

1. *DRN* 1.21-5

*quae quoniam rerum naturam sola gubernas
nec sine te quicquam dias in luminis oras
exoritur neque fit laetum neque amabile quicquam,
te sociam studio scribendis versibus esse
quos ego de rerum natura pangere conor*

Since it is you [=Venus] who alone governs the nature of things
and without you nothing rises to the shining shores of light
nor is happy or worthy to be loved,
I am eager for you to be my partner in the writing of these verses
which I will attempt to compose on the nature of things¹

2. *BC* 1.63-6

*sed mihi iam numen; nec, si te pectore vates
accipio, Cirrhaea velim secreta moventem
sollicitare deum Bacchumque avertere Nysa:
tu satis ad vires Romana in carmina dandas.*

But to me you [=Nero] are now already divine; not, if I as poet accept you
in my breast, would I wish to bother the god who moves
the Cirrhaean haunts [=Apollo] or turn Bacchus from Nysa:
You are enough for the strength that must be given to Roman verses.

3. *BC* 1.67-9

*fert animus causas tantarum expromere rerum,
immensumque aperitur opus, quid in arma furentem
inpulerit populum, quid pacem excusserit orbi.*

My mind carries me to disclose the causes of such great things,
and an immense task has opened, to reveal what drove a frenzied people
to arms, what shook out peace from the world.

4. *Aen.* 1.8-11

*Musa, mihi causas memora, quo numine laeso,
quidve dolens, regina deum tot volvere casus
insignem pietate virum, tot adire labores
inpulerit. Tantaene animis caelestibus irae?*

Muse, remind me of the causes: for what slight to her divinity,
or grieving what, did the queen of the gods drive a man
marked by piety to endure so many misfortunes, to encounter
so many labors. Is there such anger in the minds of the gods?

¹ Translations are my own. Text taken from thelatinlibrary.com.

5. *BC* 1.8

quis furor, o ciues, quae tanta licentia ferri?

What madness, O citizens, has driven you to turn the sword against each other?

6. *BC* 1.1-7

*Bella per Emathios plus quam civilia campos
iusque datum sceleri, canimus, populumque potentem
in sua victrici conversum viscera dextra
cognatasque acies, et rupto foedere regni
certatum totis concussi viribus orbis
in commune nefas, infestisque obvia signis
signa, pares aquilas et pila minantia pilis.*

Of wars more than civil through Emathian fields
and of right given over to wrong, we sing, and a powerful people
turned against their own innards with a conquering hand
and battle lines of relatives, and with the pact of tyranny broken,
a contest fought with all the forces of a shaken world
in common sin, standards against hostile standards,
eagles matched with eagles, javelins threatening javelins.

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