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Eduqas GCSE Latin  
Component 3A

Latin Literature (Narratives) Ovid, *Ceyx and Alcyone*

For examination in 2022 and 2023

**Student Study Booklet**



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**This document uses the official examination text for the Eduqas Latin GCSE (2022-2023).**

*The passages in italics are summaries of events to support understanding of the narrative. They are **not** part of the prescription.*

N.B. where a vocabulary item appears twice or more on the same page, it is not repeated after the first time.

## Ceyx and Alcyone

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

Book 11 415- 429, 439-453, 461-468, 478-523, 537-550, 560- 569, 710-746

*In his Metamorphoses, Ovid fitted together into a continuous poem of around 12,000 lines an enormous range of myths and folk-tales, beginning with the creation of the world and ending in Ovid's own day. Almost all the stories it contains (including this one) involve a change of shape (in Greek, a 'metamorphosis') of one sort of another - humans, for example, being transformed into animals, trees, and even mountains!*

*At the beginning of this story Ceyx, king of Trachis in Greece, is grieving because his brother, Daedalion, has been turned into a hawk by Apollo. He decides to visit an oracle to ask the god for comfort but his wife, Alcyone, being very afraid of this journey tries to persuade him not to go by sea.*

## Section A

### Lines 1 - 4

consilii tamen ante sui, fidissima, certam  
te facit, Alcyone; cui protinus intima frigus  
ossa receperunt, buxoque simillimus ora  
pallor obit, lacrimisque genae maduere profusis.

<p>1</p> <p>2</p>	<p>consilium, consilii, n. - plan tamen - however ante - before suus, sua, suum - his, her, their own fidissimus, fidissima, fidissimum - most faithful, most loyal certus, certa, certum - certain certam facio: I make certain, I inform, I tell</p> <p>tu, tui - you (singular) facio facere feci factus - do, make Alcyone, Alcyones f. - Alcyone, wife of Ceyx qui, quae, quod - who protinus - immediately intimus, intima, intimum - innermost</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4</p>	<p>frigus, frigoris, n. - chill os, ossis, n. - bone recipio, recipere, recepi, receptus - receive buxum, buxi, n. - boxwood, the wood of the box tree similis, simile - similar, like, resembling</p> <p>os, oris, n. - here: face pallor, palloris m. - paleness, pallor obeo obire obii - cover, go round, surround lacrima, lacrimae f. - tear gena, genae f. - cheek madeo madere madui - be wet maduere = maduerunt profusus profusa profusum - poured down</p>

## Notes

**Section A**

**Lines 5 - 8**

ter conata loqui ter fletibus ora rigavit,  
 singultuque pias interrumpente querellas  
 “quae mea culpa tuam,” dixit “carissime, mentem  
 vertit? ubi est quae cura mei prior esse solebat?”

5

5	ter - three times conatus, conata, conatum - having tried loquor loqui locutus sum - speak ter - three times fletus, fletus m. - weeping, tear os, oris, n. - face rigo rigare rigavi rigatus - make wet, moisten	8	culpa, culpae f. - fault tuus, tua, tuam - your dico dicere dixi dictus - say carissimus, carissima, carissimum - dearest, most beloved mens, mentis f. - mind, here: feelings verito vertere verti versus - turn, here: alter ubi - where sum esse fui - be qui, quae, quod - that (relative pronoun) cura, curae f. - care, concern ego, gen. mei - here: for me prior, prioris, n. - before all else soleo solere solitus sum - be accustomed to, used to be	

## Notes

Section A		
Lines 9 - 12		
iam potes Alcyone securus abesse relicta? iam via longa placet? iam sum tibi carior absens? at, puto, per terras iter est, tantumque dolebo, non etiam metuam, curaeque timore carebunt.		10
9	iam - now possum posse potui - be able Alcyone, Alcyones f. - Alcyone, wife of Ceyx securus, securus, securum - free from care, untroubled absum abesse afui - be away, absent relictus, relicta, relictum - left behind	11
10	via, viae f. - road, here: journey longus, longa, longum - long placeo placere placui + dat. - please, be pleasing to sum esse fui - be tu, gen. tui - you (singular) carus, cara, carum - dear, precious	12
	absens, gen. absentis - absent at - but puto putare putavi putatus - think, suppose per + acc - through, here: across terra, terrae f. - land iter, itineris, n. - journey tantum - only doleo dolere dolui dolitus - grieve, feel pain non - not etiam - also metuo metuere metui - fear cura, curae f. - care, concern timor, timoris m. - dread, anxiety careo carere carui caritus + abl. - be free of, lack	



## Notes

## Section A

### Lines 13 - 15

aequora me terrent et ponti tristis imago:

et laceras nuper tabulas in litore vidi,

et saepe in tumulis sine corpore nomina legi.

15

<p>13</p>	<p>aequor, aequoris, n. - sea ego, gen. mei - I terreo terrere terrui territus - terrify, frighten et - and pontus, ponti m. - ocean, sea tristis, triste - sad, mournful imago, imaginis f. - vision, thought</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>tabula, tabulae f. - here: timber, plank in + abl. - on litus, litoris, n. - sea-shore, beach video videre vidi visus - see saepe - often tumulus, tumuli m. - mound, here: tomb sine + abl. - without corpus, corporis, n. - body nomen, nominis, n. - name lego legere legi lectus - read</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>et ... et - both ... and ... lacer, lacera, lacerum - shattered, wrecked nuper - recently</p>		

## Notes

## Section B

### Lines 1 - 5

quod tua si flecti precibus sententia nullis,  
 care, potest, coniunx, nimiumque es certus eundi,  
 me quoque tolle simul. certe iactabimur una,  
 nec nisi quae patiar, metuam: pariterque feremus,  
 quidquid erit, pariter super aequora lata feremur.”

5

1	quod ... si - but if tuus, tua, tuum - your si - if flecto flectere flexi flexus - bend, move, influence preces, precum f. pl. - prayers, entreaties sententia, sententiae f. - purpose, intention, opinion	4	simul - at the same time certe - certainly iacto iactare iactavi iactatus - throw about iactabimur - we will be storm-tossed una - together nec - and not nisi - unless
2	nullus, nulla, nullum - no, not any carus, cara, carum - dear possum posse potui - be able coniunx, coniugis m/f. - husband nimium - too much here: absolutely sum esse fui - be certus, certa, certum - determined	5	qui, quae, quod - who, which patior pati passus sum - suffer, endure metuo metuere metui - fear pariter - together fero ferre tuli latus - bear, endure quidquid - whatever pariter - together super + acc. - over aequor, aequoris n. - sea latus, lata, latum - broad fero ferre tuli latus - bear, carry
3	eundum, eundi, n. - going ego, gen. mei - I quoque - also tollo tollere sustuli sublatus - take		

## Notes

**Section B**

## Lines 6 - 7

talibus Aeolidis dictis lacrimisque movetur  
 sidereus coniunx: neque enim minor ignis in ipso est.

<b>6</b>	talis, tale - such talibus ... dictis - such (words) spoken Aeolis, Aeolidis f. - daughter of Aeolus dictus, dicta, dictum - spoken, said lacrima, lacrimae f. - tear, weeping moveo movere movi motus - move (emotionally)	<b>7</b>	sidereus, siderea, sidereum - son of a star, star-born coniunx, coniugis m/f. - husband neque - nor enim - for minor, minoris - less ignis, ignis m. - fire (of love) in + abl. - in ipse, ipsa, ipsud - himself sum esse fui - be
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## Notes

## Section B

### Lines 8 - 10

sed neque propositos pelagi dimittere cursus,  
nec vult Alcyonen in partem adhibere pericli,  
multaque respondit timidum solantia pectus.

10

8	sed - but neque - not propositus proposita propositum - planned pelagus, pelagi n. - sea dimitto dimittere dimisi dimissus - put off cursus, cursus m. - voyage, journey	10	in + acc. - to, into pars, partis f. - form, part adhibeo adhibere adhibui adhibitus - add, include periculum, periculi n. - danger pericli = periculi multi, multae, multa - many respondeo respondere respondi responsus - reply timidus, timida, timidum - fearful solans, gen. solantis - soothing, consoling pectus, pectoris n. - heart, breast



## Notes

## Section B

### Lines 11 - 15

non tamen idcirco causam probat; addidit illis  
hoc quoque lenimen, quo solo flexit amantem:  
“longa quidem est nobis omnis mora: sed tibi iuro  
per patrios ignes, si me modo fata remittant,  
ante reversurum, quam luna bis impleat orbem.”

15

<p><b>11</b> non - not tamen - however idcirco - despite causa, causae f. - case probo probare probavi probatus - prove, win addo addere addidi additus - add, include ille, illa, illud - that</p> <p><b>12</b> hic, haec, hoc - this quoque - also lenimen, leniminis n. - consolation qui, quae, quod - who, which solus, sola, solum - alone flecto flectere flexi flexus - bend, move, influence amans, gen. amantis - loving (here: loving [wife])</p> <p><b>13</b> longus, longa, longum - long quidem - indeed sum esse fui - be nos, nostri - we, us omnis, omne - whole, entire mora, morae f. - delay</p>		<p>sed - but tu, tui - your iuro iurare iuravi iuratus - swear (an oath)</p> <p><b>14</b> per + acc. - by means of, through the help of patrius, patria, patrium - belonging to my father, my father's ignis, ignis m. - fiery light, fires si - if ego, gen. mei - I modo - only, just fatum, fati n. - fate remitto remittere remisi remissus - allow back, send back ante ... quam - before reversurus, reversura, reversurum - going to turn back</p> <p><b>15</b> ante ... quam - before luna, lunae f. - moon bis - twice impleo implere implevi impletus - complete, finish orbis, orbis m. - orb</p>	

## Notes

*Alcyone's hopes of a speedy return were raised by this speech but when she saw the preparations for departure, she feared the worst. She embraced her husband and promptly collapsed.*

## Section C

Though Ceyx sought to delay his departure, the young sailors started to row and to split the waves with a regular beat. Alcyone raised her moist eyes and saw her husband standing on the stern, giving her a wave; she returned the gesture. When the ship drew further from the land and her eyes could not make out his face, she followed, as best she could, the departing vessel with her gaze.'

5

## Notes

## Section D

### Lines 1 - 4

aut minus, aut certe medium non amplius aequor  
 puppe secabatur, longeque erat utraque tellus,  
 cum mare sub noctem tumidis albescere coepit  
 fluctibus et praeceps spirare valentius eurus.

1	aut ... aut - either ... or minus - less aut ... aut - either ... or certe adv - certainly medius, media, medium - half-way, middle non - not amplius - more aequor, aequoris n. - sea	4	mare, maris n. - sea sub + acc. - beneath nox, noctis f. - night sub noctem - in darkness tumidus, tumida, tumidum - swollen, rising albesco albescere - become white coepi coepisse coeptus sum - begin
2	puppis, puppis f. - ship seco secare secui sectus - cut, divide longe - far off sum esse fui - be utaque - either (here: both sides) tellus, telluris f. - land	4	fluctus, fluctus m. - sea, wave et - and praeceps, praecipitis - prevailing spiro spirare spiravi spiratus - blow valentius adv - more strongly eurus, euri m. - south east wind
3	cum - when		

## Notes

<b>Section D</b>				
Lines 5 - 8				
<p>“ardua iamdudum demittite cornua” rector  clamat “et antennis totum subnectite velum.”  hic iubet: impediunt adversae iussa procellae,  nec sinit audiri vocem fragor aequoris ullam.</p>		5		
5	arduus, ardua, arduum - high, steep iamdudum - without delay, right now demitto demittere demisi demissus - lower cornu, cornus n. - yard-arm rector, rectoris m. - captain	7	hic - this man iubeo iubere iussi iussus - order impedio impedire impediui impeditus - prevent, stop adversus, adversa, adversum - opposing, adverse iussum, iussi n. - order procella, procellae f. - violent wind	
6	clamo clamare clamavi clamatus - shout et - and antenna, antennae f. - sail-yards, end of the yard-arms totus, tota, totum - whole, entire subnecto subnectere subnexui subnexus - furl, tie up velum, veli n. - sail	8	nec - nor sino sinere sivi situs - allow, permit audio audire audivi auditus - hear vox, vocis f. - voice fragor, fragoris m. - crash aequor, aequoris n. - sea ullus, ulla, ullum - any	



## Notes

**Section D**

## Lines 9 - 10

sponte tamen properant alii subducere remos,  
pars munire latus, pars ventis vela negare.

10

9 sponte - of their own accord  
tamen - however  
propero properare properavi  
properatus - hurry, hasten  
alius, alia, aliud - some, others  
subduco subducere subduxi  
subductus - draw in  
remus, remi m. - oar

10 pars, partis f. - part, others  
munio munire munivi munitus -  
protect, defend  
latus, lateris n. - side  
ventus, venti m. - wind  
velum, veli n. - sail  
nego negare negavi negatus -  
deny

## Notes

## Section D

### Lines 11 - 14

egerit hic fluctus aequorque refundit in aequor,  
 hic rapit antemnas. quae dum sine lege geruntur,  
 aspera crescit hiems, omnique e parte feroces  
 bella gerunt venti fretaque indignantia miscent.

<p><b>11</b> egero egerere egressi egestus - bail out          hic ... hic ... - this man ... that man ...          fluctus, fluctus m. - sea, wave          aequor, aequoris n. - sea          refundo refundere refudi refusus - pour back          in + acc. - into          aequor, aequoris n. - sea, wave</p> <p><b>12</b> rapio rapere rapui raptus - grab, snatch          antemna, antemnae f. - sail-yards, end of the yard-arms          qui, quae, quod - this, who          dum - while          sine + abl. - without          lex legis f. - order, law          gero gerere gessi gestus - do, perform</p>	<p><b>13</b> asper, aspera, asperum - violent, harsh          cresco crescere crevi cretus - grow          hiems hiemis f. - storm          omnis, omne - every, all          e/ex + abl. - from          pars, partis f. - part, direction          ferox gen. ferocis - fierce</p> <p><b>14</b> bellum, belli n. - war          gero gerere gessi gestus - wage (war)          ventus, venti m. - wind          fretum, freti n. - sea, straits          indignans, gen. indignantis - angry          misceo miscere miscui mixtus - mingle, mix together, join battle</p>
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## Notes

**Section D****Lines 15 - 19**

ipse pavet nec se, qui sit status, ipse fatetur  
 scire ratis rector, nec, quid iubeatve velitve:  
 tanta mali moles tantoque potentior arte est.  
 quippe sonant clamore viri, stridore rudentes,  
 undarum incursu gravis unda, tonitribus aether.

**15**

**15** ipse, ipsa, ipsum - himself  
 paveo pavere pavi - be afraid  
 nec ... nec ... - neither ... nor ...  
 se gen. sui - he  
 qui, quae, quod - what  
 sum esse fui - be  
 status, status m. - situation,  
 position  
 fateor fateri fassus sum -  
 confess, admit

**16** scio scire scivi scitus - know  
 ratis, ratis f. - boat  
 rector, rectoris m. - captain  
 quis, quid - what?  
 iubeo iubere iussi iussus - order  
 volo velle volui - want

**17** tantus, tanta, tantum - so great  
 malum, mali n. - calamity,  
 disaster

moles, molis f. - size, weight,  
 mass  
 potens, gen. potentis - powerful  
 ars, artis f. - skill

**18** quippe - indeed, in fact  
 sono sonere sonui sonitus -  
 shout, make a noise  
 clamor, clamoris m. - shout,  
 uproar  
 vir, viri m. - man  
 stridor, stridoris m. - creaking, a  
 harsh sound  
 rudens, rudentis m/f. - rope

**19** unda, undae f. - wave, sea  
 incursus, incursus m. - assault, a  
 rushing in  
 gravis, grave - heavy  
 tonitrus, tonitrus m. - thunder  
 aether, aetheris m. - sky, upper  
 air

## Notes







## Notes

## Section E

### Lines 1 - 5

ipsa quoque his agitur vicibus Trachinia puppis,  
 et nunc sublimis veluti de vertice montis  
 despiciere in valles imumque Acheronta videtur,  
 nunc, ubi demissam curvum circumstetit aequor,  
 suspicere inferno summum de gurgite caelum.

5

<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>	<p>ipse, ipsa, ipsum - himself, herself, itself              quoque - also              hic, haec, hoc - this              ago agere egi actus - drive              vicis (no nominative) - turn, alternation              Trachinius, Trachinia, Trachinium - Trachinian, belonging to Trachis (Ceyx home city)              puppis, puppis f. - ship (literally: stern of a ship)</p> <p>et - and              nunc - now              sublimis, sublime - high up              veluti - as if, just as              de + abl. - from              vertex, verticis m. - peak              mons, montis m. - mountain</p> <p>despicio despiciere despexi              despectus - look down              in + acc. - into              vallis, vallis f. - valley              imus, ima, imum - depth, deepest part</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Acheron, Acherontis m. - Underworld, river of Wailing (Acheronta is Greek accusative)              video videre vidi visus - see in the passive - seem</p> <p>nunc - now              ubi - when              demissus, demissa, demissum - sunken, sent down              curvus, curva, curvum - curved              circumsteto circumstetere circumsteti - surround</p> <p>aequor, aequoris n. - sea (literally - flat, even surface)</p> <p>suspicio suspicere suspexi suspectus - look up              infernus, inferna, infernum - below, the lower regions, Underworld              summus, summa, summum - highest, top of              de + abl. - from              gurgis, gurgitis m. - abyss, whirlpool              caelum, caeli n. - heaven, sky</p>	

## Notes



## Notes

## Section E

### Lines 9 - 12

utque solent sumptis incursu viribus ire  
pectore in arma feri protentaque tela leones,  
sic ubi se ventis admiserat unda coortis,  
ibat in arma ratis multoque erat altior illis.

10

9	<p>ut + indicative - as when soleo solere solui solitus - be accustomed sumptus, sumpta, sumptum - gathered up incursus, incursus m. - attack vis, viris f. - strength eo ire ivi/ii - go</p>	11	<p>leo, leonis m. - lion sic - in this way ubi - when se gen. sui - himself, herself, itself ventus, venti m. - wind admittomittere admisi admissus - permit, allow, let go</p>	
10	<p>pectus, pectoris n. - heart, chest in + acc. - against arma, armorum n. - arms, weapons ferus, fera, ferum - fierce, wild protentus, protenta, protentum - stretched out, directed at telum, teli n. - weapon, missile</p>	12	<p>unda, undae f. - wave, sea, surf coortus, coorta, coortum - risen up ratis, ratis f. - boat multo - much sum esse fui - be altior, altius - higher ille, illa, illud - that</p>	

## Notes





## Notes

**Section E**

## Lines 17 - 20

inque plagas caeli tumefactum ascendere pontum.  
 vela madent nimbis, et cum caelestibus undis  
 aequoreae miscentur aquae; caret ignibus aether,  
 caecaque nox premitur tenebris hiemisque suisque.

20

<p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p>	<p>in + acc. - towards          plaga, plagae f. - region          caelum, caeli n. - heaven, sky          tumefactus, tumefacta,          tumefactum - swollen          ascendo ascendere ascendi          ascensus - climb up, ascend          pontus, ponti m. - sea          velum, veli n. - sail (of a ship)          madeo madere madui - be wet          nimbus, nimbi m. - downpour,          heavy raincloud          et - and          cum + abl. - with          caelestis, caeleste - heavenly          unda, undae f. - wave, sea          aequoreus, aequorea,          aequoreum - of the ocean</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>misceo miscere miscui mixtus -          mingle, mix          aqua, aquae f. - wave, water          careo carere carui caritus + abl. -          is devoid of, lacks          ignis, ignis m. - star, fire          aether, aetheris m. - upper air,          sky          caecus, caeca, caecum - dark,          black, blind          nox, noctis f. - night          premo premere pressi pressus -          make heavier, bear down upon          tenebrae, tenebrarum f. -          darkness, shadows          hiems, hiemis f. - storm          suus, sua, suum - his, her, its          own</p>
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## Notes



## Notes

## Section F

The sailors' skill deserted them, their spirits fell, it seemed that as many times as the waves came on to them, their deaths rushed in and burst upon them. This man could not hold back his tears, this one was dazed, that one called out that those who would have proper funerals were the lucky ones, this one beseeched the gods with prayers and they held out their arms in vain to the sky which they could not see and begged for help. For some, their brother or father came to mind, for others their home and children and whatever was left behind. It was Alcyone that moved Ceyx; there was nothing but Alcyone on Ceyx's lips; although he longed for her alone, still he rejoiced that she was not there. He wanted to look back at the shores of his kingdom and to turn his last gaze to his home, but he did not know where it was; the sea was boiling with such a great whirling and the shadow provided by the pitch-black clouds hid the whole sky, increasing the appearance of night.

5

10

15

## Notes



## Section G

### Lines 1 - 6

tenet ipse manu, qua sceptrum solebat,  
 fragmina navigii Ceyx socerumque patremque  
 invocat heu! frustra. sed plurima nantis in ore  
 Alcyone coniunx: illam meminitque refertque,  
 illius ante oculos ut agant sua corpora fluctus,  
 optat et exanimis manibus tumuletur amicis.

5

1	teneo tenere tenui tentus - hold, grasp, cling on to ipse, ipsa, ipsum - himself, herself, itself manus, manus f. - hand qui, quae, quod - who, which sceptrum, sceptri n. - sceptre soleo solere solui solitus - be accustomed	4	Alcyone, Alcyones f. - Alcyone, wife of Ceyx coniunx, coniugis m/f. - wife ille, illa, illud - that memini meminisse - remember refero referre retuli relatus - speak
2	fragmen, fragminis n. - wreckage navigium, navigii n. - ship, vessel Ceyx, Ceycis m. - Ceyx, king of Trachis, husband of Alcyone socer, soceri m. - father-in-law pater, patris m. - father	5	ante + acc. - in front of oculus, oculi m. - eye ut + subjunctive - that (indirect command) ago agere egi actus - drive, wash ashore suus, sua, suum - his, her, its own corpus, corporis n. - body, corpse fluctus, fluctus m. - sea
3	invoco invocare invocavi invocatus - appeal to heu - alas! frustra - in vain sed - but plurima - mostly, very often nans, gen. nantis - swimming in + abl. - on os, oris n. - mouth, lips	6	opto optare optavi optatus - wish, desire et - and exanimis, exanime - lifeless manus, manus f. - hand tumulo tumulare tumulavi tumulatus - bury (in a mound) amicus, amica, amicum - kindly, friendly

## Notes

**Section G**

Lines 7 - 10

dum natat, absentem, quotiens sinit hiscere fluctus,  
 nominat Alcyonen ipsisque immurmurat undis.  
 ecce super medios fluctus niger arcus aquarum  
 frangitur et rupta mersum caput obruit unda.

10

7 dum - while  
 nato natare natavi natatus - swim  
 absens, gen. absentis - absent  
 quotiens - as often as  
 sino sinere sivi situs - allow,  
 permit  
 hisco hiscere - open (his mouth),  
 gape  
 fluctus, fluctus m. - sea  
 8 nomino nominare nominavi  
 nominatus - calls the name  
 Alcyone, Alcyones f. - Alcyone,  
 wife of Ceyx  
 ipse, ipsa, ipsum - himself,  
 herself, itself  
 immurmuro immurmurare  
 immurmuravi - murmur in,  
 whisper in  
 unda, undae f. - wave

9 ecce - look!  
 super + acc. - over, above  
 medius, media, medium - middle  
 fluctus, fluctus m. - sea  
 niger, nigra, nigrum - black  
 arcus, arcus m. - arch, bow-  
 shape  
 aqua, aquae f. - water  
 10 frango frangere fregi fractus -  
 break, dash, shatter  
 et - and  
 ruptus, rupta, ruptum - burst  
 mersus, mersa, mersum -  
 submerged, sunken  
 caput, capitis n. - head  
 obruo obruere obrui obrutus -  
 overwhelm, drown  
 unda, undae f. - wave

## Notes

*Alcyone keeps busy waiting for her husband's return but her frequent visits to Juno's temple cause the goddess to send a vision to the wretched woman. In this vision she sees Ceyx and learns of his death. She vows to die too, and the next morning in her distress she goes back to the beach.*

## Section H

It was early morning. She left her house for the shore and sadly looked for the place from which she had watched him leaving. While she lingered there, she was saying, "Here he cast off. On this shore he kissed me as he left." While she recalled these well-remembered actions each in their place, she looked out to sea and saw in the water, far off, something like a body. At first, she was uncertain what it was; after the waves brought it a little nearer, it was clear that it was a body. She, unaware of who the ship-wrecked man was, and moved by the omen, shed tears for the unknown man, said, "Alas! Wretched man, whoever you are, and whoever your wife is!" The body was driven closer by the waves; the more she looked on it, the less she was in her right mind, and then as it was moved close to the land, so that now she was able to recognise it, she saw it was her husband. "It is him!" she exclaimed and at the same time she tore at her face, her hair and her clothes and holding out trembling hands to Ceyx, she said, "O dearest husband, do you return to me in this way, so piteously? "

## Notes

## Section I

Beside the waves was a breakwater which broke the first waves of the sea and weakened the forces of the waves. She jumped upon this - it was amazing that she could: she began to fly beating the light air with newly-made feathers and, wretched as she was, she skimmed with her wings the top of the waves. As she flew, she made a piteous sound from her sorrowful beak, like someone full of grief. When she touched the silent and bloodless body, she embraced the beloved limbs with her new wings and gave cold kisses in vain with her hard beak. People doubted whether Ceyx felt this or whether it just seemed as if the motion of the waves raised up his face: but he did feel it, and at last, with the gods taking pity on them, they were both changed into birds. Love remained then too, obedient as it was to fate, and their marriage bond was not broken when they gained wings. They mate and become parents every year and for seven calm days during winter, Alcyone broods on the surface of the water with her wings stretching out over her nest.

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## Notes