

Female Voice and Violence in the *Nux*

Abstract

***Latin Text & Translation*¹**

1: lines 1–2

*Nux ego iuncta viae cum sim sine crimine vitae,
a populo saxis praetereunte petor.*

I am a nut tree joined to the road. Although I am without a life of crime,
I am attacked with stones by people passing.

2: lines 41–42

*Sic reus ille fere est, de quo victoria lucro
esse potest; inopis vindice facta carent.*

Therefore, a defendant is usually one whose conviction
can be for profit; the deeds of the poor are without a prosecutor.

3: lines 15–16

*Quin etiam exemplo pariebat femina nostro,
nullaque non illo tempore mater erat.*

Indeed, by my example, a woman gave birth,
and in that time no woman was not a mother.

4: lines 23–24

*Nunc uterum vitiat quae vult formosa videri,
raraque in hoc aevo est quae velit esse parens.*

Now, a woman who wants to seem beautiful harms her womb,
and in this time, it is rare that anyone wants to be a mother.

5: lines 65–70

*Sole licet siccaque siti peritura laborem,
irriguae dabitur non mihi sulcus aquae.
At cum maturas fisso nova cortice rimas
nux agit, ad partes pertica saeva venit.
Pertica dat plenis immitia vulnera ramis,
ne possim lapidum verbera sola queri.*

¹ For the Latin text, I use Hexter, et al. 2020, which adapts Lenz 1956. All translations are my own.

Although I toil, about to perish from the sun and dry thirst,
a furrow of irrigating water will not be given to me.
And when a new nut shows mature cracks in a splitting shell,
the harsh rod comes for its role.
The rod gives cruel wounds to full branches,
so that I cannot complain only about wounds from stones.

6: lines 73–74

*Has puer aut certo rectas dilaminat ictu
aut pronas digito bisve semelve petit.*

A boy splits these, either as they stand upright or recline on their side, with a determined stroke,
and seeks them with a finger once or twice.

7: line 75

Quattuor in nucibus, non amplius, alea tota est.

In four nuts, no more, is the total risk.

8: lines 95–98

*Lamina mollis adhuc tenero est in lacte, quod intra est,
nec mala sunt ulli nostra futura bono:
iam tamen invenio qui me iaculentur et ictu
praefestinato munus inane petant.*

The husk of my nuts is still soft with the tender milk that is inside,
and my misfortunes will not be for the good of anyone:
nevertheless, already I find those hitting me and
seeking an empty reward with a premature blow.

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