

Seruitium Amoris in Ovid's Paraclausithyron (Amores 1.6)

1) Ovid *Amores* 1.6.1–2

Ianitor (indignum) dura religate catena,
difficilem moto cardine pande forem.

Doorkeeper—how unworthily bound by a hard chain!—
Move the hinge and open the difficult door.

2) Ovid *Amores* 1.6.13–16

nec mora, uenit amor; non umbras nocte uolantes,
non timeo strictas in mea fata manus:
te nimium lentum timeo, tibi blandior uni;
tu, me quo possis perdere, fulmen habes.

With no delay, love came. I do not fear shades flying by night,
I do not fear hands drawn to do me harm;
I fear you being excessively resistant, you alone do I flatter;
You have the lightning bolt with which you can destroy me.

3) Ovid *Amores* 1.6.19–22

certe ego, cum posita stares ad uerba ueste,
ad dominam pro te uerba tremente tuli.
ergo, quae ualuit pro te quoque gratia quondam,
heu facinus! pro me nunc ualet illa parum?

Certainly, when you were standing, your clothing off for the lash,
I spoke words to the mistress on your behalf as you trembled.
Therefore, the favor which once also was effective for you –
alas for the crime! – is that favor too little effective for me now?

4) Tibullus 2.4.1–5:

Hic mihi seruitium uideo dominamque paratam:
iam mihi, libertas illa paterna, uale.
seruitium sed triste datur, teneorque catenis,
et numquam misero uincla remittit Amor,
et seu quid merui seu nil peccaui, urit.

Here I see slavery and a mistress made ready for me;
Now, renowned paternal freedom, goodbye.
Slavery—a sad one at that—is given to me, and I am held by chains,
And Love never loosens the bonds from miserable me,
And whether I've earned it or made no mistakes, he burns me.

5) Ovid *Amores* 1.6.23–26 (cf. 32, 40, 8, 56)

redde uicem meritis: grato licet esse quod optas.
tempora noctis eunt; excute poste seram.
excute: sic umquam longa releuere catena,
nec tibi perpetuo serua bibatur aqua.

Return the favor for good deeds; if you are pleasing, you can be what you want.
The times of the night are going; knock the bolt from the door post
Knock it out—and so may you at some point be freed from the long chain,
And may slave's water not always be drunk by you.

6) Ovid *Amores* 1.6.73–74

uos quoque, crudeles rigido cum limine postes
duraque conseruae ligna, ualete, fores.

You also, cruel doorposts with your stiff threshold
and hard wood, doors that are fellowslaves, goodbye.

7) Plautus *Miles Gloriosus* 1339–1341

etiam nunc saluto te, <Lar> familiaris, priu' quam eo.
conserui conseruaeque omnes, bene ualete et uiuite,
bene quaeso inter uos dicatis de med absenti tamen.

Even now I salute you, familial Lar, before I go.
All fellow slaves, male and female, goodbye and farewell;
I ask that you speak well among yourselves about me even when I'm gone.

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