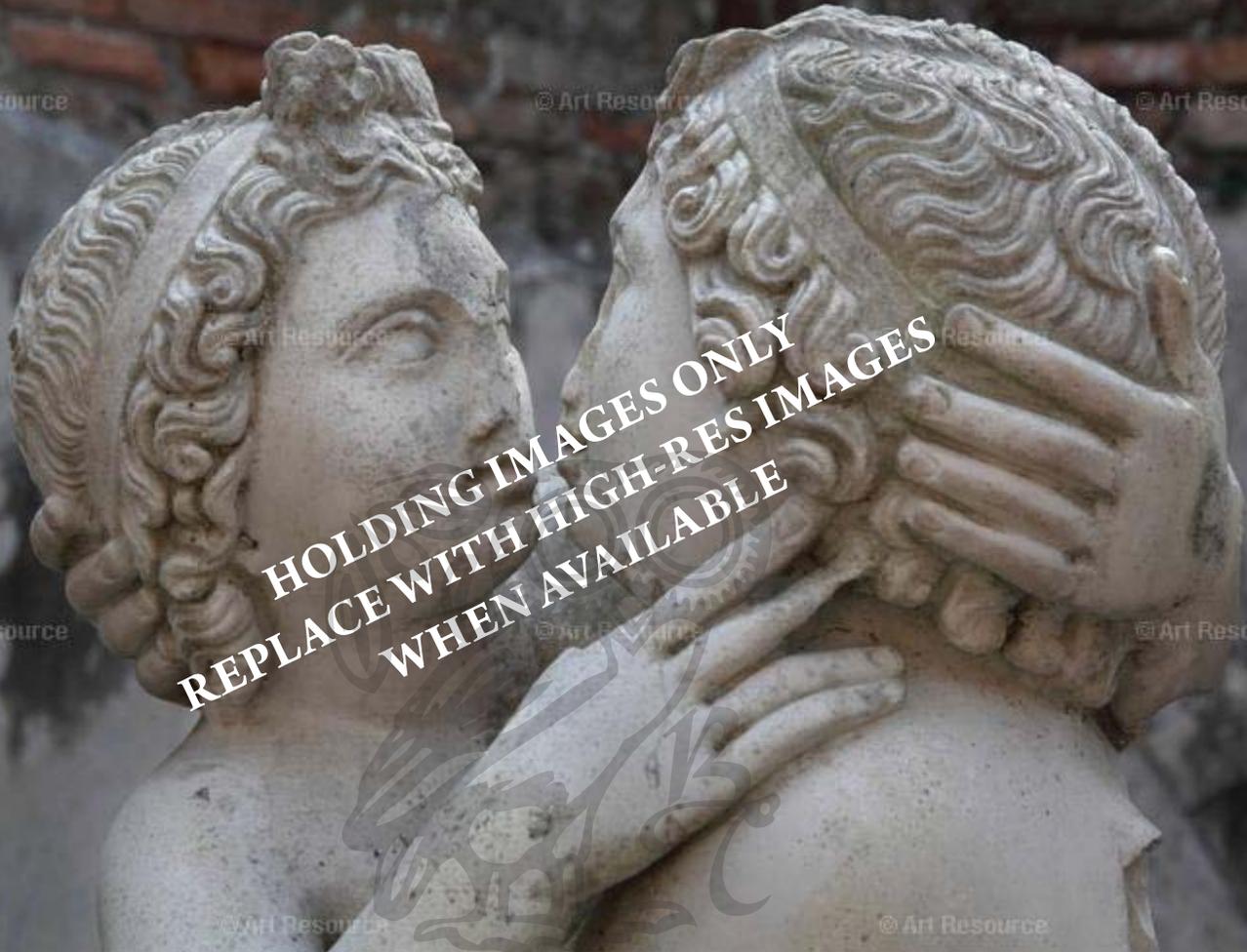


CHAPTER

18

Future Perfect Tense Active of All Conjugations; Future Perfect Tense of *Sum* and *Possum*; Fifth Declension Nouns



Detail from a 2nd century CE statue of Cupid and Psyche from a home in Ostia.

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MEMORĀBILE DICTŪ

Quod nēmō nōvit paene nōn fit.

“What no one knows almost does not happen.” (Apuleius, *Transformations* 10.3)

This saying exemplifies the logic “Not known, not done” aimed at alleviating the remorse of the human conscience over bad deeds.

READING

In the middle of the second century CE, which coincided with a relatively stable period for Roman society under a series of “good” emperors—Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius (117–180 CE)—Latin literature developed an increasingly pronounced taste for “archaism”: the use of rare or obsolete words and expressions from early Latin. A major work that represents this archaizing trend is the “Golden Ass,” or *Metamorphōsēs*, “Transformations,” by the North African writer Āpulēius. Along with the *Satyricon* of Petronius, which was likely written in the time of Nero, it is one of the two examples that have survived of the ancient novel in Latin.

In it, Apuleius relates the story of Lucius, a Greek whose excessive curiosity and interest in magic result in his transformation into a donkey. Apuleius’s love of archaic and rare words adds to the color and vividness of his narration about the adventures and misfortunes experienced by Lucius, in the form of a beast of burden. The same stylistic traits figure in the excerpt from the novel that you will read here, the love story of Cupid and Psyche.

DĒ CUPĪDINE ET PSŪCHĒ

- 1 Rēx trēs filiās habēbat. Duae eārum erant pulchrae, sed tertia soror erat pulchritūdine praeclāra. Nōmen eī erat Psŷchē. Propter pulchritūdinem Psŷchē ā multis virīs colēbātur. Tandem Venus putāvit Psŷchēn, quae nōn erat dea, nōn dēbere ab aliīs tam multum colī.
- 5 Itaque Venus Cupīdinem, filium suum, vocāvit eīque dīxit: “Mitte, fili, sagittam in cor Psŷchēs! Puella malī virī amōre corripī dēbēbit.” Cupīdō puellam petīvit, eam cōspexit et ipse amōre statim ārsit. Puella quoque iam nōn poterat alium virum amāre. Sorōrēs marītōs habēbant, sed Psŷchē marītum nōn habēbat. Pater dē filiae fātō valdē dolēbat
- 10 et cōsilia deōrum dē eā rē petīvit. Deī rēgī ita respondērunt: “Sī cōsiliū nostrum petis, audī! Dūc filiā tuā in summum montem et discēde! Cum discesseris, belua ad eam veniet.” Rēx dolēbat, sed filiā ad montem dūxit. Ibi somnus Psŷchēn cēpit. Post somnum Psŷchē vīdit sē esse in domō pulchrā et intellēxit sē iam habēre
- 15 marītum valdē bonum, quī eam amābat atque cūrābat. Is tamen faciē suā uxōrī numquam ostendēbat. Psŷchē eius faciē vidēre cupīvit et, dum marītus dormiēbat, lūmen ad faciē mōvit. Gutta oleī in faciē marītī cecidit eumque ex somnō excitāvit. Marītus erat ipse Cupīdō! “Cūr id fēcistī?!” exclāmāvit Cupīdō et statim ēvanuit. Psŷchē eum

per omnēs terrās diū quaesīvit. Nam Venus filium suum occultāverat. Cupīdō quoque cum Psȳchē esse cupiēbat. Tandem Venus auxilium iīs dare dēcrēvit. Itaque Cupīdō et Psȳchē semper ūnā manēre poterunt. Magna est vīs amōris.

READING VOCABULARY

belua, beluae, f. – beast

***colō, colere, coluī, cultum** – to worship, cultivate

cor, cordis, n. – heart

***cum (conj.)** – when, after

cum discesseris – when you leave

Cupīdō, Cupīdinis, m. – Cupid (*in Greek Eros*)

***dea, deae, f.** – goddess

***dormiō, dormire, dormivī, dormitum** – to sleep

duae (feminine) – two

***dūc!** – *present imperative of dūcō, dūcere, dūxī, ductum, to lead, take*

ēvanēscō, ēvanēscere, ēvanuī, — – to disappear

***excitō, excitāre, excitāvī, excitātum** – to awaken, wake up, rouse, stir up

***exclāmō, exclāmāre, exclāmāvī, exclāmātum** – to exclaim

***faciem** – face

***fātum, fātī, n.** – fate, destiny

gutta, guttae, f. – drop

ipse (masculine nominative singular) – himself

***ita (adv.)** – so, in such a way

lūmen, lūminis, n. – light

***marītus, marītī, m.** – husband

***multum (adv.)** – much

***occultō, occultāre, occultāvī, occultātum** – to hide

oleum, oleī, n. – oil

***pater, patris, m.** – father

***post + accusative** – after

Psȳchē, Psȳchēs (gen.), Psȳchē (dat.), Psȳchēn (acc.), Psȳchē (abl.) – Psyche

pulchritūdō, pulchritūdinis, f. – beauty

***quaerō, quaerere, quaesivī, quaesitum** – to look for, search

sagitta, sagittae, f. – arrow

***dē rē** – about the thing

***sī (conj.)** – if

***somnus, somnī, m.** – sleep

summus, summa, summum – the top of

***tam (adv.)** – so

tertius, tertia, tertium – third

trēs (nominative and accusative) – three

***uxor, uxōris, f.** – wife

Venus, Veneris, f. – Venus (*Greek Aphrodite*)

*Words marked with an asterisk will need to be memorized later in the chapter.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Venus decide to punish Psyche?
2. What happened when Cupid was sent to Psyche?
3. Why did Psyche stay unmarried for a long time?
4. Who was the secret husband to whom Psyche was taken?
5. Why were Cupid and Psyche separated?
6. What happened at the end of the story?