

III. Essay Question:

sic ait: “inmensa est finemque potentia caeli
 non habet, et quicquid superi voluere, peractum est,
 620 quoque minus dubites, tiliae contermina quercus
 collibus est Phrygiis modico circumdata muro;
 ipse locum vidi; nam me Pelopeia Pittheus
 misit in arva suo quondam regnata parenti.
 haud procul hinc stagnum est, tellus habitabilis olim,
 625 nunc celebres mergis fulicisque palustribus undae;
 Iuppiter huc specie mortali cumque parente
 venit Atlantiades positus caducifer alis.
 mille domos adiere locum requiemque petentes,
 mille domos clausere serae; tamen una recepit,
 630 parva quidem, stipulis et canna tecta palustri,
 sed pia Baucis anus parilique aetate Philemon
 illa sunt annis iuncti iuvenalibus, illa
 consenuere casa paupertatemque fatendo
 effecere levem nec iniqua mente ferendo;
 635 nec refert, dominos illic famulosne requiras:
 tota domus duo sunt, idem parentque iubentque.
 ergo ubi caelicolae parvos tetigere penates
 summissoque humiles intrarunt vertice postes,
 membra senexposito iussit relevare sedili . . . ”

In the passage above Lelex refers to the power of the gods and points out an oak and a linden tree as proof of that power. The passage also foreshadows the punishment of the impious and the reward of the pious. Write an essay in which you discuss how the poet introduces the themes of hospitality, piety, and metamorphosis in this passage, themes to be developed throughout the entire Philemon and Baucis story. Cite specific Latin words or phrases to illustrate your points.

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