Reading: A Wedding Invitation
Wheelock: Chapter 18

Introduction

This story comes originally from a Greek epic entitled *The Cypria* (now lost), which was composed by a poet who lived some time after Homer. In much the same way that George Lucas’ last three *Star Wars* film explicate his first three, *The Cypria* explained some of the details and much of the back story omitted in Homer’s early masterpiece, *The Iliad*.

An oracle said that the male who sired offspring by Thetis, the sea nymph, would procreate a son greater than himself. Since Jupiter was known to dally among lesser goddesses and mortal women when his wife Juno wasn’t looking, and had already cast a lecherous eye upon Thetis, this was essentially a warning directed at him. Miraculously, he controlled himself this one time and instead of seducing Thetis, he arranged a marriage between her and a mortal named Peleus, a Greek king. The son born to them is Achilles who would become the great Greek hero of the Trojan War.

The passage below is the proclamation of the wedding as announced by Jupiter himself. To cover his lust for the bride, he draws the attention of the gods to what a splendid function he’s going to host and that there are certain rules attendees must follow, and if not, promising penalties for anyone who neglects to read the fine print on the invitation. Finally, he is very specific in naming the one goddess who is not invited to the party—Discordia (or in Greek “Eris”), the goddess of discord—asserting that “*Inter amicos discordia non debet tolerari!*”

---

Salvete, o di deaeque! Noster amicus Peleus magna consilia habet; nympham Thetidem in matrimonium ducet. Vos igitur a me, Iove, ad Thessaliam vocamini.

Exspectate bonos ludos et dulces epulas. Debetis autem de his periculis moneri:

I. Quoniam Peleus non est deus, animus eius terrebitur si nimis potentes videbimur;

II. Qui audet sine dono venire, a me castigabitur.
Legite genera donorum quae laudabuntur ab omnibus qui ea videbunt. Tu sola, O dea Discordia, non vocaris, nam a nullo amaris. Si venies, omnis deus in Olympo ir~movebitur. Inter amicos discordia non debet tolerari. Poenae dabuntur ab eo deo qui suum officium negleget. Valete!

1. deae(que): dea,-ae, f.: goddess
   Peleus: Peleus,-ei, m.: Peleus was a legendary king of Thessaly
   nympham: nympha,-ae, f.: nymph; here, bride

2. Thetidem: Thetis,-idis,f.: Thetis was a sea-nymph and the mother of Achilles
   matrimonium: matrimonium,-ii, n.: marriage; ducere + in matrimonium : marry (a wife)
   Iove: Iuppiter, Iovis, m.: Jupiter is the king of the gods and lives on Mt. Olympus
   Thessaliam: Thessalia,-ae, f.: Thessaly is a region of northern Greece

3. bonos: here, “fun-filled”
   dulces: here, “tasty”
   epulas: epulae,-arum, f. pl.: banquet

4. animus: “soul”; here, “heart”
   nimis: (adverb) too much
   potentes: potens, potentis: powerful

6. Qui = (Is) Qui: (He) who
   castigabitur: castigo,-are,-avi,-atum: punish

7. Legite: here, “choose”
   genera: genus, generis, n.: origin, kind, sort

8. Discordia: Discordia,-ae, f.: discord, disagreement, here personified as a goddess
   Olympe: Olympus,-i, m.: Mount Olympus, home of the gods
Worksheet: A Wedding Invitation
Wheelock, Chpt. 18

a. The questions below pertain to the words underlined in the Sententiae Antiquae or reading(s) cited above.

b. When you’re asked to change a word from one form to another, change only that form of the word. For instance, if you’re asked to change habet to the second person, put habes. That is, change only the person, not the number, tense, voice or mood.

Line 1:
1. What mood is salvete and why? ________________________________________________

2. What case is di and why? _____________________________________________________

3. Make noster modify consilia (line 1). ___________________________________________

4. Change habet to imperfect. ___________________________________________________

Line 2:
5. Make ducet present plural. ____________________________________________________

6. What case is me and why? ___________________________________________________

7. Make vocamini singular. ______________________________________________________

Line 3:
8. Make dulces genitive. _________________________________________________________

9. Change debetis to future passive 3rd person plural. _______________________________

[Continued on the next page]
Line 4:
10. What mood is moneri and why? _________________________________
11. What case is deus and why? ________________________________
12. Make terrebitur a passive infinitive. __________________________
13. Make potentes modify animus (line 4). ________________________

Line 5:
14. Make videbimur present singular. ______________________________

Line 6:
15. Make qui dative. _____________________________________________
16. Change venire to imperative singular. __________________________
17. Make castigabitur 2nd person singular. __________________________

Line 7:
18. Change the antecedent of quae to deus (line 8). __________________
19. Change videbunt to present passive 2nd person. __________________

Line 8:
20. Make vocaris imperfect active. _________________________________
21. Make nullo nominative (noun). _________________________________
22. Change amaris to pluperfect active plural. _______________________

Line 9:
23. What case is ir—and why? _________________________________

Line 10:
24. What number is qui and why? ________________________________
25. Make negleget future perfect. _________________________________