

**Abstract:** In the opening section of Lucan's *Bellum ciuile* book 8 (vv. 1-8) the narration of Pompey's flight through the Vale of Tempe reveals an allusion to the description of the Cretan Labyrinth by Ovid (*met.* 8.155-68). The analysis of the passage not only allows a better comprehension of Lucan's text and his allusive technique, but it also contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex character of Pompey: the image of the labyrinth underlines his ἀμηχανία and qualifies him in opposition to the stoic *sapiens*; at the same time it also announces his moral progression toward *uirtus*.

**Keywords:** Lucan, Pompey, Ovid, Labyrinth, Intertextuality, Allusion.