“ILLUSTRATING THE CASE FOR FUNERARY MONUMENTS”

Dedications of Wives to their Husbands

(See World of Marriage in Companion)

Translations by A. Raia*

NOTHI CONIUNX*

CIL 6.6314, 1st century CE

[Monument of] Nothus the Secretary

NON ¹OPTATA TIBI CONIVNX MONIMENTA LOCavit
VLTIMA IN AETERNIS SEDIBVS VT MANEANT.
SPE FRVSTRA GAVISA NOTHI QVEM PRIMA FERENTEM
AETATIS PLVTON INVIDVS ERIPVIT.
HUNC ETIAM FLEVIT QVAEQVALIS TVRBA ET HONOREM
SVPREMVM DIGNE FVNERIS INPOSVIT.

¹Perhaps a pun on Optata as the name of coniunx?

FURIA SPES

CIL 6. 18817, ILS 8006, 1-2nd century CE

ANIMAE SANCTAE COLENDAE
D[is] M[anibus] S[acrum]

FVRIA SPES L[iberta] SEMPRONIO FIRMO,
CONIVGI CARISSIMO MIHI VT COGNOVI,
PVER PVELLA, OBLIGATI AMORI PARITER.
CVM QVO VIXI TEMPORI MINIMO ET
QVO TEMPORE VIVERE DEBVMVS
A MANV MALA DISEPARATI SVMVS.
ITA PETO VOS, [ma]NES SANCTISSIMAE,
COMMENDAT[um] [...] HABEATIS
MEVM C[aru]M ET VELLITIS
HVIC INDVL[g]ENTISSIMI ESSE
HORIS NOCTVRNIS,
VT EVM VIDEAM.
ET ETIAM ME FATO SVADERE
VELLIT VT ET EGO POSSIM
DVLCIVS ET CELERIVS
APVT EVM PERVENIRE.

OF THE PURE SOUL TO BE REVERED
[Monument] SACRED TO THE DIVINE SHADES

Furia Spes, a freedwoman, [made this monument]
for Sempronius Firmus, a husband dearest to me
since I knew him,
boy and girl, bound equally in love.
I lived with him for too brief a time and
in the time we ought to [have] live[d],
we were separated by an evil hand.
Therefore I beg you, Most Holy Shades,
that you keep . . . the one entrusted to you,
my dear one, and that you are willing
to be most well disposed to him
in the hours of the night, so that I may see him.
And also let him want me to persuade Fate
that I too may be able to
more sweetly and swiftly
come to him.

*The translations are intentionally literal to facilitate sight reading