

Roman Ties to Venus

Quid quod ubique potens templisque frequentibus aucta,
 urbe tamen nostra ius dea maius habet? 118

Pro Troia, Romane, tua Venus arma ferebat,
 cum gemuit teneram cuspide laesa manum; 120

caelestesque duas Troiano iudice vicit
 (a! nolim victas hoc meminisse deas),
 Assaracique nurus dicta est, ut scilicet olim
 magnus Iuleos Caesar haberet avos. 124

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is *our city* (urbe nostra)?
2. In the Trojan War, which side did Venus support?
 What happened to her in battle?
3. To what event do lines 121-122 refer?
4. How is Venus related to Assaracus?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why are there so many temples to Venus in Rome?
2. How is Venus bound to Rome?
3. What case is Romane in line 119? Why does Ovid address his Roman reader directly here?

124 **magnus ... Caesar:** Augustus, adopted son and heir of Julius Caesar. The word order is intended to connect Augustus with Julius Caesar visually.

haberet: imperfect subjunctive in a purpose clause.

avus, -i, m., *grandfather; ancestor*

NOTES

- 117 **Quid quod ... ?**: *What of the fact that ... ?*
ubique, adv., *everywhere*.
potens, potentis, *able, powerful*.
potens: supply **est**; the subject is Venus.
frequens, frequentis, *crowded*.
templis ... frequentibus: instrumental ablatives with **aucta**.
augeo, augere, auxi, auctus, *to increase; to enhance, glorify*.
aucta: supply **est**.
- 118 **urbe ... nostra**: abl. of place where without a preposition, *in our city*.
ius, iuris, n., *law, right, justice, sway*.
- 120 **cum**, conj., *when*.
gemo, gemere, gemui, gemitus, *to sigh, groan, moan*.
cum gemuit: a **cum** temporal clause with perfect indicative.
tener, tenera, tenerum, *tender, delicate*.
teneram ... manum: accusative of respect with **laesa**, *wounded with respect to her tender hand = her tender hand wounded by a spear*. Ovid refers to the time during the Trojan war when Venus, ill-fit for battle, stepped into the fighting on behalf of the Trojans and was wounded in the hand by Diomedes (*Iliad* 5.334 -42). Among the Trojans was Venus' son Aeneas.
cuspis, cuspidis, f., *point; spear*.
laedo, laedere, laesi, laesus, *to harm, wound*.
- 121 **caelestis, caelestis**, m., *a heavenly one, a divinity, a god/goddess*.
caelestes duas: Juno and Minerva, over whom Venus was chosen.
Troianus, -a, -um, *Trojan*.
iudex, iudicis, m., *judge*.
Troiano iudice, ablative absolute: Paris chose Venus over Juno and Minerva as the fairest goddess. Each goddess had promised Paris something in exchange for his vote; Venus offered him the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen.
- 122 **nolim**: potential subjunctive, introducing an indirect statement; translate, *I would wish that ... not*.
- 123 **Assaracus, -i**, m., *Assaracus* (Trojan grandfather of Anchises).
nurus, -us, f., *daughter-in-law* (here applied to the wife of a grandson).
olim, adv., *formerly, once; here, at some future date, one day*.
- 124 **Iuleus, -a, -um**, *descended from, associated with Iulus* (a son of Aeneas, equated with Ascanius and regarded as the founder of the Julian gens).