

The Battle of the Officers

The next day...

Asterix: Where ya headin'¹, Panoramix?

Panoramix: I'm going to the forest to find the ingredients for the magic potion, Asterix. There isn't a single drop left!

Asterix: *I don't like it when the druid takes these trips to the forest alone... but he doesn't want anyone to follow him...*

Asterix: *So I'll follow him from a distance!*

Obelix: Where ya goin', Asterix?

Asterix: I'm gonna follow the druid! The forest isn't safe right now, what with all the nervous Romans.

Obelix: Those Romans are whack jobs. I'll join you. I can take this menhir later; it's not that urgent.

Asterix: You could leave the menhir in the little village.

Obelix: Yeah, so any ol' person can just snatch it up!

At Babarum's camp...

Ladinus: The camouflage detachment is ready to receive your orders², oh Langelus.

Langelus: Coming!

Langelus: Magnificent, by Mars and Juno! Whoever said that the art of camouflage was being lost among the Roman legions?"

¹ I thought it would be best to use more informal speech here. Asterix speaks to Panoramix using the "tú" form. However, it would be more proper to say, "Where are you heading, Asterix?" I use other examples of stylistic elision throughout the translation for similar reasons.

² I think another good option to translate this would be, "The camouflage detachment awaits your orders..." It's a little difficult to communicate the idea of the camouflage detachment both being ready and waiting without making the line a bit longer. Perhaps this: "The camouflage detachment is ready and waiting for/awaiting your orders..."

Ladinus: Ahem, Langelus... That's the orchard valley. The camouflage detachment...

Ladinus: Is right there!

Langelus: Hmm, yes! Who's in charge of this task force!?

Ladinus: The one with the ilex leaves on their helmet.

Langelus: Explain the mission to him, Ladinus!

Ladinus: You know the orders! Capture the druid, dead or alive! Patrol the forest until you find him! He walks through it occasionally in search of herbs. If you're successful, you'll be compensated. If you fail, you'll be incarcerated³!

Leader of the Camouflage Detachment: Look... if I could choose... I'd rather be arrested now.

Ladinus: You miserable worm! Do as you're told, and I suggest that you return victorious, by Mars!

Soldier: The plan has failed.

Leader: No, the worm hasn't been jailed⁴!

Leader: Try to look as plant-like as possible!

Solder 1: I feel like a pea with legs!

Soldier 2: And I just wanted to get my life rooted!

Soldier 3: I'm shaking like a leaf!

Soldier 4: We're like the tree that everyone gets splinters from!

Soldier 5: I wonder if we're made of the wood of heroes...

Soldier 6: Enough with the stupid play on words! We're annoyed enough as it is!

A little later...

³ The more direct translation here would have been "arrested," but in the original text, the words "compensado" and "arrestado" rhyme. I said "incarcerated" to try to keep the rhyme with "compensated."

⁴ The rhyme between this line and the previous line seemed intentional, so I tried to make the lines rhyme in the translation.

Leader: Where are you? Where are you?

Soldier 1: We decided to get rooted somewhere.

Leader: Any more nonsense like that and I'm leaving all of you here! You're like pesky little weeds!

Soldier 4: Commander, he's coming!

Soldier 1: Should we get in square formation?

Leader: No, we're gonna ambush! And I better not hear any teeth chattering!