



National
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**Latin
Prescribed Text
Cicero In Verrem IV**

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Cicero In Verrem IV

Extract 1

In Latin

Herculis templum est apud Agrigentinos non longe a foro sane sanctum apud illos et religiosum. ibi est ex aere simulacrum ipsius Herculis, quo non facile dixerim quicquam me vidisse pulchrius (tametsi non tam multum in istis rebus intellego, quam multa vidi), usque eo, iudices, ut rictum eius ac mentum paulo sit attritius, quod in precibus et gratulationibus non solum id venerari, verum etiam osculari solent. ad hoc templum, cum esset iste Agrigenti, duce Timarchide repente nocte intempesta servorum armatorum fit concursus atque impetus. clamor a vigilibus fanique custodibus tollitur; qui primo cum obsistere ac defendere conarentur, male mulcati clavis ac fustibus repelluntur.

Extract 2

In English

After that, the attackers smashed the bolts, broke down the doors and tried to pull down the statue, using crowbars to work it loose. Meanwhile, after the alarm, the news spread throughout the city that the ancestral gods were under attack, not by an unexpected enemy invasion, or a sudden pirate raid, but by a well equipped and armed gang of runaway slaves that had come from the governor's household and staff.

Extract 3

In Latin

nemo Agrigenti neque aetate tam adfecta neque viribus tam infirmis fuit, qui non illa nocte eo nuntio excitatus surrexerit telumque, quod cuique fors offerebat, arripuerit. itaque brevi tempore ad fanum ex urbe tota concurritur. horam amplius iam in demoliendo signo permulti homines moliebantur; illud interea nulla lababat ex parte, cum alii vectibus subietis conarentur commovere, alii deligatum omnibus membris rapere ad se funibus: ac repente Agrigentini concurrunt; fit magna lapidatio; dant sese in fugam istius praeclari imperatoris nocturni milites. duo tamen sigilla perparvola tollunt, ne omnino inanes ad istum praedonem religionum revertantur. numquam tam male est Siculis, quin aliquid facete et commode dicant, velut in hac re aiebant in labores Herculis non minus hunc immanissimum verrem quam illum aprum Erymanthium referri oportere.

Extract 4

Verres arrives in Tyndaris and demands a valuable statue of Mercury. Since this order seemed outrageous to those who were there and unbelievable to those who heard it, Verres did not persist on that first visit.

In English

But as he was leaving, he ordered their chief magistrate, Sopater, whose words you have heard, to take down the statue. When he refused, Verres threatened him violently and immediately left that town. Sopater referred the matter to the senate; there was vigorous protest on all sides. To cut a long story short, some time later, Verres came to them a second time. Straightaway, he asked about the statue. He was told that the senate had not given permission; that the death penalty had been imposed if anyone laid a hand on it without the Senate's orders. Respect for the gods was also mentioned.

Then came Verres' reply: "Why are you talking to me about respect for the gods? What respect for the gods? What penalties? What senate? I will not let you get away with your
10 life. You will be beaten to death, if you do not hand over the statue to me." Once again, in tears, Sopater reported back to the senate. He described that man's greed and his threats. The senate gave Sopater no answer, but dispersed, dismayed and alarmed. Sopater was summoned by a message from the governor. He informed him of the situation and said that it was absolutely impossible.

15 And this took place – for I do not think I should miss out any aspect of that man's arrogance – in open court, while Verres was sitting in his official chair on a raised platform. It was the depths of winter. The weather was, as you have heard Sopater himself say, bitterly cold; and heavy rain was falling, when Verres ordered his lictors to throw Sopater headlong
20 down into the forum from the portico, where he himself was sitting, and to strip him naked.

Scarcely had he given this order than you could see Sopater stripped and surrounded by the lictors. Everyone thought this unlucky and innocent man was going to be beaten to death. But their thoughts deceived them. Would Verres beat a friend and ally of the Roman
25 people for no reason? He was not as wicked as that. Not all vices were to be found in that one man. He was never cruel. He treated the man with gentleness and kindness.

Extract 5

In Latin

equestres sunt medio in foro Marcellorum statuae, sicut fere ceteris in oppidis Siciliae; ex quibus iste C. Marcelli statuam delegit, cuius officia in illam civitatem totamque provinciam recentissima erant et maxima. in ea Sopatrum, hominem cum domi nobilem, tum summo magistratu praeditum, divaricari ac deligari iubet. quo cruciatu sit adfectus,
5 venire in mentem necesse est omnibus, cum esset vinctus nudus in aere, in imbri, in frigore. neque tamen finis huic iniuriae crudelitatisque fiebat, donec populus atque universa multitudo atrocitate rei misericordiaeque commota senatum clamore coegit, ut isti simulacrum illud Mercuri polliceretur. clamabant fore ut ipsi sese di immortales ulciscerentur; hominem interea perire innocentem non oportere. tum frequens senatus ad
10 istum venit, pollicetur signum. ita Sopater de statua C. Marcelli, cum iam paene obriguisset, vix vivus aufertur.

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