

Phaedrus: See Notes on Authors on page 13.

Metre: Iambic Senarius (See page 258.)

line

- 2 **Aesop**: Aesop was a Greek writer of fables (sixth century BC) who had himself originally been a slave. Many of his fables were turned into Latin verse by Phaedrus (first century AD).
- notus e vicinia**: *known (to Aesop) because he lived near by.*
- 3 **quid tu confusus?**: Supply **es** – *why are you so distressed?* The speaker is Aesop.  
**pater**: *sir*, literally *father*, used as a term of respect.
- 4 **es dignus appellari**: *you deserve to be called.*
- 5 **apud te deponitur**: *is laid before you.*
- 8 **totis noctibus**: *all night long*. The plural is used because it happened repeatedly.
- 9 **sive est vocatus**: *or if he is invited out*, i.e. to dine at another's house.
- 11 **ullius essem culpae mihi si conscius**: *if I were aware of having done any wrong*, literally *if I were conscious within myself (mihi) of any fault*. (For Conditional Clauses, see LL p. 54.)
- 12 **ferrem**: *I would bear (it).*
- 13 **infelix saevum patior dominum**: *I have the bad luck to suffer harsh treatment from my master*. Note that the noun is **dominum** (the power a master has), not **dominum**.
- 14 **et quas longum est promere**: *and (other reasons) which it would be tedious (longum est) to relate*.
- 15 **destinavi**: *I have decided*.
- 16 **inquit**: The subject is Aesop.  
**cum mali nil feceris**: *although you have done no wrong*. (For Partitive Genitive, see LL p. 9.)
- 17 **ut refers**: *according to what you say*, literally *as you relate*.
- 18 **quid si peccaris?**: *what if you do something wrong?* **peccaris = peccaveris**, literally *you will have done wrong*.  
**te passurum (esse)**: an Accusative and Infinitive depending on **putas**.

## 25 Aesop and the Runaway Slave

(Perotti's Appendix to Phaedrus)

- servus profugiens dominum naturae asperae  
Aesopo occurrit notus e vicinia.  
“quid tu confusus?” “dicam tibi clare, pater,  
hoc namque es dignus appellari nomine,  
tuto querela quia apud te deponitur.  
plagae supersunt, desunt mihi cibaria.  
subinde ad villam mitior sine viatico.  
domi si cenat, totis persio noctibus;  
sive est vocatus, iaceo ad lucem in semita.  
emerui libertatem, canus servio.  
ullius essem culpae mihi si conscius,  
aequo animo ferrem. numquam sum factus satur,  
et super infelix saevum patior dominum.  
has propter causas et quas longum est promere  
15 abire destinavi quo tulerint pedes.”  
“ergo” inquit “audil cum mali nil feceris,  
haec experiris, ut refers, incommoda;  
quid si peccaris? quae te passurum putas?”  
tali consilio est a fuga deterritus.
- profugio (3), to flee, run away from  
asper, harsh, cruel  
clare, clearly  
namque, for indeed  
tuto, safely  
querela (f), complaint  
plaga (f), blow, beating  
supersum, -esse, to abound, be in  
abundance  
desum, -esse, to be lacking  
cibaria (n, pl), food, rations  
subinde, from time to time  
viaticum (n), food for the journey  
ceno (l), to dine
- persio (1), to be kept standing  
semita (f), path, street  
emeruo (2), to earn  
canus, grey-haired  
servio (4), to be a slave  
aequo animo, patiently, calmly  
satur, full (of food)  
super (adverb), besides that  
quo, where, wherever  
ergo, well then  
experior (4), to experience, suffer  
incommodum (n), misfortune  
deterreo (2), to deter

## Points for Discussion

- 1 What complaints are made by the slave against his master?
- 2 For what reasons was the slave lying in the street (line 9)?
- 3 Translate and explain **canus servio** (line 10).
- 4 What advice did Aesop give to the runaway slave? Do you think it was good advice? What do you think you would have done in the slave's position? Explain why.
- 5 Can you think of modern examples of people trying to escape, even though they know the consequences of recapture?
- 6 The sub-heading of this poem is **non esse malo addendum malum**, literally *Bad should not be added to bad*. Which of the following English expressions, in your opinion, comes closest to the point of this story?
  - (a) Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you.
  - (b) Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.
  - (c) Don't make matters worse.
  - (d) Two wrongs don't make a right.



*Female slaves tending their mistress's hair*

Caesar: see Notes on Authors on page 8.

ne

- 1 **studio pugnandi**: *in enthusiasm for fighting*. (For the use of the ablative, see LL p. 15; and for the Gerund, see LL p. 60.)
- ab duce**: *by their general*, referring to the actions of Sabinus.

3 **quotiens quaeque cohors procurrerat**: *whenever each cohort (in turn) charged*. (For the pluperfect used to express actions which happened repeatedly, see LL p. 89.) When they were caught in the ambush, the Romans had formed themselves in a circle (**orbis**, mentioned in line 8) so that they could protect themselves on all sides. Every so often, in order to disrupt the enemy attack, a unit would make a charge from the circle and inflict as many casualties as possible before returning to the main group.

**ab ea parte**: *in that area*.

4 **pronuntiarī iubet**: *ordered the instruction to be given*. Four Indirect Commands (**ut . . . coniciant neu . . . accedant et . . . cedant . . . insequantur**) depend on **pronuntiarī**, which is a present infinitive passive. Coming in between the third and fourth Indirect Command is an Accusative and Infinitive (**nihil eis noceri posse**) which also depends on **pronuntiarī** (see note on line 6).

5 **quam in partem**: *whenever*.

6 **levitate armorum**: *because they were lightly-armed*, literally *by reason of the lightness of their arms*.

**nihil eis noceri posse**: (*for*) *no harm could come to them*. See note on **pronuntiarī iubet** (line 4) for the appearance of this Accusative and Infinitive among the Indirect Command clauses. (For the impersonal use (**nihil eis noceri**), see LL p. 57.)

7 **se recipientes** refers to the Romans and is the object of **insequantur**. Translate *as they were returning*, literally (*them*) *taking themselves back*.

8 **cum**: *whenever*. (For **cum** used with the pluperfect indicative to express actions which happened repeatedly, see LL p. 89. Compare also line 3.)

9 **eam partem nudari necesse erat**: *that part (of the circle) was inevitably exposed*, literally *it was necessary that that part was laid bare*. **eam partem nudari** and **alaterē aperto tela recipi** are Accusative and Infinitive clauses depending on **necesse erat**.

10 **ab latere aperto**: *on the open (i.e. right) side*. Since a soldier normally carried his shield on his left arm, his left side was well protected. He relied on the shield carried by the man on his right for the protection of his right side.

11 **ab eis qui cesserant** refers to the Gauls; **ab eis qui proximi steterant** refers to the Romans. Whenever a group of soldiers made a charge, a gap was left in the circle, and there would be a tendency for the soldiers on the left of the gap to move to their right to get more protection from those on their right. The effect of this was that the gap was partially filled, leaving insufficient room for those who had made the charge.

12 **nec virtuti locus relinquēbatur**: *there was no room for heroic action*.

## 38 Gallic Treachery

(Caesar, *Bellum Gallicum* V. 34–37)

The Gallic chief Ambiorix, pretending to be a friend of the Romans, has told them that a large force of German mercenaries is on its way to attack the Roman camp which is under the command of L. Cotta and Q. Titurius Sabinus. Against his better judgment, Cotta has agreed to a proposal by Sabinus that the only safe course of action for the Romans is to abandon camp before the Germans arrive and to link up with a neighbouring legion. However, they are immediately ambushed by the forces of Ambiorix and, in the following extract, we read of the desperate struggle as they fight for their lives.

### The Gauls change tactics

Galli erant et virtute et studio pugnandi pares. nostri tamen, etsi ab duce et a fortuna deserebantur, tamen omnem spem salutis in virtute ponebant; et, quotiens quaeque cohors procurrerat, ab ea parte magnus hostium numerus cadebat. qua re animadversa, Ambiorix pronuntiarī iubet ut procul tela coniciant neu propius accedant et, quam in partem Romani impetum fecerint, cedant: levitate armorum et cotidiana exercitatione nihil eis noceri posse: rursus se ad signa recipientes insequantur.

### The Romans in difficulties

quo praecepto ab eis diligentissime observato, cum quaeppiam cohors ex orbe excesserat atque impetum fecerat, hostes velocissime refugiebant. interim eam partem nudari necesse erat et ab latere aperto tela recipi. rursus, cum in eum locum unde erant egressi reverti coeperant, et ab eis qui cesserant et ab eis qui proximi steterant circumveniebantur. sin autem locum tenere vellent, nec virtuti locus relinquēbatur neque ab tanta multitudine coniecta tela conferti vitare poterant.

- desero** (3), to fail, let down
- quisquam, quaequam, quodquam**, each
- animadverto** (3), to notice, realise
- neu**, and not
- propius**, too close
- accedo** (3), to approach
- cedo** (3), to give ground
- levitas** (*f*), lightness
- cotidianus**, daily
- exercitatio** (*f*), training, practice
- insequor** (3), to pursue
- praeceptum** (*n*), instruction
- observo** (1), to observe, obey, carry out
- quisquam, quaeppiam, quodppiam**, any
- excedo** (3), to come out from, leave
- velociter**, swiftly
- refugio** (3), to retreat, flee back
- nudo** (1), to lay bare, expose, leave unprotected
- revertor** (3), to return
- circumvenio** (4), to surround, hem in
- sin autem**, if on the other hand
- nec . . . neque**, neither . . . nor . . .
- confertus**, packed close together

**cum pugnaretur:** *although the fighting lasted.* Caesar again uses the verb impersonally to emphasise the action rather than the people involved in the action. (See LL p. 57.)

**ad horam octavam:** *until the eighth hour*, i.e. about two o'clock in the afternoon. The time from sunrise to sunset was divided into twelve equal "hours."

**nihil quod ipsis esset indignum committebant:** *they did not disgrace themselves in any way; literally they committed no act which would be unworthy of themselves.*

**T. Balventio . . . utrumque femur tragula traicitur:** *T. Balventius had both his thighs pierced by a javelin.* The subject of the Latin is **femur**, and **Balventio** is dative to indicate the person towards whom the action was directed. Often the only convenient way of translating this type of dative is by the English possessive (*each thigh of Balventius*).

**primum pilum duxerat:** *had been the chief centurion.* The most senior centurions served in the first cohort of the legion; and the most senior centurion of all was called the **primipilus**, because he led the elite unit (**primus pilus**) in that cohort. (See note 1 on page 178 for more details about the promotion of centurions.)

**magnae auctoritatis:** *highly respected, literally of great influence.* (For the genitive used to describe personal qualities, see LL p. 8.)

**in adversum os:** *fired in the face.*

**Q. Titurius:** The full name of the Roman commander was Quintus Titurius Sabinus.

**rogatum:** *to ask.* (For the Supine used to express Purpose, see LL p. 45.)

**quos tribunos habebat:** *the tribunes he had.* As often happens in Latin when the relative clause precedes its antecedent (**tribunos**), the latter is placed within the relative clause.

**primorum ordinum centuriones:** *centurions of the first rank*, i.e. the most senior centurions. (See also line 18.)

**imperatum facit:** *he obeyed the order.*

**longior instituitur sermo:** *the conversation was prolonged, literally a longer (than necessary) discussion was begun.*

**suo more victoriam conclamant:** *raised their customary shout of victory, literally hailed their victory in their usual way.*

**ex quibus:** *of them.* (For Linking Relative, see LL p. 26.)

### Stubborn resistance by the Romans

- 15 famen tot incommotis conficiati, multis vulneribus acceptis, resistebant; et, magna parte diei consumpta, cum a prima luce ad horam octavam pugnaretur, nihil quod ipsis esset indignum committebant. tum T. Balventio, qui superiore anno primum pilum duxerat, viro forti et magnae auctoritatis, utrumque femur tragula traicitur. Q. Lucanius eiusdem ordinis, fortissime pugnavit, dum circumvento filio subvenit, interficitur. L. Cotta legatus, omnes cohortes ordinesque adhortans, in adversum os funda vulneratur. his rebus permotus Q. Titurius, cum procul Ambiorigem suos cohortantem conspexisset, interprem suum Cn. Pompeium ad eum mittit rogatum ut sibi militibusque parcat.

### Ambiorix responds

*In response to this appeal, Ambiorix said that, if Sabinus wished to confer with him, he was at liberty to do so. He said he hoped that his army could be persuaded to spare the lives of the Roman soldiers and gave his own personal guarantee that no harm would come to Sabinus himself. Sabinus suggested to the wounded Cotta that, if he agreed, they should withdraw from the battle and discuss terms with Ambiorix. He was confident that he could persuade Ambiorix to spare them and their troops. Cotta, however, said he would not go to an armed enemy, and persisted in his refusal.*

### Treachery

- 25 Sabinus, quos in praesentia tribunos militum circum se habebat, et primorum ordinum centuriones, se sequi iubet. et, cum propius Ambiorigem accessisset, iussus arma abicere, imperatum facit, suisque ut idem faciant imperat. interim, dum de conditionibus inter se agunt longiorque consulto ab Ambiorige instituitur sermo, paulatim circumventus interficitur.

### Massacre

- 30 tum vero suo more victoriam conclamant atque ululatum tollunt; impetque in nostros facto, ordines perturbant. ibi L. Cotta pugnavit interficitur cum maxima parte militum. reliqui se in castra recipiunt unde erant egressi: ex quibus

**incommotum** (*n*), disadvantage  
**conficito** (1), to afflict, handicap  
**consumo** (3), to use up  
**superior**, previous  
**subvento** (4) (+ *dat.*), to come to the assistance (of)  
**legatus** (*m*), legate, lieutenant-general  
**adhortor** (1), to encourage  
**funda** (*f*), sling-stone  
**permotus**, alarmed  
**cohortor** (1), to encourage, urge on  
**interpretes** (*m*), interpreter  
**in praesentia**, at that time  
**tribuni militum**, military tribunes  
**abicio** (3), to throw away  
**agere de** (+ *abl.*), to discuss  
**consulto**, deliberately  
**ululatus** (*m*), wild yell, war-cry

3 **illi: they**, i.e. the soldiers in the camp.

4 **ad unum omnes: all to a man**, i.e. to the very last man.

5 **incertis itineribus: by ill-defined tracks**.

5 **de rebus gestis: about what had happened**.

L. Petrosidius aquilifer, cum magna multitudine hostium premeretur, aquilam intra vallum protecit, ipse pro castris fortissime pugnans occiditur. illi aegre ad noctem oppugnationem sustinent; noctu ad unum omnes, desperata salute, se ipsi interficiunt. pauci, ex proelio elapsi, incertis itineribus per silvas ad T. Labienum legatum in hiberna perveniunt atque eum de rebus gestis certiorum faciunt.

**aquilifer** (*m*), standard-bearer

**premo** (3), to overwhelm, press hard

**proleico** (3), to hurl

**oppugnatio** (*f*), attack

**sustineo** (2), to hold off

**noctu**, by night

**elabor** (3), **elapsus sum**, to slip away

**hiberna** (*n,pl*), winter-quarters

**certiorum facere**, to inform

### Points for Discussion

- 1 Explain in your own words the clause **etsi ab duce et a fortuna deserebantur** (lines 1–2).
- 2 Describe briefly the new tactics adopted by Ambiorix and how the change affected the Romans.
- 3 How long did the Romans keep up their resistance to the Gauls (lines 15–17)?
- 4 Gather as much evidence as you can from this passage to prove that Roman soldiers were highly disciplined.
- 5 Why do you think many of the survivors in the camp killed themselves? Can you think of any other examples, from ancient or modern times, of people committing suicide after being defeated?
- 6 From the information contained in this passage (both the Latin and the English), provide a short assessment of the character and ability of (a) Sabinus, (b) Cotta, (c) Ambiorix.