar's with-servile head to-bear foot.
ipse super currum placido spectabilis ore
himself above the-chariot with-calm conspicuous face
tempora Phoebea virgine nexa tulit.
temples with-the-Phoebean maiden bound bore.
quem pia vobiscum proles comitavit euntem,
whom dutiful with-you offspring accompanied going,
digna parente suo nominibusque datis,
worthy of-father his and-of-names given,
fratribus adsimiles, quos proxima templa tenentis
to-brothers like, whom the-nearest temples holding
divus ab excelsa Iulius aede videt.
deified from lofty Julius shrine sees.
his Messalinus, quibus omnia cedere debent,
to-these Messalinus, to-whom everything to-yield ought,

primum laetitiae non negat esse locum.
first of-gladness not denies to-be place.
quicquid ab his superest, venit in certamen amoris:
whatever from these remains, comes into contest of-love:
hac hominum nulli parte secundus erit.
in-this of-men to-no-one part second will-he-be.
hanc colet ante diem qua, quae decreta merenti,
this he-will-worship before the-day on-which, which decreed to-the-deserving,
venit honoratis laurea digna comis.
came of-honored the-laurel worthy hair.
felices, quibus, o, licuit spectare triumphos
happy, to-whom, O, it-was-allowed to-watch triumphs
et ducis ore deos aequiperante frui!
and of-the-leader the-face the-gods rivaling to-enjoy!
at mihi Sauromatae pro Caesaris ore videndi
but by-me Sauromatians instead-of Caesar's face to-be-seen
terraque pacis inops undaque vincta gelu.
and-a-land of-peace destitute and-a-wave bound with-frost.
si tamen haec audis et vox mea pervenit istuc,
if still these-things you-hear and voice my reaches there,
sit tua mutando gratia blanda loco.
may-be your for-changing favor coaxing place.
hoc pater ille tuus primo mihi cultus ab aevo,
this the-father that your first by-me cultivated from age,
siquid habet sensus umbra diserta, petit.
if-any has feeling shade eloquent, asks.
hoc petit et frater, quamvis fortasse veretur
this asks also your-brother, although perhaps he-fears
servandi noceat ne tibi cura mei.
of-saving may-harm lest to-you the-care of-me.

tota domus rogat hoc, nec tu potes ipse negare
the-whole house asks this, nor you can yourself to-deny
et nos in turbae parte fuisse tuae.
also us in of-the-crowd part to-have-been your.
ingenii certe, quo nos male sensimus usos,
of-talent surely, which we ill we-have-felt having-used,
Artibus exceptis, saepe probator eras.
the-Arts excepted, often the-approver you-were.
nec mea, si tantum peccata novissima demas,
nor my, if only sins latest you-should-take-away,
esse potest domui vita pudenda tuae.
to-be can to-house life to-be-ashamed-of your.
sic igitur vestrae vigeant penetralia gentis,
so therefore your may-thrive the-inner-shrine of-race,
curaque sit superis Caesaribusque tui:
and-care may-be for-the-gods-above and-the-Caesars of-you:
mite, sed iratum merito mihi, numen adora,
gentle, but angry deservedly at-me, the-divinity implore,
eximat ut Scythici me feritate loci.
may-take-out that of-the-Scythian me from-the-wildness place.
difficile est, fateor, sed tendit in ardua virtus,
difficult it-is, I-confess, but strives toward steep-things virtue,
et talis meriti gratia maior erit.
and of-such service the-favor greater will-be.
nec tamen Aetnaeus vasto Polyphemus in antro
nor still the-Aetnaean vast Polyphemus in cave
accipiet voces Antiphatesve tuas,
will-receive the-voices or-Antiphates your,
sed placidus facilisque parens veniaeque paratus,
but a-calm and-easy parent and-for-pardon ready,

et qui fulmineo saepe sine igne tonat.
and who thunderbolt's often without fire thunders.

qui cum triste aliquid statuit, fit tristis et ipse,
who when sad something he-has-decided, becomes sad also himself,

cuique fere poenam sumere poena sua est.
and-to-whom almost punishment to-take punishment his-own is.

victa tamen vitio est huius clementia nostro,
conquered still by-the-fault is his clemency our,

venit et ad vires ira coacta suas.
came and to strength anger compelled its-own.

qui quoniam patria toto sumus orbe remoti,
who since from-our-country by-the-whole we-are world removed,

nec licet ante ipsos procubuisse deos,
nor it-is-allowed before themselves to-have-fallen-prostrate the-gods,

quos colis, ad superos haec fer mandata sacerdos,
whom you-worship, to the-gods-above these carry commands priest,

adde sed et proprias ad mea verba preces.
add but also own to my words prayers.

sic tamen haec tempta, si non nocitura putabis.
so still these-things try, if not going-to-harm you-shall-think.

ignosces. timeo naufragus omne fretum.
you-will-pardon. I-fear shipwrecked every strait.

The crowd measures friendship by profit, and friends flee when fortune thunders. When Ovid was wrecked, only two or three helped him, and Cotta was the first of them, as Theseus, Pylades, and Achilles stood by their friends. Cotta's anger was just at first, but he groaned at Ovid's error, and his letter gave hope. Ovid recalls a friendship older than Cotta's birth, Cotta's father who urged him to publish, and their last meeting on Elba, where Ovid wept. Ovid prays that Cotta's mother be safe.

Maxime, qui claris nomen virtutibus aequas,
Maximus, who by-famous your-name virtues equal,
nec sinis ingenium nobilitate premi,
nor you-allow talent by-nobility to-be-pressed,
culte mihi — quid enim status hic a funere differt? —
cultivated by-me how indeed state this from death differs?
supremum vitae tempus adusque meae,
the-last of-life time right-up-to my,
rem facis, afflictum non aversatus amicum,
a-thing you-do, the-afflicted not having-shunned friend,
qua non est aevo rarior ulla tuo.
than-which not is in-age rarer any your.
turpe quidem dictu, sed, si modo vera fatemur,
shameful indeed to-say, but, if only true-things we-confess,
vulgus amicitias utilitate probat.
the-crowd friendships by-usefulness approves.
cura, quid expediat, prius est, quam quid sit honestum,
care, what may-be-expedient, sooner is, than what may-be honorable,
et cum fortuna statque caditque fides.
and with fortune both-stands and-falls loyalty.

nec facile invenias multis in milibus unum,
nor easily you-would-find many in thousands one,
virtutem pretium qui putet esse sui.
virtue the-reward who may-think to-be of-itself.
ipse decor, recte facti si praemia desint,
itself beauty, of-rightly done if rewards may-be-lacking,
non movet, et gratis paenitet esse probum.
not moves, and for-nothing it-irks to-be upright.
nil nisi quod prodest carum est: sed detrahe menti
nothing except what profits dear is: but take-away from-the-mind
spem fructus avidae, nemo petendus erit.
the-hope of-profit greedy, no-one to-be-sought will-be.
at reditus iam quisque suos amat, et sibi quid sit
but returns now each his-own loves, and for-himself what may-be
utile, sollicitis supputat articulis.
useful, with-anxious reckons joints.
illud amicitiae quondam venerabile numen
that of-friendship once venerable divinity
prostat et in quaestu pro meretrice sedet.
is-for-sale and in gain like a-harlot sits.
quo magis admiror, non, ut torrentibus undis,
by-which more I-wonder, not, as with-torrential waves,
communis vitii te quoque labe trahi.
of-the-common fault you too by-the-stain to-be-dragged.
diligitur nemo, nisi cui fortuna secunda est:
is-loved no-one, except to-whom fortune favorable is:
quae, simul intonuit, proxima quaeque fugat.
which, as-soon-as it-has-thundered, nearest each puts-to-flight.
en ego, non paucis quondam munitus amicis,
behold I, not by-few once fortified friends,

dum flavit velis aura secunda meis,
while blew on-sails the-breeze favorable my,
ut fera nimboso tumuerunt aequora vento,
when wild with-stormy swelled the-seas wind,
in mediis lacera nave relinquor aquis;
in the-middle with-torn ship am-left waters;
cumque alii nolint etiam me nosse videri,
and-when others may-not-wish even me to-know to-seem,
vix duo proiecto tresve tulistis opem.
hardly two to-the-cast-away or-three you-brought help.
quorum tu princeps. neque enim comes esse, sed auctor,
of-whom you the-chief. nor indeed a-companion to-be, but the-author,
nec petere exemplum, sed dare dignus eras.
nor to-seek an-example, but to-give worthy you-were.
te, nihil exactos nisi nos peccasse fatentem,
you, nothing banished except us to-have-sinned confessing,
sponte sua probitas officiumque iuvat.
of-accord its-own integrity and-duty pleases.
iudice te mercede caret per seque petenda est
judge you of-reward lacks through and-itself to-be-sought is
externis virtus incomitata bonis.
by-outward virtue unaccompanied goods.
turpe putas abigi, quia sit miserandus, amicum,
shameful you-think to-be-driven-off, because he-may-be to-be-pitied, a-friend,
quodque sit infelix, desinere esse tuum.
and-because he-may-be unhappy, to-cease to-be yours.
mitius est lasso digitum supponere mento,
milder it-is to-the-weary a-finger to-put-under chin,
mergere quam liquidis ora natantis aquis.
to-plunge than in-liquid the-face of-the-swimmer waters.

cerne quid Aeacides post mortem praestet amico:
see what the-grandson-of-Aeacus after death shows to-his-friend:
instar et hanc vitam mortis habere puta.
the-equal also this life of-death to-have think.
Pirithoum Theseus Stygias comitavit ad undas:
Pirithous Theseus Stygian accompanied to waves:
a Stygia quantum mors mea distat aqua?
from the-Stygian how-far death my is-distant water?
adfuit insano iuvenis Phoceus Orestae:
stood-by the-mad the-youth Phocian Orestes:
et mea non minimum culpa furoris habet.
and my not least fault of-madness has.
tu quoque magnorum laudes admitte virorum,
you too of-great the-praises admit men,
ut facis, et lapso quam potes affer opem.
as you-do, and to-the-fallen as-much-as you-can bring help.
si bene te novi, si, qui prius esse solebas,
if well you I-have-known, if, who before to-be you-were-wont,
nunc quoque es, atque animi non cecidere tui,
now too you-are, and spirits not have-fallen your,
quo Fortuna magis saevit, magis ipse resistis,
by-how-much Fortune more rages, more you-yourself resist,
utque decet, ne te vicerit illa, caves;
and-as it-befits, lest you may-have-conquered she, you-beware;
et bene uti pugnes, bene pugnans efficit hostis.
and well that you-may-fight, well fighting brings-it-about the-enemy.
sic eadem prodest causa nocetque mihi.
so the-same profits cause and-harms me.
scilicet indignum, iuvenis carissime, ducis
doubtless unworthy, young-man dearest, you-consider

te fieri comitem stantis in orbe deae.
you to-become the-companion of-standing on a-wheel goddess.
firmus es, et quoniam non sunt ea, qualia velles,
firm you-are, and since not are they, such-as you-would-wish,
vela regis quassae qualiacumque ratis.
the-sails you-guide of-the-battered whatever-sort ship.
quaeque ita concussa est, ut iam casura putetur,
and-which so shaken has-been, that already going-to-fall it-may-be-thought,
restat adhuc umeris fulta ruina tuis.
remains still on-shoulders propped ruin your.
ira quidem primo fuerat tua iusta, nec ipso
anger indeed at-first had-been your just, nor than-he-himself
lenior, offensus qui mihi iure fuit.
milder, offended who with-me rightly was.
quique dolor pectus tetigisset Caesaris alti,
and-what grief the-breast had-touched of-Caesar high,
illum iurabas protinus esse tuum.
that you-swore at-once to-be yours.
ut tamen audita est nostrae tibi cladis origo,
when still heard was of-our by-you disaster the-origin,
diceris erratis ingemuisse meis.
you-are-said at-the-errors to-have-groaned my.
tum tua me primum solari littera coepit
then your me first to-console letter began
et laesum flecti spem dare posse deum.
and the-harmed to-be-bent hope to-give to-be-able god.
movit amicitiae tum te constantia longae,
moved of-friendship then you the-constancy long,
ante tuos ortus quae mihi coepta fuit,
before your birth which by-me begun was,

et quod eras aliis factus, mihi natus amicus,
and that you-were for-others made, for-me born a-friend,
quodque tibi in cunis oscula prima dedi.
and-that to-you in the-cradle kisses first I-gave.
quod, cum vestra domus teneris mihi semper ab annis
that, since your house tender by-me always from years
culta sit, esse vetus me tibi cogit onus.
cultivated may-be, to-be old me to-you compels a-burden.
me tuus ille pater, Latiae facundia linguae,
me your that father, of-the-Latian the-eloquence tongue,
quae non inferior nobilitate fuit,
which not inferior to-nobility was,
primus ut auderem committere carmina famae
first that I-should-dare to-entrust songs to-fame
impulit: ingenii dux fuit ille mei.
impelled: of-talent the-leader was he my.
nec quo sit primum nobis a tempore cultus
nor what may-be first by-us from time cultivated
contendo fratrem posse referre tuum.
I-contend brother to-be-able to-recall your.
te tamen ante omnis ita sum conplexus, ut unus
you still before all so I-have embraced, that alone
quolibet in casu gratia nostra fores.
any in misfortune the-favorite our you-might-be.
ultima me tecum vidit maestisque cadentes
the-last me with-you saw and-from-sad falling
excepit lacrimas Aethalis Ilva genis:
caught tears Aethalian Ilva cheeks:
cum tibi quaerenti, num verus nuntius esset,
when to-you asking, whether true the-messenger was,

attulerat culpae quem mala fama meae,
had-brought of-fault whom bad report my,
inter confessum dubie dubieque negantem
between confessing doubtfully and-doubtfully denying
haerebam, pavidas dante timore notas,
I-was-sticking, fearful giving fear marks,
exemploque nivis, quam mollit aquaticus Auster,
and-in-the-manner of-snow, which softens the-watery South-Wind,
gutta per attonitas ibat oborta genas.
a-drop over stunned went risen cheeks.
haec igitur referens et quod mea crimina primi
these-things therefore recalling and that my charges of-first
erroris venia posse latere vides,
error by-pardon to-be-able to-lie-hidden you-see,
respicis antiquum lassis in rebus amicum,
you-regard the-old weary in things friend,
fomentisque iuvas vulnera nostra tuis.
and-with-poultices you-help wounds our your.
pro quibus optandi si nobis copia fiat,
for which of-wishing if to-us the-chance may-be-made,
tam bene promerito commoda mille precer.
so well having-deserved advantages a-thousand I-would-pray.
sed si sola mihi dentur tua vota, precabor
but if alone to-me may-be-given your prayers, I-shall-pray
ut tibi sit salvo Caesare salva parens.
that for-you may-be safe Caesar safe your-mother.
haec ego, cum faceres altaria pinguia ture,
these-things I, when you-made the-altars rich with-incense,
te solitum memini prima rogare deos.
you accustomed I-remember first to-ask the-gods.

Ovid sends Atticus words from the cold Hister. He remembers their talks and the hours they spent together, the walks in the colonnades, and Atticus reading and correcting his poems. He cannot believe that Atticus has forgotten him: Pontus will be warm and Babylon cold before Atticus forgets. Let Atticus keep faith and protect his old comrade.

Accipe conloquium gelido Nasonis ab Histro,
Receive the-conversation the-cold of-Naso from Hister,
Attice, iudicio non dubitande meo.
Atticus, in-judgment not to-be-doubted my.
ecquid adhuc remanes memor infelicis amici,
whether-at-all still do-you-remain mindful of-your-unhappy friend,
deserit an partis languida cura suas?
deserts or its-parts languid care its-own?
non ita di mihi sunt tristes, ut credere possim
not so the-gods to-me are harsh, that to-believe I-could
fasque putem iam te non meminisse mei.
and-right think already you not to-remember me.
ante oculos nostros posita est tua semper imago,
before eyes our placed is your always image,
et videor vultus mente videre tuos.
and I-seem face with-mind to-see your.
seria multa mihi tecum conlata recordor,
serious-things many by-me with-you shared I-recall,
nec data iucundis tempora pauca iocis.
nor given to-pleasant times few jests.
saepe citae longis visae sermonibus horae,
often swift in-long seemed conversations the-hours,

saepe fuit brevior quam mea verba dies.
often was shorter than my words the-day.
saepe tuas venit factum modo carmen ad auris
often your came made just-now song to ears
et nova iudicio subdita Musa tuo est.
and the-new to-judgment subjected Muse your was.
quod tu laudaras, populo placuisse putabam.
what you had-praised, to-the-people to-have-pleased I-thought.
hoc pretium curae dulce regentis erat.
this the-reward of-care sweet of-the-reviser was.
utque meus lima rasus liber esset amici,
and-that my by-the-file shaved the-book might-be of-a-friend,
non semel admonitu facta litura tuo est.
not once at-the-reminder made the-erasure your was.
nos fora viderunt pariter, nos porticus omnis,
us the-forums saw together, us the-colonnade every,
nos via, nos iunctis curva theatra locis.
us the-road, us with-joined curved theaters places.
denique tantus amor nobis, carissime, semper,
finally so-great love to-us, dearest, always,
quantus in Aeacide Nestorideque fuit.
as-great-as in the-grandson-of-Aeacus and-the-son-of-Nestor was.
non ego, si biberes securae pocula Lethes,
not I, if you-should-drink of-care-free the-cups Lethe,
excidere haec credam pectore posse tuo.
to-fall-away these-things should-believe from-breast to-be-able your.
longa dies citius brumali sidere, noxque
the-long day sooner under-the-wintry star, and-the-night
tardior hiberna solstitialis erit,
slower than-the-wintry the-solstitial will-be,

nec Babylon aestum, nec frigora Pontus habebit,
nor Babylon heat, nor colds Pontus will-have,
calthaque Paestanas vincet odore rosas,
and-the-marigold the-Paestan will-conquer in-scent roses,
quam tibi nostrarum veniant oblivia rerum.
than to-you of-our may-come forgetfulness things.
non ita pars fati candida nulla mei est.
not so part of-fate bright none my is.
ne tamen haec dici possit fiducia mendax
lest still this to-be-said may-be-able confidence lying
stultaque credulitas nostra fuisse, cave,
and-foolish credulity our to-have-been, beware,
constantique fide veterem tutare sodalem,
and-with-constant faith your-old protect comrade,
qua licet et quantum non onerosus ero.
in-what it-is-allowed and as-far-as not burdensome I-shall-be.

II.5 · TO SALANUS

Ovid sends Salanus greetings from Pontus. Though barely acquainted, Salanus grieved at his exile, praised the poems he sent, and wished Caesar's anger brief. Ovid commends to him his poem on the triumph, a task too heavy for his talent. He praises Salanus' candor and eloquence and his long companionship with the young Caesar named from Germany, whose eloquence he describes. Their pursuits differ but spring from one source. Ovid prays that Salanus keep his patron's friendship, and that the young Caesar one day rule the world.

Condita disparibus numeris ego Naso Salano
Composed in-unequal measures I Naso to-Salanus
praeposita misi verba salute meo.
set-before I-have-sent words with-health my.
quae rata sit, cupio, rebusque ut comprobet omen,
which ratified may-be, I-desire, and-by-the-facts that may-confirm the-omen,
te precor a salvo possit, amice, legi.
you I-pray by safe may-be-able, friend, to-be-read.
candor, in hoc aevo res intermortua paene,
candor, in this age a-thing half-dead almost,
exigit ut faciam talia vota tuus.
demands that I-may-make such vows your.
nam fuerim quamvis modico tibi iunctus ab usu,
for I-may-have-been though moderate to-you joined by acquaintance,
diceris exiliis indoluisse meis;
you-are-said at-the-exile to-have-grieved my;
missaque ab Euxino legeres cum carmina Ponto,
and-sent from Euxine you-were-reading when songs Pontus,
illa tuus iuvit qualiacumque favor;
them your helped of-whatever-sort favor;

optastique brevem solvi mihi Caesaris iram,
and-you-wished brief to-be-dissolved for-me Caesar's anger,
quod tamen optari, si sciat, ipse sinat.
which still to-be-wished, if he-should-know, himself would-allow.
moribus ista tuis tam mitia vota dedisti,
by-character those your so gentle vows you-gave,
nec minus idcirco sunt ea grata mihi.
nor less therefore are they welcome to-me.
quoque magis moveare malis, doctissime, nostris,
and-by-which more you-may-be-moved by-evils, most-learned, our,
credibile est fieri condicione loci.
credible it-is to-happen by-the-condition of-the-place.
vix hac invenies totum, mihi crede, per orbem,
hardly this you-will-find whole, to-me believe, over the-world,
quae minus Augusta pace fruatur humus.
which less the-Augustan peace may-enjoy ground.
tu tamen hic structos inter fera proelia versus
you still here built among wild battles verses
et legis et lectos ore favente probas,
both read and read mouth favoring approve,
ingenioque meo, vena quod paupere manat,
and-talent my, from-a-vein which poor flows,
plaudis, et e rivo flumina magna facis.
applaud, and from a-stream rivers great make.
grata quidem sunt haec animo suffragia nostro,
welcome indeed are these to-mind votes our,
vix sibi cum miseros posse placere putes.
hardly to-themselves since the-wretched to-be-able to-please you-may-think.
dum tamen in rebus temptamus carmina parvis,
while still on themes we-try songs small,

materiae gracili sufficit ingenium.
for-matter slender suffices talent.
nuper, ut huc magni pervenit fama triumphi,
lately, when hither of-great came the-report triumph,
ausus sum tantae sumere molis opus.
dared I-have of-so-great to-take-up a-mass work.
obruit audentem rerum gravitasque nitorque,
overwhelmed-me daring of-things both-the-weight and-the-brilliance,
nec potui coepti pondera ferre mei.
nor I-could of-the-undertaking the-weights to-bear my.
illic, quam laudes, erit officiosa voluntas:
there, which you-may-praise, will-be dutiful the-goodwill:
cetera materia debilitata iacent.
the-rest by-the-matter weakened lie.
qui si forte liber vestras pervenit ad auris,
which if perhaps the-book your has-come to ears,
tutelam mando sentiat ille tuam.
the-protection I-commend may-feel it your.
hoc tibi facturo, vel si non ipse rogarem,
this to-you going-to-do, even if not myself I-were-to-ask,
accedat cumulus gratia nostra levis.
may-be-added as-heap favor our light.
non ego laudandus, sed sunt tua pectora, lacte
not I to-be-praised, but are your heart, than-milk
et non calcata candidiora nive:
and than-not trodden whiter snow:
mirarisque alios, cum sis mirabilis ipse,
and-you-admire others, though you-may-be admirable yourself,
nec lateant artes eloquiumque tuum.
nor may-lie-hidden the-arts and-eloquence your.

te iuvenum princeps, cui dat Germania nomen,
you of-young-men the-chief, to-whom gives Germany a-name,
participem studii Caesar habere solet.
as-partner of-pursuit Caesar to-have is-wont.
tu comes antiquus, tu primis iunctus ab annis
you a-companion old, you first joined from years
ingenio mores aequiperante places.
talent character equaling please.
te dicente prius fit protinus impetus illi:
you speaking first comes at-once impetus to-him:
teque habet elicias qui sua verba tuis.
and-you he-has you-may-elicit who his words by-yours.
cum tu desisti mortaliaque ora quierunt
when you have-stopped and-mortal mouths have-been-quiet
tectaque non longa conticuere mora,
and-the-roofs not with-long have-fallen-silent delay,
surgit Iuleo iuvenis cognomine dignus,
rises of-the-Iulian the-young-man surname worthy,
qualis ab Eois Lucifer ortus aquis.
such-as from the-Eastern Lucifer risen waters.
dumque silens adstat, status est vultusque diserti,
and-while silent he-stands, the-stance is and-the-face of-an-eloquent-man,
spemque decens doctae vocis amictus habet.
and-hope seemly of-learned voice the-robe has.
mox, ubi pulsa mora est atque os caeleste solutum,
soon, when driven-off delay has-been and the-mouth heavenly loosed,
hoc superos iures more solere loqui,
in-this the-gods-above you-would-swear manner to-be-wont to-speak,
atque "haec est" dicas "facundia principe digna":
and "this is" you-would-say "eloquence of-a-prince worthy":

eloquio tantum nobilitatis inest.
in-eloquence so-much of-nobility is-in.
huic tu cum placeas et vertice sidera tangas,
to-this-one you though you-may-please and with-your-head the-stars may-touch,
scripta tamen profugi vatis habenda putas.
the-writings still of-an-exiled bard to-be-held you-think.
scilicet ingeniis aliqua est concordia iunctis,
doubtless in-talents some is harmony joined,
et servat studii foedera quisque sui:
and keeps of-pursuit the-treaties each his:
rusticus agricolam, miles fera bella gerentem,
the-rustic the-farmer, the-soldier wild wars waging,
rectorem dubiae navita puppis amat.
the-guide of-a-doubtful the-sailor ship loves.
tu quoque Pieridum studio, studiose, teneris,
you too of-the-Pierides by-pursuit, devoted-one, are-held,
ingenioque faves, ingeniose, meo.
and-talent you-favor, talented-one, my.
distat opus nostrum, sed fontibus exit ab isdem:
differs work our, but springs goes-out from the-same:
artis et ingenuae cultor uterque sumus.
of-art and liberal cultivator each we-are.
thyrsus abest a te, gustata est laurea nobis,
the-thyrsus is-absent from you, tasted has-been the-laurel by-us,
sed tamen ambobus debet inesse calor:
but still in-both ought to-be-in warmth:
utque meis numeris tua dat facundia nervos,
and-as to-my measures your gives eloquence sinews,
sic venit a nobis in tua verba nitor.
so comes from us into your words brilliance.

iure igitur studio confinia carmina vestro
rightly therefore to-pursuit neighboring songs your
et commilitii sacra tuenda putas.
and of-comradeship the-rites to-be-protected you-think.
pro quibus ut maneat, de quo censeris, amicus,
for which that may-remain, from whom you-are-rated, a-friend,
comprecor ad vitae tempora summa tuae,
I-pray to of-life the-times last your,
succedatque suis orbis moderator habenis:
and-may-succeed to-his-own the-world's ruler reins:
quod mecum populi vota precantur idem.
which with-me of-the-people the-prayers pray-for same.

II.6 · TO GRAECINUS: ADVICE TOO LATE

Graecinus rebukes his friend's folly, as he ought, but the reproach comes late: Ovid should have been warned while he could still sail past the rocks. Now he needs help, not reproach. To desert a friend in misfortune is shameful; the friends of legend did not, and every age has wondered at them. Graecinus, loyal in hard times, deserves a name among them, and Ovid's verse will carry it to posterity, if only he persists.

Carmine Graecinum, qui praesens voce solebat,
In-song Graecinus, who present with-voice he-was-wont,
tristis ab Euxinis Naso salutat aquis.
sad from the-Euxine Naso greets waters.
exulis haec vox est: praebet mihi littera linguam,
of-an-exile this the-voice is: provides to-me the-letter a-tongue,
et si non liceat scribere, mutus ero.
and if not it-may-be-allowed to-write, mute I-shall-be.

corripis, ut debes, stulti peccata sodalis,
you-rebuke, as you-ought, of-your-foolish the-sins comrade,
et mala me meritis ferre minora doces.
and evils me than-deserts to-bear lesser you-teach.
vera facis, sed sera meae convicia culpae:
true-things you-do, but late of-my reproaches fault:
aspera confesso verba remitte reo.
harsh to-the-confessed words remit defendant.
cum poteram recto transire Ceraunia velo,
when I-could with-straight to-pass the-Ceraunia sail,
ut fera vitarem saxa, monendus eram.
that wild I-might-avoid rocks, to-be-warned I-was.
nunc mihi naufragio quid prodest discere facto,
now to-me the-shipwreck what does-it-profit to-learn made,
qua mea debuerit currere cumba via?
by-what my ought to-run skiff way?
brachia da lasso potius prendenda natanti,
arms give to-the-weary rather to-be-grasped swimmer,
nec pigeat mento supposuisse manum.
nor may-it-irk under-the-chin to-have-put a-hand.
idque facis, faciasque precor: sic mater et uxor,
and-that you-do, and-may-you-do I-pray: so your-mother and your-wife,
sic tibi sint fratres totaque salva domus,
so to-you may-be your-brothers and-whole safe house,
quodque soles animo semper, quod voce precari,
and-what you-are-wont in-mind always, what with-voice to-pray,
omnia Caesaribus sic tua facta probes.
all to-the-Caesars so your deeds may-you-prove.
turpe erit in miseris veteri tibi rebus amico
shameful it-will-be in wretched to-an-old for-you things friend

auxilium nulla parte tulisse tuum,
help in-no part to-have-brought your,
turpe referre pedem, nec passu stare tenaci,
shameful to-draw-back the-foot, nor with-step to-stand tenacious,
turpe laborantem deseruisse ratem,
shameful laboring to-have-deserted ship,
turpe sequi casum et fortunae cedere amicum,
shameful to-follow chance and to-fortune to-yield a-friend,
et, nisi sit felix, esse negare suum.
and, unless he-be happy, to-be to-deny one's-own.
non ita vixerunt Strophio atque Agamemnone nati,
not so lived from-Strophius and from-Agamemnon born,
non haec Aegidae Pirithoique fides:
not this of-the-son-of-Aegeus and-of-Pirithous the-faith:
quos prior est mirata, sequens mirabitur aetas,
whom the-earlier has wondered-at, the-following will-wonder-at age,
in quorum plausus tota theatra sonant.
in whose applause whole theaters sound.
tu quoque per durum servato tempus amico
you too through hard saved time your-friend
dignus es in tantis nomen habere viris.
worthy are among so-great a-name to-have men.
dignus es, et, quoniam laudem pietate mereris,
worthy you-are, and, since praise by-devotion you-earn,
non erit officii gratia surda tui.
not will-be of-duty the-gratitude deaf your.
crede mihi, nostrum si non mortale futurum est
believe me, our if not mortal going-to-be is
carmen, in ore frequens posteritatis eris.
song, in the-mouth frequent of-posterity you-will-be.

fac modo permaneas lasso, Graecine, fidelis,
see-to-it only you-may-remain to-the-weary, Graecinus, faithful,
duret et in longas impetus iste moras.
may-last and into long impulse that delays.
quae tu cum praestes, remo tamen utor in aura,
which you though you-may-show, the-oar still I-use in the-breeze,
nec nocet admisso subdere calcar equo.
nor it-harms to-the-let-loose to-put-under the-spur horse.

II.7 · TO ATTICUS: HARDENED TO MISFORTUNE

Ovid sends Atticus greetings from the Getae. He does not doubt Atticus' care, but misfortune makes him fearful, as the hooked fish fears every bait. His ills outnumber the fish of the sea and the birds of the air; even the Getae groaned at them. Pain has become habit, and nothing helped: his talent ruined him, his blameless life availed nothing, his companions robbed him, and his exile is cold, warlike, and barren. Hope that Caesar's anger may soften keeps him alive; let Atticus not desert the ship.

Esse salutatum vult te mea littera primum
To-be greeted wishes you my letter first
a male pacatis, Attice, missa Getis.
from badly pacified, Atticus, sent Getae.
proxima subsequitur, quid agas, audire voluntas,
next follows, what you-may-do, to-hear the-wish,
et si, quidquid agis, sit tibi cura mei.
and whether, whatever you-do, may-be to-you a-care for-me.
nec dubito quin sit, sed me timor ipse malorum
nor I-doubt but-that it-may-be, but me the-fear itself of-evils
saepe supervacuos cogit habere metus.
often superfluous compels to-have fears.

da veniam, quaeso, nimioque ignosce timori.
give pardon, I-pray, and-excessive forgive fear.
tranquillas etiam naufragus horret aquas.
calm even the-shipwrecked shudders-at waters.
qui semel est laesus fallaci piscis ab hamo,
which once has been-hurt deceitful the-fish by hook,
omnibus unca cibis aera subesse putat.
in-all crooked foods bronze to-lie-beneath thinks.
saepe canem longe visum fugit agna lupumque
often the-dog from-afar seen flees the-lamb and-a-wolf
credit, et ipsa suam nescia vitat opem.
believes-it, and herself her-own unknowing avoids help.
membra reformidant mollem quoque saucia tactum,
limbs dread soft too wounded touch,
vanaque sollicitis incutit umbra metum.
and-empty on-the-anxious strikes a-shadow fear.
sic ego Fortunae telis confixus iniquis
so I by-Fortune's weapons pierced unfair
pectore concipio nil nisi triste meo.
in-breast conceive nothing except sad my.
iam mihi fata liquet coeptos servantia cursus
already to-me the-fates it-is-clear begun keeping courses
per sibi consuetas semper itura vias:
through to-themselves accustomed always going-to-go ways:
observare deos, ne quid mihi cedat amice,
to-watch the-gods, lest anything to-me may-turn-out favorably,
verbaque Fortunae vix puto posse dari.
and-words to-Fortune hardly I-think to-be-able to-be-given.
est illi curae me perdere, quaeque solebat
it-is to-her a-care me to-ruin, and-who was-wont

esse levis, constans et bene certa nocet.
to-be fickle, constant and well certain harms.
crede mihi, si sum veri tibi cognitus oris
believe me, if I-am of-true to-you known speech
(nec planis nostris casibus esse puter),
(nor plain our misfortunes to-be may-I-be-thought),
Cinyphiae segetis citius numerabis aristas,
of-the-Cinyphian crop sooner you-will-count the-ears,
altaque quam multis floreat Hybla thymis,
and-high with-how many may-flower Hybla thyme,
et quot aves motis nitantur in aere pinnis,
and how-many birds with-moved may-strive in the-air wings,
quotque natent pisces aequore, certus eris,
and-how-many may-swim fishes in-the-sea, sure you-will-be,
quam tibi nostrorum statuatur summa laborum,
than for-you of-our may-be-set the-sum labors,
quos ego sum terra, quos ego passus aqua.
which I have by-land, which I suffered by-water.
nulla Getis toto gens est truculentior orbe;
no than-the-Getae in-the-whole race is more-savage world;
sed tamen hi nostris ingemuere malis.
but still these at-our have-groaned evils.
quae tibi si memori coner perscribere versu,
which to-you if in-mindful I-should-try to-write-out verse,
Ilias est fati longa futura mei.
an-Iliad is of-fate long going-to-be my.
non igitur vereor quo te rear esse verendum,
not therefore I-fear because you I-may-think to-be to-be-feared,
cuius amor nobis pignora mille dedit,
whose love to-us pledges a-thousand has-given,

sed quia res timida est omnis miser, et quia longo est
but because a-thing timid is every wretch, and because for-long is
tempore laetitiae ianua clausa meae.
time of-gladness the-door shut my.
iam dolor in morem venit meus, utque caducis
already grief into custom has-come my, and-as by-falling
percussu crebro saxa cavantur aquis,
with-the-blow frequent rocks are-hollowed waters,
sic ego continuo Fortunae vulneror ictu,
so I by-continuous of-Fortune am-wounded stroke,
vixque habet in nobis iam nova plaga locum.
and-hardly has in us now new a-blow place.
nec magis assiduo vomer tenuatur ab usu,
nor more constant the-plowshare is-thinned from use,
nec magis est curvis Appia trita rotis,
nor more is by-curved the-Appian worn wheels,
pectora quam mea sunt serie calcata malorum,
breast than my have-been by-the-series trampled of-evils,
et nihil inveni, quod mihi ferret opem.
and nothing have-I-found, which to-me might-bring help.
artibus ingenuis quaesita est gloria multis:
by-arts liberal sought has-been glory by-many:
infelix perii dotibus ipse meis.
unhappy I-perished by-gifts myself my.
vita prior vitio caret et sine labe peracta est:
life former of-fault is-free and without blemish spent was:
auxilii misero nil tulit illa mihi.
of-help to-wretched nothing brought it me.
culpa gravis precibus donatur saepe suorum:
fault heavy to-the-prayers is-forgiven often of-one's-own:

omnis pro nobis gratia muta fuit.
all for us favor mute was.
adiuvat in duris aliquos praesentia rebus:
helps in hard some presence things:
obruit hoc absens vasta procella caput.
overwhelmed this absent vast storm head.
quis non horruerit tacitam quoque Caesaris iram?
who not would-have-shuddered-at silent too Caesar's anger?
addita sunt poenis aspera verba meis.
added were to-punishments harsh words my.
fit fuga temporibus levior: proiectus in aequor
becomes flight by-the-times lighter: cast-out on the-sea
Arcturum subii Pleiadumque minas.
Arcturus I-underwent and-of-the-Pleiades the-threats.
saepe solent hiemen placidam sentire carinae:
often are-wont the-winter calm to-feel keels:
non Ithacae puppi saevior unda fuit.
not of-Ithaca to-the-ship more-savage the-wave was.
recta fides comitum poterat mala nostra levare:
upright the-faith of-companions could evils our to-lighten:
ditata est spoliis perfida turba meis.
enriched has-been with-spoils the-treacherous crowd my.
mitius exilium faciunt loca: tristior ista
milder the-exile make places: sadder than-that
terra sub ambobus non iacet ulla polis.
land under both not lies any poles.
est aliquid patriis vicinum finibus esse:
it-is something to-native neighboring borders to-be:
ultima me tellus, ultimus orbis habet.
the-furthest me land, the-furthest world has.

praestat et exulibus pacem tua laurea, Caesar:
grants also to-exiles peace your laurel, Caesar:
Pontica finitimo terra sub hoste iacet.
the-Pontic neighboring land under enemy lies.
tempus in agrorum cultu consumere dulce est:
time in of-fields the-cultivation to-spend sweet is:
non patitur verti barbarus hostis humum.
not allows to-be-turned the-barbarian enemy the-ground.
temperie caeli corpusque animusque iuvatur:
by-the-mildness of-the-sky both-the-body and-the-mind is-helped:
frigore perpetuo Sarmatis ora riget.
with-cold perpetual the-Sarmatian shore stiffens.
est in aqua dulci non invidiosa voluptas:
there-is in water sweet not envied pleasure:
aequoreo bibitur cum sale mixta palus.
sea is-drunk with salt mixed marsh.
omnia deficiunt. animus tamen omnia vincit:
all-things fail. the-mind still all-things conquers:
ille etiam vires corpus habere facit.
it even strength the-body to-have makes.
sustineas ut onus, nitendum vertice pleno est,
you-may-sustain that the-burden, to-be-strained with-head full is,
aut, flecti nervos si patiere, cades.
or, to-be-bent the-sinews if you-shall-allow, you-will-fall.
spes quoque posse mora mitescere principis iram,
hope too to-be-able by-delay to-grow-mild of-the-prince the-anger,
vivere ne nolim deficiamque, cavet.
to-live lest I-may-not-wish and-may-fail, takes-care.

nec vos parva datis pauci solacia nobis,
nor you small give few consolations to-us,
quorum spectata est per mala nostra fides.
whose tested was through evils our faith.
coepta tene, quaeso, neque in aequore desere navem,
the-begun hold, I-pray, nor on the-sea desert the-ship,
meque simul serva iudiciumque tuum.
and-me together save and-judgment your.

II.8 · THE IMAGES OF THE CAESARS

Cotta has sent Ovid silver images of two Caesars and of Livia, and to see them is as if Ovid were back in Rome. The elder Caesar's face seems angry, and Ovid begs him, by his country, his wife, his son, and his grandsons, to lighten the penalty and give him a place far from the Scythian enemy. He prays to the son and to Livia as well. He worships the images and will cling to them even among Getic arms. At last the face seems less sad, and the lips seem to nod assent.

Redditus est nobis Caesar cum Caesare nuper,
Given-back has-been to-us Caesar with Caesar lately,
quos mihi misisti, Maxime Cotta, deos;
whom to-me you-sent, Maximus Cotta, gods;
utque tuum munus numerum, quem debet, haberet,
and-that your gift the-number, which it-owes, might-have,
est ibi Caesaribus Livia iuncta suis.
is there with-the-Caesars Livia joined her.
argentum felix omnique beatius auro,
silver happy and-than-all more-blessed gold,
quod, fuerit pretium cum rude, numen habet.
which, may-have-been the-value though rough, divinity has.

non mihi divitias dando maiora dedisses,
not to-me riches by-giving greater-things would-you-have-given,
caelitibus missis nostra sub ora tribus.
the-heavenly sent our before eyes three.
est aliquid spectare deos et adesse putare,
it-is something to-look-at gods and to-be-present to-think,
et quasi cum vero numine posse loqui.
and as-if with true divinity to-be-able to-speak.
quantum ad te, redii, nec me tenet ultima tellus,
as-far-as to you, I-have-returned, nor me holds the-furthest land,
utque prius, media sospes in urbe moror.
and-as before, the-middle safe in the-city I-linger.
Caesareos video vultus, velut ante videbam:
Caesar's I-see faces, as before I-used-to-see:
vix huius voti spes fuit ulla mihi;
hardly of-this prayer hope was any to-me;
utque salutabam numen caeleste, saluto.
and-as I-used-to-greet the-divinity heavenly, I-greet.
quod reduci tribuas, nil, puto, maius habes.
what to-the-returned you-may-grant, nothing, I-think, greater you-have.
quid nostris oculis nisi sola Palatia desunt?
what from-our eyes except alone the-Palatine is-lacking?
qui locus ablato Caesare vilis erit.
which place taken-away Caesar cheap will-be.
hunc ego cum spectem, videor mihi cernere Romam;
this-one I when I-look-at, I-seem to-myself to-see Rome;
nam patriae faciem sustinet ille suae.
for of-country the-face upholds he his.
fallor an irati mihi sunt in imagine vultus,
am-I-deceived or angry with-me are in the-image the-features,

torvaque nescio quid forma minantis habet?
and-grim I-know-not what the-form of-one-threatening has?
parce, vir inmenso maior virtutibus orbe,
spare, man than-boundless greater in-virtues world,
iustaque vindictae supprime lora tuae.
and-just of-vengeance check the-reins your.
parce, precor, saecli decus indelebile nostri,
spare, I-pray, of-the-age glory indelible our,
terrarum dominum quem tua cura facit.
of-the-lands lord whom your care makes.
per patriae nomen, quae te tibi carior ipso est,
by of-your-country the-name, which than-you to-you dearer yourself is,
per numquam surdos in tua vota deos,
by never deaf to your prayers gods,
perque tori sociam, quae par tibi sola reperta est,
and-by of-your-bed the-partner, who equal to-you alone found has-been,
et cui maiestas non onerosa tua est,
and to-whom majesty not burdensome your is,
perque tibi similem virtutis imagine natum,
and-by to-you like of-virtue in-the-image your-son,
moribus adgnosci qui tuus esse potest,
by-his-character to-be-recognized who yours to-be can,
perque tuos, vel avo dignos, vel patre nepotes,
and-by your, either of-their-grandfather worthy, or of-their-father grandsons,
qui veniunt magno per tua iussa gradu,
who come with-great by your orders step,
parte leva minima nostras et contrahe poenas,
in-part lighten the-least our and draw-in penalties,
daque, procul Scythico qui sit ab hoste, locum.
and-give, far the-Scythian which may-be from enemy, a-place.

et tua, si fas est, a Caesare proxime Caesar,
and your, if right it-is, from Caesar next Caesar,
numina sint precibus non inimica meis.
divinity may-be to-prayers not hostile my.
sic fera quam primum pavido Germania vultu
so wild as soon-as-possible with-fearful Germany face
ante triumphantis serva feratur equos:
before of-the-triumphing as-a-slave may-be-borne horses:
sic pater in Pylios, Cumaeos mater in annos
so your-father into Pylian, Cumaean your-mother into years
vivant, et possis filius esse diu.
may-live, and may-you-be-able a-son to-be long.
tu quoque, conveniens ingenti nupta marito,
you too, suiting to-the-huge bride husband,
accipe non dura supplicis aure preces.
receive not with-hard of-the-suppliant ear prayers.
sic tibi vir sospes, sic sint cum prole nepotes,
so to-you your-husband safe, so may-be with offspring grandsons,
cumque bonis nuribus quod peperere nurus.
and-with good daughters-in-law what have-borne the-daughters-in-law.
sic, quem dira tibi rapuit Germania Drusum,
so, whom dread from-you snatched Germany Drusus,
pars fuerit partus sola caduca tui.
part may-have-been of-offspring alone perishable your.
sic tibi mature fraterni funeris ultor
so for-you early of-a-brother's death the-avenger
purpureus niveis filius instet equis.
purple on-snowy your-son may-press horses.
adnuite o! timidis, mitissima numina, votis
nod-assent O! to-timid, most-gentle divinities, prayers

praesentis aliquid prosit habere deos.
present something may-it-profit to-have gods.
Caesaris adventu tuta gladiator harena
at-Caesar's arrival safe the-gladiator from-the-arena
exit, et auxilium non leve vultus habet.
goes-out, and help not light the-face has.
nos quoque vestra iuvat quod, qua licet, ora videmus,
us too your it-helps that, where it-is-allowed, faces we-see,
intrata est superis quod domus una tribus.
entered has-been by-the-gods-above that house one three.
felices illi, qui non simulacra, sed ipsos,
happy those, who not images, but themselves,
quique deum coram corpora vera vident.
and-who of-the-gods face-to-face bodies true see.
quod quoniam nobis invidit inutile fatum,
which since to-us has-begrudged useless fate,
quos dedit ars, vultus effigiemque colo.
which has-given art, the-features and-image I-worship.
sic homines novere deos, quos arduus aether
so men have-known gods, whom the-steep ether
occulit, et colitur pro Iove forma Iovis.
hides, and is-worshiped instead-of Jove the-form of-Jove.
denique, quae mecum est et erit sine fine, cavete,
finally, which with-me is and will-be without end, take-care,
ne sit in inviso vestra figura loco.
lest may-be in hated your figure place.
nam caput e nostra citius cervice recedet,
for the-head from our sooner neck will-depart,
et patiar fossis lumen abire genis,
and I-shall-suffer from-dug the-light to-go-away cheeks,

quam caream raptis, o publica numina, vobis:
than I-may-lack snatched-away, O public divinities, you:

vos eritis nostrae portus et ara fugae.
you will-be of-our the-harbor and altar flight.

vos ego complectar, Geticis si cingar ab armis,
you I shall-embrace, Getic if I-shall-be-surrounded by arms,

utque meas aquilas, ut mea signa sequar.
and-as my eagles, as my standards I-shall-follow.

aut ego me fallo nimiaque cupidine ludor,
either I myself deceive and-by-excessive desire am-mocked,

aut spes exilii commodioris adest.
or the-hope of-exile more-convenient is-present.

nam minus et minus est facies in imagine tristis,
for less and less is the-face in the-image sad,

visaque sunt dictis adnuere ora meis.
and-seemed have to-words to-nod-assent the-lips my.

vera precor fiant timidae praesagia mentis,
true I-pray may-become of-my-timid the-forebodings mind,

iustaque quamvis est, sit minor ira dei.
and-just although it-is, may-be less the-anger of-the-god.

Ovid writes to Cotys, king of Thrace, descendant of Eumolpus, asking him to receive the shipwrecked poet on a kinder shore. Kings show their nobility by helping the fallen, as the gods do. Cotys is himself a poet, fierce in war and skilled in the arts, which soften character. Ovid broke no law, though he must confess a graver offense: he wrote the foolish Art, and Cotys should not ask what else, so that the Art may hide his fault. Caesar's anger took only his native soil; let the king's neighborhood keep him safe.

Regia progenies, cui nobilitatis origo
Royal offspring, to-whom of-nobility the-origin
nomen in Eumolpi pervenit usque, Coty,
the-name into of-Eumolpus reaches right-up, Cotys,
fama loquax vestras si iam pervenit ad auris,
report talkative your if already has-come to ears,
me tibi finitimi parte iacere soli,
me to-you of-neighboring in-part to-lie soil,
supplicis exaudi, iuvenum mitissime, vocem,
of-the-suppliant hear, of-young-men most-gentle, the-voice,
quamque potes, profugo (nam potes) adfer opem.
and-as-much-as you-can, to-the-exile (for you-can) bring help.
me fortuna tibi — de qua quod non queror, hoc est —
me fortune to-you about which that not I-complain, this is
tradidit, hoc uno non inimica mihi.
has-handed-over, in-this one not hostile to-me.
excipe naufragium non duro litore nostrum,
receive the-shipwreck not on-hard shore our,
ne fuerit terra tutior unda tua.
lest may-have-been than-the-land safer the-wave your.

regia, crede mihi, res est succurrere lapsis,
royal, believe me, a-thing it-is to-come-to-the-aid of-the-fallen,
convenit et tanto, quantus es ipse, viro.
it-suits and to-so-great, as-great-as you-are yourself, a-man.
fortunam decet hoc istam: quae maxima cum sit,
fortune befits this that: which greatest though it-may-be,
esse potest animo vix tamen aequa tuo.
to-be can to-mind hardly still equal your.
conspicitur numquam meliore potentia causa,
is-seen never in-a-better power cause,
quam quotiens vanas non sinit esse preces.
than as-often-as vain not it-allows to-be prayers.
hoc nitor iste tui generis desiderat, hoc est
this the-brilliance that of-your race desires, this is
a superis ortae nobilitatis opus.
from the-gods-above sprung of-nobility the-work.
hoc tibi et Eumolpus, generis clarissimus auctor,
this to-you both Eumolpus, of-the-race most-famous founder,
et prior Eumolpo suadet Erichthonius.
and earlier than-Eumolpus urges Erichthonius.
hoc tecum commune deo est, quod uterque rogati
this with-you common to-the-god is, that each asked
supplicibus vestris ferre soletis opem.
to-suppliants your to-bring are-wont help.
numquid erit, quare solito dignemur honore
anything-then will-there-be, why with-accustomed we-should-deem-worthy honor
numina, si demas velle iuvare deos?
the-divinities, if you-take-away to-wish to-help the-gods?
Iuppiter oranti surdas si praebeat auris,
Jupiter to-the-praying deaf if should-offer ears,

victima pro templo cur cadat icta Iovis?
the-victim before the-temple why should-fall struck of-Jove?
si pacem nullam pontus mihi praestet eunti,
if peace no the-sea to-me should-show going,
irrita Neptuno cur ego tura feram?
vain to-Neptune why I incense should-bring?
vana laborantis si fallat vota coloni,
empty of-the-laboring if should-deceive the-prayers farmer,
accipiat gravidae cur suis exta Ceres?
should-receive of-pregnant why sow the-entrails Ceres?
nec dabit intonso iugulum caper hostia Baccho,
nor will-give to-unshorn the-throat the-goat as-victim Bacchus,
musta sub adducto si pede nulla fluent.
musts under brought-down if foot none shall-flow.
Caesar ut imperii moderetur frena precamur,
Caesar that of-the-empire may-guide the-reins we-pray,
tam bene quod patriae consulit ille suae.
so well because for-country consults he his.
utilitas igitur magnos hominesque deosque
usefulness therefore great both-men and-gods
efficit, auxiliis quoque favente suis.
makes, by-helps each favoring his-own.
tu quoque fac prosis intra tua castra iacenti,
you too see-to-it you-may-help within your camp the-prostrate,
o Coty, progenies digna parente tuo.
O Cotys, offspring worthy of-parent your.
conveniens homini est hominem servare voluptas,
suiting to-a-man is a-man to-save pleasure,
et melius nulla quaeritur arte favor.
and better by-no is-sought art favor.

quis non Antiphaten Laestrygona devovet? aut quis
who not Antiphates the-Laestrygonian curses? or who
munifici mores improbat Alcinoi?
of-generous the-character disapproves Alcinous?
non tibi Cassandreus pater est gentisve Pheraeae,
not to-you the-Cassandrean father is or-of-the-race Pheraean,
quive repertorem torruit arte sua:
or-who the-inventor roasted by-art his-own:
sed quam Marte ferox et vinci nescius armis,
but as in-war fierce and to-be-conquered not-knowing in-arms,
tam numquam, facta pace, cruoris amans.
so never, made peace, of-blood loving.
adde quod ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes
add that liberal to-have-learned faithfully arts
emollit mores nec sinit esse feros.
softens character nor allows to-be fierce.
nec regum quisquam magis est instructus ab illis,
nor of-kings anyone more is equipped by them,
mitibus aut studiis tempora plura dedit.
to-gentle or pursuits times more gave.
carmina testantur, quae, si tua nomina demas,
songs attest, which, if your name you-should-take-away,
Threicium iuvenem composuisse negem;
the-Thracian young-man to-have-composed I-would-deny;
neve sub hoc tractu vates foret unicus Orpheus,
and-lest under this region bard might-be sole Orpheus,
Bistonis ingenio terra superba tuo est.
the-Bistonian in-talent land proud your is.
utque tibi est animus, cum res ita postulat, arma
and-as to-you is mind, when the-situation so demands, arms

sumere et hostili tingere caede manum,
to-take-up and with-hostile to-stain slaughter hand,
atque ut es excusso iaculum torquere lacerto
and as you-are with-flung the-javelin to-hurl arm
collaque velocis flectere doctus equi,
and-the-neck of-the-swift to-bend taught horse,
tempora sic data sunt studiis ubi iusta paternis,
times so given are to-pursuits when just paternal,
atque suis numeris forte quievit opus,
and in-its-own numbers by-chance has-rested the-work,
ne tua marcescant per inertis otia somnos,
lest your may-languish through sluggish leisure sleep,
lucida Pieria tendis in astra via.
shining by-the-Pierian you-stretch toward stars way.
haec quoque res aliquid tecum mihi foederis affert:
this too thing something with-you to-me of-a-bond brings:
eiusdem sacri cultor uterque sumus.
of-the-same rite a-worshiper each we-are.
ad vatem vates orantia brachia tendo,
to the-bard a-bard praying arms I-stretch,
terra sit exiliis ut tua fida meis.
the-land may-be to-exile that your faithful my.
non ego caede nocens in Ponti litora veni,
not I by-murder guilty to of-Pontus the-shores came,
mixtave sunt nostra dira venena manu:
or-mixed are by-our dread poisons hand:
nec mea subiecta convicta est gemma tabella
nor my placed-under convicted has-been gem a-tablet
mendacem linis imposuisse notam.
false on-threads to-have-put mark.

nec quicquam, quod lege vetor committere, feci:
nor anything, which by-law I-am-forbidden to-commit, have-I-done:
est tamen his gravior noxa fatenda mihi.
is still than-these heavier the-offense to-be-confessed by-me.
neve roges, quae sit, stultam conscripsimus Artem:
and-lest you-may-ask, what it-may-be, a-foolish we-have-written Art:
innocuas nobis haec vetat esse manus.
innocent for-us this forbids to-be hands.
ecquid praeterea peccarim, quaerere noli,
whether-at-all besides I-may-have-sinned, to-ask do-not,
ut lateat sola culpa sub Arte mea.
that may-lie-hidden alone the-fault under the-Art my.
quicquid id est, habuit moderatam vindicis iram,
whatever that is, it-has-had moderate of-the-avenger anger,
qui nisi natalem nil mihi dempsit humum.
who except native nothing from-me took-away ground.
hac quoniam careo, tua nunc vicinia praestet,
this since I-lack, your now neighborhood may-provide,
inviso possim tutus ut esse loco.
in-the-hated I-may-be-able safe that to-be place.

Ovid asks Macer whether he still knows his seal and his hand. He owes Ovid care for their long companionship, for Ovid's wife, and for poetry, which Macer, writing the end of Homer's Trojan war, used more wisely, while Ovid paid for his Art. They traveled together through the cities of Asia and Sicily, saw Aetna, the lakes of Henna, and the nymph who runs beneath the sea, and talked more than they walked. In his mind Ovid sees Macer present among the Getae; let Macer keep him in mind in return.

Ecquid ab impressae cognoscis imagine cerae
Whether-at-all from of-the-pressed you-recognize the-image wax
haec tibi Nasonem scribere verba, Macer?
these to-you Naso to-write words, Macer?
auctorisque sui si non est anulus index,
and-of-author its-own if not is the-ring the-indicator,
cognitane est nostra littera facta manu?
recognized-whether is by-our letter made hand?
an tibi notitiam mora temporis eripit horum,
or from-you the-knowledge the-length of-time snatches these,
nec repetunt oculi signa vetusta tui?
nor recall eyes the-signs old your?
sis licet oblitus pariter gemmaeque manusque,
may-you-be though forgetful equally both-of-gem and-of-hand,
exciderit tantum ne tibi cura mei.
may-have-fallen-away only not from-you the-care for-me.
quam tu vel longi debes convictibus aevi,
which you either of-long you-owe to-the-companionship age,
vel mea quod coniunx non aliena tibi est,
or my because wife not a-stranger to-you is,

vel studiis, quibus es, quam nos, sapientius usus,
or for-pursuits, which you-have, than we, more-wisely used,
utque decet, nulla factus es Arte nocens.
and-as befits, by-no made you-were Art guilty.
tu canis aeterno quicquid restabat Homero,
you sing for-eternal whatever was-remaining Homer,
ne careant summa Troica bella manu.
lest may-lack the-final Trojan wars hand.
Naso parum prudens, artem dum tradit amandi,
Naso too-little prudent, the-art while he-hands-down of-loving,
doctrinae pretium triste magister habet.
of-his-teaching the-price sad the-teacher has.
sunt tamen inter se communia sacra poetis,
there-are still among themselves common rites to-poets,
diversum quamvis quisque sequamur iter:
different although each we-may-follow road:
quorum te memorem, quamquam procul absumus, esse
of-which you mindful, although far we-are-away, to-be
suspicor, et casus velle levare meos.
I-suspect, and the-misfortunes to-wish to-lighten my.
te duce magnificas Asiae perspeximus urbes:
you as-guide magnificent of-Asia we-viewed cities:
Trinacris est oculis te duce visa meis.
Trinacria was by-eyes you as-guide seen my.
vidimus Aetnaea caelum splendescere flamma,
we-saw with-Aetnaean the-sky to-grow-bright flame,
subpositus monti quam vomit ore Gigans,
placed-under the-mountain which vomits from-his-mouth the-Giant,
Hennaeosque lacus et olentis stagna Palici,
and-Henna's lakes and of-the-smelling the-pools Palicus,

quaque suis Cyanen miscet Anapus aquis.
and-where with-his-own Cyane mingles Anapus waters.
nec procul hinc nymphe, quae, dum fugit Elidis amnem,
nor far from-here the-nymph, who, while she-flees of-Elis the-river,
tecta sub aequorea nunc quoque currit aqua.
covered under the-sea now too runs water.
hic mihi labentis pars anni magna peracta est.
here by-me of-the-gliding part year great spent was.
eheu, quam dispar est locus ille Getis!
alas, how unlike is place that to-the-Getae!
et quota pars haec sunt rerum, quas vidimus ambo
and how-small a-part these are of-things, which we-saw both
te mihi iucundas efficiente vias!
you for-me pleasant making the-ways!
seu rate caeruleas picta sulcavimus undas,
whether in-a-ship the-blue painted we-furrowed waves,
esseda nos agili sive tulere rota,
the-chariot us with-nimble or bore wheel,
saepe brevis nobis vicibus via visa loquendi,
often short to-us for-the-turns the-road seemed of-speaking,
pluraque, si numeres, verba fuere gradu,
and-more, if you-should-count, words were than-steps,
saepe dies sermone minor fuit, inque loquendum
often the-day than-the-talk shorter was, and-for speaking
tarda per aestivos defuit hora dies.
slow through summer was-lacking the-hour days.
est aliquid casus pariter timuisse marinos,
it-is something misfortunes together to-have-feared of-the-sea,
iunctaque ad aequoreos vota tulisse deos,
and-joined to the-sea's prayers to-have-brought gods,

et modo res egisse simul, modo rursus ab illis,
and now affairs to-have-done together, now again from them,
quorum non pudeat, posse referre iocos.
of-which not it-may-shame, to-be-able to-recall jests.
haec tibi cum subeant, absim licet, omnibus annis
these-things to-you when they-may-come-up, I-may-be-away though, in-all years
ante tuos oculos, ut modo visus, ero.
before your eyes, as just-now seen, I-shall-be.
ipse quidem certe cum sim sub cardine mundi,
I-myself indeed certainly though I-may-be under the-pole of-the-world,
qui semper liquidis altior extat aquis,
which always than-the-liquid higher stands-out waters,
te tamen intueor quo solo pectore possum,
you still I-gaze-at with-what alone heart I-can,
et tecum gelido saepe sub axe loquor.
and with-you the-cold often under pole I-speak.
hic es, et ignoras, et ades celeberrimus absens,
here you-are, and you-know-not, and you-are-present most-frequented absent,
inque Getas media iussus ab urbe venis.
and-among the-Getae the-middle ordered from city you-come.
redde vicem, et, quoniam regio felicior ista est,
return the-favor, and, since the-region happier that is,
istic me memori pectore semper habe.
there me in-mindful heart always have.

Naso, the author of the ill-fated Art, sends Rufus a short work in haste. He thanks Rufus, his wife's uncle, for the tears he shed at Ovid's fall and for the support he gives his wife, whom his urging makes better still. Rufus carries out the absent man's commissions faithfully; since Ovid cannot repay him, may the gods, and may Rufus live long, the greatest glory of Fundi.

Hoc tibi, Rufe, brevi properatum tempore mittit
This to-you, Rufus, in-brief hurried time sends
Naso, parum faustae conditor Artis, opus,
Naso, of-too-little auspicious the-founder Art, work,
ut, quamquam longe toto sumus orbe remoti,
that, although far by-whole we-are world removed,
scire tamen possis nos meminisse tui.
to-know still you-may-be-able us to-remember you.
nominis ante mei venient oblivia nobis,
of-name sooner my will-come forgetfulness to-us,
pectore quam pietas sit tua pulsa meo:
from-breast than devotion may-be your driven my:
et prius hanc animam vacuas reddemus in auras,
and sooner this soul empty we-shall-render to airs,
quam fiat meriti gratia vana tui.
than may-become of-service the-gratitude empty your.
grande voco lacrimas meritum, quibus ora rigabas
great I-call the-tears service, with-which your-face you-watered
cum mea concreto sicca dolore forent:
when my with-congealed dry grief were:
grande voco meritum maestae solacia mentis,
great I-call the-service of-sad the-solaces mind,

cum pariter nobis illa tibique dares.
when equally to-us those and-to-yourself you-gave.
sponte quidem per seque mea est laudabilis uxor,
of-her-own-accord indeed through and-herself my is praiseworthy wife,
admonitu melior fit tamen illa tuo.
by-the-reminder better becomes still she your.
namque quod Hermionae Castor fuit, Hector Iuli,
for what to-Hermione Castor was, Hector to-Iulus,
hoc ego te laetor coniugis esse meae.
this I you rejoice of-wife to-be my.
quae ne dissimilis tibi sit probitate laborat,
who lest unlike to-you may-be in-integrity labors,
seque tui vita sanguinis esse probat.
and-herself of-your by-life blood to-be proves.
ergo quod fuerat stimulis factura sine ullis,
so what she-had-been goads going-to-do without any,
plenius auctorem te quoque nancta facit.
more-fully as-sponsor you also having-got she-does.
acer et ad palmae per se cursurus honores,
eager and to of-the-palm by itself going-to-run the-honors,
si tamen horteris, fortius ibit equus.
if still you-should-urge, more-bravely will-go the-horse.
adde quod absentis cura mandata fideli
add that of-the-absent with-care commissions faithful
perficis, et nullum ferre gravaris onus.
you-carry-out, and no to-bear you-are-reluctant burden.

o, referant grates, quoniam non possumus ipsi, 25
O, may-they-return thanks, since not we-can ourselves,
di tibi! qui referent, si pia facta vident;
the-gods to-you! who will-return, if dutiful deeds they-see;
sufficiatque diu corpus quoque moribus istis,
and-may-suffice long the-body also for-character those,
maxima Fundani gloria, Rufe, soli.
greatest of-the-Fundan glory, Rufus, soil.

III.1 · TO HIS WIFE: HOW TO PLEAD WITH LIVIA

Ovid asks Pontus, a land of enemies and snow without spring or trees, whether he must die there. He tells his wife she must strive harder for him: his books made her the model wife, and the world watches. She need not die for him like the heroines of legend; she must plead with Caesar's wife, a woman of Venus' beauty and Juno's character. He tells her how: wait for a glad hour, not defend his deed, weep, embrace her feet, and ask only to be moved from the enemy. First she must bring incense and wine to the gods.

Aequor Iasonio pulsatum remige primum,
Sea by-Jason's beaten oarsman first,
quaeque nec hoste fero nec nive, terra, cares,
and-you-who neither of-the-enemy fierce nor of-snow, land, are-free,
ecquod erit tempus quo vos ego Naso relinquam
whether-any will-be a-time in-which you I Naso shall-leave
in minus hostili iussus abesse loco?
in less hostile ordered to-be-away place?
an mihi barbaria vivendum semper in ista,
or by-me barbarism to-be-lived always in that,
inque Tomitana condar oportet humo?
and-in Tomitan I-am-to-be-buried it-behooves ground?
pace tua, si pax ulla est tua, Pontica tellus,
by-peace your, if peace any is your, Pontic land,
finitimus rapido quam terit hostis equo,
neighboring with-swift which wears the-enemy horse,
pace tua dixisse velim, tu pessima duro
by-peace your to-have-said I-would-wish, you the-worst hard
pars es in exilio, tu mala nostra gravas.
part are in exile, you evils our weigh-down.

tu neque ver sentis cinctum florente corona,
you neither spring feel ringed with-flowering garland,
tu neque messorum corpora nuda vides.
you neither of-reapers bodies naked see.
nec tibi pampineas autumnus porrigit uvas:
nor to-you vine-leafed autumn stretches-out grapes:
cuncta sed inmodicum tempora frigus habet.
all but immoderate times cold has.
tu glacie freta vincta tenes, et in aequore piscis
you with-ice straits bound hold, and in the-sea the-fish
inclusus tecta saepe natavit aqua.
shut-in in-covered often has-swum water.
nec tibi sunt fontes, laticis nisi paene marini,
nor to-you are springs, of-water except almost of-the-sea,
qui potus dubium sistat alatne sitim.
which drunk doubtful whether-it-may-check or-may-feed thirst.
rara, neque haec felix, in apertis eminet arvis
rare, nor this fruitful, in open stands-out fields
arbor, et in terra est altera forma maris.
a-tree, and on land is another form of-the-sea.
non avis obloquitur, silvis nisi siqua remota
not a-bird sings-back, from-the-woods except if-any distant
aequoreas rauco gutture potat aquas.
the-sea's with-hoarse throat drinks waters.
tristia per vacuos horrent absinthia campos,
sad over empty bristle wormwoods plains,
conveniensque suo messis amara loco.
and-suiting to-its the-harvest bitter place.
adde metus, et quod murus pulsatur ab hoste,
add fears, and that the-wall is-beaten by the-enemy,

tinctaque mortifera tabe sagitta madet,
and-dyed with-death-bearing poison the-arrow drips,
quod procul haec regio est et ab omni devia cursu,
that far this region is and from every off course,
nec pede quo quisquam nec rate tutus eat.
nor by-foot by-which anyone nor by-ship safe may-go.
non igitur mirum, finem quaerentibus horum
not therefore strange, an-end seeking of-these
altera si nobis usque rogatur humus.
another if by-us continually is-asked ground.
te magis est mirum non hoc evincere, coniunx,
you more is strange not this to-prevail, wife,
inque meis lacrimas posse tenere malis.
and-at my tears to-be-able to-hold evils.
quid facias, quaeris? quaeras hoc scilicet ipsum,
what you-should-do, do-you-ask? you-may-ask this doubtless itself,
invenies, vere si reperire voles.
you-will-find, truly if to-find you-shall-wish.
velle parum est: cupias, ut re potiaris, oportet,
to-wish too-little is: you-should-desire, that the-thing you-may-gain, it-behooves,
et faciat somnos haec tibi cura breves.
and may-make sleeps this for-you care short.
velle reor multos: quis enim mihi tam sit iniquus,
to-wish I-think many: who indeed to-me so may-be unfair,
optet ut exilium pace carere meum?
he-should-wish that the-exile of-peace to-lack my?
pectore te toto cunctisque incumbere nervis
with-heart you whole and-with-all to-apply-yourself sinews
et niti pro me nocte dieque decet.
and to-strive for me by-night and-by-day befits.

utque iuvent alii, tu debes vincere amicos,
and-though may-help others, you ought to-surpass the-friends,
uxor, et ad partis prima venire tuas.
wife, and to parts first to-come your.
magna tibi imposita est nostris persona libellis:
great on-you imposed has-been by-our a-part little-books:
coniugis exemplum diceris esse bonae.
of-a-wife the-model you-are-said to-be good.
hanc cave degeneres. ut sint praeconia nostra
this beware you-may-degrade. that may-be the-proclamations our
vera, vide famae quod tuearis opus.
true, see of-fame that you-may-protect the-work.
ut nihil ipse querar, tacito me fama queretur,
though nothing myself I-should-complain, silent me fame will-complain,
quae debet, fuerit ni tibi cura mei.
which it-ought, may-have-been unless in-you care for-me.
exposuit memet populo Fortuna videndum,
exposed me-myself to-the-people Fortune to-be-seen,
et plus notitiae, quam fuit ante, dedit.
and more of-notice, than was before, gave.
notior est factus Capaneus a fulminis ictu:
better-known has made Capaneus by the-thunderbolt's stroke:
notus humo mersis Amphiaraus equis.
known in-the-ground sunk Amphiaraus horses.
si minus errasset, notus minus esset Ulixes:
if less he-had-wandered, known less would-be Ulysses:
magna Philoctetae vulnere fama suo est.
great of-Philoctetes by-the-wound fame his-own is.
si locus est aliquis tanta inter nomina parvis,
if place is any so-great among names for-the-small,

nos quoque conspicuos nostra ruina facit.
us too conspicuous our ruin makes.
nec te nesciri patitur mea pagina, qua non
nor you to-be-unknown allows my page, in-which not
inferius Coa Bittide nomen habes.
lower than-Coan Bittis a-name you-have.
quicquid ages igitur, scaena spectabere magna,
whatever you-shall-do therefore, on-a-stage you-will-be-watched great,
et pia non paucis testibus uxor eris.
and dutiful by-not few witnesses wife you-will-be.
crede mihi, quotiens laudaris carmine nostro,
believe me, as-often-as you-are-praised in-song our,
qui legit has laudes, an mereare rogat.
who reads these praises, whether you-may-deserve-it asks.
utque favere reor plures virtutibus istis,
and-as to-favor I-think many virtues those,
sic tua non paucae carpere facta volent.
so your not few to-carp-at deeds will-wish.
quarum tu praesta ne livor dicere possit
of-whom you make-sure lest envy to-say may-be-able
"haec est pro miseri lenta salute viri."
"this-woman is for of-wretched slow the-safety husband."
cumque ego deficiam, nec possim ducere currum,
and-since I may-fail, nor may-be-able to-draw the-chariot,
fac tu sustineas debile sola iugum.
see-to-it you may-sustain the-weak alone yoke.
ad medicum specto venis fugientibus aeger:
to the-doctor I-look veins fleeing sick:
ultima pars animae dum mihi restat, ades;
the-last part of-life while to-me remains, be-present;

quodque ego praestarem, si te magis ipse valerem,
and-what I would-show, if than-you more myself I-were-strong,
id mihi, cum valeas fortius ipsa, refer.
that to-me, since you-may-be-strong more-strongly yourself, return.
exigit hoc socialis amor foedusque maritum:
demands this conjugal love and-the-bond marital:
moribus hoc, coniunx, exigis ipsa tuis.
by-character this, wife, you-demand yourself your.
hoc domui debes, de qua censeris, ut illam
this to-the-house you-owe, by which you-are-rated, that it
non magis officiis quam probitate colas.
not more by-duties than by-integrity you-may-honor.
cuncta licet facias, nisi eris laudabilis uxor,
all-things though you-may-do, unless you-shall-be praiseworthy a-wife,
non poterit credi Marcia culta tibi.
not it-will-be-able to-be-believed Marcia honored by-you.
nec sumus indigni: nec, si vis vera fateri,
nor we-are unworthy: nor, if you-wish true-things to-confess,
debetur meritis gratia nulla meis.
is-owed to-deserts gratitude none my.
redditur illa quidem grandi cum faenore nobis,
is-returned it indeed great with interest to-us,
nec te, si cupiat, laedere rumor habet.
nor you, if it-should-desire, to-harm rumor has.
sed tamen hoc factis adiunge prioribus unum,
but still this to-deeds add former one,
pro nostris ut sis ambitiosa malis.
for our that you-may-be canvassing evils.
ut minus infesta iaceam regione labora,
that in-less hostile I-may-lie region labor,

clauda nec officii pars erit ulla tui.
lame nor of-duty part will-be any your.
magna peto, sed non tamen invidiosa roganti:
great-things I-seek, but not still odious to-one-asking:
utque ea non teneas, tuta repulsa tua est.
and-though those not you-may-hold, safe the-repulse your is.
nec mihi suscense, totiens, si carmine nostro,
nor at-me be-angry, so-often, if in-song our,
quod facis, ut facias, teque imitere, rogo.
what you-do, that you-may-do, and-yourself may-imitate, I-ask.
fortibus adsuevit tubicen prodesse, suoque
for-the-brave is-accustomed the-trumpeter to-be-useful, and-with-his
dux bene pugnantis incitat ore viros.
the-leader well fighting urges mouth men.
nota tua est probitas testataque tempus in omne;
known your is integrity and-attested time for all;
sit virtus etiam non probitate minor.
may-be courage also not than-integrity less.
non tibi Amazonia est pro me sumenda securis,
not by-you the-Amazonian is for me to-be-taken-up axe,
aut excisa levi pelta gerenda manu.
or cut-out with-light the-shield to-be-borne hand.
numen adorandum est, non ut mihi fiat amicum,
the-divinity to-be-adored is, not that to-me it-may-become friendly,
sed sit ut iratum, quam fuit ante, minus.
but may-be that angry, than it-was before, less.
gratia si nulla est, lacrimae tibi gratia fient.
favor if none there-is, tears for-you favor will-become.
hac potes aut nulla parte movere deos.
by-this you-can or by-no part to-move the-gods.

quae tibi ne desint, bene per mala nostra cavetur:
which to-you lest may-be-lacking, well through evils our it-is-provided:
meque viro flendi copia dives adest;
and-me as-husband of-weeping an-abundance rich is-present;
utque meae res sunt, omni, puto, tempore flebis.
and-as my affairs are, at-every, I-think, time you-will-weep.
has fortuna tibi nostra ministrat opes.
these fortune to-you our supplies riches.
si mea mors redimenda tua, quod abominor, esset,
if my death to-be-ransomed by-yours, which I-abominate, were,
Admeti coniunx, quam sequereris, erat.
of-Admetus the-wife, whom you-would-follow, there-was.
aemula Penelopes fieres, si fraude pudica
the-rival of-Penelope you-would-become, if by-trick chaste
instantis velles fallere nupta procos.
pressing you-wished to-deceive married suitors.
si comes extincti Manes sequerere mariti,
if as-companion of-dead the-Shades you-would-follow husband,
esset dux facti Laodamia tui.
would-be the-leader of-deed Laodamia your.
Iphias ante oculos tibi erat ponenda volenti
the-daughter-of-Iphis before eyes to-you was to-be-placed wishing
corpus in accensos mittere forte rogos.
body into kindled to-cast brave pyres.
morte nihil opus est, nihil Icariotide tela.
of-death nothing need is, nothing of-the-Icarian's webs.
Caesaris est coniunx ore precanda tuo,
Caesar's is wife by-mouth to-be-entreated your,
quae praestat virtute sua, ne prisca vetustas
who surpasses in-virtue her-own, lest the-ancient old-age

laude pudicitiae saecula nostra premat:
by-praise of-chastity ages our may-press:
quae Veneris formam, mores Iunonis habendo
who of-Venus the-beauty, the-character of-Juno having
sola est caelesti digna reperta toro.
alone was of-the-heavenly worthy found bed.
quid trepidas et adire times? non impia Procne
why do-you-tremble and to-approach fear? not impious Procne
filiave Aeëtae voce movenda tua est,
or-the-daughter of-Aeetes by-voice to-be-moved your is,
nec nurus Aegypti, nec saeva Agamemnonis uxor,
nor the-daughters-in-law of-Aegyptus, nor savage of-Agamemnon the-wife,
Scyllaque, quae Siculas inguine terret aquas,
and-Scylla, who the-Sicilian with-her-groin terrifies waters,
Telegonive parens vertendis nata figuris,
or-of-Telegonus the-parent for-changing born shapes,
nexaque nodosas angue Medusa comas,
and-entwined in-knotty with-snake Medusa locks,
femina sed princeps, in qua Fortuna videre
a-woman but foremost, in whom Fortune to-see
se probat et caecae crimina falsa tulit:
herself proves and of-blind charges false has-borne:
qua nihil in terris ad finem solis ab ortu
than-whom nothing in lands to the-end of-the-sun from the-rising
clarius excepto Caesare mundus habet.
more-famous excepting Caesar the-world has.
eligito tempus captatum saepe rogandi,
choose the-time watched-for often of-asking,
exeat adversa ne tua navis aqua.
may-go-out on-adverse lest your ship water.

non semper sacras reddunt oracula sortis,
not always sacred return oracles lots,
ipsaque non omni tempore fana patent.
and-themselves not at-every time the-shrines lie-open.
cum status urbis erit, qualem nunc auguror esse,
when the-state of-the-city shall-be, such-as now I-divine to-be,
et nullus populi contrahet ora dolor,
and no of-the-people shall-contract the-faces grief,
cum domus Augusti, Capitoli more colenda,
when the-house of-Augustus, of-the-Capitol in-the-way to-be-worshiped,
laeta, quod est et sit, plenaque pacis erit,
glad, which it-is and may-it-be, and-full of-peace shall-be,
tum tibi di faciant adeundi copia fiat,
then to-you the-gods may-make of-approaching the-opportunity may-be-made,
profectura aliquid tum tua verba putes.
going-to-achieve something then your words may-you-think.
siquid aget maius, differ tua coepta caveque
if-anything she-shall-be-doing greater, put-off your undertakings and-beware
spem festinando praecipitare meam.
hope by-hurrying to-throw-headlong my.
nec rursus iubeo dum sit vacuissima quaeras:
nor again I-bid while she-may-be most-at-leisure you-should-seek:
corporis ad curam vix vacat illa sui.
of-body for care hardly has-leisure she her-own.
omnia ***
everything (lacuna)
per rerum turbam tu quoque oportet eas.
through of-things the-crowd you too it-behooves should-go.
cum tibi contigerit vultum Iunonis adire,
when to-you it-shall-have-befallen the-face of-Juno to-approach,

fac sis personae, quam tueare, memor.
see-to-it you-may-be of-the-part, which you-may-sustain, mindful.
nec factum defende meum: mala causa silenda est.
nor the-deed defend my: a-bad cause to-be-kept-silent is.
nil nisi sollicitae sint tua verba preces.
nothing except anxious let-be your words prayers.
tum lacrimis demenda mora est, summissaque terra
then from-tears to-be-removed delay is, and-lowered to-the-earth
ad non mortalis brachia tende pedes.
to not mortal arms stretch feet.
tum pete nil aliud, saevo nisi ab hoste recedam;
then ask nothing else, savage unless from enemy I-may-withdraw;
hostem Fortunam sit satis esse mihi.
an-enemy Fortune may-it-be enough to-be to-me.
plura quidem subeunt, sed conturbata timore
more indeed come-to-mind, but confused by-fear
haec quoque vix poteris voce tremente loqui.
these too hardly will-you-be-able voice trembling to-say.
suspicor hoc damno fore non tibi. sentiet illa
I-suspect this for-a-loss to-be not to-you. will-feel she
te maiestatem pertimuisse suam.
you majesty to-have-feared-greatly her.
nec, tua si fletu scindentur verba, nocebit:
nor, your if by-weeping shall-be-split words, will-it-harm:
interdum lacrimae pondera vocis habent.
sometimes tears the-weights of-the-voice have.
lux etiam coeptis facito bona talibus adsit
a-day also for-undertakings see-to-it good such may-be-present
horaque conveniens auspiciumque favens.
and-an-hour suiting and-an-auspice favoring.

sed prius imposito sanctis altaribus igni
but first placed on-holy altars fire
tura fer ad magnos vinaque pura deos.
incense bring to the-great and-wine pure gods.
e quibus ante omnis Augustum numen adora
of whom before all the-Augustan divinity adore
progeniemque piam participemque tori.
and-the-offspring dutiful and-partner of-the-bed.
sint utinam mites solito tibi more tuasque
may-they-be would-that gentle in-accustomed to-you way and-your
non duris lacrimas vultibus aspiciant.
not with-hard tears faces may-look-on.

III.2 · TO COTTA: FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE BARBARIANS

Ovid thanks Cotta for remaining faithful when others fled in fear, and pardons those who deserted him. Cotta's loyalty will be remembered. Even the Getae know the name of friendship: an old man once told Ovid the tale of Orestes and Pylades among the Taurians, how Iphigenia, priestess of Diana, was to sacrifice one of the two young men, how each strove to die for the other, and how the siblings recognized each other and fled with the goddess' statue. If barbarians honor such loyalty, how much more should a Roman of Cotta's noble descent.

Quam legis a nobis missam tibi, Cotta, salutem,
Which you-read from us sent to-you, Cotta, health,
missa sit ut vere perveniatque, precor.
sent may-it-be that truly and-may-it-arrive, I-pray.
namque meis sospes multum cruciatibus aufers,
for from-my safe much tortures you-take-away,
atque sit in nobis pars bona salva facis.
and-that may-be in us part good safe you-make.

cumque labent aliqui iactataque vela relinquant,
and-though may-totter some and-tossed sails may-abandon,
tu lacerae remanes ancora sola rati.
you of-the-torn remain anchor sole ship.
grata tua est igitur pietas. ignoscimus illis,
welcome your is therefore devotion. we-pardon those,
qui cum Fortuna terga dedere fugae.
who with Fortune backs gave to-flight.
cum feriant unum, non unum fulmina terrent,
though they-may-strike one, not one the-thunderbolts terrify,
iunctaque percusso turba pavere solet:
and-joined to-the-struck the-crowd to-tremble is-wont:
cumque dedit paries venturae signa ruinae,
and-when has-given the-wall of-coming signs ruin,
sollicito vacuus fit locus ille metu.
with-anxious empty becomes place that fear.
quis non e timidis aegri contagia vitat,
who not of the-timid of-the-sick the-contagion avoids,
vicinum metuens ne trahat inde malum?
neighboring fearing lest he-may-draw thence evil?
me quoque amicorum nimio terrore metuque,
me too of-friends by-excessive terror and-fear,
non odio, quidam destituere mei.
not by-hatred, some deserted my.
non illis pietas, non officiosa voluntas
not to-them devotion, not dutiful goodwill
defuit: adversos extimuere deos.
was-lacking: hostile they-feared gods.
utque magis cauti possunt timidique videri,
and-as more cautious they-can and-timid to-seem,

sic appellari non meruere mali.
so to-be-called not they-have-deserved bad.
aut meus excusat caros ita candor amicos,
or my excuses dear so candor friends,
utque habeant de me crimina nulla, favet.
and-that they-may-have from me charges none, favors.
sint hi contenti venia, iactentque licebit
may-be these content with-pardon, and-may-boast it-will-be-allowed
purgari factum me quoque teste suum.
to-be-cleared deed me too witness their.
pars estis pauci melior, qui rebus in artis
part you-are few better, who affairs in narrow
ferre mihi nullam turpe putastis opem.
to-bring to-me no shameful you-thought help.
tunc igitur meriti morietur gratia vestri,
then therefore of-service will-die the-gratitude your,
cum cinis absumpto corpore factus ero.
when ash consumed body made I-shall-be.
fallor, et illa meae superabit tempora vitae,
I-am-deceived, and it will-outlast the-times of-my life,
si tamen a memori posteritate legar.
if still by mindful posterity I-shall-be-read.
corpora debentur maestis exsanguia bustis:
bodies are-owed to-sad bloodless tombs:
effugiunt structos nomen honorque rogos.
escape built name and-honor pyres.
occidit et Theseus et qui comitavit Oresten:
died both Theseus and he-who accompanied Orestes:
sed tamen in laudes vivit uterque suas.
but still in praises lives each his-own.

vos etiam seri laudabunt saepe nepotes,
you also late will-praise often descendants,
claraque erit scriptis gloria vestra meis.
and-bright will-be by-writings glory your my.
hic quoque Sauromatae iam vos novere Getaeque,
here too the-Sauromatae already you have-known and-the-Getae,
et tales animos barbara turba probat.
and such minds the-barbarian crowd approves.
cumque ego de vestra nuper probitate referrem
and-when I about your lately integrity was-telling
(nam didici Getice Sarmaticeque loqui),
(for I-have-learned in-Getic and-in-Sarmatian to-speak),
forte senex quidam, coetu cum staret in illo,
by-chance an-old-man certain, the-gathering when he-stood in that,
reddidit ad nostros talia verba sonos:
returned to our such words sounds:
"nos quoque amicitiae nomen, bone, novimus, hospes,
"we too of-friendship the-name, good, know, stranger,
quos procul a vobis Pontus et Hister habet.
whom far from you Pontus and Hister holds.
est locus in Scythia, Tauros dixere priores,
there-is a-place in Scythia, Tauri called-it the-earlier-men,
qui Getica longe non ita distat humo.
which from-the-Getic far not so is-distant ground.
hac ego sum terra (patriae nec paenitet) ortus:
in-this I am land (of-country nor I-repent) sprung:
consortem Phoebi gens colit illa deam.
the-sister of-Phoebus the-race worships that goddess.
templa manent hodie vastis innixa columnis,
the-temple remains today on-vast leaning columns,

perque quater denos itur in illa gradus.
and-by four-times ten one-goes into it steps.
fama refert illic signum caeleste fuisse:
report tells there an-image heavenly to-have-been:
quoque minus dubites, stat basis orba dea;
and-by-which less you-may-doubt, stands the-base bereft of-the-goddess;
araque, quae fuerat natura candida saxi,
and-the-altar, which had-been by-nature white of-stone,
decolor adfuso tincta cruore rubet.
discolored with-poured-on dyed blood is-red.
femina sacra facit taedae non nota iugali,
a-woman rites performs of-the-torch not known nuptial,
quae superat Scythicas nobilitate nurus,
who surpasses the-Scythian in-nobility daughters-in-law,
sacrifici genus est, sic instituere parentes,
of-sacrifice the-kind is, so established ancestors,
advena virgineo caesus ut ense cadat.
the-stranger by-maidenly slain that sword may-fall.
regna Thoans habuit Maeotide clarus in ora,
the-realm Thoas had Maeotic famous on shore,
nec fuit Euxinis notior alter aquis.
nor was by-the-Euxine better-known another waters.
sceptra tenente illo liquidas fecisse per auras
the-scepter holding he liquid to-have-made through airs
nescioquam dicunt Iphigenian iter.
some-one they-say Iphigenia a-journey.
quam levibus ventis sub nube per aethera vectam
whom on-light winds under a-cloud through the-ether carried
creditur his Phoebe deposuisse locis.
is-believed in-these Phoebe to-have-set-down places.

praefuerat templo multos ea rite per annos,
had-presided-over the-temple many she duly for years,
invita peragens tristia sacra manu:
with-unwilling performing sad rites hand:
cum duo velifera iuvenes venere carina
when two in-a-sail-bearing young-men came keel
presseruntque suo litora nostra pede.
and-pressed with-their shores our foot.
par fuit his aetas et amor, quorum alter Orestes,
equal was to-these age and love, of-whom the-one Orestes,
alter erat Pylades: nomina fama tenet.
the-other was Pylades: the-names fame holds.
protinus inmitem Triviae ducuntur ad aram,
at-once the-cruel of-Trivia they-are-led to altar,
evincti geminas ad sua terga manus.
bound twin behind their backs hands.
spargit aqua captos lustrali Graia sacerdos,
sprinkles with-water the-captives lustral the-Greek priestess,
ambiat ut fulvas infula longa comas.
may-go-around that tawny the-fillet long hair.
dumque parat sacrum, dum velat tempora vittis,
and-while she-prepares the-rite, while she-veils the-temples with-ribbons,
dum tardae causas invenit ipsa morae,
while for-slow causes she-finds herself delay,
'non ego crudelis, iuvenes, (ignoscite)' dixit
'not I cruel, young-men, (forgive)' she-said
'sacra suo facio barbariora loco.
'the-rites than-its I-make more-barbarous place.
ritus is est gentis. qua vos tamen urbe venitis?
the-rite this is of-the-race. from-what you still city come?

quodve parum fausta puppe petistis iter?'
or-what with-too-little auspicious ship have-you-sought way?'
dixit, et audito patriae pia nomine virgo
she-said, and heard of-her-country dutiful the-name the-maiden
consortes urbis comperit esse suae.
partners of-city she-learns to-be her-own.
'alter ut e vobis' inquit 'cadat hostia sacris,
'the-one that from you' she-says 'may-fall as-victim for-the-rites,
ad patrias sedes nuntius alter eat.'
to native seats a-messenger the-other may-go.'
ire iubet Pylades carum periturus Oresten;
to-go bids Pylades dear going-to-die Orestes;
hic negat, inque vices pugnat uterque mori.
this-one refuses, and-in turns fights each to-die.
extitit hoc unum, quo non convenerit illis:
stood-out this one-thing, in-which not agreed they:
cetera par concors et sine lite fuit.
the-rest the-pair harmonious and without quarrel was.
dum peragunt pulchri iuvenes certamen amoris,
while carry-out the-beautiful young-men the-contest of-love,
ad fratrem scriptas exarat illa notas.
to her-brother written traces she letters.
ad fratrem mandata dabat, cuique illa dabantur
to her-brother commissions she-was-giving, and-to-whom they were-being-given
(humanos casus aspice!) frater erat.
(human misfortunes look-at!) her-brother he-was.
nec mora, de templo rapiunt simulacra Dianae,
nor delay, from the-temple they-snatch the-image of-Diana,
clamque per inmensas puppe feruntur aquas.
and-secretly over boundless on-the-ship are-borne waters.

mirus amor iuvenum: quamvis abiere tot anni,
wonderful the-love of-the-young-men: although have-gone-by so-many years,
in Scythia magnum nunc quoque nomen habent."
in Scythia great now too a-name they-have."
fabula narrata est postquam vulgaris ab illo,
the-tale told was after common by him,
laudarunt omnes facta piamque fidem.
praised all the-deeds and-the-dutiful faith.
scilicet hac etiam, qua nulla ferocior ora est,
doubtless on-this even, than-which none fiercer shore is,
nomen amicitiae barbara corda movet.
the-name of-friendship barbarian hearts moves.
quid facere Ausonia geniti debetis in urbe,
what to-do Ausonian born ought-you in city,
cum tangant duros talia facta Getas?
when may-touch the-hard such deeds Getae?
adde quod est animus semper tibi mitis, et altae
add that is your-mind always to-you gentle, and of-high
indicium mores nobilitatis habent,
the-evidence your-character nobility has,
quos Volesus patrii cognoscat nominis auctor,
which Volesus of-your-paternal may-recognize name the-founder,
quos Numa maternus non neget esse suos,
which Numa maternal not may-deny to-be his-own,

adiectique probent genetiva ad nomina Cottae,
and-added may-approve birth to names the-Cottae,
si tu non esses, interitura domus.
if you not were, going-to-perish house.
digne vir hac serie, lapso succurrere amico
worthy man of-this line, the-fallen to-help friend
conveniens istis moribus esse puta.
suiting to-that character to-be think.

III.3 · TO FABIUS MAXIMUS: THE DREAM OF LOVE

Ovid tells Maximus of a dream: Love stood at his bedside, his wings ragged and his hair unkempt. Ovid reproached him: he taught Love's Art, wrote it only for those it was lawful to teach, and no teacher was repaid so badly by his pupil. Love swore that the Art held nothing unlawful, but that another fault harmed Ovid more, and the judge's anger was no heavier than deserved. He promised that Caesar's anger would soften in the glad time of the triumph. Ovid trusts that Maximus, noble and free of envy, will help him.

Si vacat exiguum profugo dare tempus amico,
If there-is-leisure a-little to-the-exile to-give time friend,
o sidus Fabiae, Maxime, gentis, ades,
O star of-the-Fabian, Maximus, race, be-present,
dum tibi quae vidi refero, seu corporis umbra
while to-you what I-saw I-relate, whether of-a-body a-shade
seu veri species seu fuit ille sopor.
or of-truth an-appearance or was it sleep.
nox erat et bifores intrabat luna fenestras,
night it-was and the-two-leaved was-entering the-moon windows,
mense fere medio quanta nitere solet.
in-the-month about middle as-great-as to-shine she-is-wont.

publica me requies curarum somnus habebat,
the-public me rest from-cares sleep held,
fusaque erant toto languida membra toro,
and-spread were over-whole languid limbs the-bed,
cum subito pinnis agitatus inhorruit aer,
when suddenly by-wings stirred shuddered the-air,
et gemuit parvo mota fenestra sono.
and groaned with-small moved the-window sound.
territus in cubitum relevo mea membra sinistrum,
terrified on my-elbow I-raise my limbs left,
pulsus et e trepido pectore somnus abit.
driven and from my-trembling breast sleep goes-away.
stabat Amor, vultu non quo prius esse solebat,
there-stood Love, with-face not which before to-be he-was-wont,
fulcra tenens laeva tristis acerna manu,
the-bedpost holding with-his-left sad of-maple hand,
nec torquem collo, nec habens crinale capillo,
neither a-collar on-his-neck, nor having a-hair-band on-his-hair,
nec bene dispositas comptus, ut ante, comas.
nor well arranged combed, as before, locks.
horrida pendebant molles super ora capilli,
rough hung soft over his-face hair,
et visa est oculis horrida pinna meis,
and seemed was to-eyes rough the-wing my,
qualis in aeriae tergo solet esse columbae,
such-as on of-an-airy back is-wont to-be dove,
tractatam multae quam tetigere manus.
handled many which have-touched hands.
hunc simul agnovi, neque enim mihi notior alter,
him as-soon-as I-recognized, nor indeed to-me better-known another,

talibus adfata est libera lingua sonis:
in-such addressed has free my-tongue sounds:
"o puer, exilii decepto causa magistro,
"O boy, of-exile for-the-deceived the-cause teacher,
quem fuit utilius non docuisse mihi,
whom it-was more-useful not to-have-taught for-me,
huc quoque venisti, pax est ubi tempore nullo,
hither too have-you-come, peace is where at-time no,
et coit adstrictis barbarus Hister aquis?
and congeals bound barbarian Hister waters?
quae tibi causa viae, nisi uti mala nostra videres?
what to-you the-cause of-the-journey, unless that evils our you-might-see?
quae sunt, si nescis, invidiosa tibi.
which are, if you-know-not, odious to-you.
tu mihi dictasti iuvenalia carmina primus:
you to-me dictated youthful songs first:
apposui senis te duce quinque pedes.
I-set-beside six you as-leader five feet.
nec me Maeonio consurgere carmine nec me
nor me in-Maeonian to-rise song nor me
dicere magnorum passus es acta ducum.
to-tell of-great allowed you-have the-deeds leaders.
forsitan exiguas, aliquas tamen, arcus et ignes
perhaps slight, some still, your-bow and fires
ingenii vires comminuere mei.
of-talent the-strength have-weakened my.
namque ego dum canto tua regna tuaeque parentis,
for I while I-sing your realms and-of-your parent,
in nullum mea mens grande vacavit opus.
for no my mind great was-at-leisure work.

nec satis hoc fuerat. stulto quoque carmine feci,
nor enough this had-been. by-foolish too song I-made,
Artibus ut posses non rudis esse meis.
by-Arts that you-might-be-able not raw to-be my.
pro quibus exilium misero est mihi reddita merces,
for which exile to-wretched has to-me been-given-back as-wages,
id quoque in extremis et sine pace locis.
that too in furthest and without peace places.
at non Chionides Eumolpus in Orphea talis,
but not the-son-of-Chione Eumolpus toward Orpheus such,
in Phryga nec Satyrum talis Olympus erat,
toward the-Phrygian nor Satyr such Olympus was,
praemia nec Chiron ab Achille talia cepit,
rewards nor Chiron from Achilles such received,
Pythagoraeque ferunt non nocuisse Numam.
and-to-Pythagoras they-say not to-have-harmed Numa.
nomina neu referam longum collecta per aevum,
names nor-lest I-may-recall long gathered over age,
discipulo perii solus ab ipse meo.
pupil I-perished alone by myself my.
dum damus arma tibi, dum te, lascive, docemus,
while we-give arms to-you, while you, wanton, we-teach,
haec te discipulo dona magister habet.
this you as-pupil gift the-teacher has.
scis tamen, et liquido iuratus dicere possis,
you-know still, and clearly sworn to-say you-could,
non me legitimos sollicitasse toros.
not me lawful to-have-tempted beds.
scripsimus haec illis, quarum nec vitta pudicos
we-wrote these-things for-those, of-whom neither the-fillet chaste

contingit crines nec stola longa pedes.
touches hair nor the-robe long feet.
dic, precor, ecquando didicisti fallere nuptas,
say, I-pray, whether-ever have-you-learned to-deceive brides,
et facere incertum per mea iussa genus?
and to-make uncertain through my orders lineage?
an sit ab his omnis rigide summota libellis,
or may-be from these every rigidly removed little-books,
quam lex furtivos arcet habere viros?
whom the-law stealthy forbids to-have men?
quid tamen hoc prodest, vetiti si lege severa
what still this does-it-profit, of-forbidden if by-a-law severe
credor adulterii composuisse notas?
I-am-believed adultery to-have-composed notes?
at tu, sic habeas ferientes cuncta sagittas,
but you, so may-you-have piercing all arrows,
sic numquam rapido lampades igne vacent,
so never of-swift torches fire may-be-empty,
sic regat imperium terrasque coerceat omnis
so may-guide the-empire and-the-lands may-control all
Caesar, ab Aenea qui tibi fratre tuus,
Caesar, from Aeneas who to-you as-brother yours,
effice, sit nobis non inplacabilis ira,
bring-it-about, may-be to-us not implacable the-anger,
meque loco plecti commodiore velit."
and-me in-a-place to-be-punished more-convenient he-may-wish."
haec ego visus eram puero dixisse volucri,
these-things I seemed had to-the-boy to-have-said winged,
hos visus nobis ille dedisse sonos:
these seemed to-us he to-have-given sounds:

"per mea tela, faces, et per mea tela, sagittas,
"by my weapons, torches, and by my weapons, arrows,
per matrem iuro Caesareumque caput,
by my-mother I-swear and-Caesar's head,
nil nisi concessum nos te didicisse magistro,
nothing except permitted we you to-have-learned as-teacher,
Artibus et nullum crimen inesse tuis.
in-Arts and no charge to-be-in your.
utque hoc, sic utinam defendere cetera possem!
and-as this, so would-that to-defend the-rest I-could!
scis aliud, quod te laeserit, esse, magis.
you-know another-thing, which you has-harmed, to-be, more.
quicquid id est (neque enim debet dolor ipse referri,
whatever that is (nor indeed ought the-grief itself to-be-recalled,
nec potes a culpa dicere abesse tua)
nor you-can from fault to-say to-be-absent your)
tu licet erroris sub imagine crimen obumbres,
you though of-error under the-image the-crime may-overshadow,
non gravior merito iudicis ira fuit.
not heavier than-desert of-the-judge the-anger was.
ut tamen aspicerem consolarerque iacentem,
that still I-might-look-at and-console the-prostrate,
lapsa per inmensas est mea pinna vias.
glided over boundless has my wing ways.
haec loca tum primum vidi, cum matre rogante
these places then first I-saw, when my-mother asking
Phasias est telis fixa puella meis.
the-Phasian was by-darts pierced girl my.
quae nunc cur iterum post saecula longa revisam,
which now why again after ages long I-revisit,

tu facis, o castris miles amice meis.
you make, O in-the-camp soldier friend my.
pone metus igitur: mitescet Caesaris ira,
lay-aside fears therefore: will-grow-mild Caesar's anger,
et veniet votis mollior hora tuis.
and will-come for-prayers milder an-hour your.
neve moram timeas, tempus, quod quaerimus, instat,
nor-lest delay you-may-fear, the-time, which we-seek, is-at-hand,
cunctaque laetitiae plena triumphus habet.
and-all-things of-gladness full the-triumph has.
dum domus et nati, dum mater Livia gaudet,
while the-house and the-sons, while the-mother Livia rejoices,
dum gaudes, patriae magne ducisque pater,
while you-rejoice, of-the-country great and-of-the-leader father,
dum sibi gratatur populus, totamque per urbem
while itself congratulates the-people, and-the-whole through city
omnis odoratis ignibus ara calet,
every with-fragrant fires altar is-warm,
dum faciles aditus praebet venerabile templum,
while easy access offers the-venerable temple,
sperandum est nostras posse valere preces."
to-be-hoped is our to-be-able to-prevail prayers."
dixit, et aut ille est tenues dilapsus in auras,
he-said, and either he has thin slipped-away into airs,
coeperunt sensus aut vigilare mei.
began the-senses or to-wake my.
si dubitem, faveas quin his, o Maxime, dictis,
if I-should-doubt, you-may-favor but-that these, O Maximus, words,
Memnonio cycnos esse colore putem.
in-Memnonian swans to-be color I-should-think.

sed neque mutatur nigra pice lacteus humor,
but neither is-changed into-black pitch milky liquid,
nec, quod erat candens, fit terebinthus ebur.
nor, what was shining, becomes terebinth ivory.
conveniens animo genus est tibi, nobile namque
suiting to-mind the-birth is to-you, noble for
pectus et Herculeae simplicitatis habes.
a-breast and of-Herculean simplicity you-have.
livor, iners vitium, mores non exit in altos,
envy, a-sluggish vice, character not goes into high,
utque latens ima vipera serpit humo.
and-as hiding on-the-lowest the-viper creeps ground.
mens tua sublimis supra genus eminet ipsum,
mind your lofty above birth stands-out itself,
grandius ingenio nec tibi nomen inest.
greater than-talent nor in-you name is-in.
ergo alii noceant miseris optentque timeri,
so let-others harm the-wretched and-wish to-be-feared,
tinctaque mordaci spicula felle gerant:
and-dyed with-biting arrows gall carry:
at tua supplicibus domus est adsueta iuvandis,
but your for-suppliants house is accustomed to-be-helped,
in quorum numero me, precor, esse velis.
in whose number me, I-pray, to-be you-may-wish.

Ovid sends Rufinus his poem on the triumph and asks his favor for it. It is a small work: he did not see the triumph, but wrote from report; he lacks the names of the leaders and places; his lyre is used to complaint; and the poem comes late, after others have written. But his good will deserves praise. He foretells a new triumph, over Germany: Livia should prepare the chariot again, since the Rhine will soon be led captive.

Haec tibi non vanam portantia verba salutem
These to-you not empty bearing words health
Naso Tomitana mittit ab urbe tuus,
Naso the-Tomitan sends from city your,
utque suo faveas mandat, Rufine, Triumpho,
and-that his you-may-favor he-commissions, Rufinus, Triumph,
in vestras venit si tamen ille manus.
into your came if still it hands.
est opus exiguum vestrisque paratibus inpar:
it-is a-work small and-to-your preparations unequal:
quale tamen cumque est, ut tueare, rogo.
such still ever it-is, that you-may-protect-it, I-ask.
firma valent per se, nullumque Machaona quaerunt.
firm-things are-strong by themselves, and-no Machaon seek.
ad medicam dubius confugit aeger opem.
to medical doubtful flees the-sick help.
non opus est magnis placido lectore poetis:
not need is for-great of-a-calm reader poets:
quamlibet invitum difficilemque tenent.
however unwilling and-difficult they-hold.
nos, quibus ingenium longi minuere labores,
we, whose talent long have-lessened labors,

aut etiam nullum forsitan ante fuit,
or even none perhaps before was,
viribus infirmi, vestro candore valemus:
in-strength weak, by-your candor are-strong:
quem mihi si demas, omnia rapta putem.
which from-me if you-should-take-away, everything snatched I-would-think.
cunctaque cum mea sint propenso nixa favore,
and-though all my may-be on-inclined leaning favor,
praecipuum veniae ius habet ille liber.
a-special of-pardon right has that book.
spectatum vates alii scripsere triumphum:
watched bards other have-written triumph:
est aliquid memori visa notare manu.
it-is something with-mindful seen-things to-note hand.
nos ea vix avidam vulgo captata per aurem
we those-things hardly greedy from-the-crowd caught through ear
scripsimus, atque oculi fama fuere mei.
have-written, and eyes report were my.
scilicet adfectus similes, aut impetus idem
doubtless feelings like, or impulse the-same
rebus ab auditis conspicuisque venit!
things from heard and-seen comes!
nec nitor argenti, quem vos vidistis, et auri
nor the-sheen of-silver, which you have-seen, and of-gold
quod mihi defuerit, purpuraque illa, queror:
that to-me may-have-been-lacking, and-purple that, do-I-complain:
sed loca, sed gentes formatae mille figuris
but places, but peoples shaped in-a-thousand forms
nutrissent carmen proeliaque ipsa meum,
would-have-nourished song and-battles themselves my,

et regum vultus, certissima pignora mentis,
and of-kings the-faces, surest pledges of-the-mind,
iuvissent aliqua forsitan illud opus.
would-have-helped in-some-way perhaps that work.
plausibus ex ipsis populi laetoque favore
the-applause from the-very of-the-people and-joyful favor
ingenium quodvis incaluisse potest:
talent any to-have-grown-warm can:
tamque ego sumpsissem tali clamore vigorem,
and-as-much I would-have-taken from-such shouting vigor,
quam rudis audita miles ad arma tuba.
as a-raw heard the-soldier at arms trumpet.
pectora sint nobis nivibus glacieque licebit
breasts may-be to-us than-snows and-ice it-will-be-allowed
atque hoc, quem patior, frigidiora loco,
and than-this, which I-suffer, colder place,
illa ducis facies in curru stantis eburno
that of-the-leader face in the-chariot standing ivory
excuteret frigus sensibus omne meis.
would-shake-out the-cold from-senses all my.
his ego defectus dubiisque auctoribus usus
these I lacking and-doubtful sources having-used
ad vestri venio iure favoris opem.
to your I-come by-right of-favor help.
nec mihi nota ducum nec sunt mihi nota locorum
neither to-me known of-the-leaders nor are to-me known of-the-places
nomina. materiam non habuere manus.
the-names. the-material not had hands.
pars quota de tantis rebus, quam fama referre
part how-small of so-great things, which report to-relate

aut aliquis nobis scribere posset, erat?
or someone to-us to-write could, was?
quo magis, o lector, debes ignoscere, si quid
by-which more, O reader, you-ought to-pardon, if anything
erratum est illic praeteritumve mihi.
erred has-been there or-passed-over by-me.
adde quod assidue domini meditata querellas
add that constantly of-my-master having-practiced complaints
ad laetum carmen vix mea versa lyra est.
to glad song hardly my turned lyre has.
vix bona post tanto quaerenti verba subibant,
hardly good after so-long to-one-seeking words came-up,
et gaudere aliquid res mihi visa nova est.
and to-rejoice something a-thing to-me seemed new is.
utque reformidant insuetum lumina solem,
and-as dread the-unaccustomed eyes sun,
sic ad laetitiam mens mea segnis erat.
so to gladness mind my sluggish was.
est quoque cunctarum novitas carissima rerum,
is too of-all novelty dearest things,
gratiaque officio, quod mora tardat, abest.
and-gratitude to-the-duty, which delay slows, is-absent.
cetera certatim de magno scripta triumpho
the-other in-rivalry about the-great writings triumph
iam pridem populi suspicor ore legi.
already long-ago of-the-people I-suspect by-the-mouth to-be-read.
illa bibit sitiens lector, mea pocula plenus:
those drinks thirsting the-reader, my cups full:
illa recens pota est, nostra tepebit aqua.
that fresh drunk was, our will-be-lukewarm water.

non ego cessavi, nec fecit inertia serum:
not I have-been-idle, nor has-made sloth late:
ultima me vasti sustinet ora freti.
the-furthest me of-the-vast holds shore strait.
dum venit huc rumor properataque carmina fiunt
while comes hither the-rumor and-hurried songs are-made
factaque eunt ad vos, annus abisse potest.
and-made go to you, a-year to-have-gone can.
nec minimum refert, intacta rosaria primus,
nor least matters-it, untouched rose-gardens first,
an sera carpas paene relicta manu.
or late-ones you-may-pluck almost left by-hand.
quid mirum, lectis exhausto floribus horto,
what strange, picked the-drained flowers garden,
si duce non facta est digna corona tuo?
if of-the-leader not made was worthy a-crown your?
deprecor hoc: vatum contra sua carmina ne quis
I-deprecate this: of-the-bards against their songs lest anyone
dicta putet! pro se Musa locuta mea est.
spoken may-think! for itself the-Muse spoken my has.
sunt mihi vobiscum communia sacra, poetae,
are to-me with-you common rites, poets,
in vestro miseris si licet esse choro.
in your for-the-wretched if it-is-allowed to-be chorus.
magnaque pars animae mecum vixistis, amici:
and-great part of-soul with-me you-have-lived, friends:
hac ego vos absens nunc quoque parte colo.
in-this I you absent now too part cultivate.
sint igitur vestro mea commendata favore
may-be therefore to-your my commended favor

carmina, non possum pro quibus ipse loqui.
songs, not I-can for which myself to-speak.
scripta placent a morte fere, quia laedere vivos
writings please after death generally, because to-harm the-living
livor et iniusto carpere dente solet.
envy and with-unjust to-carp tooth is-wont.
si genus est mortis male vivere, terra moratur,
if a-kind it-is of-death badly to-live, the-earth delays,
et desunt fatis sola sepulchra meis.
and are-lacking to-the-fates alone tombs my.
denique opus curae culpetur ut undique nostrae,
finally the-work of-care may-be-blamed though on-all-sides our,
officium nemo qui reprehendat erit.
the-duty no-one who may-censure will-be.
ut desint vires, tamen est laudanda voluntas:
though may-be-lacking strength, still is to-be-praised goodwill:
hac ego contentos auguror esse deos.
with-this I content I-divine to-be the-gods.
haec facit ut veniat pauper quoque gratus ad aras,
this makes that may-come the-poor-man too welcome to the-altars,
et placeat caeso non minus agna bove.
and may-please than-the-slain not less the-lamb ox.
res quoque tanta fuit, quantae subsistere summo
the-thing too so-great was, as-great-as-for to-sustain for-the-highest
Aeneadum vati grande fuisset onus.
of-the-sons-of-Aeneas bard great it-would-have-been a-burden.
ferre etiam molles elegi tam vasta triumphi
to-bear even soft elegiacs so vast of-the-triumph
pondera disparibus non potuere rotis.
weights on-unequal not could wheels.

quo pede nunc utar, dubia est sententia nobis:
with-what foot now I-may-use, doubtful is the-opinion to-us:
alter enim de te, Rhene, triumphus adest.
another indeed over you, Rhine, triumph is-at-hand.
inrita motorum non sunt praesagia vatum:
vain of-moved not are the-forebodings bards:
danda Iovi laurus, dum prior illa viret.
to-be-given to-Jove the-laurel, while the-former that is-green.
nec mea verba legis, qui sum summotus ad Histrum
nor my words you-read, who am removed to the-Hister
non bene pacatis flumina pota Getis:
not well pacified rivers drunk by-the-Getae:
ista dei vox est, deus est in pectore nostro,
that of-a-god the-voice is, a-god is in breast our,
haec duce praedico vaticinorque deo.
this as-guide I-predict and-prophesy god.
quid cessas currum pompamque parare triumphis,
why do-you-delay the-chariot and-procession to-prepare for-triumphs,
Livia? dant nullas iam tibi bella moras.
Livia? give no now to-you the-wars delays.
perfida damnatas Germania proicit hastas.
treacherous condemned Germany casts-away spears.
iam pondus dices omen habere meum.
now weight you-will-say the-omen to-have my.
crede, brevique fides aderit. geminabit honorem
believe, and-shortly belief will-be-present. will-double the-honor
filius, et iunctis, ut prius, ibit equis.
your-son, and with-joined, as before, will-go horses.
prome, quod inicias umeris victoribus, ostrum:
bring-out, what you-may-throw on-shoulders victorious, purple:

ipsa potest solitum nosse corona caput:
itself can the-accustomed to-know crown head:
scuta sed et galeae gemmis radientur et auro,
shields but also helmets with-gems may-gleam and with-gold,
stentque super vinctos trunca tropaea viros:
and-may-stand above bound lopped trophies men:
oppida turritis cingantur eburnea muris,
towns with-towered may-be-ringed ivory walls,
fictaque res vero more putetur agi.
and-feigned the-thing in-true manner may-be-thought to-be-done.
squalidus inmissos fracta sub harundine crines
squalid flowing broken under reed hair
Rhenus et infectas sanguine portet aquas.
the-Rhine and stained with-blood may-carry waters.
barbara iam capti poscunt insignia reges
barbarian already captured demand insignia kings
textaque fortuna divitiora sua,
and-woven than-fortune richer their-own,
et quae praeterea virtus invicta tuorum
and which besides valor unconquered of-your-people
saepe parata tibi, saepe paranda facit.
often prepared for-you, often to-be-prepared makes.
di, quorum monitu sumus eventura locuti,
gods, by-whose prompting we-have going-to-happen-things spoken,
verba, precor, celeri nostra probate fide.
words, I-pray, with-swift our prove credit.

Ovid writes from the Hister to Cotta Maximus. He has read Cotta's speech in the forum many times, liking it more each time, and envies those who heard it delivered; had he not fallen, he would have sat among the judges. He asks Cotta to send more of his work, and asks whether Cotta misses him and speaks his name when he recites to friends. In his mind Ovid visits Rome and talks with him, as if in heaven, but returning to Pontus is like returning to the Styx.

Quam legis, unde tibi mittatur epistula, quaeris?
Which you-read, whence to-you may-be-sent the-letter, do-you-ask?
hinc, ubi caeruleis iungitur Hister aquis.
from-here, where to-the-blue is-joined Hister waters.
ut regio dicta est, succurrere debet et auctor,
when the-region named has-been, to-come-to-mind ought also the-author,
laesus ab ingenio Naso poeta suo.
harmed by talent Naso the-poet his-own.
qui tibi, quam mallet praesens adferre salutem,
who to-you, which he-would-prefer present to-bring health,
mittit ab hirsutis, Maxime Cotta, Getis.
sends from shaggy, Maximus Cotta, Getae.
legimus, o iuvenis patrii non degener oris,
we-have-read, O young-man of-paternal not degenerate eloquence,
dicta tibi pleno verba diserta foro.
spoken by-you in-full words eloquent forum.
quae quamquam lingua mihi sunt properante per horas
which although tongue by-me are hurrying through hours
lecta satis multas, pauca fuisse queror.
read enough many, few to-have-been I-complain.
plura sed haec feci relegendo saepe, nec umquam
more but these I-made by-rereading often, nor ever

non mihi, quam primo, grata fuere magis.
not to-me, than at-first, welcome were more.
cumque nihil totiens lecta e dulcedine perdant,
and-since nothing so-often read of sweetness they-may-lose,
viribus illa suis, non novitate, placent.
by-strength those their-own, not by-novelty, please.
felices quibus haec ipso cognoscere in actu
happy to-whom these the-very to-learn in delivery
et tam facundo contigit ore frui!
and so eloquent has-befallen mouth to-enjoy!
nam, quamquam sapor est adlata dulcis in unda,
for, although the-flavor is brought sweet in wave,
gratius ex ipso fonte bibuntur aquae.
more-pleasantly from the-very spring are-drunk waters.
et magis adducto pomum decerpere ramo
and more from-a-drawn-down the-fruit to-pluck branch
quam de caelata sumere lance iuvat.
than from engraved to-take dish it-pleases.
at nisi peccassem, nisi me mea Musa fugasset,
but unless I-had-sinned, unless me my Muse had-put-to-flight,
quod legi, tua vox exhibuisset opus,
which I-have-read, your voice would-have-shown work,
utque fui solitus, sedissem forsitan unus
and-as I-was accustomed, I-would-have-sat perhaps one
de centum iudex in tua verba viris,
of hundred judge on your words men,
maior et implesset praecordia nostra voluptas,
greater and would-have-filled heart our pleasure,
cum traherer dictis adnueremque tuis.
when I-was-drawn by-words and-nodded your.

quem quoniam fatum patria vobisque relictis
whom since fate country and-you left
inter inhumanos maluit esse Getas,
among inhuman preferred to-be Getae,
quod licet, ut videar tecum magis esse, legenda
what is-allowed, that I-may-seem with-you more to-be, to-be-read
saepe, precor, studii pignora mitte tui,
often, I-pray, of-pursuit the-pledges send your,
exemploque meo, nisi dedignaris id ipsum,
and-by-the-example my, unless you-disdain that itself,
utere, quod nobis rectius ipse dares.
use, which to-us more-rightly yourself you-would-give.
namque ego, qui perii iam pridem, Maxime, vobis,
for I, who perished already long-ago, Maximus, for-you,
ingenio nitor non periisse meo.
by-talent I-strive not to-have-perished my.
redde vicem, nec rara tui monimenta laboris
return the-favor, nor rare of-your the-monuments labor
accipiant nostrae, grata futura, manus.
may-receive our, welcome going-to-be, hands.
dic tamen, o iuvenis studiorum plene meorum,
say still, O young-man of-pursuits full my,
ecquid ab his ipsis admoneare mei.
whether-at-all by these themselves you-are-reminded of-me.
ecquid, ubi aut recitas factum modo carmen amicis,
whether-at-all, when either you-recite made just-now a-song to-friends,
aut, quod saepe soles, exigis ut recitent,
or, what often you-are-wont, demand that they-may-recite,
quaeror, ut interdum tua mens, oblita quid absit,
I-am-missed, that sometimes your mind, forgetful what is-absent,

nescio quid certe sentit abesse sui,
I-know-not what surely feels to-be-absent of-itself,
utque loqui multum de me praesente solebas,
and-as to-speak much about me present you-were-wont,
nunc quoque Nasonis nomen in ore tuo est?
now too of-Naso the-name on mouth your is?
ipse quidem Getico peream violatus ab arcu
myself indeed the-Getic may-I-perish violated by bow
(et sit periuri quam prope poena, vides)
(and may-be of-the-perjurer how near the-punishment, you-see)
te nisi momentis video paene omnibus absens.
you unless at-moments I-see almost all absent.
gratia quod menti quolibet ire licet.
thanks that for-the-mind anywhere to-go it-is-allowed.
hac ubi perveni nulli cernendus in urbem,
by-this when I-have-arrived by-no-one to-be-seen into the-city,
saepe loquor tecum, saepe loquente fruor.
often I-speak with-you, often you-speaking I-enjoy.
tum mihi difficile est, quam sit bene, dicere, quamque
then to-me difficult is, how it-may-be well, to-say, and-how
candida iudiciis illa sit hora meis.
white in-judgment that may-be hour my.
tum me, siqua fides, caelesti sede receptum
then me, if-any credit, in-a-heavenly seat received
cum fortunatis suspicor esse deis.
with fortunate I-suspect to-be gods.

rursus ubi huc redii, caelum superosque relinquo,
again when hither I-have-returned, heaven and-the-gods-above I-leave,
a Styge nec longe Pontica distat humus.
from the-Styx nor far the-Pontic is-distant ground.
unde ego si fato nitor prohibente reverti,
whence I if fate I-strive forbidding to-return,
spem sine profectu, Maxime, tolle mihi.
hope without success, Maximus, take-away from-me.

III.6 · TO A FRIEND AFRAID TO BE NAMED

Ovid almost names the friend to whom he sends this poem, who has asked not to be named. Why fear? Ovid can show how merciful Caesar is even in anger, and Caesar forbids no one to remember or console a friend. The gods spare those they have struck, and no god is more moderate than Caesar. Ovid can hardly excuse himself for writing without names at first, and he asks leave to name his friends; but he will not name this one unless he allows it. Let him love Ovid secretly, if he must.

Naso suo (posuit nomen quam paene!) sodali
Naso to-his (he-placed the-name how almost!) comrade
mittit ab Euxinis hoc breve carmen aquis.
sends from the-Euxine this brief song waters.
at si cauta parum scripsisset dextra quis esses,
but if cautious too-little had-written the-right-hand who you-were,
forsitan officio parta querella foret.
perhaps by-the-service begotten a-complaint would-be.
cur tamen, hoc aliis tutum credentibus, unus,
why still, this others safe believing, you-alone,
appellent ne te carmina nostra, rogas?
may-name lest you songs our, do-you-ask?

quanta sit in media clementia Caesaris ira,
how-great may-be in the-midst clemency of-Caesar anger,
si nescis, ex me certior esse potes.
if you-know-not, from me more-informed to-be you-can.
huic ego, quam patior, nil possem demere poenae,
from-this I, which I-suffer, nothing I-could to-take-away punishment,
si iudex meriti cogerer esse mei.
if judge of-desert I-were-compelled to-be my.
non vetat ille sui quemquam meminisse sodalis,
not forbids he of-his anyone to-remember comrade,
nec prohibet tibi me scribere teque mihi.
nor prevents to-you me to-write and-you to-me.
nec scelus admittas, si consoleris amicum,
nor a-crime you-would-commit, if you-should-console a-friend,
mollibus et verbis aspera fata leves.
with-soft and words harsh fates should-lighten.
cur, dum tuta times, facis ut reverentia talis
why, while safe-things you-fear, do-you-make that reverence such
fiat in Augustos invidiosa deos?
may-become toward the-August odious gods?
fulminis adflatos interdum vivere telis
of-the-thunderbolt blasted sometimes to-live by-the-weapons
vidimus et refici, non prohibente Iove.
we-have-seen and to-be-restored, not forbidding Jove.
nec, quia Neptunus navem lacerarat Ulixis,
nor, because Neptune the-ship had-torn of-Ulysses,
Leucothea nanti ferre negavit opem.
Leucothea to-the-swimmer to-bring refused help.
crede mihi, miseris caelestia numina parcunt,
believe me, the-wretched heavenly divinities spare,

nec semper laesos et sine fine premunt.
nor always the-harmed and without end press.
principe nec nostro deus est moderatior ullus:
than-prince nor our god is more-moderate any:
Iustitia vires temperat ille suas.
by-Justice the-strength tempers he his.
nuper eam Caesar facto de marmore templo,
lately her Caesar in-a-made of marble temple,
iampridem posuit mentis in aede suae.
long-ago placed of-mind in shrine his.
Iuppiter in multos temeraria fulmina torquet,
Jupiter against many reckless thunderbolts hurls,
qui poenam culpa non meruere pati.
who punishment by-fault not have-deserved to-suffer.
obruerit cum tot saevis deus aequoris undis,
he-may-have-overwhelmed though so-many with-savage the-god of-the-sea waves,
ex illis mergi pars quota digna fuit?
of them to-be-sunk part how-small worthy was?
cum pereant acie fortissima quaeque, vel ipso
when perish in-battle the-bravest each, even himself
iudice delectus Martis iniquus erit.
judge the-choice of-Mars unfair will-be.
at si forte velis in nos inquirere, nemo est
but if perhaps you-should-wish into us to-inquire, no-one is
qui se, quod patitur, commeruisse neget.
who himself, what he-suffers, to-have-deserved may-deny.
adde quod extinctos vel aqua vel Marte vel igni
add that the-dead either by-water or by-Mars or by-fire
nulla potest iterum restituisse dies.
no can again to-have-restored day.

restituit multos aut poenae parte levavit
has-restored many or of-punishment in-part lightened
Caesar: et in multis me, precor, esse velit.
Caesar: and among many me, I-pray, to-be may-be-wish.
at tu, cum tali populus sub principe simus,
but you, since such a-people under prince we-may-be,
adloquio profugi credis inesse metum?
in-address of-an-exile do-you-believe to-be-in fear?
forsitan haec domino Busiride iure timeres,
perhaps these-things master Busiris rightly you-would-fear,
aut solito clausos urere in aere viros.
or wont shut-in to-burn in bronze men.
desine mitem animum vano infamare timore.
cease the-gentle mind with-empty to-defame fear.
saeva quid in placidis saxa vereris aquis?
savage why in calm rocks do-you-fear waters?
ipse ego quod primo scripsi sine nomine vobis,
myself I that at-first I-wrote without name to-you,
vix excusari posse mihi videor.
hardly to-be-excused to-be-able to-myself I-seem.
sed pavor attonito rationis ademerat usum,
but panic from-the-stunned of-reason had-taken-away the-use,
cesserat omne novis consiliumque malis,
had-yielded all to-new and-counsel evils,
fortunamque meam metuens, non vindicis iram,
and-fortune my fearing, not of-the-avenger the-anger,
terrebar titulo nominis ipse mei.
I-was-terrified by-the-title of-name myself my.
hactenus admonitus memori concede poëtae
thus-far warned to-the-mindful grant poet

ponat ut in chartis nomina cara suis.
he-may-place that in papers names dear his.

turpe erit ambobus, longo mihi proximus usu
shameful it-will-be for-both, by-long to-me nearest use

si nulla libri parte legere mei.
if in-no of-the-book part you-should-be-read my.

ne tamen iste metus somnos tibi rumpere possit,
lest still that fear sleeps for-you to-break may-be-able,

non ultra, quam vis, officiosus ero,
not further, than you-wish, dutiful I-shall-be,

teque tegam, qui sis, nisi cum permiseris ipse:
and-you I-shall-cover, who you-may-be, unless when you-shall-have-permitted yourself:

cogetur nemo munus habere meum.
will-be-compelled no-one the-gift to-have my.

tu modo, quem poteras vel aperte tutus amare,
you only, whom you-could even openly safe to-love,

si res est anceps ista, latenter ama.
if the-thing is doubtful that, secretly love.

Ovid runs out of words in asking his friends the same thing so often, and is ashamed of his fruitless pleas. He will stop hoping: it is better to despair once and for all than to be deceived again. A young bull fights the plow, but he has long been used to his ills. His wife is loyal, but timid. The favor is great and his friends do not dare to ask it, though there was one willing to grant it if asked. He will die bravely by the Euxine, if Caesar's anger does not deny him even that.

Verba mihi desunt eadem tam saepe roganti,
Words to-me are-lacking the-same so often asking,
iamque pudet vanas fine carere preces.
and-now it-shames vain of-end to-lack prayers.
taedia consimili fieri de carmine vobis,
weariness similar to-arise from song to-you,
quidque petam cunctos edidicisse reor.
and-what I-may-seek all to-have-learned-by-heart I-think.
nostraque quid portet iam nostis epistula, quamvis
and-our what may-bring already you-know letter, although
cera sit a vinclis non labefacta suis.
the-wax may-be from bonds not loosened its-own.
ergo mutetur scripti sententia nostri,
so let-be-changed of-the-writing the-opinion our,
ne totiens contra, quam rapit amnis, eam.
lest so-often against, than snatches the-river, I-may-go.
quod bene de vobis speravi, ignoscite, amici:
that well about you I-hoped, pardon, friends:
talia peccandi iam mihi finis erit.
of-such of-sinning now to-me the-end will-be.
nec gravis uxori dicar: quae scilicet in me
nor heavy to-my-wife shall-I-be-called: who doubtless toward me

quam proba tam timida est experiensque parum.
as upright so timid is and-enterprising too-little.
hoc quoque, Naso, feres: etenim peiora tulisti.
this too, Naso, you-will-bear: for worse-things you-have-borne.
iam tibi sentiri sarcina nulla potest.
now by-you to-be-felt burden no can.
ductus ab armento taurus detrectat aratrum,
led from the-herd the-bull refuses the-plow,
subtrahit et duro colla novella iugo:
withdraws and from-the-hard neck young yoke:
nos, quibus adsuevit fatum crudeliter uti,
we, whom is-accustomed fate cruelly to-use,
ad mala iam pridem non sumus ulla rudes.
to evils already long-ago not we-are any raw.
venimus in Geticos fines: moriamur in illis,
we-have-come into the-Getic borders: may-we-die in them,
Parcaque ad extremum qua mea coepit eat.
and-the-Parca to the-end by-which mine she-began may-go.
spem iuvat amplecti — quae non iuvat inrita semper —
hope it-pleases to-embrace which not pleases vain always
et, fieri cupias siqua, futura putes:
and, to-be-made you-may-desire if-any-thing, going-to-be you-may-think:
proximus huic gradus est bene desperare salutem,
next to-this the-step is well to-despair-of safety,
seque semel vera scire perisse fide.
and-oneself once with-true to-know to-have-perished faith.
curando fieri quaedam maiora videmus
by-curing to-become some greater we-see
vulnera, quae melius non tetigisse fuit.
wounds, which better not to-have-touched it-was.

mitius ille perit, subita qui mergitur unda,
more-gently that-one perishes, by-a-sudden who is-sunk wave,
quam sua qui tumidis brachia lassat aquis.
than his who in-swollen arms tires waters.
cur ego concepi Scythicis me posse carere
why I conceived from-the-Scythian me to-be-able to-be-free
finibus et terra prosperiore frui?
borders and land a-more-prosperous to-enjoy?
cur aliquid de me speravi lenius umquam?
why anything about me did-I-hope milder ever?
an fortuna mihi sic mea nota fuit?
or fortune to-me so my known was?
torqueor en gravius, repetitaque forma locorum
I-am-tortured behold more-heavily, and-recalled the-form of-places
exilium renovat triste recensque facit.
the-exile renews sad and-fresh makes.
est tamen utilius, studium cessare meorum,
it-is still more-useful, the-zeal to-cease of-my-own,
quam, quas admorint, non valuisse preces.
than, which they-may-have-moved-up, not to-have-prevailed prayers.
magna quidem res est, quam non audetis, amici:
great indeed a-thing it-is, which not you-dare, friends:
sed si quis peteret, qui dare vellet, erat.
but if anyone should-ask, who to-give would-wish, there-was.
dummodo non nobis hoc Caesaris ira negarit,
provided-that not to-us this Caesar's anger may-have-denied,
fortiter Euxinis inmoriemur aquis.
bravely on-the-Euxine we-shall-die waters.

Ovid looked for a gift from Tomis to send Maximus, who deserves silver and gold. The land yields no metal, and the sea no purple; the flocks have rough wool, and the women grind grain and carry water instead of weaving. There is no vine and no fruit, only wormwood. He sends Scythian arrows in a quiver and prays they may be stained with Maximus' enemies' blood: these are this shore's pens and books, its Muse. The gift is small, and he asks Maximus to take it kindly.

Quae tibi quaerebam memorem testantia curam
Which to-you I-was-seeking mindful attesting care
dona Tomitanus mittere posset ager.
gifts the-Tomitan to-send could field.
dignus es argento, fulvo quoque dignior auro,
worthy you-are of-silver, of-tawny too worthier gold,
sed te, cum donas, ista iuvare solent.
but you, when you-give, those-things to-please are-wont.
nec tamen haec loca sunt ullo pretiosa metallo:
nor still these places are by-any precious metal:
hostis ab agricola vix sinit illa fodi.
the-enemy by the-farmer hardly allows them to-be-dug.
purpura saepe tuos fulgens praetexit amictus.
purple often your gleaming has-bordered robes.
sed non Sarmatico tingitur illa mari.
but not in-the-Sarmatian is-dyed it sea.
vellera dura ferunt pecudes, et Palladis uti
fleeces hard bear the-flocks, and of-Pallas to-use
arte Tomitanae non didicere nurus.
the-art the-Tomitan not have-learned young-women.
femina pro lana Cerealia munera frangit,
the-woman instead-of wool Ceres' gifts breaks,

suppositoque gravem vertice portat aquam.
and-with-placed-beneath heavy head carries water.
non hic pampineis amicitur vitibus ulmus,
not here with-leafy is-clothed vines the-elm,
nulla premunt ramos pondere poma suo.
no press the-branches with-weight fruits their-own.
tristia deformes pariunt absinthia campi,
sad shapeless bear wormwoods plains,
terraque de fructu quam sit amara docet.
and-the-land from its-fruit how it-may-be bitter teaches.
nil igitur tota Ponti regione sinistri,
nothing therefore in-whole of-Pontus the-region left,
quod mea sedulitas mittere posset, erat.
which my diligence to-send could, was.
clausa tamen misi Scythica tibi tela pharetra:
shut-up still I-have-sent in-a-Scythian to-you darts quiver:
hoste precor fiant illa cruenta tuo.
with-the-enemy I-pray may-become they bloody your.
hos habet haec calamos, hos haec habet ora libellos,
these has this pens, these this has shore little-books,
haec viget in nostris, Maxime, Musa locis!
this thrives in our, Maximus, Muse places!
quae quamquam misisse pudet, quia parva videntur,
which although to-have-sent it-shames, because small they-seem,
tu tamen haec, quaeso, consule missa boni.
you still these, I-pray, take sent in-good-part.

Brutus reports that someone faults Ovid's poems for saying the same thing, asking only for a nearer land. Ovid sees his faults, though every author overrates his own work, and correcting is harder than writing, especially in his condition. His sorrows give his poems their single theme: he writes to many friends, and each letter asks for help. These poems are letters, gathered without order, not a book composed for glory, and he asks Brutus to pardon them.

Quod sit in his eadem sententia, Brute, libellis,
That may-be in these the-same opinion, Brutus, little-books,
carmina nescio quem carpere nostra refers:
songs I-know-not who to-carp-at our you-report:
nil nisi me terra fruar ut propiore rogare,
nothing except me land I-may-enjoy that nearer to-ask,
et quam sim denso cinctus ab hoste loqui.
and how I-may-be dense surrounded by enemy to-speak.
o, quam de multis vitium reprehenditur unum!
O, how of many fault is-censured one!
hoc peccat solum si mea Musa, bene est.
this sins alone if my Muse, well it-is.
ipse ego librorum video delicta meorum,
myself I of-the-books see the-faults my,
cum sua plus iusto carmina quisque probet.
though his more than-just songs each may-approve.
auctor opus laudat: sic forsitan Agrius olim
the-author the-work praises: so perhaps Agrius once
Thersiten facie dixerit esse bona.
Thersites in-looks may-have-said to-be good.
iudicium tamen hic nostrum non decipit error,
the-judgment still this our not deceives error,

nec, quicquid genui, protinus illud amo.
nor, whatever I-have-begotten, at-once that I-love.
cur igitur, si me videam delinquere, peccem,
why then, if me I-may-see to-offend, may-I-sin,
et patiar scripto crimen inesse, rogas?
and may-allow in-the-writing a-fault to-be-in, do-you-ask?
non eadem ratio est sentire et demere morbos;
not the-same reasoning is to-perceive and to-remove diseases;
sensus inest cunctis, tollitur arte malum.
feeling is-in all, is-removed by-art the-evil.
saepe aliquod verbum cupiens mutare reliqui,
often some word desiring to-change I-have-left,
iudicium vires destituuntque meum.
judgment the-strength and-desert my.
saepe piget (quid enim dubitem tibi vera fateri)
often it-irks (why indeed should-I-hesitate to-you true-things to-confess)
corrigere et longi ferre laboris onus.
to-correct and of-long to-bear labor the-burden.
scribentem iuvat ipse labor minuitque laborem,
the-writer pleases itself the-labor and-lessens the-labor,
cumque suo crescens pectore fervet opus.
and-with his growing breast boils the-work.
corrigere ut res est tanto magis ardua quanto
to-correct as a-thing is by-so-much more steep by-as-much-as
magnus Aristarcho maior Homerus erat,
great than-Aristarchus greater Homer was,
sic animum lento curarum frigore laedit
so the-mind with-slow of-cares cold it-harms
et cupidi cursus frena retentat equi.
and of-the-eager running the-reins holds-back horse.

atque ita di mites minuant mihi Caesaris iram,
and so the-gods gentle may-lessen for-me Caesar's anger,
ossaque pacata nostra tegantur humo,
and-the-bones in-pacified our may-be-covered ground,
ut mihi conanti nonnumquam intendere curas
as to-me trying sometimes to-apply cares
fortunae species obstat acerba meae,
of-fortune the-look stands-in-the-way bitter my,
vixque mihi videor, faciam qui carmina, sanus,
and-hardly to-myself I-seem, I-may-make who songs, sane,
inque feris curem corrigere illa Getis.
and-among wild may-care to-correct them Getae.
nil tamen e scriptis magis excusabile nostris,
nothing still of writings more excusable our,
quam sensus cunctis paene quod unus inest.
than meaning in-all almost that one is-in.
laeta fere laetus cecini, cano tristia tristis:
glad-things generally glad I-sang, I-sing sad-things sad:
conveniens operi tempus utrumque suo est.
suiting to-work time each its-own is.
quid nisi de vitio scribam regionis amarae,
what except about the-fault should-I-write of-the-region bitter,
utque loco moriar commodiore precer?
and-that in-a-place I-may-die more-convenient should-I-pray?
cum totiens eadem dicam, vix audior ulli,
since so-often the-same-things I-say, hardly am-I-heard by-anyone,
verbaque profectu dissimulata carent.
and-words of-success disregarded lack.
et tamen haec eadem cum sint, non scripsimus isdem,
and still these the-same though they-be, not we-wrote to-the-same,

unaque per plures vox mea temptat opem.
and-one through more voice my tries help.
an, ne bis sensum lector reperiret eundem,
or, lest twice the-meaning the-reader should-find same,
unus amicorum, Brute, rogandus eras?
one of-friends, Brutus, to-be-asked were-you?
non fuit hoc tanti. confesso ignoscite, docti:
not was this of-so-much. to-the-confessing pardon, learned:
vilior est operis fama salute mea.
cheaper is of-the-work fame than-safety my.
denique materiam, quam quis sibi finxerit ipse,
finally the-material, which anyone for-himself shall-have-invented himself,
arbitrio variat multa poeta suo.
by-choice varies much the-poet his-own.
Musa mea est index nimium quoque vera malorum.
Muse my is the-informant too-much too true of-evils.
atque incorrupti pondera testis habet.
and of-an-uncorrupted the-weights witness has.
nec liber ut fieret, sed uti sua cuique daretur
nor a-book that might-be-made, but that his-own to-each might-be-given
littera, propositum curaque nostra fuit.
letter, the-purpose and-care our was.
postmodo collectas utcumque sine ordine iunxi:
afterward gathered however without order I-joined:
hoc opus electum ne mihi forte putes.
this work chosen lest by-me perhaps you-may-think.
da veniam scriptis, quorum non gloria nobis
give pardon to-writings, of-which not glory to-us
causa, sed utilitas officiumque fuit.
the-cause, but usefulness and-duty was.

IV.1 · TO SEXTUS POMPEIUS: NAMED AT LAST

Ovid sends Sextus Pompeius a song from the man who owes him his life. If Pompeius frowns at being named, Ovid will confess the fault, but its cause is gratitude. He felt impious leaving him out, and his hand has often written Pompeius' name when he meant another's. Even Lethe could not make him forget. Pompeius' favor has never failed him: each artist protects his own work, as the Coan his Venus, Phidias his goddess, and Myron his cow, and Ovid is Pompeius' work.

Accipe, Pompei, deductum carmen ab illo,
Receive, Pompeius, drawn-out a-song from him,
debitor est vitae qui tibi, Sexte, suae.
a-debtor is of-life who to-you, Sextus, his-own.
qui seu non prohibes a me tua nomina poni,
who whether not you-forbid by me your name to-be-placed,
accedet meritis haec quoque summa tuis:
will-be-added to-merits this too sum your:
sive trahis vultus, equidem peccasse fatebor,
or-whether you-draw-together your-face, indeed to-have-sinned I-shall-confess,
delicti tamen est causa probanda mei.
of-the-offense still is the-cause to-be-approved my.
non potuit mea mens, quin esset grata, teneri.
not could my mind, but-that it-should-be grateful, to-be-held.
sit precor officio non gravis ira pio.
may-be I-pray at-duty not heavy anger dutiful.
o, quotiens ego sum libris mihi visus in istis
O, how-often I have books to-me seemed in those
impius, in nullo quod legerere loco!
impious, in no that you-were-read place!

o, quotiens, alii cum vellem scribere, nomen
O, how-often, another's when I-wished to-write, the-name
rettulit in ceras inscia dextra tuum!
brought into the-wax unknowing right-hand your!
ipse mihi placuit mendis in talibus error,
itself to-me pleased mistakes in such the-error,
et vix invita facta litura manu est.
and hardly with-unwilling made the-erasure hand has.
"viderit! ad summam" dixi "licet ipse queratur!
"let-him-see-to-it! in sum" I-said "though he-himself may-complain!
hanc pudet offensam non meruisse prius."
this it-shames offense not to-have-deserved before."
da mihi, siquid ea est, hebetantem pectora Lethen,
give me, if-anything that is, dulling breasts Lethe,
oblitus potero non tamen esse tui.
forgetful I-shall-be-able not still to-be of-you.
idque sinas oro, nec fastidita repellas
and-that may-you-allow I-beg, nor scorned may-you-repel
verba, nec officio crimen inesse putes,
words, nor in-duty a-crime to-be-in may-you-think,
et levis haec meritis referatur gratia tantis:
and light this for-merits may-be-returned thanks so-great:
si minus, invito te quoque gratus ero.
if less, unwilling you too grateful I-shall-be.
numquam pigra fuit nostris tua gratia rebus,
never sluggish was to-our your favor affairs,
nec mihi munificas arca negavit opes.
nor to-me generous the-chest denied riches.
nunc quoque nil subitis clementia territa fatis
now too nothing by-sudden clemency frightened fates

auxilium vitae fertque feretque meae.
help to-life both-brings and-will-bring my.
unde rogas forsan fiducia tanta futuri
whence you-ask perhaps confidence so-great of-the-future
sit mihi? quod fecit, quisque tuetur opus.
may-be to-me? what he-has-made, each protects work.
ut Venus artificis labor est et gloria Coi,
as Venus of-the-artist the-labor is and the-glory of-the-Coan,
aequoreo madidas quae premit imbre comas:
with-the-sea's wet who presses shower hair:
arcis ut Actaeae vel eburna vel aerea custos
of-the-citadel as Actaean either ivory or bronze guardian
bellica Phidiaca stat dea facta manu:
warlike by-Phidias stands goddess made hand:
vindicat ut Calamis laudem, quos fecit, equorum:
claims as Calamis the-praise, which he-made, of-the-horses:
ut similis verae vacca Myronis opus:
as like to-a-true the-cow of-Myron the-work:
sic ego pars rerum non ultima, Sexte, tuarum
so I part of-things not the-last, Sextus, your
tutelaeque feror munus opusque tuae.
and-of-protection am-said the-gift and-work your.

Ovid writes to Severus, greatest poet of great kings, from among the Getae, ashamed that his books have not yet named him. He has written him letters in prose but sent no poem: what could he send to one who makes them? His talent is choked like a spring with mud, and he plows a barren shore; even Homer would turn Getan here. There is no one to recite to, and praise is the spur of verse. With no wine, dice, or farming, only the Muses fill his idle days, and he asks Severus to send some fresh work.

Quod legis, o vates magnorum maxime regum,
What you-read, O bard of-great greatest kings,
venit ab intonsis usque, Severe, Getis:
comes from unshorn all-the-way, Severus, Getae:
cuius adhuc nomen nostros tacuisse libellos,
whose still name our to-have-kept-silent little-books,
si modo permittis dicere vera, pudet.
if only you-allow to-say true-things, it-shames.
orba tamen numeris cessavit epistula numquam
bereft still of-measures has-ceased the-letter never
ire per alternas officiosa vices.
to-go through alternate dutiful turns.
carmina sola tibi memorem testantia curam
songs alone to-you mindful attesting care
non data sunt. quid enim, quae facis ipse, darem?
not given have-been. what indeed, which you-make yourself, should-I-give?
quis mel Aristaeo, quis Baccho vina Falerna,
who honey to-Aristaeus, who to-Bacchus wines Falernian,
Triptolemo fruges, poma det Alcinoo?
to-Triptolemus crops, fruits would-give to-Alcinous?

fertile pectus habes, interque Helicona colentes
a-fertile breast you-have, and-among Helicon dwelling
uberius nulli provenit ista seges.
more-richly to-no-one comes-forth that crop.
mittere ad hunc carmen, frondes erat addere silvis.
to-send to this-one a-song, leaves it-was to-add to-woods.
haec mihi cunctandi causa, Severe, fuit.
this to-me of-delaying the-cause, Severus, was.
nec tamen ingenium nobis respondet, ut ante,
nor still talent to-us answers, as before,
sed siccum sterili vomere litus aro.
but dry with-barren plowshare shore I-plow.
scilicet ut limus venas excaecat in undis,
doubtless as mud the-veins blinds in waves,
laesaque suppresso fonte resistit aqua,
and-harmed the-suppressed spring stands-still the-water,
pectora sic mea sunt limo vitiata malorum,
breast so my are by-mud spoiled of-evils,
et carmen vena pauperiore fluit.
and song with-vein poorer flows.
si quis in hac ipsum terra posuisset Homerum,
if anyone in this himself land had-placed Homer,
esset, crede mihi, factus et ille Getes.
would-be, believe me, made also he a-Getan.
da veniam fasso, studiis quoque frena remisi,
give pardon to-the-confessing, to-pursuits too the-reins I-have-slackened,
ducitur et digitis littera rara meis.
is-drawn and by-fingers letter rare my.
impetus ille sacer, qui vatum pectora nutrit,
the-impulse that sacred, which of-bards the-breasts nourishes,

qui prius in nobis esse solebat, abest.
which before in us to-be was-wont, is-absent.
vix venit ad partes, vix sumptae Musa tabellae
hardly comes to her-part, hardly on-the-taken-up the-Muse tablet
inponit pigras paene coacta manus.
places sluggish almost compelled hands.
parvaque, ne dicam scribendi nulla voluptas
and-small, lest I-may-say of-writing none pleasure
est mihi, nec numeris nectere verba iuvat.
is to-me, nor in-measures to-weave words pleases.
sive quod hinc fructus adeo non cepimus ullos,
whether because from-here fruits so-far not we-have-taken any,
principium nostri res sit ut ista mali:
the-beginning of-our the-thing may-be that that evil:
sive quod in tenebris numerosos ponere gestus,
or-whether because in darkness rhythmical to-make gestures,
quodque legas nulli scribere carmen, idem est.
and-what you-may-read to-no-one to-write a-song, the-same is.
excitat auditor studium, laudataque virtus
rouses a-listener zeal, and-praised virtue
crescit, et inmensum gloria calcar habet.
grows, and boundless glory a-spur has.
hic mea cui recitem nisi flavis scripta Corallis,
here my to-whom may-I-recite except to-blond writings Coralli,
quasque alias gentes barbarus Hister habet?
and-which other peoples barbarian Hister has?
sed quid solus agam, quaque infelicia perdam
but what alone shall-I-do, and-with-what unhappy shall-I-waste
otia materia surripiamque diem?
leisure matter and-steal day?

nam quia nec vinum, nec me tenet alea fallax,
for because neither wine, nor me holds the-dice deceitful,
per quae clam tacitum tempus abire solet,
through which secretly silent time to-go-away is-wont,
nec me, quod cuperem, si per fera bella liceret,
nor me, which I-would-desire, if through wild wars it-were-allowed,
oblectat cultu terra novata suo,
delights by-tillage the-land renewed its,
quid, nisi Pierides, solacia frigida, restant,
what, except the-Pierides, consolations cold, remain,
non bene de nobis quae meruere deae?
not well of us who have-deserved goddesses?
at tu, cui bibitur felicius Aonius fons,
but you, by-whom is-drunk more-happily the-Aonian spring,
utiliter studium quod tibi cedit ama,
usefully the-pursuit which for-you turns-out love,
sacraque Musarum merito cole, quodque legamus,
and-the-rites of-the-Muses deservedly cultivate, and-what we-may-read,
huc aliquod curae mitte recentis opus.
hither some of-care send fresh work.

Ovid will not name the faithless friend, lest his complaint make him famous. While Ovid's ship was sound, he was first to sail with him; now he pretends not to know him and has not even asked whether Ovid lives. They were friends from boyhood. Fortune is fickle: Croesus was captured, the man once feared in Syracuse barely fed himself, Pompey begged a client's help, and Marius lay in a marsh. Ovid never foresaw his own fall. Let the friend fear that his joys may turn to sorrow.

Conquerar, an taceam? ponam sine nomine crimen,
Shall-I-complain, or shall-I-be-silent? shall-I-set without name the-charge,
an notum qui sis omnibus esse velim?
or known who you-may-be to-all to-be would-I-wish?
nomine non utar, ne commendere querella,
the-name not I-shall-use, lest you-may-be-commended by-the-complaint,
quaeraturque tibi carmine fama meo.
and-may-be-sought for-you by-song fame my.
dum mea puppis erat valida fundata carina,
while my ship was on-a-sturdy founded keel,
qui mecum velles currere, primus eras.
who with-me you-wished to-run, first you-were.
nunc, quia contraxit vultum Fortuna, recedis,
now, because has-contracted her-face Fortune, you-withdraw,
auxilio postquam scis opus esse tuo.
of-help after you-know need to-be your.
dissimulas etiam, nec me vis nosse videri,
you-dissemble even, nor me you-wish to-know to-seem,
quisque sit, audito nomine, Naso, rogas.
and-who may-be, heard the-name, Naso, you-ask.

ille ego sum, quamquam non vis audire, vetusta
that I am, although not you-wish to-hear, by-old
paene puer puero iunctus amicitia:
almost a-boy to-a-boy joined friendship:
ille ego, qui primus tua seria nosse solebam
that I, who first your serious-things to-know was-wont
et tibi iucundis primus adesse iocis:
and to-you in-pleasant first to-be-present jests:
ille ego convictor densoque domesticus usu,
that I the-companion and-in-close domestic intercourse,
ille ego iudiciis unica Musa tuis.
that I in-judgments sole Muse your.
ille ego sum, qui nunc an vivam, perfide, nescis,
that I am, who now whether I-may-live, faithless-one, you-know-not,
cura tibi de quo quaerere nulla fuit.
a-care to-you about whom to-ask none was.
sive fui numquam carus, simulasse fateris:
whether I-was never dear, to-have-pretended you-confess:
seu non fingebas, inveniere levis.
or-whether not you-were-feigning, you-will-be-found fickle.
aut age, dic aliquam, quae te mutaverit, iram:
or come, tell some, which you may-have-changed, anger:
nam nisi iusta tua est, iusta querella mea est.
for unless just yours is, just complaint my is.
quod te nunc crimen similem vetat esse priori?
what you now charge similar forbids to-be to-the-former?
an crimen, coepi quod miser esse, vocas?
or a-charge, I-began that wretched to-be, do-you-call?
si mihi rebus opem nullam factisque ferebas,
if to-me in-things help no and-in-deeds you-were-bringing,

venisset verbis charta notata tribus.
might-have-come with-words paper marked three.
vix equidem credo, sed et insultare iacenti
hardly indeed do-I-believe-it, but even to-insult the-prostrate
te mihi nec verbis parcere fama refert.
you me nor from-words to-spare report tells.
quid facis, a! demens? cur, si Fortuna recedat,
what are-you-doing, ah! madman? why, if Fortune should-withdraw,
naufragio lacrimas eripis ipse tuo?
from-the-shipwreck tears do-you-snatch yourself your?
haec dea non stabili, quam sit levis, orbe fatetur,
this goddess by-not stable, how she-may-be fickle, wheel confesses,
quae summum dubio sub pede semper habet.
who the-top doubtful under foot always has.
quolibet est folio, quavis incertior aura:
than-any is leaf, than-any more-uncertain breeze:
par illi levitas, improbe, sola tua est.
equal to-her fickleness, shameless-one, alone yours is.
omnia sunt hominum tenui pendentia filo,
all-things are of-men by-thin hanging thread,
et subito casu quae valuere, ruunt.
and by-sudden chance what-things have-been-strong, fall.
divitis audita est cui non opulentia Croesi?
of-rich heard has-been to-whom not the-opulence Croesus?
nempe tamen vitam captus ab hoste tulit.
surely still life captured from the-enemy he-received.
ille Syracosia modo formidatus in urbe
he Syracusan just-now feared in city
vix humili duram reppulit arte famem.
hardly by-humble hard drove-off art hunger.

quid fuerat Magno maius? tamen ille rogavit
what had-been than-the-Great greater? still he asked
summissa fugiens voce clientis opem.
with-lowered fleeing voice of-a-client help.
cuique viro totus terrarum paruit orbis,
and-to-whom man the-whole of-lands obeyed world,
* * *
(lacuna)
ille Iugurthino clarus Cimbroque triumpho,
that by-Jugurthine famous and-Cimbrian triumph,
quo victrix totiens consule Roma fuit,
whom victorious so-often as-consul Rome was,
in caeno Marius iacuit cannaque palustri,
in mud Marius lay and-in-reed marsh,
pertulit et tanto multa pudenda viro.
bore and to-so-great many shameful-things man.
ludit in humanis divina potentia rebus,
plays in human divine power things,
et certam praesens vix habet hora fidem.
and certain present hardly has the-hour faith.
"litus ad Euxinum" si quis mihi diceret "ibis,
"the-shore to Euxine" if anyone to-me were-saying "you-will-go,
et metues, arcu ne feriare Getae,"
and you-will-fear, by-the-bow lest you-may-be-struck of-the-Getan,"
"i, bibe" dixissem "purgantes pectora sucos,
"go, drink" I-would-have-said "purging breasts juices,
quidquid et in tota nascitur Anticyra."
whatever and in whole grows Anticyra."

sum tamen haec passus: nec, si mortalia possem,
I-have still these-things suffered: nor, if mortal-things I-could,
et summi poteram tela cavere dei.
also of-the-highest could-I weapons to-beware god.
tu quoque fac timeas, et quae tibi laeta videntur
you too see-to-it you-may-fear, and what-things to-you glad seem
dum loqueris, fieri tristia posse puta.
while you-speak, to-become sad to-be-able think.

IV.4 · THE CONSULSHIP OF SEXTUS POMPEIUS

No day is all rain and no land wholly barren. Walking on the shore, Ovid heard Fame tell him that Pompeius would be consul in the coming year. He imagines the scene: the crowds at Pompeius' house, the sacrifice on the Capitol, the Senate's welcome, and his return home escorted by the senators. He cannot see it with his eyes, but he will with his mind, and he hopes Pompeius will remember him.

Nulla dies adeo est australibus umida nimbis,
No day so is by-southern wet clouds,
non intermissis ut fluat imber aquis.
with-not interrupted that may-flow the-rain waters.
nec sterilis locus ullus ita est, ut non sit in illo
nor barren place any so is, that not may-be in it
mixta fere duris utilis herba rubis.
mixed generally with-hard useful herb brambles.
nil adeo fortuna gravis miserabile fecit,
nothing so fortune heavy pitiable has-made,
ut minuant nulla gaudia parte malum.
that may-lessen in-no joys part the-evil.
ecce domo patriaque carens oculisque meorum,
behold from-home and-country lacking and-the-eyes of-my-people,

naufragus in Getici litoris actus aquas,
shipwrecked into of-the-Getic shore driven waters,
qua tamen inveni vultum diffundere causa
by-which still I-have-found my-face to-spread-out cause
possim, fortunae nec meminisse meae.
I-may-be-able, of-fortune nor to-remember my.
nam mihi, cum fulva solus spatiarer harena,
for to-me, when on-tawny alone I-was-walking sand,
visa est a tergo pinna dedisse sonum.
seemed has from behind a-wing to-have-given a-sound.
respicio, nec erat corpus, quod cernere possem,
I-look-back, nor was-there a-body, which to-see I-could,
verba tamen sunt haec aure recepta mea:
words still have-been these by-ear received my:
"en ego laetarum venio tibi nuntia rerum
"behold I of-glad come to-you the-messenger things
Fama, per inmensas aere lapsa vias.
Fame, through boundless in-the-air gliding ways.
consule Pompeio, quo non tibi carior alter,
as-consul Pompeius, than-whom not to-you dearer another,
candidus et felix proximus annus erit."
bright and happy the-next year will-be."
dixit, et ut laeto Pontum rumore replevit,
she-said, and when with-glad Pontus rumor she-filled,
ad gentes alias hinc dea vertit iter.
to peoples other from-here the-goddess turned her-way.
at mihi dilapsis inter nova gaudia curis
but to-me slipped-away among new joys cares
excidit asperitas huius iniqua loci.
fell-away the-harshness of-this unfair place.

ergo ubi, Iane biceps, longum reseraveris annum,
so when, Janus two-headed, long you-shall-have-unbarred the-year,
pulsus et a sacro mense December erit,
driven and from the-sacred month December shall-be,
purpura Pompeium summi velabit honoris,
purple Pompeius of-highest will-veil honor,
ne titulis quicquam debeat ille suis.
lest to-titles anything may-owe he his.
cernere iam videor rumpi paene atria turba,
to-see already I-seem to-be-burst almost the-halls by-the-crowd,
et populum laedi deficiente loco,
and the-people to-be-hurt failing place,
templaque Tarpeiae primum tibi sedis adiri,
and-the-temples of-the-Tarpeian first by-you seat to-be-approached,
et fieri faciles in tua vota deos;
and to-become gracious toward your prayers the-gods;
colla boves niveos certae praebere securi,
necks oxen snow-white to-the-sure to-offer axe,
quos aluit campis herba Falisca suis:
which has-fed in-the-fields the-grass Faliscan its-own:
cumque deos omnes, tunc hos inpensius, aequos
and-though the-gods all, then these more-earnestly, favorable
esse tibi cupias, cum Iove Caesar erunt.
to-be to-you you-may-desire, with Jove Caesar will-be.
curia te excipiet, patresque e more vocati
the-senate-house you will-receive, and-the-fathers by custom called
intendent aures ad tua verba suas.
will-strain ears to your words their.
hos ubi facundo tua vox hilaraverit ore,
these when with-eloquent your voice shall-have-cheered mouth,

utque solet, tulerit prospera verba dies,
and-as is-wont, shall-have-brought favorable words the-day,
egeris et meritas superis cum Caesare grates
you-shall-have-given and deserved to-the-gods-above with Caesar thanks
(qui causam, facias cur ita saepe, dabit),
(who the-reason, you-may-do why so often, will-give),
inde domum repetes toto comitante senatu,
thence home you-will-seek-again whole accompanying the-senate,
officium populi vix capiente domo.
the-attendance of-the-people hardly holding house.
me miserum, turba quod non ego cernar in illa,
me wretched, the-crowd that not I may-be-seen in that,
nec poterunt istis lumina nostra frui!
nor will-be-able those eyes our to-enjoy!
quod licet, absentem qua possum mente videbo:
what is-allowed, absent with-what I-can mind I-shall-see:
aspiciet vultus consulis illa sui.
will-look-at the-face of-consul it its-own.
di faciant aliquo subeat tibi tempore nostrum
the-gods may-make at-some may-come-up to-you time our
nomen, et "heu" dicas "quid miser ille facit?"
name, and "alas" may-you-say "what wretched that-one does?"
haec tua pertulerit si quis mihi verba, fatebor
these your may-have-brought if anyone to-me words, I-shall-confess
protinus exilium mollius esse meum.
at-once exile milder to-be my.

Ovid sends his elegies to the consul Pompeius, telling them the way to Rome and where to find him: at his house, in his court, at the public auctions, in the Senate, or with the Caesars. When Pompeius has leisure, they are to say that Ovid lives and owes his life to him: Pompeius protected his journey through Thrace and gave him gifts to support him. Ovid will be his for all time.

Ite, leves elegi, doctas ad consulis aures,
Go, light elegiacs, the-learned to of-the-consul ears,
verbaque honorato ferte legenda viro.
and-words to-the-honored carry to-be-read man.
longa via est, nec vos pedibus proceditis aequis,
long the-road is, nor you on-feet proceed equal,
tectaque brumali sub nive terra latet.
and-covered wintry under snow the-land lies-hidden.
cum gelidam Thracen et opertum nubibus Haemum
when cold Thrace and covered with-clouds Haemus
et maris Ionii transieritis aquas,
and of-the-sea Ionian you-shall-have-crossed the-waters,
luce minus decima dominam venietis in urbem,
in-days less than-the-tenth mistress you-will-come to city,
ut festinatum non faciatis iter.
though hurried not you-may-make the-journey.
protinus inde domus vobis Pompeia petatur:
at-once thence the-house by-you of-Pompeius let-be-sought:
non est Augusto iunctior ulla foro.
not is to-the-Augustan more-joined any forum.
siquis, ut in populo, qui sitis et unde requiret,
if-anyone, as among a-people, who you-may-be and whence shall-ask,

nomina decepta quaelibet aure ferat.
names with-deceived any ear may-carry.
ut sit enim tutum, sicut reor esse, fateri,
though it-may-be indeed safe, as I-think to-be, to-confess,
verba minus certe ficta timoris habent.
words less surely feigned of-fear have.
copia nec vobis nullo prohibente videndi
the-opportunity nor to-you no-one preventing of-seeing
consulis, ut limen contigeritis, erit.
the-consul, when the-threshold you-shall-have-touched, will-be.
aut reget ille suos dicendo iura Quirites,
either will-guide he his-own by-pronouncing laws Quirites,
conspicuum signis cum premet altus ebur:
the-conspicuous with-figures when shall-press high ivory:
aut populi reditus positam componet ad hastam,
or of-the-people the-revenues set will-arrange at spear,
et minui magnae non sinet urbis opes:
and to-be-lessened of-the-great not will-allow city the-wealth:
aut, ubi erunt patres in Iulia templa vocati,
or, when shall-be the-fathers to Julian temple called,
de tanto dignis consule rebus aget:
about of-so-great worthy consul matters will-deal:
aut feret Augusto solitam natoque salutem,
or will-bring to-Augustus the-accustomed and-to-his-son greeting,
deque parum noto consulet officio.
and-about too-little known will-consult duty.
tempus ab his vacuum Caesar Germanicus omne
the-time from these free Caesar Germanicus all
auferet: a magnis hunc colit ille deis.
will-take-away: from great this-one cultivates he gods.

cum tamen a turba rerum requieverit harum,
when still from the-crowd of-affairs he-shall-have-rested these,
ad vos mansuetas porriget ille manus,
to you gentle will-stretch he hands,
quidque parens ego vester agam fortasse requiret
and-what parent I your may-do perhaps will-ask
talia vos illi reddere verba volo:
such you to-him to-return words I-wish:
"vivit adhuc vitamque tibi debere fatetur,
"he-lives still and-life to-you to-owe confesses,
quam prius a miti Caesare munus habet.
which before from gentle Caesar as-a-gift he-has.
te sibi, cum fugeret, memori solet ore referre
you to-himself, when he-fled, with-mindful he-is-wont mouth to-recall
barbariae tutas exhibuisse vias:
of-barbarism safe to-have-shown ways:
sanguine Bistonium quod non tepefecerit ensem,
by-blood the-Bistonian that not he-has-warmed sword,
effectum cura pectoris esse tui:
effected by-the-care of-heart to-be your:
addita praeterea vitae quoque multa tuendae
added besides of-life too many to-be-protected
munera, ne proprias attenuaret opes.
gifts, lest his-own he-should-thin riches.
pro quibus ut meritis referatur gratia, iurat
for which that merits may-be-returned thanks, he-swears
se fore mancipii tempus in omne tui.
himself to-be of-property time for all your.
nam prius umbrosa carituros arbore montes,
for sooner of-shady going-to-lack tree the-mountains,

et freta velivolas non habitura rates,
and straits sail-flying not going-to-have ships,
fluminaque in fontes cursu reditura supino,
and-rivers to springs in-course going-to-return backward,
gratia quam meriti possit abire tui."
the-gratitude than of-service could to-go-away your."
haec ubi dixeritis, servet sua dona rogate.
these when you-shall-have-said, he-may-keep his gifts ask.
sic fuerit vestrae causa peracta viae.
so will-have-been of-your the-cause completed journey.

IV.6 · TO BRUTUS: FIVE YEARS

Ovid writes to Brutus after five years in Scythia, and fortune still blocks his prayers. Fabius Maximus resolved to plead for him and died first; Augustus had begun to pardon him when he too left the earth. Ovid has sent Brutus a poem on the newly deified Augustus. He praises Brutus, gentle to the suppliant and fierce to the guilty, whose love has grown in Ovid's misfortune while many of his own disowned him. The Danube will sooner flow back than Ovid forget Brutus and his grieving friends.

Quam legis, ex illis tibi venit epistula, Brute,
Which you-read, from those to-you comes the-letter, Brutus,
Nasonem nolles in quibus esse locis.
Naso you-would-not-wish in which to-be places.
sed tu quod nolles, voluit miserabile fatum.
but you what you-would-not-wish, has-wished pitiable fate.
ei mihi! plus illud quam tua vota valet.
ah me! more it than your prayers avails.
in Scythia nobis quinquennis Olympias acta est:
in Scythia by-us a-five-year Olympiad spent has-been:

iam tempus lustri transit in alterius.
now the-time of-lustrum passes into another.
perstat enim fortuna tenax, votisque malignum
persists indeed fortune tenacious, and-to-prayers malicious
opponit nostris insidiosa pedem.
sets-against our treacherous foot.
certus eras pro me, Fabiae laus, Maxime, gentis,
resolved you-were for me, of-the-Fabian the-praise, Maximus, race,
numen ad Augustum supplice voce loqui.
the-divinity to Augustus with-suppliant voice to-speak.
occidis ante preces, causamque ego, Maxime, mortis
you-die before the-prayers, and-the-cause I, Maximus, of-death
(nec fuero tanti) me reor esse tuae.
(nor shall-I-have-been worth-so-much) me I-think to-be your.
iam timeo nostram cuiquam mandare salutem:
now I-fear our to-anyone to-entrust safety:
ipsum morte tua concidit auxilium.
itself with-death your has-fallen help.
coeperat Augustus deceptae ignoscere culpae:
had-begun Augustus the-deceived to-pardon fault:
spem nostram terras deseruitque simul.
the-hope our the-lands and-he-deserted together.
quale tamen potui, de caelite, Brute, recenti
such still I-could, about the-heavenly, Brutus, newly-made
vestra procul positus carmen in ora dedi.
your far placed a-song into mouth I-gave.
quae prosit pietas utinam mihi, sitque malorum
which may-profit devotion would-that me, and-may-be of-evils
iam modus et sacrae mitior ira domus.
now a-limit and of-the-sacred milder the-anger house.

te quoque idem liquido possum iurare precari,
you too the-same clearly I-can to-swear to-pray,
o mihi non dubia cognite Brute nota.
O to-me with-not doubtful known Brutus mark.
nam cum praestiteris verum mihi semper amorem,
for though you-have-shown true to-me always love,
hic tamen adverso tempore crevit amor.
this still in-adverse time has-grown love.
quique tuas pariter lacrimas nostrasque videret,
and-whoever your equally tears and-ours might-see,
passuros poenam crederet esse duos.
going-to-suffer punishment would-believe to-be two.
lenem te miseris genuit natura, nec ulli
gentle you to-the-wretched has-begotten nature, nor to-anyone
mitius ingenium, quam tibi, Brute, dedit:
milder a-nature, than to-you, Brutus, has-it-given:
ut qui quid valeas ignoret Marte forensi,
that who what you-are-strong may-not-know in-war forensic,
posse tuo peragi vix putet ore reos.
to-be-able by-your to-be-prosecuted hardly may-think mouth defendants.
scilicet eiusdem est, quamvis pugnare videntur,
doubtless of-the-same it-is, although to-fight they-seem,
supplicibus facilem, sontibus esse trucem.
to-suppliants easy, to-the-guilty to-be fierce.
cum tibi suscepta est legis vindicta severae,
when by-you undertaken has-been of-law the-vindication severe,
verba velut tinctu singula virus habent.
the-words as-if with-dye each poison have.
hostibus eveniat quam sis violentus in armis
to-enemies may-it-befall how you-may-be violent in arms

sentire et linguae tela subire tuae.
to-feel and of-the-tongue the-weapons to-undergo your.
quae tibi tam tenui cura limantur, ut omnes
which by-you with-such slender care are-filed, that all
istius ingenium corporis esse negent.
of-that talent the-body to-be may-deny.
at si quem laedi Fortuna cernis iniqua,
but if anyone to-be-harmed by-Fortune you-see unfair,
mollior est animo femina nulla tuo.
softer is than-mind woman no your.
hoc ego praecipue sensi, cum magna meorum
this I especially felt, when great of-my-people
notitiam pars est infitiata mei.
acquaintance part has disowned my.
inmemor illorum, vestri non inmemor umquam,
unmindful of-those, of-you not unmindful ever,
qui mala solliciti nostra levatis, ero.
who evils anxious our lighten, I-shall-be.
et prius hic nimium nobis conterminus Hister
and sooner this too-much to-us bordering Hister
in caput Euxino de mare vertet iter,
to its-source the-Euxine from sea will-turn its-course,
utque Thyesteae redeant si tempora mensae,
and-as of-Thyestes may-return if the-times feast,
Solis ad Eoas currus agetur aquas,
of-the-Sun to the-Eastern the-chariot will-be-driven waters,
quam quisquam vestrum, qui me doluistis ademptum,
than anyone of-you, who me have-grieved taken-away,
arguat ingratum non meminisse sui.
may-accuse ungrateful not to-remember him.

Vestalis has been sent to the Euxine and can witness Ovid's complaints: the frozen sea, the frozen wine, the Iazyges' wagons crossing the Danube, the poisoned arrows. He has also known the region's wars and lately earned the rank of first centurion. When Vitellius brought troops down the river against the Getae, who had taken the high town of Aegisos from the Sithonian king, Vestalis stormed it through arrows and stones like Ajax at the ships. Aegisos falls, and Ovid's song will witness his deeds.

Missus es Euxinas quoniam, Vestalis, ad undas,
Sent you-have-been Euxine since, Vestalis, to waves,
ut positis reddas iura sub axe locis,
that to-placed you-may-render laws under the-pole places,
aspicis en praesens, quali iaceamus in arvo,
you-see behold present, what-sort we-may-lie in field,
nec me testis eris falsa solere queri.
nor me witness you-will-be falsely to-be-wont to-complain.
accedet voci per te non irrita nostrae,
will-be-added to-voice through you not vain our,
Alpinis iuvenis regibus orte, fides.
from-Alpine young-man kings sprung, credit.
ipse vides certe glacie concrescere Pontum,
yourself you-see surely with-ice to-congeal Pontus,
ipse vides rigido stantia vina gelu;
yourself you-see in-rigid standing wines frost;
ipse vides, onerata ferox ut ducat Iazyx
yourself you-see, loaded fierce how may-drive the-Iazygian
per medias Histri plaustra bubulcus aquas.
through the-middle of-the-Hister wagons herdsman waters.

aspicis et mitti sub adunco toxica ferro,
you-see and to-be-sent under hooked poisons iron,
et telum causas mortis habere duas.
and the-dart causes of-death to-have two.
atque utinam pars haec tantum spectata fuisset,
and would-that part this only seen had-been,
non etiam proprio cognita Marte tibi!
not even in-own known war by-you!
tenditur ad primum per densa pericula pilum,
one-strives to the-first through dense dangers pike,
contigit ex merito qui tibi nuper honor.
befell from merit which to-you lately honor.
sit licet hic titulus plenus tibi fructibus, ingens
may-be though this title full for-you of-fruits, huge
ipsa tamen virtus ordine maior erit.
itself still valor than-the-rank greater will-be.
non negat hoc Hister, cuius tua dextera quondam
not denies this Hister, whose your right-hand once
puniceam Getico sanguine fecit aquam.
purple with-Getic blood made water.
non negat Aegisos, quae te subeunte recepta
not denies Aegisos, which you approaching recovered
sensit in ingenio nil opis esse loci.
felt in the-nature nothing of-help to-be of-the-place.
nam, dubium positu melius defensa manune,
for, doubtful by-position better defended or-by-hand,
urbs erat in summo nubibus aequa iugo.
the-city was on the-top to-the-clouds equal ridge.
Sithonio regi ferus interceperat illam
from-the-Sithonian king the-fierce had-intercepted it

hostis et ereptas victor habebat opes,
enemy and snatched the-victor held riches,
donec fluminea devecta Vitellius unda
until on-the-river carried-down Vitellius wave
intulit exposito milite signa Getis.
brought-in landed the-soldiery standards on-the-Getae.
at tibi, progenies alti fortissima Donni,
but to-you, offspring of-high bravest Donnus,
venit in adversos impetus ire viros.
came on adverse an-impulse to-go men.
nec mora, conspicuus longe fulgentibus armis,
nor delay, conspicuous far with-gleaming arms,
fortia ne possint facta latere caves,
brave that-not may-be-able deeds to-lie-hidden you-take-care,
ingentique gradu contra ferrumque locumque
and-with-huge step against both-iron and-place
saxaque brumali grandine plura subis.
and-stones than-wintry hail more-numerous you-go-up.
nec te missa super iaculorum turba moratur,
nor you sent above of-javelins the-throng delays,
nec quae vipereo tela cruore madent.
nor which with-viper's darts blood drip.
spicula cum pictis haerent in casside pinnis,
arrows with painted stick in the-helmet feathers,
parsque fere scuti vulnere nulla vacat.
and-part almost of-the-shield of-wound none is-free.
nec corpus cunctos feliciter effugit ictus:
nor the-body all happily escapes blows:
sed minor est acri laudis amore dolor.
but less is than-keen of-praise love the-pain.

talis apud Troiam Danais pro navibus Aiax
such at Troy for-the-Danaans before the-ships Ajax
dicitur Hectoreas sustinuisse faces.
is-said Hector's to-have-withstood torches.
ut propius ventum est admotaque dextera dextrae,
when nearer come it-was and-moved-up right-hand to-right-hand,
resque fero potuit comminus ense geri,
and-the-matter with-fierce could hand-to-hand sword to-be-waged,
dicere difficile est quid Mars tuus egerit illic,
to-say difficult it-is what Mars your did there,
quotque neci dederis quosque quibusque modis.
and-how-many to-death you-gave and-whom and-with-what ways.
ense tuo factos calcabas victor acervos,
with-sword your made you-trod victorious heaps,
inpositoque Getes sub pede multus erat.
and-placed-on the-Getan under foot many was.
pugnat ad exemplum primi minor ordine pili,
fights to the-example of-the-first lesser in-rank pike,
multaque fert miles vulnera, multa facit.
and-many bears the-soldier wounds, many makes.
sed tantum virtus alios tua praeterit omnes,
but as-much valor others your passes all,
ante citos quantum Pegasus ibit equos.
before swift as-much-as Pegasus will-go horses.
vincitur Aegisos, testataque tempus in omne
is-conquered Aegisos, and-attested time for all
sunt tua, Vestalis, carmine facta meo.
are your, Vestalis, by-song deeds my.

Suillius' late letter promises help, and Ovid is grateful. They are related by marriage, and Suillius need not be ashamed of him: Ovid's family were knights from of old, and his life was free of blemish but for his error. He asks Suillius to plead with his god, the young Caesar Germanicus, whom Ovid will thank with verse since poems make virtue immortal and even gods are made by songs. Germanicus is himself a poet, and Ovid asks him for a place nearer Rome, for which Suillius is to pray.

Littera sera quidem, studiis exculte Suilli,
A-letter late indeed, by-pursuits polished Suillius,
huc tua pervenit, sed mihi grata tamen,
hither your has-come, but to-me welcome still,
qua, pia si possit superos lenire rogando
in-which, dutiful if could the-gods-above to-soften by-asking
gratia, laturum te mihi dicis opem.
favor, going-to-bring you to-me you-say help.
ut iam nil praestes, animi sum factus amici
though now nothing you-may-show, of-mind I-have-been made friendly
debitor, et meritum velle iuvare voco.
a-debtor, and service to-wish to-help I-call.
impetus iste tuus longum modo duret in aevum,
impulse that your long only may-last into age,
neve malis pietas sit tua lassa meis.
nor-lest by-evils devotion may-be your weary my.
ius aliquod faciunt adfinia vincula nobis,
a-right some make kindred bonds for-us,
quae semper maneant inlabefacta precor.
which always may-remain unshaken I-pray.

nam tibi quae coniunx, eadem mihi filia paene est,
for to-you who wife, the-same to-me a-daughter almost is,
et quae te generum, me vocat illa virum.
and who you son-in-law, me calls she husband.
ei mihi, si lectis vultum tu versibus istis
ah me, if read face you verses those
ducis et adfinem te pudet esse meum!
draw and kin you it-shames to-be mine!
at nihil hic dignum poteris reperire pudore
but nothing here worthy you-will-be-able to-find of-shame
praeter Fortunam, quae mihi caeca fuit.
except Fortune, who to-me blind was.
seu genus excutias, equites ab origine prima
whether the-lineage you-may-shake-out, knights from origin the-first
usque per innumeros inveniemur avos:
right-on through countless we-shall-be-found ancestors:
sive velis qui sint mores inquirere nostri,
or-whether you-may-wish what may-be the-ways to-inquire our,
errorem misero detrahe, labe carent.
the-error from-the-wretched take-away, of-blemish they-are-free.
tu modo si quid agi sperabis posse precando,
you only if anything to-be-done you-shall-hope to-be-able by-praying,
quos colis, exora supplice voce deos.
whom you-worship, entreat with-suppliant voice gods.
di tibi sunt Caesar iuvenis. tua numina placa.
gods for-you are Caesar young. your divinities appease.
hac certe nulla est notior ara tibi.
than-this surely no is better-known altar to-you.
non sinit illa sui vanas antistitis umquam
not allows that of-its-own vain priest ever

esse preces: nostris hinc pete rebus opem.
to-be prayers: for-our from-here seek affairs help.
quamlibet exigua si nos ea iuverit aura,
however small if us that shall-have-helped breeze,
obruta de mediis cumba resurget aquis.
overwhelmed from the-middle the-skiff will-rise-again waters.
tunc ego tura feram rapidis sollemnia flammis,
then I incense shall-bring to-swift solemn flames,
et valeant quantum numina testis ero.
and may-avail how-much divinities a-witness I-shall-be.
nec tibi de Pario statuam, Germanice, templum
nor to-you of Parian shall-I-set-up, Germanicus, a-temple
marmore: carpsit opes illa ruina meas.
marble: has-plucked riches that ruin my.
templa domus facient vobis urbesque beatae;
temples houses will-make to-you and-cities blessed;
Naso suis opibus, carmine gratus erit.
Naso with-his riches, with-song grateful will-be.
parva quidem fateor pro magnis munera reddi,
small indeed I-confess for great gifts to-be-returned,
cum pro concessa verba salute damus.
when for granted words safety we-give.
sed qui, quam potuit, dat maxima, gratus abunde est,
but who, as he-could, gives greatest-things, grateful abundantly is,
et finem pietas contigit illa suum.
and the-end devotion has-reached that its-own.
nec quae de parva pauper dis libat acerra
nor which from small the-poor-man to-the-gods pours box
tura minus grandi quam data lance valent.
incense less with-great than given plate avails.

agnaque tam lactens quam gramine pasta Falisco
and-a-lamb so suckling as with-grass fed Faliscan
victima Tarpeios inficit icta focos.
as-victim the-Tarpeian stains struck hearths.
nec tamen officio vatum per carmina facto
nor still than-the-duty of-bards through songs done
principibus res est aptior ulla viris.
for-princes thing is fitter any men.
carmina vestrarum peragunt praeconia laudum,
songs of-your carry-out the-proclamation praises,
neve sit actorum fama caduca cavent.
and-lest may-be of-deeds the-fame falling they-take-care.
carmine fit vivax virtus, expersque sepulchri
by-song becomes long-lived virtue, and-free-from the-tomb
notitiam serae posteritatis habet.
the-knowledge of-late posterity has.
tabida consumit ferrum lapidemque vetustas,
wasting consumes iron and-stone age,
nullaque res maius tempore robur habet.
and-no thing greater than-time strength has.
scripta ferunt annos. scriptis Agamemnona nosti,
writings bear years. by-writings Agamemnon you-know,
et quisquis contra vel simul arma tulit.
and whoever against or with-him arms bore.
quis Thebas septemque duces sine carmine nosset,
who Thebes and-the-seven leaders without song would-know,
et quicquid post haec, quidquid et ante fuit?
and whatever after these, whatever and before was?
di quoque carminibus, si fas est dicere, fiunt,
the-gods too by-songs, if right it-is to-say, are-made,

tantaque maiestas ore canentis eget.
and-so-great majesty the-mouth of-the-singer needs.
sic Chaos ex illa naturae mole prioris
so Chaos from that of-nature the-mass former
digestum partes scimus habere suas:
arranged the-parts we-know to-have its-own:
sic adfectantes caelestia regna Gigantes
so aiming-at the-heavenly realms the-Giants
ad Styga nimbifero vindicis igne datos:
to the-Styx by-cloud-bearing of-the-avenger fire given:
sic victor laudem superatis Liber ab Indis,
so victorious the-praise conquered Liber from the-Indians,
Alcides capta traxit ab Oechalia.
Alcides captured drew from Oechalia.
et modo, Caesar, avum, quem virtus addidit astris,
and just-now, Caesar, grandfather, whom virtue added to-the-stars,
sacrarunt aliqua carmina parte tuum.
have-consecrated in-some songs part your.
siquid adhuc igitur vivi, Germanice, nostro
if-anything still therefore of-life, Germanicus, our
restat in ingenio, serviet omne tibi.
remains in talent, will-serve all you.
non potes officium vatis contemnere vates:
not you-can the-duty of-a-bard to-despise a-bard:
iudicio pretium res habet ista tuo.
in-judgment value thing has that your.
quod nisi te nomen tantum ad maiora vocasset,
but unless you the-name so-great to greater-things had-called,
gloria Pieridum summa futurus eras.
the-glory of-the-Pierides highest going-to-be you-were.

sed dare materiam nobis quam carmina maius:
but to-give the-matter to-us than songs greater:
nec tamen ex toto deserere illa potes.
nor still from whole to-desert them can-you.
nam modo bella geris, numeris modo verba coerces,
for now wars you-wage, in-measures now words you-confine,
quodque aliis opus est, hoc tibi lusus erit.
and-what for-others work is, this for-you play will-be.
utque nec ad citharam nec ad arcum segnis Apollo est,
and-as neither to the-lyre nor to the-bow sluggish Apollo is,
sed venit ad sacras nervus uterque manus,
but comes to sacred string each hands,
sic tibi nec docti desunt nec principis artes,
so to-you neither of-the-learned are-lacking nor of-the-prince the-arts,
mixta sed est animo cum Iove Musa tuo.
mixed but is in-mind with Jove the-Muse your.
quae quoniam nec nos unda summovit ab illa,
which since neither us the-wave has-removed from that,
ungula Gorgonei quam cava fecit equi,
the-hoof of-the-Gorgonean which hollow made horse,
prosit opemque ferat communia sacra tueri,
may-it-profit and-help may-it-bring common rites to-protect,
atque isdem studiis inposuisse manum:
and to-the-same pursuits to-have-laid hand:
litora pellitis nimium subiecta Corallis
the-shores to-the-skin-clad too-much subjected Coralli
ut tandem saevos effugiamque Getas:
that at-last savage and-I-may-escape Getae:
clausaque si misero patria est, ut ponar in ullo,
and-shut if to-the-wretched country is, that I-may-be-placed in any,

qui minus Ausonia distet ab urbe, loco,
which less the-Ausonian may-be-distant from city, place,
unde tuas possim laudes celebrare recentes
whence your I-may-be-able praises to-celebrate fresh
magnaque quam minima facta referre mora.
and-great with-as least deeds to-relate delay.
tangat ut hoc votum caelestia, care Suilli,
may-touch that this prayer the-heavenly, dear Suillius,
numina, pro socero paene precare tuo. 90
divinities, for father-in-law almost pray your.

IV.9 · TO GRAECINUS: HIS CONSULSHIP

Ovid greets Graecinus on the dawn of his consulship and imagines the day he cannot join, in the Capitol and the Senate. He hopes Graecinus will ask that the prince's anger be softened. Graecinus' brother Flaccus will succeed him. Flaccus once governed this region and kept the Danube safe, and Graecinus may ask him about Ovid: he lives blamelessly, the Tomitans have exempted him from taxes, and he honors the house of Caesar at a shrine each day. Ovid trusts the deified Augustus hears his prayers.

Unde licet, non unde iuvat, Graecine, salutem
From-where it-is-allowed, not from-where it-pleases, Graecinus, health
mittit ab Euxinis hanc tibi Naso vadis,
sends from the-Euxine this to-you Naso shallows,
missaque di faciant Auroram occurrat ad illam,
and-sent the-gods may-make the-Dawn it-may-meet at that,
bis senos fasces quae tibi prima dabit:
twice six fasces which to-you first will-give:
ut, quoniam sine me tanges Capitolia consul 5
that, since without me you-will-touch the-Capitol as-consul

et fiam turbae pars ego nulla tuae,
and I-shall-become of-the-crowd part I none your,
in domini subeat partes et praestet amici
into of-its-master may-come the-part and may-show of-a-friend
officium iusso littera nostra die.
the-duty on-the-ordered letter our day.
atque ego si fatis genitus melioribus essem
and I if by-fates born better were
et mea sincero curreret axe rota,
and my on-a-sound were-running axle wheel,
quo nunc nostra manus per scriptum fungitur, esset
in-which now our hand through writing performs, would-be
lingua salutandi munere functa tui,
the-tongue of-greeting by-the-duty performed you,
gratatusque darem cum dulcibus oscula verbis,
and-congratulating I-would-give with sweet kisses words,
nec minus ille meus quam tuus esset honor.
nor less that my than yours would-be the-honor.
illa, confiteor, sic essem luce superbus,
on-that, I-confess, so I-would-be day proud,
ut caperet fastus vix domus ulla meos:
that might-hold the-pride hardly house any my:
dumque latus sancti cingit tibi turba senatus,
and-while the-side of-the-holy surrounds you the-crowd senate,
consulis ante pedes ire iuberer eques;
of-the-consul before the-feet to-go I-would-be-bidden as-a-knight;
et quamquam cuperem semper tibi proximus esse,
and although I-would-desire always to-you nearest to-be,
gauderem lateris non habuisse locum.
I-would-rejoice of-the-side not to-have-had place.

nec querulus, turba quamvis eliderer, essem:
nor complaining, by-the-crowd though I-were-crushed, would-I-be:
sed foret a populo tum mihi dulce premi.
but it-would-be by the-people then to-me sweet to-be-pressed.
aspicerem gaudens, quantus foret agminis ordo,
I-would-look-at rejoicing, how-great might-be of-the-column the-order,
densaque quam longum turba teneret iter.
and-dense how long the-crowd might-hold a-way.
quoque magis noris, quam me vulgaria tangant,
and-so-that more you-may-know, how me common-things touch,
spectarem, qualis purpura te tegeret.
I-would-look-at, what-sort purple you might-cover.
signa quoque in sella nossem formata curuli
the-figures too on the-chair I-would-know shaped curule
et totum Numidae sculptile dentis opus.
and whole of-the-Numidian carved tooth work.
at cum Tarpeias esses deductus in arces,
but when the-Tarpeian you-had-been escorted to citadel,
dum caderet iussu victima sacra tuo,
while was-falling at-the-order the-victim sacred your,
me quoque secreto grates sibi magnus agentem
me too secretly thanks to-himself great giving
audisset media qui sedet aede deus;
would-have-heard in-the-middle who sits shrine god;
turaque mente magis plena quam lance dedissem,
and-incense with-mind more full than with-plate I-would-have-given,
ter quater imperii laetus honore tui.
three-times four-times of-empire glad at-the-honor your.
hic ego praesentes inter numerarer amicos,
here I present among would-be-counted friends,

mitia ius urbis si modo fata darent,
gentle the-right of-the-city if only the-fates should-give,
quaeque mihi sola capitur nunc mente voluptas,
and-which by-me alone is-taken now in-mind pleasure,
tunc oculis etiam percipienda foret.
then by-the-eyes also to-be-perceived would-be.
non ita caelitibus visum est, et forsitan aequis:
not so to-the-heavenly seemed has-it, and perhaps justly:
nam quid me poenae causa negata iuvet?
for what me of-punishment the-cause denied may-help?
mente tamen, quae sola loco non exulat, utar,
the-mind still, which alone from-place not is-exiled, I-shall-use,
praetextam fasces aspiciamque tuos.
the-bordered-toga the-fasces and-I-shall-see your.
haec modo te populo reddentem iura videbit,
it now you to-the-people giving laws will-see,
et se secreto finget adesse tuis:
and itself secretly will-imagine to-be-present to-your:
nunc longi reditus hastae supponere lustri
now of-the-long revenues to-the-spear to-put-under lustrum
credet, et exacta cuncta locare fide:
it-will-believe, and with-exact all to-lease faith:
nunc facere in medio facundum verba senatu,
now to-make in the-middle eloquent words senate,
publica quaerentem quid petat utilitas:
the-public seeking what may-seek good:
nunc pro Caesaribus superis decernere grates,
now for the-Caesars to-the-gods-above to-decree thanks,
albave opimorum colla ferire boum.
or-white of-fat the-necks to-strike oxen.

atque utinam, cum iam fueris potiora precatus,
and would-that, when already you-shall-have more-important-things prayed,
ut mihi placetur principis ira roges!
that for-me may-be-appeased of-the-prince the-anger you-may-ask!
surgat ad hanc vocem plena pius ignis ab ara,
may-rise at this voice full dutiful the-fire from altar,
detque bonum voto lucidus omen apex.
and-may-give good to-the-prayer bright omen the-peak.
interea, qua parte licet, ne cuncta queramur,
meanwhile, in-what part it-is-allowed, lest all-things we-may-complain,
hic quoque te festum consule tempus agam.
here too you festive consul time I-shall-spend.
altera laetitiae est nec cedens causa priori,
another of-gladness is nor yielding cause to-the-former,
successor tanti frater honoris erit.
the-successor of-so-great your-brother honor will-be.
nam tibi finitum summo, Graecine, Decembri
for to-you ended at-the-last, Graecinus, December
imperium Iani suscipit ille die.
the-command of-Janus takes-up he on-the-day.
quaeque est in vobis pietas, alterna feretis
and-which is in you devotion, alternate you-will-bear
gaudia, tu fratris fascibus, ille tuis.
joys, you at-your-brother's fasces, he at-yours.
sic tu bis fueris consul, bis consul et ille,
so you twice will-have-been consul, twice consul and he,
inque domo binus conspicietur honor.
and-in the-house double will-be-seen honor.
qui quamquam est ingens, et nullum Martia summo
which although it-is huge, and no Martial than-the-highest

altius imperium consule Roma videt,
higher command consul Rome sees,
multiplicat tamen hunc gravitas auctoris honorem,
multiplies still this the-weight of-the-giver honor,
et maiestatem res data dantis habet.
and majesty the-thing given of-the-giver has.
iudiciis igitur liceat Flaccoque tibique
in-judgments therefore may-it-be-allowed both-to-Flaccus and-to-you
talibus Augusti tempus in omne frui.
such of-Augustus time for all to-enjoy.
quod tamen ab rerum cura propiore vacabit,
which still from of-affairs care nearer shall-be-free,
vota precor votis addite vestra meis.
prayers I-pray to-prayers add your my.
et si quem dabit aura sinum, laxate rudentes,
and if any shall-give the-breeze a-fold, loosen the-ropes,
exeat e Stygiis ut mea navis aquis.
may-go-out from the-Stygian that my ship waters.
praefuit his, Graecine, locis modo Flaccus, et illo
presided-over these, Graecinus, places lately Flaccus, and that
ripa ferox Histri sub duce tuta fuit.
the-bank fierce of-the-Hister under leader safe was.
hic tenuit Mysas gentes in pace fideli,
he held Mysian peoples in peace faithful,
hic arcu fisos terruit ense Getas.
he on-the-bow trusting terrified with-the-sword Getae.
hic raptam Troesmin celeri virtute recepit,
he snatched Troesmis with-swift valor recovered,
infecitque fero sanguine Danuvium.
and-stained with-fierce blood the-Danube.

quaere loci faciem Scythicique incommoda caeli,
ask of-the-place the-face and-of-the-Scythian discomforts sky,
et quam vicino terrear hoste roga:
and how by-neighboring I-may-be-terrified enemy ask:
sintne litae tenues serpentis felle sagittae,
whether-are smeared slender with-serpent's gall arrows,
fiat an humanum victima dira caput:
may-become or human victim dread head:
mentiar, an coeat duratus frigore Pontus,
whether-shall-I-lie, or may-congeal hardened by-cold Pontus,
et teneat glacies iugera multa freti.
and may-hold ice acres many of-the-strait.
haec ubi narrarit, quae sit mea fama require,
these-things when he-shall-have-told, what may-be my reputation inquire,
quoque modo peragam tempora dura roga.
and-in-what way I-may-spend times hard ask.
nec sumus hic odio, nec scilicet esse meremur,
nor we-are here (an)-object-of-hatred, nor doubtless to-be do-we-deserve,
nec cum fortuna mens quoque versa mea est.
nor with fortune mind too turned my has-been.
illa quies animi, quam tu laudare solebas,
that quiet of-mind, which you to-praise were-wont,
ille vetus solito perstat in ore pudor.
that old accustomed persists in face modesty.
sic ego sum longe, sic hic, ubi barbarus hostis,
so I am far-off, so here, where the-barbarian enemy,
ut fera plus valeant legibus arma, facit,
that wild more may-avail than-laws arms, makes,
rem queat ut nullam tot iam, Graecine, per annos
about-a-thing could that none so-many now, Graecinus, through years

femina de nobis virve puerve queri.
woman about us or-man or-boy complain.
hoc facit ut misero faveant adsintque Tomitae:
this makes that to-the-wretched may-favor and-may-stand-by the-Tomitans:
haec quoniam tellus testificanda mihi est.
this since land to-be-called-to-witness by-me is.
illi me, quia velle vident, discedere malunt:
they me, because to-wish they-see, to-depart prefer:
respectu cupiunt hic tamen esse sui.
for-regard they-desire here still to-be for-their-own-sake.
nec mihi credideris: extant decreta, quibus nos
nor me may-you-believe: are-extant decrees, by-which us
laudat et inmunes publica cera facit.
praises and exempt the-public wax makes.
conveniens miseris et quamquam gloria non est,
suiting to-the-wretched and although glory not it-is,
proxima dant nobis oppida munus idem.
the-nearest give to-us towns gift the-same.
nec pietas ignota mea est: videt hospita terra
nor devotion unknown my is: sees the-hospitable land
in nostra sacrum Caesaris esse domo.
in our a-shrine of-Caesar to-be house.
stant pariter natusque pius coniunxque sacerdos,
stand equally both-the-son dutiful and-the-wife priestess,
numina iam facto non leviora deo.
divinities now than-the-made not lighter god.
neu desit pars ulla domus, stat uterque nepotum,
and-lest may-be-lacking part any of-the-house, stands each of-the-grandsons,
hic aviae lateri proximus, ille patris.
this-one to-his-grandmother's side nearest, that-one to-his-father's.

his ego do totiens cum ture precantia verba,
to-these I give so-often with incense praying words,
Eoo quotiens surgit ab orbe dies.
the-Eastern as-often-as rises from world the-day.
tota, licet quaeras, hoc me non fingere dicet
whole, though you-may-ask, this me not to-invent will-say
officii testis Pontica terra mei.
of-duty witness the-Pontic land my.
Pontica me tellus, quantis hac possumus ara,
the-Pontic me land, with-how-great on-this we-can altar,
natalem ludis scit celebrare dei.
the-birthday games knows to-celebrate of-the-god.
nec minus hospitibus pietas est cognita talis,
nor less to-strangers devotion is known such,
misit in has siquos longa Propontis aquas.
has-sent into these if-any long Propontis waters.
is quoque, quo laevus fuerat sub praeside Pontus,
he too, whom left had-been under the-governor Pontus,
audierit frater forsitan ista tuus.
may-have-heard brother perhaps those-things your.
fortuna est impar animo, talique libenter
fortune is unequal to-mind, and-for-such gladly
exiguas carpo munere pauper opes.
small I-pluck gift poor riches.
nec vestris damus haec oculis, procul urbe remoti:
nor to-your we-give these-things eyes, far from-the-city removed:
contenti tacita sed pietate sumus.
content with-silent but devotion we-are.
et tamen haec tangent aliquando Caesaris aures:
and still these-things will-touch some-day of-Caesar the-ears:

nil illi, toto quod fit in orbe, latet.
nothing to-him, whole which happens in world, lies-hidden.
tu certe scis haec, superis ascite, videsque,
you surely know these-things, to-the-gods-above admitted, and-see,
Caesar, ut est oculis subdita terra tuis.
Caesar, how is to-eyes subjected the-earth your.
tu nostras audis inter convexa locatus
you our hear among the-vaults placed
sidera, sollicito quas damus ore, preces.
stars, with-anxious which we-give mouth, prayers.
perveniant istuc et carmina forsitan illa,
may-arrive there also songs perhaps those,
quae de te misi caelite facta novo.
which about you I-sent heavenly made new.
auguror his igitur flecti tua numina, nec tu
I-divine by-these therefore to-be-bent your divinity, nor you
inmerito nomen mite Parentis habes.
undeservedly the-name gentle of-Parent have.

Ovid is spending his sixth summer on the Cimmerian shore, and his endurance outlasts flint and iron. Ulysses suffered less: he had Calypso's love, winds given as a gift, singing girls, and the lotus, and his monsters were milder than the peoples here. The sea freezes because the north wind is near and because countless rivers, which Ovid lists, pour fresh water into it. Writing this beguiles his cares. Pedo, poet of Theseus, should imitate his hero's loyalty, as Ovid knows he does: this is no complaint.

Haec mihi Cimmerio bis tertia ducitur aestas
This to-me on-the-Cimmerian twice the-third is-drawn summer
litore pellitos inter agenda Getas.
shore the-skin-clad among to-be-spent Getae.
ecquos tu silices, ecquod, carissime, ferrum
whether-any you flints, whether-any, dearest, iron
duritiae confers, Albinovane, meae?
to-hardness compare, Albinovanus, my?
gutta cavat lapidem, consumitur anulus usu,
a-drop hollows stone, is-consumed a-ring by-use,
atteritur pressa vomer aduncus humo.
is-worn-down by-the-pressed plowshare hooked ground.
tempus edax igitur praeter nos omnia perdit:
time devouring therefore except us all-things destroys:
cessat duritia mors quoque victa mea.
ceases by-the-hardness death too conquered my.
exemplum est animi nimium patientis Ulixes,
the-example is of-a-mind too-much enduring Ulysses,
iactatus dubio per duo lustra mari:
tossed on-doubtful through two lustra sea:

tempora solliciti sed non tamen omnia fati
times of-anxious but not still all fate
pertulit, et placidae saepe fuere morae.
he-endured, and calm often were delays.
an grave sex annis pulchram fovisse Calypso
or heavy for-six years the-beautiful to-have-cherished Calypso
aequoreaeque fuit concubuisse deae?
and-of-the-sea was-it to-have-lain-with goddess?
excipit Hippotades, qui dat pro munere ventos,
receives the-son-of-Hippotes, who gives as a-gift winds,
curvet ut inpulsos utilis aura sinus.
may-curve that driven useful the-breeze sails.
nec bene cantantes labor est audire puellas:
nor well singing a-labor is-it to-hear girls:
nec degustanti lotos amara fuit.
nor to-the-tasting the-lotus bitter was.
hos ego, qui patriae faciant oblivia, sucos
these I, which of-country may-make forgetfulness, juices
parte meae vitae, si modo dentur, emam.
with-part of-my life, if only they-should-be-given, would-buy.
nec tu contuleris urbem Laestrygonos umquam
nor you would-compare the-city of-the-Laestrygonian ever
gentibus, obliqua quas obit Hister aqua.
with-peoples, with-slanting whom goes-around Hister water.
nec vincet Cyclops saevum feritate Piacchen.
nor will-conquer the-Cyclops savage in-fierceness Piacches.
qui quota terroris pars solet esse mei!
who how-small of-terror a-part is-wont to-be my!
Scylla feris trunco quod latret ab inguine monstris,
Scylla with-wild maimed that may-bark from groin monsters,

Heniochae nautis plus nocuere rates.
the-Heniochian to-sailors more have-harmed ships.
nec potes infestis conferre Charybdin Achaeis,
nor you-can to-hostile compare Charybdis Achaeans,
ter licet epotum ter vomat illa fretum.
three-times though drunk-up three-times may-vomit she strait.
qui quamquam dextra regione licentius errant,
who although on-the-right region more-licentiously roam,
securum latus hoc non tamen esse sinunt.
safe side this not still to-be allow.
hic agri infrondes, hic spicula tincta venenis,
here fields leafless, here arrows dyed with-poisons,
hic freta vel pediti pervia reddit hiems,
here straits even to-the-footman passable makes winter,
ut, qua remus iter pulsis modo fecerat undis,
that, where the-oar a-way beaten lately had-made waves,
siccus contempta nave viator eat.
dry despised the-ship the-traveler may-go.
qui veniunt istinc, vix vos ea credere dicunt.
who come from-there, hardly you these-things to-believe say.
quam miser est, qui fert asperiora fide!
how wretched is-he, who bears harsher-things than-belief!
crede tamen: nec te causas nescire sinemus,
believe still: nor you the-causes not-to-know will-we-allow,
horrida Sarmaticum cur mare duret hiems.
harsh the-Sarmatian why sea may-harden winter.
proxima sunt nobis plaustri praebentia formam
nearest are to-us of-the-wagon showing the-form
et quae praecipuum sidera frigus habent.
and which special stars cold have.

hinc oritur Boreas oraeque domesticus huic est
from-here rises Boreas and-to-the-shore at-home this is
et sumit vires a propiore loco.
and takes strength from nearer place.
at Notus, adverso tepidum qui spirat ab axe,
but Notus, the-opposite warm who breathes from pole,
est procul et rarus languidiorque venit.
is far-off and rare and-more-languid comes.
adde quod hic clauso miscentur flumina Ponto,
add that here in-the-shut are-mingled rivers Pontus,
vimque fretum multo perdit ab amne suam.
and-its-force the-strait by-many loses from river its-own.
huc Lycus, huc Sagaris Peniusque Hypanisque Calesque
hither Lycus, hither Sagaris and-Penius and-Hypanis and-Cales
influit et crebro vertice tortus Halys,
flows-in and with-frequent eddy twisted Halys,
Partheniusque rapax, et volvens saxa Cynapses
and-Parthenius rapacious, and rolling rocks Cynapses
labitur, et nullo tardior amne Tyras,
glides, and than-no slower river Tyras,
et tu, femineae Thermodon cognite turmae,
and you, by-the-womanly Thermodon known troop,
et quondam Graiis Phasi petite viris,
and once by-the-Greek Phasis sought men,
cumque Borysthenio liquidissimus amne Dyrapses
and-with Borysthenian clearest river Dyrapses
et tacite peragens lene Melanthus iter,
and silently pursuing gentle Melanthus course,
quique duas terras, Asiam Cadmique sororem,
and-he-who two lands, Asia and-of-Cadmus the-sister,

separat et cursus inter utramque facit,
separates and course between each makes,
innumerique alii, quos inter maximus omnes
and-countless others, whom among greatest all
cedere Danuvius se tibi, Nile, negat.
to-yield the-Danube himself to-you, Nile, denies.
copia tot laticum, quas auget, adulterat undas,
the-abundance of-so-many waters, which it-swells, adulterates the-waves,
nec patitur vires aequor habere suas.
nor allows strength the-sea to-have its-own.
quin etiam, stagno similis pigraeque paludi,
nay even, to-a-pool like and-to-a-sluggish marsh,
caeruleus vix est diluiturque color.
the-blue hardly is and-is-diluted color.
innatat unda freto dulcis, leviorque marina est,
floats a-wave on-the-strait sweet, and-lighter than-the-sea-water is,
quae proprium mixto de sale pondus habet.
which its-own mixed from salt weight has.
si roget haec aliquis cur sint narrata Pedoni,
if should-ask these-things someone why they-may-have-been told to-Pedo,
quidve loqui certis iuverit ista modis,
or-what to-speak in-fixed may-have-pleased those-things measures,
"detinui" dicam "curas tempusque fefelli.
"I-have-held-off" I-shall-say "my-cares and-time I-have-beguiled.
hunc fructum praesens attulit hora mihi.
this fruit present has-brought the-hour to-me.
afuimus solito, dum scribimus ista, dolore,
we-have-been-absent from-accustomed, while we-write these-things, pain,
in mediis nec nos sensimus esse Getis."
in the-middle nor we have-felt to-be of-the-Getae."

at tu, non dubito, cum Thesea carmine laudes,
but you, not I-doubt, when Theseus in-song you-praise,
materiae titulos quin tueare tuae,
of-material the-titles but-that you-may-protect your,
quemque refers, imitere virum. vetat ille profecto
and-whom you-recount, may-imitate the-man. forbids he surely
tranquilli comitem temporis esse fidem.
of-tranquil the-companion time to-be faith.
qui quamquam est factis ingens et conditur a te
who although he-is in-deeds huge and is-composed by you
vir tanto quanto debuit ore cani,
a-man with-as-great as he-ought mouth to-be-sung,
est tamen ex illo nobis imitabile quiddam,
is still from him for-us imitable something,
inque fide Theseus quilibet esse potest.
and-in faith a-Theseus anyone to-be can.
non tibi sunt hostes ferro clavaque domandi,
not for-you are enemies with-iron and-club to-be-tamed,
per quos vix ulli pervius Isthmos erat:
through whom hardly to-anyone passable the-Isthmus was:
sed praestandus amor, res non operosa volenti.
but to-be-shown love, a-thing not laborious for-the-willing.
quis labor est puram non temerasse fidem?
what labor is-it pure not to-have-violated faith?
haec tibi, qui perstas indeclinatus amico,
these-things to-you, who persist unswerving to-a-friend,
non est quod lingua dicta querente putes.
not is-there why tongue spoken complaining you-should-think.

Ovid has no excuse for leaving Gallio's name out of his poems, since Gallio wept for Ovid's wound; now the gods have taken Gallio's wife. The letter with the news came lately, but a year passes while letters cross, and time has surely eased his grief, so consolation would be untimely. He hopes that Gallio may already be happy in a new marriage.

Gallio, crimen erit vix excusabile nobis,
Gallio, a-crime it-will-be hardly excusable for-us,
carmine te nomen non habuisse meo.
in-song you a-name not to-have-had my.
tu quoque enim, memini, caelesti cuspide facta
you too indeed, I-remember, with-the-heavenly spear made
fovisti lacrimis vulnera nostra tuis.
you-cherished with-tears wounds our your.
atque utinam rapti iactura laesus amici
and would-that by-the-snatched loss harmed of-a-friend
sensisses ultra, quod quererere, nihil!
you-had-felt beyond, what you-might-complain-of, nothing!
non ita dis placuit, qui te spoliare pudica
not so to-the-gods it-pleased, who you to-rob of-chaste
coniuge crudeles non habuere nefas.
wife cruel not held a-sin.
nuntia nam luctus mihi nuper epistula venit,
the-messenger for of-grief to-me lately the-letter came,
lectaque cum lacrimis sunt tua damna meis.
and-read with tears were your losses my.
sed neque solari prudentem stultior ausim,
but neither to-console the-wise more-foolish would-I-dare,

verbaque doctorum nota referre tibi:
and-words of-the-learned known to-relate to-you:
finitumque tuum, si non ratione, dolorem
and-ended your, if not by-reason, grief
ipsa iam pridem suspicor esse mora.
by-itself already long-ago I-suspect to-be by-delay.
dum tua pervenit, dum littera nostra recurrens
while your arrives, while letter our running-back
tot maria ac terras permeat, annus abit.
so-many seas and lands passes-through, a-year goes-away.
temporis officium est solacia dicere certi,
of-time the-duty it-is consolations to-speak fixed,
dum dolor in cursu est et petit aeger opem.
while grief in course is and seeks the-sick help.
at cum longa dies sedavit vulnera mentis,
but when long time has-calmed the-wounds of-the-mind,
intempestive qui movet illa, novat.
untimely he-who moves them, renews.
adde quod (atque utinam verum tibi venerit omen!)
add that (and would-that true to-you may-have-come the-omen!)
coniugio felix iam potes esse novo.
in-marriage happy already you-can to-be new.

Ovid has not named Tuticanus in his poems because the name will not fit the meter: it would have to be split across two lines or its syllables changed. He will repay the gift with interest. He has loved him like a brother since boyhood: Tuticanus guided his first steps in verse, and each corrected the other's poems while Tuticanus wrote his Phaeacid. Ovid asks him to protect the exile loyally so that his hope is not lost; he cannot say what to ask, so Tuticanus must find the way to help.

Quo minus in nostris ponaris, amice, libellis,
That not among our you-may-be-placed, friend, little-books,
nominis efficitur condicione tui.
of-the-name is-brought-about by-the-condition your.
ast ego non alium prius hoc dignarer honore —
but I not another sooner with-this would-deem-worthy honor
est aliquis nostrum si modo carmen honor.
is any our if only song honor.
lex pedis officio fortunaque nominis obstat,
the-law of-the-foot to-the-duty and-the-fortune of-the-name stands-in-the-way,
quaque meos adeas est via nulla modos.
and-by-which my you-may-approach is way none measures.
nam pudet in geminos ita nomen scindere versus,
for it-shames into twin so the-name to-cut verses,
desinat ut prior hoc incipiatque minor.
may-end that the-first in-this and-may-begin the-lesser.
et pudeat, si te, qua syllaba parte moratur,
and it-would-shame, if you, on-which syllable part lingers,
artius adpellem Tuticanumque vocem.
more-closely I-should-call and-Tuticanus should-name.
nec potes in versum Tuticani more venire,
nor you-can into verse of-Tuticanus in-the-manner to-come,

fiat ut e longa syllaba prima brevis,
may-be-made that from long the-syllable first short,
aut producatur, quae nunc correptius exit,
or may-be-drawn-out, which now more-shortly goes-out,
et sit porrecta longa secunda mora.
and may-be with-stretched long the-second delay.
his ego si vitiis ausim corrumpere nomen,
with-these I if faults should-dare to-corrupt the-name,
ridear et merito pectus habere neger.
I-would-be-laughed-at and deservedly a-heart to-have I-would-be-denied.
haec mihi causa fuit dilati muneris huius,
this to-me the-cause was of-deferred gift this,
quod meus adiecto faenore reddet amor,
which my added interest will-repay love,
teque canam quacumque nota, tibi carmina mittam,
and-you I-shall-sing in-whatever mark, to-you songs I-shall-send,
paene mihi puero cognite paene puer,
almost by-me a-boy known almost a-boy,
perque tot annorum seriem, quot habemus uterque,
and-through so-many of-years the-series, as-many-as we-have each,
non mihi, quam fratri frater, amate minus.
not by-me, than by-a-brother a-brother, loved less.
tu bonus hortator, tu duxque comesque fuisti,
you a-good encourager, you both-leader and-companion were,
cum regerem tenera frena novella manu.
when I-was-guiding with-tender the-reins new hand.
saepe ego correxi sub te censore libellos,
often I corrected under you as-censor little-books,
saepe tibi admonitu facta litura meo est,
often by-you at-the-warning made the-erasure my has-been,

dignam Maeoniis Phaeacida condere chartis
worthy of-Maeonian the-Phaeacid to-compose papers
cum te Pieriae perdocuere deae.
when you the-Pierian thoroughly-taught goddesses.
hic tenor, haec viridi concordia coepta iuventa
this course, this in-green harmony begun youth
venit ad albentis inlabefacta comas.
has-come to whitening unshaken hair.
quae nisi te moveant, duro tibi pectora ferro
which unless you may-move, with-hard to-you the-heart iron
esse vel invicto clausa adamante putem.
to-be or by-unconquered shut adamant I-would-think.
sed prius huic desint et bellum et frigora terrae,
but sooner to-this may-be-lacking both war and cold-spells land,
invisus nobis quae duo Pontus habet,
hated by-us which two-things Pontus has,
et tepidus Boreas et sit praefrigidus Auster,
and warm Boreas and may-be very-cold Auster,
et possit fatum mollius esse meum,
and may-be-able fate milder to-be my,
quam tua sint lasso praecordia dura sodali.
than your may-be to-the-weary heart hard comrade.
hic cumulus nostris absit abestque malis.
this heap from-our may-it-be-absent and-it-is-absent evils.
tu modo per superos, quorum certissimus ille est,
you only by the-gods-above, of-whom surest he is,
quo tuus assidue principe crevit honor,
whom your constantly as-prince has-grown honor,
effice constanti profugum pietate tuendo,
bring-it-about with-constant the-exile devotion by-protecting,

ne sperata meam deserat aura ratem.
lest hoped-for my may-desert breeze raft.
quid mandem, quaeris? peream, nisi dicere vix est;
what I-may-commission, you-ask? may-I-perish, unless to-say hardly it-is;
si modo, qui periit, ille perire potest.
if only, who has-perished, he to-perish can.
nec quid agam invenio, nec quid nolimve velimve,
nor what I-may-do do-I-find, nor what either-I-may-not-wish or-I-may-wish,
nec satis utilitas est mihi nota mea.
nor enough advantage is to-me known my.
crede mihi, miseros prudentia prima relinquit,
believe me, the-wretched prudence first leaves,
et sensus cum re consiliumque fugit.
and sense with the-thing and-counsel flees.
ipse, precor, quaeras, qua sim tibi parte iuvandus,
yourself, I-pray, may-you-ask, in-what I-may-be by-you part to-be-helped,
quoque viam facias ad mea vota vado.
and-by-what a-way you-may-make to my prayers ford.

Carus will recognize Ovid's letter by its style, faults and all, as Ovid would know Carus' work. Ovid, almost a Getic poet now, has written a poem in Getic praising the Caesars: Augustus' deification, his son's equal virtue, Livia, and the two young men. When he read it, the Getae shook their heads and quivers and murmured, and one said that he deserved to be restored. Yet this is his sixth winter, and poetry harmed him once. He asks Carus, tutor of the boys, to help win him a change of place.

O mihi non dubios inter memorande sodales,
O by-me not doubtful among to-be-remembered comrades,
qui quod es, id vere, Care, vocaris, ave!
who what you-are, that truly, Carus, are-called, hail!
unde saluteris, color hic tibi protinus index
whence you-may-be-greeted, the-color this to-you at-once the-informer
et structura mei carminis esse potest.
and the-structure of-my song to-be can.
non quia mirifica est, sed quod non publica certe est:
not because wonderful it-is, but because not common surely it-is:
qualis enim cumque est, non latet esse meam.
of-what-sort indeed ever it-is, not it-lies-hidden to-be mine.
ipse quoque, ut titulum chartae de fronte revellas,
I-myself too, though the-title of-the-paper from the-front you-may-tear-off,
quod sit opus, videor dicere posse, tuum.
what may-be the-work, I-seem to-say to-be-able, yours.
quamlibet in multis positus noscere libellis,
however among many placed you-will-be-recognized little-books,
perque observatas inveniere notas.
and-through observed you-will-be-found marks.

prodent auctorem vires, quas Hercule dignas
will-betray the-author the-strength, which of-Hercules worthy
novimus atque illi, quem canis ipse, pares.
we-know and to-him, whom you-sing yourself, equal.
et mea Musa potest, proprio deprensa colore,
and my Muse can, by-her-own caught color,
insignis vitiis forsitan esse suis.
notable by-faults perhaps to-be her-own.
tam mala Thersiten prohibebat forma latere,
as bad Thersites prevented looks to-lie-hidden,
quam pulchra Nireus conspiciendus erat.
as beautiful Nireus to-be-looked-at was.
nec te mirari, si sint vitiosa, decebit
nor you to-wonder, if they-may-be faulty, will-it-befit
carmina, quae faciam paene poeta Getes.
songs, which I-may-make almost a-poet Getan.
a! pudet, et Getico scripsi sermone libellum,
ah! it-shames, and in-Getic I-have-written speech a-little-book,
structaque sunt nostris barbara verba modis:
and-built have-been in-our barbarian words measures:
et placui (gratare mihi) coepique poetae
and I-pleased (congratulate me) and-began of-a-poet
inter inhumanos nomen habere Getas.
among inhuman the-name to-have Getae.
materiam quaeris? laudes: de Caesare dixi.
the-material do-you-ask? praises: about Caesar I-spoke.
adiuta est novitas numine nostra dei.
helped has-been the-novelty by-the-divinity our of-the-god.
nam patris Augusti docui mortale fuisse
for of-the-father Augustus I-taught mortal to-have-been

corpus, in aetherias numen abisse domos:
the-body, into the-ethereal the-divinity to-have-gone-away homes:
esse parem virtute patri, qui frena rogatus
to-be equal in-virtue to-his-father, who the-reins asked
saepe recusati ceperit imperii:
often of-refused may-have-taken the-empire:
esse pudicarum te Vestam, Livia, matrum,
to-be of-chaste you the-Vesta, Livia, mothers,
ambiguum nato dignior anne viro:
doubtful for-your-son more-worthy or-whether for-your-husband:
esse duos iuvenes, firma adiumenta parentis,
to-be two young-men, firm supports of-their-parent,
qui dederint animi pignora certa sui.
who may-have-given of-mind pledges sure their.
haec ubi non patria perlegi scripta Camena,
these when not in-my-native I-read-through writings Camena,
venit et ad digitos ultima charta meos,
came and to fingers the-last page my,
et caput et plenas omnes movere pharetras,
both their-heads and full all moved quivers,
et longum Getico murmur in ore fuit.
and long Getic murmur in mouth was.
atque aliquis "scribas haec cum de Caesare," dixit
and someone "you-may-write these-things since about Caesar," said
"Caesaris imperio restituendus eras."
"by-Caesar's command to-be-restored you-were."
ille quidem dixit: sed me iam, Care, nivali
he indeed said-it: but me now, Carus, the-snowy
sexta relegatum bruma sub axe videt.
the-sixth banished winter under pole sees.

carmina nil prosunt. nocuerunt carmina quondam,
songs nothing profit. have-harmed songs once,
primaque tam miserae causa fuere fugae.
and-the-first so of-wretched the-cause were exile.
at tu, per studii communia foedera sacri,
but you, by of-pursuit the-common pacts sacred,
per non vile tibi nomen amicitiae
by not cheap to-you name of-friendship
(sic capto Latiis Germanicus hoste catenis
(so captured in-Latin Germanicus enemy chains
materiam vestris adferat ingeniis:
matter to-your may-bring talents:
sic valeant pueri, votum commune deorum,
so may-thrive the-boys, the-prayer common of-the-gods,
quos laus formandos est tibi magna datos),
whom the-praise to-be-shaped is for-you great given),
quanta potes, praebe nostrae momenta saluti,
as-great-as you-can, offer for-our weights safety,
quae nisi mutato nulla futura loco est.
which unless changed none going-to-be place is.

Ovid's only wish is to leave this place for anywhere else, even the Syrtes or the Styx. The Tomitans are angry at his poems. But he has wronged no one: he complained of the land, not its people, as Ascra's poet did of Ascra and Ulysses of his harsh homeland, and an ill-willed interpreter has roused them. The Tomitans have treated him kindly: they exempted him from taxes and crowned him. Tomis is dear to him, as Delos was to Latona, though he wishes it had hope of peace.

Haec tibi mittuntur, quem sum modo carmine questus
These-things to-you are-sent, whom I-have just-now in-song complained
non aptum numeris nomen habere meis,
not fit for-the-measures a-name to-have my,
in quibus, excepto quod adhuc utcumque valemus,
in which, excepted that still somehow we-are-well,
nil, me praeterea quod iuvet, invenies.
nothing, me besides which may-please, you-will-find.
ipsa quoque est invisa salus, suntque ultima vota
itself too is hateful health, and-are the-last prayers
quolibet ex istis scilicet ire locis.
to-anywhere from these doubtless to-go places.
nulla mihi cura est, terra quo mittar ab ista,
no to-me care is-there, land to-what I-may-be-sent from this,
hac quia, quam video, gratior omnis erit.
than-this because, which I-see, more-welcome every will-be.
in medias Syrtes, mediam mea vela Charybdin
into the-midst-of the-Syrtes, the-midst-of my sails Charybdis
mittite, praesenti dum careamus humo.
send, from-present while I-may-be-free ground.
Styx quoque, si quid ea est, bene commutabitur Histro,
the-Styx too, if anything it is, well will-be-exchanged for-the-Hister,

siquid et inferius quam Styga mundus habet.
if-anything and lower than the-Styx the-world has.
gramina cultus ager, frigus minus odit hirundo,
the-grasses the-cultivated field, cold less hates the-swallow,
proxima Marticolis quam loca Naso Getis.
nearest to-the-Mars-worshiping than places Naso Getae.
talia suscensent propter mihi verba Tomitae,
such are-angry because-of with-me words the-Tomitans,
iraque carminibus publica mota meis.
and-anger by-songs public moved my.
ergo ego cessabo numquam per carmina laedi,
so I shall-I-cease never through songs to-be-harmed,
plectar et incauto semper ab ingenio?
shall-I-be-struck and incautious always by talent?
ergo ego, ne scribam, digitos incidere cunctor,
so I, lest I-may-write, the-fingers to-cut-off do-I-delay,
telaque adhuc demens, quae nocuere, sequor?
and-the-weapons still mad, which have-harmed, do-I-follow?
ad veteres scopulos iterum devertor et illas,
to the-old rocks again do-I-turn-aside and to-those,
in quibus offendit naufraga puppis, aquas?
in which struck the-shipwrecked ship, waters?
sed nihil admisi, nulla est mea culpa, Tomitae,
but nothing I-have-committed, none is my fault, Tomitans,
quos ego, cum loca sim vestra perosus, amo.
whom I, though places I-may-be your hating, love.
quilibet excutiat nostri monimenta laboris:
anyone may-shake-out of-our the-monuments labor:
littera de vobis est mea questa nihil.
letter about you has my complained nothing.

frigus et incursus omni de parte timendos
the-cold and the-inroads every from side to-be-feared
et quod pulsetur murus ab hoste queror.
and that may-be-beaten the-wall by the-enemy I-complain.
in loca, non homines, verissima crimina dixi.
against places, not men, most-true charges I-spoke.
culpatis vestrum vos quoque saepe solum.
you-blame your you too often soil.
esset perpetuo sua quam vitabilis Ascra,
it-would-be perpetually his how avoidable Ascra,
ausa est agricolae Musa docere senis:
dared has of-the-farmer the-Muse to-teach old:
et fuerat genitus terra, qui scripsit, in illa,
and he-had-been born land, who wrote, in that,
intumuit vati nec tamen Ascra suo.
swelled-against the-bard nor still Ascra her-own.
quis patriam sollerte magis dilexit Ulixe?
who his-country than-clever more loved Ulysses?
hoc tamen asperitas indice docta loci est.
this still the-harshness as-witness taught of-the-place has-been.
non loca, sed mores scriptis vexavit amaris
not places, but the-ways with-writings harassed bitter
Scepsius Ausonios, actaque Roma rea est:
the-man-of-Scepsis Ausonian, and-arraigned Rome as-accused has-been:
falsa tamen passa est aequa convicia mente,
false still suffered she-has with-just abuse mind,
obfuit auctori nec fera lingua suo.
harmed the-author nor fierce tongue its-own.
at malus interpres populi mihi concitat iram
but an-evil interpreter of-the-people against-me stirs anger

inque novum crimen carmina nostra vocat.
and-to new charge songs our calls.
tam felix utinam quam pectore candidus essem!
as happy would-that as in-heart candid I-were!
extat adhuc nemo saucius ore meo.
exists still no-one wounded by-mouth my.
adde quod Illyrica si iam pice nigrior essem,
add that than-Illyrian if now pitch blacker I-were,
non mordenda mihi turba fidelis erat.
not to-be-bitten by-me the-crowd faithful was.
molliter a vobis mea sors excepta, Tomitae,
gently by you my lot received, Tomitans,
tam mites Graios indicat esse viros.
so gentle the-Greek shows to-be men.
gens mea Paeligni regioque domestica Sulmo
the-race my the-Paeligni and-the-region native Sulmo
non potuit nostris lenior esse malis.
not could to-our gentler to-be evils.
quem vix incolumi cuiquam salvoque daretis,
which hardly to-unharmed anyone and-safe you-would-give,
is datus a vobis est mihi nuper honor.
that given by you has-been to-me lately honor.
solus adhuc ego sum vestris inmunis in oris,
alone still I am your exempt on shores,
exceptis, siqui munera legis habent.
excepted, if-any the-privileges of-law have.
tempora sacrata mea sunt velata corona,
temples sacred my have-been veiled with-a-crown,
publicus invito quam favor inposuit.
public on-the-unwilling which favor has-placed.

quam grata est igitur Latonae Delia tellus,
as welcome is therefore to-Latona the-Delian land,
erranti tutum quae dedit una locum,
to-her-wandering safe which gave alone place,
tam mihi cara Tomis, patria quae sede fugatis
so to-me dear Tomis, from-native which seat for-the-routed
tempus ad hoc nobis hospita fida manet.
time to this to-us a-hostess faithful remains.
di modo fecissent, placidae spem posset habere
the-gods only had-made, of-calm hope it-could to-have
pacis, et a gelido longius axe foret.
peace, and from cold farther would-be pole.

IV.15 · TO SEXTUS POMPEIUS: ALL I OWE

If anyone still remembers Ovid, let him know that he owes his life to the Caesars and his safety to Sextus Pompeius. Ovid is part of Pompeius' property, like his Sicily, the land Philip ruled, his house by Augustus' forum, and his Campania. He asks him to soften the gods with prayers, and promises that he will always remember his gifts and tell every land that he belongs to Pompeius.

Siquis adhuc usquam nostri non inmemor extat,
If-anyone still anywhere of-us not unmindful exists,
quidve relegatus Naso, requirit, agam:
or-what banished Naso, asks, I-am-doing:
Caesaribus vitam, Sexto debere salutem
to-the-Caesars life, to-Sextus to-owe safety
me sciat. a superis hic mihi primus erit.
me let-him-know. after the-gods-above this to-me first will-be.
tempora nam miserae complectar ut omnia vitae,
the-times for of-wretched may-embrace though all life,

a meritis eius pars mihi nulla vacat.
from merits his part to-me none is-free.
quae numero tot sunt, quot in horto fertilis arvi
which in-number so-many are, as-many-as in garden of-fertile field
Punica sub lento cortice grana rubent,
Punic under pliant rind seeds redden,
Africa quot segetes, quot Tmolia terra racemos,
Africa as-many-as crops, as-many-as the-Tmolian land grape-clusters,
quot Sicyon bacas, quot parit Hybla favos.
as-many-as Sicyon olives, as-many-as bears Hybla honeycombs.
confiteor: testere licet. signate Quirites!
I-confess: you-may-witness it-is-allowed. seal Quirites!
nil opus est legum viribus, ipse loquor.
nothing need is of-laws of-the-strength, myself I-speak.
inter opes et me, parvam rem, pone paternas:
among riches and me, a-small thing, put your-paternal:
pars ego sum census quantulacumque tui.
part I am of-property however-small your.
quam tua Trinacria est regnataque terra Philippo,
as your Trinacria is and-ruled the-land by-Philip,
quam domus Augusto continuata foro,
as the-house to-the-Augustan adjoining forum,
quam tua, rus oculis domini, Campania, gratum,
as your, a-countryside to-the-eyes of-the-master, Campania, welcome,
quaeque relicta tibi, Sexte, vel empta tenes:
and-what-things left to-you, Sextus, or bought you-hold:
tam tuus en ego sum, cuius te munere tristi
so your behold I am, by-whose you gift sad
non potes in Ponto dicere habere nihil.
not you-can in Pontus to-say to-have nothing.

atque utinam possis, et detur amicius arvum,
and would-that you-could, and may-be-given friendlier a-field,
remque tuam ponas in meliore loco!
and-the-thing your you-may-place in better place!
quod quoniam in dis est, tempta lenire precando
which since in the-gods it-is, try to-soften by-praying
numina, perpetua quae pietate colis.
the-divinities, with-perpetual which devotion you-worship.
erroris nam tu vix est discernere nostri
of-error for you hardly it-is to-discern our
sis argumentum maius an auxilium.
whether-you-may-be the-proof greater or the-help.
nec dubitans oro: sed flumine saepe secundo
nor doubting I-beg: but with-stream often favorable
augetur remis cursus euntis aquae.
is-increased by-oars the-course of-going water.
et pudet et metuo semperque eademque precari,
and it-shames and I-fear both-always and-the-same-things to-pray,
ne subeant animo taedia iusta tuo.
lest may-come-up to-mind weariness just your.
verum quid faciam? res inmoderata cupido est.
but what am-I-to-do? a-thing immoderate desire is.
da veniam vitio, mitis amice, meo.
give pardon to-the-fault, gentle friend, my.
scribere saepe aliud cupiens delabor eodem:
to-write often something-else desiring I-slip-down to-the-same:
ipsa locum per se littera nostra rogat.
itself a-place by itself letter our asks.
seu tamen effectus habitura est gratia, seu me
whether still effects going-to-have is the-favor, or me

dura iubet gelido Parca sub axe mori,
hard bids cold the-Parca under pole to-die,
semper inoblita repetam tua munera mente,
always with-unforgetting I-shall-recall your gifts mind,
et mea me tellus audiet esse tuum.
and my me land will-hear to-be yours.
audiet et caelo posita est quaecumque sub ullo
will-hear also sky placed is whatever-land under any
(transit nostra feros si modo Musa Getas)
(passes our wild if only Muse Getae)
teque meae causam servatoremque salutis,
and-you of-my the-cause and-preserver safety,
meque tuum libra norit et aere minus.
and-me yours by-the-scale will-know and bronze less.

IV.16 · TO AN ENVIOUS CRITIC

Ovid asks Envy why it tears at the poems of an exile. Fame grows after death, and he had a name even while he lived, when Rome had many poets: Marsus, Rabirius, Macer, Pedo, Carus, Severus, the two Prisci, Numa, Montanus, Sabinus, Largus, Camerinus, Tuscus, Marius, Lupus, Rufus, Turranius, Melissus, Varius, Graccus, Proculus, Grattius, Fontanus, Capella, Cotta, and others. Among them his Muse was read. He has lost everything but his life; there is no room left on him for a new wound.

Invide, quid laceras Nasonis carmina rapti?
Envious-one, why do-you-tear of-Naso the-songs snatched-away?
non solet ingeniis summa nocere dies,
not is-wont to-talents the-last to-harm day,
famaque post cineres maior venit. et mihi nomen
and-fame after ashes greater comes. and to-me a-name

tum quoque, cum vivis adnumerarer, erat:
then too, when to-the-living I-was-numbered, there-was:
cumque foret Marsus magnique Rabirius oris
and-when there-was Marsus and-of-great Rabirius mouth
Iliacusque Macer sidereusque Pedo;
and-Iliac Macer and-starry Pedo;
et, qui Iunonem laesisset in Hercule, Carus,
and, who Juno would-have-harmed in Hercules, Carus,
Iunonis si iam non gener ille foret;
of-Juno if now not son-in-law he were;
quique dedit Latio carmen regale Severus,
and-he-who gave to-Latium song royal Severus,
et cum subtili Priscus uterque Numa;
and with subtle Priscus each Numa;
quique vel imparibus numeris, Montane, vel aequis
and-you-who either with-unequal measures, Montanus, or equal
sufficis, et gemino carmine nomen habes;
suffice, and in-twin song a-name have;
et qui Penelopae rescribere iussit Ulixen
and who to-Penelope to-write-back bade Ulysses
errantem saevo per duo lustra mari,
wandering on-savage through two lustra sea,
quique suam Troesmin imperfectumque dierum
and-who his Troesmis and-unfinished of-the-days
deseruit celeri morte Sabinus opus;
deserted by-swift death Sabinus work;
ingeniique sui dictus cognomine Largus,
and-of-talent his called by-the-surname Largus,
Gallica qui Phrygium duxit in arva senem;
the-Gallic who the-Phrygian led into fields old-man;

quique canit domito Camerinus ab Hectore Troiam;
and-who sings tamed Camerinus after Hector Troy;
quique sua nomen Phyllide Tuscus habet;
and-who by-his name Phyllis Tuscus has;
velivolique maris vates, cui credere posses
and-of-the-sail-flying sea the-bard, whom to-believe you-could
carmina caeruleos composuisse deos;
songs the-blue to-have-composed gods;
quique acies Libycas Romanaque proelia dixit;
and-who the-battle-lines Libyan and-Roman battles told;
et Marius scripti dexter in omne genus;
and Marius of-writing dexterous in every kind;
Trinacriusque suae Perseidos auctor, et auctor
and-the-Trinacrian of-his-own Perseid the-author, and the-author
Tantalidae reducis Tyndaridosque Lupus;
of-the-Tantalid returning and-of-the-Tyndarid Lupus;
et qui Maeoniam Phaeacida vertit, et une
and who the-Maeonian Phaeacid turned, and sole
Pindaricae fidicen tu quoque, Rufe, lyrae;
of-the-Pindaric lyrist you too, Rufus, lyre;
Musaque Turrani tragicis innixa cothurnis;
and-the-Muse of-Turranius on-tragic leaning buskins;
et tua cum socco Musa, Melisse, levi;
and your with sock Muse, Melissus, light;
cum Varius Graccusque darent fera dicta tyrannis,
when Varius and-Graccus were-giving fierce words to-tyrants,
Callimachi Proculus molle teneret iter,
of-Callimachus Proculus soft was-holding the-path,
Tityron antiquas Passerque rediret ad herbas
Tityrus ancient and-Passer was-returning to grasses

aptaque venanti Grattius arma daret;
and-fit for-the-hunter Grattius arms was-giving;
Naïdas a Satyris caneret Fontanus amatas,
the-Naiads by the-Satyrs was-singing Fontanus loved,
clauderet imparibus verba Capella modis;
was-closing in-unequal words Capella measures;
cumque forent alii, quorum mihi cuncta referre
and-though there-were others, of-whom by-me all to-relate
nomina longa mora est, carmina vulgus habet;
the-names long delay is, songs the-crowd has;
essent et iuvenes, quorum quod inedita cura est,
there-were and young-men, of-whom because unpublished the-care is,
adpellandorum nil mihi iuris adest
of-naming nothing to-me of-right is-present
(te tamen in turba non ausim, Cotta, silere,
(you still in the-crowd not I-would-dare, Cotta, to-pass-over,
Pieridum lumen praesidiumque fori,
of-the-Pierides the-light and-the-protection of-the-forum,
maternos Cottas cui Messallasque paternos,
maternal Cottae to-whom and-Messallae paternal,
Maxime, nobilitas ingeminata dedit)
Maximus, nobility doubled has-given)
dicere si fas est, claro mea nomine Musa
to-say if right it-is, of-famous my name the-Muse
atque inter tantos quae legeretur erat.
and among so-great which might-be-read was.
ergo summotum patria proscindere, Livor,
so the-removed from-country to-tear, Envy,
desine, neu cineres sparge, cruente, meos.
cease, and-do-not ashes scatter, bloody-one, my.

omnia perdidimus: tantummodo vita relicta est,
all-things we-have-lost: only life left is,
praebeat ut sensum materiamque mali.
may-offer that feeling and-material of-evil.
quid iuvat extinctos ferrum demittere in artus?
what does-it-help dead the-iron to-send-down into limbs?
non habet in nobis iam nova plaga locum.
not has in us now new a-blow place.
