

# “ILLUSTRATING THE CASE FOR FUNERARY MONUMENTS”

## Dedications of Wives to their Husbands

(See World of Marriage in *Companion*)

Translations by A. Raia\*

### NOTHI CONIUNX\*

*CIL 6.6314, 1<sup>st</sup> century CE*

NOTHI LIBRARI A MANV

[Monument of] Nothus the Secretary

NON <sup>1</sup>OPTATA TIBI CONIVNX MONIMENTA LOCAVIT

Not desired for you was the monument your wife set up

ULTIMA IN AETERNIS SEDIBVS VT MANEANT.

in order that your remains be preserved in an eternal home.

SPE FRVSTRA GAVISA NOTHI QVEM PRIMA FERENTEM

In vain she rejoiced in the hope of Nothus, whom,

AETATIS PLVTON INVIDVS ERIPVIT.

bearing the principal years of his life, jealous Pluto snatched.

HUNC ETIAM FLEVIT QVAEQVALIS TVRBA ET HONOREM

Him also a multitude of every sort lamented and

SVPREMVM DIGNE FVNERIS INPOSVIT.

assigned deservedly the final honor of funeral rites.

<sup>1</sup>Perhaps a pun on Optata as the name of *coniunx*?

\* A poem in elegiac meter

### FURIA SPES

*CIL 6. 18817, ILS 8006, 1-2<sup>nd</sup> century CE*

ANIMAE SANCTAE COLENDAE

OF THE PURE SOUL TO BE REVERED

D[is] M[anibus] S[acrum]

[Monument] SACRED TO THE DIVINE SHADES

FVRIA SPES L[iberta] SEMPRONIO FIRMO,

Furia Spes, a freedwoman, [made this monument]

CONIVGI CARISSIMO MIHI VT COGNOVI,

for Sempronius Firmus, a husband dearest to me

PVER PVELLA, OBLIGATI AMORI PARITER.

since I knew him,

CVM QVO VIXI TEMPORI MINIMO ET

boy and girl, bound equally in love.

QVO TEMPORE VIVERE DEBVIMVS

I lived with him for too brief a time and

A MANV MALA DISEPARATI SVMVS.

in the time we ought to [have] live[d],

ITA PETO VOS, [ma]NES SANCTISSIMAE,

we were separated by an evil hand.

COMMENDAT[um] [...] HABEATIS

Therefore I beg you, Most Holy Shades,

MEVM C[aru]M ET VELLITIS

that you keep . . . the one entrusted to you,

HVIC INDVL[g]ENTISSIMI ESSE

my dear one, and that you are willing

HORIS NOCTVRNIS,

to be most well disposed to him

VT EVM VIDEAM.

in the hours of the night, so that I may see him.

ET ETIAM ME FATO SVADERE

And also let him want me to persuade Fate

VELLIT VT ET EGO POSSIM

that I too may be able to

DVLCIVS ET CELERIVS

more sweetly and swiftly

APVT EVM PERVENIRE.

come to him.

\*The translations are intentionally literal to facilitate sight reading