



CSCP Support Materials: Translation

Eduqas GCSE Latin  
Component 2

Latin Literature and Sources (Themes)  
Theme B: Superstition and Magic

For examination in 2021 - 2023



PUBLISHED BY THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CLASSICS PROJECT

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184 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 8PQ, UK

<http://www.CambridgeSCP.com>

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First published 2019

version date 15/06/2020

## *Using this Document*

Each section of the Latin text is displayed in three columns.

In the left-hand column is the Latin text. Line numbers corresponding to the official examination text are indicated in square brackets.

In the centre column is an accessible interpretation of its English meaning (not a literal translation).

Where this interpretation is **significantly** different from a literal translation of the Latin, a literal translation is provided in the right hand column. Where this occurs, the relevant words of the Latin text, English meaning and literal translation are all marked with a dotted line underneath.

Where a word in the English meaning column enhances readability, but is not explicitly included in the Latin, it is given in square brackets: [...].

There are also a number of occasions where, in order to make the passage read more naturally in English, Latin verbs in the (historic) present tense have been translated as if they were in a past tense.

Again, to aid readability, translation of a Latin word equivalent to English 'and' has sometimes been omitted in the English meaning.

**Latin**

**English Meaning**

**Literal Translation**

**HORACE, Omens good and bad**

**impios parrae recinentis omen**

*Let an omen of a hooting owl escort the wicked*

**ducat et praegnans canis aut ab agro**

*and a pregnant dog, or a tawny she-wolf*

**rava decurrens lupa Lanuvino**

*running down from the region of Lanuvium*

**fetaque volpes;**

*and a pregnant fox;*

**rumpat et serpens iter institutum,**

**[5]** *Let a snake interrupt the journey they have begun*

*the started journey*

**si per obliquum similis sagittae**

*if, coming from the side like an arrow,*

**terrui mannos: ego cui timebo**

*it has terrified the horses: for the person I worry about*

*For the one for whom I am afraid, I, a far-sighted seer.*

**providus auspex,**

*I, being a far-sighted augur,*

**antequam stantes repetat paludes**

*Before the bird that portends impending rain-storms*

*the bird prophetic of*

**imbrium divina avis imminentum,**

**[10]** *can [even] get back to the stagnant marshes,*

*standing*

**oscinem corvum prece suscitabo**

*shall conjure up a prophetic crow*

*I shall bring forth with a prayer*

**solis ab ortu.**

*from the rising of the sun.*

**Latin**

**English Meaning**

**Literal Translation**

**HORACE, Omens good and bad (continued)**

**sis licet felix, ubicumque mavis,**

*May you be happy, wherever you prefer to go,*

**et memor nostri, Galatea, vivas,**

*and may you remember me, Galatea, for the rest of your life,*

**teque nec laevus vetet ire picus**

**[15]** *and may neither an ill-omened woodpecker prevent your journey*

**nec vaga cornix.**

*nor a wandering magpie.*

*mindful of us, Galatea, may  
you live*

*and may neither a  
woodpecker on the left-hand  
side prevent [you] going*

**Latin**

**English Meaning**

**Literal Translation**

**MARTIAL, Cures for bad dreams**

**semper mane mihi de me mera somnia narras,**

**quae moveant animum sollicitentque meum.**

**iam prior ad faecem, sed et haec vindemia venit,**

**exorat noctes dum mihi saga tuas;**

**consumpsi salsasque molas et turis acervos;**

**decrevere greges, dum cadit agna frequens;**

**non porcus, non chortis aves, non ova supersunt.**

**aut vigila aut dormi, Nasidiane, tibi.**

*Every morning you describe to me entire dreams about myself,  
which disturb and worry my mind.*

*The previous year's wine has reached the dregs, but now this  
year's vintage too,  
while the soothsayer [tries to] soothe your nights for me;*

**[5]** *I have used up [all] my salted grain and heaps of frankincense;*

*my flocks have decreased, while my lambs are constantly  
being killed;*

*There isn't a pig left, nor any birds in my hen-coops, nor even  
any eggs.*

*Either stay awake, Nasidianus, or keep your sleeping to  
yourself.*

*Always in the morning  
you tell to me undiluted  
dreams about me*

*the lamb falls in large  
numbers*

*sleep for yourself*

Latin	English Meaning	Literal Translation
<b>OVID, Dipsas the sorceress</b>		
<u>est quaedam</u> (quicumque volet cognoscere lenam, audiat) <u>est quaedam nomine Dipsas anus.</u>	<u>There is a woman</u> (whoever who wants to learn about a procuress, let him listen), <u>an old woman called Dipsas.</u>	<u>there is a certain</u> <u>[woman]...there is a</u> <u>certain old woman by</u> <u>the name Dipsas.</u>
<u>ex re nomen habet:</u> nigri non illa parentem Memnonis in roseis sobria vidit equis.	<u>She gets her name from her nature:</u> she has never seen the mother of black Memnon on her rosy horses [whilst] sober.	<u>She has her name from</u> <u>fact:</u>
illa magas artes Aeaeaque carmina novit, inque caput liquidas arte recurvat aquas;	<b>[5]</b> <u>She knows the magic arts and the spells of Circe,</u> <u>and by her skill she can turn flowing rivers back to their source;</u>	
scit bene quid gramen, <u>quid</u> torto concita rhombo licia, <u>quid valeat</u> virus amantis equae.	<u>Well she knows what power each herb possesses, or moving</u> <u>threads on a whirling wheel,</u> <u>or the fluid from a mare in heat.</u>	<u>or what power moving</u> <u>or what power the fluid</u>
<u>cum voluit, toto glomerantur nubila caelo;</u> <u>cum voluit, puro fulget in orbe dies.</u>	<u>When she wants, clouds gather across the whole sky;</u> <b>[10]</b> <u>when she wants, the sun shines in a clear sky.</u>	<u>when she has willed [it],</u> <u>clouds are gathered</u> <u>the day shines</u>
sanguine, si qua fides, stillantia sidera vidi; purpureus lunae sanguine vultus erat.	<u>I have seen (if you can believe it) the stars dripping with blood;</u> <u>even the face of the moon was red with blood.</u>	
<u>hanc ego nocturnas versam volitare per umbras</u> <u>suspignor et pluma corpus anile tegi.</u>	<u>I think she changes shape and flies through the shades of night</u> <u>and her old woman's body is covered with feather[s].</u>	<u>transformed, she flies</u> <u>through nocturnal</u> <u>shades</u>

OVID, Dipsas the sorceress (continued)

**suspikor, et fama est. oculis quoque pupula duplex [15]** *That's what I think, and that is the rumour. In her eyes too*

**fulminat et gemino lumen ab orbe venit.**

*double pupils flash lightning and a beam of light comes from both eyes.*

**evocat antiquis proavos atavosque sepulcris**

*She can summon great-grandfathers and great-great-grandfathers from ancient tombs*

**et solidam longo carmine findit humum.**

*and split open solid ground with a long spell.*



Latin	English Meaning	Literal Translation
<b>PETRONIUS, A spooky story</b>		
<p>cum adhuc servirem, <u>amare coepi</u> Melissam, uxorem Terentii cauponis, pulcherrimum bacciballum. huius contubernalis ad villam supremum diem obiit. itaque <u>per scutum per ocream</u> egi aginavi quemadmodum ad illam pervenirem: nam in angustiis amici apparent.</p>	<p><i>When I was still a slave, I <u>fell in love</u> with Melissa, the wife of Terentius the innkeeper, a really beautiful little peach. Her partner met his last day at their country place. Therefore I <u>tried all possible means</u> and plotted how I might get to her; for it is in emergencies</i></p> <p>[5] <i>that friends are revealed.</i></p>	<p><i><u>began to love</u></i></p> <p><i><u>I acted by shield by greave (cf Eng "by hook or by crook")</u></i></p>
<p>forte dominus Capuam exierat ad negotium expediendum, ego occasionem nactus persuadeo hospiti nostro ut mecum ad quintum miliarium veniat. erat autem miles, fortis tamquam Orcus. apoculamus nos circa gallicinia; luna lucebat tamquam meridie. venimus inter monimenta: homo meus coepit ad stelas facere; sedeo ego cantabundus et stelas numero. deinde ut respexi ad comitem, ille exuit se et omnia vestimenta secundum viam posuit. mihi anima in naso esse; stabam tamquam mortuus. at ille circumminxit vestimenta sua, et subito <u>lupus factus est</u>. nolite me iocari putare; ululare coepit</p>	<p><i>By chance my master had gone off to Capua to sort out some business. So I, seizing the opportunity, persuaded [one of] our guests to come with me as far as the fifth milestone. Well, he was a soldier, brave as Hell. We set off around cock-crow; the moon was shining as though</i></p> <p>[10] <i>it was midday. We came amongst some monuments: my chap started to go over towards the tombstones; I sat there singing and counted the tombstones. Next, when I looked towards my companion, he stripped off and laid all his clothes beside the road. My soul was in my nose; I just stood there as though dead. Meanwhile he piddled around his clothes, and</i></p> <p>[15] <i>suddenly <u>he turned into a wolf</u>. Don't think I am joking; he started to howl</i></p>	<p><i><u>he was made a wolf</u></i></p>

**Latin****English Meaning****Literal Translation****PETRONIUS, A spooky story (continued)**

et in silvas fugit. ego primo nesciebam ubi essem; deinde  
 accessi ut vestimenta eius tollerem; illa autem lapidea facta  
sunt.

and ran off into the woods. At first I didn't know where I  
 was; then  
 I went over to pick up his clothes; but they had turned  
to stone.

but they were made  
stone

paene timore mortuus sum. gladium tamen strinxi et in tota via  
 umbras cecidi, donec ad villam amicae meae pervenirem. ut  
 larva intravi, paene animam ebulivi, sudor mihi per crura  
 fluebat, oculi mortui; vix umquam reffectus sum. Melissa mea  
 mirari coepit quod tam sero ambulare. 'si ante' inquit  
 'venisses, saltem nos adiuvises; lupus enim villam intravit et  
 omnia pecora oppugnavit; tamquam lanius sanguinem illis  
 misit. nec tamen derisit, etiam si fugit; servus enim noster  
 lancea collum eius traiecit'. haec ut audivi, operire oculos  
 amplius non potui, sed luce clara domum fugi; et postquam  
 veni in illum locum in quo lapidea vestimenta erant facta, nihil  
 inveni nisi sanguinem. ut vero domum veni, iacebat miles meus

I almost died with fright. However, I drew my sword and  
 slashed at shadows all along the road,  
 [20] until I reached my girl-friend's country place. I entered  
 like a ghost, I almost poured out my spirit, sweat was  
 running down my legs,  
 my eyes [were] dead; I hardly ever recovered. My  
 Melissa  
 began to show surprise because I was out walking so  
 late. 'If you had come sooner' she said  
 'at least you could have helped us; for a wolf entered  
 the farm and  
 [25] attacked all our sheep; he let out their blood like a  
 butcher.  
 However, he didn't have the last laugh, even if he did  
 escape; for one of our slaves  
 pierced his neck with a spear'. When I heard this, I  
 couldn't shut my eyes  
 any longer, but I rushed home in broad daylight; and  
 when  
 I came to the place where the clothes had turned to  
stone.  
 [30] I found nothing except some blood. When I actually got  
 home, my soldier friend was lying

in which the clothes  
had been made  
stone

**Latin**

**English Meaning**

**Literal Translation**

**PETRONIUS, A spooky story (continued)**

**in lecto tamquam bos, et collum eius medicus curabat. intellexi  
illum versipellem esse, nec postea cum illo panem gustare  
potui, non si me occidisses.**

*in bed like an ox, and a doctor was attending to his  
neck. Then I understood  
that he was a werewolf, and after that I was never able  
to eat bread with him,  
not if you had killed me.*

**Latin****English Meaning****Literal Translation****PLINY, An alarming dream comes true**

Gaius quidem Fannius id quod accidit multo ante praesensit,  
 visus est sibi per nocturnam quietem iacere in lectulo suo  
 compositus in habitum studentis, habere ante se scrinium – ita  
 solebat. mox imaginatus est venisse Neronem, in toro  
 resedissee, prompsisse primum librum quem de sceleribus eius  
 ediderat, eumque ad extremum revolvisse; idem in secundo ac  
 tertio fecisse, tunc abisse. expavit et sic interpretatus est,  
 tamquam idem sibi futurus esset scribendi finis qui fuisset illi  
 legendi: et fuit idem.

Gaius Fannius actually foresaw what has happened long  
 before.  
 He seemed to him to be lying on his couch in the quiet of  
 the night,  
 arranged in a writing posture, and to have in front of him  
 his writing-desk – as he  
 usually did. Soon he imagined that Nero came,  
 sat down on the couch, asked for the first volume that he  
 had published about his crimes  
 and unrolled it right to the end; he did the same with the  
 second  
 and the third, then left. He was terrified and interpreted it  
 in this way,  
 as though the end-point of his writing would be the same  
 as it had been of Nero's  
 reading; and it was the same.

that which  
in the position of  
one studying

quod me recordantem miseratio subit quantum vigiliarum,  
 quantum laboris exhauserit frustra. occursant animo mea  
 mortalitas, mea scripta. nec dubito te quoque eadem  
 cogitatione terreri, pro istis quae inter manus habes. proinde,  
 dum suppetit vita, enitamur ut mors quam paucissima quae  
abolere possit inveniat.

[5] When I think about this, I am filled with pity for how many  
 sleepless nights,  
 how much effort he used up in vain. There comes to my  
 mind  
 my own mortality [and] my own writings. I don't doubt that  
 you too  
 are alarmed by the same thought, for those [projects]  
 which you have in hand. Therefore,  
 while life lasts, let us try to ensure that death finds as few  
 [things] to destroy as possible.

pity comes over  
me thinking  
about it  
[things] which it  
can destroy

[15]

sed Caesari futura caedes evidentibus prodigiis denuntiata est. proximis diebus equorum greges, quos in traiciendo Rubiconi flumini consecraverat ac vagos et sine custode dimiserat, comperit pertinacissime pabulo abstinere ubertimque flere. et immolantem haruspex Spurinna monuit ut caveret periculum, quod non ultra Martias Idus proferretur. pridie autem easdem Idus avem regaliolum cum laureo ramulo Pompeianae curiae se inferentem volucres varii generis ex proximo nemore persecutae ibidem discerpserunt. ea vero nocte, cui inluxit dies caedis, et ipse sibi visus est per quietem interdum supra nubes volitare, alias cum love dextram iungere; et Calpurnia uxor imaginata est conlabi fastigium domus maritumque in gremio suo confodi; ac subito cubiculi fores sponte patuerunt.

### SUETONIUS, The portents before the murder of Julius Caesar

But his imminent murder was indicated to Caesar by obvious portents.

During the previous few days some herds of horses, which during his crossing he had dedicated to the river Rubicon and let loose without any keeper,

he found were very stubbornly refusing to graze and were crying in floods. And,

[5] when he [Caesar] was sacrificing, Spurinna the soothsayer warned him to beware of danger, which would not be delayed beyond the Ides of March.

The day before those same Ides,

when a king bird (= a wren) flew into the senate-house of Pompey with a laurel twig, some other birds of various kinds pursued it from a nearby wood

[10] and tore it to pieces on the spot. Actually during the night on which dawned the day

of the murder, in the silence he seemed one time to be flying over the clouds, and the next minute to be holding hands with Jupiter; and his wife Calpurnia

imagined that the gable of the house was collapsing and that her husband was stabbed in her lap, and suddenly the doors of the bedroom flew open of their own accord.

refusing fodder

birds of different species, having pursued from a neighbouring grove a king bird entering the Pompeian senate-house with a laurel twig, tore it apart on the spot.

## Latin

ob haec simul et ob infirmam valitudinem diu cunctatus an se  
contineret et quae apud senatum proposuerat agere differret,  
tandem Decimo Bruto adhortante ne frequentes ac iamdudum  
opperientes destitueret, quinta fere hora progressus est  
libellumque insidiarum indicem ab obvio quodam porrectum  
libellis ceteris, quos sinistra manu tenebat, quasi mox lecturus  
commiscuit. dein pluribus hostiis caesis, cum litare non posset,  
introiit curiam spreta religione Spurinnamque irridens et ut  
falsum arguens, quod sine ulla sua noxa Idus Martiae  
adessent: quamquam is venisse quidem eas diceret, sed non  
praeterisse.

## English Meaning

### SUETONIUS, The portents before the murder of Julius Caesar (continued)

On account of these things and also his weak health he  
hesitated for some time whether he should  
[15] stay at home and postpone the [business] he had planned  
to transact in the senate,  
but at last, when Decimus Brutus urged him not to  
disappoint the crowds of people who had been waiting for  
a long time, he set off at almost the fifth hour;  
a document giving information about the conspirators,  
[which was] handed to him by someone on the way, he  
put with some other documents which he was holding in  
his left hand, as though intending read them soon.  
[20] Then, after more victims had been killed, since it wasn't  
possible to find a favourable omen,  
he entered the senate-house, scorning such superstition,  
mocking Spurinna and  
accusing him of being false because the Ides of March  
were here without any harm to him  
– though he responded that they had indeed come, but  
they had not gone.

## Literal Translation

when Decimus  
Brutus was  
urging him not  
to let down the  
crowded and  
waiting for a  
long time  
already  
[senators]  
  
accusing him as  
false

Latin	English Meaning	Literal Translation
<b>VIRGIL, Dido prepares to curse Aeneas</b>		
<p>at regina, <u>pyra</u> penetrali in sede sub auras <u>erecta</u> ingenti taedis atque ilice secta,</p>	<p>Meanwhile the queen, <u>having built</u> in the heart of her home a <u>funeral-pyre</u> up to the breezes, huge with pine branches and cut down oak,</p>	<p><u>a funeral-pyre</u> <u>having been</u> <u>erected</u></p>
<p>intenditque locum sertis et fronde coronat</p>	<p>spread the place with garlands and crowned it with</p>	
<p>funerea; super exuvias ensemque relictum</p>	<p>funeral foliage; high on a couch she laid the clothing and sword [he had] left behind</p>	
<p>effigiemque toro locat haud ignara futuri.</p>	<p><b>[5]</b> and his image, not unaware of what was about to happen.</p>	
<p>stant arae circum et <u>crines effusa</u> sacerdos</p>	<p>All around stood altars, and a priestess <u>with her hair loose</u></p>	<p><u>loosened in</u> <u>respect of her hair</u> <u>thunders out with</u> <u>her voice</u></p>
<p>ter centum <u>tonat ore</u> deos, Erebumque Chaosque</p>	<p><u>called with a thunderous voice</u> upon three hundred gods, Erebus, Chaos,</p>	
<p>tergeminamque Hecaten, tria virginis ora Dianae.</p>	<p>and triple-bodied Hecate, the three faces of the virgin Diana.</p>	
<p>sparserat et latices simulatos fontis Avernii,</p>	<p>She had also sprinkled water to represent the spring of Avernus,</p>	
<p>falcibus et messae ad lunam quaeruntur aënis</p>	<p><b>[10]</b> and powerful herbs, harvested with bronze sickles by moonlight, are found,</p>	
<p>pubentes herbae nigri cum lacte veneni;</p>	<p>with juice of black poison;</p>	
<p>quaeritur et nascentis equi de fronte revulsus</p>	<p>also found is a love-charm torn from the forehead of a newly-born horse</p>	
<p>et matri praereptus amor.</p>	<p>and stolen from its mother.</p>	

**Latin**

**English Meaning**

**Literal Translation**

**VIRGIL, Dido prepares to curse Aeneas (continued)**

**ipsa mola manibusque piis altaria iuxta**

[Dido] herself, [standing] beside the altars with holy grain and hands,

**unum exuta pedem vinclis, in veste recincta,**

**[15]** one foot bare of its fastenings, with her dress undone,

stripped in respect of one foot by the fastenings, unbound in her dress

**testatur moritura deos et conscia fati**

ready to die, calls the gods to witness and the stars [who have] knowledge of fate;

**sidera; tum, si quod non aequo foedere amantes**

then she prays to whatever divine power, just and mindful, has under its care lovers in an unequal relationship.

then, if any divine power, just and mindful, has in its care lovers in an unequal relationship, she prays [to that].

**curae numen habet iustumque memorque, precatur.**