|  |
| --- |
| Ovid Fasti Book 2 XVIII |

Introduction

Arion was a famous lyric poet who came from Corinth, but made his fortune in Italy and Sicily. This story about his return to Greece is told by Herodotus in Book 1, chapter 24 of his *Histories.* Arion could even charm animals with the beauty of his music and song. After winning fame and fortune in Sicily and Italy, he boards a ship to return home to Corinth. He is attacked by the crew, who covet his wealth. He begs to be allowed to play a last tune, puts on a garland and leaps overboard. A passing dolphin is said to have rescued him.

Quod mare non novit, quae nescit Ariona tellus?

carmine currentes ille tenebat aquas

saepe sequens agnam lupus est hac voce retentus;

saepe avidum fugiens restitit agna lupum.

Nomen Arionum Siculas impleverat urbes;

captaque erat lyricis Ausonis ora sonis

inde domum repetens puppim conscendit Arion

atque ita quaesitas arte ferebat opes.

What sea does not know, what land does not know Arion?

By his song he used to hold back the running waters.

Often the wolf, while pursuing the lamb is held back by his voice;

Often the lamb hesitated while fleeing the greedy wolf.

The fame of Arion had filled Sicilian cities

and by the music of his lyre , he had charmed the Ausonion land.

Thence winding homewards Arion boarded a ship

and thus carried (with him) the acquired riches (won) by his art.

**Glossary:**

1. Ariona: Greek accusative of Arion.

Nescio –ire – ivi – itum: not know

Mare – is: sea

Tellus- telluris: land, earth, country

2. Carmen –inis: song, tune, verse

Ille – a – ud: he, that

Teneo – ere – ui: hold

Aqua – ae: water

3. saepe: often

Lupus –i: wolf

Sequens: following

Agna – ae: ewe lamb (You are probably more used to seeing ‘agnus’ as in ‘agnus Dei’: the lamb of God. ‘Agna’ just means a female lamb.)

Retentus: ppp of retineo – inere, -inui, -entum: to hold back or restrain

4. avidus: greedy, eager, hungry

Fugiens (fugio): fleeing

Restito – are: hesitate, stay behind

Implere: fill

5. Arionium: adjectivalhere.

Siculas... urbes: 'Sicilian cities'.

6. capta (capere): captivate or charm

Lyricus: of the lyre

Ora –ae: land, country, coast

7. inde: from there, thence

domum: Arion was returning home to Corinth from Italy and Sicily.

repetens: 'making for home again'.

Puppis –is: ship

Conscendo – ere, - endi, -ensum: to embark, board a ship

Atque: and (then)

Ita: thus

Fero (ferre, tuli, latum): to carry, carry off

Quaesitae opes: acquired riches