

Latin Recitation

Level I

OJCL 2020

Mucius to Porsenna

“Rōmānus sum cīvis. Hominēs mē Mūcium vocant. Tē hostem occīdere cupiēbam. Mīlitēs tuōs nōn timēbam. Nunc mortem nōn timeō. Rōmānī vim hostium nōn timent. Multī sunt Rōmānī mihi similēs et parātī id facere, quod ego facere nōn poteram. Semper igitur cīvēs nostrōs timēre dēbēs. Bellum contrā nōs geris nōn solum in castrīs, sed etiam domī, ubi hostēs occultī tē petunt.”

Latin for the New Millennium, p. 192, lines
1-6, abridged

“I am a Roman citizen. People call me Mucius. I wanted to kill you, my enemy. I was not afraid of your soldiers. Now I do not fear death. Romans do not fear the strength of their enemies. There are many Romans similar to me and ready to do that which I was not able to do. So you always ought to fear our citizens. You wage war against us, not only in army camps, but also at home, where hidden enemies are looking for you.”

A Deceitful King

Sīsyphus rēx per mercātūrā dīves fīēbat: erat autem omnium hominum pessimus.

Ab uxōre suā petīverat nē sē mortuum sepelīret: mortuus autem apud Plūtōnem illam accūsāvit quod ita neglexerat et ab eō petīvit ut sibi licēret ad terram redīre. Cum autem redīssset, "Nōn iterum," inquit, "ad Mānēs dēscendam: sīc immortalis fīam."

Ā Mercuriō tamen vī ablātus gravissimō est suppliciō pūnītus. Nam saxum ingēns semper ad summum collem portāre cōgēbātur: quotiēns autem ad summum vēnerat, saxum ad īmum collem volvēbātur isque ad summum iterum portāre coactus est.

"Sisyphus," Hillard and Botting, *Elementary Latin Translation Book*, p. 95, abridged

King Sisyphus became rich through trade, but he was the worst of all men.

He had asked his wife not to bury him when he died, but when he died he accused her before Pluto because she had so neglected her promise, and he asked Pluto to allow him to go back to the world above. When he had returned, however, he said, "Not again will I go down to the Underworld: thus I will become immortal."

Carried off forcefully by Mercury, however, he was punished by the most serious penalty. For he was always forced to carry a huge rock to the top of a hill; but as often as he had come to the top, the rock rolled back down to the bottom of the hill, and he was forced to carry it again to the top.

Scaevola Defies Lars Porsenna

Inter tantās fortūnae minās metuendus magis quam metuēns, “Rōmānus sum” inquit, “cīvis; C. Mūcium vocant. Hostis hostem occīdere voluī, nec ad mortem minus animī est, quam fuit ad caedem; et facere et patī fortia Rōmānum est. Nec ūnus in tē ego hōs animōs gessī; longus post mē ōrdō est idem petentium decus. ... Hoc tibi iuventūs Rōmāna indīcimus bellum. Nūllam aciem, nūllum proelium timueris; ūnī tibi et cum singulīs rēs erit.” Cum rēx simul irā īnfēnsus periculōque conterritus circumdārī ignēs minitābundus iubēret nisi exprōmeret properē quās īnsidiārum sibi minās per ambāgēs iacēret, “Ēn tibi” inquit, “ut sentiās quam vīle corpus sit iīs quī magnam glōriam vident”; dextramque accēnsō ad sacrificium foculō inicit.

Livy, *Ab Urbe Conditā*, II.12

A man to be feared more than fearing among such great threats of fortune, he said, “I am a Roman citizen; they call me Gaius Mucius. As an enemy I wanted to kill my foe, and I do not have less spirit for death than I had for murder; it is a Roman trait to do and to suffer brave actions. And I have not been alone to bring this determined spirit against you; there is a long line behind me of others seeking the same glory. ... We, the young men of Rome, declare this war against you. Fear no battle line, fear no battle; this goal will rest with individual Romans who are out for you alone.” When the king, at the same time inflamed by anger, terrified by danger, and full of threats, ordered fires to be set around (Mucius) if he did not quickly reveal what threats and plots were lying mysteriously in wait for him, (Mucius) said, “Look! This is for you, so you may realize how worthless the body is for those who see great glory;” he cast his right hand into the hearth which had been lit for his sacrifice.”

Juno Visits Semele

Surgit ab hīs soliō fulvāque recondita nūbe
 līmen adit Semelēs nec nūbēs ante remōvit
 quam simulāvit anum posuitque ad tempora cānōs 275
 sulcāvitque cutem rūgīs et curva trementī
 membra tulit passū; vōcem quoque fēcit anīlem,
 ipsaque erat Beroē, Semelēs Epidauria nūtrix.
 Ergō ubi captātō sermōne diūque loquendō
 ad nōmen vēnēre Iovis, suspīrat et 'optō, 280
 Iuppiter ut sit' ait; 'metuō tamen omnia: multī
 nōmine dīvōrum thalamōs iniēre pudīcōs.
 nec tamen esse Iovem satis est: det pignus amōris,
 sī modo vērus is est; quantusque et quālis ab altā
 Iūnōne excipitur, tantus tālisque, rogātō, 285
 det tibi complexūs suaque ante īsignia sūmat!'

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* III. 273-286

With these words (Juno) rises from her throne, and wrapped in her saffron cloud, approaches the threshold of Semele, and she did not remove her cloud before she pretended to be an old woman and put white hair on her temples, furrowed her skin with wrinkles, and slowed her bowed limbs with a trembling walk. She also made her voice sound like an old woman, and she was Beroë herself, Semele's nurse from Epidaurus. Therefore, after taking over their conversation and by talking for a long time, when they came to the name of "Jupiter," (Juno) breathed deeply and said, "I hope that it IS Jupiter; but I fear everything: Many men have entered chaste bedchambers under the name of gods. Nor is it enough to BE Jupiter: let him give a pledge of his love, if only he IS the real Jupiter; ask him to be as great as and of the same substance as he is when he is received by divine Juno; let him give you embraces and take you in front of his very likeness."