UNIT 17

QUESTION TIME - INTERROGATIVES

As in English, questions in Latin can be asked in such a way as to anticipate the expected answer. If we said, for example ‘It is you, isn’t it?’ , or ‘You will come, won’t you?’, we would require ‘Yes’ for an answer, whereas questions like ‘You didn’t do that, did you?’ or ‘surely you didn’t do that?’ invite a negative response. Latin has its own ways of expressing such questions, and these are explained below:

17.1 Anticipating ‘Yes’
If the questioner expects a reply in the affirmative, the question is introduced by nonne:

nonne hic est fabri filius? is not this the carpenter’s son?
nonne mater ejus dicitur Maria? is not His mother called Mary?
nonne decem mundati sunt? were not ten made clean?

17.2 Taking No for an answer
If the questioner expects a negative response, the question is introduced by numquid or, less commonly num:

num vere paritura sum anus? (Sarah to the Angel) am I, an old woman, really going to give birth?
umquid ego Judaeus sum? (Pilate) Am I a Jew?

Numquid omnes apostoli? numquid omnes prophetae? Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all doctors? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the grace of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

In Luke, 6, 39 both positive and negative forms are used with different expected outcomes:

Numquid potest caecus caecum ducere? Nonne Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the pit?
ambo in foveam cadunt?

Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>faber, fabri</td>
<td>smith, carpenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paritura (fut. participle)</td>
<td>- about to give birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hortus, -i</td>
<td>garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filii nuptiarum - attendants at a wedding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vestis nuptialis - wedding garment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imago, -inis</td>
<td>- image, likeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>participatio, -ionis</td>
<td>- partaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infantis, antis</td>
<td>- child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>licet - it is lawful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>census, -us</td>
<td>- tribute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curatio, -ionis</td>
<td>- healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anus, -us</td>
<td>- an old woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fovea, -ae</td>
<td>- pit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caecus, i-</td>
<td>- a blind man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sponsus, -i</td>
<td>- bridegroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piger, -gra, -grum</td>
<td>- lazy, idle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superscriptio, -onis</td>
<td>- inscription</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>desertum, -i</td>
<td>- desert, wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quamdiu</td>
<td>- as long as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in sabbatis</td>
<td>- on the Sabbath days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doctor, -oris</td>
<td>- doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interpretor, -ari (1)</td>
<td>- to explain, interpret</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 1 Decide whether the answer to each of these questions is ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and precede them with nonne or numquid.
1. _________ voluntatis meae mors impii ? Is it My will that a sinner should die?
2. _________ oblivisci potest mulier infantem suum? Can a woman forget her own child?
3. _________ hic est qui sedebat et mendicabat ? Is not this he that sat and begged?
4. _________ Deus ego sum, ut occidere possim et vivificare? Am I God, to be able to kill and give life?
5. _________ ego sum, Domine ? (King of Israel) It is not I, is it, Lord?
6. _________ ego te vidi cum illo in horto ? Did not I see thee with Him in the garden?
7. _________ et publicani hoc faciunt ? Do not also the Publicans do as much?
8. _________ poterit Deus parare mensam in deserto ? Will God be able to prepare a table in the desert? (implying disbelief)
9. _________ possunt filii nuptiarum, quandiu sponsus cum illis est, jejunare: Surely the bridegroom’s attendants cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them?
10. Calix benedictionis cui benedicimus, _________ communicatio Sanguinis Christi est ? et panis, quem frangimus, _______ participatio Corporis Domini est? The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the Blood of Christ? and the bread which we break, is it not the partaking of the Body of the Lord?

17.3 Questions using voice inflection
It sometimes happens that questions are asked without any introductory word simply by the questioner raising his voice at the end of a statement, as in :

*Tu es Rex Judaeorum?* Art Thou the King of the Jews?

*Simon, dormis?* Simon, sleepest thou?

*Tu es filius meus Esau?* Art thou my son Esau?

*Tu credis in Filium Dei?* Dost thou believe in the Son of God?

17.4 Double Questions
Sometimes questions come in two parts, as when the questioner offers two alternatives along the lines of ‘either - or’. In Latin these two parts of the question are joined by *an* :

*Interrogo vos, si licet sabbatis benefacere, an male : animam salvam facere an perdere?* I ask you, if it is lawful on the sabbath days to do good or to do evil: to save life, or to destroy?

*A temetipso hoc dicis, an alii dixerunt tibi de me?* Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or have others told it thee of Me?

*Licet censum dare annon?* Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not?

*Tu es, qui venturus es, an alium expectamus?* Art Thou He that is to come, or look we for another?

**Vocabulary**

| salvum facere | to make safe, save |
| census, -as | tribute |
| *licet* | it is lawful, allowed |

17.5 Twenty Questions
Here are all the interrogative words you will need to know :

| CUR? | why? |
| CUIUS? | whose? |
| QUIREM? | why? (most commonly) |
| QUANDO? | when? |
| QUID? | why? |
| QUOMODO? | how? by what means? |
**Exercise 2** Fill in the blanks with the appropriate question word:

|----------|-------|-------|--------|--------|------|

1. _______ panes habetis?
2. _______ ibo a spiritu tuo?
3. _______ est Deus eorum?
4. Amice, _______ huc intrasti non habens vestem nuptiale?
5. _______ est veritas?
6. _______ debes domino meo?
7. _______ discipuli tu transgrediuntur traditionem seniorum?
8. _______ peccabit in me frater meus et dimittam ei?
9. _______ , piger, dormies?
10. Baptismus Joannis _______ erat?
11. Tu _______ es?
12. _______ imago est haec, et superscriptio?

How many loaves have you?
Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit?
Where is their God?
Friend, how comest thou in hither, not having on a wedding garment?
What is truth?
How much dost thou owe my master?
Why do Thy disciples transgress the traditions of the ancients?
How often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me?
How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard?
The baptism of John, whence was it?
Who art thou?
Whose image is this, and inscription?

**Reading Practice**

Quis est meus proximus? Who is my neighbour?

Quis est iste, qui venit de Edom? Who is this that cometh from Edom?
**Mulierem fortem quis inveniet?**

Who shall find a valiant woman?

**Cur, Domine, irascitur furor tuus contra populum tuum?**

Why, O Lord, is Thy indignation kindled against Thy people?

**Dominus illuminatio mea, et salus mea: quem timebo?**

The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

**Quomodo fiet istud, quoniam virum non cognosco?**

How shall this be, since I know not man?

**Unde hoc mihi, ut veniat Domini mei ad me?**

Whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

**Unde huic sapientia haec et virtutes?**

Whence (to Him) this wisdom and power?

**Quandao haec erunt?**

When shall these things be?

**Usquequo, Domine, clamabo, et non exaudies?**

How long, O Lord, shall I cry, and Thou wilt not hear?

**Ubi sapiens? ubi scriba? ubi conqueritor hujus saeculi?**

Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world?

**Quare tristis es, anima mea, et quare conturbas me?**

Why art thou sad, O my soul? and why dost thou disquiet me?

---

**Note:** You will have noted from 17.5 that the same word *quid?* has two separate meanings: 'what?' and 'why?'. The only way to distinguish between them in translation is to consider the context of the sentence. Try doing this with the sentences below before looking at the English version:

**Quid timidi estis, modicae fidei?**

Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?

**Quid faciam tibi, Ephraim?**

What shall I do to thee, Ephraim?

**Quid ergo baptizas, si tu non es Christus?**

Why, then, dost thou baptise, if thou be not the Christ?

**Quid existis videre...?**

What did you go out to see?

**Quid retribuam Domino pro omnibus quae retribuit mihi?**

What shall I give to the Lord for all that He hath given me?

**Quid judicas fratrem tuum?**

Why dost thou judge thy brother?

**Mulier, quid ploras?**

Woman, why weepest thou?

**Quid me tentatis, hypocrita?**

Why do you tempt me, ye hypocrites?

---

**Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Word</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>retribuo, -ere, -ui, -tributum (3)</td>
<td>to give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>furor, -oris</td>
<td>anger, indignation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conturbo, -are, -avi, -atum (1)</td>
<td>to cause anxiety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accuso, -are, -avi, -atum (1)</td>
<td>to accuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sustineo, -ere, -ui, -tentum (2)</td>
<td>to bear, support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ploro, -are, -avi, -atum (1)</td>
<td>to weep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>irascor, irasci</td>
<td>to be roused to anger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>illuminatio, -ionis</td>
<td>light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perversus, -a, -um</td>
<td>crooked, perverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>observo, -are, -avi, -atum</td>
<td>to observe, mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emo, -ere, emi, emptum (3)</td>
<td>to buy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proximus, -i</td>
<td>neighbour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 3  Translate the following :

1. Quis ascendet in montem Domini? aut quis stabit in loco sancto ejus?
2. si autem et Satanas in seipsum divisus est, quomodo stabit regnum ejus?
3. Unde ememus panes?
4. O generatio incredula et perversa, quousque ero vobiscum: usquaque patiar vos?
5. Mulier, ubi sunt, qui te accusabant?
6. Si iniquitates observaveris, Domine, quis sustinebit?
7. sed quid dicit Scriptura?
8. ubi est fides vestra?
9. quo a facie tua fugiam?
10. Qualis est hic, quia venti et mare obedient ei?

Vocabulary

| infirmor, -ari - to be weak | uro, -ere, ussi, ustum (3) - to burn |
| littera, -ae - letter of the alphabet | disco, -ere, didici - to learn |
| scio, -ire, -ivi, -itum (4) - to know | signum, -i - a sign |
| esuriens - hungry | pasco, -ere, pavi, pastum (3) - to feed |
| sitiens - thirsty | hospes, hospitis - stranger, foreigner |
| colligo, -ere, -egi, -ectum (3) - to gather together | nudus, -a, -um - naked |
| cooperio, ire, -ui, -ertum (4) - to envelop, cover | carcer, -eris - prison, cell |
| praedico, -are, -avi, atum (1) - to preach | |

Reading Practice

Quis infirmatur, et ego non infirmor? quis scandalizatur, et ego non uror?
Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is scandalised and I am not on fire?

Domine, quis est qui tradet te?
Lord, who is it that shall betray Thee?

Quomodo hic litteras scit, cum non didicerit?
How does this man know letters, having never learnt?
Quomodo potest homo peccator haec signa facere?

Quid fecit tibi? quomodo aperuit tibi oculos?

Respondit eis: Dixi vobis jam, et audistis: quid iterum vultis audire? Numquid et vos vultis discipuli ejus fieri?


Quomodo ergo invocabunt, in quem non crediderunt? Aut quomodo credient ei, quem non audiverunt? Quomodo autem audient sine praedicante? Quomodo vero praedicabant, nisi mittantur?

Si patremfamilias Beelzebub vocaverunt, quanto magis domesticos ejus?

How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?

What did He do to thee? How did He open thy eyes? He answered them: I have told you already, and you have heard: why would you hear it again? Will you also become His disciples?

Then shall the just answer Him, saying: Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and fed Thee: thirsty, and gave Thee drink? and when did we see Thee a stranger and took Thee in: or naked, and covered Thee? or when did we see Thee sick or in prison and came to Thee?

How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? Or how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, unless they be sent?

If they have called the good man of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household?