

# Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis 4-5: Unit 7

## §4a. Perpetua's Ladder

Tunc dixit mihi frater meus: Domina soror, iam in magnā dignatione es, tantā ut postules visionem et ostendatur tibi an passio sit an commeatus. Et ego quae me sciebam fabulari cum Domino, cuius beneficia tanta experta eram, fidenter repromisi ei dicens: “Crastinā die tibi renuntiabo.” Et postulavi, et ostensum est mihi hoc. Video scalam aeream mirae magnitudinis pertingentem usque ad caelum et angustam, per quam nonnisi singuli ascendere possent, et in lateribus scalae omne genus ferramentorum infixum. Erant ibi gladii, lanceae, hami, machaerae, veruta, ut si quis negligenter aut non sursum adtendens ascenderet, laniaretur et carnes eius inhaerent ferramentis. Et erat sub ipsā scalā draco cubans mirae magnitudinis, qui ascendentibus insidias praestabat et exterrebat ne ascenderent. Ascendit autem Satorius prior, qui postea se propter nos ultro tradiderat (quia ipse nos aedificaverat), et tunc, cum adducti sumus, praesens non fuerat. Et pervenit in caput scalae et convertit se et dixit mihi: “Perpetua, sustineo te; sed vide ne te mordeat draco ille.” Et dixi ego: “Non mihi nocebit, in nomine Iesu Christi.” Et desub ipsā scalā, quasi timens me, lentē eiecit caput. Et quasi primum gradum calcarem, calcavi illi caput et ascendi.

### Nota

dignātio, -ōnis f. - respect, esteem

an . . . sit an: “whether it is . . . or” -- an indirect question uses a subjunctive verb. You will learn more about this in [Unit 9](#).

commeatus, -ūs m. - a furlough, a safe passage

fābulor, -ari, -atus (1) - to speak, converse (related to *fabula*)

crastinus, -a, -um - of tomorrow, tomorrow's

renuntio (1) - report, declare

aereus, -a, -um - made of bronze

mirus, -a, -um - wonderful, marvelous, astonishing

mirae magnitudinis: [gen. of description](#)

pertingo, -tingere, -tinxi, -tinctum - to stretch out, reach

angustus, -a, -um - narrow, straight

nonnisi - non nisi - "not unless"

per quam nonnisi singuli ascendere possent - an imperf. subj. in a relative clause of characteristic. You will learn more about these in [Unit 10](#).

ferramentum, -i n. - iron implement

infigo, -figere, -fixi, -fictum - to fix, fasten

lancea, -ae f. - light spear

hamus, -i m. - hook

machaera, -ae, f. - short sword (= Greek μάχαιρα)

verutum, -i n. - dart, javelin

si quis . . . ascenderet: an indefinite relative clause embedded in the result clause. quis = aliquis. After *si*, *nisi*, *num*, and *ne* the prefix "ali-" is not used on forms of aliquis, aliquid. Remember: "after *si*, *nisi*, *num*, and *ne*, all the 'ali-s' drop away."

lanio (1) - to tear to pieces, mangle

inhaereo, -haēre, -haesi, -haesum - to stick to

neglegens, neglegentis (gen.) - careless, negligent

sursum - up, upwards

adtendo, -tendere, -tendi, -tensum - to stretch to, reach to (also spelled *attendo*; ad • *tendo*)

draco, -onis m. - serpent, snake

cubo, cubare, cubui, cubitum - to lie

ascendentibus - "against those ascending" (dative with a compound verb, discussed in [Unit 9](#))

insidiae, -arum f. (pl.) - ambush, treachery

exterreo, -terrere, -terrui, territum - to terrify completely (ex • *terreo*)

ne ascenderet: *ne* introduces a fearing clause with the subjunctive ([Unit 9](#)). Translate "lest he climb up."

ultra - willingly

aedifico (1) - to build, educate

converto, convertere, conversi, conversum - to turn about, change

vide ne te mordeat: - *ne* introduces an indirect command with the subjunctive ([Unit 9](#)). Translate "see (to it) that it not bite you".

mordeo, mordēre, momordi, morsum - to bite

lesu Christus, -i m. - Jesus Christ. Iesu is indeclinable; *Christus*, -i is 2nd decl. meaning “anointed one” from the Greek χριστός.

desub - below, beneath (+ abl)

lentus, -a, -um - flexible, slow, lingering

eicio, -icere, -iēci, -iectum - to thrust out, drive out (e • *iacio*)

quasi . . . calcarem, calcavi: Translate “as if . . . I were stepping, I stepped.

illi: dative of possession (as in “*Nomen mihi est Aelia*”)

#### **§4b. Perpetua and the Shepherd**

Et vidi spatium immensum horti et in medio sedentem hominem canum in habitu pastoris, grandem, oves mulgentem. Et circumstantes candidati milia multa. Et levavit caput et aspexit me et dixit mihi: “Bene venisti, teknon.” Et clamavit me et de caseo quod mulgebat dedit mihi quasi buccellam; et ego accepi iunctis manibus et manducavi; et universi circumstantes dixerunt: “Amen.” Et ad sonum vocis experrecta sum, conmanducans adhuc dulce nescio quid. Et retuli statim fratri meo; et intelleximus passionem esse futuram, et coepimus nullam iam spem in saeculo habere.

#### **Nota**

hortus, -i m. - garden

habitus, -ūs m. - appearance, condition

pastor, -oris m. - shepherd

grandis, -e - large, grand

ovis, ovis f. - sheep

mulgeo, mulgēre, mulsi, mulsum - to milk

circumsto, -stare, -steti, -statum - to stand around, surround (circum • *sto*)

candidatus, -a, -um - clothed in white

multa milia: n. pl. in form referring to *circumstantes candidati*

levo (1) - to lift, raise (related to *levis*, -e)

teknon: “O child.” This is a Greek vocative.

clamo (1) - to call out, cry out

caseum, -ī n. - cheese

buccella, -ae f. - a morsel, small mouthful

manduco (1) - to chew

sonus, -ī m. - sound

commanduco (1) - to chew completely, chew to pieces

dulce nescio quid: "I-don't-know-what sweet thing"

saeculo: "world"

### **§5. A Father's Lament**

Post paucos dies rumor cucurrit ut audiremur. Supervenit autem et de civitate pater meus, consumptus taedio, et ascendit ad me, ut me deiceret, dicens: "Miserere, filia, canis meis; miserere patri, si dignus sum a te pater vocari; si his te manibus ad hunc florem aetatis provexi, si te praeposui omnibus fratribus tuis: ne me dederis in dedecus hominum. Aspice fratres tuos, aspice matrem tuam et materteram, aspice filium tuum qui post te vivere non poterit. Depone animos; ne universos nos extermines. Nemo enim nostrum libere loquetur, si tu aliquid erit passa." Haec dicebat quasi pater pro sua pietate basians mihi manus et se ad pedes meos iactans et lacrimans me iam non filiam nominabat sed dominam. Et ego dolebam casum patris mei quod solus de passione meā gavisurus non esset de toto genere meo. Et confortavi eum dicens: "Hoc fiet in illā catastā quod Deus voluerit. Scito enim nos non in nostrā esse potestate constitutos, sed in Dei." Et recessit a me contristatus.

#### **Nota**

rumor, -oris m. - rumor

ut audiremur: translate "that we be given a hearing"

supervenio, -venire, -vēni, -ventum - to arrive, to come upon (super • *venio*)

taedium, -ī n. - weariness, disgust

miseror, miserēri, miseritum - to pity (+ dat.) (related to *miser*)

proveho, -vehere, -vexi, -vectum - to carry forth, convey

praepono, -ponere, -posui, -positum - to place (acc.) before (dat.) (prae • *pono*) (The use of datives with compound verbs will be discussed further in [Unit 10.](#))

ne me dederis: *ne* + subj. (pres. or perf.) is a prohibitive subjunctive ([Unit 9](#)): Translate "don't place..."

dedecus, dedecoris n. - disgrace, shame

matertera, -ae f. - maternal aunt

depono, -ponere, -posui, -positum - to put aside, give up (de • pono)

extermino (1) - to drive out, destroy.

ne . . . extermines: *ne* + subj. (pres. or perf.) is a prohibitive subjunctive ([Unit 9](#)):

Translate “don’t destroy. . .”

basio (1) - to kiss

eris passa: “you will have suffered.”

iacto (1) - to throw

nomino (1) - to call by name, call (related to *nomen*, *nominis* n.)

quod gavisurus non essent: a causal clause with a periphrastic (or indirect) form made up of a future participle + imperfect subj. of *sum*. Translate “because he was not going to rejoice.”

conforto (1) - to strengthen, comfort

catasta, -ae f. - public stage used for selling slaves, sentencing criminals, or giving public lectures

scito: future imperative of *scio* (4). The future imperative gives a command with a definite reference to future time. Translate as a present imperative.

contristo (1) - to sadden, distress (related to *tristis*, -e)