

The tragic story of Phaethon

Wheelock: Chapter 4

Phaëthon¹ est filius Phoeb². Amicus Phaëthontis de fāmā dīvināe orīginis dubitat: "Nōn es filius deī. Nōn habēs dōna deōrum. Nōn vēra est tua fābula." Magna īra Phaëthontem movet: "Filius deī sum! Phoebē, dā signum!" vocat Phaëthon. Phoebus puerum auscultat et sine morā volat de caelō. "Ō mī fili, quid dēsīderās?" Phoebus rogat. "Pecūniā? Sapientiam? Vitam sine cūrīs?" Respondet Phaëthon, "Habēnās habēre et currum sōlis agree dēsīderō." Ō stulte puer! Malum est tuum cōsiliū. Nōn dēbēs official deōrum dēsīderāre. Phoebus filium monet, sed puer magna perīcula nōn videt. Equī valent; nōn valet Phaëthon. Currus sine vērō magistrō errat in caelō. Quid vidēmus? De caelō cadit Phaëthon. Ō mala fortūna!

Translation:

Phaethon is the son of Phoebus. A friend of Phaethon doubts the origin of his divine fame: "You are not god's son. You don't have the gift of god. Your story is not true." Phaethon is enraged: "I am god's son! Phoebus, give the proof! Phaethon calls out. Phoebus hears the boy (calling) and flies from the heaven without delay. "Oh my son, what do you want?" Phoebus asks "Money? Wisdom? Life without anxiety?" And Phaethon answers, "I want to take the reins and drive the sun chariot." "Oh stupid boy! Your plan is bad. You shouldn't desire the god's work." Phoebus warns his son, but the boy doesn't see the great danger. The horses are strong; (but) Phaethon doesn't. The chariot without the true master goes astray in the sky. Guess what we see? Phaethon falls from the sky. What bad luck!

1. the name in ancient Greek means "shining"[wikitionary](#)↵

2. the sun-god[wikitionary](#)↵