

Cupid's Metamorphosis in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*Amor Vulgaris

Initial Description:

1. Et uocat confestim puerum suum pinnatum illum et satis temerarium, qui malis suis moribus contempta disciplina publica flammis et sagittis armatus per alienas domos nocte discurrens et omnium matrimonia corrumpens impune committit tanta flagitia et nihil prorsus boni facit. (4.30.4)

Immediately she calls that boy of hers, winged and rash as he is, who, with his wicked morals, with public training scorned, armed with flames and arrows, running through others' homes by night and corrupting everyone's marriages, commits such great outrages with impunity and does absolutely nothing good.

Question of legitimacy:

2. Quanquam inepta ego quae frustra filium dicam: impares enim nuptiae et praeterea in uilla sine testibus et patre non consentiente factae legitimae non possunt uideri ac per hoc spurius iste nascetur, si tamen partum omnino perferre te patiemur. (6.9.6)

Although I am foolish to speak in vain of a son, for the marriage was unequal and, moreover, done in a country estate without witnesses and without a consenting father. It cannot be seen as legitimate and, on account of this, that child will be born a bastard, if indeed I allow you to give birth at all.

Cupid's Metaphorical Death:

3. nec deus amator humi iacentem deserens inuolauit proximam cupressum

The lover-god, not deserting [Psyche] as she lay on the ground, flew into the nearest cypress tree

4. Indicat adustum filium eius graui uulneris dolore maerentem dubium salutis iacere (5.28.3)

[The tern] points out that [Venus'] son, burned, grieving due to the serious pain of the wound, lay doubtful of his health.

5. Interim Cupido solus interioris domus unici cubiculi custodia clausus coercebatur acriter (6.11.3)

Meanwhile Cupid, alone, was sharply imprisoned, shut in by a guard in a lone room of the innermost part of the house.

Amor Caelestis

Cupid's Metaphorical Rebirth:

6. Sed Cupido iam cicatrice solida reualescens nec diutinam suae Psyche absentiam tolerans per altissimam cubiculi quo cohibebatur elapsus fenestram (6.21.2)

But Cupid, recovering with his wound now whole, not long enduring the absence of his Psyche, escaped through the highest window of the room in which he was contained.

- 7a. 'deprecor, per tuae sagittae dulcia uulnera' (4.31.1)

"I beg you, by the sweet wounds of your arrow"

7b. Psychen innoxio punctulo sagittae suae suscitāt (6.21.3)

He rouses Psyche with a harmless prick of his arrow.

Cupid seeks Legitimacy:

8. Interea Cupido amore nimio peresus et aegra facie matris suae repentinam sobrietatem pertimescens ad armillum redit alisque pernicipibus caeli penetrato uertice magno Ioui supplicat suamque causam probat. (6.22.1)

Meanwhile Cupid, thoroughly consumed by love and with an ill countenance, greatly fearing the unexpected sobriety of his mother, returns to character and, having entered the height of heaven with his nimble wings, supplicates great Jupiter and proves his cause.

9. 'Iam faxo nuptias non impares sed legitimas et iure ciuili congruas.' (6.23.4)

"Now I will make the marriage not unequal, but legitimate and in accordance with civil law."

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