

Hw: Skim Abelard - Historie Calamitatum

from introduction - personal record of his life
1118 - 1132 (St. Denis)

- 3 - Words of consolation to a friend
- Born in Brittany, first born of a knight
- ★ - "I preferred the weapons of disputation to all the other teachings of philosophy, and armed with these, I chose the conflicts of disputation instead of the trophies of war"
- 4 - ~~Master~~ Finds a school - Meln
 - Master disagreements - teacher = William
- 5 - dispute over arguments abt universals
- 6 - quotes "the poet" - William de Champeaux
- mother = Lucie, father = Berengar
- 7 - having to steal religion + philosophy
 - tries interpreting a commentary on his own
 - does well
 - Anselm jealous
- 9 ★ - Success puffs up fools w/ pride, yields to lusts of the flesh
- ★ - Wants to tell pure story - comfort of being understood
- ★ - 1st app: Heloise
- 10 - niece of Fulbert
 - not super attractive, smart
 - appeal of easy success
 - makes deals w/ her uncle (Fulbert)
 - gives too much freedom
 - "we abandoned ourselves entirely to love"
- 11 Fulbert
 - ~~no one~~ would believe the affair
- 12 - "we are always the best to learn of evil in our own home"
 - Uncle finds out; separation
 - Heloise pregnant - he marries her secretly to his sister

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- uncle has no cause or recourse
- A goes and confers, offers to make amends
 - offered a great marriage
 - uncle wanted to bring him

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- Hebrae didn't want marriage - later to. At nephew
- Philosophy should be focused on consistency

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- St. Augustine distinguishes between types of philosophers

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H prefers to be a friend.
 "On being: 'We shall both be destroyed'"

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- F spends rest of the message
 - H goes to a convent of nuns
 - he finally catches A
 - "Just judgement of God"
 - Enriches are looked down upon

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- A Jew abbot of St. Denis

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- worldly, depraved

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- backs students to the study of philosophy

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- Rivalry wage against him.

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- dispute over A's treatise

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- Bishop of Chartres grants advice

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- Archbishop - the Trinity is clumsy

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- public condemnation of actions 'gainst A

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- A discovers controversy about Denis

- now called 'camp of Marston'

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- A flees to territory near Cant. Theobald

- threatened w/ excommunication

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- what does

- A goes to territory of Truges

- refuge in wilderness

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- quotes "against Julian" - temptations of the senses - avoid them

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- students come and live hard life w/ A
 - trials thought all brought honor to A
- School grows, called "Paraclete"
 - many find it offensive
 - A defends it
 - it's right to ascribe temple to Holy Spirit
- A's Fare travels
- A considers ~~becoming~~ ^{Johann} leathers ~~the Holy Spirit~~
 - Falls in w/ wicked monks
 - It was a bad abbey
- "I used to weep as I thought of the wretched, useless life I had led, as proof to myself as to others"
 - he feels he deserves his sufferings
 - takes Heloise to Gratian
 - "God, whom they served devoutly, in his mercy brought them comfort"
- A's views on Women
 - A accused of not doing enough for the women
 - Now can't be suspected of having affairs
 - More worried about harm to reputation, than to body
- Women in St. Augustine + Leo IX
 - Decides to do all he can provide for sisters of Paraclete
 - comfort taken in supporting texts
- Monks are pissed
- "Satan has put so many obstacles in my path"
 - bears mark of Cain
 - has to avoid traps - they're trying to murder him
 - breaks collarbone after falling from horse
 - hopes his corpse may curb the ambition of others
- Conclusion: Take "comfort" from Bible

Hard choice



Traces reader has shared A's path | Why "the End?"

For 3/12

Skim Letters 2-8 of Abelard + Heloise

47 - Letter 2: Heloise to Abelard

- odd intro
- got a previous letter somehow from ~~Heloise~~ A
 - apparently Heloise spent the whole time complaining

48

- All are in despair over A

- wants more letters

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- "had the wounds ^{you} yourself have visited

- Platonism, Bible ref.

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- keeps metaphor going

- thinks A is Jovianic

51

- A bound to H through marriage + love

- A wife has power to make H happy

- carried out A's orders to destroy herself

- H wanted A for himself

- word friend > wife

- speaks of the marriage

[she really feels his pain]

52

- she brings up philosophical arguments

- explains that the world is in love w/ A

- A sings!

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- entry into religion, "which was your decision alone"

- he hasn't been writing to her

- worried he only loved, but didn't love her

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- wants him to write

- his lack of trust

- "think how much you owe me"

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- uses religion to support her arg

56 Letter 3: Abelard to Heloise

- his not writing attributed to "her good sense" + his trust
- refers to religion often
- focuses on his dangers

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- Bible, Moses, prayer
- Power of Prayer

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- "It's an assurance how much your prayers for me may prevail on God"

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- men raised ~~by~~ from dead through prayer
- now focusing on A

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- Biblically statements abt. curses
- calls her "beloved"
- Provides a prayer structure

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- entreats her to pray

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- "don't focus on danger to my body, but on my soul"
- ↳ very self involved, concerned abt. her

63 Letter 4: Heloise to Abelard

- H notices A put her name before his
- A increased their desolation

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- wants to be spared unhappiness
- H wants his body buried at H's burial grounds

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- Affect A's death would have on H

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- God's anger @ them

A ~~the~~ were physically punished

- Feels a woman's role is to bring men down

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- biblical examples

- her guilt

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- Accuses God of greatest cruelty

- questions how retribution works

- still wants A physically

a comment? or a deep point?

- 69 - Considers herself a hypocrite
- 70 - has put A above God
- wants A to pray for her - hangs on it
- Cease praising me
- 71 - Shows how little she wants
quotes St. Jerome - why run from what's certain
- 72 Letter 5 Abeland → H
- her whole letter was "a record of (her) misery"
- Empty
- 4 canons
- decided to answer on each pt
- 73 - Calls her "his superior"
- the Ethiopian Women
- 74 - whiteness of teeth
- "disfigurement of her blackness"
- 75 - A on costly clothing
- 76 - Points out hypocrisy in other priests - Ornamentation
"At least they are like Jews"
- 77 - Told H with problems (i.e. she told him to
- 78 - "I cannot see why you should prefer me to live on
in great misery rather than be happier in death"
- Approves her rejection of praise
- tells her that to seek praise was ^{appearing to} showing it
- 79 - On her glorifying God
- It must accept his will
- 80 - Thinks that what happened was just
- Talks abt their part together
- 81 - lust
- 82 - Refers to Origen
- 83 - Heretic named after E.M.M.

- 83 - Talks of god they're done since
- 84 - Turned worse of Eve into being of Mark
- 85 - Have Compassion for Jesus
- 86 - It was god that truly loved her, not A
- 87 * "You were naturally weaker in sex & stronger in sex and stronger in continence, and so less deserving in punishment"
- 88 - A has faith in her
- Gives her a paper

Letters of Direction

93 Letter 6 H → A

- "For nothing is less under our control than the heart - hardly no power to command it we are forced to obey"
- movement of thoughts
- 94 - ~~well~~ Quotes from the Art of Love
- 95 - On serving men
- 96 - it makes no sense for men & women to be bound by a common ^{rule}
- 97 - Quotes Chrysostom - Beatitudes meant for all
- 98 - Women can be sustained on less nourishment
- quotes Theodosius on Aristotle's dist female body
- 100 * We must therefore be careful not to impose on a woman under which we see nearly all men stagger to ever fall.
- 101 - WIRE quotes
- 102 - Ecclesiastes: "Wine is not the wife of their wits"
- 103 - Is ~~not~~ meant forbidden to monks
- 104 * - Nothing so divides ^{Jew} Christian as the destruction between outward & inner works
- 105 - Paul: Certainly, food does not commend us to God
- 106 - Quote St. Augustine on Food

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- "virtues alone was merit in the eyes of God"
 - True Christians
 - "Soul is only defiled by what proceeds from the heart"
 - intense Christ + Apostle
 - biblical references
 - Consult abt reading gospel in night office
- Letter 7, A → H
 (response to H's question abt the origins of nuns.)
- 1 E (Why is this one, but not 8, summarized?)
 - born from widow Anna in Gospel of Luke
 - women followed Christ
 - Martha + Mary
 - Christ cared abt devotion of women
 - told Magdalene 1st of his ascension
 - quotes St. Augustine
 - profession multiplied equally w/ men + women
 - Abbesses → deaconesses
 - Although women are the weaker sex, their virtue is more pleasing to God + more perfect
 - ex: Deborah, Judith, Esther
 - more biblical examples
 - Mary, mother of Jesus
 - women had the greatest gifts of raising the dead
 - exalted unbelievers
 - "The more the care Christian princes provides for the protection of Chastity, the more its address is not to be doubted"
 - references Justinian! - death penalty for those who marry w/ly virgins
 - Venetians

Gender roles are really interesting here



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- Some women have killed themselves to preserve the integrity of the flesh which they had vowed to God

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- A thinks less written enough

1. How was that summarized?

2. It didn't feel like he really answered the question

130 letter 8, A → H (The 80 pg. one)

- regulations to be a Rule for A's ally

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- 3 parts: continence, no possessions, silence

a) ~~cont~~ Continence = chastity

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b) disallows no possessions

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- don't be guided by passions

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- avoid talking too much

- the dangerous power of the tongue

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- Timothy says women should not be teachers

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- virtue of silence makes a man perfect

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- Set up huts

- On holy Arsenius

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- Saints are sought by the powerful, when they want to keep people
or by

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- Woman who received visit from St Martin

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- Solitude is more necessary for a woman's Frailty

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- teachers will be judged w/ greater severity

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- A thinks H can't really ? to run a convent