

Pythias me inuadit: Perilous Interpellation in Apuleius' Metamorphoses

Link to Abstract:

<https://camws.org/sites/default/files/meeting2021/abstracts/2529ApuleiusMetPythias.pdf>

Textual Passages

1) Apuleius *Met.* 1.24

*inde me commodum egredientem continatur Pythias condiscipulus apud Athenas Atticas meus, qui me post aliquantum multum temporis amanter agnitum inuadit amplexusque ac comiter deosculatus: 'mi Luci', ait, 'sat pol diu est, quod interuisimus te....'*¹

Just as I was leaving from there, Pythias encountered me, my fellow-student at Athens in Attica, and after such a long time having lovingly recognized me, he attacked me, and, affably kissing me said, 'My friend Lucius, by Pollux! It's been a long while since we last saw you....'

2) Apuleius *Met.* 1.25

'iam iam', inquit, 'nec amicis quidem nostris uel omnino ullis hospitibus parcitis, quod tam magnis pretiis pisces friuolos indicatis...? sed non impune. iam enim faxo scias, quem ad modum sub meo magisterio mali debea<nt> coherceri' – et profusa in medium sportula iubet officialem suum insuper pisces inscendere ac pedibus suis totos obterere. qua contentus morum seueritudine meus Pythias ac mihi, ut [h]abirem, suadens: 'sufficit mihi, o Luci', inquit, 'seniculi tanta haec contumelia.'

'Now then!' he said, 'can't you even spare our friends or at least any guests when you demand such exorbitant prices for such paltry fish? But not without punishment! For I shall now make you learn how **bad men** ought to be kept in check under *my* magistracy,' and after dumping out the basket right into the middle of the market he commanded his assistant to climb up on top of the fish and to trample them to shreds with his feet. Satisfied with the severity of his conduct, my friend Pythias urged me to depart and said: 'It's good enough for me, Lucius, to punish the little old man with such abuse.'

¹ Quotations from Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* are from Helm's 1992 edition; citations refer to book and chapter numbers. All English translations are my own.

Deborah Cromley
Le Moyne College
cromledh@lemoyne.edu
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3) Apuleius *Met.* 1.25

His actis consternatus ac prorsus obstupidus ad balneas me refero prudentis condiscipuli ualido consilio et nummis simul priuatus et cena.

Perplexed and utterly struck dumb by these actions I hastened to the baths, deprived simultaneously of both money and dinner by the mighty counsel of my prudent fellow-student.

4) Apuleius *Met.* 1.24

...et percontato pretio, quod centum nummis indicaret, aspernatus uiginti denariis praestinaui

...and after I'd inquired about the price, I spurned his request for a hundred nummi and instead made my purchase for twenty denarii.

5) Apuleius *Met.* 1.2

Thessaliam ex negotio petebam

I was heading on business toward Thessaly

6) Apuleius *Met.* 1.24

'quae autem tibi causa peregrinationis huius?'

'What's the reason for this travelling of yours?'

'crastino die scies'

'Tomorrow you will know'

7) Apuleius *Met.* 1.24

Note: same as passage 1) above

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cromledh@lemoyne.edu
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