

Ars poetica

- [1] Hūmānō capitī cervicem pictor equinam
[2] jungere sī velit et variās inducere plūmās
[3] undique collatīs membrīs, ut turpiter ātrum
[4] dēsinat in piscem mulier fōrmōsa supernē,
[5] spectātum admissī, rīsum teneātis, amīcī?
[6] Crēdite, Pīsōnēs, istī tabulae fore librum
[7] persimilem, cujus, velut aegrī somnia, vānae
[8] fingentur speciēs, ut nec pēs nec caput ūnī
[9] reddātur fōrmae. "Pictōribus atque poētīs
[10] quidlibet audendī semper fuit aequa potestās."
[11] Scīmus, et hanc veniam petimusque damusque vicissim,
[12] sed nōn ut placidīs coeant immītia, nōn ut
[13] serpentēs avibus geminentur, tigribus agnī.
[14] Inceptīs gravibus plērumque et magna professīs
[15] purpureus, lātē qui splendeat, ūnus et alter
[16] adsuitur pannus, cum lūcus et āra Diānae
[17] et properantis aquae per amoenōs ambitus agrōs
[18] aut flūmen Rhēnum aut pluvius dēscribitur arcus;
[19] sed nunc nōn erat hīs locus. Et fortasse cupressum
[20] scīs simulāre; quid hoc, sī frāctīs ēnatat exspēs
[21] nāvibus, aere datō qui pingitur? Amphora coepit
[22] īstituī; currente rotā cūr urceus exit?
[23] Dēnique sit quod vīs, simplex dumtaxat et ūnum.
[24] Maxima pars vātum, pater et juvenēs patre dignī,
[25] dēcipimur speciē rēctī. Brevis esse labōrō,
[26] obscurus fiō; sectantem lēvia nervī
[27] dēficiunt animīque; professus grandia turget;
[28] serpit humī tūtus nimium timidusque procellae;
[29] qui variāre cupit rem prōdigāliter ūnam,
[30] delphīnum silvīs adpingit, flūctibus aprum.
[31] In vitium dūcit culpae fuga, sī caret arte.
[32] Aemiliū circā lūdum faber īmus et unguīs
[33] exprimet et mollīs imitābitur aere capillōs,
[34] īfēlīx operis summā, quia pōnere tōtum
[35] nesciet. Hunc ego mē, sīquid compōnere cūrem,
[36] nōn magis esse velim quam nāsō vīvere prāvō
[37] spectandum nigrīs oculīs nigrōque capillō.
[38] Sūmite māteriam vestrīs, qui scribitis, aequam
[39] vīribus et versāte diū quid ferre recūsent,
[40] quid valeant umerī. cui lēcta potenter erit rēs,
[41] nec fācundia dēseret hunc, nec lūcidus ūrdō.
[42] Ōrdinis haec virtūs erit et venus, aut ego fallor,
[43] ut jam nunc dīcat jam nunc dēbentia dīcī,
[44] plēraque differat et praeſēns in tempus omittat,
[45] hoc amet, hoc spernat prōmissī carminis auctor.
[46] In verbīs etiam tenuis cautusque serendīs
[47] dīxeris ēgregiē, nōtum sī callida verbū
[48] reddiderit jūnctūra novum. Sī forte necesse est
[49] indiciīs mōnstrāre recentibus abdita rērum, et

[50] **fingere cīnctūtīs nōn exaudīta Cethēgīs**
[51] **continget dabiturque licentia sūmpta pudenter,**
[52] **et nova fictaque nūper habēbunt verba fidem, sī**
[53] **Graecō fonte cadent parcē dētorta. Quid autem**
[54] **Caeciliō Plautōque dabit Rōmānus, adēmptum**
[55] **Vergiliō Variōque? Ego cūr, adquīrere pauca**
[56] **sī possum, invideor, cum lingua Catōnis et Ennī**
[57] **sermōnem patrium dītāverit et nova rērum**
[58] **nōmina prōtulerit? Licuit semperque licēbit**
[59] **signātum praesente notā prōdūcere nōmen.**
[60] **Ut silvae foliis prōnōs mūtantur in annōs,**
[61] **prīma cadunt, ita verbōrum vetus interit aetās,**
[62] **et juvenum rītū flōrent modo nāta vigentque.**
[63] **Dēbēmur mortī nōs nostraque. Sive receptus**
[64] **terrā Neptūnus classēs Aquilōnibus arcet,**
[65] **rēgis opus, sterilisve diū palus aptaque rēmīs**
[66] **vīcīnās urbēs alit et grave sentit arātrum,**
[67] **seu cursum mūtāvit iniquum frūgibus amnis,**
[68] **doctus iter melius, mortālia facta peribunt,**
[69] **nēdum sermōnem stet honōs et grātia vivāx.**
[70] **Multa renāsentur quae jam cecidēre, cadentque**
[71] **quae nunc sunt in honōre vocābula, sī volet ūsus,**
[72] **quem penes arbitrium est et jūs et norma loquendī.**
[73] **Rēs gestae régumque ducumque et trīstia bella**
[74] **quō scribī possent numerō, mōnstrāvit Homērus.**
[75] **Versibus impariter jūntīs querimōnia prīmum,**
[76] **post etiam inclūsa est vōtī sententia compos;**
[77] **quis tamen exiguōs elegōs ēmiserit auctor,**
[78] **grammaticī certant et adhūc sub jūdice līs est.**
[79] **Archilochum propriō rabiēs armāvit iambō;**
[80] **hunc soccī cēpēre pedem grandēsque coturnī,**
[81] **alternīs aptum sermōnibus et populāris**
[82] **vincentem strepitūs et nātum rēbus agendīs.**
[83] **Mūsa dedit fidibus dīvōs puerōsque deōrum**
[84] **et pugilem victōrem et equum certāmine prīmum**
[85] **et juvenum cūrās et libera vīna referre.**
[86] **Dīscriptās servāre vicēs operumque colōrēs**
[87] **cūr ego, sī nequeō ignōrōque, poēta salūtor?**
[88] **Cūr nescīre pudēns prāvē quam discere mālō?**
[89] **Versibus expōnī tragicis rēs cōmica nōn vult;**
[90] **indignātur item privātīs ac prope soccō**
[91] **dignīs carminibus nārrāri cēna Thyestae.**
[92] **Singula quaeque locum teneant sortīta decentem.**
[93] **Interdum tamen et vōcem cōmoedia tollit,**
[94] **irātusque Chremēs tumidō dēlitigat ōre;**
[95] **et tragicus plērumque dolet sermōne pedestrī**
[96] **Tēlephus et Pēleus, cum pauper et exul uterque**
[97] **prōicit ampullās et sēsqipedālia verba,**
[98] **sī cūrat cor spectantis tetigisse querellā.**
[99] **Nōn satis est pulchra esse poēmata; dulcia suntō**
[100] **et, quōcumque volent, animum audītōris aguntō.**
[101] **Ut rīdentibus adrīdent, ita flentibus adsunt**

- [102] hūmānī voltūs; sī vīs mē flēre, dolendum est
[103] prīnum ipsī tibi; tum tua mē īfōrtūnia laedent,
[104] Tēlephe vel Pēleu; male sī mandāta loquēris,
[105] aut dormītābō aut rīdēbō. Trīstia maestum
[106] voltūm verba decent, īrātūm plēna minārum,
[107] lūdentem lasciva, sevērum sēria dictū.
[108] Fōrmāt enim nātūra prius nōn intus ad omnem
[109] fortūnārum habitum; juvat aut impellit ad īram,
[110] aut ad humum maerōre gravī dēdūcit et angit;
[111] post effert animī mōtūs interprete linguā.
[112] Sī dīcentis erunt fortūnīs absona dicta,
[113] Rōmānī tollent equitēs peditēsque cachinnum.
[114] Intererit multum, dīvusne loquātur an hērōs,
[115] mātūrusne senex an adhūc flōrente juventā
[116] fervidus, et mātrōna potēns an sēdula nūtrīx,
[117] mercātorne vagus cultorne virentis agellī,
[118] Colchus an Assyrius, Thēbīs nūtrītus an Argīs.
[119] Aut fāmam sequere aut sibi convenientia finge
[120] scripтор. Honōrātūm sī forte repōnis Achillem,
[121] impiger, īrācundus, inexōrābilis, ācer
[122] jūra neget sibi nāta, nihil nōn arroget armīs.
[123] Sit Mēdēa ferōx invictaque, flēbilis īnō,
[124] perfidus Ixiōn, īō vaga, trīstis Orestēs.
[125] Sīquid inexpertūm scaenae committis et audēs
[126] persōnam fōrmāre novam, servētur ad īmūm
[127] quālis ab inceptō prōcesserit et sibi cōnstet.
[128] Difficile est propriē commūnia dīcere, tūque
[129] rēctius īliacum carmen dēdūcis in āctūs
[130] quam sī prōferrēs ignōta indictaque prīmus.
[131] Pūblica māteriēs privātī jūris erit, sī
[132] nōn circā vīlem patulumque morāberis orbem,
[133] nec verbō verbum cūrābis reddere fidus
[134] interpres nec dēsiliēs imitātor in artum,
[135] unde pedem prōferre pudor vetet aut operis lēx.
[136] Nec sīc incipiēs, ut scripтор cyclicus ōlim:
[137] "Fortūnam Priamī cantābō et nōbile bellum".
[138] Quid dignum tantō feret hic prōmissor hiātū?
[139] Parturient montēs, nāscētūr rīdiculus mūs.
[140] Quantō rēctius hic, qui nīl mōlītūr ineptē:
[141] "Dīc mihi, Mūsa, virum, captae post tempora Trōjāe
[142] quī mōrēs hominū multōrum vīdit et urbēs".
[143] Nōn fūmum ex fulgōre, sed ex fūmō dare lūcem
[144] cōgitat, ut speciōsa dehinc mīrācula prōmat,
[145] Antiphatēn Scyllamque et cum Cyclōpe Charybdim.
[146] Nec redītūm Diomēdis ab interitū Meleagrī,
[147] nec geminō bellum Trōjānum īrdītūr ab ōvō;
[148] semper ad ēventūm festīnat et in mediās rēs
[149] nōn secus ac nōtās audītōrem rapit, et quae
[150] dēspērat tractāta nitēscere posse relinquit,
[151] atque ita mentītur, sīc vēris falsa remīscet,
[152] prīmō nē medium, mediō nē discrepet īmūm.
[153] Tū quid ego et populus mēcum dēsideret audī,

[154] sī plōsōris egēs aulaea manentis et usque
[155] sessūrī dōnec cantor. "Vōs plaudite" dīcat.
[156] Aetātis cujusque notandī sunt tibi mōrēs,
[157] mōbilisbusque decor nātūris dandus et annīs.
[158] Reddere quī vōcēs jam scit puer et pede certō
[159] signat humum, gestit paribus conlūdere et īram
[160] colligit ac pōnit temere et mūtātur in hōrās.
[161] inberbus juvenis tandem cūstōde remōtō
[162] gaudet equīs canibusque et aprīcī grāmine Campī,
[163] cēreus in vitium flectī, monitōribus asper,
[164] ūtilium tardus prōvīsor, prōdigus aeris,
[165] sublīmis cupidusque et amāta relinquere pernīx.
[166] Conversī studiīs aetās animusque virīlis
[167] quaerit opēs et amīcītiās, īservit honōrī,
[168] commisisse cavet quod mox mūtāre labōret.
[169] Multa senem circumveniunt incommoda, vel quod
[170] quaerit et inventis miser abstinet ac timet ūtī,
[171] vel quod rēs omnīs timidē gelidēque ministrat,
[172] dīlātor, spē longus, iners avidusque futūrī,
[173] difficilis, querulus, laudātor temporis āctī
[174] sē puerō, castīgātor cēnsorque minōrum.
[175] Multa ferunt annī venientēs commoda sēcum,
[176] multa recēdēntēs adimunt. Nē forte senīlēs
[177] mandentur juvenī partēs puerōque virilēs;
[178] semper in adjūnctīs aevōque morābitur aptīs.
[179] Aut agitur rēs in scaenīs aut ācta refertur.
[180] Sēgnius inrītant animōs dēmissa per aurem
[181] quam quae sunt oculīs subjecta fidēlibus et quae
[182] ipse sibi trādit spectātor; nōn tamen intus
[183] digna gerī prōmēs in scaenā multaque tollēs
[184] ex oculīs, quae mox nārret fācundia praesēns.
[185] Nē puerōs cōram populō Mēdēa trucīdet,
[186] aut hūmāna palam coquat exta nefārius Atreus,
[187] aut in avem Procnē vertātur, Cadmus in anguem.
[188] Quodcumque ostendis mihi sīc, incrēdulus ōdī.
[189] Nēve minor neu sit quīntō prōductior āctū
[190] fābula, quae poscī volt et spectanda repōnī;
[191] nec deus intersit, nisi dignus vindice nōdus
[192] inciderit; nec quārta loquī persōna labōret.
[193] Āctōris partīs chorus officiumque virīle
[194] dēfendant, neu quid mediōs intercinat āctūs,
[195] quod nōn prōpositō condūcat et haereat aptē.
[196] Ille bonīs faveatque et cōnsiliētur amīcē
[197] et regat irātōs et amet peccāre timentīs;
[198] ille dapēs laudet mēnsae brevis, ille salūbrem
[199] jūstītiām lēgēsque et apertīs ôtia portīs;
[200] ille tegat commissa deōsque precētūr et ōret,
[201] ut redeat miserīs, abeat Fortūna superbīs.
[202] Tībia nōn, ut nunc, orichalcō vīncta tubaeque
[203] aemula, sed tenuis simplexque forāmine paucō
[204] adspīrāre et adesse chorīs erat ūtilis atque
[205] nōndum spissa nimis complēre sedilia flātū,

[206] quō sānē populus numerābilis, utpote parvus,
[207] et frūgī castusque verēcundusque coībat.
[208] Postquam coepit agrōs extendere vīctor et urbēs
[209] lātior amplectī mūrus vīnōque diurnō
[210] plācārī Genius fēstīs impūne diēbus,
[211] accessit numerīsque modīsque licentia major.
[212] Indoctus quid enim saperet liberque labōrum
[213] rūsticus urbānō cōnfūsus, turpis honestō?
[214] Sīc prīscæ mōtumque et luxuriem addidit artī
[215] tībīcen trāxitque vagus per pulpita vestem;
[216] sīc etiam fidibus vōcēs crēvēre sevērīs
[217] et tulit ēloquium īsolitum fācundia p̄raecep̄s,
[218] ūtiliumque sagāx rērum et dīvīna futūrī
[219] sortilegīs nōn discrepuit sententia Delphīs.
[220] Carmine quī tragicō vīlem certāvit ob hircum,
[221] mox etiam agrestīs Satyrōs nūdāvit et asper
[222] incolumī gravitāte jocum temptāvit eō quod
[223] inlecebris erat et grātā novitāte morandus
[224] spectātor fūnctusque sacrīs et pōtus et exlex.
[225] Vērum ita rīsōrēs, ita commendāre dicācīs
[226] conveniet Satyrōs, ita vertere sēria lūdō,
[227] nē quīcumque deus, quīcumque adhibēbitur hērōs,
[228] rēgālī cōnspectus in aurō nūper et ostrō,
[229] migret in obscurās humili sermōne tabernās,
[230] aut, dum vītat humum, nūbēs et inānia captet.
[231] Effūtire levīs indigna tragedia versūs,
[232] ut fēstīs mātrōna movērī jussa diēbus,
[233] intererit Satyrīs paulum pudibunda protervīs.
[234] Nōn ego inōrnāta et dominantia nōmina sōlum
[235] verbaque, Pīsōnēs, Satyrōrum s̄criptor amābō,
[236] nec sīc ēnītar tragicō dīferre colōrī
[237] ut nihil intersit Dāvusne loquātur et audāx
[238] Pȳthias, ēmūnctō lucrāta Simōne talentum,
[239] an cūstōs famulusque deī Silēnus alumnī.
[240] Ex nōtō fictum carmen sequar, ut sibi quīvīs
[241] spēret idem, sūdet multum frūstrāque labōret
[242] ausus idem; tantum seriēs jūnctūraque pollet,
[243] tantum dē mediō sūmptīs accēdit honōris.
[244] Silvīs dēductī caveant mē jūdice Faunī
[245] nē, velut innātī triviis ac paene forēnsēs,
[246] aut nimium tenerīs juvenentur versibus unquam
[247] aut inmunda crepent ignōminiōsaque dicta;
[248] offenduntur enim quibus est equus et pater et rēs,
[249] nec, sī quid frictī ciceris probat et nucis ēmptor,
[250] aequīs accipiunt animīs dōnantve corōnā.
[251] Syllaba longa brevī subjecta vocātur iambus,
[252] pēs citus; unde etiam trimetrīs adcrēscere jussit
[253] nōmen iambēis, cum sēnōs redderet ictūs,
[254] prīmus ad extrēmum similis sibi; nōn ita prīdem,
[255] tardior ut paulō graviorque venīret ad aurīs,
[256] spondēōs stabilīs in jūra paterna recēpit
[257] commodus et patiēns, nōn ut dē sēde secundā

[258] cēderet aut quārtā sociāliter. Hic et in Accī
[259] nōbilis trimetrīs adpāret rārus, et Ennī
[260] in scaenam missōs cum magnō pondere versūs
[261] aut operaे celeris nimium cūrāque parentis
[262] aut ignōrātae premit artis crīmīne turpī.
[263] Nōn quīvis videt inmodulāta poēmata jūdex,
[264] et data Rōmānīs venia est indigna poētīs.
[265] Idcīrcōne vager scribamque licenter? An omnīs
[266] vīsūrōs peccāta putem mea, tūtus et intrā
[267] spēm veniae cautus? Vītāvī dēnique culpam,
[268] nōn laudem meruī. Vōs exemplāria Graeca
[269] nocturnā versāte manū, versāte diurnā.
[270] At vestrī proavī Plautīnōs et numerōs et
[271] laudāvēre salēs, nimium patienter utrumque,
[272] nē dīcam stultē, mīrāti, sī modo ego et vōs
[273] scīmus inurbānum lepidō sēpōnere dictō
[274] lēgitimumque sonum digitīs callēmus et aure.
[275] Ignōtūm tragicae genus invēnisse Camēnae
[276] dīcitur et plaustrīs vēxisse poēmata Thespis
[277] quae canerent agerentque perūnctī faecibus ōra.
[278] Post hunc persōnae pallaeque repertor honestae
[279] Aeschylus et modicīs īstrāvit pulpita tignīs
[280] et docuit magnumque loquī nītique coturnō.
[281] Successit vetus hīs cōmoedia, nōn sine multā
[282] laude; sed in vitium libertās excidit et vim
[283] dignam lēge regī; lēx est accepta chorusque
[284] turpiter obticuit sublātō jūre nocendī.
[285] Nīl intemptātum nostrī liquēre poētae,
[286] nec minimum meruēre decus vestīgia Graeca
[287] ausī dēserere et celebrāre domestica facta,
[288] vel quī prae{textā}s vel quī docuēre togātās.
[289] Nec virtūte foret clārisve potentius armīs
[290] quam linguā Latium, sī nōn offenderet ūnum
[291] quemque poētārum līmae labor et mora. Vōs, ō
[292] Pompilius sanguis, carmen reprehendite quod nōn
[293] multa diēs et multa litūra coercuit atque
[294] prae{sectum} deciēns nōn castīgāvit ad unguem.
[295] Ingenium miserā quia fortūnātius arte
[296] crēdit et exclūdit sānōs Helicōne poētās
[297] Dēmocritus, bona pars nōn unguīs pōnere cūrat,
[298] nōn barbam, sēcrēta petit loca, balnea vītā;
[299] nancīscētūr enim pretium nōmenque poētae,
[300] sī tribus Anticyrīs caput īsānābile nunquam
[301] tōnsōrī Licinō commiserit. Ō ego laevus
[302] quī pūrgor bīlem sub vernī temporis hōram!
[303] Nōn aliis faceret meliōra poēmata; vērum
[304] nīl tantī est. Ergō fungar vice cōtis, acūtum
[305] reddere quae ferrum valet exsors ipsa secandī;
[306] mūnus et officium, nīl scribēns ipse, docēbō,
[307] unde parentur opēs, quid alat fōrmētque poētam,
[308] quid deceat, quid nōn, quō virtūs, quō ferat error.
[309] Scribēndī rēctē sapere est et pīncipium et fōns.

[310] **R**em tibi Sōcraticae poterunt ostendere chartae,
[311] verbaque prōvisam rem nōn invīta sequentur.
[312] **Q**ui didicit, patriae quid dēbeat et quid amīcis,
[313] quō sit amore parēns, quō frāter amandus et hospes,
[314] quod sit cōscripti, quod jūdicis officium, quae
[315] partēs in bellum missi ducis, ille profectō
[316] reddere persōnae scit convenientia cuique.
[317] **R**espicere exemplar vitae mōrumque jubēbō
[318] doctum imitātōrem et vivās hinc dūcere vōcēs.
[319] **I**nterdum speciōsa locīs mōrātaque rēctē
[320] fābula nūllius veneris, sine pondere et arte,
[321] valdīus oblectat populū meliusque morātur
[322] quam versūs inopēs rērum nūgaeque canōrae.
[323] **G**rāīs ingenium, Grāīs dedit ōre rotundō
[324] Mūsa loquī, praeter laudem nūllius avāris;
[325] Rōmānī puerī longīs ratiōnibus assem
[326] discunt in partīs centum dīducere. "Dīcat
[327] fīlius Albīnī: sī dē quīncunce remōta est
[328] uncia, quid superat? Poterās dīxisse. " "Triēns. " "Eu!
" " "
[329] **R**em poteris servāre tuam. Redit uncia, quid fit? "
" "
[330] "Sēmis. " An, haec animōs aerūgō et cūra pecūlī
" "
[331] cum semel imbuerit, spērāmus carmina fingī
[332] posse linenda cedrō et lēvī servanda cupressō?
[333] Aut prōdesse volunt aut dēlectāre poētae
[334] aut simul et jūcunda et idōnea dīcere vitae.
[335] Quicquid praecipiēs, estō brevis, ut cito dicta
[336] percipient animī docilēs teneantque fidēlēs.
[337] Omne supervacuum plēnō dē pectore mānat.
[338] Ficta voluptātis causā sint proxima vēris,
[339] nē quodcumque volet poscat sibi fābula crēdī,
[340] neu prānsae Lamiae vivum puerum extrahat alvō.
[341] Centuriae seniōrum agitant expertia frūgis,
[342] celsī praetereunt austēra poēmata Ramnēs.
[343] Omne tulit pūnctum qui miscuit ūtile dulcī,
[344] lēctōrem dēlectandō pariterque monendō;
[345] hic meret aera liber Sosiīs, hic et mare trānsit
[346] et longum nōtō scriptōrī prōrogat aevum.
[347] Sunt dēlicita tamen quibus ignōvisse velīmus;
[348] nam neque chorda sonum reddit quem volt manus et mēns,
[349] poscentīque gravem persaepe remittit acūtum,
[350] nec semper feriet quodcumque minābitur arcus.
[351] Vērum ubi plūra nitent in carmine, nōn ego paucīs
[352] offendar maculīs, quās aut incūria fūdit,
[353] aut hūmāna parum cāvit nātūra. Quid ergō est?
[354] Ut scriptor sī peccat idem librārius usque,
[355] quamvīs est monitus, veniā caret, et Citharoedus
[356] rīdētur, chordā qui semper oberrat eādem,
[357] sīc mihi, qui multum cessat, fit Choerilus ille,
[358] quem bis terque bonum cum rīsū mīror; et idem
[359] indignor quandōque bonus dormītat Homērus;

[360] **vērum operī longō fās est obrēpere somnum.**
[361] **Ut pictūra poēsis; erit quae, sī propius stēs,**
[362] **tē capiat magis, et quaedam, sī longius abstēs;**
[363] **haec amat obscūrum, volet haec sub lūce vidērī,**
[364] **jūdicis argūtum quae nōn formidat acūmen;**
[365] **haec placuit semel, haec deciēns repetīta placēbit.**
[366] **Ō major juvenum, quamvis et vōce paternā**
[367] **fingeris ad rēctum et per tē sapis, hoc tibi dictum**
[368] **tolle memor, certīs medium et tolerābile rēbus**
[369] **rēctē concēdī; cōnsultus jūris et āctor**
[370] **causārum mediocris abest virtute disertī**
[371] **Messallae nec scit quantum Cascellius Aulus,**
[372] **sed tamen in pretiō est; mediocribus esse poētis**
[373] **nōn hominēs, nōn dī, nōn concessēre columnae.**
[374] **Ut grātās inter mēnsās symphōnia discors**
[375] **et crassum unguentum et Sardō cum melle papāver**
[376] **offendunt, poterat dūcī quia cēna sine istīs,**
[377] **sīc animīs nātum inventumque poēma juvandīs,**
[378] **sī paulum summō dēcessit, vergit ad īum.**
[379] **Lūdere quī nescit, campestribus abstinet armīs,**
[380] **indoctusque pilae discīve trochīve quiēscit,**
[381] **nē spissae rīsum tollant impūne corōnae;**
[382] **quī nescit, versūs tamen audet fingere. Quidnī?**
[383] **Liber et ingenuus, praeſertim cēnsus equestrem**
[384] **summam nummōrum vitiōque remōtus ab omnī.**
[385] **Tū nihil invītā dīcēs faciēsve Minervā;**
[386] **id tibi jūdīcīum est, ea mēns. Sīquid tamen ōlim**
[387] **scripseris, in Maeci dēscendat jūdīcīs aurīs**
[388] **et patris et nostrās, nōnumque premātur in annum**
[389] **membrānis intus posītis; dēlēre licēbit**
[390] **quod nōn ēdiderīs; nescit vōx missa revertī.**
[391] **Silvestrīs hominēs sacer interpresque deōrum**
[392] **caedibus et vīctū foedō dēterrīt Orpheus,**
[393] **dictus ob hoc lēnīre tigrīs rabidōsque leōnēs;**
[394] **dictus et Amphīon, Thēbānae condītor urbīs,**
[395] **saxa movēre sonō testūdinīs et prece blandā**
[396] **dūcere quō vellet. Fuit haec sapientia quondam,**
[397] **pūblica prīvātīs sēcernere, sacra profānīs,**
[398] **concubītū prohibēre vagō, dare jūra marītīs,**
[399] **oppida mōlīrī, lēgēs incīdere lignō.**
[400] **Sīc honor et nōmen dīvīnīs vātībus atque**
[401] **carminībus vēnit. Post hōs īsignis Homērus**
[402] **Tyrtaeusque marēs animōs in Mārtia bella**
[403] **versībus exacuit, dictae per carmina sortēs,**
[404] **et vītāe mōnstrāta via est et grātia rēgūm**
[405] **Pīeriīs temptāta modīs lūdusque repertus**
[406] **et longōrum operū finīs: nē forte pudōrī**
[407] **sit tibi Müsa lyrae sollers et cantor Apollō.**
[408] **Nātūrā fieret laudābile carmen an arte,**
[409] **quaesītūm est; ego nec studium sine dīvite vēnā**
[410] **nec rude quid prōsit videō ingenium; alterius sīc**
[411] **altera poscit opem rēs et conjūrat amīcē.**

[412] **Quī** studet optātam cursū contingere mētam,
[413] multa tulit fēcīque puer, sūdāvit et alsit,
[414] abstinuit venere et vīnō; quī Pȳthia cantat
[415] tībicen, didicit prius extimuitque magistrum.
[416] **Nunc** satis est dīxisse: "Ego mīra poēmata pangō;
[417] occupet extrēmum scabiēs; mihi turpe relinquī est
[418] et, quod nōn didicī, sānē nescire fatēri."
[419] **Ut** praecō, ad mercēs turbam quī cōgit emendās,
[420] adsentātōrēs jubet ad lucrum īre poēta
[421] dīves agrīs, dīves positis in fēnore nummīs.
[422] **Sī** vērō est ūntum quī rēctē pōnere possit
[423] et spondēre levī prō paupere et ēripere ātrīs
[424] lītibus implicitum, mīrābor sī sciet inter
[425] nōscere mendācem vērumque beātus amīcum.
[426] **Tū** seu dōnārīs seu quid dōnāre volēs cui,
[427] nōlīto ad versūs tibi factōs dūcere plēnum
[428] laetitiae; clāmābit enim: "Pulchrē, bene, rēctē",
[429] pallēscet super hīs, etiam stillābit amīcīs
[430] ex oculīs rōrem, saliet, tundet pede terram.
[431] **Ut** qui conductī plōrant in fūnere dīcunt
[432] et faciunt prope plūra dolentibus ex animō, sīc
[433] dērīsor vērō plūs laudātōre movētur.
[434] Rēgēs dīcuntur multīs urgēre culillīs
[435] et torquēre merō, quem perspexisse labōrent
[436] an sit amīciā dignus; sī carmina condēs,
[437] numquam tē fallent animī sub volpe latentēs.
[438] Quīntiliō sīquid recitārēs: "Corrige, sōdēs,
[439] hoc" ajēbat "et hoc"; melius tē posse negārēs,
[440] bis terque expertum frūstrā; dēlēre jubēbat
[441] et male tornātōs incūdī reddere versūs.
[442] **Sī** dēfendere dēlictum quam vertere māllēs,
[443] nūllum ultrā verbum aut operam īsūmēbat inānem,
[444] quīn sine rīvālī tēque et tua sōlus amārēs.
[445] Vir bonus et prūdēns versūs reprehendet inertīs,
[446] culpābit dūrōs, incōmptīs adlinet ātrum
[447] trānsvorsō calamō signum, ambitiōsa recīdet
[448] ḫornāmenta, parum clārīs lūcem dare cōget,
[449] arguet ambiguē dictum, mūtanda notābit,
[450] fīet Aristarchus, nec dīcet: "Cūr ego amīcum
[451] offendam in nūgīs? " Hae nūgae sēria dūcent
[452] in mala dērīsum semel exceptumque sinistrē.
[453] **Ut** mala quem scabiēs aut morbus rēgius urget
[454] aut fānāticus error et īrācunda Diāna,
[455] vēsānum tetigisse timent fugiuntque poētam,
[456] quī sapiunt; agitant puerī incautīque sequuntur.
[457] **Hic** dum sublīmis versūs ructātur et errat,
[458] sī velutī merulīs intentus dēcidit auceps
[459] in puteum foveamve, licet "succurrīte" longum
[460] clāmet "iō cīvēs", nōn sit quī tollere cūret.
[461] **Sī** cūret quis opem ferre et dēmittere fūnem,
[462] "quī scīs an prūdēns hūc sē dējēcerit atque
[463] servārī nōlit? " dīcam, Siculīque poētae

[464] nārrābō interitum. Deus inmortālis habērī
[465] dum cupid Empedoclēs, ārdentem frigidus Aetnam
[466] īnsiluit. Sit jūs liceatque perire poētīs;
[467] invītum quī servat, idem facit occīdenti.
[468] Nec semel hoc fēcit nec, sī retractus erit, jam
[469] fīet homō et pōnet fāmōsae mortis amōrem.
[470] Nec satis appāret cūr versūs factitet, utrum
[471] mīnxerit in patriōs cinerēs, an trīste bidental
[472] móverit incestus; certē furit, ac velut ursus,
[473] objectōs caveae valuit sī frangere clātrōs,
[474] indoctum doctumque fugat recitātor acerbus;
[475] quem vērō arripuit, tenet occīditque legendō,
[476] nōn missūra cutem nisi plēna cruōris hirūdō.