

## A FAREWELL TO WINGS

*Bard and birds bewail beloved bird Psittacus.*

Psittace dux volucrum, dominī fācunda voluptās,  
hūmānae sollers imitātor, Psittace, linguae,  
quis tua tam subitō praeclūsit murmura fātō?  
Hesternās, miserande, dapēs moritūrus inīstī  
nōbīscum, et grātae carpentem mūnera mēnsae  
errantemque torīs mediae plūs tempore noctis  
vīdimus. Adfātūs etiam meditātaque verba  
reddiderās....

...Vacat ille beātus

carcer, et augustī nusquam convīcia tēctī.  
Hūc doctae stīpentur avēs quīs nōbile fandī  
iūs nātūra dedit....  
Ferte simul gemitūs cognātaque dūcite flammīs  
fūnera, et hoc cūnctae miserandum addiscite carmen:  
occidit āeriae celeberrima glōria gentis  
Psittacus, ille plagae viridis rēgnātor Eōae.

Statius, *Silvae*, 2.4 1-8, 14-17, 22-25

1 **Psittace** = Parrot; **fācunda** = eloquent

2 **sollers** = skilled

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6 **torīs** = on the couches

7 **Adfātūs** = greetings

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10 **convīcia** = chattering

11 **stīpentur** = let...flock

12

13 **cognāta** = related to you

14 **fūnera** = dead body

15

16 **plagae** = region; **Eōae** = Eastern

- In line 1, Psittacus is recognized as a A) lover of life B) desirer of eloquence C) master of fates D) leader of birds
- In line 3, the poet seeks to learn A) where Psittacus is travelling B) who has ended Psittacus' life C) who was whispering about Psittacus' fate D) why Psittacus talks too much
- Which does NOT describe Psittacus? A) voluptās (line 1) B) imitātor (line 2) C) Hesternās (line 4) D) miserande (line 4)
- In line 4, *inīstī* is a form of what Latin verb? A) īnsum B) iniciō C) īnstō D) ineō
- What did Psittacus do yesterday (lines 4-5)? A) predicted his fortune B) attended a feast C) rode in a wagon D) sang a song
- What is the understood object of *vīdimus* (line 7)? A) tē B) mē C) eōs D) vōs
- Line 5 (*grātae carpentem mūnera mēnsae*) describes Psittacus as A) imitating a charioteer B) offering gifts to the dead C) eating food from the table D) pleasing his master with the gift of song
- What does the *-que* of *errantemque* (line 6) join? A) *grātae* and *mediae* B) *carpentem* and *errantem* C) *mūnera* and *tempore* D) *mēnsae* and *torīs*
- In line 6, *mediae plūs tempore noctis* equals A) paulō post lūcem B) ante occāsum sōlis C) merīdiē D) multā nocte
- What does *Adfātūs etiam meditātaque verba reddiderās* (lines 7-8) reveal about Psittacus? A) He can sing in tune. B) He can repeat practiced words. C) He insults the guests. D) He refuses to speak to anyone but his master.
- In lines 9-10, *beātus carcer* refers to A) Psittacus' new home in the underworld B) Psittacus' imprisonment for bad behavior C) the palace of Psittacus' master D) Psittacus' now empty cage
- Lines 9-10 (*Vacat...tēctī*) describe A) wealth B) emptiness C) punishment D) singing
- In line 11, *quīs* is an alternative form of A) quās B) quī C) aliquis D) quibus
- Why are the birds in line 11 described as *doctae*? A) They have travelled far and wide. B) They have read great works of literature. C) They are able to speak. D) They are of royal birth.
- In lines 11-12, the poet A) asks who is nobler than Psittacus B) grants that only the most learned bird should speak C) summons all birds that can speak D) wonders why nature gave Psittacus the gift of speaking
- In lines 13-14, the author commands the other birds to A) bury Psittacus in a tomb B) learn a funeral dirge C) discover why Psittacus is now groaning D) fly around Psittacus' body three times
- What is the scansion of the first four feet of line 14? A) DS DS B) DSSS C) SSSD D) DSSD
- What figure of speech is found in both lines 15 and 16? A) chiasmic word order B) litotes C) hendiadys D) prolepsis
- The Latin phrase *tam subitō...fātō* (line 3) and metaphorical meaning of *viridis* (line 16) seem to suggest that A) Psittacus was greedy B) Psittacus died young C) Psittacus was a humorous bird D) Psittacus could predict the future
- Lines 15 and 16 describe Psittacus' A) speed and strength B) size and gender C) fame and color D) intelligence and wit

## A DISPATCH FROM ABROAD

Caesar describes the harbor at Alexandria and his exploits there.

Pharus est in īnsulā turris magnā altitudīne, mīrificīs operibus exstrūcta; quae nōmen ab īnsulā accēpit. Haec īnsula obiecta Alexandriāe portum efficit; sed, ā superiōribus rēgibus in longitūdinem passuum DCCC in mare iactīs mōlibus, angustō itinere, ut ponte, cum oppidō coniungitur. In hāc sunt īnsulā domicilia Aegyptiōrum et vīcus oppidī magnitudīne; quaeque ibi nāvēs imprudentiā aut tempestāte paulum suō cursū dēcesserunt, hās mōre praedōnum diripere cōnsuerunt. Eīs autem invītīs ā quibus Pharos tenētur, nōn potest esse propter angustias nāvibus introitus in portum. Hoc tum vēritus Caesar, hostibus in pugnā occupātīs, mīlitibus expositīs Pharus comprehendit atque ibi praesidium posuit. Quibus est rēbus effectum utī tūtō frūmentum auxiliaque nāvibus ad eum supportārī possent.

Gaius Julius Caesar, *Commentarii de Bello Civili*, iii.112

- 1 **Pharus** = The Lighthouse (one of the  
2 Seven Wonders of the Ancient World)  
3 **mōlibus** = stone pilings  
4  
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6 **praedōnum** = of robbers  
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8  
9 **occupātīs** = busy  
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21. According to lines 1-2 (*Pharus...accēpit*), what is the source of the lighthouse's name? A) its builder B) the island C) the ruler D) its height
22. In line 2, *obiecta* is best translated A) beneath B) on the way C) far from D) opposite
23. According to lines 3-4, what did the earlier kings do? A) repaired the original lighthouse B) built a fort next to the lighthouse C) joined the island to the town D) dredged the harbor
24. In line 4, *angustō itinere* describes A) a staircase up the lighthouse B) the bridge-like path made of rocks C) the sea passage into the harbor D) a paved road around the island
25. The best translation of *ut* in line 4 is A) as B) that C) in order to D) lest
26. From lines 1-4, we can infer that Caesar is A) fearful B) impressed C) scornful D) questioning
27. The phrase *vīcus...magnitudīne* (line 5) describes A) the location of the town B) the height of the lighthouse C) the size of the village D) the strength of the wall
28. What human frailty drove the ships (line 5) from their course? A) foolishness B) wickedness C) laziness D) greed
29. What word does *paulum* (line 6) modify? A) nāvēs B) tempestāte C) cursū D) dēcesserunt
30. What were the Egyptians accustomed to do according to lines 6-7? A) light fires on the shore B) set ships in the harbor on fire C) attack the pirates D) plunder the passing ships
31. The first principal part of *cōnsuerunt* (line 7) is A) cōnsuēscō B) cōnstō C) cōnstrīngō D) cōnsulō
32. In line 7, the ablative absolute *eīs invītīs* refers to A) the island's residents B) the Romans C) the island and the lighthouse D) the ships in the harbor
33. From lines 7-8 (*eīs...portum*), we learn that access to the harbor is hindered by A) rocks B) darkness C) storms D) narrows
34. The best translation of *veritus* (line 8) is A) in truth B) having feared C) ordering D) trusting
35. From lines 8-9 (*hoc...posuit*), we learn that A) the enemy had the advantage B) infantry soldiers were placed on the ships C) the harbor was full of ships D) Roman troops held the island
36. In line 10, *frūmentum auxiliaque* is best translated A) cargo and wagons B) transport ships and archers C) grain and reinforcements D) tents and infantry
37. In line 11, *possent* is subjunctive in a A) conditional clause B) substantive result clause C) fearing clause D) relative clause of characteristic
38. Lines 10-11 show Caesar's concern for A) loyalty B) morale C) safety D) speed
39. According to your knowledge of Roman history, what leader was killed shortly before Caesar's arrival in Alexandria? A) Pompey B) Octavian C) Antony D) Crassus
40. This passage occurs near the end of *Commentarii de Bello Civili*. What years would most closely approximate the time in which this passage was written? A) 65-60 BC B) 58-52 BC C) 49-46 BC D) 40-38 BC