

LANGUAGE FAIR 2020  
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS  
POETRY  
Level 2

*A BAD HAIR DAY*

*Ovid has some advice for his girlfriend, Corinna, whose hair falls out after a bad dye job.*

Dīcēbam, "medicāre tuōs dēsiste capillōs."  
Tingere quam possīs iam tibi nūlla coma est.  
Nec tamen āter erat neque erat tamen aureus ille,  
sed, quamvīs neuter, mixtus uterque color.  
Quid male dispositōs quereris periisse capillōs?  
Quid speculum maestā pōnis, inepta, manū?  
Nunc tibi captīvōs mittet Germānia crīnēs;  
tūta triumphātae mūnere gentis eris.  
Sustinet antīquōs gremiō spectatque capillōs,  
ei mihi, nōn illō mūnera digna locō!  
Collige cum vultū mentem! Repārabile damnum est.  
Postmodo nātīvā cōspiciēre comā.

(Selected lines from OVID Amores 1, 14)

TRANSLATION

I said, "Stop dyeing your hair."  
Now you have no hair left to tint.  
It (=That color) was neither dark nor gold,  
but, though it was neither color, every color was mixed.  
Why do you complain that your badly disarranged hair has perished?  
Why do you absurdly put down your mirror with your sad hand?  
Now Germany will send you captive hair;  
You will be safe by the gift of a conquered nation.  
She holds her old hair in her lap and looks at it,  
alas, a gift not worthy of that place.  
Compose your face and (with it) your mind! The damage is reparable;  
Soon you will attract attention with your own hair again.

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**A deceitful King**

Sisyphus rēx per mercātūrā dīves fiēbat: erat autem omnium hominum pessimus.

Ab uxōre suā petiverat nē sē mortuum sepeliret: mortuus autem apud Plūtōnem illam accūsavit quod ita neglexerat et ab eō petivit ut sibi liceret ad terram redire. Cum autem redisset, "Nōn iterum," inquit, "ad Mānēs dēscendam: sīc immortalis fīam."

Ā Mercuriō tamen vī ablātus gravissimō est suppliciō pūnītus. Nam saxum ingēns semper ad summum collem portāre cōgēbātur: quotiēns autem ad summum vēnerat, saxum ad imum collem volvēbātur isque ad summum iterum portāre coactus est.

“Sisyphus,” Hillard and Botting, *Elementary Latin Translation Book*, p. 95, abridged

King Sisyphus became rich through trade, but he was the worst of all men.

He had asked his wife not to bury him when he died, but when he died he accused her before Pluto because she had so neglected her promise, and he asked Pluto to allow him to go back to the world above. When he had returned, however, he said, "Not again will I go down to the Underworld: thus I will become immortal."

Carried off forcefully by Mercury, however, he was punished by the most serious penalty. For he was always forced to carry a huge rock to the top of a hill; but as often as he had come to the top, the rock rolled back down to the bottom of the hill, and he was forced to carry it again to the top.

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**Alice and the Red Queen**

Alicia Rēgīnam Rubram et Rēgīnam Albam prope sē in utrōque latere sedēre animadvertit.

Rēgīnam Rubram timidē intuita, dīcere coepit: "Velim mihi dīcās, sīs --"

"Loquere solum tum cum appellāta es!" Rēgīna Rubra acriter interpellāvit.

"At sī omnēs eā ratiōne ūtantur," Alicia dīxit (semper parāta ad disputandum erat), "et sī solum tum cum appellātus sīs loquāris, et sī alter expectet dum tū incipiās, nēmō scilicet umquam quidquam dīcat; itaque --"

"Ineptiās dīcis!" Rēgīna exclāmāvit. "Nōnne enim vidēs, puella --"

Hīc fronte cōtractā intermīsīt; atque, paulum meditāta, dē aliā rē dīcere subitō coepit.

"Alicia et Rēgīna Rubra," translated into Latin by Clive Harcourt Carruthers, 1966, p. 107-8 (abridged)

Alice noticed a Red Queen and a White Queen sitting near her on either side. Looking timidly at the Red Queen, she began to say: "I'd like you to tell me, please...."

"Speak only when you have been addressed!" the Red Queen interrupted sharply.

"But if everyone should use that rationale," Alice said (she was always ready to argue), "and if you should speak only when you've been addressed, and if someone should wait for you to begin, obviously nobody would ever say anything; and so...."

"You're speaking absurdities!" shouted the Queen. "Don't you see, little girl..."

Here, wrinkling her brow, she stopped; and thinking a short while, suddenly began to speak about something else.