



Priapea

songs for
a phallic god



**An Intermediate
Latin Reader**

TYLER **GAU**
EVAN **HAYES**
STEPHEN **NIMIS**

PRIAPEA: SONGS FOR A PHALLIC GOD

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Latin Text with Running Vocabulary and Commentary

Tyler Gau
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First Edition

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ISBN-10: 1940997836

ISBN-13: 9781940997834

Published by Faenum Publishing, Ltd.

Cover Design: Evan Hayes

Fonts: Garamond

editor@faenumpublishing.com

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The idea for this project grew out of work that we, the authors, did with support from Miami University's Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program, for which we thank Martha Weber and the Office of Advanced Research and Scholarship. Work on the series, of which this volume is a part, was generously funded by the Joanna Jackson Goldman Memorial Prize through the Honors Program at Miami University. We owe a great deal to Carolyn Haynes and the 2010 Honors & Scholars Program Advisory Committee for their interest and confidence in the project.

The technical aspects of the project were made possible through the invaluable advice and support of Bill Hayes, Christopher Kuo, and Daniel Meyers. The equipment and staff of Miami University's Interactive Language Resource Center were a great help along the way. We are also indebted to the Perseus Project, especially Gregory Crane and Bridget Almas, for their technical help and resources. We also profited greatly from advice and help on the POD process from Geoffrey Steadman. All responsibility for errors, however, rests with the authors themselves.

*Cui dono lepidum novum libellum
arida modo pumice expolitum?
mi mater, tibi: namque tu solebas
meas esse aliquid putare nugas.*

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this book is to make the *Priapea* (or *Corpus Priapeorum* or *Carmina Priapea*) accessible to intermediate students of Ancient Latin. The running vocabulary and grammatical commentary are meant to provide everything necessary to read each page so that readers can progress through the text, improving their knowledge of Latin while enjoying a fascinating group of poems.

The *Priapea* is a great text for intermediate readers. The sentence structure is fairly simple, and the range of syntax is rather narrow. However, there are many off-color jokes and double entendre that require some thoughtful attention to the connotations of many ordinary words. There is considerable wittiness deployed in creating variations on a small number of obscene themes and scenarios, so that there are examples of the whole range of technique in Roman poetic practice. The poems are centered around the rustic and ithyphallic god Priapus. This god, whose name gives us the English word “priapism,” the condition of having a lasting and painful erection, is a minor god with very little mythology. He is usually represented as a wooden statue with an oversized and erect penis, which he threatens to use on anyone who is caught stealing from his garden. Indeed, the largest group of poems in the collection are warnings to thieves whom Priapus threatens to penetrate in one of three orifices, depending on the status of the offender. Other poems make fun of Priapus or represent him begging for favors or receiving dedications. Another group of poems, often shocking in detail, rails against older and undesirable women, whose sexual appetites are portrayed as vile and disgusting. The humor is strongly weighted toward men and their “weapons,” in this way reflecting the pleasure Romans took in performing their masculinity in various contexts. The classic discussion of these topics is Amy Richilin’s *The Gardens of Priapus: Sexuality and Aggression in Roman Humor*.

Greek and Latin *Priapea*

Priapus is a rustic god whose origin seems to be in Asia minor—Lampsacus is identified as his birth place in several poems. A number of examples survive in the *Greek Anthology* which are similar to the Latin poems in this volume. Many of these are dedications from people in various walks of life, sometimes with requests from the god for fertility or potency, or for relief from the pangs of love. Several are from sailors seeking a safe voyage. The Latin *Priapea* are more

narrowly focussed on the rustic god and his garden. Besides the 80 of this collection, Priapic poems appear in the works of other poets, like Catullus, Horace, and Martial, indicating the popularity of the kind of humor found here. Priapus is also the “angry god” in Petronius’ *Satyricon*, who causes the hero Encolpius so many troubles in his wanderings, a comic analogue to the role of Poseidon in the *Odyssey* and Juno in the *Aeneid*.

Date and Authorship of the *Priapea*

The manuscript tradition ascribes the *Priapea* to Vergil, which shocked Renaissance scholars for whom these poems seemed unworthy of the great Augustan poet. The theory for several centuries was that poems by multiple authors had been collected by someone and attached to the genuine poems of Vergil. In the twentieth century the weight of scholarly opinion has shifted back to a single author, but not to Vergil. Instead, Ovid or Martial has been suggested as the author of the whole collection, based on examples of similar diction in those authors, but this could just be evidence that those authors were familiar with the collection. Even so, most scholars emphasize the continuities among the poems rather than their heterogeneity. Most recently, O’Connor has argued that a skillful editor collected the poems and perhaps wrote some of them himself. The poems are thought to date either to the Augustan age (27 BCE–14 CE) or to the time of Martial (died. c. 102 CE), but this too is uncertain. What is certain is that there was a continuous tradition of such Priapic poetry that included the *Priapea* and examples from several other poets. The collection is certainly a miscellany in some respects, but there is also evidence of an overall shaping of the material that suggests a single author or editor.

The Content of the Poems

Most of the poems fall into a small number of groups. The largest group contains threats by Priapus to use his formidable member against thieves. These include 6, 11, 13, 15, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 35, 44, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 67, 69, 71, 72, 77.

Other poems highlight the divine status of Priapus and compare him and his accouterments with other gods and goddesses (9, 20, 36, 39, 53, 75), while others emphasize his humble wooden origins or complain about his treatment at the hands of others (10, 26, 33, 55, 73, 76, 77).

Songs for a Phallic God

Some are based on dedications to Priapus of various kinds, whether of verses or fruits (4, 16, 21, 27, 34, 37, 40, 41, 42, 47, 50, 60, 61, 63, 70). These frequently sound the *do ut des* (I give in order to get) theme.

Some deprecate older women (12, 32, 46, 57) or warn chaste women to stay away (8, 10, 66).

In the first two and last two poems of the collection, the poet himself addresses the reader or Priapus (1, 2, 79, 80).

The Meters of the Poems

The poems are in three different meters: elegaic couplets, hendecasyllables and choliamb. Elegaic couplets are used in a wide variety of contexts by Catullus, Propertius, Ovid, Tibullus and others. Hendecasyllables are used frequently by Catullus, but they also are the main element of Sapphic meter. Choliamb (“limping iambs”) are used most frequently in invective. All of these meters have Greek precedents. They are distributed as follows:

Hendecasyllables: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 32, 34, 35, 37, 41, 45, 46, 48, 50, 52, 56, 57, 59, 61, 64, 66, 69, 70, 75, 76, 77.

Elegaic couplets: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27, 30, 33, 38, 40, 42, 43, 49, 53, 54, 55, 60, 62, 65, 67, 68, 71, 72, 73, 74, 80.

Choliamb: 31, 36, 47, 51, 58, 63, 78, 79.

Here is the scheme for each of these three meters, where “x” indicates an anceps syllable:

Hendecasyllables: – – – ◡ – ◡ – ◡ – –

Elegaic Couplet: – ◡ – ◡ – || ◡ – ◡ – ◡ – ◡ – x
– ◡ – ◡ – || – ◡ – ◡ – x

Choliamb: x – ◡ – | x – ◡ – | ◡ – – –

Comparison with canonical poets who use these meters indicates a high level of craftsmanship in the *Priapea* that is inconsistent with the idea of a miscellany of multiple authors. Indeed, as Parker notes, one of the striking things about these

poems is the stark contrast between their low subject matter and the perfection of their artistry (44). Our author shows stricter regularity in many cases, such as the spondee opening of the hendecasyllable line, where Catullus frequently substitutes a trochee or iamb.

Latin Sexual Vocabulary

Latin has a broad range of polite and impolite ways of speaking of sex. The *Priapea* specialize in the latter, but show a sophisticated humor as well. A full treatment of the subject is J. N. Adams, *The Latin Sexual Vocabulary* (Duckworth, London, 1982). The following general remarks, meant to help the reader navigate the *Priapea*, are based on his work.

1. *Mentula* and its synonyms

Mentula is the basic obscene word for the male member. Like various English parallels, such as “dick” and “prick,” it can be used generally as an insult as well. **Verpa** is a synonym that is also offensive and is also used frequently as an insult. **Penis** is much less obscene. Beyond these words, there is a vast number of metaphorical terms usually connected with shape or function, especially weapons or objects that are used to pierce something.

These include **telum** (“weapon”), **columna** (“column”), **contus** (“pole”), **sceptrum** (“sceptre”), **ventris arma** (“weapon of the belly”), **hasta** (“spear”), **pyramis** (“pyramid”), **brachia macra** (“narrow arm”), **falx** (“sickle”), **temo** (“beam”), **capulus** (“handle”), **fascinum** (“amulet”), **nasus** (“nose”).

Another common metaphor pertains to objects that are taut (**tensus**): **nervum** (“string of the bow”), **cithara** (“lyre string”), **vena** (“blood vessel”).

Sexual parts can be addressed or rebuked as though they were persons or animals. A *mentula* can be said to have a “head” or an “eye.” It can be likened to a snake (**anguis**).

Coleus (“a leather sack”) is a coarse word for the scrotum and is used in the plural to mean “testicles.” **Vas** (“implement”) is similarly used in the plural for testicles.

2. Designations of the female genitalia

Cunnus is the common obscene word for the female pudenda, equivalent in force to the English word “cunt.” It originally meant a ditch, and **fossa** is also used to designate the same thing. The word **hiatus** (“gap”) is a vulgar word for a worn-out vagina or one that has been “loosened” (**laxus**) by sexual activity.

Landica is the normal word for clitoris, but because of its shape and association with the penis, it can be referred to as a **nasus** (“nose”).

3. *Culus* and its synonyms

Culus is the normal obscene word for anus. Rarely it is designated by words for a meadow or garden (**pratun, hortus**). **Podex** (perhaps from *pedo*, “to fart”) is used once for the buttocks. So also **clunis** and **lumbus**. Given that sex (and sexual assault) was conceived of primarily in terms of penetration, *culus* and *cunnius* often have interchangeable metaphors.

4. The vocabulary relating to sexual acts

Futuo is the most important coarse verb for penetration of the vagina and has the same insulting connotations as the English word “fuck.” It can sometimes refer to anal penetration as well. It is used only of the male action: women (and boys) can only “be fucked.”

Pedico is a Greek loan word referring to anal sex, whether with a male or female. **Pedicator** and **pedicatio** are derivative nouns.

Irrumo is to “put into the mouth” and thus refers to the male action of penetrating the mouth. **Irrumator** and **irrumatio** are derivative nouns. **Fellatio** refers to the act of sucking, with **fellator** as a derivative noun.

Pedicare and *irrumare* can indicate an assertion of mastery or a threat of punishment to one’s enemies, as in Catullus 16: *pedicabo ego vos et irrumabo*.

Other violent verbs can be used as well, such as **scindo** (“to cut or tear”), **fodio** (“to dig”), **caedo** (“to cut”), **percido** (“to smash”), **perforo** (“to bore through”), **tero** (“to rub away”).

Texts, Translations and Commentaries

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How to use this book

The page-by-page vocabularies gloss all but the most common words. We have endeavored to make these glossaries as useful as possible without becoming fullsome. Words occurring frequently in the text and not glossed, or not glossed in every case, can be found in an appendix in the back, but it is our hope that most readers will not need to use this appendix often. Only minimal information is given in the page by page glossaries, for which see "Glossing Conventions" below.

The commentary is almost exclusively grammatical, explaining subordinate clauses, case uses and idioms. A brief grammatical appendix details the meaning of the technical terms used in the commentary, although most of these will be familiar to intermediate readers of Latin. A good strategy is to read a passage in Latin, check the glossary for unusual words and consult the commentary as a last resort.

The literary commentaries cited in the bibliography above contain extensive information and discussion of all aspects of the text, with copious bibliography. Our contribution has a more limited focus aimed at intermediate readers, but we have made full use of these and other resources.

The Latin text is based on Baehrens, *Poetae Latini Minores* (Leipzig 1879, pp. 58-87). It was digitized by Harm-Jan van Dam of Leiden and is posted on the Latin Library. Here and there we have corrected some errors and made minor changes in the name of readability, sometimes accepting suggestions from later editions. This is not a scholarly edition; for that one should turn to the editions cited above.

An Important Disclaimer:

This volume is a self-published “Print on Demand” (POD) book, and it has not been vetted or edited in the usual way by publishing professionals. There are sure to be some factual and typographical errors in the text, for which we apologize in advance. The volume is also available only through online distributors, since each book is printed when ordered online. However, this publishing channel and format also account for the low price of the book; and it is a simple matter to make changes when they come to our attention. For this reason, any corrections or suggestions for improvement are welcome and will be addressed as quickly as possible in future versions of the text.

Please e-mail corrections or suggestions to editor@faenumpublishing.com.

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Glossing Conventions

Adjectives of two and three terminations will be formatted thus:

bonus, -a, -um

facilis, -e

Single termination adjectives will have the genitive indicated thus:

sallax, salacis (*gen.*)

Participles will generally be glossed as a verb, but some participles (particularly where their verbal force has been weakened) are glossed as adjectives: e.g.

decens, decentis (*gen.*): appropriate; **valens, valentis** (*gen.*): strong

barbatus, -a, -um: bearded; **remotus, -a, -um**: remote

Adverbs will be identified as such (*adv.*) when there is some ambiguity.

Regular infinitives are indicated by conjugation number: e.g.,

laudo (1) to praise

moneo (2) to warn

Where principal parts are predictable, as in the case of most first conjugation verbs, only the conjugation number will be given in the glossary. This format is used even in the case of unpredictable perfect forms, if the word occurring in the text is based on the present stem (present, future, imperfect tenses). Elsewhere the principal parts will be provided in their standard form.

Simple syntactical information such as “+ *gen.*” or “+ *inf.*” will often be cited in the glossary with verbs and adjectives. However, the lexical information given for most words is minimal and sometimes specific to the context. To get a broader sense of the peculiarities of language in the *Priapea*, it will be necessary to consult the commentaries or critical literature cited above.

Abbreviations used in the commentary

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| abl. – ablative | intrans. – intransitive |
| abs. – absolute | loc. – locative |
| acc. – accusative | m. – masculine |
| act. – active | neut. – neuter |
| adj. – adjective | neg. – negative |
| adv. – adverb | nom. – nominative |
| apoc. – apocopated | obj. – object |
| appos. – apposition | part. – participle |
| attend. – attendant | pass. – passive |
| circum. – circumstantial | perf. – perfect |
| com. – command | pl. – plural |
| comp. – comparative | plupf. – pluperfect |
| concess. – concessive | pres. – present |
| dat. – dative | pred. – predicate |
| delib. – deliberative | pron. – pronoun |
| desc. – description | purp. – purpose |
| dir. – direct | quest. – question |
| f. – feminine | resp. – respect |
| fut. – future | s. – singular |
| gen. – genitive | sc. – scilicet |
| imper. – imperative | sep. – separation |
| impf. – imperfect | st. – statement |
| ind. – indirect | subj. – subjunctive |
| inf. – infinitive | sync. – syncopated |

Grammatical Terms used in the Commentary

The grammatical terms used in the commentary are organized below according to syntactical category with brief explanations and examples. For more detailed information, see Allen and Greenough, *New Latin Grammar* (available on Perseus) or Charles Bennett *New Latin Grammar* (available on the Latin Library).

1. Uses of Cases

NOMINATIVE

The nominative case is the used for the subject of finite verbs and the predicate of verbs of being, seeming, etc.

GENITIVE

The genitive is commonly used to express a relationship between one noun and another, especially a limiting relationship. Some verbs also take the genitive as their object instead of the accusative.

Material: The genitive denotes what a thing consists of:

nigri fornicis favilla, “the ash of a black whorehouse”

Objective: the genitive can indicate the object of an action implied by a substantive:

curam habere loci, “to have the care of the place”

Partitive (genitive of the whole): The genitive indicates the whole to which a part belongs:

quicumque vestrum, “whoever of you”

Possession: The genitive denotes possession, including the belonging of an object, quality, feeling, or action to a person or thing:

Herculis invicti dextera, “the right hand of unconquered Hercules”

Predicative: A genitive can be used with verbs of being, seeming, etc.

sciscitari ... unde natalium: “to question whence was his parentage”

Quality (characteristic, description): The genitive is used to describe a person or thing:

fatui puella cunni, “a girl *with a foolish cunt*”

Separation: The genitive can express separation:

libamine mentulae comeso, “the offering *from my prick* having been eaten”

Price or value: The genitive expresses price or value.

non assis faciunt: “they do it not *for even a penny*”

After verbs and adjectives: The genitive is used to complete the meaning of certain adjectives, such as *plenus* (full of) or *egenus* (in need of). It is also used after certain verbs, such as *memini* (to remember), *misereror* (to pity), *paeniteo* (to regret), *metuo* (to fear), etc. These will be indicated in the commentary simply as “gen. after *memini*”

DATIVE

The Dative case is chiefly used to indicate the person for whom an action happens or a quality exists.

Agent: the dative expresses the agent of an action with passive verbs, especially the gerundive.

mihi mentula est vocanda, “the prick must be named *by me*”

Indirect Object: The recipient of the action of the verb is put in the dative case.

istud caelitibus datur severis, “this is given *to the severe gods*”

Possession: The dative is used to express possession with the verb *esse*.

blaesa lingua mihi est, “*my tongue* is mispronouncing”

Predicate: the dative can be used as the predicate of the verb *esse*:

sed potuit damno nobis esse, “it could be our *ruin*”

Reference (advantage, interest): the dative identifies the person interested, concerned, benefited by an action.

Cum sacrum fieret deo salaci, “when a sacrifice happens *for the salacious god*”

Verbs and Compound Verbs: Verbs such as *noceo* (to harm), *suadere* (persuade), etc., take the dative case, as do many verbs with a prefix, such as *impono* (to place on), *accedo* (to add to), etc.

ACCUSATIVE

The accusative case is used for the direct object of transitive verbs, for the subject of an infinitive in indirect statement and other complements of a verb, to indicate place to which, and duration of time.

Adverbial: the accusative of adjectives can be used adverbially:

clunem excitatius altiusque motat, “she moves her buttocks *more excitedly and higher*”

Direct Object: the direct object of verbs is in the accusative case:

qualia tulisse, “to have carried *such fruits*”

Exclamation: The accusative is used in short exclamatory phrases.

me miserum, “O miserable me!”

Place to Which: Used to convey the location travelled to, often with a preposition:

locum venitis, “you come *to a place*”

Predicative: Causative verbs like *facere* can take a second predicative accusative.

rivalem languidum reddat, “may he make his rival *languid*”

Respect: The accusative may be used with an adjective or verb to denote the part concerned.

frontem vides cornutos, “you see them horned *with respect to the forehead*”

Subject of Infinitives: In indirect discourse and other expressions that are complemented by an infinitive, the subject of the infinitive is in the accusative case.

num pudet Phoebum portare sagittas, “is it not fitting that *Phoebus* carry arrows?”

Supine: Accusative supines occur after verbs of motion in order to express purpose.

venire credo furatum, “I believe you come *in order to steal*”

ABLATIVE

Nouns in the ablative case are used often adverbially, generally expressing motion away from something, instrument, location, and many other relations.

Ablative Absolute: Combined with a participle, adjective, or noun, the ablative conveys the circumstance (time, cause, or condition) of a particular action.

teste te: “with you as a witness”

Agent: The agent of a passive verb is expressed by the ablative usually with the preposition *ab*.

raptus ab alite sacra, “snatched by the holy eagle”

Cause: Cause may be expressed by an ablative with or without a preposition.

qua suspicer causa, “for what reason would I suspect?”

Circumstance: a circumstance or situation attendant to a verb can be expressed with the ablative:

stamus coleis apertis, “we stand with open buttocks”

Comparison: Comparative adjectives followed by the ablative express comparison.

senior Hectoris parente, “older than the mother of Hector”

Degree of Difference (measure of difference) is indicated by the ablative:

simplicius multo est, “it is easier by much”

Manner: Often with *cum*, manner is also denoted by the simple ablative.

crisabit fluctuante lumbo, “she will move with undulating loins”

Means (Instrument): The ablative expresses the means by which an action is accomplished:

tectum nullis vestibus, “covered by no clothing”

Place Where: Often denoted by the preposition *in* along with the ablative; the preposition is commonly omitted in poetry or poetic prose.

templi parietibus tui notavi, “I noted on the walls of your temple”

Place From Which: The ablative denotes the place a noun has moved from usually with a preposition.

gemmas germine exeuntes, “buds coming from the sprout”

Quality (description): Quality is regularly denoted by the ablative.

lumine est Venus paeto, “Venus has a squinting eye”

Separation: Separation is expressed with or without a preposition especially with verbs and adjectives of deprivation, freedom, and want.

defectus pueroque feminaque, “deprived of boy and girl”

Specification: The ablative of specification provides details with respect to which anything is or is done.

terribilem fuste, “terrible with a club”

Time: Both time when and time within which are denoted by the ablative.

prima dat nocte, “she gives on the first night”

nocte peregit una, “she completed in the course of one night”

LOCATIVE

The locative case is used for the location of towns and small islands of first and second declension, *humus*, *domus*, *rus*, and sometimes countries and large islands as an alternative to ablative of place where.

cucumeresque humi fusos, “cucumbers poured out on the ground”

2. Uses of the Subjunctive

Independent Uses of the Subjunctive

Deliberative questions occur when the speaker wonders what he or she should do.

quid faciam?: “What should I do?”

Hortatory, Jussive, Prohibition Clauses:

Jussive and hortatory subjunctives “urges” some action in a more polite manner than an imperative. “Hortatory” applies to first person “let us...”; “jussive” applies to second and third person (may you..., let her...); “prohibition” refers to the negative (don’t...).

accedat: “let him come!”

neque possis: “may you not be able!”

The volitive subjunctive expresses a wish for the future:

periam: “may I die!”

Dependent Uses of the Subjunctive

Tenses of the subjunctive in subordinate clauses follow the *sequence of tenses*: present or perfect subjunctive for primary sequence, imperfect or pluperfect for secondary sequence.

| <i>tense of main clause</i> | <i>same time or time after main verb</i> | <i>time before main verb</i> |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| present or future tense | present subjunctive | perfect subjunctive |
| past tense | imperfect subjunctive | pluperfect subjunctive |

Concessive clauses with *cum*, *quamvis* or *licet* take the subjunctive:

quamvis sim: “although I am”

cum capiant: “although they hold”

licet torqueas: “although you twist your hair”

Conditions: The subjunctive is used in future less vivid and contrafactual conditions (see below)

Cum Causal Clauses: When *cum* introduces a causal clause, the subjunctive is used:

cum...luat: “since you pay”

Cum Circumstantial Clauses: When *cum* introduces a general circumstance rather than a specific time, the subjunctive is used

cum...ostendas: “when you show”

Cum Temporal clauses referring to past actions in secondary sequence regularly take the subjunctive.

cum...pererrasset: “when she had wandered”

Indirect commands are an example of a jussive noun clause used as the object of a verb. For more on jussive noun clauses, see below.

rogat temptes: “she asks you to try”

Indirect questions are formed with the subjunctive following the sequence of tenses and introduced by an interrogative word.

dic mihi qua iter sit: “tell me where your route is”

Noun Clauses clauses following certain verbs are introduced with *ut* or *ne* with the subjunctive, as in indirect commands:

quereris quod astem: “why do you complain that I am standing”

Purpose Clauses explain the purpose behind the action of the main clause and is usually introduced by *ut* or *ne*.

tu quae averteris ne videas: “you who look away in order not to see”

Relative Clauses of Characteristic: Relative clauses in the subjunctive suggest that the clause does not simply state a fact but rather indicates another type of subjunctive clause such as purpose, result, cause, concession, etc. They are called relative clauses of characteristic for introducing a defining quality or characteristic.

tu quae averteris: “you who are (the kind who) turn away”

Result clauses explain the outcome of the action in the main clause, often with an adverb in the main clause signalling the result clause. Result clauses are usually introduced by *ut* or *ut non*.

adeo plena ut putem: “so full that I suppose”

3. Conditional sentences

Future more vivid conditions express a future *probability*. The protasis (the clause expressing the condition, i.e. the “if” clause) can be the future or future perfect, the apodosis (the clause expressing consequence, i.e. the “then” clause) is the future tense or some equivalent. In English this is expressed with the present tense in the protasis, future tense in the apodosis: “If she comes...then I will go.”

si dederis, licebit: “if you give, it will be permitted”

Future less vivid conditions express a future *possibility* and thus use the potential subjunctive in the apodosis and present or perfect subjunctive in the protasis; In English, “If it should...then it would...” or “If it were to...then it would.”

si tractes, putes?: “if you were to handle it, would you suppose?”

Contrafactual conditions indicate an untrue premise and conclusion and use the subjunctive mood: imperfect subjunctive for the present (i.e. “if he were now doing this, he would be doing badly”); pluperfect subjunctive for the past (i.e. “if he had done this, he would have done badly”).

nisi placuisset, non habuisset: “unless he had been pleasing, it would not have been necessary”

Mixed conditions are common, where a less vivid protasis is combined with an apodosis in the future indicative:

si telum desit, inermis ero: “if the weapon were to be lacking, I will be unarmed”

C. Other terms used in the commentary

Anastrophe – the reversal of normal word order

mentulam ad for *ad mentulam*

Hendiadys - (“one through two) the use of two nouns linked by a conjunction instead of a noun and adjective:

graculusve raptor: “a jackdaw and plunderer” i.e. a plundering jackdaw

Litotes - (understatement) is the use of two negatives to produce a positive:

non nimium: “not too much” i.e. a little

Other Terminology

Apocopation – when a word is formed by the removal of the end of a longer word

subripuere: apoc. perf. (= *subripuerunt*)

Syncopation – the contraction of a word by omission of part of the middle

dicarunt: syncopated perf. (= *dicaeverunt*)

Periphrastic: the use of a participle and a form of the verb *esse* to create a tense:

conspiciendus est Apollo: (gerundive) “Apollo ought to be seen,” lit.
Apollo is one who ought to be seen

Priapea: Songs for a Phallic God

An address to the reader, this poem is a preamble to the whole collection.

Carminis incompiti lusus lecture procaces,
 conveniens Latio pone supercilium.
 non soror hoc habitat Phoebi, non Vesta sacello,
 nec quae de patrio vertice nata dea est,
 sed ruber hortorum custos, membrosior aequo, 5
 qui tectum nullis vestibus inguen habet.

aequus, -a, -um: equal, usual
carmen, -inis *n*: song, verse
convenio (4): to be appropriate to
custos, -odis *m*: guard
dea, -ae *f*: goddess
habito (1): to inhabit, dwell live, stay
hortus, -i *m*: garden
incompitus, -a, -um: untidy, unpolished
inguen, -inis *n*: groin
Latium, -i: Latium, of Rome
lusus, -us *m*: jest
membrosus, -a, um: having a large member

nascor, nasci, natus sum: to be born
patrius, -a, -um: father's, paternal
pono (3): to lay aside
procax, -acis (*gen.*): impudent, undisciplined
ruber, -ra, -rum: red, ruddy
sacellum, -i *n*: shrine
soror, -is *f*: sister
supercilium, -i *n*: eyebrow, sternness
tego (3), **texi, tectus:** to cover
vertex, verticis *m*: crown of the head
Vesta, -ae *f*: Vesta, goddess of the hearth
vestis, -is *f*: clothing

lecture: fut. act. part. voc. of *lego* "you *about to read*"

conveniens: pres. part. neut. agreeing with *supercilium*, "appropriate to" + dat.

pone: imper., "lay aside!"

supercilium: raising the eyebrow showed disapproval, and thus can mean "sternness"

soror: the sister of Phoebus is the virgin goddess Diana

hoc... sacello: abl. place where, "in this shrine"

de patrio vertice: Minerva was born parthenogenetically from the head of Jupiter

ruber custos: the "ruddy guard" is Priapus, who was painted red

aequo: abl. of comparison after *membrosior*, "larger-membered *than is usual*"

nullis vestibis: abl. of means, "covered *by no clothing*"

aut igitur tunicam parti praetende tegendae,
aut quibus hanc oculis adspicis, ista lege.

aspicio (3): to look at, gaze on

oculus, -i m: an eye

pars, partis f: part

praetendo (3): to stretch out X (*acc.*) over Y (*dat.*)

tego (3): to cover

tunica, -ae f: undergarment, tunic

parti: *dat.* after *praetende* “stretch over *the part*”

tegendae: gerundive *dat.* agreeing with *parti*, “the part *that ought to be covered*”

quibus oculis: *abl.* of means “*by whichever eyes* you look”

hanc (*sc. partem*): “cover *this part*” i.e. his member

ista (*sc. carmina*): *n. pl.*, “read *these songs!*”

II

HENDECASYLLABLE

Dedication to Priapus. This poem is another preamble to the whole collection, a dedication by the poet to Priapus.

Ludens haec ego teste te, Priape,
horto carmina digna, non libello,
scripsi non nimium laboriose.
nec Musas tamen, ut solent poetae,
ad non virgineum locum vocavi.
nam sensus mihi corque defuisset,
castas, Pierium chorum, sorores

5

carmen, -inis n: song, verse

castus, -a, -um: chaste

chorus, -i m: chorus

cor, -dis n: heart

desum, desse, defui: to be lacking, abandon
(+ *dat.*)

dignus, -a -um: worthy of (+ *dat.*)

laboriose: laboriously

libellus, -i m: little book

locus, -i m: place

ludo (3): to play, mock, tease, trick

musa, -ae f: muse

Pierius, -a, -um: of Pieria, a region sacred to the Muses

poeta, -ae m: poet

scribo, -ere, scripsi: write

sensus, -us m: feeling, sense

soleo (2): to be accustomed

soror, -is f: sister

testis, -is n: witness

virgineus, -a, -um: pertaining to a virgin

voco (1): to call, invoke

teste te: *abl. abs.*, “with you as witness”

horto ... libello: *dat.* after *digna*, “worthy of a garden ... not a little book”

non nimium: litotes, “not too much”

non virgineum: “not suitable for virgins”

defuisset: plupf. subj. in past contrafactual apodosis, “sense and heart *would have abandoned me*”

Pierium chorum: i.e. the Muses

auso ducere mentulam ad Priapi.
ergo quicquid id est, quod otiosus
templi parietibus tui notavi,
in partem accipias bonam, rogamus.

accipio (3): to accept

audeo (3), **ausi**, **ausus**: to dare (+ *inf.*)

bonus, -a, **um**: good

mentula, **ae f.**: penis (*obsc.*), “dick”

noto (1): to inscribe

otiosus, -a, -**um**: unoccupied, at leisure

paries, -tis **m**: wall

quisquid, **quicquid**: whatever

rogo (1): to ask

templum, -i **n**: temple

auso: perf. part. dat. of *audeo* agreeing with *mihi*, and representing a past contrafactual protasis, “*me having dared* to lead” i.e. if I had dared”

mentulam ad: anastrophe for “*ad mentulam*”

parietibus: abl. place, “on the walls”

accipias: pres. subj. in jussive noun clause after *rogamus*, “we ask *that you receive*”

in partem bonam: “in the good sense,” i.e. favorably

III

ELEGaic COUPLETS

Priapus asks for favors in plain language

Obscure poteram tibi dicere: da mihi, quod tu
des licet assidue, nil tamen inde perit.
da mihi, quod cupies frustra dare forsitan olim,
cum tenet obsessas invida barba genas,
quodque Jovi dederat qui raptus ab alite sacra

5

ales, **alitis f.**: bird

assidue: continually

barba, -ae **f.**: beard

cupio (3): to desire

forsitan: perhaps

frustra: in vain

gena, -ae **f.**: cheeks

inde: therein

invidus, -a, -**um**: hostile, hated

licet: it is permitted, although (+ *subj.*)

obscure: secretly

obsideo (2) **obsedi**, **obsessus**: to beset, besiege

olim: hereafter

pereo (4), **perii**, **peritus**: to perish, diminish

rapiō (3), **rapui**, **raptus**: to snatch, seize

sacer, **sacra**, -**um**: holy, sacred

quod... perit: rel. clause, “(that) *which diminishes* not at all”

des: pres. subj. concessive after *licet*, “although you give”

cupies: fut., “what *you will desire* (to give) in vain” + *inf.*, i.e. because no one will want it

invida barba: nom., the appearance of facial hair signaled the moment when a boy was no longer an appropriate object of desire

Jovi: dat. ind. obj., “he had given *to Jupiter*”

raptus: perf. part., “he who *having been snatched*” i.e. Ganymede

ab alite sacra: abl. of agent, “snatched *by the holy eagle*” i.e. of Jupiter

miscet amatori pocula grata suo,
quod virgo prima cupido dat nocte marito,
dum timet alterius vulnus inepta loci.
simplicius multo est “da pedicare” Latine
dicere. quid faciam? crassa Minerva mea est.

10

amator, -oris *m*: lover

crassus, -a, -um: crass, gross

cupidus, -a, -um: desiring

gratus, -a, -um: pleasing, welcome

ineptus, -a, -um: ignorant

maritus, -i *m*: husband

misceo (2): to mix, stir up

nox, noctis *f*: night

pedico (1): to sodomize, “assfuck”

poculum, -i *n*: cup

simplex, -icis (*gen.*): simple, easy

timeo (2): to fear

virgo, -inis *f*: virgin

vulnus, -eris *n*: wound

amatori ... suo: dat. of advantage, “who mixes for *his* lover” Ganymede became the wine server of Jupiter

prima ... nocte: abl. of time, “on the first night”

cupido marito: dat. ind. obj., “to her desiring husband”

alterius ... loci: gen. objective, “the wound of *the other place*” i.e. in the front

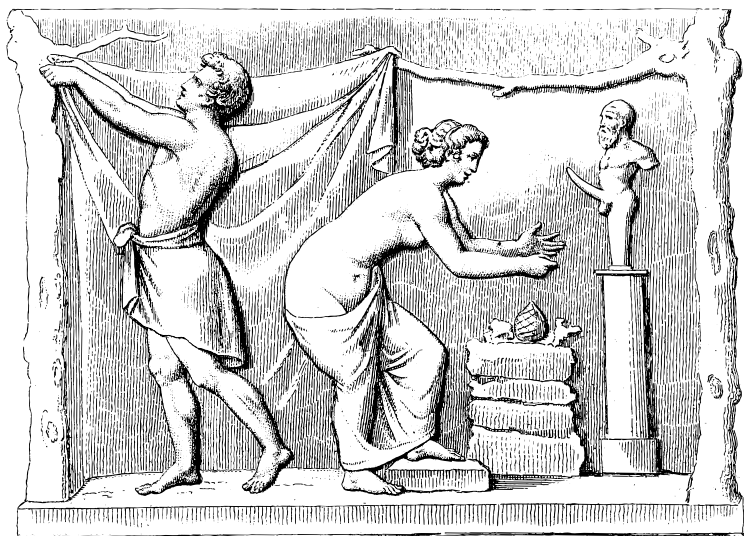
multo: abl. of degree of difference, “easier *by much*”

pedicare: inf. after *da*, “allow me to *penetrate from behind*”

dicere: epex. inf. after *simplicius*, “easier to say”

quid faciam?: pres. subj. in deliberative question, “What should I do?”

Minerva mea: “my craft” a metonymy, since Minerva is the goddess of craft, but ironic since Minerva was a virgin



An Invocation to Priapus. Marble bas-relief.
(National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)

An erotic picture book provides suggested positions

Obscenas rigido deo tabellas
ducens ex Elaphantidos libellis
dat donum Lalage rogatque, temptes,
si pictas opus edat ad figuras.

donum, -i *n*: gift

edo (3): to perform

Elephantis, -idos *f*: Elephantis

figura, -ae *f*: shape, form

Lalage, -es *f*: "Laughter," the name of a girl

libellus, -i *m*: little, small book

obscenus, -a, -um: obscene, lewd

opus, **operis** *n*: need, work

pictus, -a, -um: painted, colored

rigidus, -a, -um: stiff, hard

rogo (1): to ask

tabella, -ae *f*: document, letter

tempto (1): to try

rigido deo: dat. ind. obj., "gives to the rigid god" i.e. Priapus

Elaphantidos: a Roman poetess who produced a sex manual, referred to in Suetonius (Tibullus 43) and Martial (*Epigram.* 12, 43)

Lalage: for the Greek name cf. Horace, *Carm.* 1.22

temptes: pres. subj. in ind. com. after *rogat*, "asks you to try"

si edat: pres. subj. in indirect question after *temptes*, "test whether she can perform"

opus edat: the expression means to perform a sexual act or to publish a book.

pictas ... ad figuras: "according to the painted pictures"

V

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

Priapus makes a deal with a boy

Quam puero legem fertur dixisse Priapus,
versibus his infra scripta duobus erit:
"quod meus hortus habet, sumas impune licebit,
si dederis nobis, quod tuus hortus habet."

infra: below

impune: without punishment

lex, **legis** *f*: law *m*

licet: it is permitted (+ *subj.*)

sumo (3): to take up obtain

versus, -us *m*: line, verse

puero: dat. of reference, "the law for the boy"

dixisse: perf. inf. after *fertur*, "Priapus is reported to have pronounced"

scripta ... erit: future perf., "it will be written" i.e. the law

sumas: pres. subj. after *licebit*, "it will be permitted for you to take"

dederis: fut. perf. in future more vivid protasis, "if first you will have given"

tuus hortus: "your garden," i.e. your buttocks

Let the thief beware! One of a series of poems where Priapus threatens those who violate his garden.

Quod sum ligneus, ut vides, Priapus
 et falx lignea ligneusque penis,
 prendam te tamen et tenebo prenum
 totamque hanc sine fraude, quantacunque est,
 tormento citharaque tensiorem
 ad costam tibi septimam recondam. 5

cithara, -ae f: cithara, a stringed instrument

costa, -ae f: side, rib

falx, **falcis** f: a sickle

fraus, -dis f: deceit

ligneus, -a, -um: wooden

prendo (3), **prendi**, **premsus**: to take, grasp

quantacunque: however great

recondo (3): to bury (by inserting)

tensus, -a, -um: tight, stiff

tormentum, -i n: a catapult

Quod sum: concessive, “although I am”

prenum: perf. part. agreeing with *te*, “hold you *having been taken*”

totamque hanc (sc. **mentulam**): “*this whole (mentulam)* I will bury”

tormento citharaque: abl. of comp. after *tensiorem*, “tighter than *a catapult and a cithara*”

ad costam septimam: “all the way up to your seventh rib”

VII

ELEGIAIC COUPLET

A word play on “pedico”

Cum loquor, una mihi peccatur littera: nam “Te
 Pe dico” semper blaesaque lingua mihi est.

blaesus, -a, -um: mispronouncing

lingua, -ae f: tongue

littera, -ae f: letter (of the alphabet)

loquor, **loqui**, **locutus sum**: to speak

pecco (1): to be wrong, mispronounce

This couplet is a letter game. Priapus mistakenly inserts “pe” where he meant to say “te,” producing the word *pedico* instead of *te dico*.

blaesaque: nom. pred., “and my tongue is *mispronouncing*”

Married woman like to read these poems too

Matronae procul hinc abite castae,
turpe est vos legere impudica verba.
non assis faciunt euntque recta:
nimirum sapiunt videntque magnam
matronae quoque mentulam libenter.

5

abeo, abire: to depart, go away
as, assis *m*: copper coin
castus, -a, -um: chaste
hinc: hence
impudicus, -a, -um: unchaste
lego (2): to read
libenter: willingly

matrona, -ae *f*: wife matron
mentula, -ae *f*: penis (*obsc.*), “dick”
procul: away
nimirum: no wonder
recta (*adv.*): directly
sapio (3): to be wise, understand
turpis, -e: disgraceful indecent

abite: imper., “you go away!”

legere: pres. inf. epexegetic after *turpe*, “indecent for you to read”

assis: gen. of price “for even an *as*” (a very small sum)

faciunt euntque (sc. **matronae**) **recta:** “they don’t do (as I say) and go directly (to the *impudica verba*)”

sapiunt: “they are knowledgeable”

IX

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

Priapus is as proud of his member as the other gods are of their special characteristics

Cur obscena mihi pars sit sine veste, requiris?
quaere, tegat nullus cur sua tela deus.
fulmen habens mundi dominus tenet illud aperte,
nec datur aequoreo fuscina tecta deo.

aequoreus, -a, -um: connected with the sea
aperte: openly, publicly
cur: why?
dominus, -i *m*: owner, lord, master
fulmen, -inis *n*: lightning
fuscina, -ae *f*: trident
mundus, -i *m*: world
obscenus, -a, -um: indecent, obscene

pars, -tis *f*: part
quaero (3): to ask
requiro (3): to seek, ask
tectus, -a, -um: hidden, secret
tego (3): to cover
telum, -i *n*: weapon
vestis, -is *f*: clothing

cur ... sit: pres. subj. in ind. question after *requiris*, “you ask *why it is*”

tegat: pres. subj. in ind. question after *quaere*, “ask why no god *covers*”

dominus: i.e. Jupiter

aequoreo deo: i.e. Neptune

nec Mavors illum, per quem valet, occulit ensem, 5
 nec latet intrepidae Palladis hasta sinu.
 num pudet auratas Phoebum portare sagittas?
 clamne solet pharetram ferre Diana suam?
 num tegit Alcides nodosae robora clavae?
 sub tunica virgam num deus ales habet? 10
 quis Bacchum gracili vestem praetendere thyrsos,
 quis te celata cum face vidit, Amor?
 nec mihi sit crimen, quod mentula semper aperta est:
 hoc mihi si telum desit, inermis ero.

ales, alitis (*gen.*): winged
apertus, -a, -um: uncovered
auratus, -a, -um: golden
Bacchus, -i m: Bacchus, god of wine
celo (1): to conceal
clam: secretly
clava, -ae f: club
crimen, -inis n: crime
desum, deesse: to be wanting, lacking
Diana, -ae f: Diana, goddess of the hunt
ensis, ensis m: sword
fax, facis f: torch
fero, ferre: to carry
gracilis, -e: slender
hasta, -ae f: spear
inermis, -e: unarmed
intrepidus, -a, -um: fearless
lateo (2): to lie hidden

Mavors, Mavortis m: Mars, god of war
nodosus, -a, -um: knotty
occulo (3): to hide, conceal
Pallas, -adis f: Pallas Athena, Minerva
pharetra, -ae f: quiver
porto (1): to carry
praetendo (3): to stretch X (*acc.*) over Y (*dat.*)
pudeo (2): to be ashamed
robus, roboris n: oak
sagitta, -ae f: arrow
sinus, -us m: fold (of cloth)
telum, -i n: weapon
thyrsus, -i m: Bacchic wand tipped with a fir-cone
tunica, -ae f: tunic
valeo (2): to be powerful
vestis, -is f: clothing
virga, -ae f: staff

Palladis: i.e. of Minerva

sinu: abl. place, “in the cloak of Pallas”

pudet: impersonal, “it is not a shame, is it?” + *acc.* + *inf.*

Alcides: nom., “descendant of Alceus” i.e. Hercules

nodosae ... clavae: gen. of description, “of his knotty club”

deus ales: “the winged god” i.e. Mercury

virgam: Mercury carries the *caduceus*, with which he closes the eyes of the dead

gracili ... thyrsos: dat. after *praetendere*, “stretch clothing over the slender thyrsos”

praetendere: pres. inf. after *vidit*, who sees Bacchus *to stretch*”

celata cum face: abl. of circumstance, “with a hidden torch” a common attribute of Amor

nec sit: jussive subj., “nor let it be”

si desit: pres. subj. in future less vivid protasis, “if it were to be lacking”

A rustic admires Priapus

Insulsissima quid puella rides?
 non me Praxiteles Scopasve fecit,
 non sum Phidiaca manu politus,
 sed lignum rude vilicus dolavit
 et dixit mihi: “tu Priapus esto.”
 spectas me tamen et subinde rides?
 nimirum tibi salsa res videtur
 adstans inguinibus columna nostris.

5

adsto (1): to stand erect**columna**, -ae *f*: a column (= *mentula*)**dolo** (1): to chip with an ax, hew**inguen**, -inis *n*: the loins**insulsus**, -a, -un: tasteless, awkward**lignum**, -i *n*: piece of wood**manus**, -us *f*: a hand**nimirum** (*adv.*): no wonder**polio** (4): to polish**rideo** (2): to smile at**rudis**, -e: rough, rude**salsus**, -a, -um: salty, witty**specto** (1): to look at**subinde**: repeatedly**vilicus**, -i *m*: a rustic person**Praxiteles, Scopas, Phidias**: famous sculptors**Phidiaca manu**: abl. of means, “with the hand of Phidias”**dolavit**: literally, “hewed me,” with an obscene connotation**esto**: 3 s. imper., “*may it be* Priapus!” he (the sculptor) said**salsa res**: predicate with *videtur*, “seems to be *a witty thing*”**inguinibus nostris**: abl. of place from which, “from our loins”

*Jockey riding and crowning a winged phallus. Bronze tintinnabulum (wind chime),
 c. 1st century CE. From Pompeii. (National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)*

Let the thief beware!

Ne prendare cave. prenso nec fuste nocebo,
 saeva nec incurva vulnera falce dabo:
 trajectus conto sic extendere pedali,
 ut culum rugam non habuisse putes.

caveo (2): to beware
contus, -i m: a pole (= *mentula*)
culus, -i m: anus, "ass(hole)"
falx, falcis f: a sickle
fustis, -is m: a club
incurvus, -a, -um: curved
noceo (2): to harm
pedalis, -e: foot-long

prendo (3), **prendi, prensus**: to catch
puto (1): to suppose
saevus, -a, -um: savage
trajicio (3) **-jeci, -jectus**: to pass through,
 penetrate
ruga, -ae f: wrinkle
vulnus, -eris n: wound

ne prendare: pres. subj. 2nd s. pass. in noun clause after *cave*, "take care *lest you be caught*"

prenso: perf. part. dat. after *nocebo*, "harm you *having been caught*"

fuste: abl. means, "harm *with my club*"

incurva falce: abl. of means, "wound *with my curved sickle*"

trajectus: "you *having been penetrated*"

extendere: fut. 2 s. pass., "you will be stretched"

ut non putes: pres. subj. in result clause, "so that you will not suppose"

habuisse: perf. inf. after *putes*, "that your ass *had*" i.e. because it will be so stretched

XII

HENDECASYLLABLE

A diatribe against an old woman

Quaedam serior Hectoris parente,
 Cumaeae soror, ut puto, Sibyllae,
 aequalis tibi, quam domum revertens

aequalis, -e: equal, similar to (+ *dat.*)
domus, -i f: house, building
Hector, -oris m: Hector, the Trojan hero
parens, -entis f: parent

revertor (3): to return
senior, -ius: older
Sibylla, -ae f: prophetess, sibyl
soror, -is f: sister

quaedam: nom., "a certain woman"

parente: abl. of comparison after *senior*, "older *than the mother of Hector*" i.e. Hecuba, who is often cited as a typical old woman

Cumaeae Sibyllae: the Sybil of Cumae was a legendary old hag

ut puto: parenthetical, "so I believe"

quam: antecedent is *tibi*, "same age as you *whom*" addressing Hecuba, another legendary old woman. She helped Theseus, but was found dead by him upon his return.

Theseus repperit in rogo jacentem,
 infirmo solet huc gradu venire 5
 rugosasque manus ad astra tollens,
 ne desit sibi mentula, rogare.
 hesterna quoque luce dum precatur,
 dentem de tribus excreavit unum.
 “tolle” inquam “procul et jube latere 10
 scissa sub tunica stolaque russa,
 ut semper solet, et timere lucem,
 qui tanto patet indecens hiatu,

| | |
|---|--|
| astrum, -i n: star | lux, lucis f: light |
| dens, dentis m: tooth | pateo (2): to stand open, be open |
| desum, desse: to be absent | precor (1): to pray, supplicate, beseech |
| excreo (1): to cough up | procul (<i>adv.</i>): at distance, far off |
| gradus, -us m: position | reperio (4), repperi, repertus: to discover |
| hesternus, -a, -um: of yesterday | rogo (1): to ask |
| hiatus, -us m: opening, fissure | rogus, -i m: funeral pyre |
| huc: hither | rugosus, -a, -um: full of wrinkles |
| indecens, -entis (<i>gen.</i>): indecent | russus, -a, -um: red |
| infirmus, -a, -um: fragile, frail, feeble | scindo (3), scidi, scissus: to tear, split, divide |
| inquam: to say | stola, -ae f: stola |
| jaceo (2): to lie prostrate | timeo (2): to fear |
| jubeo (2): to order, tell, command, direct | tollo (3): to lift, raise, take |
| lateo (2): to lie hidden, lurk | tunica, -ae f: tunic, undergarment |

solet: the subject is *quaedam* from the first verse, “she is accustomed to come”

infirmo ... gradu: abl. of manner, “with a weak gait”

rogare: inf. also complementing *solet*, “is accustomed to ask”

ne desit: ind. command after *rogare*, “ask that my mentula *not be absent*” + dat.

hesterna luce: abl. of time, “yesterday”

de tribus: “one tooth *from the three*”

tolle procul: “take far away”

latere: inf. after *jube*, “order it to *hide*” the object of both verbs is the antecedent of *qui* below, referring to the old woman’s genitals

stola: this is the outer garment of a dignified woman

ut semper solet: parenthetical, “as is its usual custom”

timere: pres. inf. after *jube*, “order it to *fear* the light”

qui patet: the antecedent is the object of *jube* and subject of *latere* and *timere*, “that *which lies open*”

hiatu: abl. of specification, indecent *in gap*”

barbato macer eminente naso,
ut credas Epicuron oscitari.”

15

| | |
|--|---|
| barbatus , -a, -um: bearded | nasus , -i <i>m</i> : nose |
| emineo (2): to stand out be prominent | Epicurus , -i <i>m</i> : Epicurus, the philosopher |
| macer , macra , -um: scraggy | oscito (1): to gape, yawn |

macer: in apposition to *qui*, “all scraggy”

eminente naso: abl. of circumstance, “with a prominent nose” an obscene term for a penis or, as here, for a clitoris

ut credas: pres. subj. in result clause, “so that you would believe”

Epicuron oscitari: ind. st. after *credas*, “that Epicurus is yawning” It is not clear why the old woman’s genitals resemble Epicurus’ yawning mouth, but there are other references to the “yawn” of Epicurus

XIII

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

Let the thief beware!

Percidere, puer, moneo: futuere, puella:
barbatum furem tertia poena manet.

| | |
|--|---|
| barbatus , -a, -um: bearded | maneo (2): to await |
| fur , furis <i>m</i> : thief | moneo (3): to remind, advise, warn |
| futuo (3): to screw, fuck | percido (3): to assault, to sodomize |

percidero: syncopated 2 s. fut. pass. (= *percideris*) “you will be sodomized”

moneo: parenthetical, “I warn you”

futuere: syncopated 2 s. fut. pass. (= *futueris*), “you will be screwed”

tertia poena: i.e. the third punishment is *irrumatio*

barbatum furem: “a bearded thief” having a beard indicates manhood, hence the use of another orifice for punishment from the boy or girl

XIV

HENDECASYLLABLE

All are welcome in the garden of Priapus, even if tainted by sin

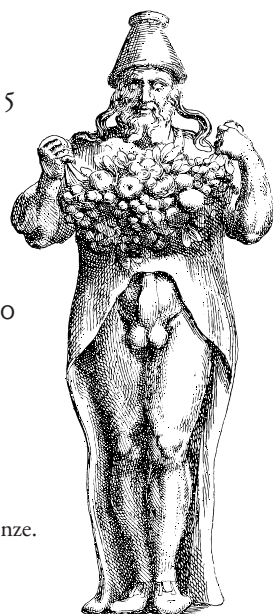
Huc huc, quisquis es, in dei salacis
deverti grave ne puta sacellum.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| deverto (3): to turn away | sacellum , -i <i>n</i> : a little shrine |
| gravis , -e: serious | salax , salacis (<i>gen.</i>): lecherous |

deverti: pres. pass. inf. after *puta*, “don’t suppose *that you are turned away*”

in ... sacellum: acc. showing motion towards, “hither *into the shrine*”

et si nocte fuit puella tecum,
 hac re quod metuas adire, non est.
 istud caelitibus datur severis: 5
 nos vappae sumus et pusilla culti
 ruris numina, nos pudore pulso
 stamus sub Jove coleis apertis.
 ergo quilibet huc licebit intret
 nigri fornicis oblitus favilla. 10



*Priapus bearing fruit. Engraving after Roman bronze.
 Pietro Santi Bartoli (Museum Odescalchum, sive,
 Thesaurus antiquarum gemmarum, 1751.)*

adeo (4): to approach
apertus, -a, -um: open
caeles, caelitis *m*: a heaven-dweller, god
coleus, -i *m*: sack; (*pl.*) testicles, “balls”
cultor (1): to worship
favilla, -ae *f*: glowing ashes, embers spark
fornix, -icis *m*: brothel
intro (1): to enter
licet: it is permitted (+ *subj.*)
metuo (3): to fear

niger, nigra, -um: black, dark unlucky
numen, -inis *n*: divine power
oblino (3), **oblitum**: to stain
pello (3), **pepuli, pulsus**: to drive
pudor, -oris *m*: shame
pusillus, -a, -um: insignificant
quilibet, quaelibet, quodlibet: anyone
rus, ruris *n*: the country, farm
severus, -a, -um: severe
vappa, -ae *m*: a worthless person

nocte: abl. of time, “at night”

hac re: abl. of cause, “for this reason” i.e. because you were with a girl last night

non est: “it is not the case”

quod ... metuas: pres. subj. in noun clause subject of *non est*, “it is not the case *that you should fear*” + inf.

istud: nom. subject, “*that kind* (of reverence)”

caelitibus severis: dat. ind. obj., “given to the severe gods”

culti (sc. **sumus**): “and we have worshiped”

pudore pulso: abl. abs., “shame having been driven away”

sub Jove: metonymy, “under the sky”

coleis apertis: abl. of circumstance, “with bare balls”; note the resemblance to the common phrase *coelis apertis*, “open skies”

intret: pres. subj. after *licebit*, “he will be permitted *to enter*”

oblitus: perf. part. concessive, “although stained”

favilla: abl. of means, “stained *by the ash*”

nigri fornicis: gen. after *favilla*, “ash of a black whorehouse”

Let the thief beware

Commisso mihi non satis modestas
quicumque attulerit manus agello,
is me sentiet esse non spadonem.
dicat forsitan haec sibi ipse: “nemo
hic inter frutices loco remoto
percisum sciet esse me”, sed errat:
magnis testibus ista res agetur.

5

affero (3): to lay X (*acc.*) upon Y (*dat.*)

agellus, -i *m*: a little field

committo (3), -misi, -missus: to entrust

erro (1): to make a mistake, err

forsitan: perhaps

frutex, **fruticis** *m*: shrub, bush

modestus, -a, -um: modest

percido (3), **percidi**, **percisus**: to assault,
sodomize

quicumque, quaecunque, quodcunque:
whoever

remotus, -a, -um: remote

satis: enough

scio (4): to know, understand

sentio (3): to perceive, feel, sense

spado, -nis *m*: eunuch

testis, -is *m* (1): witness

testis, -is *m* (2): testicle

commisso: perf. part. *dat.* modifying *agello*, “the garden *having been charged* to me”

non satis modestas: litotes, “*immodest* hands”

attulerit: fut. perf. in relative conditional clause, “whoever (if anyone) touches”

me esse: ind. st. after *sentiet*, “he will sense *that I am*”

spadonem: acc. pred., “that I am not a *eunuch*”

dicat: pres. subj. potential, “he might say”

loco remoto: abl. place where, “in this remote place” i.e., *agello*

percisum esse: perf. pass. inf. in ind. st. after *sciet*, “know *that I have been assaulted*”

magnis testibus: abl. of circumstance or means, “done *with great witnesses* or done
with great testicles”

agetur: fut., “this *will be done*” or “this case will be tried”



Bacchanalia scene. White marble sarcophagus, 140-160 CE.
(National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)

Apples offered to Priapus

Qualibus Hippomenes rapuit Schoeneida pomis,
 qualibus Hesperidum nobilis hortus erat,
 qualia credibile est spatiantem rure paterno
 Nausicaam pleno saepe tulisse sinu,
 quale fuit malum, quod littera pinxit Aconti,
 qua lecta est cupido pacta puella viro:
 taliacunque pius dominus florentis agelli
 imposuit mensae, nude Priape, tuae.

5

Acontius, -i *m*: Acontius**agellus**, -i *m*: little field**credibilis**, -e: credible**cupidus**, -a, -um: eager, passionate**floreo** (2): to flourish**hortus**, i *f*: a garden**impono** (3), **imposui**, **impositus**: to impose,
put upon**littera**, -ae *f*: letter**malum**, -i *n*: fruit**mensa**, -ae *f*: table course**nobilis**, -e: noble**nudus**, -a, -um: nude bare, stripped**paternus**, -a, -um: paternal ancestral**pingo** (3), **pinxi**, **pictus**: to paint**plenus**, -a, -um: full**pacisco** (3), **pactus sum**: to make an
agreement, enter into a marriage contract
with (+ *dat.*)**pius**, -a, -um: upright, faithful**pomum**, -i *n*: fruit**rapio** (3), **rapui**, **raptus**: to snatch**rus**, **ruris** *n*: country, farm**sinus**, -us *m*: fold (of cloth), lap**spatior** (1): to walk**Qualibus ... pomis**: abl. of means, "with this sort of apples"**Hippomenes**: nom. s., Hippomenes successfully wooed Atalanta with golden apples**Schoeneida**: acc. s., "daughter of Schoeneus" i.e. Atalanta**qualibus** (sc. **pomis**): abl. of descr. after *nobilis*, "nobile with such apples"**Hesperidum**: gen. pl., the Hesperides tended a fabulous garden with golden fruit**qualia** (sc. **poma**): acc. obj. of *tulisse*, "to have carried such fruits"**rure paterno**: abl. of place where, "walking on her ancestral farm"**tulisse**: perf. inf. epexegetic after *credibile*, "it is credible for Nausicaa to have carried",
Nausicaa helps Odysseus in *Odyssey* 6.**Aconti**: the "letter" of Acontius was painted on a quince and read by his beloved,
Cydippe, see Ovid, *Heroides* 20-21**qua**: abl. of means, "the letter by which"**lecta**: perf. part. also abl., "by which having been read"**est ... pacta**: perf. dep., "the girl entered into a marriage with" + *dat.***taliacunque**: acc. neut. pl. correlative with the various forms of *qualis* above, "such
things"**mensae tuae**: *dat.* after *imposuit*, "has placed on your table"

Allow the thief to come!

Quid mecum tibi, circitor moleste?
ad me quid prohibes venire furem?
accedat, sine: laxior redibit.

accedo (3): to come near, approach

circitor, -oris m: overseer

laxus, -a, -um: breached, wide open

molestus, -a, -um: nasty, annoying

prohibeo (2): to hinder, restrain forbid,
prevent

redeo (4): to return, go back, give back

sino (3): to allow, permit

tibi: dat. of interest, “what (concern is there) to you?”

venire: inf. in noun clause after *prohibes*, “prevent the thief *from coming*”

accedat: jussive subj., “let him come”

laxior: “more opened” i.e. from being penetrated



*Figurine pitcher in the form of a Priapic dwarf.
Terra cotta, 1st century CE. From Herculaneum.
(National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)*

XVIII

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

Size matters

Commoditas haec est in nostro maxima pene,
laxa quod esse mihi femina nulla potest.

commoditas, -atis f: timeliness fitness,
aptness

femina, -ae f: woman female

laxus, -a, -um: loose

maximus, -a, -um: greatest

penis, penis m: a penis

laxa: nom. pred., “no woman can be *loose* for me”

quod potest: noun clause in apposition to *commoditas*, “this advantage, *namely that* no woman *can*”

Telethusa's dancing is a turn-on

Hic quando Telethusa circulatrix,
 quae clunem tunica tegente nulla
 excitatius altiusque motat,
 crisabit tibi fluctuante lumbo.
 haec sic non modo te, Priape, possit,
 privignum quoque sed movere Phaedrae.

5

altus, -a, -um: high deep
circulatrix, -atricis *f*: female itinerant performer
clunis, **clunis** *f*: buttock
criso (1): to move the haunches as in copulation
excitatus, -a, -um: excited
exsero (3), **exserui**, **exsertus**: to thrust out

fluctuo (1): to rise in waves, undulate
lumbus, -i *m*: loins
moto (1): to shake, stir
privignus, -i *m*: stepson
quando: when
tego (2): to cover, protect
tunica, -ae *f*: undergarment

Telethusa: a wanton dancer with the same name is mentioned in Martial 6.71.

tunica tegente: abl. abs., “with no tunic covering”

excitatus altiusque: acc. adverbial, “more excitedly and higher”

fluctuante lumbo: abl. of manner, “with undulating loins”

haec: i.e. Telethusa

possit: pres. subj. pot., “this girl *could*” + inf.

non modo ... quoque sed: “not only ... but even”

privignum ... Phaedra: “the stepson of Phaedra” i.e. Hippolytus, famously despising love.

XX

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

Like the other gods, Priapus has his weapon

Fulmina sub Jove sunt, Neptuni fuscina telum,
 ense potens Mars est, hasta, Minerva, tua est,

ense, **ensis** *m*: sword
fulmen, **fulminis** *n*: lightning
fuscina, -ae *f*: trident

hasta, -ae *f*: spear, lance, javelin
potens: powerful, strong
telum, -i *n*: dart, weapon

sub Jove: “under the command of Jupiter”

telum: nom. pred., “the trident *is the weapon* of Neptune”

Mars ... Minerva: vocatives, “is yours, Mars ... Minerva

sutilibus Liber committit proelia thyrsis,
fertur Apollinea missa sagitta manu,
Herculis armata est invicti dextera clava:
at me terribilem mentula tenta facit.

5

armo, (1): to equip

clava, -ae f: club

committo (3): to engage (in battle)

dextera, -ae f: right hand

invictus, -a, -um: invincible

Liber, **Libri** m: Bacchus

mitto (3), **misi**, **missus**: to throw, hurl

proelium, -i n: battle

sagitta, -ae f: arrow

sutilis, -e: consisting of things stitched together

tendo (3), **tetendi**, **tentus**: to stretch

terribilis, -e: frightful, terrible

thyrsus, -i m: Bacchic wand

sutilibus thyrsis: abl. of circumstance, “with stitched together wands”

fertur: “the arrow *is said*”

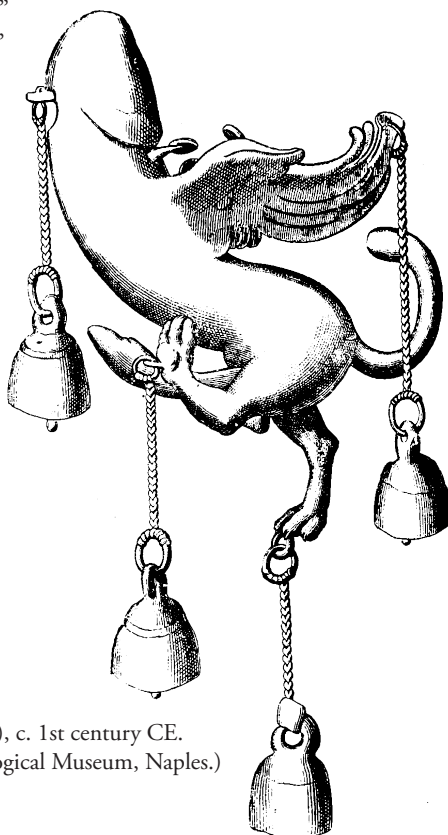
missa (sc. **esse**): impers. ind. st. after *fertur*, “the arrow is said *to be sent*”

Apollinea manu: abl. of means, “by Apollo’s hand”

Herculis: gen., “the right hand *of Hercules*”

clava: abl. of means, “armed *with the club*”

terribilem: acc. pred., “makes me *terrible*”



Phallus in the form of a winged lion.

Bronze *tintinnabulum* (wind chime), c. 1st century CE.

From Pompeii. (National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)

Don't betray me, Priapus!

Copia me perdit: tu suffragare rogatus,
indicio nec nos prode, Priape, tuo,
quaeque tibi posui tamquam vernacula poma,
de Sacra nulli dixeris esse via.

copia, -ae f: plenty, abundance
indicium, -i n: evidence (before a court)
information, proof indication
perdo (3): to ruin, destroy lose waste
pono (3), **posui**: to put, place

prodo, **prodere**: bring forth, publish, reveal,
betray
rogo (1): to ask
suffrago (1): to express support
vernaculus, -a, -um: domestic, homegrown

Copia me perdit: “plenty has destroyed me” if the speaker is a prostitute, this suggest that her success is becoming a problem. Other commentators suggest that the speaker is the landowner, a thief, or a priest.

rogatus: perf. part. with conditional force, “*if you should be asked* to lend support”

indicio tuo: abl. of means, “with your evidence”

nec prode: imper. in prohibition, “*don't betray us*”

quaeque ... poma: acc. obj. of *posui*, “*whatever apples* I have placed”

tamquam vernacula: “as if from my farm”

nulli: dat. ind. obj., “say *to no one*”

dixeris: perf. subj. in apodosis of a future less vivid condition, “you should say”

esse: pres. inf. in ind. st. after *dixeris*, “say them *to be*”

de Sacra via: i.e. that s/he bought them from the Sacra via rather than brought them from his farm, perhaps because this street was a red-light district

XXII

ELEGIAIC COUPLET

Everyone has something for Priapus

Femina si furtum faciet mihi virve puerve,
haec cunnum, caput hic praebat, ille nates.

caput, -itis n: head i.e. the mouth
cunnus, -i m: female genitalia (*obsc.*), “cunt”
femina, -ae f: woman female

furtum, -i n: theft
natis, **natis** f: buttocks (*pl.*), rump
praebeo (2): to present, expose

si faciet: fut. in future more vivid protasis, “if a woman does”

mihi: dat. of advantage, “do a theft *to me*” i.e. steal “from me”

virve puerve: “or if man or boy”

praebat: jussive subj. taking the place of fut. more vivid apodosis, “let this one expose”

A curse on thieves

Quicunque hic violam rosamve carpet
furtivumve holus aut inempta poma,
defectus pueroque feminaque
hac tentigine, quam videtis in me,
rumpatur, precor, usque mentulaque
nequiquam sibi pulset umbilicum.

5

carpo (3): to pluck

deficio (3), **defeci**, **defectus**: to deprive, be lacking (+ *abl.*)

furtivus, -a, -um: furtive, secret

holus, **holeris** *n*: vegetables

inemptus, -a, -um: not bought, stolen

nequiquam: in vain

pomum, -i *n*: a fruit

precor (3): to beg, pray

pulso (1): to beat, pulsate

rosa, -ae *f*: a rose

rumpo, (3), **rupi**, **ruptus**: to break burst

tentigo, **tentiginis** *f*: tension, lust

umbilicus, -i *m*: navel

viola, -ae *f*: a violet

carpet: pres. subj. in future less vivid protasis, “whoever (i.e. if someone) *were to pluck*”

pueroque feminaque: abl. of sep. after *defectus*, “deprived of boy and girl”

defectus: perf. part. agreeing with subject of *rumpatur*, “having been deprived”

hac tentigine: abl. of means, “burst by this lust”

rumpatur: pres. subj. jussive, “let him be burst”

precor: parenthetical, “I pray”

pulset: pres. subj. jussive, “let his *mentula* pulsate”

XXIV

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

Let the thief beware

Hic me custodem fecundi vilicus horti
mandati curam jussit habere loci.

cura, -ae *f*: concern, worry

custos, **custodis** *m*: guard

fecundus, -a, -um: fertile

hortus, -i *m*: garden

jubeo, (3), **jussi**, **jussus**: to order

locus, -i *m*: position, place

mando (1): to command, assign

vilicus, -i *m*: farm overseer

custodem: acc. pred., “me to be a guard”

me habere: ind. st. after *jussit*, “ordered me to have a care”

mandati: perf. part. gen. agreeing with *loci*, “of this place *having been assigned* to me”

fur habeas poenam, licet indignere “feram” que
 “propter holus” dicas “hoc ego?” propter holus.

holus, holeris *n*: vegetables
indignor (1): to deem unworthy

poena, -ae *f*: punishment
propter: because of, on account of (+ *acc.*)

habeas: pres. subj. jussive, “*may you have* this punishment”

indignere: pres. subj. 2 s. after *licet*, “*although you deem it unworthy*”

feram: fut., “*will I endure* this (punishment)?

propter holus: i.e. will I endure this *just for stealing vegetables?*

dicas: pres. subj. also after *licet*, “*and although you say*”

XXV

HENDECASYLLABLE

Priapus’ “scepter” is also an instrument of punishment

Hoc sceptrum, quod ab arbore est recisum
 nulla jam poterit virere fronde,
 sceptrum, quod pathicae petunt puellae,
 quod quidam cupiunt tenere reges,
 cui dant oscula nobiles cinaedi,
 intra viscera furis ibit usque
 ad pubem capulumque coleorum.

5

arbor, -ris *f*: tree
capulus, -i *m*: sword-hilt, handle
cinaedus, -i *m*: catamite, pervert
coleus, -i *m*: sack; (*pl.*) testicles, “balls”
cupio (3): to desire (+ *inf.*)
frons, frondis *f*: foliage
fur, furis *m*: a thief
nobilis, -e: noble, well born
osculum, -i *n*: a kiss

pathicus, -a, -um: perverse
peto (3): to seek for
pubes, pubis *f*: pubic hair
recido, (3), recidi, recisus: to cut back
rex, regis *m*: king
sceptrum, -i *n*: scepter (= *mentula*)
teneo (2): to hold
vireo (3): to be green or lively
viscer, visceris *n*: entrails

nulla fronde: abl. of circumstance, “be green *with no leaves*” i.e. will never sprout again, parodying an epic phrase (e.g. *Aen.* 12.206, *Iliad* 1.234-6)

reges: punning on the literal meaning of *sceptrum*, a royal scepter

capulum coleorum: “up to *the handle of my testicles*,” i.e. to his mentula

Priapus pleads with Romans not to wear him out with sex

Porro - nam quis erit modus? - Quirites,
aut praecidite seminale membrum,
quod totis mihi noctibus fatigant
vicinae sine fine prurientes
vernīs passeribus salaciores, 5
aut rumpar, nec habebitis Priapum.
ipsi cernitis, effututus ut sim
confectusque macerque pallidusque,
qui quondam ruber et valens solebam
fures caedere quamlibet valentes. 10
defecit latus et periculosam
cum tussi miser exspuo salivam.

caedo (3): to cut down, sodomize

cerno (3):, to discern, see

conficio (3), **confeci**, **confectus**: to make, do thoroughly

deficio (3), **defeci**, **defectus**: to fail

effutuo (3), **effutui**, **effututus**: to wear out with sexual intercourse

expuo (3): to spit out

fatigo (1): to importune, wear out

finis, **finis** *m*: end, limit

latus, **lateris** *n*: flank, member (= *mentula*)

macer, **-ra**, **-rum**: thin, scraggy

membrum, **-i** *n*: member, organ

modus, **-i** *m*: bound, limit

pallidus, **-a**, **-um**: pale, yellow-green

passer, **passeris** *m*: sparrow

periculosus, **-a**, **-um**: dangerous

porro: furthermore

praecido (3): to cut short, limit

prurio (4): to have sexual craving

quamlibet: however much, any

Quiris, **Quiritis** *m*: citizens (*pl.*) of Rome

quondam: formerly, once

ruber, **-ra**, **-rum**: red

rumpo (3): to break destroy

salax, **salacis** (*gen.*): lecherous, lustful

saliva, **-ae** *f*: spittle

seminalis, **-e**: seed-bearing

tussis, **tussis** *n*: cough

valens **-entis** (*gen*): healthy

vernus, **-a**, **-um**: of spring, vernal

vicina, **-ae** *f*: a neighbor woman

totis noctibus: abl. of time, “importune me *so many nights*”

passeribus: abl. of comparison, “more lustful *than sparrows*”

rumpar: fut. pass., “I will be burst”

effututus ut sim confectusque: perf. subj. in noun clause following *cernitis*, “you perceive *that I am worn out and made thin and pale*”

qui (sc. *esse*) **solebam**: rel. clause, “*I who was accustomed (to be) red and healthy*”

caedere: pres. inf. complementing *solebam*, “*who was accustomed to cut down thieves*”

periculosam: “*dangerous saliva*” because a sign of illness

cum tussi: abl. of circumstance, “*I spit with a cough*”

A dedication from Quintia

Deliciae populi, magno notissima circo
 Quintia, vibratas docta movere nates,
 cymbala cum crotalis, pruriginis arma, Priapo
 ponit et adducta tympana pulsa manu:
 pro quibus, ut semper placeat spectantibus, orat, 5
 tentaque ad exemplum sit sua turba dei.

adduco (3), **adduxi**, **adductus**: to contract, tighten

armum, -i *n*: arms, weapons (*pl.*)

circus, -i *m*: a race course

crotalum, -i *n*: castanet

cymbalum, -i *n*: cymbal (*pl.*)

delicia, -ae *f*: a favorite, pet (*pl.*)

doctus, -a, -um: learned, skilled

exemplum, -i *n*: example

natis, **natis** *f*: buttocks (*pl.*), rump

notus, -a, -um: well known

oro (1): to beg, ask for

pello, (3), **pepuli**, **pulsus**: to beat, strike

placeo (2): to be pleasing to (with *dat.*)

pono (3): to put, place, dedicate

prurigo, **pruriginis** *f*: lecherous itch

Quintia, -ae *f*: Quintia, a performer

specto (1): to observe, watch

tentus, -a, -um: stretched

turba, -ae *f*: crowd

tympanum, -i *n*: small drum (*pl.*)

vibro (1): to brandish, wave

magno circo: abl. of place, “very well-known *in the great Circus*”

movere: inf. epexegetic after *docta*, “learned *in moving*”

Priapo: dat. ind. obj., “dedicates *to Priapus*”

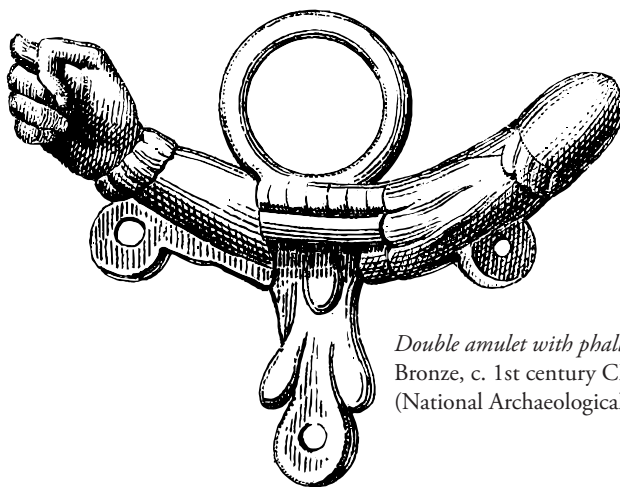
adducta manu: abl. of means, “beaten *with her tightened hand*” i.e. her fist

pro quibus: “in exchange for which things” i.e. her instruments

ut ... placeat: pres. subj. in noun clause after *orat*, “prays *that she would be pleasing*”

sit: pres. subj. also after *orat*, “that her crowd *would be taut*”

ad exemplum dei: “taut *in the manner of the god*” i.e. with an erection



Double amulet with phallus and obscene “fig” gesture.
 Bronze, c. 1st century CE. From Pompeii.
 (National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)

Let the thief beware

Tu, qui non bene cogitas et aegre
carpendo tibi temperas ab horto,
pedicabere fascino pedali.
quod si tam gravis et molesta poena
non profecerit, altiora tangam.

5

aegre: (*adv.*) scarcely

altus, -a, -um: high

carpo (3): to seize, pluck

cogito (1): to think consider

fascinum, -i n: an amulet (= *mentula*)

gravis, -e: heavy painful

molestus, -a, -um: annoying

pedalis, -e: measuring a foot

pedico (1): to sodomize, “assfuck”

poena, -ae f: punishment

proficio (3), **profeci, profectus:** to make, accomplish, effect

tango (3): to touch, strike

tempero (1): to restrain oneself

non bene: litotes, “who understand *not well*”

carpendo: gerundive abl. agreeing with *horto*, “restrain yourself from the garden *worthy of plucking*”

pedicabere: fut. pass. 2 s., “you will be sodomized”

fascino pedali: abl. of means, “with my footlong penis”

quod si: “but if”

si non profecerit: fut. perf. in fut. more vivid protasis, “if such does not accomplish”

tangam: fut. in future more vivid apodosis, “*I will strike* higher (places)” i.e. at the mouth

Obscenity is appropriate to Priapus

Obscenis, peream, Priape, si non
uti me pudet improbisque verbis.

improbis, -a, -um: shameless

obscenus, -a, -um: obscene

pereo (4), **perii, peritus:** to die, be ruined

pudeo (2): to be ashamed make ashamed

utor (3): to make use of (+ *abl.*)

obscenis: abl. pred. with *verbis* below, “use words that are *obscene*”

peream: pres. subj. volitive, “may I die!”

uti: pres. inf. after *pudet*, “if it is not shameful for me *to use*” + *abl.*

sed cum tu posito deus pudore
ostendas mihi coleos patentes,
cum cunno mihi mentula est vocanda.

5

coleus, -i *m*: sack; (*pl.*) testicles, “balls”

cunus, -i *m*: female genitalia (*obsc.*), “cunt”

ostendo (3): to show

pateo (2): to be accessible

pudor, **pudoris** *m*: modesty

cum ... ostendas: pres. subj. in circumstantial clause, “when you show”

posito pudore: abl. abs., “with the shame having been set aside”

deus: with concessive force, “although being a god”

mihi: dat. of agent with *vocanda*, “be named *by me*”

est vocanda: pass. periphrastic, “must be named” i.e. the obscene word *mentula* ought to be used with *cunus*

XXX

ELEGaic COUPLETS

Priapus tells a wayfarer where he can slake his thirst

“Falce minax et parte tua majore, Priape,
ad fontem, quaeso, dic mihi qua sit iter.”
vade per has vites, quarum si carpseris uvam,
cur aliter sumas, hospes, habebis aquam.

aliter: otherwise

carpo (3), **carpsi**: to seize, pluck

falx, **falcis** *f*: sickle, curved blade

fons, **fontis** *m*: spring, fountain

hospes, **hospitis** *m*: guest, visitor

iter, **itineris** *m*: journey road passage, path

minax, **minaxis** (*gen.*): threatening

pars, **partis** *f*: part

quaeso (3): to beg, ask, ask for, seek

sumo (3): to take up, select

uva, -ae *f*: grape

vado (3): to go, advance

vitis, -is *f*: grape vine

falce ... parte: abl. of means, “threatening *with a sickle ... with your part*”

mihi: ind. obj., “say to me”

qua sit: pres. subj. in ind. quest., “tell me *where is* the route”

si carpseris: fut. perf. in future more vivid protasis, “if you will have plucked”

sumas: pres. subj. in parenthetical deliberative question, “why *would you choose* otherwise?”

habebis aquam: a veiled threat of irrumation

Let the thief beware

Donec proterva nil mei manu carpes,
licebit ipsa sis pudicior Vesta.
sin, haec mei te ventris arma laxabunt,
exire ut ipse de tuo queas culo.

armum, -i n: arms (*pl.*), weapons

carpo (3): to seize, pluck

culus, -i m: anus, “asshole”

donec: while, as long as, until

exeo, exire: to exit, pass through

laxo (1): to loosen, open up

protervus, -a, -um: violent

pudicus, -a, -um: chaste, modest

queo (2): to be able

sin: (= **si** + **ne**) but if not

venter, ventris m: stomach, womb belly

Vesta, -ae f: Vesta, virgin goddess of hearth

donec carpes: fut. with conditional force, “as long as you not pluck nothing” i.e. if you pluck nothing

proterva manu: abl. of means, “pluck with a violent hand”

ipsa Vesta: abl. of comparison, “more chaste than Vesta herself”

sis: pres. subj. after *licebit*, “permitted that you be”

ut queas: pres. subj. in result clause, “so that you will be able” + inf.

de tuo culo: “through your own ass” because the opening will be so large

XXXII

HENDECASYLLABLE

A diatribe against a desiccated hag

Uvis aridior puella passis,
buxo pallidior novaque cera,
collatas sibi quae suisque membris

aridus, -a, -um: dry, wrinkled

buxus, -i f: boxwood

cera, -ae f: beeswax

confero, conferre, contuli, collatus: to compare

membrum, -i n: member, limb

novus, -a, -um: new, fresh

pallidus, -a, -um: pale, yellow-green

patior (3), passus sum: suffer

uva, -ae f: grape

uvis: abl. of comparison, “drier than grapes”

uvis ... passis: “grapes that have suffered” i.e. raisins

buxo novaque cera: abl. of comparison, “paler than boxwood and than new beeswax”

sibi suisque membris: dat. of comparison after *collatas*, “compared to her and her members”

formicas facit altilis videri,
 cuius viscera non aperta Tuscus
 per pellem poterit videre haruspex,
 quae suco caret ut putrisque pumex,
 nemo viderit hanc ut exspuentem,
 quam pro sanguine pulverem scobemque
 in venis medici putant habere,
 ad me nocte solet venire et affert
 pallorem maciemque laruaem.
 ductor ferreus insulariaeque
 lanternae videor fricare cornu.

affero, afferre: bring to
altilis, -e: fattened, fat
apertus, -a, -um: open, exposed
careo (2): to be without, lack (+ *abl.*)
cornu, cornus n: horn, hard covering
ducto (1): to lead
expuo (3): to spit out
ferreus, -a, -um: made of iron
formica, -ae f: ant
frico (1): to rub, chafe
haruspex, -icis m: soothsayer
insularius, -a, -um: having to do with a
 neighborhood
lanterna, -ae f: lantern
larualis, -e: deathly, ghostly
macies, maciei f: leanness

medicus, -i m: doctor
nemo, neminis m: no one, nobody
pallor, -oris m: paleness of complexion
pellis, -is f: skin, hide pelt
pulvis, pulveris m: powder
pumex, pumicis m: pumice stone
putris, -e: rotten, withered
sanguis, sanguinis m: blood
scobis, -is f: sawdust
soleo (2): to be accustomed to (+ *inf.*)
sucus, -i m: juice, moisture
Tuscus, -a, -um: Tuscan, i.e. Etruscan
vena, -ae f: blood-vessel
video (2): to see, seem (passive)
viscer, visceris n: entrails

videri: pres. pass. inf. after *facit*, “causes ants to seem to be”
altiles: acc. pred., “seem to be fat”
non aperta: concessive, “although not open” i.e. not having been cut open
suco: abl. of separation after *caret*, “lacks moisture”
viderit ut: perf. subj. in result clause, “so that no one has seen”
quam habere: ind. st. after *putant*, “whom the doctors think to have”
nocte: abl. of time when, “at night”
ductor ... cornu: the reading and interpretation of these last two lines are doubtful.
 What follows is based on the plausible suggestion of O'Connor.
ductor: pres. pass. ind., “I am introduced (into her)”
ferreus: “(I) made of iron” i.e. unfeeling
cornu: acc. obj. of *fricare*, “I seem to scrape the horn of a neighborhood lantern”

A handy girlfriend

Naidas antiqui Dryadasque habuere Priapi,
 et quo tenta dei vena subiret, erat.
 nunc adeo nihil est, adeo mea plena libido est,
 ut Nymphas omnis interiisse putem.
 turpe quidem factu, sed ne tentigine rumpar,
 falce mihi posita fiet amica manus.

5

adeo: to such a degree (that) + *result clause*
amica, -ae f: a girlfriend**antiquus, -a, -um:** old**Dryas, Dryados f:** a Dryad, a tree nymph**falx, falcis f:** a scythe**intereo, interire, interii, interitus:** to perish,
die**libido, libidinis f:** desire**manus, -i, f:** hand**Nais, Naidos f:** a Naiad, nymph**nympha, -ae f:** nymph**plenus, -a, -um:** full**pono (3) posui, positus:** to place, set aside**quidem:** indeed (*postpositive*)**rumpo (3):** to break destroy**subeo, subire:** to go into**tentigo, tentiginis f:** desire**tentus, -a, -um:** tight**turpis, -e:** ugly, nasty**vena, -ae f:** blood-vessel (= *mentula*)

habuere: (= *habuerunt*) apocopated perf., “the old Priapuses *possessed*”
quo ... subiret: impf. subj. in rel. clause of characteristic, “*to which* the member *could go*”**erat** (sc. **locum**): *locum* is the understood antecedent of *quo*, “*there was a place to which*”**ut putem:** pres. subj. in result clause after *adeo*, “such *that I suppose*”**interiisse:** perf. inf. in ind. st. after *putem*, “that all the nymphs *have died*”**factu:** supine abl. of specification after *turpe*, “terrible thing *to do*”**ne rumpar:** pres. subj. in negative purpose clause, “lest I be burst”**tentigine:** abl. of means, “lest I be burst *by my desire*”**falce posita:** abl. abs., “my scythe having been set aside”**fiet:** fut., “my hand *will become*”*Phallus in the form of a winged animal.*

Bronze *tintinnabulum* (wind chime), c. 1st century CE.
 (National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)

A thank offering to Priapus

Cum sacrum fieret deo salaci,
conducta est pretio puella parvo
communis satis omnibus futura,
quae quot nocte viros peregit una,
tot verpas tibi dedicat salignas.

5

| | |
|---|---|
| communis , -e: common | sacrum , -i <i>n</i> : sacrifice |
| conduco (3), conduxi , conductus : to conduct, introduce | salax , salacis (<i>gen</i>): salacious |
| dedico (1): to dedicate | salignus , -a, -um: made of willow-wood |
| parvus , -a, -um: small, little | satis : enough |
| perago (3), peregi , peractus : to complete | unus , -a, -um: alone, a single |
| pretium , pretii <i>n</i> : price, value, worth | verpa , -ae <i>f</i> : penis |

cum fieret: impf. subj. in circumstantial clause, “*when a sacrifice was being made*”

deo salaci: dat. of reference, “*made to the salacious god*”

pretio parvo: abl. of value, “*a girl of small value*”

satis: i.e. the price is low enough so that anyone can pay

omnibus: dat. of reference, “*for all*”

futura: fut. part. expressing purpose, “*in order to be*”

quot ... tot: correlatives, “*so many men ... so many offerings*”

nocte una: abl. of time within which, “*in the course of one night*”

verpas salignas: i.e. wooden images dedicated to Priapus

XXXV

HENDECASYLLABLE

Let the Thief beware

Pedicabere, fur, semel, sed idem
si deprensus eris bis, irrumabo.
quod si tertia furta molieris,

| | |
|---|---|
| bis : a second time | pedico (1): to sodomize, “ <i>assfuck</i> ” |
| furtum , -i <i>n</i> : theft trick, deception stolen article | prendo (3), prendi , prensus : to catch, seize |
| idem , eadem , idem : the same | quod si : but if |
| irrumo (1): to orally assault, “ <i>facefuck</i> ” | semel : once |
| molior (3): to undertake, set in motion, plan | tertius , -a, -um: third |

pedicabere: fut. pass. 2 s. (= *pedicaberis*), “*you will be sodomized*”

deprensus eris: fut. perf. pass. in future more vivid protasis, “*if you are seized*”

molieris: fut. in more vivid protasis, “*if you undertake*”

ut poenam patiare et hanc et illam,
pedicaberis irrumaberisque.

5

patior (3): to suffer, endure

pedico (1): to sodomize, “assfuck”

ut patiare: pres. subj. in purpose clause, “so that you suffer”

pedicaberis irrumaberisque: fut. perf. pass. in a future more vivid apodosis, “you will be assfucked and facefucked”

XXXVI

CHOLIAMBS

Priapus has his claim to fame too

Notas habemus quisque corporis formas:
Phoebus comosus, Hercules lacertosus,
trahit figuram virginis tener Bacchus,
Minerva flava, lumine est Venus paeto,
frontem vides cornutos Arcades Faunos,
habet decentes nuntius deum plantas,
tutela Lemni dispares movet gressus,
intonsa semper Aesculapio barba est,

5

Arcadis, -e: Arcadian

Bacchus, -i *m*: Bacchus, god of wine

barba, -ae *f*: beard

comosus, -a, -um: having abundant hair

cornutus, -a, um: horned

corpus, **corporis** *n*: body

decens, **decentis** (*gen.*): appropriate

dispar, -ris (*gen.*): unequal, disparate, unlike

Faunus, -i *m*: rustic deity of forest

flavus, -a, -um: yellow-haired

forma, -ae *f*: form, figure

frons, **frontis** *m*: forehead

gressus, -us *m*: steps (*pl.*)

Hercules, **Herculis** *m*: Hercules (Greek hero of great strength)

intonsus, -a, -um: uncut unshaven

lacertosus, -a, -um: muscular, brawny

lumen, **luminis** *n*: light, eye (of a person)

Minerva, -ae *f*: Minerva, Roman goddess of wisdom

notus, -a, -um: notable, famous

nuntius, -i *m*: messenger

paetus, -a, -um: squinting slightly

Phoebus, -i *m*: Phoebus Apollo

planta, -ae *f*: heel, foot

tener, -era, -erum: tender

traho (3): to draw, drag, haul derive, get

tutela, -ae *f*: a guardian

virgo, **virginis** *f*: maiden

quisque: nom. subject, “we each one”

lumine paeto: abl. of description, “with squinting eye”

frontem: acc. of respect, “with respect to his forehead”

nuntius deum (=deorum): “messenger of the gods” i.e. Mercury

decentes plantas: “appropriate feet” i.e., “winged”

tutela Lemni: i.e. Vulcan, the lame god of the forge located on Lemnos

gressus: acc. cognate, “takes unequal steps”

Aesculapio: dat. of possession, “Aesculapius’ beard is uncut”

nemo est feroci pectorosior Marte:
quod si quis inter haec locus mihi restat,
deus Priapo mentulatio non est.

10

ferox, ferocis (*gen.*): wild, bold
locus, -i *m*: rank, position
Mars, Martis *m*: Mars, Roman god of war
mentulatio, -ius: more membered, with a
larger *mentula*

nemo, neminis *m*: no one, nobody
pectorus, -a, -um: big-chested
quod si: but if
resto (1): to remain

feroci Marte: abl. of comparison, “more big-chested *than ferocious Mars*”
quis (= aliquis) locus: “if *any position*”
Priapo: abl. of comparison, “more membered *than Priapus*”

XXXVII

HENDECASYLLABLE

Priapus grants a special request from a supplicant

Cur pictum memori sit in tabella
membrum quaeritis, unde procreamur.
cum penis mihi forte laesus esset
chirurgique manum miser timerem,
me dis legitimis nimisque magnis,
ut Phoebos puta filioque Phoebi,
curandum dare mentulam verebar.

5

chirurgus, -i *m*: surgeon
curo (1): to cure
filius, -i *m*: son
forte: by chance
laedo (3), **laesi, laesus**: to wound
legitimus, -a, -um: proper
manus, -us *f*: hand
membrum, -i *n*: member, organ
memor, memoris (*gen.*): commemorative

nimis: very much
penis, penis *m*: penis
pingo (3), **pinxi, pictus**: to paint, picture
procreo (1): to procreate, create
puto (1): to suppose
quaero (3): to ask
tabella, -ae *f*: writing tablet
timeo (2): to fear
vereor (2): to fear, dread (+ *inf*)

pictum sit: perf. pass. subj. in ind. question after *quaeritis*, “you ask why *it has been pictured*”
unde procreamur: explaining *membrum*, “whence we are created”
laesus esset: plupf. pass. subj. in *cum* circumstantial cl., “when my penis *was wounded*”
timerem: impf. subj. in *cum* circumstantial clause, “and when *I was afraid*”
dis legitimis: dat. of agent with *curandum*, “to be cured *by the proper gods*”
ut puta: imperative of *puto* with *ut*, sometimes written as one word, “for example”
filio Phoebi: i.e. Aesclepius, god of medicine
curandum: acc. gerundive after *dare* expressing purpose, “to give my *mentula to be cured*”

huic dixi: “fer opem, Priape, parti,
cuius tu, pater, ipse pars videris,
qua salva sine sectione facta
ponetur tibi picta, quam levaris,
partem consimilisque concolorque.”
promisit fore mentulamque movit
pro nutu deus et rogata fecit.

IO

concolor, -oris (*gen.*): of the same color
consimilis, -e: very similar
factum, -i n: fact, deed, act achievement
fero, ferre: bring
levo (1): to lift, raise
nutus, -us m: nod
ops, opis f: help
pars, partis f: part, faction

pater, patris m: father
pictus, -a, -um: painted
pono (3): to put, set dedicate
promitto (3), **promisi, promissus**: to promise
rogo (1): to ask, ask for
salvus, -a, -um: well
sectio, sectionis f: cutting, surgery

huic: dat. ind. obj. of *dixi*, “said to *this one*” i.e. to Priapus
parti: ind. obj. of *fer*, “bring to *this part!*” i.e. to the wounded penis
cuius ... pars: “whose faction”
videris (sc. *esse*): “you seem (to be)”
qua salva facta: abl. abs., “which thing having been made well”
ponetur: fut. pass., “*will be dedicated* to you”
picta (sc. *mentula*): “a *painted* member”
partem: acc. of respect, “similar in every part”
levaris (= *levaveris*): fut. perf., “which *you will have raised*”
fore (= *futurum esse*): fut. inf. in ind. st., “he promised *that it would be*”
movit: perf., “*he moved* his member”
pro nutu: i.e. instead of nodding his head, as Zeus would do
rogata: neut. pl. acc., “he accomplished *the asked for things*”

XXXVIII

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

Apples for ass

Simpliciter tibi me, quodcunque est, dicere oportet,
natura est quoniam semper aperta mihi:

apertus, -a, -um: open
oportet: it is right

quoniam: because, since
simpliciter: simply

me dicere: pres. inf. after *oportet*, “it is right *that I say*”
aperta: pred. adj., “my nature is *open*”

pedicare volo, tu vis decerpere poma,
quod peto, si dederis, quod petis, accipies.

accipio (3): to receive

decerpo (3): to pluck, harvest

pedico (1): to sodomize, “assfuck”

peto (3): to desire, ask

pomum, -i n: fruit

si dederis: fut. perf. in future more vivid protasis, “If you give”

XXXIX

Beauty vs. the Beast

Forma Mercurius potest placere,
forma conspiciendus est Apollo,
formosus quoque pingitur Lyaeus,
formosissimus omnium est Cupido.
me pulchra fateor carere forma,
verum mentula luculenta nostra est:
hanc mavult sibi quam deos priores,
si qua est non fatui puella cunni.

5

Apollo, Apollinis m: Apollo

careo (2): to be without, lack (+ *abl.*)

conspicio (3): to see face to face

cunnius, -i m: female genitalia (*obsc.*), “cunt”

Cupido, Cupidinis m: Cupid

fateor (3): to confess

fatuus, -a, -um: foolish, silly

forma, -ae f: form, figure

formosus, -a, -um: beautiful

luculentus, -a, -um: brilliant, splendid

Lyaeus, -i m: Lyaeus, Bacchus

malo, malle (3): to prefer

Mercurius, -i m: Mercury

pingo (3): to paint, portray

placeo (2): to be pleasing

prior, prioris m: prior

pulcher, -a, -um: pretty beautiful

forma: abl. of manner, “Mercury is pleasing *in form*”

conspiciendus est: pass. periphrastic, “Apollo *ought to be seen*”

formosus: pred. adj., “Lyaeus is depicted as *beautiful*”

pulchra forma: abl. of separation after *carere*, “that I lack *beautiful form*”

hanc: i.e. mentulam

mavult: 3rd s. pres. of *malo*, “a girl *prefers*”

quam: “*more than* the earlier gods”

si qua (=aliqua) puella: “any girl”

non fatui cunni: gen. of description, “with a not foolish cunt”

A prostitute's dedication to Priapus

Nota Suburanas inter Telethusa puellas,
 quae, puto, de quaestu libera facta suo est,
 cingit inaurata penem tibi, sancte, corona:
 hoc pathicae summi numinis instar habent.

cingo (3): to surround

corona, -ae *f*: crown, garland

inauro (1): to gild

instar *n* (indeclinable): image, likeness

liber, libera, -um: free

notus, -a, -um: famous

numen, numinis *n*: divine will, divinity

pathicus, -a, -um: sexually perverted

penis, penis *m*: penis

quaestus, -us *m*: gain, profit

Suburanus, -a, -um: having to do with the
 Suburan quarter in Rome

summus, -a, -um: highest, the top of

Telethusa, -ae *f*: Telethusa cf. 19 above

Suburanas: this quarter in Rome was the red light district

libera: nom. pred., "has made herself *free*"

inaurata ... corona: abl. of means, "surrounded *with a gilded crown*"

sancte: voc. i.e. Priapus

hoc ... instar: "this likeness"

pathicae: nom. pl., "perverted women"

XLI

HENDECASYLLABLE

A curse on erudite poets

Quisquis venerit huc, poeta fiat
 et versus mihi dedicet jocosos.
 qui non fecerit, inter eruditos
 ficosissimus ambulet poetas.

ambulo (1): to walk

dedico (1): to dedicate

eruditus, -a, -um: learned, skilled

ficosus, -a, -um: afflicted with piles

fio (3): to become

jocosus, -a, -um: humorous

poeta, -ae *m*: poet

quisquis, quaeque, quodquod: whoever

versus, -us *m*: verse (of poetry)

venerit: perf. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, "whoever *has come*"

fiat ... dedicet: pres. subj. jussive, "let him become and let him dedicate"

non fecerit: perf. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, "he who *has not made*"

ambulet: pres. subj. jussive, "let him walk"

A dedication to Priapus

Laetus Aristagoras natis bene vilicus uvis
 de cera facta dat tibi poma, deus.
 at tu sacrati contentus imagine pomi
 fac veros fructus ille, Priape, ferat.

cera, -ae *f*: wax, beeswax**contentus**, -a, -um: content with (+ *abl.*)**fructus**, -us *m*: fruit**imago**, **imaginis** *f*: likeness, image**laetus**, -a, -um: happy**natus**, -a, -um: born, produced**pomum**, -i *n*: an apple**sacratus**, -a, -um: consecrated, dedicated**uva**, -ae *f*: grape**verus**, -a, -um: true, real**vilicus**, -i *m*: farm overseer**natis uvis**: abl. abs., “with grapes produced by nature”**de cera**: wax apples were the offerings to Priapus**deus**: voc., “to you, O god” i.e. Priapus**imagine**: abl. of specification after *contentus*, “satisfied *with the image*”**ferat**: pres. subj. in noun clause after *fac*, “make it *so that he* (Aristagoras) *bears*” i.e. in exchange for the wax offerings

XLIII

ELEGaic COUPLETS

Priapus' member is attractive to women

Velle quid hanc dicas, quamvis sim ligneus, hastam,
 oscula dat medio si qua puella mihi?
 augure non opus est: “in me” mihi credite, dixit
 “utetur veris viribus hasta rudis.”

augur, **auguris** *m*: diviner, prophet**credo** (3): to trust, believe**hasta**, -ae *f*: spear**ligneus**, -a, -um: wooden**opus**, **operis** *n*: need**osculum**, -i *n*: a kiss**quamvis**: although (+ *subj.*)**rudis**, -e: rough, coarse**utor** (3): to make use of (+ *abl.*)**verus**, -a, -um: true**vis**, **vis** *f*: strength**volo**, **velle**: to wish, want**velle**: pres. inf. in ind. question after *dicas*, “say *that* (a girl) *wishes*”**quid dicas**: pres. subj. potential, “why would you say?”**quamvis sim**: pres. subj. in concessive clause, “*although I am* wooden”**medio**: abl. of place where, “in the middle”**si qua puella**: “if perchance a girl”**augure**: abl. after *opus*, “there is no need for *a diviner*”**dixit**: perf., “she said”**veris viribus**: abl. of means after *utetur*, “will use its *true strength*”

Let the thief beware

Nolite omnia, quae loquor, putare
per lusum mihi per jocumque dici.
deprensos ego ter quaterque fures
omnes, non dubitetis, irrumabo.

deprendo (3), **deprendi**, **deprensus**: to seize,
catch

dubito (1): to doubt

fur, **-is m**: a thief

irrumo (1): to orally assault, “facefuck”

jocus, **-i m**: joke

loquor (3): to speak

lusus, **-us m**: play

nolo, **nolle**: to be unwilling (+ *inf.*)

puto (1): to suppose, think

quater: four times

ter: three times

nolite: pres. imper. in prohibition, “Don’t!” + *inf.*

dici: pres. inf. pass. in ind. st. after *putare*, “don’t think *that it is said*”

dubitetis: pres. subj. in prohibition where we would expect *ne*, “don’t doubt!”

XLV

HENDECASYLLABLE

Don’t bother curling your hair

Cum quendam rigidus deus videret
ferventi caput ustulare ferro,
ut Maurae similis foret puellae,
“heus” inquit “tibi dicimus, cinaede,
uras te licet usque torqueasque,

5

cinaedus, **-i m**: catamite, effeminate man

ferrum, **-i n**: an iron tool

fervens, **-entis** (*gen.*): red hot

licet: although (+ *subj.*)

Maurus, **-a**, **-um**: Moorish, North African

rigidus, **-a**, **-um**: stiff

similis, **-e**: like, similar, resembling

torqueo (2): to twist, torture

uro (3): to burn

ustulo (1): to scorch, char

videret: impf. subj. in *cum* circumstantial clause, “when *he sees*”

ustulare: inf. in ind. st. after *videret*, “sees some youth *to scorch*”

ferro: abl. means, “scorch *with a curling iron*”

ut foret: impf. subj. in purpose clause, “*in order to be similar to*”

Maurae puellae: dat. after *similis*, “similar *to a Moorish girl*” i.e. to make her hair curly

uras ... torqueasque: pres. subj. concessive after *licet*, “even though *you burn and twist* (your hair)”

num tandem prior es puella, quaeso,
quam sint, mentula quos habet, capilli?”

capillus, -i *m*: hair

prior ... **quam**: more ... than

quaeso (3): to beg, ask, ask for, seek

tandem: finally

prior ... **quam**: “more a girl *than* the hairs”

quaeso: parenthetical, “please”

sint: pres. subj. anticipatory after *prior* ... *quam*, “more than the hairs *would be*”

mentula quos habet: i.e. his pubic hair

XLVI

HENDECASYLLABLE

A diatribe against an old hag

O non candidior puella Mauro,
sed morbosior omnibus cinaedis,
Pygmaeo brevior gruem timenti,
ursis asperior pilosiorque,
Medis laxior Indicisve braxis:
mallem scilicet ut libenter ires,
nam quamvis videar satis paratus,

5

asper, -a, -um: rough

braca, -ae *f*: trousers (*pl.*)

brevis, -e: short, little

candidus, -a, -um: bright, white

cinaedus, -i *m*: catamite, effeminate man

gruis, **gruis** *m*: crane

Indicus, -a, -um: Indian

laxus, -a, -um: loose, lax

malo, **malle**: to prefer

Maurus, -i *m*: Moor (inhabitant of North Africa)

Medus, -a, -um: Median, Persian

morbosus, -a, -um: sickly

paratus, -a, -um: prepared

pilosus, -a, -um: hairy, shaggy

Pygmaeus, -a, -um: of the Pygmies, a legendary African tribe

quamvis: however, although

satis: enough

timeo (2): to fear, be afraid

ursus, -i *m*: bear

Mauro: abl. of comparison, “no whiter *than a Moor*”

omnibus cinaedis: abl. of comparison, “sicker *than all pervers*”

Pygmaeo timenti: abl. of comparison, “shorter *than the Pygmy who fears*” a legendary battle between Pygmies and cranes was a famous subject of art

ursis: abl. of comparison, “rougher *than bears*”

mallem: impf. subj. potential, “I should much prefer”

ut ires: impf. subj. in noun clause after *mallem*, “prefer *that you would go*”

videar: pres. subj. concessive, “although I seem”

erucarum opus est decem manipulis,
fossas inguinis ut teram dolemque
cunni vermiculos scaturrientes.

10

dolo (1): to batter, cudgel

eruca, -ae *f*: rocket, an aphrodisiac

fossa, -ae *f*: ditch

inguen, **inguinis** *n*: groin

maniplus, -i *m*: handful, bundle

opus, **operis** *n*: need

scaturrio (4): to gush, swarm

tero (3): to rub, wear away

vermiculus, -i *m*: larva, maggot

opus est: “there is need for” + abl.

ut teram: pres. subj. in purp. clause, “*in order to rub* the ditches”

ut dolem: pres. subj. in purp. clause, “*in order to batter* the maggots”

XLVII

CHOLIAMBS

A curse on anyone not bringing poetry to dinner

Quicumque vestrum, qui venitis ad cenam,
libare nullos sustinet mihi versus,
illius uxor aut amica rivalem
lasciviendo languidum, precor, reddat,
et ipse longa nocte dormiat solus
libidinosus incitatus erucis.

5

amica, -ae *f*: girl friend

cena, -ae *f*: dinner

dormio (4): to sleep

eruca, -ae *f*: rocket, an aphrodisiac

incito (1): to urge, on arouse

languidus, -a, -um: weak, languid

lascivio (4): to act lasciviously

libidinosus, -a, -um: lustful, wanton

libo (1): to pour (a libation) in offering

precor (1): to pray

reddo (3): to return

rivalis, -is *m*: rival (esp. in love)

sustineo (2): to sustain, continue (+ *inf*.)

uxor, -oris *f*: wife

versus, -us *m*: line, verse (of poetry)

vestrum: gen. partitive, “whoever *of you*”

libare: pres. inf. complementing *sustinet*, “who continue *to pour out*”

lascivendo: gerund abl. of means, “by acting lasciviously,” i.e. by lengthy love-making

languidum: acc. pred., “render his rival *languid*”

reddat: pres. subj. jussive, “*let* his wife *render* his rival”

longa nocte: abl. of time within which, “in a long night”

dormiat: pres. subj. jussive, “let him sleep”

libidinosus erucis: abl. of means, “aroused *by lusty aphrodisiacs*”

Priapus' source of moisture

Quod partem madidam mei videtis,
per quam significor Priapus esse,
non ros est, mihi crede, nec pruina,
sed quod sponte sua solet remitti,
cum mens est pathicae memor puellae.

5

madidus, -a, -um: wet, moist
memor, -oris (*gen.*): mindful of (+ *gen.*)
mens, mentis *f*: mind
pars, partis *f*: a part, member
pathicus, -a, -um: lascivious, perverse
pruina, -ae *f*: hoar-frost

remitto (3): to send back
ros, roris *m*: dew
significo (1): to signify, indicate, show
soleo (2): to be accustomed to (+ *inf.*)
spons, spontis *f*: free will

madidam: acc. pred., "the part that is *wet*"

sponte sua: abl. of manner, "spontaneously"

significor ... esse: the personal form of ind. st., "I am shown to be"

remitti: pres. inf. pass. complementing *solet*, "accustomed to be returned" i.e. by an ejaculation

XLIX

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

Don't be offended by these poems

Tu, quicumque vides circa tectoria nostra
non nimium casti carmina plena joci,
versibus obscenis offendi desine: non est
mentula subducti nostra supercilii.

castus, -a, -um: pure, moral chaste
desino (3): to stop, cease to (+ *inf.*)
jocus, -i *m*: joke, jest sport
nimium: too much, very
obscenus, -a, -um: obscene
offendo (3): to offend

plenus, -a, -um: full of (+ *gen.*)
subduco (3), -duxi, -ductus: to raise up
supercilium, -i *n*: eyebrow, frown, arrogance
tectorium, -i *n*: plastering (of walls)
versus, -us *m*: line, verse (of poetry)

non nimium: litotes, "not too much chaste" i.e. too little

casti... joci: gen. after *plena*, "full of not too chaste jest"

versibus obscenis: abl. of means, "offended by obscene verses"

offendi: pres. pass. inf. in ind. com., "stop being offended"

subducti supercilii: gen. of desc., "a prick with a raised eyebrow," i.e. a supercilious *mentula*

Priapus' help is sought

Quaedam, si placet hoc tibi, Priape,
 ficosissima me puella ludit
 et nec dat mihi nec negat daturam,
 causas invenit usque differendi.
 quae si contigerit fruenda nobis,
 totam cum paribus, Priape, nostris
 cingemus tibi mentulam coronis.

5

causa, -ae *f*: cause, reason

cingo (3): to surround, encircle

contingo (3) **contigi**, **contactus**: to reach,
 attain

corona, -ae *f*: crown garland

differo, **differre**: to postpone, delay

ficosus, -a, -um: afflicted with piles

fruor (3): to enjoy (+ *abl.*)

invenio (4): to discover, invent

ludo (3): to mock, tease

nego (1): to deny (+ *inf.*)

par, **paris** *m*: an equal, partner

placeo (2): to please (+ *dat.*)

totus, -a, -um: whole, all

si placet hoc tibi: “if this is pleasing to you,” a polite formula

daturam (sc. **esse**): fut. inf. in ind. st. after *negat*, “does not deny *that she will give*”

differendi: gerund gen. after *causas*, “reasons *for delaying*”

si contigerit: fut. perf. in more vivid protasis, “if she will have attained” + part.

fruenda: fut. pass. part. nom. f. supplementing *contigerit*, “attained *enjoying* us,” i.e. if she finally enjoys me

cum paribus: “your whole member *with its partners*,” i.e. his testicles

nostris ... coronis: abl. means, “encircle *with our wreaths*”

LI

CHOLIAMBS

Thieves seek not the fruits of Priapus' garden, but the punishment he metes out

Quid hoc negoti est quave suspicer causa
 venire in hortum plurimos meum fures,

causa, -ae *f*: cause, reason

negotium, -i *n*: work, business

plurimus, -a, -um: very many

suspicer (1): to mistrust, suspect suppose

negoti: gen. of value, “what is this *of business*,” i.e. what is the value of this activity?

quave ... causa: abl. of cause, “for what reason” i.e. why?

suspicer: pres. subj. in deliberative quest., “why *would I suspect?*”

venire: pres. inf. in ind. st. after *suspicer*, “that many thieves *enter*”

cum, quisquis in nos incidit, luat poenas
et usque curvos excavetur ad lumbos?
non ficus hic est praeferenda vicinae
uvaeque, quales flava legit Arete,
non mala truncis adserenda Picenis
pirumve, tanto quod periculo captes,
magisque cera luteum nova prunum
sorbumve ventres lubricos moraturum.
praesigne rami nec mei ferunt morum

5

10

adsero (3): to plant near, set near (+ *dat.*)
capto (1): to grasp, seize, reach
cera, -ae f: wax, beeswax
curvus, -a, -um: curved, bent
excavo (1): to hollow, scoop out
ficus, -us f: fig tree
flavus, -a, -um: golden-haired
incido (3): to fall in with
lubricus, -a, -um: ticklish
lumbus, -i m: loins
luo (3): to pay
luteus, -a, -um: yellow
malum, -i n: apples
moror (1): to delay
morus, mori f: black mulberry
novus, -a, -um: new, extraordinary

periculum, -i n: danger, peril
Picenum, -i n: Picenum, a region of Italy famous for fruits
pirum, -i n: pear
praefero, praeferre: to prefer
praesignis, -e: pre-eminent
prunum, -i n: plum
qualis, -e: what kind
quisquis, quaeque, quodquod: whoever
ramus, -i m: branch, bough
sorbum, -i n: serviceberry
tantus, -a, -um: so much
truncus, -i m: trunk (of a tree)
uva, -ae f: grape
venter, ventris m: stomach
vicinus, -a, -um: neighboring

cum ... luat ... excavetur: pres. subj. in causal clause, “since he pays ... and is hollowed out”

usque ad lumbos: “all the way up to the loins,” i.e. as deeply as possible

est praeferenda: pass. periphrastic, “ought to be preferred to” + *dat.*

vicinae (sc. **ficu**): *dat.* after *praeferenda*, “to my neighbor’s (fig)”

uvaeque (sc. **non sunt**): “and there are no grapes here”

quales legit: “of the sort Arete gathers”

Arete: the wife of Alcinous, renowned for his gardens (*Odyssey* 6-8)

non adserenda (sc. **sunt**): pass. periphrastic, “our apples *must not be set near*” + *dat.*, i.e. ought not be compared to

pirumve ... prunum ... sorbumve: also subjects of *adserenda*

tanto periculo: *abl.* of circumstance, “with such great danger”

quod captes: pres. subj. in rel. clause of characteristic, “which you would pluck”

cera nova: *abl.* of specification, “yellow *with newer beeswax*”

moraturum: fut. part., “serviceberry *destined to delay*” i.e. causing constipation

nucemve longam, quam vocant Abellanam,
 amygdalumve flore purpurae fulgens.
 non brassicarum ferre glorior caules
 betasve, quantas hortus educet nullus, I 5
 crescensve semper in suum caput porrum.
 nec seminosas ad cucurbitas quemquam
 ad ocimumve cucumeresque humi fusos
 venire credo sessilesve lactucas
 acresque cepas aliumque furatum, 20
 nec ut salaces nocte tollat erucas
 mentamque olentem cum salubribus rutis.

Abellanus, -a, -um: from Abella
acer, **acris**, -e: sharp, bitter
alium, -i *n*: garlic
amygdalum, -i *n*: almond
beta, -ae *f*: beet
brassica, -ae *f*: cabbage
caulis, -is *m*: stalk, stem
cepa, -ae *f*: onion
cresco (3): to increase
cucumis, **cucumeris** *m*: cucumber
cucurbita, -ae *f*: gourd
educo (1): to bring up, produce
eruca, -ae *f*: rocket (an aphrodisiac)
flos, **floris** *m*: flower, blossom
fulgeo (2): to glow, gleam
fundo (3) **fufi**, **fusus**: to pour out
furor (1): to steal, plunder

glorior (1): to boast, pride oneself
humus, -i *f*: soil
lactuca, -ae *f*: lettuce
menta, -ae *f*: mint
nux, **nucis** *f*: nut
ocimum, **ocimi** *n*: basil
oleo (2): to smell of, smell like
porrum, -i *n*: a leek
purpura, -ae *f*: purple
quantus, -a, -um: how much
ruta, -ae *f*: rue, a bitter herb
salax, -acis (*gen.*): lecherous
saluber, **salubris** -e: healthy
seminosus, -a, -um: full of seed
sessilis, -e: low-spreading
tollo (3): to remove, steal

Abellanam: a region in the south of Italy known for fruit and nut trees
flore: abl. of manner, “shining *with flower*”
purpurae: gen. of description, “flower *of purple*”
ferre: inf. complementing *glorior*, “I do not boast *to bear*”
quantas ... educet: pres. subj. in ind. question after *glorior*, “*how much* no garden *produces*”
ad: with acc. expressing purpose, “for my gourds, etc.”
quemquam: acc. subject of *venire* below, “nor believe that *anyone* comes”
humi: loc., “poured out *on the ground*”
fusos: perf. part. circumstantial, “cucumbers *that have been poured out*”
furatum: acc. supine expressing purpose after *venire*, “come *to steal*”
ut ... tollat: pres. subj. in purp. clause, “nor *in order to remove*”

quae cuncta quamvis nostro habemus in saepto,
non pauciora proximi ferunt horti.
quibus relictis in mihi laboratum
locum venitis, improbissimi fures:
nimirum apertam convolatis ad poenam,
hoc vos et ipsum, quod minamur, invitat.

25

apertus, -a, -um: open

convolo (1): to flock to

cunctus, -a, -um: whole, all

fur, furis *m*: a thief

hortus, -i *m*: garden

improbus, -a, -um: wicked, shameless

invito (1): to invite, attract

laboro (1): to work, be in distress

locus, -i *m*: place

minor (1): to threaten

nimirum: no wonder, no doubt

paucus, -a, -um: small

proximus, -a, -um: very near

quamvis: although

relinquo (3), **reliqui, relictus:** to leave

saeptum, -i *n*: fold, enclosure

non pauciora: litotes, “not smaller”

quibus relictis: abl. abs., “which things (i.e. the neighbors’ better produce) having been left behind”

laboratum: perf. part. agreeing with *locum*, “a place *that is cared for* by me”

LII

HENDECASYLLABLE

Let the thief beware

Heus tu, non bene qui manum rapacem
mandato mihi contines ab horto,
jam primum stator hic libidinosus
alternis et eundo et exeundo
porta te faciet patentiorem.

5

alternis: (adv.) in turn, one after the other

contineo (2): to restrain.

exeo (4): to exit, go out

libidinosus, -a, -um: lustful, wanton

mando (1): to commission, put in charge of

manus, -us *f*: hand

patens, -entis: (*gen.*) open, accessible

porta, -ae *f*: gate

primum: at first, in the first place

rapax, -acis (*gen.*): grasping, rapacious

stator, -oris *m*: one who establishes

non bene: understood with *contiens*, “you who *not well* restrain your hand” i.e. who can’t stop stealing

mihi: dat. after *mandato*, “garden *commissioned* to me”

stator: a cult title of Jupiter, here Priapus

eundo et exeundo: abl. gerunds, “by entering and exiting”

porta: abl. of comp., “more open *than a gate*”

patientiorem: acc. pred., “will make you *more open*”

accedent duo, qui latus tuentur,
 pulchre pensilibus peculiati,
 qui cum te male foderint jacentem,
 ad pratum veniet salax asellus
 nilo deterius mutuniatus.
 quare qui sapiet, malum cavebit,
 cum tantum sciat esse mentularum.

10

| | |
|---|---|
| accedo (3): to come near, approach | pecuniatus, -a, -um : endowed |
| asellus, aselli m : an ass | pensilis, -e : hanging, pendant |
| caveo (2): to beware | pratum, -i n : meadow |
| deterius (<i>adv.</i>): worse, less | pulchre : fine, beautifully |
| fodio (3), fodi, fossus (3): to dig, dig out | quare : wherefore |
| jaceo (2): to lie down | salax, -acis (gen) : lecherous |
| latus, lateris n : side, flank | sapio (3): to understand, have sense |
| male : badly, extremely | scio (4): to know, understand |
| malum, mali n : harm, malice | tueor (2): to see, look at |
| mutuniatus, -a, -um : endowed with a <i>mutunium (=mentula)</i> | tantus, tanta, tantum : so many, so much |
| | venio (4): to come |

accedunt duo: “two other (punishers) approach”
pensilibus: abl. of specification, “endowed *with hanging* (members)”
foderint: perf. subj. in *cum* circumstantial clause, “when they have dug out”
nilo (= **nihilo**): abl. of difference, “worse *by nothing*”
qui sapiet: fut. in conditional relative clause, “who will be wise” i.e. if he is wise
sciat: pres. subj. in *cum* causal clause, “since he knows”
mentularum: gen. part., “such a large number *of members*”

LIII

ELEGaic COUPLETS

A suppliant makes a modest dedication to Priapus, but no more modest than what is acceptable to Bacchus and Ceres

Contentus modico Bacchus solet esse racemo,
 cum capiant alti vix cita musta lacus,

| | |
|---|--|
| altus, alta -um : deep | lacus, -us m : tank, vat |
| Bacchus, -i m : Bacchus, god of wine | modicus, -a, -um : modest |
| capio (3): to hold | mustum, musti n : newly fermented wine |
| citus, cita -um : early | racemus, -i m : bunch, cluster (of grapes) |
| contentus, -a, -um : satisfied, content with (+ <i>abl.</i>) | soleo (2): to be accustomed to (+ <i>inf.</i>) |
| | vix : hardly, scarcely |

contentus: nom. pred., “accustomed to be *content with*”
capiant: pres. subj. *cum* concessive clause, “although they scarcely (*vix*) hold” i.e. because there is so much new wine

magnaue fecundis cum messibus area desit,
 in Cereris crines una corona datur.
 tu quoque, dive minor, majorum exempla secutus, 5
 quamvis pauca damus, consule poma boni.

| | |
|--|--|
| area , -ae <i>f</i> : area, open space | fecundus , -a, -um: prolific, abundant |
| Ceres , Cereris <i>f</i> : Ceres, goddess of grain | major , -us: greater |
| consulo (3): to consider | messis , messis <i>m</i> : harvest, crop |
| corona , -ae <i>f</i> : garland, wreath | minor , -us: lesser |
| crinis , -is <i>m</i> : hair (<i>pl.</i>) | paucus , -a -um: few (<i>pl.</i>) |
| desum , desse : to be wanting | pomum , -i <i>n</i> : fruit |
| divus , divi <i>m</i> : god | quamvis : although |
| do (1): to give, dedicate | sequor (3), secutus sum : to follow |
| exemplum , -i <i>n</i> : example, pattern | |

desit: pres. subj. in *cum* concessive clause, “although large enough space *is lacking*” i.e. because the harvests are so abundant

messibus: dat. of reference, “lacking *for harvests*”

dive minor: voc., “Oh minor god” i.e. Priapus

majorum (sc. **deorum**): “the examples *of the greater* gods”

boni: gen. of value with *consule*, “consider them *good*”

LIV

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

An alphabetic threat

“ED” si describas temonemque insuper addas,
 qui medium vult te scindere, pictus erit.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| addo (3): add, insert | pingo (3), pinxi , pictus : to paint, portray |
| describo (3): to write down | temo , temonis <i>m</i> : pole, beam |
| insuper : in addition | scindo (3): to cut |
| medius , -a, -um: middle | velo , velle : to be willing (+ <i>inf.</i>) |

describas ... addas: pres. subj. in fut. less vivid protasis, “if *you were to write down ... were to add*”

pictus erit: fut. perf. in future more vivid apodosis, whose subject is the antecedent of the relative clause *qui ... scindere*, “that which wishes to split you down the middle *will have been portrayed*” The picture will look something like this: E---D which looks something like an erect penis

Priapus fears losing something worse than his sickle

Credere quis possit? falcem quoque - turpe fateri -
 de digitis fures subripuere meis.
 nec movet amissi tam me jactura pudorque
 quam praebent justos altera tela metus:
 quae si perdidero, patria mutabor, et olim
 ille tuus civis, Lampsace, Gallus ero.

5

amitto (3), **amisi**, **amissus**: to lose

civis, **civis** *m*: fellow citizen

credo (3): to trust, believe

digitus, **-i** *m*: finger

falx, **falcis** *f*: sickle

fateor (2): to admit, confess

fur, **-is** *m*: thief

Gallus, **-i** *m*: Gaul, a priest of Cybele

jactura, **-ae** *f*: cost

justus, **-a -um**: just, proper

Lampsacus, **-i** *m*: Lampascus, the hometown
 of Priapus

metus, **metus** *m*: fear

moveo (2): to affect, provoke

muto (1): to move, change

olim: formerly

patria, **patriae** *f*: native land

perdo (3), **perdidi**, **perditus**: to lose

praebeo (2): to expose, show

pudor, **pudoris** *m*: sense of honor

subripio (3), **subripui**, **subreptus**: to snatch
 away, steal

tam ... quam: so much ... as

telum, **-i** *n*: weapon

turpis, **-e**: disgraceful, shameful

possit: pres. subj. pot., "who could believe?"

fateri: epexegetic inf. after *turpe*, "disgraceful to confess"

subripuere: apocopated perf. (= *subriperunt*), "thieves have stolen"

amissi: perf. part. gen. after *jactura*, "nor does the cost of *this thing having been lost*
 move me"

perdidero: fut. perf. in more vivid protasis, "if *I will have lost* them"

Gallus ero: "I will be a Gaul" but *Gallus* also refers to the castrated priests of Cybele.

Priapus is derided by a thief

Derides quoque, fur, et impudicum
 ostendis digitum mihi minanti?

derideo (2): to mock, deride

digitus, **-i** *m*: finger

fur, **furis** *m*: thief

impudicus, **-a, -um**: shameless, unchaste

mino (1): to threaten

ostendo (2): to show, reveal

mihi minanti: dat. ind. obj., "show to me, who is threatening"

eheu me miserum, quod ista lignum est,
 quae me terribilem facit videri.
 mandabo domino tamen salaci,
 ut pro me velit irrumare fures.

5

dominus, -i *m*: owner, master
facio (3): to make, cause to be (+ *inf.*)
furs, **furis** *m*: thief
irrumo (1): to orally assault, “facefuck”
lignum, -i *n*: wood
mando (1): to order

miser, -a -um: miserable
salax, **salacis** (*gen.*): lecherous, lustful
terribilis, -e: frightful, terrible
video (2): to see, seem (passive)
volo, **velle**: to wish

me miserum: acc. exclamatory, “woe is me!”
ista (sc. **mentula**): nom. subject, “because *this* is wood”
videri: inf. pass. after *facit*, “makes me *seem* terrible”
domino salaci: dat. ind. obj., “command *my lustful master*”
pro me: “on my behalf”
ut...velit: pres. subj. in ind. com., “I will order him *to wish*” + inf.

LVII

HENDECASYLLABLE

A diatribe against an old woman

Cornix et caries vetusque bustum,
 turba putida facta saeculorum,
 quae forsán potuisset esse nutrix
 Tithoni Priamique Nestorisque,
 illis ni pueris anus fuisset,

5

anus, **anus** *f*: old woman, hag
bustum, **busti** *n*: tomb, corpse
caries, **cariei** *f*: rottenness
cornix, -icis *f*: a crow
forsan: perhaps
nutrix, **nutricis** *f*: nurse

possum, **posse**, **potui**: to be able
puer, **pueri** *m*: boy, lad
putidus, -a -um: rotten, decaying
saeculum, -i *n*: age, generation
turba, **turbæ** *f*: commotion, disturbance
vetus, **veteris** (*gen.*): old, aged

turba: abl. of means, “made foul *by the disturbance*” i.e. by the effects of aging
putida facta: nom. f. agreeing with the idea of an old woman, not any of the words from the previous sentence describing her, “she, *having been made foul*”
potuisset: plupf. subj. in rel. clause of characteristic, “*who might have been able* to be a nurse”
Tithoni Priamique Nestorisque: gen., all men who reached a legendary old age
illis...pueris: abl. abs., “when they were boys”
ni...fuisset: plupf. subj. in past contrafactual protasis, “if she had not been an old woman” i.e. if she had not been much older even than those men

ne desit sibi, me rogat, fututor.
quid si nunc roget, ut puella fiat? -
“Si nummos tamen haec habet, puella est.”

desum, deesse: to be wanting
fututor, -oris m: a sex partner, “fucker”
nummus, -i m: cash, money

puella, -ae f: girl
rogo (1): to ask

ne desit: pres. subj. in ind. command, “asks that a sex partner *not be lacking from*” + dat.

quid (sc. dicam): deliberative question, “what (should I say)?”

si roget: pres. subj. in less vivid protasis, “if she should ask”

fiat: pres. subj. in ind. command, “ask *to be come a girl*”

puella est: “she is a girl” i.e. because men will treat her like a girl for money

LVIII

CHOLIAMBUS

A curse for thieves

Quicunque nostram fur fefellerit curam,
effeminato verminet procul culo,
quaeque hic proterva carpserit manu poma
puella, nullum reperiat fututorem.

carpo (3), carpsi, carptus: to seize, pluck
culus, culi m: anus, “ass(hole)”
cura, curae f: concern, post
effeminatus, -a, -um: womanish, effeminate
fallo (3), fefelli, falsus: to deceive, cheat
fur, furis m: thief
fututor, -oris m: a sex partner

procul: away, at distance, far off
manus, -us f: hand
pomum, -i n: fruit
protervus, -a, -um: violent, impudent
reperio (4): to find, obtain
vermino (1): to have an itch for (+ dat.)

fefellerit: perf. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, “whatever thief *has cheated*”

curam: i.e. the garden of Priapus

effeminato... culo: dat. after *verminet*, “itch for *an effeminate behind*”

verminet: pres. subj. jussive, “may he itch for” + dat.

proterva... manu: abl. means, “has plucked *with a violent hand*”

carpserit: perf. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, “whatever girl *has plucked*”

reperiat: pres. subj. jussive, “may she never find!”

Let the thief beware

Praedictum tibi ne negare possis:
si fur veneris, inpudicus exis.

exeo, exire: to exit, leave

fur, furis *m*: thief

nego (1): to deny

praedictum, -i *n*: prediction, forewarning

inpudicus, -a, -um: shameless

venio (4), **veni, ventus:** to come

ne ... possis: pres. subj. in prohibition, “may you not be able to” + inf.

veneris: fut. perf. in more vivid protasis, “if you come”

Si quot habes versus, tot haberes poma, Priape,
esses antiquo ditior Alcinoo.

antiquus, -a -um: old, ancient

ditior -us: richer

pomum, -i *n*: fruit

versus, -us *m*: line, verse (of poetry)

quot ... tot: correlatives, “as many ... as”

haberes: impf. subj. in present contrafactual protasis, “if you (now) had”

esses: impf. subj. in present contrafactual apodosis, “you would be”

antiquo Alcinoo: abl. of comparison, “wealthier *than old Alcinous*” whose legendary garden is described in *Odyssey* 6-8.

The burdens of trees in the garden of Priapus

Quid frustra quereris, colone, mecum,
quod quondam bene fructuosa malus
autumnis sterilis duobus adstem?

adsto (1): to stand to

autumnus, -i *m*: autumn, harvest

colonus, -i *m*: farmer

fructuosus, -a -um: fruitful, productive

frustra: in vain

malus, mali *f*: apple tree

queror (3): to complain

quondam: formerly

sterilis, -e: barren, fruitless

quod ... adstem: pres. subj in noun clause after *quereris*, complain *that I am still standing*

fructuosa malus: nom. appositive, “I, once *a productive apple tree*”

autumnis duobus: abl. of time, “sterile *for two autumns*”

non me praegravat, ut putas, senectus,
nec sum grandine verberata dura, 5
nec gemmas modo germine exeuntes
seri frigoris ustulavit aura,
nec venti pluviaeve siccitasve,
quod de se quererer, malum dederunt,
non sturnus mihi graculusve raptor 10
aut cornix anus aut aquosus anser
aut corvus nocuit siticulosus:
sed quod carmina pessimi poetae
ramis sustineo laboriosis.

anser, anseris *m*: gander
anus, -us, f: an old woman
aquosus, -a -um: living in water
aura, -ae f: wind
cornix, -icis m: crow
corvus, corvi m: raven
durus, -a -um: hard, harsh
exeo, -ire, -ii, -itus: to come forth, emerge
frigus, -oris n: cold weather, frost
gemma, -ae f: bud
germen, -inis n: sprout, shoot
graculus, -i m: jackdaw
grando, -inis f: hail
laboriosus, -a, -um: laborious, burdened
malum, -i n: evil, mischief
modo: just now, recently
noceo (2), nocui, nocitus: to harm (+ *dat.*)

pessimus, -a, -um: worst
pluvia, pluviae f: rain, shower
poeta, -ae m: poet
praegravo (1): to weigh down, burden
puto (1): to think, suppose
ramus, -i m: branch, bough
raptor, raptoris m: robber, plunderer
senectus, -tutis f: old age
serus, -a -um: late
siccitas, -tatis f: drought
siticulosus, -a, -um: thirsty
sturnus, -i m: starling
sustineo (2): to support
ustulo (1): to scorch
ventus, -i m: wind
verbero (1): to beat, strike

grandine dura: abl. of means, "I was not beaten *by hard hail*"

germine: abl. of place from which, "buds coming *from the sprout*"

aura: nom. subject of *ustulavit*, "nor did *a wind* scorch"

de se: referring to the subject of the main clause (the birds of the next lines), not the relative clause, "complain *about them*"

quererer: impf. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, "about which *I would complain*"

malum dederunt: "nor did they (birds) make mischief"

graculusve raptor: hendiadys, "a jackdaw and plunderer" i.e. a plundering jackdaw

cornix anus: hendiadys, "an old woman crow," i.e. an old crow

sed quod: "*but rather* (I am no longer fruitful) *because*"

carmina: these "poems" of the worst poet could be these very poems of Priapus or the dedications to him hung on the tree. The singular *pessimi poetae* favors the first possibility, which would be a humorous comment on Priapus by one of the trees he protects.

ramis... laboriosis: abl. of place, "I sustain *on my burdened limbs*"

Priapus reassures the watch dogs

Securi dormite, canes: custodiet hortum
cum sibi dilecta Sirius Erigone.

canis, -is *m*: dog

custodio (4): to guard, protect

dilectus, -a -um: beloved, dear

dormio (4): to sleep, rest

Erigone, -es *f*: Erigone, daughter of Icarius

hortus, horti *m*: garden

securus, -a, -um: secure, untroubled

Sirius, Sirii *m*: Sirius, the dog-star and the name of a legendary dog

securi: a nominative adjective used adverbially, “sleep *untroubled!*”

cum dilecta... Erigone: abl. of accomp., “with his beloved Erigone” Sirius (or Maera) was a legendary dog who led his mistress Erigone to her father’s grave where she committed suicide. Erigone’s example of filial piety is a stark contrast to Priapus, but her name may suggest an erection (from *erigo* (3), *erigi*, *erectus*)

LXIII

CHOLIAMBUS

Priapus complains

Parum est, quod hic cum fixerunt mihi sedem,
agente terra per caniculam rimas
siticulosam sustinemus aestatem?
parum, quod hiemis perfluunt sinus imbres
et in capillos grandines cadunt nostros
rigetque dura barba vincta crystallo?

5

aestas, -atis *f*: summer, summer heat

ago (3), **egi, actus**: to do, drive

barba, -ae *f*: beard

cado (3): to fall, sink

canicula, -ae *f*: little dog, Sirius, the dogstar

capillus, -i *m*: hair, hair of head

crystallum, -i *n*: ice

durus, -a -um: hard, rough

figo (3), **fixi, fictus**: to fasten, fix

grando, -inis *f*: hail, hail-storm

hiems, -is *f*: winter

imber, -bris *m*: rain, shower

parum: too, very little

perfluo (3): to flow, run through

rigeo (2): to be stiff or numb

rima, rimae *f*: crack

sedes, sedis *f*: seat, home

sinus, -us *m*: fold (of clothing)

siticulosus, -a, -um: very dry, parched

sustineo (2): to endure

terra, -ae *f*: earth, land

vincio (4), **vinxi, vinctus**: to bind, fetter

parum est: “is it too little?” i.e. isn’t it enough?

quod... sustinemus: noun clause explaining the main clause, “is it not enough *that we endure*”

cum fixerunt: indicative identifying a precise time, “*when they fixed* this seat for me”

agente terra: abl. abs. “*the earth making cracks*” i.e. from lack of water

per caniculam: temporal, “during the dogstar” i.e. in August when Sirius rises

crystallo: ab. of means, “bound *with ice*”

parum, quod acta sub laboribus luce
 parem diebus pervigil traho noctem?
 huc adde, quod me terribilem fuste
 manus sine arte rusticae dolaverunt, 10
 interque cunctos ultimum deos numen
 cucurbitarum ligneus vocor custos.
 accedit istis impudentiae signum,
 libidinoso tenta pyramis nervo.
 ad hanc puella — paene nomen adjeci — 15
 solet venire cum suo fututore,
 quae tot figuris, quas Philaenis enarrat,
 non inventis, pruriosa discedit.

| | |
|---|--|
| accedo (3): to be added to | ligneus , -a, -um: wooden |
| addo (3): to add | lux , lucis <i>f</i> : light, daylight |
| adjicio (3) -jeci, -jectus: to add, increase | manus , -us <i>f</i> : hand |
| ars , artis <i>f</i> : skill, craft | nervus , -i <i>m</i> : sinew, muscle, nerve |
| cucurbita , -ae <i>f</i> : gourd | nox , noctis <i>f</i> : night |
| cunctus , -a, -um: altogether | numen , -inis <i>n</i> : divine will, divinity, god |
| custos , custodis <i>m</i> : guard, sentry | paene : nearly, almost, mostly |
| dies , diei <i>m</i> : day | par , paris (<i>gen.</i>): equal (to) (+ <i>dat.</i>) |
| discedo (3): to depart, withdraw | pervigil , pervigilis (<i>gen.</i>): always watchful |
| dolo (1): to hew | pruriosus , -a, -um: sexually aroused |
| enarro (1): to describe, relate in detail | pyramis , -idis <i>f</i> : pyramid (= <i>mentula</i>) |
| figura , -ae <i>f</i> : shape, figure; sexual position | rusticus , -a, -um: country, rustic |
| fustis , -is <i>m</i> : staff club, stick | signum , -i <i>n</i> : sign, proof, signal |
| fututor , -oris <i>m</i> : a sex partner | tendo (3), tetendi , tentus : to stretch, distend |
| impudentia , -ae <i>f</i> : shamelessness, effrontery | terribilis , -e: frightful, terrible |
| invenio (4), inveni , inventus : to discover | traho (3): to draw, drag |
| labor , -is <i>m</i> : labor, toil, exertion | ultimus , -a, um : furthest |
| libidinosus , -a, -um: lustful, wanton | voco (1): to call, name |

quod ... traho: “enough *that I drag?*”

acta ... luce: abl. abs., “*the day having been spent* in labors”

quod ... dolaverunt: “add (the fact) *that they hewed*”

fuste: abl. of specification after *terribilem*, “me, terrible *with a club*”

ultimum ... numen: nom. appositive, “I, *the most remote power*”

ligneus ... custos: nom. pred., “I am called *the wooden guard*”

istis: dat. after *accedit*, “is added *to these*” i.e. what has been listed above

tenta: perf. part. nom., “my pyramid *having been distended*”

ad hanc (sc. **pyramida**): “*to this pyramid* she comes”

paene nomen adjeci: parenthetical, “I almost mentioned her name”

Philaenis: 3rd century BCE author of an illustrated sex manual

figuris ... non inventis: abl. abs., “the positions not having been discovered”

LXIV

HENDECASYLLABLE

Don't give him what he wants

Quidam mollior anseris medulla
 furatum venit huc amore poenae:
 furetur licet usque, non videbo.

anser, anseris *f*: goose**furor** (1): to steal, plunder**licet**: although (+ *subj.*)**medulla, -ae** *f*: marrow**mollis, -e**: soft, effeminate**poena, -ae** *f*: penalty, punishment**usque**: continuously**medulla**: abl. of comparison, “softer *than the marrow*”**furatum**: acc. supine indicating purpose, “came *in order to steal*”**amore**: abl. of cause, “*for the love* of punishment”**furetur**: pres. subj. concessive after *licet*, “although he steals”

LXV

ELEGaic COUPLETS

A prayer to Priapus

Hic tibi, qui rostro crescentia lilia mersit,
 caeditur e tepida victima porcus hara:
 ne tamen extraneum facias pecus omne, Priape,
 horti sit, facias, janua clausa tui.

caedo: to cut, slaughter**clausus, -a, -um**: closed, inaccessible**cresco** (3): to thrive, increase**extraneus, -a, -um**: external**hara, -ae** *f*: pen, coop, pigsty**hortus, -i** *m*: garden**janua, -ae** *f*: door, entrance**lilium, -i** *n*: lily**mergo** (3), **mersi, mersus**: to sink, ruin**pecus, pecoris** *n*: herd, flock**porcus, -i** *m*: pig, hog**rostrum, -i** *n*: beak, snout**tepidus, -a, -um**: warm, tepid**victima, -ae** *f*: victim, animal for sacrifice**rostrum**: abl. of means, “ruined *with his snout*”**victima**: nom. in apposition to *porcus*, “the pig is killed *as a victim*”**ne... facias**: pres. subj. in negative purpose clause, “lest you make”**extraneum**: acc. pred. after *facias*, “make the herd *external*” i.e. lost**sit**: pres. subj. jussive, “let the door *be* closed”**facias**: subj. jussive parenthetical, “may you do it” i.e. please

She wants what she fears

Tu, quae ne videas notam virilem
hinc averteris, ut decet pudicam:
nimirum, nisi quod times videre,
intra viscera habere concupiscis.

averto (3), **averti**, **aversus**: to turn away from

concupisco (3): to desire eagerly, long for

decet (2): it is fitting

habeo (2): to have, hold

hinc: from here

nimirum: without doubt

nota, **notae** *f*: mark, sign

pudicus, **-a**, **-um**: chaste, modest

timeo (2): to fear, dread

virilis, **-e**: manly, virile

viscer, **-eris** *n*: innermost part of the body

ne videas: pres. subj. in negative purpose clause, “lest you see”

notam virilem: = *mentulam*

avertis: perf. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, “you who *have turned away*”

ut decet pudicam: “as befits a chaste girl”

videre: pres. inf. complementing *times*, “what you fear *to see*” i.e. his *mentula*

habere: pres. inf. complementing *concupiscis*, “desire *to have*”

LXVII

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

A word puzzle

Penelopes primam Didonis prima sequatur
et primam Cadmi syllaba prima Remi,
quodque fit ex illis, tu mi deprensus in horto,
fur, dabis: hac poena culpa luenda tua est.

Cadmus, **-i** *m*: Cadmus, founder of Thebes

culpa, **culpa** *f*: crime, injury

deprendo (3), **deprendi**, **deprensus**: to seize, catch

Dido, **Didonis** *f*: Dido, queen and founder of Carthage

do (1): to give, pay

fio (3): to happen, result

fur, **furis** *m*: thief

hortus, **-i** *m*: garden

luo (3): to pay, atone

Penelope, **-es** *f*: Penelope, wife of Odysseus

poena, **-ae** *f*: punishment

Remus, **-i** *m*: Remus, brother of Romulus

sequor (3): to follow

syllaba, **-ae** *f*: syllable

Penelopes: Priapus is spelling out the punishment for thieves from his garden (pe-di-ca-re) by taking the first syllable from each of the names

deprensus: perf. part. with conditional force, “having been (i.e. if you are) caught”

hac... poena: abl. of means, “atoned *with this punishment*”

luenda est: passive periphrastic, “your crime *must be atoned*”

A Priapus does some Homeric literary criticism

Rusticus indocte si quid dixisse videbor,
 da veniam: libros non lego, poma lego.
 sed rudis hic dominum totiens audire legentem
 cogor Homereas edidicique notas.
 ille vocat, quod nos “psolen,” ψολόεντα κεραυνόν, 5
 et quod nos culum, κουλεόν ille vocat.
 μερδαλέον certe si res non munda vocatur,
 et pediconum mentula merdalea est.
 quod nisi Taenario placuisset Troica cunno
 mentula, quod caneret, non habuisset opus. 10

audio (4): to hear, listen

certe: surely, certainly

cogo (3): to compel

culus, -i *m*: anus, “ass”

cunnus, -i *m*: female genitalia

dominus, -i *m*: lord, master

edisco (3), **edidici**: to learn by heart

Homereus, -a, -um: Homeric

indoctus, -a, -um: untaught, ignorant

lego (3): to read, gather

liber, **libri** *m*: book

merdaleus, -a, -um: defiled by excrement

mundus, -a -um: clean, pure

nota, -ae *f*: mark, word

opus, **operis** *n*: need, work

pedico, -onis *m*: one who sodomizes,
 “assfucker”

placeo (2), **placui**, **placitus**: to be pleasing
 to (+ *dat.*)

pomum, -i *n*: apple

psoleos, -i *m*: penis

rudis, -e: rough, wild, coarse

rusticus, -i *m*: peasant, farmer

Taenarius, -a, -um: Taenarian, Spartan

venia, -ae *f*: favor, pardon

voco (1): to call, name

dixisse: perf. inf. after *videbor*, “seem to have said anything”

rudis: concessive, “despite being rude”

audire: pres. inf. after *cogor*, “I am compelled to hear”

legentem: pres. part. circumstantial, “hear him reading”

ψολόεντα κεραυνόν: “smoky thunderbolt,” in Homer, with no relationship to ψωλή,
 a coarse word for a penis

κουλεόν: “sheath (of a sword)” a common metaphor for a vagina

μερδαλέον: *merdaleus* (“filthy”) is falsely derived from Homeric **σμερδάλεον**
 (“terrible,” “awful”)

placuisse: plpf. subj. in past contrafactual protasis, “unless it had been pleasing to”

Taenario... cunno: dat. after *placuisse*, pleasing to the Spartan cunt, i.e. to Helen

Troica... mentula: nom., “the Trojan cock” i.e. Paris

quod caneret: impf. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, “what he (i.e. Homer)
 would sing”

habuisset: plpf. subj. in past contrafactual apodosis, “he would have had no need”

mentula Tantalidae bene si non nota fuisset,
 nil, senior Chryses quod quereretur, erat.
 haec eadem socium tenera spoliavit amica,
 quaeque erat Aeacididae, maluit esse suam.
 ille Pelethroniam cecinit miserabile carmen
 ad citharam, cithara tensor ipse sua.
 nobilis hinc nata nempe incipit Ilias ira
 principiumque sacri carminis illa fuit.

15

Aeacides, -ae *m*: descendant of Aeacus,
 Achilles

amica, -ae *f*: girl friend

cano (3), **cecini**, **cantus**: to sing, celebrate

carmen, -inis *n*: song, poem

Chryses, -ae *m*: Chryses, father of Chryseis,
 Agamemnon's prize in *Iliad* 1

cithara, -ae *f*: cithara, lyre

Ilias, -adis *f*: the Iliad of Homer

incipio (3): to begin

ira, **irae** *f*: anger, wrath

malo, **malle**, **malui**: to prefer

miserabilis, -e: wretched, miserable

nascor (3), **natus sum**: to be born

nempe: truly, certainly, of course

nobilis, -e: noble, famous

notus., -a, -um: notorious

Pelethronius, -a, -um: Pelethronian, of the
 centaur Chiron, the tutor of Achilles

principium, -i *n*: beginning

queror (3): to complain, protest

sacer, **sacra**, **sacrum**: sacred, holy

senior, -oris *m*: older man

socius, -ii *m*: ally

spolio (1): to despoil, deprive (+ *abl.*)

tener, -a -um: delicate, dear

tensus, -a, -um: stretched, tense

Tantalidae: gen., "of the descendant of Tantalus" i.e. Agamemnon

fuisset: plpf. subj. in past contrafactual protasis, "if *it had not been* so infamous"

quereretur: impf. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, "nothing which *he would have protested*" i.e. the father of Chryseis would not have complained

erat: the indicative is used in this contrafactual apodosis instead of the subjunctive because the main idea is expressed in the relative clause, "there was nothing (=there would have been nothing) which he would have protested"

haec eadem (sc. **mentula**): nom. subj., "this same (prick)" i.e. Agamemnon

tenera ... amica: abl. of separation, "deprived his ally (Achilles) *of his dear girl*"

esse: pres. inf. after *maluit*, "he preferred (her) *to be*"

suam: acc. pred., "to be *his own*"

ille: i.e. Homer

cithara: abl. of comparison, "tenser than *his cithara*"

ira: abl. of origin, "begins *from anger*" the first word of the *Iliad*

altera materia est error fallentis Ulixei,
 si verum quaeras, hunc quoque movit amor. 20
 hic legitur radix, de qua flos aureus exit,
 quam cum μῶλυ vocat, mentula μῶλυ fuit.
 hic legimus Circen Atlantiademque Calypson
 grandia Dulichii vasa petisse viri.
 huius et Alcinoi mirata est filia membrum 25
 frondenti ramo vix potuisse tegi.
 ad vetulam tamen ille suam properabat, et omnis
 mens erat in cunno, Penelopea, tuo:

Alcinous, -i m: Alcinous, the father of Nausicaa in *Odyssey* 6-8

alter, -a, -um: one (of two), second

amor, amoris m: love, sex\

Atlantiadis, -e: of the titan Atlas

aureus, -a, -um: golden

Calypso, -us f: Calypso the daughter of Atlas, who detained Odysseus for seven years in *Odyssey* 5

Circe, -es f: Circe, the witch of *Odyssey* 9

Dulichius, -a, -um: of Dulichium, an island associated with Odysseus

error, -is m: wandering

exeo, -ire, -ii, -itus: to exit, sprout

fallo (3): to deceive

filia, -ae f: daughter

flos, floris m: flower

frondeo (2): to be leafy

grandis, -e: large, great

lego (3): to read

materia, -ae f: material, subject matter

mens, mentis f: mind

miror (1), miratus sum: to be amazed, look in wonder at

moveo (2), movi, motus: to move, provoke

peto (3), petivi, petitus: to desire

possum, posse, potui: to be able

propero (1): to hurry

quaero (3): to search for, seek

radix, radices f: root

ramus, -i m: branch, bough

tamen: yet, nevertheless, still

tego (3): to cover, hide

Ulixes, Ulixeis m: Ulysses, Odysseus, crafty hero of the *Odyssey*

vasum, -i n: vessel, equipment (*pl.*)

verum, veri n: truth, reality, fact

vetula, -ae f: an aging woman

vix: hardly, scarcely

illa: ira i.e. the wrath of Achilles

legitur: pres. passive, “here a root *is read about*”

μῶλυ: “moly” the magical plant given by Hermes to Odysseus to protect him from the magic of Circe

Circen ... Calypson: acc. subj. of *petisse*, “read that *Circe and Calypso* desired”

Dulichii ... viri: gen. “the equipment *of the Dulichian man*” i.e. Odysseus

petisse (= *petivisse*): perf. inf. in ind. st. after *legimus*, “we read *that they desired*”

filia: nom., Nausicaa, whom Odysseus approached for help naked except for a branch

ramo: abl. means, “covered *with a branch*”

potuisse: perf. inf. in ind. st. after *mirata est*, “wondered that his member *was scarcely able to*” + inf.

tegi: pres. pass. inf. after *potuisse*, “able *to be covered*”

ad vetulam: i.e. to his wife Penelope

quae sic casta manes, ut jam convivia visas
 utque fututorum sit tua plena domus. 30
 e quibus ut scires quicunque valentior esset,
 haec es ad arrectos verba locuta procos:
 “nemo meo melius nervum tendebat Ulixē,
 sive illi laterum sive erat artis opus.
 qui quoniam periit, vos nunc intendite, qualem 35
 esse virum sciero, vir sit ut ille meus.”
 hac ego, Penelope, potui tibi lege placere,
 illo sed nondum tempore factus eram.

arrectus, -a -um: aroused, eager
ars, artis *f:* skill, craft
castus, -a -um: pure, chaste
convivium, -i *n:* banquet, feast
domus, domi *f:* house, home
fututor, -oris *m:* a sexual partner
intendo (3): to exert
latus, lateris *n:* side, flank
lex, legis *f:* principle, condition
loquor (3), **locutus sum:** to speak
maneo (2): to remain, stay
nemo, neminis *m:* no one, nobody
nervus, -i *m:* sinew, string (of a bow)

nondum: not yet
opus, operis *n:* need, necessity of (+ *gen.*)
pereo (4), **perii, peritus:** to die
plenus, -a -um: full of (+ *gen.*)
procus, proci *m:* wooer, suitor
qualis, -e: what kind, sort
quoniam: because, since
scio (4): to know, understand
tempus, -oris *n:* time
tendo (3): to stretch, distend
valens, valentis (*gen.*): strong
viso (3): to go to see, look at

visas: pres. subj. in result clause, “so chaste *that you go to see*” ironic
sit: pres. subj. in result clause, “so chaste *that your house is full*”
scires: impf. subj. in purpose clause, “in order to know”
esset: impf. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, “know *which is* stronger”
es ... locuta: perf. dep., “you spoke”
nervum: In the *Odyssey*, Penelope tests the suitors with a bow contest, which is here transferred humorously to another kind of *nervum*
Ulixē: abl. of comp. after *melius*, “better than my *Odysseus*”
laterum: gen. pl after *opus*, “need *of flanks*” i.e. of his body
intendite: pres. imper., “*exert yourselves!*” but also “make yourselves taut”
qualem esse: pres. inf. in ind. question after *sciero*, “know *what sort of man him to be*”
sciero: fut. perf., “I shall come to know”
sit: pres. subj. in result clause, “so that he *may be*”
hac lege: abl. manner, “by this principle”
potui: perf. past potential, “*I would have been able to please*”
factus eram: plpf., “I had not yet been made”

Let the thief beware

Cum fici tibi suavitas subibit
et jam porrigere huc manum libebit,
ad me respice, fur, et aestimato,
quot pondo est tibi mentulam cacandum.

aestimo (1): to value, reckon

caco (1): to defecate

ficus, fici m: fig

fur, furis m: thief

libet (2): it is pleasing, agreeable to (+ *inf.*)

manus, -us f: hand

pondo: in or by weight

porrigo (3): to stretch out, extend

quot (*undecl.*): how many

respicio (3): to look back at, consider

suavitas, -tatis f: charm, sweetness

subeo, -ire, -ii, -itus: to come up to

tibi: dat. after *subibit*, “approaches *you*”

aestimato: fut. imper. “consider!”

quot pondo est ... cacandum: gerundive periphrastic in ind. quest. after *aestimato*
“consider *how much in weight must be pooped out*”

mentulam: acc. of respect, “how much weight *in mentula*”



Priapus anointing his erect member with oil.
Bronze, c. 1st century CE. From Herculaneum.
(National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)

Unwanted attention from the neighbor dogs

Illusit mihi pauper inquilinus:
 cum libum dederat molaque fusa,
 quarum partibus abditis in ignem,
 sacro protinus hinc abit peracto.
 vicini canis huc subinde venit
 nidorem, puto, persecuta fumi,
 quae libamine mentulae comeso
 tota nocte mihi litat rigendo.
 at vos amplius hoc loco cavete
 quicquam ponere, ne famelicorum

5

10

abdo (3), **abdidī**, **abditus**: to remove

abeo, **abire**: to depart, go away

amplus, **-a -um**: great, large

canis, **-is f**: dog

caveo (2): to beware

comedo (3), **comedi**, **comesus**: to eat up

famelicus, **-a -um**: hungry

fumus, **-i m**: smoke

fundo (3), **fudi**, **fusus**: to pour

ignis, **ignis m**: fire

illudo (3), **illusi**, **illusus**: to mock, ridicule

inquilinus, **-i m**: tenant, lodger

libamen, **-inis n**: drink-offering, first fruits

libum, **-i n**: cake offering

lito (1): to make offering to (+ *dat.*)

locus, **-i m**: place

mola, **-ae f**: ground meal

nidor, **nidoris m**: strong smell

nox, **noctis f**: night

pars, **partis f**: part, share

pauper, **pauperis (gen.)**: poor

perago (3), **peregi**, **peractus**: to complete

persequor (3), **persecutus sum**: to follow,
pursue

pono (3): to put, place

protinus: immediately

puto (1): to suppose

rigeo (2): to be stiff or numb

sacrum, **sacri n**: sacrifice

subinde: immediately after

venio (4), **veni**, **ventus**: to come

vicinus, **-i m**: neighbor

mihi: *dat.* after *illusit*, “he mocked *me*”

mola fusa: *abl. abs.*, “some meal having been poured out”

partibus abditis: *abl. abs.*, “*parts* of which *went* into the fire” i.e. some accidentally became burnt

sacro ... peracto: *abl. abs.* “the sacrifice having been completed”

persecuta: *perf. part. dep.*, “she *having followed*”

libamine ... comeso: *abl. abs.*, “the offering having been eaten”

mentulae: *gen.* of separation, “eaten *off my member*”

tota nocte: *abl. time*, “throughout the night”

rigendo: *gerundive* agreeing with *mihi*, “to me *who must be made stiff*”

amplius: *acc. adverbial*, “anything *more*”

ponere: *pres. inf.* after *cavete*, “beware to *place* anything”

ad me turba velit canum venire,
ne, dum me colitis meumque numen,
custodes habeatis irrumatos.

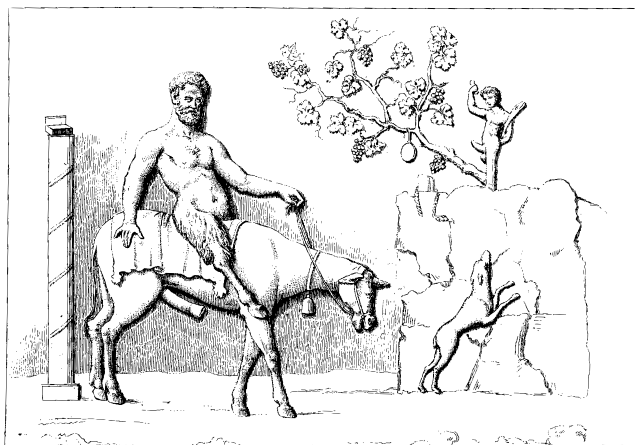
colo (3): to cultivate, worship
custos, custodis *m*: guard, sentry
dum: while, as long as

irrumo (1): to orally assault, “facefuck”
numen, -inis *n*: divine will, divinity
turba, -a *f*: a crowd, pack

ne ... velit: pres. subj. in negative purpose clause, “lest a pack wish to” + inf.

ne ... habeatis: pres. subj. in negative purpose clause, “lest you have guards”

irrumatos: perf. part. acc. pred., “have guards that are facefucked”



Pan riding an erect mule, with dog and Priapus-herm.

White marble bas-relief, Roman copy of Late Hellenistic original.
(National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)

LXXI

ELEGaic COUPLETS

Let the thief beware

Si commissa meae carpes pomaria curae,
dulcia qui doleam perdere, doctus eris.

carpo (3): to seize, pluck
committo (3), **-misi, -missus**: to entrust to
(+ *dat.*)
cura, -ae *f*: care, responsibility
doceo (2), **docui, doctus**: to teach, show,
point out

dulcis, -e: pleasant, sweet
doleo (2): to grieve (+ *inf.*)
perdo (3): to lose
pomarium, -i *n*: orchard

si carpes: fut. in future more vivid protasis, “if you pluck”

qui doleam: pres. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, “learned (that I am
someone) *who grieves* to lose”

doctus eris: fut. perf. in more vivid apodosis, “you will have learned”

A request and an answer

“Tutelam pomari, diligens Priape, facito:
 rubricato furibus minare mutinio.”

Quod moneas non est, quia si furaberis ipse
 grandia mala, tibi, brachia macra dabo.

bracchium, -i *n*: arm, branch
diligens, diligentis (*gen.*): careful, diligent
fur, furis *m*: thief
furor (1): to steal, plunder
grandis, -e: full-grown, large, great
macer, -a -um: thin, meager
minor (1): to threaten (+ *dat.*)
moneo (2): to warn

mutinium, -i *n*: penis
mālum, -i *n*: apple, fruit
mālum, -i *n*: evil, harm
pomarium, -i *n*: orchard
quia: because
rubricatus, -a, -um: painted red
tutela, -ae *f*: tutelage, guardianship

facito: fut. imperative, “may you accomplish!”

rubricato... mutinio: abl. of means, “threaten *with your reddened penis*”

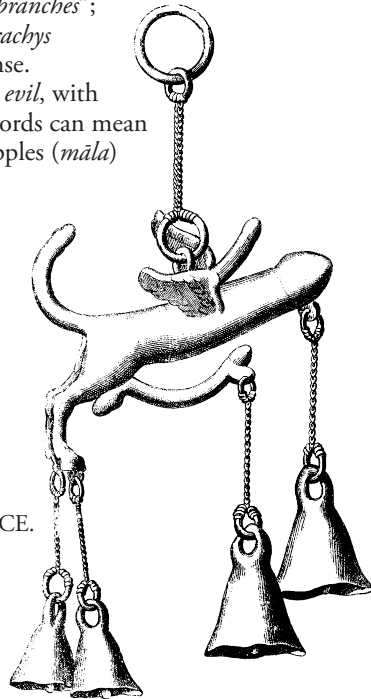
minare: pres. imper. dep., “threaten!”

quod moneas: pres. subj. in relative clause of characteristic, “that *which you warn* is not anything” i.e. is easy to accomplish

si furaberis: fut. in more vivid protasis, “if you yourself steal”

grandia mala: neut. pl. acc., dir. obj. of *furaberis*, “if you steal large fruits”

brachia macra: neut. pl., “I will give you *empty branches*”; but punning on the Greek words *macra* and *brachys* meaning “long” and “short” in the metrical sense. The Latin word *malum* with a short “a” means *evil*, with a long “a” means *apple*. Hence the last three words can mean “I will make your longs short” i.e. turn your apples (*māla*) into evils (*māla*).



Phallus in the form of a chimera.

Bronze *tintinnabulum* (wind chime), c. 1st century CE.
 (National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)

An invitation to girls

Obliquis quid me, pathicae, spectatis ocellis?
 non stat in inguinibus mentula tenta meis.
 quae tamen exanimis nunc est et inutile lignum,
 utilis haec, aram si dederitis, erit.

ara, -ae f: altar, sanctuary

do (1), dedi, datus: to give, dedicate

exanimis, -e: lifeless, breathless

inguen, -inis n: groin (*pl.*)

inutilis, -e: useless

lignum, -i n: wood, beam

obliquus, -a, -um: slanting, oblique

ocellus, ocelli m: (little) eye

pathicus, -a -um: lascivious, perverse

specto (1): to look at

sto (1): to stand, stand firm

tamen: yet, nevertheless, still

tentus, -a, -um: stretched, distended

utilis, -e: useful

obliquis...ocellis: abl. of manner, “with oblique eyes” i.e. askance

aram: “sanctuary,” but also = *cunnum* or *culum*
si dederitis: fut. perf. in more vivid protasis, “if you dedicate”


Brothel scene.

Fresco, c. 50-79 AD. From Pompeii.

(National Archaeological Museum, Naples.)

The triple threat of Priapus

Per medios ibit pueros mediasque puellas
 mentula, barbatis non nisi summa petet.

barbatus, -a, -um: bearded

medius, -a, -um: middle of

nisi: if not, except, unless

peto, (3): to seek, aim at

puella, -ae f: girl

puer, -i m: boy

summus, -a, -um: highest, the top of

barbatis: dat. of reference, “as for bearded ones”

non nisi: “will *not* go *unless*”

petet: fut. in in more vivid protasis, “unless *it seeks* a higher point” i.e. the mouth

Priapus has his divine tutelage too

Dodone tibi, Juppiter, sacrata est,
 Junoni Samos et Mycena dites,
 undae Taenaros aequorumque regi,
 Pallas Cecropias tuetur arces,
 Delphos Pythius, orbis umbilicum,
 Creten Delia Cynthiosque colles,
 Faunus Maenalon Arcadumque silvas,
 tutela Rhodos est beata Solis,

5

aequor, -oris *n*: surface of the sea

Arcadia, -ae *f*: Arcadia

arx, arcis *f*: citadel, height

beatus, -a, -um: blessed

Cecropius, -a, -um: Cecropian, of Athens

collis, collis *m*: hill

Crete, Cretes *f*: the island of Crete

Cynthius, -a, -um: of Mt. Cynthus

Delia, -ae *f*: the Delian goddess, Diana

Delphi, -orum *m*: Delphi, site of Apollo's
 most famous oracle

dis, ditis (*gen.*): rich, wealthy

Dodone, -es *f*: Dodona, the oldest Greek
 oracle

Faunus, -i *m*: deity of forest, herdsman

Juno, Junonis *f*: Juno, wife of Jupiter

Juppiter, Jovis *m*: Jupiter

Maenalos, -i *m*: the Maenalon mountains

Mycena, -ae *f*: Mycene, famous for its wealth

orbis, orbis *m*: circle, world

Pallas, Palladis *f*: Minerva

Pythius, -a, -um: Pythian

rex, regis *m*: king

Rhodos, -i *f*: Rhodes

sacro (1): to make sacred, dedicate

Samos *f*: Samos, Juno's most sacred site

silva, silvae *f*: wood, forest

Sol, Solis *m*: Helius, the sun god

Taenaros, -i *m*: Taenarus, a Greek
 promitory

tueor (2): to see, look at, protect

tutela, -ae *f*: guardianship

umbilicus, -i *m*: navel, center

unda, -ae *f*: wave

Dodone: Dodona in NW Greece was sacred to Jupiter

Samos et Mycena: Samos and Mycena were both sacred to Juno

Taenaros: the site of a famous temple to Neptune

regi: dat., "dedicated to the king of wave and the seas" i.e. Neptune

Cecropias: Athens is called Cecropian after its legendary king, Cecrops

Pythius: "the Pythian" i.e. Apollo, from the beast (*Pytho*) he slayed at Delphi

orbis umbilicum: the *omphalos* indicating the center of the world was located at
 Delphi

Creten: Diana was associated with Crete through the Minoan goddess Britomartis

Delia: Apollo and Diana were born on Delos

Cynthios: Mt. Cynthus was on the island of Delos

Maenalon: a mountain range in Arcadia sacred to Pan, with whom Faunus is
 identified

Rhodos: an island sacred to Helius (Sol) and site of the colossal statue dedicated to him

Gades Herculis umidumque Tibur,
 Cyllene celeri deo nivosa, 10
 tardo gratior aestuosa Lemnos,
 Hennaeae Cererem nurus frequentant,
 raptam Cyzicos ostreosa divam,
 formosam Venerem Gnidos Paphosque
 mortales tibi Lampasum dicarunt. 15

| | |
|--|--|
| aestuusus, -a -um: burning hot | Hercules, Herculis m: Hercules |
| celer, -e: swift | Lampsacus, -i f: Lampsacus, a Greek city on the Troad |
| Ceres, Cereris f: Ceres, goddess of grain | Lemnos, -i f: the island of Lemnos |
| Cyllene, -es f: Cyllene, a mountain in central Greece | nivosus, -a, -um: full of snow |
| Cyzicos, -i f: Cyzicus, a city in Asia minor | nurus, nurus f: daughter-in-law |
| dico (1): to dedicate, consecrate | ostreosus, -a, -um: rich in oysters |
| diva, -ae f: goddess | Paphos, -i f: a city on Cyprus |
| formosus, -a -um: beautiful | rapio (3), rapui, raptus: to drag off, snatch |
| frequentio (1): to celebrate | tardus, -a -um: slow, limping |
| Gades, ium f: a famous Phoenician site in Spain | Tibur, -uris n: Tibur, a Latin city |
| Gnidos, -i f: Gnidos, a Carian city | umidus, -a, -um: damp, moist |
| gratus, -a -um: pleasing to + dat | Venus, Veneris f: Venus, Roman goddess of love and beauty |
| Hennaeus, -a, -um: of Henna, the Sicilian city | |

Gades: site of a temple to Phoenician Melqart, who was conflated with Hercules

Tibur: site of a temple to *Hercules victor*

celeri deo: dat. after *gratior*, “more pleasing *to the swift god*” i.e. to Mercury, who was born on Mt. Cyllene

tardo (sc. deo): “to the slow god” i.e. Vulcan, whose forge was on Lemnos

Hennaeae nurus: “the daughters-in-law of Henna” i.e. the women of Henna, the site of a famous old temple to Ceres there.

raptam ... divam: i.e. Persephone, the daughter of Ceres

Cyzicos: Cyzicus was claimed as the site of the rape of Persephone by Pluto, but Henna is the more common one

Gnidos: Gnidos was the site of a famous statue of Venus by Praxiteles

Paphos: Paphos was the birthplace of Venus

tibi: i.e. to Priapus

Lampasum: the hometown of Priapus. cf. 55 above

dicarunt (=dicaverunt): syncopated perf., “they have dedicated”

Priapus' power

Quod sim jam senior meumque canis
 cum barba caput albicet capillis:
 deprensos ego perforare possum
 Tithonum Priamumque Nestoremque.

albico (1): to be white

barba, -ae *f*: beard

canus, -a, -um: white

capillus, -i *m*: hair of head

caput, -itis *n*: head

deprendo (3), **deprendi**, **deprensus**: to seize,
 catch

Nestor, -oris *m*: Nestor

perforo (1): to pierce, perforate

Priamus, -i *m*: Priam

senior, -is *m*: an elderly man, senior

Tithonus, -i *m*: Tithonus

quod sim ... albicet: pres. subj. in relative clause of characteristic with concessive force, "*although I am older and my head is white*"

canis ... capillis: abl. of description, "with white hairs"

deprensos: perf. part. acc. "those caught"

Tithonum: lover of Eos, the dawn, and granted eternal life

Priamum: king of Troy, famously old

Nestorem: the oldest Greek warrior at Troy

LXXVII

HENDECASYLLABLE

Don't fence in Priapus!

Immanem stomachum mihi movetis,
 qui densam facitis subinde saepem
 et fures prohibetis huc adire.
 hoc est laedere, dum juvatis, hoc est
 non admittere ad aucupem volucres.

5

adeo, **adire**: to approach

admitto (3): to permit, admit

auceps, -ipis *m*: bird-catcher

densus, -a -um: thick, dense

fur, **furis** *m*: thief

immanis, -e: huge, vast

juvo (1): to help, assist

laedo (3): to hurt, injure

moveo (2): to move, stir, agitate

prohibeo (2): to forbid, prevent

saeps, **saepis** *f*: a hedge, fence

stomachus, -i *m*: stomach, site of anger

volucris, -is *f*: bird

stomachum mihi movetis: "you move my stomach" i.e. you move my anger

adire: pres. inf. after *prohibetis*, "prohibit thieves *from coming*"

laedere: pres. inf. nom. predicate, "this is *to harm*"

non admittere: pres. inf. nom. predicate, "this is *not to admit*"

obstructa est via, nec licet jacenti
 jactura natis expiare culpam.
 ergo qui prius usque et usque et usque
 furum scindere podices solebam
 per noctes aliquot diesque, cesso.
 poenas do quoque, quot satis superque est,
 in semenque abeo salaxque quondam
 nunc vitam perago — quis hoc putaret? —
 ut clusus citharoedus abstinentem.

10

abeo, abire: to depart
abstinens, -entis (gen.): temperate, chaste
aliquot: some, several
cesso (1): to be inactive, cease from
citharoedus, -i m: singer-musician
clusus, -a, -um: closed, locked in
culpa, -ae f: fault, blame
dies, diei m: day
expio (1): to expiate
jaceo (2): to lie in wait
jactura, -ae f: loss, sacrifice
licet (2): it is permitted to (+ *inf.*)
natis, natis f: buttocks, rump
nox, noctis f: night
nunc: now, today, at present
obstructus, -a, -um: obstructed

perago (3): to carry through to the end
podex, -icis m: buttocks, anus
poena, -ae f: penalty
prior, prius: earlier, before
puto (1): to believe, suppose
quondam: formerly
salax, salacis (gen.): lecherous, lustful
satis: enough, adequate
scindo (3): to tear, rend
semen, -inis n: seed
soleo (2): to be in the habit to (+ *inf.*)
super: in addition, besides
usque: all the way
via, viae f: way, road
vita, vitae f: life

jacenti: dat. agreeing with Priapus “nor is it permissible to me *lying in wait*”

jactura: abl. of means “expiate *by means of a sacrifice* of the buttocks”

usque et usque et usque: “further and further up”

poenas do: “I pay penalties”

in semen abeo: “I go to seed” i.e. I expire

vitam ... abstinentem: acc. cognate, “I lead *a chaste life*”

quis hoc putaret: impf. subj. in past deliberative question, “who would have imagined this?” i.e. no one would

ut clusus citharoedus: “like a cloistered singer”

at vos, ne peream situ senili,
quaeso, desinite esse diligentes
neve imponite fibulam Priapo.

| | |
|--|--|
| desino (3): to cease (+ <i>inf.</i>) | pereo (4): to die, perish |
| diligens, -entis (<i>gen.</i>): careful, diligent | quaeso (3): to beg, ask |
| fibula, fibulae <i>f</i> : a pin | senilis, -e : senile, aged |
| impono (3): to put X (<i>acc.</i>) on Y (<i>dat.</i>) | situs, -us <i>m</i> : situation |

ne peream: negative purpose clause “lest I perish”

situ senili: abl. of cause “lest I perish *from a senile situation*”

desinite: imper., “*cease* to be!”

fibulam: a device attached to the penis of a singer to delay puberty (and the consequent voice change)

Priapo: dat. after imponite “don’t put a pin *on Priapus*”

LXXVIII

CHOLIAMBS

A curse for a cunnilinguist

At di deaeque dentibus tuis escam
negent, amicae cunnilinge vicinae,
per quem puella fortis ante nec mendax
et quae solebat impigro celer passu
ad nos venire, nunc misella landicae
vix posse jurat ambulare prae fossis.

5

| | |
|--|---|
| ambulo (1): to walk | juro (1): to swear |
| amica, -ae <i>f</i> : girl friend | landica, -ae <i>f</i> : clitoris |
| ante : before, previously | mendax, mendacis (<i>gen.</i>): lying, false |
| celer, -e : swift, quick | misellus, -a, -um : poor, wretched |
| cunnilingus, -i <i>m</i> : one who licks the <i>cunnius</i> | nego (1): to deny |
| dens, dentis <i>m</i> : a tooth | passus, -us <i>m</i> : step, gait |
| esca, -ae <i>f</i> : food | prae : before, because of (+ <i>abl.</i>) |
| fortis, -e : strong, steadfast | soleo (2): to be in the habit of |
| fossa, -ae <i>f</i> : ditch | vicinus, -a, -um : neighboring |
| impiger, -gra, -grum : eager, energetic | vix : hardly, scarcely |

dentibus tuis: dat. of reference, “food *for your teeth*”

negent: pres. subj. jussive, “may the gods deny”

impigro passu: abl of manner, “come *with an eager step*”

posse: pres. inf. in ind. st. after *jurat*, “swears *that she is scarcely able to*” + *inf.*

prae fossis: “on account of her ditches” i.e. the folds of her vagina, which have become sore

The poet's mighty member

Priape, quod sis fascino gravis tento,
quod exprobravit hanc tibi suo versu
poeta noster, erubescere hoc noli:
non es poeta fascinosior nostro.

erubesco (3): to blush

exprobro (1): to reproach, upbraid X (*dat.*)
about Y (*acc.*)

fascinosus, -a, -um: heavily endowed

fascinum, -i n: an amulet (= *mentula*)

gravis, -e: heavy, painful

nolo, nolle: to be unwilling

poeta, -ae m: poet

tentus, -a, -um: stretched, extended

versus, versus m: line, verse (of poetry)

quod sis: pres. subj. causal, “*because you are heavy*”

fascino tento: abl. of specification, “*heavy with a tense member*”

quod exprobravit: noun clause in apposition to *hoc* below, “*this, namely that he has reproached*”

hanc (sc. *mentulam*): acc. of respect, “*reproached you for this*”

suo versu: abl. means, “*reproached with his verse*”

hoc: abl. of cause, “*blush because of this*” i.e. the reproach of the poet

noli: imper., “*don’t!*” + inf.

poeta... nostro: abl. of comparison, “*more endowed than our poet*”

LXXX

ELEGIAIC COUPLETS

Size doesn't matter

At non longa bene est, at non bene mentula crassa
et quam si tractes, crescere posse putes?
me miserum, cupidus fallit mensura puellas:

crassus, -a -um: thick

cresco (3): to increase in size

cupidus, -a -um: eager, passionate

fallo (3): to deceive, disappoint

longus, -a -um: long

mensura, -ae f: length, size

miser, -a -um: miserable, wretched

puella, -ae f: girl

puto (1): to suppose

tracto (1): to handle, manage

non longa bene: litotes, “*not particularly long*”

si tractes: pres. subj. in future less vivid protasis, “*which if you were to handle*”

putes: pres. subj. in future less vivid apodosis, “*would you suppose?*”

me miserum: acc. exclamation, “*O miserable me!*”

fallit: “*size deceives*” i.e. girls suppose that size matters

non habet haec aliud mentula majus ea.
 utilior Tydeus qui, si quid credis Homero, 5
 ingenio pugnax, corpore parvus erat.
 sed potuit damno nobis novitasque pudorque
 esse, repellendus saepius iste mihi.
 dum vivis, sperare licet: tu, rustice custos,
 huc ades et nervis, tente Priape, fave. 10

adsum, adesse: be near, be present

corpus, -oris *n*: body

credo (3): to trust, believe

custos, -odis *m*: guard, sentry

damnum, -i *n*: ruin

faveo (2): to favor, support (+ *dat.*)

ingenium, -i *n*: nature, innate quality

licet (2): it is permitted to (+ *inf.*)

major, -us: larger, greater

nervus, -i *m*: muscle, nerve, penis

novitas, -tatis *f*: strangeness, inexperience

parvus, -a -um: small, little

possum, posse, potui: to be able

pudor, -oris *m*: shame

pugnax, -acis (*gen.*): pugnacious

repello: to repel, rebuff

rusticus, -a, -um: homely, rustic

saepius: more often, again and again

spero (1): to hope

tentus, -a, -um: stretched, taut

Tydeus, -i *m*: Diomedes, a Homeric hero

utilis, -e: useful, profitable

vivo (3): to be alive

ea: abl. of comp. after *majus*, referring to *mensura*, “this prick has no other thing greater than *that*” i.e. than size

Tydeus: this hero was famous for his ferocity, despite his small stature

Homero: dat. after *credis*, “if one believes *Homer*”

ingenio ... corpore: abl. of specification, “pugnacious *in nature*, although small *in body*”

damno: predicate dat. after *esse*, “could be my *ruin*”

repellendus (sc. *est*): gerundive in periphrastic, “this *must be repelled*” i.e. is a constant obstacle

iste: i.e. pudor

dum vivis: pres. indefinite, “while one is alive”

ades: pres. imper., “be present!”

Glossary

A a

a, ab, abs: from, by (+ *abl.*)

ad: to, up to, towards (+ *acc.*)

amica, -ae f: a girlfriend

aperio, aperire, aperui, apertum: to open

at: but, but yet

aut: or

B b

barba, -ae f: a beard

bene: well

bonus, -a, -um: good, noble

C c

caput, capitis n: a head

carmen, -inis n: a song

circa: around, about (+ *acc.*)

coleus, -i m: sack; (*pl.*) testicles, “balls”

culus, -i m: anus, “ass(hole)”

cum: with (*prep.* + *abl.*); when, since, although (*conj.* + *subj.*)

cunnius, -i m: female genitalia (*obsc.*), “cunt”

cupido, -inis f: desire

cur: why?

D d

de: down from, about, concerning (+ *abl.*)

deus, -i m; dea, -ae f: god; goddess

dico, dicere, dixi, dictum: to say, speak

do, dare, dedi, datum: to give

dum: while (+ *indic.*); until (+ *subj.*); provided that (+ *subj.*)

duo: two

E e

ego, mei, mihi, me: I, me

ergo: therefore

et: and

F f

facio, facere, feci, factus: to do, make

fero, ferre, tuli, latus: to bear, carry

forma, -ae f: shape, form

fur, furis m: a thief

H h

habeo, -ere, -ui, -itus: to have, hold

hic, haec, hoc: this, these

hortus, -i m: a garden

I i

ille, illa, illud: that

in: in, on (+ *abl.*); into, onto (+ *acc.*)

inter: between, among; during (+ *acc.*)

intra: within, during (+ *acc.*); (*adv.*) inside

ipse, ipsa, ipsum: himself, herself, itself

is, ea, id: he, she, it

iste, ista, istud: that, that of yours

J j

jam, jamque: now; already

L l

licet: it is permitted (+ *inf.*), although (+ *subj.*)

M m

malus, -a, -um: bad, evil

manus, -us f: a hand

membrum, -e n: body part, member

mentula, -ae f: penis (*obsc.*), “dick”

meus, -a, -um: my, mine

N n

nam: for, indeed, really
ne: lest, that not (+ *subj.*)
nec: and not, nor; **nec ... nec:** neither ... nor
nemo, neminis: no one
nihil, nil: nothing; not at all
nisi, ni: if not, unless
non: not
nos, nostrum/nostri, nobis, nos: we, us
noster, nostra, nostrum: our
nox, noctis f: night
nullus, -a, -um: not any, no one
num: surely not? (*interrogative particle expecting negative answer*)
nunc: now

O o

omnis, -e: all, every, as a whole
opus, operis n: work, need

P p

pars, partis f: a part
per: through (+ *acc.*)
plenus, -a, -um: full
poena, -ae f: punishment
poeta, -ae m: poet
pomum, -i n: a fruit, apple
possum, posse, potui: to be able, be possible
Priapus, -i m: Priapus
primus, -a, -um: first; **primum:** (*adv.*) at first, firstly
pro: for, on behalf of, in proportion to (+ *abl.*)
propter: because of, on account of (+ *acc.*)
puella, -ae f: a girl
puto, -are, -avi, -atus: to think, suppose

Q q

quamvis: however, although
qui, quae, quod: who, which, what
quicquam: anything
quicumque, quaecumque, quodcumque: whoever, whatever
quis, quid: who? what? which?
quisquis, quidquid: whoever, whichever
quondam: formerly, once
quoque: also, too
quot: how many?

R r

res, rei f: a thing, matter

S s

satis: enough, sufficient
sed: but
semper: always, ever
si: if
sic: in this manner, thus; **sic ... ut:** in the same way as
sine: without (+ *abl.*)
soleo, -ere, -ui, -itus: to be accustomed
sub: under, close to (+ *acc.* or *abl.*)
sui, sibi, se/sese: him/her/itself, themselves
sum, esse, fui, futurus: to be, exist
suus, sua, suum: his/her/its (own), (*pl.*) their (own)

T t

tam: so, so much
tamen: nevertheless, still
tendo, tendere, tetendi, tentus: to stretch, extend, direct
teneo, -ere, tenui, tentus: to hold
tot: so many
totus, -a, -um: whole, entire

tu, tui, tibi, te: you (*sing.*)

tuus, -a, -um: your

U u

unus, -a, -um: one

usque: up to, continuously

ut, uti: as (+ *indic.*); so that, with the
result that (+ *subj.*)

V v

venio, venire, veni, ventus: to come

video, videre, vidi, visum: to see,
(*pass.*) to seem

vir, viri m: a man

voco, -are, -avi, -atus: to call, name

The aim of this book is to make the *Priapea* (known as the *Corpus Priapeorum* or *Carmina Priapea*) accessible to intermediate students of Ancient Latin. The running vocabulary and grammatical commentary are meant to provide everything necessary to read each page so that readers can progress through the text, improving their knowledge of Latin while enjoying a fascinating group of poems. The *Priapea* is a great text for intermediate readers. The sentence structure is fairly simple, and the range of syntax is rather narrow. However, there are many off-color jokes and double entendre that require some thoughtful attention to the connotations of many ordinary words. There is considerable wittiness deployed in creating variations on a small number of obscene themes and scenarios, so that there are examples of the whole range of technique in Roman poetic practice.