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APULEIUS
METAMORPHOSES
BOOKS VII–XI



Edited and Translated by
J. ARTHUR HANSON

APULEIUS

METAMORPHOSES

BOOKS VII-XI
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藏书章



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**THE METAMORPHOSES
OF APULEIUS
BOOKS VII–XI**

APVLEI MADAVRENSIS METAMORPHOSEON

LIBER VII

1 Ut primum tenebris abiectis dies inalbebat et candidum solis curriculum cuncta collustrabat, quidam de numero latronum pervenit—sic enim mutuae salutationis officium indicabat. Is in primo speluncae aditu residens et ex anhelitu recepto spiritu tale collegio suo nuntium fecit:

“Quod ad domum Milonis Hypatini, quam proxime diripuimus, pertinet, discussa sollicitudine iam possumus esse securi. Postquam vos enim fortissimis viribus cunctis ablatis castra nostra remeastis, immixtus ego turbelis popularium, dolentique atque indignanti similis, arbitrabar super investigatione facti cuius modi consilium caperetur,¹ et an et quatenus latrones placeret

¹ F *caperet*.

APULEIUS OF MADAUROS METAMORPHOSES

BOOK VII

1 When darkness had been cast away at day's first whitening, and the sun's bright chariot illumined all the world, a member of the robber band arrived—his identity was revealed by their exchange of mutual greetings. He sat down just at the entrance to the cave, and when he had stopped panting and recovered his breath, he made the following announcement to his guild:

“As for the house of Milo of Hypata, which we recently plundered, our worry has been dispelled and we can now rest easy. After your valiant might had carried everything off and gone back to our camp, I mixed in with the crowds of people. Pretending to be pained and indignant, I tried to find out what sort of plan was being formed to investigate the crime, whether they had decided to

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inquiri, renuntiaturus vobis, uti mandaveratis, omnia. Nec argumentis dubiis sed rationibus probabilibus congruo cunctae multitudinis consensu nescio qui Lucius auctor manifestus facinoris postulabatur, qui proximis diebus fictis commendaticiiis litteris Miloni sese virum commentitus bonum artius conciliaverat, ut etiam hospitio susceptus inter familiares intimos haberetur. Plusculisque ibidem diebus demoratus, falsis amoribus ancillae Milonis animum irrepens, ianuae claustra sedulo exploraverat et ipsa membra in quis omne patri-

2 monium condi solebat curiose perspexerat. Nec exiguum scelerati monstrabatur indicium, quippe cum eadem nocte sub ipso flagitii momento idem profugisset, nec exinde usquam compareret. Nam et praesidium fugae, quo velocius frustratis insecutoribus procul ac procul abderet sese, eidem facile suppeditasse; equum namque illum suum candidum vectorem futurum duxisse secum. Plane servum eius ibidem in hospitio repertum scelerum consiliorumque erilium futurum indicem, per magistratus in publicam custodiam receptum et altera die tormentis vexatum pluribus ac paene ad ultimam mortem excarnificatum, nil quicquam rerum talium

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search for the robbers, and how extensive the search would be. My intention was to report all this back to you, as you had ordered. They had decided, not on the basis of dubious evidence, but on very likely grounds and by unanimous agreement of the whole crowd, to prosecute somebody named Lucius as the obvious perpetrator of the crime. He had recently made use of counterfeit letters of introduction representing him as a gentleman to insinuate himself so closely into Milo's favour that he had been taken in as a guest and treated as a close intimate. While staying there for a few days, having wormed his way into the affections of Milo's maid with false protestations of love, he had thoroughly investigated the locks on the doors and carefully explored that very part of the house in which all the family wealth was stored. They pointed out, as no mean proof of his guilt, that the fellow had run away on the same night at the very moment of the crime, and never reappeared. He had ready assistance available for his escape, enabling him to outdistance his frustrated pursuers and conceal himself miles and miles away, because he had brought his own white horse with him to serve as a conveyance. Of course they thought that his slave, whom they discovered lodging there in the house, would give information about his master's crimes and plots. By order of the magistrates he was taken into public custody and on the next day was tortured in various ways and racked almost to death; but he confessed

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esse confessum. Missos tamen in patriam Lucii illius multos numero, qui reum poenas daturum sceleris inquirerent."

Haec eo narrante, veteris Fortunae et illius beati Lucii praesentisque aerumnae et infelicis asini facta comparatione, medullitus ingemebam, subibatque me non de nihilo veteris priscaeque doctrinae viros finxisse ac pronuntiasse caecam et prorsus exoculatam esse Fortunam, quae semper suas opes ad malos et indignos conferat, nec umquam iudicio quemquam mortalium eligat, immo vero cum is potissimum deversetur quos procul, si videret, fugere deberet; quodque cunctis est extremius, varias opiniones, immo contrarias nobis attribuat, ut et malus boni viri fama gloriatur et innocentissimus
3 contra noxio rumore¹ plectatur. Ego denique, quem saevissimus eius impetus in bestiam et extremae sortis quadripedem deduxerat, cuiusque casus etiam quovis iniquissimo dolendus atque miserandus merito videretur, crimine latrocinii in hospitem mihi carissimum postulabar. Quod crimen non modo latrocinium verum etiam parricidium quisque rectius nominarit. Nec mihi tamen licebat causam meam defendere vel unico verbo saltem denegare. Denique ne mala conscientia tam scelesto crimini praesens viderer silentio consentire, hoc tantum

¹ F *noxiorum ore. noxiorum more* "like criminals" is also possible.

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nothing of the sort. Numerous agents, however, have been sent to this Lucius' homeland to search out the accused so that he may pay for his crime."

While he told this tale, I compared my old fortune and that happy Lucius with my present tribulation as a luckless ass. I groaned in the depths of my heart, and it occurred to me that it was not for nothing that men of the old school had imagined and proclaimed that Fortune was blind and had lost her eyes completely. She always confers her favours on the wicked and undeserving, and never uses sound judgement in selecting human beings. Instead she chooses to live precisely with those from whom, if she could see, she ought to flee far away. And what is worse than all, she bestows on us differing—or rather contradictory—reputations, so that the evil man exults in his reputation as a good man and, contrariwise, the most innocent of men is tormented by a dreadful reputation. In my case, she had attacked me with the utmost savagery and reduced me to an animal, a quadruped of the lowest rank. My misfortune would strike even the most unsympathetic as deserving of grief and pity. Now I was being sought on a charge of robbing my very dear friend and host—a charge you might more properly call parricide, not just robbery. And I could not defend my own case, or even utter a single word of denial. I was afraid they would think I had a bad conscience and was giving silent consent to this criminal accusation made in my own presence, and I

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impatientia productus volui dicere: "Non feci." Et verbum quidem praecedens semel ac saepius immodice clomitavi, sequens vero nullo pacto disserere potui, sed in prima remansi voce et identidem boavi "Non non," quamquam nimia rotunditate pendulas vibrassem labias. Sed quid ego pluribus de Fortunae scaevitate conqueror, quam¹ nec istud puduit me cum meo famulo meoque vectore illo equo factum conservum atque coniugem?

- 4 Talibus cogitationibus fluctuantem subit me illa cura potior, qua statuto consilio latronum manibus virginis decretam me victimam recordabar, ventremque crebro suspiciens meum iam misellam puellam parturibam. Sed ille qui commodum falsam de me notoriam pertulerat, expromptis mille aureum, quos insutu laciniae contexerat, quosque variis viatoribus detractos, ut aiebat, pro sua frugalitate communi conferebat arcae, inquit etiam de salute commilitonum sollicito sciscitari. Cognitoque quosdam, immo vero fortissimum quemque variis quidem sed impigris casibus oppetisse, suadet, tantisper pacatis itineribus omniumque proeliorum servatis indutiis, inquisitioni commilitonum potius

¹ F *quamquam*.

¹ The Latin word normally means "spouse".

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could bear it no longer. I wanted at least to say "Not guilty." The first word I shouted over and over again, without restraint, but I simply could not pronounce the second word. I stayed on that first word and brayed again and again, "Naw . . . naw . . .," although I vibrated my pendulous lips as roundly as I could. But what need to say more in my complaints against Fortune's perversity? She was not even ashamed to make me the fellow-slave and yoke-mate¹ of my own servant and carrier, my horse.

- 4 As I was swept along on this tide of speculation, I recalled that more important concern of mine, namely that I had been decreed by firm resolution of the robbers to become an offering to the maiden's ghost; and I kept looking down at my belly and seeing myself already giving birth to that poor little girl. But the man who had just brought that false information about me pulled out a thousand gold-pieces, which he had concealed by sewing them into his garment, and which, as he said, he had lifted from various travellers and was now, as an honest man, contributing to the common treasury. Then he began to enquire anxiously about the welfare of his comrades-in-arms. When he learned that some of them—in fact all the bravest—had perished in various daring encounters, he suggested that the roads be left at peace for a time and that they observe a truce from all hostilities, devoting their energy instead to a search for fellow-soldiers. They

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insisteretur et tirocinio novae iuventutis ad pristinae manus numerum Martiae cohortis facies integraretur. Nam et invitos terrore compelli et volentes praemio provocari posse, nec paucos humili servilique vitae renuntiantes ad instar tyrannicae potestatis sectam suam conferre malle. Se quoque iam dudum pro sua parte quendam convenisse hominem et statu procerum et aetate iuvenem et corpore vastum et manu strenuum, eique suasisse ac denique persuasisse, ut manus hebetatas diutina pigritia tandem referret ad frugem meliorem, bonoque secundae, dum posset, frueretur valetudinis, nec manum validam erogandae stipi porrigeret, sed hauriendo potius exerceret auro.

- 5 Talibus dictis universi omnes assensi,¹ et illum, qui iam comprobatus videretur, ascisci et alios ad supplendum numerum vestigari statuunt. Tunc profectus et paululum commoratus ille perducit immanem quendam iuvenem, uti fuerat pollicitus, nescio an ulli praesentium comparandum—nam praeter ceteram corporis molem toto vertice cunctos antepollebat et ei commodum lanugo malis inserpebat—sed plane centunculis disparibus et male consarcinatis semiamictum, inter quos pectus et venter crustata crassitie relucitabant.²

¹ Or *assensere*, for F's *adsensiere*.

² F *crassitiem relucebant*.

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should recruit fresh young men to restore the appearance of their cohort of Mars to the muster of their original band. He said that the reluctant could be compelled by fear and the willing invited by reward, and that many would renounce a lowly and servile life and prefer to change their profession for the equivalent of a tyrant's power. For his part, he had recently met a fellow who was tall in stature, young in age, huge in build, and strong in arm; he had urged him, and then persuaded him, finally to turn his hands, which were dulled by long idleness, to better profit, and to enjoy some benefit from his good health while he could, and, instead of stretching out his strong hand to beg for pennies, to exercise it scooping up gold.

5 The robbers assented one and all to his speech, and decided to induct the young man, who seemed already to have proved himself, and to track down others to fill their ranks. Their comrade then went out, and after a short time returned with an enormous youth, as he had promised, hardly to be compared with any of those present.¹ In addition to the general massiveness of his build, he stood a whole head higher than all of them, and a beard was just beginning to overspread his cheeks. But he was half-clothed in a veritable patchwork, ill-fitting and badly stitched together. Among those rags his chest and belly glistened, packed with muscle.

¹ This may also be understood as "any man of the present generation," a stock expression from epic.

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Sic introgressus "Havete," inquit "fortissimi¹ deo Marti clientes mihique iam fidi commilitones, et virum magnanimae vivacitatis volentem volentes accipite, libentius vulnera corpore excipientem quam aurum manu susipientem, ipsaque morte, quam formidant alii, meliorem. Nec me putetis ege-
num vel abiectum, neve de pannulis istis virtutes
meas aestimetis. Nam praefui validissimae manui
totamque prorsus devastavi Macedoniam. Ego sum
praedo famosus Haemus ille Thracius, cuius totae
provinciae nomen horrescunt, patre Therone aequae²
latrone incluto prognatus, humano sanguine
nutritus interque ipsos manipulos factionis
6 educatus heres et aemulus virtutis paternae. Sed
omnem pristinam sociorum fortium multitudinem
magnasque illas opes exiguo temporis amisi spatio.
Nam procuratorem principis ducenaria perfunctum,
dehinc Fortuna tristiore decussum, praetereuntem
meo fato³ fueram aggressus. Sed rei noscendae
carpo ordinem.

"Fuit quidam multis officiis in aula Caesaris
clarus atque conspicuus, ipsi etiam probe spectatus.
Hunc insimulatum quorundam astu proiecit

¹ F *fortissimo*. ² F *atque*. ³ F *me orato*.

¹ His name is that of a mountain range in Thrace.

² His name comes from the Greek word for "hunting."

³ High officials in government service were divided into
four ranks according to salary: 60,000, 100,000, 200,000,

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Having made his entrance he spoke: "Hail, brave servants of Mars and now my trusty fellow-soldiers! Receive a willing recruit willingly. You see before you a man of heroic vigour, who more gladly accepts wounds on his body than gold in his hand, and who is superior to death itself, which others fear. And do not think me destitute or an outcast; do not judge my virtues from these rags. I was in command of a strong and mighty band and laid waste the whole of Macedonia. I am the famous brigand, Haemus the Thracian,¹ at whose name every province trembles. My father was Theron,² also a renowned robber; I was nursed on human blood and raised among the squadrons of our troop as heir and rival to my father's valour. But I lost the whole host of brave comrades and all the wealth I once commanded in one brief span of time. One of the emperor's procurators with a two hundred thousand salary³ had been driven from his position by a harsh turn of Fortune. To my misfortune I had attacked him as he was passing by. But I will tell the story from start to finish so that you will understand what happened.

"There was once a man, famous and distinguished for his numerous services in Caesar's⁴ court and well regarded even by the emperor himself. Falsely accused through the duplicity of certain individuals, he was cast forth into exile by and 300,000 sesterces.

⁴ The name was taken by all Roman emperors.