

Abstract: <https://camws.org/sites/default/files/meeting2021/abstracts/2427MartialOvidMartial.pdf>

Passages of Martial and Ovid

1. Martial 1.15

O mihi post nullos, Iuli, memorande sodales,
Si quid longa fides canaque iura valent,
Bis iam paene tibi consul tricensimus instat,
Et numerat paucos vix tua vita dies.
Non bene distuleris, videas quae posse negari, 5
Et solum hoc ducas, quod fuit, esse tuum.
Expectant curaque catenatique labores;
Gaudia non remanent, sed fugitiva volant.
Haec utraque manu complexuque adsere toto:
Saepe fluunt imo sic quoque lapsa sinu. 10
Non est, crede mihi, sapientis dicere "vivam";
Sera nimis vita est crastina: vive hodie.

(You who come after no companion, Julius, in my memory, if long faith and hoary bonds hold strong at all, already now twice-thirty consuls draw nigh on you and your life scarcely counts for a few days. It's not right that you put off what you see can be denied, and count only what was as yours. Cares and enchained labours await you; joys do not abide, they flee and fly. Grasp them with both hands and a whole embrace: in spite of it they often slip from the deepest grasp. It's not wise, believe me, to say "I'll live"; too late is life tomorrow, live today!)

2. Ovid Tristia 1.5

O mihi post nullos umquam memorande sodales (1)
...
scis bene, quem dicam, positus pro nomine signis,
officium nec te fallit, amice, tuum, (7-8)
...
invigiles igitur nostris pro caribus, oro,
deminui siqua numinis ira potest (43-44)
...
at mihi perpetuo patria tellure carendum est,
ni fuerit laesi mollior ira dei (83-84)

Passages of Martial and Ovid

3. Martial 3.5

Vis commendari sine me cursurus in urbem,
parve liber, multis, an satis unus erit?
unus erit, mihi crede, satis, cui non eris hospes,
Iulius, assiduum nomen in ore meo.
protinus hunc primae quaeres in limine Tectae; 5
quos tenuit Daphnis, nunc tenet ille lares.
est illi coniunx, quae te manibusque sinuque
excipiet, tu vel pulverulentus eas.
hos tu seu pariter sive hunc illamve priorem
videris, hoc dices: 'Marcus havere iubet.' 10
et satis est. alios commendet epistula: peccat
qui commendandum se putat esse suis.

(Coursing into the city without me, little book, do you want to be commended to many men – or will one be enough? Believe me, one will be enough, one to whom you will be no stranger, Julius, a name always on my lips. You will seek him directly on the threshold of the Covered Way; the dwelling Daphnis held, he holds now. He has a wife who will take you with her hands and breast, though you should come covered in dust. Whether you see them together, or this or that one first, you will say this: "Marcus bids you well." And that is enough. Let a letter commend others; he offends, who thinks he must be commended to his own.)

4. Ovid Tristia 1.1

Parve—nec invideo—sine me, liber, ibis in urbem,
ei mihi, quo domino non licet ire tuo! (1-2)
...
protinus admonitus repetet mea crimina lector,
et peragar populi publicus ore reus.
tu cave defendas, quamvis mordebere dictis;
causa patrocínio non bona maior erit. (23-6)

Select Bibliography

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