

## AMORES I. 12

Flete meos casus: tristes rediere tabellae;  
 infelix hodie littera posse negat.  
 omina sunt aliquid: modo cum discedere vellet,  
 ad limen digitos restitit icta Nape.  
 5 missa foras iterum limen transire memento  
 cautius atque alte sobria ferre pedem.



- 1 **flete:** the appeal for sympathy in an otherwise lighthearted treatment establishes exaggerated emotional outburst as the poet's main device in this poem.  
**rediere:** the 3rd person plural perfect active alternate form.  
**tabella, -ae (f.):** *writing tablet.*
- 2 **infelix, -icis:** *unhappy, ill-fated.*  
**littera:** the singular is used here to denote the whole of the writing.  
**posse negat:** an indirect statement with the subject understood.
- 3 **modo (adv.):** *just now, recently.*  
**vellet:** imperfect subjunctive used in a *cum*-circumstantial clause. Here it means "starting to."
- 4 **ad . . . Nape:** the unusual initial SPONDEE and the repetitions of *i* and *t* mimic and intensify Nape's stumbling.  
**digitos:** a Greek accusative (used of the part of the body affected, i.e., the toes) with the perfect participle *icta*.  
**restō, -āre, -itī:** *to linger, remain; to stop.*  
**iciō, -ere, icī, ictum:** *to strike.*
- 5 **memento:** a future active imperative which, with this verb, will translate as the present tense.
- 6 **altē (adv.):** *at a great height.*  
**sōbrius, -a, -um:** *sober, not intoxicated.* Perhaps the first time Nape set out on her mission she was not completely sober. If so, her tripping on the threshold would more likely suggest human frailty rather than divine intervention. Ovid here paints a quite different picture of this same maid from that of I. 11.

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This document will expire May 31, 2017.