

The Sound of Silence: Horace's "Leaky Ear" in the *Satires*

Passage 1: Excerpts from *Satires* 2.7 (Muecke 1993)

<i>'iamdudum ausculto et cupiens tibi dicere servus</i>	1
<i>pauca reformido.'</i>	2
[Dav:] "I have been listening for some time now and I have been wanting to tell you a few things, but, as a slave, I'm afraid."	
<i>'Romae rus optas, absentem rusticus urbem</i>	28
<i>tollis ad astra levis. si numquam es forte vocatus</i>	29
<i>ad cenam, laudas securum holus ac, velut usquam</i>	30
<i>vincit eas, ita te felicem dicis amasque</i>	31
<i>quod nusquam tibi sit potandum. iusserit ad se</i>	32
<i>Maecenas serum sub lumina prima venire</i>	33
<i>convivam: "nemon oleum fert ocius? ecquasi</i>	34
<i>audit?" cum magno blateras clamore fugisque.'</i>	35
[Dav:] "When you are in Rome you desire the country; and when in the country, you fickle elevate the absent city to the stars. If by chance you were never called to dinner, you would praise your carefree vegetable and, as though you would go anywhere else in chains, you say you are so lucky and love that you don't have to drink anywhere else. But should Maecenas call you to come as a late dinner guest, just as the last lights are being lit, you babble with a great shout, 'Can someone hurry and bring me the oil? Is anyone listening?' And you run off."	
<i>'tune mihi dominus, rerum imperiis hominumque</i>	75
<i>tot tantisque minor?'</i>	76
[Dav:] "Am I to call you my master, who is subject to the demands of so many matters and men?"	
<i>'tu, mihi qui imperitas ...</i>	81
<i>duceris ut nervis alienis mobile lignum.'</i>	82
[Dav:] "You, who give me orders ... are controlled with strings like a wooden puppet by others."	
<i>"liber, liber sum" dic, age: non quis.'</i>	92
[Dav:] "Come on, say it: 'Free. I'm free.' You can't."	
<i>'unde mihi lapidem?' 'quorsum est opus?' 'unde sagittas?'</i>	116
<i>'aut insanit homo aut versus facit.' 'ocius hinc te</i>	117
<i>ni rapis, accedes opera agro nona Sabino.'</i>	118
[Hor:] "Where can I get a stone?"	
[Dav:] "For what?"	
[Hor:] "How about arrows?"	
[Dav:] "The man is either crazy or he's spinning verses."	
[Hor:] "Unless you get out of here damn quick, you'll be the ninth laborer on my Sabine farm!"	

Passage 2: Excerpts from *Satires* 1.9 (Gowers 2012)

<i>'misere cupis,' inquit 'abire,</i>	14
<i>iamdudum video.'</i>	15
"I've seen for a long time now that you desperately want me to go away," he says.	

<i>demitto auriculas, ut iniquae mentis asellus,</i>	21
<i>cum gravius dorso subiit onus.</i>	22
<b>I cast down my ears</b> like an ass with a grumpy disposition when a very heavy load is put on his back.	

Passage 3: Excerpts from *Satires* 2.6 (Muecke 1993)

<i>at simul atras</i>	32
<i>ventum est Esquilias, aliena negotia centum</i>	33
<i>per caput et circa saliunt latus. 'ante secundam</i>	34
<i>Roscius orabat sibi adesses ad Puteal cras.'</i>	35
<i>'de re communi scribae magna atque nova te</i>	36
<i>orabant hodie meminisses, Quinte, reverti.'</i>	37
<i>'imprimat his, cura, Maecenas signa tabellis.'</i>	38
<i>dixeris 'experiar: 'si vis, potes' addit et instat.</i>	39
As soon as I come to the black Esquiline, a hundred other annoyances assail my head and around my side. "Roscius asked that you be at the Puteal at second hour tomorrow." "The scribes ask that you remember to come back today concerning a great and new public matter." "See to it that Maecenas puts his seal on these papers." If you say, " <b>I will try</b> ," he adds and insists, "If you want you can get it done it."	
<i>et cui concredere nugas [...]</i>	43
<i>et quae rimosa bene deponuntur in aure.</i>	45
And [Maecenas only] entrusted me with <b>idle chat</b> [...] and whatever can be deposited into my <b>leaky ear</b> .	

Passage 4: *Satires* 2.1 (Muecke 1993)

<i>nisi dextro tempore Flacci</i>	18
<i>verba per attentam non ibunt Caesaris aurem,</i>	19
<i>cui male si palpere, recalcitret undique tutus.</i>	20
Unless the time is right, <b>Flaccus'/Floppy's words</b> will not go through <b>Caesar's pricked ear</b> ; and if he is stroked the wrong way, he will kick out on all sides for protection.	

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