

Marcus Valerius Martialis *Epigrammata* IV.66

Egisti vitam semper, Line, municipalem,

Qua nihil omnino vilius esse potest.
(from vilis)

Idibus et raris togula est excussa Kalendis

Duxit et aestates synthesis una decem.

Saltus aprum, campus leporem tibi misit inemptum,5

Silva gravis turdos exagitata dedit,

Captus flumineo venit de gurgite piscis,

Vina ruber fudit non peregrina cadus.

Nec tener Argolica missus de gente minister,

Sed stetit inculti rustica turba foci. 10

Vilica vel duri compressa est nupta coloni,

Incaluit quotiens saucia vena mero.

Nec nocuit tectis ignis, nec Sirius agris,

Nec mersa est pelago nec fuit ulla ratis.

Subposita est blando numquam tibi tessera talo, 15

Alea sed parcae sola fuere nuces.

Dic, ubi sit decies, mater quod avara reliquit.

Nusquam est: fecisti rem, Line, difficilem.

Linus, you have always lived your life provincially,

Where nothing at all is able to be more cheap.

On the occasional Ides and Kalends your little toga is shaken out

and a loose robe has been around for 10 summers (i.e. years).

The glade has sent you an unbought boar, the field has sent you

an unbought hare, the beaten wood has given you fat thrushes.

The caught fish came from the river stream,

and a not foreign (i.e. local) red wine jug pours forth.

Nor does a tender attendant sent from the Greek race stand about

your hearth but a crowd of rude men.

A farmer's wife or one married to a hard tenant has been squeezed

(by you) as many times as your smitten veins grow hot from unmixed wine

Nor has fire harmed your home, nor has the dog-star (i.e. summer) harmed

your fields, nor has your ship been sunk by the sea, nor was there any ship.

Never has a bet been placed under a smooth knucklebone,

but a few nuts have been a single game of dice.

Tell (me), where are the millions which your greedy mother left (you).

It is nowhere: you have done a difficult thing, Linus.

Epigrammata V.20

Si tecum mihi, care Martialis,		<i>Dear Martial, if it may be permitted to me</i>
Securis liceat frui diebus,		<i>to enjoy carefree days with you,</i>
Si disponere tempus otiosum		<i>If (it may be permitted) to dispose of leisure time</i>
Et verae pariter vacare vitae:		<i>and for both of our lives to be truly idle:</i>
Nec nos atria, nec domos potentum,	5	<i>We would know no atriums, no houses of the powerful,</i>
Nec litis tetricas forumque triste		<i>no gloomy lawsuits and the sad forum,</i>
Nossemus, nec imagines superbas;		<i>no proud waxen images;</i>
(novissemus)		
Sed gestatio, fabulae, libelli,		<i>But, (there would be) a being carried about, gossip, little books,</i>
Campus, porticus, umbra, Virgo, thermae,		<i>the Campus Martius, porticos, shade, the Aqua Virgo, the baths,</i>
Haec essent loca semper, hi labores.	10	<i>these would always be our places, these (would always be) our labors.</i>
Nunc vivit necuter sibi, bonosque		<i>Now neither of us lives for himself and feels</i>
Soles effugere atque abire sentit,		<i>good suns (i.e. days) slip away and disappear.</i>
Qui nobis pereunt et inputantur.		<i>which perish for us and are charged as debts.</i>
Quisquam vivere cum sciat, moratur?		<i>Should anyone delay when he knows how to live?</i>