Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis 20-21: Unit 10

§ 20a. Perpetua Faces the Cow

Puellis autem ferocissimam vaccam ideoque praeter consuetudinem comparatam diabolus praeparavit, sexui earum etiam aemulatus. Itaque dispoliatae et reticulis indutae producebantur. Horruit populus alteram respiciens puellam delicatam, alteram a partu recentem stillantibus mammis. Ita revocatae et discinctis indutae. Prior Perpetua iactata est et concidit in lumbos. Et ubi sedit, tunicam a latere discissam ad femur tegendum reduxit pudoris potius memor quam doloris. Dehinc acu requisitā et dispersos capillos infibulavit; non enim decebat martyrem sparsis capillis pati, ne in suā gloriā plangere videretur.

Nota

ferox, ferocis (gen.) - fierce

vacca, -ae f. - cow

ideoque: “in particular”

consuetudo, -tudinis f. - custom, habit

diabolus, -i m. - Satan

praeparo (1) - to prepare (prae [before] • *paro* [1])

sexus, -us m. - gender

aemulor (1) - to match, rival (+ dat)

dispolio (1) - to strip

reticulum, -i n. - net

induo, induere, indui, indutum - to put on, to clothe in

produco, -ducere, -duxi, -ductum - to lead forth (pro [forth] • *duco, ducere, duxi, ductum)*

horreo, horrēre, horrui - to shudder

delicatus, -a, -um - delicate, tender

partus, -us m. - birth

stillo (1) - to drip

discingo, -cingere, -cinxi, -cintum - to loosen; supply “clothing” (dis [lack of] • *cingo, cingere, cinxi, cinctum*)

iacto (1) - to throw, cast

concido, -cidere, -cidi - to fall (con [completely] • *cado, cadere, cecidi, casum*)

lumbus, -i m. - loin

tunica, -ae f. - tunic

discindo, -scindere, -scindi, -scissum - to tear apart

velamentum, -i n. - covering

femur, femoris n. - thigh

reduco, -ducere, -duxi, -ductum - to draw back, pull up (re [back] • *duco, ducere, duxi, ductum)*

potis, -e - powerful, able. In comparative, rather or more.

memor, -oris (gen.) - mindful, remembering (+ genitive)

dehinc - then

acus, -us f. - pin, needle

requiro, -quere, -quisivi, -quisitum - to ask for, seek again (re • *quaero, quaerere, quaesivi, quaesitum*)

dispergo, -pergere, -persi, -persum - to disperse

capillus, -i m. - hair

infibulo (1) - to clasp (with a pin)

plango, plangere, planxi, planctum - to mourn, lament (it was customary for women in mourning to have their **hair down**.)

§ 20b. Perpetua and Felicitas Return from the Arena

Ita surrexit et cum elisam Felicitatem vidisset, accessit et manum ei tradidit et suscitavit illam. Et ambae pariter steterunt. Et populi duritiā devictā, revocatae sunt in portam Sanavivariam. Illic Perpetua, a quodam tunc catechumeno Rustico nomine qui ei adhaerebat suscepta et quasi a somno expergita (adeo in spiritu et in extase fuerat), circumspicere coepit et stupentibus omnibus ait: “Quando,” inquit, “producimur ad vaccam illam nescioquam?” Et cum audivisset hoc iam evenisse, non prius credidit nisi quasdam notas vexationis in corpore et habitu suo recognovisset. Exinde accersitum fratrem suum et illum catechumenum, adlocuta est dicens: “In fide state et invicem omnes diligite, et passionibus nostris ne scandalizemini.”

Nota

elido, -lidere, -lisi, -lisum - to strike down (ex [exceedingly] • *laedo, laedere, laesi, laesum)*

suscito (1) - to lift up, raise

ambo, -ae, -o - both

duritia, -ae f. - hardness, harshness (related to *durus, -a, -um*)

devinco - to overcome, subdue (de [completely] • *vinco, vincere, vici, victum)*

portam Sanavivariam: “the Gate of Life”. Should you be defeated, but survive a gladiator game, you would exit through the *Porta Sanavivaria*. The victor would exit through the *Porta Triumphalis*.

Rusticus, -i m. - Rusticus

adhaero, -haerēre, -haesi, -haesum - to cling to

expergo, -pergere, -pergi, -pergitum - to wake up

extasis, extasis f. - ecstasy

circumspicio, -spicere, -spexi, -spectum - to look around (circum [around] • *specto* [1])

stupeo, stupēre, stupui - to be stunned

nescioquam: “some” agreeing with *vaccam* (lit. an “I-don’t-know-what”)

evenio - to happen (lit. to come out) (ex [out] • *venio, -ire, veni, ventum)*

non prius… nisi: “not previously… until”

vexatio, -tionis f. - distress

habitus, -us m. - dress, attire

recognosco, -ere, -novi, notum - to recollect, recall to mind (re [back] • *cognosco, cognoscere, cognovi, cognotum*)

exinde - from that place

accerso, -cersere, -cersivi, -cersitum - to summon

adloquor (1) - to speak to, address (ad [to] • *loquor, -i, locutum)*

scandalizo (1) - to cause to stumble, tempt

§21a. Saturus Is Wounded

Item Saturus in aliā portā Pudentem militem exhortabatur dicens: “Ad summam,” inquit, “certe, sicut praesumpsi et praedixi, nullam usque adhuc bestiam sensi. Et nunc de toto corde credas: ecce prodibo illo, et ab uno morsu leopardi consummabor.” Et statim in fine spectaculi leopardo obiectus de uno morsu tanto perfusus est sanguine, ut populus

revertenti illi secundi baptismatis testimonium reclamaverit: “Salvum lotum! Salvum lotum!” Plane utique salvus erat qui hoc modo laverat. Tunc Pudenti militi, “Vale,” inquit, “et memento fidei et mei; et haec te non conturbent, sed confirment.” Simulque ansulam de digito eius petivit, et vulneri suo mersam reddidit ei hereditatem, pignus relinquens illi et memoriam sanguinis. Exinde iam exanimis prosternitur cum ceteris ad iugulandum in solito loco.

Nota

Pudens, Pudentis m. - Pudens

exhortor (1) - to exhort, encourage (ex [exceedingly] • *hortor* [1])

Ad summam: “in short”

praesumo, -sumere, -sumpsi, -sumptum - to anticipate, imagine beforehand) (prae [before] • *sumo, sumere, sumpsi, sumptum)*

praedico, -dicere, -dixi, -dictum - to say in advance, predict (prae [before] • *dico, dicere, dixi, dictum)*

prodeo, -ire, -ivi/ii, -itum - to go forth (pro [forth] • *eo, ire, ivi/ii, itum*)

morsus, -us m. - bite

leopardus, -i m. - leopard

consummo (1) - to complete (life), finish

spectaculum, -i n. - spectacle, game

obicio, -icere, -ieci, -iectum - to put begore, present (ob [in front of] • *iacio, iacere, ieci, iactum*)

perfundo, -fundere, -fusi, -fusum - to sprinkle, moisten (per [thoroughly] • *fundo, fundere, fusi, fusum)*

baptisma, -matis n. - baptism

testimonium, -i n. - witness (related to *testis, -is* m.)

reclamo (1) - to shout repeatedly

lotus, -us m. - bath

plane - clearly

lavo, lavare, lavi, lautum - to bathe

memento: future imperative of *memini*, verbs of remembering and forgetting take the genitive

conturbo - to disturb, confuse (con [completely] • *turbo* [1])

confirmo (1) - to confirm, strengthen

ansula, -ae f. - small ring

digitus, -i m. - finger

mergo, mersere, mersi, mersum - to dip, plunge

hereditas, -tatis f. - inheritance

pignus, -noris n. - pledge

exinde - after that, thereafter

exanimis, -e - lifeless (related to *animus, -i* m.)

prosterno, -sternere, -stravi, -stratum - to spread out

iugulo (1) - to cut the throat

§21b. The Martyrs Welcome Death

Et cum populus illos in medio postularet, ut gladio penetranti in eorum corpore oculos suos comites homicidii adiungerent, ultro surrexerunt et se quo volebat populus transtulerunt, ante iam osculati invicem, ut martyrium per sollemnia pacis consummarent. Ceteri quidem immobiles et cum silentio ferrum receperunt: multo magis Saturus, qui et prior ascenderat, prior reddidit spiritum; nam et Perpetuam sustinebat. Perpetua autem, ut aliquid doloris gustaret, ossibus conpunctis exululavit, et errantem dextram tirunculi gladiatoris ipsa in iugulum suum transtulit. Fortasse tanta femina aliter non potuisset occidi, quae ab immundo spiritu timebatur, nisi ipsa voluisset.

Nota

penetro (1) - to pierce

comites: best translated here as “accomplices”

homicidium, -ii n. - murder

adiungo, -iungere, -iunxi, -iuntum - to join (ad [toward] • *iungo, iungere, iunxi, iunctum*)

ultro - voluntarily

transfero, -ferre, -tuli, -latum - to move, transfer (trans [across] • *fero, ferre, tuli, latum)*

osculor (1) - to kiss

martyrium, -ii n. - martyrdom

solemne, -is n. - ritual

immobilis, -e - immobile

silentium, -ii n. - silence

multo: with *magis*, **ablative of degree of difference** “by much”

gusto (1) - to taste

exululo (1) - to cry out, howl

conpungo, -pungere, -punxi, -punctum - to puncture

tirunculus, -i m. - novice

gladiator, -oris m. - gladiator

iugulum, -i n. - throat

immundus, -a, -um - unclean, impure

§21c. Celebration of the Martyrs

O fortissimi ac beatissimi martyres! O vere vocati et electi in gloriam domini nostri Iesu Christi! Hanc gloriam qui magnificat et honorificat et adorat, utique et haec non minora veteribus exempla in aedificationem Ecclesiae legere debet, ut novae quoque virtutes unum et eundem semper Spiritum Sanctum usque adhuc operari testificentur, et omnipotentem Deum Patrem et Filium eius Iesum Christum dominum nostrum, cui est claritas et immensa potestas in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Nota

Iesus, Iesu m. - Jesus (Iesus, Iesu, Iesu, Iesum, Iesu)

magnifico (1) - to exalt, to magnify

honorifico (1) - to honor

adoro (1) - to supplicate (ad [toward] • *oro* [1])

aedificatio, -tionis f. - an instruction, construction

Ecclesia, -ae f. - the Church

testificor (1) - to bear witness (related to *testis, -is* m./f.)

operor (1) - to work, attend (related to *opus, operis* n.)

omnipotens, -tentis (gen.) - all-powerful, omnipotent (related to *omnis, omne* and *potens, potentis* [gen.])

claritas, -tatis f. - renown, clarity (related to *clārus, -a, -um*)

in saecula saeculorum: “forever and ever” (lit. “into the generations of generations”)