



Latin Transition Week 13

Marcus Tullius Cicero *Tusculanae Disputationes* II.41 (excerpt)

The Tusculanae Disputationes (Tusculan Disputations) is a series of books written by Cicero at his villa in Tusculum in around 45 B.C. Illuminating various facets of Stoic philosophy, they were intended to make Stoicism more widely understood and popular in Rome. This small section of book two "On the Bearing of Pain," speaks specifically to the attitudes and behaviors of gladiators who through their training achieved a level of endurance admired as a paragon of Stoicism

Gladiatores, aut perditī homines aut barbari - quas plagas perferunt! Quo modo illi, qui bene instituti sunt, accipere plagam malunt quam turpiter vitare. Quam saepe apparet nihil eos malle quam vel domino satis facere vel populo. Mittunt etiam vulneribus confecti ad dominos qui quaerent quid velint; si satis eis factum sit, se velle decumbere. Quis mediocris gladiator ingemuit, quis vultum mutavit umquam? Quis non modo stetit, verum etiam decubuit turpiter? Quis, cum deubisset, ferrum recipere iussus collum contraxit? Tantum exercitatio, meditatio, consuetudo valet.

perdo, perdere, perdidi, perditus – lose, waste, destroy (NB: perditī homines “lost men” or “men having been cast down” were those who were in the bottom tiers or outskirts of society – slaves, freemen, criminals, the extremely poor or without family)

plaga, -ae (f) – blow, strike, wound, injury (The relative quas here is used to emphasize the plagas – “what blows” or “what blows”)

perfero, perferre, pertuli, perlatum – carry through, bear to the end

instituto, institutere, institui, institutum – establish, set up, make, build (*here “trained”*)

malo, malle, mlaui – prefer, wish rather, choose rather

Quam saepe – “how often”

apparet is introducing indirect statement: eos + malle and then facere is a complementary infinitive relying on malle.

conficio, conficere, confeci, confectum – finish, end, spend (*vulneribus follows as an ablative of means*)

volo, velle, volui – wish, be willing

decumbo, decumbere, decubui – fall, fall down (used specifically for vanquished gladiators)

mediocris (sc. famae with mediocris)

ingemisco, ingemiscere, ingemui – sigh, groan over

non modo...(sed) etiam – “not only...but even...”

Quis...ingemuit, mutavit, decubuit is a list of rhetorical questions that even mediocre gladiators wouldn't do. The answer to all of these Quis questions is an assumed nemo. Note how the Romans say “Who gladiator” but in English we would say “What gladiator.”

recipere follows iussus

collum, -i (n) – neck

contraho, contrahere, contraxi, contractum – contract, shorten, draw in

tantum (adv) – so much, so far,

exercitatio, -onis (f) – practice, exercise

meditatio, -onis (f) – contemplation

consuetudo, -inis (f) – habit, custom

Publius Cornelius Tacitus Annales 14.17

At the gladiatorial show in Pompeii in AD 59, a fight broke out between the Pompeians and their neighbors the Nucerinians who were there watching the show. Supporting rivaling gladiators, the Pompeians and Nucerinians first began by shouting insults at each other and then throwing stuff. This escalated into a full-scale riot, at the end of which many Nucerinians ended up wounded or dead. You can get a similar experience by attending an Islanders-Flyers hockey game, but I suggest you leave before it gets too ugly.

Sub idem tempus levi initio atrox caedes orta est inter colonos Nucerinos Pompeianosque gladiatorio spectaculo quod Livineius Regulus edebat. Oppidani enim solita lascivia in vicem incessebant; probra, deinde saxa, postremo ferrum sumpserunt, validiore Pompeianorum plebe, apud quos spectaculum edebatur. Ergo deportati sunt in urbem multi e Nucerinis trunco per vulnera corpore, ac plerique liberorum aut parentum mortes deflebant. Cuius rei iudicium princeps senatui, senatus consulibus permisit. Et rursus re ad patres relata, prohibiti publice in decem annos eius modi coetu Pompeiani collegiaque, quae contra leges instituerant, dissoluta (sunt); Livineius et qui alii seditionem conciverant exilio multati sunt.

sub + acc = “about”

levi initio (sc. “ab” in front of the *levi initio*)

atrox, atrocis – brutal, horrible

orior, oriri, ortus sum – arise, proceed from, originate

colonus, -i (m) – inhabitant, farmer

gladiatorio spectaculo – ablative of place where (annoyingly missing a preposition)

Livineius Regulus was a wealthy Pompeian who had recently been removed from the senate in Rome for misconduct. He is the one that funded and put on this gladiatorial show.

edo, edere, edidi, editus – present, stage, put forth, publish

oppidani, oppidanorum (m. pl) – townspeople

lascivia, -ae (f) – insolence, licentiousness (here) or playfulness, sportiveness (with *solita* – an ablative of means)

in vicem – “alternately” or “reciprocally”

incesso, incescere, incessivi – attack, assault

probrum, -i (n) – abuse, reproach

saxum, -i (n) – rock, stone

sumo, sumere, sumpsi, sumptus – take up, seize

The urbem here is Rome.

truncus, a, um (adj) – mutilated, maimed, lopped (sc. *cum* before *trunco*)

defleo, deflere, deflevi, defletum – bewail, weep for

Assume another *cuius rei iudicium permisit* for the *senatus consulibus* as well (this is in parallel to the *princeps senatui*)

liberorum – this can mean either freedmen or children – the latter is more likely in this context.

permitto, permittere, permisi, permissum – let go, give up, relinquish

refero, referre, rettuli, relatum – carry back, bring back, return (*re...relata* is an ablative absolute)

coetus, -us (m) – meeting, assembly

collegium, -i (n) = collegium, -i political club, guild, association

seditio, -onis (f) – disorder

concio, conciere, concivi, concitum – collect, bring together, rouse up, excite

multo (1) – punish