

ASSIGNMENT 2.4: HORACE, ODES 2.14, 2.16, 3.30

ODE 2.14 ALAS, EVERYONE GETS OLD

Eheu fugaces, Postume, Postume,
labuntur anni nec pietas moram
rugis et instanti senectae
adferet indomitaeque morti,
non, si trecentis quotquot eunt dies, 5
amice, places inlacrimabilem
Plutona tauris, qui ter amplum
Geryonen Tityonque tristi
compescit unda, scilicet omnibus
quicumque terrae munere vescimur 10
enaviganda, sive reges
sive inopes erimus coloni.
Frustra cruento Marte carebimus
fractisque rauci fluctibus Hadriae,
frustra per autumnos nocentem 15
corporibus metuemus Austrum:
visendus ater flumine languido
Cocytos errans et Danai genus
infame damnatusque longi
Sisyphus Aeolides laboris. 20
Linquenda tellus et domus et placens
uxor, neque harum quas colis arborum
te praeter invisas cupressos

ulla brevem dominum sequetur;
absimet heres Caecuba dignior 25
servata centum clavibus et mero
tinguet pavimentum superbo,
pontificum potiore cenis.

NOTES:

Meter: Alcaic Strophe

1. Postume: Vocative.
5. trecentis: modifies tauris (line 7), Ablative of Means;
quotquot eunt dies: literally, "however many days go (by)".
6. places: subjunctive, with non (line 5), "you may not appease".
7. Plutona: Greek Accusative modified by inlacrimabilem; qui: antecedent is Plutona.
8. Geryonem Tityonque: Greek Accusatives both modified by ter amplum (line 7). Geryon was a three-bodied Spanish monster killed by Hercules; Tityos was a giant killed by either Zeus or Apollo and Diana for assaulting Leto. He was tied to nine acres of ground in Hades and two vultures continually tore at his liver (the liver was believed to be the seat of desire).
9. omnibus: Dative of Agent with Passive Periphrastic enaviganda (line 11).
10. quicumque: antecedent is omnibus (line 9).
vescimur is a deponent which takes the ablative
11. enaviganda: sc. est, modifies unda (line 9); taken with omnibus.
13. Marte: metonymy for war.
14. Hadriae: allusion to the dangers of travel by sea.
16. Austrum: wind from the Sahara prevalent in Italy in August and September, thought to bring sickness.
17. visendus: sc. est, Passive Periphrastic, assume omnibus (line 9) as Dat. of Agent, modifies Cocytos (line 18).
18. Danaï genus: the daughters of Danaos who murdered their husbands on their wedding night.
19. infame: neuter adjective modifying genus (line 18).
20. Sisyphus: king of Corinth, a cunning trickster who somehow offended Zeus. His punishment in Hades was to continually roll a rock uphill, which immediately rolled back down again.
21. linquenda: sc. est and see note 17; modifies tellus, domus and uxor (line 22).
22. harum: modifies arborum, Genitive plurals governed by Nominative ulla (line 24).
23. invisas cupressos: cypress trees are hated because of their use as funeral and grave ornaments.
24. brevem dominum: in apposition with te (line 23).
28. pontificum potiore cenis: refers to mero (line 26).

Otium divos rogat in patenti
 prensus Aegaeo, simul atra nubes
 condidit lunam neque certa fulgent
 sidera nautis;
 otium bello furiosa Thrace, 5
 otium Medi pharetra decori,
 Grosophe, non gemmis neque purpura
 venale neque auro.
 Non enim gazae neque consularis
 summovet lictor miseros tumultus 10
 mentis et curas laqueata circum
 tecta volantis.
 Vivitur parvo bene, cui paternum
 splendet in mensa tenui salinum
 nec levis somnos timor aut cupido 15
 sordidus aufert.
 Quid brevi fortes iaculamur aevo
 multa? Quid terras alio calentis
 sole mutamus? Patriae quis exul
 se quoque fugit? 20
 Scandit aeratas vitiosa navis
 cura nec turmas equitum relinquit,
 ocior cervis et agente nimbos
 ocior Euro.
 Laetus in praesens animus quod ultra est 25
 oderit curare et amara lento

temperet risu: nihil est ab omni
 parte beatum.

Abstulit clarum cita mors Achillem,
 longa Tithonum minuit senectus, 30
 et mihi forsán, tibi quod negarit,
 porriget hora.

Te greges centum Siculaeque circum
 mugiunt vaccae, tibi tollit hinnitum
 apta quadrigis equa, te bis Afro 35
 murice tinctae
 vestiunt lanae; mihi parva rura et
 spiritum Graiae tenuem Camenae
 Parca non mendax dedit et malignum
 spernere volgus. 40

NOTES :

Ode 16. All men are anxious for a life of quiet rest, but all do not pursue the true path for attaining this end.

1. rogat take a double accusative, assume a rogat in the other two otium lines as well

patenti (from patens) - open

2. prensus = Prehensus.

5. Thrace. The Greek nominative – a native of Thrace, a Thracian

6. Medi pharetra decori. " The Parthians adorned with the quiver."

9. gaza. "wealth." Each consul was attended by twelve lictors. It was one of their duties to remove the crowd (turbam submovere) and clear the way for the magistrates whom they attended. summovet is singular by attraction to lictor

12. volantis = volantes with curas

13. vivitur is taken impersonally

14. salinum. The aatinum, or salt-celler. Salt itself was held in great veneration

18. calentis sc. note 12 (and also navis in line 21)

19. After mutamus understand nostra, the ablative denoting the instrument of exchange.

20. Se quoque fugit. Referring to the cares and anxieties of the mind.

26. curare is the object of oderit and the antecedent of quod ultra est, "later" for ultra

30. Tithonum minuit. " Wasted away the powers of Tithonus."

- 35. apta quadrigis. " Fit for the chariot."
- 37. parva rura. Alluding to his Sabine farm.
- 38. spiritum Graiae Camenae " Some slight inspiration of the Greek Muse," i.e. some little talent for lyric verse.
- 40. spernere -infinitive of purpose

ODE 3.30 THE LASTING NATURE OF HORACE'S POETRY

Hear this Latin aloud (read along as she recites):

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=juJqelwHuxo

Exegi monumentum aere perennius
regalique situ pyramidum altius,
quod non imber edax, non Aquilo inpotens
possit diruere aut innumerabilis
annorum series et fuga temporum. 5
Non omnis moriar multaque pars mei
vitabit Libitinam; usque ego postera
crescam laude recens, dum Capitolium
scandet cum tacita virgine pontifex.
Dicar, qua violens obstrepit Aufidus 10
et qua pauper aquae Daunus agrestium
regnavit populorum, ex humili potens
princeps Aeolium carmen ad Italos
deduxisse modos. Sume superbiam
quaesitam meritis et mihi Delphica 15
lauro cinge volens, Melpomene, comam.

NOTES:

Meter: First Asclepiadean

1. aere: Ablative of Comparison with perennius; perennius: neuter comparative adjective modifying monumentum.

2. regali situ: Ablative of Comparison with altius.

3. quod: antecedent is monumentum.

6. omnis: adverbial, "wholly."

7. Libitinam - Venus Libitina

9. tacita virgine: i.e., a Vestal Virgin.

11. aquae: Genitive with pauper.

12. regnavit: takes a Genitive object (Greek grammatical construction); humili: sc. origine.

13. Aeolium: "Greek", but more specifically, "Aeolian," an allusion to the island of Lesbos, the birthplace of the poets Sappho and Alcaeus whom Horace greatly admired.

15. mihi: Dative of Reference, take with comam (line 16); Delphica: Ablative with lauro (line 16).

16. volens: adverbial.