



METADATA

Title: Ovid, Metamorphoses 3.511-733

Other Titles: Latin text with introduction, commentary, vocabulary aid, and study questions

Language: Greek

Authors: Michalopoulos, C., Associate Professor, DUTH, Gildenhard, I., Professor, University of Cambridge, Zissos, A., Professor, University of California

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Abstract

In the third book of his Metamorphoses, Ovid focuses on the city of Thebes, its mythical founder, Cadmus, and the ominous adventures of his offspring. Lines 511-733 narrate the conflict between Pentheus, the young prince of Thebes, who adamantly opposes to the introduction of the worship of Dionysus in his city, and Acoetes, a captive who tries in vain to warn Pentheus about the dangers of his rejection of the god. Acoetes, who is most likely none other than Dionysus himself in disguise, recounts the miraculous transformation of his Tyrrhenian companions into dolphins by the god as a punishment for their disrespect towards him. Unfortunately, Pentheus, failing to give due attention to Acoetes' cautionary tale, meets a tragic death at the hands of the raging maenads on Mount Cithaeron. Ingo Gildenhard, Professor of Classical Philology at King's College, University of Cambridge, and Andrew Zissos, Professor of Classical

Philology at the University of California, Irvine, offer a modern commentary on this particular section of Ovid's Metamorphoses. The six chapters of the Introduction provide the reader with a clear and accessible discussion of broader topics related to Ovid's life, work, and era, as well as more specialized subjects like the generic peculiarity of the Metamorphoses, intertextuality, characterization, and even aspects of Roman religion. The main commentary is organized into chapters based on the content of Ovid's narrative, each of which includes the Latin text, vocabulary, comprehension questions, interpretative comments (covering a wide range of grammatical, syntactical, metrical, stylistic, content, and ideology), topics for further discussion, and a bibliography. The commentary is complete with a chapter on Latin metrics, a glossary of rhetorical terms and syntactical structures, and an extensive bibliography.

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