adhuc adv. still, yet. serviō, -ire, -ivi, -itum, to serve; be a slave. habiē (1) to live. vicus, -i, village; ward (of a city), street, block. angustus, -a, -um, narrow, confined.

quōmodo, just as, as. diū = det. volō, velle, volū, to wish, want. coepī, coepisse, to begin (perfect tense only). uxor, -ōris f. wife. copō, -onis m. innkeeper, tavern keeper (usually spelled caupo).

noscō, -ere, nōvī, nōtum, to get to know, learn; perf. be acquainted with, know. baccīballum: a Petronian hapax of uncertain origin and meaning. Perhaps connected with some diminutive of bacca, -ae, berry; and therefore a reflection of Melissa’s “rotundity”? Cf. “my little peach”.

mehercules interj. by Hercules! *corporaliter adv. pertaining to the body. aut, or. propter + acc. on account of, because of. rēs veneriae: “sex”. cūrō (1) to take care of, attend to. magis, more.

benemoria: another hapax, but with a plain meaning (“of sweet disposition”). quid = aliquid (after si, nisi, num and nē). petō, -ere, -ivi (-ii), -itum, to ask, seek, request. nunquam, never. negātum: negātum est.

ās, āssis m. bronze coin, penny. sēmis, sēmissis m. half an as, halfpenny. sinus, -ūs m. fold, hollow; pocket; purse. dēmandō (1) to hand over, entrust. unquam, ever. fēllĭtus sum: a comic vulgarism for falsīsum (from fāllō, -ere, fēfelli, falsīsum, to deceive, cheat).

contubernalis, -is m. army buddy, tent companion; husband (of a slave). ad villam: “in the countryside”. suprēmum diem obire: to die (lit. to meet the final day). itaque, and, so, therefore.

scūtum, -i, shield. ocrea, -ae, grease, shin guard. agō, -ere, ēgī, actum, to do, drive. agināvī: another hapax, presumably from an unattested verb agīnō (or coined by Petronius). It must carry a meaning such as “to hurry” or “to do again”’ or “to continue the sense of the sentence. The narrator is using a military (or gladiatorial) image of hastening to conquer his intended paramour. quemadmodum adv. in what way, how. perveniō, -ire, -vēnī, -ventum, to come to, reach, arrive.


forte adv. by chance. Capuam: accusative of place to which without preposition. exeō, -ire, -ivi, -itum, to go out, go forth, leave. scrutā, -ōrum n.pl. trash, junk. expediō, -ire, -ivi, -itum, to untie, unfetter, clear; solve, settle, take care of. ad scrutā expedienda: “for the purpose of taking care of some business or other”. The reading is uncertain. nanciscor, -i, nactus sum, to obtain, get, find. Recall that perfect participles of deponent verbs are active.

occāsiō, -iōnis f. opportunity, chance. The direct object of nactus. persuādeo, -ere, -suāsi, -suāsum, to persuade, convince. hospēs, -itis m. guest, visitor. quintus, -a, -um, fifth.

miliārium, -i, milestone. milēs, -itis m. soldier. fortis, fortis, strong, brave. tanquam, as, just as, like. Orcus, -i, the Underworld. Note the English has the same idiom. apocūlo (1) another hapax, perhaps coined by Petronius. The sense must be something like “to high-tail it” or “to head out”.

circā + acc. about, around, round about. gallicinium, -i, cockcrow, daybreak. lūceō, -ere, lūxi, to shine, glow. meridiēs, -et m. noon, midday. Ablative of time when.

monimentum, -i, memorial; tomb. stēla, -ae, pillar, column, tombstone. sedēo, -ere, sēdi, sessum, to sit. *cantabundus, -a, -um, singing.

numerō (1) to count. deinde, then, next. ut: “as” (when followed by an indicative verb). respiciō, -ere, -spexi, -spectum, to look back, look around. comes, -itis c. companion, fellow traveler. exuō, -ere, -ui, -ūtus, to undress.

vestimentum, -i, clothing, garment. secundum + acc. along, next to, by, beside. pōnō, -ere, posuī, posītum, to put, place. mihi: dative of respect. anima, -ae, mind, spirit, soul. nāsum, -i, nose. esse: an historical infinitive. We would say “My heart was in my mouth”.

mortuus, -a, -um, dead. at, but. circummeggō, -ere, -minxi, -mictum vulg. to urinate around. subītō adv. suddenly. lupus, -i, wolf.

nolite: recall that this imperative with an infinitive forms a negative command. iocor, -āri, -ātus sum, to joke, jest. mentior, -irī, -itus sum, to lie, invent, fake. ut . . . tanti faciō: “I wouldn’t lie for any fortune in the world”.

quod coeperam dicere: “as I had begun to say”. ululō (1) to howl. Note the onomatopoeia.
prīmitus adv. first, at first. nesciō, -ire, -ivī, -itum, to not know. accēdō, -ere, accessī, accessum, to approach, go to. vestimentum, -i, garment, clothing.
tollō, -ere, sustulī, sublātum, to lift, raise. lapideus, -a, -um, stone, (made of) stone. moriō, morī, mortuus sum, to die. Here, another historical infinitive. nisi, except, beside.
stringō, -ere, strinxī, strictum, to draw tight; draw (a weapon from its sheath). umbra, -ae, shadow.
cædo, -ere, cecīdī, caesium, to cut, strike, kill.
bifurcus, -a, -um, having two prongs or forks. Here, “arms” or “legs”.
admodum adv. in what way, how. larva, -ae, ghost, specter. Here in apposition: “like a ghost”. intrō (1) to enter, go in. paene, almost.
saltem adv. at least. adiūtō + dat. (1) to aid, assist, help. lupus, -i, wolf. pecus, oris n. herd, flock (esp. of sheep).
mordeō, -ëre, momordī, morsum, to bite, rip into. tanquam, as, just as, like. lanius, -i, butcher.
sanguis, sanguinis m. blood. illīs: dative of reference. dērideō, -ère, -risī, -risum, to mock, make sport of, laugh at.
etiam sī: “even though”. servus, -i, slave. lancia, -ae, lance, light spear. collum, -i, neck. trāciō, -ere, -ieci, -iectum, to throw across, pierce through.
operiō, -ire, -ut, -tum, to cover; close, shut. amplius: “any longer”. luce clarā: “at daybreak”.
copō, -onis m. innkeeper, tavern keeper (usually spelled caupō). compilō (1) to plunder, pillage, rob.
medicus, -i, doctor. cūrō (1) to attend to, care for. intellegō, -ere, -lexī, -lectum, to understand, discern, perceive. versipellis, -is, werewolf. postea adv. afterwards.
pānis, pānis m. bread. gustō (1) to taste, enjoy, partake. non sī mē occīdisses: “not if you had killed me”.
viderint aliī: “others may see to it”. quid dē hoc exopinissent: “what they might think about this”. mentior, -irī, -itus sum, to lie, mislead. genius, -i, guardian spirit.
irātus, -a, -um, angry, irate. habeam: a hortatory subjunctive.