

III. Essay Question:

si qua latent, meliora putat. fugit ocior aura
 illa levi neque ad haec revocantis verba resistit:
 “nympha, precor, Penei, mane! non insequor hostis;
 505 nympha, mane! sic agna lupum, sic cerva leonem,
 sic aquilam penna fugiunt trepidante columbae,
 hostes quaeque suos: amor est mihi causa sequendi!
 me miserum! ne prona cadas indignave laedi
 crura notent sentes et sim tibi causa doloris!
 510 aspera, qua properas, loca sunt: moderatius, oro,
 curre fugamque inhibe, moderatius insequar ipse.
 cui placeas, inquire tamen: non incola montis,
 non ego sum pastor, non hic armenta gregesque
 horridus observo. nescis, temeraria, nescis,
 515 quem fugias, ideoque fugis: mihi Delphica tellus
 et Claros et Tenedos Patareaque regia servit;
 Iuppiter est genitor; per me, quod eritque fuitque
 estque, patet; per me concordant carmina nervis.
 certa quidem nostra est, nostra tamen una sagitta
 520 certior, in vacuo quae vulnera pectore fecit!
 inventum medicina meum est, opiferque per orbem
 dicor, et herbarum subiecta potentia nobis.”

In this passage Apollo appeals to Daphne to accept him as a lover. Write an essay in which you discuss the role reversals in this passage. What does the speech reveal about the god himself? How does it affect the character of the god and the object of his love, the nymph Daphne?

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 This document will expire May 31, 2017.