

Tertia post Idūs nudōs aurora Lupercōs
 accipit, et Faunī sacra bicornis eunt.
 dicite, Pierides, sacrōrum quae sit origo,
 attigerint Latiās unde petita domōs. 270
 Pana deum pecoris veteres coluisse feruntur
 Arcadēs; Arcadiīs plurimus ille iugīs.
 ...
 Pan erat armentī, Pan illic numen equārum,
 munus ob incolumēs ille ferēbat ovēs.
 transtulit Euander silvestria numina secum:
 hic, ubi nunc urbs est, tum locus urbis erat. 280
 inde deum colimus devectaque sacra Pelasgis:
 flamen ad haec priscō more Dialis erat.
 cur igitur currant, et cur (sic currere mos est)
 nuda ferant positā corpora veste, rogās?
 ipse deus velox discurrere gaudet in altis 285
 montibus, et subitās concipit ipse fugās:
 ipse deus nudus nudōs iubet ire ministrōs;
 nec satis ad cursūs commoda vestis erit.
 ante Iovem genitum terrās habuisse feruntur
 Arcades, et luna gens prior illa fuit. 290
 vita ferīs similis, nullōs agitāta per usūs:
 artis adhuc expers et rude volgus erat.
 pro domibus frondēs norant, pro frugibus herbās;
 nectar erat palmīs hausta duābus aqua.
 nullus anhelābat sub aduncō vomere taurus, 295
 nulla sub imperiō terra colentis erat:
 nullus adhuc erat usus equī; sē quisque ferēbat:
 ībat ovis lanā corpus amicta suā.
 sub Iove durabant et corpora nuda gerēbant,
 docta gravēs imbrēs et tolerāre Notōs. 300
 nunc quoque detectī referunt monimenta vetustī
 moris, et antiquās testificāntur opēs.

The third morn after the Ides beholds the naked
 Luperci, and then, too, come the rites of two-horned
 Faunus. Declare, Pierian Muses, the origin of the
 rites, and from what quarter they were fetched and
 reached our Latin homes. The Arcadians of old are
 said to have worshipped Pan, the god of cattle, him
 who haunts the Arcadian ridges. ... There Pan was
 the deity of herds, and there, too, of mares; he
 received gifts for keeping safe the sheep. Evander
 brought with him across the sea his woodland
 deities; where now the city stands, there was then
 naught but the city's site. Hence we worship the
 god, and the Flamen Dialis still performs in the
 olden way the rites brought hither by the Pelasgians.
 (You ask,) Why then do the Luperci run? and why
 do they strip themselves and bear their bodies
 naked, for so it is their wont to run? The god
 himself loves to scamper, fleet of foot, about the
 high mountains, and he himself takes suddenly to
 flight. The god himself is nude and bids his
 ministers go nude: besides, raiment sorted not well
 with running. The Arcadians are said to have
 possessed their land before the birth of Jove, and
 that folk is older than the moon. Their life was like
 that of beasts, unprofitably spent; artless as yet and
 raw was the common corn: water scooped up in two
 hollows of the hands to them was nectar. No bull
 panted under the weight of the bent ploughshare: no
 land was under the dominion of the husbandman:
 there was as yet no use for horses, every man
 carried his own weight: the sheep went clothed in
 its own wool. Under the open sky they lived and
 went about naked, inured to heavy showers and
 rainy winds. Even to this day the unclad ministers
 recall the memory of the olden custom and attest
 what comforts the ancients knew.