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**Love’s Madness and its Remedies in Propertius**

But you, who have the tricks of the downward drawn moon

and the labor of performing sacred rites on magic hearths,

come on then! Change the mind of my mistress,

and make it that she grow paler than my own face!

Then I would believe that you can control

the stars and rivers with †Cythalian† spells.

Or you, who call me back too late after I’ve fallen, friends,

seek out aid for an unwell heart.

Boldly will I endure both iron and fierce fires;

only let there be freedom to say what my wrath wishes.

Carry me through the farthest peoples, and carry me through the waves,

where no woman will know of my journey.

What my father’s friends were unable to ward from me,

or the Thessalian witch to wash out with the vast sea,

This I will truly confess, compelled by neither iron nor fire,

and shipwrecked on the Aegean sea itself.

Envious man, restrain your irritating words at last

and allow us to travel the course we’re on as equals!

What do you want for yourself, lunatic? To feel my madness?

You are hastening to know the utmost evils,

and, poor man, to bear your feet through unknown fires,

and to drink poisons from the whole of Thessaly.

I will boldly endure both iron and fierce fires;

let there be only freedom to say what my wrath wishes.

Carry me through the farthest peoples, and carry me through the waves,

where no woman will know my path.

**Recurring set of *remedia* in Propertius:**

Witchcraft

Iron

Fire

Friends

Travel/Separation

**1. Prop. 1.1.19-30[[1]](#footnote-1)**

at uos, deductae quibus est fallacia lunae

et labor in magicis sacra piare focis, 20

en agedum dominae mentem conuertite nostrae,

et facite illa meo palleat ore magis!

tunc ego crediderim uobis et sidera et amnis

posse †cythalinis† ducere carminibus.

aut uos, qui sero lapsum reuocatis, amici, 25

quaerite non sani pectoris auxilia.

fortiter et ferrum saeuos patiemur et ignis,

sit modo libertas quae uelit ira loqui.

ferte per extremas gentis et ferte per undas,

qua non ulla meum femina norit iter. 30

**2. Prop. 3.24.9-12**

quod mihi non patrii poterant auertere amici,

eluere aut uasto Thessala saga mari, 10

hoc ego non ferro, non igne coactus, et ipsa

naufragus Aegaea uera fatebor aqua.

**3. Prop. 1.5.1-6**

Inuide, tu tandem uoces compesce molestas

et sine nos cursu, quo sumus, ire pares!

quid tibi uis, insane? meos sentire furores?

infelix, properas ultima nosse mala,

et miser ignotos uestigia ferre per ignis, 5

et bibere e tota toxica Thessalia.

**4. Prop. 1.1.27-30 (with new emphasis)**

fortiter et ferrum saeuos patiemur et ignis

sit modo libertas quae uelit ira loqui

ferte per extremas gentis et ferte per undas

qua non ulla meum femina norit iter. 30

**5. Prop. 2.1.57-64**

Medicine heals all human sorrows:

only love does not love a doctor for its disease.

Machaon healed the lame legs of Philoctetes,

Chiron, son of Phillyra, the eyes of Phoenix,

and the Epidaurian god, with Cretan herbs, restored

the dead Androgeon to his father’s hearths,

and the Mysian youth, by the Haemonian spear

from which he had received his wound, by this same spear received aid.

What if she had not been faithful and so steadfast?

Would you be able to live with so great a disgrace?

Destroy my heart with iron or with poison;

only take yourself away from my mistress!

You can be a companion of my life, of my body,

I receive you as the master of my affairs, friend;

I turn you only from my bed, my bed alone.

I am not able to bear Jove as a rival.

omnis humanos sanat medicina dolores:

solus amor morbi non amat artificem.

tarda Philoctetae sanauit crura Machaon,

Phoenicis Chiron lumina Phillyrides, 60

et deus exstinctum Cressis Epidaurius herbis

restituit patriis Androgeona focis,

Mysus et Haemonia iuuenis qua cuspide uulnus

senserat, hac ipsa cuspide sensit opem.

**6. Prop. 2.34.11-8**

quid si non constans illa et tam certa fuisset?

posses in tanto uiuere flagitio?

tu mihi uel ferro pectus uel perde ueneno:

a domina tantum te modo tolle mea!

te socium uitae, te corporis esse licebit, 15

te dominum admitto rebus, amice, meis:

lecto te solum, lecto te deprecor uno:

riualem possum non ego ferre Iouem.

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1. All text Fedeli. All translations my own. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)