

Life on the Floating Islands

The floating gardens soon provided a rich life, not only with food and beauty, but also with recreation.

Hoc melos, hās undās haec littora grāta frequentat

Nōbilis exiguīs pūbēs dēvecta phasellīs,

Vērē novō, croceīs cum nantēs flōribus āgrī

235 Luxuriant, pictīsque rosīs ver prāta corōnat:

Quisque levem geminō conscendit rēmige puppim

Dēmucēns animum suavis modulāmine plectrī;

Cui procul obscurīs rēspondet vōcibus Ēchō,

Silvaeque dulcisonō cantū percussa remūgit.

240 Tunc celerēs dūcunt dubia in certāmina cumbās,

Prōnaque rēmōrum contorquent caerula plausū,

Dum viridī puppim signet victōria laurō.

Mox circum āreolās victī, victorque natantēs

Oblīquōs penetrant callēs, sinuōsaque circum

245 Littora discurrunt, actīs per flōrea lembīs.

Ceu quondam Thēseus Crētā generōsus in altā

Ēlūsit caecōs labyrinthī pervigil orbēs

Ancipitī lustrāns fallācia līmina flexū:

Haud secus incertōs vestīgat rēmige callēs

250 Nūtantēs peragrāns hortōs urbāna iuventūs.