

Baucis & Philemon

Section 5

Lines 50-63: The Climb & The Transformation

Ovid, Metamorphoses VIII

Grammar Key

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
|  Subject |  Object |  Verb |  Genitive |  Dative |
|  Ablative |  Preposition |  Conjunction |  Adverb | |

The Climb (Lines 50-54)

50 parent² ambō¹ baculīs⁵ -que³ levātī⁴

51 nītuntur⁶ longō⁹ vestīgia⁸ pōnere⁷ clīvō.¹⁰

52 tantum² aberant¹ summō,³ quantum⁴ semel⁶ īre⁹ sagitta⁵

53 missa⁷ potest;⁸ flexēre¹ oculōs² et³ mersā⁶ palūde⁷

54 cētera⁵ prōspiciunt,⁴ tantum⁸ sua⁹ tēcta¹⁰ manēre.¹¹

Vocabulary

- 50 **pāreō, -ēre** to obey
ambō, ambae, ambō both
baculum, -ī (n) staff, walking stick
levō, -āre to lift, support
51 **nītor, nītī** to strive (dep.)
vestīgium, -ī (n) footstep
pōnō, -ere to place
longus, -a, -um long
clīvus, -ī (m) slope, hill
52 **tantum... quantum** as much... as
absum, abesse to be away from
summus, -a, -um the top (of)
semel once

- eō, īre** to go
sagitta, -ae (f) arrow
53 **mittō, -ere** to send
possum, posse to be able
flectō, -ere to turn, bend
oculus, -ī (m) eye
mergō, -ere to sink, drown
palūs, -ūdis (f) swamp, marsh
54 **cētera** the rest, other things
prōspiciō, -ere to look out upon
tantum only (adv.)
tēctum, -ī (n) home, roof
maneō, -ēre to remain

Style Notes: Lines 50-54

1. Unity of the Couple – ambō

Line 50

parent ambō



2. Historic Present

Line 51

nītuntur



3. Arrow Simile

Lines 52-53

tantum aberant summō, quantum semel īre sagitta missa potest



4. Enjambment

Lines 52-53

sagitta / missa



5. Divine Favour – sua tēcta

Line 54

tantum sua tēcta manēre



The Transformation (Lines 55-59)

55 dum² -que¹ ea⁴ mīrantur,³ dum⁵ dēfleō⁶ fāta⁷ suōrum,⁸

56 illa⁹ vetus¹⁰ dominīs¹⁵ etiam¹³ casa¹¹ parva¹² duōbus¹⁴

57 vertitur¹⁶ in¹⁷ templum;¹⁸ furcās³ subiēre² columnae,¹

58 strāmina⁴ flāvēscunt⁵ aurāta⁷ -que⁶ tēcta⁸ videntur⁹

59 caelātae¹² -que¹⁰ forēs¹¹ adoperta¹⁵ -que¹³ marmore¹⁶ tellus.¹⁴

Vocabulary

- 55 **dum** while
mīror, mīrārī to marvel at (dep.)
dēfleō, -ēre to weep for
fātum, -ī (n) fate, death
suī, suōrum their own (people)
56 **ille, illa, illud** that
vetus, veteris old
dominus, -ī (m) master
etiam even
casa, -ae (f) cottage
parvus, -a, -um small
57 **vertō, -ere** to turn
templum, -ī (n) temple

- furca, -ae (f)** forked stick, prop
subeō, -īre to go under, replace
columna, -ae (f) column
58 **strāmen, -inis (n)** straw, thatch
flāvēscō, -ere to turn yellow/golden
aurātus, -a, -um gilded, golden
videor, vidērī to seem (pass.)
59 **caelō, -āre** to carve, engrave
foris, -is (f) door
adoperiō, -īre to cover
marmor, -oris (n) marble
tellus, -ūris (f) ground, earth

Style Notes: Lines 55-59

6. Anaphora — Contrasting Emotions

Line 55

dum mīrantur... dum dēfleunt

7. Hyperbaton / Delayed Verb

Lines 56-57

illa vetus... casa parva... vertitur

8. Historic Present — Transformation

Lines 57-59

vertitur... subiēre... flāvēscunt... videntur

9. Polysyndeton

Lines 58-59

aurāta-que... caelātae-que... adoperta-que

Jupiter's Speech (Lines 60-63)

60 **tālia⁴** **tum¹** **placidō⁵** **Sāturnius²** **ēdedit³** **ōre:⁶**

61 'dīcite,⁸ iūste¹ senex² et³ fēmina⁴ coniuge⁷ iūstō⁶

62 dīgna,⁵ quid⁹ optētis.¹⁰ cum³ Baucide⁴ pauca² locūtus¹

63 iūdiciūm⁸ superīs⁹ aperit⁶ commūne⁷ Philēmōn:⁵

Vocabulary

60 **tālis, -e** such

tum then

placidus, -a, -um calm, peaceful

Sāturnius, -ī (m) son of Saturn (Jupiter)

ēdō, -ere to utter, speak

ōs, ūris (n) mouth, expression

61 **dīcō, -ere** to speak, say

iūstus, -a, -um just, righteous

senex, senis (m) old man

fēmina, -ae (f) woman

coniūnx, -iugis (m/f) spouse

62 **dīgnus, -a, -um** worthy (+ abl.)

optō, -āre to wish for

cum + abl. with

paucus, -a, -um few, a little

loquor, loquī to speak (dep.)

63 **iūdiciūm, -ī (n)** judgement, decision

superī, -ōrum (m.pl) the gods above

aperiō, -īre to reveal, open

commūnis, -e shared, joint

Style Notes: Lines 60-63

10. Emotive Adjective — placidō ōre

Line 60

placidō... ōre



11. Polyptoton — iūste... iūstō

Lines 61-62

iūste senex... coniuge iūstō digna



12. Shared Decision — commūne

Line 63

iūdiciūm... commūne

