

## Lesson 5: Comparing texts and translations: Poetry (b)

### Silete venti Motet: words set by George Frideric Handel (HWV 242)

- 1 Silete venti, nolite murmurare fronds, quia anima mea dulcedine requiescit.
- 2 Dulcis amor, Jesu care, quis non cupit te amare; veni, transfige me.
- 3 Si tu feris. non sunt clades: tuae plagae sunt suaves, quia totus vivo in te.
- 4 O fortuna anima, o jucundissimus triumphus, o felicissima laetitia.
- 5 Date sarta, date flores; me coronent vestri honores; date palmas nobiles.
- 6 Surgent venti et beatae spirent almae fortunatae auras coeli fulgidas.

Alleluia.

**Translation George Burrows , Eric Cross (*School of Arts and Cultures, University of Newcastle upon Tyne* )**

Be silent, you winds, and do not murmur, you branches, because my soul is resting in sweetness.

Sweet love, dear Jesus, who does not desire to love thee; come transfix me. If you strike me, there are no injuries: your strokes are sweet because I live totally in you.

O blessed soul, O happiest triumph, O most fortunate joy!

Give garlands, give flowers; may your honours crown me; give noble palms.

Let the winds arise and the blessed, fortunate spirits breathe the resplendent breezes of heaven.

Alleluia.

### Questions

1. Find any 3 imperatives and their meanings. Give their dictionary forms. Match them up with their equivalents in the translation.
2. What person and from what verbs are the following?
  1. cupit (line 2)
  2. sunt (line 3)
  3. feris (line 3)

4. vivo (line 3)

Match each up with their equivalent in the translation.

3. What possible case(s) might the following nouns be?

1. anima
2. clades
3. plagae
4. flores
5. palmas
6. venti
7. coeli (= caeli)

Find their dictionary form and meaning. What case are they here and why? Identify their equivalents in the translation.

4. Compare the word order in

"Silete [...] requiescit" (line 1)

in the Latin as compared to the translation, and discuss any effects you think the differences have.

5. Find the Latin sentence translated as

"If you strike me, there are no injuries"

Compare the sense and style of the Latin with the translation given here.

6. How well do you think the translation renders both the sense and the style of

"uae plagae sunt suaves, quia totus vivo in te" (line 3)

?

7. Looking at the role of the phrase in the sentence, what case should the phrase translated here as

"the resplendent breezes"

be in? Find the Latin which this phrase translates.

Give the dictionary form of the Latin words concerned and look them up.  
Compare the Latin with the translation given here.