

LAOCOÖN AND THE TROJAN HORSE



This story is the source of the well-known adage “Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.”

Graeci cum Troianis bellum gerunt. Magnum equum ligneum sub portis urbis Troiae nocte relinquunt. Troiani equum ibi inveniunt. “Graeci equum Minervae dedicant,” dicunt. “Si donum Graecorum ad templum deae ducemus, pacem habebimus et vitam bonae fortunae agemus.” Sed Laocoon, sacerdos magnae virtutis sapientiaeque, audit populum monere: “Sine ratione cogitatis, o Troiani! Si copiae in equo sunt, magno in periculo erimus. Non debetis Graecis credere, nam Graeci semper sunt falsi.” Tum equum hasta tundit. Ira Minervae magna est; dea duos serpentes ex mari mittit. O miser Laocoon! Te tuosque duos filios mali serpentes strangulant! Troiani deam timent; equum in urbem ducunt. Ratio Laocoontis Troianos nihil docet.

Vocabulary help:

Cum (pre+abl) with
Troiani, -orum, m, Trojans, inhabitants of Troy, an
ancient city in Asia Minor
Equus, -i, m: horse
Ligneus, a, um; wooden
Urbs, urbis, f: city
Troia, -ae, Troy
Nox, noctis, night (abl=nocte=at night)
Relinquo, -ere, to leave behind
Invenio, -ire (4th conjugation) discover
Minerva, -ae, f, Minerva, Roman goddess = Greek
goddess Athena
Dedico, -are: to dedicate
Laocoon, -ontis, m: Laocoon, priest of Neptune at
Troy
Sacerdos, -dotis, m. priest
Credio, -ere: to trust (+dative object)
Falsus, a, um: false, deceitful
Hasta, -ae, f. spear
Tundo, -ere; to hit
Duos: two
Serpens, -entis, m; snake, sea serpent
Mari: ablative of mare, maris, n, sea
Mitto, -ere; send
Miser, -era, -erum: unfortunate, wretched
Strangulo, -are; to strangle
Timeo, -ere: to fear, be afraid of

Translation:

[illegible]

Fold to hide translation until after your work is complete:

The Greeks are waging war with the Trojans. They leave a large wooden horse under the gates of the city of Troy at night. The Trojans find the horse there. "The Greeks are dedicating the horse to Minerva," they say. "If we will lead the Greeks' gift to the temple of the goddess, we shall have peace and we will lead a life of good fortune." But Laocoön, a priest of great virtue and wisdom, dares to warn the people: "You are thinking without reason, O Trojans! If the troops are in the horse, we will be in great danger. You should not believe the Greeks, for the Greeks are always false!" Then he hits the horse with a spear. Great is the anger of Minerva; the goddess sends two serpents from the sea. O wretched Laocoön! Evil serpents strangle you and your two sons! The Trojans fear the goddess; they lead the horse into the city. The reasoning of Laocoön teaches the Trojans nothing.