Litterae Latinae: Unit 1

A. The Man Who Disinherited His Nephew (Adapted Seneca *Controversiae* 1.1)

Seneca the Elder (54 BCE - 39 CE), also known as Lucius Annaeus Seneca, was an equestrian from Hispania. He was the father of Seneca the Younger, who wrote tragedies and was the tutor to the emperor Nero. Seneca the Elder wrote an extensive history of Rome that is now lost to us. His *Controverisae* are fictitious lawsuits that students of rhetoric would use to practice giving arguments.

Duo fratres inter se dissederunt. Primus frater filium habuit. Secundus frater fuit pauper. Filius primi fratris patruo profuit, sed pater vetuit filiumque in irā abdicavit. Post patruus filium primi fratris adoptavit, multae divitiae ad patruum redierunt. Nunc pater est pauper, et filius patri pecuniam dare cupit, sed patruus vetuit, itaque patruus in irā filium abdicat.

A. Nota

Duo - two
inter se: “among themselves”
dissederunt: dissideo, dissidere, dissedi, dissessum - to disagree
Primus: primus, -a, -um - first (modifies *frater*)
Secundus: secundus, -a, -um - second (modifies *frater*)
pauper: pauper, pauperis m. - poor man
patruo: patruus, -a, -um - uncle (paternal)
vetuit: veto, vetare, vetui, vetitum - to forbid
abdicavit: abdico, -dicare, -dicavi, - dicatum - [ab•dico] to disown
adoptavit: adopto, -optare, -optavi, - optatum - to adopt
multae: multus, -a, -um - many, much (modifies *divitiae*)
dare: do, dare, dedi, datum - to give

B. Haec Ornamenta Sunt Mea (Adapted Valerius Maximus *Facta et Dicta Memorabilia* 4.4 preface)

Valerius Maximus came with Sextus Pompeius (proconsul of Asia) to the east in 27 CE and was introduced to a literary circle which included Ovid. His work is a collection of historical anecdotes organized around specific virtues or vices. This excerpt introduces his section on poverty and features Cornelia, mother of the Gracchi, as an ideal mother who takes pride in her children.

Maxima ornamenta matribus sunt liberi. In litteris Pomponii Rufi, ita invenimus: Cornelia Gracchorum mater est. Ubi adiit amicae domum, amica ostendit Corneliae ornamenta sua pulcherrima. Ubi liberi e schola redierunt, Cornelia suos liberos ostendit, itaque dixit "haec ornamenta sunt mea." Si nihil cupis, vere omnia habes. Divitiae ad ruinam viros adducere possunt, sed non bonae mentis occupatio.

B. Nota

Maxima: maximus, -a, -um - greatest (modifying *ornamenta*)

ornamenta: ornamentum, -i n. - decoration, ornament

Pomponii Rufi: Pomponius Rufus, Pomponii Rufi m. - Pomponius Rufus (remember, names decline too). An author of unknown date who wrote a book entitled *Collecta*

invenimus: invenio, invenire, inveni, inventum - to find

Cornelia: Cornelia, Corneliae f. - **Cornelia**. Cornelia was a highly-educated woman who put great value in her son's education. Cornelius Nepos gives **two citations** of her letter to her son.

Gracchorum: Gracchus, Gracchi m. - Gracchus. Here it refers to two brothers **Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus and Gaius Sempronius Gracchus**. Cornelia was famously their mother.

amicae: amica, amicae f. - friend (female)

ornamenta sua pulcherrima: "her own most beautiful ornaments" (acc. pl.)

schola: schola, scholae f. - school

suos: "her own"

haec: hic, haec, hoc - this/these (pl.) (modifies *ornamenta*)

mea: meus, -a, -um - my (modifies *ornamenta*)

nihil: nothing (does not decline)

vere: adverb - truly

omnia: "everything" (acc. pl. neuter)

ruinam: ruina, ruinae f. - ruin

adducere: adduco, adducere, adduxi, adductum - to lead to

mentis: mens, mentis f. - mind (with *bonae* “good”)

occupatio: occupatio, occupationis f. - occupation

C. Epitaph for Claudia (Adapted from *CIL* 6.15346 (=*CIL* 01.01211))

Roman funerary monuments often “speak” to people passing by to call their attention to the deceased. By stopping to read an epitaph, passersby help to keep the deceased person’s memory alive. In this epitaph, Claudia is praised for her traditional female virtues. You can see what the original inscription looked like in the bottom drawing in this image.

“Hospes, quod dico paulum est. Sta et lege.

Hic est sepulcrum non ita pulchrum feminae pulchrae.

Nomen ei Claudia fuit.

Suum virum corde suo amavit.

Filios duos creavit: alter in terrā adest, alter sub terrā subiit.

Sermone lepido atque incessu incommodo

domum servavit. Lanam fecit. Dixi. Abi.”

D. Nota

Hospes: hospes, hospitis m.- visitor, stranger, guest

quod: “what”

paulum: “short” (modifies the clause *quod dico*)

sta: stō, stāre, stetī, statum - to stand

lege: legō, legere, lēgī, lēctum - to read, gather, choose

hic: “here”

sepulcrum: sepulcrum, -ī n. - a place of burial, tomb

pulchrum: pulcher, pulchra, pulchrum - beautiful (with *sepulcrum*; *pulchrae* with *feminae*)

ei: “to her” (dat.)

suum: “her own” (modifies *virum*)

corde suo: “with her heart”

duos: “two” (modifies *filios*)

creavit: creo, creare, crevi, cretum - to produce, create

alter . . . alter: “the one . . . the other” (nom.)

lepido: “charming” (modifies *sermone*)
incessu incommodo: “with a pleasant gait”
servavit: servō, servare, servavi, servatum - to save, watch over
lanam: lana, -ae f. - wool
fēcit: faciō, facere, fēcī, factum - to do, make

D. An Overzealous Freedman (Adapted Martial *Epigrammata* 11.39)

Martial (Marcus Valerius Martialis) was born between 38 and 41 CE and died between 102 and 104 CE. He is from Spain (Hispania) and moved to Rome in 64 CE. In this epigram, he chastises his old slave, Charidemus, who seems to have been his paedagogus. Now free, Charidemus is still trying to control Martial.

Charideme, fuisti paedagogus meae pueritiae atque perpetuus socius. Nunc crines meae barbae nigri sunt. Sed tibi non crevi: te meus vilicus horret, te meus dispensator et te domus horret. Permittis me nec ludere nec amare. Corripis, observas, argues me. Et vix a ferulis te habet ira tua. Si Tyrios sumo vestes aut ungo crines, exclamas, “Numquam fecit ea tuus pater.” Et numeras meos calices et adstringis frontem, tamquam cadus est de cella tua. Desine, non possum libertum tolerare Catonem. Dicit mea puella tibi "Marcus est vir nunc."

D. Nota

Charideme: Charidemus, -i m.
meae: meus, -a, -um - my (agrees with *pueritiae*)
pueritiae: pueritia, -ae f. - boyhood
perpetuus: perpetuus, -a, -um - perpetual (agrees with *socius*)
socius: socius, socii m. - companion
crines: crinis, crinis m. - hair
barbae: barba, -ae f. - beard (with *meae*)
nigri: niger, nigra, nigrum - black (desribes *crines*)
tibi: “to you” (dat.)
cresco: cresco, crescere, crevi, cretum - to grow up
te: “you” (acc.)

vilicus: vilicus, -i m. overseer, estate manager (with *meus*)

horret: horreo, horrere, horrui - to dread, shrink from

dispensator: dispensator, dispensatoris m. - steward (with *meus*)

Permittis me: “you allow me”

ludere: ludo, ludere, lusi, lusum - to play

Nil: nil, (indeclinable) - nothing

Corripis: corripio, corripere, corripui, correptum - to chastise

observas: observo, observare, observavi, observatum - to watch over

argues: arguo, arguere, argui, argutum - to accuse

me: “me” (acc.)

vix: hardly

ferulis: ferula, -ae f. - stick, rod

tua: “your” (modifies *ira*)

Tyrios: Tyrius, -a, -um - Tyrian, of Tyre; here a reference to the **purple dye** produced in this city. (modifying *vestes*)

sumo: sumo, sumere, sumpsi, sumptum - to take up, put on

vestes: vestis, vestis f. - clothes

ungo: ungo, ungere, unxi, unctum - to anoint with oil

exclamas: exclamo, exclamare, exclamavi, exclamatum - to cry out

fecit: facio, facere, feci, factum - to make, do

ea: “these things” (acc.)

tuus: “your” (modifying *pater*)

numeras: numero, numerare, numeravi, numeratum - to count

calices: calix, calicis m. - cup, chalice (with *meos*)

adstringis: adstringo, adstringere, adstrinxi, adstrictum - to knit

frontem: frons, frontis f. - brow

tamquam: just as if

cadus: cadus, cadi m. - jug

cella: cella, -ae f. - cellar (with *tua*)

Desine: desino, desinere, desivi, desitum - cease, stop

libertum - libertus, -i m. - freedman

tolerare - tolero, tolerare, toleravi, toleratum - to endure, tolerate

Catonem - Cato, Catonis m. - **Cato the Younger**. He was known for his austerity and serious nature. See **Valerius Maximus 2.10.8** for an example of Cato's character.