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## **Gender Transgression and the Politics of Representation in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses***

Dissonant discourses in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*

- asymmetric syzygies (Winkler 1985, esp. 33-37)
- syllepsis (Selden 1994)

Entextualization: Silverstein & Urban 1996, *Natural Histories of Discourse*

- texts and shared culture
- the decontextualization and recontextualization of texts (read: discourses)
- the transference or re-presentation of one discourse within another

### **Production: The View from Inside**

1. *Met.* 8.25: Philebus to the auctioneer

“I would be compelled to dash about like a poor girl pulling out her hair...”  
‘...egoque *misera cogar crinibus solutis discurrere...*’

2. *Met.* 8.26: Philebus to the priests

“Girls, come see the pretty little slave I’ve purchased for you!”  
‘*Puellae, servum vobis pulchellum en ecce mercata perduxi.*’

### **Reception and Entextualization: The View from Outside**

3a. *Met.* 8.26: Lucius to the reader

But those girls were a chorus of *cinaedi*, **who**, immediately leaping up in joy raised discordant shouts in their broken, hoarse, effeminate voices.

*Sed illae puellae chorus erat cinaedorum, quae statim exultantes in gaudium fracta et rauca et effeminata voce clamores absonos intollunt...*

3b. *Met.* 8.27, Lucius to the reader

After wandering past not a few small huts, they arrived at a certain villa of a wealthy owner, and as soon as they entered they frantically rushed forward, making [the place] resound with their discordant wailing.

*Nec paucis pererratis casulis ad quandam villam possessoris beati perveniunt, et ab ingressu primo statim absonis ululatibus constrepentes fanaticè provolant...*

**4a. Met. 8.28:** Lucius to the reader

Shouting prophetically, he began to attack and accuse himself with a fabricated lie about how he had perpetrated something against the law of his holy religion...

*Infit vaticinatione clamosa conficto mendacio semet ipsum incessere atque criminari, quasi contra fas sanctae religionis dissignasset aliquid...*

**4b. Met. 8.28:** Lucius to the reader

Finally, snatching up the whip that is the distinctive attribute of those half-men...he beat himself with blows from its many knots, fortified with miraculous obstinacy against the pain of the whippings.

*Arrepto denique flagro quod semiviris illis proprium gestamen est...indidem sese multinodis commulcat ictibus, mire contra plagarum dolores praesumptione munitus.*

**4c. Met. 8.28:** Lucius to the reader

You could see that, with the cutting of the swords and the striking of the whips, the ground was growing wet with the pollution of effeminate blood.

*Cernerer prosectu gladiatorum ictuque flagrorum solum spurcitia sanguinis effeminati madescere.*

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