Litterae Latinae: Unit 9

A. Ilia, Mother of Romulus and Remus, Recounts a Dream to Her Sister (adapted from Ennius, *Annales* 1.32-48)

In this passage by **Ennius**, as cited by Cicero, **Ilia** (a.k.a. Rhea Silvia) is awakened by her old attendant and recounts a terrifying dream. In this dream, "father Aeneas" tells her that she will experience hardships (which will turn out to be rape by Mars) that will be followed by good fortune (the birth of twin sons, Romulus and Remus).

Mulier vetus tremulis lumen membris afferens cubiculum intravit. Speciem Iliae videns rogavit quare illa metueret et molliter fleret. Ilia somnum meminit: "O Eurudica, quam pater noster amavit, vires vitaque corpus meum omne nunc deserunt. Nam homo pulcher visus est me rapere ducereque per felicem silvam et ripas et locos novos. Postea, cara soror, longe errare tardo cum gradu videbar et ubi tu esses quaerebam. Timor meum cor occupabat et via nulla pedem sustinebat. Tunc noster pater senex me servare videtur et monet ut tot misera feram, sed postea ex flumine mea fortuna oriatur. Haec locutus subito abivit pater; nec licet ei mecum longius manere, quamquam flens tendebam supra manus ad caeli templa et dulci voce eum vocabam. Vix aegro cum corde meo somnus me reliquit."

Nota

tremulus, -a, -um - shaking, trembling

cubiculum, -i n. - bedroom

Eurudica, -ae f. - Eurydica, the attendant of Ilia

pater: Aeneas appears as her divine ancestor, whom she calls *pater*.

flumine: Aeneas is referring to the Tiber river, on which Ilia's twins, Romulus and Remus, will be set afloat and later deposited in a pool by the bank. This is also the **river** that runs beside the city of ancient Rome. The river god, Tiber, later takes Ilia as his wife.

B. Martial and Juvenal on Women Gladiators (adapted from Martial *De Spectaculis* VIb and Juvenal *Satires* VI.246-267)

Martial's *De Spectaculis* were published at the opening of the **Colosseum** in Rome (80 CE). In this epigram, Martial compares Hercules' slaying of the **Nemean lion** to a woman gladiator's slaying of a lion. **Juvenal's** *Satires* should not be taken literally, as they present an exaggerated and critical

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picture of Roman society. However, his description of **women training to be gladiators** is both informative and amusing.

Martial *De Spectaculis* VIb

Fama canebat superatum Nemeae in terrā immensā leonem et opus Herculeum nobile.

Antiqua fides taceat: nam post tua munera, Caesar, hoc iam femineo Marte fatemur agi.

Nota

Nemea, Nemeae f. - Nemea (a city in Greece, where Hercules slew the Nemean lion and founded the Nemean games, athletic contests like the ancient Olympic games.)

leo, leonis m. - lion

Herculeus, -a, -um - Herculean

femineus, -a, -um - feminine

Caesar, -aris m. - Caesar, a name used by all Roman emperors after Julius Caesar. Here it refers to either Titus or Domitian, a matter of scholarly debate.

Mars, Martis m. - Mars (god of war)

Juvenal *Satires* VI.246-267

Rogamus quis endromides Tyrias et femineam arenam nesciat, vel quis non miratus sit vulnera pali, quem illa pellat usque rudibus scutoque? Omnes implet numeros matrona dignissima vero Florali tubā, nisi quid in illo pectore plus agitat, et paratur pugnare in verā arenā. Aspice quomodo proelium intret, quales ictus ferat! Quale decus sit? Si vir bona coniugis vendeat, gladii balteusve galeave inveniantur. Quem pudorem praestare possit mulier galeata, quae fugit a sexu? Viribus studet. Haec tamen ipsa vir nollet fieri; nam parum nostra voluptas est!

Nota

endromis, -idis f. - heavy woolen cloak (athletes used these after their exercises)

Tyrius, -a, -um - purple (from the dye that is made from shells in Tyre)

femineus, -a, -um - feminine

arena, -ae f. - place of combat, arena

palus, - m. - training stake

rudis, -is f. - wooden sword

scutum, -i n. - shield

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numeros: in the sense of the number of training exercises

matrona, -ae f. - matron

Floralis, -e - of Flora (here, in reference to the games at the Floralia)

tuba, -ae f. - trumpet

quid: = *aliquid* ("after *si*, *nisi*, *num* and *ne*, all the *ali*'s drop away)

balteus, -i m. - sword belt

galea, -ae f. - helmet

galeo (1) - to cover with a helmet

sexus, -us m. - sex

nostra voluptas: here, Martial is referring to the pleasure allowed to men.

C. Rape of the Sabine Women (adapted from Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita* 1.9-13)

Titus Livius (64 or 59 BCE - 12 or 17 CE) was a Roman historian. Livy's massive history, ***Ab Urbe Condita***, covered the history of Rome from its earliest myths to his contemporary times under the Emperor Augustus. In this passage, Livy recounts how the Romans, considered outlaws and thugs by their neighbors and denied the right of intermarriage by the **Sabines**, invited the Sabines to Rome for a festival so that the Romans could finally obtain wives.

Ubi muneris tempus venit, tum signo dato iuvenes circa cucurrerunt ut virgines raperent. Magna pars feminarum clamorem tollentium forte est delata. Quaedam formā praestantes a plebe domos nobilum ut praeda vehebantur quia praemium datum promittumve erat.

Parentes maesti virginum fugiunt, querentes ruptum a hospitibus audacibus foedus deumque vocantes ad cuius munera falsi advenerant. Nec feminis ereptis spes melior nec iniuria est minor. Sed ipse Romulus quasque sine morā conveniebat et docebat id a Sabinis patribus superbis factum esse quod illi imperaverant ne finitimis Romanis conubium esset. Deinde ille nobilis aliis Romanis locutus est, "Irae feminarum molles fiant. Mox animos dent eisdem Romanis, quibus fortuna corpora dedisset. Saepe ex iniuriā gratia post orta est." Accedebant verba dulcia et preces virorum, quae maxime ad ingenium feminarum validae sunt.

Cum multum animi raptis molles facti essent, tamen raptarum parentes tum maxime lacrimis et vultibus maestis civitates agitabant. Nec domi iram continebant, sed colligebantur undique ad ducem suum et referebant quid suis filiis accidisset. Ita Sabinii in agrum Romanum

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impetum faciebant. Multas dies bellum saevum gerebatur. Tandem Sabinos pulsos fusosque Romani sequuntur atque acies in mediā convalle duorum montium commiserunt proelio; sed res Romana erat superior.

Tum Sabinae mulieres, quarum ex iniuria bellum ortum erat, comis sparsis scissāque veste, ausae sunt se inter tela inferre et inter acies turbatas venire. Feminae adeo veritae sunt ne nefas committeretur et poposcerunt ne patres virique sanguine familiarum suarum se spargerent: “Si liberi Romanorum erunt, fient nepotes Sabinorum. Utinam in nos vestra ira vertatur; nos belli causa, nos vulnerum atque caedis causa sumus. Si sine alteris vestrum viduae orbaeve vivamus, feliciter perire malimus." Movent preces multitudinem; inde duces accederunt ut foedus facerent. Nec pax modo sed etiam una civitas ex duabus facta est.

Nota

foedus, -eris n. - a treaty, alliance

Romulus, -i m. - **Romulus**, the founder of Rome

Sabinus, -a, -um - **Sabine**, a member of an ancient Italic tribe located in the mountains east of the Tiber river.

finitimus, -a, -um - neighboring, adjoining

conubium, -i n. - intermarriage, marriage

accedebant - *accedo*, *accedere* is used here with the subjects *verba dulcia* and *preces* in the less common meaning of “to be added” or “to increase.”

raptis - dative of possession (as seen in the phrase *nomen mihi est…*)

convallis, -is f. - valley surrounded on all sides by hills

scindo, scindere, scisi, scisum - to tear

vidua, -ae f. - widow

orbus, -a, -um - orphaned, deprived

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