

The Fox and the Grapes

*one of Aesop's fables as told by PHAEDRUS (1st century)
translated by ADAM F MCCUNE*

Original Latin

Fame coacta vulpes alta in vinea
Uvam appetebat summis saliens viribus;
Quam tangere ut non potuit, discedens ait:
Nondum matura est; nolo acerbam sumere.
Qui facere quae non possunt verbis elevant,
Ascribere hoc debebunt exemplum sibi.

English Translation

Driven by hunger, a fox was leaping,
Snapping for grapes with all her might,
Grapes on vines of such a height
She could not touch them. So, when creeping
Off, she said, "They're not ripe yet;
I do not want to eat them sour."
Apply to yourselves this tale of ours,
You who belittle what you cannot get.