

III. Essay Question:

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;
 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 thyrsos graviore Lyaeus;
 pulsanda est magnis area maior equis.
 imbelles elegi, genialis Musa, valete,
 20 post mea mansurum fata superstes opus.

In this last poem of the three books of the *Amores*, Ovid says farewell to elegiac poetry and begins to create a new role for himself as a different kind of poet. What kind of a poet does the poem suggest he will become, and how does this new poetic role contrast with his old role in elegy? Be sure to include Latin words or phrases from this and any other of the *Amores* that you can remember.

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