

CORNELII TACITI: ANNALIVM LIBER XVI

A Latin to English Translation

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Part 18

1. *De C. Petronio pauca supra repetenda sunt.*

- *supra* here is the adverbial usage in time, i.e. before, previously, formerly. “When pertaining to time it especially refers to any thing previously said or written.”
- *repetenda sunt* from *repeto*, *repetere*, *repetivi*, *repetitus* is the passive periphrastic (should/ought/had to), meaning to return to.

A few things must be returned to previously concerning C. Petronius.

2. *Nam illi dies per somnum, nox officiis et oblectamentis vitae transigebatur;*

- *illi* is just a dative of reference.
- *officiis et oblectamentis* is an ablative of means.
- *transigebatur* from *transigo*, *transigere*, *transegi*, *transactus* is 3rd singular imperfect passive indicative, meaning to finish.

For that man was finishing the days through sleep, the night with the duties and the delights of life.

3. *utque alios industria, ita hunc ignavia ad famam protulerat, habebaturque non ganeo et profligator, ut plerique sua haurientium, sed erudito luxu.*

- *protulerat* from *profero*, *proferre*, *protuli*, *prolatus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to bring forward or to advance.
- *habebaturque* from *habeo*, *habere*, *habui*, *habitus* is 3rd singular imperfect passive indicative, meaning to have.
- **What is the *sua* doing??**
- *haurientium* from *haurio*, *haurire*, *hausi*, *haustus* is the present active participle, meaning to exhaust.
- *erudito luxu* is an ablative of quality.

and as diligence had advanced others, thus laziness had advanced this man to fame, and he was not considered a glutton or spendthrift, as the majority of drained men, but a man of educated luxury.

4. *ac dicta factaque eius quanto solutiora et quandam sui negligentiam praeferentia, tanto gratius in speciem simplicitatis accipiebantur.*

- *praeferentia* from *praefero, praeferre, praetuli, praelatus* is the present active participle, meaning to display.
- *tanto (+comp.) ... quanto (+comp.)* \Rightarrow the -er... the -er.
- *accipiebantur* from *accipio, accipere, accepi, acceptus* is 3rd plural imperfect passive indicative, meaning to accept.

and his words and deeds, the freer and the more displaying certain negligence of his, the more agreeably they were being accepted for the appearance of simplicity.

5. *proconsul tamen Bithyniae et mox consul vigentem se ac parem negotiis ostendit.*

- *parem* takes the thing with which the comparison is made most frequently in the dative, i.e. *negotiis*.
- *ostendit* from *ostendo, ostendere, ostendi, ostensus* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to show. Verbs of showing often taking a predicative accusative along with the direct object.

nevertheless the proconsul of Bithynia and soon the consul he showed himself as a vigorous man and equal to business.

6. *dein revolutus ad vitia seu vitiorum imitatione inter paucos familiarium Neroni adsumptus est, elegantiae arbiter, dum nihil amoenum et molle adfluentia putat, nisi quod ei Petronius adprobavisset.*

- *revolutus* from *revolvo, revolvere, revolve, revolutus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to throw back.
- *imitatione* is an ablative of cause.
- *familiarium* is a partitive genitive.
- *adsumptus est* from *adsumo, adsumere, adsumpsi, adsumptus* is 3rd singular perfect passive indicative, meaning to take (to/up/on/from).
- *adfluentia* is an **ablative of respect?? unsure.**
- *putat* from *puto, putare* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to think.
- *adprobavisset* from *adprobo, adprobare* is 3rd singular pluperfect active subjunctive, meaning to approve. This is a subjunctive of repeated action (professor told us). **But I can't find anything on this on google, so not entirely sure how to deal with it.**

Then having been thrown back to vice or by the imitation of vice he was taken on amongst the few people of familiar acquaintance to Nero, a judge of elegance, while he thinks nothing beautiful and pleasant with respect to abundance, unless what Petronius had approved for him.