

6. The goddess Ceres, in disguise, is entertained by an old peasant couple and helps their sick child.

As the goddess accompanied him, the old man explained that his son was ill and could not sleep. Before entering the house, Ceres picked some sleep-inducing herbs and took them with her.

limen **ut** intravit, luctus videt omnia plena:
iam spes in puero nulla salutis erat.
matre salutata (mater Metaneira vocatur),
iungere **dignata** est os **puerile** suo.
pallor abit, **subitasque** vident in corpore vires:
tantus caelesti venit ab ore vigor.
tota domus laeta est: hoc est materque paterque
nataque; tres illi tota **fuere** domus.

Ovid, Fasti IV.537

Words

ut = when; **dignor** 1dep = deign, condescend; **puerilis** adj. = childish, of a child; **subitus** adj = sudden; **fuere** = **fuerunt**: a very common form, especially in verse.

7. While the peasant couple sleep (see previous passage) Ceres tries to reward them by making their son immortal, but she is interrupted. As consolation, she says that he will be famous as the first agriculturalist.

They put on a rustic feast in celebration. Ceres did not eat anything herself, but gave the boy some herbs mixed with warm milk to drink. Later, when all the others were asleep, she took him in her arms,

terque manu permulsit eum, tria carmina dixit,
carmina mortali non referenda sono,
inque foco, corpus pueri vivente favilla
obruit, humanum purget ut ignis onus.
excutitur somno stulte pia mater, et amens
"quid facis?" exclamat, membraque ab igne rapit.
cui dea "dum non es," dixit, "scelerata, fuisti.
irrita materno sunt mea dona metu.
iste quidem mortalis erit, sed primus arabit
et seret et culta praemia tollet humo."

Ovid, Fasti IV.551

Words

ter = three times; permulceo 2 permulsi = stroke; referendus (gerundive of refero) = to be repeated; sonus 2m (here) = voice; focus 2m = hearth; favilla 1f = embers; obruo 3 obrui = cover; humanus adj (here) = of mortality; purgo 1 = purge, cleanse; dum (here) = although; irritus adj = vain, rendered useless; maternus adj = motherly; iste refers to the child; cultus adj = cultivated, grown.

36. As Cadmus is turned into a snake, his wife prays to be transformed as well.

Cadmus wanted to say more, but suddenly his tongue was split into two, and as he tried to speak, all he could do was hiss.

nuda manu feriens exclamat pectora coniunx,
"Cadme, quid hoc? ubi pes? ubi sunt umerique, manusque?
et color, et facies et, dum loquor, omnia? cur non
me quoque, **caelestes**, in **eandem** vertitis anguem?"
dixerat: ille suae **lambebat** coniugis ora
inque sinus caros, veluti cognosceret, ibat,
et dabat amplexus assuetaque colla petebat.
quisquis adest (aderant comites) terretur; at illa
lubrica permulcet **cristati** colla draconis,
et subito duo sunt **iunctoque volumine** serpunt,
donec in **appositi** nemoris subiere latebras.

Ovid, Metamorphoses IV.591

Words

caelestes 3mpl = gods; **eandem** (here) = the same kind of; **lambo** 3 = lick; **lubricus** adj = smooth; **cristatus** adj = crested; **iuncto...volumine** = with their coils entwined; **appositus** adj = nearby.