

2020 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Advanced Poetry--Female Character

Juno Visits Semele

Surgit ab hīs soliō fulvāque recondita nūbe
Iīmen adit Semelēs nec nūbēs ante remōvit
quam simulāvit anum posuitque ad tempora cānōs 275
sulcāvitque cutem rūgīs et curva trementī
membra tulit passū; vōcem quoque fēcit anīlem,
ipsaque erat Beroē, Semelēs Epidauria nūtrix.
Ergō ubi captātō sermōne diūque loquendō
ad nōmen vērē Iovis, suspīrat et 'optō, 280
Iuppiter ut sit' ait; 'metuō tamen omnia: multī
nōmine dīvōrum thalamōs iniēre pudīcōs.
nec tamen esse Iovem satis est: det pignus amōris,
sī modo vērū is est; quantusque et quālis ab altā
Iūnōne excipitur, tantus tālisque, rogātō, 285
det tibi complexūs suaque ante īnsignia sūmat!'

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* III. 273-286

With these words (Juno) rises from her throne, and wrapped in her saffron cloud, approaches the threshold of Semele, and she did not remove her cloud before she pretended to be an old woman and put white hair on her temples, furrowed her skin with wrinkles, and slowed her bowed limbs with a trembling walk. She also made her voice sound like an old woman, and she was Beroë herself, Semele's nurse from Epidaurus. Therefore, after taking over their conversation and by talking for a long time, when they came to the name of "Jupiter," (Juno) breathed deeply and said, "I hope that it IS Jupiter; but I fear everything: Many men have entered chaste bedchambers under the name of gods. Nor is it enough to BE Jupiter: let him give a pledge of his love, if only he IS the real Jupiter; ask him to be as great as and of the same substance as he is when he is received by divine Juno; let him give you embraces and take you in front of his very likeness."