



## XXIV

Hostēs ante urbis mūrōs castra posuērunt. Castra vallō et fossā firmāvērunt. Tum ē castrīs excessērunt et moenia Rōmāna oppugnāvērunt. Fortiter et ferōciter pugnābant Rōmānī, sed Etruscī validī Rōmānōs paene vīcērunt. Iam ē parte urbis Rōmānōs fugāverant; iam omnia trans flūmen vīcerant. Terrōris plēnī consulēs, “Ecce!” inquit, “prope pontem sunt! sī pontem tenēbunt, tōtam urbem vincent.” Tum Horātius, vir fortis, “O consulēs,” inquit, “in extrēmō ponte angustus est locus; multī sunt hostēs, sed paucī solum ibi intrābunt. Vōs pontem cito excidētis, ego cum duōbus amicīs contrā hostēs in angustō locō pugnābo. Ita omnēs pro ārīs templisque Rōmānīs, pro uxōribus liberisque, pro sacrīs virginibus pugnābimus. Ita urbem Rōmam conservābimus. Quis mēcum in extrēmō ponte stābit et contrā Etruscōs pugnābit?”

Tum Lartius, “ Ego,” inquit, “ ā dextrā stābo, et pontem tēcum conservābo ”; et magnā vōce Herminius, “ Ego,” inquit, “ ā sinistrā stābo et pontem tēcum conservābo.”

**angustus, -a, -um**—narrow.

**castra, -ōrum, n. pl.**—camp.

**contrā, prep. gov. acc.**—against.

**duo, -ae, -o**—two.

**excēdo, 3, -cessi, -cessum**—I go out.

**ferōciter**—fiercely.

**fūmen, -inis, n.**—river.

**fortis, -e**—brave.

**fossa, -ae, f.**—ditch.

**Herminius, -i, m.**—Herminius, a brave Roman.

**intro, 1**—I enter.

**Lartius, -i, m.**—Lartius, a brave Roman.

**mūrus, -i, m.**—wall.

**oppugno, 1**—I attack.

**paene**—almost.

**pars, partis, f.**—part.

**pōno, 3, posui, positum**—I put, place.

**pons, pontis, m.**—bridge.

**quis, quis, quid**—who? what?

**tū**—thou, you (*singular*).

**vallum, -i, n.**—rampart.

**vinco, 3, vici, victum**—I conquer.

Make your translation and then compare with my attempt on the next page.

The enemy placed a camp before the walls of the city. They strengthened the camp with a wall and a ditch. Then they came out of the camp and attacked the Roman defences. The Romans were fighting bravely and fiercely but the strong Etruscans almost conquered the Romans. Now they chased away the Romans from part of the city; now they conquered everything on the other side of (across) the river. The consuls, full of terror, said "Behold, they are near the bridge! If they hold the bridge they will conquer the whole city.

Then Horatius, a brave man, said, "O consuls, at the end of the bridge is a narrow place. The enemy are many but only a few will enter there. You will quickly break down the bridge, I with two friends will fight against the enemies in the narrow place. Thus we all will fight for the Roman altars and temples for [our] wives and children and for the sacred maidens. Thus we will keep (preserve) Rome. Who will stand with me at the end of the bridge and fight against the Etruscans?"

Then Lartius said, "I will stand at [your] right hand and I will keep the bridge with you." And with a great voice Herminius said, "I will stand at [your] left hand and keep the bridge with you."