

The Choice of Paris

Filmed in 2007 by The LATIN QUARTER
Pronunciation: classical Latin

- DISCORD Quis ex hominibus es tū? Quō nōmine?
Who of men are you? What is your name?
- PARIS Nōmine Paris sum... fīlius Priamī, nōn, pāstor, vel fortasse
prīnceps ... Iō, tū quis?
My name is Paris, son of Priam, no, a shepherd ... well, maybe
a prince. Who are you?
- DISCORD Mī nōmen est Discordia.
My name is Discord.
- PARIS Dea ipsa?
The goddess?
- DISCORD Dea ipsa. Tū-ne mīles?
The goddess. Are you a soldier?
- PARIS Ego pāstor.
I'm a herdsman.
- DISCORD Cum bōbus vīvere libet?
Are you happy living with cattle?
- PARIS Sīc placet.
Yes, I like it.
- DISCORD Vīn vidēre bella pugnāsque?
Do you want to see wars and battles?
- PARIS Quam ob rem?
For what reason?
- DISCORD Prō glōriā in armīs.
For military glory.
- PARIS Nunc certissimē iocāris, ō bellātrix! Mī libet iacēre grāmine cum
bōbus.
Now you really must be joking, you battle-maiden! I'm happy
lying on the grass with the oxen.
- DISCORD Crēdō. Sed nōne es Paris, Priamī fīlius, rēgis Trōiae?
Sure. But are you not Paris, son of Priam, the king of Troy?
- PARIS Ut quīdam dīcunt.
Some people say so.
- DISCORD Pater tuus in populōs multōs imperium tenet.
Your father holds power over many peoples.
- PARIS Ego ūnus ex filiīs quīnquāgintā. Quōs ad stūdia persequenda
Priamus ex urbe et hūc mē mīsīt.
I am one of fifty sons. Priam sent us away from Troy to
complete our studies and he sent me here.
- DISCORD Tē miserum. Ego sum etiam exclūdī solita.
You poor thing. I too know the feeling of being excluded.
- PARIS Hīc sum fēlix. Mea est illa casa strāmentīs tecta.
I'm happy here. That is my cottage, thatched with straw.

Three goddesses (Juno, Minerva and Venus) appear in the fire.

PARIS Quid est illud? Quae ē nymphīs sunt illae?
What is that? Who are those nymphs?
DISCORD Vīn meās salūtāre sorōres?
Do you want to meet my sisters?
PARIS Etiamne deae?
Are they goddesses too?
DISCORD Sānē sanctissimae.
For sure, most blest.
PARIS Certē quās salūtem.
Certainly I'd like to meet them.
DISCORD Volō ut meīs ē sorōribus pulcherrimam eligās.
I want you to choose the fairest of my sisters.
PARIS Ut ego pulcherrimam ē deābus eligam? Quōrsum?
You want me to choose the fairest of goddesses? Why?
DISCORD Ecce, hoc mālum. Est unī dīlectissimae.
Look at this apple. It's for the one you like the most.
PARIS Cui deae ... incertus ... sum mortālis.
Which goddess? ... I don't know ... I'm a mortal.
DISCORD Ssst, deae adsunt.
Hush! The goddesses are approaching.

Juno appears – in the flames

JUNO Ego adsum, Iūno, dīvum rēgīna.
I am here, Juno, queen of the gods.
PARIS Deae immortāles! Tibi salūtem dīcō, ō Iūno, dīvum rēgīna.
Immortal goddesses! Greetings, Juno, queen of the gods.
JUNO Ō homō, mihi dīc quid dēsīderēs? Honōrēs? Dīgnitātēs?
Auctoritātem?
Tell me, fellow, what you desire. Position? Respect? Influence?
PARIS Sīc.
Yes.
JUNO Meum dōnum est imperium. Sum dea imperātrīx.
My gift is power. I am the empress goddess.
PARIS Concēdō pāreōque.
I submit and obey.
JUNO Faciam omnēs ut gentēs tē revereantur.
I'll make all peoples respect you.
PARIS Mēne?
Me?
JUNO Tē ipsum.
You.
PARIS Tibi grātiās.
Thank you.
JUNO Nōnne sī scīs quid tibi prōsit, ō puer, Iūnōnī deae maximae
mālum trādēs aureum?

I take it if you know what is good for you, boy, you'll give the golden apple to Juno, the greatest goddess?
PARIS Ut placet, ō dea maxima!
As you wish, greatest goddess!
JUNO Bene sē habet.
That's good.

Juno fades. Minerva appears

PARIS Quis es tū?
Who are you?
MINERVA Sum nōmine Minerva.
My name is Minerva.
PARIS Minerva!
Minerva!
MINERVA Ego ipsa.
I am her.
PARIS Tē salūtō, ō dea sāncta benignaque.
Greetings, goddess, holy and kindly.
MINERVA Quālem artem profitēris?
What skill do you have?
PARIS Nūllam.
None.
MINERVA Vīn fierī ingeniōsus?
Do you want to be talented?
PARIS Sānē.
Sure.
MINERVA Et in viīs mundī prūdēns?
And wise in the ways of the world?
PARIS Etiam. Beātus ille quī pecorum viās sequitur prūdēns.
Yes. Happy is he who wisely follows the paths of his herds.
MINERVA Itaque in tē crēdam, ō puer, ut Minervae, deae sapientiae artiumque, mālum trādās aureum.
Then I shall rely on you, my boy, to give the golden apple to Minerva, goddess of wisdom and skills.
PARIS Vērō placet, vērō placet. (*Minerva fades*) ... Salvē?
Indeed I will, indeed I will. ... Hello?

Venus appears

Salvē!
Hello!
VENUS Salvē.
Hello.
PARIS Et tū quis deārum immortalīum?
And which of the immortal goddesses are you?
VENUS Mī nōmen est Venus.
My name is Venus.
PARIS Mīrābilis vīsū!
Marvellous to see!

VENUS Ō Paris, puer fēlīcissime, amōris flammam concupīscis?
Paris, you are a very lucky boy. Do you desire the flame of
love?

PARIS Sānē quam!
Very much so!

VENUS Fēminam tibi pulcherrimam in orbe terrārum dabō.
I will give you the most beautiful wife in the world.

PARIS Dā mī bāsia mīlle.
Give me a thousand kisses.

VENUS Sī nōs fāta sinunt.
If the fates allow us.

PARIS Deinde usque altera mīlle.
Then another thousand.

VENUS Absīs! Quid dīcis?
Stop! What do you say?

PARIS Ōrō!
Please!

VENUS Dē mālō aureō?
About the golden apple?

PARIS Estō, estō. Tū ēligenda, ō victrīx! Iam sum certus!
So be it. You're the chosen one, you're the victor! Now I'm sure!

END