

THE GOLDEN ASS, BOOK V

thou, Zephyrus, bear down thy mistress,' and so she cast herself down from the mountain. But she fell not into the valley neither alive nor dead, for all the members and parts of her body were torn amongst the rocks, whereby she was made a prey to the birds and wild beasts, as she worthily deserved, and so she perished. Neither was the vengeance of the other delayed: for Psyche, travelling with wandering feet, fortun'd to come to another city, where her other sister did dwell; to whom when she had declared all such things as she told to her first sister, she also was caught in the snare, and being very jealous of her marriage, ran likewise unto the rock, and was slain in like sort.

“ In the meantime, Psyche travelled about in the country to seek her husband Cupid, but he was gotten into his mother's chamber, and there bewailed the sorrowful wound which he caught by the oil of the burning lamp. Then the white bird the gull, which swimmeth with his wings over the waves of the water, flew down to the Ocean sea, where she found Venus washing and bathing herself: to whom she declared her son was burned and suffering from a grievous wound and in danger of death, and moreover that it was a common report in the mouth of every person to speak evil of all the family of Venus; ‘Thy son,’ quoth she, ‘Doth nothing but haunt harlots in the mountain, and thou thyself dost use to riot on the sea, whereby they say there is now nothing any more gracious, nothing pleasant, nothing gentle, but all is become uncivil, monstrous, and horrible; moreover, there are no more loving marriages, nor friendships of amity, nor loving of children, but all is disorderly, and there is a very bitter hatred of weddings as base things.’ This the wordy and curious gull did clatter

auribus Veneris, filii lacerans existimationem, ganniebat : at Venus irata solidum exclamat repente : “ Ergo iam ille bonus filius meus habet amicam aliquam ! Prome agetum, quae sola mihi servis amanter, nomen eius quae puerum ingenuum et investem sollicitavit, sive illa de Nympharum populo seu de Horarum numero seu de Musarum choro vel de mearum Gratiarum ministerio.’ Nec loquax illa conticuit avis, sed ; ‘ Nescio ’ inquit, ‘ Domina ; puto puellam illum¹ —si probe memini, Psyche nomine dicitur—efflicte cupere.’ Tunc indignata Venus exclamavit vel maxime : ‘ Psyche ille meae formae succubam, mei nominis aemulam si vere diligit, nimirum illud incrementum lenam me putavit, cuius monstratu puellam illam cognosceret.’

- 29 “ Haec quiritans properiter emergit e mari, suumque protinus aureum thalamum petit, et reperto, sicut audierat, aegroto puero iam inde a foribus quam maxime boans, ‘ Honesta ’ inquit ‘ Haec et natalibus nostris bonaeque tuae frugi congruentia, ut primum quidem tuae parentis, immo dominae praecepta calcares, nec sordidis amoribus inimicam meam cruciares, verum etiam hoc aetatis puer tuis licentiosis et immaturis iungeres amplexibus, ut ego nunc scilicet tolerarem inimicam ! Sed utique praesumis, nugo et corruptor et inamabilis, te solum

¹ I do not feel absolutely certain that grammar requires the subject of *cupere* to be expressed ; but I adopt Rossbach’s suggestion of the insertion of *illum*, which is quite likely to have dropped out owing to its resemblance to the last part of the preceding word.

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in the ears of Venus, reprehending her son. But Venus began to be very angry, and said: 'What, hath my son gotten any love? I pray thee, gentle bird, that dost alone serve me so faithfully, tell me what she is and what is her name, that hath troubled my simple and beardless¹ son in such sort, whether she be any of the tribe of the Nymphs, of the number of the Seasons, of the company of the Muses, or of the ministry of my Graces?' To whom the bird answered that could never be silent: 'Madam, I know not what she is; but this I know, that he loveth her greatly, and that she is called Psyche.' Then Venus with indignation cried out: 'What, is it she? The usurper of my beauty, the vicar of my name? And this is more and worse; will the brat think that I am a bawd, by whose shewing he fell acquainted with the maid?'

"Thus she complained, and immediately departed and went to her golden chamber, where she found her son wounded, as it was told unto her; whom when she beheld she stood at the door and cried out very loudly in this sort: 'Is this an honest thing? Is this honourable to thy parents and to thine own good name? Is this reason that thou hast first violated and broken the commandment of thy mother and sovereign mistress? And whereas thou shouldest have vexed my enemy with a loathsome and base love, thou hast done contrary: for (being but of tender and unripe years) thou hast with too licentious appetite embraced her, that my most mortal foe shall be made a daughter unto me. Thou presumest and thinkest (thou trifling boy, thou varlet, and without all love) that thou art alone my true child, and that I am not able by reason of mine

¹ *Lit.* "not yet clothed as a man."

generosum, nec me iam per aetatem posse concipere :
 velim ergo scias multo te meliorem filium alium
 genituram ; immo, ut contumeliam magis sentias,
 aliquem de meis adoptaturam vernulis eique dona-
 turam istas pinnas et flammās et arcum et ipsas
 sagittas et omnem meam suppellectilem, quam tibi non
 ad hos usus dederam : nec enim de patris tui bonis ad
 30 instructionem istam quicquam concessum est. Sed
 male prima pueritia inductus es et acutas manus
 habes et maiores tuos irreverenter pulsasti totiens et
 ipsam matrem tuam, me inquam ipsam parricida
 denudas cotidie et percussisti saepius et quasi
 viduam utique contemnis, nec vitricum tuum fortissi-
 mum illum maximumque bellatorem metuis. Quidni ?
 Cui saepius in angorem mei paelicatus puellas pro-
 pinare consuesti. Sed iam faxo te lusus huius pae-
 niteat et sentias acidās et amaras istas nuptias. Sed
 nunc irrisui habita quid agam ? Quo me conferam ?
 Quibus modis stelionem istum cohibeam ? Petamne
 auxilium ab inimica mea Sobrietate, quam propter
 huius ipsius luxuriam offendi saepius ? At rusticae
 squalentisque feminae colloquium prorsus horresco.
 Nec tamen vindictae solacium undeunde spernendum
 est : illa mihi prorsus adhibenda est nec ulla alia,
 quae castiget asperrime nugonem istum, pharetram
 explicet et sagittas dearmet, arcum enodet, taedam
 deflammet, immo et ipsum corpus eius acrioribus
 remediis coerceat. Tunc iniuriae meae litatum credi-
 derim, cum eius comas, quas istis manibus meis

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age to have another son ; but this I could do, and thou shouldest well understand that I would bear a more worthier than thou : but to work thee a greater despite, I do determine to adopt one of my servants, and to give him these wings, this fire, this bow and these arrows, and all other furniture which I gave to thee, though not for this purpose ; for of all this nothing came to thee from thy father to thy furnishment. But first thou hast been evil brought up and instructed in thy youth : thou hast thy hands ready and sharp : thou hast often most rudely struck and beaten thy ancients, and especially thy own mother, myself I say, thou hast robbed me daily, thou very parricide, and hast pierced me with thy darts, thou contemnest me as a widow, neither dost thou regard thy valiant and invincible stepfather, but to anger me more thou settest him after wenches that I may be jealous : but I will cause that thou shalt shortly repent thee of this sport, and that this marriage shall be bitter to thee and dearly bought. To what a public scorn am I now driven ? What shall I do ? Whither shall I go ? How shall I repress this beast ? Shall I ask aid of mine enemy Sobriety, whom I have often offended because of thy wantonness ? But I hate to seek for counsel from so poor and rustical a woman. No, no, howbeit I will not cease from my vengeance, whence-soever it cometh ; to her must I have recourse for help, and to none other (I mean to Sobriety) who may correct sharply this trifler, take away his quiver, deprive him of his arrows, unbend his bow, quench his fire, and subdue his body with punishment still more bitter ; and when that she hath razed and cut off this his hair, which I have dressed with mine own hands and made to glitter like gold, and when

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subinde aureo nitore perstrinxi, deraserit; pinnas, quas meo gremio nectarei fontis infeci, praetotonderit.'

31 "Sic effata foras sese proripit infesta et stomachata biles Venerias. Sed eam protinus Ceres et Iuno continuantur visamque vultu tumido quaesiere cur truci supercilio tantam venustatem micantium oculorum coerceret. At illa 'Opportune' inquit 'Ardenti prorsus isto meo pectori violentiam scilicet perpetraturae venitis. Sed totis, oro, vestris viribus Psychen illam fugitivam volaticam mihi requirite. Nec enim vos utique domus meae famosa fabula et non dicendi filii mei facta latuerunt.' Tunc illae non¹ ignarae, quae gesta sunt, palpare Veneris iram saevientem sic adortae: 'Quid tale, domina, deliquit tuus filius ut animo pervicaci voluptates illius impugnes, et quam ille diligit tu quoque perdere gestias? Quod autem, oramus, isti crimen si puellae lepidae libenter arrisit? An ignoras eum masculum et iuvenem esse, vel certe iam quot sit annorum oblita es? An quod aetatem portat bellule, puer tibi semper videtur? Mater autem tu et praeterea cordata mulier filii tui lusus semper explorabis curiose, et in eo luxuriam culpabis et amores revinces et tuas

¹ The goddesses *did* know what had been going on, so that it is necessary, as Beroaldus saw, either to insert *non* before *ignarae*, or to read *gnarae*.

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she hath clipped his wings which I myself have dyed with the immortal fountain of my breast, then shall I think to have sufficiently revenged myself for the injury which he hath done.'

"When she had spoken these words she departed in a great rage out of her chamber full of the bitterness of very Venus; and immediately as she was going away, came Juno and Ceres, and seeing her angry countenance, they demanded the cause of her anger, and why with so gloomy a frown she had dimmed the glory of her shining eyes. Then Venus made answer: 'Verily you are come in good time to carry into effect the purpose of my furious heart; but I pray you with all diligence to seek out one whose name is Psyche, who is a vagabond, and runneth about the countries, and I think you are not ignorant of the bruit of my son Cupid, and of his demeanour, which I am ashamed to declare.' Then they understanding and knowing the whole matter, endeavoured to mitigate the ire of Venus in this sort: 'What is the cause, madam, or how hath your son so offended that you should so greatly accuse his love, and blame him by reason that he is amorous? And why should you seek the death of her whom he doth fancy? What is his fault, we pray, if he have accorded to the mind of a fair maiden? What, do not you know that he is a man and a young man? Or have you forgotten of what years he is? Doth he seem always to you to be a child because he beareth well his age? You are his mother and a kind and understanding woman; will you continually search out his dalliance? Will you blame his luxury? Will you bridle his love? And will you reprehend your own art and delights in your lovely son? What god or man is he, that can endure that you should sow or disperse

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artes tuasque delicias in formoso filio reprehendes? Quis autem te deum, quis hominum patietur passim cupidines populis disseminantem, cum tuae domus amores amare coerceas et vitiorum muliebrium publicam praecludas officinam?' Sic illae metu sagittarum patrocinio gratioso Cupidini quamvis absenti blandiebantur. Sed Venus indignata ridicule tractari suas iniurias praeversis illis alterorsus concito gradu pelago viam capessit.

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your seed of love in every place, and at the same time make a restraint of that same love within your own doors, and entirely close and shut up that factory where the natural faults of women are made?' In this sort these goddesses endeavoured to excuse Cupid with all their power (although he were absent) for fear of his dart and shafts of love. But Venus would in no wise assuage her heat, but (thinking that they did but trifle and taunt at her injuries) she departed from them, and took her voyage again towards the sea in all haste.

LIBER VI

- 1 "INTEREA Psyche variis iactabatur discursibus, dies noctesque mariti vestigationibus inquieta animo, tanto cupidior iratum licet, si non uxoris blanditiis lenire, certe servilibus precibus propitiare. Et prospecto templo quodam in ardui montis vertice, 'Unde autem' inquit 'Scio an istic meus degat dominus?' et illico dirigit citatum gradum, quem defectum prorsus assiduis laboribus spes incitabat et votum. Iamque naviter emensis celsioribus iugis pulvinaribus sese proximam intulit: videt spicas frumentarias in acervo et alias flexiles in corona et spicas hordei videt; erant et falces et operae messoriae mundus omnis, sed cuncta passim iacentia et incuria confusa et, ut solet aestu, laborantium manibus proiecta. Haec singula Psyche curiose dividit et discretim remota rite componit, rata scilicet nullius dei fana ac caerimonias neglegere se debere sed omnium benivolam misericordiam corrogare.
- 2 "Haec eam sollicite seduloque curantem Ceres alma deprehendit et longum exclamat protinus: 'Ain, Psyche miseranda? Totum per orbem Venus anxia disquisitione tuum vestigium furens animi requirit teque ad extremum supplicium expetit et totis

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“IN the mean season Psyche hurled herself hither and thither, seeking day and night for her husband with unquiet mind, eager the more because she thought that if he would not be appeased with the sweet flattery of his wife, yet he would take mercy upon her at her servile and continual prayers. And (espying a church on the top of a high hill) she said: ‘How can I tell whether my husband and master be there or no?’ Wherefore she went swiftly thitherward, and with great pain and travail, yet moved by hope and desire, after that she had stoutly climbed to the top of the mountain, she went up to the sacred couch, where behold, she espied sheaves of corn lying on a heap, blades twisted into garlands, and reeds of barley; moreover she saw hooks, scythes, sickles, and other instruments to reap, but everything lay out of order, and as it were cast down carelessly in the summer heat by the hands of labourers; which when Psyche saw, she gathered up and put everything duly in order, thinking that she would not despise or condemn the temples of any of the gods, but rather get the favour and benevolence of them all.

“By and by Lady Ceres came in and beholding her busy and curious in her chapel, cried out afar off and said: ‘O Psyche, needful of mercy, Venus searcheth anxiously for thy steps in every place, mad at heart to revenge herself and to punish thee

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numinis sui viribus ultionem flagitat. Tu vero rerum mearum tutelam nunc geris et aliud quicquam cogitas nisi de tua salute?' Tunc Psyche pedes eius advoluta et uberi fletu rigans deae vestigia humumque verrens crinibus suis, multiugis precibus editis, veniam postulabat: 'Per ego te frugiferam tuam dexteram istam deprecor, per laetificas messium caerimonias, per tacita secreta cistarum et per famulorum tuorum draconum pinnata curricula et glebae Siculae sulcamina et currum rapacem et terram tenacem et inluminarum Proserpinae nuptiarum demeacula et luminosarum filiae inventionum remeacula, et cetera quae silentio tegit Eleusinis Atticae sacrarium, miserandae Psyches animae, supplicis tuae, subsiste. Inter istam spicarum congeriem patere vel pauculos dies delitescam, quoad deae tantae saeviens ira spatio temporis mitigetur vel certe meae vires diutino labore³ fessae quietis intervallo leniantur.' Suscipit Ceres: 'Tuis quidem lacrimosis precibus et commoveor et opitulari cupio; sed cognatae meae, cum qua etiam foedus antiquum amicitiae colo, bonae praeterea feminae, malam gratiam subire nequeo. Decede itaque de istis aedibus protinus, et quod a me retenta custoditaque non fueris, optimi consule.'

"Contra spem suam repulsa Psyche et afflicta duplici maestitia iter retrorsum porrigens inter sub-

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grievously with all the power of her godhead, but hast thou more mind to be here and to look after my affairs, and carest for nothing less than thy safety?' Then Psyche fell on her knees before her, watering her feet with her tears, wiping the ground with her hair, and with great weeping and many supplications desired pardon, saying: 'O great and holy goddess, I pray thee by thy plenteous and liberal right hand, by thy joyful ceremonies of harvest, by the secrets of thy baskets, by the flying chariots of the dragons thy servants, by the tillage of the ground of Sicily which thou hast invented, by the chariot of the ravishing god,¹ by the earth that held thy daughter fast, by the dark descent to the unillumined marriage of Proserpina, by thy diligent inquisition of her and thy bright return, and by the other secrets which are concealed within the temple of Eleusis in the land of Athens, take pity on me thy servant Psyche, and help my miserable soul, and let me hide myself a few days amongst these sheaves of corn until the ire of so great a goddess be past, or until that I be refreshed of my great labour and travail.' Then answered Ceres: 'Verily, Psyche, I am greatly moved by thy prayers and tears, and desire with all my heart to aid thee, but if I should suffer thee to be hidden here, I should incur the displeasure of my good cousin, with whom I have made a treaty of peace and an ancient promise of amity: wherefore I advise thee to depart from this my temple, and take it in good part in that I do not keep and guard thee as a prisoner here.'

"Then Psyche driven away, contrary to her hope, was doubly afflicted with sorrow, and so she returned back again: and behold, she perceived afar off in a

¹ Pluto, who carried off Proserpina to Hell from the plains of Henna, in Sicily.

sitae convallis sublucidum lucum prospicit fanum
 sollerti fabrica structum, nec ullam vel dubiam spei
 melioris viam volens omittere, sed adire cuiuscumque
 dei veniam, sacratis foribus proximat. Videt dona
 pretiosa ac lacinias auro litteratas ramis arborum
 postibusque suffixas, quae cum gratia facti nomen
 deae cui fuerant dicata testabantur. Tunc genu nixa
 et manibus aram tepentem amplexa, deter sis ante
 4 lacrimis, sic apprecatur: ‘Magni Iovis germana et
 coniuga, sive tu Sami, quae sola partu vagituque et
 alimonia tua gloriatur, tenes vetusta delubra; sive
 celsae Carthagini, quae te virginem vectura leonis
 caelo commeantem percolit, beatas sedes frequentas;
 sive prope ripas Inachi, qui te iam nuptam Tonantis
 et reginam dearum memorat, inclitis Argivorum
 praesides moenibus; quam cunctus oriens Zygiam
 veneratur et omnis occidens Lucinam appellat; sis
 meis extremis casibus Iuno Sospita, meque in tantis
 exanclatis laboribus defessam imminentis periculi
 metu libera. Quod sciam, soles praegnatibus pericli-
 tantibus ultro subvenire.’ Ad istum modum suppli-
 canti statim sese Iuno cum totius sui numinis augusta
 dignitate praesentat, et protinus ‘Quam vellem’

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valley a temple standing within a glimmering forest, fair and curiously wrought; and minding to overpass no place whither better hope did direct her, although it might be uncertain, and to the intent she would desire the pardon of every god, she approached nigh to the sacred doors. There she saw precious riches and vestments engraven with letters of gold, hanging upon branches of trees and the posts of the temple, testifying the name of the goddess Juno to whom they were dedicated and the reason of their offering. Then she kneeled down upon her knees, and embracing the altar (which was yet warm) with her hands, and wiping her tears away, began to pray in this sort: 'O dear spouse and sister of the great god Jupiter, which art adored among the great temples of Samos alone made famous by thy birth, and infant crying, and nurture; or worshipped at high and happy Carthage, as a maid, being carried through heaven by a lion; or whether the rivers of the flood Inachus do celebrate thee, ruling over the notable walls of Argos, and know that thou art the wife of the great thunderer and the goddess of goddesses: all the east part of the world hath thee in veneration as Zygia, all the west world calleth thee Lucina: I pray thee to be mine advocate and Saviour¹ in my tribulations; deliver me from the great peril which pursueth me, and save me that am wearied with so long labours and sorrow, for I know that it is thou that succourest and helpest such women as are with child and in danger.' Then Juno, hearing the prayers of Psyche, appeared unto her in all the royal dignity of her godhead, saying: 'Certes, Psyche, I would gladly

¹ Psyche appeals to Juno in her threefold aspect: Zygia, as goddess of marriage; Lucina, as goddess of childbirth; and Sospita, as protectress and deliverer.

inquit ‘ Per fidem nutum meum precibus tuis accom-
modare ! Sed contra voluntatem Veneris, nurus
meae, quam filiae semper dilexi loco, praestare me
pudor non sinit. Tunc etiam legibus, quae servos
alienos perfugas invitis dominis vetant suscipi, prohi-
beor.’

5 “ Isto quoque fortunae naufragio Psyche perterrita
nec indipisci iam maritum volatilem quiens, tota spe
salutis deposita, sic ipsa suas cogitationes consuluit :
‘ Iam quae possunt alia meis aerumnis temptari vel
adhiberi subsidia, cui nec dearum quidem quamquam
volentium potuerunt prodesse suffragia ? Quorsum
itaque tantis laqueis inclusa vestigium porrigam, qui-
busque tectis vel etiam tenebris abscondita magnae
Veneris inevitabiles oculos effugiam ? Quin igitur
masculum tandem sumis animum et cassae speculae
renuntias fortiter, et ultroneam te dominae tuae
reddis et vel sera modestia saevientes impetus eius
mitigas ? Qui scias an etiam, quem diu quaeritas,
illuc in domo matris repperias ?’ Sic ad dubium
obsequium, immo ad certum exitium praeparata prin-
cipium futurae secum meditabatur obsecrationis.

6 “ At Venus terrenis remediis inquisitionis abnuens
caelum petit. Iubet instrui currum, quem ei Vul-
canus aurifex subtili fabrica studiose poliverat et
ante thalami rudimentum nuptiale munus obtulerat,
limae tenuantis detrimento conspicuum et ipsius auri
damno pretiosum. De multis quae circa cubiculum
dominae stabulant, procedunt quatuor candidae

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help thee ; but I am ashamed to do anything contrary to the will of my daughter-in-law Venus, whom always I have loved as mine own child ; and moreover I shall incur the danger of the law entitled *De servo corrupto*, whereby I am forbidden to retain any servant fugitive against the will of his master.'

"Then Psyche, terrified at this new shipwreck of fortune, as without all hope of her safety and the recovery of her husband, reasoned with herself in this sort : 'Now what comfort or remedy is left to my afflictions, when as my prayers will nothing avail with the goddesses, though they be willing enough to help me ? What shall I do ? Whither shall I go, that am set about and surrounded with such snares ? In what cave or darkness shall I hide myself to avoid the piercing eyes of Venus ? Why do I not take a good heart, renouncing my vain hopes, and offer myself with humility (though it be late) unto her whose anger I have wrought and so try to soften her great fury ? What do I know whether he whom I seek for so long be not in the house of his mother ?' Thus unto a doubtful service, nay unto certain destruction, Psyche prepared herself how she might make her orison and prayer unto Venus.

"But Venus, after that she was weary with searching over all the earth for Psyche, returned towards heaven and commanded that one should prepare the chariot which her husband Vulcanus had most curiously shaped and given unto her as a marriage gift before that she had first entered the bridal chamber ; and it was so finely wrought that it had been made the more precious even of the very gold which the file had taken away. Four white doves, out of all those that stood sentinel to the chamber of their lady, stepped very briskly in front and bowed their

columbae, et hilaris incessibus picta colla torquentes iugum gemmeum subeunt susceptaque domina laetae subvolant. Currum deae prosequentes gannitu constrepenti lasciviunt passeret et ceterae quae dulce cantitant aves melleis modulis suave resonantes adventum deae pronuntiant. Cedunt nubes et caelum filiae panditur et summus aether cum gaudio suscipit deam, nec obvias aquilas vel accipitres rapaces pertimescit magnae Veneris canora familia.

- 7 “Tunc se protinus ad Iovis regias arces dirigit et petitu superbo Mercuri, dei vocalis, operae necessariam usuram postulat. Nec renuit Iovis caerulum supercilium: tunc ovans illico, comitante etiam Mercurio, Venus caelo debeat eique sollicite serit verba: ‘Frater Arcadi, scis nempe sororem tuam Venerem sine Mercuri praesentia nil unquam fecisse, nec te praeterit utique quanto iam tempore delitescentem ancillam nequiverim repperire: nil ergo superest quam tuo praeconio praemium investigationis publicitus edicere. Fac ergo mandatum matures meum et indicia, qui possit agnosci, manifeste designes, ne, si quis occultationis illicitae crimen subierit, ignorantiae se possit excusatione defendere’; et simul dicens libellum ei porrigit, ubi Psyches nomen continebatur et cetera. Quo facto protinus domum secessit.

- 8 “Nec Mercurius omisit obsequium: nam per omnium ora populorum passim discurrens sic man-

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rainbow-coloured necks to the yoke of precious gems, and when Venus was entered in, bore up the chariot with great diligence. After her chariot there followed a number of sparrows chirping about, making sign of joy, and all other kind of birds sang very sweetly with honeyed notes, foreshewing the coming of the great goddess: the clouds gave place, the heavens opened and the upper air received her joyfully, the birds that followed, being the tuneful choir of Venus, nothing feared the eagles, hawks, and other ravenous fowl in the air. Incontinently she went unto the royal palace of the god Jupiter, and with proud and bold petition demanded the service of Mercury the herald in certain of her affairs, whereunto Jupiter consented, nodding with his azure brow; then with much joy she descended from heaven with Mercury, and gave him an earnest charge to put in execution her words, saying: ‘O my brother, born in Arcadia, thou knowest well that I (who am thy sister) did never enterprise to do anything without thy presence: thou knowest also how long I have sought for a girl that is a-hiding and cannot find her: wherefore there resteth nothing else save that thou do publicly pronounce the reward to such as take her. See thou put in execution my commandment, account the signs by which she may be known, and declare that whatsoever he be that retaineth her wittingly against my will, he shall not defend himself by any mean or excusation.’ And when she had spoken this, she delivered unto him a paper wherein was contained the name of Psyche and the residue of his publication; which done, she departed away to her lodging.

“By and by Mercurius, obeying her commands, proclaimed throughout all the world that whatsoever

datae praedicationis munus exsequebatur: 'Si quis a fuga retrahere vel occultam demonstrare poterit fugitivam regis filiam, Veneris ancillam, nomine Psychen, conveniat retro metas Murtias Mercurium praedicatorem, accepturus indicivae nomine ab ipsa Venere septem savia suavia et unum blandientis appulsu linguae longe mellitum.' Ad hunc modum pronuntiante Mercurio tanti praemii cupido certatim omnium mortalium studium arrexerat: quae res nunc vel maxime sustulit Psyches omnem cunctationem. Iamque fores et ius dominae proximanti occurrit una de famulitione Veneris, nomine Consuetudo, statimque, quantum maxime potuit, exclamat: 'Tandem, ancilla nequissima, dominam habere te scire coepisti? An pro cetera morum tuorum temeritate istud quoque nescire te fingis, quantos labores circa tuas inquisitiones sustinuerimus? Sed bene, quod meas potissimum manus incidisti et inter Orci caneros iam ipsos haesisti, datura scilicet
9 actutum tantae contumaciae poenas'; et audaciter in capillos eius immissa manu trahebat eam nequaquam renitentem. Quam ubi primum inductam oblatamque sibi conspexit Venus, laetissimum cachinnum extollit, et qualem solent frequenter irati, caputque quatiens et ascalpens aurem dexteram, 'Tandem' inquit 'Dignata es socrum tuam salutare? An potius maritum, qui tuo vulnere periclitatur, intervisere venisti? Sed esto secura; iam enim excipiam te ut bonam nurum condecet': et 'Ubi sunt' inquit 'Sollicitudo atque Tristities,

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he were that could bring back or tell any tidings of a king's fugitive daughter, the servant of Venus, named Psyche, let him bring word to Mercury, behind the Murtian temple, and for reward of his pains he should receive seven sweet kisses of Venus and one more sweetly honeyed from the touch of her loving tongue. After that Mercury had pronounced these things, every man was inflamed with desire of so great a guerdon to search her out, and this was the cause that put away all doubt from Psyche, who was all but come in sight of the house of Venus: but one of her servants called Custom came out, who, espying Psyche, cried with a loud voice: 'O wicked harlot as thou art, now at length thou shalt know that thou hast a mistress above thee; what, beside all thy other bold carriage, dost thou make thyself ignorant, as if thou diddest not understand what travail we have taken in searching for thee? I am glad that thou art come into my hands, thou art now in the claws of Hell, and shalt abide the pain and punishment of thy great contumacy'; and therewithal she seized her by the hair, and brought her before the presence of Venus.

"When Venus espied her brought into her presence, she began to laugh loudly, as angry persons accustom to do, and she shook her head and scratched her right ear,¹ saying: 'Have you now deigned at length to visit your mother? Or perchance to visit your husband, that is in danger of death by your means? Be you assured I will handle you like a daughter; where be my maidens Sorrow and Sadness?' To whom, when they came, she

¹ Pliny, *Natural History*, xi. 45: "Behind the right ear likewise is the proper place of *Nemesis*."

ancillae meae?'; quibus intro vocatis torquendam tradidit eam. At illae sequentes herile praeceptum Psychen misellam flagellis afflictam et ceteris tormentis excruciatam iterum dominae conspectui reddunt. Tunc rursus sublato risu Venus 'Et ecce' inquit 'Nobis turgidi ventris sui lenocinio commovet miserationem, unde me praeclara subole aviam beatam scilicet faciat. Felix vero ego, quae in ipso aetatis meae flore vocabor avia, et vilis ancillae filius nepos Veneris audiet. Quamquam inepta ego frustra filium dicam: impares enim nuptiae, et praetera in villa sine testibus, et patre non consentiente factae legitimae non possunt videri, ac per hoc spurius iste nascetur, si tamen partum omnino perferre te patiemur.'

- 10 "His editis involat eam vestemque plurifariam diloricat, capilloque discisso et capite conquassato graviter affligit, et accepto frumento et hordeo et milio et papavere et cicere et lente et faba commixtisque acervatim confusis in unum grumulum sic ad illam: 'Videris enim mihi tam deformis ancilla nullo alio sed tantum sedulo ministerio amatores tuos promereri: iam ergo et ipsa frugem tuam periclitabor. Discerne seminum istorum passivam congeriem singulisque granis rite dispositis atque seiugatis ante istam vesperam opus expeditum approbato mihi.' Sic assignato tantorum seminum cumulo ipsa cenae nuptiali concessit. Nec Psyche manus admolitur inconditae

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delivered Psyche to be cruelly tormented. They fulfilled the commandment of their mistress, and after they had piteously scourged her with whips and had otherwise tormented her, they presented her again before Venus. Then she began to laugh again, saying : ‘ Behold, she thinketh that by reason of her great belly, which she hath gotten by playing the whore, to move me to pity, and to make me a happy grandmother to her noble child. Am not I happy, that in the flourishing time of all mine age shall be called a grandmother, and the son of a vile harlot shall be accounted the grandson of Venus. Howbeit I am a fool to term him by the name of a son, since as the marriage was made between unequal persons, in no town, without witnesses, and not by the consent of their parents, therefore the marriage is illegitimate, and the child (that shall be born) a bastard, if indeed we fortune to suffer thee to live till thou be delivered.’

“ When Venus had spoken these words, she leaped upon poor Psyche, and (tearing everywhere her apparel) took her violently by the hair, and dashed her head upon the ground. Then she took a great quantity of wheat, barley, millet, poppy-seed, pease, lentils, and beans, and mingled them all together on a heap, saying : ‘ Thou art so evil-favoured, girl, that thou seemest unable to get the grace of thy lovers by no other means, but only by diligent and painful service : wherefore I will prove what thou canst do ; see that thou separate all these grains one from another, disposing them orderly in their quality, and let it be done to my content before night.’ When she had appointed this heap of seeds unto Psyche, she departed to a great banquet for a marriage that was prepared that day. But Psyche went not about to

illi et inextricabili moli, sed immanitate praecepti consternata silens obstupescit. Tunc formicula illa parvula atque ruricola, certa difficultatis tantae laborisque, miserta contubernalis magni dei socrusque saevitiam execrata discurrens naviter convocat corrogatque cunctam formicarum accolarum classem: ‘Miseremini terrae omniparentis agiles alumnae, miseremini et Amoris uxori, puellae lepidae, periclitanti prompta velocitate succurrite.’ Ruunt aliae superque aliae sepedum populorum undae summoque studio singulae granatim totum digerunt acervum separatimque distributis dissitisque generibus e conspectu perneciter abeunt.

- 11 “Sed initio noctis e convivio nuptiali vino madens et fragrans balsama Venus remeat totumque revincta corpus rosis micantibus, visaque diligentia miri laboris, ‘Non tuum’ inquit ‘Nequissima, nec tuarum manuum istud opus sed illius, cui tuo, immo et ipsius malo placuisti’; et frusto cibarii panis ei proiecto cubitum facessit. Interim Cupido solus interioris domus unici cubiculi custodia clausus coercebatur acriter, partim ne petulanti luxurie vulnus gravaret, partim ne cum sua cupita conveniret. Sic ergo distentis et sub uno tecto separatis amatoribus tetra nox exanclata. Sed Aurora commodum inequitante vocatae Psychae Venus infittalia: ‘Videsne illud nemus quod fluvio praeter-
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dissever the grain (as being a thing impossible to be brought to pass, by reason it lay so confusedly scattered) but being astonished at the cruel commandment of Venus, sat still and said nothing. Then the little pismire the ant, that dwelleth in the fields, knowing and taking pity of the great difficulty and labour of the consort of so great a god, and cursing the cruelty of so evil a mother, ran about nimbly hither and thither, and called to her all the ants of the country, saying: 'I pray you, my friends, ye quick daughters of the ground the mother of all things, take mercy on this poor maid espoused to Cupid, who is in great danger of her person; I pray you help her with all diligence.' Incontinently they came, the hosts of six-footed creatures one after another in waves, separating and dividing the grain, and after that they had put each kind of corn in order, they ran away again in all haste from her sight.

"When night came, Venus returned home from the banquet well tippled with wine, smelling of balm, and all her body crowned with garlands of roses, who when she espied with what great diligence the work was done, began to say: 'This is not the labour of thy hands, vile quean, but rather of his that is amorous of thee to thy hurt and his.' Then she gave her a morsel of brown bread, and went to sleep. In the mean season Cupid was closed fast in the most surest chamber of the house, partly because he should not hurt himself the more with wanton dalliance, and partly because he should not speak with his love. So was the night bitterly passed by these two lovers divided one from another beneath the same roof. But when Aurora was driving in through the morning sky, Venus called Psyche, and said: 'Seest thou yonder forest that extendeth out

ludenti ripisque longis attenditur, cuius imi frutices¹ vicinum fontem despiciunt? Oves ibi nitentes aurique colore² florentes incustodito pastu vagantur: inde de coma pretiosi velleris floccum mihi confestim quoquo modo quaesitum afferas censeo.'

- 12 "Perrexit Psyche volenter, non obsequium quidem illa functura, sed requiem malorum praecipitio fluvialis rupis habitura. Sed inde de fluvio musicae suavis nutricula leni crepitu dulcis aurae divinitus inspirata sic vaticinatur arundo viridis: 'Psyche, tantis aerumnis exercita, neque tua miserrima morte meas sanctas aquas polluas nec vero istud horae³ contra formidabiles oves feras aditum, quoad de solis flagrantia mutuatae calorem truci rabie solent efferri cornuque acuto et fronte saxea et nonnunquam venenatis morsibus in exitium saevire mortalium. Sed dum meridies solis sedaverit vaporem et pecua spiritus fluvialis serenitate conquieverint, poteris sub illa procerissima platano, quae mecum simul unum fluentum bibit, latenter abscondere. Et cum primum mitigata furia laxaverint oves animum, percussis frondibus attigui nemoris lanosum aurum repperies,
- 13 quod passim stirpibus convexis obhaerescit.' Sic arundo simplex et humana Psychen aegerrimam salutem suam docebat: nec auscultatu impaenitendo⁴

¹ *Cuius* must necessarily refer to the grove, and not to the river, so that the MSS' *gurgites* cannot stand. Van der Vliet's *frutices* is a possible suggestion.

² This is the correction of the older editors for the unintelligible *aurive cole* of the MSS.

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in length with the river-banks, the bushes whereof look close down upon the stream hard by? There be great sheep shining like gold, and kept by no manner of person; I command thee that thou go thither and bring me home some of the wool of their fleeces.'

"Psyche arose willingly, not to do her commandment, but to throw herself headlong into the water to end her sorrow. But then a green reed, nurse of sweet music, inspired by divine inspiration with a gracious tune and melody, began to say: 'O Psyche, harried by these great labours, I pray thee not to trouble or pollute my holy water by thy wretched death, and yet beware that thou go not towards the terrible wild sheep of this coast until such time as the heat of the sun be past; for when the sun is in his force, then seem they most dreadful and furious with their sharp horns, their stony foreheads, and their poisonous bites wherewith they arm themselves to the destruction of mankind: but until the midday is past and the heat assuaged, and until the flock doth begin to rest in the gentle breeze of the river, thou mayest hide thyself here by me under this great plane-tree, which drinks of the river as I do also, and as soon as their great fury is past and their passion is stilled, thou mayest go among the thickets and bushes under the wood-side and gather the locks of their golden fleeces which thou shalt find hanging upon the briars.' Thus spake the gentle and benign reed, shewing a mean to most wretched Psyche to save her life, which she bare well in

³ So Salmasius for the MSS' *istius orae*.

⁴ Why should Psyche be sorry that she had listened to the reed, as the MSS (reading *paenitendo*) imply? The exact opposite is the case, and is supplied by Petschenig's emendation as in the text.

diligenter instructa illa cessavit, sed observatis omnibus furatrina facili flaventis auri mollitie congestum gremium Veneri reportat. Nec tamen apud dominam saltem secundi laboris periculum secundum testimonium meruit, sed contortis superciliis surridens amarum sic inquit: 'Nec me praeterit huius quoque facti auctor adulterinus. Sed iam nunc ego sedulo periclitabor, an oppido forti animo singularique prudentia sis praedita. Videsne insistentem celsissimae illi rupi montis ardui verticem, de quo fontis atri fuscae defluunt undae proxumaeque conceptaculo vallis inclusae Stygias irrigant paludes et rauca Cocyti fluenta nutriunt? Indidem mihi de summi fontis penita scaturigine rorem rigentem hauritum ista confestim defer urnula.' Sic aiens crystallo dedolatum vasculum, insuper ei graviora comminata, tradidit.

- 14 "At illa studiose gradum celerans montis extremum petit cumulum certe vel illic inventura vitae pessimae finem. Sed cum primum praedicti iugi conterminos locos appulit, videt rei vastae letalem difficultatem: namque saxum immani magnitudine procerum et inaccessa salebritate lubricum mediis e faucibus lapidis fontes horridos evomebat, qui statim proni foraminis lacunis editi perque proclive delapsi et angusti canalis exarato¹ contecti tramite

¹ So Petschenig with great probability for the MSS' *exarto*.

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memory, and with all diligence went and gathered up such locks as she found and put them in her apron and carried them home to Venus : howbeit the danger of this second labour did not please her, nor give her sufficient witness of the good service of Psyche, but twisting her brows with a sour resemblance of laughter, she said : ‘Of a certainty I know that another is the author of this thy deed, but I will prove if thou be truly of so stout a courage and singular prudence as thou seemest. Seest thou the high rock that overhangs the top of yonder great hill, from whence there runneth down water of black and deadly colour which is gathered together in the valley hard by and thence nourisheth the marshes of Styx and the hoarse torrent of Cocytus? I charge thee to go thither and bring me a vessel of that freezing water from the middest flow of the top of that spring’ : wherewithal she gave her a bottle of carven crystal, menacing and threatening her more rigorously than before.

“Then poor Psyche went in all haste to the top of the mountain, rather to end her wretched life than to fetch any water, and when she was come up to the ridge of the hill, she perceived that it was very deadly and impossible to bring it to pass, for she saw a great rock, very high and not to be approached by reason that it was exceeding rugged and slippery, gushing out most horrible fountains of waters, which, bursting forth from a cavernous mouth that sloped downwards, ran below and fell through a close and covered watercourse which it had digged out, by many stops and passages, into the valley beneath. On each side she saw great dragons creeping upon the hollow rocks and stretching out their long and bloody necks, with eyes that never slept devoted to watch-

proxumam convallem latenter incidebant. Dextra laevaue cautibus cavatis proserpunt et longa colla porrecti saevi dracones inconnivae vigiliae luminibus addictis et in perpetuam lucem pupulis excubantibus. Iamque et ipsae semet muniebant vocales aquae; nam et 'Discede,' et 'Quid facis? Vide,' et 'Quid agis? Cave,' et 'Fuge,' et 'Peribis' subinde clamant. Sic impossibilitate ipsa mutata in lapidem Psyche quamvis praesenti corpore, sensibus tamen aberat, et inextricabilis periculi mole prorsus obruta lacrimarum
 15 etiam extremo solacio carebat. Nec Providentiae bonae graves oculos innocentis animae latuit aerumna: nam primi Iovis regalis ales illa repente propansis utrimque pinnis affuit rapax aquila, memorque veteris obsequii, quo ductu Cupidinis Iovi pocillatorem Phrygium sustulerat, opportunam ferens opem deque numen in uxoris laboribus percolens, alti culminis diales vias deserit, et ob os puellae praevolans incipit: 'At tu simplex alioquin et expers rerum talium, speras te sanctissimi nec minus truculenti fontis vel unam stillam posse furari vel omnino contingere! Diis etiam ipsique Iovi formidabiles aquas istas Stygias vel fando comperisti, quodque vos deieratis per numina deorum, deos per Stygis maiestatem solere! Sed cedo istam urnulam,' et protinus arreptam complexamque festinat libratisque pinnarum nutantium molibus inter genas saevientium dentium et trisulca vibramina draconum remigium dextra laevaue porrigens volentes

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fulness, their pupils always awake to the unfailing light, which were appointed to keep the river there: the very waters protected themselves with voices, for they seemed to themselves likewise saying: 'Away, away, what wilt thou do? Fly, fly, or else thou wilt be slain.' Then Psyche (seeing the impossibility of this affair) stood still as though she were transformed into stone, and although she was present in body, yet was she absent in spirit and sense, overcome by reason of the great and inevitable peril which she saw, in so much that she could not even comfort herself with weeping. Yet the sorrow of this innocent escaped not the watchful eyes of good Providence, and the royal bird of great Jupiter, the eagle, swept down on wings stretched out, remembering his old service which he had done, when by the leading of Cupid he brought up the Phrygian boy to the heavens, to be made the butler of Jupiter, and minding to shew the like service in the person of the wife of Cupid, and came from the high house of the skies, and flying past the girl's face said unto Psyche: 'O simple woman, without all experience of such things, dost thou think to get or dip up any drop of this dreadful water? No, no, assure thyself thou art never able to come nigh it, for the gods themselves, and even very Jupiter, do greatly fear so much as to name those waters of Styx; what, have you not heard that as it is a custom among men to swear by the puissance of the gods, so the gods do swear by the majesty of the river Styx? But give me thy bottle': and suddenly he took it and held it, and hastened on the poise of his beating wings betwixt the ravening teeth and terrible darting tongues of the dragons by right and by left, and filled it with the water of the river which yet came

- aquas et ut abiret innoxius permittentes¹ excipit, commentus ob iussum Veneris patere eique se praeministrare, quare paulo facilior adeundi fuit copia.
- 16 Sic acceptam cum gaudio plenam urnulam Psyche Veneri citata rettulit. Nec tamen nutum deae saevientis vel tunc expiare potuit: nam sic eam maiora atque peiora flagitia comminans appellat, renidens exitiabile: 'Iam tu quidem maga videris quaedam mihi et alta prorsus malefica, quae talibus praeceptis meis obtemperasti naviter; sed adhuc istud, mea pupula, ministrare debebis. Sume istam pyxidem' (et dedit) 'Protinusque ad inferos et ipsius Orci ferales penates te derige. Tunc conferens pyxidem Proserpinae, "Petit de te Venus," dicit, "Modicum de tua mittas ei formositate, vel ad unam saltem dieculam sufficiens: nam quod habuit dum filium curat aegrotum consumpsit atque contrivit omne." Sed haud immaturius redito, quia me necesse est indidem delitam theatrum deorum frequentare.'
- 17 "Tunc Psyche vel maxime sensit ultimas fortunas suas et velamento reiecto ad promptum exitium sese compelli manifeste comperit: quidni, quae suis pedibus ultro ad Tartarum Manesque commeare cogeretur? Nec cunctata diutius pergit ad quampiam turrin praealtam indidem sese datura praecipitem; sic enim rebatur ad inferos recta atque pulcherrime se posse descendere. Sed turris prorumpit in vocem subitam, et 'Quid te' inquit 'Praecipitem, o misella, quaeris extinguere? Quidque iam novissimo periculo laborique isto temere succumbis? Nam si spiritus corpore tuo semel fuerit seiugatus, ibis quidem profecto ad imum Tartarum, sed inde nullo pacto redire poteris.

¹ The MSS here read *minantes* or *potantes*, showing signs of erasure and alteration. *Permittentes* is due to Bluemner, who

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willingly that he might depart unharmed : for he feigned that he sought it by the command of Venus, and so was his coming made somewhat more easy. Then Psyche, being very joyful thereof, took the full bottle and quickly presented it to Venus. Nor would the furious goddess even yet be appeased, but menacing more and more, and smiling most cruelly, said : ‘What? Thou seemest unto me a very witch and a most deep enchantress, thou hast so nimbly obeyed my commands. Howbeit thou shalt do one thing more, my poppet ; take this box and go to Hell and the deadly house of Orcus, and desire Proserpina to send me a little of her beauty, as much as will serve me the space of one day, and say that such as I had is consumed away in tending my son that is sick : but return again quickly, for I must dress myself therewithal, and go to the theatre of the gods.’

“Then the poor Psyche clearly perceived the end of all her fortune, seeing that all pretence was thrown off, and manifestly she was being driven to present destruction ; and not without cause, as she was compelled to go upon her own feet to the gulf and furies of Hell. Wherefore without any further delay, she went up to a high tower to throw herself down headlong (thinking that it was the next and readiest way to Hell) : but the tower (as inspired) spake suddenly unto her, saying : ‘O poor wretch, why goest thou about to slay thyself? Why dost thou rashly yield unto thy last peril and danger? Know thou that if thy spirit be once separate from thy body thou shalt surely go to Hell, but never to return again ; wherefore hearken to me. Lace-

also wished to change *innoxius* to *innoxia* : Helm suggested *praestantes*.

LUCIUS APULEIUS

- 18 Mihi ausculta: Lacedaemo Achaiae nobilis civitas non longe sita est; huius conterminam deviis abditam locis quaere Taenarum. Inibi spiraculum Ditis, et per portas hiantes monstratur iter invium, cui te limine transmeato simul commiseris, iam canale directo perges ad ipsam Orci regiam. Sed non hactenus vacua debebis per illas tenebras incedere, sed offas polentae mulso concretas ambabus gestare manibus, at in ipso ore duas ferre stipes. Iamque confecta bona parte mortiferae viae continuaberis claudum asinum lignorum gerulum cum agasone simili, qui te rogabit decidentis sarcinae fusticulos aliquos porrigas ei; sed tu nulla voce deprompta tacita praeterito. Nec mora, cum ad flumen mortuum venies, cui praefectus Charon protenus expetens portorium, sic ad ripam ulteriorem sutili cymba deducit commeantes. Ergo et inter mortuos avaritia vivit, nec Charon ille vel Ditis pater, tantus deus, quicquam gratuito facit, sed moriens pauper viaticum debet quaerere, et aes si forte prae manu non fuerit, nemo eum expirare patietur. Huic squalido seni dabis nauli nomine de stipibus quas feres alteram, sic tamen ut ipse sua manu de tuo sumat ore. Nec setius tibi pigrum fluentum transmeanti quidam supernatans senex mortuus putres attollens manus orabit ut eum intra navigium trahas: nec tu tamen illicita afflectare pietate.
- 19 Transito fluvio modicum te progressam textrices orabunt anus telam struentes, manus paulisper accommodes. Nec id tamen tibi contingere fas est: nam

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daemon, a city of Greece, is not far hence : go thou thither and enquire for Taenarus, which is hidden in waste places, whereas thou shalt find a hole, the breathing-place of Hell, and through the open gate is seen a pathless way : hereby if thou enter across that threshold, thou shalt come by a straight passage even to the palace of Pluto. But take heed that thou go not with empty hands through that place of darkness : but carry two sops sodden in the flour of barley and honey in thy hands, and two halfpence in thy mouth ; and when thou hast passed a good part of that deadly way thou shalt see a lame ass carrying of wood, and a lame fellow driving him, who will desire thee to give him up certain sticks that fall down from his burden, but pass thou on silently and do nothing. By and by thou shalt come unto the dead river, whereas Charon is ferryman, who will first have his fare paid him before he will carry the souls over the river in his patched boat. Hereby you may see that avarice reigneth even amongst the dead ; neither Charon nor Pluto will do anything for nought : for if it be a poor man that is near to die, and lacketh money in his hand, none will allow him to give up the ghost. Wherefore deliver to the foul old man one of the halfpence which thou bearest for thy passage, but make him receive it with his own hand out of thy mouth. And it shall come to pass as thou sittest in the boat, thou shalt see an old man swimming on the top of the river holding up his deadly hands, and desiring thee to receive him into the bark ; but have no regard to his piteous cry, for it is not lawful to do so. When thou art past over the flood thou shalt espy certain old women weaving who will desire thee to help them, but beware thou do not consent unto them in any case, for these and like baits and traps

haec omnia tibi et multa alia de Veneris insidiis orientur, ut vel unam de manibus omittas offulam: nec putes futile istud polentacium damnum leve; altera enim perdita, lux haec tibi prorsus denegabitur. Canis namque praegrandis, teriugo et satis amplo capite praeditus, inmanis et formidabilis, tonantibus oblatrans faucibus mortuos, quibus iam nil mali potest facere, frustra territando ante ipsum limen et atra atria Proserpinae semper excubans servat vacuum Ditis domum: hunc offrenatum unius offulae praeda facile praeteribis, ad ipsamque protinus Proserpinam introibis, quae te comiter excipiet ac benigne, ut et molliter assidere et prandium opipare suadeat sumere. Sed tu et humi reside et panem sordidum petatum esto, deinde nuntiato quid adveneris, susceptoque quod offeretur, rursus remeans canis saevitiam offula reliqua redime, ac deinde, avaro navitae data quam reservaveras stipe transitoque eius fluvio, recolens priora vestigia ad istum caelestium siderum redies chorum. Sed inter omnia hoc observandum praecipue tibi censeo, ne velis aperire vel inspicere illam quam feres pyxidem vel omnino divinae formositati addictum curiosius thesaurum.'

- 20 "Sic turris illa prospicua vaticinationis munus explicuit. Nec morata Psyche pergit Taenarum, sumptisque rite stipibus illis et offulis, infernum decurrit meatum transitoque per silentium asinario debili et amnica stipe vectori data, neglecto supernatantis mortui desiderio, et spretis textricum subdolis precibus, et offulae cibo sopita canis horrenda rabie, domum Proserpinae penetrat: nec offerentis

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will Venus set, to make thee let fall but one of thy sops : and think not that the keeping of thy sops is a light matter, for if thou lose one of them thou shalt be assured never to return again to this world. For there is a great and marvellous dog with three heads, huge and horrid, barking continually at the souls of such as enter in, to frighten them with vain fear, by reason he can now do them no harm ; he lieth day and night before the gate of Proserpina, and keepeth the desolate house of Pluto with great diligence : to whom, if thou cast one of thy sops, thou mayest have access to Proserpina without all danger : she will make thee good cheer, and bid thee sit soft, and entertain thee with delicate meat and drink, but sit thou upon the ground and desire brown bread and eat it, and then declare thy message unto her, and when thou hast received what she giveth, in thy return appease the rage of the dog with the other sop, and give thy other halfpenny to covetous Charon, and crossing his river come the same way again as thou wentest in to the upper world of the heavenly stars : but above all things have a regard that thou look not in the box, neither be not too curious about the treasure of the divine beauty.'

"In this manner the high tower prophetically spake unto Psyche, and advertised her what she should do : and immediately she took two halfpence, two sops, and all things necessary and went unto Taenarus to go towards Hell, and thence passing down in silence by the lame ass, she paid her halfpenny for passage, neglected the desire of the dead old man in the river, denied to help the wily prayers of the women weaving, and filled the ravenous mouth of the dog with a sop, and came to the chamber of Proserpina. There Psyche would

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hospitae sedile delicatum vel cibum beatum amplexa
 sed ante pedes eius residens humilis, cibario pane
 contenta, Veneriam pertulit legationem, statimque
 secreto repletam conclusamque pyxidem suscipit,
 et offulae sequentis fraude caninis latratibus ob-
 seratis, residuaque navitae reddita stipe, longe
 vegetior ab inferis recurrit. Et repetita atque
 adorata candida ista luce, quanquam festinans ob-
 sequium terminare, mentem capitur temeraria curio-
 sitate, et 'Ecce' inquit 'Inepta ego divinae for-
 mositatis gerula, quae nec tantillum quidem indidem
 mihi delibo, vel sic illi amatori meo formoso placitura,'
 21 et cum dicto reserat pyxidem: nec quicquam ibi
 rerum nec formositas ulla, sed infernus somnus ac
 vere Stygius, qui statim coperculo revelatus invadit
 eam crassaque soporis nebula cunctis eius membris
 perfunditur et in ipso vestigio ipsaque semita col-
 lapsam possidet; et iacebat immobilis et nihil aliud
 quam dormiens cadaver. Sed Cupido iam cicatrice
 solida revalescens nec diutinam suae Psyches ab-
 sentiam tolerans, per altissimam cubiculi, quo cohi-
 bebatur, elapsus fenestram, reffectisque pinnis ali-
 quanta quiete, longe velocius provolans Psychen
 accurrit suam, detersoque somno curiose et rursus
 in pristinam pyxididis sedem recondito, Psychen
 innoxio punctulo sagittae suae suscitatur, et 'Ecce'
 inquit 'Rursum perieras, misella, simili curiositate.
 Sed interim quidem tu provinciam, quae tibi matris
 meae praecepto mandata est, exsequere naviter;
 cetera egomet videro.' His dictis amator levis in
 pinnae se dedit, Psyche vero confestim Veneri munus
 reportat Proserpinae.

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not sit in any royal seat, nor eat any delicate meats, but sitting lowly at the feet of Proserpina, only contented with coarse bread, declared the message of Venus, and after she had received a mystical secret in the box she departed, and stopped the mouth of the dog with the other sop, and paid the boatman the other halfpenny. Then returning more nimbly than before from Hell, and worshipping the white light of day, though she was much in haste to come to the end of her task, she was ravished with great desire, saying: 'Am not I a fool, that knowing that I carry here the divine beauty, will not take a little thereof to garnish my face, to please my lover withal?' And by and by she opened the box, where she could perceive no beauty nor anything else, save only an infernal and deadly sleep, which immediately invaded all her members as soon as the box was uncovered, covering her with its dense cloud in such sort that she fell down on the ground, and lay there in her very steps on that same path as a sleeping corpse. But Cupid being now healed of his wound and malady, not able to endure the long absence of Psyche, got him secretly out at a high window of the chamber where he was enclosed, and (his wings refreshed by a little repose) took his flight towards his loving wife; whom when he had found, he wiped away the sleep from her face, and put it again into the box, and awaked her with an harmless prick of the tip of one of his arrows, saying: 'O wretched captive, behold thou wert well nigh perished again with thy overmuch curiosity; well, go thou, and do bravely thy message to my mother, and in the mean season I will provide all things accordingly'; wherewithal he took his flight into the air, and Psyche brought to Venus the present of Proserpina.

- 22 "Interea Cupido, amore nimio peresus et aegra facie, matris suae repentinam sobrietatem pertimescens ad armillum redit alisque pernicipibus caeli penetrato vertice magno Iovi supplicat suamque causam probat. Tunc Iuppiter prehensa Cupidinis buccula manuque ad os suum relata consaviat, atque sic ad illum 'Licet tu' inquit 'Domine fili, nunquam mihi concessu deum decretum servaris honorem, sed istud pectus meum, quo leges elementorum et vices siderum disponuntur, convulneraris assiduis ictibus crebrisque terrenae libidinis foedaveris casibus, contraque leges et ipsam Iuliam disciplinamque publicam turpibus adulteriis existimationem famamque meam laeseris, in serpentes, in ignes, in feras, in aves et gregalia pecua serenos vultus meos sordide reformando; at tamen modestiae meae memor quodque inter istas meas manus creveris, cuncta perficiam, dum tamen scias aemulos tuos cavere ac, si qua nunc in terris puella praepollet pulchritudine, praesentis beneficii vicem per eam mihi repensare te debere.'
- 23 "Sic fatus iubet Mercurium deos omnes ad con-
tionem protinus convocare ac si qui coetu caelestium defuisset, in poenam decem milium nummum conventum iri pronuntiare. Quo metu statim completo

¹ The law of Augustus against adultery. See the commentators on Juvenal, II. 37.

² The various forms assumed by Jupiter in his love-affairs with earthly women. Cf. Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, II. 103:

"The Lydian maiden in her web did portray to the
full
How Europe was by royal Jove beguiled in shape of
Bull. . . .

She portrayed also there
Asterie struggling with an Erne which did away her bear.
And over Leda she had made a Swan his wings to splay.

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“Now Cupid being more and more in love with Psyche, and fearing the sudden austerity of his mother, returned again to his tricks, and did pierce on swift wings into the heavens, and arrived before Jupiter to declare his cause: then Jupiter after that he had eftsoons embraced his dear face and kissed his hand, began to say in this manner: ‘O my lord and son, although thou hast not given due reverence and honour unto me as thou oughtest to do, but hast rather soiled and wounded this my breast (whereby the laws and order of the elements and planets be disposed) with continual assaults of terrene luxury and against all laws, yea even the Julian¹ law, and the utility of the public weal, hurting my fame and name by wicked adulteries, and transforming my divine beauty into serpents, fire, savage beasts, birds, and bulls.² Howbeit remembering my modesty, and that I have nourished thee with mine own proper hands, I will do and accomplish all thy desire. But still thou shouldest beware of spiteful and envious persons, and if there be any excellent maiden of comely beauty in the world, remember yet the benefit which I shall shew unto thee, by recompense of her love towards me again.’

“When he had spoken these words, he commanded Mercury to call all the gods to counsel, and if any of the celestial powers did fail of appearance, he should be condemned in ten thousand pounds: which sentence was such a terror unto all the gods,

She added also how by Jove in shape of Satyr gay

The fair Antiope with a pair of children was besped. . . .

And now he also came

To Danae like a shower of gold, to Aegine like a flame,

A shepherd to Mnemosyne, and like a Serpent sly

To Proserpine.”

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caelesti theatro, pro sede sublimi sedens procerus Iuppiter sic enuntiat: 'Dei conscripti Musarum albo, adulescentem istum quod manibus meis alumatus sim, profecto scitis omnes, cuius primae iuventutis caloratos impetus freno quodam coercendos existimavi. Sat est cotidianis eum fabulis ob adulteria cunctasque corruptelas infamatum: tollenda est omnis occasio et luxuria puerilis nuptialibus pedicis alliganda. Puellam elegit et virginitate privavit: teneat, possideat, amplexus Psychen semper suis amoribus perfruatur': et ad Venerem collata facie, 'Nec tu,' inquit 'Filia, quicquam contristare nec prosapiae tantae tuae statuque de matrimonio mortali metuas. Iam faxo nuptias non impares sed legitimas et iure civili congruas,' et illico per Mercurium arripi Psychen et in caelum perducere iubet. Porrecto ambrosiae poculo, 'Sume,' inquit 'Psyche, et immortalis esto; nec unquam digredietur a tuo nexu Cupido sed istae vobis erunt perpetuae nuptiae.'

- 24 "Nec mora, cum cena nuptialis affluens exhibetur: accumbebat summum torum maritus, Psychen gremio suo complexus; sic et cum sua Iunone Iuppiter ac deinde per ordinem toti dei. Tunc poculum nectaris, quod vinum deorum est, Iovi quidem suus pocillator, ille rusticus puer, ceteris vero Liber ministrabat, Vulcanus cenam coquebat, Horae rosis et ceteris floribus purpurabant omnia, Gratiae sparge-

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that the high theatre was replenished with them, and Jupiter began to speak in this sort: 'O ye Gods, registered in the books of the Muses, you all doubtless know this young man Cupid, whom I have nourished with mine own hand, whose raging flames of his first youth I have thought best to bridle and restrain. It sufficeth in that he is defamed in every place for his adulterous living and all manner of vice; wherefore all such occasion ought to be taken away and his boyish wantonness tied up in the bonds of marriage: he hath chosen a maiden that favoureth him well, and hath bereaved her of her virginity; let him have her still and possess her, and in the embrace of Psyche take his own pleasure.' Then he turned unto Venus, and said: 'And you, my daughter, take you no care, neither fear the dishonour of your progeny and estate, neither have regard in that it is a mortal marriage, for I will see to it that this marriage be not unequal, but just, lawful, and legitimate by the law civil.' Incontinently after, Jupiter commanded Mercury to bring up Psyche into the palace of heaven. And then he took a pot of immortality, and said: 'Hold, Psyche, and drink to the end thou mayest be immortal, and that Cupid may never depart from thee, but be thine everlasting husband.'

"By and by the great banquet and marriage feast was sumptuously prepared. Cupid sat down in the uppermost seat with his dear spouse between his arms: Juno likewise with Jupiter and all the other gods in order: Ganymedes, the rustic boy, his own butler, filled the pot of Jupiter, and Bacchus served the rest: their drink was nectar, the wine of the gods. Vulcanus prepared supper, the Hours decked up the house with roses and other sweet flowers, the

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bant balsama, Musae quoque canora personabant, Apollo cantavit ad citharam, Venus suavi musicae superingressa formosa saltavit: scaena sibi sic concinnata, ut Musae quidem chorum canerent et tibias inflarent, Satyrus et Paniscus ad fistulam dicerent. Sic rite Psyche convenit in manum Cupidinis, et nascitur illis maturo partu filia, quam Voluptatem nominamus."

25 Sic captivae puellae delira et temulenta illa narrabat anicula; sed astans ego non procul dolebam mehercules quod pugillares et stilum non habebam, qui tam bellam fabellam praenotarem. Ecce confecto nescioquo gravi proelio latrones adveniunt onusti; nonnulli tamen, immo promptiores, vulneratis domi relictis et plagas recurantibus, ipsi ad reliquas occultatas in quadam spelunca sarcinas, ut aiebant, proficisci gestiunt; prandioque raptim tuburcinato, me et equum meum vectores rerum illarum futuros fustibus exinde tundentes producunt in viam, multisque clivis et anfractibus fatigatos prope ipsam vesperam perducunt ad quampiam speluncam, unde multis onustos rebus rursum, ne breviculo quidem tempore refectos ociter reducunt, tantaque trepidatione festinabant, ut me plagis multis obtundentes propellentesque super lapidem propter viam positum deicerent: unde crebris aequae ingestis ictibus crure dextero et ungula sinistra me debilitatum aegre ad exsurgendum

26 compellunt, et unus "Quousque" inquit "Ruptum istum asellum, nunc etiam claudum, frustra pasceamus?", et alius: "Quid quod et pessimo pede domum nostram accessit, nec quicquam idonei lucri exinde

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Graces threw about balm, the Muses sang with sweet harmony, Apollo turned pleasantly to the harp, fair Venus danced finely to the music, and the entertainment was so ordained that while the Muses sang in quire, Satyrus and Paniscus played on their pipes : and thus Psyche was married to Cupid, and after in due time she was delivered of a child, whom we call Pleasure."

This the trifling and drunken old woman declared to the captive maiden, but I, poor ass, not standing far off, was not a little sorry in that I lacked pen and book to write so worthy a tale ; when by and by the thieves came home laden with treasure, and many of them which were of strongest courage being wounded : then (leaving behind such as were lame and hurt to heal and air themselves) said they would return back again to fetch the rest of their pillage which they had hidden in a certain cave. So they snatched up their dinner greedily, and brought forth me and my horse into the way to carry those goods, and beat us before them with staves, and about night (after that we were weary by passing over many hills and dales) we came to a great cave, where they laded us with mighty burdens, and would not suffer us to refresh ourselves any season, but brought us again in our way, and hied very fast homeward ; and what with their haste and cruel stripes wherewith they did belabour and drive me, I fell down upon a stone by the highway side. Then they beat me pitifully in lifting me up, hurting my right thigh and my left hoof, and one of them said : " How long shall we continue to feed this evil-favoured ass that is now also lame ? " Another said : " Since the time we had him first he never did any good, and I think he came into our house with evil luck ; for we have had great

cepimus sed vulnera et fortissimorum occisiones." Alius iterum: "Certe ego cum primum sarcinas istas quamquam invitus pertulerit, protinus eum vulturiis gratissimum pabulum futurum praecipitabo."

Dum secum mitissimi homines altercant de mea nece, iam et domum perveneramus, nam timor ungulas mihi alas fecerat. Tum quae ferebamus amoliti properiter, nulla salutis nostrae cura sed ne meae quidem necis habita, comitibus adscitis qui vulnerati remanserant, dudum recurrunt reliqua laturi¹ taedio, ut aiebant, nostrae tarditatis. Nec me tamen mediocris carpebat scrupulus contemplatione comminatae mihi mortis, et ipse mecum: "Quid stas, Luci, vel quid iam novissimum expectas? Mors, et haec acerbissima, decreto latronum tibi comparata est. Nec magno conatu res indiget; vides istas rupinas proximas et praeacutas in his prominentes silices, quae te penetrantes antequam decideris, membratim dissipabunt. Nam et illa ipsa praeclara magia tua vultum laboresque tibi tantum asini, verum corium non asini crassum sed hirudinis tenue membranulum circumdedit. Quin igitur masculum tandem sumis animum tuaeque saluti dum licet consulis? Habes summam opportunitatem fugae, dum latrones absunt. An custodiam anus semimortuae formidabis, quam licet claudi pedis tui calce unica finire poteris? Sed quo gentium capessetur fuga vel hospitium quis dabit? Haec quidem inepta et prorsus asinina cogitatio: quis enim viantium vectorem suum non libenter auferat secum?"

27 Et alacri statim nisu lorum, quo fueram destinatus, abrumpo, meque quadripedi cursu proripio, nec tamen

¹ The MSS have *recurrunt relatori taedio*. Van der Vliet proposed *reliqua ipsi laturi* for the middle word, and I have followed him, omitting the *ipsi*.

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wounds since, and loss of our valiant captains." Another said: "As soon as he has brought unwillingly home his burden, I will surely throw him out upon the mountain to be a prey for vultures."

While these gentle men reasoned together of my death, we fortunèd to come home, for the fear that I was in caused my feet to turn into wings. After that we were discharged of our burdens, they took no account of our needs, nor even of my slaying; they fetched their fellows that lay wounded, and returned again to bring the rest of the things, by reason (as they said) of our great tardiness and slowness by the way. Then was I brought into no small anguish, when I perceived my death prepared before my face, and I communed with myself: "Why standest thou still, Lucius? Why dost thou look for thy death? Knowest thou not that the thieves have cruelly ordained to slay thee, and they shall find it easy enough? Seest thou not these sharp precipices and pointed flints which shall bruise and tear thee in pieces or ever thou comest to the bottom of them? Thy gentle magician hath not only given thee the shape and travail of an ass, but also a skin so soft and tender as it were of a leech. Why dost thou not take a man's courage and run away to save thy life? Now hast thou the best occasion of flight while the thieves are from home. Art thou afraid of the old woman, which is more than half dead, whom with a stripe of thy heel, though lame, thou mayest easily dispatch? But whither shall I fly? What lodging shall I seek? Behold an assy cogitation of mine; for who is he that passes by the way and will not gladly take up a beast to carry him?"

Then while I devised these things, I broke suddenly the halter wherewith I was tied, and ran away

acutulae anus milvinos oculos effugere potui: nam ubi me conspexit absolutum, capta super sexum et aetatem audacia lorumprehendit ac me deducere ac revocare contendit. Nec tamen ego, memor exitibilis propositi latronum, pietate ulla commoveor, sed incussis in eam posteriorum pedum calcibus protinus applodo terrae. At illa, quamvis humi prostrata, loro tamen tenaciter inhaerebat, ut me procurrentem aliquantisper tractu sui sequeretur, et occipit statim clamosis ululatibus auxilium validioris manus implorare. Sed frustra fletibus cassum tumultum commovebat, quippe cum nullus adforet qui suppetias ei ferre posset, nisi sola illa virgo captiva. Quae vocis exitu procurrrens videt Hercule memorandi spectaculi scaenam, non tauro sed asino dependentem Dircen aniculam, sumptaque constantia virili facinus audet pulcherrimum. Extorto etenim loro manibus eius me placidis gannitibus ab impetu revocatum naviter inscendit et sic ad cursum rursum
28 incitat. Ego simul voluntariae fugae voto et liberandae virginis studio, sed et plagarum suasu, quae me saepicule commonebant, equestri celeritate quadripedi cursu solum replaudens virgini delicatas vocolas adhinnire temptabam. Sed et scabendi dorsi mei simulatione nonnunquam obliquata cervice pedes decoros puellae basiabam.

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with all my four feet¹: howbeit I could not escape the kite's eyes of the old woman, for when she saw me loose she ran after me, and with more audacity than becometh her kind and age, caught me by the halter and thought to pull me home; but I, not forgetting the cruel purposes of the thieves, was moved with small pity, for I kicked her with my hinder heels to the ground. I had well nigh slain her, who (although she were thrown and hurled down) yet held still the halter and would not let me go, but was for some time dragged along the ground by me in my flight. Then she cried with a loud voice and called for succour of some stronger hand, but she little prevailed because there was no person to bring her help, save only the captive gentlewoman, who, hearing the voice of the old woman, came out to see what the matter was and perceived a scene worth telling, a new Dirce² hanging, not to a bull, but to an ass. Then she took a good courage and performed a deed worthy of a man: she wrested the halter out of her hands, and (entreating me with gentle words) stopped me in my flight and got upon my back and drove me to my running again. Then I began to run, both that I might escape and to save the maiden, and she gently kicked me forward, in so much that beneath her frequent urging I seemed to scour away like a horse, galloping with my four feet upon the ground. And when the gentlewoman did speak I would answer her with my braying, and oftentimes (under colour to rub my back) I would turn back my neck and sweetly kiss her tender feet.

¹ *Quadripedi cursu* seems to be a phrase for galloping, as in modern Greek *στὰ τέσσερα*.

² Dirce was killed by being tied by her hair to a wild bull in revenge for her similar cruelty to her rival Antiope.

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Tunc illa suspirans altius, caelumque sollicito vultu petens "Vos," inquit "Superi, tandem meis supremis periculis opem facite, et tu, Fortuna durior, iam saevire desiste: sat tibi miseris istis cruciatibus meis litatum est. Tuque, praesidium meae libertatis meaeque salutis, si me domum pervexeris incolumem parentibusque et formoso proco reddideris, quas tibi gratias perhibebo, quos honores habebo, quos cibos exhibebo? Iam primum iubam istam tuam probe pectinatam meis virginalibus monilibus adornabo, frontem vero crispata prius decoriter discriminabo caudaeque setas incuria lavacri congestas et horridas, comptas diligenter mollibo,¹ bullisque te multis aureis inoculatum, velut stellis sidereis relucentem, et gaudiis popularium pomparum ovantem, sinu serico progestans nucleos et edulia mitiora, te meum sospita-

29 torem cotidie saginabo. Sed nec inter cibos delicatos et otium profundum vitaeque totius beatitudinem deerit tibi dignitas gloriosa: nam memoriam praesentis fortunae meae divinaeque providentiae perpetua testatione signabo, et depictam in tabula fugae praesentis imaginem meae domus atrio dedicabo. Visetur et in fabulis audietur doctorumque stilis rudis perpetua-bitur historia 'Asino vectore virgo regia fugiens captivitatem.' Accedes antiquis et ipse miraculis et

¹ The MSS are here very uncertain and have been altered and erased. *Mollibo* is Leo's suggestion, which I combine with the *comptas* (MSS *compta*) of Kronenberg.

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Then she, fetching a sigh from the bottom of her heart, lifted up her eyes unto the heavens, saying: "O sovereign gods, deliver me, if it be your pleasure, from these present dangers; and thou, cruel fortune, cease thy wrath; let the sorrow suffice thee which I have already sustained. And thou, little ass, that art the occasion of my safety and liberty, if thou canst once render me safe and sound to my parents, and to that comely one that so greatly desireth to have me to his wife, thou shalt see what thanks I will give thee, with what honour I will reward thee, and how I will feed thee. First I will finely comb thy mane and adorn it with my maiden necklaces, and then I will bravely dress the hair of thy forehead, and tie up thy rugged tail trimly, whose bristles are now ragged and matted by want of care: I will deck thee round about with golden trappings and tassels, in such sort that thou shalt glitter like the stars of the sky, and shalt go in triumph amid the applause of the people: I will bring thee every day in my silken apron the kernels of nuts, and will pamper thee up with dainty delights; I will set store by thee, as by one that is the preserver of my life. Finally, thou shalt lack no manner of thing, and amongst thy glorious fare, thy great ease, and the bliss of thy life, thou shalt not be destitute of dignity, for thou shalt be chronicled perpetually in memory of my present fortune, and the providence divine. All the whole history of this our present flight shall be painted upon the wall of our house: thou shalt be renowned throughout all the world, and this tale (though rude) shall be registered in the books of doctors, how an ass saved the life of a young maiden, a princess, that was a captive amongst thieves. Thou shalt be numbered amongst the

iam credemus exemplo tuae veritatis et Phrixum arieti supernatasse et Arionem delphinum gubernasse et Europam tauro supercubasse. Quod si vere Iupiter mugivit in bovem, potest in asino meo latere aliqui vel vultus hominis vel facies deorum."

Dum haec identidem puella replicat votisque crebros intermiscet suspiritus, ad quoddam pervenimus trivium, unde me arrepto capistro dirigere dextrorsum magnopere gestiebat, quod ad parentis eius ea scilicet iretur via. Sed ego gnarus latrones illac ad reliquas commeasse praedas, renitebar firmiter atque sic in animo meo tacitus ex postulabam: "Quid facis, infelix puella? Quid agis? Cur festinas ad Orcum? Quid meis pedibus facere contendis? Non enim te tantum, verum etiam me perditum ibis." Sic nos diversa tendentes et in causa finali de proprietate soli, immo viae herciscundae contendentes, rapinis suis onusti coram deprehendunt ipsi latrones et ad lunae splendorem iam inde longius cognitos risu maligno salutant; et unus e numero sic appellat: "Quorsum istam festinanti vestigio lucubratis viam nec noctis intempestae Manes Larvasque formidatis? An tu, probissima puella, parentes tuos intervisere properabas? Sed nos et solitudini tuae praesidium praestabimus et ad parentes tuos iter monstrabimus," et unus manu secutus prehensio loro retrorsum me circumtorquet, nec baculi nodosi quod gerebat suetis ictibus temperat. Tunc ingratis ad promptum recurrens exitium reminiscor doloris ungulae et occipio

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ancient miracles : we shall believe by the example of this truth that Phrixus saved himself from drowning upon a ram, Arion escaped upon a dolphin, and that Europa rode upon a bull. If Jupiter transformed himself into a lowing bull, why may it not be that under shape of this ass is hidden the figure of a man, or some power divine ? ”

While that the virgin did thus mix sorrowful sighs with her hopes and prayers we fortunèd to come to a place where three ways did meet, and she took me by the halter and would have me turn on the right hand to her father's house, but I (knowing that the thieves were gone that way to fetch the residue of their pillage) resisted with my head as much as I might, saying within myself : “ What wilt thou do, unhappy maiden ? Why wouldest thou go so willingly to Hell ? Why wilt thou run into destruction in despite of my feet ? Why dost thou seek thine own harm and mine likewise ? ” And while we two strove together like men striving at law about the division of land, or rather about some right of way, the thieves returned laden with their prey, and perceived us afar off by the light of the moon : and after they had known us they laughed despitefully, and one of them began to say : “ Whither go you so hastily ? Be you not afraid of spirits and ghosts of the night ? And you (you harlot) do you go to see your parents ? Come on, we will bear you company for safety's sake and shew you the way to your parents.” And therewithal one took me by the halter and drove me back again, beating me cruelly with a great staff that he had, full of knobs ; then I returning against my will to my ready destruction, and remembering the grief of my hoof, began to shake my head and to wax lame, but he that led me

nutanti capite claudicare: sed "Ecce" inquit ille qui me retraxerat, "Rursum titubas et vacillas et putres isti tui pedes fugere possunt, ambulare nesciunt! At paulo ante pinnatam Pegasi vincebas celeritatem." Dum sic mecum fustem quatiens benignus iocatur comes, iam domus eorum extremam loricam perveneramus, et ecce de quodam ramo procerae cupressus induta laqueum anus illa pendebat; quam quidem detractam protinus cum suo sibi funiculo devinctam dedere praecipitem puellaque statim distenta vinculis cenam, quam postuma diligentia praeparaverat infelix anicula, ferinis invadunt animis.

- 31 Ac dum avida voracitate cuncta contruncant, iam incipiunt de nostra poena suaque vindicta secum considerare. Et utpote in coetu turbulento variae fuere sententiae, ut primus vivam cremari censeret puellam, secundus bestiis obici suaderet, tertius patibulo suffigi iuberet, quartus tormentis excarnificari praeciperet; certe calculo cunctorum utcumque mors ei fuerat destinata. Tunc unus omnium sedato tumultu, placido sermone sic orsus est: "Nec sectae collegii nec mansuetudini singulorum ac ne meae quidem modestiae congruit pati vos ultra modum delictique saevire terminum, nec feras nec cruces nec ignes nec tormenta ac ne mortis quidem maturatae festinas tenebras accersere. Meis itaque consiliis auscultantes vitam puellae, sed quam meretur, largi-