

Rusticatio Mexicana

Invocation to Apollo

As is conventional in epic poetry, Landívar begins with a formal invocation to Apollo, god of music and poetry. He uses familiar images partly because, as he warns, his revelations will be strange.

Tū, quī concentūs plectrō moderāris eburnō,

Et sācrās cantāre docēs modulāmina Mūsās,

30 Tū mihi vēra quidem, sed certē rāra canentī

Dexter ades, grātumque melos largīre vocātus.

Urbs erat occiduis procul hinc nōtissima terrīs

Mexicus, ampla, frequensque, virīs, opibusque, superba,

Indigenīs quondam multōs domināta per annōs;

35 Nunc vērō Hispānī, populīs Māvorte subactis,

Sceptra tenent, summāque urbem ditiōne gubernant.



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