

## Martial, Part 2: Issa (I.109)

In a poem written more than one hundred years after Catullus wrote his eulogy for Lesbia's pet sparrow, Martial dries the tears of those who mourn a deceased pet in any century. Issa, the lap-dog of his friend Publius, however, is still very much alive. Although often sharply satirical, Martial's description of this pampered pooch and the adoration of her owner, appears affectionate and sincere. Or is it?

### Text and Translation

Issa est passere nequior Catulli,  
Issa is naughtier than the sparrow of Catullus,

Issa est purior osculo columbae,  
Issa is purer than the kiss of a dove,

Issa est blandior omnibus puellis,  
Issa is more seductive than all the girls,

Issa est carior Indicis lapillis,  
Issa is more precious than Indian diamonds,

Issa est deliciae catella Publi,  
Issa is the darling of Publius, his tiny puppy.

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Hanc tu, si queritur, loqui putabis.  
If she whines, you will think (that) this girl is speaking.

Sentit tristitiamque gaudiumque. . . .  
She feels sadness and joy.

et desiderio coacta ventris  
and (when) compelled by the impulse of her bladder

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gutta pallia non fefellit ulla,  
not a single drop has befouled the covers,

sed blando pede suscitāt toroque  
but with her sweet paw she nudges (you) and from the couch

deponi monet et rogat levāri.  
forewarns (you) that she needs to be put down and asks to be lifted up.

Castae tantus inest pudor catellae,  
There is a very great sense of modesty in this virtuous little puppy,

ignorat Venerem; nec invenimus  
she does not know Love; nor do we find

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dignum tam tenerā virum puellā.  
a mate worthy of a girl so delicate.

Hanc ne lux rapiat suprema totam,  
In order that (her) last day not snatch her altogether,

pictā Publius exprimit tabellā,  
Publius portrays (her) in a painted picture,

in quā tam similem videbis Issam,  
in which you will see an Issa so similar

ut sit tam similis sibi nec ipsa.  
that she herself is not so similar to herself.

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Issam denique pone cum tabellā:  
In short, place Issa alongside (her) picture:

aut utramque putabis esse veram,  
either you will think that one is real,

aut utramque putabis esse pictam.  
Or you will think that the other is painted.

## Worksheet - Martial, Part 2: Issa

a. The questions below pertain to the forms underlined in the passage

b. When you're asked to change a word from one form to another, change only **that** form of the word. For instance, if you're asked to change *habet* to the passive voice, make *habet* passive but leave it in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular, present indicative

1. Make **nequior** superlative. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Make **purior** positive. \_\_\_\_\_
3. What case is **puellis** and why? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What case is **carior** and why? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Make **est** imperfect subjunctive first person plural. \_\_\_\_\_
6. What mood is **loqui** and why? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Change **Sentit** to pluperfect subjunctive second person. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Change **coacta** to present active. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Make **pallia** genitive. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Change **fefellit** to a future active participle modifying *gutta*. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What case is **pede** and why? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Change **monet** to imperfect subjunctive. \_\_\_\_\_
13. What mood is **levari** and why? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Change **tantus...pudor** to ablative plural. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Change **invenimus** to a future passive participle (acc. pl. neut.) \_\_\_\_\_
16. What mood is **rapiat** and why? \_\_\_\_\_