

## A2 Latin Unseen Verse (Livy) Past Paper: - (Coriolanus is persuaded by his wife and mother to withdraw)

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1 *Coriolanus is persuaded by his wife and mother to withdraw his army from the vicinity of Rome.*

Ambassadors sent to Coriolanus by the Senate returned with an uncompromising reply: if their territory were returned to the Volsci, his new allies, he would discuss terms; otherwise, no progress could be made. When they were sent back to speak to him again, they were not even admitted into his camp. Then, it is said, priests were sent to beg for his withdrawal; they had no more effect on Coriolanus than the ambassadors.

tum matronae ad Veturiam matrem Coriolani Volumniamque uxorem frequentes coeunt; persuasere ut et Veturia, magno natu mulier, et Volumnia, duos parvos ferens filios secum, in castra hostium irent et, quoniam armis viri defendere urbem non possent, mulieres precibus lacrimisque defenderent. ubi ad castra ventum est nuntiatumque adesse mulierum agmen, Coriolanus, qui nec publica maiestate in legatis nec in sacerdotibus religione motus esset, multo obstinatio adversus lacrimas muliebres erat. dein familiarum quidam qui inter ceteras cognoverat Veturiam, "nisi me frustrantur", inquit, "oculi, mater tibi coniunxque et liberi adsunt". Coriolanus prope ut amens consternatus ab sede sua cum ferret matri complexum<sup>1</sup>, mulier in iram ex precibus conversa, "velim scire, priusquam complexum<sup>1</sup> accipio", inquit, "utrum ad hostem an ad filium venerim, captiva materve in castris tuis sim. ad hoc me longa vita et infelix senectia traxit ut exulem te deinde hostem viderem? potuisti populari<sup>2</sup> hanc terram quae te genuit atque aluit<sup>3</sup>? ergo ego nisi peperissem<sup>4</sup>, Roma non oppugnaretur; nisi filium haberem, libera in libera patria mortua essem". uxor deinde et liberi amplexi<sup>5</sup>, fletusque ab omni turba mulierum ortus, et comploratio<sup>6</sup> sui patriaeque fregere tandem virum. complexus<sup>7</sup> inde suos dimittit; ipse retro ab urbe castra movit.

LIVY II, 40

<sup>1</sup>*complexus -us m.* = embrace

<sup>2</sup>*popular -ari* = lay waste

<sup>3</sup>*alo -ere alui* = nourish

<sup>4</sup>*pario -ere peperit* = bear (a child)

<sup>5</sup>*amplector -i amplexus sum* = embrace

<sup>6</sup>*comploratio -onis f.* = lamentation

<sup>7</sup>*complector -i complexus sum* = embrace

[30]

