

AMORES III. 15

- Quaere novum vatem, tenerorum mater Amorum:
 raditur haec elegis ultima meta meis;
 quos ego composui, Paeligni ruris alumnus,
 (nec me deliciae dedecuerunt meae)
 5 si quid id est, usque a proavis vetus ordinis heres,
 non modo militiae turbine factus eques.
 Mantua Vergilio gaudet, Verona Catullo;



- 1 **vātēs, -is (m.):** *prophet, poet.* The oldest word for poet but one that had fallen out of favor. It was restored to prominence by the Augustan poets.
tener, -era, -erum: *tender, sensitive.*
mater Amorum: refers to Venus.
- 2 **rādō, -ere, rāsī, -sum:** *to scrape, graze.*
elegī, -ōrum (m.): *elegiac verses.*
meta: used of the turning posts at either end of a circus. Chariots competing in races would try to make the turn at the end of the circus as closely as possible, often grazing the post with the chariot.
- 3 **Paelignus, -a, -um:** *of or pertaining to the mountainous region in central Italy, east of Rome; Ovid's province by birth.*
alumnus, -ī (m.): *a "son" or "foster son"; a product of a particular region or environment.*
- 4 **deliciae:** refers to the elegies, but also used by Catullus of his beloved in poems 2 and 3.
dēdecet, -ēre, -uit: *to disgrace, dishonor.*
- 5 **proavus, -ī (m.):** *a forefather, ancestor.*
vetus ordinis heres: this phrase gives us some important biographical information about Ovid and his family: that Ovid is an *eques* by birth, not by a recent reward for military service; as well as a glimpse of the poet's fascination with genealogy, which is more obvious in his stories of the *Metamorphoses*.
- 6 **modo (adv.):** *just now, recently.*
mīlītia, -ae (f.): *military service.*
turbō, -inis (m.): *a whirlwind.*
- 7 **Mantua, -ae (f.):** *birthplace of the poet Vergil in the north of Italy.*
Vērōna, -ae (f.): like Vergil's, Catullus's birthplace also lay in the far north of the Italian peninsula.

- Paelignae dicar gloria gentis ego,
 quam sua libertas ad honesta coegerat arma,
 10 cum timuit socias anxia Roma manus.
 atque aliquis spectans hospes Sulmonis aquosi
 moenia, quae campi iugera pauca tenent,
 “quae tantum” dicet “potuistis ferre poetam,
 quantulacumque estis, vos ego magna voco.”
 15 culte puer puerique parens Amathusia culti,
 aurea de campo vellite signa meo:
 corniger increpuit thyrso graviore Lyaeus;



- 9 **honestus, -a, -um:** *honorable*. Ovid speaks here from the point of view of a Paelignian, proud of his region’s uprising in its struggle to maintain equality when threatened by Rome.
- 10 **anxius, -a, -um:** *anxious, distressed, worried*.
- 11 **Sulmō, -ōnis (m.):** *the town in Paelignia where Ovid was born*.
aquōsus, -a, -um: *watery, wet*. Because Paelignia was a mountainous region it was filled with running streams.
- 12 **iūgerum, -ī (n.):** *a measurement of land equal approximately to two-thirds of an acre and measuring 240 feet by 120 feet*.
- 14 **quantuluscumque, -acumque, -umcumque:** *however small*.
- 15 **cultus, -a, -um:** *refined, sophisticated, elegant*. The final *-e* is short making this the vocative singular modifying *puer*.
puer: Cupid; prompts a memory of I. 1, where, described with the adjective *saeve*, he was declared to be the reason for these poems having been written.
Amathusius, -a, -um: *of or pertaining to a town in the southern part of Cyprus, sacred to Venus, hence an epithet for Venus*.
- 16 **aurea:** modifies *signa* but its first position in the line places it close to *Amathusia* who was often thought of as golden-haired.
vellō, -ere, vulsī, vulsum: *to pull up*. When used with *signa* forms a military term meaning “to break camp”; reminiscent of I. 9.
- 17 **corniger, -era, -erum:** *having horns*. Bacchus is often referred to as “bull-horned.”
increpō, -āre, -uī, -itum: *to rattle, clang*.
thyrsus, -ī (m.): *a wand, usually covered with vine leaves and carried by worshippers of Bacchus*.
Lyaeus, -ī (m.): another name for *Bacchus* highlighting his role as the patron god of the theater who provides relaxation and release from care. Here Ovid invokes him for his own release from elegy.

pulsanda est magnis area maior equis.

imbelles elegi, genialis Musa, valete,

20

post mea mansurum fata superstes opus.



- 18 **magnis . . . equis:** CHIASTIC word order.
area maior: a reference to the poet's future work, most probably the *Medea* but possibly a hint at the epic-scale *Metamorphoses*.
- 19 **imbellis, -e:** *not suited for war, unwarlike*. Here, a PERSONIFICATION with *elegi*.
genialis, -e: *creative*.
- 20 **superstes, -itis:** *surviving after death*.



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