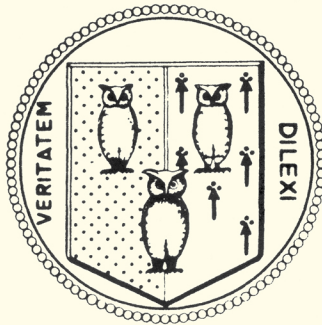


Bryn Mawr Latin Commentaries

Statius *Silvae*

Stephen Newmyer



Bryn Mawr Latin Commentaries

Statius
Silvae

Stephen Newmyer

Thomas Library
Bryn Mawr College
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Bryn Mawr Latin Commentaries

Editors

Julia Haig Gaisser
Bryn Mawr College

James J. O'Donnell
University of Pennsylvania

The Bryn Mawr Latin Commentaries are supported by
a generous grant from the Division of Education Programs of
the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Copyright ©1997 by **Bryn Mawr Commentaries**

Manufactured in the United States of America

ISBN 0-929524-52-7

Printed and distributed by
Bryn Mawr Commentaries

Thomas Library

Bryn Mawr College

101 North Merion Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-2899

INTRODUCTION

The *Silvae* are a collection of thirty-two occasional poems by the Roman epic poet Publius Papinius Statius (ca. A.D. 45-96) in which he commemorates, in elegant verse, the domestic triumphs and tragedies of upper-class Romans prominent in public and private life under Domitian (A.D. 81-96). Statius claims in the prose epistle which precedes Book I of the *Silvae* that none of the poems in the collection took more than two days to compose. Careful study of the poems suggests, however, that more effort was given to the composition of the poems than their author admits. In any case, Statius wishes his readers to believe that the poems are impromptu effusions dashed off shortly after the events which they celebrate.

The subject matter of the poems of the *Silvae* is quite diverse: nine poems are laments for the dead (two of which mourn the deaths of animals!); three poems offer birthday wishes (*Silvae* II.7 commemorates the birthday of the dead poet Lucan and thus combines elements of the birthday poem and the funeral lament); two poems are *propemptica*, compositions which wish a safe journey to travelers; among the remaining pieces are descriptive poems lauding the excellent workmanship of buildings and statues. While Statius frequently assumes a familiar tone toward the recipients of his poems, we do not know the exact nature and degree of intimacy which he shared with his addressees. He certainly did not belong by birth to the high social class of which the great majority of his addressees were members.

Our chief source of information on the life of Statius is the *Silvae*. Born at Naples, he studied rhetoric and poetic composition under his father, himself a poet. He later moved to Rome where he made the acquaintance of prominent Romans including Domitian, probably attracting attention through his poetic activities. Around the year A.D. 89, Statius won first prize in the Alban poetic contest established by

the Emperor, but he was later defeated in the Capitoline poetic competition (*Silvae* III.5.28-35). Statius was happily married and, although he had no children himself, he adopted a slave child whose premature death he laments in a touching fashion (*Silvae* V.5). The poet seems to have died before the murder of Domitian in 96, since he does not refer to that event.

Statius' *magnum opus* was his epic poem *Thebais*, a twelve-book recounting of the expedition of the Seven against Thebes, which was published around A.D. 91 after twelve years' labor. The five books of the *Silvae* were apparently published after A.D. 92, although the poet seems to have completed some of the poems before the publication of the *Thebais*. Books I-III of the *Silvae* were probably issued together, while Book IV appeared separately. The last book of the *Silvae* may have been issued after Statius' death by an unknown editor. The incomplete state of some of the poems in Book V suggests that Statius did not issue the book himself. Prose epistles before Books I-IV give the order of the poems in each book, but the prose epistle to Book V was apparently not designed for that Book and does not discuss all its poems. While working on the *Silvae*, Statius began composition of another epic, the *Achilleis*, intended to cover at great length the life of the hero Achilles, but, as the poet hints himself (*Silvae* IV.7.23-34), the work made slow progress, and it remained incomplete at Statius' death.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

The standard commentary on the *Silvae* is that of F. Vollmer (Leipzig 1898, reprinted Hildesheim 1971). Though dated, Vollmer's volume contains much of value on historical allusions in the poems and on the persons mentioned by Statius. H.-J. van Dam's commentary on Book II of the *Silvae* (Leiden 1984) contains a useful introduction on the poetic nature of the *Silvae* and provides extensive bibliographies on all aspects of the study of Statius and the *Silvae*. K.M. Coleman's illustrated commentary on Book IV of the *Silvae* (Oxford 1988) is extremely helpful in guiding the reader through the difficult poems of that book. The text of the *Silvae* used in the present selection is that of J.S. Phillimore (Oxford 1905: second edition).

Recent general studies of the *Silvae* and of their place in the Roman poetic tradition include:

D.F. Bright. *Elaborate Disarray: The Nature of Statius' Silvae*. Meisenheim am Glan 1980. Covers much the same territory treated in Newmyer's book (see below).

A. Hardie. *Statius and the Silvae: Poets, Patrons and Epideixis in the Graeco-Roman World*. Liverpool 1983. Argues that the *Silvae* are a unique poetic attempt to reconcile the technique of the Greek professional epideictic tradition with the technique of private, personal poetry of the Roman type.

S.T. Newmyer. *The Silvae of Statius: Structure and Theme*. Leiden 1979. Discusses the debt of the *Silvae* to traditional rhetorical and poetic genres and attempts to discover the structural principles upon which the poems and books of the *Silvae* are organized.

Some articles especially useful in the study of the poems in the present selection are:

R.E. Colton, "Parrot Poems in Ovid and Martial," *The Classical Bulletin* 43 (1967) 71, 74-78.

D. Martin, "Similarities between the *Silvae* of Statius and the *Epigrams* of Martial," *The Classical Journal* 34 (1939) 461-470.

S.T. Newmyer, "The Triumph of Art over Nature: Martial and Statius on Flavian Aesthetics," *Helios* 11 (1984) 1-7.

R.G.M. Nisbet, "Felicitas at Surrentum (Statius, *Silvae* II,2)," *Journal of Roman Studies* 68 (1978) 1-11.

D.W.T. Vessey, "Atedius Melior's Tree: Statius *Silvae* 2.3," *Classical Philology* 76 (1981) 46-52.

_____, "Statius to His Wife: *Silvae* III.5," *The Classical Journal* 72 (1977) 134-40.

_____, "Transience Preserved. Style and Theme in Statius' *Silvae*," *ANRW* II, 32.5 (1986) 2754 - 2802.

METRICAL INTRODUCTION

The *Silvae* contain examples of four poetic meters. Dactylic hexameters are employed in twenty-six of the poems; hendecasyllables appear in four poems (*Silvae* I.6, II.7, IV.3, IV.9); and Sapphics and Alcaics appear once each (Sapphics: IV.7; Alcaics: IV.5). This selection contains examples of dactylic hexameters, hendecasyllables and Sapphics. The meter used in each poem in this selection is indicated in the Introduction which precedes each poem. Stattus probably preferred dactylic hexameters in the *Silvae* because of his extensive familiarity with the technique from composition of the *Thebais*.

The dactylic hexameter consists of six metrical feet, which may be either dactyls or spondees except that the fifth foot is always a dactyl and the sixth foot always a spondee. The pattern is:

— ˘˘ |— ˘˘ |— ˘˘ |— ˘˘ |— ˘ ˘ |— x

The symbol x indicates a syllable which may be either long or short (syllaba anceps). The second, third or fourth foot will have a natural pause after the first long syllable (caesura: ˘).

The hendecasyllabic form consists of an eleven-syllable line repeated indefinitely following the pattern:

xx — ˘ ˘ — ˘ ˘ — ˘ ˘ — —

This meter, a favorite of Catullus, is used in this selection in Stattus' tribute to Lucan (*Silvae* II.7) and in his humorous Saturnalia poem (*Silvae* IV.9), which is modeled on a hendecasyllabic poem of Catullus on a similar subject (Catullus XIV).

Statius attempted complex Horatian lyric meters only twice, and these poems are generally considered among his less successful by critics. *Silvae* IV.7, included in this selection, is composed in Sapphic stanzas, a four-line form in which three Sapphic lines are followed by an adonic (the last two metra of the dactylic hexameter):

— ∪ — — — ∪ ∪ — ∪ —
 — ∪ — — — ∪ ∪ — ∪ —
 — ∪ — — — ∪ ∪ — ∪ —
 — ∪ ∪ — —

Further information on the meters of the *Silvae* may be found conveniently in T.G. Rosenmeyer, M. Ostwald and J. Halporn, *The Meters of Greek and Latin Poetry* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1980: second edition).

P. Papini Stati

SILVARUM

I.4

SOTERIA RVTILI GALLICI

Estis, io, superi, nec inexorabile Clotho
volvit opus! videt alma pios Astraea Iovique
conciliata redit! dubitataque sidera cernit
Gallicus. es caelo dive, es, Germanice cordi
(quis neget?): erubuit tanto spoliare ministro 5
imperium Fortuna tuum. stat proxima cervix
ponderis immensi damnosaque fila senectae
exuit atque alios melior revirescit in annos.
ergo alacres quae signa colunt urbana cohortes,
inque sinum quae saepe tuum fora turbida questum 10
confugiunt leges, urbesque ubicumque togatae
quae tua longinquis implorant iura querelis,
certent laetitia, nosterque ex ordine collis
confremat, et sileant peioris murmura famae!
quippe manet longumque aevo redeunte manebit 15
quem penes intrepidae mitis custodia Romae.
nec tantum induerint fatis nova saecula crimen
aut instaurati peccaverit ara Tarenti.

Ast ego nec Phoebum, quamquam mihi surda sine illo
plectra, nec Aonias decima cum Pallade divas 20
aut mitem Tegeae Dircesve hortabor alumnum:
ipse veni viresque novas animumque ministra,
qui caneris; docto nec enim sine numine tantus

nam neque plebeiam aut dextro sine numine cretam
servo animam. atque adeo breviter dum tecta subimus
expediam.

Genus ipse suis permissaque retro
nobilitas; nec origo latet, sed luce sequente
vincitur et magno gaudet cessisse nepoti. 70

prima togae virtus illi quoque: clarus et ingens
eloquio; mox innumeris exercita castris
occiduas primasque domos et sole sub omni
permeruit iurata manus; nec in otia pacis
permissum laxare animos ferrumque recingi. 75

hunc Galatea vigens ausa est incessere bello
(me quoque), perque novem timuit Pamphylia messis
Pannoniusque ferox arcuque horrenda fugaci
Armenia et patiens Latii iam pontis Araxes.
quid geminos fascis magnaеque iterata revolvam 80
iura Asiae? velit illa quidem ter habere quaterque
hunc sibi, sed revocant fasti maiorque curulis
nec permissa semel. Libyci quid mira tributi
obsequia et missum media de pace triumphum
laudem et opes quantas nec qui mandaverat ausus 85
exspectare fuit? gaudet Trasimennus et Alpes
Cannensesque animae; primusque insigne tributum
ipse palam lacera poscebat Regulus umbra.
non vacat Arctoas acies Rhenumque rebellem
captivaeque preces Veledae et, quae maxima nuper 90
gloria, depositam Dacis pereuntibus Urbem
pandere, cum tanti lectus rectoris habenas,
Gallice, Fortuna non admirante subisti.

Hunc igitur, si digna loquor, rapiemus iniquo,
nate, Iovi. rogat hoc Latiae pater inclitus urbis, 95
et meruit; neque enim frustra mihi nuper honora
carmina patricio pueri sonuistis in ostro.

si qua salutifero gemini Chironis in antro
herba, tholo quodcumque tibi Troiana recondit
Pergamus aut medicis felix Epidaurus harenis 100
educat, Idaea profert quam Creta sub umbra
dictamni florentis opem, quoque anguis abundat
spumatu: iungam ipse manus atque omne benignum
virus, odoriferis Arabum quod doctus in arvis
aut Amphrysiaco pastor de gramine carpsit.' 105

Dixerat. inveniunt positos iam segniter artus
 pugnantemque animam; ritu se cingit uterque
 Paeonio monstrantque simul parentque volentes,
 donec letiferas vario medicamine pestis
 et suspecta mali ruperunt nubila somni. 110
 adiuvat ipse deos morboque valentior omni
 occupat auxilium. citius non arte refectus
 Telephus Haemonia, nec quae metuentis Atridae
 saeva Machaonio coierunt vulnera suco.
 Quis mihi tot coetus inter populique Patrumque 115
 sit curae votique locus? tamen ardua testor
 sidera teque, pater vatum Thymbraee, quis omni
 luce mihi, quis nocte timor, dum postibus haerens
 assiduus nunc aure vigil nunc lumine cuncta
 aucupor; immensae veluti conexa carinae 120
 cumba minor, cum saevit hiems, pro parte furentis
 parva receptat aquas et eodem volvitur austro.
 Nectite nunc laetae candentia fila, Sorores,
 nectite! nemo modum transmissi computet aevi:
 hic vitae natalis erit. tu Troica dignus 125
 saecula et Euboiei transcendere pulveris annos
 Nestoreosque situs! qua nunc tibi pauper acerra
 digna litem? nec si vacuet Mevania vallis,
 aut praestent niveos Clitumna novalia tauros,
 sufficiam. sed saepe deis hos inter honores 130
 caespes et exiguo placuerunt farra salino.

II.2

VILLA SVRRENTINA POLLI FELICIS

Est inter notos Sirenum nomine muros
 saxaque Tyrrenae templis onerata Minervae
 celsa Dicarchei speculatrix villa profundi,
 qua Bromio dilectus ager, collisque per altos
 uritur et prelis non invidet uva Falernis. 5
 huc me post patrii laetum quinquennia lustris,
 (cum stadio iam pigra quies canusque sederet
 pulvis, ad Ambracias conversa gymnade frondis,)
 trans gentile fretum placidi facundia Polli
 detulit et nitidae iuvenilis gratia Pollae, 10
 flectere iam cupidum gressus qua limite noto

Appia longarum teritur regina viarum.

Sed iuvere morae. placido lunata recessu
 hinc atque hinc curvas perrumpunt aequora rupis.
 dat natura locum montique intervenit unum 15
 litus et in terras scopulis pendentibus exit.
 gratia prima loci, gemina testudine fumant
 balnea, et e terris occurrit dulcis amaro
 lympa mari. levis hic Phorci chorus udaque crinis
 Cymodoce viridisque cupit Galatea lavari. 20
 ante domum tumidae moderator caeruleus undae
 excubat, innocui custos laris. huius amico
 spumant templa salo; felicia rura tuetur
 Alcides. gaudet gemino sub numine portus:
 hic servat terras, hic saevis fluctibus obstat. 25
 mira quies pelagi: ponunt hic lassa furorem
 aequora et insani spirant clementius austri;
 hic praeceps minus audet hiems, nulloque tumultu
 stagna modesta iacent dominique imitantia mores.
 inde per obliquas erepit porticus arces, 30
 urbis opus, longoque domat saxa aspera dorso.
 qua prius obscuro permixti pulvere soles
 et feritas inamoena viae, nunc ire voluptas:
 qualis, si subeas Ephyres Baccheidos altum
 culmen, ab Inoo fert semita tecta Lechaeo. 35

Non, mihi si cunctos Helicon indulgeat amnis
 et superet Pimplea sitim largeque volantis
 ungula sedet equi reseretque arcana pudicos
 Phemonoe fontis vel quos meus auspice Phoebō
 altius immersa turbavit Pollius urna, 40
 innumeras valeam species cultusque locorum
 Pieriis aequare modis. vix ordine longo
 suffecere oculi, vix, dum per singula ducor,
 suffecere gradus. quae rerum turba! locine
 ingenium an domini mirer prius? haec domus ortus 45
 aspicit et Phoebi tenerum iubar; illa cadentem
 detinet exactamque negat dimittere lucem,
 cum iam fessa dies et in aequora montis opaci
 umbra cadit vitreoque natant praetoria ponto.
 haec pelagi clamore fremunt, haec tecta sonoros 50
 ignorant fluctus terraeque silentia malunt.
 his favit natura locis, hic victa colenti
 cessit et ignotos docilis mansuevit in usus.

mons erat hic ubi plana vides; et lustra fuerunt,
 quae nunc tecta subis; ubi nunc nemora ardua cernis, 55
 hic nec terra fuit. domuit possessor, et illum
 formantem rupis expugnantemque secuta
 gaudet humus. nunc cerne iugum discentia saxa
 intrantemque domos iussumque recedere montem.
 iam Methymnaei vatis manus et chelys una 60
 Thebais et Getici cedat tibi gloria plectri:
 et tu saxa moves, et te nemora alta sequuntur.
 Quid referam veteres ceraeque aerisque figuras?
 si quid Apellei gaudent animasse colores,
 si quid adhuc vacua tamen admirabile Pisa 65
 Phidiacae rasere manus, quod ab arte Myronis
 aut Polycleteo iussum est quod vivere caelo,
 aeraque ab Isthmiacis auro potiora favillis,
 ora ducum ac vatium sapientumque ora priorum,--
 quos tibi cura sequi, quos toto pectore sentis 70
 expers curarum atque animum virtute quieta
 compositus semperque tuus. quid mille revolvam
 culmina visendique vices? sua cuique voluptas
 atque omni proprium thalamo mare, transque iacentem
 Nerea diversis servit sua terra fenestris: 75
 haec videt Inarimen, illinc Prochyta aspera paret;
 armiger hac magni patet Hectoris, inde malignum
 aera respirat pelago circumflua Nesis;
 inde vagis omen felix Euploea carinis,
 quaeque ferit curvos exserta Megalia fluctus; 80
 angitur et domino contra recubante proculque
 Surrentina tuus spectat praetoria Limon.
 una tamen cunctis procul eminent una diaetis,
 quae tibi Parthenopen directo limite ponti
 ingerit: hic Graeis penitus delecta metallis 85
 saxa; quod Eoae respergit vena Syenes,
 Synnade quod maesta Phrygiae fodere secures
 per Cybeles lugentis agros, ubi marmore picto
 candida purpureo distinguitur area gyro;
 hic et Amyclaei caesum de monte Lycurgi 90
 quod viret et mollis imitatur rupibus herbas;
 hic Nomadum lucent flaventia saxa Thasosque
 et Chios et gaudens fluctus spectare Carystos:
 omnia Chalcidicas turris obversa salutant.
 macte animo quod Graia probas, quod Graia frequentas 95

arva! nec invideant quae te genere Dicarchi
moenia: nos docto melius potiemur alumno.

Quid nunc ruris opes pontoque novalia dicam
iniecta et madidas Baccheo nectare rupis?
saepe per autumnum iam pubescente Lyaeo 100
conscendit scopulos noctisque occulta sub umbra
palmite maturo rorantia lumina tersit
Nereis et dulcis rapuit de collibus uvas.
saepe et vicino sparsa est vindemia fluctu,
et Satyri cecidere vadis, nudamque per undas 105
Dorida montani cupierunt prendere Panes.

Sis felix, tellus, dominis ambobus in annos
Mygdonii Pyliique senis nec nobile mutes
servitium: nec te cultu Tiryntia vincat
aula Dicarcheique sinus; nec saepius isti 110
blanda Therapnaei placent vineta Galesi.
hic ubi Pierias exercet Pollius artes,
seu volvit monitus quos dat Gargettius auctor,
seu nostram quatit ille chelyn, seu dissona nectit
carmina, sive minax ultorem stringit iambon: 115
hinc levis e scopulis meliora ad carmina Siren
advolat, hinc motis audit Tritonia cristis.
tunc rapidi ponunt flatus, maria ipsa vetantur
obstrepere, emergunt pelago doctamque trahuntur
ad chelyn et blandi scopulis delphines aderrant. 120

Vive Midae gazis et Lydo ditior auro,
Troica et Euphratae supra diademata felix,
quem non ambigui fasces, non mobile vulgus,
non leges, non castra tenent; qui pectore magno
spemque metumque domas voto sublimior omni, 125
exemptus fatis indignantemque refellens
fortunam; dubio quem non in turbine rerum
deprendet suprema dies, sed abire paratum
ac plenum vita. nos, vilis turba, caducis
deservire bonis semperque optare parati, 130
spargimur in casus: celsa tu mentis ab arce
despicias errantis humanaque gaudia rides.
tempus erat cum te geminae suffragia terrae
diriperent, celsusque duas veherere per urbes,
inde Dicarcheis multum venerande colonis 135
hinc adscite meis, pariterque his largus et illis
ac iuvenile calens plectrique errore superbus.

at nunc discussa rerum caligine verum
 aspicias. illo alii rursus iactantur in alto,
 sed tua securos portus placidamque quietem 140
 intravit non quassa ratis. sic perge nec umquam
 emeritam in nostras puppem demitte procellas.
 tuque, nurus inter longe praedocta Latinas 147
 parque viro mentem, cui non praecordia curae,
 non frontem vertere minae, sed candida semper
 gaudia et in vultu curarum ignara voluptas; 150
 non tibi sepositas infelix strangulat arca
 divitias avidique animum dispendia torquent
 faenoris: expositi census et docta fruendi
 temperies. non ulla deo meliore cohaerent
 pectora, non alias docuit concordia mentes. 155
 discite securi, quorum de pectore mixtae 143
 in longum coiere faces sanctusque pudicae
 servat amicitiae leges amor. ite per annos
 saeculaque et priscae titulos praecedite famae. 146

II.3

ARBOR ATEDI MELIORIS

Stat qua perspicuas nitidi Melioris opacet
 arbor aquas complexa lacus, quae robore ab imo
 incurvata vadis redit inde cacumine recto
 ardua, ceu mediis iterum nascatur ab undis
 atque habitet vitreum tacitis radicibus amnem. 5
 quid Phoebum tam parva rogem? vos dicite causas,
 Naides, et faciles (satis est) date carmina Fauni.
 Nympharum tenerae fugiebant Pana catervae;
 ille quidem it, cunctas tamquam velit, it tamen unam
 in Pholoen. silvis haec fluminibusque sequentis 10
 nunc hirtos gressus, nunc improba cornua vitat.
 iamque et belligerum Iani nemus atraque Caci
 rura Quirinalisque fuga suspensa per agros
 Caelica tecta subit; ibi demum victa labore, 15
 fessa metu, qua nunc placidi Melioris aperti
 stant sine fraude lares, flavos collegit amictus
 artius et niveae posuit se margine ripae.
 insequitur velox pecorum deus et sua credit
 conubia; ardenti iamiam suspiria librat

pectore, iam praedae levis imminet. ecce citatos 20
 advertit Diana gradus, dum per iuga septem
 errat Aventinaeque legit vestigia cervae.
 paenituit vidisse deam, conversaque fidas
 ad comites: 'numquamne avidis arcebo rapinis
 hoc petulans foedumque pecus, semperque pudici 25
 decrescet mihi turba chori?' sic deinde locuta
 depromit pharetra telum breve, quod neque flexis
 cornibus aut solito torquet stridore, sed una
 emisit contenta manu laevamque soporae
 Naidos aversa fertur tetigisse sagitta. 30
 illa diem pariter surgens hostemque protervum
 vidit et in fontem, niveos ne panderet artus,
 sicut erat cum veste ruit, stagnisque sub altis
 Pana sequi credens ima latus implicat alga.
 quid faceret subito deceptus praedo? nec altis 35
 credere corpus aquis hirtae sibi conscius audet
 pellis, et a tenero nandi rudis. omnia questus
 irrita, membrorum stagna invida et infida tela,
 primaevam visu platanum cui longa propago
 innumeraeque manus et iturus in aethera vertex, 40
 deposuit iuxta vivamque adgessit harenam
 optatisque aspergit aquis et talia mandat:
 'vive diu nostri pignus memorabile voti,
 arbor, et haec durae latebrosa cubilia nymphae
 tu saltem declinis ama: preme frondibus undam, 45
 (illa quidem meruit) sed ne, precor, igne superno
 aestuet aut dira feriaturs grandine; tantum
 spargere tu laticem et foliis turbare memento.
 tunc ego teque diu recolam dominamque benignae
 sedis et inlaesa tutabor utramque senecta, 50
 ut Iovis, ut Phoebi frondes, ut discolor umbra
 populus et nostrae stupeant tua germina pinus.'
 sic ait. illa dei in veteres animata calores
 uberibus stagnis obliquo pendula trunco
 incubat atque umbris scrutatur amantibus undas. 55
 sperat et amplexus, sed aquarum spiritus arcet
 nec patitur tactus. tandem eluctata sub auras
 libratur fundo rursusque enode cacumen
 ingeniosa levat, veluti descendat in imos
 stirpe lacus alia. iam nec Phoebeia Nais 60
 odit et exclusos invitat gurgite ramos.

Haec tibi parva quidem genitali luce paramus
 dona, sed ingenti forsā victura sub aevo.
 tu cuius placido posuere in pectore sedem
 blandus honos hilarisque tamen cum pondere virtus 65
 cui nec pigra quies nec iniqua potentia nec spes
 improba, sed medius per honesta et dulcia limes;
 incorrupte fidem nullosque experte tumultus
 et sectate palam quo digeris ordine vitam,
 idem auri facilis contemptor et optimus idem 70
 comere divitias opibusque immittere lucem;
 hac longum florens animi morumque iuventa
 Iliacos aequare senes, et vincere persta
 quos pater Elysio, genitrix quos detulit annos:
 hoc illi duras exoravere Sorores, 75
 hoc, quae te sub teste situm fugitura tacentem
 ardua magnanimi revirescet gloria Blaesi.

II.4

PSITTACVS EIVSDEM

Psittace dux volucrum, domini facunda voluptas,
 humanae sollers imitator psittace linguae,
 quis tua tam subito praeclusit murmura fato?
 hesternas, miserande, dapes moriturus inisti
 nobiscum, et gratae carpentem munera mensae 5
 errantemque toris mediae plus tempore noctis
 vidimus. affatus etiam meditataque verba
 reddideras. at nunc aeterna silentia Lethes
 ille canorus habes. cedat Phaethontia vulgi
 fabula: non soli celebrant sua funera cygni. 10
 A tibi quanta domus rutila testudine fulgens,
 conexusque ebori virgarum argenteus ordo,
 argutumque tuo stridentia limina cornu!
 heu querulae iam sponte fores! vacat ille beatus
 carcer, et augusti nusquam convicia tecti! 15
 Huc doctae stipentur aves quis nobile fandi
 ius natura dedit: plangat Phoebeius ales,
 auditasque memor penitus demittere voces
 sturnus, et Aonio versae certamine picae,
 quique refert iungens iterata vocabula perdix, 20
 et quae Bistonio queritur soror orba cubili.

ferte simul gemitus cognataque ducite flammis
 funera, et hoc cunctae miserandum addiscite carmen:
 'occidit aeriae celeberrima gloria gentis
 psittacus, ille plagae viridis regnator Eoae; 25
 quem non gemmata volucris Iunonia cauda
 vinceret aspectu, gelidi non Phasidis ales,
 nec quas humenti Numidae rapuere sub austro.'
 Ille saluator regum nomenque locutus
 Caesareum et queruli quondam vice functus amici, 30
 nunc conviva levis monstrataque reddere verba
 tam facilis! quo tu, Melior dilecte, recluso
 numquam solus eras. at non inglorius umbris
 mittitur: Assyrio cineres adolentur amomo
 et tenues Arabum respirant gramine plumae 35
 Sicaniisque crocis; senio nec fessus inertis
 scandet odoratos phoenix felicior ignis.

II.5

LEO MANSVETVS

Quid tibi monstrata mansuescere profuit ira?
 quid scelus humanasque animo dediscere caedis
 imperiumque pati et domino parere minori?
 quid, quod abire domo rursusque in claustra reverti
 suctus et a capta iam sponte recedere praeda 5
 insertasque manus laxo dimittere morsu?
 occidis, altarum vastator docte ferarum,
 non grege Massylo curvaque indagine clausus,
 non formidato supra venabula saltu
 incitus aut caeco foveae deceptus hiatu, 10
 sed victus fugiente fera. stat cardine aperto
 infelix cavea, et clausas circum undique portas
 hoc licuisse nefas placidi intumuere leones.
 tum cunctis cecidere iubae, puduitque relatum
 aspicere, et torvas duxere in lumina frontis. 15
 at non te primo fusum novus obruit ictu
 ille pudor: mansere animi, virtusque cadenti
 a media iam morte redit, nec protinus omnes
 terga dedere minae. sicut sibi conscius alti
 vulneris adversum moriens it miles in hostem 20
 attollitque manum et ferro labente minatur:

sic piger ille gradu solitoque exutus honore
 firmat hians oculos animamque hostemque requirit.
 magna tamen subiti tecum solatia leti,
 victe, feres, quod te maesti populusque Patresque, 25
 ceu notus caderes tristi gladiator harena,
 ingemuere mori; magni quod Caesaris ora
 inter tot Scythicas Libycasque, a litore Rheni
 et Pharia de gente feras, quas perdere vile est,
 unius amissi tetigit iactura leonis. 30

II.7

GENETHLIACON LVCANI AD POLLAM

Lucani proprium diem frequentet
 quisquis collibus Isthmiae Diones
 docto pectora concitatus oestro
 pendentis bibit unguiae liquorem.
 ipsi quos penes est honor canendi, 5
 vocalis citharae repertor Arcas,
 et tu Bassaridum rotator Euhan,
 et Pacan et Hyantiae sorores
 laetae purpureas novate vittas,
 crinem comite, candidamque vestem. 10
 perfundant hederæ recentiores.
 docti largius evagentur amnes,
 et plus Aoniae virete silvae,
 et, si qua patulam diem recepit,
 sertis mollibus expleatur umbra. 15
 centum Thespiacis odora lucis
 stent altaria victimaeque centum,
 quas Dirce lavat aut alit Cithaeron.
 Lucanum canimus, favete linguis,
 vestra est ista dies, favete, Musae, 20
 dum qui vos geminas tulit per artes,
 et vinctae pede vocis et solutae,
 Romani colitur chori sacerdos.
 Felix heu nimis et beata tellus,
 quae pronos Hyperionis meatus 25
 summis Oceani vides in undis
 stridoremque rotae cadentis audis;
 quae Tritonidi fertilis Athenas

unctis, Baetica, provocas trapetis: Lucanum potes imputare terris! hoc plus quam Senecam dedisse mundo aut dulcem generasse Gallionem. attollat refluos in astra fontis Graio nobilior Melete Baetis; Baetim, Mantua, provocare noli.	30 35
Natum protinus atque humum per ipsam primo murmure dulce vagientem blando Calliope sinu recepit. tum primum posito remissa luctu longos Orpheos exuit dolores et dixit: 'puer o dicite Musis, longaevos cito transiture vatis, non tu flumina nec greges ferarum nec plectro Geticas movebis ornos, sed septem iuga Martiumque Thybrim et doctos equites et eloquente cantu purpureum trahes senatum. nocturnas alii Phrygum ruinas et tarde reducis vias Vlixis et puppem temerariam Minervae trita vatibus orbita sequantur: tu carus Latio memorque gentis carmen fortior exseris togatum. ac primum teneris adhuc in annis ludes Hectora Thessalosque currus et supplex Priami potentis aurum, et sedis reserabis inferorum; ingratus Nero dulcibus theatris et noster tibi proferetur Orpheus. dices culminibus Remi vagantis infandos domini nocentis ignis. hinc castae titulum decusque Pollae iucunda dabis adlocutione. mox coepta generosior iuventa albos ossibus Italis Philippos et Pharsalica bella detonabis, quo fulmen ducis inter arma divi, libertate gravem pia Catonem et gratum popularitate Magnum. tu Pelusiaci scelus Canopi	40 45 50 55 60 65 70

deflebis pius et Pharo cruenta
 Pompeio dabis altius sepulcrum.
 haec primo iuvenis canes sub aevo,
 ante annos Culicis Maroniani.
 cedet Musa rudis ferocis Enni 75
 et docti furor arduus Lucreti,
 et qui per freta duxit Argonautas,
 et qui corpora prima transfiguratur.
 quid maius loquar? ipsa te Latinis
 Aeneis venerabitur canentem. 80
 Nec solum dabo carminum nitorem,
 sed taedis genialibus dicabo
 doctam atque ingenio tuo decoram
 qualem blanda Venus daretque Iuno;
 forma, simplicitate, comitate, 85
 censu, sanguine, gratia, decore,
 et vestros hymenaeon ante postis
 festis cantibus ipsa personabo.
 O saevae nimium gravesque Parcae
 o numquam data longa fata summis! 90
 cur plus, ardua, casibus patetis?
 cur saeva vice magna non senescunt?
 sic natum Nasamonii Tonantis
 post ortus obitusque fulminatos
 angusto Babylon premit sepulcro. 95
 sic fixum Paridis manu trementis
 Peliden Thetis horruit cadentem.
 sic ripis ego murmurantis Hebri
 non mutum caput Orpheos sequebar.
 sic et tu (rabidi nefas tyranni!) 100
 iussus praecipitem subire Lethen,
 dum pugnas canis arduaque voce
 das solatia grandibus sepulcris,
 (o dirum scelus! o scelus!) tacebis.
 Sic fata est leviterque decidentis 105
 abrasit lacrimas nitente plectro.
 At tu, seu rapidum poli per axem
 famae curribus arduis levatus
 qua surgunt animae potentiores,
 terras despicias et sepulcra rides; 110
 seu pacis merito nemus reclusi
 felix Elysii tenes in oris,

quo Pharsalica turba congregatur,
 et te nobile carmen insonantem
 Pompei comitantur et Catones; 115
 seu magna sacer et superbus umbra
 noscis Tartaron et procul nocentum
 audis verbera pallidumque visa
 matris lampade respicis Neronem:
 adsis lucidus et vocante Polla 120
 unum, quaeso, diem deos silentum
 exores. solet hoc patere limen
 ad nuptas redeuntibus maritis.
 haec te non thiasis procax dolosis
 falsi numinis induit figura, 125
 ipsum sed colit et frequentat ipsum
 imis altius insitum medullis;
 at solatia vana subministrat
 vultus, qui simili notatus auro
 stratis praenitet incubatque somno 130
 securae. procul hinc abite, Mortes:
 haec vitae genialis est origo.
 cedat luctus atrox genisque manent
 iam dulces lacrimae, dolorque festus
 quicquid fleverat ante, nunc adoret. 135

III.5

ECLOGA AD CLAUDIAM VXOREM

Quid mihi maesta die, sociis quid noctibus, uxor,
 anxia pervigili ducis suspiria cura?
 non metuo ne laesa fides aut pectore in isto
 alter amor; nullis in te datur ire sagittis
 (audiat infesto licet hoc Rhamnusia vultu), 5
 non datur. et si egomet patrio de litore raptus
 quattuor emeritis per bella, per aequora lustris
 errarem, tu mille procos intacta fugares;
 non intersectas commenta retexere telas,
 sed sine fraude palam, thalamosque armata negasses. 10
 dic tamen, unde altam mihi frontem et nubila vultus?
 anne quod Euboicos fessus remeare penatis
 auguror et patria senium componere terra?
 cur hoc triste tibi? certe lascivia corde

nulla, nec aut rapidi mulcent te proelia Circi 15
 aut intrat sensus clamosi turba theatri;
 sed probitas et opaca quies et sordida numquam
 gaudia. quas autem comitem te raptio per undas?
 quamquam, et si gelidas irem mansurus ad Arctos,
 vel super Hesperiae vada caligantia Thules, 20
 aut septemgemini caput impenetrabile Nili,
 hortarere vias. etenim tua (nempe benigna
 quam mihi sorte Venus iunctam florentibus annis
 servat et in senium), tua quae me vulnere primo
 intactum thalamis et adhuc iuvenile vagantem 25
 fixisti, tua frena libens docilisque recepi,
 et semel insertas non mutaturus habenas
 usque premo. tu me nitidis Albana ferentem
 dona comis sanctoque indutum Caesaris auro
 visceribus complexa tuis, sertisque dedisti 30
 oscula anhela meis; tu cum Capitolia nostrae
 infitiata lyrae saevum ingratumque dolebas
 mecum victa Iovem; tu procurrentia primis
 carmina nostra sonis, totasque in murmure noctes
 aure rapis vigili; longi tu sola laboris 35
 conscia, cumque tuis crevit mea Thebais annis.
 qualem te nuper Stygias prope raptus ad umbras
 cum iam Lethaeos audirem cominus amnis,
 aspexi, tenuique oculos iam morte cadentis!
 scilicet exhausti Lachesis mihi tempora fati 40
 te tantum miserata dedit, superique potentes
 invidiam timuere tuam. post ista propinquum
 nunc iter optandosque sinus comes ire moraris?
 heu ubi nota fides totque explorata per usus,
 qua veteres Latias Graias Heroidas aequas? 45
 isset ad Iliacas (quid enim deterret amantis?)
 Penelope gavisas domos, si passus Vlixes;
 questa est Aegiale, questa est Meliboea relinqui,
 et quam (quam saevi!) fecerunt maenada planctus.
 nec minor his tu nosse fidem vitamque maritis 50
 dedere. sic certe cineres umbramque priorem
 quaeris adhuc, sic exsequias amplexa canori
 coniugis ingentis iterasti pectore planctus,
 iam mea. nec pietas alia est tibi curaque natae:
 sic et mater amas, sic numquam corde recedit 55
 nata tuo, fixamque animi penetralibus imis

nocte dieque tenes. non sic Trachinia nidos
 Alcyone, vernos non sic Philomela penatis
 circumit amplectens animamque in pignora transfert.
 te nunc illa tenet viduo quod sola cubili 60
 otia tam pulchrae terit infecunda iuventae.
 sed venient, plenis venient conubia taedis.
 sic certe formaeque bonis animique meretur;
 sive chelyn complexa petit seu voce paterna
 discendum Musis sonat et mea carmina flectit, 65
 candida seu molli diducit bracchia motu:
 ingenium probitas artemque modestia vincit.
 nonne levis pueros, non te, Cytherea, pudebit
 hoc cessare decus? nec tantum Roma iugalis
 conciliare toros festasque accendere taedas 70
 fertilis: et nostra generi tellure dabuntur.
 non adeo Vesuvinus apex et flammea diri
 montis hiems trepidas exhausit civibus urbes:
 stant populisque vigent. hinc auspice condita Phoebō
 tecta Dicarchei portusque et litora mundi 75
 hospita: at hinc magnae tractus imitantia Romae
 quae Capys advectis implevit moenia Teucris.
 nostra quoque et propriis tenuis nec rara colonis
 Parthenope, cui mite solum trans aequora vectae
 ipse Dionaea monstravit Apollo columba. 80

Has ego te sedis (nam nec mihi barbara Thrace
 nec Libye natale solum) transferre laboro,
 quas et mollis hiems et frigida temperat aestas,
 quas imbelle fretum torpentibus alluit undis.
 pax secura locis et desidis otia vitae 85
 et numquam turbata quies somnique peracti.
 nulla foro rabies aut strictae in iurgia leges:
 morum iura viris solum et sine fascibus aequum.
 quid nunc magnificas species cultusque locorum
 templaque et innumeris spatia interstincta columnis, 90
 et geminam molem nudi tectique theatri
 et Capitolinis quinquennia proxima lustris,
 quid laudem litus, libertatemque Menandri,
 quam Romanus honos et Graia licentia miscent?
 nec desunt variae circa oblectamina vitae: 95
 sive vaporiferas, blandissima litora, Baias,
 enthea fatidicae seu visere tecta Sibyllae
 dulce sit Iliacoque iugum memorabile remo,

seu tibi Bacchei vineta madentia Gauri
 Teleboumque domos, trepidis ubi dulcia nautis 100
 lumina noctivagae tollit Pharus aemula lunae,
 caraque non soli iuga Surrentina Lyaeo,
 (quae meus ante alios habitator Pollius auget),
 Inarimesque lacus medicos Stabiasque renatas.
 mille tibi nostrae referam telluris amores? 105
 sed satis hoc, coniunx, satis est dixisse: creavit
 me tibi, me socium longos astrinxit in annos.
 nonne haec amborum genetrix altrixque videri
 digna? sed ingratus qui plura adnecto tuisque
 moribus indubito: venies, carissima coniunx, 110
 praevienesque etiam; sine me tibi ductor aquarum
 Thybris et armiferi sordebunt tecta Quirini.

IV.7

ODE LYRICA AD VIBIVM MAXIMVM

Iam diu lato satiata campo
 fortis heroes, Erato, labores
 differ atque ingens opus in minores
 contrahe gyros.
 tuque regnator lyricae cohortis 5
 da novi paulum mihi iura plectri,
 si tuas cantu Latio sacravi,
 Pindare, Thebas.
 Maximo carmen tenuare tempto;
 nunc ab intonsa capienda myrto 10
 sarta, nunc maior sitis et bibendus
 castior amnis.
 quando te dulci Latio remittent
 Dalmatae montes, ubi Dite viso
 pallidus fossor redit erutoque 15
 concolor auro?
 ecce me natum propiore terra
 non tamen portu retinent amoeno
 desides Baiae liticenve notus
 Hectoris armis. 20
 torpor est nostris sine te Camenis,
 tardius sueto venit ipse Thymbrae
 rector et primis meus ecce metis

IV.9
HENDECASYLLABI IOCOSI
AD PLOTIVM GRYPVM

Est sane iocus iste quod libellum
 misisti mihi, Grype, pro libello.
 urbanum tamen hoc potest videri,
 si post hoc aliquid mihi remittas;
 nam si ludere, Grype, perseveras, 5
 non ludis. licet, ecce, computemus!
 noster purpureus novusque charta
 et binis decoratus umbilicis
 praeter me mihi constitit decussis:
 tu rosum tineis situque putrem, 10
 quales aut Libycis madent olivis
 aut tus Niliacum piperve servant
 aut Byzantiacos olent lacertos;
 nec saltem tua dicta continentem
 quae trino iuvenis foro tonabas, 15
 aut centum prope iudices, priusquam
 te Germanicus arbitrum sequenti
 annonae dedit omniumque late
 praefecit stationibus viarum;
 sed Bruti senis oscitationes 20
 de capsula miseri libellionis,
 emptum plus minus asse Gaiano,
 donas. usque adeone defuerunt
 caesis pillea suta de lacernis
 vel mantelia luridaeve mappae, 25
 chartae, Thebaicaeve, Caricaeve?
 nusquam turbine conditus ruenti
 prunorum globus atque cottanorum?
 non enlychnia sicca, non replictae
 bulborum tunicae? nec ova tantum, 30
 nec lenes alicae, nec asperum far?
 nusquam Cinyphiis vagata campis
 curvarum domus uda coclearum?
 non lardum grave debilisve perna?
 non Lucanica? non graves falisci? 35
 non sal oxyporumve caseusve?
 aut panes viridantis aphronitri?

vel passum psithiis suis recoctum,
 dolci defruta vel lutosa caeno?
 quantum nec dare cereos olentis, 40
 cultellum, tenuisve codicillos?
 ollaris, rogo, non licebat uvas?
 Cumano patinas in orbe tortas?
 aut unam dare synthesin (quid horres?)
 alborum calicum atque caccaborum? 45
 sed certa velut aequus in statera,
 nil mutas, sed idem mihi rependis.
 quid si cum bene mane semicrudus
 inlatam tibi dixero salutem,
 et tu me vicibus domi salutes? 50
 aut cum me dape iuueris opima,
 exspectes similis et ipse cenas?
 irascor tibi, Grype. sed valebis;
 tantum ne mihi, quo soles lepore,
 et nunc hendecasyllabos remittas. 55

V.4
SOMNVS

Crimine quo merui iuuenis, placidissime diuum,
 quoue errore miser, donis ut solus egerem,
 Somne, tuis? tacet omne pecus volucresque feraeque
 et simulant fessos curuata cacumina somnos, 5
 nec trucibus fluuiis idem sonus; occidit horror
 aequoris, et terris maria acclinata quiescunt.
 septima iam rediens Phoebe mihi respicit aegras
 stare genas; totidem Oetaeae Paphiaeque recursant
 lampades et totiens nostros Tithonia questus
 praeterit et gelido spargit miserata flagello. 10
 unde ego sufficiam? non si mihi lumina mille
 quae sacer alterna tantum statione tenebat
 Argus et haud umquam uigilabat corpore toto.
 at nunc nescioquis longa sub nocte puellae
 brachia nexa tenens ultro te, Somne, repellit: 15
 inde ueni! nec te totas infundere pennas
 luminibus compello meis (hoc turba precetur
 laetior): extremo me tange cacumine uirgae
 (sufficit) aut leuiter suspenso poplite transi.

V.5

EPICEDION IN PVERVM SVVM

Me miserum! neque enim verbis sollemnibus ulla
 incipiam nunc Castaliae vocalibus undis
 invisus Phoeboque gravis. quae vestra sorores
 orgia, Pieriae, quas incestavimus aras?
 dicite, post poenam liceat commissa fateri. 5
 numquid inaccesso posui vestigia luco?
 num vetito de fonte bibi? quae culpa, quis error
 quem luimus tantus? morientibus ecce lacertis
 viscera nostra tenens animaue avellitur infans.
 non de stirpe quidem nec qui mea nomina ferret 10
 oraue; non fueram genitor, sed cernite fletus
 viventisque genas et credite planctibus orbi.
 orbis ego. huc patres et aperto pectore matres
 convenient; cineremque oculis et crimina ferto,
 si qua sub uberibus plenis ad funera natos 15
 ipsa gradu labente tulit madidumque cecidit
 pectus et ardentis restinxit lacte favillas;
 quisquis adhuc tenerae signatum flore iuventae
 immersit cineri iuvenem primaue iacentis]
 serpere crudelis vidit lanugine flammas, 20
 adsit et alterno mecum clamore fatiscat:
 vincetur lacrimis, et te, Natura, pudebit.
 tanta mihi feritas, tanta est insania luctus.
 hoc quoque cum *nitor*, ter dena luce peracta,
 acclinis tumulo *planctus* in carmina verto 25
 discordisque modos et singultantia acerba
 molior orsa *lyra*: *satis* est, atque ira tacendi
 impatiens. sed nec solitae mihi vertice laurus
 nec fronti vittatus honos. en taxea marcet
 silva comis, hilarisque hederas plorata cupressus 30
 excludit; tremulas nec eburno pollice chordas
 pulso, sed incertam digitis errantibus amens
 tendo chelyn. iuvat heu, iuvat inlaudabile carmen
 fundere et incompte miserum nudare dolorem.
 sic merui? sic me cantuque habituque nefastum 35
 aspiciant superi? pudeat Thebasque novumque
 Aeaciden? nil iam placidum manabit ab ore?
 ille ego qui (quotiens!) blande matrumque patrumque
 vulnera, qui viduos potui mulcere dolores;

ille ego lugentum mitis solator, acerbis 40
 auditus tumulis et descendentibus umbris,
 deficio medicasque manus fomentaque quaero
 vulneribus + sed summa + meis. nunc tempus, amici,
 quorum ego manantis oculos et saucia tersi
 pectora: reddite opem, saevas exsolve gratis. 45
 nimirum cum vestra domus ego funera maestus
 * * * * *
 increpitans: 'qui damna doles aliena, repone
 infelix lacrimas et tristia carmina serva.'
 verum erat: absumptae vires et copia fandi 50
 nulla mihi, dignumque nihil mens fulmine tanto
 repperit: inferior vox omnis et omnia sordent
 verba. ignosce, puer: tu me caligine mersum
 obruis. a! durus, viso si vulnere carae
 coniugis invenit caneret quod Thracius Orpheus
 dulce sibi, si busta Lini complexus Apollo 55
 non tacuit.

Nimiis fortasse avidusque doloris
 dicor et in lacrimis iustum excessisse pudorem?
 quisnam autem gemitus lamentaque nostra reprehendis?
 o nimium felix, nimium crudelis et expers 60
 imperii, Fortuna, tui qui dicere legem
 fletibus aut finis audet censere dolendi!
 incitat heu! planctus; potius fugientia ripas
 flumina detineas rapidis aut ignibus obstes,
 quam miseros lugere vetes. tamen ille severus,
 quisquis is est, nostrae cognoscat vulnera causae. 65
 Non ego mercatus Pharia de pube loquacis
 delicias doctumque sui convicia Nili
 infantem, lingua nimium salibusque protervum,
 dilexi: meus ille, meus. tellure cadentem 70
 aspexi atque unctum genitali carmine fovi,
 poscentemque novas tremulis ululatus auras
 inserui vitae. quid plus tribuere parentes?
 quin alios ortus libertatemque sub ipsis
 uberibus tibi, parve, dedi cum munera nostra
 rideres ignarus adhuc. properaverit ille, 75
 sed merito properabat, amor, ne perderet *ullum*
 libertas tam parva diem. nonne horridus *idem*
 invidia superos iniustaque Tartara pulsem?

nonne gemam te, care puer? quo sospite natos
 non cupii, primo genitum quem protinus ortu 80
 implicui fixique mihi, cui verba sonosque
 monstravi questus et murmura caeca resolvens,
 reptantemque solo demissus ad oscula dextra
 erexi, blandoque sinu iam iamque *natantis*
 + excepere + genas dulcisque accersere somnos. 85
 cui nomen vox prima meum ludusque tenello
 risus, et a nostro veniebant gaudia vultu.

* * * * *

COMMENTARY

I.4 Soteria Rutili Gallici

Stattius thanks the gods for the recovery from illness of the military and civic official Rutilius Gallicus who saw military duty in Asia and Germany and served at Rome as praetor, *praefectus urbi* and consul on two occasions. The exact degree of intimacy of his friendship with Stattius is unknown. A *soteria* is a present given to a person on his recovery from sickness (*OLD*).

Meter: dactylic hexameter; line 4 is scanned as follows:

- u u | - - | - | - - | - u u | - -
Gallicus. es caelo dive, es, Germanice cordi

^

1. **Estis:** "You do exist," proven by the fact that they have heard Stattius' prayer for Gallicus' recovery.

io: interjection, "hurrah!"

inexorabile: "not moved by prayers."

Clotho: One of the three Fates, Clotho spun the thread of a person's life.

2. **volvit:** "unrolls."

opus: "work."

Astraea: Goddess of justice, she supposedly left the earth when Saturn was deposed as king of the gods.

2-3. **Iovi / conciliata:** She comes back reconciled (*conciliata*) to Jupiter because she sees that in allowing the recovery of Gallicus, Jupiter has regard for justice.

3. **dubitata:** perfect passive participle in agreement with *sidera*; Gallicus doubted he would ever see the stars again.

4. **es . . . es:** an example of anaphora or repetition of a word at the beginning of successive clauses or phrases for emphasis.

divē . . . Germanice: Domitian, who took the name Germanicus after campaigning in Germany in A.D. 83 (see *Silvae* IV.9.17), regarded himself as divine and welcomed public expressions of this doctrine; vocative.

cordi: < *cor*, "heart"; in the dative with *sum* meaning "be dear to," with dative of the person or thing to which one is dear. Hence *caelo es cordi* = "you are dear to heaven."

5. **neget:** potential subjunctive, "could deny."

spoliare: "to rob," + accusative of the one deprived and ablative of the thing removed.

6. **proxima:** "next to (the Emperor)," where Gallicus, whose *cervix* is meant, stood.

6-7. **cervix / ponderis immensi:** "neck (i.e., shoulders) bearing immense weight." *ponderis immensi* is genitive of quality.

damnosa fila: "the cursed threads," referring to the image of the Fates in 1.

7. **exuit:** < *exuo*, "strip off, put aside."

8. **alios:** "others, more," to follow after his recovery.

9. **alacres:** with *cohortes*.

quae: The antecedent is *cohortes*; the "cohorts which revere (*colunt*) the urban standards" are the four urban cohorts under the command of the *praefectus urbi*, a post which Gallicus had held a few years before the composition of this poem.

cohortes: like *leges* and *urbes* (11), subject of *certent* (12).

10. **quae:** The antecedent is *leges*.

tuum: with *sinum*.

fora turbida questum: "to complain of the confused forum." *questum* (< *queror*) is accusative of the supine used with a verb of motion to express purpose. The *praefectus urbi* was a criminal judge, hence the laws are said to take refuge with him.

11. **ubicumque:** everywhere Roman authority extends.

togatae: "wearing the toga" because under Roman jurisdiction.

12. **longinquis:** because their laments come from all over the country.

iura: here, "justice."

13. **certent:** hortatory subjunctive, "let them vie."

laetitia: ablative, probably of specification, "in expression of joy."

noster . . . collis: Rome, or perhaps Helicon, the mountain of poets.

- ex ordine:** "in turn."
14. **confremat:** hortatory subjunctive, "let it raise a cry."
sileant: hortatory subjunctive, with *murmura* as subject.
peioris . . . famae: that Gallicus would die.
15. **quippe:** "to be sure."
manet: in life.
longum: adverb, "for a long time."
aevō redeunte: ablative absolute, "as his life returns."
16. **quem penes:** The preposition *penes*, "in the power of," sometimes follows its object.
intrepidāe: Rome is "free from fear" because guarded by Gallicus.
17. **tantum:** with *crimen*; the "charge" would have been the death of Gallicus.
induerint: future perfect < *induo*, "place on."
nova saecula: In 88, Domitian celebrated Secular Games signalling the inauguration of a new *saeculum*. Stattus means that for Gallicus to have died so soon after such an auspicious event would have been ill-omened.
18. **aut:** The negative idea of *nec* in 17 is still understood.
instaurati ara Tarenti: *Tarentum* was the name given to a hole in the Campus Martius at which sacrifices took place in the course of the Secular Games. For each such sacrifice the area was dug afresh (*instaurati* [< *instauro*, "renew"], a transferred epithet since it refers properly to *ara*).
19. **Ast = at.**
Phoebum: object of *hortabor* in 21.
surda: "soundless"; sc. *sunt*, with *pletra* in 20.
20. **Aonias . . . divas:** the nine Muses who dwelled in Aonia, which is another name for Boeotia, site of Helicon.
decima cum Pallade: "with Pallas Athena as tenth."
21. **mitem Tegeae Dircesve . . . alumnum:** The "gentle fosterling of Tegea" is Mercury (born in Greek Arcadia, where Tegea was a city); that of Dirce is Bacchus (from Thebes, near which Dirce was a famous fountain). *Dirces:* Greek genitive singular feminine.
22. **veni:** imperative.
ministra: imperative, "furnish, provide."
23. **qui caneris:** i.e., Gallicus.
docto nec . . . sine numine tantus: "and not so great without heaven's will."
24. **Ausoniae:** "Ausonian," with *togae*. *Ausonia*, though properly a region of lower Italy, was used by the poets for all of Italy.

decora: < *decus*, neuter plural, "grace, adornment."

Centum: with *Viris* in 25. The Centumviri were a court of civil justice who decided inheritance cases. Originally 105 in number, the court eventually increased to 180 members. While praetor, Gallicus would have had authority over the court.

25. **mentem:** here "insight."

licet: "although," with subjunctive (*excludat, detur*, 26).

enthea: "inspired" (Greek adjective).

vatis: "bard, poet"; genitive singular.

26. **Pimplea:** Pimplea was an area in Pieria containing a spring sacred to the Muses; hence the adjective *Pimplea*, here used as a substantive, "she of Pimplea," i.e., "Muse."

conscia: "conscious," of the poet's intentions.

detur: "be granted."

27. **Pirene:** a spring in Corinth sacred to the Muses.

potius: sc. *est*; "a preferable thing."

gurgis: "stream," predicate noun after *potius*. Statius claims to prefer to drink from the fountain of inspiration provided by Gallicus' writings (both prose and verse; none survive) than from the Muses' springs.

in haustus: "for draughts"; *haustus* is accusative plural.

28. **qui:** antecedent is *gurgis* in 27.

plana: with *orsa* in 29, "straight-forward undertakings." *orsa* < *ordior*, "begin," was frequently used to refer to literary productions.

solutis: ablative absolute with *modis* in 29, "with meters removed," i.e., in prose.

29. **quom:** pre-Classical form of *cum* (conjunction).

struis: "arrange," in a literary composition.

dulcis: with *facundia* in 30.

29-30. **in artem / frangitur:** "is broken to rules," i.e., made to obey the rules of literary composition.

30. **nostras . . . leges:** the laws of poetic composition and metrics.

curat: "heeds."

31. **age:** literally the imperative of *ago*, in common use it has the force of a summons or exhortation: "come then!"

Lyaeo: i.e., Bacchus.

32. **dives praedae:** "rich in booty"; with *Diana* in 33. The adjective *dives* is used adversatively with *tamen*, "though rich, nevertheless."

32-33. **omni / tholo:** i.e., "in every temple." The *tholus* was the domed hall of a temple in which offerings were hung to the god.

34. **Bellipotens:** Mars; sc. *accipit*.

tu: Gallicus.

maius: "greater": than Statius' eloquence.

35. **eloquium:** sc. *est*.

fandi opibus: "facility of speaking"; *opibus* is ablative of means.

sublimis: agrees with understood Gallicus; translate adverbially, "loftily."

36. **sperne coli:** "refuse to be praised." *Nec* (34) with imperative is a poetic construction; negative commands are more frequently expressed by *ne* and present or perfect subjunctive.

tenuiore: "more modest."

astris: ablative of means.

37. **cecidere:** < *cado*, "fall."

38. **praemia morum:** "rewards for your virtue."

39. **urbis:** subjective genitive with *amor*.

40. **ignarae . . . lugere potentis:** "inexperienced in weeping for the powerful." The infinitive after an adjective is a poetic construction (AG 461).

41. **labente Numa:** ablative absolute, "at the passing away of Numa"; Numa Pompilius was a legendary and venerated king of Rome who ruled 715-673 B.C. according to tradition.

42. **Pompeio:** sc. *labente*, as with *Bruto*. Gnaeus Pompeius (Pompey), was a Roman general and statesman (106-48 B.C.) who was defeated in battle at Pharsalus in Greece by Julius Caesar in 48 B.C.

eques: The knights mourned him because Pompey was himself an *eques*.

femina: not Brutus' wife but Roman women as a group. When Lucius Junius Brutus, Rome's first consul, died, Roman women mourned him an entire year.

43. **hoc illud:** Since *hoc illud* is followed by a series of indirect statements which extend through 48, we may supply a verb of saying or thinking with *hoc illud*; "(I think that) this (caused) that (i.e., the sympathy of the people.)"

tristis: with *catenas*; Gallicus did not like to condemn men to prison.

audire: sc. *Gallicum* as subject, modified by *invitum*. The verb of saying or thinking supplied with *hoc illud* above continues to be understood, as with *parcere* (44), *ire* (45), *demere* (45), *dignari* (46), *reddere* (47), *proturbare* (47) and *mulcere* (48).

44. **parcere:** sc. *Gallicum* as subject, as of all infinitives through 48.

- 45. armatas multum sibi demere vires:** "took away from himself armed strength to a considerable degree (*multum*)," i.e., he exercised his authority temperately. *sibi*: dative of separation with *demo*.
- 46. dignari:** "considered worthy, respected."
manus humilis: accusative plural.
precantum = precantium; the shorter form is chosen here for metrical convenience. See AG 121b2.
- 47. curulis:** "the curule magistracies," namely the offices of consul, praetor, curile aedile and censor. Gallicus did not, in his position as *praefectus urbi*, interfere in their operation.
- 48. toga:** ablative of means; Gallicus has tempered might (*ferrum*) with justice (*toga*).
itur: < *eo*; impersonal, "a pathway is made."
- 49-50. alta / pectora:** i.e., "deep affection," of his fellow Romans.
- 49. sic mixto reverentia fidit amori:** "so does reverence rely upon the love which is mingled with it"; i.e., admiration is easier when affection is mixed with it.
- 50. cunctos:** sc. *Romanos*, object of *terruit*.
gravis: probably genitive with *fati*.
- 51. subiti praeceps iuvenile pericli:** "violent decline of the sudden danger"; the onset of the illness was swift and severe. *Praecept*s here functions as a noun meaning "drop, descent" (*OLD*; *iuvenile* here means "vehement," because having the vigor and violence characteristic of youth (*OLD*).
- 52. nil cunctante malo:** ablative absolute, "the illness not hesitating at all." *nil* is adverbial.
illud: sc. *erat*.
- 53. ea:** i.e., *senecta*.
bis senis . . . lustris: "twice six lustra." *senis* is the distributive adjective, "six each," here equivalent to *sex*. A *lustrum* is five years. Gallicus was a little over 60.
excedere: "to withdraw from, to pass from."
- 54. labor:** One might have expected *laboris* parallel to *senectae* in 52.
intendens: "concentrated."
- 54-55. animi in membra vigentis / imperium:** "control of a sharp mind over the body."
- 55. Caesare:** i.e., Domitian.
- 56. dulce opus:** in apposition with *curae*.
hinc: "from this source."

- penitus:** "deeply."
subrepsit: < *subrepto*, "creep under."
57. **insidiosa quies:** "treacherous calm." Nothing appeared to be the matter as Gallicus slipped into illness.
vitae: genitive after *oblivio*; expressions of forgetting often take genitive of the thing forgotten.
58. **deus:** Apollo, god of healing.
dorsi: with *Alpini*; the "Alpine ridge" refers to the hilly region of northwest Italy where Gallicus' hometown of Augusta Taurinorum (Turin) was located.
59. **signat . . . lucos:** Nothing is known about any cult of Apollo at Turin.
60. **pridem:** "for a long time now."
securus: "unconcerned for," + genitive (*alumni*).
61. **perpessus:** < *perpetior*, "endure, put up with patiently." At this time, Statius introduces the words of Apollo (through line 105).
Huc: sc. *veni* (imperative).
Epidauria proles: Asclepius, son of Apollo and god of medicine, was worshipped in particular at Epidaurus in Greece.
62. **altis gaudens:** "delighting in lofty pursuits."
datur: impersonal, "it is allowed, we may."
aggredienda: sc. *est*; "we must seize the opportunity (*facultas*)."
63. **recreare:** "to heal."
teneamus: hortatory, "let us take hold of."
adorti: < *adorior*, "approach."
64. **tendentis . . . colus:** accusative plural; the distaff (*colus*) is "stretching" (*tendentis*) the threads because the thread of Gallicus' life seems to be running out; cf. 1-2 on the Fates.
ne: introduces a negative hortatory subjunctive (*sit*, 65).
65. **metus:** Asclepius was blasted by Jupiter's thunderbolt for resurrecting Hippolytus from the dead.
ultro: adverb, "of his own accord."
66. **dextro sine numine cretam:** "born without an auspicious divine will"; *cretam* < *cresco*, "grow up, arise, spring up."
67. **adeo:** "quite."
68. **expediam:** "I shall set forth, explain."
Genus ipse suis: sc. *dat*; "he himself (bestows) nobility on his family."
permissa retro: "reflected back," from Gallicus to his family and ancestors.
69. **origo latet:** "is his birth obscure."

luce sequente: "the brilliance that follows," i.e., although Gallicus' family is itself brilliant, his birth confers yet greater nobility on it.

70. **cessisse:** < *cedo*, "give place, yield."

71. **prima togae virtus:** "his first talent (was) for peace"; the *toga* was worn by magistrates and in courts of law; here it is used as a synonym for peace or peacetime activity.

72. **eloquio:** i.e., in the lawcourt; ablative of specification.

exercita: with *manus* in 74 and taken closely with *innumeris castris*, "tested (*exercita*) in countless campaigns."

73. **occiduas primasque domus:** "throughout western (*occiduas*, where the sun sets < *occido*) and eastern (where the sun first is seen, *primas*) realms."

74. **permeruit:** < *permereo*, "serve out one's time in the army" (*OLD*), intransitive.

iurata manus: "his hand sworn (to loyalty)"; the hand is used by synecdoche to refer to the man himself.

75. **laxare animos:** "to rest his strength."

ferrum recingi: "to be ungirded as to his sword"; *ferrum* is accusative of specification with the passive infinitive *recingi*, a Greek construction.

76. **Galatea:** country of central Asia Minor (usually spelled Galatia) settled by Gaulish marauders in 278 B.C. Gallicus apparently served as a legionary commander here, although the exact nature of his position is unknown.

vigens: "being vigorous," hence "lusting for war."

77. **me:** object of *incessere*; the descendant incorporates his ancestors and all their experiences. The reference is to the Galatians' attack on the temple of Apollo at Delphi in 279 B.C., during their predatory migration from western Europe.

Pamphylia: a country on the southern coast of Asia Minor.

timuit: sc. *Gallicum*.

messis: accusative plural; *messis*, "harvest," is often used in poetry to mean "year," as here.

78. **Pannonius:** "the Pannonian"; Pannonia lay in a region now including parts of Hungary and Yugoslavia. Gallicus seems to have held some, now unknown, military post in this area.

arcu horrenda fugaci: *arcu fugaci* is ablative of cause. The Armenians were feared for their ability to shoot arrows while retreating.

79. **Armenia:** Asian nation in mountainous country on borders of modern Turkey and Soviet Union.

patiens . . . pontis: *patiens* often takes genitive of the thing endured.

Araxes: a river in Armenia.

80. quid: with *revolvam* in a deliberative subjunctive, "Why should I recount again?"

geminos fascis: meaning unclear; the reference may be to the ceremonial bonds of rods (*fascis*) that accompanied certain Roman officials.

80-81. magnae iterata/ iura Asiae: Gallicus twice served (*iterata iura*) as proconsul in Asia with legal authority (*iura*); *geminos fascis* (80) may be a reference to this twice-held office.

81. velit illa: *velit* is polite subjunctive < *volo*, "would wish"; *illa* = *Asia*.

habere: as proconsul.

82. fasti: the Roman calendar, which contained a list of magistrates and their offices. The *fasti* are portrayed as desiring Gallicus' name to be at their head.

maior curulis: The "greater office" is the consulship.

83. nec permissa semel: Gallicus was twice consul.

83-84. mira tributi / obsequia: The Africans are said to have displayed a remarkable willingness (*mira obsequia*) to pay their taxes while Gallicus was tax collector under Vespasian.

84. missum media de pace triumphum: He sent such great revenues to Rome that he seemed like a successful general with spoils of war meriting a triumphal procession.

85. nec qui: "not even he who."

86-87. gaudet Trasimennus et Alpes / Cannensesque

animae: Lake Trasimennus in Italy and the Italian town of Cannae, scenes of Roman defeats by Hannibal, and the Alps which he crossed on his way to attack Rome, rejoice that Gallicus, in exacting tribute from Africa, avenges them.

87. ipse . . . Regulus: Marcus Regulus, tortured to death by the Carthaginians, also finds vengeance in Gallicus' actions.

lacera umbra: "with his tattered shade," a reference to his torture.

89. non vacat: "there is no time," with complementary infinitive, *pandere*, 92.

Arctos acies: "northern battles," i.e., Gallicus' activities in Germany, of which nothing else is known.

90. Veledae: Valeda, prophetess of the German tribe called the Bructeri, was considered divine.

quae: The relative clause is in apposition with *depositam . . . Vrhem*.

91. **depositam:** "put in (his) charge."

Dacis pereuntibus: ablative absolute; Domitian's campaign against this Transylvanian tribe was not so successful as is implied.

92. **cum . . . subisti:** "when you took up"; a *cum* clause takes indicative when a definite point in time rather than a circumstance is emphasized.

rektoris: "ruler," i.e., Domitian.

93. **Fortuna non admirante:** Fortune was not surprised that Gallicus was chosen *praefectus urbi*.

94. **Hunc:** Gallicus.

95. **nate:** Asclepius.

hoc: that Gallicus' life be spared.

pater inclitus: Domitian; *inclitus:* "renowned."

96. **meruit:** Domitian deserves that his prayer be answered, for the reason stated in 96-97.

nuper: During the recently-held Secular Games of A.D. 88, choruses of boys sang a *carmen saeculare* in which Apollo was honored.

honora: adjective with *carmina* in 97.

97. **patricio . . . ostro:** The boys dressed in the toga praetexta which had a broad purple stripe (*ostro* < *ostrum*, a purple dye from shellfish). These boys were the children of noble families, hence *patricio*. A verse or more may have dropped out of the manuscript at this point.

98-103. These verses contain a catalogue of remedial herbs which Apollo will employ on Gallicus' behalf. The verses comprise an anacolouthon, that is, their syntax is left incomplete in that the subjects (*si qua . . . herba, quodcumque . . . recondit / Pergamus*) have no verb; sc. a hortatory subjunctive like *legantur*, "let there be gathered." The anacolouthon may be due to the lacuna after 97.

98. **si qua:** "if any," with *herba* in 99.

salutifero: Since Chiron was reckoned to have healing powers, his cave may be said to be "health-bringing."

gemi Chironis: "Twin-formed Chiron" was a centaur, half man and half horse, who taught medicine to Asclepius.

100. **Pergamus:** Greek noun, feminine singular; Pergamus or Pergamon was the citadel at Troy. The famous temple of Asclepius at Troy is meant here.

felix: "blessed," because of Asclepius' shrine there (cf. on 61).

harenis: taken closely with *educat* < *educo*, "bring forth"

101. **educat:** < *educo*, "bring forth."
Idaea: adjective with *umbra*; Ida was a mountain in Crete.
quam: antecedent is *opem* in 102.
Creta: The medicinal herbs of Crete were considered especially potent.
102. **dictamni:** < *dictamnium*, "dittany," a medicinal plant found on Mt. Dicte in Crete and on Mt. Ida.
opem: drawn into accusative under influence of the relative clause *quam profert*.
quoque: with *spumatu*, "and (-que) the froth with which the snake overflows (*abundat*)"; the noun *spumatu* is drawn into the case of its relative (*quo-*).
- 103-04. **iungam ipse manus atque . . . / virus:** "I shall join hands and medicine," i.e., the healing power of Apollo will be joined with healthful potions; *virus:* < *virus*, -i, neuter; accusative.
104. **Arabum:** genitive plural.
doctus: "a learned man," someone skilled in herbal medicines.
105. **Amphrysiaco:** "Thessalian"; the stream Amphrysus was in Thessaly, a region of Greece famous for its magical herbs.
106. **artus:** "limbs."
107. **pugnantem:** "struggling."
uterque: "each, both"; Apollo and Asclepius.
- 107-08. **ritu . . . Paeonio:** "in Paeonian fashion"; Paeon is a name for Apollo as god of healing; hence "Paeonian fashion" = as a doctor.
108. **monstrant simul parentque volentes:** i.e., they gladly heed each other's instructions, now acting the part of physician, now that of assistant.
109. **pestis:** accusative plural.
110. **suspecta . . . nubila:** "the dreaded clouds."
mali: because induced by illness.
111. **ipse:** Gallicus.
morbo: ablative of comparison.
112. **occupat:** "anticipates."
arte: with *Haemonia* in 113; Telephus was wounded by Achilles, who alone could heal him. Achilles did so by applying to the wound rust from the spear which caused the wound. *Haemonia* is an old name for Thessaly, Achilles' home.
- 113-14. **quae . . . coierunt:** The relative clause modifies *saeva . . . vulnera*; sc. *citius non refecta*.
113. **metuentis Atridae:** When Menelaus was wounded by Pandarus in the Trojan War (*Iliad* IV.192ff.), the famous physician

Machaon, a son of Asclepius, healed him. *Atridae*: genitive < *Atrides*, "descendant of Atreus" = Agamemnon and Menelaus.

115. **Quis**: with *locus* in 116, "what room would there be (*sit*) for me?"

tot coetus inter: Here *inter* follows its object (AG 435).

116. **curae votique**: with *locus*, "room for worry and prayer."

116-17. **ardua / sidera teque**: object of *testor*, "call to witness, invoke."

117. **pater Thymbraee**: vocative; Apollo is meant. Thymbra was a town near Troy where a temple of Apollo was located.

117-18. **quis . . . timor**: sc. *fuert*; indirect question after *testor*.

118. **postibus haerens**: "clinging to the doorposts."

119. **assiduus**: "constantly"; as often, the nominative in agreement with an unexpressed subject is best translated as an adverb.

aure . . . lumine: both ablative of means.

120. **aucupor**: "I took in, caught"; historical present.

120-21. **velut . . . cumba**: Statius compares his own humble position with respect to Gallicus to that of a small skiff tossed in the wake of a larger craft.

120. **conexa carinae**: "connected to a ship"; *conexa*: < *conecto*, "bind, unite."

121. **pro parte**: "to the best of its ability."

fuertis: accusative plural.

123. **Nectite . . . fila, Sorores**: The Fates are bidden to fashion new threads to accommodate Gallicus' new lease on life; cf. lines 1 and 64 on the Fates.

124. **modum . . . aevi**: "the length of life," already spent (*transmissi*) by Gallicus.

computet: hortatory subjunctive.

125. **hic vitae natalis erit**: The day of his recovery shall be reckoned the day of his birth.

tu: Gallicus.

125-26. **Troica . . . saecula**: "Trojan generations"; object of *transcendere*. The long lives of the Trojans Priam and Tithonus are meant; see on II.2.107-108.

126. **Euboici . . . pulveris**: The Cumaean Sibyl asked Apollo for as many years of life as there were grains of sand in her fist. She became a standard example of great age. Cumae in Italy was a colony of Euboea in Greece.

127. **Nestoreosque situs**: "the decay of Nestor," a king of Pylos who lived to a great age.

qua . . . acerra: ablative of means; *acerra*: "box for holding incense."

128. digna: "worthily"; adverbial accusative (AG 390b).

litem: potential subjunctive, "could I sacrifice"; *litem* < *lito*.

128-30. si vacuet . . . aut praestent . . . sufficiam: future less vivid condition; i.e., no sacrifice would be sufficient to express Statius' gratitude.

128. Mevania: a city in Italy known for its fine herds.

129. praestent: "should furnish."

Clitumna novalia: "the fields of the Clitumnus," a river in Umbria.

130. deis: dative with *placuerunt* in 131.

hos . . . honores: sacrifices of animals, which Statius cannot afford.

131. caespes: "turf," often used as a simple altar by country folk.

exiguo . . . salino: ablative of accompaniment, "with a small salt-cellar."

farra: < *far*, "meal, grain." Grain and salt were the ingredients of a humble sacrifice.

II.2 Villa Surrentina Polli Felicis

Stattius describes, in laudatory terms, the villa of his wealthy patron Pollius Felix. Pollius lived a retired life as an Epicurean philosopher and poet. Meter: dactylic hexameter.

1. notos Sirenum nomine muros: The "walls well-known for the Sirens' name" enclose the town of Surrentum (modern Sorrento), the name of which in antiquity was believed to be connected with *Sirenes*, the Sirens.

2. saxa Tyrrhenae templis onerata Minervae: The "rocks loaded with the temples of Etruscan Minerva" overhung the sea at the outermost point of the promontory on which Surrentum was located. The Minerva of that temple may be called Etruscan because the Tyrrhenian (i.e. Etruscan) Sea lay spread out in view of the temple.

3. celsa: "lofty"; with *villa*, the subject of *est* in 1.

Dicarchei speculatrix . . . profundi: *speculatrix* is in apposition with *villa*, which is called "observer of the deep water of Dicarchus" because Dicarchus founded the town of Puteoli across the bay from Surrentum; on Dicarchus, see on III.5.75.

4. qua: adverb, "where."

Bromio dilectus [< *diligo*, "love]: "beloved by Bromius"; Bromius is another name for Dionysus or Bacchus, god of wine; dative of agent.

ager: sc. *est* The area near Surrentum was famous for its wine.
collis: accusative plural, object of *per*.

5. **uritur:** the subject is *uva*; the vines are heated by the sun.

prelis . . . Falernis: "Falernian wine presses"; dative with *invidet*, "envy." The Falernian region of Campania was more famous for its wine.

6. **me:** object of *detulit* in 10.

post: The object of this preposition is *quinquennia*.

patrii quinquennia lustris: The "four-yearly festival of my hometown" is the Augustalia held in Naples, the poet's home, which involved musical and athletic events. It is called *quinquennia* because the beginning and end years of the cycle are counted.

laetum: with *me*.

7. **stadio:** ablative of place where, "in the race- course."

sederet: "settled"; singular, in agreement with its closest subject. The *cum* clause is temporal.

8. **Ambracias . . . frondis:** "Ambracian chaplets" are those which would be awarded to athletes going from Naples to take part in the Ambracian games at Actium, near the mouth of the Ambracian Gulf.

conversa gymnade: ablative absolute, "the wrestling match having been moved"; *gymnade* < *gymnas*, a Greek noun.

9. **trans . . . fretum:** Take closely with *me detulit*.

gentile fretum: "native channel"; Statius crossed the waters from Naples to Surrentum.

placidi: "gentle, placid."

facundia: Pollius composed verse.

10. **iuvenilis . . . Pollae:** Polla, the wife of Pollius, is in fact shown in *Silvae* III.1.178-179 to have been a grandmother.

11. **flectere:** The infinitive depends upon *cupidum*, which agrees with *me* in 6.

limite noto: "with its well-known path."

12. **Appia:** sc. *via*.

longarum regina viarum: The Via Appia, serving as Rome's primary link with southern Italy, ended at Brundisium.

13. **iuvere = iuverunt;** sc. *me*.

lunata: "crescent-shaped," with *aequora* in 14.

14. **hinc atque hinc:** "on this side and that." S. is admiring the seacoast as he goes.

15. **dat natura locum:** i.e., the beauty of the spot is nature's own gift, not improved by man.

monti: dative with *intervenit*, "lies between (sea and) mountain."

unum: "uninterrupted" (van Dam), with *litus* in 16.

16. **in terras . . . exit:** "comes out onto land," rather than as rocks.

17. **gratia prima loci:** in a kind of loose apposition to *gemina* . . . *mari*.

gemina testudine: "with twin domes"; the bathhouse (*balnea*, 18) has two domes in the ceiling.

18. **occurrit:** "meets," with dative (*amaro mari*).

19. **levis:** "light-footed," with *chorus*.

hic: adverb, "here," in such a bath.

Phorci: a sea-god, father of the monster Medusa.

chorus: "troop" of sea beasts that accompany the god Phorcus.

uda crinis: "wethaired"; *crinis* is accusative of specification.

20. **Cymodoce:** a Nereid, or minor sea divinity, like Galatea.

viridis: "sea-green."

lavari: used in middle voice here, "to wash oneself."

21. **moderator:** Neptune is meant, a small shrine to whom (*templa*, 23) stood before the bathhouse.

22. **excubat:** "keeps watch."

innocui: The blameless behavior of Pollius is transferred to the house itself.

huius: i.e., of Neptune.

24. **Alcides:** Hercules, called here by the (not exactly correct) patronymic "descendant of Alceus." A small temple of Hercules stood on Pollius' property.

gemino sub numine: "in the protection of two divinities," Neptune and Hercules.

25. **obstat:** "opposes, stands against."

26. **ponunt:** "lay aside."

hic: adverb.

27. **spirant:** "blow."

austri: "south winds."

28. **hic:** adverb.

minus audet: "is less bold."

hiems: "storm."

nullo tumultu: ablative of manner, "with no uproar," taken closely with *iacent*, 29.

29. **modesta:** "quiet."

domini: Pollius.

30. **inde:** "next."

per obliquas . . . arces: "by slanting arches."

erepfit: "climbs."

porticus: "colonnade."

31. **urbis opus:** i.e., "as huge as a city," i.e., an immense structure; in apposition with *porticus* in 30.

longo dorso: ablative of means; the "back" (*dorso*) of the portico is its sloping ceiling which shaded the path.

32. **obscurus:** "dark."

soles: < *sol*, "sun"; the plural often, as here, means "heat or light of the sun."

33. **feritas inamoena viae:** "an unpleasantly wild pathway."

ire voluptas: sc. *est*: "it is a pleasure to walk."

34. **qualis:** with *semita tecta*, "covered pathway," in 35.

si subeas: "if you should climb"; future more vivid protasis of a mixed condition.

Ephyres: Greek genitive < *Ephyre*, another name for Corinth.

Baccheidos: Greek genitive, "Bacchic," referring to the Bacchiadae, the family which supposedly founded Corinth.

35. **Inoo:** adjective, "of Ino," a sea goddess worshipped at Lechaecum, the port of Corinth.

36. **indulgeat:** "should lavish on me (*mih*i)," with *amnis* as object.

superet: "should quench."

Pimplea: See on I.4.26.

sitim: the poet's thirst.

37-38. **volantis . . . equi:** Pegasus, who caused a spring to come forth at Hippocrene on Helicon by striking the ground with his hoof (*ungula*).

38. **sedet:** < *sedo -are*, "calm, assuage," his thirst.

38-39. **arcana . . . Phemonoe:** nominative singular; Phemonoe was the first Pythia or priestess of Apollo at Delphi.

39. **vel:** "even."

quos: "(those) which"; sc. *fontis*.

meus: "my beloved," with *Pollius* in 40.

auspice Phoebos: "under the leadership of Apollo"; ablative absolute.

40. **immersa urna:** ablative absolute, "with his urn dipped." Pollius, as a poet himself, drew inspiration by drawing water from some fountain of inspiration.

41. **species:** "natural beauties," as opposed to *cultus*, "artificial adornments."
42. **Pieriis . . . modis:** i.e., in verse. Pieria was a region on the slope of Mt. Olympus where the cult of the Muses was located.
ordine longo: "in the long succession (of beauties)."
43. **suffecere:** < *sufficio*, "suffice."
singula: "(the charms), one by one."
- 44-45. **locine / ingenium an domini:** Statius treats the beauties of the site (*ingenium loci*) in 45-51, and then turns to Pollius' skill at taming the wild natural appearance of the site (*ingenium domini*) in 52-62.
45. **mirer:** deliberative subjunctive.
haec domus: "this (part of the) house."
ortus: sc. *Phoebi* from 46.
46. **illa:** sc. *domus*.
cadentem: sc. *Phoebum*.
47. **exactam negat dimittere lucem:** "refuses to let go the spent light."
48. **vitreo natant praetoria ponto:** "the palace floats upon the glassy sea" because its shadow falls upon the sea at certain hours of the day.
50. **haec:** sc. *tecta*.
tecta: "buildings," which were numerous on the villa property.
52. **favit:** < *faveo*, "favor," with dative (*locis*).
victa: sc. *natura*.
colenti: i.e., Pollius.
53. **docilis:** "easily taught"; nominative in agreement with implied subject *natura*.
mansuevit: < *mansuesco*, "grow tame."
in usus: "for uses."
54. **plana:** "a flat surface."
lustra: "haunts of wild animals."
56. **nec terra:** "not even earth"; i.e., Pollius has had the area filled in with earth.
illum: sc. *possessorem* (Pollius); the pronoun is object of *secuta* in 57.
57. **formantem:** "giving form to," with *rupis* as object.
expugnantem: "overcoming."
58. **iugum discentia saxa:** "the rocks that are learning (to bear) the yoke."

59. intrantem domos: The participle belongs with *montem*; the rocky formations seem to enter the buildings that are so integrated with the landscape that they seem to grow from it.

60. Methymnaei vatis: The "poet of Methymna" was Arion, who rode a dolphin he had enchanted by his musical abilities. Methymna, his birthplace, is on Lesbos.

60-61. chelys una / Thebais: "together (with Arion) the Theban lyre" refers to Amphion, the Theban king who built the walls of Thebes by causing the stones to march into place to the music of his lyre; *chelys*: "tortoise"; lyres were frequently made from tortoise shells; *una*: adverb.

61. Getici: with *plectri*; the "glory of the Getic lyre" is Orpheus the Thracian. The Getae (adj. *Geticus*) were a tribe who lived in Thrace.

cedat: "let him give way"; has three subjects, *manus*, *chelys*, *gloria*.

tibi: i.e., Pollius.

62. sequuntur: "follow after" obediently, as after Amphion.

63. Quid referam: "Why should I recount?"; deliberative subjunctive.

cerae . . . figuras: a reference to encaustic painting in which colors were applied on stone or wood with hot wax.

aeris: < *aes*, *aeris*, neut., "bronze."

64. si quid: Verses 64-69 contain a catalogue of art works in Pollius' possession. The phrases introduced by *si quid* in 64 and 65, *quod* in 66 and *aera* in 68, are in loose apposition to *figuras* in 63.

Apellei: adjective, "of Apelles," a famous Greek painter of the fourth century B.C.

colores: subject of *gaudent*.

animasse = animavisse, shortened for metrical convenience; "to have brought to life."

65-66. si quid . . . manus: "whatever thing that the hands of Phidias carved (*rasere* [= *raserunt*]);" Stattus seems to imply that Pollius owned some small works of Phidias (5th century Greek sculptor) completed before his most famous work, the statue of Zeus at Olympia.

65. adhuc vacua Pisa: ablative absolute, "when Pisa (a district near Olympia) was still empty." Pisa is used by metonymy for Olympia.

66. quod = si quid; subject of *iussum est* in 67.

Myronis: Myron was another renowned Greek sculptor, a somewhat older contemporary of Phidias.

67. Polycleteo . . . caelo: "by the chisel of Polyclitus"; *caelum*, "chisel, engraving tool." Polyclitus was another famous Greek sculptor of the fifth century.

iussum est: *quod (= si quid)* in 67 is subject. Understand the word order in 66-67: *quod iussum est vivere ab arte Myronis aut quod iussum est vivere caelo Polycleteo*.

68. aera ab Isthmiacis auro potiora favillis: "bronze works from Isthmian ashes more valuable (*potiora*) than gold." When Corinth, located on the famous Isthmus, was destroyed by fire in 146 B. C., all the metals of the city supposedly melted together, producing a fine metal compound for statues.

69. ora: in apposition with *aera* in 68; bronze busts are meant.

70. quos tibi cura sequi: *sc. est*, "whom you are eager to follow."

71. expers: "free from"; + genitive of separation.

animus: accusative of specification with *compositus* in 72; a reference to the Epicurean virtue of the untroubled spirit (cf. 113 below).

virtute quieta: ablative of description, "with placid virtue."

72. semper tuus: "always your own master."

quid . . . revolvam: Cf. on 63.

73. visendi vices: "changes of view," i.e., "changing views."

sua . . . voluptas: *sc. est*.

cuique: Each person looking out has his own delightful experience.

74. proprium mare: It is as if each bedroom has the sea in view all to itself.

74-75. iacentem / Nerea: i.e., "the quiet sea"; *Nerea* is Greek accusative: Nereus is a sea-god, father of the Nereids (cf. on 20 above).

diversis servit sua terra fenestris: "their own land serves the various windows"; each room has its own view of the landscape beyond the water.

76. haec: *sc. fenestra*.

Inarimen (Greek accusative) . . . **Prochyta:** islands to the NNW across the bay of Naples from Surrentum; now Ischia and Procida.

paret: "is visible."

77. armiger . . . magni . . . Hectoris: The "armor bearer of great Hector" was Misenus, who also served as trumpeter to Aeneas; he was drowned off the promontory near Baiiae which was named Cape Misenum after him. S. is following the view from left to right.

hac: "here."

inde: "from there."

77-78. malignum / aera: "fetid air"; *aera* (< *aer*) is Greek accusative; trisyllabic. Roman poets frequently commented on the foul-smelling air given off around the volcanic island Nesis in the Gulf of Puteoli.

78. Nesis: feminine.

79. inde: sc. a verb like *paret*.

vagis: "wandering."

omen felix Euploea: the temple of Aphrodite Euploia, "Aphrodite of the Good Voyage," near Naples.

80. ferit: < *ferio*, "strike."

exserta: "being thrust out, stretching out."

Megalia: a tiny island near Naples.

81. angitur: "is distressed"; subject is *Limon*, 82.

et: postponed from the beginning of the clause.

domino contra recubante: "because his master reclines opposite."

82. tuus . . . Limon: a small island across the water from Surrentum where Pollius owned another villa which is said to be pained (*angitur*, 81) because Pollius spends his nights at the Surrentine villa.

83. una . . . una: repeated for emphasis; sc. *diaeta*, "room."

cunctis . . . eminent . . . diaetis: "stands above all (other) rooms"; both literally and figuratively the room is superior. *diaeta:* "way of life," here "room."

84. Parthenopen: Greek accusative; Parthenope, originally the name of a siren whose body was washed ashore near Naples, is used by metonymy for Naples itself.

directo limite ponti: "over the straight path of sea."

85. ingerit: < *ingero*, "bring to one's notice" (*OLD* 3b).

85-93. Statius describes the various marble types found in Pollius' villa.

85. Grais . . . metallis: ablative of source, "from Greek quarries."

delecta: < *deligo*, "choose."

86. saxa: i.e., types of marble, specified in following lines.

quod: relative pronoun.

Eoae . . . Syenes: "of Eastern Syene" (Aswan, in Egypt); the granite of Syene was red: *Syenes:* Greek genitive; scan *Eoae* - - -.

respergit: "sprinkles," referring to the spotted appearance of this stone.

vena: the streaking common in marble.

87. **Synnade:** < *Synnas*, a town in Phrygia famous for its white marble with purple spots.

maesta: with *Synnade*; the town was sad because of the death of Attis, a favorite of Cybele (cf. 88), the Phrygian goddess. It was said that the blood of Attis, who was gored by a boar, made the marble of Synnas spotted with purple.

fodere: < *fodio*, "dig"; for the form see on 65-66.

secures: < *securis*, "axe."

88. **lugentis:** with *Cybeles* (Greek genitive), who mourned the death of Attis.

marmore picto: "on the decorated marble."

89. **distinguitur:** "is marked, adorned."

gyro: "circle."

90. **Amyclaei . . . Lycurgi:** "Spartan Lycurgus" was a legendary lawgiver; Amyclae was a town near Sparta whose name is used here in adjectival form for "Spartan."

caesum: "cut," sc. *saxum*.

viret: The green stone found near Sparta was porphyry.

92. **Nomadum . . . flaventia saxa:** "the yellow marbles of the Numidians" (i.e., from north Africa) were yellow with red spots.

Thasos: Thasos, a Greek island in the Aegean, produced a white marble with bluish spots. The name of the island is used by metonymy for its marble.

93. **Chios:** another island whose name is used for its marble; Chian marble was multicolored.

Carystos: The marble of Carystos in Greece was white with green veins.

94. **omnia:** sc. *saxa*.

Chalcidicas turris: "the towers of Chalcis" refers to Naples, which was sometimes said to have been founded by Cumae, itself a colony of Chalcis in Greece.

obversa: "facing (them from the opposite side of the water)."

95. **macte animo:** a conventional good wish. *macte* may be an adverb or it may be derived from *mactus*, past participle < **mago*, "increase," but *mago* itself is unattested.

Graia: "Greek things" i.e., Greek culture; the second *Graia* goes with *arva* in 96.

96. **nec invideant:** subjunctive in negative hortatory clause; subject is *moenia* in 97.

genuere: < *gigno*, "beget"; on the ending, see on 66.

96-97. **Dicarchi / moenia:** Puteoli; cf. on 3.

97. **nos:** the people of Naples, including Stattus.

docto . . . alumno: Pollius is the "learned fosterling."

melius potiemur: "we shall take better charge of." Cultured Neapolitans, like Stattius, will take better advantage of the presence of Pollius, himself a cultured man with literary interests (*docto*), than could Puteoli. *potiemur* < *potior*, "take possession of, be master of" + ablative.

98-106. Stattius describes the hills around Pollius' estate.

98-99. ponto novalia . . . / iniecta: "the fields jutting into the sea."

99. Baccheo nectare: "the nectar of Bacchus," i.e., wine.

100. iam pubescente Lyaeo: ablative absolute, "when the grapes are already growing to maturity." On Lyaeus, see on I.4.31.

101. conscendit: *Nereis* in 103 is subject.

noctisque occulta sub umbra: "hidden under the shade of night"; modifies *Nereis*, 103.

102. palmite maturo: "with a ripe vine branch."

103. Nereis: "a Nereid."

104. sparsa: < *spargo*, "sprinkle."

vindemia: "the vines, the grapes."

105. Satyri: Satyrs, goatish rustic divinities.

cecidere vadis = ceciderunt in vada, "have jumped into the water."

105-06. nudam . . . Dorida: < *Doris*, the Nereid mentioned in 103.

106. Panes: "Pan-gods," woodland divinities of a goatish appearance, resembling Pan, the son of Mercury.

107-55. Stattius praises Pollius and his wife Polla; 107-142 praise Pollius.

107. Sis felix: "May you be fruitful"; hortatory subjunctive.

dominis ambobus: to Pollius and Polla.

107-08. in annos / Mygdonii Pyliique senis: "unto the years of the Trojan and Pylian old men." Tithonus of Phrygia, near Troy, and Nestor, king of Pylos, were known for their extremely long lives. See on I.4.125-127.

108. nec mutes: negative hortatory subjunctive.

109. cultu: ablative of specification, "in his [Pollius'] care, cultivation."

109-10. Tiryntia / aula: meaning of "Tiryntian hall" unclear. Tiryntis, a Greek city, was associated with Hercules, who had a temple in Tibur (modern Tivoli). Perhaps Pollius had a home at Tibur, as he did at Naples (110).

110. Dicarcheique sinus: the Bay of Naples; see on 3.

isti: Pollius.

111. Therapnaei: "Spartan," after Therapnae, a town near Sparta.

Galesi: The Galesus river was in southern Italy near Tarentum, founded by Spartan exiles.

112. Pierias artes: Pollius was a poet; see on 42.

exercet: "works at."

113. volvit: "thinks over."

Gargettius auctor: Epicurus, who was born in Gargettus in Attica.

114. nostram chelyn: "our lyre," that of the hexameter poet.

114-15. dissona / carmina: "unequal verse," the elegiac meter in which hexameters alternate with pentameters.

115. minax: "threateningly," because iambic verse (*iambon*, Greek accusative) was used for invective.

ultorem: The supposed inventor of iambic satire, Archilochus (7th century B.C.), is said to have avenged himself on his fickle girlfriend by satirizing her in iambs.

stringit: "bares," as one would a sword.

116. levis: "swift."

meliora: better than the Sirens' own songs.

117. motis . . . cristis: ablative absolute, "her helmet cocked," to allow her to hear.

Tritonia: an epithet of Minerva.

118. tunc: when Pollius recites his poetry.

rapidi: "savage."

ponunt: intransitive, "settle down."

119. emergunt: subject is *delphines*; Pollius is like Arion in the effect of his songs upon animals.

pelago: ablative of place from which.

doctam: "learned," because of the technique and lore of the poet.

120. scopulis: ablative of place where, "by the cliffs."

delphines: < *delphin*, "dolphin"; Greek nominative plural.

aderrant: "wander towards."

121. Vive: "Live long!"

Midae: "of Midas," the king of Phrygia legendary for the wealth he acquired through his "golden touch."

Lydo . . . auro: the gold of Croesus, king of Lydia (6th century B.C.).

122. Troica et Euphratae supra diademata felix: "prosperous beyond the crowns of Troy and the Euphrates [i.e., Persia]"; the wealth of Priam and of the Persian kings was proverbial.

Euphratae, genitive < *Euphrates*, the Euphrates River, here used for Persia itself. The Euphrates flows through modern Iraq and Syria.

123. **ambigui fasces**: "uncertain fasces" do not appeal to Pollius because Epicureans avoided politics.

mobile: "fickle."

125. **spemque metumque**: emotions not allowed to trouble the calm breast of the Epicurean philosopher.

domas: "you control, subdue."

voto: "desire." The wise man is above wishes and desires.

126. **exemptus fati**: "freed from Fate," because Epicureans did not believe fate exercised any influence over human life.

indignantem: "indignant," because he pays no attention to her.

refellens: "confuting, disproving."

127. **turbine rerum**: "the whirlwind of affairs," which Pollius, as an Epicurean, might be expected to ignore.

128. **depredet**: < *depre(he)ndo*, "catch unawares."

suprema dies: i.e., "the day of death."

128-29. **abire paratum / ac plenum vita**: The Epicurean Lucretius wrote (*De Rerum Natura* III.938) that a mortal should leave life like a sated dinner guest, *plenus vitae* (Stattus uses *vita* [ablative] for metrical reasons).

129. **nos**: "we (lesser mortals)"; in apposition with *vilis turba*.

caducis: "transitory," with *bonis* in 130.

130. **deservire**: "to be slaves to," with *parati*.

semper optare: "always to wish (for something new)," instead of being satisfied.

131. **spargimur in casus**: "we are cast about onto chance calamities," instead of living life in a reasoned and controlled manner as the Epicurean does.

celsa . . . mentis ab arce: "from the lofty citadel of your mind"; Stattus loosely imitates Lucretius 2.1ff.

132. **errantis**: sc. *homines*.

133. **tempus erat cum**: "there was a time when," with subjunctive (*diriperent*, "tore in two" and *veherere* [= *vehereris*, "were carried"] in 134) in temporal clause.

geminae suffragia terrae: "the votes of two lands," a reference to Pollius' political activities. Puteoli and Naples are the two lands.

135. **inde**: "there," in Puteoli.

Dicarcheis . . . colonis: "the colonists of Dicarchus," i.e., the citizens of Puteoli.

136. **hinc**: "here," in Stattus' city of Naples.

adscite: < *adscisco*, "adopt, receive." Pollius was "adopted" by Naples because he held office there and in Puteoli.

his . . . et illis: to the citizens of Naples and Puteoli.

largus: "generous."

137. **iuvenile calens**: "fired up like a youth"; the neuter singular of the adjective is used as an adverb.

pectri errore: "in the vagaries of your poetry"; Pollius' verse was of various sorts.

138. **discussa rerum caligine**: ablative absolute, "the darkness of superfluous things being dispersed." Pollius has given up his interest in public affairs and has achieved philosophic understanding.

139. **illo . . . alto**: the sea of political unrest and civic duties.

rursus: "on the other hand."

140. **tua**: with *ratis* in 140.

141. **perge**: imperative, "press on," in his present course of action.

142. **emeritam**: with *puppem*, "your ship that has served its time." *emeritus* (< *emereo*) is usually used of the veteran soldier who has done his duty and has been discharged.

147. **tuque**: The poet praises Polla in 147-154.

nurus . . . Latinas: "the women of Latium," i.e., Roman ladies. The boldfaced words are supplied by the editor to replace a line that has probably dropped out of our manuscripts.

praedocta: "preeminent in learning."

148. **parque viro mentem**: "equal to your husband in intellect"; *mentem* is accusative of specification.

praecordia: "heart"; object of *curae . . . vertere* = *verterunt*.

149. **candida**: "bright," with *gaudia* in 150; sc. *sunt*.

150. **curarum**: genitive with adjective of lacking (*ignara*).

151. **sepositas**: < *sepono*, "hide away, keep in reserve."

strangulat: "chokes." The moneybox (*arca*) does not choke their wealth because Polla is not stingy.

152-53. **avidi . . . dispendia . . . / faenoris**: "the waste of greedy usury." Polla does not lend money against interest and therefore has no reason to worry whether interest payments are made on time. Indeed, as a member of an Epicurean household, Polla would be unlikely to be troubled by either greed or extravagance.

153-54. **expositi census . . . / temperies**: "Your wealth (is) out there for all to see, and (so is) your philosophically acquired moderation in enjoying it."

154-55. Stattus praises the compatibility of Pollius and Polla.

154. deo meliore: "by reason of a better divinity." Concord herself, the best divinity to have on one's side in a marriage, has taught them harmony; *deo meliore* is to be taken closely with both *non ulla* and *non alias*.

143-146. These verses have regularly been transposed to this place on the grounds that the switch from the singular verb in 142 (*dimitte*), where Pollius alone is addressed, to the plural verb in 143 (*discite*) is abrupt, while in 154, Statius has been speaking to both Pollius and Polla.

143. discite: i.e., continue to heed the lessons of Concord.

securi: "free from care," like good Epicureans.

quorum: with *faces* in 144 and *amor* in 145.

de pectore: "sincerely."

144. in longum: "for a long time," taken closely with *coiere*.

144-45. sanctus pudicae / servat amicitiae leges amor: "holy love preserves the laws of a chaste affection."

145. ite per annos: another wish for long life.

146. priscae titulos famae: "the glories of former fame," i.e., the famous tales of long-lasting marriages of the past.

II.3 Arbor Aetedi Melioris

Written as a birthday present to his friend and patron Aetedi Melior, whose parrot is mourned in *Silvae* II.4, this poem gives a mythological account of the peculiar shape of the plane tree on Melior's property on the Caelian Hill in Rome. Aetedi Melior is known only from the poems of Statius and Martial. Meter: dactylic hexameter.

1. **Stat:** *arbor* in 2 is subject.

qua . . . opacet: relative clause of purpose, "where it may overshadow."

perspicuas: "clear," with *aquas*.

nitidi: "elegant."

2. **complexa:** < *complector*, "enfold."

lacus: object of *complexa*.

robore ab imo: "from the lowest (part of its) trunk."

3. **incurvata:** < *incurvo*, "bend"; taken closely with *vadis*, ablative of place where, "bent near the water."

inde: "from there," i.e., from the surface of the water.

cacumine recto: "with its top straight up." The trunk bent first toward the water and then straightened up again.

4. **ceu:** "as if," with subjunctive (*nascatur* and *habitet*) in a conditional clause of comparison.
5. **vitreum:** "glassy."
tacitis radicibus: ablative of means, "with hidden roots."
6. **quid:** "why," with *rogem* in deliberative subjunctive.
tam parva: "such a small thing"; verbs of asking, like *rogo*, may take two accusatives, of the person asked (*Phoebum*) and the thing asked (*tam parva*).
causas: the reasons for the shape of the tree.
7. **Naidēs:** < *Nais*, Greek noun, "Naiad, water nymph." Scan uu.
faciles: "willing, well-disposed," with *Fauni*.
satis est: No higher inspiration will be needed.
Fauni: vocative. Fauns were minor forest gods.
8. **Nympharum:** genitive with *catervae*. Nymphs were semi-divine figures who inhabited woods and bodies of water.
Pana: Greek accusative singular; on Pan, see on II.2.106.
9. **ille:** i.e., Pan.
cunctas: sc. *nymphas*.
tamquam velit: *tamquam* with subjunctive introduces a conditional clause of comparison.
unam: "alone."
10. **Pholoen:** "Pholoe"; accusative singular of a Greek noun.
silvis . . . fluminibusque: "in the woods and by the stream"; ablative of place where.
sequentis: genitive, sc. *Panis*.
11. **hirtos gressus:** The steps of Pan are hairy because he resembled a goat in the lower half of his body.
improba: "roguish."
12. **belligerum Iani nemus:** The grove of Janus was at the base of the Capitoline Hill. The epithet *belligerum* is here transferred from Janus to his grove. Janus is "warlike" because the doors of his shrine in the Forum were opened in the time of war.
- 12-13. **atra Caci / rura:** The monster Cacus lived in a cave on the Aventine Hill. The countryside is gloomy (*atra*) because of the monster who inhabits it.
13. **Quirinalisque . . . per agros:** the lands of the Quirinal Hill; scan *Quirinalisque* u - - - u.
fuga suspensa: "hovering in air in her flight."
14. **Caelica tecta:** "the dwellings on the Caelian Hill." She seems to be running around in circles.
demum: "at length, finally."

15. **qua:** adverb, "where."
placidi: with *lares* in 16.
aperti: i.e., "hospitable."
16. **sine fraude:** "honorably"; the house is credited with its owner's character.
collegit: < *colligo*, "gather up."
17. **artius:** "closer," about her body.
niveae: "snow-white." The river-bank (*ripae*) may be snow-white because of the presence of pebbles. The nymph falls asleep on the bank at this point.
18. **pecorum deus:** i.e., Pan.
- 18-19. **sua credit / conubia:** "he believes marriage (i.e., sexual union) is his."
19. **suspiria librat:** "he evens out his breathing" (or tries to).
20. **praedae:** dative with *imminet*, "hovers over his prey."
21. **Diana:** Diana, the virgin goddess of the hunt, was interested in preserving the chastity of her nymphs.
iuga septem: the seven hills of Rome.
22. **Aventinae:** "of the Aventine Hill."
legit: "follows after, tracks."
23. **paenituiti** < *paenitet*; impersonal; "she was sorry, regretted."
vidisse: object not stated; understand "the scene."
deam: Diana.
conversa: "turning around," with *ad comites* in 24.
24. **avidis . . . rapinis:** ablative of separation with *arcebo*, "keep from."
25. **hoc . . . pecus:** the satyrs, of which Pan was one.
pudici: genitive with *chori* in 26.
26. **decreset:** "will decrease (in number)."
chori: i.e., her nymphs.
27. **pharetra:** ablative of separation after a verb compounded in *de-* (*depromit*).
- 27-28. **flexis / cornibus:** "from bent bow," ancient bows having the shape of joined animal horns.
28. **solito . . . stridore:** "with the usual whistling sound" from discharging an arrow from a bow.
una: with *manu* in 29.
29. **contenta:** "intent, eager"; nominative.
laevam: sc. *manum*.
soporae: with *Naidos* in 30; *Naidos* is a Greek genitive.
30. **aversa .. sagitta:** "with the turned-around arrow," i.e., with the feathered end.

- fertur:** "is said," with *tetigisse*.
31. **illa:** Phoebe; *illa*, as often, signals a new subject.
pariter: "at the same time," i.e., on waking she saw both the daylight and Pan at the same moment.
protervum: "lustful."
32. **ne panderet:** negative clause of purpose; *panderet:* "spread open, expose."
sicut erat: explained by *cum veste*, "with her clothes on."
stagnis sub altis: "in the deep marshes."
34. **Pana sequi:** indirect discourse, dependent on *credens*.
ima . . . alga: "in the depth of the weeds."
implicat: "enfolds, wraps."
35. **quid faceret:** deliberative subjunctive in past time, "What was he to do?"
subito: adverb.
praedo: "robber, plunderer"; nominative.
36. **credere . . . aquis:** to entrust to the waters."
- 36-37. **hirtae . . . sibi conscius / pellis:** "mindful of his hairy hide," which would absorb water.
37. **a tenero:** "from childhood."
nandi rudis: "unskilled at swimming"; *nandi* is genitive of the gerund < *no*, "swim."
- 37-38. **omnia questus / irrita:** "making all sorts of useless laments."
38. **membrorum stagna invida et invida tela:** in apposition with *omnia questus / irrita*.
39. **primaevam visu:** "youthful to behold"; *visu* is ablative of the supine denoting specification.
platanum: < *platanus*, -i, f., "plane tree"; object of *deposuit*, "placed down," in 41.
cui: dative of possession; sc. *erat*.
propago: "shoot, stem."
40. **manus:** "branches."
iturus in aethera vertex: "a top which would reach to heaven."
41. **iuxta:** adverb, "nearby," i.e., to the place where the nymph disappeared from view.
vivam: "fresh."
42. **optatis:** "desired," because he would gladly have jumped into them had he been able to swim.
43. **nostri pignus memorabile voti:** "as a token calling to mind my vow."

44. **durae**: "harsh, unyielding."
cubilia: "abode, home."
45. **declinis**: "bending down."
preme: imperative.
46. **illa quidem meruit**: looks ahead to *aestuēt* and *feriatur*.
ne: introduces negative hortatory subjunctive (*aestuēt* and *feriatur* in 47).
igne superno: "(by) the fire from high," i.e., the sun.
47. **grandine**: < *grando*, "hail."
tantum: "only, just."
48. **tu**: still addressed to the plane tree.
memento: future imperative of the defective verb *memini*, which lacks a present imperative.
49. **teque**: refers to the tree; object of both *recolam* and *tutabor* in 50.
recolam: "I shall remember."
dominam: The nymph becomes a sort of protective deity over the site.
50. **sedis**: "abode."
inlaesa: with *senecta*, "in a secure old age."
utramque: both the tree and Pholoe.
51. **ut**: introducing purpose clause with subjunctive (*stupeant*, 52).
Iovis: sc. *frondes*; the "tree of Jupiter" is the oak.
Phoebi frondes: The "tree of Phoebus" is the baytree.
discolor umbra: "bicolored in its shade." The poplar (*populus*, 52) was considered by the ancients to have leaves with white upper surfaces and green lower surfaces; *umbra* is ablative of specification.
52. **stupeant**: "may marvel at."
germina: object of *stupeant*.
53. **illa**: the *arbor*.
dei in veteres animata calores: "enlivened at the old passion of the god."
54. **uberibus stagnis**: taken closely with *incubat*, 55, "lies over the abundant waters."
55. **scrutatur**: "investigates."
56. **sperat**: transitive, "hopes for."
arcet: "keeps off"; sc. *arborem* as object.
57. **eluctata**: < *eluctor*, "struggle."
sub auras: "into the air" (van Dam).
58. **libratur fundo**: "is poised on its base."
enode: "without knots."

59. **ingeniosa**: Translate as adverb, "cleverly."
levat: "raises, lifts," with *cacumen* as object.
veluti descendat: conditional clause of comparison, "as though it were sinking."
in imos: with *lacus* in 60, "into the depths of the lake."
60. **stirpe . . . alia**: "by another root."
Phoebeia: "of Phoebé," i.e., Diana, sister of Phoebus Apollo.
61. **odit**: sc. *arborem* as object.
invitat: "invites, summons," by mirroring its image.
gurgite: "with her waters."
62. **Haec**: with *dona* in 63.
tibi: for Melior.
parva quidem: "small indeed."
genitali luce: "on your birthday."
63. **ingenti . . . sub aevo**: "throughout a long time."
forsan victura: "perhaps destined to last," in contrast with *parva quidem*.
64. **tu**: introduces a lengthy apostrophe extending through 71, where the verb (*persta*) which belongs with *tu* first appears.
cuius: with *in pectore*, "in whose heart."
65. **hilaris tamen cum pondere virtus**: "virtuè cheerful yet solid."
66. **cui**: sc. *est*. Melior was an Epicurean, and thus believed the Epicurean doctrine that ambition and all sorts of mental upset were harmful, but that mere idleness was just as bad.
67. **medius**: with *limes*; sc. *est*. Melior steers a middle course between duty (*honestia*) and pleasure (*dulcia*).
limes: "boundary."
68. **incorrupte fidem**: "uncorrupted in honesty"; *incorrupte* is vocative; *fidem* is accusative of specification.
experte: < *experior*, "experience"; vocative.
69. **sectate**: < *sector*, "pursue, investigate"; vocative.
quo degeris ordine vitam: indirect question depending on *sectate*, "in what manner you may spend your life."
- 70-71. **optimus . . . comere . . . immittere**: "best at arranging and letting in"; the infinitives are explanatory (AG 461).
71. **opibusque immittere lucem**: Melior lets the light shine on his money, i.e., he is not a miser.
72. **hac**: with *animi morumque iuventa*: "in this youthfulness of mind and manner."
longum: adverb, "for a long time."
73. **Iliacos . . . senes**: See on I.4.125 and II.2.107-108.

persta: "strive to equal."

74. **quos:** antecedent is *annos*.

Elysio: "to Elysium."

75. **hoc:** that Melior be allowed to live longer than they did.

illi: Melior's parents.

exoravere: "gained by entreaty from" (*OLD* 2), with *Sorores* as object.

Sorores: the Fates.

76. **hoc:** sc. *exoravit*, with *gloria* (77) as subject.

76-77. **quae . . . revirescet:** "which shall flourish again." The antecedent is *gloria*.

76. **te sub teste:** "with you as witness."

situm fugitura tacentem: "destined to escape silent decay"; with *gloria*.

77. **ardua:** "lofty."

Blaesi: a deceased friend of Melior whose renown (*gloria*), even in the underworld, has helped obtain for Melior a long life. Blaesus, like Melior a leisured lover of art and patron of literature, seems to have been dead some years at the time of this poem: Melior has had Blaesus' birthday commemorated in poetry as a memorial.

II.4. *Psittacus Eiusdem*

This poem is a mock-serious lament on the death of the pet parrot of Statius' friend Atedius Melior. Meter: dactylic hexameter.

1. **Psittace:** vocative, as are *dux*, *voluptas*, *imitator* and *psittace* in 2.

volucrum: genitive plural; *volucer*, properly an adjective, is often used as a noun to mean "bird."

domini: Atedius Melior.

facunda: "eloquent," because able to speak.

2. **sollers:** "clever."

3. **subito:** adjective with *fato*.

praeclusit: < *praecludo*, "shut off, close."

murmura: "babblings."

4. **miserande:** future passive participle < *miseror*, "lament"; hence, "O pitiable one!"

inisti: < *ineo*, "enter and take part in." The parrot went to dinner like a guest.

5. **gratae:** The delicacies pleased both the guests and the parrot.

- carpentem:** sc. *te*, object of *vidimus* in 7.
munera: "treats, fruits."
6. **toris:** "couches"; ablative of place where.
mediae plus tempore noctis: "long after midnight."
7. **affatus:** accusative plural < *affatus*, "phrase, expression."
meditata: < *meditor*, "practice, exercise"; words which he had practiced with his master until he could reproduce them at will. Passive.
8. **at:** marking a strong contrast to what had gone before.
Lethes: Greek genitive singular; Lethe, the river of forgetfulness, is here used of the underworld in general.
9. **ille canorus:** "thou melodious one."
cedat: jussive subjunctive, "let it give way."
Phaethontia: "connected with Phaethon"; adjective with *fabula* in 10; Statius alludes to the story of Cygnus, who mourned the death of his cousin Phaethon, and was turned into a swan.
vulgi: closely with *fabula*, "the people's talk (of Phaethon)."
10. **celebrant sua funera cygni:** Swans were believed to sing most beautifully at the moment of death (hence "swan song"), thus making known (*celebrant*) their own deaths (*funera*).
- 11-15. Statius describes the parrot's cage, which had an ivory floor, silver bars, and a golden dome.
11. **tibi:** the parrot is addressed.
rutila testudine fulgens: "shining with bright dome"; *rutilus*, "red, ruddy," can refer to the brightness of gold and other metals; *testudo*, "tortoise shell," is sometimes used to refer to domed or vaulted areas.
12. **ebori:** < *ebur*: "ivory."
virgarum . . . ordo: "row of bars." The bars were attached to (*conexus*) the ivory floor.
13. **argutum:** "shrilly"; adverbial accusative.
stridentia: "grating," at the touch of the parrot's beak (*cornu*).
14. **sponte:** The door raises a cry on its own in grief at the death of its owner.
beatus: "splendid."
15. **convicia:** "sharp jests," since some of the parrot's words were witticisms and possibly curses.
16. **doctae:** because able to produce human words.
stipentur: "let them flock together."
quis = quibus.
- 16-17. **fandi / ius:** "the privilege of speaking."
17. **Phoebus aves:** The "bird of Apollo" is the raven.

18. **memor penitus:** i.e., "recalling by heart," with infinitive (*demittere*).

voces: "words, expressions."

19. **sturnus:** "starling."

picae: "magpies"; the maidens who challenged the Muses to a musical contest on Helicon (*Aonio certamine*) were changed to magpies; for *Aonio*, see on I.4.20.

20. **quique = qui + que;** relative pronoun.

refert iungens iterata vocabula: "joins in speaking the repeated words" (van Dam). The partridge is ranged with other types of birds in being able to speak.

perdix: "partridge." Perdix was killed out of jealousy for his cleverness as an inventor by his uncle, the more famous inventor Daedalus, who threw him from the Athenian Acropolis (whereupon he turned into a partridge).

21. **Bistonio:** adjective for "Thracian," from the Bistones, a Thracian tribe.

soror: Philomela and Procne were sisters: when Procne's husband Tereus tried to kill them, all three were turned into birds. Here one of the sisters is a nightingale.

orba: "desolate and helpless," in her lonely confinement in Thrace where Tereus was king.

22. **gemitus:** accusative; object of *ferte*.

cognata: with *funera* in 23; the corpse (*funera*) is called "kindred" because of the ability which the parrot shared with the others of talking.

ducite: The birds are bidden to conduct (*ducite*) the bird to burial in a funeral cortege.

23. **cunctae:** vocative, "all of you"; the implied *aves* determines the gender.

miserandum: "piteous."

24. **occidit:** < *occido*, "perish"; the verb stands first for pathetic emphasis.

25. **viridis:** with *ille regnator*.

26. **gemmata . . . cauda:** "jewelled tail"; ablative.

volucris: nominative singular with *Iunonia*; "Juno's bird" was the peacock.

27. **vinceret:** "could surpass"; potential subjunctive in past time, expressed regularly by the imperfect.

gelidi . . . Phasidis ales: the pheasant; the river Phasis was in Colchis, on the eastern shore of the Black Sea, now in the Soviet Union.

28. **quas:** sc. *aves* as antecedent.
Numidae: The Numidians lived in north Africa in what is now Algeria.
rapuere: "plundered, captured."
30. **Caesareum:** adjective, "of Caesar," i.e., of Domitian.
queruli: "talkative, sharp-tongued."
vice: < *vicis* (no nominative in use), "part, office, duty,"
 ablative with *functus* (< *fungor*), "perform").
31. **levis:** "sprightly."
monstrata: "taught."
32. **facilis:** "ready, skillful," with infinitive *reddere* in 31.
quo . . . recluso: ablative absolute, "when he was let out";
recluso (< *recludo*).
Melior: See introduction to II.3.
dilecte: vocative, "beloved."
33. **inglorius:** Translate adverbially, "ingloriously."
34. **cineres:** The bird will be cremated amidst great ceremony.
adolentur: "give off fragrance."
amomo: "balsam," an aromatic plant from the east (*Assyrio*).
35. **tenuis:** "delicate."
Arabum . . . gramine: "The plant of 'the Arabs' is probably myrrh.
respirant: "give forth a vapor, fragrance" (*OLD* 3d); not used elsewhere with ablative.
36. **crocis:** "saffron," used in perfume and derived from Sicily (*Sicaniis*); ablative.
nec: to be taken with the whole clause.
37. **scandet:** future < *scando*, "mount, climb."
Phoenix: the legendary bird that was said to live 500 or 600 years and then build a magnificent and fragrant pyre for itself (*odoratos ignis*) which it would light by fanning with its wings. From its ashes a new phoenix would be born.

II.5 Leo Mansuetus

This poem, written immediately after the event which it commemorates, laments the death of a tamed lion in the arena. Meter: dactylic hexameter.

1. **Quid profuit:** "What did it benefit, what good did it do?"
tibi: addressed to the newly-deceased lion.

monstrata . . . ira: ablative absolute, "once your anger had been manifested."

2. **quid:** sc. *profuit* (and again in 4).

animo dediscere: "to unlearn from your mind," hence "to forget."

3. **domino minori:** dative with *parere*; *minori* because the strength of the lion is superior to that of his human master.

4. **domo:** "den."

claustra: "cage," equivalent to *domus*.

reverti: < *revertor*, "return"; depends on *suetus* in 5.

suetus: < *suesco*, "become accustomed."

iam: taken closely with *capta*, "(the prey) already captured."

recedere: depending on *suetus* as is *dimittere* in 6.

insertas manus: the hands of the trainer, as in modern circuses.

laxo: as if *laxato* in ablative absolute with *morsu*, "your bite relaxed."

7. **vastator docte:** vocative, "learned ravager." The lion is "learned" because he has been taught to put aside his inborn ferocity.

8. **non grege Massylo:** The Massylians of Numidia in north Africa are depicted as encircling the beast with a net (*curva indagine*).

9. **formidato:** "dreaded."

supra venabula: "over the hunting spears."

10. **caeco foveae deceptus hiatu:** Lions in antiquity were sometimes chased into a pit (*fovea*) whose mouth was covered (*caecus hiatus*) to hide it.

11. **sed victus fugiente fera:** In contrast to the ferocious types of combat, worthy of the lion, mentioned in 8-10, the lion was undone by a fleeing beast. Statius leaves the exact means of death unclear, but it would have been obvious to the witnesses of the event.

12. **infelix:** The epithet is transferred from the lion to his cage (*cavea*).

clausas . . . portas: "behind the barriers all around."

13. **hoc licuisse nefas:** "that this unspeakable deed was allowed"; indirect discourse dependent on *intumuere*.

placidi: The other lions are also tamed.

intumuere: < *intumesco*, "swell with anger."

14. **cunctis:** "all" the lions.

cecidere iubae: They were "crestfallen" to behold such a sad event.

relatum: sc. *leonem*.

15. **torvas duxere in lumina frontis:** The lions, personified, frown.
16. **fusum:** with *primo ictu*, "when dashed by the first blow."
17. **cadenti:** sc. *tibi*.
18. **protinus:** "at once."
19. **terga dedere:** "turned their backs (in flight)"; here the military idiom means "acknowledged defeat."
minae: "threats," hence "fierceness."
- 19-20. **sibi conscius alti / vulneris:** "realizing to himself the deep wound."
20. **moriens:** "dying."
21. **labente:** "drooping."
22. **piger . . . gradu:** "slow of step"; *gradu* is ablative of specification.
ille: the lion.
solitoque exutus [< exuo] honore: "stripped of his wonted dignity"; *solito honore* is ablative of separation.
23. **firmat:** "steadies."
24. **solatia leti:** "solace for your death."
- 25-27. **te . . . mori:** "that you were dying"; accusative and infinitive after *ingemuere*.
25. **maesti:** with both *populus* and *Patres*.
Patres: The senators were called *Patres* or *Patres Conscripti* (i.e., "enrolled" as senators).
26. **ceu . . . caderes:** "as if you were falling"; *ceu* introduces a conditional clause of comparison with subjunctive; here the condition is contrary to fact.
27. **magni . . . Caesaris:** the emperor Domitian.
quod: causal; providing another *solatium* to the lion.
ora: object of *tetigit* in 30.
28. **inter tot Scythicas . . . feras:** The beasts used in the arena were drawn from all over the Roman Empire, including Scythia (in the Ukraine), Libya in north Africa, Germany (*a litore Rheni*) and Egypt (*Pharia de gente*; the island of Pharus protected the harbor of Alexandria).
29. **vile:** "insignificant," in comparison with the loss of such a lion.
30. **tetigit:** "touched."
iactura: "loss."

II.7 Genethliacon Lucani ad Pollam

In this poem, commissioned by Lucan's widow Polla Argentaria, Stattus celebrates the anniversary of the birthday of the dead poet. Marcus Annaeus Lucanus, called Lucan (39-65 A.D.), was forced to commit suicide on the order of his former friend the Emperor Nero, who had become jealous of Lucan's talent and popularity. Of all Lucan's works to which Stattus alludes in this poem (verses 54-72), only the *Bellum Civile*, sometimes called *Pharsalia*, survives, left incomplete at Lucan's death. The date of Stattus' poem is uncertain, but it would seem that about 25 years have lapsed since Lucan's death.

Meter: hendecasyllables; line 1 is scanned as follows:

- - - - -
 Lucani proprium diem frequentet

1. **proprium diem:** "one's own day," hence "one's birthday"; Lucan's birthday was November 3.

frequentet: hortatory subjunctive, "let him attend"; subject is *quisquis* in 2.

2. **quisquis:** i.e.; all poetic personages.

collibus Isthmiae Diones: *collibus* is ablative of place where; Venus is here identified with Dione, who was in fact her mother. "Isthmian Venus" was worshipped at Corinth, where the famous Isthmus was located. *Diones:* Greek genitive.

3. **docto . . . oestro:** "with learned frenzy," as poets are often depicted in ancient verse.

pectora: accusative of specification with *concitatus*.

concitatus: "stirred, spurred on."

4. **pendentis . . . unguiae:** The horse Pegasus, striking the ground with his hoof (*ungulae*) while hovering in air (*pendentis*), created the spring Hippocrene on Mt. Helicon, which, like Pirene, was a home of the Muses. By mentioning Hippocrene in 4 in connection with Corinth in *collibus Isthmiae Diones* (2), Stattus confuses the two sacred sites, Hippocrene and Pirene, a spring at Corinth.

5. **ipsi:** explained in *repertor* (6), *tu . . . rotator* (7) and *et Paeon et . . . sorores* (8).

quos penes: The preposition *penes*, "in the possession of," follows its object (*quos*).

6. **citharae repertor Arcas:** "The Arcadian inventor of the lyre" is Mercury, born on Mt. Cyllene in Arcadia; *Arcas:* "Arcadian."

7. **Bassaridum rotator Euhan:** "Bacchus, you who cause the Bacchantes to whirl about"; Bacchus was sometimes called Euhan from the cry "euoe!" which his devotees uttered. *Bassaridum* < *Bassaris*, "Bassarid, Bacchant," from the Greek noun *bassara*, "fox skin," which followers of Bacchus sometimes wore. *rotator*: "one who whirls or turns."
8. **Paean:** See on I.4.107-108.
Hyantiae sorores: i.e., the Muses; Hyantes is an old name for the Boeotians.
9. **laetae:** Translate adverbially, "happily."
novate: imperative, "renew."
10. **comite:** imperative < *como*, "arrange, adorn."
11. **perfundant:** "let them pour about"; hortatory subjunctive.
recentiores: "more recently picked."
12. **docti . . . amnes:** "learned streams," which inspire poets.
evagentur: hortatory, "let them wander."
13. **Aoniae . . . silvae:** the forests of Aonia (part of Boeotia), location of Mt. Helicon, home of the Muses.
virete: imperative, "grow green, flourish."
14. **si qua patulam diem recepit:** "if anywhere it (i.e., the *umbra* of 15) has admitted the spreading daylight."
15. **expleatur:** hortatory, with *umbra* as subject.
16. **Thespiacis . . . lucis:** "groves of Thespieae," a Boeotian town at the foot of Helicon: *lucis* < *lucus*, "grove."
17. **stent:** hortatory, with *altaria* as subject.
18. **Dirce:** the fountain Dirce, near Thebes, also in Boeotia.
19. **favete linguis:** "favor (us) with your tongues," i.e., "be silent," a request commonly uttered at the beginning of religious ceremonies.
20. **vestra est ista dies:** The birthday of Lucan is the Muses' day because Lucan became their servant as a poet.
21. **qui:** i.e., Lucan.
geminas . . . artes: "two arts," i.e., prose and verse.
22. **vinctae pede vocis:** sc. *per artem*, "(through the art) of the voice bound by poetic foot," i.e., verse.
solutae: i.e., prose.
23. **colitur:** "is being venerated."
sacerdos: i.e., Lucan.
24. **tellus:** Lucan was born at Corduba, modern Cordova, in Spain.
25. **quae:** with *vides* in 26.
pronos Hyperionis meatus: "the setting motions of the sun." Hyperion, father of the sun, is here identified with the sun.

26. **summis . . . undis:** "in the furthest waves," i.e., furthest west.
27. **stridorem rotae cadentis:** "the hissing of the lowering wheel," on the sun's chariot as it plunged into the cool ocean.
28. **quae:** with **Baetica** (sc. *tellus*) in 29. *Baetica* was the province of south central Spain drained by the Baetis river.
Tritonidi: < *Tritonis*, "Athena"; here means "olive tree," Athena's gift to Athens.
29. **unctis . . . trapetis:** "dripping olive presses."
provocas: "challenge."
30. **imputare terris:** "take credit for (Lucan) to the world"; *terrīs* = *orbi terrarum*.
31. **hoc plus:** sc. *erat*, "this (i.e., to have given Lucan) (was) more" than to have given (*quam dedisse*).
Senecam: the philosopher Seneca (ca. 4 B.C.- A.D. 65), Lucan's uncle.
32. **Gallionem:** Lucius Annaeus Gallio was the brother of Seneca and was known for his eloquence, hence *dulcem*.
33. **attollat:** hortatory; subject is *Baetis*.
refluos: "flowing backwards." In celebration of Lucan's birth the river Baetis should flow backwards and upwards towards its source (but also towards the heavens).
34. **Graio . . . Melete:** ablative of comparison with *nobilior*. The "Greek Meles" is a river in Asia Minor near which Homer was supposedly born.
35. **Baetim:** accusative of Greek noun.
Mantua: vocative; Mantua was Vergil's hometown in northern Italy.
noli: "don't" with infinitive, expressing prohibition; *noli* is imperative < *nolo*.
36. **Natum** [sc. *Lucanum*] **protinus:** "immediately at birth."
37. **dulce vagientem:** "sweetly whimpering"; *dulce* is adverbial accusative.
38. **blando . . . sinu:** ablative of place where.
Calliope: the muse of epic poetry.
39. **primum posito . . . luctu:** ablative absolute, "her grief for the first time put aside." Calliope, the mother of the singer Orpheus, grieved bitterly at the untimely death of her son.
remissa: "gentle, gay."
40. **Orpheos:** Greek genitive < *Orpheus*; scan - u u.
exuit: < *exuo*, "put off, put aside."

41. **puer o dicatē Musis:** "boy consecrated to the Muses"; *dicatē* is vocative < *dico*, -*are*, "dedicate, consecrate."
42. **longaevos:** "of great age, elderly."
cito: adverb, "quickly."
transiture: vocative, "destined to surpass"; future participle < *transeo*.
- 43-44. **non tu flumina . . . ornos:** Calliope tells Lucan that his talent will be to move not trees and rivers, as Orpheus had done, but the seven hills of Rome.
44. **Geticas:** "Thracian"; see on II.2.61.
45. **Martium Thybrim:** "warlike Tiber."
47. **purpureum:** "purple-clad."
trahes: "you will draw along" a city fascinated by the music.
- 48-51. Calliope lists epic subjects to be avoided.
48. **nocturnas . . . ruinas:** the fall of Troy. This and the other subjects listed had figured not only in the famous epics of Homer and Vergil, but in the imitations and variations of numerous lesser poets.
alii: subject of *sequantur* (51).
49. **tarde reducis vias Vlixis:** "the path of the late-returning Ulysses."
50. **puppem temerariam Minervae:** "the bold ship of Minerva," the Argo whose voyage to Colchis in search of the Golden Fleece was treated in the Greek epic *Argonautica* by Apollonius of Rhodes (ca. 295-215 B.C.) and in the Latin *Argonautica* of Varro of Atax (ca. 82-36 B.C.). Varro's version is alluded to in verse 77. The Argo is called "Minerva's ship" because she inspired Argus who built it.
51. **trita vatibus orbita:** ablative of description, "in a path well-worn by poets."
52. **tu:** i.e., Lucan.
Latium: "to Latium," the region of Italy in which Rome was located.
53. **carmen . . . togatum:** "A toga-clad poem" is one on a Roman subject.
fortior: "braver" than other poets. Lucan's bravery lay in defying tradition to choose a subject for epic not based, like those mentioned in 48-50, on a mythological subject.
exseris: < *exsero*, "put forth, bring out."
- 54-71. A catalogue of Lucan's works is given.
teneris adhuc in annis: Lucan was well known for his precocity; of course, he only lived to be 26!

55. ludes: < *ludo*, "play," in a literary sense. "write triflingly, write as practice," a term regularly used to denote poetic composition of a lighter sort.

Hectora: Greek accusative singular. Hector was the brave son of King Priam of Troy. Lucan's early poem on Troy, alluded to in 55-56, was called *Iliaca*.

Thessalosque currus: the chariot behind which Achilles (from Thessaly) dragged Hector's corpse around Troy.

56. supplex . . . aurum: Priam's gold is "suppliant" because he used it to ransom back Hector's dead body from Achilles.

57. sedis reserabis inferorum: "you shall open up the abodes of the dead," a reference to Lucan's poem *Catachthonia*, or journey to the underworld.

58. ingratus Nero: cf. introduction to this poem. The work alluded to was called *Laudes Neronis*.

theatris: Literary recitations were a public spectacle in imperial Rome.

59. noster Orpheus: *noster* because Orpheus was Calliope's son. Lucan's poem was called simply *Orpheus*.

tibi: dative of agent.

proferetur: "will be set forth," in recitations.

60. culminibus: ablative of place where; the "rooftops of Remus" are the buildings of Rome.

vagantis: agrees with *infandos ignis*, 61.

60-61. vagantis / infandos . . . ignis: Lucan's *De Incendio Urbis*, probably in prose, on the fire that consumed Rome in A.D. 64. Some said the fire was set on Nero's orders, hence *domini nocentis*.

62. hinc: "next."

titulum: "honor, glory."

Pollae: Lucan's wife, Polla Argentaria, dedicatee of this poem as well as of one by her husband; dative with *dabis*, 63.

64. coepta generosior iuventa: "nobler once young manhood is under way."

65. albos ossibus Italis Philippos: "Philippi white with Italian bones"; Philippi, in Macedonia, was the scene of a decisive battle in which Octavian, later Augustus, and Marc Antony defeated Cassius and Brutus in 42 B.C. Lucan's *Bellum Civile*, alluded to in 65-72, does not, in its extant form, extend to 42 B.C. Perhaps by mentioning Philippi here Statius is hinting that Lucan had intended to carry his poem to that point.

66. Pharsalica bella: The defeat of Pompey by Julius Caesar in the Civil War took place at Pharsalus in Thessaly in 48 B.C.

detonabis: "you shall thunder forth," a reference to Lucan's loud declamatory style.

67. quo fulmen: "where [i.e., at Pharsalia] the lightning-bolt" struck the earth.

ducis . . . divi: "deified general," Julius Caesar, deified after his assassination in 44 B. C.

68. Catonem: Marcus Cato the Younger (95-46 B.C.) opposed Caesar in the Civil War and eventually committed suicide in defeat. Cato, a Stoic, was known for his stern demeanor (*gravem*).

69. gratum popularitate Magnum: "Magnus, well liked for his desire to please the people." Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (106-48 B.C.), Caesar's chief enemy in the Civil War, earned the cognomen Magnus for his services to Rome against foreign kings.

70. Pelusiaci scelus Canopi: the murder of Pompey in Egypt after his defeat by Caesar. Canopus and Pelusium were cities in the Nile delta.

71. deflebis: "you shall bewail."

pius: Translate adverbially, "reverently."

Pharo cruenta: ablative of comparison with *altius*; Pharos (see on II.5.28) is "bloody" (*cruenta*) as the site of Pompey's ignominious burial (Lucan VIII.712-793).

72. sepulcrum: the *Bellum Civile* with its tribute to Pompey.

73. haec: the works referred to in 54-72.

primo . . . sub aevo: "in early age," all before the age of 26.

74. ante annos Culicis Maroniani: "before the age at which Vergil wrote his *Culex*." The poem called *Culex* (*The Gnat*) was thought to be a work of the very young Vergil (Publius Vergilius *Maro*).

75-80. Calliope lists some famous Roman poets to be surpassed by Lucan.

75. Musa rudis: The style of Quintus Ennius (239-169 B.C.) seemed "crude" (*rudis*) to a more sophisticated generation. His chief work was *Annales*, a retelling of early Roman history.

76. docti . . . Lucreti: Titus Lucretius Carus (ca. 99-55 B.C.), author of *De Rerum Natura*, an epic treatment of Epicurean philosophy.

77. qui . . . Argonautas: Varro of Atax; see on 50.

78. qui . . . transfigurat: Ovid (43 B.C.-A.D. 17), author of *Metamorphoses* which detailed the transformations of hundreds of individuals into animals and objects.

79-80. ipsa . . . / Aeneis: Vergil's epic.

81. carminum nitorem: "elegance of song."

82. **taedis genialibus:** "by your marriage torches."
dicabo: "I shall consecrate, bestow."
83. **doctam:** sc. *feminam*, i.e., Polla Argentaria.
ingenio tuo decoram: "suited to your talent," i.e., endowed with poetic ability.
84. **qualem . . . daret:** characteristic clause with subjunctive, "such as . . . would give."
86. **censu:** "wealth." The ablatives in 85-86 are to be taken closely with *qualem* in 84. There should be no punctuation after *Iuno* in 84.
87. **hymenaeon:** "wedding song," from Hymen, Greek god of marriage.
postis: "gates."
88. **personabo:** "I shall proclaim aloud."
89. **O saevae:** Calliope turns from the birthday celebration to the lamentation for Lucan's cruel fate.
Parcae: "Fates."
90. **summis:** "to the best people."
91. **plus:** with *patetis*, "you lie more open to," with dative.
ardua: vocative, "O you exalted things!"
casibus: "calamities."
92. **saeva vice:** "by a cruel destiny."
93. **natum Nasamonii Tonantis:** "The son of the Nasamonian Thunderer" is Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) who claimed to be the son of Zeus Ammon, a form of Zeus (= Jupiter Tonans) worshipped by the Nasamonians in Libya.
94. **post ortus obitusque fulminatos:** i.e., he had a meteoric career, brief and brilliant.
95. **Babylon:** Alexander died of fever in Babylon.
96. **fixum:** < *figo*, "transfix, pierce."
Paridis: < *Paris*, Paris, son of King Priam who shot Achilles in his heel with an arrow.
trementis: "cowardly."
97. **Peliden:** < *Pelides*, "son of Peleus," i.e., Achilles.
98. **ego:** Calliope, mother of Orpheus, is still speaking.
Hebri: < *Hebrus*, a river in Thrace.
99. **non mutum caput Orpheos:** The head of Orpheus was torn off by the angry women of Thrace, his home, because after the loss of his wife Eurydice, he refused to pay attention to any of them. They threw his head, still singing (*non mutum*), into the Hebrus.
100. **et tu:** "you also," addressed to Lucan by Calliope; with *tacebis* in 104.

rabidi nefas tyranni: a reference to Nero's forcing Lucan to commit suicide; the phrase is accusative of exclamation, as is *o dirum scelus! o scelus!* in 104.

101. subire: "to dive into."

Lethen: See on II.4.8.

103. grandibus sepulcris: "sepulchers of great men."

105. fata est: < *fari*, "to speak"; sc. Calliope.

leviter decidentis: "lightly falling."

106. abrasit: < *abrado*, "wipe away."

107. At tu: Lucan is addressed, now by the poet himself.

rapidum poli per axem: "through the swift axis of the heaven."

108. famae curribus: i.e., Lucan's reputation as a poet.

110. terras despicias: At *Bellum Civile* IX.1-18, Lucan describes how the soul of the murdered Pompey looked down on his enemies and laughed at his own earthly fate.

rides: "laugh at," with *sepulcra* as object.

111. pacis: with *nemus*.

merito: adverb, "deservedly," to be taken closely with *tenes*.

reclusi: < *recludo*, "open up," to receive the heroes of the Civil War (*quo Pharsalica turba congregatur*, 113, relative clause of purpose).

112. felix: in apposition with *tu* in 107.

Elysii: Elysium was the abode of the blessed dead.

113. Pharsalica turba: Only those who fought to preserve the Roman Republic, like Pompey and Cato, would in Lucan's opinion be eligible to spend eternity in Elysium.

114. te . . . insonantem: object of *comitantur* in 115.

115. Pompeii et Catones: "heroes like Pompey and Cato." Proper names are sometimes used in the plural to designate a class.

117. nosis: "you know of."

Tartaron: Greek accusative. Tartarus was the part of the underworld where the wicked, like Nero, were punished.

nocentum: with *verbera* in 118, "the flogging of the wicked."

118-19. visa / matris lampade: "when his mother's torch is seen." Nero had his mother Agrippina put to death in A.D. 59. She is portrayed here as a Fury brandishing a torch to terrify Nero.

120. adsis: hortatory subjunctive, "may you appear."

vocante Polla: ablative absolute, "since Polla summons (you)."

121-22. unum diem . . . deos silentum / exores: Verbs of asking, like *exoro*, take double accusative of the thing asked and of the

person asked. Statius alludes here to the myth of Laodamia who asked the gods to allow her to meet briefly with her husband Protesilaus, who was killed at Troy. When he returned to the underworld, she committed suicide. Lucan here is portrayed as begging the gods for a day to visit Polla.

122. **hoc . . . limen:** the door to the realm of the dead.

124. **haec:** Polla.

te: object of *induit*, "clothes," in 125.

thiasis procax dolosis: "shameless in deceitful revels."

Laodamia, having fashioned an image of Protesilaus in wax which looked like Bacchus, dressed herself as a devotee of Bacchus and instituted a frenzied revelry (*thiasus*) in the image's honor. Polla will not imitate Laodamia.

125. **falsi numinis . . . figura:** Polla worships Lucan himself, not an image.

frequentat: "celebrates, reverences."

127. **altius:** "more deeply."

insitum: < *insero*, "implant."

medullis: "innermost heart."

128. **subministrat:** "furnishes, supplies."

129. **vultus:** Polla kept a golden bust of Lucan, which did not however supply the peace of mind which came from thoughts of Lucan.

simili notatus auro: "sketched in gold resembling (Lucan)."

130. **stratis:** "blankets." She keeps the bust over her bed; dative with *praenitet*, "shines over."

131. **securae:** genitive; sc. *Pollae*.

Mortes: vocative, "ye gods of death."

132. **haec vitae genialis est origo:** "this is the source of married life."

133. **genis:** "cheeks," ablative of place where.

manent: < *mano*, "flow, drip"; hortatory subjunctive.

135. **quicquid fleverat ante, nunc adoret:** "Whatever (grief) lamented before, let it now adore."

III.5 Ecloga ad Claudiam Uxorem

The poet encourages his wife to retire with him to his beloved home town Naples. The poem is called an *Ecloga* (< Greek *ekloge*), "selection, extract," for inclusion in an anthology, although it is self-contained. Meter: dactylic hexameter.

1. **Quid . . . quid:** "why . . . why?," an example of anaphora, cf. on I.4.4.

maesta: sc. *es*.

sociis: "allied," i.e., "which we share."

2. **ducis:** "draw," of breath or sighs (*suspiria*).

3. **ne laesa fides:** sc. *sit*; a clause of fearing. *laesa fides:* "injured fidelity"; *laesa* < *laedo*, "wound, trouble, offend."

isto: "your"; *iste* is a demonstrative of the second person.

4. **datur:** "it is given to," i.e., "it is possible, allowed."

sagittis: dative of indirect object. The reference is to the arrows of Cupid, as in 24-25.

5. **licet:** "it is allowed, it is granted," hence "although" + subjunctive.

Rhamnusia: Nemesis, goddess of justice who punished pride and arrogance, was worshipped in the town of Rhamnus in Attica.

6-10. Stattus likens himself to Odysseus and his wife to Penelope.

6. **egomet:** The enclitic particle *-met* is added to personal pronouns for emphasis.

7. **quattuor emeritis . . . lustris:** ablative absolute, "four *lustra* (periods of five years) having been served"; *emeritus* < *emereo*, "serve (a military obligation)." Odysseus fought at Troy for ten years and spent another ten returning home.

8. **errares . . . fugares:** imperfect subjunctive in a contrary to fact condition; *fugares* < *fugo*, "put to flight, rout."

procos: < *procus*, "suitor."

9. **commenta:** < *comminiscor*, "devise, contrive."

retexere: "to unravel." Penelope had promised to marry one of her suitors when she completed the shroud she was weaving for her father-in-law, but each night she unravelled what she had woven by day.

telas: "threads."

10. **sine fraude:** "without a trick."

thalamosque armata negasses: "and having taken up arms, you would have barred (the suitors) from your bedroom." *negasses* = *negavisses*, by syncope, or omission of a syllable.

11. **dic tamen:** introduces an indirect question; sc. *praebeas*, "demonstrate, show."

altam . . . frontem: The forehead is high (*altam*) when the eyes are drawn downward in a frown.

nubila vultus: "darkness of expression."

12. **anne quod:** "(is it) because?"

Euboicos: Naples, Statius' home, is called Euboean because Naples was founded by Cumae, which itself had been founded by Chalcis, the chief city on the island of Euboea.

13. **auguror:** usually "foretell with omens," but here "intend."

patria: adjective with *terra*.

senium: "old age," which for the Romans began any time from 45 to 60; Statius was probably about 50 years old when he wrote this poem.

14. **cur hoc triste tibi:** *sc. est*.

lascivia: "wanton behavior."

corde: "in your heart"; *sc. est*.

15. **rapidi:** a transferred epithet, since it is actually the chariots which are swift.

mulcent: "delight."

Circi: the Circus Maximus in Rome.

16. **intrat:** "enters," hence "thrills."

17-18. **probitas . . . gaudia:** *sc. mulcent te*.

17. **opaca:** "shady," therefore tranquil and retired.

18. **quas autem . . . per undas:** an indignant question; the poet is not, after all, asking Claudia to go to the North Pole, or Iceland, or Egypt.

rapto: The *-o* is short. Short *-o* in the first person of verbs was common in post-classical Latin poetry.

19. **mansurus:** "intending to stay."

Arctos: accusative plural < *Arctos*, Greek "bear," i.e., Great and Little Bear constellations, used often simply to mean "northern lands."

20. **Hesperiae . . . Thules:** "western Thule"; *Thules* is Greek genitive, the name of an imperfectly-known island at the northernmost end of the known world in the western ocean (Iceland?).

vada caligantia: dark because the light which it received was weak due to its far northern location.

21. **septemgemi:** "sevenfold." The Nile in northern Egypt above Memphis divides into seven branches whose mouths empty into the Mediterranean.

caput impenetrabile: "the unfathomable source"; the ancients speculated vainly on the source of the Nile.

22. **hortarere = hortareris,** apodosis of the contrary to fact condition begun in 19.

tua: modifies *frena* in 26, which is object of *recepti*. Note the anaphora of *tua . . . tua . . . tua* in 22-26.

benigna: with *sorte* in 23.

23. **quam:** The antecedent is *tu*, to be inferred from *tua* in 22.
24. **vulnere primo:** sc. *amoris*.
25. **thalamis:** "(by) marriage."
iuvenile: adverbial accusative, "in a youthful manner, like a youth."
26. **fixisti:** as if Claudia herself shot Cupid's arrow.
frena: "bit."
27. **semel insertas:** "once attached" to the bit or bridle.
28. **usque:** "always."
premo: "press," thus "champ, bite down on."
- 28-29. **Albana . . . / dona:** The emperor Domitian staged poetic contests at his residence in Alba, south of Rome, and Statius was victorious at an unknown date. The *dona* consisted of a golden olive crown (*sancto auro*, 29).
29. **indutum:** < *induo*, "put on, dress oneself in."
30. **visceribus complexa tuis:** "having embraced me with your whole being."
sertis: the victor's garland or wreath.
31. **anhela:** "panting, gasping," from excitement at his victory.
cum: temporal with *infitiata* in 32.
Capitolia: neuter plural; "games held on the Capitol," marked by another poetic contest, in which Statius proved unsuccessful.
32. **infitiata:** < *infitor*, "deny, withhold"; sc. *essent*. The games "denied (victory) to the lyre" of Statius.
- 32-33. **saevum ingratumque . . . Iovem:** The Capitol was site of Jupiter's temple; sc. *esse*.
33. **procurrentia:** "rushing forth," at the moment of composition.
- 33-34. **primis sonis:** "at their first sounding."
34. **totas in murmure noctes:** "whole nights (spent) in murmuring (the sound of verse)," i.e., Statius lucubrating over his work-in-progress.
35. **rapis:** "you catch."
longi . . . laboris: genitive with *conscia*; Statius spent twelve years in composing his epic *Thebais*.
36. **cumque tuis . . . annis:** i.e., "and during the years spent with you."
Thebais: nominative singular of a Greek noun scanned as a dactyl. The *Thebais*, published about A.D. 91, deals with the expedition of Polynices, son of Oedipus, to recover the throne of Thebes from his hated brother Eteocles.
37. **qualem:** "how dear a one," with *te*.
Stygias: "of Styx," a river in the underworld.

38. **Lethaeos**: "of Lethe"; see on II.4.8.
comminus: adverb, "close at hand."
39. **tenui**: "I held back," from closing in death.
cadentis: "drooping."
40. **scilicet**: "surely," from *scire* + *licet*, "you may know."
Lachesis: The most important of the Fates, she measured the thread spun by Clotho and cut by Atropos.
41. **tantum**: "to so great an extent."
miserata: with *Lachesis*; *miserata* < *miseror*, "have pity on" + accusative (*te*).
42. **timuere**: The alternative third person plural in *-ere* allowed more flexible use of the perfect in verse.
post ista: "after those deeds of yours."
43. **iter . . . ire**: "to go on a journey, to take a journey." *Iter* is cognate accusative or accusative of the inner object with *ire*.
optandos sinus: i.e., Naples; accusative of place to which without preposition.
44. **explorata**: "tested."
usus: accusative plural, "experience."
45. **Latias Graias Heroidas**: Note asyndeton in *Latias Graias*; *Heroidas*: accusative plural of the Greek noun *herois*; scan - - u u. A catalogue of faithful heroines follows (46-49).
46. **isset = ivisset** (< *eo*); apodosis of a past contrary to fact condition.
Iliacas: "Trojan," with *domos* in 47.
47. **gavisa**: < *gaudeo*; translate adverbially, "gladly."
passus: sc. *esset*.
48. **questa est . . . reliqui**: "complained at being left behind"; *questa* < *queror*, "complain."
Aegiale: the wife of Diomedes.
Meliboea: "the woman of Thessaly"; identity unknown.
49. **et quam . . . planctus**: "and (she) whom laments (how cruel!) made a madwoman"; the first *quam* is relative pronoun. The reference is to Laodamia, wife of Protesilaus, see on II.7.124. The entire verse may be corrupt.
maenada: Greek accusative singular < *maenas*, "maenad," a female devotee of Bacchus.
50. **nec minor**: sc. *es* "nor (are) you inferior at," with infinitives *nosse* and *dedere* (< *dedo*); *his*: ablative of comparison, "to these women."
51. **cineres umbramque priorem**: of Claudia's first husband, whose identity is unknown.

52. **quaeris**: "you seek."
exsequias: "remains, ashes."
amplexa: < *amplector*, "embrace."
canori: with *conjugis* in 53; apparently Claudia's first husband was a singer; cf. also 64.
53. **iterasti** = *iteravisti*.
54. **iam mea**: "now mine."
natae: objective genitive, "devotion (*pietas*) and concern (*cura*) for your daughter (*natae*)" (by her first husband).
55. **et mater**: "also a mother."
56. **penetralibus imis**: "in the deepest recesses."
- 57-58. **Trachinia . . . Alcyone**: "Alcyone of Trachis." Trachis was a town in Thessaly. Alcyone and her husband Ceyx were transformed into kingfishers, seabirds which are very protective of their young.
57. **nidos**: object of *circumit* in 59, "flutters around her nest."
58. **vernos . . . penatis**: "her springlike home."
Philomela: See on II.4.21.
59. **animam**: "life, bodily warmth."
pignora: "pledges of love," hence "young ones."
60. **illa**: Claudia's daughter.
tenet: "occupies you (*te*)," i.e., "occupies your attention."
viduo: here "unmarried" with *cubili*.
quod: "because."
61. **terit**: "passes away, wastes."
62. **plenis taedis**: i.e., with all the trappings proper to a wedding.
63. **bonis**: ablative of cause, "because of the virtues."
64. **chelyn**: See on II.2.60.
petit: here "strikes," of the lyre.
voce paterna: See on 52.
65. **discendum Musis**: "something to be learned by the Muses"; future passive participle with dative of agent; remarkable performance, if even the Muses can take instruction from it.
flectit: "sings with varied tones," a reference to modulation of the voice while singing.
66. **diducit**: "stretches out," hence "gesticulates" in dance.
68. **levis pueros . . . te**: both accusative with *pudebit* "will shame, embarrass." The *pueros* are Cupids.
Cythrea: vocative; the Greek island of Cythera was sacred to Venus.
69. **hoc cessare decus**: "that this beauty is unused"; subject of *pudebit*.

69-71. nec tantum Roma . . . fertilis: sc. *est*, "Rome is not the only (city) fertile (productive)," with infinitives *conciliare* and *accendere*.

71. nostra . . . tellure: Naples.

generi: nominative plural, "sons-in-law."

72. adeo: "so much, to such an extent."

Vesuvinus apex: "the peak of Vesuvius," the volcano down the coast from Naples that had erupted in A.D. 79, about 12 years before this poem was written.

73. hiems: with *flamma* in 72.

exhausit civibus: "has drained of citizens."

74. hinc: here = *hic*, "here."

74-75. auspice . . . tecta: "the houses (i.e., the town) established with Phoebus as founder" (ablative absolute), i.e., Cumae, the site of an oracle of Apollo about ten miles from Naples. Apollo gave good omens for the town's founding.

75. Dicarchei portusque: *-que* belongs with the adjective *Dicarchei* (quadrisyllabic); "the harbors of Dicarchus" are the town of Puteoli, cf. on II.2.3.

75-76. litora mundi / hospita: the famous seaside resort Baiae, near Puteoli and Cumae; *hospita*: "hospitable to" + genitive.

76. hinc: See on 74.

tractus: "large stretches"; object of *imitantia*.

imitantia: with *moenia* in 77.

77. Capys: He left Troy with Aeneas and founded Capua 17 miles north of Naples.

advectis . . . Teucris: Capys' companions; ablative of means. Teucer was son of Scamander, first king of Troy.

78-79. nostra . . . Parthenope: Naples; in the relative clause which follows, however, *cui . . . vectae* refers to the siren by that name. See on II.2.84.

78. et . . . nec: "both poor (*tenuis*) in native inhabitants and yet not low on (*rara*) settlers (*colonis*)."

79. mite solum: "kindly soil."

80. Dionaea . . . columba: Dione, Venus' mother, here stands for Venus herself. The early settlers to Naples were directed to the future site of the city by a dove; scan *Dionaea* u - - -.

81. Has . . . sedis: accusative of place to which with *transferre* (82).

81-82. Thrace . . . Libye: Thrace was a barbarous region north of Greece synonymous with wildness, while Libya, west of Egypt, was notorious for its deserts.

84. **imbelle:** "peaceful."
85. **pax secura:** sc. *est*; *locis* is ablative of place where.
desidis: < *deses*, "lazy, relaxed."
86. **somni peracti:** "sleeps uninterrupted" by turmoil; nominative plural.
87. **foro:** ablative of place where.
strictae in iurgia leges: "laws bared (like a weapon) for strife."
88. **morum iura:** "rule of custom," i.e., no repressive laws are needed to maintain order.
viris: dative of possession.
solum: "alone"; adv. with *morum iura viris*.
sine fascibus aequum: "justice without the rods of authority."
89. **quid:** with *laudem* in 93; the deliberative subjunctive introduces *praeteritio*, the device in which one claims to have no intention of mentioning that which one proceeds to mention.
species: "natural beauties," opposed to artificial adornments (*cultus*).
90. **interincta:** < *interstinguo*, "divide, mark 'off."
91. **geminam molem nudi tectique theatri:** Naples possessed two theaters, one unroofed and one roofed; *molem:* "structure."
92. **quinquennia:** See on II.2.6.
proxima: "second (in importance to)," with *Capitolinis . . . lustris*, "the Capitoline five-year contests"; cf. on 31.
93. **libertatem Menandri:** the easy style of life offered by Naples which Menander (ca. 342-293 B.C.) praised in his comedies. Stattius is probably not referring to actual productions of plays of Menander at Naples.
94. **honos:** "dignity."
licentia: "lack of restraint."
miscent: here, "produce by mixing."
95. **circa:** adverbial here, "round about."
oblectamina: "delights, pleasures."
96. **Baias:** See on 75-76.
97. **enthea:** "inspired."
fatidicae . . . Sibyllae: Apollo's seer at Cumae.
visere: "to visit"; depends on *dulce sit* in 98.
98. **sit:** potential subjunctive suggesting an action as possible or conceivable.

Iliaco iugum memorabile remo: "hill famous for the Trojan oar," Cape Misenum near Naples where Aeneas buried his trumpeter Misenus, placing his trumpet and oar on his tomb (Vergil, *Aeneid* VI.232-235).

99. **tibi:** Take closely with *dulce sit* in 98.

Bacchei Gauri: Gaurus was a mountain east of Naples famous for its vineyards; *Bacchei* is trisyllabic.

100. **Teleboum:** genitive plural; the Teleboae were Greek pirates who founded a colony at Capri, the island to the south of Naples.

dulcia: with *lumina* in 101.

101. **Pharus:** "lighthouse," originally that located on the island of Pharus off Alexandria, Egypt; here one located on Capri.

lunae: genitive with *aemula*, "rivalling the moon."

102. **iuga Surrentina:** The "hills of Sorrento" lie on their promontory south of Naples famous for vineyards and thus dear to Bacchus (*cara Lyaeo*).

103. **quae:** antecedent is *iuga* in 102.

Pollius: See II.2 as a whole.

auget: "enriches."

104. **Inarimes:** Greek genitive; see on II.2.76.

lacus medicos: The stones of the lakes gave off mineral salts considered health-promoting.

Stabias renatas: Stabiae, down the coast from Pompeii, was destroyed when Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79, but unlike Pompeii it was immediately rebuilt, hence reborn (*renatas*), at a different location.

105. **tibi:** to his wife.

referam: may be deliberative subjunctive or simple future.

amores: "charms."

106. **creavit:** subject is understood *haec tellus* or *Neapolis*.

107. **astrinxit:** < *astringo*, "join, bind."

108. **haec:** sc. *tellus*.

amborum: of Statius and his wife.

altrix: "nurse, foster-mother."

109. **ingratus:** sc. *sum*.

adnecto: "add" (more arguments, *plura*). For the short *-o*, see on 18.

110. **indubito:** "cast doubt upon," with dative.

111. **praevenies:** "you will arrive first," before Statius himself!

ductor aquarum: in apposition with *Thybris* in 112.

112. **Thybris:** the Tiber.

sordebunt: "will be of no value."

Quirini: Romulus was called Quirinus after his deification; compare II.7.60.

IV.7. Ode Lyrica ad Vibium Maximum

Stattus congratulates Vibius Maximum on the birth of his son. Vibius Maximum served in various governmental posts, including a long appointment as *praefectus cohortis* in Dalmatia (modern Yugoslavia). At some unknown date he served in Syria as cavalry commander and, after this poem was written, he served as prefect in Egypt.

Meter: Sapphics; line 1 is scanned as follows:

- ~ - - - ~ ~ ~ - -
Iam diu lato satiata campo.

Line 4 is scanned as follows:

- ~ ~ - -
contrahe gyros

1. **iam diu:** "long since, for a long time."
satiata: < *satio*, "have one's fill of, be sated with."
2. **fortis:** with *Erato*, the muse (often specifically of lyric).
heroes . . . labores: the composition of Stattus' epic *Thebais*; cf. on III.5.36.
3. **differ:** "postpone"; imperative.
4. **contrahe:** "contract."
gyros: "circles, courses." The image is drawn from horse racing. Stattus tells his muse to put aside epic and to undertake a work of narrower compass.
5. **tuque:** with *Pindare* in 8.
cohortis: "troop" of poets.
6. **novi:** with *plectri*; Stattus had never attempted complex verse forms of the sort found in Horace's *Odes*. The *Silvae* are largely restricted to hexameter poems and to a few hendecasyllabics.
paulum: adverb, "for a little while."
iura: "privilege."
- 7-8. **sacravi . . . Thebas:** Stattus has immortalized (*sacravi*) Thebes with his *Thebais*.

8. **Pindare:** Pindar, the famous writer of victory odes and other poems (ca. 518-438 B.C.), born near Thebes.

9. **tenuare:** "to make thin"; in a literary sense "polish, refine."

10. **intonsa:** "unshorn, not plucked," with *myrto*.

capienda: with *serta* in 11.

myrto: used here for the poet's crown.

11. **maior sitis:** sc. *est mihi*.

bibendus: with *amnis* in 12. In 10-12, Statius argues that he needs a new sort of inspiration because he is attempting to write a birthday poem in a meter in which such a composition had not been written at Rome. Hence the garland (*serta*) which he seeks to wear is unplucked (*intonsa*) and the river from which he will draw inspiration will have to be of a purer, untapped sort (*castior*).

13. **Latio:** "to Latium." See on II.7.52.

14. **Dalmatae:** "Dalmatian"; Dalmatia lay on the eastern shore of the Adriatic. *Dalmatae* is a noun but is here used as a masculine adjective with *montes*.

Dite viso: ablative absolute; *Dite* < *Dis*, Pluto, god of the underworld. The miner (*fossor*) is imagined as digging so deep that he sees the god of the underworld himself.

15. **pallidus:** because he spends so much time underground away from sunlight.

eruto: < *eruo*, "dig out."

16. **concolor:** "similar in color" + dative (*auro*); again a reference to the miner's pallor.

17. **natum proprio terra:** Statius was born in Naples.

19. **desides:** < *deses*, "lazy."

Baiae: See on III.5.75-76.

liciten: "trumpeter," i.e., Misenus; see on III.5.98.

Hectoris armis: "at Hector's battles," at which Misenus blew the trumpet.

21. **Camenis:** dative with *torpor est*; Camenae were Italian spirits of springs often identified with the (by origin, Greek) Muses.

22. **tardius sueto:** "more slowly than usual."

22-23. **Thymbrae rector:** Apollo; Thymbra was a town near Troy with a temple to Apollo.

23. **primis metis:** "at the first turning post," a metaphor from racing.

23-24. **meus . . . Achilles:** Statius' epic *Achilleis*, which he did not complete.

24. **haeret:** "is stuck."

26. **multa . . . lima:** "with much (use of the) file," in endless revision of the epic.
27. **temptat:** "makes trial of," with *gaudia* as object.
- 27-28. **Mantuanæ . . . famae:** "Mantuan [i.e. Vergilian] glory"; Vergil called Mantua his home.
30. **fundasti = fundavisti,** "you strengthened."
31. **diem laetum:** accusative of exclamation.
33. **orbitas:** "childlessness"; in the relative clause in 34, the antecedent *orbitas* is used to mean "the childless man," while in 37, *orbitas* once again means "childlessness."
nisu: "effort."
34. **premit:** "presses hard," in anticipation of a legacy.
inimicus heres: the relative who expects to inherit from his childless kinsman.
35. **propinquum:** "soon to take place."
37. **tumulata:** sc. *est*; *tumulta* < *tumulo*, "bury." Here the perfect is used of a general truth (gnomic perfect, AG 475); translate as present.
nullo . . . fletu: No weeping accompanies the funeral because no one is sorry.
38. **domo capta:** ablative absolute.
40. **computat ignem:** "reckons up the cost of the [crematory] fire."
41. **duret:** optative subjunctive.
generosus: "high-born."
42. **non multis iter expeditum:** "a path not opened to many people."
45. **parvo:** indirect object with *memorabis*.
46. **Eoum:** "eastern"; trisyllabic.
Oronten: Greek accusative; the Orontes was a river in Syria.
47. **frenatae:** < *freno*, "bridle, restrain," with *alae*, "well-controlled squadron."
moderatus: < *moderor*, "guide, govern."
48. **Castore dextro:** ablative absolute; Castor was reckoned the guardian of Roman *equites*.
49. **ille:** the grandfather, who will recount his own exploits to the child; sc. *memorabit*.
ut: "how," introducing indirect question.
- 49-50. **invicti Caesaris:** Domitian.
50. **fulmen:** "thunderous might."
- 50-51. **refugis . . . Sarmatis:** "fugitive Sarmatians," a nomadic people of east Europe. *refugis* < *refugus*.

51-52. sub uno / vivere caelo: i.e., to settle down in one place.

54. quis = quibus.

remensus: < *remetior*, "measure again, go back over."

55. orsa: "the beginnings," in a literary context, "the words."

Sallusti brevis: the Roman historian Sallust (Gaius Sallustius) (ca. 86-35 B.C.), known for his concise literary style (*brevis*). Apparently Maximus had written an epitome or condensed version of the histories of Sallust and Livy.

55-56. Timavi alumnum: The "fosterling of the Timavus" is Livy (Titus Livius) (ca. 59 B.C.-A.D. 17), born in Patavium (modern Padua), where the Timavus river flowed; *alumnum* is here coordinated with *orsa* as object of *reddis*, as if *reddis orsa alumni* were written.

IV.9 Hendecasyllabi Iocosi ad Plotium Grypum

Statius humorously teases his friend Plotius Grypus for sending him a worthless book in return for his gift of a beautiful one. Grypus was of a senatorial family and held some minor government posts. Meter: hendecasyllables.

1. **sane:** "certainly, to be sure."
quod: "the fact that."
2. **urbanum:** "urbane, witty."
3. **potest:** In the apodosis of a future less vivid condition, the indicative of verbs of necessity and possibility is common (AG 516d).
4. **post hoc:** "after this" action.
aliquid: "something" of value.
6. **licet . . . computemus:** "let us reckon up!" A comparison of the two volumes follows.
7. **noster = meus (libellus).**
purpureus: The book is dyed with purple, the most expensive dye.
charta: ablative of specification.
8. **binis . . . umbilicis:** An *umbilicus* was a knob attached to each end of the rod at the end of a papyrus roll.
9. **praeter me:** "in addition to my work."
constitit decussis: "cost a ten-as piece"; *decussis* is genitive of price.
10. **rosum:** sc. *misisti libellum*; *rosum* < *rodo*, "gnaw."
tineis: < *tinea*, "worm, bookworm."

11. **quales:** "like those which."

Libycis . . . olivis: Libyan olives were not of high quality. The book of Grypus is of such low quality that it is suited only as wrapping paper for poor olives!

12. **Niliacum:** agrees with *piper*, "pepper," as well as with *tus*, "incense."

servant: "keep fresh."

13. **lacertos:** "mackerel" (*OLD*). *olent:* "smell of"; transitive.

14. **continentem:** sc. *libellum*, object of *donas* in 23.

15. **trino . . . foro:** "triple forum," the original Roman and the later Julian and Augustan fora in which law courts were located.

16. **centum prope iudices:** the Centumviral Court, on which see I.4.24.

17. **te:** object of *dedit* with *arbitrum*.

Germanicus: See on I.4.4.

arbitrum: "(as) overlord."

17-18. **sequenti / annonae:** Grypus seems to have supervised the grain supply for the emperor when he was on the march; hence the grain is said to accompany (*sequenti*).

18. **late:** "far and wide."

19. **stationibus:** dative with *praefecit*, "put in charge of." Grypus was supervisor of relay stations on the Roman highways.

20. **Bruti senis:** Marcus Brutus (ca. 85-42 B.C.), the murderer of Caesar, was famous as an orator; *senis* here "venerable, from olden days."

oscitationes: "yawnings," hence "boring pronouncements."

21. **capsa:** "case," for books.

libellionis: < *libellio*, "bookseller."

22. **emptum:** < *emo*, "buy."

plus minus: "more or less."

asse Gaiano: "(at the price of) an as of Gaius," ablative of price; the Emperor Gaius (Caligula) (37-41 A.D.) had debased the Roman coinage, so the poet implies that the book cost almost nothing. Scan *Gaiano* - - - - .

23. **usque adeo defuerunt:** "were there absolutely none around?"

23-45. Stattius suggests even less desirable gifts which Grypus could have sent.

24. **pillea:** < *pilleum* or *pileum*, a felt cap worn especially at the Saturnalia and by slaves on manumission.

suta: < *suo*, "sew, stitch together."

lacernis: < *lacerna*, "robe."

25. **mantelia:** "towels."

- luridae:** "faded."
mappae: "napkins."
26. **chartae:** "notepaper."
Thebaicaeve Caricaeve: sc. *fici*, "figs," with both adjectives. Thebes was a city in Egypt, Caria a region in Asia Minor.
27. **nusquam:** sc. *erat*.
28. **prunorum globus:** "a bunch of plums," wrapped (*conditus*) in a sack with pointed ends (*turbine*). When shaken from an open end of the sack, they fall out (*ruenti*).
cottanorum: small figs from Syria.
29. **enlychnia:** Greek noun, "lamp wicks."
replictae: metrically convenient collateral form for *replictae* (< *replico*, "fold back, unroll").
30. **bulborum tunicae:** "onion skins."
tantum: "even."
31. **lenes alicae:** sc. *erant*; *alica* is a type of grain called spelt; *lenes*: "fine-ground," hence *lenes alicae* = "flour."
asperum far: "coarse-ground meal."
32. **nusquam:** sc. *erat*.
Cinyphiis: "of the Cinyps River," in Libya.
vagata: < *vagor*, "wander."
33. **domus uŕa:** i.e., the shell.
34. **lardum:** "lard."
grave: "indigestible."
debilis: "lean."
35. **Lucanica:** a variety of sausage made in Lucania in lower Italy.
falisci: another type of sausage, made by the Falisci in Etruria.
36. **sal oxyporum:** "easily digestible salt"; *oxyporum*: Greek word.
37. **aphronitri:** saltpeter, often called green (*viridantis*) by Roman authors; here it is said to come in cakes (*panes*).
38. **passum:** "raisin wine."
psithiis: "raisin vines."
recoctum: < *recoquo*, "boil," here "ripen."
39. **defruta:** "new wine, must."
lutosa: < *luto*, "make muddy."
caeno: "mud," here "lees" of wine.
40. **quantum:** "how (trifling of you was it?)."
cereos: "wax candles."
41. **cultellum:** "a little knife."
codicillos: "writing tablets."

42. **ollaris**: "preserved in pots."
non licebit: *sc. dare*.
43. **patinas**: "dishes." Pottery from Cumae (*Cumano*) was known for its poor quality.
orbe: "potter's wheel."
44. **synthesin**: Greek accusative, "set (of dishes)."
45. **calicum**: < *calix*, "goblet."
caccaborum: "cooking pots."
46. **certa velut aequus in statera**: "like a fair man with accurate balance."
47. **mutas**: "alter" the weight registered on the scale in an attempt to cheat.
48. **bene mane**: "very early in the morning."
semicrudus: "with slight indigestion" (*OLD*).
49. **dixero salutem**: as a client would greet his patron; it is not certain that the relationship of patron and client existed between Stattius and Grypus.
50. **vicibus**: "in turn."
salutes: "would you greet."
54. **tantum**: "only."
ne: introduces negative hortatory subjunctive with *remittas* in
55. **quo soles lepore**: "with your usual wittiness."
55. **nunc hendecasyllabos remittas**: in return for those which constitute this poem.

V.4 Somnus

The sleepless poet begs the god of sleep for a short period of rest.
 Meter: dactylic hexameter.

1. **Crimine quo**: ablative of cause, "Because of what fault?"
iuvenis: vocative with *placidissime divum*. Sleep was often portrayed in ancient art as a handsome young man with drowsy eyes.
divum: genitive plural, = *divorum*.
2. **ut . . . egerem**: result clause. *egerem* < *egeo*, "lack," + ablative of separation (*donis*).
4. **simulant**: Treetops imitate sleep by drooping (*curvata*).
5. **trucibus**: < *trux*, "wild, savage."
idem: i.e., as they have by day.
horror: "shivering motion."

6. **acclinata**: "inclined toward, leaning on," + dative (*terris*).
7. **septima . . . Phoebe**: The "seventh moon" (Phoebe = Diana, goddess of the moon) sees the sleepless poet.
8. **stare genas**: indirect discourse after *respicit*.
totidem: "just so many."
Oetaeae: "of Oeta," a mountain in Thessaly. The evening star, Hesperus, was believed to rise over Oeta.
- 8-9. **Paphiae . . . lampades**: The planet Venus (the morning star). Paphos was a town in Crete sacred to Venus.
9. **totiens**: "equally often."
Tithonia: "wife of Tithonus," i.e., Aurora, goddess of the dawn.
questus: accusative plural with *nostros*.
10. **spargit**: To refresh the poet, she sprinkles him with dew from the whip with which she has chased the stars.
miserata: < *miseror*, "have pity on."
11. **unde**: "how?"
sufficiam: deliberative subjunctive, "am I to endure?"
non si mihi lumina mille: sc. *essent*; protasis of a present contrary to fact condition.
12. **sacer**: The monster Argus is called "cursed" because Juno sent him to keep watch over Io, a lover of Jupiter.
alterna tantum statione: "only in alternating watches." Since Argus had eyes over his whole body, some of which were asleep and others awake at any one time, he could always keep watch over Io but never with all eyes at once.
14. **sub**: "in the course of."
puellae: genitive with *bracchia* in 15.
15. **nexa**: "entwined."
ultro: "intentionally, willingly."
16. **inde**: from the couple.
infundere pennas: The touch of Sleep's wings is said to induce sleep.
17. **compello**: On the short *-o*, see on III.5.18.
hoc: i.e., total and deep sleep.
18. **virgae**: Sleep is often described in poetry as carrying a wand whose touch induces drowsiness.
19. **suspensio poplite**: ablative absolute, "with bent knee," suggesting a light and rapid movement.
transi: imperative.

V.5 Epicedion in Puerum Suum

Stattus laments the death of his adopted son. An *epicedion* is technically a song of mourning sung over a corpse. The poem is clearly unfinished and the unclear sequence of thought in places suggests that lines have been lost. Meter: dactylic hexameter.

1. **Me miserum:** accusative of exclamation, "Wretched me!"
ulla: "any (subject)"; object of *incipiam* in 2.
2. **incipiam:** probably potential subjunctive rather than future, "can I begin."
Castaliae: Castalia was a spring on Mt. Parnassus sacred to the Muses.
vocalibus undis: dative with *invisus*, "hateful to the singing waters."
3. **gravis:** "disliked."
quae: interrogative adjective with *vestra orgia*.
sorores: vocative with *Pieriae* in 4; see on II.2.42.
4. **incestavimus:** "we have defiled."
5. **liceat:** optative subjunctive with *fateri*, "may it be permitted to say."
commissa: "the transgressions" for which he is being punished by an inability to write.
6. **numquid:** The particle *num* asks a question expecting a negative answer. With *posui*, the poet asks, "I did not at all set foot, did I?"
inaccesso: "unapproachable," and off-limits.
7. **num:** See on 6.
8. **luimus:** "we atone"; plural for singular, as often.
lacertis: "arms, limbs"; ablative of means.
9. **viscera:** "heart."
animaque: ablative of means, taken closely with *morientibus lacertis tenens*, "clinging with failing limbs and spirit."
infans: The boy's age at death is not mentioned.
10. **non de stirpe:** sc. *mea erat*; *stirpe*: < *stirps*, "stock, family." The boy was adopted by Stattus who apparently had no children of his own. He seems to have been slave-born and to have been adopted shortly after birth, cf. 66-75. Stattus' wife had a daughter by her first marriage, cf. III.5.54ff.
ferret: subjunctive in a characteristic clause, "who would bear"; imperfect because a past tense main verb is presupposed.
11. **ora:** features."

12. **planctibus:** "lamentations," dative with *credite*.
orbi: genitive, "of a bereaved man."
13. **aperto pectore:** "with open bosom," ready to be beaten with the fist in grief.
14. **convenient:** hortatory subjunctive.
cinerem oculis: "ashes for the eyes"; rubbed by mourners into the eyes as a sign of grief.
crimina: "charges" against the gods.
ferto: second person singular future imperative, a poetic use not differing in meaning from the present imperative.
15. **si qua:** "if any," hence "whoever."
sub uberibus plenis: Her breasts are full because she lost her children while still nursing them.
funera: "graves."
16. **gradu labente:** "with failing step."
madidum: "wet" with milk.
cecidit: < *caedo*, "strike, beat."
17. **restinxit:** The mother snuffs out the fires with the milk from her full breasts.
18. **signatum:** "marked," with *iuvenem* in 19.
19. **immersit:** < *immergo*, "plunge."
cineri: dative of place where with the compound *immersit*.
iacentis: sc. *pueri*, "(the boy) lying dead."
20. **lanugine:** < *lanugo*, "down," of the first beard; ablative of place where without a preposition.
21. **alterno clamore:** Statius and the parent imagined in the previous verses will lament alternately.
fatiscat: "become weak."
22. **vincetur:** The other parent is subject. Statius will outdo him in his grief.
te pudebit: See on III.5.68. Nature will feel shame because Statius' grief will exceed that of the natural father of the other dead child.
23. **luctus:** genitive.
24. **hoc:** object of *nitor*, "I make this effort." In the next several lines letters printed in italics are restored by modern editors to supplement the damaged manuscript.
ter dena luce peracta: ablative absolute; a month has passed since his son's death.
25. **acclinis tumulo:** "leaning against the tomb."
26. **modos:** "measures, melodies," of poetry.

singultantia: with *orsa* in 27, "sobbing words"; object of *molior* in 27.

acerba: with *lyra* in 27.

27. **molior:** "I produce."

lyra: "on my lyre."

satis est: The effort is enough to insure results.

28. **solitae:** nominative plural with *laurus*; the laurels are "accustomed" as a sign of the poet's profession.

vertice: ablative of place where, "on my head."

29. **vittatus honos:** "filleted adornment."

taxea: "of yew," a tree often associated with mourning; modifies *silva* in 30.

30. **comis:** ablative of place where.

hilarisque hederas: "cheerful ivy" (worn at dinner parties).

plorata: "weeping," with *cupressus*.

31. **eburno pollice:** Ivory was used for the plectra of lyres; *pollice* < *pollex*, "thumb," here "plectrum."

32. **incertam:** because he cannot concentrate.

34. **incompte:** adverb, "cruelly."

nudare: "to lay bare," in his song.

35. **cantu:** ablative of specification, as is *habitu*.

36. **aspiciant:** exclamatory question with verb in subjunctive, "should the gods see me?"

Thebas: a reference to Statius' *Thebais*.

37. **Aeacidem:** < *Aeacides*, "descendant of Aeacus," Achilles. Statius refers to his recently-begun (*novum*) epic *Achilleis*; cf. on IV.7.23.

38. **ille ego qui:** "I the one who."

quotiens: *Silvae* II.1, II.6, III.3, and V.1 are such funeral laments; II.4 and II.5 lament the deaths of animals, while II. 7 combines birthday remembrance with funeral lament.

39. **viduos:** adjective, "of loneliness."

40. **solator:** "consoler"; appositive with *ille ego*.

42. **deficio:** intransitive, "I am at a loss."

fomenta: "poultices," here "relief."

43. **sed summa:** The text is uncertain; perhaps parenthetical, "I seek relief (but the greatest) for my wounds."

nunc tempus: sc. *est*.

44. **tersi:** < *tergeo*: "wipe dry."

45. **reddite opem:** "give (me your) help."

46. A lacuna must be understood after this verse. Perhaps something of this sort followed, "No wonder, when I, who in sadness (*maestus*)

(had bewailed) the deaths in your household (*vestra funera*), (was unable to lament a loss in my) household (*domus*), (someone said) in rebuke (*inrepletans*)," etc.

47. **inrepletans**: subject unclear; perhaps someone whose grief Statius sought to comfort.

qui: sc. *tu* as antecedent.

damna . . . aliena: "the losses of other people."

repone: "hold back," until his powers are sufficient to mourn his own loss.

49. **copia fandi**: "power of speech."

50. **fulmine tanto**: ablative with *dignum*, "worthy of such a calamity."

51. **repperit**: < *reperio*, "find, discover."

inferior vox omnis: sc. *est*, "every utterance (is) insufficient."

sordent: "are lowly."

52. **puer**: the poet's dead adopted son is addressed.

caligine: < *caligo*, "fog, darkness."

53. **durus**: sc. *erat*; *Orpheus* is subject.

viso vulnere: the wound which caused Eurydice's death.

54. **caneret quod**: relative clause of purpose, "something to sing."

55. **dulce**: agrees with *quod* in 54.

busta: "tomb."

Lini: The musician Linus, who had learned music from Apollo, was killed by Hercules whom he was trying to teach to play the lyre.

57. **excessisse**: < *excedo*, "go beyond, exceed"; depends on *dicor*, "I am said to have exceeded."

58. **quisnam . . . reprehendis** [= *reprehendis*]: "who (are you to) find fault with?" *reprehendis* is syncopated, or shortened, for metrical convenience.

59. **expers**: "without, not sharing in," here "having no knowledge of" + genitive.

62. **incitat**: *planctus* is subject.

potius: "more easily, more readily."

ripas: object of *fugientia*.

63. **detineas**: indefinite second person subjunctive expressing possibility, "one could hold back."

obstes: "stand in the way of, oppose" + dative.

64. **quam**: answering *potius* in 62.

ille severus: who would seek to keep the poet from mourning.

65. **vulnera:** with *nostrae causae*, "the grievances of my case."
66. **mercatus:** < *mercor*, "buy."
Pharia: See on II.5.29.
loquacis: with *delicias* in 67, "a chattering darling."
67. **doctum:** The perfect passive participle of *doceo* may take direct object of the thing taught (*convicia*), "having been taught the witticisms."
68. **nimum:** with *protervum*, "too bold."
69. **tellure cadentem:** apparently means at the very moment of birth.
70. **unctum:** < *ungo*, "anoint"; a reference to the practice of anointing a child, a process called *lustratio*, on the ninth day after birth.
genitali carmine: perhaps a *genethliacon*.
fovi: < *foveo*, "warm," here "welcome warmly."
71. **poscentem:** with *auras*, "demanding breath."
72. **inserui vitae:** "I introduced (him) to life" by being present at his birth.
tribuere = tribuerunt.
73. **quin:** "rather."
alios ortus: "another birth," through legal adoption.
- 74-75. **sub ipsis / uberibus:** while at his mother's or a wet nurse's breast and therefore in infancy.
74. **parve:** vocative, addressed to the deceased child.
75. **rideres ignarus adhuc:** The child laughed at Statius' kindness, still too young to appreciate the poet's services to him.
ille: with *amor* in 76.
merito: "justifiably," explained by the negative purpose clause *ne perderet . . . diem*.
76. There are again words lost from the manuscript.
77. **libertas tam parva:** "such a brief period of liberty."
horridus: "savage, wild," referring to the poet's appearance in his grief.
78. **invidia:** ablative of cause, "because of jealousy."
pulsem: deliberative subjunctive with *nonne* in 77, "shall I not strike against?"
Tartara: See on II.7.117.
79. **gemam:** deliberative subjunctive.
quo sospite: ablative absolute, "with him in good health"; *sospite* < *sopes*, "safe, unhurt."
80. **non cupii [= cupivi]:** While the adopted child was alive Statius did not desire children of his own.

primo: with *ortu*, "immediately after birth"; take closely with *protinus*, "at once."

81. **implicui:** < *implico*, "enfold."

82. **caeca:** "hidden," because as an infant he could not express them.

83. **solo:** ablative of place where, "on the ground."

demissus: "bending down," used almost in a reflexive sense.

ad oscula: "to (my) kisses."

dextra: ablative of means.

84. **natantis:** "overflowing" with tears; in agreement with *genas*.

85. **+excepere+:** The text is uncertain; since *accersere* is an infinitive, perhaps another infinitive stood here. Perhaps both were historical infinitives with Statius as subject, "I summoned (*accersere*) sweet sleep."

86. **cui:** *sc. puero*.

86-87. **ludus tenello / risus:** "my smile (was) a joy (*ludus*) for the tender child (*tenello*)."

87. **a nostro vultu:** "from my countenance." The remainder of the poem is lost. Perhaps grief kept the poet from finishing it.