

REX ET PASTOR

Haec fābula versibus hexametris scrīpta est.

- Ōlim vīxērunt Rōmānī hominēs duo, quōrum
alter pāstor erat, rēx dīves et impius alter.
Rēx fidicen, pāstor tībīcen, uterque poēta.
Dum spectābat ovēs, pulcherrima carmina pāstor
5 (per calamum tenuem flandō) cantāre solēbat,
quae placuēre virīs in agrīs silvīsque propinquīs:
vēnātor cantū canibus fidīs comitātus
dēlectātur dum sequitur vestīgia cervī;
agricolae falcēs dēpōnunt percipientēs
10 sībila, nec pergunt fessōs stimulāre iuencōs.
“Unde venit” dīcunt “tam dulce melos? Videāmus!”
Circum pāstōrem tum cōnsēdēre colōnī, et
valdē plausērunt, fīnītō carmine, cūctī.
Vestibus indūtus pretiōsīs, impius ōlim
15 rēx arcessīvit cīvēs, mediō inque theātrō
stāns (fidibus sūmptīs), “Mē pulchrē audīte canentem!”
inquit, “Phoebō sum longē praestantior ipsō.
Mē mīrābiminī; dīcētis tālia verba:
‘Nōnne magister erat tuus ōlim magnus Apollō?’”

20 Hīs dictīsque lyrā coepit carmen modulārī,
atque patēbat eum nōn arte fuisse perītum
cantandī. Quīdam rīdentēs, “Nōn bene cantat.”
dīxērunt. Omnēs illum tum dēseruērunt.
Carmine finītō, rēx “Plaudite, plaudite!” dīxit,
25 sed dīxit ventō: vacuum fuit, ecce, theātrum!

Nōn necesse est laudāre tē ipsum: sī vērē laudandus es, certē laudāberis ab aliīs.