

CARMINA BURANA (Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi)

O Fortuna
velut luna
statu variabilis,
semper crescis
aut decrescis;
vita detestabilis
nunc obdurat
et tunc curat
ludo mentis aciem,
egestatem,
potestatem
dissolvit ut glaciem.

Oh Fortune,
like the moon
you are changeable,
always waxing
or waning;
detestable life
now difficult,
and then easy
deceives a sharp mind,
poverty,
power,
it melts like ice.

Sors immanis
et inanis,
rota tu volubilis,
status malus,
vana salus
semper dissolubilis,
obumbrata
et velata
michi quoque niteris;
nunc per ludum
dorsum nudum
fero tui sceleris.

Fate monstrous
and empty,
you whirling wheel,
stand malevolent,
vain health
always dissolves,
shadowed
and veiled
you plague me too;
now through trickery
my bare back
I bring to you villainy.

Sors salutis
et virtutis
michi nunc contraria,
est affectus
et defectus
semper in angaria.
Hac in hora
sine mora
corde pulsum tangite;
quod per sortem
sternit fortem,
mecum omnes plangite!

Fate in health
and in virtue
is now against me,
affection
and defeat
always enslaved.
So at this hour
without delay
pluck the vibrating string;
since fate
strikes down the strong,
everyone weep with me!