



UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

LANGUAGE FAIR 2026

LATIN TRANSLATION

LEVEL 2

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions: Translate the Latin story below into English as accurately as you can. You may use only the glosses provided to assist you. No dictionaries, notes, or online tools are allowed. Write your translation in clear, complete English sentences. Good luck!

De stultitiā homīnum

Aliquī pastōrēs post sōlis occāsum quiēscēbant sub procērā arbore. Haud procul fōns erat, ubi lūnae plēnae imāgō reddebātur. Forte asinus ad fontem vēnit et aquam bibēre incīpit. Statim pastōrēs, timōris plēnī, inter sē dicunt: “Asinum ā fonte amovēre dēbēmus, quia, sī etiam lūnam cum aquā bibit, noctēs nostrae semper atrae erunt.” Tum forte lūna a nūbibus obscurātur; statim pastōrēs calamitātis causam asinō tribuunt, eum comprehendunt atque in ius vocant.

Stultus iudex pastōribus impērat: “Asinum necāte atque ex eius ventre lūnam extrahīte!” Pastōrēs statim miserī asellī crūra vīculīs ligant, et eum necāre volunt, sed lūna repente rūsus in caelō appāret.

Pastōrēs gaudiī clamores usque ad sidera tollunt atque asinum libērant. Ita asinus, hominum stultitiā damnātus, fortunae auxiliō mortis periculum effūgit.

reddēbātur : from **reddō**; to reflect / to be mirrored

forte : adverb

in iūs vocāre : to summon to court

iūdex, iūdicis (m.) : judge; magistrate; one who decides a case