

AMORES I. 9

Militat omnis amans, et habet sua castra Cupido;
 Attice, crede mihi, militat omnis amans.
 quae bello est habilis, Veneri quoque convenit aetas:
 turpe senex miles, turpe senilis amor.
 5 quos petiere duces animos in milite forti,
 hos petit in socio bella puella viro:
 pervigilant ambo, terra requiescit uterque;
 ille fores dominae servat, at ille ducis.



- 1 **militō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum:** *to be a soldier, serve as a soldier.* Ovid employs a METAPHOR here, the lover as soldier/warrior. Roman poets often felt that the lover fought a kind of war either with his mistress, a rival, or his own overpowering emotion.
amans, -ntis (m., f.): *a lover.*
Cupido: Cupid is not so much seen by Ovid as an enemy but rather the general under whom the soldier/lover serves.
- 2 **Attice:** it is unusual for Ovid to have an addressee in his love elegies. It is not known, with any certainty, who Atticus was.
- 3 **habilis, -e:** *suitable, fit.*
conveniō, -īre, -vēnī, -ventum: *to be suitable or adapted for.*
aetas: the age that suits the best soldiering and lovemaking is youth, according to Ovid.
- 4 **turpis, -e:** *loathsome, repulsive, shameful.*
turpe senex miles: supply a missing *est*. The neuter predicate adjective works like a noun.
senilis, -e: *old, aged.*
- 5 **petiere:** the alternate spelling for the 3rd person plural perfect active indicative, a common usage in Ovid.
- 6 **bella:** a wordplay of both sound and sense. The striking ASSONANCE with *puella* and the hint of *bellum* draw attention to the replacement of the general Cupid by the girl.
- 7 **ambō, -ae, -ō:** *both.*
terra: poetic use of the ablative of place where without a preposition.
- 8 **ille, ille:** the first refers to the lover (*amans*) and the second to the soldier (*miles*).
foris, foris (f.): *door, double door.*

- saepe soporatos invadere profuit hostes
 caedere et armata vulgus inerme manu.
 sic fera Threicii ceciderunt agmina Rhesi,
 et dominum capti deseruistis equi.
 25 nempe maritorum somnis utuntur amantes
 et sua sopitis hostibus arma movent.
 custodum transire manus vigilumque catervas
 militis et miseri semper amantis opus.
 Mars dubius, nec certa Venus: victique resurgunt,
 30 quosque neges umquam posse iacere, cadunt.
 ergo desidiā quicumque vocabat amorem,
 desinat: ingenii est experientis Amor.



- 21 **sopōrō**, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: *to put asleep*.
invādō, -ere, -vāsī, -vāsum: *to attack, set on*.
prōsum, -desse, -fuī, -futūrus: *to be advantageous, helpful, useful*.
 22 **armata . . . manu**: CHIASMUS.
 23 **ferus**, -a, -um: *fierce, savage, wild*.
Thrēicius, -a, -um: *from Thrace, a region northeast of Greece*.
Rhēsus, -ī (m.): *a Thracian who fought on the side of the Trojans*. Odysseus and Diomedes sneaked into his camp at night, slaughtered his men, and stole his famous white chariot horses.
sic . . . Rhesi: a variant of a GOLDEN LINE in INTERLOCKED WORD ORDER.
 24 **deserō**, -ere, -uī, -tum: *to abandon, leave*. Here, an APOSTROPHE enveloped by the vocative *capti . . . equi*.
 25 **nempe** (conj.): *to be sure, yet, certainly*.
somnis: perhaps a sleepiness induced by too much strong wine at dinner.
 26 **sōpītus**, -a, -um: *sleepy*. Recalls the *soporatos hostes* of 21.
 27 **transeō**, -īre, -ivī, -itum: *to cross, go across*. The subject of a missing *est* to be supplied in line 28.
vigil, -ilis (m.): *guard, sentry*.
 29 **dubius**, -a, -um: *uncertain, wavering*.
resurgō, -ere, -surrexī, -surrectum: *to rise up again*.
 30 **neges**: a subjunctive in a relative clause of characteristic.
 31 **dēsīdiā**, -ae (f.): *idleness, inactivity, leisure*.
quicumque: presumably *Atticus* of line 2.
 32 **desinat**: a jussive subjunctive.
ingenii . . . experientis: genitive of quality or description.

- ardet in abducta Briseide magnus Achilles
 (dum licet, Argeas frangite, Troes, opes);
- 35 Hector ab Andromaches complexibus ibat ad arma,
 et galeam capiti quae daret, uxor erat;
 summa ducum, Atrides visa Priameide fertur
 Maenadis effusis obstipuisse comis.
- 40 Mars quoque deprensus fabrilia vincula sensit:
 notior in caelo fabula nulla fuit.



- 33 **abdūcō, -ere, -dūxī, -ductum:** *to carry off.*
Brīsēis, -idis (f.): *Achilles's slave and lover whom Agamemnon stole but later returned. Ablative of cause with in.*
Achillēs, -is (m.): *Greek hero of the Trojan War, son of Peleus and Thetis.*
 When Agamemnon stole Briseis, Achilles sulked in his tent, refusing to fight and later even refused to take her back. He was eventually killed in battle by the Trojan Paris.
- 34 **Argēus, -a, -um:** *Greek.*
frangite: APOSTROPHE.
Trōs, -ōis (m.): *Trojan.*
- 35 **Hector, -oris (m.):** *prince of Troy, eldest son of Priam.* He fought valiantly to save Troy but was defeated and killed by Achilles.
Andromachē, -ēs (f.): *wife of Hector.*
- 36 **galea, -ae (f.):** *helmet.*
daret: subjunctive in a relative clause of characteristic.
- 37 **summa:** a nominative neuter plural standing in apposition to the masculine singular *Atrides*.
Atrīdēs, -ae (m.): *a descendant of Atreus, usually used of Agamemnon.*
Priamēis, -idos (f.): *Cassandra, daughter of Priam, king of Troy. She was carried off as a prize of war by Agamemnon; however, both the hero and his lover were murdered by Clytemnestra, his wife, when they reached Greece.*
- 38 **Maenas, -adis (f.):** *a female worshipper of Bacchus, a Bacchante, Maenad.*
 The association here is due most likely to the loose, flowing hair common to both the Maenads and Cassandra, a sign of madness in both.
obstipescō, -ere, -stipūī: *to be amazed, astonished.*
coma, -ae (f.): *hair.*
- 39 **Mars . . . sensit:** refers to the story of Mars and Venus who were caught in an adulterous affair by means of a fine mesh net forged by Venus's husband, Vulcan.
dēprendō, -dere, -dī, -sum: *to catch, discover.*
fabrīlis, -e: *of or pertaining to a metal worker, skilled, fabricated.*
vinculum, -ī (n.): *chain, bond.*

- ipse ego segnis eram discinctaque in otia natus;
 mollierant animos lectus et umbra meos;
 impulit ignavum formosae cura puellae,
 iussit et in castris aera merere suis.
 45 inde vides agilem nocturnaue bella gerentem:
 qui nolet fieri desidiosus, amet.



- 41 **segnis, -e:** *inactive, sluggish.*
discinctus, -a, -um: *undisciplined, easygoing.*
ōtium, -ī (n.): *leisure.*
natus: perfect participle of *nascor*, used as an adjective.
- 42 **moliō, -īre, -īvī, -ītum:** *to soften, weaken, enfeeble.*
lectus et umbra: HENDIADYS. The two nouns carry the meaning of a single, modified noun, a shady couch.
- 43 **impellō, -ere, -pulī, -pulsum:** *to push, urge on.*
ignavum: modifies an assumed *me*.
formōsus, -a, -um: *beautiful.*
- 44 **in castris . . . suis:** reminiscent of *sua castra* (1). This wording returns the reader to the original intent of the poem.
aes, aeris (n.): *money, pay.*
- 45 **vides:** perhaps addressing *Atticus*.
agilis, -e: *active, busy.*
- 46 **amet:** a jussive subjunctive.



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