**Proserpina’s Capture**

Prōserpina, quae longē ā cēterīs puellīs errāvit, erat sōla. Plūtō virginem vīdit et amāvit et rapuit. Deus puellam miseram ad Orcum portāvit. Virgō clāmāvit, “Quis es? Cūr mē terruistī?”

Cerēs, māter Prōserpinae, erat misera et īrāta. Per silvās et trāns flūmina errābat; semper rogābat “Vīdistisne fīliam?” Tandem zōnam puellae in aquā flūminis vīdit. Dea īrāta incolās īnsulae pūnīre cōnstituit. “In agrīs Siciliae,” inquit, “neque flōrēs neque frūmentī cōpia erit.”

*Latin: Our Living Heritage* (1962), p. 99-100 abridged and adapted

Proserpina, who wandered far from the other girls, was alone. Pluto saw and loved and grabbed the maiden. The god carried the unhappy girl to the underworld. The maiden shouted “Who are you? Why have you scared me?” Ceres, Proserpina’s mother, was sad and angry. Through the woods and across the rivers she wandered; she always asked “Have you seen my daughter?” Finally she saw her daughter’s belt in the water of a river. The angry goddess decided to punish the inhabitants of the island. She said, “In the fields of Sicily there will be neither flowers nor an abundance of grain.”

**Appius Claudius Speaks to the Romans**

Appius Claudius, vir clārus, in urbe Rōmā antīquā habitābat. Auxiliō servōrum in senātum properāvit, ubi nūntius Pyrrhī aderat.

Ibi dīxit, “Interdum amīcī meī dolent quod sum caecus. Sed hodiē sum laetus quod illum nūntium in hōc locō nōn videō. Quam caecī estis, Rōmānī! Rōma erit tūta; illa oppida erunt tūta! Rōmānī in terrā Rōmānā nōn superābuntur!” … Posteā cōpiae Rōmānae ācriter pugnāvērunt et Pyrrhum superāvērunt.

*Using Latin I, (1954), p. 158*

Appius Claudius, a famous man, lived in the ancient city of Rome. With the help of slaves he hurried into the senate, where Pyrrhus’ messenger was present. There he said, “Sometimes my friends grieve because I am blind. But today I am happy because I do not see that messenger in this place. How blind are you, Romans!! Rome will be safe; those towns will be safe! Romans will not be conquered in Roman territory!” Afterward, Roman troops fought bravely and conquered Pyrrhus.