

2. Fortune plango vulnera

Fortune plango vulnera
stillantibus ocellis
quod sua michi munera
subtrahit rebellis.

I bemoan the wounds of Fortune
with weeping eyes,
for the gifts she made me
she perversely takes away.

Verum est, quod legitur,
fronte capillata,
sed plerumque sequitur
Occasio calvata.

It is written in truth,
that she has a fine head of hair,
but, when it comes to seizing an opportunity
she is bald.

In Fortune solio
sederam elatus,
prosperitatis vario
flore coronatus;

On Fortune's throne
I used to sit raised up,
crowned with
the many-coloured flowers of prosperity;

quicquid enim florui
felix et beatus,
nunc a summo corru
gloria privatus.

though I may have flourished
happy and blessed,
now I fall from the peak
deprived of glory.

Fortune rota volvitur:
descendo minoratus;
alter in altum tollitur;
nimis exaltatus

The wheel of Fortune turns;
I go down, demeaned;
another is raised up;
far too high up

rex sedet in vertice
caveat ruinam!
nam sub axe legimus
Hecubam reginam.

sits the king at the summit -
let him fear ruin!
for under the axis is written
Queen Hecuba.

