

AMORES II. 19

Si tibi non opus est servata, stulte, puella,

at mihi fac serves, quo magis ipse velim.

quod licet, ingratum est; quod non licet, acrius urit:

ferreus est, si quis quod sinit alter, amat.

- 5 speremus pariter, pariter metuamus amantes,
et faciat voto rara repulsa locum.



- 1 In the first two lines of the elegy, Ovid establishes the paradox that drives the poem—a clever variation of the theme of the excluded lover. Here it is the very exclusion of the lover that makes him desire the girl he loves. In the first eight lines Ovid addresses his lover's husband.
servata . . . puella: ablatives after *opus est* expressing need.
stulte: typically in elegy a foolish husband, one who does not guard his wife carefully.
puella: In elegiac poetry, a *puella*, is more than just a girl—the word can be used for both wife and mistress.
- 2 **at:** here best translated as *at least*.
fac serves: an informal construction for *fac ut serves*, an indirect command.
quo magis velim: a relative clause of result.
- 3 **ūrō, -ere, ussī, ūssus:** *to burn, to inflame with passion*.
- 4 **ferreus . . . amat:** contains a HYPERBATON.
ferreus: suggests a man whose feelings lack refinement and has a heart as hard as iron.
- 5 **speremus . . . metuamus:** note the CHIASTIC word order and the emotional contrast. The lover is always poised between hope and fear. Both verbs are hortatory subjunctives. This line contains the paradox that first appears in line 2.
pariter (adv.): *at the same time*.
- 6 **vōtum, -ī (n.):** *desire*.
repulsa, -ae (f.): *refusal, denial*. An occasional rebuff makes the lover work even harder to win the girl's affections.

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