

# Letters by Pliny

## A Latin to English Translation

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### (XCVI) C. PLINIVS TRAIANO IMPERATORI

1. *Sollemne est mihi, domine, omnia de quibus dubito ad te referre.*

- *est* is the existential *esse*.
- *dubito* from *dubito, dibutare* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to doubt.
- *referre* from *refero, referre, rettuli, relatus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to bring. It is customary to me, O lord, to report all things to you concerning which I doubt.

2. *Quis enim potest melius uel cunctationem meam regere uel ignorantiam instruere?*

- *quis* is the interrogative pronoun here, and it's nominative with antecedent being the *domine*.
- *potest* from *possum, posse, potui* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to be able.
- *melius* is a comparative adverb here.
- *regere* from *rego, regere, rexi, rectus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to guide.
- *instruere* from *instruo, instruere, instruxi, instructus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to construct.

For who is better able to either guide my hesitation or instruct my ignorance?

3. *Cognitionibus de Christianis interfui numquam: ideo nescio quid et quatenus aut puniri soleat aut quaeri.*

- *interfui* from *intersum, interesse, interfui, interfuturus* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to be/lie between. This takes a dative (*cognitionibus*) and is translated as 'I am present/attend (+ dat.)' in that case.
- *nescio* from *nescio, nescire, nescivi, nescitus* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to not know (how).
- *puniri* from *punior, puniri, punitus sum* is the present infinitive, meaning to punish.
- *soleat* from *soleo, solere, solitus sum* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive, meaning to be accustomed to. This is subjunctive because it is an indirect question.
- *quaeri* from *quaero, quaerere, quaesivi, quaesitus* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to seek. I have never attended examinations concerning Christians: therefore I do not know what and to what extent it is accustomed to either punished or be sought out.

4. *Nec mediocriter haesitavi, sitne aliquod discrimen aetatum, an quamlibet teneri nihil a robustioribus differant;*

- *haesitavi* from *haesito, haesitare* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to hesitate.

- *sit* from *sum, esse, fui, futurus* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive. This is given in the form *sitne*, which according to Lewis and Short, when you combine *-ne* with a subjunctive it turns into the question of ‘whether’. This is subjunctive because it’s a indirect question.
- *differant* from *differo, differre, distuli, dilatus* is 3rd plural present active subjunctive, meaning to differ. This is subjunctive because it’s a indirect question.

Nor did I insignificantly hesitate, whether there is some difference of ages, or they, however tender, differ none from mature people;

5. *detur paenitentiae uenia, an ei, qui omnino Christianus fuit, desisse non prosit;*

- *detur* from *do, dare, dedi, datus* is 3rd singular present passive subjunctive, meaning to give.
- *fuit* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative.
- *desisse* from *desino, desinere, desivi, desitus* is the perfect active infinitive, meaning to desist.
- *prosit* from *prosum, prodesse, profui, profuturus* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive, meaning to be useful/advantageous or to benefit/profit. This takes the dative.

Whether kindness be given for regret, or whether it not benefit him, who has been entirely christian, to have desisted.

6. *nomen ipsum, si flagitiis careat, an flagitia cohaerentia nomini puniantur.*

- *careat* from *careo, carere, carui, caritus* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive, meaning to be without. Subjunctive because it’s in the prodasis of a future less vivid.
- *cohaerentia* from *cohaereo, cohaerere, cohaesi, cohaesus* is the present active participle, meaning to cling together.
- *puniantur* from *punio, punire, punivi, punitus* is 3rd plural present passive subjunctive, meaning to punish. This is the protasis of the future less vivid conditional.

Whether the name itself be punished, if it should be without shames, or the shameful acts clinging to the name are punished.

7. *Interim, <in> iis qui ad me tamquam Christiani deferebantur, hunc sum secutus modum.*

- *in* can be translated as ‘in accordance with/regard to/the case of’ given the ablative case.
  - *deferebantur* from *defero, deferre, detuli, delatus* is 3rd plural imperfect passive indicative, meaning to report.
  - *sum secutus* from *sequor, sequi, secutus sum* is 1st singular perfect indicative, meaning to follow.
- Meanwhile, in regard to those who were reported to me as Christians, I followed this method.

8. *Interrogaui ipsos an essent Christiani.*

- *interrogaui* from *interrogo, interrogare* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to ask/interrogate.
- *essent* is 3rd plural imperfect active subjunctive. This is subjunctive because this is an indirect question.
- *christiani* is a predicate nominative.

I interrogated themselves whether they were Christians

9. *Confitentes iterum ac tertio interrogaui supplicium minatus: perseuerantes duci iussi.*

- *confitentes* from *confiteor, confiteri, confessus sum* is the present participle, meaning to admit. This is acting as a substantative.
- *iterum* and *tertio* are adverbs.

- *interrogavi* from *interrogo, interrogare* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to ask/interrogate.
  - *minatus* from *minor, minari, minatus sum* is the perfect participle, meaning to threaten. This is modifying the implied subject of *interrogavi* and fits with *supplicium*.
  - *perseuerantes* from *persevero, perseverare* is the present active participle, meaning to persist.
  - *duci* from *duco, ducere, duxi, ductus* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to lead.
  - *iussi* from *iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussus* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to order.  
I having threatened punishment asked those confessing again and thrice; I ordered those persisting to be led (away).
10. *Neque enim dubitabam, quaecumque esset quod faterentur, pertinaciam certe et inflexibilem obstinationem debere puniri.*
- *dubitabam* from *dubito, dubitare* is 1st singular imperfect active indicative, meaning to doubt.
  - *esset* is 3rd singular imperfect active subjunctive. This is subjunctive because it's inside indirect speech.
  - *faterentur* from *fateor, fateri, fassus sum* is 3rd plural imperfect subjunctive, meaning to admit/confess (w/ACC) or praise (w/DAT). This is subjunctive because it's inside indirect speech.
  - *debere* from *debeo, debere, debui, debitus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to owe. This sets off indirect speech with head verb *dubitabam*.
  - *puniri* from *punio, punire, punivi, punitus* is the present infinitive, meaning to punish.  
For nor was I doubting, whatsoever it was which they confessed, that their persistence and inflexible stubbornness certainly ought to be punished.
11. *Fuerunt alii similis amentiae, quos, quia ciues Romani erant, adnotaui in urbem remittendos.*
- *fuerunt* is 3rd plural perfect active indicative.
  - *similis amentiae* is a genitive of description.
  - *erant* is 3rd plural imperfect active indicative.
  - *adnotaui* from *adnoto, adnotare* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to now/jot down or to notice.
  - *remittendos* from *remitto, remittere, remisi, remissus* is the future passive participle, meaning to send back. This is the gerundive.  
Some people have been of similar madness, whom, because they were Roman citizens, I designated them as ought to be returned into the city.
12. *Mox ipso tractatu, ut fieri solet, diffundente se crimine plures species inciderunt.*
- *mox ipso* is kill, I think instead it's *mox ipso*.
  - *fieri* from *facio, facere, feci, factus* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to do.
  - *solet* from *soleo, solere, solitus sum* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to become accustomed to.
  - *diffundente* from *diffundo, diffundere, diffundi, diffusus* is the present active participle, meaning to diffuse.
  - *inciderunt* from *incido, incidere, incidi, incasus* is 3rd plural perfect active indicative, meaning to happen.  
Soon because of the very handling, as it is accustomed to be done, with the crime spreading itself more appearances happened.
13. *Propositus est libellus sine auctore multorum nomina continens.*

- *propositus est* from *propono, proponere, proposui, propositus* is 3rd singular perfect passive indicative, meaning to display.
- *continens* from *contineo, continere, continui, contentus* is the present active participle, meaning to maintain.

A small book without an author had been displayed maintaining the names of many.

14. *Qui negabant esse se Christianos aut fuisse, cum praeunte me deos adpellarent et imagini tuae, quam propter hoc iusseram cum simulacris numinum adferri, tunc ac uino supplicarent, praeterea male dicerent Christo, quorum nihil cogi posse dicuntur qui sunt re uera Christiani, dimittendos putavi.*

- *negabant* from *nego, negare, negavi, negatus* is 3rd plural imperfect active indicative, meaning to deny.
- *esse* is the present active infinitive.
- *fuisse* is the perfect active infinitive.
- *esse* and *fuisse* set off indirect speech, note the temporality is in the past because the main verb is *negabant*, i.e. imperfect.
- *praeunte* from *praeeo, praecire, praeciui, praecitus* is the present active participle, meaning to go before/precede.
- *adpellarent* from *adpello, adpellare, adpellavi, adpellatus* is 3rd plural imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to appeal. This is subjunctive because it's inside of a circumstantial *cum* clause.
- *iusseram* from *iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussus* is 1st singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to order. This takes as complimentary infinitive *adferri*.
- *adferri* from *adfero, adferre, adtulit, adlatus* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to bring to or to carry.
- *supplicarent* from *supplico, supplicare, supplicavi, supplicatus* is 3rd plural imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to pray. This is subjunctive because it's inside of a circumstantial *cum* clause. This takes the dative.
- *dicerent* from *dico, dicere, dixi, dictus* is 3rd plural imperfect active subjunctive. This is subjunctive because it's inside of a circumstantial *cum* clause. The person being addressed is usually in the dative.
- *cogi* from *cogo, cogere, coegi, coactus* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to compel.
- *posse* from *possum, posse, potui* is the present active infinitive, meaning to be able.
- *dicuntur* from *dico, dicere, dixi, dictus* is 3rd plural present passive indicative, meaning to say.
- *dimittendos* from *dimitto, dimittere, dimisi, dimissus* is the future passive participle, meaning to send away/off. After supplying the *esse* we have a passive periphrastic.
- *putavi* from *puto, putare* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to think. *esse* is supplied implicitly here to open indirect speech.

Those who were denying that they were, or had been, Christians themselves, since, with me dictating, they were appealing to the gods and they were praying to your image with incense and wine, which I had ordered to be brought on account of this along with images of the gods, besides speaking badly of Christ, nothing of which they are said to be able to be compelled who are by true fact Christians, I thought that they ought to be sent away.

15. *Alii ab indice nominati esse se Christianos dixerunt et mox negauerunt; fuisse quidem sed desisse, quidam ante triennium, quidam ante plures annos, non nemo etiam ante uiginti.*

- *nominati* from *nomino, nominare* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to name.
- *esse* is the present active infinitive. This is setting off indirect speech with head verb *dixerunt*.
- *dixerunt* from *dico, dicere, dixi, dictus* is 3rd plural perfect active indicative, meaning to say.
- *negauerunt* from *nego, negare* is 3rd plural perfect active indicative, meaning to deny.
- *fuisse* is the perfect active infinitive. This is setting off indirect speech with head verb *dixerunt*.

- *desisse* is the perfect active infinitive, meaning to stop/end/finish.

Others having been named by the book said that they were Christians and soon denied it; that they had indeed been it but had desisted, someone before three years, someone before many more years, and also not no one before twenty.

16. <Hi> *quoque omnes et imaginem tuam deorumque simulacra uenerati sunt et Christo male dixerunt.*

- *uenerati sunt* from *veneror, venerari, veneratus sum* is 3rd plural perfect indicative, meaning to adore/revere.
  - *dixerunt* from *dico, dicere, dixi, dictus* is 3rd plural perfect active indicative, meaning to talk/speak. The person being addressed is usually in the dative.
- All these people also revered both your image and the statues of the gods and spoke ill to Christ.

17. *Adfirmabant autem hanc fuisse summam uel culpae suae uel erroris, quod essent soliti stato die ante lucem conuenire, carmenque Christo quasi deo dicere secum inuicem seque sacramento non in scelus aliquod obstringere, sed ne furta ne latrocinia ne adulteria committerent, ne fidem fallerent, ne depositum adpellati abnegarent.*

- *adfirmabant* from *adfirmo, adfirmare* is 3rd plural imperfect active indicative, meaning to affirm.
- *fuisse* is the perfect active infinitive. Sets off indirect speech with *hanc*.
- *essent soliti* from *soleo, solere, solitus sum* is 3rd plural pluperfect passive subjunctive, meaning to be accustomed to. This is subjunctive because it's a relative inside of indirect speech.
- *conuenire, dicere, and obstringere* are taken by *essent soliti* and are present active infinitive, meaning to assemble, to sing, and to bind respectively.
- *committerent* from *commito, committere* is 3rd plural imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to commit. This is subjunctive because it's an indirect command.
- *fallerent* from *fallo, fallere, fefelli, falsus* is 3rd plural imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to deceive.
- *adpellati* from *adpello, adpellare* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to call (upon).
- *abnegarent* from *abnego, abnegare, abnegavi, abnegatus* is 3rd plural imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to deny.

They were affirming however that this had been the highest of either their own blame or error, which they had become accustomed to assemble before light on a having been fixed day, and to sing a song mutually with themselves to Christ as if to a god and to bind themselves by means of a solemn oath, not in some crime, but to not commit theft, robbery, or adultery, to not deceive loyalty, to, having been called upon, not deny a deposit.

18. *Quibus peractis morem sibi discedendi fuisse rursusque coeundi ad capiendum cibum, promiscuum tamen et innoxium; quod ipsum facere desisse post edictum meum, quo secundum mandata tua hetaerias esse uetueram.*

- *peractis* from *perago, peragere* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to disturb.
- *fuisse* is the perfect infinitive. This is the historical infinitive. Or there is some hijinks going on, and I don't like it.
- *discedendi* from *discedo, discere, didici, discitus* is the genitive gerund, meaning to depart.
- *coeundi* from *coeo, coire* is the genitive gerund, meaning to come together.
- *capiendum* from *capio, capere, cepi, captus* is the gerundive modifying *cibum*, meaning to seize.
- *facere* from *facio, facere, feci, factus* is the present active infinitive.
- *desisse* from *desino, desinere, desivi, desitus* (it's syncopated) is the perfect active infinitive. This is a historical infinitive.
- not sure what kind of ablative is *quo*.

- *uetueram* from *veto, vetare* is 1st singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to forbid.

With those things having been done it had been the custom of departing and returning again for the sake of seizing food, nevertheless common and harmless; which they themselves had desisted to do after my proclamation, by which, according to your orders, I had forbidden to be a brotherhood.

19. *Quo magis necessarium credidi ex duabus ancillis, quae ministrae dicebantur, quid esset ueri, et per tormenta quaerere.*

- *credidi* from *credo, credere, credidi, creditus* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to trust.
  - *dicebantur* from *dico, dicere, dixi, dictus* is 3rd plural imperfect passive indicative, meaning to say.
  - *esset* is 3rd singular imperfect active subjunctive.
  - *quaerere* from *quaero, quaerere, quaesivi, quaesitus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to seek.
- Because of those things I believed it more necessary to seek even through torture what were the true things from the two slave girls, who were called attendants.

20. *Nihil aliud inueni quam superstitionem prauam et immodicam.*

- *inueni* from *invenio, invenire, inveni, inventus* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to discover.

I discovered nothing other than a crooked and excessive superstition.

21. *Ideo dilata cognitione ad consulendum te decucurri.*

- *dilata cognitione* is an ablative absolute.
- *dilata* from *differo, differre, distuli, dilatus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to stop.
- *consulendum* from *consulo, consulere, consului, consultus* is the gerundive, meaning to consult.
- *decucurri* from *decurro, decurrere, decucurri, decursus* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to hurry.

Therefore with the examination having been stopped I hastened for the sake of consulting you.

22. *Visa est enim mihi res digna consultatione, maxime propter periclitantium numerum.*

- *visa est* from *video, videre, vidi, visus* is 3rd singular perfect passive indicative, meaning to see.
  - *periclitantium* from *periclitor, periclitari, periclitatus sum* is the present participle, meaning to try.
- For this affair seemed worthy of consultation, especially because of the number of risking people.

23. *Multi enim omnis aetatis, omnis ordinis, utriusque sexus etiam uocantur in periculum et uocabuntur.*

- *uocantur* from *voco, vocare* is 3rd plural present passive indicative, meaning to call.
  - *uocabuntur* from above is 3rd plural future passive indicative.
- For many people of every age, of every rank, and even of whichever sex are called into danger and [many people] shall be called.

24. *Neque ciuitates tantum, sed uicos etiam atque agros superstitionis istius contagio peruagata est; quae uidetur sisti et corrigi posse.*

- *peruagata est* from *pervagor, pervagari, pervagatus sum* is 3rd singular perfect indicative, meaning to wander or range through.
- *uidetur* from *video, videre, vidi, visus* is 3rd singular present passive indicative.
- *sisti* from *sisto, sistere, stiti, status* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to stop.
- *corrigi* from *corrigo, corrigere, correxi, correctus* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to correct.
- *posse* from *possum, posse, potui* is the present active infinitive, meaning to be able.

Not only the the cities, but also the villages and fields the influence of that superstition pervaded; which it seems that it is able to be stopped and be corrected.

25. *Certe satis constat prope iam desolata templa coepisse celebrari, et sacra sollemnia diu intermissa repeti passimque uenire <carne> uictimarum, cuius adhuc rarissimus emptor inueniebatur.*

- *constat* from *consto, constare, constitui, constatus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning it is agreed.
- *desolata* from *desolo, desolare* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to forsake. This modifies *templa*.
- *coepisse* from *coepio, coepere, coepi, coeptus* is the perfect active infinitive, meaning to begin. This sets off indirect speech with head verb *constat*.
- *celebrari* from *celebro, celebrare* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to crowd. Taken by *coepisse*.
- *intermissa* from *intermitto, intermittere* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to interrupt.
- *repeti* from *repeto, repetere, repetivi, repetitus* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to return to.
- *uenire* from *venio, venire, veni, ventus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to come.
- *inueniebatur* from *invenio, invenire* is 3rd singular imperfect passive indicative, meaning to find.

Certainly it is agreed enough that now the forsaken temples had begun to be crowded, and the sacred practices having been interrupted for a long time are returned to and the flesh of sacrifices comes in every direction, of which very few a buyer was begin found.

26. *Ex quo facile est opinari, quae turba hominum emendari possit, si sit paenitentiae locus.*

- *esse* is the present active infinitive.
- *opinari* from *opino, opinari, opinatus sum* is the present infinitive, meaning to suppose.
- *emendari* from *emendo, emendare* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to correct.
- *possit* from *possum, posse, potui* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive, meaning to be able.
- *sit* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive.
- This is looking future-less-vividly, but the relative is throwing me off a tad.  
From which it is easy to imagine, what things a crowd of men would be able to be corrected, if there should be a location for penance.

## (XX.) C. Plinius Tacito Suo S.

*Letter to Tacitus of the experience of Pliny and his mother during the eruption of Versuvius.*

1. *Ais te adductum litteris quas exigenti tibi de morte avunculi mei scripsi cupere cognoscere quos ego Miseni relictus (id enim ingressus abruperam) non solum metus verum etiam casus pertulerim.*

- *ais* from *aio* is 2nd singular present active indicative, meaning to say.
- *adductum* from *adduco, adducere, adduxi, adductus* is the p.p.p., meaning to lead up/to/away. This is modifying *te*.
- *litteris* is a ablative of means.
- The antecedent of *quas* is *litteris*.
- *exigenti* from *exigo, exigere, exegi, exactus* is the present active participle, meaning to drive out. This fits with *tibi*.
- *avunculi mei* is a genitive of possession.
- *scripsi* from *scibo, scribere, scripsi, scriptus* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to write.

- *cupere* from *cupio, cupere, cupivi, cupitus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to wish/long/be eager for. I think this sets off indirect speech.
- *cognoscere* from *cognosco, cognoscere, cognovi, cognitus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to become acquainted with.
- *Miseni* is Locative.
- *relictus* from *relinquo, relinquere, reliqui, relictus* is the p.p.p., meaning to leave behind.
- *ingressus* from *ingredior, ingredi, ingressus sum* is the perfect participle, meaning to begin.
- *abruperam* from *abrumpo, abrumpere, abrui, abruptus* is 1st singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to break.
- *non solum... verum etiam* is a construction meaning ‘not only... but also’
- *pertulerim* from *perfero, perferre, pertuli, perlatus* is 1st singular perfect active subjunctive, meaning to carry through/endure to the end. This is subjunctive because it’s indirect question.  
You say that you desire, having been led by the letter which I wrote to you demanding about the death of my uncle, to know (For having begun I had broke off it) not only the fears but also the calamities which I, having been abandoned at Misenum, endured.

2. *‘Quamquam animus meminisse horret, incipiam.’*

- Quote from line 4 of the Aeneid.
- *meminisse* from *memini, meminisse* is the perfect active infinitive, meaning to remember.
- *horret* from *horreo, horrere, horruī* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to dread.
- *incipiam* from *incipio, incipere, incepi, inceptus* is 1st singular future active indicative, meaning to begin.  
‘although my mind dreads to remember it, I will begin.’

3. *Profecto avunculo ipse reliquum tempus studiis (ideo enim remanseram) inpendi:*

- *profecto* from *proficiscor, proficisci, profectus sum* is the perfect participle, meaning to depart. *profecto avunculo* therefore is ablative absolute.
- *studiis* is probably dative of reference.
- *remanseram* from *remaneo, remanere, remanui, remansus* is 1st singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to remain.
- When desperately trying to make sense of this sentence, I found in Traupman that *inp = imp*, so then *inpendo* → *impendo*.
- *inpendo* from *impendo, impendere, impendi, impensus* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to spend.

With uncle having departed I myself spent the remaining time (indeed for the reason that I had remained) on studies.

4. *mox balineum, cena, somnus inquietus et brevis.*

- *asyndeton* describes this phenomena of having no conjunctions (i.e. the *et* we want so dearly)  
Soon bath, dinner, a restless and short sleep.

5. *Praecesserat per multos dies tremor terrae minus formidolosus quia Campaniae solitus.*

- *praecesserat* from *praecedo, praecedere, praecessi, praecessus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to go before.
- *solitus* from *soleo, solere, solitus sum* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to be in the habit of.  
The trembling of the earth, less scary because (it is) usual for Campania, had preceded for many days.



6. *Illa vero nocte ita invaluit ut non moveri omnia sed verti crederentur.*

- **Not sure what *vero* is doing here. . .**
- *illa vero nocte* is an ablative of time at which.
- *invaluit* from *invalesco, invalescere, invalui* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to grown strong.
- *moveri* from *moveo, movere, movi, motusu* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to move.
- *verti* from *verto, vertere, verti, versus* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to turn.
- *crederentur* from *credo, credere, credidi, creditus* is 3rd plural imperfect passive subjunctive, meaning to believe. This is subjunctive because it's in a result clause introduced by *ut*. Also signified by the *ut*. In truth at that night it thus grew stronger so that all things might be believed to not move but to be overthrown.

7. *Inrumpit cubiculum meum mater:*

- *inrumpit* from *inrumpeo, inrumpere, inrupi, inruptus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to burst into.
- Note *meum* goes with *cubiculum* gender wise, but whose other mother would it be.  
My mother burst into my bedroom:

8. *surgebam, invicem, si quiesceret, excitaturus.*

- *surgebam* from *surgo, surgere, surrexi, surrectus* is 1st singular imperfect active indicative, meaning to lift.
- *quiesceret* from *quiesco, quiescere, quievi, quietus* is 3rd singular imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to rest. This is in the protasis of a present contrary to fact conditional.
- *excitaturus* from *excito, excitare, excitavi, excitatus* is the future active participle, meaning to wake up  
I was rising, in turn going to wake her up, if she were sleeping.

9. *Residimus in area domus, quae mare a tectis modico spatio dividebat.*

- *residimus* from *resido, residere, residui* is 1st plural perfect active indicative, meaning to sit down.
- *area* is ablative, *domus* is genitive.
- *dividebat* from *divido, dividere, divisi, divisus* is 3rd singular imperfect active indicative, meaning to divide.
- *modico spatio* is an ablative of means.  
We sat down in the courtyard of the house, which was dividing the sea from the houses with a small space.

10. *Dubito constantiam vocare an imprudentiam debeam; agebam enim duodevicesimum annum: posco librum Titi Livi et quasi per otium lego atque etiam, ut coeperam, excerpo.*

- *dubito* from *dubito, dubitare, dubitavi, dubitatus* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to doubt.
- *vocare* from *voco, vocare, vocavi, vocatus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to call.
- *debeam* from *debeo, debere, debui, debitus* is 1st singular present active subjunctive, meaning to owe. This is subjunctive because this is an indirect question.
- *agebam* from *ago, agere, egi, actus* is 1st singular imperfect active indicative, meaning to drive.
- *posco* from *posco, poscere, poposci* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to ask.
- *lego* from *lego, legere, legi, lectus* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to read (or to bequeath).

- *coeperam* from *coepio, coepere, coepi, coeptus* is 1st singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to begin.
- *excerpo* from *excerpo, excerpere, excerpsi, excerptus* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to pick out. Lewis and Short says it can be translated as ‘to make extracts’.

I doubt whether I ought to call it perserverance or ignorance; for I was spending my 18th year: I ask for a book of Titus Livus and as if during leisure I read it and in addition, as I had began, make extracts.

11. *Ecce, amicus avunculi, qui nuper ad eum ex Hispania venerat, ut me et matrem sedentes, me vero etiam legentem videt, illius patientiam, securitatem meam corripit: nihilo segnius ego intentus in librum.*

- *venerat* from *venio, venire, veni, ventus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to come.
- *sedentes* from *sedeo, sedere, sedi, sessus* is the present active participle, meaning to sit.
- *legentem* from *lego, legere, legi, lectus* is the present active participle, meaning to read.
- *videt* from *video, videre, vidi, visus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to see.
- *corripit* from *corripio, corripere, corripui, correptus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to censure.
- *intentus* is

Look, a friend of uncle, who recently had come from Spain to him, as he sees me and my mother sitting, in truth me even reading, he censures the patience of that one, my carelessness: by nothing sluggish I am eager about the book.

12. *Iam hora diei prima, et adhuc dubius et quasi languidus dies.*

13. *Iam quassatis circumiacentibus tectis, quamquam in aperto loco, angusto tamen, magnus et certus ruinae metus.*

14. *Tum demum excedere oppido visum: sequitur vulgus attonitum, quodque in pavore simile prudentiae, alienum consilium suo praeferit ingentique agmine abeuntis premit et inpellit.*

15. *Egressi tecta consistimus.*

16. *Multa ibi miranda, multas formidines patimur.*

17. *Nam vehicula quae produci iusseramus, quamquam in planissimo campo, in contrarias patres agebantur ac ne lapidibus quidem fulta in eodem vestigio quiescebant.*

18. *Praeterea mare in se resorberi et tremore terrae quasi repelli videbamus.*

19. *Certe processerat litus multaque animalia maris siccis harenis detinebat.*

20. *Ab altero latere nubes atra et horrenda ignei spiritus tortis vibratibusque discursibus rupta in longas flammarum figuras dehiscibat: fulguribus illae et similes et maiores erant.*

21. *Tum vero idem ille ex Hispania amicus acrius et instantius ‘si frater’ inquit ‘tuus, tuus avunculus vivit, vult esse vos salvos.’*

- *acrius* and *instantius* are comparative adverbs, meaning sharply and vehemently respectively.
- *tuus, tuus* is a chiasmus.
- *vivit* from *vivo, vivere, vixi, victus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to live.
- *vult* from *volo, velle, volui* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to wish. This takes *esse* as a complimentary infinitive.

Then in truth that same friend from Spain said more sharply and vehemently ‘if your father, your uncle lives, he wishes you to be safe.’

22. *‘si periit, superstites voluit.’*

- *periit* from *pereo, perire, perivi(ii), peritus* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to die.
- I took the *esse vos* from the previous part as implied, and made *superstites* substantative.

If he has died, he wished you to be a surviving person:

23. *‘proinde quid cessatis evadere?’*

- *quid* is the interrogative pronoun here.
- *cessatis* from *cesso, cessare* is 2nd plural present active indicative, meaning to hold back.
- *evadere* from *evado, evadere, evasi, evasus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to evade.  
‘So then why do you all delay to escape?’

24. *Respondimus non commissuros nos ut de salute illius incerti nostrae consuleremus.*

- *respondimus* from *respondeo, respondere, respondi, responsus* is 1st plural perfect active indicative, meaning to answer.
- *commissuros* from *committo, committere, commisi, commissus* is the future active participle, meaning to bring together.
- *consuleremus* from *consulo, consulere, consului, consultus* is 1st plural imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to consult. This is a jussive noun clause. We must also add a *saluti* to fit with this.  
We replied that we are not going to unite so as we might consult for our safety uncertain concerning the safety of that man.

25. *Non moratus ultra proripit se effusoque cursu periculo aufertur.*

- *moratus* from *moro, morari, moratus sum* is the perfect participle, meaning to delay.
- *ultra* here is the adverbial usage, not prepositional.
- *proripit* from *proripio, proripere, proripui, proreptus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning snatch away.
- *effuso* from *effundo, effundere, effudi, effusus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to pour forth.
- *periculo* is a dative of reference and *effuso cursu* is an ablative of manner.
- *aufertur* from *aufero, auferre, abstuli, ablatus* is 3rd singular present passive indicative, meaning to bear/carry/take away/off.

Not having delayed further he drags himself away and is carried away from danger with a poured fourth run.

26. *Nec multo post illa nubes descendere in terras, operire maria: cinxerat Capreas et absconderat: Miseni quod procurrit abstulerat.*

- *multo* is an ablative of degree of difference.
- Note: I cannot put the *multo* into the *post* because it doesn’t agree in gender with *illa*.
- *descendere* from *descendo, descendere, descendi, descensus* is 3rd plural perfect active indicative, meaning to descend.
- *operire* from *operio, operire, operui, opertus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to cover.
- Both of the infinitives are historical infinitives.
- *cinxerat* from *cingo, cingere, cinxi, cinctus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to surround.
- *absconderat* from *abscondo, abscondere, abscondi, absconditus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to conceal.
- *procurrit* from *procurro, procurrare, pro(cu)curri, procursum* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to jut forth.
- *abstulerat* from *aufero, auferre, abstuli, ablatus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to bear/carry/take away/off.
- To translate this last part we must insert an *id*. *Miseni* is a locative.

Nor after those things by much were the clouds descending onto the lands, covering the seas: it had surrounded Capri and had concealed it: it had carried away that which juts forth at Misenum.

27. *Tum mater orare, hortari, iubere quoquo modo fugerem; posse enim iuvenem, se et annis et corpore grave bene morituram, si mihi causa mortis non fuisset.*

- This string of infinitives are historical infinitives.
- *orare* from *oro*, *orare* is the present active infinitive, meaning to beg.
- *hortari* from *hortor*, *hortari*, *hortatus sum* is the present infinitive, meaning to urge.
- *iubere* from *iubeo*, *iubere*, *iussi*, *iussus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to order. Normally this takes an infinitive, except in post-classical Latin, which is where Pliny is.
- *fugerem* is an indirect command.
- *posse* from *possum*, *posse*, *potui* is the present active infinitive.
- *annis* and *corpore* are ablative of respect.
- *morituram* from *morior*, *moriri*, *moritus sum* is the future participle, meaning to die.
- *fuisset* from *sum*, *esse*, *fui*, *futurus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active subjunctive. This is subjunctive because it's in a subordinate inside of indirect speech.
- Notice that *causa* is predicate nominative.

Then my mother begged, urged, and ordered me to flee in whichever way; that indeed I could as a young man, she both heavy in years and body would die well, if the cause of death for me had not been her.

28. *Ego contra salvum me nisi una non futurum: dein manum eius amplexus, addere gradum cogo.*

- *futurum* from *sum*, *esse*, *fui*, *futurus* is the future active participle, meaning to be.
- *amplexus* from *amplector*, *amplecti*, *amplexus sum* is the perfect participle, meaning to clasp.
- *addere* from *addo*, *addere*, *addidi*, *additus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to increase.
- *cogo* from *cogo*, *cogere*, *coegi*, *coactus* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to compel.

I, in turn, say that I would not be safe if not together: then having clasped her hand, I compel her to increase her pace.

29. *Paret aegre incusatque se quod me moretur.*

- *paret* from *pareo*, *parere*, *parui*, *paritus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to obey.
- *incusat* from *incuso*, *incusare* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to accuse.
- *moretur* from *moror*, *morari*, *moratus sum* is 3rd singular present subjunctive, meaning to delay. This is subjunctive of alleged reason (this usually appears in quod clause).

She obeys with difficulty and accuses herself because she delays me.

30. *Iam cinis, adhuc tamen rarus: respicio, densa caligo tergis imminebat, quae nos torrentis modo infusa terrae sequebatur.*

- *respicio* from *respicio*, *respicere*, *respexi*, *respectus* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to look back at.
- *imminebat* from *immineo*, *imminere* is 3rd singular imperfect active indicative, meaning to threaten. This takes a dative, which is why *tergis* is dative.
- *infusa* from *infundo*, *infundere*, *infudi*, *infusus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to pour, this takes a dative which is *terrae* here. *infusa terrae* is in the nominative case.
- *sequebatur* from *sequor*, *sequi*, *secutus sum* is 3rd singular imperfect indicative, meaning to follow.
- *modo* is an ablative of manner.

Now ash, thus far nevertheless is thin: I look back, the dense darkness was threatening our backs, which, having been poured on the land, was bollowing us with the manner of a torrent.

31. *'Deflectamus' inquam 'dum videmus ne in via strati comitantium turba in tenebris obteramur.'*

- *deflectamus* from *deflecto, deflectere, deflexi, deflexus* is 1st plural present active subjunctive, meaning to band downward. I think this is an independent usage, namely hortatory.
- *strati* from *sterno, sternere, stravi, stratus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to scatter.
- *comitantium* from *commeo, commeare, commeavi, commeatus* (this is a frequentitive form) is the present active participle, meaning to follow.
- *obteramur* from *obtero, obterere, obtrivi, obtritrus* is 1st plural present passive subjunctive, meaning to crush. This is subjunctive because it's in a negative purpose clause set off by *ne*.

I said 'Let us change course while we see lest we are flattned by the crowd of those following on the road and we are crushed in the shadows.

32. *Vix consideramus, et nox, non qualis inlunis aut nubila, sed qualis in locis clausis lumine extincto.*

- *consideramus* from *consido, considerare, considi, consessus* is 1st plural present active indicative, meaning to sit down.
- Here *qualis* takes on it's relative meaning, meaning 'like'. I couldn't find a coordinating meaning for *qualis...qualis*.
- *extincto* from *extinguo, extinguere, extinxi, extinctus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to extinguish. *lumine extincto* is an ablative absolute.

We hardly had sat down, when the night, not like moonless or cloudy, but like in enclosed places with the light having been extinguished.

33. *Audires ululatus feminarum, infantum quiritatus, clamores virorum:*

- *Audires* from *audio, audire, audiui, auditus* is 2nd singular imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to hear. This is subjunctive because it's a potential independent usage.
- Both *feminarum, quiritatus* and *virorum* are subjective genitives.

You would be hearing the women's shrieks, the children's wails, the men's shouts.

34. *alii parentes, alii liberos, alii coniuges vocibus requirebant, vocibus noscitabant: hi suum casum, illi suorum miserabantur: erant qui metu mortis mortem precarentur: multi ad deos manus tollere, plures nusquam iam deos ullos, aeternamque illam et novissimam noctem mundo interpretabantur.*

- *vocibus* is an ablative of means.
- *requirebant* from *requiro, requirere, requisivi, requisitus* is 3rd plural imperfect active indicative, meaning to pine for.
- *noscitabant* from *noscito, noscitare* is 3rd plural imperfect active indicative, meaning to recognize.
- *miserabantur* from *miseror, miserari, miseratus sum* is 3rd plural imperfect indicative, meaning to pity.
- *erant* is 3rd plural imperfect active indicative.
- *metu* is an ablative of cause.
- *precarentur* from *precor, precari, precatus sum* is 3rd plural imperfect subjunctive, meaning to beg. This is a relative clause of characteristic, which can be seen as there is an indefinte antecedent.
- *tollere* from *tollo, tollere, sustuli, sublatus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to lift. I think this is a historical infinitive.
- *plures* is the comparative of *multus*.
- I think there is an implicit *esse* in the sentence, which sets off indirect speech from *interpretabantur*.
- *mundo* I think is a dative of possessor.

- *interpretabantur* from *interpretor, interpretari, interpretatus sum* is 3rd plural imperfect indicative, meaning to explain/interpret.

some were seeking parents, others children, others spouses with their voices, they were recognizing them by their voices: These were feeling sorry for their own plight, those were feeling sorry of themselves; there were people of the sort who were begging for death because of the fear of death: many were raising their hands to the gods, many more were interpreting that now any gods were nowhere, and it was that eternal and last night for the world.

35. *Nec defuerunt qui fictis mentitisque terroribus vera pericula auferent.*

- *defuerunt* from *desum, deesse, defui, defuturus* is 3rd plural perfect active indicative, meaning to be wanting/lacking. litotes
- *fictis mentitisque terroribus* is an ablative absolute.
- *fictis* from *finco, fingere, finxi, fictus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to make up.
- *mentitis* from *mentior, mentiri, mentitus sum* is the perfect participle, meaning to lie/deceive/invent.
- *auferent* from *augeo, augere, auxi, auctus* is 3rd plural imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to increase/augment. This is subjunctive because it's a relative clause of characteristic.

Nor were they absent of the sort who might augment the genuine dangers with false and invented terrors.

36. *Aderant qui Miseni illud ruisse, illud ardere, falso sed credentibus, nuntiabant.*

- *aderant* from *adsum, edesse, adfui, adfuturus* is 3rd plural imperfect active indicative, meaning to be near/present.
- *ruisse* from *ruo, ruere, rui, rutus* is the perfect active infinitive, meaning to destroy/ruin.
- *ardere* from *ardeo, ardere, arsi, arsus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to be on fire or to burn.
- The above two infinitives are setting off indirect speech.
- *falso sed credentibus* is an ablative absolute.
- *credentibus* from *credo, credere, credidi, creditus* is the present active participle, meaning to trust.
- *nuntiabant* from *nuntio, nuntiare, nuntiavi, nuntiatus* is 3rd plural imperfect active indicative, meaning to announce/report/convey/deliver.

They were present who, were announcing, falsely but to the believing people, that at Miseni that had fallen, that was on fire.

37. *Paulum reluxit; quod non dies nobis sed adventantis ignis indicium videbatur.*

- *paulum* here is the adverbial usage.
- *reluxit* from *reluceo, relucere, reluxi, -* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to grow bright again.
- *adventantis* from *advento, adventare, adventavi, adventatus* is the present active participle, meaning to approach.
- *videbatur* from *video, videre, vidi, visus* is 3rd singular imperfect passive indicative, meaning to seem. The note says to translate this as *was seen* not *seemed*.  
it grew somewhat brighter again; which was seen to us not as day, but a sign of approaching fire.

38. *Et ignis quidem longius substitit, tenebrae rursus, cinis rursus multus et gravis.*

- *longius* is the comparative adverb from *longe, longius, longissime*.
- *substitit* from *subsisto, subsistere, substiti* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to halt.
- *tenebrae* is plural nominative, but it means darkness then.  
and indeed the fire halted more distantly, the darkness again, the ash again much and heavy.

39. *Hunc identidem adsurgentes excutiebamur: operi alioqui atque etiam oblisi pondere essemus.*

- *adsurgentes* from *adsurgo, adsurgere, adsurrexi, adsurrectus* is the present active participle, meaning to rise/stand up.
- *excutiebamur* from *excutio, excutere, excussi, excussus* is 1st plural imperfect active indicative, meaning to shake out/off.
- *operi* from *operio, operire, operui, opertus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to cover/bury.
- *oblisi essemus* from *oblido, oblidere, oblisi, oblisus* is 1st plural pluperfect passive subjunctive, meaning to crush.
- *operi essemus* from *operio, operire, operui, opertus* is 1st plural pluperfect passive subjunctive, meaning to cover/bury. This, and the previous verb, are an independent usage, the potential.
- *pondere* is an ablative of cause.

We repeatedly rising were shaking off this [ash]: otherwise we would have been buried and furthermore crushed because of the weight.

40. *Possem gloriari non gemitum mihi, non vocem parum fortem in tantis periculis excidissem, nisi me cum omnibus, omnia mecum perire misero, magno tamen mortalitatis solacio credidissem.*

- *possem* from *possum, posse, potui* is 1st singular imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to be able.
- *gloriari* from *glorior, gloriari, gloriatus sum* is the present infinitive, meaning to boast/brag.
- *mihi* is a dative of separation. *excidissem* takes the dative.
- *excidissem* from *excideo, excidere, excidi, excissus* is the perfect active infinitive, meaning to demolish/destroy.
- *perire* from *pereo, perire, perivi, peritus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to die.
- *mortalitatis* is an objective genitive.
- *credidissem* from *credo, credere, credidi, creditus* is 1st singular pluperfect active subjunctive, meaning to trust.

I might be able to boast that no groan, no insufficiently courageous voice had escaped from me in so great dangers, except I might have believed that I was dying with everything else, all things were perishing with myself with wretched, yet great comfort of mortality.

41. *Tandem illa caligo tenuata quasi in fumum nebulamve discessit: mox dies verus, sol etiam effulsit, luridus tamen, qualis esse, cum deficit, solet.*

- *tenuata* from *tenuo, tenuare* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to make thin.
  - *discessit* from *dicedo, discedere, discessi, discessus* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to depart.
  - *effulsit* from *effulgeo, effulgere, effulsi* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to glitter.
  - *deficit* from *deficio, deficere, defeci, defectus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to fail.
  - *solet* from *soleo, solere, solitus sum* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to be accustomed.
- Finally that having been reduced darkness withdrew as if into smoke or mist: Soon genuine day, even the sun shone forth, yet murky, as it is accustomed to be when it is an eclipse.

42. *Occursabant trepidantibus adhuc oculis mutata omnia altoque cinere, tamquam nive, obducta.*

- *occursabant* from *occurro, occursare, occursavi, occursatus* is 3rd plural imperfect active indicative, meaning to run forth to meet.
- The book has *trepidantibus* (present participle from *trepido, trepidare, trepidavi, trepidatus*, meaning to tremble) as a hypallage, i.e. a modifier is syntactically linked to an item other than the one that it modifies semantically 'restless night'.

- *mutata* from *muto, mutare* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to move.
  - *obducta* from *obduco, obducere, obdixi, obductus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to cover over. All things, having been moved and covered by deep ash, just like snow, were running forth to meet with yet trembling eyes.
43. *Regressi Misenum, curatis utcumque corporibus suspensam dubiamque noctem spe ac metu exegimus.*
- *regressi* from *regredior, regredi, regressus sum* is the perfect participle, meaning to return.
  - *curatis* from *curo, curare* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to attend to. *curatis corporibus* is an ablative absolute.
  - *exegimus* from *exigo, exigere, exegi, exactus* is 1st plural perfect active indicative, meaning to examine. Having returned to Miseni, with bodies somehow having been healed we passed the suspenseful and doubtful night because of hope and fear.
44. *Metus praevalēbat: nam et tremor terrae perseverabat et plerique lymphati terrificis vaticinationibus et sua et aliena mala ludificabantur.*
- *praevalēbat* from *praevaleo, praevalere, praevalui* is 3rd singular imperfect active indicative, meaning to prevail.
  - *perseverabat* from *persevero, perseverare* is 3rd singular imperfect active indicative, meaning to persist.
  - *lymphati* from *lympho, lymphare* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to derange, drive crazy.
  - *terrificis vaticinationibus* is ablative of means.
  - *ludificabantur* from *ludificor, ludificari, ludificatus sum* is 3rd plural imperfect passive indicative, meaning to make fun/sport of.
- Fear was prevailing: for both the trembling of the earth was persisting and many having been frenzied were deluding both their own and others misfortunes by means of terrifying prophecies,
45. *Nobis tamen ne tunc quidem, quamquam et expertis periculum et exspectantibus, abeundi consilium, donec de avunculo nuntius.*
- *ne... quidem* = ‘not even’.
  - *exspectantibus* from *exspecto, exspectare* is the present active participle, meaning to lookout for, await; expect, anticipate.
  - *abeundi* from *abeo, abire, abivi, abitus* is the future passive participle, meaning to depart. This is the gerund.
- Nevertheless not even then did we have a plan of departing, although both having experienced danger and expecting it, until the message concerning our uncle.
46. *Haec nequaquam historia digna non scripturus leges et tibi, scilicet qui requisisti, inputabis, si digna ne epistula quidem videbuntur.*
- *digna* takes an ablative.
  - *scripturus* from *scribo, scribere, scripsi, scriptus* is the future active participle, meaning to write.
  - *leges* from *lego, legere, legi, lectus* is 2nd singular future active indicative, meaning to read.
  - *requisisti* from *requiro, requirere, requisivi, requisistus* is 2nd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to require.
  - *inputabis* from *imputo, imputare* is 2nd singular future active indicative, meaning to charge.
  - *videbuntur* from *video, videre, vidi, visus* is 3rd plural future passive indicative, meaning to seem.
- You, not intending to write, shall read these things by no means worthy of history, of course which you asked for, and you will charge yourself, if they seem not even worthy of the letter.



47. *Vale*.

- *vale* from *valeo, valere, valui, valitus* is the present active imperative, meaning to be strong, but also is a farewell in this form.  
Farewell.