

Quetzalcoatl's Recovery Brings Confrontation

The wise men of the city said that savage nomads were ravaging some of their country, and the only way to deal with them was war. Quetzalcoatl and a few followers set out to reason with these invaders. He and his company were ambushed, most of them were slaughtered, and Quetzalcoatl himself was gravely wounded. One survivor fled to Tula for aid. The city grieved and sent twenty stalwart men to the abandoned battlefield, where they found Quetzalcoatl, so badly wounded that the enemy had left him for dead. Carried home, he struggled to regain his health.

- 170 Et iam lūna quater complēverat ignibus orbem
 Quum constans animō, pollens et corpore Quetzāl
 Cōram sospes adest et mente et vōce disertus.
 Intereā livor Tezcatlīpōca ministrōs
 Occupat exūrēns atque ūnō murmurat agmen
- 175 Ōre dolōs. “Num sceptrā latēns meditātur inānī
 Toltēcā torquēre manū? Num sanguine pastōs
 Horrescēns dīvōs facinus mōlītur opertum?
 Quod sī bella vetat, nōs nostraque reddet inermēs.
 Quidquid id est, regnī solium manet ātra ruīna.”
- 180 His accēnsa minīs, odiō correpta caterva
 Quetzāl vōce vocat magnā lymphātaque vātem
 Increpat opprobriīs. Tectī subit impiger ille
 Ante forēs, oculis īram vōcēsque refrēnāns.
 Nōn aliter maris īra tumet fervetque procellīs
- 185 Et tacitō plācat pelagī deus aequora nūtū.
 Submissīs animīs, vātēs sīc fārier orsus:
 “Vae! Quianam mōtūs, quae tanta insania cīvēs?”

Quid nostrum turbātis opus? Nōn verbera linguae

Nēve minās timeō neu saevae cuspidis ictum;

190 Hōc equidem vereor bellō contendere frātrēs,

Pangere germānō rōrātam sanguine pācem

Et mactāre diis mortālia corda cruentis.

VOCABULARY

agm•en –inis *n* crowd, line

aliter *adv* otherwise, in various ways

dol•us –i *m* deceit

facin•us –oris *n* deed

horresce•ns –ntis *adj* shivering, weak

impig•er –gra –grum vigorous, unhesitant

incred•o –are –ui –tum to rebuke, accuse

inerm•is –e *adj* defenseless, unarmed

lat•eo –ere –ui to lie hidden, be retired or shy

lingu•a –ae *f* tongue, language

liv•or –oris *m* spite, envy

lymphat•us –a –um *adj* frenzied

min•ae –arum *f pl* threats

oper•io –ire –ui –tum to cover, close

opprobri•um –i *n* scandal, crime

pang•o –ere panxi or **pepigi pactum** to settle

past•us –a –um *adj* fed

polle•ns –ntis *adj* (being) strong, powerful

quianam *adv* whyever?

quisquis quidquid (quicquid) *indef pron* whoever, whatever

quod si but if

quum *doublet of cum: conj* when, since, although

refrena•ns –ntis *adj* controlling *lit* reigning in

ror•o (1) to moisten, sprinkle

sosp•es –itis *adj* safe, lucky

sub•eo –ire –ii –itum to go, advance

tor•queo –quere –si –tortum to turn, grasp

vates vatis *m* prophet