

A lay<sup>1</sup> made about the year of the City CCCLX.<sup>2</sup>

### I.

Lars Porsena<sup>3</sup> of Clusium<sup>4</sup>  
By the Nine Gods<sup>5</sup> he swore  
That the great house of Tarquin<sup>6</sup>  
Should suffer wrong no more.  
By the Nine Gods he swore it,  
And named a trysting<sup>7</sup> day,  
And bade his messengers ride forth.  
East and west and south and north,  
To summon his array.<sup>8</sup>

### II.

East and west and south and north,  
The messengers ride fast,  
And tower and town and cottage  
Have heard the trumpet's blast.  
Shame on the false<sup>9</sup> Etruscan<sup>10</sup>  
Who lingers in his home,  
When Porsena of Clusium  
Is on the march for Rome.

### III.

The horsemen and the footmen  
Are pouring in amain<sup>11</sup>  
From many a stately market-place;  
From many a fruitful plain;  
From many a lonely hamlet,  
Which, hid by beech and pine,

- 12 Apennine Mountains, the central mountain range running the length of Italy
- 13 (*VOL uh tair ray*): city of northern Etruria
- 14 fortified stronghold
- 15 (*PO pyuh loh nya*): city on a peninsula of central Etruria
- 16 see something far off
- 17 (*sar DI nya*): large island off the west coast of Italy
- 18 market
- 19 (*PEE zay*): city of northern Etruria, on the Arno River; modern Pisa
- 20 (*muh SIL ya*): port of Gaul (France) at the mouth of the Rhône; Greek colony; modern Marseilles
- 21 warships with three decks of rowers
- 22 i.e., Gallic
- 23 (*CLA nis*): Tiber tributary
- 24 (*cor TOH nuh*): city of eastern Etruria
- 25 royal crown
- 26 (*AW zuhr*): river of northern Etruria
- 27 small brook; rivulet
- 28 male deer
- 29 (*suh MIN yan*): hills east of Lake Cimini (now Lago di Vico) in Etruria
- 30 (*cluh TUHM nuhs*): river of Umbria; modern Clitunno

Like an eagle's nest, hangs on the crest  
Of purple Apennine;<sup>12</sup>

#### IV.

From lordly Volaterræ,<sup>13</sup>  
Where scowls the far-famed hold<sup>14</sup>  
Piled by the hands of giants  
For godlike kings of old;  
From sea-girt Populonia,<sup>15</sup>  
Whose sentinels descry<sup>16</sup>  
Sardinia's<sup>17</sup> snowy mountain-tops  
Fringing the southern sky;

#### V.

From the proud mart<sup>18</sup> of Pisæ,<sup>19</sup>  
Queen of the western waves,  
Where ride Massilia's<sup>20</sup> triremes,<sup>21</sup>  
Heavy with fair-haired<sup>22</sup> slaves;  
From where sweet Clanis<sup>23</sup> wanders  
Through corn and vines and flowers;  
From where Cortona<sup>24</sup> lifts to heaven  
Her diadem<sup>25</sup> of towers.

#### VI.

Tall are the oaks whose acorns  
Drop in dark Auser's<sup>26</sup> rill;<sup>27</sup>  
Fat are the stags<sup>28</sup> that champ the boughs  
Of the Ciminian hill,<sup>29</sup>  
Beyond all streams, Clitumnus<sup>30</sup>  
Is to the herdsman dear;

- 31 bird hunter
- 32 (*vol SIN yan*): lake in southern Etruria; modern Lago di Bolsena
- 33 beef cattle
- 34 (*uh RAY shum*): city of eastern Etruria; modern Arezzo
- 35 (*UHM bro*): river of central Etruria; modern Ombrone
- 36 large containers for liquid
- 37 (*LOO nuh*): city of northern Etruria
- 38 juice pressed from wine grapes
- 39 fathers
- 40 The Etruscan religion centered on prophecy, the reading of omens.

