

Division III: Ovid
Metamorphoses II, lines 23-39

Introduction to the passage: These lines are from the story of Phaëthon, a young man who has heard that his father is the sun god, Helios (also known as Phoebus), and who makes his way to the palace of the sun to ask if what he has heard is true. In this passage the poet describes the scene at the palace and what Phaëthon and his father first say to each other at their meeting.

23 ... Purpurea velatus veste sedebat
 in solio Phoebus claris lucente smaragdis.

25 A dextra laevaue Dies et Mensis et Annus
 Saeculaque et positae spatiis aequalibus Horae
 Verque novum stabat cinctum florente corona,
 stabat nuda Aestas et spiceaserta gerebat,
 stabat et Autumnus calcatis sordidus uvis,

30 et glacialis Hiems canos hirsuta capillos.
 Ipseloco medius rerum novitate paventem
 Sol oculis iuvenem, quibus adspicit omnia, vidit,
 “quae”que “viae tibi causa? Quid hac” ait “arce petisti,
 progenies, Phaëthon, haud infitianda parenti?”

35 Ille refert, “O lux immensi publica mundi,
 Phoebe, pater, si das usum mihi nominis huius,
 nec falsa Clymene culpam sub imagine celat,
 pignora da, genitor, per quae tua vera propago
 credar, et hunc animis errorem detrahe nostris!”