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ADULTERY, EMASCULATION, AND ROMAN IDENTITY IN HORACE'S *SATIRES*

Abstract:

<https://camws.org/sites/default/files/meeting2020/abstracts/2218AdulteryandRoman.pdf>

1. *Serm. I.2.41-46*

hic se praecipitem tecto dedit, ille flagellis
ad mortem caesus, fugiens hic decedit acrem
praedonum in turbam, dedit hic pro corpore
nummos,
hunc perminxerunt calones; quin etiam illud
accidit, ut cuidam testes caudamque salacem
demeterent ferro...

This one threw himself headlong from a roof,
that one was cut to death by whips, this one,
fleeing, fell in with a harsh crowd of pirates,
this one gave money for his body, slaves
violated this one; but indeed it happened to
that one, that his testes and lustful penis were
mowed off with a sword...

2. *Serm. I.2.64-67*

Villius in Fausta Sullae gener, hoc miser uno
nomine deceptus, poenas dedit usque
superque
quam satis est, pugnīs caesus ferroque petitus,
exclusus fore, cum Longarenius foret intus.

Villius, son-in-law of Sulla by Fausta,
wretched man, deceived in this by a name,
paid the penalty all the way to and beyond
what is enough, having been beaten with fists
and attacked with swords, shut outside, when
Longarenius was inside.

3. *Serm. I.2.68-71*

huic si muttonis verbis mala tanta videnti
diceret haec animus 'quid vis tibi? numquid
ego a te
magno prognatum deosco consule cunnum
velatumque stola, mea cum conferbuit ira?'
quid responderet? 'magno patre nata puella
est.'

If the mind of the penis were to say to this
man, seeing such evils as these, "What do you
want for yourself? Do I ask from you a vagina
born from a great consul and veiled in a stola,
when my passion becomes hot?", what would
he respond? "The girl has been born from a
great father."

4. *Serm. I.2.96-100*

si interdicta petes, vallo circumdata – nam te
hoc facit insanum – multae tibi tum officient
res,
custodes, lectica, ciniflones, parasitae,
ad talos stola demissa et circumdata palla,
plurima, quae invidiant pure apparere tibi
rem.

If you seek what is forbidden, encircled by a
rampart – for this makes you insane – then
many things will stand in your way: guards,
litters, hairdressers, hangers-on, and she,
having been encircled to her ankles by her
stola hanging down and her palla: very many
things, which might prevent the thing from
appearing clearly to you.

5. *Serm. I.2.103-108*

...an tibi mavis
insidias fieri pretiumque avellier ante

...or do you prefer that traps be there for you
and the price be taken before the revealing of

quam mercem ostendi? leporem venator ut
alta
in nive sectetur, positum sic tangere nolit,
cantat et apponit 'meus est amor huic similis;
nam
transvolat in medio posita et fugientia captat.

6. Serm. I.2.132-134

discincta tunica fugiendum est et pede nudo,
ne nummi pereant aut puga aut denique fama.
deprendi miserum est...

7. Serm. I.2.80-82

nec magis huic...
...hoc, Cerinthe, tuo tenerum est femur aut
crus
rectius...

8. Serm. II.7.46

te coniunx aliena capit, meretricula Davum

9. Serm. II.7.53-55

tu, cum proiectis insignibus, anulo equestri
Romanoque habitu, prodis ex iudice Dama
turpis odoratum caput obscurante lacerna,

10. Serm. II.7.65-70

ibis sub furcam prudens dominoque furenti
committes rem omnem et vitam et cum
corpore famam?
evasti: credo, metues doctusque cavebis:
quaeres quando iterum paveas iterumque
perire
possis, o totiens servus!....

11. Serm. II.7.75-76, 80-82

tune mihi dominus, rerum imperiis
hominumque
tot tantisque minor...

...nempe
tu, mihi qui imperitas, alii servis miser atque
duceris ut nervis alienis mobile lignum

the merchandise? As a hunter follows a hare
in high snow, but does not want to touch one
lying there, he sings and adds: "My love is
similar to this; for it flies over what is placed
in the middle and seizes what is fleeing."

Flight is necessary, with the tunic ungirdled
and foot bare, lest money or buttocks or,
finally, reputation suffer. To be caught is
miserable...

Nor is this woman's thigh more tender or her
shin straighter than yours, Cerinthus...

Another's wife seizes you, a Davus to a
prostitute

When you, having thrown down your
insignia, the knight's ring and the Roman
clothing, appear not as a judge but as a Dama,
with the cloak obscuring your ugly perfumed
head...

Will you go knowingly under the yoke and
entrust to a raging master everything, both
your life and your reputation, along with your
body? You have escaped: I suppose, you will
be afraid and, having learned [your lesson], be
on guard: but you will seek [it] when you
might be afraid again and be able to perish
again, O slave again and again!

Are you my master, being totally under this
sort of authority of things and people...
Certainly you, wretch, who order me, are
enslaved by others and are lead like a wooden
puppet moved by the strings of others.

12. Ep. IX.11-16

Romanus eheu (posterius negabit!)
emancipatus feminae
fert vallum et arma miles et
spadonibus
servire rugosis potest
interque signa turpe militaria
Sol aspexit conopium.

Behold, a Roman soldier (you future generations will deny it!), the slave of a woman, carries a stake and weapons, and is able to serve shriveled eunuchs, and the Sun looks down upon the ugly mosquito net among the military standards.

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