



LATIN FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM, Level 2

LATIN STORY TO ACCOMPANY REVIEW 5

This story recounts the story of Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine (1124–1204), who greatly shaped both the political and cultural landscape of the time, as ruler of Aquitaine in her own right and as queen of King Louis VII of France (1120–1180), and then King Henry II of England (1133–1189). Eleanor managed her own estates and took part in the Second Crusade. When Eleanor supported her sons in revolting against their father, Henry II imprisoned her in towers, including the Tower of London, across England. In this story, Eleanor recounts significant events of her life up to her release from imprisonment.



This stone tomb effigy can be found in the church of Fontevraud Abbey in Fontevraud-l'Abbaye, France. The famous abbey was founded in 1101. Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine commissioned four effigies to be placed upon the royal tombs, including hers, and her husband's, Henry II of England, and those of her son Richard the Lionheart, and her daughter Joan. Eleanor is depicted holding a book, usually identified as the Bible, as a way to honor and acknowledge her education, her patronage of the arts, and her faith. She had retired to the convent for her last years. Photo by Adam Bishop. Wikimedia Commons, Creative Commons 3.0.

QUEEN ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE

1 Mihi nōmen erat Alienora et ego rēgīna *Gallica* eram. Ego fortūnāta et potēns fēmina eram
quae familiam meam ferōciter cūrābam. *Litterae* et *mūsica* mihi placēbant. Ego praedita
tantis pecūniis eram ut artibus favērem.

5 *Ludovicus* VII, rēx *Lutetiae*, marītus meus fuerat. Nōlēbat mē uxōrem quod ego rēgīna
potestātem et *auctōritātem* magnam habēre volēbam. Nōlēbat mē uxōrem quod multōs
filiōs parēre nōn potueram.

Mātrimōniō *solūtō*, Henricus II marītus secundus meus factus erat. Henricō marītō, ego quīnque filiōs et multās filiās pārui. Guilielmus, prīmus *nātū*, mortuus est. Trīstissimī erāmus quod Guilielmus puer parvus fuerat. Deinde erant Henricus, qui “Iuuenis” vocātus est, Ricardus et Iōhannēs. In mediō erat Galfridus.

Henricus II tot terrīs imperābat ut pater filiūm Henricum Iuuenem rēgem fēcit. Quamquam pater eum rēgem fēcit, ipse terrārum potestātem nōn dedit.

Henricus Iuuenis frātrēs, Richardum et Iōhannēm, sociōs fēcit ut patrī resistant. Galfridus absēns fuerat. Ego animadvertī quōmodo Henricus II filiōs nostrōs cūrāret. Igitur ego filiīs meis *cōpiam* dedī. Henricus II vehementer irascābātur.

Ergo, ab marītō meō, Henricō II, in turrem magnam missa sum. In multās turrēs per Angliam missam sum nē contrā marītum sim. In turribus versāta sum; quiēs erat. Per multa rūstica oppida vecta sum et sēdēs saepe movēbam nē potestātem habeam.

Moriēns Henricus Iuuenis dēclārāvit sē contrā patrem nōn iam esse sed pater eī nōn crēdidit. Filius veniam suā voluntāte petēbat sed pater benevolentiam nōn dedit. Ad morientem filiūm nōn vēnit. Pater *ānulūm* mīsīt, quem filiū in manibus tenēns mortuus est.

Ego et amīcī eius voluērunt Henricum Iuuenem *sānctum* fierī sed negābāmur. Henricō II mortuō, filius meus Ricardus rēx factus est. mē ā turre liberāvit et iterum potestātem et auctōritātem habuī.

VOCABULA NOVA

Anglia, -ae, f. – England

ānulus, -ī, m. – ring

auctoritās, auctōritātis, f. – authority

copia, -ae, f. – resources

Gallicus, -a, -um – French

littera, -ae, f. – in plural, literature

Ludovicus, -ī, m. – Louis

Lutetia, -ae, f. – Paris

musica, -ae, f. – music

nātus, -ūs, f. – birth

potestās, potestātem, f. – power

rūsticus, -a, -um – rustic, country

sānctus, -ī, m. – saint

solvō, solvere, solvī, solūtus – loosen; here, the marriage had been annulled