

## DE NOCTVA ET CORVO

Haec fabula versibus hexametris scripta est.

Noctua docta et corvus stultus tempore verno

sub quercu celsa et foliata una sedebant.

Doctula coepit avis haec dicere verba superbe

corvo: “Me facundior hic est bestia nulla!”

“Hercule! Non est rectum, noctua, id quod affirmas!

Hic facunde fantes multa animalia vivunt.

Ipsa mehercule me habeo praestare loquendo!”

Est quod irascens coracinus ille respondit.

Sermo coepit eorum maior esse gradatim.

Simius ex sua arbore exaudivit et inquit:

“Mi dicatis curam sitis tam iracundi!”

Postquam scivit quam ob causam disputaverunt,

dein vehementer quid faciendum esset consideravit,

“Forsan” inquit “vos certamen habere potestis.

Tu, carissime corve, doctula noctua tuque,

vos potestis quaedam dicere verba parumper

pro animalibus inhabitantibus hanc regionem.

Caput illius cinget laurea pulchra corona

quem animalia vincere censent arte loquendi.”

Consilium placuit et confestim paraverunt.

Tempus quo certamen habere constituerunt

Venit. Cervi, vulpes, luscinae, leporesque

et animalia omnia cetera congregaverunt.

Noctua taeduit omnes verbis tam copiosis.

Facundis interdum est tantummodo verbis

corvus usus. Hoc placuit animalibus illis.

Simia quaedam venit et quaesivit ab eis:

“Ex avibus his quem meliorem esse putatis?”

Exclamaverunt “Corvus!” voce omnes eadem.

Gessit corvus lauram — noctula doctula nihil.

Illi qui nimis facunde loquuntur saepe non intelleguntur.

#### ENGLISH TRANSLATION

In the springtime, an intelligent owl and a dull raven were sitting together under a tall, leafy oak.

The intelligent bird began to say these words proudly: “There is no animal here who is more eloquent than me!” “By Hercules! What you are claiming is not true! Many animals live here who speak eloquently. By Hercules, I even consider myself a better speaker!” retorted the raven (getting angry). Their conversation gradually increased in volume. A monkey overheard from his tree and said, “Tell me who you are so angry!” After he understood why they argued, then considered very much what should be done, “Perhaps,” he said, “You can have a contest. You, most dear raven, and you, smart owl: for a little while you can say some words for the animals living in this place. A beautiful laurel wreath will encircle the head of him whom the animals

consider to be better at the art of speaking.” His proposition pleased them and they immediately prepared. The set time for the competition arrived; deer, foxes, nightingales, hares, and all the rest of the animals gathered together. The owl wore everyone out with such eloquent words. The crow only used eloquent words every now and then. This pleased the animals. A certain monkey came and asked them, “Which of these birds do you think is better?” Everyone shouted in unison, “The raven!” The crow wore the laurel wreath — the intelligent owl nothing.

**Moral: Those who speak too eloquently are often not understood.**