

6 To be read after *Latin for Reading* L.29

### The Harpies

King Phineus of Thrace was almost dying of starvation, because, as a punishment from Jupiter, the Harpies, horrible monsters with heads of women, but bodies of birds of prey, seized his food as soon as it was served.

Opere perfectō, Jāsōn et sociī quī nunc Argonautae appellābantur nāvem solvērunt. Multīs aliīs perīculīs superātīs, ad lītus Thrāciae appulērunt. Rēx Phineus, ubi audīvit Argonautās nāvem appulisse, magnopere gāvīsus tālibus verbīs allocūtus est, "Vōs omnium fortissimōs esse hominum sciō, mē tamen miserrimum. Quid agam, heroēs? Quō mē vertam? Utinam mē liberētis ex morte! Paene enim mortuus sum, quia fāme excrucior. Nē cēdātis timōrī! Nōlīte hinc discēdere priusquam mē servāveritis. Sī Harpyās superābitis, magna praemia vōbis dabō."

Quibus verbīs ita respondērunt Argonautae, "Maneāmus et cum istīs monstrīs contendāmus!" Ubi Harpyae avārae intravērunt et cibum parātum auferre conātae sunt, duō Argonautae, quī alīs erant instructī, in aēra sē sustulērunt. Harpyae, reī novitāte perterritae, statim effugērunt neque postea umquam rediērunt.

### Vocabulary

aer aeris m. air (aera is Gk. acc.)

ala -ae f. wing

alloquor -loquī -locūtus speak to, address

appellō -pellere -pulī -pulsum bring to

auferō auferre abstulī ablātus to carry off

cibum -ī food

cōnor cōnārī conātus sum <infinitive> to try

contendō contendere contendī to fight, to hurry

excruciō (1) torture

fames famis f. hunger

Harpyae -ārum f.pl. Harpies

hinc adv. from here

instruō -struere -struxī -structus equip

magnopere (adv) greatly

nāvem appellere to push ship, to land

nāvem solvere to loosen shipeúset sail

paene (adv) almost

perterreō (2) frighten thoroughly

praemium -ī n. gift, reward

priusquam (clausemarker) before

statim immediately

tollō -ere sustulī sublātus raise up, lift up

vertō -ere vertī versus turn