



UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
LANGUAGE FAIR 2026
LATIN TRANSLATION
LEVEL 4

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions: Translate the Latin story below into English as accurately and clearly as possible. You may use only the glosses provided and/or a paper dictionary. Online tools or translators are not allowed. Write your translation in complete, well-formed English sentences. Good luck!

Herodes Atticus, doctus vir cōsulāris, olim Athēnīs de ignorantīā dissērens, narrāvit quod cuīpiam Thraciō insipientī et rudī in agriculturā accidērat.

Homō Thracius quidam — inquit — rūris colendī īsolēns, cum ex ultimīs barbarōrum terrīs in cultiōrēs regiōnēs commigrāset, fundum mercātus est et oleīs et vītibus et multīs aliīs arboribus consītum.

Quī, cum nihil dē vītibus aut oleīs aut aliīs arboribus colendī scīret, vicīnum agricolam forte vīdit rubōs excīdentem, fraxīnōs prope ad summum verticem dēputāntem, stolōnēs in pomīs aut in oleīs amputāntem.

Tum ad eum accessit et cūr tantam lignī atque frondium caedem faceret percontātus est. Et vicīnus ita respondit: «Hoc faciendum est ut ager mundus pūrusque fiat atque arborēs vītēsq̄ fēcundiōrēs.»

Discessit ille ā vicīnō, grātiās agēns et laetus, tamquam sī reī rūsticae disciplīnam adeptus esset. Mox, pūrificandī agrī causā, falce ac sēcūrī captīs, vītēs omnēs oleāsque dētruncat.

Comās arborum dēcīdit, virgulta omnia simul cum sentibus et rubīs convellit. Itaque agrum quem pūrificāre volēbat, ob ignorantiam suam perdīdit.

mercōr, mercārī, mercātus sum: to buy, purchase (*deponent*)

consītum < conserō, -serere, -sēvī, -situs: to plant, sow

rubus, -ī: bramble, thorny shrub

fraxinus, -ī: ash-tree

dēputāre: to prune, trim

stolō, stolōnis: shoot, sprout

sentēs, -ium: briars, thorns

frōns, frondis: leaf, foliage

falx, falcis: sickle, pruning hook

sēcūris, -is: axe, hatchet