

## Piso in Syria

at Cn. Piso, quo celerius consolia inciperet, postquam Syriam

But Gnaeus Piso, in order that he could begin his plans more quickly, after he reached Syria

ac legiones attigit, largitione et ambitu infimos militum iuvabat

and his legions, helped the most disreputable of the soliders with generous gifts and bribery

cum veteres centuriones, severos tribunos demovisset

When he had removed the long serving centurions, the strict tribunes,

locaque eorum clientibus suis attributisset, desidiam in castris,

and he handed over their posts to his own clients, he allowed idleness in the camp,

licentiam in urbibus, lascivientes per agros milites sinebat.

hooliganism in the cities and soldiers to run riot through the countryside

nec Plancina, uxor Pisonis, se gerebat ut feminam decebat sed,

And Plancina, wife of Piso, did not behave as is fitting for a woman, but

exercito equitum intereat, et in Agrippinam, in Germanicum contumelias iacebat

she attended the exercises of the cavalry and was hurling insults at both Agrippina and Germanicus

nota haec Germanico, sed praeverti ad Armenios instantior cura fuit.

These matters were known to Germanicus, but there was a more pressing care to attend first to the Armenians.

## The Death of Germanicus

saevam vim morbi augebat persuasio veneni a Pisone accepti

His belief that poison had been received from Piso increased the savage force of the illness

et repriebantur solo ac parientibus erutae humanorum corporum reliquiae

Also there were found remains of human bodies dug up from the floor and the walls,

carmina et devotiones et nomen Germanici plumbeis tabulis

spells and curses and the name of germanicus inscribed on lead tablets

insculptum, cineres semuisti ac tabo obliti aliaque malefica quibus

ashes half-burned and smeared with rotten flesh and other evil objects with which,

creditur animas numinibus infernis sacrari

it is believed, souls are dedicated to the gods of the underworld.

simul missi a Pisone incusabantur quod valentudinis adversae signa expectarent

At the same time, men, sent by Piso, were accused of waiting for signs of unfavourable health

haec Germanico haud minus ira quam per mentum accepta sunt componit

These things were accepted by germanicus no less in anger than through in fear.

epistulam qua amicitiam ei reuntiabat

He wrote a letter, in which he tried to break off his friendship with Piso

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Germanicus paulipser se credidit convalescere

For a short time, Germanicus believed that he was getting better;

deinde fessum fiebat corpus. ubi finis aferat adstantes amicos ita loquitor

Then, his body became tired. When the end was at hand, he spoke to his friends who were standing around him, in this way:

"erit vobis occasio querendi apud senatum atque invocandi leges.

"There will be an oppurtunity for you to complain in the presence of the Senate and to invoke laws

deceat amicos non prosequi defunctum ingnavo questu, sed quae

It is right for friends not to follow a dead man with pointless lamentation, but

voluerit meminisse, quae mandaverit exsequi.

to remember what he wanted and to carry out what he ordered.

vindicabitis vos, si me potius quam fortunam meam diligebatis."

You will avenge (me), if you love me rather than my status."

amici, dextram morientis amplectentes iuraverunt se vitam ante

His friends, clasping the right hand of the dying Germanicus, swore that they would

quam ultionem amissuros esse

abandon life before (the pursuit of) revenge.

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neque multo post mortuus est, ingenti luctu provinciae et

And not much later, Germanicus died, amid the great grief of the province and

circumiacentium populorum. indoluerunt exterae nationes regesque

surrounding peoples. Foreign nations and kings mourned;

tanta fuerat illius comitas in socios, masuetudo in hostes

so great had been Germanicus' friendliness towards his companions, his mercy towards his enemies;

propter vultum eloquentiamque venerationem omnium adeptus erat

because of his expression and eloquence he had gained the respect of all.

et erant qui illum magno Alexandro ob formam aetatem genus

And there were men who compared that man to Alexander the Great in respect to his appearance, age, manner

locumque mortis adaequarent;

and place of his death;

nam affirmaverunt utrumque corpore decoro praeditum, genere

for they declared that they were both endowed with a handsome body,

insigni ortum vix triginta annos natum periisse

were descended from a noble family and were scarcely 30 years old when they died

cont. in [Mourning](#)