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10/24/11
HUM 120H
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Original Oulipian Form: The Latinus

My Oulipian form is called The Latinus, a form that follows one simple constraint: every line must follow the Latin grammatical rule that all verbs must go at the end of a line.

“Philology”

Philology I love,
Though why is difficult to describe.
A painful tremendous task it is,
But my best I will try.

Without Latin, scientific names as we know them would not be –
To exist *Canis lupis* and *Meles meles* would cease.
Without Greek, no epics we would read.
Farewell, Odysseus; bon voyage, Aeneas.

Greek translation may make me weep,
And Latin tense endings my sleep steal,
But no other languages do I love to study.
And from them my personal goal I take:
Esse quam videri.

Oulipian Form: Snowball

“Calm”

The
anxieties of
my day build:
an empty stomach and
caffeine overdose guarantee I won't
easily focus in Greek today. On
Academic Row, I'm convinced every laugh overheard
is at my expense – it follows me to
my dorm room. When I work, focus eludes me,
making one verb conjugation take an hour. What is relaxation?
All I know is the tightness in my chest, shallow breaths,
and innumerable bodily aches. Neurosis sleeps at the foot of my bed;
She wakes me by gripping my heart, a loyal companion at very least.

Some days I wish She would at least take a day off, but then
She's been with me for so long, I'm not sure how I'd fill Her space.