

Amicitia quae desinere potuit vera numquam fuit.¹

Literature 9

A Poisoned Shirt

and

The Gulf in the Forum



Greece

Read “A Poisoned Shirt” You will find it on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive in Volume 3, Classics, “Legends of Greece and Rome” by G. H. Kupfer, no.18 . Here you will meet the centaur Nessus. Centaurs were mythical creatures, half horse and half man, that were famed for their wisdom. It was their wisdom that presumably appealed to C. S. Lewis when he included them among the creatures in his *Narnia* books. Lewis' centaurs are grave and courtly, solemn and wise. Nessus in this story, however, is not at all a pleasant creature.

2 Rome

Read “The Gulf in the Forum.” You will find it on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive in Volume 4, “Stories from the History of Rome” no.11. There is more than one story of how the Curtian Lake or pool in the forum, or market place, of ancient Rome originated. This is one of Livy's two versions. In reality, the forum area was probably a marsh to start with that was drained as the forum expanded until only one little pool was left.

In a Roman town the forum was a very important place. The forum was filled with shops, porticoes, temples, offices, and triumphal arches; and it was here that important civic and political announcements were made. As time went on the open forum became more enclosed and we can imagine it was a very crowded and chaotic place.

Vocabulary:

These nouns are all First Declension and Feminine. You should memorise them and practice chanting them. There are obvious equivalent words in English for *fortuna* and *gloria*. What about *stola*?

Answer on next page.

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|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>fortuna</i> | fortune, chance, luck |
| <i>gloria</i> | glory |
| <i>stola</i> | dress |

¹ A friendship that can end was never truly a friendship. Jerome.

Answer:

The word stole can mean a lady's evening shawl made of expensive or luxurious fabric, or an ecclesiastical vestment.