

ETA SIGMA PHI 64th Annual Latin Translation Contest (2014)

Advanced Latin

To be written as an examination, under supervision, within a maximum of two hours. No lexicon or other help is permitted. Please write in ink on every other line of the paper provided. The only identification on the contest papers should be your pen name.

King Tarquin sends his sons Titus and Arruns, along with Brutus, to consult the oracle at Delphi; while there, they also consult about another matter

Haec agenti portentum terribile visum: anguis ex columna lignea elapsus cum terrorem fugamque in regia fecisset, ipsius regis non tam subito pavore perculit pectus quam anxiiis implevit curis. Itaque cum ad publica prodigia Etrusci tantum vates adhiberentur, hoc velut domestico exterritus visu Delphos ad maxime inclitum in terris oraculum mittere statuit; neque responsa sortium ulli alii committere ausus, duos filios per ignotas ea tempestate terras, ignotiora maria in Graeciam misit. Titus et Arruns profecti; comes iis additus L. Iunius Brutus, Tarquinia, sorore regis, natus... Quo postquam ventum est, perfectis patris mandatis cupido incessit animos iuvenum sciscitandi ad quem eorum regnum Romanum esset venturum. Ex infimo specu vocem redditam ferunt: "Imperium summum Romae habebit qui vestrum primus, o iuvenes, osculum matri tulerit." Tarquinii ut Sextus, qui Romae relictus fuerat, ignarus responsi expersque imperii esset, rem summa ope taceri iubent; ipsi inter se uter prior, cum Romam redisset, matri osculum daret, sorti permittunt. Brutus alio ratus spectare Pythicam vocem, velut si prolapsus cecidisset, terram osculo contigit, scilicet quod ea communis mater omnium mortalium esset.

Notes:

- line 1. *agenti*: supply *Tarquinio*
line 2. *regia, -ae* f.: palace
line 4. *vates, -is*: soothsayer
Delphi, -orum: Delphi, the site of the oracle of Apollo
line 5. *sors, sortis* f.: a lot, an oracular prophecy
line 10. *specus, -us, m.*: a cave, a hole, hollow
line 11. *Tarquinii*: i.e., Titus and Arruns
Sextus: the other brother of Titus and Arruns, who was not accompanying them on this mission
line 14. *Pythicus, -a, -um*: Pythian, i.e., relating to the Pythia, the priestess who delivered the oracles at Delphi
prolabor, -labi, -lapsus sum: slip, fall