

Ovid to blokes: Looks ain't everything: a bit of Greek and Latin can make you a chick magnet

sit procul omne nefas; ut ameris, amabilis esto:
quod tibi non facies solaue forma dabit:
sis licet antiquo Nireus adamatus Homero,
Naiadumque tener crimine raptus Hylas, 110
ut dominam teneas, nec te mirere relictum,
ingenii dotes corporis adde bonis.
forma bonum fragile est, quantumque accedit ad annos
fit minor, et spatio carpitur ipsa suo.
nec uiolae semper nec hiantia lilia florent, 115
et riget amissa spina relictata rosa.
et tibi iam uenient cani, formose, capilli,
iam uenient rugae, quae tibi corpus arent.
iam molire animum, qui duret, et adstrue formae:
solus ad extremos permanet ille rogos. 120
nec leuis ingenuas pectus coluisse per artes
cura sit et linguas edidicisse duas.
non formosus erat, sed erat facundus Ulixes,
et tamen aequoreas torsit amore deas.
a quotiens illum doluit properare Calypso, 125
remigioque aptas esse negauit aquas!

OVID *Ars Amatoria* 2.107–126

procul: (adv. here) at a distance
nefas: (neut. nom. sing.) wickedness; Ovid has just been discouraging his reader from using erotic magic
quod: neut. acc. sing., antecedent is the idea expressed in *amabilis esto*
solaue = *sola+ue* = *uel sola*
licet: loosely governs the *sit* (infinitive is normal)
ad+amo = more intense than *amo*
Naias, Naiadis, f.: water nymph
ut: purpose
dos, dotis, f.: tr. “gifts”
bonis: substantive
quantum(+que): adverbial
carpo (3): tr. “wear away” (nb voice)
uiola: a violet
hio (1): gape, be open
lilium (neut.): a lily
rigeo (2): stiffen
spina: thorn (take with *amissa* or *relicta*?: scanning will help)
rosa: a rose (take with *amissa* or *relicta*?: scanning will help)
canus: white
formosus: handsome, beautiful
capillus: a hair
ruga: wrinkle
aro (1): plow
molior (4 dep.): tr. “build up” or “cultivate”
duro (1): last, endure
adstruo (3): build in addition, add to (+ dat., no dir. obj. here—typical of compound verbs)
forma: appearance, beauty
rogus: funeral pyre
leuis: fem. nom. sing. in agreement with what word?
coluisse: take as nominative subject of sentence
cura: take as predicate of subject
ingenuus: tr. “liberal” (meaning...?)
e+disco = *disco*, perhaps implying completeness
facundus: eloquent
torqueo (2): twist, bend, torture
doleo governs acc. + inf. noun clause here
propero (1): hurry
Calypso: nom.
remigium: rowing or bits of a boat that do the rowing