



UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

LANGUAGE FAIR 2026

LATIN TRANSLATION

LEVEL 3

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions: Translate the Latin passage 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!

A mysterious woman offers Tarquin, the king of Rome, some holy books. Later the king is driven into exile but attempts to regain power.

Anus ignōta ad Tarquinium Superbum adiit, novem librōs ferēns, quī, ut dīcēbat, dīvīna ōrācula erant. Eōs vendere voluit. Tarquinius igitur pretium rogāvit. Fēmina pretium ingēns poposcit. Rēx eam dērīsīt. Tum illa, nihil commōta, foculum cum ignī prope rēgem posuit, trēs librōs ex novem incendit, et “Ō rēx,” inquit, “librōs reliquōs eōdem pretiō emere vīs?”

Tarquinius, ubi haec audīvit, eam multō magis dērīsīt. Fēmina statim trēs aliōs librōs incendit iterumque vultū placidō rēgī “Trēs reliquōs,” inquit, “eōdem pretiō emēs?” Tarquinius, cōstantiā eius superātus, haec verba neglegere nōluit et librōs trēs ēmit nōn minōre pretiō quam quod prō omnibus petītum erat. Postea haec fēmina nūllō in locō vidēbātur. Librī in Capitoliō ā rēge positī auxilium magnum reīpūblicae praebeērunt.

Sed haud multō post Tarquinius propter facta sua scelestā in exilium expulsus est. Mox tamen cum cōpiīs Etruscīs in Rōmānōs contendit ut rēgnum suum recuperāret. Equitibus fīlius eius praefectus erat; rēx ipse peditēs dūxit. Rōmānī in magnō periculō stetērunt sed ā virō fortissimō nōmine Horātiō Coclite servātī sunt. Ille dīxit sē cum duōbus amīcīs pontem trāns Tiberim dēfēnsūrum esse. Hostēs sagittās multās in Horātium coniciēbant, sed Horātius pontem fortiter dēfendit. Etruscī igitur nōn poterant Rōmam advenīre.

anus: old woman

foculus: small hearth: brazier with fire

emo, emere: buy, purchase

scelestus, -a, -um: wicked, criminal

praebeo, praebēre: offer

contendo, contendere: to march against, strive, hasten

conicio, conicere: to throw, hurl (here: arrows)