

LIBER PRIMUS - PROLOGUS

PRIMVS
(THE) FIRST

LIBER
BOOK

ÆSOPIARVM
OF-AESOPIAN

FABVLARVM
FABLES

PHÆDRI
OF-PHAEDRUS

LIBERTI
FREEDMAN

AVGVSTI
(OF) AUGUSTUS

Prologus.
Prologue

Hanc
This

materiam,
matter

quam
which

auctor
the-author

Aesopus
Aesop

repperit,
has-found

ego
I

polivi
have-polished

versibus
with-verses

senariis.
of-six-feet-each

Est
It-is

duplex
two-fold

dos
the-gift

libelli:
of-the-little-book

quod
that-it

mouet
moves

risum
to-laughter

et
and

quod
that-it

monet
gives advice

vitam
to-life

consilio
with-counsel

prudenti.
prudent

Si
If

autem
however

quis
anyone

voluerit
would-like

calumniari
to-find-fault-with

quod
(the fact) that

arbores
trees

loquantur,
speak

non
(and) not

tantum
only

ferae,
the-beasts

meminerit
let-he-remember

iocari
amuse (ourselves)

nos
we

fictis
with-fictitious

fabulis.
fables

I. Lupus et Agnus

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1 The-Wolf and the-Lamb

Ad eundem rivum lupus et agnus venerant, compulsi
To the-same river-bank a-wolf and a-lamb had-come compelled

siti. Superior stabat lupus, longeque inferior agnus.
by-thirst Above stood the-wolf and-way below the-lamb

Tunc improba fauce incitatus latro intulit causam
Then with-a-wicked mouth the-prompted bandit brought-up a-cause
{faux5}

iurgii; "Cur," inquit, "fecisti aquam bibenti
of-dispute Why he-said have-you-made the-water drinking
{bibens3}

turbulentam mihi?" Laniger contra, timens: "Qui
disturbed for-me The-fleecy (replied) in opposition fearful How
(muddy)

possum, quaeso, facere quod quereris, lupo? Liquor
can-I I-ask do that which you-complain Wolf The-liquid

decurrit a te ad meos haustus." Ille repulsus
runs-down from you to my drinking he repelled
(the wolf)

viribus veritatis ait: "Ante hos sex menses
by-the-strength of-the-truth says Before these six months
{vis5pl}

male dixisti mihi". Agnus respondit: "Equidem eram
ill you-have-spoken to me The-lamb replies Indeed I-was

non natus". "Hercle, tuus pater," ille inquit
not born (yet) By-Hercules your father he said
(the wolf)

"male dixit mihi"; atque ita correptum
ill he-has-spoken to me and thus the-having-been-captured
(the captured one)

lacerat iniusta nece. Haec fabula est scripta
(the-wolf) lacerates with-unfair death This fable is written

propter illos homines qui opprimunt innocentes
because-of those men who oppress the-innocent

fictis causis.
with-fictitious causes

II. Ranae Petunt Regem

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2 The-Frogs Ask-for a-King

Cum Athenae florerent aequis legibus, procax
 When Athens was-flourishing with-fair laws an-impudent
 {"Athens" is plural}

libertas miscuit civitatem, frenumque primum licentia
 freedom mixed the-city and-the-bridle former licentiousness
 (confused)

solvit. Hic conspiratis partibus factionum tyrannus
 released Here having-conspired partisans of-factions the-tyrant

Pisistratus occupat arcem. Cum Attici
 Pisistratus occupies the-citadel When the-inhabitants-of-Attica

flerent tristem servitatem, non quia ille
 were-bemoaning (their) sad slavery not because he (was)

crudelis sed quoniam omne onus grave
 cruel but because every burden (is) heavy

insuetis, et coepissent queri, Aesopus tum
 for-the-unaccustomed and they-began to-complain Aesop then

talem fabellam rettulit. Ranae, vagantes liberis
 such-a fable reported Frogs roaming in-the-free
 (told)

paludibus, magno clamore petierunt ab Iove regem,
 marshes with-a-great shout asked-for from Jupiter a-king

qui vi compesceret dissolutos mores. Pater
 who with-strength would-restrain (their) dissolute customs The-Father

deorum risit atque illis dedit parvum tigillum,
 of the gods laughed and to-those he-gave a-small piece-of-wood

quod missum subito motu sonoque terruit
which (being) sent a-sudden with-a-motion and-sound terrified

pavidum genus vadi. Cum hoc iaceret
the-fearful species .of-the-shallow-place When this (log) had-lain

mersum limo diutius, forte una tacite profert
immersed in-the-mud for a long time by-chance one tacitly brings

caput e stagno et, explorato rege, cunctas
(her) head out-of the-pond and having examined the-king to-all

evocat. Illae posito timore certatim adnatant,
she-calls-out They having-put (aside) (their) fear eagerly swim near

supraque lignum petulans turba insilit. Cum quod
and-upon the-wood the-petulant crowd leaps When that (thing)

omni contumelia inquinassent miserunt,
with-all (kind-of) insult they-had-tarnished they-sent (it back)

rogantes alium regem ad Iovem, quoniam esset
imploing-for another king to Jupiter, because would-be

inutilis qui fuerat datus. Tum misit illis
useless the-one-that had-been given Then he-sent to-those

hydrum, qui aspero dente coepit corripere
a-water-snake which with-a-rough tooth began to-snatch-up

singulas. Frustra fugitant necem inertes; metus
(them) one-by-one In-vain they-flee-from death without-skill the-fear

praecludit vocem. Furtim igitur dant Mercurio
blocks (their) voice Secretly therefore they-give to-Mercury

mandata ad Iovem, ut succurrat adflictis. Tunc
messages to Jupiter in-order-that he-saves the-distressed Then

contra Tonans. "Quia nolulistis ferre vestrum
replies The-Thundering (one) Because you-did-not-want to-bear your

bonum," inquit malum perferte." "Vos quoque, o
good (one) he-says the-bad (one) endure You also oh

cives," ait, "hoc sustinete, ne veniat maius
citizens said (Æsop), this (evil) endure lest come a-greater

malum".
evil

III. Superbus Graculus et Pavo

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 3 The-Arrogant Jackdaw and the-Peacock

Ne libeat gloriari alienis bonis,
 In-order-that-not it-pleases to-boast of-other-people's goods
 (merits)

suoque potius degere vitam, Aesopus hoc
 and-with-his-own rather pass life Aesop this

habitu
 appearance
 rather with ones own appearance

exemplum prodidit nobis. Tumens inani superbia
 example has-put-forth to-us Being-swollen with-empty arrogance

graculus pinnas quae deciderant pavoni,
 a-jackdaw (some) wings which had-fallen-off from-a-peacock
 {pavo3}

sustulit, seque exornavit. Deinde,
 he-had-picked up and himself (with-them) had-adorned Then

contemnens suos, se immiscuit formoso
 despising his-own (kind) himself intermingled with the-beautiful

gregi pavonum, Illi eripiunt pinnas impudenti avi,
 flock of-peacocks These tear-out the-plumes to-the-shameless bird

fugantque rostris. Male mulcatus graculus
 and-chase-(it)-away with-(their)-beaks Badly injured the-jackdaw

coepit redire maerens ad proprium genus, a quo
 began to-return lamenting to his-own kind by which

repulsus sustinuit tristem notam. Tum quidam
 having-been-repulsed he-has-endured a-sad label Then someone

ex illis quos prius despexerat, "si fuisses
out-of those whom before he-had-despised (said) if you-had-been

contentus nostris sedibus, et voluisses quod
content with-our residences and you-had-been willing that-what

Natura dederat pati, nec expertus esses illam
Nature had-given to-suffer neither experienced (you-were that
(would have)

contumeliam, nec hanc repulsam tua calamitas sentiret".
insult nor that rejection your calamity had-felt

IV. Canis per Fluvium Ferens Carnem

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4 A-Dog through a-River Carrying (a piece of) Meat

Amittit proprium merito qui alienum
Loses (what is his) own deservedly he-who (what's) someone else's

adpetit. Cum canis, ferret per fluvium carnem, vidit
covets When a-dog carried through a-river meat he-saw

natans in speculo lympharum suum simulacrum, et
swimming in the-mirror of-the-waters his-own image and

putans aliam praedam ferri ab altero, voluit
thinking another booty to-be-carried by another (dog) he-wanted

eripere; verum aviditas decepta et cibum quem
to-snatch-away however (his) avidity was deceived and the-food which

ore tenebat dimisit, nec quem petebat
in-(his)-mouth he-held he-released nor (that) which he-sought-for

adeo potuit tangere.
so-greatly he-could touch

V. Leo et Capella, Ovis et Leo

V. Vacca, Capella, Ovis et Leo
V. Cow She-goat Sheep and Lion

Numquam est fidelis societas cum potente. Haec fabella
Never is faithful a society with a-powerful This fable
(an alliance)

testatur meum propositum. Vacca et capella et ovis
attests my purpose A-cow and a-she-goat and a-sheep

patiens iniuriae fuere socii cum leone in saltibus.
enduring injustice were partners with a-lion in the-forests

Cum hi cepissent cervum vasti corporis, sic est
When these had-captured a-deer of-a-huge body thus is
(has)

locutus leo partibus factis: "Ego hoc nomine
spoken the lion with-the-parts made I by-this name
when the parts had been made up

primam tollo, quia rex cluo; secundam, quia
the-first (part) take because king I-am-called the-second (part) because

sum consors tribuetis mihi; tum, quia plus
I-am (your) partner you-will-yeild to-me then, because more

valeo, me sequetur tertia; malo adficietur
I-am-strong me will follow the-third (part) by-an-evil will-be-afflicted

quis si quartam tetigerit". Sic totam praedam
somebody if the-fourth-one he has touched Thus all the-booty

improbitas sola abstulit.
the-dishonesty alone took-away
(the dishonest one) for himself

VI. Ranae ad Solem

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6. The-frogs at the-Sun

Aesopus vidit celebres nuptias furis vicini et
Aesop saw the-famous wedding of-a-thief neighboring and
{fur2}

continuo incipit narrare: Cum quondam Sol vellet
immediately begins to-tell When once the-Sun wanted

ducere uxorem, ranae clamorem sustulerunt ad sidera.
to-lead a-wife the-frogs a-cry raised to the-stars
(to marry)

Permotus convicio quaerit Iuppiter causam querellae.
Stirred by-the-outcry asks Jupiter the-cause of-the-complaint

Quaedam incola stagni tum inquit: "Nunc exurit
A-certain resident of-the-pond then says Now he-burns

unus lacus, cogitque omnes miseras arida sede
one the-lake and-compels all (of us) miserable by-the-dry residence
(alone)

emori. Quidnam est futurum si crearit liberos?"
to-die-off What-then is going-to-be if he-produces children

VII. Vulpes ad Tragicam Personam

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7. The-fox to the-Tragic Mask
(theatrical)

Tragicam personam forte vulpes viderat; quam
A-tragic mask by-chance a-fox had-seen to-which
{persona4} by a fox was seen

postquam verterat huc illuc semel atque
after she-had-overturned hither and thither once and

iterum: "O quanta species," inquit, "cerebrum
again (she spoke) Oh however-great the-appearance she-says brain

non habet!" Hoc illis est dictum quibus honorem et
not it-has This to-those is said to-whom honor and

gloriam Fortuna tribuit, communem sensum abstulit.
glory Fortune has-allotted (but) common sense has-taken-away