











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 sacerdotēs³ 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 tumultandus²⁵ ab²⁶ illā.²⁷

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... tuērī 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 Philēmōna¹⁷ 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, -era, -erum 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 crēscēte⁴ cacūmine³ vultūs⁷

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

75 'ō¹⁷ coniūnx'¹⁸ dīxēre¹⁵ simul,¹⁴ simul¹⁹ abdita²¹ tēxit²²

76 ōra²³ 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

dīcō, -ere to say (dīxēre = said)

simul at the same time

abditus, -a, -um hidden, concealed

tegō, -ere to cover, hide

76 ōs, ōris (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... texit

12. Direct Speech — Final Words

Lines 74-75

'valē'... 'ō coniūnx'

13. Ambiguity — coniūnx

Line 75

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