



27th Latin Summer School
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Class 2 b

Tutor:

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MONDAY

René Descartes, *Cogito, ergo Sum*

René Descartes (1596-1650) was a famous French philosopher and mathematician, known for his scepticism (the belief that one should doubt anything less than absolutely certain).

Renatus Cartesius, philosophus et mathematicus Francogallicus, natus est in La Haye anno 1596. anno 1626 ex Parisiis Amstelodamum transiit et viginti annos in Hollandia versatus est. anno 1649 a regina Christina invitatus in aulam Suevicam venit. anno post - 1650 - Stockholmae morbo pulmoneo periit.

Principles of Philosophy (1644), Part 1, Article 7

Sic autem rejicientes illa omnia, de quibus aliquo modo possumus dubitare, ac etiam, falsa esse fingentes, facilè quidem, supponimus nullum esse Deum, nullum coelum, nulla corpora; nosque etiam ipsos, non habere manus, nec pedes, nec denique ullum corpus, non autem ideò nos qui talia cogitamus nihil esse: repugnat enim ut putemus id quod cogitat eo ipso tempore quo cogitat non existere. Ac proinde haec cognitio, **ego cogito, ergo sum**, est omnium prima & certissima, quae cuilibet ordine philosophanti occurrat.

Meditations on First Philosophy (1641), 2

Sed unde scio nihil esse diversum ab iis omnibus quae jam jam recensui, de quo ne minima quidem occasio sit dubitandi? Nunquid est aliquis Deus, vel quocunque nomine illum vocem, qui mihi has ipsas cogitationes immittit? Quare verò hoc putem, cùm forsàn ipsemet illarum author esse possim? Nunquid ergo saltem ego aliquid sum? Sed jam negavi me habere ullos sensus, & ullum corpus. Haereo tamen; nam quid inde? Sumne ita corpori sensibusque alligatus, ut sine illis esse non possim? Sed mihi persuasi nihil plane esse in mundo, nullum coelum, nullam terram, nullas mentes, nulla corpora; nonne igitur etiam me non esse? Imo certe ego eram, si quid mihi persuasi.

Sed est deceptor nescio quis, summe potens, summe callidus, qui de industriâ me semper fallit. Haud dubie igitur ego etiam sum, si me fallit; & fallat quantum potest, nunquam

tamen efficiet, ut nihil sim quamdiu me aliquid esse cogitabo. Adeo ut, omnibus satis superque pensitatis, denique statuendum sit hoc pronuntiatum, **Ego sum, ego existo**, quoties a me profertur, vel mente concipitur, necessario esse verum.

Queen Elizabeth I of England

*Queen Elizabeth was taught Latin by the famous classicist Roger Ascham, who was considered to be one of the finest scholars of his day. His approach to teaching was, coincidentally, very similar to that of class 2B... Queen Elizabeth could speak Latin fluently by the age of 15. On 25 July 1597, a Polish ambassador, Paul Dzialynski, chastised Queen Elizabeth I publicly for interfering with his country's shipping trade with Spain. The furious Queen replied at once in **extemporaneous** Latin, a stunning rhetorical feat which delighted her countrymen and renewed the popularity of the aging queen. With great rhetorical skill, Elizabeth used a characteristic arrangement, the balancing of antitheses, together with sentence variety, irony, wordplay, and even some Latin rhyme. This brilliant epideictic oration, though short, demonstrates her acute historical and political memory, her definitions of "the law of nature" and "books of princes," and her perception of her royal power, and it demonstrates that at age sixty- three the queen's intellectual faculties were far from impaired. As a tour de force, this Latin oration can be ranked with Elizabeth's better-known English oration at Tilbury Camp in 1588. It shows an impressive skill not just in Latin itself, but in the art of oratory.*

ELIZABETH I'S LATIN REPLY TO THE POLISH AMBASSADOR

Eh, quam decepta fui, expectavi legationem, tu vero querelam mihi adduxisti. per literas acepi te esse Legatum, vero Heraldum; nunquam in vita mea audivi talem orationem, miror sane, miror tantam, et tam insolentem in publico audaciam, neq[ue] possum credere si rex tuus adesset quod ipse talia verba protulisset, qui vero tale aliquid tibi fortasse in mandatis commisit (quod quidem valde dubito) eo tribuendum, quod cum rex sit iuvenis, et non tam iure sanguinis, quam iure electionis, et noviter electus, non tam perfecte intelligat rationem tractandi istiusmodi negocia cum aliis principibus, quam vel maiores illius nobiscum observarunt, vel fortasse observaberunt ahi qui posthac eius locum tenebunt. Quod ad te attinet, tu mihi videris libros multos perlegisse, libros tamen principum non attigisse: sed prorsus ignorare quod inter reges convenerit, Iam quod iuris naturae et gentium tantopere mentionem facis, scito esse iuris naturae gentiumq[ue]: ut cum bellum inter reges intercedat, liceat alteri alterius bellica subsidia,

undicunq[ue] allata intercipere, et ne in damnum suum convertantur precavere: hoc, inquam, esse iuris naturae et gentium. Quod novam affinitatem cum domo Austriaca commemoras, quam tanti iam fieri velis, non te fugiat, ex eadem domo non defuisse, qui regi tuo poloniae regnum preripere voluisset. De caeteris quae non sunt huius loci et temporis, cum plura sint, et singulatim consideranda, illud expectabis quod ex quibusdam meis consiliariis huius rei designandis, intellige. Interea vero valeas & quiescas.

Eh, quam **how** **decepta** **deceived** fui **I was**, expectavi **I expected** legationem an **embassy**, tu **you**, vero **indeed**, querelam a **complaint** mihi **to me** adduxisti **you have brought**. per **through** literas **letters** acepi **I received** te **you** esse **to be** Legatum an **ambassador**, vero **but (you are in fact)** Heraldum a **herald**; nunquam **never** in **in** vita **life** mea **my own (i.e. in my life)** audivi **have I heard** talem **such** orationem an **oration**, miror **I wonder** sane **indeed**, miror **I wonder (at)** tantam **such** great, et **and** tam **such** insolentem **insolent** in publico **in public** audaciam **audacity (i.e. I wonder at such great and such insolent audacity in public)**, neq[ue] **nor** possum **am I able** credere **to believe** si **(that) if** rex **the king** tuus **your (i.e. your king)** adesset **might have been present** quod **that** ipse **he himself** talia **such** verba **words** protulisset **would have professed**, qui **who** vero **but (i.e. but who)** tale **such** aliquid **something** tibi **to you** fortasse **by chance** in mandatis **in (your) orders** commisit **he (the Polish king) committed** (quod **which** quidem **indeed** valde **very strongly** dubito **I doubt**) eo **to this** tribuendum **it must be attributed**, quod **that** cum **since** rex **the king** sit **might be (i.e. is)** iuvenis **a young man**, et **and** non tam **not so much** iure **by right** sanguinis **of blood**, quam **as** iure **by right** electionis **of election**, et **and** noviter **(only) recently** electus **elected**, non tam **not so** perfecte **perfectly** intelligat **does he** understand **rationem** the plan **(i.e. the manner)** tractandi **of treating** istiusmodi **of this manner** negocia **businesses (i.e. he doesn't fully understand the manner of handling negotiations of this kind)** cum **with** aliis **other** principibus **princes**, quam **as** vel **both** maiores **ancestors** illius **of this man (i.e. his/the king's ancestors)** nobiscum **with us** observarunt **have observed**, vel **and**, fortasse **perhaps**,

observaberunt they will observe, ahi say, qui who posthac after this eius of this
 (man) locum the place tenebunt will hold (i.e. who will hold the king's position in
 the future). Quod what ad to te you attinet pertains (i.e. and as for you), tu you mihi
 to me videris you seem (i.e. you seem to me) libros books multos many perlegisse
 to have read through (i.e. you seem to have read many books), libros books tamen
 yet (i.e. yet books) principum of princes¹ non attigisse (you seem) not to have
 touched: sed but prorsus moreover, ignorare not to know quod what inter between
 reges kings convenerit occurs (i.e. what happens between kings), Iam now quod
 what iuris of the right naturae of nature et gentium and of peoples tantopere so
 much mentionem mention facis you make (i.e. now, when you make so much
 mention of the rights of nature and peoples), scito know esse to be (i.e. know that
 this is) iuris of the right naturae of nature gentiumq[ue] and of peoples: ut that cum
 when bellum war inter reges between kings intercedat falls between (i.e. that when
 war comes between kings), liceat it is permitted alteri to the other (i.e. to the one)
 alterius the other's bellica the warlike subsidia provisions, undicunq[ue] from
 wherever allata (they have been) brought up interciperere to intercept (i.e. that it's
 permitted to the one to intercept the other's war supplies wherever they come
 from), et and ne that not in damnum into damnation suum his own convertantur
 they be converted precavere to guard against (i.e. and to guard/take care that they
 aren't turned to his own destruction): hoc this, inquam I say, esse to be iuris of the
 law naturae of nature et gentium and of peoples. Quod because novam a new
 affinitatem affinity cum with domo Austriaca the Austrian House commemores
 you remember, quam which tanti of so much (i.e. so great) iam now fieri to
 become velis you want (i.e. which you make out to be so great), non not te you
 fugiat let it flee (i.e. let it not run away from you), ex out of eadem that same domo
 house non defuisse not to have slipped away, qui which regi tuo of your king
 poloniae of Poland regnum the kingdom preripere to snatch away voluisset might

¹ Elizabeth's use of the term "bookes of princes" ("libros ... principum") almost certainly refers to Dzialin's
 apparent ignorance of traditional books giving advice to monarchs and discussing the theory of rule, like
 Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*, Castiglione's *The Courtier*, and Machiavelli's *The Prince*.

have wanted (i.e. which had wanted to take the kingdom of Poland). De about caeteris other things quae which non sunt are not huius of this loci place et temporis and of this time, cum since plura very many sint they might be (i.e. since there are many of them), et and singulatim singly consideranda must be considered (i.e. and must each be considered on its own), illud that expectabis you will expect quod which ex out of quibusdam some (of) meis my consiliariis advisors huius of this rei matter designandis designated (i.e. some of my advisors assigned to this matter), intellige understand. Interea meanwhile vero indeed valeas you may be well (i.e. farewell) & and quiescas you should become quiet.

Oh! how was I deceived! I expected an ambassage, and you have brought a complaint, by letters I took you for an ambassador, but truly you are a herald, in my life I have not heard such an oration, I marvel, I marvel indeed at so great and so insolent boldness in open presence, and I cannot believe that if your king had been in place he would have uttered such speeches, but if by hap he gave you commandment to utter them (whereof I greatly doubt), it is hereunto to be attributed that [inserted: he is] a young man, and king, not so much by right of blood as by right of election, and but newly elected, therefore understandeth not so perfectly the course of the handling of such business with other princes as his ancestors have observed with us, and as, perhaps, others will hereafter which shall succeed him in that place. And concerning your self, you seem unto me to have read many bookes, but bookes of princes' affairs you have not attained unto, and are further ignorant what is convenient between princes.

Now, where you make so often mention of the law of nature and nations, know this to be the law of nature and nations, that when war falleth between kinges, it is lawfull for the one to intercept the warlike provisions brought from anywhere unto the other, and heedfully to foresee that they be not converted to his hurt: this, I say, is the law of nature and nations. For your new affinity with the house of Austria which you remember, and whereof you make so great account, let it not slip out of

memory that there wanted not one of the same house which would have taken the kingdome of Poland from your kinge. For other matters which are not for this tyme and place, for that they are many and by themselves to be considered of, you shall expect answer from some of my counsellors appointed for that purpose; in the meantyme farewell and take your rest. Prince";

TUESDAY

John Victor Luce, Public Orator, *Neil Armstrong*

There is a long tradition at Oxford University, Cambridge University, and Trinity College, Dublin of having a Public Orator, whose role is to give orations in Latin on the occasion of the awarding of honorary degrees. The following speech was delivered at Trinity College, Dublin, on the occasion of the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate of Laws to Bono in 2003.

DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE

Platoni philosopho musicorum mutations huadquaquamcordi errant, non enim eas pro bono publico esse credidit, sed Proximus candidatus, ut opinor, dissentiebit. Laetus libens nunc vobis praesento virum Dubliniensem, in lyricis popularibus pangendis et canendis valde habilem, in cura erga homines miseria afflictos plane admirabilem, PAULUM DAVID HEWSON. Quattuor ferme ante lustris in Schola quadam Dubliniensi discipuli quattuor coiverunt ut sonos modulentur, et nunc, mirabile dictum, grex illae quae U2 nominatur, adhuc Dublini locata, per orbem terrarium fama celeberrima elucet. Eiusmodi musica cum animi motibus violentioribus et cum tribunis rem publicam turbantibus concinere solent, sed iniuriis quoque strenue obstare valent. Inuiorum cohortibus et domi et foris hospes noster acceptissimus exstat, et aura populari provecta vox Boni potentiorum in conclavibus nunc auditor. Cum uxore Ali, iurum humanorum defensore ipsa haud inepta, in Ethiopiam olim progressus ut opes medicae Cura adiuvante aegris porrigerentur, paupertatis ac famis damnosae hereditati obviam ivit, nec Africae cladibusoppressae postea oblitus est. Alacritate inquieta incitatus verum quaerit, credens in veritate libertatem inhaerere. Bene novit rerum summae in discrimine iactatae salute non solum de caritate pendere sed etiam in cogitando perspicuitatis, in agendo consilii optimi egere. Ipse in studiis economics ad rem versatus, doctorum favorem sibi conciliavit, et cum Roberto Geldof Institutum Data nomine nuper condidit de

aere alieno mitigando et de commercio promovendo constitutum. Quis vestrum, Academici, ignorat candidatum nostrum a Praeside Chirac nuper decoratum esse, atque Paulo O'Neill, scriba ab aerario Americano, per Africam sub Saharicam peregrinationem valde prosperam fecisse? Manifestum est illum de morbo universali et exitiabili, in quo corpori patientis Adversus Insidias Deficiunt Subsidia, ab Americanis pecuniae subventionem maiorem nuper procuravisse. Dicat fortasse se quod quaerit nondum invenisse, sed cum Terentio consentiens 'humani nihil a se alienum putat', nec non Dominicum illud ut ieiunis cibum porrigamus pectore diligenti observant. Multis nominibus dignus est qui in coetum nostrum honoris causa vocetur, et vos hortor ei universe adsensu plaudatis.

Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus (Plinius Minor), *Epistulae*, VI, 16; 11-20

This excerpt is taken from what is probably the most famous letter from Pliny the Younger, in which he details the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, and the destruction of Pompeii. The selection I have chosen shows the rescue operation lead by Pliny's uncle, Pliny the Elder.

C. PLINIUS TACITO SUO S.

Iam navibus cinis incidebat, quo propius accederent, calidior et densior; iam pumices etiam nigrique et ambusti et fracti igne lapides; iam vadum subitum ruinaque montis litora obstantia. Cunctatus paulum an retro flecteret, mox gubernatori ut ita faceret monenti 'Fortes' inquit 'fortuna iuvat: Pomponianum pete.' Stabiis erat diremptus sinu medio — nam sensim circumactis curvatisque litoribus mare infunditur -; ibi quamquam nondum periculo appropinquante, conspicuo tamen et cum cresceret proximo, sarcinas contulerat in naves, certus fugae si contrarius ventus resedisset. Quo tunc avunculus meus secundissimo invectus, complectitur trepidantem consolatur hortatur, utque timorem eius sua securitate leniret, deferri in balineum iubet; lotus accubat cenat, aut hilaris aut — quod aequae magnum — similis hilari.

Interim e Vesuvio monte pluribus locis latissimae flammae altaque incendia relucebant, quorum fulgor et claritas tenebris noctis excitabatur. Ille agrestium trepidatione ignes relictos desertasque villas per solitudinem ardere in remedium formidinis dictitabat. Tum se quieti dedit et quievit verissimo quidem somno; nam meatus animae, qui illi propter amplitudinem corporis gravior et sonantior erat, ab iis qui limini obversabantur audiebatur. Sed area ex qua diaeta adibatur ita iam cinere mixtisque pumicibus opeleta surrexerat, ut si longior in cubiculo mora, exitus negaretur. Excitatus procedit, seque Pomponiano ceterisque qui pervigilaverant reddit. In commune consultant, intra tecta subsistant an in aperto vagentur. Nam crebris vastisque tremoribus tecta nutabant, et quasi emota sedibus suis nunc huc nunc illuc abire aut referri videbantur. Sub dio rursus quamquam levium exesorumque pumicum casus metuebatur, quod tamen periculorum collatio elegit; et apud illum quidem ratio rationem, apud alios timorem timor vicit. Cervicalia capitibus imposita linteis constringunt; id munimentum adversus incidentia fuit. Iam dies alibi, illic nox omnibus noctibus nigrior densiorque; quam tamen faces multae variaque lumina solvebant. Placuit egredi in litus, et ex proximo adspicere, ecquid iam mare

admitteret; quod adhuc vastum et adversum permanebat. Ibi super abiectum linteum recubans semel atque iterum frigidam aquam poposcit hausitque.

Deinde flammae flammarumque praenuntius odor sulphuris alios in fugam vertunt, excitant illum. Innitens servolis duobus assurrexit et statim concidit, ut ego colligo, crassiore caligine spiritu obstructo, clausoque stomacho qui illi natura invalidus et angustus et frequenter aestuans erat. Ubi dies redditus — is ab eo quem novissime viderat tertius -, corpus inventum integrum illaesum opertumque ut fuerat indutus: habitus corporis quiescenti quam defuncto similior.

Cinis, eris (f. in sing., but m. in pl.)...ash

Ambustum, i (n.)...burnt, scorched (from aburo, ere (3), to burn, scorch)

Lapis, idis (m.)...a stone

Litus, oris (n.)...shore

Obstantia, ium (n. pl.)...hinderances, obstructions

Cunctatus, a, um...delayed, held back

Flecto, ere (3)...to bend, bow, curve, turn

Gubernator, oris (m.)...a steersman, pilot

Pomponianus, i...a name

Stabiae, arum (f.)...a small town near Pompeii, also destroyed in the eruption

Diremptus, a, um...separated, a separation (from dirimo, ere [3])

Circumago, ere (3)...to turn around, in a circle

Infundo, ere (3)...to pour in, upon, or into

Sarcina, ae (f.)...a burden, load

Resido, ere (2)...to sit back, remain, rest

Lenio, ire...to calm, soften, alleviate

Fulgor, oris (m.)...lightning, a flash of lightning

Quiesco, ere (3)...to rest, keep quiet

Agrestis, e (adj.)...pertaining to land, fields, country

Ardeo, ere (2)...to take fire, kindle, blaze

Limen, inis (n.)...threshold

Diaeta, ae (f.)...a dwelling, summer-house

Oppleo, ere (2)...to fill up

Exesor, oris (m.)...that which eats away

WEDNESDAY

Marcus Valerius Martialis (Martial), *Epigrammaton Libri*

Martial (born between 38 and 41 AD and died between 102 and 104 AD) was a Roman poet from the Iberian peninsula (modern-day Spain and Portugal). He was best known for a series of twelve books of epigrams, a collection of short, witty, often satirical and bitter poems mocking Roman life and practice. As this first couplet indicates, he was not above personal jibes.

XII; LXXXVIII

Tongilianus habet nasum: scio, non nego. Sed iam

Nil praeter nasum Tongilianus habet.

I; XXVIII

Hesterno fetere mero qui credit Acerram,

fallitur: in lucem semper Acerra bibit.

I;I

Hic est quem legis ille, quem requiris,

toto notus in orbe Martialis

argutis epigrammaton libellis:

cui, lector studiose, quod dedisti

uiuenti decus atque sentienti, 5

rari post cineres habent poetae.

II; XXXVIII

Quid mihi reddat ager quaeris, Line, Nomentanus?

Hoc mihi reddit ager: te, Line, non uideo.

V; LVIII

Cras te uicturum, cras dicis, Postume, semper:
dic mihi, cras istud, Postume, quando uenit?
Quam longe cras istud! ubi est? aut unde petendum?
Numquid apud Parthos Armeniosque latet?
Iam cras istud habet Priami uel Nestoris annos. 5
Cras istud quanti, dic mihi, possit emi?
Cras uiues? Hodie iam uiuere, Postume, serum est:
ille sapit quisquis, Postume, uixit heri.

X; XLVII

Vitam quae faciant beatiorem,
Iucundissime Martialis, haec sunt:
Res non parta labore, sed relictas;
Non ingratus ager, focus perennis;
Lis numquam, toga rara, mens quieta; 5
Vires ingenuae, salubre corpus;
Prudens simplicitas, pares amici;
Convictus facilis, sine arte mensa;
Nox non ebria, sed soluta curis;
Non tristis torus, et tamen pudicus; 10
Somnus, qui faciat breues tenebras:
Quod sis, esse uelis nihilque malis;
Summum nec metuas diem nec optes.

I; XLVII

Nuper erat medicus, nunc est uispillo Diaulus:
quod uispillo facit, fecerat et medicus.

THURSDAY

Cornelius Nepos, *Life of Chabrias*

Nepos (c. 110-25 BC) was a Roman historian, born near Verona in Gaul (roughly modern-day France). He was a good friend of the famous Roman poet Catullus, who dedicated his poems to Nepos (along with Cicero and Atticus). Almost all his works are lost, but we have a collection of 'Lives' in which he gives the histories of a number of great men from history. This piece is on the Athenian general, Chabrias.

[1] CHABRIAS Atheniensis. Hic quoque in summis habitus est ducibus resque multas memoria dignas gessit. Sed ex his elucet maxime inventum eius in proelio, quod apud Thebas fecit, cum Boeotiis subsidio venisset. 2 Namque in eo victoria fidentem summum ducem Agesilaum, fugatis iam ab eo conducticiis catervis, *** reliquam phalangem loco vetuit cedere obnixoque genu scuto, proiecta hasta impetum excipere hostium docuit. Id novum Agesilaus contuens progredi non est ausus suosque iam incurrentes tuba revocavit. 3 Hoc usque eo tota Graecia fama celebratum est, ut illo statu Chabrias sibi statuam fieri voluerit, quae publice ei ab Atheniensibus in foro constituta est. Ex quo factum est, ut postea athletae ceterique artifices iis statibus in statuibus ponendis uterentur, cum ** victoriam essent adepti.

[2] Chabrias autem multa in Europa bella administravit, cum dux Atheniensium esset; in Aegypto sua sponte gessit. Nam Nectenebin adiutum profectus regnum ei constituit. 2 Fecit idem Cypri, sed publice ab Atheniensibus Euagorae adiutor datus, neque prius inde discessit, quam totam insulam bello devinceret; qua ex re Athenienses magnam gloriam sunt adepti. 3 Interim bellum inter Aegyptios et Persas conflatum est. Athenienses cum Artaxerxe societatem habebant, Lacedaemonii cum Aegyptiis; a quibus magnas praedas Agesilaus, rex eorum, faciebat. Id intuens Chabrias, cum in re nulla Agesilao cederet, sua sponte eos adiutum profectus Aegyptiae classi praefuit, pedestribus copiis Agesilaus.

[3] Tum praefecti regis Persae legatos miserunt Athenas questum, quod Chabrias adversum regem bellum gereret cum Aegyptiis. Athenienses diem certam Chabriae praestituerunt, quam ante domum nisi redisset, capitis se illum damnaturos denuntiarunt. Hoc ille nuntio Athenas rediit neque ibi diutius est moratus, quam fuit necesse. 2 Non enim libenter erat ante oculos suorum civium, quod et vivebat laute et indulgebat sibi liberalius, quam ut invidiam vulgi posset effugere. 3 Est enim hoc commune vitium in magnis liberisque civitatibus, ut invidia gloriae comes sit et libenter de his detrahant, quos eminere videant altius; neque animo aequo pauperes alienam opulentium intuuntur fortunam. Itaque Chabrias, cum ei licebat, plurimum aberat. 4 Neque vero solus ille aberat Athenis libenter, sed omnes fere principes fecerunt idem, quod tantum se ab invidia putabant futuros, quantum a conspectu suorum recesserint. Itaque Conon plurimum Cypri vixit, Iphicrates in Thraecia, Timotheus Lesbo, Chares Sigeo; dissimilis quidem Chares horum et factis et moribus, sed tamen Athenis et honoratus et potens.

[4] Chabrias autem periit bello sociali tali modo. Oppugnabant Athenienses Chium. Erat in classe Chabrias privatus, sed omnes, qui in magistratu erant, auctoritate anteibat, eumque magis milites quam, qui praeerant, aspiciebant. 2 Quae res ei maturavit mortem. Nam dum primus studet portum intrare gubernatoremque iubet eo dirigere navem, ipse sibi perniciei fuit. Cum enim eo penetrasset, ceterae non sunt secutae. Quo facto circumfusus hostium concursu cum fortissime pugnaret, navis rostro percussa coepit sidere. 3 Hinc refugere cum posset, si se in mare deiecisset, quod suberat classis Atheniensium, quae exciperet natantis, perire maluit quam armis abiectis navem relinquere, in qua fuerat vectus. Id ceteri facere noluerunt; qui nando in tutum pervenerunt. At ille praestare honestam mortem existimans turpi vitae, comminus pugnans telis hostium interfectus est.

FRIDAY

Ioanna Rowlinga (J. K. Rowling), *Harrius Potter et Philosophi Lapis*

J. K. Rowling received a Bachelor of Arts in French and the Classics, which led her to make a good number of references to Latin and Greek in her works (e.g. Professor Lupin is so named because he is a werewolf, and the Latin word for ‘wolf’ is lupus). This excerpt is taken from the climax of the first book of the Harry Potter series. The work was translated into Latin by Peter Needham, who taught Latin and Greek at Eton for over 30 years, and has previously translated the Paddington Bear books into Latin also.

‘NUNQUAM!’

Harrius ad ianuam flammeam saliit, sed Voldemort clamavit, ‘ARRIPPE EUM!’ et, post secundum, Harrius sensit manum Quirrellis carpum prehendentem. Statim, dolor acutus sicut ignis cicatricem Harrii transcurrit; sensit caput iam iam in duas partes discussum iri; ululavit, viribus summis luctans, et mirabile dictum, Quirrell amplexum laxavit. Dolor capitis remittebat—amens inclinatum, digitos inspicientem—ante oculos pusolosi fiebant.

‘Arripe eum! ARRIPE EUM!’ iterum ululavit Voldemort et Quirrell prosiluit, Harrium totum praecipitans et insuper eum cruciate cicatrices Harrius paene occaecabatur, sed poterat videre Quirrellem prae dolore frementem.

‘Domine, non possum eum tenere—manus meas—manus meas!’

Et Quirrell, quamquam Harrium solo genibus infixerat, collum laxavit et palmas, obstupefactus, intuitus est—Harrius videre poterat eas ustas, crudas, rubras, lucidas videri.

‘itaque occide eum, stulte, et finis esto!’ clamavit Voldemort voce acuta.

Quirrell manum sustulit imprecationem diram factururus, sed Harrius, natura sua ductus, manu porrecta faciem Quirrellis arripuit—

‘AAAARGH!’

Quirrell volvendo se ab eo amovit, facie quoque pusolosa, et tum Harrius rem intellexit; sine dolore terribili Quirrellem cutem nudam suam tangere non posse—spem solam salutis positam esse in Quirrelle retinendo et tanto dolore ei infligendo ut imprecationem non facere posset.

Harrius saliens surrexit, et brachium Quirrellis arreptum quam artissime amplexus est. Quirrell ululavit et Harrium excutere conatus est—dolor capitis Harrio increcebat—non poterat videre—tantum ululatus horrendous Quirrellis audire poterat et Voldemortem clamantem ‘OCCIDE EUM! OCCIDE EUM!’ et voces alias, forsan in capite suo ortas, clamantes, ‘Harri! Harri!’

Sensit brachium Quirrellis ab amplexu suo abreptum, sciebat actum esse de se, in tenebras decidit, deorsum ... deorsum ... deorsum ...

Carpus, i (m.)...wrist

Cicatrix, icis (f.)...scar

Ululo, are...to howl, shriek, scream, shout

Luctor, atus...to wrestle, struggle

Amplexus, a, um...encircled, around

Laxo, are...to stretch out, around

Amens, mentis (adj.)...out of one’s senses, senseless, mad, frantic

Pusulosus, a, um...full of blisters, pimples, etc.

Prosilio, ire...to leap or spring forth

Occaeco, are...to make blind, to blind

Infligo, ere, ixi, ictum (3)...to strike

Forsan (adv.)...perhaps, perchance

Decido, ere, idi (3)...to fall off, fall down

Deorsum (adv.)...downwards