

*errare humanum est, perseverare autem diabolicum.*¹

Literature 8

A Mighty Hero and How the Romans Won Two Cities



Greece

Read “A Mighty Hero” You will find it on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive in Volume 3, Classics, “Legends of Greece and Rome” by G. H. Kupfer, no. 17.

Hercules is called Ἡρακλῆς (Heracles) in Greek. Look up the twelve labours he had to perform and make a list of them. In this story one can't help wondering why the river god (his name was Ἀχελῷος – Achelous) did not change himself into some hornless creature once Hercules had pinned him down by his horns!

2 Rome

Read “How the Romans Won Two Cities.” You will find it on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive in Volume 4, “Stories from the History of Rome” no.9.

This story is retold from Livy. Veii was about 11 miles to the north west of Rome and the Alban Lake (Lake Albanus or *Albanus Lacus*) about 16 miles to the south east. The lake is formed in the joined craters of two volcanos. It was gasses rising from the volcanos that caused the strange rise in water level. The tunnel made by the Romans still exists although it dates from about 395BC. You can see an Italian video of divers exploring the tunnel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpHdPtLKJZQ>. There are no English subtitles but the film footage is interesting.

¹ To err is human, to persevere in error, however, is diabolical. Seneca (1-65AD)

Vocabulary

ripa, ripae river bank (RIP- ah, RIP-eye)

Bible example:

*et levavit pallium Heliae quod ceciderat ei reversusque stetit super **ripam** Iordanis* (2 Kings 2:13)

Before you look this up do some guessing. You will get *reversus*. If you see ...*que* on the end of a Latin word just put “and” before the word. Substitute a J for the I in *Iordanis* to get the river. (Remember there is no J in Latin.) Drop the H in *Heliae* to guess the name of the prophet. Clue: my dictionary says a *pallium* is “a mantle worn by Greek philosophers!” Answers on the next page.

luna, lunae moon (LOON- ah, LOON-eye)

Bible example:

*quoniam videbo caelos tuos; opera digitorum tuorum, **lunam** et stellas quae tu fundasti; quid est homo quod memor es eius aut filius hominis quoniam visitas eum?* (Psalm 8:3-4)

Before you look this up do some guessing. You might get *digitorum* to start with and *homo, hominis* and *stellas*. If you look back at yesterday's work you might even get *tuorum* and *tuos*. Notice how both these words have the same ending as the words the immediately precede them. This means the second word goes with (qualifies) the first and the word order should be reversed in English. You might even be able to guess the case of *digitorum tuorum* although the ending is not *quite* the same as that of words in the first declension. When you have done this exercise you will know what the girl's name “Stella” means too. Answers on the next page.

turba, turbae crowd, disturbance (TERB- ah, TERB-eye)

Bible example:

*post haec audivi quasi vocem magnam **turbarum** multarum in caelo dicentium, alleluia salus et gloria et virtus Deo nostro est* (Revelation 19:1)

More guessing: *vocem*? Notice that you can tell that *multarum* goes with (qualifies) *turbarum* because the endings are the same. You will get *caelo* from the previous example, *alleluia* is hardly difficult nor is *gloria* (another girl's name!). By now too you will probably be noticing that the Latin word for “and” is *et*. This is like French in spelling but in Latin you pronounce both letters – the t is not silent. *In* is also obvious, although it can mean “on” in Latin in some contexts. The little word *est* crops up a lot too. It is just *is*. Answers on the next page.

Answers:

Jordan, Elijah

reversusque – and went back

digitorum tuorum – of your fingers (“of” because of the genitive case)

homo, hominis – man, of man

stella, stellae – star – *stellas* is accusative plural

Any girl called *Stella* is a star!

tuorum, tuos – your

vocem – voice

turbarum multarum – a great crowd

caelo – heaven

alleluia – hallelujah

gloria – glory