

IX

Tandem Cerēs prope parvam agricolae casam in saxō gelidō sedēbat. Dea maesta diū lacrimābat. Tum ē casā puella parva ad Deam vēnit. Puellae oculī plēnī erant lacrimārum. “ Puerum parvum,” inquit, “ habēmus. In cūnīs aeger iacet. Lacrimāmus, quod aeger est puer.” Tum Cerēs lacrimās suās tenuit, et cum puellā ad casam properāvit. Ibi Metanīra filium aegrum in gremiō tenēbat. Filius Metanīrae Triptolemus erat. Lacrimābant et agricola et Metanīra et puella parva, quod nōn valēbat puer. Tum Cerēs puerō osculum dedit, et ecce ! statim valuit puer. Mīrum et dīvinum est osculum Deae. Laetī erant et agricola et Metanīra et puella. Iam laetus et validus puer in cūnīs dormitābat. Tum Cerēs Triptolemum in gremiō suō tenuit. Dea cum tōtā familiā cēnam habuit ; in mensā erant ūvae purpureae et pōma iūcunda. Adhūc ignōta erant Ītalīs Graecisque et vīnum et frūmentum. Deae tamen flāvae grāta erat rustica cēna. Post cēnam in agricolae casā Dea manēbat et cotīdiē Triptolemum cūrābat.

IX

adhūc—still, yet.

aeger, -ra, -rum—sick.

cūnae, -ārum, f. pl.—cradle.

diū—for a long time.

dīvinus, -a, -um—divine.

dormīto, 1—I sleep.

ē, ex, prep. gov. abl.—out of,
from.

ecce—behold.

gelidus, -a, -um—cold.

Graecus, -i, m.—a Greek.

gremium, -i, n.—lap.

habeo, 2—I have, hold.

iaceo, 2—I lie.

ibi—there.

ignōtus, -a, -um—unknown.

lacrimo, 1—I weep.

maestus, -a, -um—sad.

maneo, 2, mansi, mansum—I
remain.

Metanīra, -ae, f.—Metanira,
mother of Triptolemus.

mīrus, -a, -um—wonderful.

osculum, -i, n.—kiss.

plēnus, -a, -um—full.

post, prep. gov. acc.—after.

rusticus, -a, -um—rustic, be-
longing to the country.

saxum, -i, n.—rock, stone.

sedeo, 2, sēdi, sessum—I sit.

tamen—however.

tandem—at last.

(or at length)

teneo, 2, tenui, tentum—I hold.

tōtus, -a, -um—whole.

Triptolemus, -i, m.—Triptolemus, the inventor of agriculture.

valeo, 2, -ui—I am well.

vēnit—(he) came.

vinum, -i, n.—wine.



Which word means “a long bicycle” in English? Can you see why?

If you take the trouble to look up the myth of Ceres and Triptolemus you will see that this is a very rough and ready account of it! Tackle this exercise in the same way as the others. Check my translation afterwards to see how far you agree with me. There are a number of tenses to negotiate. Remember that the *-bam, -bas, -bat* endings that give “was sitting” and “was crying” are not always give the best results in English and you may want to translate them “sat” and cried” instead.

At length, Ceres was sitting (sat) on a rock near the cottage of a small farmer. The sad goddess was crying for a long time. Then a little girl came to the goddess from the cottage. The little girl's eyes were full of tears. "We have a little boy," she said, "he is lying sick in his cradle. We are crying because he boy is sick." Then Ceres held back her tears and hurried to the cottage with the girl. There Metanira held the sick son on [her] lap. The son of Metanira was Triptolemus. Both the farmer and Metanira and the little girl were crying because the boy did not get well. Then Ceres gave the boy a kiss and behold! At once the boy was healthy. The kiss of a goddess is wonderful and divine. Both the farmer and Metanira and the girl were happy. Now the happy and healthy boy slept in the cradle. Then Ceres took Triptolemus on her lap. The goddess had dinner with all the family. On the table were purple grapes and delicious apples. Wine and corn were yet unknown to the Italians and Greeks. However, the rustic dinner was welcome to the yellow goddess. After dinner the goddess stayed in the cottage of the farmer and everyday [she] healed Triptolemus.