

658. **per ipsum (deum)** – by Bacchus himself is meant.

Note that **illo** gets its case and reason because of **praestantior**.

659-660. **tam . . .quam** – as . . . as.

660. **veri maiora fide** – “as they are greater than the belief of the truth.” In other words, the story he tells is beyond belief (but still true).

661. **siccam** - understand **puppim**.

663. **vela deducunt** – lead down the sails; Romans kept sails not in use rolled up to the beam they were attached to; the sailors lower the sails to make use of them. The sails and the oars are the **gemina ope**.

664. **nexu** – yet another 4th declension noun. Many words can be found in the vocabulary for these lines.

666. **frontem** is acc. respect. Almost always a body part, it tells you in respect to what an action (here **circumdatus**) has been done.

667. Note the arrangement of words here.

668. **quem circa** is anastrophe, the preposition coming after the noun it governs.

669. Note the arrangement of words here.

670. **exsiluere** – archaic perfect because the stem ends in **-u**.

671. **Medon** – nominative singular, one of the crew, as is **Lycabas** (673).

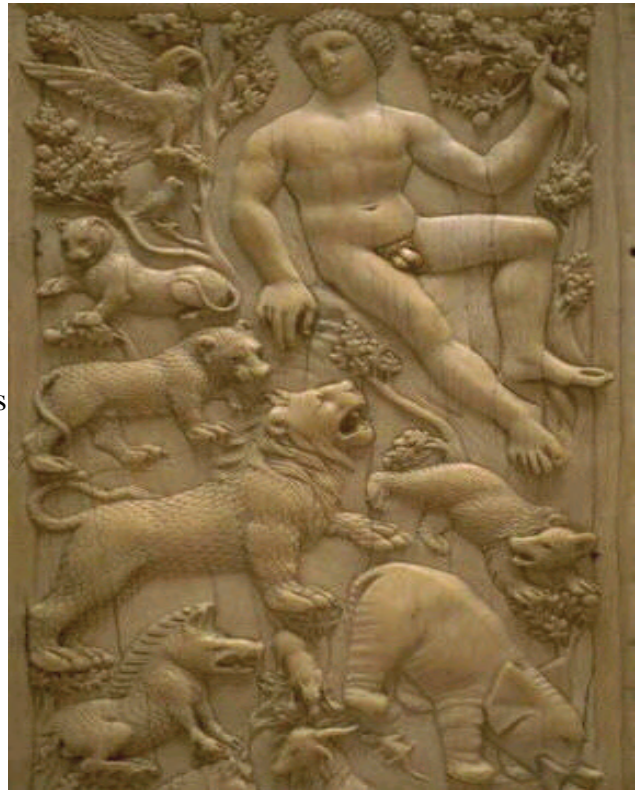
674. **verteris** - present indicative passive. **loquenti** modifies an understood **ei** (to him, the dative of reference).

676. **Libys** – yet another member of the crew.

677. **spatium breve** – here a small shape.

678. Note second meaning of **pinna** (equals **penna**).

Bacchus and a Tiger - Roman Mosaic



The Transformation of the Sailors -
Johann Ulrich Krauss Edition , 1690



Per tibi nunc ipsum (nec enim praesentior illo est deus) adiuro, tam me tibi vera referre quam veri maiora fide: stetit aequore puppis haud aliter, quam si siccam navale teneret.	660
Illi admirantes remorum in verbere perstant velaque deducunt geminaque ope currere temptant: impediunt hederae remos nexuque recurvo serpunt et gravidis distinguunt vela corymbis.	665
Ipse racemiferis frontem circumdatus uvis pampineis agitatur velatam frondibus hastam; quem circa tigres simulacraque inania lyncum pictarumque iacent fera corpora pantherarum.	670
Exsiluere viri, sive hoc insania fecit sive timor, primusque Medon nigrescere toto corpore et expresso spinae curvamine flecti incipit. Huic Lycabas “In quae miracula” dixit “verteris?” et lati rictus et panda loquenti naris erat, squamamque cutis durata trahebat.	675
At Libys obstantis dum vult obvertere remos, in spatium resilire manus breve vidit et illas iam non esse manus, iam pinnas posse vocari.	

658. praesens, praesentis (adj.) - **present, near at hand**

659. adiuro (1) - **swear**

660. maior, maius (com. adj. of magnus) - **greater***

fides, fidei - **faith, trust, belief***

661. haud aliter - **not otherwise***

siccus, a, um - **dry***

navale, navalis (n.) - **shipyard; dock**

662. admiror (1) - **marvel at, admire***

verber, verberis (n.) - **blow, stroke** (Eng. reverberation)

persto, perstare, perstiti, perstatum - **persevere, stand firm, continue**

663. velum, i - **sail***

deduco - (of sails) **lower**

geminus, a, um - **double, twin***

tempto (1) - **try, attempt***

664. inpedio, inpedire, inpedivi, inpeditus - **entangle, hinder, impede**

hedera, ae - **ivy**

nexus, us (m.) - **coil, knot** (Eng. nexus)

recurvus, a, um - **curving (back)**

665. serpo, serpere, serpsi, serptum - **creep along, crawl**

gravidus, a, um - **heavy**

distinguo, distinguere, distinxi, distinctus - **separate, mark out, adorn**

corymbus, i - **cluster of berries**

666. racemifer, -fera, -ferum - **clustering**

frons, frontis (f.) - **forehead; front***

circumdo, circumdare, circumdedi, circumdatus - **put around**

uva, ae - **grape**

667. pampineus, a, um - **of the grape vine**

agito (1) - **shake, brandish*** (Eng. agitate)

667. velo (1) - **cover***

frons, frondis (f.) - **leaf, foliage***

hasta, ae - **spear; wand***

668. circa (prep. with acc.) - **around, about**

simulacrum, i - **image, ghost** (Eng. simulacrum)

lynx, luncis (m./f.) - **lynx** (a wild cat)

669. pictus, a, um - **painted; spotted**

iaceo, iacere, iacui - **lie, lie still***

ferus, a, um - **wild*** (Eng. feral)

panthera, ae - **panther**

670. exsilio, exsilire, exsilui - **leap forth, jump out**

sive . . . sive - **whether . . . or**

671. nigresco, nigrescere, nigruī - **become black**

672. expressus, a, um - **distinct, clear, visible**

spina, ae - **spine, back**

curvamen, -minis (n.) - **curve**

flecto, flectere, flexi, flectus - **bend, turn***

673. miraculum, i - **miracle, amazing action**

674. latus, a, um - **wide***

rictus, us - **jaws, open mouth**

pandus, a, um - **curve**

675. naris, naris - **nose, nostril**

squama, ae - **scale**

cutis, is - **skin** (Eng. cuticle)

duro (1) - **make hard, harden**

676. obsto, obstare, obstiti, obstatus - **be in the way, block***

obverto, obvertere, obverti, obversus - **turn towards, turn against**

remus, i - **oar***

677. resilio, resilire, resilui - **leap back; shrink back**

brevis, e - **brief, short***

678. pinna, ae - **feather; fin**