

CCL 2025
Dramatic Interpretation
Advanced Level, Prose Passage

Samson's Death ~ Judges 16

et principes Philisthinorum convenerunt in unum, laetantesque per convivia	1
raeceperunt ut vocaretur Samson et ante eos luderet qui adductus de carcere	2
ludebat ante eos feceruntque eum stare inter duas columnas	3
qui dixit puero regenti gressus suos, “dimitte me ut tangam columnas quibus	4
omnis imminet domus ut recliner super eas et paululum requiescam.”	5
domus autem plena erat virorum ac mulierum et erant ibi omnes principes	6
Philisthinorum	
at ille invocato Domino ait, “Domine Deus, memento mei et redde nunc mihi	7
pristinam fortitudinem Deus meus ut ulciscar me de hostibus meis et pro	8
amissione duorum luminum unam ultionem recipiam”	9
et adprehendens ambas columnas quibus innitebatur domus alteramque earum	10
dextera et alteram leva tenens	11
ait, “moriatur anima mea cum Philisthim,” concussisque fortiter columnis	12
cecidit domus super omnes principes et ceteram multitudinem quae ibi erat	13
multoque plures interfecit moriens quam ante vivus occiderat.	14

Source: Judicum 16:23-30, *Biblia Sacra Vulgata* (lightly altered)

Glossary

1 convīvia: feasts (convivium, n.); 2 praecēpērunt: they advised, they instructed; lūdere: to play
4. regō, regere: lead, guide, direct; gressus, -ūs, m. : step; 5 imminēō, imminēre: project over, overhang
8 prīstinus: former, early, original; ulcīscor, ulcīscī: avenge, punish, avenge oneself
9 ūltiō, ūltiōnis, f: revenge; 10 innītor, innītī: lean upon, support oneself by

English translation:

And the princes of the Philistines assembled together. . . .

And rejoicing in their feasts, they commanded that Samson should be called, and should play before them.

And being brought out of prison, he played before them; and they made him stand between two pillars

And he said to the lad that guided his steps: “Suffer me to touch the pillars which support the whole house, and let me lean upon them, and rest a little.”

Now the house was full of men and women, and all the princes of the Philistines were there.

But he called upon the Lord, saying: “O Lord God remember me, and restore to me now my former strength, O my God, that I may revenge myself on my enemies, and for the loss of my two eyes I may take one revenge.”

And laying hold on both the pillars on which the house rested, and holding the one with his right hand, and the other with his left, He said: “Let me die with the Philistines.” And when he had strongly shook the pillars, the house fell upon all the princes, and the rest of the multitude, that was there: and he killed many more at his death, than he had killed before in his life.