

Sarah Eisenlohr
sheisen@live.unc.edu
1 (610) 955-3284

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
114 Murphey Hall
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

What Makes a Happy Ending: Responses to Europa in *Ode 3.27*

1A. Horace, *Odes 3.27.56-66*

impudens liqui patrios Penatis,
impudens Orcum moror. o deorum
si quis haec audis, utinam inter errem
nuda leones!

antequam turpis macies decentis
occupet malas teneraeque sucus
defluat praedae, speciosa quaero
pascere tigris.

“vilis Europe,” pater urget absens
“quid mori cessas? potes hac ab orno
pendulum zona bene te secuta e-
lidere collum.

sive te rupes et acuta leto
saxa delectant, age, te procellae
crede veloci . . .

2A. Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita 1.58*

“Vos” inquit “uideritis quid illi debeatur: ego
me etsi peccato absolvo, supplicio non libero;
nec ulla deinde impudica Lucretiae exemplo
vivet.” Cultrum, quem sub veste abditum
habebat, eum in corde defigit, prolapsaque in
volnus moribunda cecidit.

3A. Moschus, *Europa 163-166*

. . . Ζεὺς δὲ πάλιν σφετέρῃν ἀνελάζετο μορφήν
λύσε δὲ οἱ μίτρην, καὶ οἱ λέχος ἔντυον ὤρραι.
ἡ δὲ πάρος κούρη Ζηνὸς γένετ' αὐτίκα νόμφη,
καὶ Κρονίδη τέκνα τίκτε καὶ αὐτίκα γίνετο
μήτηρ.

1B. All translations are my own.

Shamelessly I abandoned my ancestral Penates,
shamelessly I keep Orcus waiting. Oh, if anyone
of you gods hears these words—would that I
might wander naked among lions!

Before ugly leanness invades my
comely cheeks and the flavor of these tender
spoils ebbs away, I beg to be a splendid
meal for tigers.

‘Worthless Europa,’ my absent father urges,
‘why do you hesitate to die? You can use well
the girdle you have with you to hang yourself
by the neck from this ash tree.

Or if cliffs and sharp rocks delight you as
means of death, come now, entrust yourself
to a swift squall . . .

2B.

She said, “You all, see to it that he receives
what is owed to him: and although I absolve
myself of blame, I will not free myself from
punishment; nor, then, will any shameless
woman live her life by the example of Lucretia.”
She plunged the knife that she kept hidden
under her clothes into her heart, and, collapsing,
she fell dead upon her wound.

3B.

. . . and Zeus once again resumed his own shape
and loosened her girdle, and the Hours made a
bed for him.
And she who a girl before straightaway became
the bride of Zeus,
and to the son of Kronos she bore children and
immediately was a mother.

4A. Horace, Odes 3.27.66-76

aderat querenti
perfidum ridens Venus et remisso
filius arcu.

mox, ubi lusit satis: 'abstineto'
dixit 'irarum calidaeque rixae;
non tibi invisus laceranda reddet
cornua taurus.

uxor invicti Iovis esse nescis.
mitte singultus, bene ferre magnam
disce fortunam; tua sectus orbis
nomina ducet.'

4B.

Venus, laughing treacherously,
appeared to the lamenting girl, along with her
son who had put away his bow.

Soon, when she had mocked her enough, she
said, "Cease from your anger and eager
combativeness; the hated bull will not offer his
horns to you to be slashed.

You do not know how to be the wife of
invincible Jupiter. Send away your tearful sighs,
figure out how to bear great fortune well; a
continent of the world will take your
name."

Select Bibliography

- Bradshaw, A. 1978. "Horace and the Therapeutic Myth: Odes 3, 7; 3, 11, and 3, 27." *Hermes* 106: 156-176.
- Clay, J. S. 1993. "Providus Auspex: Horace, Odes 3.27." *CJ* 88.2: 167-177.
- De Boer, K. R. 2017. "Pindar's Peaceful Rapes." *Helios* 44.1: 1-27.
- Fantuzzi, M. and Hunter, R. 2005. *Tradition and Innovation in Hellenistic Poetry*. Cambridge.
- Fraenkel, E. 1957. *Horace*. Oxford.
- Garrison, D. H. 1991. *Horace: Epodes and Odes, A New Annotated Latin Edition*. Norman.
- Hadjittofi, F. 2019. "Sleeping Europa from Plato Comicus to Moschus and Horace." *CQ* 69.1: 264-277.
- Harrison, S. J. 1988. "A Tragic Europa?: Horace, Odes 3.27." *Hermes* 116: 427-434.
- Morreall, J. 2009. *Comic Relief: A Comprehensive Philosophy of Humor*. Oxford.
- Sticker, I. 2014. "UXOR INVICTI IOVIS: Zur Funktion des Europamythos in Horaz' Ode 3,27." *Hermes* 142: 404-417.
- Williams, G. 1969. *The Third Book of Horace's Odes*. Oxford.
- Wilson, A. E. 1969. "The Path of Indirection: Horace's 'Odes' 3.27 and 1.7." *CW* 63.2: 44-46.