

humunculi three

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 27 Jun 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/866>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

m.driussi — 27 Jun 1998, 23:28

("For I saw with my own eyes the Sibyl hanging in a jar at Cumae, and when the acolytes said, `Sibyl, what do you wish?' she replied, `I wish to die'" [Petronius, SATYRICON, ch. 48; all gleaned from notes to Eliot's THE WASTE LAND in THE NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN POETRY, second edition, p. 491])

This is the punchline to another one of the cruel jokes Apollo would play upon the girls he could actually catch. In this case she wanted eternal life, so he gave it to her, but he did not give her eternal youth. (Can't forget Cassandra, either.)

Turner also tells me that sibyl's story is in Ovid's METAMORPHOSES (book XIV), and the mandragora bears some resemblance to the homunculus of Goethe's FAUST, PART 2 (Act II).

--LEXICON URTHUS: Additions, Errata, &cetera (Volume 2), p. 12.