

AMORES I. 9

Ovid addresses this poem to a man called Atticus, with the pretense that Atticus has accused the poet of devoting himself to making love and thus of leading a lazy and non-productive life. Ovid argues that the lover is a soldier and that the rigors of warfare are identical to those of love. He gives several examples of how these parallels work, and, typically, provides three mythological examples of famous warriors, Achilles, Hector, and Mars himself, who were also lovers.

Again, the poet inverts an established theme of elegiac poetry, because the conventional poetic treatment of Love and War contrasted rather than equated the two. While the traditional lover preferred *otium* to *negotium*, Ovid playfully suggests that the earnest lover is as busy as the soldier and has no time for leisure.



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