

# LECTIO PRIMA

## Creatio Mundi (1)

In principio creavit Deus caelum et terram. Terra erat inanis et vacua, et tenebrae erant super faciem abyssi; et Spiritus Dei ferebatur super aquas.

Dixitque Deus: “Fiat lux.”<sup>1</sup> Et facta est lux. Et vidit Deus lucem esse bonam. Et divisit lucem a tenebris. Appellavitque<sup>2</sup> lucem Diem, et tenebras Noctem. Et erant vesper et mane, dies unus.

Dixitque Deus: “Fiat firmamentum in mediis aquis, et dividat aquas ab aquis.” Et fecit Deus firmamentum, divisitque aquas quae<sup>3</sup> erant sub firmamento, ab his quae erant super firmamentum. Et factum est ita. Vocavitque Deus firmamentum, Caelum. Et erant vesper et mane, dies secundus.

Dixit Deus: “Congregentur aquae, quae sub caelo sunt, in unum locum, et appareat arida.” Et factum est ita. Et vocavit Deus aridam, Terram; congregacionesque aquarum appellavit Maria.

Et vidit Deus id esse bonum.<sup>4</sup> Et ait: “Germinet terra herbam quae facit semen<sup>5</sup>, et lignum pomiferum<sup>6</sup> quod facit fructum secundum genus suum, cuius semen in se ipso sit.”

Et facta est ita. Et terra protulit herbam quae facit semen secundum genus suum, lignumque quod facit fructum et habet semen secundum genus suum. Et vidit Deus id esse bonum. Et erant vesper et mane, dies tertius.

1 fiat lux: let there be light! Fiat is the 3rd person present subjunctive form of *fio*, *fieri*, *factus sum*: become, am made, am done. This is an example of the hortatory subjunctive, the subjunctive of wishes and exhortations. Therefore, here it has the sense of, Let there be... The hortatory subjunctive is discussed on p. 300 of the Henle I text. The conjugation of *fio* is found in #381 of the Grammar. The Grammar also discusses the hortatory subjunctive in #318. Similar forms should be translated by let or may.

2 appellavitque: and he called. The particle *-que*, when attached to the end of the word, should be translated by putting and before the word. See p. 259 of the Henle I text. Only exercises for Level III students will include the particle *-que*.

3 quae is the nominative feminine plural of *qui*, *quae*, *quod*: who, which, that, what.

4 Et vidit Deus lucem esse bonam: and God saw that the light was good. The indirect statement, that the light was good, is expressed in Latin *lucem esse bonam*, the light to be good. The verb, *esse*, is an infinitive and its subject, *lucem*, is in the accusative case.

5 semen, *-inis*, n., seed.

6 lignum, *-i*, n., wood; pomum, *-i*, n., fruit; ferre, to bear. What is fruit-bearing wood?

in (w/abl.): in  
 principium, -i, n.: beginning  
 creo, -are, -avi, -atus, 1: to create  
 Deus, -i, m.: God  
 caelum, -i, n.: heaven  
 et: and  
 terra, -ae, f.: earth, land  
 sum, esse, fui, futurus: to be  
 inanis, -e: void, without form  
 vacuus, -a, -um: empty  
 tenebra, -ae, f.: shadow  
     tenebrae, -arum: darkness  
 super: over (w/acc.)  
 facies, -ei, f.: face  
 abyssus, abyssi, f.: abyss, deep  
 spiritus, -us, m.: spirit  
 fero, ferre, tuli, latus, 3: to bear  
 aqua, -ae, f.: water  
 dico, dicere, dixi, dictus, 3: to say  
 fieri, factus sum, 3: to be made, done;  
     become  
 lux, lucis, f.: light  
 video, videre, vidi, visus, 2: to see  
 bonus, -a, -um: good  
 divido, dividere, divisi, divisus, 3: to divide,  
     separate  
 appello, -are, -avi, -atus, 1: to call (name)  
 dies, -ei, m.: day  
 nox, noctis, f.: night  
 vesper, -i, m.: evening  
 mane, n. (indecl.): morning  
 firmamentum, -i, n.: firmament, support,  
     mainstay  
 medius, -a, -um: mid, middle of  
 qui, quae, quod: that, which  
 sub: under  
 a, ab: from, by  
 ita: so, thus  
 voco, -are, -avi, -atus, 1: to call  
 secundus, -a, -um: second  
 congreso, -are, -avi, -atus, 1: to collect,  
     bring together  
 unus, -a, -um: one  
 locus, -i, m.: place  
 appareo, apparere, apparui, apparatus, 2:  
     to appear, be evident  
 aridum, -i, n.: dry land  
 mare, maris, n: sea

ait: he says  
 germino, -are, -avi, -atus, 1: to sprout forth  
 herba, -ae, f.: herb, grass  
 facio, facere, feci, factus, 3: to make, do  
 semen, seminis, n.: seed  
 lignum, -i, n.: wood  
 pomifer, -a, -um: fruit-bearing  
 fructus, -us, m.: fruit  
 genus, generis, n.: kind  
 profero, proferre, protuli, prolatus, 3:  
     to bring forward  
 secundum: according to  
 suus, -a, -um (possessive pronoun):  
     his, hers, its, their  
 -s, sui (reflexive pronoun): himself, herself,  
     itself, themselves  
 ipse, ipsa, ipsum: himself, herself, itself  
 tertius, -a, -um: third

### III. TRANSLATION

Creat Deus caelum et terram. \_\_\_\_\_

Terra erat inanis et vacua. \_\_\_\_\_

Et tenebrae erant super faciem abyssi. \_\_\_\_\_

Et vidit Deus lucem esse<sup>1</sup> bonam. \_\_\_\_\_

Et divisit lucem a<sup>2</sup> tenebris. \_\_\_\_\_

Appellat lucem, Diem<sup>3</sup>, et tenebras, Noctem<sup>3</sup>. \_\_\_\_\_

Et erant vesper et mane. \_\_\_\_\_

Et fecit Deus firmamentum. \_\_\_\_\_

Vocat Deus firmamentum, Caelum<sup>3</sup>. \_\_\_\_\_

Vocat Deus aridam, Terram<sup>3</sup>. \_\_\_\_\_

Et vidit Deus id esse bonum. \_\_\_\_\_

Et terra protulit herbam<sup>4</sup>. \_\_\_\_\_

1 esse is the second principal part of sum, esse, fui, futurus. It is the infinitive, and is translated to be. This sentence can also be translated, "And God saw that the light was good."

2 a means from in the sense of separation. See Grammar, #766-767 re: ablative of separation.

3 Note that the names—what God called the things—are in the same case as the direct object (namely the accusative). This is another example of the appositive. See text, p. 38-39.

4 Literally, "And the earth produced the plant." herbam here is being used as an abstraction to signify all plants. We use abstractions when we say, for example, "The lion is king of the jungle." We say "the lion," in the singular, but we mean to signify all lions.

## Level 3 Exercises

I. Redde “*Creatio Mundi* (1)”.

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II. Responde Latine.

1. Quid creavit Deus? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Quid vidit Deus? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Quid appellavit lucem? \_\_\_\_\_

III. Redde Latine.

1. In the beginning the earth was created by God
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2. The sky and the earth were created by God.
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3. The sky was created by Him.
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IV. **Fecit lucem**, *He made the light*. Substitute for **lucem** the noun in parentheses.

1. Fecit \_\_\_\_\_ (*darkness*)
2. Fecit \_\_\_\_\_ (*waters*)
3. Fecit \_\_\_\_\_ (*sky*)
4. Fecit \_\_\_\_\_ (*earth*)

V. **Lux facta est a Deo**, *the light was made by God*. Give the proper form of the verb below.

1. Firmamentum \_\_\_\_\_ a Deo.
2. Terra \_\_\_\_\_ a Deo.
3. Caelum \_\_\_\_\_ a Deo.
4. Aquae \_\_\_\_\_ a Deo.

VI. **Lux visa est a Deo**, *the light was seen by God*. Substitute for **lux** the Latin for each of the nouns in parentheses, and give the correct form of the verb.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (*sky*) vis \_\_\_\_\_ a Deo.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (*earth*) vis \_\_\_\_\_ a Deo.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (*darkness*) vis \_\_\_\_\_ a Deo.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (*firmament*) vis \_\_\_\_\_ a Deo.

VII. Rewrite the Latin sentences in V, changing each verb to the present tense.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_