

ETA SIGMA PHI 67th Annual Latin Translation Contest (2017)

Advanced Latin

To be written as an examination, under supervision, within a maximum of two hours. No lexicon or other help is permitted. Please write in ink on every other line of the paper provided. The only identification on the contest papers should be your pen name

Cicero explains to the court why, contrary to his practice of pleading for the defense, he has taken up the Sicilians' request that he prosecute their corrupt governor, C. Verres

Si quis vestrum, iudices, aut eorum qui adsunt, forte miratur me, qui tot annos in causis iudiciisque publicis ita sim versatus ut defenderim multos, laeserim neminem, subito nunc mutata voluntate ad accusandum descendere, is, si mei consili causam rationemque cognoverit, una et id quod facio probabit, et in hac causa profecto neminem praeponendum mihi esse actorem putabit. Cum quaestor in Sicilia fuisset, iudices, itaque ex ea provincia decessissem ut Siculis omnibus iucundam diuturnamque memoriam quaesturae nominisque mei relinquerem, factum est uti cum summum in veteribus patronis multis, tum non nullum etiam in me praesidium suis fortunis constitutum esse arbitrarentur. quare nunc populati atque vexati cuncti ad me publice saepe venerunt, ut suarum fortunarum omnium causam defensionemque susciperem. me saepe esse pollicitum, saepe ostendisse dicebant, si quod tempus accidisset, quo tempore aliquid a me requirerent, commodis eorum me non defuturum. venisse tempus aiebant non iam ut commoda sua, sed ut vitam salutemque totius provinciae defenderem; sese iam ne deos quidem in suis urbibus ad quos confugerent habere, quod eorum simulacra sanctissima C. Verres ex delubris religiosissimis sustulisset; quas res luxuries in flagitiis, crudelitas in suppliciis, avaritia in rapinis, superbia in contumeliis efficere potuisset, eas omnis sese hoc uno praetore per triennium pertulisse; rogare et orare ne illos supplices asperneret quos me incolumi nemini supplices esse oporteret.

Vocabulary and Notes:

Line 2: *laedo, -ere, laesi, laesum*: strike, harm, attack; here, to prosecute a party in court

Line 3: *ad accusandum descendere*: here, referring to "going down" to the forum to serve as a prosecutor in a court case

una: adverbial; at the same time (construe with *et...et*)

Line 7: *in veteribus patronis*: referring to previous patrons who defended/represented the Sicilians in court

praesidium, -i n.: protection (i.e., legal protection in court)

Line 8: *populo -are*: to lay waste, devastate, plunder

Line 11: *commodum, -i n.*: (one's) interest, advantage

desum, -esse + dative: to fail, to be missing at

Line 13: *habere...pertulisse...rogare et orare*: all infinitives in indirect discourse introduced earlier by *aiebant*

simulacrum, -i n.: statue, image

delubrum, -i n.: a shrine, temple

Line 14: *flagitium, -i n.*: a shameful crime

supplicium, -i: here, punishment

Line 15: *contumelia, -ae f.*: outrage, insult, physical violence

hoc uno praetore...me incolumi: both ablatives absolute, the first referring to Verres, the second to Cicero

Line 16: *supplex, -icis*: a suppliant

incolumis -e: being in a state of safety, safe and sound, i.e., alive