

Propertius 1.5 notes

The Goold revised loeb does not include lines 1-2.

3 vis: second person singular of volo (which explains following infinitives).

3 furores: Propertius uses of the madness of love (cf. 1.1.4; 1.4.11).

4 ultima mala: “the worst of evils” (Richardson).

4. nosse: Contracted perfect infinitive. See OLD s.v. noscō (~scere, nōuī, nōtum tr., Also gnoscō) sense B11: To have practical knowledge of (circumstances, activities, etc.), i.e. experience, have dealings with, etc.

5 “and to walk in misery through fires of which you have no knowledge” (Richardson).

6 toxica: See OLD s.v. toxicum (~ī neut.) A poison (originally so called from its use with arrows).

6 Thessalia: See OLD s.v. Thessalia (~ae f.) The region of Greece south of Macedon, Thessaly (traditionally associated with witchcraft). As if Cynthia were a witch...

7. vagis: See OLD s.v. uagus (~a, ~um adj.) sense 8b: 8 Inconstant in mood, outlook, etc., fickle, changeable, wayward, or similar b (of lovers) changing from one partner to another: (sim. of passion, etc.).

8. molliter: See OLD s.v. molliter (adv) sense 7: Without harshness or severity, mildly, gently b (of feelings) without anger, calmly.

8 sciet: the MSS have solet.

9 contraria: See OLD s.v. contrārius (~a, ~um adj.) sense 3 (of persons, their policies, etc.) Hostile, adverse, opposing or opposed.

10 milia: See OLD sv mille (indeclinable neut. , indeclinable adj. Pl. mīlia, or millia~ium) sense 2a (pl. with qualifying numeral) (So many) thousand a (as noun with defining genitive) (without numeral) thousands, large numbers (of).

10. quanta: here = quot. See OLD sv quantus (a, um) sense A2d (pl.) how many!.

11: i.e. you will lose sleep over her and will be able to see no one but her.

12. alligat: See OLD s.v. alligō (~āre, ~āuī, ~ātum tr. Also adl-) sense 5 To put or keep in chains, fetter.

13 ah: exclamatory.

14. cadent: OLD s.v. cadō (~ere, cecidī, cāsum intr.) has under sense 14 (of words)) To fall from one's lips, be uttered. Richardson understands in the sense of “fail”, with “singultu” as ablative of cause (“when your stout words will fail you for sobbing”).

14. singultu: See OLD sv singultus (~ūs, m.)1 The act of catching the breath in sobbing, (in pl.) sobs.

15. horror: See OLD sv horror (~ōris m.) sense 5 Shivering, trembling (resulting from cold or other physical causes).

15-16 Richardson translates “and a quaking shudder will rise with sorrowful weeping, and fear score its ugly brand on your face”.

15. tremulus: See OLD sv tremulus (a, um) sense 1b trembling (with fear; also, with cold).

15 maestis ... fletibus: ablative of attendant circumstances.

16 informem: See OLD s.v. informis (~is, ~e, ~ior adj.) sense 2: Ugly, unsightly.

17 fugient: See OLD s.v. fugiō (~ere, fūgī intr. , tr.) sense 13 (tr.) To escape the notice or recollection of, be overlooked by: (also intr.).

19 grave: See OLD sv grauis (~is, ~e, ~ior, ~issimus adj.) sense 10b (of hardships, etc.) hard to bear, grievous, painful.

19 nostrae ... puellae: probably genitive with “servitium” (instead of dative with “discere”, to learn for her sake).

20: i.e. experience being a “shut-out” lover (exclusus amator).

22 nullus: OLD cites under s.v. nullus (a, um) sense 1f Not any, no (hyperb., of what is small,

slight, or unimportant). Richardson translates “wasted to nothing”.

23 nobilitas: high birth (attributed to Gallus; suggested that Propertius doesn’t have the same connections).

23 succurrere: See OLD s.v. succurrō (~rrere, ~rrī, ~rsum intr.) sense 3c. (with no obvious idea of motion) To hasten to the relief or assistance (of anyone in difficulties; also to the aid of things, material or otherwise). C) (of things, especially circumstances).

24 priscis ... imaginibus: this refers to the ancestral wax masks of famous ancestors in the atria of Roman houses (carried in family funeral processions and markers of prestige. See OLD s.v. imāgō (~inis f.) sense 2b: A death mask of an ancestor who has held public office, kept in the atrium and carried in funeral processions b (usu. pl., as representing noble ancestry).

25-6: “and if you give (even) slight evidence of your guilt, how quickly from so great a name will you be (reduced to) a subject of gossip.” (Richardson who translated parva as “even though slight” and understands Gallus’ culpa as falling in love with Cynthia).

26 de: See OLD s.v. dē (prep) sense 9 (indicating change) From, out of.

26 rumor: See OLD s.v. rūmor (~ōris m.) sense 2c (by metonymy) a person or thing talked about by everyone, a byword.

27 roganti: understand “tibi”.

29 socio ... amore: “by a love we share in common” (Richardson).

29. socio: See OLD s.v. socius (a, um) sense 4: Possessed, practised, etc., with a partner, shared, common.

30 Galle: presumably the same Gallus who is addressed in 10 and 1.13. Is he the same Gallus as in 1.20?

30. mutua: See OLD sv mūtūus (a, um) sense 2b (neut. pl. with adverbial force) with mutual exchange or interaction, reciprocally.

30 flere: See OLD sv fleō (~ēre, ~ēuī, ~ētum intr., tr.) 1 (intr.) To weep, cry, lament.

31 possit: OLD cites under s.v. possum (posse, potuī intr., (tr.)) sense 8a (of persons, qualities, etc.) To have (a specified) power, influence, or importance.