

Apuleius – The Golden Ass

The Golden Ass – 1st novel written in the west.

The Golden Ass – Aeneid: same story

I/ Apuleius:

- African author
- From Madaura (modern day Algeria, north east Africa)
- Protagonist in TGA: Lucius → The Golden Ass: not an autobiography
- He has a significant privilege, education in the capital of Roman Africa, attending high school in the capital (Carthage), attending college and graduate school in Rome, Athens and Alexandria
 - ➔ His education map covers all of important culture in Roman empire
- Latin is his second language.
- After graduating, back home to Madaura, spent his entire life in North Africa
- Famous as a platonic philosopher, orator, politician → a verified local celebrity.

II/ The Golden Ass:

1/ Title:

- + Latin title: Asinus Aureus
- + Greek title: The Metamorphoses (Concerning transformation)
- + English title: The Golden Ass / Metamorphoses
- Written in 150CE

2/ Apuleius:

- Vergil is different from Apuleius.
 - + Vergil: unproblematic prevail of hegemonic (dominant) Roman ideology
 - + Apuleius: in his writing he thematized geography, language, identity. Each of these seems to problematize, receive the notion: what it means to be a Roman?
 - ➔ Apuleius: valuable figure to think about antiquity, he reveals: the proper subject of antiquity is a lot less absolute than people believed. He occupied numerous different culture, but seems to be absolute/clear at none of them
 - ➔ Everything he writes has to be looked from different angles
 - ➔ Everything seems to be signified differently depending on different contexts.
- Period he lived in: 2nd Sophistic (the 1st sophist travelled and gave lecture about philosophy but have no good reputation in Greece).
 - + Built on the idea: + less about traveling philosophers
 - + more like European renaissance
 - + 2 – 300 year period (3rd-4th century of the Common Era)
 - ➔ Roman literature had a renaissance
- + 146BCE: Rome conquered Greece → officially solidified the relation between father-son relationship. Once Rome started conquered Greece, they started telling themselves that Rome was a descendant of Greek culture.