CAMWS Second Paper Session Marilyn B. Skinner

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**Canidia’s Debut: Horace *Satires* 1.8**

1. Horace, *Sat*. 1.8.1–7:

Olim truncus eram ficulnus, inutile lignum,  
cum faber, incertus scamnum faceretne Priapum,  
maluit esse deum. deus inde ego, furum aviumque  
maxima formido; nam fures dextra coercet  
obscaenoque ruber porrectus ab inguine palus, 5  
ast inportunas volucres in vertice harundo  
terret fixa vetatque novis considere in hortis.

Once I was a fig-tree trunk, a useless wood, when a workman, uncertain whether he should make a stool or a Priapus, chose that I be a god. Thus I am a god, the greatest terror of thieves and birds; for my right hand and the ruddy stake stretching out from my obscene groin keeps away thieves, whereas a reed fixed to my head scares the relentless birds and forbids them to roost in the new gardens.

1. *Sat*. 1.8.8–16:

huc prius angustis eiecta cadavera cellis  
conservus vili portanda locabat in arca;  
hoc miserae plebi stabat commune sepulcrum 10  
Pantolabo scurrae Nomentanoque nepoti  
mille pedes in fronte, trecentos cippus in agrum  
hic dabat, heredes monumentum ne sequeretur.  
nunc licet Esquiliis habitare salubribus atque  
aggere in aprico spatiari, quo modo tristes 15  
albis informem spectabant ossibus agrum… .

In the old days a fellow-slave used to arrange for corpses cast out from their narrow cubicles to be carried here in a cheap coffin; here stood a common tomb for the wretched poor, for Pantolabus the comedian and the playboy Nomentanus: a pillar gave the dimensions, a thousand feet in front and three hundred in depth, so that it should not pass to the heirs. Now it is permitted to dwell on the wholesome Esquiline and to stroll on the sunny promenade, where once people sadly used to see a field disgusting with white bones…

1. *Sat*. 1.8.46–50:

nam, displosa sonat quantum vesica, pepedi  
diffissa nate ficus; at illae currere in urbem.  
Canidiae dentis, altum Saganae caliendrum  
excidere atque herbas atque incantata lacertis  
vincula cum magno risuque iocoque videres. 50

…for I farted as loud as a burst balloon, splitting my figwood buttocks; but they [the witches] ran into the city. With great laughter and joking you would have seen Canidia’s teeth and Sagana’s lofty wig, and their herbs and enchanted bracelets fall from their arms.

1. Velleius Paterculus, *Hist*. 2.87.3:

Canidius timidius decessit, quam professioni ei, qua semper usus erat, congruebat.

Canidius died more faintheartedly than befitted that calling he had always exercised.

1. L. Munatius Plancus to Cicero (*Fam*. 10.21.4 [sb 391]):

…improbi per se, corrupti etiam per eos, qui praesunt, Canidios Rufrenosque et ceteros, quos, cum opus erit, scietis…

[The soldiers are] insubordinate by nature, further perverted by those placed over them, the Canidii and Rufreni and others whom you will know when need arises.

1. Seneca, *Suas*. 7.3:

Deliberat Cicero, an scripta sua comburat promittente Antonio incolumitatem, si fecisset.

CESTI PII. Si occidetur Cicero, iacebit inter Pompeium patrem filiumque et Afranium, Petreium, Q. Catulum, M. Antonium illum indignum hoc successore generis. si serva(bi)tur, vivet inter Ventidios et Canidios et Saxas. ita dubium est, utrum satius sit cum illis iacere an cum his vivere?

Cicero deliberates whether he should burn his writings if Antony promises him immunity for doing so.

CESTIUS PIUS: If Cicero dies, he will lie among the Pompeys, father and son, and Afranius, Petreius, Q. Catulus, and that M. Antonius undeserving of this successor of his line. If he is saved, he will live among the Ventidii and Canidii and Saxae. Is there any doubt whether it is better to lie amongst the former or live amongst the latter?

1. Sallust, *Iug*. 3.3:

Frustra autem niti neque aliud se fatigando nisi odium quaerere extremae dementiae est; nisi forte quem inhonesta et perniciosa libido tenet potentiae paucorum decus atque libertatem suam gratificari

To strive in vain, however, and gain nothing other than resentment by wearing yourself out is sheer madness, except perchance for the one possessed by a dishonest and corrupt passion to make a gift of one’s honor and liberty to the power of a few.

1. *Sat*. 1.8.30–33:

lanea et effigies erat, altera cerea: maior 30  
lanea, quae poenis conpesceret inferiorem;  
cerea suppliciter stabat, servilibus ut quae  
iam peritura modis.

And there was a woolen doll and another made of wax; the woolen one larger, so as to crush its subordinate with punishments; the wax one was standing like a suppliant, as one just about to die in servile fashion.

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