

THE MYTH OF CLEOBIS & BITON: THE BEST TWO BOYS

Sometimes it just didn't pay to be good kids back in the old days. This story, however, tells us about what the Romans considered a good and blessed life.

Cleobis Bitonque erant filii Cydippes. Cydippe erat sacerdos deae lunonis. Videre magnam statuam lunonis Cydippe desiderat. Sed procul est statua, et Cydippe non ambulare potest; pueri boves non habent. Cleobis Bitonque Cydippen amant; ipsi igitur plaustrum tractare audent. Labor erat arduus, sed filii Cydippes robusti erant. Cydippe statuam videt; tum lunoni supplicat: O, pulchra dea! Cleobis Bitonque bonos mores et virtutem habent. Da, igitur, meis filiis optimum praemium." Propter preces Cydippes luno pueris sine mora mortem sine dolore dat. Cleobis Bitonque nunc beati in perpetua pace sunt.

Vocabulary help:

Translation:

Cleobis, is, m, Cleobis

Biton, -inis, m, Biton

Cydippe, -ippes, -ippae, -ippen, f,

Sacerdos, -dotis, f, priestess

Dea, ae, f, goddess

luno, -onis, f, Juno, queen of the gods

Statua, ae, f, statue

Desidero, are, to desire

Procul-far away

Ambulo, -are, walk

Bos, bovis, m, ox

Ipsi (m, pl, nominative) themselves

Plaustrum, i, n, wagon

Tracto, -are, pull

Arduus, a, um, steep

Robustus, a, um, healthy

Supplico, -are, pray to (dative)

Optimus, a, um, best

Praemium, ii, n, reward

Prex, precis, f, prayer

Mors, mortis, f, death

Dolor, oris, m, pain

Nunc, now

Beatus, a, um happy, fortunate

Fold to hide the translation until you have completed your work

Translation:

Cleobis and Biton were the sons of Cydippe. Cydippe was the priestess of the goddess Juno. She was wanting to see the large statue of Juno. But the statue is far away, and Cydippe is not able to walk; the boys don't have oxen. Cleobis and Biton love Cydippe; Therefore, they dare to pull the cart themselves. It was hard work, but the sons of Cydippe were healthy. Cydippe sees the statue; then prays to Juno: "O beautiful goddess! Cleobis and Biton have good manners and virtue. For that reason, give the best reward to my sons." Because of the prayers of Cydippe, Juno without delay gives to the boys a death without pain. Cleobis and Biton are now blessed in perpetual peace.