

- 15 utque erat et tellus illic et pontus et aer,
 sic erat instabilis tellus, innabilis unda,
 lucis egens aer; nulli sua forma manebat,
 obstabatque aliis aliud, quia corpore in uno
 frigida pugnabant calidis, umentia siccis,
 20 mollia cum duris, sine pondere, habentia pondus.

Hanc deus et melior litem natura diremit.
 nam caelo terras et terris abscedit undas
 et liquidum spisso secrevit ab aere caelum.
 quae postquam evolvit caecoque exemit acervo,



- 15 ut . . . sic: *while . . . at the same time* (implies a contrast).
 illic (adv.): *there, in that place*.
 pontus, -ī (m.): *sea*.
- 16 innabilis, -e: *not able to be swum in, unswimmable*. An adjective unique to Ovid.
- 17 egeō, -ēre, -uī: *to be without, lack*.
 nulli: dative of reference.
- 18 alius, alia, aliud: *one (thing) . . . another (thing)*.
 aliis: the dative with a compound verb.
- 19 calidis: rather than use a preposition with the adversary after *pugnabant*, Ovid here uses the dative case without a preposition, as he does with *siccis*.
 umeō, -ēre: *to be wet or moist*. Here the present participle used substantively.
- 20 duris: Ovid uses the preposition here with an ablative case noun rather than the dative case as in the previous line.
- 21 līs, litis (f.): *quarrel, dispute, disagreement*.
 dirimō, -imere, -ēmī, -emptum: *to separate, break up*.
- 22 caelo: an ablative of separation, as is *terris*.
 abscedō, -dere, -dī, -sum: *to separate, cut off*. Subject is the unspecified *deus* of line 21.
- 23 spissus, -a, -um: *thick, dense*.
 secernō, -ernere, -rēvī, -rētum: *to isolate, cut off*.
 caelum: this final word, echoing the *caelo* at the beginning of the phrase in line 22, encloses the division of the universe into three realms as set forth in line 5, in the opening of this passage.
- 24 quae: neuter plural relative pronoun referring back to the three elements—*terras* (22), *undas* (22), *caelum* (22).
 evolvō, -ere, -vī, -utum: *to free, release*.
 caecus, -a, -um: *blind*.
 acervus, -ī (m.): *a disordered mass, chaos*.

- 25 **dissociata locis concordi pace ligavit:**
 ignea convexi vis et sine pondere caeli
 emicuit summaque locum sibi fecit in arce;
 proximus est aer illi levitate locoque;
 densior his tellus elementaque grandia traxit
 30 et pressa est gravitate sua; circumfluis umor
 ultima possedit solidumque coercuit orbem.
 Sic ubi dispositam quisquis fuit ille deorum
 congeriem secuit sectamque in membra coegit,
 principio terram, ne non aequalis ab omni
 35 parte foret, magni speciem glomeravit in orbis.
 tum freta diffundi rapidisque tumescere ventis
 iussit et ambitae circumdare litora terrae;
 addidit et fontes et stagna immensa lacusque



- 25 **dissociō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum:** *to separate, break apart.*
locis: a locative followed by *concordi pace*, an ablative of means.
 27 **ēmicō, -āre, -uī, -ātum:** *to spring up.*
 28 **proximus:** Ovid is leading us through a hierarchy of the creation of the
 universe in an ordered manner starting from the highest point, the sun.
illi: a dative case with *proximus*.
 29 **densior . . . tellus:** supply a missing *est*.
elementum, -ī (n.): *one of the four basic substances of the universe (earth,
 air, water, fire), an element.*
grandis, -is, -e: *large, massive.*
 30 **circumfluis, -a, -um:** *that flows around.*
ūmor, -ōris (m.): *moisture.*
 31 **ultima:** modifying an understood *loca*.
coerceō, -ēre, -uī, -itum: *to bound, enclose.*
 33 **congeriēs, -ēī (f.):** *heap, pile, mass.*
secō, -āre, -uī, -tum: *to cut, sever.*
 34 **principiō (adv.):** *in the beginning, to start with.*
ne: here introducing a purpose clause and, combined with *non*, part of a
 LITOTES.
aequalis, -is, -e: *symmetrical, even.*
 35 **glomerō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum:** *to form or gather into a ball.*
speciem: object of *in*. PROLEPSIS.
 36 **diffundō, -undere, -ūdī, -ūssum:** *to spread out, diffuse.*
tumescō, -ere: *to become swollen or inflated, to swell.*
 37 **ambiō, -īre, -uī, -itum:** *to surround, encircle.* With *circumdare* forms a
 PLEONASM.