

Ovid: Epistulae ex Ponto Book 1

A Latin to English Translation

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Bruto

Naso Tomitanae iam non novus incola terrae
hoc tibi de Getico litore mittit opus.

- *Tomitanae... terrae* in apposition to *Naso*.
- Naso, now not a new inhabitant of the country of Tomis, sends this work to you from the Getic shore.

si vacat, hospitio peregrinos, Brute, libellos
excipe, dumque aliquo, quolibet abde loco.

- *vacat* from *vaco*, *vacare* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to be empty/vacant.
- *dumque... loco* is a brachylogical expression for *et dum aliquo loco libellos abdas, quolibet abde loco*.
- If he is idle, extract, Brutus, the foreign books with hospitality, and while you may put away the books in some place, put them away in whatever place.

publica non audent intra monimenta venire, 5
ne suus hoc illis clausurit auctor iter.

- *clausurit* from *claudio*, *claudere*, *clausi*, *clausus* is 3rd singular perfect active subjunctive, meaning to close. This is within a *ne* clause, therefore *fear* clause? *non audent* isn't really fear, it could be negative purpose clause?
- They do not dare to enter within public monuments, lest their own author close this road for them.

a, quotiens dixi: 'certe nil turpe docetis,
ite. patet castis versibus ille locus.'

- *quotiens* weird adverb meaning 'how many times' in either interrogative or exclamatory sense.
- Ah, How many times did I say: 'You all certainly teach nothing ugly, go. That place is open to pure verses.

non tamen accedunt, sed, ut aspicias ipse, latere

sub lare privato tutius esse putant. 10

- *putant* opens up indirect speech, taking *esse* not *latere*. In turn, *latere* feeds *esse*.
- They nevertheless do not approach, but, as you yourself see, they think that it is safer to lurk under a private home.

quaeris, ubi hos possis nullo componere laeso?
qua steterant Artes, pars vacat illa tibi.

- *nullo* for *nemine*, poetic usage.
- Why is *possis* subjunctive? *ubi* takes the indicative.
- Not sure how to translate *qua*. I tried the adverbial usage. I want it to be relative describing *pars*, but it doesn't seem to be fitting in case/gender.
- You seek, where you may be able to compose these with no one having been offended? Where the Ars Amatoria had stood, that part is empty for you.

quid veniat, novitate roges fortasse sub ipsa.
accipe quodcumque est, dummodo non sit amor.

- *veniat* is impersonal question, and then *roges* is subjunctive because it's subordinate to it.
- *roges* is potential subjunctive, and then *veniat* is subjunctive because indirect question.
- *est* is impersonal.
- *dummodo* takes the subjunctive (*sit*).
- what is coming, you perhaps could ask under the newness itself. Take whatever is it, provided it is not love.

invenies, quamvis non est miserabilis index, 15
non minus hoc illo triste, quod ante dedi.

- *illo* as ablative of comparison.
- You will discover, although it is not a miserable sign, that this is not less sad than that, because I gave it earlier.

rebus idem, titulo differt, et epistula cui sit
non occultato nomine missa docet.

- *missa sit* is 3rd singular perfect passive subjunctive, meaning to send.
- Why is this subjunctive. No fucking clue! Suppressed indefinite => relative clause of characteristic?
- the same with respect to things, it differs with respect to title, and the letter teaches to whom it is sent with the name not having been concealed.

nec vos hoc vultis, sed nec prohibere potestis,
Musaque ad invitos officiosa venit. 20

- You all do not wish this, but you all are not able to prohibit it, and the dutiful Muse comes to those reluctant.

quidquid id est, adiunge meis: nihil impedit ortos
exule servatis legibus Urbe frui.

- Such as it is, add it to my works: With the laws maintained nothing impedes that the children enjoy the city of exile from enjoying the city.

quod metuas non est: Antoni scripta leguntur,
doctus et in promptu scrinia Brutus habet-
nec me nominibus furiosus confero tantis: 25
saeva deos contra non tamen arma tuli.

- There is nothing which you fear, the writings of Antony, and educated Brutus has a shelf at the ready - neither do I compare myself to such names, I nevertheless did not bring such savage arms against the gods.

- TODO

denique Caesareo, quod non desiderat ipse,
non caret e nostris ullus honore liber.

si dubitas de me, laudes admitte deorum
et carmen dempto nomine sume meum. 30

adiuvat in bello pacatae ramus olivae-
proderit auctorem pacis habere nihil?

- A branch of peaceful olive helps in war - will it be not at all useful to have the author of peace?

cum foret Aeneae cervix subiecta parenti,
dicitur ipsa viro flamma dedisse viam.

When the neck of Aeneas was laden by his parent, it is said that the flame itself gave way to the man.

- TODO

fert liber Aeneaden, et non iter omne patebit? 35
at patriae pater hic, ipsius ille fuit.

- the book brings Aeneas' descendent, and will the journey not be open? But the latter was the father of the countryside, the former was the father of he himself.

ecquis ita est audax, ut limine cogat abire
iactantem Pharia tinnula sinistra manu?

- TODO

Is anyone so bold as to turn away by force from his doorstep a follower of Isis shaking the ringing rattle in his Pharian hand?

ante deum matrem cornu tibicen adunco
cum canit, exiguae quis stipis aera negat? 40

- TODO

[scimus ab imperio fieri nil tale Dianae;
unde tamen vivat vaticinator habet.

- TODO

ipsa movent animos superorum numina nostros,
turpe nec est tali credulitate capi.]

- The divine wills of the gods move our minds, nor is it a disgrace to be seized by such credulity.

en ego pro sistro Phrygiique foramine buxi
gentis Iuleae nomina sancta fero.

- TODO

vaticinor moneoque: 'locum date sacra ferenti;
non mihi, sed magno poscitur ille deo.'

nec, quia vel merui vel sensi principis iram,
a nobis ipsum nolle putate coli.

vidi ego linigerae numen violasse fatentem
Isidis Isiacos ante sedere focos.

alter ob huic similem privatus lumine culpam
clamabat media se meruisse via.

taliam caelestes fieri praeconia gaudent,
ut sua, quid valeant numina, teste probent.

saepe levant poenas ereptaque lumina reddunt,
cum bene peccati paenituisse vident.

paenitet, o-si quid miserorum creditur ulli-
paenitet, et facto torqueor ipse meo.

cumque sit exilium, magis est mihi culpa dolori,
estque pati poenam quam meruisse minus.

ut mihi di faveant, quibus est manifestior ipse,
poena potest demi, culpa perennis erit.

[mors faciet certe, ne sim, cum venerit, exul;
ut non peccarim, mors quoque non faciet.

non igitur mirum, si mens mea tabida facta
de nive manantis more liquescit aquae.]

estur ut occulta vitiata teredine navis,
aequorei scopulos ut cavat unda salis,
roditur ut scabra positum rubigine ferrum,
conditus ut tineae carpitur ore liber,
sic mea perpetuos curarum pectora morsus,
fine quibus nullo conficiantur, habent.

nec prius hi mentem stimuli, quam vita relinquet,

quique dolet, citius quam dolor ipse cadet.
hoc mihi si superi, quorum sumus omnia, credent,
forsitan exigua dignus habebor ope,
inque locum Scythico vacuum mutabor ab arcu.
plus isto, duri, si precer, oris ero.