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| **Tristia** 4.5  O mihi dilectos inter pars prima sodales,      unica fortunis ara reperta meis, cuius ab adloquiis anima haec moribunda revixit,      ut vigil infusa Pallade flamma solet; qui veritus non es portus aperire fideles                    05      fulmine percussae confugiumque rati; cuius eram censu non me sensurus egentem,      si Caesar patrias eripuisset opes: temporis oblitum dum me rapit impetus huius,      excidit heu nomen quam mihi paene tuum!           10 tu tamen agnoscis, tactusque cupidine laudis      “ille ego sum” cuperes dicere posse palam. certe ego, si sineres, titulum tibi reddere vellem,  et raram famae conciliare fidem. ne noceam grato vereor tibi carmine, neve  15        intempestivus nominis obstet honor.               quod licet et tutum est, intra tua pectora gaude      meque tui memorem teque fuisse pium, utque facis, remis ad opem luctare ferendam,      dum veniat placido mollior aura deo;                     20 et tutare caput nulli servabile, si non      qui mersit Stygia sublevet illud aqua; teque, quod est rarum, praesta constanter ad omne  indeclinatae munus amicitiae. sic tua processus habeat fortuna perennes,                     25      sic ope non egeas ipse iuvesque tuos;  sic aequet tua nupta virum bonitate probata,      incidat et vestro nulla querela toro; diligat et semper socius te sanguinis illo,      quo pius affectu Castora frater amat;                     30 sic similisque tibi iuvenis sit natus, et illum      moribus agnoscat quilibet esse tuum; sic faciat socerum taeda te nata iugali,      nec tardum iuveni det tibi nomen avi. | First among my beloved companions, you have proved to be the sole altar [of refuge] for my misfortunes, as a result of whose words of encouragement this dying soul revived, as a flame is accustomed to awake when oil is poured on it; you who did not fear to open a safe harbor of refuge for a ship struck by lightning. Because of whose prosperity I would not have felt needy if Caesar had taken away my ancestral wealth. While an impulse seizes me, forgetful of my current circumstances, alas, how nearly I let slip your name!  Yet you know it, and touched by the desire for praise, you would wish to be able to say openly, “I am that man.” Certainly if you were to allow it, I would wish to pay honor to you and to unite your rare loyalty to fame. But I fear I may harm you with my grateful poetry and that the untimely celebration of your name may be a hindrance. This is permitted and safe: rejoice within your heart that I am mindful of you and that you have been loyal, and as you are doing, bend the oars to bring aid until a more gentle breeze comes and the god is appeased. Save a life that no one can save as long as he who submerged it will not lift it from the Stygian wave.  Make yourself constantly available, a rare thing that is, for every service of an unswerving friendship. So may your fortune make continual progress, so may you yourself not need help and may you help your own. So may your wife equal her husband in approved goodness, and may no quarrels occur in your marriage; also, may your blood-brother always love you with an affection such as his loyal brother loves Castor; so may your young son be like you, and may all know that he is yours by his character; so may your daughter’s marriage-torch make you a father-in-law, and soon give to you the name of grandfather while you are still a young man. |