

Baucis & Philemon

Section 6

Lines 64-76: The Final Prayer & Transformation

Ovid, Metamorphoses VIII

Grammar Key

	Subject		Object		Verb		Genitive		Dative
	Ablative		Preposition		Conjunction		Adverb		Gerund/ive

Philemon's Prayer (Lines 64-67)

64 'esse² sacerdōtēs³ dēlūbra⁷ -que⁵ vestra⁴ tuērī⁶

65 poscimus,¹ et⁸ quoniam⁹ concordēs¹² ēgimus¹⁰ annōs,¹¹

66 auferat¹⁵ hōra¹⁴ duōs¹⁶ eadem,¹³ nec¹⁷ coniugis²² umquam¹⁸

67 busta²⁰ meae²¹ videam¹⁹ neu²³ sim²⁴ tumulandus²⁵ ab²⁶ illā.¹²⁷

Vocabulary

64 **sum, esse** to be

sacerdōs, -ōtis (m/f) priest

dēlūbrum, -ī (n) shrine, temple

vester, -tra, -trum your (pl.)

tueor, tuērī to guard (dep.)

65 **poscō, -ere** to ask for, demand

quoniam since, because

concors, -cordis harmonious

agō, -ere to spend (time)

annus, -ī (m) year

66 **auferō, auferre** to take away

hōra, -ae (f) hour

duo, duae, duo two

īdem, eadem, idem the same

coniūnx, -iugis (m/f) spouse

umquam ever

67 **bustum, -ī (n)** grave, tomb

meus, -a, -um my

videō, -ēre to see

neu and not, nor

tumulō, -āre to bury

ille, illa, illud that; she

Style Notes: Lines 64-67

1. Delayed Main Verb

Lines 64-65

poscimus (word order 1, but appears on line 65)

2. Twin Infinitives — Parallel Requests

Line 64

esse sacerdōtēs... tuēri dēlūbra vestra

3. Shared Fate — *eadem hōra*

Line 66

auferat hōra duōs eadem

4. Euphemism — *busta*

Line 67

busta meae (coniugis)

5. Gerundive of Obligation

Line 67

neu sim tumulandus ab illā

The Fulfilment & Transformation (Lines 68-72)

68 vōta³ fidēs¹ sequitur;² templī³ tūtēla² fuēre,¹

69 dōnec⁴ vīta⁵ data est.^{...6...} annīs³ aevōque⁵ solūtī⁴

70 ante⁸ gradūs¹⁰ sacrōs⁹ cum¹ stārent⁶ forte⁷ locī¹⁴ -que¹¹

71 nārrārent¹² cāsūs,¹³ frondēre¹⁸ Philēmona¹⁷ Baucis,¹⁵

72 Baucida²¹ cōnspexit¹⁶ senior¹⁹ frondēre²² Philēmōn.²⁰

Vocabulary

- 68 **vōtum, -ī (n)** prayer, vow
fidēs, fideī (f) faith; fulfilment
sequor, sequī to follow (dep.)
templum, -ī (n) temple
tūtēla, -ae (f) guardianship
sum, esse to be (fuēre = were)
69 **dōnec** as long as, until
vīta, -ae (f) life
dō, dare to give
annus, -ī (m) year
aevum, -ī (n) age, time
solvō, -ere to loosen; weaken

- 70 **ante + acc.** in front of
gradus, -ūs (m) step, stair
sacer, -cra, -crum sacred
cum + subj. when
stō, stāre to stand
forte by chance (adv.)
locus, -ī (m) place
71 **nārrō, -āre** to tell, relate
cāsus, -ūs (m) event, occurrence
frondeō, -ēre to put forth leaves
72 **cōspiciō, -ere** to catch sight of
senior, -ōris the elder, aged

Style Notes: Lines 68-72

6. Personification — fidēs sequitur

Line 68

vōta fidēs sequitur



7. Brevity — Terse Fulfilment

Line 68

vōta fidēs sequitur (three words after the long prayer)



8. Parallelism — Mirrored Structure

Lines 71-72

Philēmona Baucis / Baucida... Philēmōn (AB AB pattern)



9. Historic Infinitive — frondēre

Lines 71-72

frondēre Philēmona... frondēre Philēmōn



The Final Farewell (Lines 73-76)

73 iam² -que¹ super⁵ geminōs⁶ crēscente⁴ cacūmine³ vultūs⁷

74 mūtua,⁹ dum¹¹ licuit,¹² reddēbant⁸ dicta¹⁰ 'valē'¹⁶ -que¹³

75 'ō¹⁷ coniūnx¹⁸ dixēre¹⁵ simul,¹⁴ simul¹⁹ abdita²¹ tēxit²²

76 ūra²³ frutex.²⁰

Vocabulary

- 73 **iam** now, already
super + acc. over, above
geminus, -a, -um twin, double
crēscō, -ere to grow
cacūmen, -inis (n) peak, treetop
vultus, -ūs (m) face
- 74 **mūtuus, -a, -um** mutual, reciprocal
dum while
licet, licēre it is permitted
reddō, -ere to give back; exchange

- dictum, -ī (n)** word, saying
valē farewell
- 75 **coniūnx, -iugis (m/f)** spouse
dicō, -ere to say (dixēre = said)
simul at the same time
abditus, -a, -um hidden, concealed
tegō, -ere to cover, hide
- 76 **ōs, ūris (n)** face, mouth
frutex, -icis (m) shrub, bush

Style Notes: Lines 73-76

10. Pathos — dum licuit

Line 74

dum licuit



11. Repetition — simul... simul

Line 75

dixere simul, simul... tēxit



12. Direct Speech — Final Words

Lines 74-75

'vale'... 'ō coniūnx'



13. Ambiguity — coniūnx

Line 75

'ō coniūnx' (means both "husband" and "wife")

