

LUCRETIA: PARAGON OF VIRTUE

GRAMMAR ASSUMED:

Cum Clauses; Ferō

WHEELOCK: CHAPTER 31

Livy, in the first part of his history of Rome, describes the downfall of the kings and the establishment of the republic. The following incident hastened the overthrow of Rome's final king, Tarquin the Proud.

- Rōma regēbātur ā tyrannō superbō, cuius fīlius erat Sextus Tarquinius. Quādā nocte cum Tarquinius vīnum biberet cum amicīs, coepērunt quisque¹ uxōrem suam laudāre. Collātīnus dixit suam Lucrētiam omnibus cēterīs praestāre:
- 5 "Nōs cōferāmus ad meās aedēs videāmusque quid mea uxor nunc agat. Tum sciētis quantō melior sit mea Lucrētia quam aliae." Omnēs respondērunt, "Discēdāmus!" Cum ad illās aedēs vēnissent, fidēlem Lucrētiam nōn lūdentem, sed lānam dūcentem invēnērunt. Sextus, cum vidēret
- 10 quam pulchra et pudīca Lucrētia esset, malō amōre² captus est. Paucīs diēbus post, cum abesset Collātīnus, iste revēnit. Cum cēna oblāta esset, in hospitāle cubiculum ductus est. Mediā nocte ad dormientem Lucrētiam vēnit: "Tacē!" inquit.
- 15 "Sextus Tarquinius sum; ferrum in manū ferō. Cēde mihi aut tē necābō!" Cum Lucrētia necārī mallet, dēnique tamen vīcit Sextus eius pudīcitiā. Tum discessit. Sed Lucrētia omnia haec narrāvit Collātīnō, quī iūrāvit sē Sextum necātūrum esse. Tum Lucrētia sē necāvit, nē aliīs uxōribus vidērētur malō exemplō esse: "Ego mē culpā absolvō, sed
- 20 poenā nōn liberō," occidēs dixit.

—adapted from Livy 1.57.6–58.11

¹ plural ² from iste, ista, istud; similar to 'ille'

VOCABULARY:

Sextus Tarquinius, -iī, m.: son of Rome's seventh and last king, L. Tarquinius Superbus (ousted in 509 B.C.)

coepērunt quisque: quisque is often used with a plural verb

Collātīnus, -ī, m.: a noble Roman

Lucrētia, -ae, f.: Collatinus' wife

quidam, quaedam, quoddam - a certain

aedēs, -ium, f. pl.: house

5

quantō: ablative of degree of difference ("by how much")

lūdō, -ere, lūsī, lūsus: to play

lāna, -ae, f.: wool (dūcere lānam = to spin wool)

praesto, -are, isteti, - to surpass + dative

10

paucīs diēbus: ablative of degree of difference ("by a few days")

post (adverb): afterwards, later

absum, abesse, āfuī, āfutūrus: to be away

hospitālis, -e: relating to a guest

cubiculum, -ī, n.: bedroom

mālō, mālle, māluī: to wish rather, prefer

15

pudīcitiā, -ae, f.: chastity

iūrō (1): to swear, take an oath

exemplum, -ī, n.: example, model; exemplō esse = to serve as a model (dative of purpose)

absolvō, -ere, -solvī, -solūtus: to loosen, free

liberō: supply mē as the object

20