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Latin Sources W2 Fri

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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- The elegiac distich consists of:
 - One hexameter line
 - One pentameter line

nec mihi silua domus, nec equo mea membra cohaerent:

uix a te uideor posse tenere manus.

quae tibi sint facienda tamen cognosce, nec Euris

da mea nec tepidis uerba ferenda Notis.

ante ueni quam uir; nec quid, si ueneris ante,

possit agi uideo, sed tamen ante ueni.

cum premet ille torum, uultu comes ipsa modesto

ibis ut accumbas, clam mihi tange pedem;

me specta nutusque meos uultumque loquacem

excipe furtiuas et refer ipsa notas.

uerba superciliis sine uoce loquentia dicam;

uerba leges digitis, uerba notata mero.

cum tibi succurret Ueneris lasciuiā nostrae,

purpureas tenero pollice tange genas.

siquid erit, de me tacita quod mente queraris,

pendeat extrema mollis ab aure manus.

cum tibi, quae faciam, mea lux, dicamue, placebunt,

Bascis of Latin verse

- Rhythm in Latin metre is different from normal word stress
- It is based instead on the difference between heavy and light syllables (long and short)
- Each word (form of word) has its own set quantities in this regard: we have already seen this influence pronunciation:
 - habére versus dícere: a heavy (long) antepenultima pulls the word accent towards the end of the word
- There are some basic rules for when syllables are heavy/light:
 - Ablative singular endings (1st-2nd) are always heavy
 - Accusative plural endings are always heavy
 - even though other endings whose final letter is not s are short: mensam
 - Diphthongs (*ae*) are always heavy
 - A vowel before another vowel is always light

Basics of Latin verse: words in context

- Length by position:
 - if a vowel is followed by two consonants it is normally heavy
 - exceptions for certain consonant combinations:
 - *muta* (b, p, d, t, g, c, f) *cum liquida* (m, n, l, r) (especially within one word) may remain light
 - in verse, this applies even if the consonants belong to different words:
 - monere: the highlighted e is heavy in its own right
 - uisum duxerat: the u becomes heavy through its position