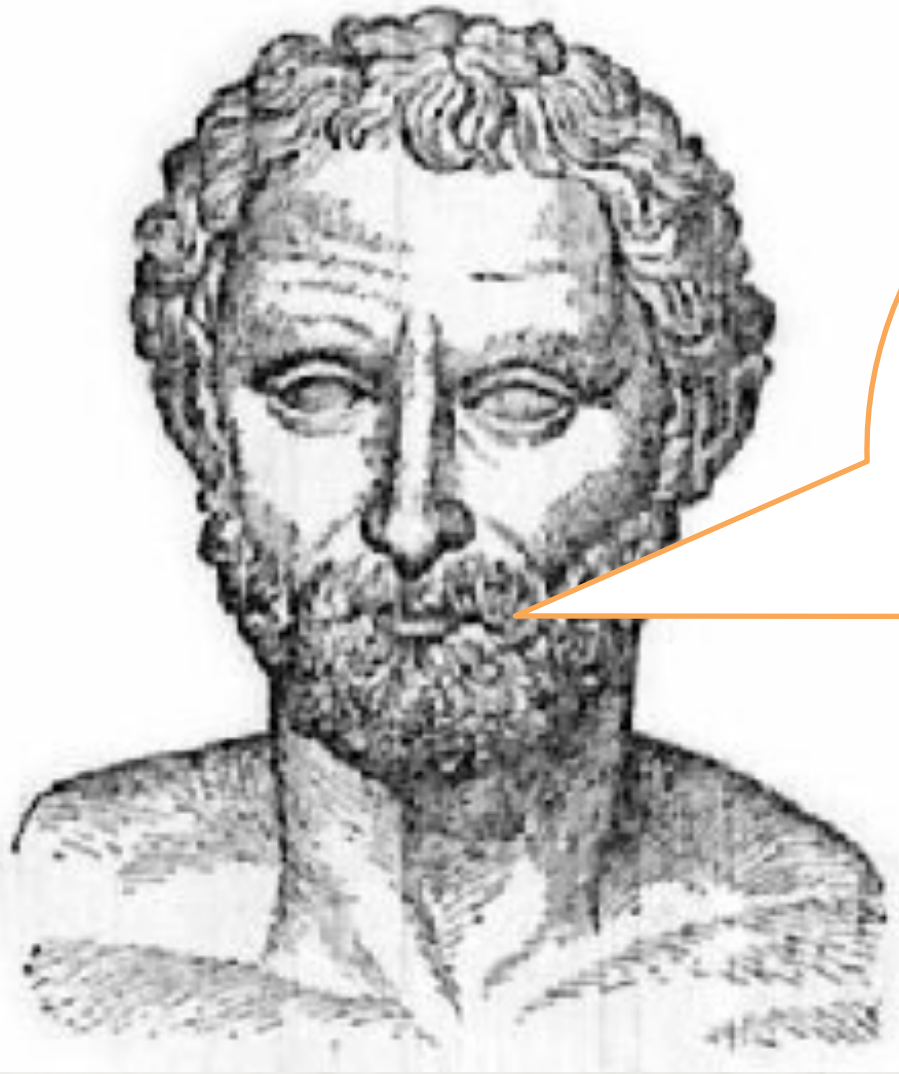


CAPVT IX

MARTIAL



Such a long
name! You can
just call me
MARTIAL.

Mārcus Valerius Mārtiālis A.D. 45 - 104

A.D. 45-104

- One of the most popular Roman writers
- Famous for more than 1,500 often satirical epigrams, most quite short, but targeted at specific, usually fictitious characters

– epigram: a short, often satirical poem about one subject and usually ending with a clever turn of thought.



– satire: the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule, or the like, in exposing, denouncing, or deriding vice, folly, etc.

Familiar works:

“I Do Not Love Thee, Dr. Fell” *Epigrammata* 1.32:

Nōn amo tē, Sabidī, nec possum dīcere quārē.

Hoc tantum possum dīcere: nōn amo tē.



His Only Guest Was a Real Boar! *Epigrammata* 7.59:

Nōn cēnat sine aprō noster, Tite, Caeciliānus:

...um convīvam Caeciliānus habet!



Vocabulary

- **captātōrēs:**



- literally *grabbers*

- **mīliēns:**



- from the Latin word **mīle**, *thousand*, or more freely, *millions*

- **captāre:**

to hunt for legacies

- **Fortūna:** here personified;



Fortuna was deified and worshiped in temples throughout the Roman empire

Today's selection:

Martial *Epig.* 12.10: When I Have...Enough!

➤ Based on this description alone, what do you think this epigram may be about?



➤ This epigram targets one of those scoundrels known in ancient Rome as **captātōrēs**, men who practically made a career of making friends with wealthy patrons – especially those who were old or sick – with the goal of gaining a favorable place in their wills.

➤ The legacy-hunter satirized here, Africanus, is already a millionaire, but is still seeking after inheritances.



➤ Martial helps emphasize the paradox by framing the first verse with contrasting verbs – a rhetorical device common in Latin poetry. Watch for this on the next page!

Habet Āfricānus mīliēns, tamen captat.
Fortūna multīs dat nimis, satis nūllī.

Look at the poem's structure:

- Two lines, four clauses.
- The first verse is framed by its two verbs.
- The second verse contains an example of **CHIASMUS** (from the Greek letter χ), a reverse ABBA word order device commonly employed in Latin verse to achieve some sort of emphasis, often to underscore contrasting ideas.
- What do you see as the effect of the framing in line 1?
- Can you identify the chiasmus in line 2 (hint: look for 4 parallel elements) and explain its effect?

HABET Āfricānus mīliēns, tamen **CAPTAT**.

Fortūna **multīs** dat **nimis**, **satis nūllī**.

A

B

B

A

Africanus has millions,
nevertheless he hunts for legacies.
Fortune gives too much to many men,
enough to none.

This presentation gives a little bit of background information on Martial, and refers back to two epigrams by Martial earlier in the book. It then introduces the vocabulary and discussion questions. The final slide is designed to be shown after the class has discussed and translated the epigram.