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ad id baculo tulisse donum Apollini dicitur, per am-
 10 bages effigiem ingenii sui. Quo postquam ventum
 est, perfectis patris mandatis cupido incessit animos
 iuvenum sciscitandi, ad quem eorum regnum Ro-
 manum esset venturum. Ex infimo specu vocem
 redditam ferunt, "Imperium summum Romae habe-
 bit, qui vestrum primus, o iuvenes, osculum matri
 11 tulerit." Tarquinii, ut¹ Sextus, qui Romae relictus
 fuerat, ignarus responsi expersque imperii esset, rem
 summa ope taceri iubent; ipsi inter se uter prior,
 cum Romam redisset, matri osculum daret, sorti per-
 12 mittunt. Brutus alio ratus spectare Pythicam vocem
 velut si prolapsus cecidisset terram osculo contigit,
 scilicet quod ea communis mater omnium mortalium
 13 esset. Reditum inde Romam, ubi adversus Rutulos
 bellum summa vi parabatur.

LVII. Ardeam Rutuli habebant, gens ut in ea
 regione atque in ea aetate divitiis praepollens. Ea-
 que ipsa causa belli fuit, quod rex Romanus cum ipse
 ditari, exhaustus magnificentia publicorum operum,
 2 tum praeda delenire popularium animos studebat,
 praeter aliam superbiam regno infestos etiam quod
 se in fabrorum ministeriis ac servili tam diu habitos
 3 opere ab rege indignabantur. Temptata res est si
 primo impetu capi Ardea posset. Ubi id parum pro-

¹ Tarquinii, ut ζ : Tarquinius Ω : Tarquinius SEX O .

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of cornel wood, hollowed out to receive it, as a gift
 to Apollo, and a roundabout indication of his own
 character. When they came there, and had carried
 out their father's instructions, a desire sprang up in
 the hearts of the youths to find out which one of
 them should be king at Rome. From the depths of
 the cavern this answer, they say, was returned: "The
 highest power at Rome shall be his, young men, who
 shall be first among you to kiss his mother." The
 Tarquinii, anxious that Sextus, who had been left in
 Rome, might know nothing of the answer and have
 no share in the rule, gave orders that the incident
 should be kept strictly secret; as between themselves,
 they decided by lot which should be first, upon their
 return to Rome, to give their mother a kiss. Brutus
 thought the Pythian utterance had another meaning;
 pretending to stumble, he fell and touched his lips to
 Earth, evidently regarding her as the common mother
 of all mortals. They then returned to Rome, where
 preparations for war with the Rutuli were being
 pushed with the greatest vigour.

LVII. Ardea belonged to the Rutuli, who were a
 nation of commanding wealth, for that place and
 period. This very fact was the cause of the war, since
 the Roman king was eager not only to enrich him-
 self, impoverished as he was by the splendour of his
 public works, but also to appease with booty the feel-
 ing of the common people; who, besides the enmity
 they bore the monarch for other acts of pride, were
 especially resentful that the king should have kept
 them employed so long as artisans and doing the work
 of slaves. An attempt was made to capture Ardea by
 assault. Having failed in this, the Romans invested

- cessit, obsidione munitionibusque coepti premi hostes.
- 4 In his stativis, ut fit longo magis quam acri bello, satis liberi commeatus erant, primoribus tamen magis
- 5 quam militibus; regii quidem iuvenes interdum otium convivii comisationibusque inter se terebant.
- 6 Forte potantibus his apud Sex. Tarquinius, ubi et Collatinus cenabat Tarquinius Egerii filius, incidit de uxoribus mentio; suam quisque laudare miris modis.
- 7 Inde certamine accenso Collatinus negat verbis opus esse, paucis id quidem horis posse sciri, quantum ceteris praestet Lucretia sua. "Quin, si vigor iuventae inest, conscendimus equos invisimusque praesentes nostrarum ingenia? Id cuique spectatissimum sit quod necopinato¹ viri adventu occurrerit oculis."
- 8 Incaluerant vino; "Age sane!" omnes; citatis equis avolant Romam. Quo cum primis se intendentibus tenebris pervenissent, pergunt inde Collatiam, ubi Lucretiam haudquaquam ut regias nurus, quas in convivio luxuque cum aequalibus viderant tempus terentes, sed nocte sera deditam lanae inter lucubrantes ancillas in medio aedium sedentem inveniunt. Muliebris certaminis laus penes Lucretiam
- 10 fuit. Adveniens vir Tarquinius excepti benigne; victor maritus comiter invitat regios iuvenes. Ibi

¹ necopinato *R*²: necinopinato (nec inopinato *P*) Ω: in necopinato *Heerwagen*.

¹ A similar scene is imagined by Tibullus, i. iii. 83 ff.
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the place with intrenchments, and began to beleaguer the enemy. Here in their permanent camp, as is usual with a war not sharp but long drawn out, furlough was rather freely granted, more freely however to the leaders than to the soldiers; the young princes for their part passed their idle hours together at dinners and drinking bouts. It chanced, as they were drinking in the quarters of Sextus Tarquinius, where Tarquinius Collatinus, son of Egerius, was also a guest, that the subject of wives came up. Every man fell to praising his own wife with enthusiasm, and, as their rivalry grew hot, Collatinus said that there was no need to talk about it, for it was in their power to know, in a few hours' time, how far the rest were excelled by his own Lucretia. "Come! If the vigour of youth is in us let us mount our horses and see for ourselves the disposition of our wives. Let every man regard as the surest test what meets his eyes when the woman's husband enters unexpected." They were heated with wine. "Agreed!" they all cried, and clapping spurs to their horses were off for Rome. Arriving there at early dusk, they thence proceeded to Collatia, where Lucretia was discovered very differently employed from the daughters-in-law of the king. These they had seen at a luxurious banquet, whiling away the time with their young friends; but Lucretia, though it was late at night, was busily engaged upon her wool, while her maidens toiled about her in the lamplight as she sat in the hall of her house.¹ The prize of this contest in womanly virtues fell to Lucretia. As Collatinus and the Tarquinius approached, they were graciously received, and the victorious husband courteously invited the young princes to his table. It was there

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Sex. Tarquinius mala libido Lucretiae per vim stuprandae capit; cum forma tum spectata castitas
11 incitat. Et tum quidem ab nocturno iuvenali ludo in castra redeunt.

LVIII. Paucis interiectis diebus Sex. Tarquinius in scio Collatino cum comite uno Collatiam venit.
2 Ubi exceptus benigne ab ignaris consilii cum post cenam in hospitale cubiculum deductus esset, amore ardens, postquam satis tuta circa sopitque omnes videbantur, stricto gladio ad dormientem Lucretiam venit sinistraque manu mulieris pectore oppresso "Tace, Lucretia," inquit; "Sex. Tarquinius sum; ferrum in manu est; moriere, si emiseris vocem."
3 Cum pavida ex somno mulier nullam opem, prope mortem imminentem videret, tum Tarquinius fateri amorem, orare, miscere precibus minas, versare in
4 omnes partes muliebrem animum. Ubi obstinatum videbat et ne mortis quidem metu inclinari, addit ad metum dedecus: cum mortua iugulatum servum nudum positurum ait, ut in sordido adulterio necata
5 dicatur. Quo terrore cum vicisset obstinatum pudicitiam velut vi victrix¹ libido, profectusque inde Tarquinius ferox expugnato decore muliebri esset, Lucretia maesta tanto malo nuntium Romam eundem ad patrem Ardeamque ad virum mittit, ut cum sin-

¹ velut vi victrix *M. Mueller*: velut victrix *Q.*

that Sextus Tarquinius was seized with a wicked desire to debauch Lucretia by force; not only her beauty, but her proved chastity as well, provoked him. However, for the present they ended the boyish prank of the night and returned to the camp.

LVIII. When a few days had gone by, Sextus Tarquinius, without letting Collatinus know, took a single attendant and went to Collatia. Being kindly welcomed, for no one suspected his purpose, he was brought after dinner to a guest-chamber. Burning with passion, he waited till it seemed to him that all about him was secure and everybody fast asleep; then, drawing his sword, he came to the sleeping Lucretia. Holding the woman down with his left hand on her breast, he said, "Be still, Lucretia! I am Sextus Tarquinius. My sword is in my hand. Utter a sound, and you die!" In affright the woman started out of her sleep. No help was in sight, but only imminent death. Then Tarquinius began to declare his love, to plead, to mingle threats with prayers, to bring every resource to bear upon her woman's heart. When he found her obdurate and not to be moved even by fear of death, he went farther and threatened her with disgrace, saying that when she was dead he would kill his slave and lay him naked by her side, that she might be said to have been put to death in adultery with a man of base condition. At this dreadful prospect her resolute modesty was overcome, as if with force, by his victorious lust; and Tarquinius departed, exulting in his conquest of a woman's honour. Lucretia, grieving at her great disaster, dispatched the same message to her father in Rome and to her husband at Ardea:

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LIVY

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gulis fidelibus amicis veniant; ita facto maturatoque
 6 opus esse; rem atrocem incidisse. Sp. Lucretius
 cum P. Valerio Volesi filio, Collatinus cum L. Iunio
 Bruto venit, cum quo forte Romam rediens ab nuntio
 uxoris erat conventus. Lucretiam sedentem maes-
 7 tam in cubiculo inveniunt. Adventu suorum lacri-
 mae abortae, quaerentique viro "Satin salvae?"¹
 "Minime," inquit; "quid enim salvi est mulicri
 amissa pudicitia? Vestigia viri alieni, Collatine, in
 lecto sunt tuo; ceterum corpus est tantum violatum,
 animus insons; mors testis erit. Sed date dexteras
 8 fidemque haud inpune adultero fore. Sex. est Tar-
 quinius, qui hostis pro hospite priore nocte vi arma-
 tus mihi sibi, si vos viri estis, pestiferum hinc
 9 abstulit gaudium." Dant ordine omnes fidem; con-
 solantur aegram animi avertendo noxam ab coacta in
 auctorem delicti: mentem peccare, non corpus, et
 10 unde consilium afuerit, culpam abesse. "Vos," in-
 quit, "videritis, quid illi debeatur: ego me etsi pec-
 cato absolvo, supplicio non libero; nec ulla deinde
 11 impudica Lucretiae exemplo vivet." Cultrum, quem
 sub veste abditum habebat, eum in corde defigit pro-
 12 lapsaque in vulnus moribunda cecidit. Conclamat
 vir paterque.

¹ salvae R: saluo Ω.

BOOK I. LVIII. 5-12

that they should each take a trusty friend and come; that they must do this and do it quickly, for a frightful thing had happened. Spurius Lucretius came with Publius Valerius, Volesus' son. Collatinus brought Lucius Junius Brutus, with whom he chanced to be returning to Rome when he was met by the messenger from his wife. Lucretia they found sitting sadly in her chamber. The entrance of her friends brought the tears to her eyes, and to her husband's question, "Is all well?" she replied, "Far from it; for what can be well with a woman when she has lost her honour? The print of a strange man, Collatinus, is in your bed. Yet my body only has been violated; my heart is guiltless, as death shall be my witness. But pledge your right hands and your words that the adulterer shall not go unpunished. Sextus Tarquinius is he that last night returned hostility for hospitality, and brought ruin on me, and on himself no less—if you are men—when he worked his pleasure with me." They give their pledges, every man in turn. They seek to comfort her, sick at heart as she is, by diverting the blame from her who was forced to the doer of the wrong. They tell her it is the mind that sins, not the body; and that where purpose has been wanting there is no guilt. "It is for you to determine," she answers, "what is due to him; for my own part, though I acquit myself of the sin, I do not absolve myself from punishment; nor in time to come shall ever unchaste woman live through the example of Lucretia." Taking a knife which she had concealed beneath her dress, she plunged it into her heart, and sinking forward upon the wound, died as she fell. The wail for the dead was raised by her husband and her father.

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