

Hexameter Passage 10 *Narcissus meets Echo*

The nymph Echo has been cursed by Juno to be able only to repeat the last few words she hears, and so she is unable to express her great love for the handsome young Narcissus, who rejects her desperate advances brutally.

How often Echo yearned to speak to Narcissus and profess her love! But Juno's curse meant she could not speak first.

forte puer comitum seductus ab agmine fido
 dixerat: 'ecquis adest?' et 'adest' responderat Echo.
 hic stupet, utque aciem partes dimittit in omnes,
 voce 'veni!' magna clamat: vocat illa vocantem.
 respicit et rursus nullo veniente 'quid' inquit 5
 'me fugis?' et totidem, quot dixit, verba recepit.
 perstat et alternae deceptus imagine vocis
 'huc coeamus' ait, nullique libentius umquam
 responsura sono 'coeamus' rettulit Echo
 et verbis favet ipsa suis egressaque silva 10
 ibat, ut iniceret sperato bracchia collo;
 ille fugit fugiensque 'manus complexibus aufer!
 ante' ait 'emoriar, quam sit tibi copia nostri';
 rettulit illa nihil nisi 'sit tibi copia nostri!'

METAMORPHOSES III

<i>seductus</i> , -a, -um	separated
<i>ecquis</i> . . . ?	is anyone . . . ?
<i>Echo</i> (Gk decl.) (f.)	Echo
<i>acies</i> , -ei (f.)	(here) gaze
<i>totidem</i> , <i>quot</i> . . .	as many as . . .
<i>speratus</i> , -a, -um	longed-for
<i>collum</i> , -i (n.)	neck
<i>complexus</i> , -us (m.)	embrace
<i>copia</i> , -ae (f.) (+ gen.)	(here) opportunity to enjoy

DISCENDUM *Jussive and hortative subjunctives*

The present subjunctive is often used to give a command ('may justice be done' – jussive subjunctive) or encouragement ('let us rejoice' – hortative subjunctive). Here *coeamus* is a present hortative subjunctive, meaning not 'we meet' but 'let us meet'. While this use of the subjunctive is perfectly common in prose, it is even more so in verse: look out for it and ensure you know your subjunctive endings.