



LATIN FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM, Level 1

LATIN STORY TO ACCOMPANY CHAPTER 7

This passage recounts, in prose, and elaborates upon a poem by the Roman poet Martial. Almost one hundred years after Catullus tells the story of Lesbia and her pet sparrow, in poem I.109, Martial tells the story of Publius and his own adoration for his dog, Issa.



This Roman grave stele (150–200 CE) memorializes a favorite dog. Romans were very fond of their pets and often left memorials to them. For more information, the Getty Museum provides an [audio guide](#) that discusses the possible interpretations of this funerary monument. Photo courtesy of the Getty Museum.

PŪLIUS

- 1 In familiā Pūblii est dēliciae, nōmine Issa. Lesbia passerem habet; senex Pūblius *catellam* pulchram habet. Lesbia domina Catullī est; passer dominus Lesbiae. Nunc Issa domina Pūblii est.

Pūblius severus dominus nōn est. Catellam pulchram nōn iubet; catellam in vinculis
5 nōn tenet. Catella domī manet, nōn in viīs. Nam Pūblius Issam bene docet. In viā Pūblius
vōcat sed nōn exspectat. Issa ad dominum nōn ambulat sed currit. Pūblius cum Issā per
agrōs ambulat; multum vident. Dominus aquam ā rīvō catellae dare solet. Posteā Pūblius
animum bonum habet.

Cum miser dominus domī est, catella Issa in gremiō dominī iacere et manēre solet.
10 Issa digitōs senis nōn *mordet* sed *lingit*. Cum oculī Issae dominum vident, Issa *ululat* et
Pūblius cōgitat Issam verba dare. Pūblius Issam valdē amat et cūrat; amīcī dominō et
dēliciīs invident.

Quod Issa exemplum dēliciārum est et Pūblius magnum amōrem habet, cōnsilium
habet. Pūblius Issam nōn ūnius assis aestimat sed multōrum *aureōrum*. Pūblius putat
15 catellam *immortālem* esse debēre. Nunc pulchra forma Issae in *tabellā* est. Cum tabellam
vidēs, putās tē vidēre catellam *vēram*. Amīcus, Martiālis, *carmen* dē Issā parat. Carmen
nārrat Issam Pūblium amāre. Rōmānī catellam praeclāram memoriā tenent. Magnum
gaudium Pūbliō est quod cōgitat catellam in vitā *semper* manēre.

VOCABULA NOVA

aureus, aureī, m. – gold coin

carmen, carminis, n. – poem

catella, catellae, f. – puppy

cum (conj.) – when

currō, currere, cucurri, cursum – to run

immortālem (adj, masc. sing. acc.) – immortal

lingō, lingere, linxi, lictum – to lick

mordeō, mordēre, momordi, morsum – to bite

nōmine (abl.) – by the name of

quod (conj.) – because

reveniō, revenire, revēni, reventum – to return

semper (adv.) – always

tabella, tabellae, f. – tablet, picture

tē (pronoun, acc.) – you (sing.)

ululō, ululāre, ululāvī, ululātum – to howl

vērus, vēra, vērum – true