

	THEOPHILI FOLENGII IANUS Ad Paulum Ursinum.	<i>Janus</i> by Teofilo Folengo, to Paolo Orsini ¹
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1.	Temporis imperium, gentemque, et facta tyranni	While we celebrate the supremacy and the people and the deeds of the tyrant Time, let some Gatekeeper protect the ports of the Apollonian city, and the same [Gatekeeper] shall have protected as well the mortal race from the waves flowing every which way, at that time when father Oceanus first supplied mountains in the midst of the deep whirlpool, Paolo, we are worn out by a violent swarm of Poets. Since indeed that two-headed god, that two-form god Janus, will appear to you here at once with a single face – as from a monster a man might spring forth – you will see him in no way misrepresenting virile demeanor and gait and limbs. Henceforth you may see ferocious Dogs barking and carping at our Janus with bites, but as soon as you, Orsini (the Bear), sharpen your curved talons or begin to clench with them, and to furiously tear off tufts of hair, livid spite will sink into torpor, but troubles will stay alert in my breast. ²
2.	Dum canimus, nec non quis lanitor ostia servet	
3.	Urbis Apollineae, atque idem servaverit undis	
4.	Omnivagis mortale genus, quo tempore primum	
5.	Subdidit Oceanus pater alto in gurgite montes,	
6.	Paule fatigamur violento examine Vatum.	
7.	Quandoquidem deus ille biceps, deus ille biformis	
8.	Ianus, ut e monstro vir prodeat, ilicet una	
9.	Huc tibi fronte aderit, quem nulla in parte viriles	
10.	Defraudantem habitus, gressumque et membra videbis.	
11.	Hinc torvos latrare Canes, et carpere lanum	
12.	Morsibus hunc nostrum videas, sed tu urse recurvos	
13.	Cum* primum exacuas unguis, aut frendere in illos	
14.	Incipias villosque furens attollere, livor	
15.	Sopitus cadet, at vigilant in pectore curae.	
16.	Virgo parens, qua non aliud mihi certius optem	Virgin parent, surely I could wish no other divinity than you to be present, which these men have learned by praying – whether we build Temples to you with colossal eye-catching statues, or arrange altars with blossoms or light them with incense – let us pray: do not conceal your brilliance, and do
17.	Numen adesse, quod ipsi homines didicere precando,	
18.	Si tibi conspicuis molimur Tempia Colossis,	
19.	Si flore instruimus, si thure incendimus aras,	
20.	Oramus, ne conde iubar, ne subtrahe nostro	
21.	Lumen ab intuitu, cui sol assurgit, et axem	
22.	Ipse tenens medium lapsis caligat habenis.	

¹ *Janus* is the third part of the volume dated 1533 which contains the *Pomiliones* (dialogues by Teofilo's brother Giovanni Battista) and *Varium poema* (a collection of 68 poems by Teofilo). My transcription of the *Janus* took place over the past 35 years at rare book libraries (Harvard, Columbia and the Newberry in Chicago) and was corrected against the hardcopy edition reproduced for the Amici di Merlin Cocai from a copy owned by Roberta Stringa (Vicenza, Grafiche Fantinato, 2011), and the slightly altered version offered online by Giovanna Piva at Poeti d'Italia in lingua latina (and Perseus Digital Library). My translation has been improved by expert and conscientious suggestions made by Douglas Olson, Distinguished McKnight Professor of Classical and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Minnesota; remaining errors are mine.

² 13. *Quamprimum* is corrected to *cum primum* with a handwritten correction in the margin: most of the 15 known copies of this volume contain three handwritten corrections, the other two are in the *Varium poema*.

		not withdraw the light from our understanding, [light] with which the sun rises, and is made misty while holding the middle region after the reins have slipped.*
23.	Nuper ego aggressus longum per inhospita cursum	Not long ago having advanced upon a long pathway through inhospitable areas, I was treading the mortal path wherever it might call me,
24.	Quo me cunque vocaret iter mortale terebam,	
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25.	Cum via dividuo tandem seiuncta recessu,	when the road, having separated finally into a divided retreat, went off wavering here and [t]here, and held me hesitating in my tracks before the very doors at the double entrance. As I lingered there, behold from afar Duke Gonzaga was coming my way – no one is more illustrious in arms than he: for him the trembling Muses together with the Graces move cheerful choirs in rhythm, and three and four times cause his Maro/ Vergil to utter cries about the deeds of Federico. ³
26.	Hinc atque hinc abiit varians, geminoque sub ipsis	
27.	Cunctantem foribus me aditu in vestigia fixit.	
28.	Haerenti procul ecce mihi dux obvius ibat	
29.	Gonziacus, quo non alius praestantior armis:	
30.	Cui trepidae ad numerum laetas movere choreas	
31.	Pierides simul et Charites, terque ore, quaterque	
32.	Ingemuere suum Federici ad gesta Maronem.	
33.	Sol, qui forte agiles tunc per compendia currus,	The Sun, who perchance was driving down his agile chariot then by short cuts, fleeing Alpine Boreas, and Night, who had moved her distended Urn onto the ocean, which the Trojan boy [Ganymede] would keep turning with wind and spinning, and making noise, would bring the enflamed Eagle plummeting down from high Olympus, and let him be mindful of [Mount] Ida, and mindful of the rape: they smiled in unison with Mars coming to the junction.*
34.	Alpinum fugiens Boream, declivis agebat:	
35.	Et nox, quae oceano distentam moverat Urnam,	
36.	Quam puer idaeus ventoque, et turbine verset,	
37.	Infensamque Aquilam summo deturbet Olympo	
38.	Increpitans, memoretque Idam, memoretque rapinam:	
39.	Arrisere simul venienti ad compita Marti.	
40.	Ipsa etiam Regina avium, prius acta theatro	Indeed the Queen of birds herself, before being driven from the heavenly theater and plunging all at once into the Minoan wreath, plans to stir up everything around with wind. ⁴ When however, the black-backed eagle saw the proud and distinguished youth arriving
41.	Quam sit ab aethereo, et sertum Minoidos una	
42.	Praecipitet, miscere parat vento omnia circum.	
43.	Ut vero iuvenem procul adventare superbum,	
44.	Insignemque aquila nigranti tergore vidit,	
45.	Extemplo simul indignantes decutit iras	

³ 29. Folengo praises another Duke in the same terms, “ut nusquam melior te hoc tempore vates/ incumbat musis, aut dux prastantior armis,” *Varium poema* 37.14-15.

⁴ Minoan: *Pomiliones* p. 149, and 153: “these wretched souls, whom I roused from the depths of the fires of Avernus, I called Minoans.”

46.	Pectore, lapsa simul coelo pernicipibus alis	from afar – at once she abruptly forces the indignant fury from her breast and, having glided down from heaven with swift wings, simultaneously splits open the earth and hides herself deep within the pierced ground.
47.	Findit humum, penitusque cavo se littore condit.	
48.	Ergo uno volucrum e celis abeunte Tyranno,	Therefore with the one Tyrant of the winged ones leaving the sky, whose head and feathers over his whole body grow bright white, then with another rising to the highest peak of Federico, whose head and feathers over his whole body grow dark, suddenly all the splendor of starry Olympus is revealed.*
49.	Cui caput, et toto candescunt corpore penna,	
50.	Tum surgente alio Federici vertice summo,	
51.	Cui caput, et toto nigrescunt corpore penna,	
52.	Syderei patuit subito decor omnis olympi.	
53.	Hic ego tum magnae percussus imagine lucis	At this point then, overwhelmed by the image of great light, I dissimulate/hide, and concealed, I contemplate the man from the shadow. However, when I have been observed in this hideaway, he called me to him and detained me, and questioned [me] thus, “Here now, here now,
54.	Dissimulo, tectusque virum contemplor ab umbra.	
55.	Ut vero inspectum latebris, ad seque vocatum	
56.	Me tenuit, sic sic interpellabat. An hic te,	
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57.	Hic te etiam demulcet amor post funera dici?	does it soothe you, love, to be spoken of after the burial? Or does it seem instead that you will no longer go into the sepulchur? To what end does that dishonorable madness snatch away your innate talent now, that madness I say, which making up a Baldus with silly verse, I know not what sort of Baldus, holds all things in ridicule? Is it the case that when that coarse, foolish and warped poem has been thrown out/ ejected, subverted Fame orders it to be renewed?
58.	Aut magis est visum non longius ire sepulchro?	
59.	Quo furor ingenium tibi nunc rapit improbus ille,	
60.	Ille inquam furor, insulso qui carmine Baldum,	
61.	Nescio quem Baldum, simulans, tenet omnia risu?	
62.	Ecquid ubi eiectum est illud rude carmen ineptum,	
63.	Ac deforme, iubet fama hic labefacta novari?	
64.	An te poenituit forsan tam ignaviter usum	Can it be perhaps you are sorry for such an ignoble use of time, which should be consumed more sparingly than anything on this planet, and which until now steals itself away with fleeting hours? Will it be therefore, that the Muse always produces humorous Baldus while the rabble applauds? Is the Muse insane? Is the Muse excluded from the Aonian/ Heliconian chorus? Will all decency have been squandered, while a useless poem demolishes with a raucous reed?”
65.	Tempore, quo nihil hac rerum sub mole terendum	
66.	Parcius, usque adeo rapidis se surripit horis?	
67.	Ergo erit, ut semper vulgo plaudente iocosum	
68.	Musa ferat Baldum? musa amens? musa choreis	
69.	Aonidum seclusa? decus prodegerit omne,	
70.	Futile dum rauca disperdit arundine carmen?	

71.	His ego non minus obrigui formidine demens,	At these words I stiffened frenzied with dread no less than if Perseus had thrown the Gorgon [in my way].	
72.	Quam si terribilem obiectasset Gorgona Perseus.		
73.	Vix tandem accessi trepidans, ita voce locutus:	Reluctantly at last I came near trembling, speaking thus with my voice, "Most excellent Duke, when you mention such things, no cause could call you back from duty, and from your devotion to doing favors; and now, show your favor, and to this innate talent, going along on a journey, no matter how deep, grant that I may at last be able to stop; say, I beg you, to the Virgins who care for Mount Parnassus, to one holding out his hands and confessing the egregious crime, that having turned their minds around, they should grant pardon and reform their poet.	
74.	Talia cum memores dux praestantissime, nulla		
75.	Causa te ab officio revocet, studioque favendi:		
76.	Iamque fave, atque huic ingenio, quodcumque, profundum		
77.	Vadenti per iter, da tandem sistere posse,		
78.	Dic, rogo, Virginibus, quibus arx parnassia curae,		
79.	Tendentique manus, crimenque insigne fatenti		
80.	Dent veniam conversae animos, vatemque reformat.		
81.	Sed mihi tu dextram? dextram tu porrigis? an qui		Yet do you offer me your right hand, your right hand? Does he who before snaked along the ground stretch his head high to you, Duke/ at your invitation. Behold, you are present, Oh, at last, Nymphs, Mintian Nymphs, applaud "eeyo, eeyo/ io, io" – applaud your Federico here, the great towering Gonzaga emitting sound is visible to the world, and he surveys the peoples from the Bianorean [Mantuan] city. At his side, his brothers gather together honored by splendid virtue, distinguished, one in a flaming [Cardinal's] cap
82.	Dudum serpsit humi duce te caput exeret alte?		
83.	Ecce ades O tandem, huic io io applaudite, Nymphae		
84.	Mintiades Nymphae Federico applaudite vestro		
85.	Is magnum Gonzaga sonans patet arduus orbi,		
86.	Eque bianorea populos circumspicit urbe.		
87.	Cui latus adglomerant macti virtute decora		
88.	Germani, insignes, alter flammante galero,		
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89.	Atque ostro, sacris dictus, qui nomen honorat	and purple, dedicated to religious rites, who does honor to the name Hercules (Ercole); another with a wing-footed steed and golden spurs, Ferrante, not unequal in skill to Mars (the Strider) himself. How great they bear themselves, what strength in their arms, who would deny they are the offspring of Gods? Mind, shake off at last, shake off your sloth, and establish a name for yourself."	
90.	Herculeum: alter equo alipede, et calcaribus aureis		
91.	Fernandus, non ipsi impar ducis arte Gradivo.		
92.	Quam prae se ore ferunt magnos, quod robur in armis,		
93.	Quis neget esse Deum sobolem? Mens excute tandem,		
94.	Excute segnitiem, atque aliquod tibi surrige nomen.		
95.	Dixeram, et accedens propius scitabar, ut ipse	I had spoken, and going closer I was asking that he make known where the double track carries itself, for in front of the dividing line of several gates any traveler hesitates, of two	
96.	Monstraret, quo se, duplex vehit orbita, nanque		
97.	Prae foribus varii discriminis haesitat anceps		
98.	Quisque viator, an huc gradiens, an se ferat illuc.		

		minds whether to advance here or to take himself there.	
99.	Mobile si vulgus, dixit, Plebemque caducam,	“If you prefer to follow the fickle people,” he said, “and the fallen Plebes, who scarcely born deserve to die, and are unworthy of being born, if you disregard the favor of a good name, twist your tracks here to the left horn. This path rushes more quickly to its goal and goes down into swampy reeds, where it encircles with mud those who come there. ⁵	
100.	Quae vix nata, mori digna est, indignaque nasci,		
101.	Forte sequi mavis, si pulchri nominis auram		
102.	Negligis, ad levum torque huc vestigia cornu.		
103.	Haec via se fini citius rapit, inque palustres		
104.	Descendit calamos, ubi caeno involvit euntes.		
105.	Si vero extolli cupias atque inter haberi	If, however, you desire to be praised and to be held among eminent personages, come, trusting in the will of the Divinities, go off to the right, so that you come to the favor of an eternal name. Here Virtue lives devoted to studious care, she makes you much happier than treacherous fate, and honors you much better with distinction. Virtue remains certain for us but loves to be pined for as impressive: incessant labor discovers her, and once discovered she takes charge.	
106.	Egregios animos, age, fretus numine Divum,		
107.	Dexter abi, ut venias aeterni ad nominis auram.		
108.	Hic Virtus habitat studiosae debita curae:		
109.	Quae longe melius quam sors malefida beatum		
110.	Efficat, ac longe melius te insignis honorat.		
111.	Haec nos certa manet, sed amat speciosa requiri:		
112.	Quam labor assiduus reperit, potiturque reperta.		
113.	Interea quanta est currenti occurrit, et amplos	Meanwhile, however great she is, she rushes to meet the one who is running, and in the end bestows ample honors on the struggling spirit. Therefore hastening here she seek the portals of Time, to where the right road leads you, not far from a narrow passageway, while the journey provides enough light through the opaque silences, while even now Phoebe drives back her two-horsed chariot.” He spoke, and a very bright cloud slipping past suddenly took him as he turned away, and perhaps he is carried off	
114.	Obnitenti animo tandem largitur honores.		
115.	Hinc ergo adproperans pete Temporis ostia, quo te		
116.	Non procul angusto ducit via dextra meatu:		
117.	Dum sat lucis iter per opaca silentia sumit		
118.	Dumque suas revehit Phoebe iam proxima bigas.		
119.	Dixit, et aversum labens nitidissima nubes		
120.	Improvisa illum tollit, qui visere forsan		
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121.	Interdum evehitur patrios Haeroas Olympo.		from time to time to Olympus to visit ancestral heroes.

⁵ 95-110. The Gonzaga character may be telling the poet that if he chooses to write about homosexuality he will jeopardize his reputation: the theme of two paths was used frequently by Folengo, with the narrow path referring to the anal pathway as opposed to the wider vaginal path, see also *Chaos*, R 178, 180-1, 198, 238, 241, 344; *Baldus Cipadense*, Boselli p. 156v, verses after V 18.349; *L’Humanità* 2.26.1-2, and see below, lines 213-25.

122.	Atque ego iam tanti laetatus origine facti,	And yet happy now at the beginning of such a great deed, I go forth where the right trail spreads open a path for me. Not far away beneath the sky opposite the Moon, walls lay open, which pulsate against the stars with their towering peak. Here [are] Time's kingdom and the citadels of great Phoebus [Apollo]. I run up at once: and it is a wonder how steep and how wide they quake, and the tips assess the whole land. Yet who could believe so much, if I should begin to speak of everything I saw with these eyes, how these rampart pinnacles are carried to the stars, and vast walls circle the Apollonian city? Nor should one be ashamed (if it is granted to compare small things to great) to have called the World a theater: where on any given day one erects spectacles for the People.
123.	Progredior, quo dextra viam mihi semita pandit.	
124.	Non procul adverso Lunae patuere sub aura	
125.	Moenia, turrito quae vertice sydera pulsant.	
126.	Temporis hic regnum, magnique palatia Phoebi.	
127.	Protinus accurro: mirum quamque ardua quamque	
128.	Lata tremunt, totamque obeunt fastigia terram.	
129.	Quis tamen id tantum credat, si singula fari	
130.	Incipiam, quae his vidi oculis, ut ad astra ferantur	
131.	Murorumque minae, utque urbem vastissima cingant	
132.	Moenia phoebeam? nec (si componere magnis	
133.	Parva datur) pudeat Mundum dixisse theatrum:	
134.	Quo sua quaeque dies aedit spectacula Genti.	
135.	Illa sed Artificum miranda peritia motis	
136.	Cardinibus conflarat opus versatile, ut ingens	
137.	Circumducta rotae similis structura vehatur.	
138.	Alterat haec nunquam certa vertigine cursum,	
139.	Donec apollineos ad metam circinet orbis.	
140.	Continuo summis exundant turribus atra	
141.	Nubila, quae pluvio (pro ut mobile iusserit aevum)	
142.	Plena sinus humore cavos, rutiloque vapore,	
143.	Nunc bibulos placida mulcent aspergine campos,	
144.	Nunc rescissa tonant, torquentia fulmen ut ictu	
145.	Grandineo adducti modo spem populentur atrati:	
146.	Et modo hyperboreae lento nivis imbre liquescant.	
147.	Saepe tamen vacuum purgantur in aera, nec se	Yet often they are purged in empty air, and do not place themselves between the sun and the adjacent fields. Here indeed is the home of the winds, and all those things which assuredly flow beneath a leader, and work with a motion and a goal. For indeed, without Time's command, you would not see the sea violently discharge steep waves, nor settle them down wearied.
148.	Obiiciunt solemque inter, camposque iacentes.	
149.	Ventorum hic etiam domus est, et quae omnia certe	
150.	Sub ductore fluunt, motuque ac fine laborant.	
151.	Praeruptas nec enim sine iussu Temporis undas	
152.	Eructare fretum videas, aut ponere fessas.	

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153.	Flant Euri, altisonum praetexunt nubila coelum.	Let the East winds blow, clouds cloak the resounding sky. Let the Zephyrs blow, the assembled [clouds] take flight every which way. The narrow rivers are amazed by the Thracian North Winds. Soon, swollen with pressing South winds, they assault the banks. Stabled continually in front of the doors one after the other, with their beds laid at the very entrance, the Hours weave threads – the Hours, sentries of the Fates and minsters of movement.
154.	Flant Zephiri, collecta fugae sese undique dedunt.	
155.	Flumina threiciis Aquilonibus arcta stupefcunt.	
156.	Mox tumida expugnant ripas urgentibus Austris.	
157.	Prae foribus stabulant alternae semper, et ipso	
158.	Vestibulo positis nent fila cubilibus Horae,	
159.	Horae Parcarum vigiles, motusque ministrae.	An iron machine of moving wheels stands firm; metal pendulums turn these wheels in various directions among themselves, and then back again, by means of a taut metal cord.* Six [times] four [i.e. around the clock] this task is given to the Hours, who strain with minute steps and push themselves on to the turning post in harmonious order, when one of them bursting forth announces with resounding bronze what part of Shadow or of vibrating light Time is acting on: therefore these Months are able to enter their abodes, according to the laws of the Tyrant [Time].*
160.	Ferrea mobilium stat machina fixa rotarum,	
161.	Quas inter sese varias, refluasque vicissim	
162.	Pendula detorquent intento fune metalla.	
163.	Sex quater haec etiam datur horis cura, minutos	
164.	Quae obliquant passus, numerosoque ordine se se	
165.	Ad metam impellunt, ubi quaelibet aere canoro	
166.	Nunciat erumpens quidve Umbrae, quidve coruscae	
167.	Lucis agat Tempus: quo ipsi succedere Menses	
168.	Admoniti possint tectis ad iura Tyranni.	
169.	Post illos Annus senior, cui plurima pectus	After them, the elderly Year, whose voluminous beard covers his chest, may go back, and survey all of the expenses of everything, and the stages of life one by one from the Lustrum. This is the agent of Time, who, trusting in the precipitous pen of his Olympian sister, reckons the whole sky in numbers three and four times, and offers the sum to the powerful first of nobles to examine in the full Century, in the Century, to which the king himself always devotes great honor, and orders to stay at his side.
170.	Barba tegit, redeat, cunctasque recenseat omnium	
171.	Expensas rerum, aetatesque ac singula Lustris.	
172.	Temporis actor id est, qui praecipitante sororis	
173.	Fretus Olympiadis calamo, terque omne quaterque	
174.	Supputat in numeros Coelum, summamque potenti	
175.	Ac procerum primo dat pleno examinare Seclo,	
176.	Seclo, cui magnos impendit semper honores	
177.	Rex ipse, atque suo lateri consistere mandat.	
178.	Hic ubi me oblatum celsa despexit ab arce	Here when the Hour looked down from the high citadel at me who had been offered up, [the hour] which followed third on the first night watch,* someone suddenly proclaims permission, and having set out from there, like some wild animal in the night, not to be
179.	Hora, quae in excubias successit tertia primas,	
180.	Quis veniam subito proclamat, et unde profectus,	
181.	Quidve feram noctu, nec euntibus esse futurum	
182.	Omnibus accessum, nisi quos, aut plena sciendi	
183.	Vis agat, ut rerum causas ritusve capescant,	

184.	Aut quibus ingenium longe praestantius ardet,	admitted in the future with all those going in, except either those whom full force of knowing drives (so that they may understand the reasons and rites of things), or those whose excellent natural talent burns longer,
	{page 208} {c. N viii v}	{page 208} {c. N viii v}
185.	Mobile hoc imperium regni ulterioris amore	with love of swimming through this mobile empire of the more removed realm, and of cutting a double path in the sky opening into the reason of reasons, the tamer of time who either moves all things, as agreed, to the end, or preserves them unmoved.
186.	Tranandi, atque viam coelo bipatente secandi	
187.	Causarum ad causam, domitrix quae temporis omnia	
188.	Aut movet, ut placitum, fini, aut immota perennat.	
189.	Talia quaerenti tum sic ego. Diva potentum	Then to the one who seeks such things, I [speak] thus, "Blessed Gonzaga, mother of powerful heroes, Time moves me to visit here, roused to the enjoyment of a better life, but until now led astray by the swarm of unstable rabble. Grant easy success (because the portals of the Age are here) for so great an undertaking, and do not deem me insincere: a weak person has not this strength, a lone person has not this confidence.*
190.	Heroum genitrix Gonzaga huc visere Tempus	
191.	Me movet, excitum vitae melioris ad usum,	
192.	Atque adeo instabili subductum examine vulgi.	
193.	Da facilem (quando hic AEvi sunt ostia) tanto	
194.	Successum voto, neque me quid fingere crede:	
195.	Non ea vis inopi, non haec fiducia soli.	
196.	Te rogo, te per eas, quas iunctas ore supino	I beg you, by these hands, which now with my face supine I extend to you joined together: I pray you, by such stars known to our gazing that come according to the service of the Hours, open the gates." Thereupon, suddenly enthusiastic and her irritations alleviated by my words, she ran, and undertook three notes and three times spoke in the air.* At first then the doorposts moaned on raucous hinges, and now they lie open, and now I am carried inside with a rejoicing spirit.
197.	Nunc tibi tendo, manus: te, per si cognita nostris	
198.	Horarum officio veniunt obtutibus astra,	
199.	Oro, pande fores. Tunc ardens illa repente,	
200.	Ac dictis lenita meis sua puncta cucurrit,	
201.	Trisque adiit numerosa notas, terque aere locuta est.	
202.	Tum primum rauco gemuerunt cardine postes,	
203.	Iamque patent, iamque ipse animo feror intus ovanti.	
204.	Qua subito mihi porta data est vir limine primo	Immediately where a door has been granted to me, behold there was a man on the first threshold, and with a serious countenance and staunch old age, with a long body, who, while stroking flowing white hairs on his chin with his left hand, he stretches out his right to me on the other side, which, joined to mine would strike a sacred pact concerning the
205.	En fuit, aspectuque gravi, firmaque senecta,	
206.	Corpore procero, canos qui ad menta comantes	
207.	Demulcens leva, dextram mihi porrigit ultro:	
208.	Quae coniuncta meae sanctum de more feriret	
209.	Hospitii foedus, Socioque in iure teneret.	

		customs of hospitality and hold it in a Communal oath.*
210.	Incipit ille simul. Quisquis novus hospes ad aulam	He began thus: "Whatever new guest [you are] who have approached the hall of Time, first learn to endure the long labor and you may come to know how to distinguish the true from the false.
211.	Temporis accesti, longum perferre laborem	
212.	Disce prius, verumque scias excerptere falsis.	
213.	Ambagum domus haec, et inobservabilis error,	This is the house of ambiguity and undetectable wandering/ deception/ error, a hundred entrances intermingling, in which only a single narrow pathway has been mixed in, pervious to the light of right[eousness]. Few choose to go here, for in the narrow retreat
214.	Centum intermiscens aditus, quibus unica tantum	
215.	Semita permixta est ad recti pervia lucem.	
216.	Huc pauci ire legunt, arcto nanque illa recessu	
	{page 209} {c. O}	{page 209} {c. O}
217.	Visa quidem spreta est: Sed iter, quod tramite largo	that [narrow pathway*] seems indeed to be scorned, but many love the journey that spreads out on a wide path, and they wander to no avail, seeking the sun in shadows, and while the golden stars shine, they go down further into the night and recede from the sky.
218.	Expatiat, amant plures, frustra que vagantur,	
219.	Quaerentes phoebum tenebris, dumque aurea lustrant	
220.	Sydera, plus noctem subeunt coeloque recedunt.	
221.	Hic non ductores desunt ad compita verae	Here leaders are not absent at the crossroads of the true and the deceptive path, antithetical pursuits which may send you back vacillating; but, where no rut is marked, or is seen faintly at any rate – rush into this one as certain, head toward it energetically and direct your confident steps here.
222.	Fallentisque viae, studia in contraria qui te	
223.	Nutantem reddant: Sed qua nulla orbita signat,	
224.	Aut saltem tenuis visa est, hanc irrue certam,	
225.	Impiger hanc tendas, fidosque huc dirige gressus.	
226.	Disquirant alii Zonas licet aetheris, atque	Let others investigate the Zones of the firmament and not satisfied by their eyes, let them invade the Artistic summit of the world with a courageous effort of investigation and expound on the appearance of it in established forms; in case it is not wholly bound, in case it observes mortal things, it leaves behind those which ought to fall to the judgment and care of Time, whether it sets up something new daily, or at the very beginning created all things simultaneously to have a variable time: If spoken things sent out can be brought back, or whether instead the thought
227.	Non contenti oculis, animosa indagine summum	
228.	Invadant mundi Artificem positisque figuris	
229.	Illius evolvant speciem, totusne coheret	
230.	Ipsae sibi, spectat ne unquam mortalia, quae iam	
231.	Temporis arbitio* curaque obeunda reliquit:	
232.	Quotidiene aliquod statuit novitatis, an ipso	
233.	Principio ad varium simul omnia tempus habenda	
234.	Composit: Si fata queunt summota referri,	
235.	Val* [vel] magis ipsa semel sententia fixa manebit.	

		once set down will remain.*
236.	Haec eadem nescire hominum est, quae summa recedunt	It is the lot of humans not to know these things, which withdraw high up from so much space, and refuse to place themselves before our sight. You, on the other hand, press on resolutely with your study of days lest they flitter about in vain and get carried away suddenly, lest you evade the better things of life and customs, but gather what each day, what life demands in return.”
237.	Tot spatiis, visuque negant se opponere nostro.	
238.	Tu contra obnixe studiis incumbere dierum	
239.	Ne frustra volitent, raptimque ferantur inanes,	
240.	Quin melior vitae, morumque evaseris, atque	
241.	Contuleris quid quaeque dies, quid vita reposcit.	
242.	Talibus admonuit Senior, tunc ipse rogabam	The Elder advised with such [words]. Then I myself asked him whether it would be permitted to hear his occupation and his name, what he was protecting, and if he were the guard of the prince’s first/ chief entrance. Then with his eyes turned skyward, he said:
243.	Illius an curam, nomenque audire liceret.	
244.	Quid servet, primi custos an liminis esset.	
245.	Tunc ille ad coelum sublato lumine dixit.	
246.	Est mihi cum reliquis a summo iniuncta Tonante	
247.	Cura satellitibus deducere mensibus annum,	“The occupation imposed on me by the great Thunderer is, among others, to lead the year away with the months escorting it, and to obey God who controls all, and who governs the souls
248.	Ac parere Deo moderanti cuncta, polorumque	
	{page 210} {c. O i v}	
	{page 210} {c. O i v}	{page 210} {c. O i v}
249.	Imperitanti animis: quippe huc venientibus ipse	of the celestial vault: as you see, I myself spread open the doors to those coming here and firm authority to open them is granted by me to the swift Hours, which take turns guarding the thresholds.
250.	Pando fores rapidisque Horis aperire potestas	
251.	Per me certa datur, quae alternae limina servant.	
252.	Ast obtusa adeo duplici me fronte vetustas	But then dull old age misleadingly made me some God or other with a double face, and placed me on altars, to whom first before those, whom they held in the early duty of the gods, they were accustomed to pour a libation with flames laid, as though at the beginning of all things, and as a sign of peace from me in my temple, which the law would close and which it would reopen, as a sign of war, the Quirites made me famous, and they called [me] the twin God and the two-faced Janus, by which [law*] Apollo took himself away and by which he gave himself back, I was able to watch with my neck unmoved
253.	Nescio quem, mentita Deum est, arisque locavit,	
254.	Cui primum ante illos, quos prisci habuere deorum	
255.	Officio, positis flammis libare solebant,	
256.	Tanquam principio rerum omnium: et indice pacis	
257.	Me templo, quod lex claudebat: et indice belli	
258.	Quod recludebat, celebrem fecere Quirites,	
259.	Ac dixere Deum geminum, Ianumque bifrontem:	
260.	Qui qua se removet, qui qua se reddit Apollo	
261.	Cervice poteram immota diversa tueri.	

		facing in opposite directions.*	
262.	Quid memorem vel quo Salii me nomine, vel qua	Why should I recount by what name the Salii or with what fame the Tyrians have spoken of me? ⁶ The one group of whom, sodden with full cups and driven by carefree jumps was accustomed to sing of me as Chaos and the god of gods. But the other [group] had twisted the long Dragon in a circle, devouring the tip of its own tail behind its back.	
263.	Me Tirii fama tulerint? quorum altera plenis		
264.	Turba madens cyathis, et saltibus acta solutis		
265.	Me Chaos assuerat cantare, deumque deorum.		
266.	Altera sed longum curvaverat orbe Draconem,		
267.	Extremam sibimet caudam post terga vorantem.		
268.	Sed quid ego his dudum moror hac te argente sub arcto?	But why do I delay you so long with these things freezing beneath the Plough? Rather come now, follow our penates as a visitor, and perhaps we will be able to support a protégé of Gonzaga with a heart not at all faint and with modest adornment: who does not recognize the race of heroes, the city [of] Manto?" ⁷	
269.	Immo age, iam nostris succede penatibus hospes,		
270.	Et nos Gonzagae forsitan poterimus alumnum		
271.	Suscipere haud animo ignavo gracilique paratu:		
272.	Quis genus Heroum, quis Mantus nesciat urbem?		
273.	Dixit, et accitos vocat in diversa Ministros.	He spoke, and called for Ministers summoned for different purposes. They make themselves ready for the spirit/ deity and having spread out foods, and while they restore with foodstuffs, others increase the flame with crackling juniper, which intense, rises to the roof and relieves cold limbs when heat is injected into them. After that they set the couches in a row with white tablecloth, and the silver implements are not burdensome to the tables. Here, after the Elder sees the Falernian wine frothing in a glass	
274.	Illi se genio expediunt, epulisque struendis,		
275.	Dumque penu instaurant, alii crepitantibus augent		
276.	Iuniperis flammam: tecto quae plurima surgit,		
277.	Immissoque levat frigentia membra calore.		
278.	Fulcra dehinc albis mantilibus ordine sistunt:		
279.	Nec deest argenti mensis onerosa supellex.		
280.	Hic Senior postquam vitro spumare phalernum,		
	{page 211} {c. O ii}		{page 211} {c. O ii}
281.	Appositumque videt, simul et cerealia dona,		and placed before me, together with the gifts of grain; with hardly a delay, he rises up and asks for water, and together we are washed; then, he extends eyes and palms along with
282.	Haud mora, poscit aquam surgens, unaque lavamur		
283.	Inde oculos, palmasque simul sic voce tetendit:		
284.	Adsis omnipotens rerum dator, haec tua laeto		

⁶ 262-3. *Salii*: the leaping priests of Mars whose rituals marked the opening and closing of the annual war cycle, cf. Ovid, *Fasti* (3.259-392); the Tyrians, or Carthaginians, are here associated with the Ouroboros, the dragon that devours its own tail, a symbol of cyclical renewal (like Janus).

⁷ 272. *Mantus* (Manto) was an Etruscan god of the underworld, from whom the city of Mantova (Mantua) may have gotten its name.

285.	Munera da sumi auspicio, nosque eripe culpa,	his voice: "Come, omnipotent giver of things, allow these gifts of yours to be taken up with a happy omen, and rescue us from our guilt, us whom you may consider ultimately worthy to take our place at the heavenly tables."	
286.	Quos tandem aethereis dignere accumbere mensis.		
287.	Haec ait, et simul oblatas consumimus escas,	He said these things, and at the same time, we ate the offered foods, and all our initial hunger passes by in mute silence.	
288.	Totaque prima fames per muta silentia transit.		
289.	Sed mox ille alacri sic pectore iam satur inquit*:	But then, already satisfied, he begins thus with a joyful heart: "These doors are open to you by divine consent, whereby you may thoroughly learn many things that ought to be believed by a steadfast soul. For the coming day, and this last night, after the signals are completed/ targets have been pierced, they join together, and the old year perishes, and the new has its first beginnings within our gates. I established these Calends in the Latin way, when I, pauper king, first held the Italian scepter.	
290.	Haec tibi divino patuerunt ostia nutu,		
291.	Quo plura ediscas animo credenda tenaci.		
292.	Proxima nanque dies, et nox haec ultima, signis		
293.	Transactis coeunt, nec non vetus interit annus,		
294.	Ac novus in foribus sumit primordia nostris.		
295.	Has ego constitui latio de more calendas,		
296.	Itala quum primum rex pauper sceptram tenerem.		
297.	Sed pro' ridendae quantae hoc in tempore leges.		But how many ridiculous laws there were at that time!
298.	Usus erat iam tum (nec adhuc bene perditus ipse		It was a custom then (nor has it really gone lost from the people for whom the genuine light has sprung forth), that on this first night in every house that the father himself would look for an old trunk capable of a sinuous shaft of flame, and when it was found, he would raise it with much strength and willingly put it on his shoulders. Next, sweating under the great weight he would climb to the high ceiling, from there he would stir up the first fires and would offer a tree branch to the altar/ hearth, to be burned according to this law – that no one should dare to take away the coals from the flames. For if this great religion were violated, without a doubt an painful year would ensue with an infested demon, who embeds dank sores in the burgeoning crops and in the hard Bulls, and slows the plows, then kills the tender Lambs/ ears of grain with filthy mange.
299.	A populo excessit, cui lux sincera coorta est)		
300.	Omnibus ut tectis hac prima in nocte vetustum,		
301.	Atque habilem flammae sinuoso stipite truncum		
302.	Quaereret ipse domus pater, inventumque levaret		
303.	Vi multa, atque suis humeris imponeret ultro.		
304.	Mox altum sudans vasto sub pondere tectum		
305.	Scanderet, ex illo primos ubi suscitaret ignes,		
306.	Arboreumque focus det ramum, hac lege cremandum,		
307.	Audeat ut nemo flammae subducere prunas.		
308.	Nam si relligio tanta haec violata fuisset,		
309.	Nimirum gravis infesto succederet annus		
310.	Daemone, qui segeti pubenti, qui humida duris		
311.	Ulcera defigit Tauris, et aratra moratur,		
312.	Tum scabie immunda teneras interficit Agnas.		
	{page 212} {c. O ii v}	{page 212} {c. O ii v}	

313.	Praeterea observant epulas, ducuntque necesse,	Meanwhile they hold a feast and consider it necessary, if not ordained by fate, that certain dishes are prepared, some that are to be consumed quickly by themselves, some to be left by the authority of the holy Penates.
314.	Nec nisi dispositum fato, quod certa parentur	
315.	Fercula, que* partim sibi consumenda repente,	
316.	Arbitrio partim divum linquenda Penatum.	
317.	Tunc passim videas longo torrere suilla	Then here and there you might see a pig back roasting on a long spit, and the guts cooking furiously over black bundles of brush, spread out a long way with the dark red gore. Which scarcely snatched from the fire and still extremely hot disappear into relaxed guts: so that the [pig] guts reach [their] guts.
318.	Terga veru, nigrasque super defervere crates	
319.	Viscera, purpureo longe distenta cruore.	
320.	Quae vix rapta focus, et adhuc calidissima, laxos	
321.	In ventres abeunt, ut viscere viscera tendunt.	
322.	Ossa dehinc semota cadis, aut littore condunt,	After that, with the bones removed in vessels, they either bury them in the ground, or give them back to the flames and hot ash to be burned.* For if the house-wandering Cats and hungry Kittens should gnaw them and men tread on them with no dread, alas, fire some day is to be expected in their houses. But lest you seek in vain, I will begin at last to tell who I am, and to ward off sleep with my words.
323.	Aut reddunt flammis, cinerique arsura calenti.	
324.	Nam si tectivagi Feles, avidique Catelli	
325.	Haec rodant, et nulla homines formidine calcent,	
326.	Heu quondam speranda suis incendia tectis.	
327.	Sed qui sim tandem, ne tu quoque vana sequaris	
328.	Incipiam fari, somnumque arcescere dictis.	
329.	Haeserat aetherei patris alto in pectore cura	Concern had clung in the lofty breast of the heavenly father about how the human race ought to be destroyed, and after a long complaint from Mother Earth was delivered, he had become angry. For she cries out to drown her degenerate breed and she wearies the gods above with great clamor.
330.	Perdendi genus humanum, longoque parentis	
331.	Acta diu Terrae questu, conceperat iram.	
332.	Degeneres nanque illa suos immergere natos	
333.	Clamat, et ingenti superos clamore fatigat.	
334.	Infoelix mater, quam proles ipsa nefandis	Unhappy mother – her own offspring attack her with wicked weapons, with which they tear out the yellow from her broken innards, the subject of so many crimes. Then they pile up her bones under the clouds, in order to invade the Thunderer, and boldly demolish the doors of the Poles.
335.	Impeteret telis, cui rupto viscere fulvum,	
336.	Materiam scelerum tantarum, evelleret aurum.	
337.	Tum sua congereret sub nubes ossa, Tonantem	
338.	Invasura, Polique audax excindere portas.	
339.	His ego terribiles oculis vidi ire Gigantes,	I saw these terrible Giants with my [own] eyes, rejoicing in blood, moving their lofty heads in the sky, and carrying their threats to the gods with horrible-sounding clamor; finally they lifted mountains raised high on their shoulders, and built a subversive Tower beneath the sky. On account of this the heavenly Thunderer was violently disturbed
340.	Sanguine gaudentes, coelo capita alta moventes,	
341.	Horrisonoque minas superis clamore ferentes:	
342.	Tandem sublimes humeris attollere montes,	
343.	Et coniuratum coelo submittere Turrim.	
344.	Hinc graviter commotus erat, statuitque repente	

	{page 213} {c. O iii}	{page 213} {c. O iii}
345.	Celsitonans secta Navim contexere pinu,	and abruptly ordered me to build a Ship with cut pine and to construct a house with beams that, conveyed through the waves, would protect me and my offspring together on the sea waters, and also the seeds of living things: there would be wind such that the whole sky would liquefy into black rain, and would drive forth a great crash of waves, and from these having broken in from every side, Nereus [the sea] and Rivers and Springs and lakes and inert Ponds would surge up to such a point that even the taller peaks would sink under the waves, and the huge Caucasus, the extremely large Atlas Mountains and the Pyrenees and the greatest of all, Olympus. Here, he said, here is where my meaning tends. For a long time it displeased me to have produced this race of humans – greedy, cruel, deadly, savage; indeed, such a stain ought to be atoned for with however much around and beneath the orb is soaked by Oceanus, with however many showers of rainclouds [Oceanus] has power over the wet surface and the streams of the open sky.*
346.	Molirique domum trabibus, quae vecta per undas,	
347.	Meque meamque simul prolem, semenque animantum	
348.	Aequoreis servaret aquis: fore ventus ut atras	
349.	Eliquet in pluvias coelum omne, ruatque fragorem	
350.	Undarum ingentem: ruptus quibus undique Nereus,	
351.	Fluminaque Scatebraeque, lacusque, et inertia Stagna	
352.	Usque adeo insurgant, ut iam maiora sub undas	
353.	Culmina descendant, atque ingens Caucasus, atque	
354.	Plurimus Atlas, Pyreneque, atque omnium Olympus	
355.	Maximus. Huc, ait, huc tendit sententia nostra.	
356.	Dudum poenituit me hominum genus istud, avarum,	
357.	Crudele, exitiale, ferum, duxisse: luenda est	
358.	Tanta quidem labes, quanto circum orbis et infra	
359.	Tingitur Oceano, quantis valet imbris uda	
360.	Nimborum facies, et aperti flumina coeli.	
361.	His percussus ego, atque mei fortissima pubes	Struck by these things, I, and the vigorous fruit of my loins, three sons, and their numerous progeny, submit to the orders of the god, and we turned our hands to the first art.* Forests are destroyed by us: here a Holm Oak moans struck by an ax, there a Fir and spruce timbers and Hard Oaks of massive weight are dragged on an axle/ plank/ wagon.
362.	Tres nati, sobolesque horum numerosa, subimus	
363.	Iussa dei, primaeque manus advertimus arti.	
364.	Sternuntur nobis sylvae, gemit icta securi	
365.	Hic Ilex, illic Abies, piceaeque trahuntur	
366.	Axe trabes, et durae immani pondere Quercus.	
367.	Iamque comas passim fusas in littore tona	Now, shorn of their flowing foliage, long timbers lie here and there on the shore, where my children make ready builders' tools, and raise the Trunks with a strut in place. The extremely firm bodies lie opened with hard wedges, and are converted into oblong beams, and by means of flames are driven into curved crossbeams: here the easily cut Alder, there the long-lived Larch, and the tall Ash screeches with the toothed bronze of the
368.	Robora longa iacent, ubi tela fabrilia nati	
369.	Expediunt, positoque levant tibicene Truncos.	
370.	Ipsa patent cuneis firmissima corpora duris,	
371.	Inque trabes abeunt oblongas, inque recurva	
372.	Transtra suburgentur flammis: hic sectilis Alnus	
373.	Hic longaeva Larix, proceraque Fraxinus aere	
374.	Dentigero stridet serrae, tabulasque ministrat.	
375.	Ipsae autem interea porrecto in ventre carinam	
376.	Littore signabam, ceu tunc fabricator olympi	

		saw and furnishes panels. I, meanwhile, was on the shore sealing the hull in the outstretched belly, as the fabricator of Olympus was then
	{page 214} {c. O iii v}	{page 214} {c. O iii v}
377.	Effigiem, normamque dabat, quando improba necdum	providing an image and a pattern, at a time when wicked Ambition had not yet committed lives to the swollen waves.*
378.	Ambitio tumidis vitas commiserat undis.	
379.	Tercentum cubitos ilignam ducere spinam	We grasp the long holm-oak keel to stretch it to three hundred cubits, to this we weave ribs constructed carefully with an ample curve and we secure the timbers with copper nails. It looked like a giant framework, or like the immense cadaver of a Whale the sea has thrust onto the shore.*
380.	Caepimus, huic textas amplo curvamine costas	
381.	Ordimur, clavisque trabes firmamus ahenis.	
382.	Cernere erat ingentem Cratem, seu quale cadaver	
383.	Immanis Caeti ad littus proiecerit aequor.	
384.	Tum vero, prorae, laterique instamus utrique,	Then to be sure we occupy ourselves with the prow and with both sides, and apply an added membrane of maple to the hard ribs, and envelop its sinews with an oak back. Nor in the meantime is a group lacking, intent on thrusting tow into the cracks and fissures that must be sealed. Another group brings large concave kettles to boil with flames set underneath and heats bubbling pitch and slow-flowing liquids. Others smear the top [beams], side and bottom with adhesive glue, and now each flank takes on an appearance dark with black bitumen, and now at last the enormous structure, bearing down on a broad expanse, rises up immense, and like a mountain approaches the sky and reaches its poop deck to the clouds.
385.	Admotamque cutem duris aptamus acernam	
386.	Ossibus, et querno velamus terгоре nervos.	
387.	Non tamen interea pars deest intenta premendis	
388.	Compagum rimis, stuppasque infigere venis.	
389.	Pars cava subiectis expumat dolia flammis,	
390.	Bullantesque pices adolet, tardosque liquores.	
391.	Tecta linunt alii, spondas, fundumque tenaci	
392.	Glutine, iamque atro latus omne bitumine nigra* [nigram]	
393.	Accipit effigiem, iamque ingens denique moles	
394.	Iugera multa premens, exurgit plurima, et instar	
395.	Montis adit coelum puppimque ad nubila tendit.	
396.	Talibus exactis ardentes stuppea circum	With such [tasks] accomplished, we fervently wrap hemp cables with a knot around our hands joined together for dragging and braking the wheels eager to rush while gliding.
397.	Lora damus nodo, manibus commissa trahentum	
398.	Frenantumque rotas cupidas decurrere lapsu.	
399.	Nutat opus sublime, sonatque ingentibus aether	The lofty work gives way, and the atmosphere resounds with the mighty voices of those urging the Ship away from the curved shore, the ship which would not have been invented
400.	Vocibus urgentum curvo de littore Navim,	
401.	Navim, quae humanae nisi non inventa saluti est.	
402.	Extremo tandem gemitu tremit illa, ruitque	

403.	Pondere ducta suo, nec iam retinacula curat.	if not for the salvation of humankind.* Finally it shudders with a last moan, and driven by its own weight, it rushes on and no longer heeds the tow-ropes.
404.	Urbs natat, avulsumque trahens a tergo sulcum	The city is afloat, and dragging a furrow torn away behind it, it splits the waters and the banks groan from the leaping waves. Oceanus shudders at the unusual mass, and is amazed that so many men attempt such bold feats, and arrogantly he recoils from bearing this yoke and succumbing to the hollow wood.
405.	Findit aquas, ripaeque gemunt salientibus undis.	
406.	Horruit insolitam molem, tantosque per ausus	
407.	Ire homines stupet Oceanus, refugitque superbus	
408.	Istud ferre iugum, atque cavo succumbere ligno.	
	{page 215} {c. O iiiii}	{page 215} {c. O iiiii}
409.	Ast ubi divinum in causa non sensit abesse	But when he senses that divine deliberation is not absent from the affair, he lowers the waters and lays out a smooth passage through the surge, and acknowledges that obedience is necessary: like a prince who is master only in one city, who plans to forbid massed troops to be led across his borders, and to avoid stolen booty, when, however, he grasps that the King is undertaking this, or when he sees this to be the greater scepter, he looks out for himself, opening up all approaches, and brings together his own and friendly forces. ⁸ Then, however, after the ship has turned back again to the banks, it stands fast in a curved bay: remarkably, a race of quadrupeds and birds conjoin with us from every side, and then with slow bodies, reptiles assemble and whatever is endowed with active life.*
410.	Consilium, summittit aquas, et labile fluctus	
411.	Inter sternit iter, parendumque esse fatetur:	
412.	Ceu princeps una tantum regnator in urbe,	
413.	Qui prohibere parat sua per confinia turmas	
414.	Ducier instructas, et raptam avertere praedam,	
415.	Ut vero id Regem moliri acceperit, ut ve	
416.	Maius id esse videt sceptrum, sibi consulit, omnes	
417.	Expandens aditus, seque armaque iungit amica.	
418.	Tum vero ad ripas iterum conversa recurvo	
419.	Constitit illa sinu: mirum, coit undique nobis	
420.	Quadrupedumque aviumque genus, dehinc corpore tardo	
421.	Reptilia adglomerant, et quidquid mobile vita est.	
422.	Tot numero cunctis ex his delecta tenemus	From all these we keep as many selected bodies, as the omnipotent Father had previously commanded to be saved and enclose [them] in the hull in separate locations. Here you could observe tremendous Lions raging, and Bears voluntarily enduring chains in their stalls and
423.	Corpora, seiunctisque locis includimus alvo,	
424.	Quot Pater omnipotens servari iusserat ante.	
425.	Immanes cernas hic desaevire Leones,	
426.	Inque suis tunc sponte pati praesepibus Ursas	
427.	Vincula setososque Sues, Taurosque minaces.	
428.	Ipsae etiam Tygres, etiam longi Crocodili	

⁸ 409-417. The explanation of why Oceanus allows the ark to pass through his waters could be seen as an explanation for why Federico Gonzaga allowed imperial troops to pass through Mantuan territory on their way to Rome in 1527, where they then committed atrocities now known as the Sack of Rome.

429.	Dant colla, et manibus nectentibus oscula figunt.	bristling Hogs and menacing Bulls. Even Tigers and even long Crocodiles offer their necks and fix kisses to the hands that bind them.
430.	Quid memorem haud nullis genus immedicabile succis	Why should I mention the species by no means incurable with any potions/ with countless poisons* – Asps, and swollen Horned Snakes? ⁹ Or how I calmly handled now Thirst-inducing Snakes, now stupefying Horned Vipers. and how I placed whatever monsters, no matter how harmful, in their enclosures. I set down different foods that would provide nourishment for them, and finally we go down to the water together, first I, then my children and the immense clan of relatives, mothers and daughters-in-law, some of them carrying bellies full with a fetus and some carrying their [little] pledges in sleep-inducing cribs.*
431.	Aspidas, et tumidos cornuta fronte Cerastes?	
432.	Utve sitibundas nunc Dyspadas, utve stupentes	
433.	Nunc ego Praesteras tractavi molliter, inque	
434.	Scepto* [saepito] quaeque suo tam noxia monstra locavi?	
435.	Quae ad victum illis sufficient diversa repono	
436.	Pabula, nosque una conscendimus aequora tandem,	
437.	Primus ego, hinc nati, prolesque immensa nepotum,	
438.	Matres, atque nurus, foetu pars viscera plenae,	
439.	Parsque soporiferis gestantes pignora cunis.	
440.	Et iam prima fides terrarum e margine in altum	And already the first trusted [wind] invites the Wooden Ark away from the edge of the land into the deep sea,
	{page 216} {c. O iii v}	{page 216} {c. O iii v}
441.	Advocat omnigenis instructam animalibus Alum.	equipped with animals of every kind.
442.	Ducimur incerti quo nos adpellere mandet	We are led uncertain where the breath of god commands us to put ashore, and closed off in the blind stronghold, we view nothing of the world's appearance or of the color of things. For the portals closed by doors and effaced with black glue, darken the vast abode, while a small window (god ordered just this one to be made in the high gable) is obstructed and does not allow us to see even tiny cracks.
443.	Aura dei, caecoque oclusi robore nullam	
444.	Inspicimus mundi faciem, rerumque colorem.	
445.	Vastam namque domum foris ostia clausa, nigrisque	
446.	Oblita glutinibus fuscant, tum parva fenestra	
447.	(Hanc solam fieri deus alto in culmine iussit)	
448.	Ne tenues obstructa quidem dat cernere rimas.	
449.	Interea coelum fracto cum murmure circum,	
450.	Ac supra mugire, tremiscereque aequora fundo	
451.	Audimus: Deus ipse tonat, Deus ipse profundum	
452.	Extemplo horribili concussit turbine coelum,	
453.	Eripiens cum sole diem: dumque aera densas	
454.	Contrahit in nebulas, subigit dumque aethera vastum	

⁹ 431-4. *Cerastes*: horned snakes and horned men of Crete; cf. *Pomiliones*, p. 150 and *Varium poema*, 68.21 and 20.11. The playful image of various beasts willingly enduring enclosure is also found throughout the *Chaos*.

455.	In Mare, terribiles picea caligine vultus	while he contracts the air into dense clouds, and forces the skies into the vast sea, terrible faces appear with the pitch-black gloom, and vapors hover beneath the dark cloud.	
456.	Apparent, volitantque atra sub nube vapores.		
457.	Ecce Noti erumpunt, crebro polus igne sonantem	Behold the south winds erupt, and the celestial vault produces resounding thunder with constant flashes, and clouds cracked open gush like rivers. And great Oceanus, oppressed from above by hostile squadrons of such great rainfalls, and collecting the foam from the swelling vortex of the Torrents at his side, then drawing upsurges from deep veins boiling in Stygian Orcus, seethes with remarkable waves and swelling little by little blocks out the sandy shores.	
458.	Dat tonitrum, fracteque* ruunt ceu flumina nubes.		
459.	Magnus ac Oceanus tantarum pressus iniquis		
460.	Desuper agminibus pluviarum, deque tumentis		
461.	Ad latera excipiens Torrentum gurgite spumas,		
462.	Tum altis de venis stygio bullantibus orco		
463.	Incrementa trahens, miris exaestuatur undis,		
464.	Littoreasque tumens paulatim occultat arenas.		
465.	Qualis, ubi vires flammae conceperit humor		
466.	Aere cavo, sensim primo se murmure tollit,		
467.	Inde rapit subitum vulcano urgente tumorem	Just as when the force of flame has gathered strength in a hollow bronze [kettle], gradually at first it raises itself up with a growl, and then bursting forth it rushes in a thrusting volcano and overflows the edges of the pot with raging heat. Thus with inundations does the liquid of the sea overflow from all sides, and while roaring it retreats from the lands by means of new streams, and opens paths by force: it rages wildly far and wide, and recklessly immerses the fields and seeks the lofty ridges with elevated waters.	
468.	Exiliens, et labra cadi praeterfluit aestu:		
469.	Talis inundantis superat liquor undique ponti,		
470.	Dumque fremens nova se reddit per* flumina terris,		
471.	Vique vias aperit, late bacchatur, et agros		
472.	Impete mersat, aquisque petit iuga celsa levatis.		
	{page 217} {c. O v}		{page 217} {c. O v}
473.	Iamque Mare, et Coelum sese curvamine largo		And now Sea and Sky match up with a generous curve, and acting as one unite in a bond.
474.	Componunt, atque unanimes sua faedera [foedera] iungunt.		
475.	At scelerata parens Tellus, unaque nepotes		But the wretched parent Earth, together with her ignoble descendants, and together with the race of herd animals and birds, these things do not come under the oath, but having been driven to the depths they are visible nowhere – all is sky, all is Deep Sea.* The Bark goes ambling in the high seas, which, as sole survivor from shattered things, keeps the seeds and remnants of living creatures in its narrow womb; and now the heights bordering the Moon supply the most
476.	Degeneres, una pecudum genus, atque volucrem,		
477.	Haec ea non veniunt in iura, sed acta profundo		
478.	Apparent nusquam: coelum omnia, et omnia Pontus.		
479.	It pelago spatiosa Ratis, quae sola superstes		
480.	Rebus ab infractis animarum semina, et arcto		
481.	Reliquias utero servat: iamque ardua subdit		
482.	Maiores terrae cumulos contermina Lunae.		

		extensive pinnacles of earth.*
483.	Hinc ierant quadraginta dies, totidemque ruentes	From here forty days and as many nights had passed charging into the rain, when the profound feelings of the Father grew calm, he lifts the vapors that have been cast out deep within the atmosphere, and having settled the surge, orders Nereus to be calmed.
484.	In pluviam noctes, quando Patris alta quierunt	
485.	pectora, qui* excussos penitus levat aethere fumos,	
486.	Et posito mandat placari Nerea fluctu.	
487.	Syderei steterunt fontes, mox omne resedit	The heavenly springs ceased; soon every sound of water subsided, and the sky reveals bright sunlight on all sides. The noise of the sea is no longer perceived by our ears, and three times the crested Bird within sang that the skies were brightening, and the winds and the clouds dissolving.
488.	Murmur aquae, nitidosque aperit coelum undique soles.	
489.	Ipse fragor pelagi non nostris auribus ultra	
490.	Percipitur, terque intus Avis cristata canebat	
491.	Astra serenari, ventosque et nubila solvi.	
492.	Tum primum expando turba plaudente fenestram,	Then for the first time I open the window, as the crowd applauds, whence raising our mouths and hands we greet the returning figure of Apollo and the happy flares. Here we set up an altar for pledges that were kept and while the mystical/ sacred Lamb smokes and the coals whiten, from among the birds we choose the Raven, which sent into the breezes, should come back to me as a daring herald from the subsiding water.
493.	Unde salutamus tollentes ora manusque	
494.	Redditam Appollinis effigiem, laetosque nitores.	
495.	Sistimus hic aram servata ob pignora, dumque	
496.	Mysticus efumat prunis candentibus Agnus,	
497.	Inter aves Corvum legimus: qui, missus ad auras,	
498.	Decrescentis aquae redeat mihi nuncius audax.	
499.	Sed quia consumpto iam felle cadavera Pontus	
500.	Eructare solet, summasque remittere ad undas,	But because the Deep Sea tends to throw up cadavers once its bile has been consumed, and to return them to the wave tops, this raven (in this not more impure than any of the other birds), stops at a filthy body and feeds itself with its hooked beak. As soon as I realize this, I send out the winged Dove: cutting through the Zephyr winds, carried through the air currents,
501.	Ille, avium quo non impurior altera, corpus	
502.	Sistit ad immodum, et rostro se pascit adunco.	
503.	Quod simulac sensi, volucrem dimitto Columbam:	
504.	Illa secans Zephiros, transvecta per aerea, nostro	
	{page 218} {c. O v v}	{page 218} {c. O v v}
505.	Conditur aspectu fugiens: quae deinde reversa est,	fleeing from our sight, she is hidden; then she turned back and was carrying in her mouth the branch of a living Olive tree.
506.	Oreque vivacis frondem gestabat Olivae.	
507.	Pacem, tunc, pacem, viso acclamavimus omnes:	At that sight then we all acclaimed, 'Peace, peace'; next herd animals and colored birds, whose innate nature is to stir spirits with their mouth and ward off sad cares, earnestly pour forth songs from their liquid throats: for with the sign of peace the mountains had learned
508.	Tum pecora, et volucres pictae, quibus insita mens est	
509.	Ore ciere animos, tristesque arcescere curas,	
510.	Certatim liquido deducunt gutture cantus:	
511.	Indice nam pacis prompsisse cacumina montes	
512.	Cognorant, positoque simul cadere aequora vento.	

		to bring forth their peaks and at the same time the waters fell as the wind subsided.
513.	Sed iam praeteritis septem cum sole diebus,	But after seven days of sun have passed by, behold the forest is there: sprinkled by the recent flood, it drips droplets from the leaves, and the fronds emerging from the mud glisten again, and the wet meadows are crusted over from gloomy neglect, and they still hold Mollusks rotting in the grass.
514.	Affuit en sylva, alluvie quae inspersa recenti	
515.	Guttas distillat foliis, limoque renident	
516.	Obductae frondes, ac tristi humentia squalent	
517.	Prata situ, retinentque putres in gramine Conchas.	
518.	Huc se sponte freto convertit prora secundo,	Here of its own accord the prow turns itself with the sea's favor and while it was moving, a voice was heard through the lofty air [speaking] thus: "Hey, go now, O children, from so many peoples, from so many populations, my most select race, dissolve at last the anxious cares from your breast: I will not hereafter kill with a massacre of so many waters (thus the intent of our god is fixed) every kind of human and at the same time herd animals and likewise birds and reptiles.
519.	Dumque ibat, summas ita vox audita per auras:	
520.	Eya agite O pueri de tot mihi gentibus una,	
521.	Una mihi de tot populis lectissima proles,	
522.	Solvite sollicitas iamdudum pectore curas:	
523.	Non ego (sic nostri sententia numinis haeret)	
524.	Ultra hominum, pecudumque simul, simul omne volucrum	
525.	Reptiliumque genus tot aquarum strage necabo.	
526.	Novi equidem humanos sensus, dum corpore degunt,	Indeed I recognize human feelings: while they remain alive in the body, I prefer [them] to be prone; from now on, let our clemency overcome human defects, so that they may get possession of heaven with honor, and this will be a pact between us with an unwavering pledge. And if at any point, after a heavy storm, a cerulean cloud obstructs the hollowed brow of the Sun it will look like a rainbow, imagine then the arc to be a sign regarding our pact."
527.	Pronos esse malo, posthac clementia culpas	
528.	Vincat nostra hominum, ut coeli potiantur honore:	
529.	Idque erit immoto nos inter pignore foedus.	
530.	Et si quando gravem post imbrem caerulea nubes	
531.	Fronte cava Soli occursans, simulaverit arcum,	
532.	Fingite tunc arcum nostro esse in foedere signum.	
533.	Talia finierat, quum tandem substitit Alnus.	He had finished these remarks when at last the Wooden Ark stopped. From the gateways broken open an energetic band of young men burst forth onto the Italian shore, where, having returned to its own stream, the Tiber with bending shore seeks again the Tyrrhenian sea,
534.	Emicat eruptis iuvenum manus impigra valvis	
535.	Littus in italicum, proprio qua redditus amni	
536.	Tyrrhenum repetit sinuato littore Tybris,	
	{page 219} {c. O vi}	{page 219} {c. O vi}
537.	Tybris romano qui dehinc mundi omnia sceptro	the Tiber which in the future would subdue the whole world with the Roman scepter, and weigh down its shrines with the battle
538.	Subderet, et Regum tot signis templa gravaret.	
539.	Hic igitur dimissae animae, donatur et omne	

540.	Libertate pecus: sua quo sors quemque vocaret,	standards of so many Kings. Here, therefore, all the living creatures are freed and every herd animal is granted freedom; they spread out from the shadows and from long imprisonment to wherever each one's destiny would call it, whether they tread on land, or beat the air with feathers. Here my first home stood firm with leaves and reed. Here first, subordinate to human fate, along seven Etruscan hills not far from a stream, I erect to the Thunderer his temples and his altars covered with fronds. Soon from the marshy canes I muster rich flocks protected from beasts, and as a new man I sow new plants in the garden, among which crept the very vine with the cluster-bearing shoots, and when the liquid was pressed out, the unfermented wines flowed. Therefore, after a long time the Assyrians learned to say <i>lanus</i> (for indeed they call wine <i>yani</i>), I who learned to draw out sweet Massican from grapes. ¹⁰
541.	Illuc e tenebris et longo carcere tendunt,	
542.	Seu terrae insistant, seu pennis aera pulsant.	
543.	Hic mihi prima stetit foliis et arundine sedes.	
544.	Hic primus post fata hominum septem per hetruscos	
545.	Haud procul a fluvio colles, sua templa, suasque	
546.	Aras constituo detextas fronde Tonanti.	
547.	Pinguia mox cannis armenta palustribus armo	
548.	Tuta feris, hortoque novas novus insero plantas,	
549.	Ipsa racemifero quas inter palmitis vitis	
550.	Repsit, et expresso fluxerunt musta liquore.	
551.	Hinc ergo Assyrii longo post tempore lanum	
552.	(Iani quippe vocant vinum) me dicere norunt:	
553.	Dulcia reppererim qui educere massica botris.	
554.	Demoror at forsan te somno pluribus: ipsa	But perhaps with more I would delay you from sleep, seeing that this night, having slipped away, is falling from the mid-heaven." The Elder had finished; then, upon orders, the servants prepare feather beds and bear flickering flames before them. My neck scarcely lay outstretched, gentle sleep from above enfolds my limbs, and cares flow lightly in my breast.
555.	Quandoquidem medio coelo dilapsa ruit nox.	
556.	Finierat Senior: famuli tunc plumea iussi	
557.	Strata parant, flammisque ferunt sese ante coruscis.	
558.	Vix mihi procubuit cervix, tener implicat alte	
559.	Membra sopor, cursantque leves in pectore curae.	
	Telos.	The end. ¹¹

¹⁰ 553. Massica is a white wine from the Monte Massico region of Campania, about 50 K North of Naples; for *yani*, cf. Revelation 18.3.

¹¹ *Telos* (the end), written in Greek letters.