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Title: 3.20 Auceps, Palumbus, et Serpens

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Auceps, Palumbus, et Serpens

- 1 Dolum Palumbo incautus Auceps dum struit,
- 2 Premit Anguem, cujus dente violatus perit.
- 3 Malum jure feres, quod parabis alteri.

Notes

2. *premit anguem*. This is the main statement; the other verbs are in a *dum* clause (*struit*) and in a relative clause (*perit*), with *auceps* as the subject of all three verbs.

3. *feres...parabis*. The moral of the story is expressed with second-person verbs, speaking directly to the reader.

3. *malum*. The neuter adjective is used substantively as a noun, "an evil thing, evil."

4. *quod*. Relative pronoun, agreeing with *malum*.

Vocabulary

anguis (*anguis, m.*). snake, serpent

jus (*juris, n.*). right, law, justice

palumbus (*-i, m.*). woodpigeon, ring-dove

violo (*violare*). treat with violence, injure

Commentary

Compare the moral of this story with the saying in the Biblical Book of Proverbs: *Qui fodit foveam incidet in eam, et qui volvit lapidem revertetur ad eum*, "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein, and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him."