

# The adventures of Io

---

## Wheelock: Chapter 5

*Iuppiter, rēx deōrum, pulchram Iō<sup>1</sup> amat; tum īram Iūnōnis metuit. Mūtāt igitur fōrmam Iōnis: "Iūnō nōn puellam, sed bovem vidēbit," Iuppiter cōgitat. Iūnō nōn stulta est: "Habēsne dōnum, mī vir? Dabisne bellam bovem Iūnōnī? Dā, sī mē amās!" Iuppiter igitur Iūnōnī bovem dat. Cum bove remanet magnus custōs, Argus<sup>2</sup>. Argus centum oculōs habet. Mercurius<sup>3</sup> Argum superat, sed Iō nōndum lībera est: malus asīlus cum bove manet. Iō errat per terrās; multōs populōs videt, sed vēram fōrmam suam nōn habet. Misera puella! Habēbisne semper fōrmam bovis? Nōnne satis est tua poena? Ira Iūnōnis nōn perpetua est: Iuppiter Iōnī vēram fōrmam dat; tum Iō filium gignit. Centum oculōs Argī vidēbitis in caudā pāvōnis.*

## Translation:

---

Jupiter, the king of gods, loves beautiful Io; while he fears the anger of Juno. Therefore, he changes Io's shape: "Juno will not see a girl, but a cow," he thinks. (However,) Juno is not stupid: "Do you have a gift, my husband? Do you want to give me the beautiful cow? Give me, if you love me!" So Jupiter gives the cow to Juno. She keeps the cow with a large watchman, Argus. Argus has 100 eyes. Mercury defeats Argus, but Io is not free yet: a bad gadfly stays with the cow. Io runs through the lands; many people see her, but she doesn't have her own look. Unfortunate girl! Will you have the cow's look forever? Isn't your penalty enough? (Luckily,) The anger of Juno isn't perpetual: Jupiter turns Io into her true look; then Io gives birth to her son. You can see Argus' 100 eyes in the tail of peacock.

---

1. Iō, Iōnis, Iōnī, Iō: a Greek maiden [↗](#)

2. a monster with 100 eyes, servant of Juno(Hera) [↗](#)

3. Mercury, the messenger-god [↗](#)