

A2 Latin Unseen Verse (OVID) Past Paper: 1994 (Janus explains his appearance)

- 2 The god Janus, doorkeeper of the gods, appears to Ovid and explains his function and his unusual appearance.

While I was thinking about how to describe him, the whole house seemed to be illuminated and suddenly holy Janus, in his extraordinary two-headed form, appeared before my eyes.

extimui sensique metu riguisse capillos
et gelidum subito frigore pectus erat.
ille tenens baculum dextra clavemque¹ sinistra
edidit hos nobis ore priore sonos:
"accipe quaesitae quae causa sit altera formae,
hanc simul ut noris officiumque meum.
quicquid ubique vides, caelum, mare, nubila, terras,
omnia sunt nostra clausa patentque manu.
praesideo foribus caeli cum mitibus Horis²;
it, redit officio Iuppiter ipse meo.
vis mea narrata est. causam nunc disce figurae:
iam tamen hanc aliqua³ tu quoque parte³ vides.
omnis habet geminas, hinc atque hinc, ianua frontes,
e quibus haec populum spectat, at illa larem⁴;
utque sedens primi⁵ vester prope limina tecti
ianitor egressus introitusque videt,
sic ego perspicio caelestis ianitor aulae
Eoas partes Hesperiasque simul.
nam mihi, ne flexu cervicis tempora perdam,
cernere non motu corpora⁵ bina licet".

15
16

- ¹clavis -is f.: key
²Horae f.pl.: the (goddesses of the) Hours
³aliqua...parte: to some extent
⁴Iar Iaris m.: (here) = the inside of the house
⁵primus: (here) = the front of

Ovid, Fasti 1, 97ff.

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- 3 Write out and scan lines 15 and 16.

[2]

