

1. aspice me, cui parua domi fortuna relicta est, 55
nullus et antiquo Marte triumphus aui,
ut **regnem** mixtas inter conuiua puellas
hoc ego, quo tibi nunc eleuor, **ingenio!**
me iuuet hesternis positum languere corollis,
quem tetigit iactu certus ad ossa deus; 60
Actia Vergiliu<m> custodis litora Phoebi,
Caesaris et fortis dicere posse ratis,
qui nunc Aeneae Troiani suscitat arma
iactaque Lavinis moenia litoribus.
cedite Romani scriptores, cedite Grai! 65
nescio quid maius nascitur Iliade.

2. tu canis umbrosi subter pineta Galaesi
Thyrsin et attritis Daphnin harundinibus,
utque decem possint corrumpere mala puellas
missus et impressis haedus ab uberibus. 70
felix, qui uilis pomis mercaris amores!
huic licet ingratae Tityrus ipse canat.
felix intactum Corydon qui temptat Alexin
agricolae domini carpere delicias!
quamuis ille sua lassus requiescat auena, 75
laudatur facilis inter Hamadryadas.

3. ut nostris tumefacta superbiat Vmbria libris,
Vmbria Romani patria Callimachi!

4. Hoc quodcumque uides, hospes, qua[m] **maxima Roma** est, Whatever you see here, friend, where greatest Rome
ante Phrygem Aenean collis et herba fuit;
atque ubi Nauali stant sacra Palatia Phoebo,
Euandri profugae concubuere **boues**.

5.a) Albani docuere suos; hinc **maxima** porro 600
acceptit **Roma** et patrum seruauit honorem;
5.b) Mos erat Hesperio in Latio, quem protinus urbes
Albanae coluere sacrum, nunc **maxima** rerum
Roma colit... (V. A. 5.600–1, 7.601–3)

6. Tarpeiusque pater nuda de rupe tonabat
et Tiberis nostris aduena **bubus** iit.

7. parua saginati lustrabant compita porci,
pastor et ad calamos exta litabat ouis.
uerbera pellitus saetosa mouebat **arator**, 25
unde licens Fabius sacra Lupercus habet.
nec rudis infestis **miles** radiabat in armis:
miscebant usta proelia nuda sude.

8. Mantua me genuit, Calabri rapuere, tenet nunc
Parthenope; cecini **pascua rura duces**.

Look at me, to whom a small fortune was left at home
and no ancestral triumph in an ancient war—see how I
reign over banquets in the girls’ midst with this talent
for which you now mock me! Let it delight me to recline
laid out with yesterday’s garlands, for the unerring god of
love has pierced me to the bone with his arrows. Let it
please Vergil to be able to tell of the Actian shores of
guardian Phoebus, and the strong fleet of Caesar; Vergil,
who now takes up the arms of Trojan Aeneas and the
walls founded on Lavinian shores. Yield writers both
Roman and Greek! Something greater than the *Iliad*
is being brought to birth. (Prop. 2.34.55–66)

You sing, beneath the pines of shady Galaesus, of
Thyrsis and Daphnis, with his well worn reed-pipe,
and how ten apples and a kid just weaned from its
dam’s udders could enrapture the girls. Happy you are,
a man who can buy love cheap, with apples! To her,
though she be ungrateful, Tityrus himself may sing.
Happy is Corydon, who tries to steal Alexis, as yet
unaffected, his rural master’s pet. Though he rests,
weary of his reed-pipe, he is praised amongst the
easygoing Hamadryads. (Prop. 2.34.67–76)

so that Umbria may swell with pride at our volumes—
Umbria, the fatherland of Rome’s Callimachus!” (Prop. 4.1.63–4)

The Albans taught their sons; thence in turn greatest Rome
inherited it and preserved their fathers’ observance.
There was a custom in the Latin Westland, which the Alban
cities thenceforth held sacred, and now Rome, the greatest city
in the world, observes...

The Tarpeian father thundered from bare rock
and the foreign Tiber flowed to our cattle. (Prop. 4.1.7–8)

Fattened pigs used to purify small shrines at the cross-roads, and
the shepherd offered sheep’s entrails in sacrifice to the music of
his pipe. The leather-clad ploughman moved the bristling lash,
whence Fabian Lupercus lewdly holds his rites. Nor would the
rough soldier shine under hostile arms: they went into battle
naked, with a burnt stake for a weapon. (Prop. 4.1.23–8)

Mantua bore me, Calabria snatched me away, now Parthenope
holds me; I celebrated pastures, countryside, generals. (VSD 36)

9. Curia, praetexto quae nunc nitet alta senatu,
pellitos habuit, rustica corda, Patres.
bucina cogebat priscos ad uerba Quirites:
centum illi in prato saepe senatus erat.
nec sinuosa cauo pendebant uela theatro, 15
pulpita sollemnis non oluere crocos.
nulli cura fuit externos quaerere diuos,
cum tremerer patrio pendula turba sacro.

10. nec non Ausonii, Troia gens missa, coloni 385
uersibus incomptis ludunt risuque soluto,
oraque corticibus sumunt horrenda cauatis,
et te, Bacche, uocant per carmina laeta, tibique
oscilla ex alta suspendunt mollia pinu.

11. annuaque accenso celebrare Parilia faeno,
qualia nunc curto lustra nouantur equo.
Vesta coronates pauper gaudebat asellis,
ducebant macrae uilia sacra boues.

12.a) ... et cum lustrabimus agros
12.b) terque nouas circum felix eat hostia fruges

13. prima galeritus posuit praetoria Lycmon,
magna pars Tatio rerum erat inter ouis.
hinc Tities Ramnesque uiri Luceresque Soloni,
quattuor hinc albos Romulus egit equos.

14. Sabinorum prisco de sanguine magnum
... agmen ...
Claudia nunc a quo diffunditur et tribus et gens
per Latium, postquam in partem data Roma Sabinis.

15. quippe suburbanae parua minus urbe <Bo>**uillae**
et, qui nunc nulli, maxima turba **Gabi**.
et stetit **Alba** potens, albae suis omne nata, 35
ac tibi **Fidenas** longa erat isse uia.

16. unde genus Longa nostrum dominabitur Alba...
hi tibi Nomentum et **Gabios** urbemque **Fidenam**,
hi Collatinas imponent montibus arces,
Pometios Castrumque Inui **Bolamque** Coramque

17. huc melius profugos misisti, Troia, Penatis;
heu quali uecta est Dardana puppis aue! 40
iam bene spondebant tunc omina, quod nihil illam
laeserat abiegni uenter apertus equi,
cum pater in nati trepidus ceruice peperdit
et uerita est umeros urere flamma pios.
tunc animi uenere Deci Brutique secures,
45 uexit et ipsa sui Caesaris arma Venus,
arma resurgentis portans uictoria Troiae.

18.a) sectaque intexunt abiete costas
18.b) inclusos utero Danaos et pinea furtim
laxat claustra Sinon (V. A. 2.258–9)

The Curia, which now gleams on high with the toga-clad senate, then held our Fathers leather-clad, country hearts. A horn called the citizens of yore together for debate; often a hundred of them in a meadow constituted the senate. Nor did billowing awnings hang above the hollow theatre, nor was the stage redolent of ceremonial saffron. None were concerned to seek foreign gods, when the crowd trembled in suspense at their fathers' ritual. (Prop. 4.1.11–18)

The Ausonian farmers too, a race sent from Troy, sport in unrefined verse and unrestrained laughter; they put on rough masks of hollow cork, and summon you, Bacchus, in their happy songs; for you they hang soft little masks from a high pine-tree. (V. G. 2.385–9)

They celebrated the Parilia annually with a straw bonfire, just as purification is now renewed with a docked horse. Vesta was poor and rejoiced in garlanded mules, and emaciated cattle led the humble sacrificial rites. (Prop. 4.1.19–22)

... and when we purify the fields (B. 5.75)
and let the propitious victim go thrice around the new crops (G. 1.345)

Lycmon wore a skin-cap when he pitched the first Roman commander's tent, and a great part of Tatus' wealth lay in his sheep. Thence came Tities, Ramnes and the Luceres of Solonium; thence Romulus drove four white steeds. (Prop. 4.1.29–32)

a great column of Sabines from ancient blood...
led by Clausus, from whom the Clavian tribe and clan
are now dispersed throughout Latium, after Rome
had been given in part to the Sabines. (V. A. 7.706–9)

Indeed, Bovillae was less of a suburb when the city was small and, Gabii, which now is nothing, was a great crowd; and Alba stood powerful, born from the omen of a white sow; and the road to Fidenae was once long. (Prop. 4.1.33–6)

whence our race will rule in Alba Longa...
These will establish Nomentum, Gabii, and the city of Fidenae, they will found the citadel of Collatia, Suessa Pometia, Faunus' Camp, Bola, and Cora. (V. A. 6.765, 773–5)

It was better you sent your exiled gods here, Troy; alas, with such a bird-omen was the Dardan ship conveyed from her shores! Already then the omens boded well, because the opened belly of the silver-fir horse had harmed her in no way, when the trembling father hung on his son's neck, and he feared the flame might burn his pious shoulders. Then the souls and rods of Decius and Brutus came up and Venus herself carried the arms of her own Caesar, carrying the victorious arms of a resurgent Troy. (Prop. 4.1.39–47)

and they weave beams of silver-fir into its ribs (V. A. 2.16)
Sinon released the Danaans shut up in the belly and secretly loosened the pine bolts...

18.c) quin Decios Drusosque procul saeumque secure
aspice Torquatum et referentem signa Camillum
18.d) illic fas regna resurgere Troiae

Why look at the Decii and the Drusi far off; Torquatus, savage
with his rods; and Camillus carrying the standards... (V. A. 6.824–5)
there it is written that Troy's realm will rise again (V. A. 1.206)

19. felix terra tuos cepit, Iule, deos,
si modo Auernalis tremulae cortina Sibyllae
dixit Auentino rura pianda Remo, 50
aut si Pergameae sero rata carmina uatis
longaeum ad Priami uera fuere caput:
'uertite equum, Danai! male uincitis! Ilia tellus
uiuet et huic cineri Iuppiter arma dabit.'

The earth has happily received your gods, Iulus, if only the
trembling Sibyl's Avernal tripod has foretold that the fields
must be expiated by Aventine Remus, or if the songs of the
Pergamene seer, ratified too late, were true in regard to aged
Priam. "Danaans, turn the horse! You win in vain!
The Ilian land will live and Jupiter will give weapons
to this ash. (Prop. 4.1.48–54)

20. o patria, o diuum domus Ilium et incluta bello
moenia Dardanidum! quater ipso in limine portae
substiit atque utero sonitum quarter arma dedere;
instamus tamen immemores caecique furore
et monstrum infelix sacrata sistimus arce.
tunc etiam fatis aperit Cassandra futuris
ora dei iussu non umquam credita Teucris.

O fatherland, o Ilium, home of the gods, and walls of Dardanians
renowned in battle! Four times the horse halted on the very
threshold of the entrance and four times the weapons rang from
within the horse's belly. Nonetheless, we pressed on unheeding
and blind with passion: we set the unlucky prodigy on the
consecrated citadel. Then too, at the god's command, Cassandra
opened her mouth, never believed by the Trojans. (V. A. 2.241–7)

21. moenia namque pio coner disponere uersu:
ei mihi, quod nostro est paruu in ore sonus!
sed tamen exiguo quodcumque e pectore riui
fluxerit, hoc patriae seruiet omne meae. 60
Ennius hirsuta cingat sua dicta corona:
mi folia ex hedera porrige, Bacche, tua,
ut nostris tumefacta superbiat Vmbria libris,
Vmbria Romani patria **Callimachi!**
scendantis quisquis cernit de uallibus arcis, 65
ingenio muros aestimet ille meo!
Roma, faue, tibi surgit opus: date candida, ciues,
omina et inceptis dextera cantet ausi!
sacra diesque canam et cognomina prisca locorum...

For I would essay the disposition of Rome's walls in pious
verse. Yet, alas, how small a sound issues from my mouth!
But however slender my breast, whatever rivulet of verse
flows from it, this whole product will serve my fatherland.
Let Ennius gird his words with a shaggy garland. Bacchus,
extend leaves to me from your ivy, so that Umbria may swell
with pride at our volumes—Umbria, the fatherland of
Rome's Callimachus!" Whoever sees the citadels climbing
from the valley, let him value the walls according to my
genius! Rome, I ask your favour: my work rises for you:
give good omens, citizens, and let a bird on the right favour my
undertakings. I shall sing of rites and days,
and the old names of places... (Prop. 4.1.57–69)

22. 'Quo ruis imprudens, uage, dicere fata, Properti? Why are you rushing, foolish Propertius, ignorant of how to
non sunt a dextro condita fila colo. foretell destiny? Your life-threads were not spun by a propitious distaff.
acersis lacrimas canta<n>s; auersus Apollo: If you sing, you ask for tears: Apollo is averse; you demand words that
poscis ab inuita uerba pigenda lyra. would have to be regretted, from an unwilling lyre. (Prop. 4.1.71–4)

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