

Simplicissima Psyche: Cupid and Psyche as Hellenistic Epyllion

1) Walsh's proposal for a 5 Act division of Cupid and Psyche

Act One: <i>Ira Veneris</i>	4.28.1-35.4
Act Two: <i>Amor Cupidinis</i>	5.1.1-24.5
Act Three: <i>Psyche errans</i>	5.25.1-6.8.3
Act Four: <i>Psyche apud Venerem</i>	6.8.4-21.2
Act Five: <i>Felix coniugium</i>	6.21.3-24.4

2) Apul. Met. 4.27

*Sed ego te narrationibus **lepidis anilibusque fabulis** protinus **avocabo**.*

"But I will **distract** you with **charming narratives** and the stories of an old woman."

3) Apul. Met. 6.24

*Sic captivae puellae delira et temulenta illa narrabat **anicula**; sed astans ego non procul dolebam mehercules quod pugillares et stilum non habebam, qui tam **bellam fabellam** praenotarem.*

Thus the crazy and drunken **little old lady** spoke to the captive girl; but standing nearby I was lamenting - by Hercules! - the fact that I did not have writing tablets or a pen in order to jot down such a **pretty story**."

4) Apul. Met. 4.35

*Psychen autem paventem ac trepidam et in ipso scopuli vertice deflentem **mitis** aura **molliter** spirantis Zephyri, vibratis hinc inde laciniis et reflato sinu, sensim levatam suo **tranquillo** spiritui vehens paulatim per devexa rupis excelsae, vallis subditae florentis caespitis gremio leniter delapsam reclinat.*

However, the soft breeze of the Zephyr, blowing softly, gradually carrying Psyche gently with a calm breeze -- who was afraid and disturbed and crying on the very edge of the cliff, whose hems were blown hither and thither and her garment blown back -- through the slopes of the lofty cliff, releases her gently, placed in the middle of the flowering turf of the valley which dwelled below.

5) Apul. Met. 5.1.1-2

Psyche teneris et herbosis locis in ipso toro roscidi graminis suave recubans, tanta mentis perturbatione sedata, dulce conquievit. Iamque sufficienti recreata somno placido resurgit animo: videt lucum proceris et vastis arboribus consitum, videt fontem vitreo latice perlucidum medio luci meditullio.

Psyche, lying pleasantly in soft and grassy places on a veritable bed of dewy turf, after great disquiet of her mind was soothed, slept sweetly. And now, after her mind was renewed by a sufficient gentle sleep, she woke up: she sees a grove planted with

towering, vast trees, she sees a fountain sparkling with glassy water in the very middle of the middle of the grove.

6) Od. 6.1-3

ὥς ὃ μὲν ἔνθα καθεῦθε πολύτλας δῖος Ὀδυσσεύς
ὑπνῶ καὶ καμάτῳ ἀρημένος: αὐτὰρ Ἀθήνη
βῆ ῥ' ἐς Φαιήκων ἀνδρῶν δῆμόν τε πόλιν τε...

So much-enduring, godlike Odysseus slept there, exhausted by sleep and weariness: but Athena went to the region and city of the Phaeacian men...

Od. 6. 119-126

ὦ μοι ἐγώ, τέων αὔτε βροτῶν ἐς γαῖαν ἰκάνω;
ἦ ῥ' οἳ γ' ὑβρισταί τε καὶ ἄγριοι οὐδὲ δίκαιοι,
ἦε φιλόξενοι καὶ σφιν νόος ἐστὶ θεουδής;
ὥς τέ με κουράων ἀμφήλυθε θῆλυς ἀυτή:
νυμφάων, αἳ ἔχουσ' ὀρέων αἰπεινὰ κάρηνα
καὶ πηγὰς ποταμῶν καὶ πίσεια ποιήεντα.
ἦ νύ που ἀνθρώπων εἰμὶ σχεδὸν ἀύδηέντων;
ἀλλ' ἄγ' ἐγὼν αὐτὸς πειρήσομαι ἠδὲ ἴδωμαι.

Woe is me! To a land of what sort of people have I come? Are they outrageous and wild and unjust, or are they friendly to strangers and have god-fearing minds? There! a female cry of girls surrounded me, of nymphs, who hold the lofty peaks of mountains and the springs of the rivers and the grassy meadows. Am I truly near men of human speech? But come on - I myself will try and see.

7) Apul. Met. 4.28

Erant in quadam civitate rex et regina.

There once was a king and queen in a certain kingdom.

Mosch. Europa

Εὐρώπῃ ποτὲ Κύπρις ἐπὶ γλυκὺν ἦκεν ὄνειρον.

Once upon a time the Cyprian came to Europa in a sweet dream.

8) Psyche's tasks:

- 1) Sort a large and random assortment of grain into piles (6.10.1-6.11.3)
- 2) Fetch golden wool from rabid sheep (6.11.4-6.13.2)
- 3) Fetch an urnula of water from the spring that feeds the Styx (6.13.2-6.15.6)
- 4) Fetch a box full of Persephone's beauty from the underworld (6.16.1-21.2)