



## Latin Transition Primus: Week 6 Reading

Gellius, Atticae Noctes Liber V.IX.17-25

*When we left our hero last week, Androclus had just been summoned to Caesar so the emperor could figure out why the fiercest of the lions, who was the fiercest of all the beasts in the arena thank you very much, had not eaten him, but rather was acting like a Labrador Retriever. Here is the story that Androclus told Caesar:*

"Cum provinciam" inquit "Africam proconsulari imperio meus dominus obtineret, ego ibi iniquis eius et cotidianis verberibus ad fugam sum coactus et, ut mihi a domino, terrae illius praeside, tutiores latebrae forent, in camporum et arenarum solitudines concessi ac, si defuisset cibus, consilium fuit mortem aliquo pacto quaerere. 18 Tum sole medio" inquit "rabido et flagranti specum quandam nactus remotam latebrosamque in eam me penetro et recondo. 19 Neque multo post ad eandem specum venit hic leo debili uno et cruento pede gemitus edens et murmura dolorem cruciatumque vulneris commiserantia." Atque illic primo quidem conspectu advenientis leonis territum sibi et pavefactum animum dixit.

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21 "Sed postquam introgressus" inquit "leo, uti re ipsa apparuit, in habitaculum illud suum, videt me procul delitescens, mitis et mansues accessit et sublatum pedem ostendere mihi et porrigere quasi opis petendae gratia visus est. 22 Ibi" inquit "ego stirpem ingentem vestigio pedis eius haerentem revelli conceptamque saniem vulnere intimo expressi accuratiusque sine magna iam formidine siccavi penitus atque detergi cruorem. 23 Illa tunc mea opera et medella levatus pede in manibus meis posito recubuit et quievit, 24 atque ex eo die triennium totum ego et leo in eadem specu eodemque et victu viximus. 25 Nam, quas venabatur feras, membra opimiora ad specum mihi subgerebat, quae ego ignis copiam non habens meridiano sole torrens edebam.

**provinciam Africam** – The Roman province of Africa was not the whole continent of Africa, but rather the northern part on the Mediterranean Sea in what is now Tunisia and Libya. This area was incredibly important to the Romans because this was one of the main sources of grain to feed the city. Provincial governors were always ex-consuls of Rome (**vir consularis**) and as proconsuls were given supreme power like a consul (**proconsulare imperium**), which basically allowed them to do whatever they wanted to in their province.

**iniquus, a, um** (adj) – unjust, unfair, unkind

**cotidianus** (adv) – daily

**verber, -eris** (n) – flogging, whipping, thrashing

**cogo, cogere, coegi, coactus** – here “compel” but it can also mean collect, gather, force

**a domino** – take with tutiores

**tutius = tutus (tutus, a, um)** (adj) – safe, prudent

**latebra, -ae** (f) – hiding place (See the adjective made from this line 18 – **latebrosam** “providing a good hiding place”)

**forent = essent** imperfect subjunctive of sum, esse which is formed from the future infinitive fore. Ut...forent is a purpose clause but the purpose is coming before what is being done for that purpose. Start by translating it with “so that...”

**arenarum** – from harena, -ae- desert, sand. (*The “h” has been lost in this later Latin*)  
**concedo, concedere, concessi, concessum** – withdraw to, go away to  
**defuisset** – from desum – lacking, wanting  
**cibus, -i (m)** – food  
**aliquo pacto** – *idiomatic term for “some way or another”* (**pactum, -i (n)** is an agreement, manner, way – *our word “pact” comes from this*)  
**sole medio rabido et flagranti** – *an ablative absolute* (**sole medio** – midday day, lit. mid sun; **rabidus, a, um (adj)** – raging, fierce; **flagro (1)** – burn, scorch)  
**specus, -us** – cave (*The adjectives here show that the gender is feminine, but it can also be masculine or neuter*)  
**nanciscor, nancisci, nactus sum (dep)** - find  
**penetro (1)** – set, place, put into, make one’s way into  
**recondo, recondere, recondidi, reconditum** – put away, put back, hide  
**debilis, -e (adj)** – lame  
**cruentus, a, um (adj)** – blood-stained  
**gemitus, -us (m)** – groan  
**edens** – *present participle of edo, edere, edidi, editum (e + do) – give out, put forth, produce. It is not related to edere “to eat” (line 37)*  
**murmur, -uris (n)** – roaring, growling  
**dolorem cruciatumque** – *an example of hendiadys (the use of two words to express what is essentially one idea); direct objects of commiserantia (commiseror, -ari (dep) – pity, commiserate) - participle agreeing with murmura*  
**vulnus, -eris (n)** – wound  
**quidem** – (adv) indeed  
**conspectus, -us (m)** – sight, look, view  
**pavefactus, a, um (adj)** – quaking with fear, panicking  
**introgredior, introgredi, introgressus sum (dep)** – enter  
**uti = ut “as”** and then translate the apparuit as an impersonal  
**habitaculum, i (n)** – home, dwelling  
**delitescor, delitescere, delitui** – conceal oneself, hide  
**mitis, -e (adj)** – gentle  
**mansues (adj)** – tame  
**porrigo, porrigere, porrexi, porrectum** – stretch out, extend  
**ops, opis (f)** – help  
**peto, petere, petivi, petitum** – seek, beg, ask for  
**gratia** is ablative here  
**stirps, stirpis (f)** splinter, thorn  
**vestigium, -i (n)** – the part of the foot that makes a print, on an animal the pad of the paw  
**haereo, haerere, haeis, haesum** – stick, cleave, attach to  
**revello, revellere, revelli, revulsum** – tear, pull, pluck  
**concipio, concipere, concepi, conceptum** – gather, take in, absorb  
**sanies, -ei (f)** – pus  
**intimus, a, um (adj)** deep within  
**accurate (adv)** - carefully  
**sicco (1)** – dry  
**penitus (adv)** – thoroughly  
**detergeo, detergere, detergi, detersum** – wipe away  
**medella, -ae (f)** – treatment  
**levo (1)** – relieve  
**posito, -onis (f)** – a position, placing, posture  
**recumbo, recumbere, recumbui, recumbitum** – lie down  
**quiesco, quiescere, quievi, quietum** – rest, go to sleep  
**triennium, -i (n)** – period of three years  
**victus, -us (m)** – food  
**venor, venari (dep)** – hunt

**membrum, -i (n)** – limb, joint

**opimus, a, um (adj)** – choice, rich, fat

**subgero = suggero, suggere, suggessi, suggestum** – bring up, supply, provide

**torreo, torrare, torrui, tostum** – bake, dry up with heat,

**edo, edere, edi, esum** - eat