C. Plīnius Tacitō suō s. 1

Petis ut tibi avunculī meī exitum scrībam, quō vērius trādere posterīs possīs. Grātiās agō; nam videō mortī eius, sī celebrētur ā tē, immortālem glōriam esse prōpositam. **2.** Quamvīs enim pulcherrimārum clāde terrārum, ut populī ut urbēs memorābilī cāsū, quasi semper vīctūrus occiderit, quamvīs ipse plūrima 5 opera et mānsūra condiderit, multum tamen perpetuitātī eius scrīptōrum tuōrum aeternitās addet. **3.** Equidem beātōs putō, quibus deōrum mūnere datum est aut facere scrībenda aut scrībere legenda, beātissimōs vērō quibus utrumque. Hōrum in numerō avunculus meus et suīs librīs et tuīs erit. Quō libentius suscipiō, dēposcō etiam quod iniungis. 10

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addō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: add, give in addition, 2
aeternitās, -tātis f.: eternity
beātus, -a, -um: blessed, happy, 3
celebrō (1): celebrate, visit frequently
clādes, -is f.: disaster, destruction, loss
dēposcō, -ere, poposcī: ask, request, demand
exitus, -ūs m.: exit, destruction, death; result, 3
glōria, -ae f.: glory, fame
grātia, -ae f.: thanks, gratitude, favor, 3
immortālis, -e: immortal
iniungō, -ere, -xī, -ctum: enjoin, impose, join on
libenter: gladly, willingly (*comp*. libentius)
memorābilis, -e: memorable, remarkable
mūnus, -eris n.: gift, duty; function
numerus, -ī m.: number
occidō, -ere, -cidī, -cāsum m.: fall, die, perish, 3
perpetuitās, -tātis f.: perpetuity
plūrimus, -a, -um: very many, most, 2
posterus, -a, -um: following, next, 2
prōpōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positum: propose, 2
quamvīs: although, as much as you wish, 2
semper: always, forever
suscipiō, -ere, -cēpī: undertake, take up, 2
Tacitus, -ī m.: Tacitus, 2
trādō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: hand over
vīvō, -ere, vīxī, vīctum: live, 3

1 **C. Plīnius Tacitō suō s(alūtem dīcit)**: *Gaius Plinius (sends greetings) to his Tacitus*; letters usually begin with a nom. and dat. ind. object. The words 'salūtem dīcit' are often abbreviated.

2 **ut...scrībam**: *that I...*; ind. command with 1s pres. subj. governed by 2s petō, 'ask' or 'seek'
tibi: *to..., for...*; dat. of ind. obj. or interest
quō...possīs: *so that more truly...you may..*; purpose clause with 2s pres. subj. possum; quō (=ut eō, 'so that by this') often replaces ut in a purpose clause containing a comparative (adv.)
posterīs: *to posterity*; i.e. the future; dat. i.o.

3 **Grātiās agō**: *I give thanks*; a common idiom
mortī eius immortālem glōriam esse prōpositam: *that...*; ind. disc. with glōriam as acc. subject with pf. pass. inf. prōpōnō
mortī eius: *for...*; dat. of interest or ind. obj; eius, 'his,' is a gen. sg. of pronoun is, ea, id
sī celebrētur ā tē: *if he is...*; pres. pass. subj. of subordinate verb in ind. disc.

4 **Quamvīs...occiderit**: *although he fell.*; concessive clause with pf. subj. occidō
(in) clāde terrārum pulcherrimārum ut populī (occidērunt) ut urbēs (occidērunt): *just as...(and) just as...*; ut introduces a clause of comparison: supply the missing verb

5 **(in) memorābilī cāsū**: abl. place where with an i-stem 3rd decl. adj.
quasi...vīctūrus: *as if going to live forever*; conditional clause of comparison; fut. pple vīvō
(et) quamvīs...condiderit: *and although...*; 2nd concessive clause with pf. subj. condō (cum + do = 'put together'); translate as pf.
ipse: *he himself*; i.e. the uncle

6 **mānsūra**: *going to remain*; i.e. enduring; fut. pple maneō with opera, neut. pl. acc. of opus
multum: *much*; acc. obj.
tamen: *nevertheless*; begins the main clause following the two concessive clauses
perpetuitātī eius: dat. ind. obj. with fut. addet eius, 'his,' is gen. sg. and refers to the uncle
scrīptōrum tuōrum: *of your writings*; 'of things written' neut. PPP scrībō used as a noun

7 **aeternitās**: fut. addō (ad + dō)
addet: fut. addō (ad + dō)
Equidem: *I for my part*; = 'e(go) quidem'
beātōs putō, quibus...datum est: *I think blessed (those) to whom...it is granted*; putō

governs a double acc. (acc. obj. and acc. pred.) the second accusative is missing and must be supplied as antecedent of quibus (dat. of interest); pf. pass. dō here means 'grant,' 'allow,' or 'give (power)' instead of 'give'
deōrum mūnere: *by...*; abl. of means

8 **aut facere...aut scrībere...**: *either...or*; subject infs. of impersonal datum esse, 'it was granted'
scrībenda: *(things)...*; a neut. acc. pl. obj.; this gerundive of scrībō can be translated as '(worthy) to be Xed' or as 'Xable'
legenda: *(things)...*; see note above
beātissimōs vērō (putō) quibus: *but (I think) most blessed (those) to whom...*; ellipsis: add putō from above, see note for line 7 about the double acc. and dative of interest

9 **utrumque (datum est)**: *both (were given)*
et (in) suīs librīs et (in) tuīs (librīs) erit: fut. sum.
quō: *because of which, by which...*; abl. cause

10 **libentius**: comparative adv. libenter
(id) quod iniungis.: *what you enjoin*; '(that) which you enjoin,' relative clause, the missing antecedent is object of dēposcō

Core vocabulary words for this lesson are so numerous that they cannot be listed on this page. Please review the running core vocabulary in the introduction for p. 2 before reading this lesson.

Concessive Clauses (ll. 4-7)

Pliny uses **quamvīs**[2], **quamquam**[7], and **licet**[2]—all meaning "although"—in concessive clauses with the subjunctive and often adds **tamen**, "nevertheless," in the main clause. In lines 4-7 outlined below, Pliny introduces two **quamvīs** + pf. subj. clauses before he adds the main clause with **tamen**:

(1) Quamvīs enim pulcherrimārum (in) clāde terrārum, l. 4
ut populī ut urbēs (in) memorābilī cāsū,
quasi semper vīctūrus
occiderit,
(2) quamvīs ipse plūrima opera et mānsūra **condiderit**, l. 5
multum **tamen** perpetuitātī eius scrīptōrum tuōrum aeternitās **addet**. l. 6

Clauses of Comparison are introduced by **ut**, **quam**, **quasī**, **velut, sīcut, prout, quālis,** & **tamquam**. Since these clauses repeat the same verb as the main clause, the verb is often missing but understood.

(1) **ut populī (occīdērunt)**	*as the people fell (perished)*	l. 8
(2) **ut urbēs (occīdērunt)**	*as the cities fell*	l. 8
(3) **quasi semper vīctūrus (occīderit)**	*as if he, always going to be alive, fell*	l. 8

Double Accusatives (ll. 7-9): **(1) Acc. direct object + (2) Acc. predicate**

Some verbs, such as putō in line 7, govern two accusatives. Note the two examples in the reading:

(1) beātōs putō (illōs) quibus...	*I think blessed (those) to whom...*	l. 7
(2) (putō) beātissimōs (illōs) quibus...	*I think most blessed (those) to whom...*	l. 8

The best way to think about double accusatives is to imagine that there is a missing linking verb such as the infinitive esse: "I think those blessed" (putō illōs beātōs) is equivalent to "I think that those (are) blessed" (putō illōs esse beātōs). Beātōs and beātissimōs above function as acc. predicates.

Gerundives (Future Passive Participles) (going) to be Xed

There are several ways to translate gerundives. In line 8, translate them as "(worthy) to be Xed." Since these particular gerundives are neuter pl. substantives (i.e. used as nouns), add "things."

(1) **scrībenda**	*things to be written*	→	*things worthy to be written*	l. 8
(2) **legenda**	*things to be read*	→	*things worthy to be read*	l. 8

4. Erat Mīsēnī classemque imperiō praesēns regēbat. Nōnum Kal. Septembrēs hōrā ferē septimā māter mea indicat eī appārēre nūbem inūsitātā et magnitūdine et speciē. **5.** Ūsus ille sōle, mox frīgidā, gustāverat iacēns studēbatque; poscit soleās, ascendit locum ex quō maximē mīrāculum illud cōnspicī poterat. Nūbēs, incertum procul intuentibus ex quō monte; —Vesuvium fuisse posteā cognitum est—oriēbātur, cuius similitūdinem et fōrmam nōn alia magis arbor quam pīnus expresserit.

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b

appareō, -ēre, -uī, -itum: appear, 3
arbor, -oris: tree
ascendō, -ere, -ī, -ēnsum: ascend, board, 2
classis, -is f.: fleet, 3
cōgnōscō, -ere, -nōvī, -nitum: learn, know, 2
cōnspiciō, -ere, -spexī: catch sight of, see
exprimō, -ere, -pressī: express; represent, depict
ferē: almost, nearly, closely
forma, -ae f.: form, shape; beauty, 3
frīgidus, -a, -um: cool, cold, 2
gustō (1): taste, eat
hōra, -ae f.: hour, 2
incidō, -ere, -cīdī: fall intoxw, fall upon, 3
interdum: sometimes, occasionally, 3
intueor, -tuērī, -tuitus sum: look upon
inūsitātus, -a, -um: unusual
Kal.: Kalendae
magnitūdō, -inis f.: magnitude, size, greatness
mīrāculum, -ī n.: miracle, wondrous
nōnus, -a, -um: ninth
orior, -īrī, ortus sum: rise; be born, 2
pīnus, -ūs f.: pine tree
posteā: afterwards, later, 2
praesēns, -ntis: present, be in person, 2
procul: from afar, far, at a distance, 2
September, -bris m.: September
septimus, -a, -um: seventh
similitūdō, -inis f.: similarity
sōl, sōlis m.: sun, 3
solea, -ae f.: sandal
species, -ēi f.: appearance, sight, 2
studeō, -ēre: study, be eager/enthusiastic for, 2
ūtor, -ī, ūsus sum: use; enjoy, employ (*abl.*), 3
Vesuvius, -ī m.: Mt. Vesuvius, 2

11 **Erat**: *he was...*; i.e. the uncle
Mīsēnī: *at Misenum*; locative, place where
imperiō: *with the power (to command)*; abl. means
praesēns: *presently*; make nom. pred. an adv.
(ante) Nōnum (diem) Kal(endae) Septembrēs: *the ninth (day before) the Kalends of September*; i.e. August 24th, 79

12 **hōrā septimā**: *at...*; abl. time when; this is the 7th hour since dawn: around 1 p.m.
eī appārēre nūbem...: *that...*; ind. disc. with nūbem as acc. subject
eī: *to her*; dat. sg. of reference (point of view)
inūsitātā et magnitūdine et speciē: *of both... and...*; abl. of quality modifying nūbem

13 **Ūsus**: dep. PPP ūtor: translate as 'having Xed' ūtor can mean 'enjoy' as well as 'experience'
ille: *that one*; i.e. the uncle
sōle: abl. object of ūsus est
mox frīgidā (aquā): *(and) soonafter...*; 2nd abl. obj. of ūsus; asyndeton (a lack of conjunction) is common throughout this letter
iacēns: *(while)...*; pres. pple iaceō

14 **maximē**: *especially*; 'very greatly' superl. adv.
mīrāculum illud: nom. subject; i.e. what the mother had pointed out above

15 **incertum (erat)**: *(it was) uncertain*
procul intuentibus: *for (those) watching from afar*; dat. of reference and pres. pple intueor
ex quō monte (orīrētur): *from...(it was arising).* ind. question with verb missing but understood: assume impf. dep. subj. orior

16 **Vesūvium fuisse**: *that (it) had been...*; pf. *sum*
cognitum est: *it was...*; impersonal pf. pass. cognōscō, 'learn, recognize;' pf. pass. sum
oriēbātur: impf. dep. orior: translate as active; nūbēs is the nom. sg. subject
cuius...expresserit: *whose...*; relative clause of characteristic with 3s pf. subj. exprimō (translate as pf.)

17 **nōn alia...arbor**: nom. subj.
magis...quam pīnus: *more than a pine tree*; quam introduces a clause of comparison after comparative adv. magis; Today we would describe the cloud as a mushroom cloud. The umbrella pine tree, to which Pliny is referring, is not cone-shaped as many species of pine tree but is broad—like a mushroom or umbrella!

alius, -a, -ud: other, another, else, 22
ē, ex: out of, from (*abl.*), 21
iaceō, -ēre, iacuī: lie (down), 4
ille, illa, illud: that, those, 54
imperium, -ī n.: power, command, 5
incertus, -a, -um: uncertain, unsure, unreliable, 5
locus, -ī m. (pl. locī, loca): place, 9
magis: more, rather, 10
māter, mātris f.: mother, 8
maximē: very greatly, especially, 4
Mīsēnum, -ī: Misenum, 6
mōns, montis m.: mountain, 6
mox: soon, 6
nōn: not, 37
nūbēs, -is f.: cloud, 9
poscō, -ere, poposcī: ask, request, demand, 4
que: and, 185
regō, -ere, rēxī, rēctum: rule, lead, 4

The purpose of history for Pliny is to reveal moral character—specifically, how his uncle reacts heroically in response to the eruption. Yes, we learn much about the eruption itself, but Pliny's real task is to answer the historian Tacitus' question and describe the final moments (*exitum*) of his uncle. Note how Pliny elevates his uncle's courage and moral character in every possible way in the letter.

The Locative Case [6] is an old case used by towns, cities, small islands, and words such as *domus* and *rūs* to express place where without a preposition. Note that the locative sg. resembles the genitive sg. (e.g. Mīsēnī, Campaniae) while locative pl. resembles the ablative pl. (e.g. Stabiīs, Athēnīs).

(1) **Mīsēnī**	*at Misenum*	*p. 4, 18, 20*	Locatives are used only 6 times in this
(2) **Stabiīs**	*at Stabiae*	*p. 10*	book. Nouns that take the locative also
(3) **Campāniae**	*at Campania*	*p. 20*	express acc. place to which in the
(4) **Athēnīs**	*at Athens*	*p. 38*	accusative without a preposition.

Word Building DA-/DEDI- "give"

dō, dare, dedī, datum: give; grant, 18

in compound verbs, **-dere/-didī** often means "put"

addō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: add, give in addition, 2	put	+ toward, in addition
condō, -ere, condidī, -ditum: found; hide, 7		+ together, away
crēdō, -ere, -didī: believe, trust (dat.), 13		+ trust in
edō, -ere, -didī: give out, put forth, 1		+ forth or out
perdō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: lose, destroy, ruin, 1		+ through (to the end)
reddō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: give back, 3		+ back
trādō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: hand over, 1		+ across

* Most of these compounds are not derived directly from dō, dare, although they appear that they do.



Fig. 1 Umbrella Pine Tree

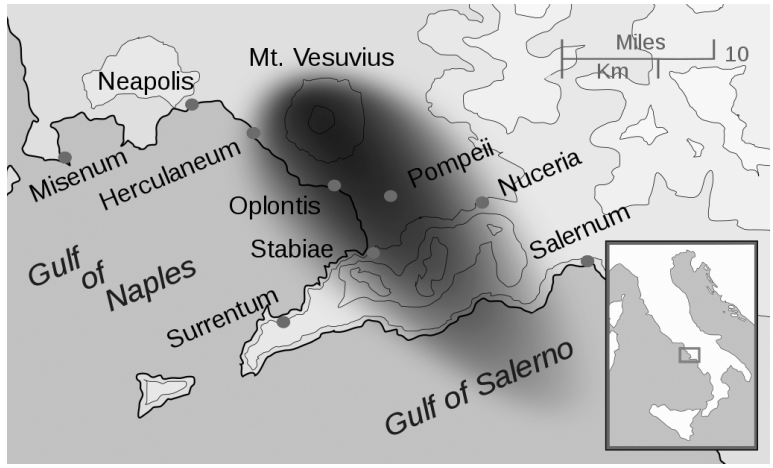


Fig. 2 Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in the Bay of Naples

6. Nam longissimō velut truncō ēlāta in altum quibusdam rāmīs diffundēbātur, crēdō quia recentī spīritū ēvecta, dein senēscente eō dēstitūta aut etiam pondere suō victa in lātitūdinem vānēscēbat, candida interdum, interdum sordida et maculōsa prout terram cineremve sustulerat. **7.** Magnum propiusque nōscendum, ut ērudītissimō virō, vīsum. Iubet liburnicam aptārī; mihi sī venīre ūnā vellem facit cōpiam; respondī studēre mē mālle, et forte ipse quod scrīberem dederat. **8.** Ēgrediēbātur domō; accipit cōdicillōs Rectīnae Tascī imminentī perīculō exterritae - nam villa eius subiacēbat, nec ūlla nisī nāvibus fuga—ut sē tantō discrīminī ēriperet ōrābat.

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aptō (1): fit, fit out, equip, adapt
candidus, -a, -um: bright white
cōdicillī, -ōrum m.: a letter, writing; tablet
cōpia, -ae f.: abundance, supply; opportunity, 2
dein (deinde): then, next, 3
dēstituō, -ere, -uī, -ūtum: leave, abandon
diffundō, -ere, -fūdī, -fūsum: pour/spread out, 2
discrīmen, -crīminis n.: crisis, peril
efferō, -ferre, -tulī, ēlātum: raise, lift up
ērudītus, -a, -um: educated
ēvehō, -ere, -vexī, -vectum: carry out
exterreō, -ēre, -uī, -itum: terrify, 2
forte: by chance, 3
immineō, -ēre: tower over, threaten; be imminent, 3
interdum: sometimes, occasionally, 3
lātitūdo, -dinis f.: breadth, width
liburnica, -ae f.: light ship
maculōsus, -a, -um: spotted
mālō, mālle, māluī: prefer, 2
pondus, ponderis n.: weight, 2
propius: nearer, closer (*comp*. prope), 3
prout: just as, accordingly as
quīdam, quae-, quod-: certain, one, someone, 3
rāmus, -ī m.: branch
recēns, -ntis: fresh, recent, 2
Rectīna, -ae f.: Rectina, 2
senēscō, -ere, -uī: grow old
sordidus, -a, -um: dirty
studeō, -ēre: study, be eager/enthusiastic for, 2
subiaceō, -ēre: lie under, lie at the foot of (dat.)
Tascus, -ī m.: Tascus
truncus, -ī m.: trunk (of a tree)
vānēscō, -ere, -uī: vanish, disappear
velut: just as
villa, -ae f.: villa, country-house, 2

18 **(nūbēs)...ēlāta**: *(the cloud) having been carried up...;* ellipsis, PPP efferō
longissimō velut truncō: *just as by...*; clause of comparison with an abl. of means
in altum: *on high*; lit. 'into the height'
quibusdam rāmīs: *with...*; abl. means

19 **quia (nūbēs)...vānēscēbat**: *because (the cloud)...*; Pliny suggests that the shape was caused by a loss of energy as the cloud rose
recentī spīritū: abl. of means,. i-stem abl. sg.
(nūbēs) ēvecta...dein...dēstituta...aut...victa: *(the cloud) lifted up...then...or....*; three PPP ēvehō, dēstituō, vincō modifying fem. sg. nūbēs
senēscente eō: *by it...*; i.e. by the masc. sg. spīritus, abl. of means and pres. pple senēscō
aut etiam pondere suō victa: *or even...*; PPP vincō with abl. means; reflexive suō, 'its own'

20 **candida interdum, interdum...maculōsa**: *sometimes...sometimes...*; correlatives, the fem. adjs. modify fem. sg. nūbēs

21 **prout (nūbēs)...sustulerat**: *just as...*; clause of comparison and plpf. tollō
cineremve: *or ash*; enclitic -ve
magnum propiusque nōscendum...vīsum (est eī): *it seemed (to him) important & worthy to be investigated more closely*; pf. pass. videor often means 'seemed' and governs magnum and the gerundive nōscō ('to be learned') as two neuter nom. predicates; proprius is a comparative adv.

22 **ūt ērudītissimō virō (vīsum est)**: *as (it would seem) to (any) very learned man*; a clause of comparison; dat. of reference; supply the verb
sī...vellem: *if I wanted...*; 1s impf. subj. volō; subj. of subordinate verb in implied ind. disc.
ūnā: *as one, together*; abl. adj. as adverb

23 **facit cōpiam**: *he makes/gives an opportunity*
studēre mē mālle: *that I...*; ind. disc., mālle is irreg. pres. inf. of mālō (māgis + volō)
forte: *by chance*; abl. fors is a common adv.

24 **ipse**: *he himself*; i.e. the uncle

(id) quod scrīberem: *what...*; '(that) which,' relative of characteristic with 1s impf. subj.: translate as impf.; the uncle had given the younger Pliny a homework assignment
Ēgrediēbātur: impf. dep.: translate as active
domō: *from...*; place from which (separation)
25 **Rectīnae (uxoris) Tascī**: *of Rectina, (wife) of Tascus*; gen. sg.
subiacēbat (montī): add 'mountain' as dat. of compound; likely near the city Herculaneum
imminentī perīculō: *by...* ; i-stem abl. means
26 **(erat) ūlla...fūga**: *there was...*
nisī nāvibus: *except...*; abl. of means
ut sē...ēriperet: *that he...*; ind. command governed by ōrābat; ēripiō, 'snatch away' often, as here, means 'rescue;' sē refers to Rectina
tantō discrīminī: *from...*; dat. of compound verb ēripiō

accipiō, -ere, -cēpī, -ceptum: receive, 6
altus, -a, -um: high, tall; deep; sea (the deep), 18
cinis, cineris m.: ashes, 6
crēdō, -ere, -didī: believe, trust (dat.), 13
domus, -ūs f.: house(hold), home, 14
ego, meī, mihi, mē, mē: I, 62
ēgredior, -ī, -gressus sum: go out, disembark, 4
ēripiō, -ere, -uī: rescue, snatch from, 4
fuga, -ae f. : flight; haste, 6
iubeō, -ēre, īussī, iussum: order, 11
longus, -a, -um: long, distant; far, 13
magnus, -a, -um: great, large, 17
nāvis, -is f.: ship, 4
nec: nor, and not: **nec...nec**, neither…nor, 20
nisī: if not, unless, 4
nōscō, -ere, nōvī, nōtum: learn; *pf.* know, 5
ōrō (1**)**: plead, beg; pray for, 6
perīculum, -ī n.: danger, risk, 10
quia: because, 6
respondeō, -ēre, -dī, -nsum: answer, 4
sē, suī, sibi (sēsē): him-, her-, it-, themselves, 22
spīritus, -ūs m.: breath, exhalation, spirit, 4
tollō, -ere, sustulī, sublātum: raise; destroy, 9
ūllus, -a, -um: any, any one, 5
vel, -ve: or; **vel…vel**, either…or, 12
veniō, -īre, vēnī, ventum: come, go, 14
vincō, -ere, vīcī, victum: conquer, 6
vir, -ī m.: man, husband, 12
volō, velle, voluī: will, wish, be willing, 7

Clauses of Comparison II: Velut[1], Prout[1] and Sicut[2]

Compound words of **ut** introduce clauses of comparison, just as **ut** does. They are very rare in this book but easy to master. There are subtle differences between these words, but for simplification translate all three the same way as ut with the indicative: "as" or "just as."

vel-ut "(even) as"	longissimō **velut** truncō	*just as with a very long tree trunk*	p. 6
pro-ut "(accordingly) as":	**prout** terram cineremve sustulerat	*as it had carried up earth and ash*	p. 6
sīc-ut "(in this way) as"	**sīcut** initiō temptātum erat	*just as it had been attempted...*	.p. 52
	sīcut praecēperās	*just as you had instructed...*	p. 58

Passive Periphrastic [4] **(gerundive + sum)** expresses necessity and governs a dative of agent. This construction is used only four times in this book: twice by Pliny and twice by Vergil. Note the raw and polished (must/has to) translations below. In the past and future, use "had to" and "will have to."

	raw		polished	
nōscendum erat	*it was to be learned*	→	*it had to be learned*	p. 6
pars agenda erit	*part will be to be carried out*	→	*will have to be carried out*	p. 52
simulācrum ducendum est	*the likeness is to be led*	→	*the likeness must be led*	p. 86
nūmina ōranda sunt	*the gods are to be prayed to*	→	*the gods must be prayed to*	p. 86

Three Possible Translations for Superlative Adjectives

Note that "very X" is the best translation for **longissimō** and **ērudītissimō** on the facing page.

longissimus, -a, -um
(1) longest
(2) most long
(3) very long

9. Vertit ille cōnsilium et quod studiōsō animō incohāverat obit maximō. Dēdūcit quadrirēmēs, ascendit ipse nōn Rectīnae modō sed multīs—erat enim frequēns amoenitās ōrae—lātūrus auxilium. **10.** Properat illūc unde aliī fugiunt, rēctumque cursum rēcta gubernācula in perīculum tenet adeō solūtus metū, ut omnēs illīus malī mōtūs omnēs figūrās, ut dēprēnderat oculīs, dictāret ēnotāretque.

11. Iam nāvibus cinis incidēbat, quō propius accēderent, calidior et dēnsior; iam pūmicēs etiam nigrīque et ambustī et frāctī igne lapidēs; iam vadum subitum ruīnāque montis lītora obstantia. Cūnctātus paulum an retrō flecteret, mox gubernātōrī ut ita faceret monentī 'Fortēs,' inquit, 'fortūna iuvat: Pomponiānum pete.'

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accēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessum: approach, 3
adeō: so, to such a degree/extent
amburō, -ere, -ussī, -ustum: burn around, scorch
amoenitās, -tātis f.: pleasantness, charm, 2
ascendō, -ere, -ī, -ēnsum: ascend, board, 2
auxilium, -ī n.: help, aid, assistance, 2
calidus, -a, -um: hot
conferō, -ferre, -tulī: bring together, gather
cōnsilium, -ī: plan, idea, 3
cūnctor, -ārī, -ātus sum: delay, hesitate, 3
dēdūcō, -ere: draw down, lead
dēnsus, -a, -um: thick, 3
dēprehendō, -ere,-ndī: seize, grasp
dictō (1): dictate
ēnotō (1): note, mark out
flectō, -ere, -xī, -ctum: bend, turn, 3
fortūna, -ae f.: fortune, chance, luck, 2
frangō, -ere, frēgī, frāctum: break, 2
frequēns, frequentis: crowded, 3
gubernāculum, -ī n.: helm, rudder; *pl*. direction
gubernātor, -ōris m.: helmsman, steersman
illūc: to there, thither, 2 driver
incidō, -ere, -cīdī: fall, fall upon, 3
incohō (1): begin
iuvō, -āre, iūvī: help, please
lapis, -idis m.: stone, 3
modo: only, just now, 2
moneō, -ēre, -uī: warn, advise, admonish, 2
mōtus, -ūs m.: movement, motion, 1
niger, nigra, nigrum: black, 2
obeō, -īre, -iī, -itum: go to/against, meet; die, end
obstō, -āre: stand in the way, oppose, 2
Pomponiānus, -ī m.: Pomponianus, 2
properō (1): hasten, hurry, 3
propius: nearer, closer (*comp*. prope), 3
pūmex, -icis m.: pumice stone, 3
quadrirēmis, -is f.: quadreme, ship (with four banks of oars)
Rectīna, -ae f.: Rectina, 2
rēctus, -a, -um: straight, direct, correct, 2
retrō: back, backward
ruīna, -ae f.: downfall, fall, 2
studiōsus, -a, -um: eager, enthustiastic
subitus, -a, -um: sudden, 2
unde: from which, whence, 2
vadum, -ī n.: shallow water, shallows

27 **vertit ille**: *that one changed*; i.e. the uncle
quod studiōsō animō...obit maximō (animō): *and what he had begun with a studious/eager heart, he goes to with the greatest (heart)*; i.e. courage, a common translation for animus; animō is abl. of manner;the missing antecedent of *quod...incohāverat* is the object of obit
28 **nōn...modō sed**: *not only...but (also)...*
Rectīnae...multīs: *to...to...*; dat. ind. obj.
29 **erat...frequēns**: *was crowded*; i.e. populated
amoenitās ōrae: *the pleasantness of the shore*
lātūrus auxilium: *intending to bring...*; fut. act. pple ferō expressing purpose with dat. ind. obj.
30 **unde...fugiunt**: *from where...*; relative clause
rēctumque cursum (et) rēcta gubernācula: both acc. obj. of tenet: assume Pliny as subject
solūtus: *freed, detached*; PPP solvō
31 **metū**: *from...*; abl. of separation with solūtus
ut...dictāret ēnotāretque.: *that...*; result clause with impf. subj.: translate as impf. indicative
omnēs...mōtūs (et) omnēs figūrās
illīus malī: *of that evil*; i.e. the eruption
ut dēprēnderat oculīs: *as (he)...*; clause of comparison with plpf. ind. and abl. of means

33 **nāvibus**: *on...*; dat. of compound verb incidō
quō propius accēderent calidior et dēnsior: *the closer they approached, (the ash fell)...*; 'by however much more closely,'quō may be adv. 'to where' or, as I suggest, is abl. degree of difference with comparative adv. proprius
calidior, dēnsior: nom. pred. modifying cinis
34 **iam pūmicēs etiam -que...lapidēs**: *now pumice also and stones...*; add verb incidēbant
nigrī, ambustī, frāctī: all modifying lapidēs
iam (erat) vadum subitum: *Now (there was)...*; vadum subitum is nom. subject; the tremors created tidal waves which caused the water to recede from the shore (the trough of the tidal wave struck before the crest).
35 **ruīnāque montis**: *and because of...*; or 'and with...' abl. of cause; i.e. ash and pumice; the -que joins nominatives vadum and lītora
lītora (erant) obstantia: *the shores (were) obstructing*; neut. pl. pres. pple obstō; i.e. the shoreline was filled with ash and pumice
Cūnctātus: i.e. having wavered in thought; dep PPP cūnctor (translate 'having Xed')
paulum an retrō flecteret: *whether he would...or...*; ind. question with impf. subj.
36 **gubernātōrī...monentī**: *to the helmsman...*; dat. ind. obj. with inquit and dat. pres. pple
ut ita faceret: *that...*; ind. command with impf. subj. governed by monentī; ita, 'thus,' refers to the instructions that the uncle gives below
Fortēs...iuvat *Fortune favors the brave*; a well known expression; fortēs is a substantive
37 **Pomponiānum**: *Pomponianus*; i.e. his home
pete: sg. imperative

an: or (in questions), 6
animus, -ī m.: mind; spirit, courage; anger, 10
cursus, -ūs m.: course, running; haste, 6
ferō, ferre, tulī, lātum: bear, carry; endure, 10
figūra, -ae f.: figure, shape, form, 5
fortis, -e: strong, brave, 7
fugiō, -ere, fūgī: flee, escape, 9
iam: now, already, 34
ignis, -is m.: fire; lightning, 8
inquam, inquis, inquit: say, 4
ita: so, thus, 6
lītus, -oris n.: shore, coast, beach, 8
malus, -a, -um: bad, wicked, 6
metus, -ūs f.: dread, fear, 10
oculus, ī m.: eye, 14
omnis, -e: all, every, whole, 24
ōra, -ae f.: shore, coast, border, 4
paulus, -a, -um: little, small; *adv*. -um, 4
solvō, -ere, solvī, solūtum: loosen; set sail, break up, 4
sed: but, 19
tantus, -a, -um: so great, so much, 16
teneō, -ēre, -uī, -tum: hold, 10
ūnus, -a, -um: one, alone; **ūnā**, together, 8
vertō, -ere, vertī, versum: turn; change, 6

Pliny the Elder turns the fleet to the house of Pomponianus in the town of Stabiae.

Heavy ash prevents Pliny and the fleet from sailing to their destination at the base of Mt. Vesuvius on the eastern coast of the Bay of Naples, and prevailing winds are moving eastward across the bay toward Vesuvius, so Pliny and the fleet cannot turn back to Misenum in the west.

Pliny therefore uses the wind to turn to the southeastern coast of the Bay of Naples and the home of a friend Pomponianus in the town of Stabiae.

The Purpose of History for Pliny is to reveal Moral Character (II)

Note all the ways Pliny highlights his uncle's good intentions and courage in the face of adversity. The main character in this story is not Vesuvius but the uncle and his response to the eruption.

1. quod studiōsō animō incohāverat obit maximō	*what he had begun with an eager heart, he ends with the greatest heart (i.e. courage)*	l. 27
2. lātūrus auxilium	*intending to bring help*	l. 29
3. Properat illūc unde aliī fugiunt	*he hurries to there where others flee*	l. 29
4. rēctumque cursum...in perīculum tenet	*he holds a straight course into danger*	l. 30
5. solūtus metū	*freed from fear*	l. 30
6. 'Fortēs,' inquit, 'fortūna iuvat.'	*He says, "Fortune favors the brave"*	l. 31

12. Stabiīs erat dirēmptus sinū mediō—nam sēnsim circumāctīs curvātīsque lītoribus mare īnfunditur—ibi quamquam nōndum perīculō appropinquante, cōnspicuō tamen et cum crēsceret proximō, sarcinās contulerat in nāvēs, certus fugae sī contrārius ventus resēdisset. Quō tunc avunculus meus secundissimō invectus, complectitur trepidantem cōnsōlātur hortātur, utque timōrem eius suā sēcūritāte lēnīret, dēferrī in balineum iubet; lōtus accubat cēnat, aut hilaris aut—quod aequē magnum—similis hilarī.

accubō (1): lie at or beside
aequus, -a, -um: equal
appropinquō (1): approach, draw near
balineum, -ī n.: bath, 2
cēnō (1): dine
circumagō, -ere: drive or carry around
complector, -ī, complexus sum: embrace
cōnsolor, -ārī, -ātus sum: console
cōnspicuus, -a, -um: conspicuous, visible
contrārius, -a, -um: opposite, contrary, 2
crēscō, -ere, crēvī, crētum: grow, 3
curvō (1): curve, bend, bow
dēferō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātum: report, offer, 3
dirimō, -ere, -ēmī, -emptum: separate, divide
hilaris, -e: cheerful, merry, 2
hortor, -ārī, hortātus sum: encourage, urge, 2
īnfundō, -ere, -dī, -fūsus: pour/spread on, 2
invehō, -ere, -ēxī, ectum: carry in, convey
lavō, -āre, lāvī, lōtus: wash, bathe
lēniō, -īre, -īvī: soothe, soften, 2
nōndum: not yet
sarcina, -ae f.: pack, baggage; burden
secundus, -a, -um: following; favorable, 2
sēcūritās, -tātis f.: lack of concern or care, 2
sēnsim: gradually slowly; gently
sinus, -ūs m.: bay, curve; bosom, lap, 2
Stabiae, -ārum m.: Stabiae
trepidō (1): tremble, 2
ventus, -ī m.: wind, 2

38 **Stabiīs**: *at Stabiae*; locative, place where
erat dirēmptus: *(Pomponianus) had been separated (from the eruption)*; the author is noting that Stabiae is distant from the eruption;
sinū mediō: *by the the bay in the middle*; i.e. by the intervening bay; abl. of means

39 **nam sēnsim circumāctīs curvātīsque lītoribus mare īnfunditur**: *for the sea is spread on gradually rounded and curved shores*; Pliny here describes the Bay of Naples; lītoribus is dat. of compound verb īnfunditur and is modified by PPP circum-agō and curvō
ibi: *there*; i.e. in Stabiae
quamquam...perīculō appropinquante: *although the danger (is) not yet...*; an abl. abs. concessive in sense with pres. pple
cōnspicuō tamen et...proximō: *but neverthless (being)...*; a continuation of the extended abl. abs.; add the pple 'being,' cōnspiciō et proximō are abl. predicates modifying perīculō

40 **cum (perīculum) crēsceret**: *when it...*; cum clause with impf. subj.: translate as an impf.
contulerat: plpf. cōnferō; the uncle is subject
in nāvēs: *into...*

41 **certus fugae**: *certain of flight;* certus + gen.
Sī...resēdisset: *if...had settled in*; plpf. subj. in a past contrary to fact with the apodosis missing
contrārius ventus: i.e. blowing away from the mountain back to Misenum and open sea
Quō (ventō) secundissimō,: *by which most favorable wind*; a connecting relative and abl. of means with PPP invehō

42 **complectitur, cōnsōlātur (et) hortātur**: three pres. dep.: translate active; asyndeton (add 'et')
trepidantem: *(the one)..*; i.e. Pomponiānus; acc. pres. pple and object of all three verbs
utque...lēnīret: *and so that...might...*; purpose clause with impf. subj.

43 **timōrem eius**: i.e. Pomponiānus', gen. sg.
suā sēcūritāte: *with his own...*; i.e. Pliny's; abl. means; sua (suus) is a reflexive possessive adj.
(sē) dēferrī in balineum: *that (he) be...*; ind. disc. with prs. pass. inf.governed by iubet
lōtus: *(after)...;* irregular PPP of lavō: la(v)atus
accubat (et) cēnat: the uncle lies down when he eats; asyndeton
aut...aut...: *either...or...*

44 **quod (est) aequē magnum**: *what (is) equally great*; a relative clause, the phrase similis hilarī that follows is the antecedent; aequē is an adv.
hilarī: *to (someone)...*; dat. of special adj.

certus, -a, -um: sure, reliable, 5
cum: with; when, since, although, 23
ibi: there, in that place, 5
mare, -is n.: sea, 8
medius, -a, -um: middle of, middle, 15
proximus, -a, -um: nearest, very close, 4
quamquam: although, 7
resīdō, -ere, -sēdī: sit back, settle, 5
similis, -e: like, similar, (*dat*., *gen*.), 6
timor, -ōris m.: fear, dread, 6
tum, tunc: then, at that time, 16

How does Pliny the Younger know what Happened?

Pliny did not witness what his uncle experienced. There must have been at least one survivor who observed the events on the ship and later at the house of Pomponianus at Stabiae and reported them to the author at some time after the eruption.

The Uncle's Calm Response to Pomponianus' Trembling

Note the many ways Pliny contrasts his uncle's calm demeanor to Pomponianus' fearful trembling in lines 5-7. The frequent use of asyndeton (omission of a conjunction) emphasizes the long list of actions that the uncle undertakes to comfort his friend and maintain as normal a routine as possible:

1. complectitur
2. cōnsōlātur
3. hortātur
4. ut timōrem eius suā sēcūritāte lēnīret,
5. dēferrī in balineum iubet;
6. lōtus accubat cēnat,
7. aut hilaris aut—quod aequē magnum—similis hilarī.

The uncle's behavior may seem foolish from our own point of view, but remember that the Romans were not familiar with the dangers of volcanic eruptions. They knew about earthquakes, forest fires, and even lava flows (Pliny the Elder documents lava flows on Mt. Etna in Sicily in his own writings), but the idea that a mountain could explode and endanger people far away was not imaginable.

In the final line Pliny acknowledges that his uncle may be pretending to be "cheerful" (*hilāris*), but Pliny praises this behavior as "equally great" (*aequē magnum*). Pliny thinks that it is admirable that the uncle may have private doubts but wishes to avoid adding to the fear of his friend Pomponianus.

Word Building: FUND-, FUD-, FUS- "pour" or "spread"

fundō, -ere, -fūdī, fūsum: pour (out), lay low, 1	pour
circumfundō -ere, -fūdī, -fūsus: spread around, 1	+ around
diffundō, -ere, -fūdī, -fūsum: pour/spread out, 2	+ in different directions, out
effundō, -ere, -fūdī, -fūsum: pour/spread out, 4	+ out
īnfundō, -ere, -dī, -fūsus: pour/spread on, 2	+ in/on/into
perfundō, -ere, -fūdī, -fūsum: pour/shed over, 1	+ over, through

13. Interim ē Vesuviō monte plūribus locīs lātissimae flammae altaque incendia relūcēbant, quōrum fulgor et clāritās tenebrīs noctis excitābātur. Ille agrestium trepidātiōne ignēs relictōs dēsertāsque vīllās per sōlitūdinem ārdēre in remedium formīdinis dictitābat. Tum sē quiētī dedit et quiēvit vērissimō quidem somnō; nam meātus animae, quī illī propter amplitūdinem corporis gravior et sonantior erat, ab eīs quī līminī obversābantur audiēbātur.

agrestis, -is m.: farmer, field worker
amplitudō, -inis f.: amplitude, magnitude, size
anima, -ae f.: breath, life; soul, 2
clāritās, -ātis f.: brightness, clarity
dictō (1): say often, keep saying
formīdō, -inis f.: dread, fear, 3
fulgor (fulgur) m.: flash (lightning), lightning, 2
incendium, -ī n.: fire, conflagration, 1
interim: meanwhile, in the meantime, 3
meātus, -ūs m.: motion, course, path, 2
obversor, -ārī, -ātus sum: turn about before
plūs, plūris: more, 3
propter: on account of, because of, 3
quiēs, quiētis f.: rest, sleep
reluceō, -ēre, -lūxī: shine out, shine back, 2
remedium,-ī n.: remedy
sōlitūdō, -inis f.: wilderness, solitude, 2
sonāns, -ntis: resounding, echoing
tenebrae, -ārum f.: darkness, gloom, 3
trepidātiō, -tiōnis f.: alarm, trepidation
Vesuvius, -ī m.: Mt. Vesuvius, 2
villa, -ae f.: villa, country-house, 2

45 **(in) plūribus locīs**: abl. place where; the fire is growing on the mountain

46 **quōrum...**: *whose...*
fulgor et clāritās: *the brightness of the flash lightning*; 'lightning flash and brightness,' hendiadys (two terms denoting a single object) with a 3s verb
tenebrīs noctis: *by...*; abl. of means and gen. sg. the night enhances the bright light
excitābātur: *was increased*
Ille: *that one*; i.e. the uncle

47 **agrestium...ignēs...-que...vīllās...ārdēre**: *that fires...*; ind. disc. with ignēs and vīllās as acc. subjects (joined by -que) of pres. inf. ārdēre; the construction is governed by dictiābat; Pliny suggests there are forest fires on the mountain started by agitated farmworkers
agrestium trepidātiōne: *by...*; abl. of cause and gen. pl. agrestis all governed by relictōs;
relictōs: PPP relinquō with acc. subj. ignēs
dēsertās: PPP dēserō with 2nd acc. subj. villās

48 **in remedium formīdinis**: *in...*; here, the author suggests in his own voice the purpose for the uncle's comments; this prepositional phrase is not part of the ind. disc.
dictitābat: *kept saying*; i.e. said repeatedly
sē: *himself*; i.e. the uncle; reflexive acc. obj.
quiētī: *to...*; dat. ind. obj.; this is a periphrastic way to say that Pliny went to sleep
vērissimō...somnō: *with...*; abl. of manner; Pliny emphasizes that it was genuine sleep and not an something he pretended to do
quidem: *indeed*; emphatic modifying vērissimō

49 **meātus animae...audiēbātur**: *the motion of his breathing...*; i.e. the uncle's snoring
illī: *for that one*; dat. of interest or possession;

50 **ab eīs**: *by those (people)*; abl. of agent with audiēbātur
quī līminī obversābantur: *who were turning about before the doorway*; i.e. those passing by the door; dat. of compound verb; obversābantur is impf. dep. (translate as active)

ārdeō, -ēre, arsī, arsum: burn, be eager, 7
audiō, -īre, -ivī, -ītum: hear, listen to, 11
corpus, -oris n.: body, 14
dēserō, -ere, -ruī, -rtum: desert, abandon, 6
excitō (1): wake up, rouse up, raise, 4
flamma, -ae f.: flame, 6
gravis, -e: heavy, serious, severe, 5
lātus, -a, -um: wide, 5
līmen, -inis n.: threshold, doorway, 4
nox, noctis f.: night, 14
per: through, over, 36
quidem: indeed, certainly, 16
quiēscō, -ere, -ēvī, -ētum: rest, 5
relinquō, -ere, -līquī, -lictum: leave, abandon, 7
somnus, -ī m.: sleep, 5

Remedies for Fear: Forest Fires and Deep Sleep

1. To comfort others, the uncle suggests the flames are man-made forest fires. There were many farms on the slopes of Vesuvius. The uncle suggests to Pomponianus that farm workers had started fires, perhaps to clear brush, and simply lost control of those fires. Pliny says the uncle kept saying this to address their fear (*in remedium formīdinis*).

2. The uncle slept soundly, while Pomponianus and others stayed awake all night. Once again, the contrast between the uncle's tranquility and Pomponianus' fear is emphasized. The fact that others hear the uncle snore tells us that his sleep was genuine, and others were too anxious to sleep.

Quick Review: Vocabulary describing the Eruption

Below are words about the eruption in Pliny's first letter. Synonyms are grouped together.

ignis, -is m.: fire; lightning, 8
  flamma, -ae f.: flame, 6
  fulgor (fulgur) m.: flash (lightning), lightning, 2
  incendium, -ī n.: fire, conflagration, 1
pūmex, -icis m.: pumice stone, 3
  exedō, -ēsse, -ēdī, exēsus: eat up, consume, 2
  levis, -e: light, 3
cinis, cineris m.: ashes, 6
odor, odōris m.: smell, scent
  sulpur, -is n.: sulfur
spīritus, -ūs m.: breath, exhalation, spirit, 4
tenebrae, -ārum f.: darkness, gloom, 3
  nox, noctis, f.: night, 14
  cālīgō, -inis f.: mist, vapor, 3
tremor, -ōris m.: tremor, shaking, 4

Quick Review: Vocabulary describing the House

Below are words about houses in Pliny's first letter. Synonyms are grouped together.

domus, -ūs f.: house(hold), home, 14
  villa, -ae f.: villa, country-house, 2
  tēctum, -ī n.: roof, shelter; house, 9
  sēdēs, -is f.: seat, home, settlement, foundation, 5
ārea, -ae f.: courtyard, open space, 3
cubiculum, -ī n.: bedroom, 2
diaeta, -ae f.: room, chamber, apartment; diet, 1
līmen, -inis n.: threshold, doorway, 4

Ārea and **diaeta** are Greek terms and likely synonyms for the Roman **peristylum**, 'colonnade' or 'peristyle,' and Roman **cubiculum**, 'bedroom,' respectively.

14. Sed ārea ex quā diaeta adībātur ita iam cinere mixtīsque pūmicibus opplēta surrēxerat, ut sī longior in cubiculō mora, exitus negārētur. Excitātus prōcēdit, sēque Pomponiānō cēterīsque quī pervigilāverant reddit. **15.** In commūne cōnsultant, intrā tēcta subsistant an in apertō vagentur. Nam crēbrīs vastīsque tremōribus tēcta nūtābant, et quasi ēmōta sēdibus suīs nunc hūc nunc illūc abīre aut referrī vidēbantur. **16.** Sub dīō rūrsus quamquam levium exēsōrumque pūmicum cāsus metuēbātur, quod tamen perīculōrum collātio ēlēgit; et apud illum quidem ratiō ratiōnem, apud aliōs timōrem timor vīcit. Cervīcālia capitibus imposita linteīs cōnstringunt; id mūnīmentum adversus incidentia fuit.

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abeō, -īre, -iī, itum: go away, 3
apud: with, among, at the house of, 2
ārea, -ae f.: courtyard, open space, 3
cervīcal, -is n.: pillow, cushion
cēterī, -ae, -a: the remaining, rest, others, 3
collātiō, -iōnis f.: collection, accumulation
commūnis, -e: common
cōnstringō, -ere: string together, tie, bind
cōnsultō (1): consult, deliberate
crēber, -bra, -brum: frequent, crowded, 2
cubiculum, -ī n.: bedroom, 2
diaeta, -ae f.: room, chamber, apartment; diet
ēligō, -ere, ēlēgī, ēlectum: choose, pick out
ēmoveō, -ēre, -mōvī: move out, remove
exedō, -ēsse, -ēdī, exēsus: eat up, consume, 2
exitus, -ūs m.: exit, destruction, death; result, 3
hūc: to this place, hither, 2
illūc: to there, thither, 2
impōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positum: place on, 2
incidō, -ere, -cīdī: fall, fall upon, 3
intrā: inside, within (*acc*), 2
levis, -e: light, 3
linteum, -ī n.: linen cloth, 2
metuō, -ere, -uī: dread, fear, 3
misceō, -ēre, -uī, mīxtum: mix, 3
mora, -ae f: delay, hesitation, 2
mūnīmentum, -ī n.: fortification
negō (1): deny, say that…not; refuse (dat.), 3
nūtō (1): nod
oppleō, -ēre, -ēvī, -ētum: fill up
pervigilō (1): remain awake
Pomponiānus, -ī m.: Pomponianus, 2
prōcēdō, -ere, -cessī; proceed, move forward, 2
pūmex, -icis m.: pumice stone, 3
ratiō, -ōnis f.: calculation, reasoning, 3
reddō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: give back, 3
subsistō, -ere, -stitī: stand; stop, 2
vagor, -ārī, -ātus sum: wander, roam
vastus, -a, -um: vast, enormous, 2

51 **ārea ex quā diaeta adībātur**: *the courtyard from which the bedroom was approached*; Pliny's room is under the peristyle of the house
adībātur: *was approached*; impf. pass. ad-eō
52 **ita...surrēxerat, ut...negārētur**: *had risen in such a way that...*; i.e. had filled up; plpf. surgō with a result clause (impf. pass. subj. negō)
iam cinere mixtīsque pūmicibus opplēta: *already filled...*; PPP oppleō modifying ārea with abl. of means; PPP misceō
sī (esset) longior...mora,...negārētur: *if (there were)...,...would be denied.*; a present contrary to fact condition in a result clause (sī impf. subj., impf. subj.) with a missing verb in the conditional (sī) clause: add impf. subj. sum
Excitātus: *(Pliny)...*; i.e. awakened from sleep
53 **sē...reddit**: *returns himself to...*; i.e. rejoins
Pomponiānō cēterīsque: *to...*; dat. ind. obj.
54 **intrā tēcta subsistant an in apertō vagentur**: *(whether) they should...or they should...*; ind. deliberative question with 3p pres. subj.
in apertō: *in the open*; i.e. without shelter
crēbrīs...tremōribus: *because of...*; abl. cause
55 **quasi ēmōta**: *as if...*; PPP ēmoveō modifying neut. pl. tecta
sēdibus suīs: *from their foundations*; separation
56 **abīre aut referrī**: i.e. sway back and forth, complementary infs. abeō and pass. inf. referō
vidēbantur: *seemed*; 'were (being) seen'
57 **sub dīō**: *under open sky*; 'under the divine'
quamquam...cāsus metuēbātur: *although the fall of...was feared*; pūmicum is gen. pl. (subjective gen.); the PPP exedō means that the pumice was 'porous'

quod: *this (option)*; 'which' a connective relative and acc. obj. of pf. ēligō

58 **apud illum**: *with that one, for that one*; i.e. the uncle
ratiō (vīcit) ratiōnem: add pf. vincō; the author suggests that the uncle deliberated between rational calculations while others deliberated between the lesser of two fears
(sed) apud aliōs: *(but) with others, (but) among others*; i.e. all present but Pliny

59 **capitibus**: *on...*; dat. of compound verb; they tie pillows to their heads as protection
linteīs: *with...*; abl. of means
id...fuit: *this was...*; mūnīmentum is nom. pred.
adversus: *against* + acc.; used onlyhere in the commentary; elsewhere the adj. 'unfavorable'
incidentia: *things...*; i.e. pumice; neut. pl. pres. pple incidō and substantive: add 'things'

adeō, -īre, iī, itum: go to, approach, 4
adversus, -a, -um: facing; *prep*. against, 5
aperiō, -īre, -uī, apertum: open, 4
caput, -itis n.: head, 9
diēs, diēī m./f.: day(light), 14
dīvus, -a, -um (dīus): divine; god(dess); sky, 9
nunc: now, 16
referō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātum: report; say, 8
rūrsus: again, 10
sēdēs, -is f.: seat, home, settlement, foundation, 5
sub: under, 12
surgō, -ere, -rēxī, -rēctum: rise, surge, 5
tēctum, -ī n.: roof, shelter; house, 9
tremor, -ōris m.: tremor, shaking, 4

Calculation (*ratio*) vs Fear (*timor*)

The uncle faces a two-fold threat. **ash and pumice**, falling into the courtyards (*āreae*) and roof openings threatens to block the uncle and others from leaving. At the same time, **frequent earthquakes** increase the chances that the houses will collapse and crush everyone inside.

At this moment Pliny again contrasts his uncle's reaction with the others' reaction and behavior:

apud illum quidem ratiō ratiōnem, apud aliōs timōrem timor vīcit l. 58
for him at least calculation won over calculation, for the others fear won over fear

Of course, it is absurd for Pliny to claim without evidence that his uncle weighed the decision to leave rationally while others were driven by emotion to act, but the author's comment shows once again that Pliny is taking every opportunity to depict his uncle's character in the most favorable light.

Word Building: CAD-, CID- "fall"

cadō, cadere, cecidī: fall, 1
accidō, -ere, -cidī: happen, fall to, 3
concidō, -ere: fall, 1
excidō, -ere, -ī: fall from, perish, 2
incidō, -ere, -cīdī: fall, fall upon, 3
occidō, -ere, -cidī, -cāsum: fall, die, perish, 3
excidium, -ī n.: fall, destruction, 1

Compound verbs with a short vowel stem "cid-" derive from cadō, cadere, "fall," while compound verbs with a long vowel stem "cīd-" derive from caedō, caedere, "cut" or "kill." Only one word in the entire book uses the caedere stem (recīdō, "cut back"). So, when you see -cid, assume it means "fall."

Common Adverbs of Place

Note that English often omits 'to' and 'from' in translation.

place where	hīc [3] *here*	illīc [1] *there*	ubi [10] *where*	ibi [5] *there*
place from which	hinc [4] *from here*	illinc [0] *from there*	unde [2] *from where*	inde [2] *from there*
place to which	hūc [2] *to here*	illūc [2] *to there*	quō [1] *to where*	eō [0] *to there*

adhūc (ad+hūc): *still, yet, 8* undīque (ubi+dē+que): *from everywhere, 1* ubīque (ubi+que): *everywhere, 1*

17. Iam diēs alibī, illīc nox omnibus noctibus nigrior dēnsiorque; quam tamen facēs multae variaque lūmina solvēbant. Placuit ēgredī in lītus, et ex proximō adspicere, ecquid iam mare admitteret; quod adhūc vastum et adversum permanēbat. **18.** Ibi super abiectum linteum recubāns semel atque iterum frīgidam aquam poposcit hausitque. Deinde flammae flammārumque praenūntius, odor sulpuris, aliōs in fugam vertunt, excitant illum. **19.** Innītēns servolīs duōbus assurrēxit et statim concidit, ut ego colligō, crassiōre cālīgine spīritū obstrūctō, clausōque stomachō quī illī nātūrā invalidus et angustus et frequenter aestuāns erat.

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abiciō, -ere, -iēcī, -iectum: throw away
admittō, -ere, mīsī, missum: admit, allow
adspicō, -ere, spexī, spectum: look at, see
aestuō (1): enflame, seethe, boil over
alibī: elsewhere, in another place
angustus, -a, -um: narrow, 2
assurgō, -ere, assurrēxī: rise, 3
cālīgō, -inis f.: mist, vapor, 3
colligō, -ere, -lēgī, -lēctum: gather, collect, 3
concidō, -ere: fall, 1
crassus, -a, -um: thick, fat
deinde: then, next, 3
dēnsus, -a, -um: thick, 3
duo, duae, duo: two, 3
ecquis, ecquid: any(one, thing); whether, 2
fax, facis f.: torch, firebrand
frequēns, frequentis: crowded, 3
hauriō, -īre, hausī: drain, exhaust, 3
illīc: there, in that place
innītor, -ī, innixus sum: lean upon
invalidus, -a, -um: not strong, weak
iterum: again, 3
linteum, -ī n.: linen cloth, 2
nātūra, -ae f.: nature, 2
niger, nigra, nigrum: black, 2
obstruō, -ere, -xī, -ctum: obstruct
odor, odōris m.: smell, scent
permaneō, -ēre, -nsī: remain, endure
placet: it is pleasing
praenūntius, -ī m.: foreteller, harbinger; indication, omen, 1
recubō (1): lie back, recline
semel: once
servolus, -ī m.: a young slave
stomachus, -ī m.: windpipe, stomach
sulpur, -is n.: sulfur
varius, -a, -um: various, 3
vastus, -a, -um: vast, enormous, 2

61 **Iam (erat) diēs alibī (sed) illīc...**: *Now (there was) daylight elsewhere, (but) there (was)...*
omnibus noctibus: *than...*; abl. of comparison
quam...solvēbant: *which...*; relative, fem. nox is the antecedent; impf. solvō, 'break up'
62 **placuit**: *it was pleasing (to him)*; impers. 3s pf.; i.e. the uncle decided or wanted
ēgredī: *to...*; pres. dep. inf.: translate as active
63 **ex proximō**: *from very close*
ecquid iam mare admitteret: *what...*; ind. question with impf. subj.; mare is subject
quod: *which...*; or 'this sea,' connective relative
vastum et adversum: pred., translate after verb
64 **super abiectum linteum**: *on top of...*; i.e. a sheet on the beach; PPP abiciō
semel atque iterum: *again and again*; 'once and again'
65 **poposcit, hausit**: pf. poscō, hauriō
66 **odor sulpuris**: nom. in apposition to praenuntius flammārum
in fugam: *to flight*
excitant illum: i.e. provoke that one (the uncle) to stand up
67 **servolīs duōbus**: *on...*; dat. of compound verb (pres. pple innītor); duōbus is the common dat. and abl. pl. ending for duo
ut ego colligō,: *as I gather*; i.e. as I recall the account from witnesses; clause of comparison
crassiōre cālīgine: *by...*; abl. of means within the abl. abs. below; crassiōre is a compar. adj.
68 **spīritū obstrūctō**: *(his) breath...*; abl. abs.; the uncle apparently had asthma or similar ailment and found it difficult to breath
clausōque stomachō: *his windpipe...*; abl. abs.; stomachus can refer, as here, to the 'esophagus' rather than to just the stomach itself
illī: *for that one*; dat. of interest
nātūrā: *by nature*; abl. of cause

adhūc: as yet, still, so far, 8
aqua, -ae f.: water, 6
atque: and, 16
lūmen, -inis n.: light, lamp; *pl*. eyes, 9
novus, -a, -um: new, recent; **novissimum**, last, 6
statim: immediately, 4
super: above, over, on top; upon (*acc*.), 5

Pliny the Elder likely suffered from asthma or a similar respiratory ailment where the airway swells and narrows, making it difficult to breathe properly. This explains why the author says that Pliny the Elder's esophagus was "weak and narrow by nature" (*natūrā invalidus et angustus*). These symptoms could easily flare up in the presence of gases (e.g. *odor sulpuris*), dust, and smoke brought by the eruption. Although Pliny asks for cold water to relieve the enflamed (*aestuāns*) airway, cold water and air is now known to exacerbate asthma and create even more tightening and mucus in the airways.

Asthma may also explain why Pliny alone collapsed, and the others accompanying him did not.

Why did Pliny die in the morning and not earlier?

The winds likely played a role. Recall that on the first day the winds were heading eastward across the bay toward Vesuvius. Pliny the Elder and his ships could not sail back to Misenum on the western tip of the bay because they did not have a favorable wind. When Pliny stopped at Stabiae, directly south from Vesuvius (see p. 8), the wind was driving much of the fallout away from Stabiae.

In the second letter, Pliny the Younger describes how in the early morning on the second day the cloud of ash crossed the bay and enveloped Misenum. The wind must have changed directions from east to west and now carried the ash, pumice, and gases westward across the bay.

This change of direction would have happened the same morning that Pliny collapsed and died in the first letter. If the uncle died from respiratory failure, as Pliny the Younger suggests, then perhaps the new westward-moving wind brought enough gas and debris to make the uncle's condition fatal.

Word Building: IBI "there" or "then"

For simplification, translate all the compounds of **inde** as 'then' or 'there.'

ibi: there, in that place, 5
- **alibī**: elsewhere, in another place, 1 — alius + ibi
- **inde**: from there, then, 2 — ibi + de
  - **deinde**: then, next, 3 — dē + ibi + de
  - **dein (deinde)**: then, next, 3 — dē + ibi
  - **proinde**: then, therefore, consequently, 2 — prō + ibi + de

Word Building: VERT-, VERS- "turn"

vertō, -ere, vertī, versum: turn; change, 6
- **āvertō, -ēre, āvertī, āversum**: turn away, 2
- **adversus, -a, -um**: facing, opposing, unfavorable; against + *acc*., 5
- **obversor, -ārī, -ātus sum**: turn about before
- **praevertō, -ere, -vertī:** turn beforehand, 1
- **revertor, -ī, reversus sum**: turn back, return
- **versō (1)**: turn, 1

20. Ubi diēs reddītus—is ab eō quem novissimē vīderat tertius—corpus inventum integrum illaesum opertumque ut fuerat indūtus: habitus corporis quiēscentī quam dēfūnctō similior.

21. Interim Mīsēnī ego et māter—sed nihil ad historiam, nec tū aliud quam dē exitū eius scīre voluistī. Fīnem ergō faciam. **22.** Ūnum adiciam, omnia mē quibus interfueram quaeque statim, cum maximē vēra memorantur, audieram, persecūtum. Tū potissima excerpēs; aliud est enim epistulam aliud historiam, aliud amīcō aliud omnibus scrībere. Valē.

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adiciō, -ere, -iēcī, -iectum: add, throw to
claudō, -ere, -sī, -sum: close (in), 3
dēfungor, -ī, dēfunctus sum: die; finish, 2
ergō: therefore, then, 2
excerpō, -ere, -psī, -ptum: pick out, excerpt, 2
exitus, -ūs m.: exit, destruction, death; result, 3
fīnis, -is m.: end; border, territory, 3
frīgidus, -a, -um: cool, cold, 2
habitus, -ūs m.: condition, appearance
historia, -ae f.: history, 3
illaesus, -a, -um: unhurt, unharmed
induō, -ere, -duī, -dūtum: put on, clothe, 3
integer, -gra, -grum: intact, unharmed
interim: meanwhile, in the meantime, 3
intersum, -esse, -fuī: be in, take part in, 2
inveniō, -īre, -vēnī, -ventum: find, 3
memorō (1): recall, remember, 2
operiō, -īre, -uī: cover, conceal, 3
persequor, -ī, -secūtus sum: pursue, follow up
reddō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: give back, 3
tertius, -a, -um: third
potis, -e: preferable, preferred; able

70 **diēs**: *daylight*
redditus (est): *was returned*; pf. pass. reddō
is (erat) ab eō (diē) quem novissimē vīderat tertius (diēs): *this (was) the third (day) from that (day) which he had last seen*; ellipsis; Pliny is counting inclusively: therefore, 'two days later' from the time the eruption began and turned day into night. Thus. the eruption began on Aug. 24, the uncle died on Aug 25, and daylight returned on Aug. 26.
novissimē: *last*; 'most recently,' superl. adv.
71 **inventum (est)**: pf. pass., 3rd decl. neut.
corpus is nom. subject
integrum illaesum opertumque: a series of neut. sg. nom. pred. following inventum est and modifying corpus; PPP operiō
ut fuerat indūtus: *just as he...*; clause of comparison with plpf. sum; PPP induō as pred.
habitus corporis (erat)
72 **quiēscentī quam dēfūnctō**: *to (someone)... than to (someone)...*; dat. of special adj. (here, comparative similis); quam introduces a clause of comparison with pres. pple quiēscō and dep. PPP dēfungor (translate as 'having Xed')
73 **Mīsēnī**: *at Misenum*; locative, place where
(hoc est) nihil ad historiam: *(this is) nothing for history*; i.e. what happened to my mother and me is not a topic for history
nec...aliud quam: *and...no (anything) other than...*; acc. obj. quam often introduces a clause of comparison after neut. acc. alius
74 **eius**: *his*; i.e. the uncle's
voluistī: 2s pf. volō
faciam: 1s fut., faciō
Ūnum: *one (thing)*; neut. sg. substantive
adiciam: 1s fut. ad-iciō
omnia mē...persecūtum (esse): *that I...*; ind. disc.; omnia is neut. pl. acc. obj. of pf. dep. inf. persequor (translate as pf. active)
75 **quibus interfueram**: *in which I had been involved*; dat. of compound; omnia antecedent
quaeque...audi(v)eram: *and which...*; relative and neut. acc.; syncopated 1s plpf.
cum maximē vēra memorantur: *when true (things)...*; Pliny notes that things that he heard immediately after the eruption are more likely true than things reported long afterwards
maximē: *especially*; 'very greatly,' superl. adv.
76 **potissima**: *the most preferable things*; neut. pl.
aliud est (scrībere) enim epistulam (et) aliud (scrībere) historiam: *for it is one thing to...and another to...*; ellipsis; aliuds are correlatives
77 **aliud (est) amīcō aliud omnibus scrībere**: *(it is) one thing to write for... (and) another thing to write for...*; ellipsis; dat. of interest
Vālē: *Farewell*; sg. imperative

ad: to, toward, at, near, about (*acc.*), 24
amīcus, -ī: friend, 4
dē: (down) from, about, concerning, 16
epistula, -ae f.: letter, 5
nihil: nothing, 7
sciō, -īre, -īvī, -ītum: know (how), 5
ubi: where, when, 10
valeō, -ēre, -uī: fare well, be strong, 6

Even in death, Pliny the Elder remained calm

quiēscentī quam dēfūnctō similior *more similar to one resting than one dead* l. 72

Pliny the Younger has consistently portrayed his uncle in the best possible light, and his account of his uncle's corpse is no different. When Pliny uses the word *quiēscentī*, "one resting," we cannot help but recall how well the uncle slept while Pomponianus and others anxiously stayed up in the night. Throughout the letter Pliny has drawn attention to his uncle's courage and tranquity in the face of imminent danger, and he uses this last appearance to remind Tacitus to leave the same impression.

The Purpose of History for Pliny is to reveal Moral Character (III)

In the opening of the letter Pliny said that Tacitus asked: "that I write about the death of my uncle to you" (*ut tibi avunculī meī exitum scrībam*), and in the concluding remarks Pliny reminds Tacitus of his singular purpose and says that "you wanted to know about his death" (*dē exitū eius scīre voluistī*).

While we moderns can approach the letter with an eye to learning objectively what happened during the eruption from first-hand witnesses, Pliny did not write with that express purpose. For Pliny, history is not about events; it is about how people respond in those events. More specifically, history provides moral examples worthy of praise and imitation and examples worthy of contempt. Tacitus wanted to know how the admiral of the Roman fleet faced adversity in his final hours, and Pliny used this opportunity to depict his uncle's character as unflinchingly heroic, sober, and calm until the end.

Word Building: PERI-, "cover"

All three verbs below derive from pariō, parīre, "get," but it is simpler to remember that **operiō**, "cover," is the opposite of **aperiō**, "open," (i.e. "uncover") and **reperiō** is similar to aperiō and means "find" or "discover" (i.e. "pull back the cover")

aperiō, -īre, -uī, apertum: open, 4
operiō, -īre, -uī: cover, conceal, 3
reperiō -īre -pperī -pertum: find, 1

"Cover" and "covert" are derivatives for **operiō**. "Aperture" is a common derivative for **aperiō**.

3rd I-Stem Nouns and Adjectives

All 3rd decl. adjectives and a small subset of 3rd decl. nouns are i-stem and have an extra 'i' not found in some forms of regular 3rd declension. Note the endings in boldface below.

	omnis, omne: every, all				ignis, is f.: fire		mare, -is n.: sea	
	m/f.		neut.					
Nom.	omnis	omnēs	omne	**omnia**	ignis	ignēs	mare	**maria**
Gen.	omnis	**omnium**	omnis	**omnium**	ignis	**ignium**	maris	**marium**
Acc.	omnī	omnibus	omnī	omnibus	ignī	ignibus [1]	marī	maribus
Acc.	omnem	omnēs	omne	**omnia**	ignem	ignēs	mare	**maria**
Abl.	**omnī**	omnibus	**omnī**	omnibus	**ignī**	ignibus	**marī**	maribus

C. Plīnius Tacitō suō s.

Ais tē adductum litterīs quās exigentī tibi dē morte avunculī meī scrīpsī, cupere cognōscere, quōs ego Mīsēnī relictus—id enim ingressus abrūperam—nōn sōlum metūs vērum etiam cāsūs pertulerim.

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

2. Profectō avunculō ipse reliquum tempus studiīs—ideō enim remānseram—impendī; mox balineum cēna somnus inquiētus et brevis. **3.** Praecesserat per multōs diēs tremor terrae, minus formīdolōsus quia Campāniae solitus; illā vērō nocte ita invaluit, ut nōn movērī omnia sed vertī crēderentur.

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abrumpō, -ere, -rūpī: break off, burst from
addūcō, -ere, -dūxī, -ductum: draw/lead to, 2
aiō, ais, ait; ajunt: say, speak; assert
balineum, -ī n.: bath, 2
brevis, -e: short, shallow
Campānia, -ae f.: Campania, 2
cēna, -ae f.: dinner
cōgnōscō, -ere, -nōvī, -nitum: learn, know, 2
cupiō, -ere, -īvī, -ītum: desire, 2
exigō, -ere, -ēgī, -āctum: drive, urge; spend, 3
formīdolōsus, -a, -um: formidable
ideō: for this reason, therefore
impendō, -ere, -pendī: spend, pay; weigh, 2
ingredior, -ī, -gressus sum: step in, enter, 2
inquiētus, -a, -um: restless, not restful
invalēscō, -ere, -uī: become strong
littera, -ae f.: (alphabet) letter; *pl*. letter, 2
meminī, -isse: remember, recall, 3
perferō, -re, -tulī, -lātum: carry through, endure
praecēdō, -ere, cessī, -cessum: precede, surpass
proficīscor, -ī, -fectus: set out, make forth, 3
reliquus, -a, um: remaining, left (over), 3
remaneō, ēre, -mansī: remain
soleō, -ēre, solitus sum: be accustomed, 3
studium, -ī n.: enthusiasm; study, pursuit, 3
Tacitus, -ī m.: Tacitus, 2
tempus, -oris n.: time, 2

1 **C. Plīnius Tacitō suō s(alūtem dīcit)**: *Gaius Plinius (sends greetings) to his Tacitus*
2 **Ais**: *You say*; 2s pres. aiō
Tē... cupere cognōscere: *that you...*; ind. disc. cognōscere is a complementary inf. after cupere
adductum litterīs: *drawn by the letter*; PPP addūcō and abl. of means; pl. litterae refers to letter 6.16, the previous letter about Vesuvius
quās...scrīpsī: *which...*
exigentī tibi: *for you driving me*; i.e. urging me dat. ind. obj. and pres. pple exigō (ex + agō)
3 **quōs ego.... nōn sōlum metūs vērum etiam cāsūs pertulerim:** *what not only fears but also misfortunes I...*; ind. question with 1s pf. subj.. perferō ‘endure;’ vērum, ‘but,’ is an adverbial acc. and often adversative
Mīsēnī: *at Misenum*; locative place where
relictus: *left behind*; PPP relinquō, left while his uncle led the Roman fleet to Stabiae
Id...ingressus abrūperam: dep. PPP ingredior: translate as ‘having Xed,’ id, ‘it,’ refers to what happened to the author and mother during the eruption; Pliny mentioned them both in the conclusion of the last letter (6.16) but broke off (cf. *abrūperam*) mid-sentence and suggested that it was a topic Tacitus did not ask to hear.
5 **‘Quamquam...horret,..incipiam’**: *although the mind shudders to recall, I will begin*; Pliny here quotes Vergil’s *Aeneid* Book 2.12-13, where Aeneas speaks before Dido at a banquet and begins his recollection of the fall of Troy
7 **Profectō avunculō**: abl. abs.; dep. PPP proficīscor: translate as ‘having Xed’
ipse...impendī: *(I) myself...*; 1s pf. impendō
8 **mox (erant) balineum (et) cēnā (et) somnus inquiētus et brevis.**: *soon (there was)...*; three subjects completed sequentially through time
9 **minus**: *less*; comparative adv.
Campāniae: *in...*; locative, place where
solītus: *accustomed*; i.e. customary
10 **illā...nocte**: *(on)...*; abl. time when
vērō: *in truth, in fact*; adv.
(tremor) invaluit: supply a subject
ut...omnia...crēderentur: *that all things...*; result clause with impf. pass. subj.; pres. pass. inf. moveō and vertō, ‘overturn’

horreō, -ēre, -uī; shudder, stand on end, bristle, 4
incipiō, -ere, incēpī, inceptum: begin, take on, 4
minor, minus: smaller, less, 5
moveō, -ēre, mōvī, mōtum: move, motivate, 5
sōlus, -a, -um: alone, only, sole, lonely, 10

Pliny's Second Letter Contrasts his own Inaction with his Uncle's Heroism

In this second and final letter about the eruption, Pliny offers a personal account of what happened to himself and his mother Plinia Marcella as they escaped from Misenum, a city on the western tip of the bay opposite Vesuvius. Pliny was only 17 years old at the time, and his actions will seem reasonable for anyone unaware of the true threat of a volcano. But, just as Pliny elevates his uncle's response to the eruption in the first letter, the author draws attention to his own inaction in the second.

Why does Pliny Cite Vergil's *Aeneid* 2.12-3?

The eruption was undoubtedly the most catastrophic event in Pliny's life, and the quotation draws attention to this fact. In the *Aeneid* Book 1, Aeneas and the Trojans who survived the fall of Troy are shipwrecked in North Africa on their way to Italy. There, they meet Dido, queen of Carthage, who offers hospitality and invites Aeneas to recall the fall of Troy at a banquet. In Book 2, Aeneas offers the banqueters an eye-witness account and begins his recollection with the line quoted by Pliny.

Why Pliny begins with Mundane Tasks that Mimic his Uncle's

Pliny's actions at the beginning of this second letter closely mimic those of his uncle at the house of Pomponianus:

mox (a) balineum (b) cēna (c) somnus inquiētus et brevis l. 6

While the uncle set out across the bay, Pliny stayed and studied for the rest of the day. Then, he curiously mentions that he (a) took a bath, (b) ate dinner, and finally (c) went to sleep. Why does Pliny mention such mundane tasks rather than give detailed observations of the eruption?

Pliny likely includes details about his bath, dinner, and sleep in order to encourage Tacitus to compare Pliny's less-than-heroic response to that of his uncle. Note that while the uncle slept so soundly that he snored loudly, Pliny is quick to point out that his sleep was "restless and short." Pliny was filled with the sort of anxiety that his uncle seemed to lack.

Word Building: FER-, TUL-, LAT- "carry" "endure"

ferō, ferre, tulī, lātum: carry, bring; endure, 10	carry	
auferō, auferre, abstulī, ablātum: carry away, 2	+	away (au = ab)
conferō, -ferre, -tulī: bring together, gather, 1	+	together
dēferō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātum: report, offer, 3	+	away to
efferō, -ferre, -tulī, ēlātum: raise, lift up, 1	+	out
īnferō, -ferre, -tulī: carry/bring on, 1	+	in/on
offerō, -ferre, obtulī: offer, bear to, 1	+	to
perferō, -re, -tulī, -lātum: carry through, endure, 1	+	through
praeferō, -ferre, -tulī -lātum: prefer; put before, 1	+	before
prōferō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātus: bring forth, 1	+	forth, in front
referō, -ferre, -tulī, -lātum: report; say, 8	+	back

4. Irrūpit cubiculum meum māter; surgēbam invicem, sī quiēsceret excitātūrus. Resēdimus in āreā domūs, quae mare ā tēctīs modicō spatiō dīvidēbat. **5.** Dubitō cōnstantiam vocāre an imprūdentiam dēbeam—agēbam enim duodevīcēnsimum annum—poscō librum Titī Līvī, et quasi per ōtium legō atque etiam ut coeperam excerpō. Ecce amīcus avunculī quī nūper ad eum ex Hispāniā vēnerat, ut mē et mātrem sedentēs, mē vērō etiam legentem videt, illīus patientiam sēcūritātem meam corripit. Nihilō sēgnius ego intentus in librum.

ārea, -ae f.: courtyard, open space, 3
cōnstantia, -ae f.: constancy
cubiculum, -ī n.: bedroom, 2
dīvidō, -ere, -vīsī, -vīsum: divide, 2
dubitō (1): doubt, hestitate, 2
duodevīcēnsimus, -a, -um: eighteenth
ecce: behold, 3
excerpō, -ere, -psī, -ptum: pick out, excerpt, 2
Hispānia, -ae f.: Hispania, Spain, 2
imprūdentia, -ae f.: imprudence, foolishness
invicem: in turn, 2
irrumpō, -ere, -rūpī, -ruptum: burst/break in
Līvius, -ī m.: Livy
modicus, -a, -um: moderate, small, 2
nūper: recently
ōtium, -iī n.: leisure, free time, peace, 2
patientia, -ae f.: patience, endurance
sēcūritās, -tātis f.: lack of concern or care, 2
sedeō, -ēre, sēdī: sit, 3
sēgnis, -e: inactive, slow, sluggish
spatium, -ī: space, distance
Titus, -ī m.: Titus

11 **surgēbam**: *I was getting up*; Pliny was already rising when his mother entered
sī quiēsceret: *if she were...*; contrary to fact condition (sī impf. subj., impf. subj.) with fut. pple excitātūrūs in place of the apodosis

12 **excitātūrus (matrem meam)**: *intending to...*; fut. pple excitō, 'wake up,' expressing purpose
domūs: gen. sg.; domus has mixed 2nd and 4th decl. endings
quae...dīvidēbat: *which was separating...*; i.e. a courtyard was situated between the sea and the house; there may have been multiple courtyards and buildings in this complex; mare is acc. obj.
ā tēctīs: *from the house*; 'roofs,' synecdoche
modicō spatiō: *with...*; abl. degree of difference

13 **cōnstantiam vocāre an imprūdentiam dēbeam**: *whether I ought to call (it)....or...*; ind. question with 1s pres. subj. dēbeō; vocāre governs a double acc. (obj. and pred.): supply 'it,' i.e. studying Livy, as obj. of vocāre
agēbam: *I was living*; common idiom with acc. duration (for...); equiv. to 'I was X years old'

14 **duodevīcēnsimum annum**: Pliny is counting inclusively: it is his 18th year, but we today would say that Pliny is 17 years old. We use this evidence to assign Pliny's birth to AD 61 or the first half of 62
Titī Līvī: *of...*; gen., the historian (59 BC to AD 17) who wrote a vast history of Rome called *Ab Urbe Condita*, which is still read today; this is likely the assignment his uncle had assigned Pliny in the first letter
quasi...legō atque...excerpō: *as if...*; conditional comparison with two verbs
per ōtium: *at leisure*; over his free time

15 **ut coeperam**: *as...*; clause of comparison with plpf. act. coepī
excerpō: *I am excerpting*; i.e. picking out and perhaps writing out passages for study

16 **ut mē et mātrem...videt**: *as he...*; temporal clause with ut + indicative
(et) mē vērō etiam legentem: *(and) me actually even...*; another object of videt

17 **īllīus patientiam**: *the patience of that (woman)*; i.e. Plinia; pronomial gen. sg. illa
(et) sēcūritātem meam
corripit: *he seizes upon...*; i.e. he attacks or scolds; corripiō elsewhere means 'seize/snatch up' but here 'seizes on and attacks' verbally
Nihilō sēgnius: *no less actively, none the slower*; 'less active by nothing:' comparative adv. sēgnis and abl. of degree of difference
intentus (eram): *I was intent, I was focused*; PPP intendō as nom. pred.; add linking verb

18 **In librum**: *upon...*

annus, -ī m.: year, 8
coepī, coepisse, coeptum: begin, 4
corripiō, -ere, -uī, -reptum: snatch (up), 5
dēbeō, -ēre, dēbuī: ought, owe, 5
intendō, -ere, -tendī, -tentum: stretch out, aim, 4
vocō (1**):** call, 6

Pliny's Humility and Survivor's Guilt

Pliny could have portrayed himself positively to Tacitus and not acknowledged the small embarrassing details. But, Pliny takes every opportunity to humble and disparage himself. Each passage below from lines 3-8 gives Tacitus and readers reason to criticize Pliny's actions in hindsight:

1. Dubitō cōnstantiam vocāre an imprūdentiam dēbeam
2. poscō librum Titī Līvī, et quasi per ōtium legō
3. mē et mātrem sedentēs, mē vērō etiam legentem videt
4. illīus patientiam sēcūritātem meam corripit
5. Nihilō sēgnius ego intentus in librum.

Some scholars argue that Pliny suffers from **survivor's guilt**. Pliny's uncle was a father figure, and Pliny refused an offer to accompany his uncle across the bay. Pliny survived, and his uncle did not. On this interpretation, Pliny's efforts to humble himself is one more way to exalt his uncle's actions.

The Friend from Hispania highlights Pliny's Inaction

In the previous letter Pliny used Pomponianus' trembling, sleeplessness, and fear at Stabiae as a way to highlight his uncle's desire to console his friends and confront the disaster with equanimity.

The friend from Hispania plays a similar role in the second letter but instead draws attention to Pliny's lack of initiative and urgency. As the friend notes, Pliny is guilty of **sēcūritātem**, a "lack of concern," that is inappropriate on this occasion.

Word Building RUMP-, RUPT- "burst"

rumpō, -ere, rūpī, ruptum: burst, break in, 2	burst
abrumpō, -ere, -rūpī: break off, burst from, 1	+ from
interrumpō, -ere, -rūpī: interrupt, break in	+ in, between
irrumpō, -ere, -rupī, -ruptum: break/burst in, 1	+ in

Word Building RAP-, RIP-, REPT- "seize" "snatch"

rapiō, -ere, -uī, raptum: snatch, seize; kidnap, 1	
rapidus, -a, -um: swift, grasping, 1	snatch
corripiō, -ere, -uī, -reptum: snatch (up), 5	+ up (cum is often an intensive)
ēripiō, -ere, -uī: rescue, snatch from, 4	+ out, from
prōripiō, -ere: snatch; + sē, rush out, 1	+ forth, out

Word Building: Synonyms for "Ask"

poscō, -ere, poposcī: ask, request, demand, 4
dēposcō, -ere, poposcī: ask, request, demand, 1
exposcō, -ere, -poposcī: ask, request, demand, 1
petō, -ere, -īvi: seek, ask, head for, 11
oppetō, -ere, īvī, ītum: seek (death), encounter, 1
rogō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: ask, question, 5
quaerō, -ere, quaesīvī, -sītum: search, ask, 2
adquīrō, -ere, -quīsīvī, -quīsītum: acquire, 1
requīrō, -ere, -sī, -sītum: search/seek/ask for, 3

6. Iam hōrā diēī prīmā, et adhūc dubius et quasi languidus diēs. Iam quassātīs circumiacentibus tēctīs, quamquam in apertō locō, angustō tamen, magnus et certus ruīnae metus. **7.** Tum dēmum excēdere oppidō vīsum; sequitur vulgus attonitum, quodque in pavōre simile prūdentiae, aliēnum cōnsilium suō praefert, ingentīque agmine abeuntēs premit et impellit. **8.** Ēgressī tēcta cōnsistimus. Multa ibi mīranda, multās formīdinēs patimur. Nam vehicula quae prōdūcī iusserāmus, quamquam in plānissimō campō, in contrāriās partēs agēbantur, ac nē lapidibus quidem fulta in eōdem vestīgiō quiēscēbant.

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abeō, -īre, -iī, itum: go away, 3
agmen, -inis n.: column, line, formation, 3
aliēnus, -a ,-um: of another, another's, 3
angustus, -a, -um: narrow, 2
attonitus, -a, -um: thunder-struck, astonished, 2
campus, -ī m.: field, 2
circumiaceō, -ēre: lie around
cōnsilium, -ī: plan, idea, 3
cōnsistō, -ere, -stitī: stop, stand still
contrārius, -a, -um: opposite, contrary, 2
dēmum: at length, finally
dubius, -a, -um: doubtful, wavering, uncertain, 3
excēdō, -ere, cessī, -cessum: go out, depart, 2
formīdō, -inis f.: dread, fear, 3
fulciō, -ere, -sī, fultum: prop up
hōra, -ae f.: hour, 2
impellō, -ere, -pulī, -pulsum: impel, push, 3
languidus, -a, -um: languid, faint, weak
lapis, -idis m.: stone, 3
mīrandus, -a, -um: amazing, wondrous
oppidum, -ī n.: town, 2
pavor, pavōris m.: pale fear, panic, 2
plānus, -a, -um: flat, level
praeferō, -ferre, -tulī -lātum: prefer; put before
prōdūcō, -ere, -dūxī: lead/bring forth or out
prūdentia, -ae f.: prudence, good sense
quassō (1): shake, shatter
ruīna, -ae f.: downfall, fall, 2
vehiculum, -ī n.: carriage, vehicle, 2
vulgus, -ī n.: masses, multitude

19 **hōrā...prīmā**: *at...*; abl. time when; i.e. dawn
diēī: *of...*; gen. of the whole (i.e. partitive gen.)
et adhūc dubius...et...languidus: *both...and...*
quasī languidus: *as if...*; clause of comparison
diēs (erat): *the daylight (was)...*; Pliny notes the lack of daylight caused by the eruption;
Iam quassātīs...tēctīs: *the houses*...; abl. abs. with PPP quassō; tēctīs, 'roofs' or 'houses,' is modified by pres. pple circumiacentibus

20 **quamquam...tamen**: *although...neverthless...*; concessive in sense
magnus et certus (erat) ruīnae metus: *the fear...*; ellipsis, ruīnae is an objective gen.

21 **oppidō**: *from...*; abl. of separation
vīsum (est): *it seemed (best)*; impersonal pf. pass. videor, 'seem (best)'
sequitur: pres. dep.: translate as active
vulgus attonitum: irreg. 2nd decl. neuter nom.

22 **quodque in pavōre (est) simile prūdentiae**: *and what in a panic (is) similar to prudence*; relative clause; the antecedent of quod is the entire clause which follows; simile is nom. sg. and prūdentiae is dat. of special adj. similis
aliēnum cōnsilium suō (cōnsiliō) praefert: *(and the crowd) prefers another's plan to their own* ; dat. of compound verb prae-ferō; -que in quodque joins the verbs sequitur and praefert the vulgus is plural when acting individually

23 **ingentī agmine**: *with...*; abl. means; an agmen is a 'drive' (>agō): here a 'column' of people
abeuntēs: *(those)...*; acc. obj. pres. pple ab-eō, abīre; vulgus is the subject of the two verbs
Ēgressī: *(we)...*; 1p nom. dep. PPP ēgredior: translate as 'having Xed;' tēcta is acc. object
tēcta: i.e. buildings in the town

24 **cōnsistimus**: *we stop*; 'stand still'
Multa...mīranda,: neut. acc. substantive: add 'things'
(et) multās formīdinēs
patimur: *we experience*; 'suffer,' 1s dep. patior

25 **prōdūcī**: *to be...*; pres. pass. inf.
in contrāriās partēs agēbantur: *were being driven in contrary directions*; i.e. as a result of the earthquakes and perhaps heavy ash

26 **nē lapidibus quidem**: *not even with...*; nē... quidem, 'not even,' often emphasizes the intervening word; here, abl. of means
fulta: PPP fulciō (derivative: fulcrum!) modifies the understood neuter subject vehicula
(vehicula) quiēscēbant: subject understood

ac: and, 5
īdem, eadem, idem: same, 10
ingēns, -entis: huge, immense, 10
nē: lest, that not, 15
pars, -tis f.: part, side, direction; floor, 7
patior, -ī, passus sum: suffer, endure; allow, 7
premō, -ere, pressī, -sum: press, repress/hide, 4
prīmus, -a, -um: first; leading, as leader, 20
sequor, -ī, secūtus sum: follow, pursue, 8
vestīgium, -ī n.: footprint, tracks, 4

Pliny describes the Earthquakes at Dawn.

The earthquakes mentioned by Pliny this morning on August 25th are the same tremors that forced the uncle and Pomponianus out of the house in the first letter. Pliny writes in line 19 that the daylight was uncertain and weak, and this lack of visbility may explain why Pliny does not give a detailed description of what was happening across the bay in the direction of Mt. Vesuvius at this time.

Word Building SEQU-/SECU- "follow"

sequor, -ī, secūtus sum: follow, pursue, 8	follow
īnsequor, -sequī, -secūtus sum: follow, ensue, 1	+ in
persequor, -ī, persecūtus sum: pursue, 1	+ through
prōsequor, -ī, -secūtus sum: pursue, escort, 2	+ forward, in front
subsequor, -ī, secūtus sum: follow after, 1	+ after, behind

Word Building CED-/CESS- "move" or "go"

cēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessum: go (away), withdraw; yield, 2	move/go
abscēdō, -ere, -cessī: go away, depart, 1	+ from
accēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessum: approach, 3	+ to
dēcēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessum: depart; die, 2	+ from
discēdō, -ere, -cessī: go away, depart, 1	+ apart/in a different direction
excēdō, -ere, cessī, -cessum: go out, depart, 2	+ out, from
incēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessum: go, proceed, strut, 1	+ in
praecēdō, -ere, cessī, -cessum: precede, surpass, 1	+ before, in front
prōcēdō, -ere, -cessī; proceed, 2	+ before, in front
recēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessum: go back, 1	+ back

Word Building GRAD-/GRESS- "step"

gradior, -ī, gressus sum: step, walk, proceed, 2	step
dīgredior, -ī, -gressus sum: step away, depart	+ apart, away
ēgredior, -ī, -gressus sum: go out, disembark, 4	+ out
ingredior, -ī, -gressus sum: step in, enter, 2	+ in, into
regredior, -ī, regressus sum: return, 1	+ back
gradus, -ūs m.: step, 3	

9. Praetereā mare in sē resorbērī et tremōre terrae quasi repellī vidēbāmus. Certē prōcesserat lītus, multaque animālia maris siccīs harēnīs dētinēbat. Ab alterō latere nūbēs ātra et horrenda, igneī spīritūs tortīs vibrātīsque discursibus rupta, in longās flammārum figūrās dehīscēbat; fulguribus illae et similēs et maiōrēs erant. **10.** Tum vērō īdem ille ex Hispāniā amīcus ācrius et īnstantius 'Sī frāter' inquit 'tuus, tuus avunculus vīvit, vult esse vōs salvōs; sī periit, superstitēs voluit. Proinde quid cessātīs ēvādere?' Respondimus nōn commissūrōs nōs ut dē salūte illīus incertī nostrae cōnsulerēmus.

ācer, ācris, ācre: sharp; fierce, 3
alter, -era, -erum: other (of two), 2
animal, animalis n.: animal
cessō (1): cease from, be idle
committō, -ere: commit, commence, arrange, 3
cōnsulō, -ere: consult, console, consider (dat.), 3
dehīscō, -ere: split open, yawn, gape, 2
dētineō, -ēre, -uī: hold back, detain, 3
discursus, -ūs m.: running (to and fro)
ēvādō, -ere, -vāsī, -vāsum: go, escape
frāter, -tris m.: brother, 3
fulgor (fulgur) m.: flash (lightning), lightning, 2
harēna, -ae f.: sand, 2
Hispānia, -ae f.: Hispania, Spain, 2
horrendus, -a, -um: horrible, horrendous, 3
igneus, -a, -um: fiery, of fire, 2
īnstanter: urgently, pressingly
latus, -eris n.: side, 3
pereō, -īre, periī: pass away, perish, 2
praetereā: besides, in addition, 2
prōcēdō, -ere, -cessī; proceed, move forward, 2
proinde: then, therefore, consequently, 2
repellō, -ere, -pulī: drive back, repulse
resorbeō, -ēre: suck back
rumpō, -ere, rūpī, ruptum: burst, break in, 2
salvus, -a, -um: safe, sound, 2
siccus, -a, -um: dry
superstes, -stitis: surviving
vibrō (1): vibrate, brandish, shake, 2
vīvō, -ere, vīxī, vīctum: live, 3
vōs, vestrum, vōbīs, vōs, vōbis: you (all)

27 **mare...resorbērī...repellī**: *that the sea was...*; ind. disc.; 2 pres. pass. infs.; mare is acc. subj.
in sē: *into itself*; the water was receding away from the coastline as a result of the earthquakes
tremōre terrae: *by...*; abl. of cause
quasi repellī: *as if (the sea) was...*; pass. inf.

28 **prōcesserat lītus**: the shore became wider as the water receded and the seabed became part of the extended beach
(in) siccīs harēnīs
dētinēbat: neut. sg. litus is still the subject
Ab alterō latere: i.e. on the land side near Vesuvius as opposed to the shoreline and sea

29 **nūbēs**: fem. sg.: modified by fem. sg. adjs.
igneī spīritūs... discursibus: *zig-zags of fiery discharge*; i.e. forked lightning; abl. of means with PPP; subjective gen. (i.e. fiery breath runs)
tortīs vibrātīsque: PPP torqueō and vibrō; vibrō likely refers to the flashing of the bolts

30 **rupta**: *having been ruptured/broken*; PPP rumpō, modifying nūbēs
(et) in longās...figūrās: i.e. flickers or tongues of fire; the next clause explains the figūrās
dehīscēbat: nūbēs is still subject
fulguribus: *to...*, *than...*; dat. of special adj. with similēs or abl. of comparison with maiōrēs
illae...erant: *those were...*; i.e. the figūrae
et similēs et maiōrēs: *both...and...*; nom. pred. after erant; comparative of magnus

31 **īdem ille...amīcus**: nom. subject
ācrius et īnstantius: comparatives with inquit

32 **Sī frāter tuus (et) tuus avunculus vīvit**: the friend is addressing the mother and author
vult: 3s pres. volō
esse vōs salvōs: *that...*; ind. disc.

33 **(esse vōs) superstitēs**: *that (you)...*; ind. disc.
quid cessātis ēvādere: *Why...?*; 2p cessō + inf.

34 **nōn commissūrōs (esse)...ut cōnsulerēmus**: *that we will not commit/begin to consult...*; lit. 'will not arrange that we consult' ind. disc. with fut. inf. committō, which governs a noun result clause with impf. subj. as its object
dē salūte illīus incertī: *(while) uncertain about that one's safety*; nom. pl. modifying 1p subject 'we,' illīus is gen. sg. and refers to the uncle
nostrae (salūtī): *for our (safety)*; dat. purpose

āter, ātra, ātrum: dark, black, 5
nōs, nōbīs, nōs, nōbis: we, 8
noster, -ra, -rum: our (own), ours, 7
torqueō, -ēre, torsī, tortum: twist, 4

Pliny witnesses the sea withdraw from the shoreline and lightning in the eruption column.

The temors must have created a tidal wave, which is often preceded by a receding shoreline such as the one Pliny observed. The trough of this tidal wave wave is striking the shore before the crest. Lightning is not common in every eruption but is present in eruptions similar to the one on Mt. Vesuvius. Such eruptions are called "Plinian Eruptions." The column of ash and superheated gas leads to an accumulation of electric charge that is discharged as lightning within the column itself.

Indirect Discourse in Primary and Secondary Sequence

In secondary sequence (main verb in the past), translate a present inf. as imperfect, perfect inf. as pluperfect, and future inf. (will) as future in secondary sequence (would):

	Active	**Passive**
Present inf.	Plīnium nūbem **vidēre** *(says) that Pliny **is seeing (sees)** the cloud* *(said) that Pliny **was seeing** the cloud*	nūbem ā Plīniō **vidērī** *(says) that the cloud **is seen** by Pliny* *(said) that the cloud **were seen** by Pliny*
Perfect inf.	Plīnium nūbem **vīdisse** *(says) that Pliny **has seen (saw)** the cloud* *(said) that Pliny **had seen** the cloud*	nūbem ā Plīniō **vīsam esse** *(says) that the cloud **has been seen (was seen)** by P.* *(said) that the cloud **had been seen** by Pliny*
Future inf.	Plīnium nūbem **vīsūrum esse** *(says) that Pliny **will see** the cloud* *(said) that Pliny **would see** the cloud*	

Word Building TORQ-, TORT- "twist"

torqueō, -ēre, torsī, tortum: twist, 4	twist
contorqueō, -ēre, -torsī, -tortum: twist, hurl, 2	+ (with intensity)
intorqueō, -ēre, -torsī, -tortum: hurl, twist, 2	+ in, on
dētorqueō, -ēre, -rsī, -tum: twist off, turn from, 1	+ from, off

It's the same -DEM ending!

This mnemonic is just a clever reminder that, when **is, ea, id** ends in the enclitic **-dem**, the resulting adjective means "same." Note below the spelling changes that occur with the addition of **-dem.**

Nom.	īdem (is + dem)	eadem	idem (id + dem)
Gen.	eiusdem	eiusdem	eiusdem
Dat.	eīdem	eīdem	eīdem
Acc.	eundem (eum+dem)	eandem (eam+dem)	idem (id + dem)
Abl.	eōdem	eādem	eōdem
Nom.	eīdem	eaedem	eadem
Gen.	eōrundem (eōrum+dem)	eārundem (eārum+dem)	eōrundem (eum+dem)
Dat.	eīsdem	eīsdem	eīsdem
Acc.	eōsdem	eāsdem	eadem
Abl.	eīsdem	eīsdem	eīsdem

Very important: Readers often confuse **īdem** and **idem**. īdem is masculine (is+dem), while idem is neuter (id+dem). On the facing page, īdem means "the same man" rather than idem, "the same thing."

11. Nōn morātus ultrā prōripit sē effūsōque cursū perīculō aufertur. Nec multō post illa nūbēs dēscendere in terrās, operīre maria; cīnxerat Capreās et absconderat, Mīsēnī quod prōcurrit abstulerat. **12.** Tum māter ōrāre hortārī iubēre, quōquō modō fugerem; posse enim iuvenem, sē et annīs et corpore gravem bene moritūram, sī mihi causa mortis nōn fuisset. Ego contrā salvum mē nisi ūnā nōn futūrum; dein manum eius amplexus addere gradum cōgō. Pāret aegrē incūsatque sē, quod mē morētur.

13. Iam cinis, adhūc tamen rārus. Respiciō: dēnsa cālīgō tergīs imminēbat, quae nōs torrentis modō īnfūsa terrae sequēbātur. ‘Dēflectāmus,’ inquam ‘dum vidēmus, nē in viā strātī comitantium turbā in tenebrīs obterāmur.’

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abscondō, -ere, -ī, -itum: hide away, conceal, 2
addō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: add, give in addition, 2
aeger, -gra, -grum: sick, weary; 1
amplector, -plectī, -plexus sum: embrace, enclose, 3
auferō, auferre, abstulī, ablātum: carry away, 2
bene: well, 2
cālīgō, -inis f.: mist, vapor, 3
Capreae, -ārum f.: Capri (island)
cingō, -ere, cinxī, cinctum: belt, gird; equip, 3
cōgō, cōgere, coēgī, coāctum: collect; compel, 2
comitō (1): accompany, attend, 2
dēflectō, -ere, flexī, flexus: bend/turn aside, 2
dein (deinde): then, next, 3
dēnsus, -a, -um: thick, 3
dēscendō, ere, ī, -ēnsum: descend
gradus, -ūs m.: step, 3
hortor, -ārī, hortātus sum: encourage, urge, 2
immineō, -ēre: tower over, threaten; imminent, 3
incūsō (1): accuse, blame
īnfundō, -ere, -dī, -fūsus: pour/spread on, 2
iuvenis, -is m.: juvenile, a youth, 2
modus, ī n.: manner, way, 2
morior, morī, mor(i)tuus sum: die, 3
obterō (1): tread or trample upon
operiō, -īre, -uī: cover, conceal, 3
pāreō, -ēre, paruī: obey
prōcurrō, -ere, -currī: run forward
prōripiō, -ere: snatch; + sē, rush out
quisquis, quicquid: whoever, whatever, 2
rārus, -a, -um: scattered, far apart
respiciō, -ere, -spexī: look back (at), 3
salvus, -a, -um: safe, sound, 2
tenebrae, -ārum f.: darkness, gloom, 3
torrēns, torrentis m.: torrent, stream
turba, -ae f.: crowd, mob, 2
ultrā: beyond; farther; further
via, -ae f.: way, road, path, 2

35 **nōn morātus ultrā**: *(he) not having delayed further*; dep. PPP moror, translate ‘having Xed’
prōripit sē: i.e. runs off
effusō cursō: *with effusive running*; or ‘poured out running,’ i.e. intense running; PPP effundō
perīculō: *from...*; abl. of separation
aufertur: 3s pres. pass. au-ferō

36 **nec multō post**: *not much later*; ‘not later by much,’ abl. of degree of difference; post is adv.
dēscendere...(et) operīre: historical infs. with illa nūbēs as nom. subject: translate as impf. tense verbs dēscendēbat and operiēbat
in terrās: *onto...*
Capreās: *Capri*; an island outside the bay

37 **(et) Mīsēnī**: *and at Misenum*; locative, place where or partitve gen.: ‘(that part) of Misenum’
(id) quod prōcurrit: *what runs forth (into the sea)*; i.e. the part of Misenum that juts out into the bay; ‘(that) which,’ relative clause, the missing antecedent is obj. of abstulerat
abstulerat: *had carried off*; i.e. covered over; plpf. auferō
māter ōrāre hortārī (et) iubēre: *mother kept pleading..., kept..., kept...*; historical infs. with nom. subject: translate as iterative impf. verbs

38 **quōquō modō fugerem**: *in whatever way I flee*; relative of indirect command (=ut quōquō modō fugerem) with 1s impf. subj.; indef. relative pronoun quisquis and abl. of manner
posse enim iuvenem (fugere): *for (mother says that) a young man...*; ind. disc. where we must assume the mother is talking; pres. inf. possum
sē...moritūram (esse), sī...nōn fuisset:: *(and) that she would die well...*, *if she had not been...*; i.e. ‘I will die well, if I am not the cause of your death;’ ind. disc. of a fut. more vivid condition

(sī fut. pf., fut.) in secondary sequence: the main verb is made a fut. inf. (morior) and the subordinate verb becomes plpf. subj. (sum)
et annīs et corpore: *both in...and in...*; abl. of respect with gravem, which modifies sē

39 **mihi**: *for me*; dat. of interest
Ego (dīcō) contrā: *I (say) in reply*
salvum mē...futūrum (esse): *that I...*; ind. disc. with fut. inf. sum

40 **nisi ūnā**: *except together*; ūnā is an adv.
eius: *her*
amplexus: dep. PPP: translate 'having Xed'
(eam) cōgō: *I compel (her), I drive (her)*; >agō

41 **aegrē**: *reluctantly*; 'sickly' adv.
quod mē morētur: *because...*; pres. subj. dep. moror, 'delay,' of alleged cause (the mother's point of view); in short, this is implied ind. disc. (i.e. 'she blames that she is responsible because she delays me) where all subordinate clauses become subjunctive

42 **cīnis (erat)**: *(there was)...*;
tergīs: *over our backs*; dat. of compound verb

43 **torrentis modō**: *in the manner of...*; abl. manner with gen.
īnfūsa: PPP īnfundō
terrae: *on...*; dat. of compound verb īnfūsa
Deflectāmus: *let us...*; 1p hortatory pres. subj.

44 **nē...obterāmur**: *so that...may not...*; negative purpose clause with pres. pass. subj.
in viā strātī: *laid low on the street*; PPP sternō
comitantium: *of (those)...*; pres. pple comitō
turbā: abl. of means

causa, -ae f.: reason, cause; for the sake of (*gen*), 9
contrā: opposite, facing (*acc*.), 4
dum: while, as long as, until, 6
effundō, -ere, -fūdī, -fūsum: pour/spread out, 4
manus, -ūs f.: hand, 14
moror, -ārī, -ātus sum: delay, linger, 5
post: after, behind (*acc*.), 4
sternō, -ere, strāvī, strātum: lay (low), 4
tergum, -ī n.: back (of body), rear; hide, 4

The wind changes from eastward to westward and brings a cloud of ash to Misenum.

Plinia Marcella as Dutiful Mother

Pliny highlights his mother's self-sacrifice, just as he highlights his uncle's equanimity. Plinia Marcella insists that she be left behind and declares that she will have a good death, if she is not the reason for her son's death. Note how Pliny uses verbs and asyndeton in 3-7 (e.g. ōrāre hortārī iubēre... pāret aegrē incūsatque sē) to convey the forcefulness of his mother's willingness to sacrifice herself.

Historical Infinitives

Historical infinitives have a nominative subject, are present tense in form, and are translated in the **imperfect** tense. Greenough's *Latin Grammar* states "This construction is not strictly historical, but rather descriptive, and is never used to state a mere historical fact" (G. 463). We call it "historical" because it is common among historians (Livy, Sallust, Tacitus, etc.), not because it suggests accuracy.

nūbēs dēscendere	*a cloud was descending...*	l. 36
(et nūbēs) operīre maria	*(and the cloud) was covering the sea*	l. 36
māter ōrāre hortārī iubēre	*mother was pleading, was urging, and was ordering*	l. 37

Word Building MORA- "delay" vs. MORI-, MORT- "die"

Both **moror** and **morior** are used on the facing page. Despite the similarity in spelling, they both come from different roots. Moratorium, i.e. delay, is a good derivative to help remember moror.

moror, -ārī, -ātus sum: delay, linger, 5
  mora, -ae f: delay, hesitation, 2

morior, morī, mor(i)tuus sum: die, 3
  mors, -rtis f.: death, 7
  immortālis, -e: immortal, 1
  mortālitās, -tātis f.: mortality, 1
  morbus, -ī m.: disease, illness, 2

14. Vix cōnsīderāmus, et nox—nōn quālis illūnis aut nūbila, sed quālis in locīs clausīs lūmine exstīnctō. Audīrēs ululātūs fēminārum, infantum quirītātūs, clāmōrēs virōrum; aliī parentēs aliī līberōs aliī coniugēs vōcibus requīrēbant, vōcibus nōscitābant; hī suum cāsum, illī suōrum miserābantur; erant quī metū mortis mortem precārentur; **15.** multī ad deōs manūs tollere, plūrēs nusquam iam deōs ūllōs aeternamque illam et novissimam noctem mundō interpretābantur. Nec dēfuērunt quī fictīs mentītīsque terrōribus vēra perīcula augērent. Aderant quī Mīsēnī illud ruisse illud ārdēre falsō sed crēdentibus nūntiābant.

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adsum, -esse, -fuī: be present (*dat.*)
aeternus, -a, -um: eternal, everlasting, 2
augeō, -ēre, -xī, -ctum: increase, enrich
clāmor, -ōris m.: shout, cry, scream, 2
claudō, -ere, -sī, -sum: close (in), 3
cōnsīdō, -ere, -sēdī, -sessum: sit down, settle, 2
cōnsīderō (1): consider, examine, 2
dēsum, -esse, -fuī: fail, be lacking, 2
exstinguō, -ere, -nxī, -ctum: exstinguish, 3
falsō: falsely, deceitfully, 1
illūnis, -e: moonless, without a moon
interpretor, -ārī, -ātus sum: interpret
līberī, -ōrum m.: children
mentior, -īrī, mentītus sum: lie
miseror, -ārī, -ātus sum: pity, commiserate, 3
mundus, -ī m.: world; universe
nōscitō (1): learn, recognize; *pf.* know
nūbilus, -a, -um: cloudy, 1
nūntiō (1): announce, report
nusquam: nowhere
plūs, plūris: more, 3
precor, -ārī, -ātus sum: pray, beg (for), 2
quirītātus, -ūs m.: scream, wail
requīrō, -ere, -sivī (-siī): search/seek/ask for, 3
ruō, ruere, ruī: rush; plow; fall
terror, -is m.: terror, 2
ululātus, -ūs m.: howling, wailing
vix: scarcely, hardly, with difficulty, 2

45 **vix cōnsīderāmus**: 1p plpf. cōnsīdō
nox (erat): *(it was) night*; i.e. it became dark
quālis (erat)...quālis (erat)...: *just as...just as...*; 'which sort' relative clause of comparison
46 **clausīs**: PPP claudō
lūmine exstīnctō: abl. abs.
Audīrēs: *You would/could/might hear*; potential impf. subj. with a generalizing 'you' (i.e. you might hear = anyone might hear)
ululātūs, quirītātūs, clāmōrēs: acc. objs and asyndeton: supply conjunction 'et'
47 **aliī...aliī...aliī...**: *some...others...(still) others...*; correlatives (parentēs and coniugēs are acc. pl.)
vōcibus: *with...*; abl. means; i.e. aloud
48 **(et) vōcibus nōscitābant**: *(and) they were recognizing (them) by their voices*; abl. means;
hī...illī...: *these...those...*; i.e. some...others...
suum cāsum (miserābantur)
suōrum (cāsum): *(the misfortune) of their own (people)*; i.e. of their relatives and friends
49 **erant (illī) quī...precārentur**: *there were (those) who...*; relative clause of characteristic with dep. impf. subj.: translate as active; the missing antecedent is the subject of erant; 'erant quī' is often translated just as 'some'
metū: *because of...*; abl. of cause
multī...tollere: historical inf. with nom. subject: translate in the imperfect tense
50 **plūrēs...interpretābantur**: *(even) more interpreted...*; nom. pl. comparative multus
nusquam iam (esse) deōs ūllōs: *that (there were)...*; ind. disc.
aeternamque illam et novissimam (esse) noctem: *and that that night (was)...*; ind. disc.
51 **(in) mundō**
Nec dēfuērunt (illī) quī...augērent: *And (those) were not lacking who...*; relative clause of characteristic with impf. subj. augeō; 3p pf. dēsum; the missing antecedent is the subject
fictīs mentītīsque terrōribus: *with...*; abl. of means with PPP fingō and mentior
52 **Aderant (illī) quī...**: *(those) were present who...*; missing antecedent is subject; adsum
Mīsēnī illud ruisse illud ārdēre: *that that (part) of Misenum fell (or) that (part of Misenum) was burning*; pf. ruō; partitive gen.
crēdentibus: *to (those)...*; dat. ind. obj. and pres. pple credō,

coniūnx, -iugis m./f.: spouse, husband, wife, 7
fēmina, -ae f.: woman, 4
fingō, -ere, finxī, fictum: make up, imagine, 6
īnfāns, -ntis m./f.: infant, 4
parēns, -entis m/f: parent, 4
quālis, -e: which sort, just as, 7
vōx, vocis f.: voice, word, 9

Parallelism in Pliny's Description of the Fleeing Crowd

Pliny employs many stylistic devices when describing the plight of the crowd who wandered in the darkness along with Pliny and his mother. Rather than use subordinate clauses or address each observation sequentially, Pliny employs parallelism, which leaves the impression that all of these events are happening at the same time and are therefore overwhelming to the senses.

Note the frequent **asyndeton** (omission of conjunctions), **ellipsis** (omission of words that must be understood), **anaphora** (repetition of initial words in a clause), and use of **correlatives** which help create and highlight the parallellism throughout the passage.

Correlatives	Quālis...quālis...	*just as...just as... (which sort...which sort)*
	Aliī...aliī...aliī...	*Some...others...others...*
	Hī....Illī...	*These...those...*
	Multī...plūrēs...	*Many...More...*
	Illud...illud...	*that part...that part...*

There are many parallel clauses, but the three below are particularly notable. Each contains a relative clause, and the missing antecedents are subjects of the main clause:

erant quī....	*There were (those) who...*
Nec dēfuērunt quī...	*There were not lacking (those) who...*
Aderant quī	*There were present (those) who...*

Relative Clause of Characteristic occurs twice on the facing page and at least 7 times in this book.

This relative + subjunctive occurs when the antecedent of the relative is especially vague:

(1) the antecendent is a vague demonstrative such as is, ea, id
vīdī eum quī tē ōre referret *I saw that one who would recall you in appearance*

(2) the antecedent is nēmō, nihil, or nūllus
videō nēminem quī tē ōre referret *I saw no one who would recall you in appearance*

(3) the antecedent is indefinite (e.g. quisquam) or missing
erat quī tē ōre referret *There was (someone) who would recall you in appearance*

The purpose of a relative of characteristic is to clarify *what sort of person* or *thing* the vague antecedent is. In lines 50 and 52 on the facing page, it clarifies what sort of person the vague but missing subjects "those people" are.

16. Paulum relūxit, quod nōn diēs nōbīs, sed adventantis ignis indicium vidēbātur. Et ignis quidem longius substitit; tenebrae rūrsus cinis rūrsus, multus et gravis. Hunc identidem assurgentēs excutiēbāmus; opertī aliōquī atque etiam oblīsī pondere essēmus. **17.** Possem glōriārī nōn gemitum mihi, nōn vōcem parum fortem in tantīs perīculīs excidisse, nisi mē cum omnibus, omnia mēcum perīre—miserō, magnō tamen mortālitātis sōlāciō—crēdidissem. **18.** Tandem illa cālīgo tenuāta quasi in fūmum nebulamve discessit; mox diēs vērus; sōl etiam effulsit, lūridus tamen quālis esse cum dēficit solet. Occursābant trepidantibus adhūc oculīs mūtāta omnia altōque cinere tamquam nive obducta.

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adventō (1): come to, approach, 2
aliōquī: otherwise; in other respects
assurgō, -ere, assurrēxī: rise, 3
cālīgō, -inis f.: mist, vapor, 3
dēficiō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectum: fail, be lacking, 2
discēdō, -ere, -cessī: go away, depart
effulgeō, -ēre, -lsī: shine out, gleam
excidō, -ere, -ī: fall from, perish, 2
excutiō, -ere, -cussī: strike/shake off, 2
fūmus, -ī m.: smoke, vapor
glōrior, -ārī, -ātus sum: glory in, boast
identidem: again and again, repeatedly, 2
indicium, -iī n.: indication, evidence
lūridus, -a, -um: yellow, lurid, murky
mortālitās, -tātis f.: mortality
nebula, -ae f.: cloud, mist, fog
nix, nivis f.: snow
obdūcō, -ere, -dūxī, -ductum: draw over, cover
oblīdō, -ere, -sī, -sum: squeeze, compress
occursō (1): run into, meet
operiō, -īre, -uī: cover, conceal, 3
parum: too little, not enough, insufficiently
pereō, -īre, periī: pass away, perish, 2
pondus, ponderis n.: weight, 2
reluceō, -ēre, -lūxī: shine out, shine back, 2
sōl, sōlis m.: sun, 3
sōlācium, -ī n.: solace, comfort, 2
soleō, -ēre, solitus sum: be accustomed, 3
substō, -āre, -stitī: stand firm
tamquam: just as, as if
tenebrae, -ārum f.: darkness, gloom, 3
tenuō (1): make thin, make tenuous
trepidō (1): tremble, 2

54 **paulum**: *a little*; adv.
relūxit: *it shined again*; i.e. there was light
quod...vidēbātur: *which seemed...*; impf. pass. videor, 'seem'
diēs: *daylight*; nom. pred. after vidēbantur
nōbīs: *to...*; dat. of reference (point of view)
adventantis ignis: *of a...*; gen. sg. pres. pple
indicium: nom. pred., translate after verb
et...quidem: *and even...*; emphasizing ignis
55 **longius**: *farther away*; comparative adv.; the adv. of longus often translates as 'far'
(erant) tenebrae rūrsus (et erat) cinis rūrsus
56 **Hunc (cinem)**: *this (ash)*; obj. of main verb
identidem assurgentēs: *(we)...*; i.e. constantly falling and picking themselves up; pres. pple
opertī (essēmus) aliōquī atque...oblīsī essēmus.: *otherwise we would have been...*; past contrary to fact with plpf. pass. subj. with the protasis implied by aliōquī: "(if we had done) otherwise, we would have been..."
pondere: abl. of means
57 **Possem glōriārī...nisi...crēdidissem**: *I would be able to glory in..., if I had not believed*; mixed contrary to fact (sī plpf. subj., impf. subj.); impf. subj. possum + dep. pres. inf.
nōn gemitum...(et) nōn vōcem...excidisse: *that...fell from me*; ind. disc. governed by glōriārī; pf. inf. excidō governs mihi as a dat. of compound verb: i.e. fell from my mouth
58 **parum fortem**: *not brave enough, insufficiently brave*; parum is an adv. modifying the adj. fortem
mē cum omnibus (perīre) (et) omnia mēcum perīre: *that I was perishing...(and)...*; ind. disc.
59 **miserō, magnō tamen mortālitātis sōlāciō**: *as a miserable but great solace for my mortality*; a challenging passage: either (1) dat. of purpose or (2) dat. ind. obj. of crēdō (or abl. manner.) in apposition to the ind. statement
60 **tenuāta**: PPP, tenuō

quasi in fūmum nebulamve: *as if...*; clause of comparison; enclitic -ve means 'or'

61 **(erat) diēs vērus**: *(there was) true daylight*; i.e. Aug. 26th, two days after the eruption on the 24th. This is also the day that Romans returned to find the uncle's body on the shore
quālis esse...solet: *just as...*; 'which sort' relative clause of comparison
cum dēficit: *when there is an eclipse*; 'when it fails,' dēficere is often used to refer to eclipses

62 **Occursābant...omnia...obducta**: *everything...* omnia is the neut. pl. subject
trepidantibus adhūc oculīs: *to (our)...*; dat. of compound verb
altōque cinere: *with...*; abl. means; note that altus means 'deep' as well as 'high'
tamquam nive: *just as with...*; clause of comparison with abl. of means

63 **obducta**: PPP obdūcō modifying omnia

gemitus, -ūs m.: groan, sob, lament, 4
miser, -era, -rum: miserable, wretched, 6
mūtō (1**)**: change, mutate, 4
tandem: finally, at length, pray, 4

Pliny's Humility

Pliny admits that he did not sob or cry out cowardly during the escape, and he is aware that such a response is worthy of glory (*possem glōriārī*), yet, he undercuts such praise and confesses that the source of his calmness and tranquility was not courage but resignation that he is soon going to die with everyone else.

Pliny again seems to invite a comparison with his uncle and to disparage his own response. In the first letter the uncle showed equanimity while Pomponianus and the others (a) trembled, (b) stayed up all night, and (c) decided to flee by weighing fear with fear. In this second letter the author admits that he showed no emotion while those around him fled frantically and in despair. But, while Pliny elevates his uncle's conduct as positive and even heroic, he undercuts such praise for himself and admits that he was motivated not by courage but by despair.

For readers who argue that Pliny suffers from **survivor's guilt**, Pliny seems to humble himself once again in order to bring greater attention to his uncle's heroic response.

Adverbial Accusatives

Some adverbs are formed from adjectives that are placed in the neuter accusative singular. These adverbs are called adverbial accusatives:

multum	*much*	pp. 50, 68
paulum	*a little*	pp. 8, 32, 44
vērum	*but*	pp. 20, 130

Word Building: Synonyms for "light" or "shine"

lūx, lūcis f.: light, 1
illūcescō, -ere, illūxī: grow light, 1
reluceō, -ēre, -lūxī: shine out, shine back, 2

fulgor (fulgur) m.: flash (lightning), lightning, 2
fulgeō, -ēre, -fulsī: flash, shine, 2
fulmen, -inis n.: thunderbolt, lightning bolt, 1
effulgeō, -ēre, -lsī: shine out, gleam, 1

lūmen, -inis n.: light, lamp; *pl*. eyes, 9

19. Regressī Mīsēnum cūrātis utcumque corporibus suspēnsam dubiamque noctem spē ac metū exēgimus. Metus praevalēbat; nam et tremor terrae persevērābat, et plērīque lymphātī terrificīs vāticinātiōnibus et sua et aliēna mala lūdificābantur. **20.** Nōbīs tamen nē tunc quidem, quamquam et expertīs perīculum et exspectantibus, abeundī cōnsilium, dōnec dē avunculō nūntius.

Haec nēquāquam historiā digna nōn scrīptūrus legēs et tibi scīlicet quī requīsīstī imputābis, sī digna nē epistulā quidem vidēbuntur. Valē.

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abeō, -īre, -iī, itum: go away, 3
aliēnus, -a ,-um: of another, another's, 3
cōnsilium, -ī: plan, idea, 3
cūrō (1): care for, take care of, 2
dōnec: until
dubius, -a, -um: doubtful, wavering, uncertain, 3
exigō, -ere, -ēgī, -āctum: drive, urge; spend, 3
experior, -īrī, -pertus sum: try, experience
exspectō (1): wait for, await, look out for, 2
historia, -ae f.: history, 3
imputō (1): impute credit/blame to, attribute
lūdificor, -ārī, -ātus sum: make seem ludicrous, make a mockery of, make fun of
lymphātus, -a, -um: hysterical, frantic
nēquāquam: by no means
nūntius, -ī m.: messenger, 2
persevērō (1): persist, persevere
plērīque, -raeque, -raque: very many, 2
praevaleō, -ēre: be very powerful
regredior, -ī, regressus sum: return
requīrō, -ere, -sivī (-siī): search/seek/ask for, 3
scīlicet: of course, certainly
spēs, -ēī f.: hope, expectation, 3
terrificus, -a, -um: terrifying
utcumque: in whatever way, howsoever
vāticinātiō, -iōnis f.: prediction, foretelling

64 **regressī**: *(We) having returned*; dep. PPP regredior: translate as 'having Xed'
Mīsēnum: *to Misenum*; acc. place to which for towns is expressed without a preposition.
cūrātis utcumque corporibus: *(our) bodies...;* abl. abs.; they took care of themselves
suspēnsam: *in suspense, suspenseful*; adj. formed from PPP of suspendō, 'hang'

65 **exēgimus**: *we spent...*; pf. exigo (ex+agō)
spē ac metū: *with...*; abl. of manner
et...et...: *both...and...*

66 **terrificīs vāticinātiōnibus**: *with...*; abl. means
et sua (mala) et aliēna mala: *both...and...*; mala is a neut. acc. pl. substantive: 'bad things,' 'troubles,' or 'evils'

67 **nōbīs (erat)...abeundī cōnsilium**: dat. of possession: translate as (1) 'there was to us...' or (2) 'we had...' and make nom. cōnsilium the object of 'had;' abeundī is gen. gerund (-ing)
nē tunc quidem: *not even then*; nē... quidem, often emphasize the intervening word
quamquam et expertīs perīculum et exspectantibus: *although both...and...*; concessive participial phrase modifying nōbīs with dep. PPP experior (translate 'having Xed') and pres. pple expectō; perīculum is acc. obj. of both participles

68 **abeundī**: *of...*; gen. sg. gerund (-ing) abeō; a gerund is a verbal noun translated with '-ing'
dōnec (erat) dē avunculō nūntius: *until (there was)...*

69 **haec**: *these things*; i.e. this letter; acc. obj.
digna: *worthy of* + abl. of respect; digna is neut. pl. with haec
scrīptūrus: *intending to...*; fut. pple scrībō expressing purpose
legēs: 2s fut. legō
tibi...imputābis: *you will impute blame on yourself*; i.e. you have only yourself to blame! dat. ind. obj. or compound verb; Pliny is being humble and says Tacitus has himself to blame for asking for this unworthy follow-up to the original letter about his uncle's heroism
quī requīsīstī: *who requested (this letter)*; 2s pf. requirō
sī...vidēbuntur: *if they seem*; 'will seem,' fut. more vivid condition (sī fut., fut.); in English we often use the present tense with fut. sense in the protasis

70 **requīs(iv)īstī**: syncopated 2s pf. requīrō
nē epistulā quidem: *not even of a letter*; nē... quidem, often emphasizes the intervening word, here with abl. of respect modifying dignus
Valē: *Farewell*; sg. imperative

dignus, -a, -um: worthy, worthy of (abl.), 5 **suspendō, -ere, -pendī, -pensum**: hang up, 5

All History is Biography

The second letter reveals far richer details about the eruption of Vesuvius than the first, yet Pliny insists that the first letter is worthy of history while the second is not. Consider how humbly he describes the second letter as he concludes the second letter on the facing page:

> haec nēquāquam historiā digna. p. 34
> *These things by no means worthy of history*

In the introduction to the first letter, Pliny says that he considered blessed those who are allowed:

> aut facere scrībenda aut scrībere legenda p. 2
> *either to do things worth writing about or write things worth reading about*

For Pliny, the subject of history is not the eruption itself but how people respond to adversity—and more specifically what that response reveals about character. The eruption is simply the backdrop.

Tacitus clearly requested information about the uncle's death because the uncle was admiral of the Roman fleet at Misenum, and the admiral's organized response to the eruption is a topic worthy of history. But Pliny suggests that his uncle should be recognized not simply for being the leader of Rome's organized response but for the heroic character than he displayed in attempting to rescue others and in responding soberly and fearlessly in the face of great adversity.

Gerunds [7] (verb stem + nd + ī/ō/um/ō)

Gerunds are verbal nouns that are translated with –ing in English (e.g. *Running* is fun.). They take only 2nd decl. neuter sg. endings in four cases (no nominative). There are seven (7) instances of gerunds in this commentary. Note that eō, īre: *go* and its compounds—including **abeundī** on the facing page—form the gerund with the stem eu-. (the stem i- becomes e- before the letter 'u'):

1. abeundī	*of going away*	p. 34
2. discendī	*of learning*	p. 36
3. docendī	*of teaching*	p. 36
4. ad scrībendum	*for writing*	p. 42
5. cōnsulendī	*of consulting*	p. 50
6. eundō	*by going*	p. 94
7. fandō	*by speaking*	p. 102

<u>gerund of eō, īre: go</u>

Nom.	--	
Gen.	eundī	*of going*
Dat.	eundō	*for going*
Acc.	eundum	*going*
Abl.	eundō	*by going*

Word Building AG-/ACT- "drive"

agō, -ere, ēgī, āctum: drive, lead, do; give, 10	drive
agitō (1): drive; chase, 1	+ over and over (-tō)
circumagō, -ere: drive or carry around, 1	+ around
cōgō (cum + āgō), cōgere, coēgī, coāctum: collect; compel, 2	+ with intensity or together
exigō, -ere, -ēgī, -āctum: drive, urge; spend, 3	+ with intensity
agmen, -inis n.: column, line, formation, 3	the drive = column**,** formation

Idioms with **agō** in this commentary:

agō + gratiās (I give thanks)	grātiās agō	*I give thanks*	p. 2
agō + acc. (I live...)	agēbam...annum	*I was living my 18th year*	p. 22
agō + acc. (I spend...)	noctem...exēgimus	*we spent the night*	p. 34

C. Plīnius Surae suō s. 1

1. Et mihi discendī et tibi docendī facultātem ōtium praebet. Igitur perquam velim scīre, esse phantasmata et habēre propriam figūram nūmenque aliquod putēs an inānia et vāna ex metū nostrō imāginem accipere. **2.** Ego ut esse crēdam in prīmīs eō dūcor, quod audiō accidisse Curtiō Rūfō. Tenuis adhūc et 5 obscūrus, obtinentī Āfricam comes haeserat. Inclīnātō diē spatiābātur in porticū; offertur eī mulieris figūra hūmānā grandior pulchriorque. Perterritō Āfricam sē futūrōrum praenūntiam dīxit: itūrum enim Rōmam honōrēsque gestūrum, atque etiam cum summō imperiō in eandem prōvinciam reversūrum, ibique moritūrum. 10

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accidō, -ere, -cidī: happen, fall to, 3
Āfrica, -ae f.: Africa, 2
aliquis, -qua, -quid (quod): some, any, 3
Curtius, -ī m.: Curtius
discō, -ere, didicī: learn
doceō, -ēre, -uī, -ctum: teach, tell, intruct, 2
facultās, -tātis f.: ability, opportunity
grandis, -e: grand, large, full-grown
haereō, -ēre, haesī: cling, stick, adhere to (dat), 2
honor (-os), -ōris m.: honor; offering, 3
hūmānus, -a, -um: human, of a human
igitur: therefore, accordingly
inānis, -e: empty, idle, 2
inclīnō (1): lean, bend, turn; decline
morior, morī, mor(i)tuus sum: die, 3
mulier, -is f.: woman
nūmen, -inis n.: divine power/approval, 3
obscūrus, -a, -um: dim; dark; obscure 3
obtineō, -ēre, -uī, -tentum: obtain
offerō, -ferre, obtulī: offer, bear to
ōtium, -iī n.: leisure, free time, peace, 2
perquam: thoroughly, as thoroughly as possible
perterreō, -ēre, -uī: terrify thoroughly
phantasma, -atis n.: phantasm, ghost
porticus, -ūs f.: portico, colonnade
praebeō, -ēre, -uī, -itum: present, offer
praenūntia, -ae f.: foreteller, prophet
proprius: one's own, their own
prōvincia, -ae f.: province
revertor, -ī, reversus sum: turn back, return
Rōma, -ae f.: Rome, 2
Rūfus, -ī m.: Rufus
spatior, -ārī, -ātus sum.: take a walk, walk
Sura, -ae m.: Sura
tenuis, -e: thin, lean; poor
vānus, -a, -um: vain, purposeless

1 **C. Plīnius Surae suō s(alūtem dīcit)**: *Gaius Plinius (sends greetings) to his Sura*
2 **et...discendī et...docendī**: *both of...and of...*; gen. sg. gerunds (-ing) modifying facultātem
mihi: *for...*; dat. of interest, take with discendī
tibi: *for...*; dat. of interest, take with docendī
ōtium: nom. subj.
3 **velim scīre**: *I would like to...*; or 'I would want' potential subj.; 1s pres. subj. volō
esse...putēs an: *whether you think...or...*; a lengthy ind. question with 2s pres. subj. putō
esse phantasmata: *that there are ghosts...*; ind. disc. governed by putēs; neut. pl. phantasmata is acc. subject; esse can also mean 'exist'
et habēre propriam...aliquod: *and (they)...*; still ind. disc.; aliquod is a neut. adjective, 'some,' modifying acc. obj. nūmen
4 **an (phantasmata) inānia et vāna...imāginem accipere**: *or that (they) empty and purposeless take their appearance,....*; ind. disc. governed by putēs; inānia et vāna are neut. adjs. modifying the missing acc. subject phantasmata
ex metū nostrō: *(as a result) from...*
ut (phantasmata) esse crēdam: *so that I believe that (ghosts) exist*; result with 1s pres. subj. and ind. disc.: assume acc. phantasmata
5 **in prīmīs**: *in particular*; 'primarily' an idiom
eō...quod...: *because of this...because...*; eō is abl. of cause and antecedent of a causal quod
accidisse Curtiō Rūfō: *that it...*; ind. disc. with impersonal pf. inf.; dat. of interest or compound verb; according to Tacitus (*Annales* 11.21), Curtius served under Tiberius (AD 14-37)
Tenuis adhūc et obscūrus, obtinentī Āfricam comes haeserat: *Still poor and obscure, he had clung to the (governor) obtaining Africa as a companion*; tenuis, 'lean,' refers to his wealth or status; comes is predicative nom. and

suggests Curtius was part of the staff

6 **Inclīnātō diē**: *the day having declined*; 'i.e. having been made to decline' i.e. in the afternoon, after the sun had reached its zenith; either abl. abs. or abl. time when; PPP inclīnō

7 **eī**: *to him*; i.e. Curtius Rufus, dat. ind. obj.
hūmānā (figūrā): *than...*; abl. of comparison
Perterritō: *to (him) terrified*; dat. ind. obj.

8 **Āfricam (esse) sē futūrōrum praenūntiam**: *that she was Africa, the foreteller of future things*; ind. disc. with sē as acc. subj.; Āfricam
itūrum (esse) enim Rōmam honōrēsque gestūrum (esse): *that he would...and would...*; ind. disc. with fut. inf. eō and gerō in secondary sequence; add Curtius Rufus as acc. subj.; the woman is foretelling his future

9 **atque...reversūrum (esse)**: *and that (he) would...*; ind. disc. with fut. dep. inf. revertor

10 **ibique moritūrum (esse)**: *and that (he) would...*; ind. disc. with fut. dep. inf. morior

comes, -itis m/f: comrade, companion, 4
dīcō, -ere, dīxī, dictum: say, speak, tell, 8
dūcō, -ere, dūxī, ductum: lead, draw, 7
eō, īre, iī, itum: go, come, 7
gerō, -ere, gessī, gestum: carry on, wear, wage, 6
habeō, -ēre, -uī, -itum: have, hold; consider, 5
imāgō, -inis f.: image, ghost, 5
summus, -a, -um: top of, highest, 8

Who is Sura?

Lucius Licinius Sura was a senator from Hispania who served as consul three times: twice during the reign of Trajan in 102 and 107, and possibly a third time in 93 or possibly 97. Sura is believed to have supported Trajan, a fellow senator from Hispania, as a successor to the Emperor Nerva (96-98) and to have remained a loyal and trusted friend of Trajan while he was emperor (AD 98-117).

Only two of the 247 surviving letters from Pliny are addressed to Sura (4.30 and 7.27). In this letter Pliny tells three stories about supernatural visions: (1) the prophecy of Curtius Rufus, (2) the Haunted House in Athens, and (3) two mysterious hair-cropping incidents in Pliny's own *familia*.

First Story about Ghosts: the Proconsul Curtius Rufus

In this first story, a woman claiming to be the personification of Africa foretells Curtius Rufus' rise in political honors and eventual death in Africa. Although Pliny does not state it explicitly, his argument is that the woman could not have predicted Curtius' rise from such a lowly status in life, unless she were supernatural. Below are three ways that Pliny emphasizes Curtius' lowly status in lines 5-6:

(1) tenuis, "poor," regularly means "thin" or "lean" and is the opposite of *crassus*, "fat" or "thick." The association of thinness with poor diet likely led *tenuis* to mean "poor" or "insignificant."

(2) obscūrus, "obscure" usually means "dim" and is the opposite of *clārus*, 'bright," "famous," or "distinguished" (i.e. so bright that he stands out). Curtius has done nothing to stand out.

(3) comes haeserat, "had clung as a companion" indicates that Curtius Rufus is serving under an elected official and has not been elected to office himself.

Curtius was consul in 43 in the reign of Claudius (41-54) and died as proconsul in Africa afterwards.

Word Building Synonyms for "ghosts"

phantasma, -atis n.: phantasm, ghost, 1
effigiēs, -ēī f.: likeness, statue, 1
imāgō, -inis f.: image, ghost, 5
mānēs, -ium m.: ghost, spirit of the dead, shade, 1
nūmen, -inis n.: divine power/approval, 3
īdōlon (-um), -ī n.: image, form; ghost, 1
simulācrum, -ī n.: image; ghost, likeness, 2

3. Facta sunt omnia. Praetereā accēdentī Carthāginem ēgredientīque nāve eadem figūra in lītore occurrisse narrātur. Ipse certē implicitus morbō, futūra praeteritīs adversa secundīs augurātus, spem salūtis nūllō suōrum dēspērante prōiēcit.

4. Iam illud nōnne et magis terribile et nōn minus mīrum est quod expōnam ut accēpī? **5.** Erat Athēnīs spatiōsa et capāx domus sed īnfāmis et pestilēns. Per silentium noctis sonus ferrī, et sī attenderēs ācrius, strepitus vinculōrum longius prīmō, deinde ē proximō reddēbātur: mox appārēbat īdōlon, senex maciē et squālōre cōnfectus, prōmissā barbā horrentī capillō; crūribus compedēs, manibus catēnās gerēbat quatiēbatque.

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accēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessum: approach, 3
ācer, ācris, ācre: sharp; fierce, 3
appareō, -ēre, -uī, -itum: appear, 3
Athēnae, -ārum f.: Athens, 2
attendō, -ere, -dī: direct to
auguror, -ārī, -ātus sum: predict, take auguries
barba, -ae f.: beard
capāx, capācis: roomy, capacious, spacious
Carthāgō, -inis f.: Carthage
catēna, -ae f.: chain, shackle, 3
compēs, compedis f.: shackle, fetter (for feet)
cōnficiō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectus: finish, accomplish
crūs, -ūris n.: leg, shin
deinde: then, next, 3
dēspērō (1): lose hope, give up hope
expōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positum: set forth, explain
īdōlon (-um), -ī n.: image, form; ghost
īnfāmis, -is: infamous, of bad reputation
maciēs, -eī f.: thinness, leanness
mīrus, -a, -um: miraculous, amazing, 2
morbus, -ī m.: disease, illness, 2
ne (-ne): (indicates a yes/no question), 3
nūllus, -a, -um: not any, no, 3
occurrō, -ere, -currī: run into, meet
pestilēns, -entis: pestilent, causing disease
praetereā: besides, in addition, 2
praetereō, -īre, -iī: go pass, pass
prōiciō, -icere, -iēci: throw forward
prōmittō, -ere: promise, send forward; let go, 2
quatiō, -īre, quassī: shake, brandish
reddō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: give back, 3
secundus, -a, -um: following; favorable, 2
senex, senis m.: old man; *adj*. old
silentium -ī n.: silence, 2
sonus, -ī m.: sound
spatiōsus, -a, -um: spacious, roomy
spēs, -ēī f.: hope, expectation, 3
squālor, -ōris m.: dirt, squalor, filth
strepitus, -ūs m.: noise, uproar
terribilis, -e: terrible, terrifying, 2

11 **Facta sunt**: i.e. happened; pf. pass. faciō (fiō)
omnia: *everything*; i.e. all things predicted
accēdentī...ēgredientīque: *to (him)...*; i.e. to Curtius Rufius; dat. of compound verb occurrō
Carthāginem: *to...*; acc. place to which
nāve: *from...*; abl. of separation with ēgredientī

12 **Ipse**: *he himself*; intensive
certē: *with certainty*; 'certainly' with implicitus
implicitus morbō: *entangled with disease*; i.e. being sick; PPP and abl. of means
futūra praeteritīs adversa secundīs augurātus: *having predicted his future adversities with his past successes*; because the prophecy predicted his success, he assumes it predicts his death; interlocking word order (synchesis); futūra adversa is a neut. acc. substantive (fut. pple sum), praeteritīs secundīs is an abl. substantive (PPP praetereō), means or abs. (i.e. 'since the past was favorable')

13 **spem salūtis...prōiēcit.**: *he threw away the hope for his health*; objective gen.; i.e. he gave up hope because he had already been predicted to die of sickness in Africa
nūllō suōrum dēspērante: *(although) not any of his (people)...*; abl. abs. concessive in sense (translate as impf.); i.e. his family and friends were hopeful

Story of the Haunted House

14 **nōnne...est** : *Is...not...?*; main verb
Illud...quod expōnam: *that which...*; relative clause with 1s fut. expōnō; illud is nom. subj.;
et magis terribile et nōn minus mīrum: *both...and...*; neut. nom. pred. of est

15 **ut accēpī**: *just as...*; i.e. the following story, clause of comparison
Erat: *there was...*
Athēnīs: *in...*; locative, place where
16 **spatiōsa et capāx…sed īnfāmis et pestilēns**: all modifying fem. nom. sg. domus; spatiōsa et capāx are synonyms
17 **ferrī**: *of iron*; gen. sg. ferrum
sī attenderēs ācrius,: *if you paid attention more keenly*; past general condition (sī impf. subj., impf. indicative) for repeated actions in the past; 2s impf. subj.; comparative adv.
18 **longius**: *farther away*; comparative
prīmō: *at first*; abl. as adv.
īdōlon: Greek nom. neut. sg.
senex...: nom. in apposition to īdōlon
19 **cōnfectus**: *finished off*; i.e. exhausted or weakened; PPP + abl. of cause
prōmissā barbā: abl. abs., PPP prōmittō
horrentī capillō: abl. abs., pres. pple horreō, 'stand up on end,' 'bristle,' or 'shudder'
(in) crūribus...(in) manibus: *on...on...*; abl. place where
20 **compedēs (et)...catēnās**: acc. objs.

capillus, -ī m.: hair, 6
ferrum, -ī n.: iron; sword, 5
implicō, -āre, -uī, -itum: enfold, entwine, 4
narrō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: narrate, 4
vinculum, -ī n.: chain, 5

Conclusion of First Story: the Proconsul Curtius Rufus

Pliny says that all the predictions actually happened and that Curtius Rufus, returning to Africa as proconsul and governor after his consulship in Rome in AD 43, believed that the prophecy was successful in the past. When Curtius became ill, he lost hope in any recovery and, although Pliny does not explicitly state it, died as predicted. Below are some conclusions:

1. Curtius' passive acceptance in the prophecy make it self-fulfilling. Others are hopeful that Curtius will recover, but it is his fearful belief in the prophecy convinces him not to treat his illness.

2. Pliny does not challenge the prophecy, suggest it is coincidence, or question why it happens.

Adverbs: praetereā, posteā, intereā

These three adverbs are formed from prepositional phrases with neuter pl. acc. ea (is, ea, id):

praeter ea	*besides these things*	→	**praetereā**: besides, in addition, 2
post ea	*after these things*	→	**posteā**: afterwards, later, 2
inter ea	*between these things*	→	**intereā**: meanwhile, in the meantime, 2

Translate gerō as "carry (on)"

Many readers first learn about **gerō** through the idiom *bellum gerō*, "wage war," and assume "wage" is the best translation in any context. But, *gerō* has a range of meanings including "wear (clothing)," "wage," "behave," "conduct," and "do." When in doubt in this book, translate *gerō* as "carry (on)."

honōrēsque gestūrum (esse)	*he will carry on* (conduct) *public offices*	p. 38
manibus catēnās gerēbat	*he was carrying chains with his hands*	p. 38
bellī...quod...gesserat	*war which she was carrying on (wage)*	p. 72

Note that the words "gerund," "gerundive," and "gesture" derive from *gerō*.

Second Story about Ghosts: the Sceptical Philosopher Athenodorus

Pliny explains how a haunted house was abandoned by tenants until a philosopher Athenodorus (lit. "gift of Athena") who was **sceptical** of the existence of ghosts moved in. The ghost appears to the philosopher and leads him to an area of the house, which is later dug up to reveal the human remains. After the bones are properly buried, the house, we assume, is no longer haunted.

6. Inde inhabitantibus trīstēs dīraeque noctēs per metum vigilābantur; vigiliam morbus, et crēscente formīdine mors sequēbātur. Nam interdiū quoque, quamquam abscesserat imāgō, memoria imāginis oculīs inerrābat, longiorque causīs timōris timor erat. Dēserta inde et damnāta sōlitūdine domus tōtaque illī mōnstrō relicta; prōscrībēbātur tamen, seu quis emere seu quis condūcere ignārus tantī malī vellet. **7.** Venit Athēnās philosophus Athēnodōrus, legit titulum audītōque pretiō, quia suspecta vīlitās, percunctātus omnia docētur ac nihilō minus, immō tantō magis condūcit.

abscēdō, -ere, -cessī: go away, depart
Athēnae, -ārum f.: Athens, 2
Athēnodōrus, -ī m..: Athenodorus
condūcō, -ere: rent, hire; bring together, 2
crēscō, -ere, crēvī, crētum: grow, 3
damnō (1): condemn, convict
dīrus, -a, -um: dire, dreadful, 2
doceō, -ēre, -uī, -ctum: teach, tell, intruct, 2
emō, -ere, ēmī, emptum: buy
formīdō, -inis f.: dread, fear, 3
ignārus, -a, -um: ignorant, inexperienced in (gen)
immō: on the contrary, but rather
inde: from there, then, 2
inerrō (1): wander in/before
inhabitō (1): inhabit, dwell in
interdiū: by day, during the day
memoria, -ae f.: memory
mōnstrum, -ī n.: monster, 3
morbus, -ī m.: disease, illness, 2
percunctor, -ārī, -ātus sum: ask thoroughly
philosophus, -ī m.: philosopher
pretium, iī n.: price, value
prōscrībō, -ere: write publicly, publish
seu (sīve): whether, or (if), 3
sōlitūdō, -inis f.: wilderness, solitude, 2
suspiciō, ere, suspexī, suspectum: look up (at), 2
titulus, -ī m.: notice, placard, title
trīstis, -e: sad, sullen, dreary, 3
vigilia, -ae f.: watch, night-watch
vigilō (1): keep awake, spend awake
vīlitās, -tātis f.: cheapness, cheap price

21 **inhabitantibus**: *for (those)...*; pres. pple and dat. of interest
22 **vigiliam morbus (sequēbātur)**: ellipsis: add impf. dep. sequor from below: translate as active; sleeplessness leads to sickness and then, in some cases, death
et...mors (morbum) sequēbātur: ellipsis: assume the acc. object from the previous clause
crēscente formīdine: abl. abs., causal in sense
23 **oculīs**: *before..., in....*; dat. of compound verb
24 **causīs**: *than...*; abl. of comparison
timōris: objective gen. of causīs
dēserta (est)...damnāta (est)...relicta (est): pf. pass. with fem. domus as subject; supply est
sōlitūdine: *to solitude, to abandonment*; abl. of price or penalty—not uncommon with damnō
25 **tōta**: *entirely, totally*; nom. adj. as adv.
illī mōnstrō: *to...*; dat. of interest; i.e. the ghost; illī is dat. sg. of ille
prōscrībēbātur: *it was being advertised*; lit. 'it was being written out (publicly)'
seu quis...seu quis...: *(in order to see) whether someone...or someone...*; seu (sī-ve) introduces a double ind. question with impf. subj. volō, 'want'; the indefinite aliquis, 'someone,' is shortened to quis after sī, nisi, num or ne
condūcere: *to rent*
26 **tantī malī**: objective gen. of ignārus
venit: historical present; Pliny uses the present to describe the past to make his narrative more vivid for his reader or audience.
Athēnās: *to...*; acc. place to which
27 **legit**: historical present
audītō pretiō: abl. abs.
quia suspecta (est) vīlitās: *because...*; 3s pf. pass.; vīlitās is nom. sg.
28 **percunctātus**: *having inquired thoroughly*; dep PPP
omnia docētur: *he is told everything*; docēre governs a double acc. in the active voice and retains the secondary acc. in the passive
nihilō minus,: *no less*; 'less by nothing,' abl. of degree of difference with comparative adv.
tantō magis: *so much more*; 'more by so much' abl. of degree of difference and comparative adv.

quoque: also, 6 **tōtus, -a, -um:** total, entire, whole, 6

Pliny's Scepticism: Pliny suggests that Fear led to Sickness, Death, and Abandoning the House

Curtius Rufus was a victim of a self-fulfilling prophecy. His fear led him to neglect his illness (*morbō*) and precipiated his own death. Although Pliny does not interpret Curtius' fate that way—Pliny offers no interpretation at all—only a paragraph later he expresses scepticism concerning the haunted house and suggests that fear (*metus*) led to disease (*morbus*), death, and the abandoned house.

Seu...Seu... with missing Main Verb

Seu is an alternative form for sī-ve, "or if", and the correlatives seu...seu... (sīve...sīve), "whether ...or," here introduce a double indirect question. The verb that introduces the indirect question is missing and must be supplied from the context:

...(ut vidērent) seu quis emere seu quis condūcere ignārus tantī malī vellet. ll. 25-26

...(in order to see) whether someone ignorant of so great an evil wanted to buy or to rent it.

Ablative of Degree of Difference [8]

This ablative is often used with the comparative adjective or adverb to show how much (i.e. to what degree) the two terms of comparison differ from one another. This ablative is used six times by Pliny but only once by Vergil in this commentary.

nihilō minus	*less by nothing*	→	*no less, none the less*	l. 28
tantō magis	*more by so much*	→	*so much more*	l. 28

Word Building: FAC-, FIC-, FEC-, FECT- "make" or "do"

faciō, -ere, fēcī, factum: do, make, 9	make/do
afficiō, -ere, -fēcī: affect, treat, do to, 1	+ to
cōnficiō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectus: finish, accomplish, 1	+ (with intensity to the end)
dēficiō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectum: fail, be lacking, 2	+ ~un- (= undo)
proficīscor, -ī, -fectus sum: set out, make forth, 3	+ forward, forth
sufficiō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectum: fill, imbue, steep, 1	+ up, under, within
putrefaciō, -ere, fēcī, factum: become rotten, 1	+ rotten
tremefaciō, -ere, -fēcī, -factum: make tremble, 1	+ tremble
facilis, -e: easy, 1	+ doable
facultās, -tātis f.: ability, opportunity, 1	+ doable
praefectus, -ī m.: Prefect, overseer	+ (in charge) over
beneficium, -ī n.: favor, benefit, kindness, 2	+ well
fiō, fierī, factus sum: become, be made, 2	

Ubi coepit advesperāscere, iubet sternī sibi in prīmā domūs parte, poscit pugillārēs stilum lūmen, suōs omnēs in interiōra dīmittit; ipse ad scrībendum animum oculōs manum intendit, nē vacua mēns audīta simulācra et inānēs sibi metūs fingeret. **8.** Initiō, quāle ubīque, silentium noctis; dein concutī ferrum, vincula movērī. Ille nōn tollere oculōs, nōn remittere stilum, sed offirmāre animum auribusque praetendere. Tum crēbrēscere fragor, adventāre et iam ut in līmine, iam ut intrā līmen audīrī. Respicit, videt agnōscitque narrātam sibi effigiem.

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adventō (1): come to, approach, 2
advesperāscit: approach evening
agnōscō, -ere, -nōvī, -nōtum: recognize, 2
concutiō, -ere, -cussī, -cussum: shake, strike, 2
crēbrēscō, -ere: become frequent
dein (deinde): then, next, 3
dīmittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missum: send away, 2
effigiēs, -ēī f.: likeness, statue
fragor, -ōris m.: crash, fall
inānis, -e: empty, idle, vain, 2
initium, -ī n.: beginning, 2
interior, -ius: interior, inner
intrā: inside, within (*acc*), 2
offirmō (1): hold firm
praetendō, -ere, -tendī: extend/stretch in front, 2
pugillārēs, -ium: tablet, hand-held (tablet)
remittō, -ere, -mīsī: send back, let go, 2
respiciō, -ere, -spexī: look back (at), 3
silentium -ī n.: silence, 2
simulācrum, -ī n.: image; ghost, likeness, 2
stilus, -ī: stylus, 3
ubīque: everywhere
vacuus, -a, -um: empty, purposeless, 2

29 **ubi coepit**: *when it began...*; impers. subject
sternī: *(a bed) to be laid out*; the owner has someone arrange a bed for him; pres. pass. inf.
sibi: *for himself*
in prīmā...parte: i.e. the front part

30 **pugillārēs, stilum (et) lūmen**: acc. objs.
(et) suōs: *and...all of his own (people)*; i.e. loved ones living with him; supply 'et'
in interiōra: *into the interior (of the house)*; lit. 'into the inner (parts)'
ipse: *he himself*
ad scrībendum: *for...*; ad + gerund (-ing) expressing purpose

31 **animum, oculōs (et) manum**: acc.objs.
intendit: *focuses*
nē...fingeret: *so that...might not...*; neg. purpose clause with vacua mēns as subject
audīta simulācra et inānēs...metūs: acc. objs.

32 **initiō...noctis**: *at...*; abl. of time when and partitive gen.
Quāle (est) ubīque: *just as everywhere*; 'which sort (is) everywhere,' neut. sg. relative clause of comparison; silentium is the antecedent
(erat) silentium: *(it was)...*
dein concutī ferrum: *then iron...*; historical inf. (pres. pass.) with nom. subject; translate the infinitive as imperfect: concutiēbātur

33 **(et) vincula movērī**: *(and)...*; historical inf. with pres. pass. inf. translate as impf.
Ille nōn tollere....remittere: *That one did not raise...*; historical infs. take a nom. subject: translate as impf.
offirmāre animum auribusque praetendere: *was strengthening and extending his attention with his ears*; historical infs., abl. of means

34 **crēbrēscere fragor, adventāre...audīrī**: historical infs. with nom. subjects: translate as impf.
iam ut...iam ut: *now as (if)...(and) now as (if)...* two conditional clauses of comparison; iam... iam are correlatives (e.g. at this time...at that time)

35 **narrātam**: PPP, the philosopher had been warned about the ghost
sibi: *to him*; 'to himself' dat. ind. obj. with PPP

auris, -is: **f.**: ear, 4 **mēns, mentis f.**: mind; intent, purpose, 4

Pugillārēs, Stilum, and Lūmen

A **pugillārēs** is a handheld wax-tablet. The **stilus**, "stylus," is a metal tool used to scratch writing into the wax, and the **lūmen**, "lamp," provided light and, more importantly, a flame where the writer could heat up the sharp end of the stylus to write into the wax or the flat end of the stylus to smear the wax and erase a mistake.

Pugillārēs is an adjective and substantive from the word **pugnus**, "fist," with the plural noun **libellī**, "tablets," missing but understood. It means a "fist-sized (tablet)." Compare how we use the words "handbook," "handheld," or paperback"manual" in English today.

The philosopher Athenodorus shows scepticism—but not disbelief

Pliny portrays Athenodorus as someone with healthy scepticism. First, (1) the philosopher does not allow fear—especially without evidence—to keep him from buying the house at a very cheap price. Next (2), as Pliny explains, the philosopher focuses on his work so that he does not allow his imagination to take over and confuse what he hears and sees. It is only when (3) the philosopher hears sounds that cannot be explained by his imagination that he looks back to gather more evidence and sees the ghost.

By not allowing his imagination to take over, Athenodorus shows healthy scepticism. But, he is not so foolish as to disbelieve and reject evidence that is immediately before him.

Word Building: CUTI-, CUSS- "strike"

Concussion and percussion are two common derivatives to help remember this verb stem.

concutiō, -ere, -cussī, -cussum: shake, strike, 2
excutiō, -ere, -cussī: strike/shake off, 2

Word Building: MITT-, MISS- "send" or "let go"

Readers should know that "let go" is often a more preferable translation for *mittō* than "send." On the facing page, *remittō* means "was letting go of" or "was relaxing" rather than "was sending back."

mittō, -ere, mīsī, missum: send, 4	send/let go
admittō, -ere, mīsī, missum: admit, allow, 1	+ to
committō, -ere: commit, commence, arrange, 3	+ together or (with intensity)
dēmittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missum: drop, sink, 1	+ down
dīmittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missum: send away, 2	+ apart, away from
immittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missum: send into, 1	+ in
manūmittō, -ere: manumit, 2	+ from the hand (power)
omittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missum: neglect, let go, 1	+ from before (one's eyes)
prōmittō, -ere: promise, send forward; let go, 2	+ forth
remittō, -ere, -mīsī: send back, let go, 2	+ back
submittō, -ere, -mīsī: send down, lower, let go, 2	+ under, below
trānsmittō, -ere, -mīsī: let pass; send across, 1	+ across

9. Stābat innuēbatque digitō similis vocantī. Hic contrā ut paulum exspectāret manū significat rūrsusque cērīs et stilō incumbit. Illa scrībentis capitī catēnīs īnsonābat. Respicit rūrsus idem quod prius innuentem, nec morātus tollit lūmen et sequitur. **10.** Ībat illa lentō gradū quasi gravis vinculīs. Postquam dēflexit in āream domūs, repente dīlāpsa dēserit comitem. Dēsertus herbās et folia concerpta signum locō pōnit. **11.** Posterō diē adit magistrātūs, monet ut illum locum effodī iubeant.

ārea, -ae f.: courtyard, open space, 3
catēna, -ae f.: chain, shackle, 3
cēra, ae f.: wax
concerpō, -ere, -psī, -ptum: pluck, pull, seize
dēflectō, -ere, flexī, flexus: bend/turn aside, 2
digitus, -ī m.: finger
dīlābor, -ī, -lapsus sum: slip/glide apart or away
effodiō, -ere, -fōdī, -fossum: dig out, excavate
exspectō (1): wait for, await, look out for, 2
folium, -ī n.: leaf, foliage
gradus, -ūs m.: step, 3
herba, -ae f.: plant, grass
incumbō, -ere, -cubuī,: lie on, lean over, 2
innuō, -ere: nod (to), gesture, 2
īnsonō, -āre, -uī: make sound on/over; resound, 2
lentus, -a, -um: slow, gentle, soft
magistrātus, -ūs m.: magistrate, official
moneō, -ēre, -uī: warn, advise, admonish, 2
pōnō, -ere, posuī, positum: put, place (aside), 2
posterus, -a, -um: following, next, 2
postquam: after, 2
prior, prius: earlier, before, 3
repente: suddenly
respiciō, -ere, -spexī: look back (at), 3
significō (1): signify, make a sign, point out
signum -ī n.: signal, gesture, 3
stilus, -ī: stylus, 3

37 **Stābat**: assume the ghost as subject
similis: nom. sg. modifying the missing subject
vocantī: *to (one)...*; pres. pple and dat. of special adj. similis; the ghost was gesturing to get the philosopher to come with him
Hic: *this one*; i.e. the philosopher
contrā: *in reply, in response*; adv.
ut paulum exspectāret: *so that...might...*; purpose clause with impf. subj.; translate after manū significat as a clarification
paulum: *a little*; adv. acc.

38 **manū significat**: *makes a sign with his hand*; abl. of means
cērīs et stilō: *over...*; dat. of compound verb
illa: *that one*; i.e. the ghost, fem. sg. effigiēs
scrībentis: *of (the one)...*; i.e. the philosopher, gen. sg. pres. pple used as a substantive

39 **capitī**: *over...*; dat. of compound verb
catēnīs: abl. of means
idem...innuentem: *the (one)...*; i.e. ghost, acc. pres. pple; idem is the acc. obj. of the pple
idem: *the same thing*; id-dem, acc. obj.
quod prius (innuēbat): *which...*; relative clause with comparative adv.: add the verb

40 **nec morātus**: dep. PPP moror: translate as 'having Xed' the philosopher is subject
sequitur: pres. dep. sequor: translate active
Ībat: impf. eō, īre
illa: *that one*; i.e. the ghost (fem. effigiēs)
lentō gradū: *with...*; abl. of manner
quasi gravis vinculīs: *as if...*; conditional clause of comparison; nom. adj., abl. of cause

41 **domūs**: gen. sg., 4th decl. domus
dīlāpsa: dep. PPP dīlābor: translate as 'having Xed' the ghost vanished
Dēsertus: PPP, the philosopher is subject

42 **herbās et folia concerpta**: acc. obj., PPP
signum: *as a sign*; acc. predicate
(in) locō: i.e. on the place where the ghost vanished; abl. place where
Posterō diē: *on...*; abl. of time when
magistrātūs: acc. pl. obj.

43 **(et) monet**: *(and) he advises...*
ut...iubeant: *that...*; ind. command with pres. subj. iubeō
illum locum effodī: *that that...*; ind. disc. with pres. pass. inf. effodiō

stō, -āre, stetī, statum: stand, stop, 8

Why does Athenodorus the Philosopher Ignore the Ghost the First Time?

It was common practice in Roman divination, the science of reading divine signs and omens, to seek a second sign to confirm the first. For this reason, the word *secundus* can mean "favorable," because a second omen was taken to confirm that it was favorable. Note that the philosopher resumes his work after the first sound, but when the ghost makes another sound and confirms its presence, the philosopher looks back and follows the ghost.

In short, Athenodorus' response is reasonable from a Roman point of view. He suspects that the first sound is just his imagination, but once he has a second sign as confirmation, he assumes that the sound and ghost are real and follows. This is scepticism. If Athenodorus continued to ignore the evidence, he would be expressing unhealthy scepticism and disbelief.

Word Building: NU- "nod"

The word **nūmen** is often translated as "divine power" but more specifically refers to a divine power that is able to "nod in approval" or deny a request. For this reason, nūmen can mean "divine approval" or "permission" as well as "divine power."

nūmen, -inis n.: divine power/approval, 3
innuō, -ere: nod (to), gesture, 2

Word Building: CUB-, CUMB, "lie (down)" or "recline"

Note that on the facing page **incumbit** means to "lean over" the wax tablets and stylus while writing.

cubō (1): lie down, 1
accubō (1): lie at or beside, 1
incubō (1): lie on, 2
incumbō, -ere, -cubuī,: lie on, lean over, 2
occumbō, -ere, -cubuī: lie (in death), 1
recubō (1): lie back, recline, 1
cubiculum, -ī n.: bedroom, 2

Word Building: POST "after"

Note how **post** is used as (a) preposition, (b) adverb, (c) adjective, and (d) adverbial conjunction below:

post: after, behind (*acc.*), 4
posteā: afterwards, later, 2
posterus, -a, -um: following, next, 2
postquam: after, 2

Word Building: CARP-, CERP- "pluck" or "seize"

The two compounds below derive from **carpō, carpere**: *pluck, seize* and are easier to remember if you recall the phrase *carpe diem*, "Seize the day!"

concerpō, -ere, -psī, -ptum: pluck, pull, seize, 1
excerpō, -ere, -psī, -ptum: pick out, excerpt, 2

Inveniuntur ossa īnserta catēnīs et implicita, quae corpus aevō terrāque putrefactum nūda et exēsa relīquerat vinculīs; collēcta pūblicē sepeliuntur. Domus posteā rīte conditīs mānibus caruit.

12. Et haec quidem affirmantibus crēdō; illud affirmāre aliīs possum. Est lībertus mihi nōn illitterātus. Cum hōc minor frāter eōdem lectō quiēscēbat. Is vīsus est sibi cernere quendam in torō residentem, admoventemque capitī suō cultrōs, atque etiam ex ipsō vertice amputantem capillōs. Ubi illūxit, ipse circā verticem tōnsus, capillī iacentēs reperiuntur.

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admoveō, -ēre, -mōvī: move to
aevum, -ī n.: time, lifetime, life, (old) age, 2
affirmō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: confirm, strengthen, 3
amputō (1): cut off or away, amputate
careō, -ēre, -uī: be lacking, be without (*abl*), 2
catēna, -ae f.: chain, shackle, 3
cernō, -ere, crēvī, crētum: discern, perceive
circā: about, around, 2
colligō, -ere, -lēgī, -lēctum: gather, collect, 3
culter, cultrī m.: knife; *pl*. scissors, shearers
exedō, -ēsse, -ēdī, exēsus: eat up, consume, 2
frāter, -tris m.: brother, 3
illitterātus, -a, -um: uneducated, illiterate
illūcescō, -ere, illūxī: grow light
īnserō, -ere, -sēvī, -sertum: insert, mix
inveniō, -īre, -vēnī, -ventum: find, 3
lectus, -ī m.: bed, 1
mānēs, -ium m.: ghost, spirit of the dead, shade
nūdus, -a, -um: bare, nude
os, ossis n.: bone
posteā: afterwards, later, 2
pūblicus, -a, -um: public
putrefaciō, -ere, fēcī, factum: become rotten
quīdam, quae-, quod-: certain, one, someone, 3
reperiō -īre -pperī -pertum: find
rīte: duly, fitly, ritually
sepeliō, -īre, -īvī, sepultum: bury
tōndō, -ere, -dī, tōnsus: cut, shear, 2
torus, -ī m.: bed, couch

44 **ossa**: *bones*; neut. nom. pl. os
īnserta...et implicita: PPP with abl. of means
quae...relīquerat: *which...*; neut. acc. pl. relative with ossa as antecedent
corpus...putrefactum: neut. nom. and PPP
aevō terrāque: *by...*; both are abl. of means
45 **nūda et exēsa**: neut. acc. predicative adjs. modifying quae: translate after relīquerat
vinculīs: abl. of means with PPP exēsa or implicita
(ossa) collēcta: *(the bones)...*; PPP colligō
46 **rīte conditīs**: *(after)...*; PPP condō, 'bury,' modifying mānibus
mānibus: *from spirits*; abl. pl. of mānēs; abl. of separation common with pf. careō
47 **haec...affirmantibus crēdō**: *I trust (those) affirming these things*; i.e. these two stories above; dat. ind. obj. pres. pple, haec is neut. acc. of the pple
illud: *that one*; i.e. the 3rd and final story below
aliīs: *for others*; dat. of interest; Pliny confirms the 3rd and last story because he experienced it.
est...mihi: dat. of possession: translate as (1) 'there is to me' or (2) 'I have' where the subject becomes the object
48 **libertus**: *a freedman*; a former slave of Pliny who had been freed but is still a loyal client
nōn illiterātus: litotes: i.e. somewhat educated
Cum hōc (lībertō): *with this (freedman)*
minor (nātū): *younger*; 'less (by birth),' a common translation for this comparative adj.; usually with abl. of respect nātū, 'by birth'
(in) eōdem lectō: *in the same bed*
Is: *he...*; i.e. the freedman
49 **vīsus est sibi**: *seemed to himself*; pf. pass. videor with a dat. of reference (viewpoint)
quendam... residentem, admoventemque... amputantem: *someone...*; three pres. pples
capitī suō: *toward...*; dat. of compound verb
50 **cultrōs**: *scissors, shears*; two knives fastened to form a pair of scissors for cutting hair
ex ipsō vertice: *from his head itself*; vertex, 'peak,' here and below means 'head'
Ubi: *when...*
ipse: *he himself*; i.e. the freedman
52 **tonsus (est)**: 3s pf. pass. tondō; add est
(et) capillī iacentēs: i.e. around him in the bed or ground; nom. pl. pres. pple iaceō

lībertus, -ī m.: freedman, 4 **vertex, -icis m.**: head, peak, top, 4

Conclusion of the Second Story: the Sceptical Philosopher Athenodorus

The philosopher showed healthy scepticism, while the proconsul Curtius showed no scepticism:

1. The philosopher was not deterred by fear or by his imagination.
2. His focus on his tablets prevented his imagination from wandering and kept him clear-headed.
3. Although sceptical, he changed his mind after he received second confirmation of the evidence.
4. He immediately called the magistrates when he suspected that there was a body. Bodies are not buried in the city walls, so the philosopher rightly has public officials address the problem.
5. Once buried, the *manes*, "ghost," no longer haunted the house.

Word Building: Synonyms for CHAINS

A **catēna** is a metal or iron chain. A **vinculum** is anything that fastens (vincīre, "to bind")—whether a rope or a chain—but is often translated as "chain." A **compēs** is a binding for the feet (pēs, pedis).

catēna, -ae f.: chain, shackle, 3
compēs, compedis f.: shackle, fetter (for a foot), 1
vinculum, -ī n.: chain, 5

Third Story about Ghosts: Pliny's own Freedman and Slave had their Hair Cropped

In this third story, Pliny tells how his own freedman and slave on separate occasions had their hair cropped (cut short on top but kept long on the edges) by a ghost. Pliny then interprets the significance of the haircuts in light of events in his own life.

What is a Libertus?

A **lībertus**, "freedman," and **līberta**, "freedwoman," are people who were once slaves but have been freed. In Roman society, a freedman or freedwoman often maintains ties with the former owner as a client in client and patron relationship (see p. 56 for an example). Do not confuse these terms with the adjective **līber, lībera, līberum**: *free*, which can refer (1) in general to free people who are not slaves or (2) specifically to people who are free-born and have never been slaves.

The **lībertus** on the facing page is a former slave of Pliny who had been manumitted (i.e. set free) and now assumed to role of client in a patron-client relationship with Pliny.

Word Building: Synonyms for "cut"

amputō (1): cut off or away, amputate, 1
tōndō, -ere, -dī, tōnsus: cut, shear, 2
dētondō, -ere, -tondī: cut off, shear off (hair), 1
recīdō, -ere, -cīdī, -cīsus: cut back/off, 1

The haircut received by the freedman—hair cut short on the top (*circā verticem*) but kept long on the edges to form a ring—resembles the tonsure haircut (Lat. *tonsūra*, "cutting") worn by Christian monks.

At one time monks cut the top of the hair bald to resemble Saint Paul, who was apparently bald. But, a verse from the Bible, *Leviticus* 19:28, forbade the monks from cutting off hair on the sides. And so, the tonsure haircut became a way to mimic Saint Paul's baldness and yet obey scripture. The tonsure haircut has a different significance for Pliny, as he will explain.

13. Exiguum temporis medium, et rūrsus simile aliud priōrī fidem fēcit. Puer in paedagōgiō mixtus plūribus dormiēbat. Vēnērunt per fenestrās—ita narrat—in tunicīs albīs duo cubantemque dētondērunt et quā vēnerant recessērunt. Hunc quoque tōnsum sparsōsque circā capillōs diēs ostendit.
14. Nihil notābile secūtum, nisi forte quod nōn fuī reus, futūrus, sī Domitiānus sub quō haec accidērunt diūtius vīxisset. Nam in scrīniō eius datus ā Cārō dē mē libellus inventus est; ex quō coniectārī potest, quia reīs mōris est submittere capillum, recīsōs meōrum capillōs dēpulsī quod imminēbat perīculī signum fuisse.

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accidō, -ere, -cidī: happen, fall to, 3
albus, -a, -um: white, 2
Cārus, -ī m.: Carus (i.e. Mettius Carus)
circā: about, around, 2
coniectō (1): conjecture, infer, put together
cubō (1): lie down
dēpellō, -ere, -pulī, -pulsum: drive out
dētondō, -ere, -tondī: cut off, shear off (hair)
diū: for a long time; *diūtius*, longer, 2
Domitiānus, -ī m.: Domitian
dormiō, -īre, -īvī: sleep
duo, duae, duo: two, 3
exiguus, -a, -um: small, scanty
fenestra, -ae f.: window, 2
fidēs, eī f.: loyalty, trust, belief, 2
forte: by chance, 3
immineō, -ēre: tower over, threaten; be imminent, 3
inveniō, -īre, -vēnī, -ventum: find, 3
libellus, -ī m.: accusation, little book, 2
misceō, -ēre, -uī, mīxtum: mix, mingle, 3
mōs, mōris m.: custom, way, 2
notābilis, -e: notable, worth mentioning
ostendō, -ere, -ī, ntum: show, promise
paedagōgium, -ī n.: school dormitory, page's hall
plūs, plūris: more, 3
prior, prius: earlier, before, 3
recēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessum: go back
recīdō, -ere, -cīdī, -cīsus: cut back/off
reus, -ī m.: defendant, one accused, 2
scrīnium, -ūs m.: scroll box/case (cylindrical)
signum -ī n.: signal, gesture, 3
spargō, -ere, -rsī, -rsum: scatter, disperse
submittō, -ere, -mīsī: send down, lower, let go, 2
tempus, -oris n.: time, 2
tōndō, -ere, -dī, tōnsus: cut, shear, 2
tunica, -ae f.: tunic
vīvō, -ere, vīxī, vīctum: live, 3

52 **Exiguum temporis (erat) medium**: *a small (period) of time (was) in between*
simile aliud priōrī: *another similar to the previous* one; this is a another story about a slave with hair cropped; neut. similis + dat. of special adj.
fidem fēcit: *built (my) trust*; 'made trust'
Puer: *a slave-boy (of mine)*; i.e. Pliny's
mixtus plūribus: *mixed up with many*; i.e. not distinguishable from the other slaves (other than he was Pliny's slave); PPP misceō + dat. of association
53 **Vēnērunt...duo**: duo is nom. subject
ita narrat: *so he says*; parenthetical
54 **(puerum) cubantem**: *(the boy)...*; pres. pple
quā vēnerant: *(in the place) where...*; relative clause with relative adv. quā, 'where'
55 **Hunc quoque tōnsum**: *this one...*; i.e. the boy with PPP tondō; first acc. obj.; quoque, 'also' because his hair is cut just as the freedman's
sparsōs circā capillōs: 2nd acc. obj. with PPP spargō; circā is an adverb
diēs: *daylight*; nom. subj. of ostendit
56 **Nihil notābile secūtum (est)**: pf. pass. sequor: translate as pf. active
nisi forte quod nōn fuī reus: *except by chance (the fact) that I was not accused*; 1s pf. sum, esse
futūrus (reus): *(although) going to be accused*; fut. pple, concessive in sense
sī Domitiānus...vīxisset: *if Domitian had lived...*; past contrary to fact condition (sī plpf. subj., plpf. subj.) plpf. subj. vīvō with fut. pple futūrus (=quī fuissem) in place of the apodosis
57 **sub quō haec accidērunt**: *under whom...*; i.e. under whose rule; Domitian ruled AD 81-96
diūtius: *longer*; comparative adv. diū
in scrīniō eius: *in his scroll box*; this is a

cylindrical case to hold hand-written scrolls; in this case, the box includes Domitian's 'to do' list of paperwork and correspondence that the emperor did not address before his assassination
datus...libellus: *an accusation having been given by Caro about me*; a libellus is often a "written accusation," PPP dare and abl. of agent

58 **potest**: *it is able...*; impersonal 3s + pass. Inf.
reīs: *for those accused*; dat. of interest
Moris est: *it is the custom*; 'it is of custom,' gen. of description as predicate

59 **summittere capillum**: *to let hair go (long)*
recīsōs meōrum capillōs...fuisse: *that the cut hair of my own (people) was...*; meōrum refers to the libertus and puer, who are dependant on him as their patron and master respectively
dēpulsī quod imminēbat perīculī signum: *a sign of the danger which was menacing, having been repulsed*; signum is nom. pred.; gen. PPP dēpulsī modifies gen. perīculī

puer, -ī m.: boy, child, 4

Conclusion of Third Story about Ghosts: Why not a Simpler Explanation?

In this second part of the third story, Pliny narrates how his *puer*, "slave boy," had his hair cut by two figures. Pliny suggests that what happened to his freedman earlier and to his slave on the facing page were intended as good omens that Pliny, who unknowingly was threatened with accusations and death under the emperor Domitian, would be saved from prosecution.

This interpretation by Pliny seems unreasonable and lacks the healthy scepticism shown by the philosopher in the second story. Why not assume that these two were victims of childish pranks: the freedman by his brother, and the boy by the others in the dormitory? The reason Pliny does not entertain a simpler interpretation for the haircuts is considered in the following pages.

What is a Paedagogium?

A **paedagogium** was a school for the training and educating of slaves. The Emperor had his own *paedagogium* for slaves to work in his imperial administration. The *puer*, "slave-boy," who is being trained is Pliny's slave, although Pliny does not state it at first. This explains why Pliny believes what happens to the freedman in the previous story is connected to what happens to the *puer* and why Pliny refers to the boy as *meōrum*, "(one) of my own," in line 8.

An Accusation Against Pliny during Domitian's Reign of Terror (AD 93-96)

The emperor **Domitian** ruled AD 81-96, but around 89 or, as some say, as late as 93 an increasing number of opponents in the Senate were formally accused and executed. This period until Domitian's assassination in 96 is now known as "Domitian's reign of terror."

Mettius Carus was a well known accuser who acted on behalf to Domitian to have senators formally accused and executed. When Pliny claims that there was a formal accusation submitted by Mettius Carus, Pliny suggests that he was on the list to be executed along with fellow senators under Domitian. And, when Pliny claims that the written accusation was in Domitian's *scrinium*, a cylindrical box for documents, he suggests that he would have been executed, if Domitian had not been assassinated before he could address the paperwork.

CID vs CĪD: The verbs **accidō,** "happen," and **recīdō**, "cut back," on the facing page come from two different roots, as explained in an early information box (see p. 15). Compound verbs with a short vowel stem "cid" come from cadō, cadere, "fall," while compound verbs with a long vowel stem "cīd" come from caedō, caedere, "cut."

Surprisingly, **recīdō**, "cut back," is the only compound that derives from caedō, caedere, "cut," in the entire book. There are 13 compound verbs in the book that derive from cadō, cadere, "fall."

15. Proinde rogō, ērudītiōnem tuam intendās. Digna rēs est quam diū multumque cōnsīderēs; nē ego quidem indignus, cui cōpiam scientiae tuae faciās. **16.** Licet etiam utramque in partem—ut solēs—disputēs, ex alterā tamen fortius, nē mē suspēnsum incertumque dīmittās, cum mihi cōnsulendī causa fuerit, ut dubitāre dēsinerem. Valē. 65

alter, -era, -erum: other (of two), 2
cōnsīderō (1): consider, examine
cōnsulō, -ere: consult, console, consider (dat.), 3
cōpia, -ae f.: abundance, supply; opportunity, 2
dēsinō, -ere: cease, leave off, 2
dīmittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missum: send away, 2
disputō (1): dispute, discuss, argue
diū: for a long time; *diūtius*, longer, 2
dubitō (1): doubt, hesitate, 2
ērudītiō, -iōnis f.: instruction
indignus, -a, -um: unworthy, 2
licet: it is allowed or permitted; although, 2
proinde: then, therefore, consequently, 2
rēs, reī f.: thing, matter, affair, 2
scientia, -ae f.: knowledge
soleō, -ēre, solitus sum: be accustomed, 3

61 **(ut) ērudītiōnem tuam intendās**: *that you...*; ind. command with 2s pres. subj. governed by rogō; i.e. regarding the existence of ghosts
digna rēs est: *the matter is worthy*
quam diū...cōnsīderēs: *which you should consider for a long time and much*; i.e. the matter is the sort of thing worthy to consider for a long time and frequently; a relative clause of characteristic with 2s pres. subj. following dignus; multum is an adv.

62 **nē...quidem**: *not even...*; nē... quidem, 'not even,' emphasizes the intervening word **(sum) indignus**
cui cōpiam scientiae tuae faciās: *for whom you should give a supply of your knowledge*; i.e. I am the sort of person worthy to receive your knowledge; a relative clause of characteristic with 2s pres. subj. faciō, cui is dat. of interest

63 **Licet...disputēs, tamen**: *although you should..., nevertheless...*; licet introduces a concessive clause with 2s pres. subj. (this construction originally was impers. licet 'it is allowed' and an jussive subj. (i.e. 'you should dispute')
utramque in partem: *on both sides*; i.e. of the issue
ut solēs: *as...*; parenthetical, clause of comparison
ex alterā (parte disputēs) fortius: *on one (side) you should argue more strongly*; i.e. the side in favor of the existance of ghosts; supply a 2s pres. jussive subj. disputēs from above; fortius is a comparative adv.

64 **nē...dīmittās**: *so that you may not...*; neg. purpose clause with 2s pres. subj. governing a double acc. (obj. and pred.)
suspēnsum: *in suspense, suspenseful*; adj. formed from PPP of suspendō, 'hang'
cum mihi cōnsulendī causa fuerit: *since my reason for consulting was...*; causal cum clause with pf. subj. sum and dat. of possession (translate as a possessive) and a gen. sg. gerund (-ing)

65 **ut dubitāre dēsinerem**: *so that...might...*; purpose with 1s impf. subj.
Vālē: *Farewell*; sg. imperative

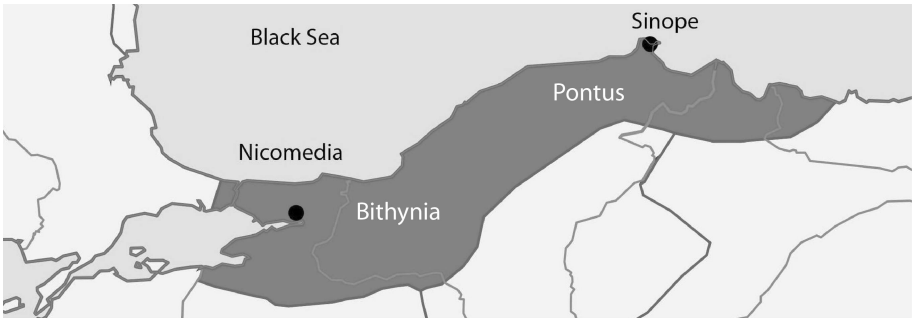


Fig. 3 Nicomedia and Sinope in Bithynia and Pontus (Lessons 26-7)

rogō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: ask, question, 5

The Ghost of Domitian is the Real Ghost in this Letter [1]

1. Pliny's Rhetorical Sleight of Hand

Foolish readers! This letter is not about ghosts—it is about Pliny and his reputation. Pliny **frames** the letter as an inquiry into questionable ghost stories so that he can introduce something unproven as if it were an undisputable fact. **Pliny's framing** encourages Sura to debate the merits of the various ghost stories but at the same time allows Pliny's claim that he too was a victim of Domitian's reign of terror to go unchallenged:

Story #1: Did Curtius Rufus passively fulfill a prophecy or did his belief make it self-fulfilling?
Story #2: Did Athenodorus, a sceptical philosopher, rid his house of an improperly buried ghost?
Story #3: Did Pliny's freedman and slave have their hair cropped by ghosts as a good omen?
Fact?: Pliny faced an accusation and possible execution under Domitian's reign of terror.

2. Pliny was very successful under Domitian's reign of terror

Pliny made his reputation as a persuasive orator in the lawcourts in the 80s. And it was those skills that helped him, Tacitus, and many others advance under Domitian's regime (AD 81-96). He was selected by Domitian as a **Quaestor Caesaris**, "Financial Officer of Caesar," in 88 or 89, became a senator for life as a result, and was elected **praetor**, "judge," in 93 at the very moment when Domitian's reign of terror and prosecution of senators and others intensified. He continued to rise in a number of senior positions under the emperors Nerva (96-98) and Trajan (98-117) and served as *consul suffectus* (100) and lastly governor of Bithynia and Pontus (AD 110-2) under Trajan.

3. Loyalties were questioned after Domitian's assassination

Immediately after the death of Domitian in 96, the Senate passed a ***damnatio memoriae***, in which all mention of Domitian was erased—even his image on coins were modified or melted down! In the years that followed, the bitterness turned from Domitian to those who supported and were enriched by the emperor. Since Pliny benefited so much under Domitian's regime and had even been praetor in 93, it seems reasonable to assume that Pliny's loyalties were questioned.

4. Domitian's ghost hovers over Pliny's letters

In numerous surviving letters Pliny condemns Domitian's actions and goes out of the way to point out how he advocated for those who were victims under his regime. The details of those letters are too numerous to address here. What is notable is that Pliny considered the question of loyalty important and did not discuss the accusation submitted by Carus and threat of punishment in other letters.

5. Why Sura? Was Sura aware of Pliny's framing?

Sura was consul in 102, 107, and possibly 93 or 97 and is thought to have been close to Trajan (AD 98-117). He was therefore very influential in the senate and with the emperor, and his opinion of Pliny could affect Pliny's political future. Sura is the sort of man Pliny would want to win over.

What remains unknown is whether Pliny expected Sura to focus on the ghost stories and accept Pliny's account of himself with Domitian as fact or Pliny anticipated that Sura would see through the framing and realize the true purpose of the letter. We may never know.

[1] Baraz, Y. (2012). Pliny's Epistolary Dreams and the Ghost of Domitan. *TAPA*, 142(1), 105-32 was the source for the title and interpretative framework of this page.

C. Plīnius Traiānō Imperātōrī 1

In aquae ductum, Domine, Nīcomēdēnsēs impendērunt HS XXX CCCXVIII, quī imperfectus adhūc omissus, dēstrūctus etiam est; rūrsus in alium ductum ērogāta sunt CC. Hōc quoque relictō novō impendiō est opus, ut aquam habeant, quī tantam pecūniam male perdidērunt. **2.** Ipse pervēnī ad fontem pūrissimum, ex quō vidētur aqua dēbēre perdūcī, sīcut initiō temptātum erat, arcuātō opere, nē tantum ad plāna cīvitātis et humilia perveniat. Manent adhūc paucissimī arcūs: possunt et ērigī quīdam lapide quadrātō, quī ex superiōre opere dētractus est; aliqua pars, ut mihi vidētur, testāceō opere agenda erit, id enim et facilius et vīlius. **3.** Sed in prīmīs necessārium est mittī ā tē vel aquilegem vel architectum, nē rūrsus ēveniat quod accidit. Ego illud ūnum affirmō, et ūtilitātem operis et pulchritūdinem saeculō tuō esse dignissimam.

accidō, -ere, -cidī: happen, fall to, 3
affirmō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: confirm, strengthen, 3
aliquis, -qua, -quid: some, any, 3
aquilex, -legis m.: water or aqueduct inspector
architectus, -ī m.: master builder
arcuātus, -a, -um: arched
arcus, -ūs m.; arch; bow, 2
dēstruō, -ere, -uī: destroy, ruin, tear down, 2
dētrahō, -ere, -xī, -ctum: pull away
ductus, -ūs m.: duct, aqueduct, 2
ērigō, -ere, -rēxī, -rectum: raise up, lift
ērogō (1): pay, draw
ēveniō, -īre: turn out, happen
facilis, -e: easy
fōns, fontis m.: origin, source
HS: abbreviation for a sesterce coin
humilis, -e: on the ground; humble, 2
impendium, -ī n.: expense, cost, 2
impendō, -ere, -pendī: spend, pay; weigh, 2
imperfectus, -a, -um: unfinished
initium, -ī n.: beginning, 2
lapis, -idis m.: stone, 3
necessārius, -a, -um: necessary; inimate friend, 2
Nīcomēdēnsēs, -um m.: people of Nicomedia, 1
omittō, -ere, -mīsī, -missum: neglect, let go
paucī, -ae, -a: few, 3
pecūnia, -ae f.: money, 2
perdō, -ere, -didī, -ditum: lose; destroy, ruin
perdūcō, -ere, -dūxī: lead or draw through, 2
perveniō, -īre, -vēnī: come to, arrive at, 2
plānus, -a, -um: flat, level
pulchritūdō, -inis f.: beauty
pūrus, -a, -um: clean
quadrātus, -a, -um: square; block-shaped
quīdam, quae-, quod-: certain, one, someone, 3
saeculum, -ī n.: age; generation, 3
sīcut: just as, so as, 2
superior, -ius: previous; upper, higher
temptō (1): attempt; try, 2
testāceus, -a, -um: of brick, brick
ūtilitās, -tātis f.: utility, advantage
vīlis, -e: cheap, worthless

1 **C. Plīnius Traiānō Imperātōrī**: *Gaius Plinius (gives greetings) to Emperor Trajan*
2 **In aquae ductum**: *on an aqueduct*
HS XXX CCCXVIII: *3,318,000 sesterces*; 'XXX (centena mīlia) + CCCXVIII (mīlia)' = 2765 soldiers' annual pay (1200 per soldier)
3 **imperfectus adhūc omissus, dēstrūctus etiam est**: *which was still unfinished, neglected, and even ruined*; all are 3s pf. pass. and take 'est,' materials were pulled down for other buildings
CC (milia): *200,000 (sesterces)*
in alium ductum: *on another aqueduct*
4 **Hōc quoque relictō**: abl. abs.; i.e. unfinished **novō impendiō est opus**: *there is a need of...*; + abl. separation; opus est + abl. is an idiom
ut...habeant: *that they...*; result with pres. subj.
5 **quī...perdidērunt**: *who...*; relative, the antecedent is the subject of habeant
ipse: *I myself*; intensive with 1s subject
6 **vidētur**: *seems* + inf.
dēbēre: *that it ought*; + pres. pass. inf. perdūcō
sīcut...temptātum erat: *just as it had...*; clause of comparison with impersonal plpf. pass.
initiō: *at..., in...*; abl. time when
7 **arcuātō opere**: *with...*; abl. means.
nē...perveniat: *so that...may not...*; neg.

purpose clause with pres. subj.
tantum...ad plāna...et humilia: *only to flat and low (places)*; tantum, 'only so much,' is an adv.

8 **ērigī**: pass. inf. ērigō, ērigere
quīdam: *some*; i.e. arches, nom. pl.
lapide quadrātō: *with stone blocks*; 'with squared stone,' abl. of means
ex superiōre opere: *from the previous work*

9 **ut mihi vidētur,**: *as it seems...*; parenthetical, clause of comparison with dat. of reference
testāceō opere: abl. of means; i.e. brickwork
agenda erit: *will have to be...*; 'will be (going) to be done,' fut. pass. periphrastic (gerundive + sum) expresses necessity and is often translated with 'must' or 'has to'
id enim (erit) et facilius et vīlius.: *for that (will be) both..and...*; neuter comparative adjs.

10 **in prīmīs**: *in particular*; idiom, 'primarily'
mittī ā tē vel aquilegem vel architectum: *that either...or...*; ind. disc. + pres. pass. inf. mittō, aquilegem and architectum are acc. subjects; the correlatives vel...vel.. 'either...or even' are inclusive, so either one or both can be sent

11 **nē...ēveniat**: *so that...not...*; purpose clause with pres. subj. ēveniō, 'turn out' or 'result'
(id) quod accidit: *what...*; '(that) which...' a neut. relative clause, the antecedent is subject of ēveniat; accidit is pf.
illud ūnum: *that one thing*; i.e what follows

12 **et ūtilitātem...et pulchritūdinem...esse dignissimam.**: *(namely) that both...and...*; ind. disc. in apposition to illud ūnum
saeculō tuō: *of your age/times*; abl. of respect common with superlative of dignus

cīvitās, -ātis f.: city-state; citizenship, 7
dominus, -ī m.: master, sir, 5
Imperātor, -ōris m.: Emperor; commander, 4
mittō, -ere, mīsī, missum: send, 4
Traiānus, -ī m.: Trajan, 5

Pliny Rescues Bithynia and Pontus from Financial Mismanagement (AD 111-113)

Pliny was appointed governor of the Roman **provinces** Bithynia and Pontus (Asia Minor along the Black Sea) from AD 111-113 during the reign of Trajan (AD 98-117). According to the numerous letters between Pliny and Trajan, a lack of oversight and **financial mismanagment** by local leaders and previous Roman governors led to unfinished projects, and Trajan appointed Pliny specifically to address these problems. **Nicomedia** is a Greek city on the waterway between the Mediterranean and Black Sea, and **Sinope** in the next letter is a Greek city in the middle of the southern coast on the Black Sea. Nicomedia and Sinope prospered from trade between the Roman Empire and Black Sea.

Both cities are building aqueducts, and Pliny sends this letter to update Trajan and to request an expert on aqueduct-building. This letter reveals (a) how governors communicated and interacted with the Emperor, (b) how much or little governors were involved with local governments, and (3) how the Roman presence encouraged and oversaw large public projects such as aqueducts and sewers.

Word Building: Pendeō, Pendō, and "Spending"

Both verbs mean "hang," but the differences are important. **pendeō, -ēre** means "be hanging" or "be suspended," while causative **pendō, -ere** and its compounds mean "make (acc.) hang."

Pendō, -ere also means "weigh" or "pay" because of the role of the balance scale in buying goods. Romans often paid for items by "making them hang" on a balance scale to get an exact measurement, and this activity of 'hanging' was associated with "weighing out " and "paying" for goods.

The derivatives "spend" and "expense" are excellent ways to remember this word.

pendeō, -ēre, pependī: hang, hang down, 4
pendō, -ere, pependī, pēnsum: hang, make hang, weigh, pay, 0
expendō, -ere, -pendī, -pēnsum: pay, expend, weigh out, 1
impendium, -ī n.: expense, cost, 2
impēnsus, -a, -um: expensive, great, 1
impendō, -ere, -pendī, -pēnsum: spend, pay; weigh, 2
suspendō, -ere, -pendī, -pēnsum: hang up, 5

C. Plīnius Traiānō Imperātōrī 1

Sinōpēnsēs, Domine, aquā dēficiuntur; quae vidētur et bona et cōpiōsa ab sextō decimō mīliāriō posse perdūcī. Est tamen statim ab capite paulō amplius passūs mīlle locus suspectus et mollis, quem ego interim explōrārī modicō impendiō iussī, an recipere et sustinēre opus possit. **2.** Pecūnia cūrantibus nōbīs 5 contracta nōn dēerit, sī tū, Domine, hoc genus operis et salūbritātī et amoenitātī valdē sitientis colōniae indulseris.

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amoenitās, -tātis f.: pleasantness, charm, 2
amplus, -a, -um: ample, full, spacious
bonus, -a, -um: good, noble
colōnia, -ae f.: colony
contractus, -a, -um: drawn together
cōpiōsus, -a, -um: copious, abundant
cūrō (1): care for, take care of, 2
decimus, -a, -um: a tenth
dēficiō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectum: fail, be lacking, 2
dēsum, -esse, -fuī: fail, be lacking, 2
explōrō (1): explore, search
impendium, -ī n.: expense, cost, 2
indulgeō, -ēre, -sī: indulge, be gracious, 2
interim: meanwhile, in the meantime, 3
mīliārium, -ī n.: milestone
mīlle pl. **mīlia, ium n.**: thousand, 2
modicus, -a, -um: moderate, small, 2
mollis, -e: soft, 2
pecūnia, -ae f.: money, 2
perdūcō, -ere, -dūxī: lead or draw through, 2
recipiō, -ere, -cēpī, -ceptum: take back, recover
salūbritās, -tātis f.: salubrity, healthiness
sextus, -a, -um: sixth
Sinōpēnsēs, -um m.: people of Sinope, Sinopians
sitiēns, sitientis: thirsty
suspiciō, ere, suspexī, suspectum: look up (at), 2
sustineō, -ēre, -uī: hold up, sustain, endure, 3
valdē: very, very much

1 **C. Plīnius Traiānō Imperātōrī**: *Gaius Plinius (gives greetings) to Emperor Trajan*

2 **Sinōpēnsēs**: *the people of Sinope*; subject
Domine: *Master*; voc. direct address; Dominus does mean 'slave master' but the voc. is never used by slaves this way; instead, it is used here like 'sir' as a sign of respect to Trajan
dēficiuntur: *are falling short*; 'are made lacking,' 3p pres. pass.; the people have water but not enough of it to meet their needs
aquā: *from...*; abl. of separation
quae vidētur: *which seems...*; relative clause
et bona et cōpiōsa: *both...and...*; modifying fem. sg. quae
ab sextō decimō mīliāriō: *from the 16th milestone*; i.e. 16 miles outside the city; there are mile markers every mile on the road leading from the walls of the city. 1 mile is 1000 paces.

3 **posse perdūcī**: inf. possum, pass. inf. perdūcō
Est tamen statim ab capite...locus suspectus et mollis,: *however there is immediately from the source a place suspect and soft...*; locus in subject; statim, 'immediately,' here means 'nearby' or 'very close'
ab capite: i.e. the (fountain)head or source of the spring
paulō amplius (quam) passūs mīlle: *for a little more (than) a mile*; 'more by a little,' comparative adv. + abl. of degree of difference; mille passūs ('a thousand paces' or 'a mile') is an acc. of extent in a clause of comparison with missing quam

4 **quem...iussī,**: *which...*; relative clause, locus is the antecedent; 1s pf. iubeō
explōrārī: pres. pass. inf.
modicō impendiō: *at..., for...*; abl. of price

5 **an...possit**: *whether it is...*; ind. question with pres. subj. possum; opus is neut. acc. obj.
cūrantibus (opus) nōbīs: *for us...*; dat. interest and pres. pple; assume opus as obj. of the pple

6 **dēerit, sī...indulseris**: *will..., if you indulge...*; a fut. more vivid condition (sī fut. pf., fut.); fut. dēsum and 2s fut. pf. indulgeō; often the fut. pf. ('will have Xed') is translated in English as pres. with fut. sense; the fut. pf. is often used alongside a fut. to express a future action that is completed just before a future action
et salūbritātī et amoenitātī: *both for...and for...*; dat. of purpose

7 **valdē sitientis colōniae**: *of a...*; gen. sg. modifying the two datives; Sinope was a Greek city reestablished as a Roman Colonia by Julius Caesar in 47 BC

genus, -eris n.: birth, lineage; people, kind, 4

Sinope and Romanization on the Black Sea

At **Nicomedia** Pliny supervised an aqueduct project that had already begun, but here in **Sinope** Pliny asks the Emperor for permission to start an entirely new aqueduct project. The people had water, but not enough to meet their needs, and Pliny has found a suitable water spring 16 miles from the city.

Sinope was an old Greek colony that Julius Caesar made a **Roman colony** and renamed Colonia Iulia Felix in 47 BC. This designation set aside land for landless Romans and veteran soldiers to resettle, a practice that not only provided pensions for retired soldiers but also led to **Romanization**: the spread of the Latin language and Roman culture to people who would in turn (a) be loyal to Rome, (b) be able to defend Roman rule, and (c) provide soldiers for the next generation of Roman armies.

Roman Support for Aqueduct Construction

1. **Roman governors and Emperor encourage aqueduct construction.**
   This support includes (a) oversight and (b) contributing master-builders not available in the area.
2. **Local governments and inhabitants pay for the entire cost.**
   Pliny assumes that the people of Sinope and Nicomedia will pay—despite past mismanagement. Trajan in an unread reply hints at partial funding but is glad that Sinope will pay for it.
3. **Pliny, as governor, is hands-on and knowledgeable about building materials, terrain, and water sources.** If there was financial mismanagement before Pliny's arrival, Pliny may have included such details to ensure the emperor that Pliny is avoiding future financial mismanagement.

Aqueducts make Roman Cities more appealing than Non-Roman Cities

1. **Abundant fresh water improves health.** Inhabitants do not have to drink water mixed with human waste or other contaminants and are less likely to suffer from dehydration.

2. **An improved sewage system makes people healthier**. Gravity-fed aqueducts must flow out of the city as quickly as they flow in. This ensures swift removal of human waste and other contaminants.

3. **Reliable and accessible water makes citizens more productive:** Women, who traditionally are tasked with walking great distances for water daily, can save their time and energy for other tasks.

4. **Abundant water for farms and businesses**. Irrigation for farms and gardens is possible. Bakeries, fulleries (laundries), and restaurants who rely on daily access to water can thrive.

5. **Aqueducts promote the development of public latrines, baths, and urban infrastructure**. Once a ready source of gravity-fed water is available, other Roman amenities can be added.

Large Roman Numbers in Lesson 27 on Nicomedia

Ellipsis is common with large numbers and often some form of neuter plural **mīlia**, "thousands," is missing. Note that when XXX precedes the CCCXVIII, it indicates an even larger denomination:

XXX (centena mīlia) **CCCXVIII** (mīlia) = (30*100,000) + (318 *1000) = 3,318,000

CC (mīlia) = **(**200*10,000) = 200,000 sesterces

These amounts cannot be converted into dollars, but we know that under the Emperor Domitian (81-96) a soldier's pay was increased to 1200 sesterces per year. So, 3,318,000 is equivalent to the labor of 2765 soldiers for a year, and 200,000 is equivalaent to the labor of 177 soldiers for a year. These projects must have provided reliable income for many local inhabitants working on the project.

C. Plīnius Traiānō Imperātōrī 1
Proximō annō, Domine, gravissimā valētūdine usque ad perīculum vītae vexātus iatralipten assūmpsī; cuius sollicitūdinī et studiō tuae tantum indulgentiae beneficiō referre grātiam parem possum. 2. Quārē rogō dēs eī cīvitātem Rōmānam. Est enim peregrīnae condiciōnis manūmissus ā 5
peregrīnā. Vocātur ipse Arpocrās, patrōnam habuit Thermuthin Theōnis, quae iam prīdem dēfūncta est. Item rogō dēs iūs Quirītium lībertīs Antōniae Maximillae, ōrnātissimae fēminae, Hediae et Antōniae Harmeridī; quod ā tē petente patrōnā petō.

Antōnia, -ae f.: Antonia, 2
Arpocrās, -tis m.: Harpocras, Arpocras, 3
assūmō, -ere, -sumpī: take to oneself, take up
beneficium, -ī n.: favor, benefit, kindness, 2
condiciō, -ciōnis f.: condition, state
dēfungor, -ī, dēfunctus sum: die; finish, 2
grātia, -ae f.: thanks, gratitude, favor, 3
Harmeris, -īs f.. Harmeris
Hedia, -ae f. Hedia
iātraliptes, -ae m.: ointment doctor, therapist, 3
indulgentia, -ae f.: indulgence, graciousness, 2
item: also, likewise
iūs, iūris n.: justice, law, right, 3
manūmittō, -ere: manumit, 2
Maximilla, -ae f.: Maximilla
ōrnātus, -a, -um: ornate, equipped
par, paris: equal
patrōna, -ae f.: patron, 3
prīdem: for a long time, lonag since, 2
quārē: for which reason, for this reason, therefore
Quirītēs, -ium m.: Quirites (Romans), 2
sollicitūdō, -inis f.: anxiety, worry, 2
studium, -ī n.: enthusiasm; study, pursuit, 3
Theōn, -is m.: Theon
Thermuthis, -is f.: Thermuthis
usque: up to
valētūdō, -dinis f.: health, strength, 2
vexō (1): vex, annoy, trouble, harass
vīta, -ae f.: life, 3

1 **C. Plīnius Traiānō Imperātōrī**: *Gaius Plinius (gives greetings) to Emperor Trajan*
2 **Proximō annō**: *last year*; 'in the nearest year' abl. time when; proximus points to the past
Domine: i.e. Sir; voc. direct. address.
gravissimā valētūdine: *by the gravest health*; abl. of means or cause with PPP vexātus
usque ad perīculum vītae: *up to...*; Pliny thought that he might lose his life
3 **vexātus**: *(I)...*; PPP vexō modifying 1s subject
iatralipten: Greek acc.
cuius sollicitūdinī et studiō...possum: *to whose...*; relative clause with iatralipten as antecedent; gen. sg. cuius modifies the two dat. ind. objs. governed by referre
tuae tantum indulgentiae beneficiō: *by the...*; subjective gen. and abl. of means
4 **tantum**: *only*; adv.
grātiam parem: *equal gratitude*; Pliny wishes to show favor and gratitude equal in value to the help that the doctor gave to Pliny
(ut) dēs: *that you...*; ind. command with 2s pres. subj. dare governed by rogō; assume a missing 'ut'
eī: *to him*; dat. ind. obj. from is, ea, id
5 **cīvitātem**: *citizenship*; elsewhere, 'city-state'
Est...**peregrīnae condiciōnis**: *he is of foreign-born status*; i..e. not a Roman citizen gen. of description as pred. following est
(et) manūmissus ā peregrīnā: *and...*; PPP and abl. of agent; the second predicate following est The doctor was a slave who had been freed.
6 **ipse**: *he himself*; subject
Arpocrās: nom. pred. following pass. vocātur
Thermuthin Theōnis: *Thermuthis (daughter) of Theon*; women are often identified by a patronymic (the gen. of their father's name)
7 **iam prīdem**: *now for a long time*
dēfūncta est: pf. dep.: translate as active
(ut) dēs: *that you...*; see note for line 4 above
iūs Quirītium: *full Roman citizenship*; 'the right of Roman citizens' acc. obj. and gen. pl.
lībertīs: *to the freedwomen*; dat. ind. obj.
Antōniae Maximillae: gen. sg. with 2 names; She was their domina and now their patrona.
8 **ōrnātissimae fēminae**: gen. in apposition

8 **Hediae et Antōniae Harmeridī**: *to Hedia and Antonia Harmeris*; dat. in apposition to libertīs **quod ā tē...petō.**: *which...*; iūs Quirītium is the antecedent

9 **petente patrōnā**: abl. abs.; i..e. Antonia Maximilla, the master who manumitted the two woman and was now their patron. Pliny says that he is asking the emperor on behalf of the request made by the patrona herself

peregrīnus, -ī m.: foreigner, non-citizen, 4 **Rōmānus, -a, -um**: Roman, 9

Pliny in Rome asks Trajan for Grants of Citizenship in AD 98

The next three letters 10.5-7 were written in the year 98, about 13 years before Pliny became governor of Bithynia and Pontus in 111-3. In 98, Pliny was *Praefectus Aerarii Saturni*, "Prefect of the Treasury of Saturn" (i.e. State Treasury), and in his capacity as Prefect he submitted requests for citizenship to the Emperor Trajan and received a response from Trajan.

An **iatrialiptes** is a doctor (Grk. *iatros*) who uses ointments (Grk. *alipta*). What he does is uncertain, but it may involve anointing, rubbing, and treating the body just as a modern **physical therapist** does.

Women and Social Mobility

Women as Slave-owners and Slaves, Patrons and Clients, Freedwomen and Citizens

1. Thermuthis and Antonia Maximilla were **dominae** (slave-owners) and **patronae** (patrons) to the slaves they personally freed. Thermuthis was a **perigrīna** (Egyptian), and Antonia, a **cīvis**.
2. Hedia and Antonia Harmeris were slaves who became **lībertae** (freedwomen), and, along with the freedman Harpocras, became Roman citizens (**cīvēs**). Such was social mobilty in Rome.

Cīvēs vs. Peregrinī

Under Roman law, free people were either **cīvēs**, "citizens," or **peregrinī**, "foreigners." In other words, **peregrinī** were non-citizens—foreign residents in the empire without Roman citizenship.

When Pliny says on the facing page that Harpocras "est enim peregrīnae condiciōnis manūmissus ā peregrīnā," Pliny is declaring that (a) Harpocras was born without Roman citizenship, (b) was a slave, who was later freed, and (c) his former master who then became his patron, Thermuthis of Theon, was herself without Roman citizenship. (Thermuthis is an Egyptian name.)

Mention of Thermuthis' death explains why Pliny rather than Thermuthis is making the request (*petitiō*) on behalf of Harpocras. Pliny is doing a favor for Harpocras a patron does for a client.

Ius Quirītium vs. Civitās Rōmāna

Both **Iūs Quirītium**, "full Roman citizenship" (lit. "Right of the Quirites/Romans") and **Cīvitās Rōmāna**, "Roman citizenship," extend over the same rights, but while the designation **Iūs Quirītium** can be offered to *lībertī*, 'freedpeople," of *cīvēs* (e.g. Hedia and Antonia Harmeris), the designation **Cīvitās Rōmāna** is offered to *peregrīnī* (e.g. Harpocras). This distinction explains why Pliny requests **Iūs Quirītium** for Hedia and Antonia Harmeris, and **Cīvitās Rōmāna** for Harpocras. Citizenship included the following rights and allows citizens to avoid a poll tax paid by non-citizens:

iūs suffrāgiī et honōrum	*right of voting and obtaining public offices*	
iūs commerciī	*right of commerce*	(ability to enforce contracts in court)
iūs cōnnūbiī	*right of marriage*	(ability to enforce inheritance, etc.)

Non-citizens, of course, can intermarry and have commerce, but only citizens can enter Roman courts and have business contracts and the rights of marriage and inheritance enforced and protected by law.

C. Plīnius Traiānō Imperātōrī

Agō grātiās, Domine, quod et iūs Quirītium lībertīs necessāriae mihi fēminae et cīvitātem Rōmānam Arpocratī, iātraliptae meō, sine morā indulsistī. Sed cum annōs eius et cēnsum sīcut praecēperās ēderem, admonitus sum ā perītiōribus dēbuisse mē ante eī Alexandrīnam cīvitātem impetrāre, deinde Rōmānam, quoniam esset Aegyptius. **2.** Ego autem, quia inter Aegyptiōs cēterōsque peregrīnōs nihil interesse crēdēbam, contentus fueram hoc sōlum scrībere tibi, esse eum ā peregrīnā manūmissum patrōnamque eius iam prīdem dēcessisse. Dē quā ignōrantiā meā nōn queror, per quam stetit ut tibi prō eōdem homine saepius obligārer. Rogō itaque, ut beneficiō tuō lēgitimē fruī possim, tribuās eī et Alexandrīnam cīvitātem et Rōmānam. Annōs eius et cēnsum, nē quid rūrsus indulgentiam tuam morārētur, lībertīs tuīs quibus iusserās mīsī.

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admoneō, -ēre, -uī, -itum: warn, advise, admonish, 2
Aegyptius, -a, -um: Egyptian, 2
Alexandrīnus, -a, -um: Alexandrian, 3
Arpocrās, -tis m.: Harpocras, Arpocras, 3
autem: however, moreover, 2
beneficium, -ī n.: favor, benefit, kindness, 2
cēnseō, -ēre, -uī, -um: enroll, register, 2
cēterī, -ae, -a: the remaining, rest, others, 3
contentus, -a, -um: content, satisfied, 2
dēcēdō, -ere, -cessī, -cessum: depart; die, 2
deinde: then, next, 3
ēdō, -ere, -didī: give out, put forth
fruor, -ī, frūctus sum: enjoy (abl.)
grātia, -ae f.: thanks, gratitude, favor, 3
homō, -inis m./f.: person, people; human
iātraliptes, -ae m.: ointment doctor, therapist, 3
ignōrantia, -ae f.: ignorance
impetrō (1): acquire, obtain, 2
indulgentia, -ae f.: indulgence, graciousness, 2
indulgeō, -ēre, -sī: indulge, be gracious, 2
intersum, -esse, -fuī: be in, take part in, 2
itaque: and so
iūs, iūris n.: justice, law, right, 3
lēgitimus, -a, -um: lawful, legal
manūmittō, -ere: manumit, 2
mora, -ae f: delay, hesitation, 2
necessārius, -a, -um: necessary; inimate friend, 2
obligō (1): bind up, oblige
patrōna, -ae f.: patron, 3
perītus, -a, -um: experienced, skilled
praecipiō, -ere, -cēpī, -ceptum: instruct
prīdem: for a long time, long since, 2
queror, querī, questus sum: complain, 2
Quirītēs, -ium m.: Quirites (Romans), 2
quoniam: seeing that, 2
saepe: often, 3
sīcut: just as, so as, 2
sine: without (*abl.*), 2
tribuō, -ere: assign, grant, give

1 **C. Plīnius Traiānō Imperātōrī**: *Gaius Plinius (gives greetings) to Emperor Trajan*
2 **Agō grātiās**: *I give thanks*; agō gratiās is a common idiom for 'give thanks'
Domine: voc. direct address
Quod...indulsistī: *because you...*; causal clause = 2s pf. indulgeō, 'indulge,' 'graciously give'
iūs Quirītium: *full Roman citizenship*; 'the right of Roman citizens' acc. and gen. pl.
lībertīs: *for..., to...*; dat. ind. obj.
necessāriae mihi fēminae: *of a woman, a very close friend to me*; i.e. the patrona
3 **et cīvitātem Rōmānam**: *and Roman citizenship*; a second acc. obj.
Arpocratī: *to...*; dat. ind. obj.
iātraliptae meō: dat. in apposition to Arpocratī
4 **cum...ēderem**: *when I gave out...*; cum clause with 1s impf. ēdō, (ē + dō, dare)
eius: *his*; i.e. Arpocras', gen. sg.
sīcut praecēperās: *just as...*; clause of comparison with 2s plpf. praecipiō
admonitus sum: pf. pass. admoneō
ā perītiōribus: *by (those)...*; abl. of agent and comparative of perītus; likely Pliny's staff

5 **dēbuisse mē...impetrāre**: *that I ought...*; ind. disc. with pf. debeō with a complementary inf.
ante: *previously, before*; adv.
eī: *for him*; i.e. Arpocras, dat. of interest
Alexandrīnam cīvitātem: *Alexandrian citizenship*
6 **Rōmānam (cīvitātem)**: *Roman (citizenship)*
quoniam esset Aegyptius: *because (he)...*; assume Arpocras as subject; subjunctive of a subordinate verb within ind. disc.; impf. subj. sum; Harpocras is a non-Greek Egyptian
7 **inter Aegyptiōs cēterōsque peregrīnōs nihil interesse**: *that there is no difference...*; ind. disc. governed by crēdēbam, lit. 'it differs nothing,' nihil is not acc. subject but an adv. acc. (inner acc) and inf. interesse is impersonal
hoc sōlum: *this alone*; i.e. what follows
8 **esse eum ā peregrīnā manūmissum**: *(namely) that he was...*; ind. disc. with pf. pass. manūmittō in apposition to hoc sōlum above
patrōnamque eius iam prīdem dēcessisse: *and that his patrona...*; second ind. disc. in apposition to hoc; patrōnam is acc. subject and pf. act. inf. dēcēdō means 'die' or 'decease'
iam prīdem: *now for a long time*
9 **Dē quā ignōrantiā meā**: *about this...*; or 'about which...' a connective relative; meā = 'of mine'
per quam stetit ut tibi prō eōdem homine saepius obligārer: *through which it (now) stands that I am obliged to you even more for the same man*; impersonal 3s pf. stāre + result clause with 1 sg. impf. subj.; saepius is a comparative adv. ('even more often')
10 **ut...possim**: *so that...I may...*; purpose with 1s pres. subj. possum—not an indirect command
beneficiō tuō...fruī: *to...*; dep. inf. fruor (translate active) governs an abl. object
lēgitimē: adv.
11 **(ut) tribuās...Rōmānam (cīvitātem)**: *(that) you...both...and...*; ind. command with pres. subj. governed by rogō; cīvitās: 'citizenship'
eī: *for him*; dat. ind. obj.
12 **nē quid...morārētur**: *so that not anything may...*; neg. purpose clause with impf. dep. subj. moror: translate as active. quid, 'anything' is an indef. pronoun after sī, nisi, num and nē
lībertīs tuīs: *to...*; dat. ind. obj., these are clearly administrators who support Trajan
quibus (mē mittere) iusserās: *to whom you had ordered (me to send them);* relative clause and dat. ind obj.; ellipsis

ante: before, in front of (*acc.*), 6
inter: between, among (*acc.*), 9
prō: before; for, in behalf of (*abl.*), 8

Harpocras must apply for Alexandrian Citizenship first and only then Roman Citizenship

In this follow-up to Letter 10.5, Pliny thanks Trajan for approving the Roman citizenship requests but is reminded by others that he failed to explain adequately Harpocras' background and should have requested Alexandrian citizenship first and only afterwards requested Roman citizenship.

Now, Pliny asks that Trajan give both forms of citizenship to correct Pliny's own mistake.

Alexandrian Citizenship: When the emperor Augustus (31 BC-AD 14) seized Egypt as a Roman province in 30 BC, he acknowledged the Greeks inhabiting the three major Greek cities in Egypt—Alexandria, Ptolemais, and Naucratis—as having citizenship distinct from the indigenous Egyptians. This citizenship was named after Alexandria, the most important of those three cities. Those with Alexandrian citizenship—just as Roman citizens—were exempt from the poll tax (fixed tax on each person in the empire) paid by indigenous Egyptians. **Oddly, as Pliny notes in the letter, indigenous Egyptians who wanted Roman citizenship had to request and earn Alexandrian citizenship first.**

Addressing the Emperor Trajan as "Domine"

Domine: In the master-slave relationship *dominus* commonly means "slave-master," but slaves apparently did not call masters 'Domine' in Latin literature. Although the word is clearly problematic, when Pliny addresses Trajan as "Domine", he is not acknowledging that Trajan is a sort of slave-master and Pliny is his slave. Instead, it seems to be a private address of respect similar to "sir."

Traiānus Plīniō 1
Cīvitātem Alexandrīnam secundum īnstitūtiōnem prīncipum nōn temere dare prōposuī. Sed cum Arpocrātī, iātraliptae tuō, iam cīvitātem Rōmānam impetrāverīs, huic quoque petītiōnī tuae negāre nōn sustineō. Tū, ex quō nomō sit, nōtum mihi facere dēbēbis, ut epistulam tibi ad Pompēium Plantam 5
praefectum Aegyptī amīcum meum mittam.

Aegyptius, -a, -um: Egyptian, 2
Alexandrīnus, -a, -um: Alexandrian, 3
Arpocrās, -tis m.: Harpocras, Arpocras, 3
iātraliptes, -ae m.: ointment doctor, therapist, 3
impetrō (1): acquire, obtain, 2
īnstitūtiō, -iōnis f.: custom, institution, set up
negō (1): deny, say that…not; refuse (dat.), 3
nomus, -ī m.: district, nome, province
petītiō, -iōnis f.: petition, request
Planta, -ae m.: Planta (proper name)
Pompeius, -iī m.: Pompey
praefectus, -ī m.: Prefect, overseer
prīnceps, -cipis m./f.: emperor; first man, leader
prōpōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positum: propose, 2
secundum: following, according to (acc.)
sustineō, -ēre, -uī: hold up, sustain, endure, 3
temere: rashly, blindly, without cause

1 **Traiānus Plīniō (salūtem dīcit)**: *Trajan (sends greetings) to Pliny*; nom. subj. and dat. ind. obj.
2 **secundum īnstitūtiōnem prīncipum**: *according to...*+ acc.; lit. 'following the...+ acc.' secundum is here used as a preposition
prīncipum: *of the emperors*; prīncipēs, 'leaders,' is a synonym for imperātōrēs, "emperors," and the rule of an emperor was often called a "principate"
nōn temere: litotes; i.e. with good reason
3 **prōposuī**: *I have proposed, I have resolved*; pf. prōpōnō + complementary inf.
3 **Cum...impetrāverīs**: *since you...*; causal cum clause with 2s pf. subj.
Arpocrātī, iātraliptae tuō: *for...*; dat. of interest and dat. of apposition respectively
4 **huic quoque petītiōnī tuae**: dat. ind. obj. of negāre; translate tuae as 'of yours'
nōn sustineō: *I do not endure, I cannot bear*; i.e. I do not want
ex quō nomō sit,: *from what...*; ind. question with 3s pres. subj. sum; quō is an interrogative adj. modifying nomō; the subject of sit is Arpocrās; a nomus is an administrative district in Egypt
5 **Nōtum...facere**: *make* (obj.) *known*; facere governs a double acc. (obj. and pred.); nōtum is PPP nōscō and the acc. pred.; the ind. question *ex quō...sit* is the other object
ut...mittam: *so that...I may...*; purpose clause with 1s pres. subj.; tibi is dat. ind. object
tibi: *for...*; dat. of interest, i.e. on your behalf
ad Pompēium Plantam: *to Pompeius Planta*; Since Augustus, Egypt was under the Emperor's personal control. By tradition senators were not allowed to enter Egypt without the emperor's permission, and the emperor appointed a Roman of equestrian rank, here Pompeius Planta, to govern Egypt under the emperor's direction
6 **praefectum Aegyptī**: *Prefect of Egypt*; in apposition to Pompēium Plantam
amīcum meum: also in apposition to Pompēium Plantam

Evidence of the Emperor Trajan's Leadership and Character

1. Trajan follows the legal precedent set by previous emperors when possible

To follow precedent is to give priority to previous decisions. Trajan does not decide arbitrarily or just choose what feels best but respects the decisions of his predecessors on Alexandrian citizenship:

secundum īnstitūtiōnem prīncipum *according to the custom of the Emperors* l. 2

2. Trajan shows understanding rather than frustration or anger toward Pliny

Rather than criticize Pliny and demand that he rigidly follow precedent and apply for Alexandrian citizenship first and reapply for Roman citizenship later, Trajan allows Harpocras to keep the Roman citizenship as a show of respect to Pliny (*negāre nōn sustineō*, l. 4) but makes it clear that he will respect precedent as well and arrange the necessary Alexandrian citizenship through Pompeius Planta, Prefect of Egypt.

3. Patron-Client Relationship: Trajan is patron to Pliny, as Pliny is the patron to Harpocras

When Trajan identifies Harpocras as Pliny's therapist (Arpocrātī, iātraliptae tuō, l. 2), Trajan is acknowledging (a) that Pliny is seeking special treatment for Harpocras precisely because Harpocras is Pliny's client, and (b) therefore Trajan, as patron to Pliny, will fulfill the special request as a favor to Pliny. Without these personal patron-client relationships, Harpocras' request would certainly have never been considered.

The same is true for the citizenship granted to the *lībertae* Hedia and Antonia Harmeridis. In Letter 10.6 Pliny mentions that their patron Antonia Maximilla is a *necessāria*, 'a very close friend,' to him. Pliny is doing a personal favor for a friend, and Trajan, as patron to Pliny, honors that request.

Nomus and Alexandrian Citizenship

A **nomus** (Grk. nomōs), "nome" or "district," is an administrative division in Egypt. (Compare the division of the United States into states and counties.) In the follow-up letter not in this book (Letter 10.10) we learn that Harpocras is from the **nomus** of Memphis, a major city in Egypt.

The years and census information that Pliny is submitting will be passed along by Trajan's administration to Pompeius Planta, who will ensure that Harpocras' Alexandrian citizenship is registered under the correct **nomus**.

Note that Harpocras was previously a slave and could not have been registered. But since he is now a *lībertus*, "freedman," this registration is possible upon approval.

Word Building: SEQU-, SECU- "following"

Note that the preposition **secundum** means "following" or "according to." The adj. **secundus** can mean "second" (i.e. following the first) but more often "favorable."

sequor, -ī, secūtus sum: follow, pursue, 8	follow
īnsequor, -sequī, -secūtus sum: follow, ensue, 1	+ on
persequor, -ī, -secūtus sum: pursue, follow up, 1	+ through
prōsequor, -ī, -secūtus sum: pursue, escort, 2	+ in front (i.e. escort)
subsequor, -ī, -secūtus sum: follow after, 1	+ after, up
secundus, -a, -um: following; favorable, 2	
secundum: following, according to (acc.), 1	

C. Plīnius Calpurniae suae s.

Numquam sum magis dē occupātiōnibus meīs questus, quae mē nōn sunt passae aut proficīscentem tē valētūdinis causā in Campāniam prōsequī aut profectam ē vestīgiō subsequī. **2.** Nunc enim praecipuē simul esse cupiēbam, ut oculīs meīs crēderem quid vīribus quid corpusculō apparārēs, ecquid dēnique sēcessūs voluptātēs regiōnisque abundantiam inoffēnsa trānsmitterēs. **3.** Equidem etiam fortem tē nōn sine cūrā dēsīderārem; est enim suspēnsum et ānxium dē eō quem ārdentissimē dīligās interdum nihil scīre. **4.** Nunc vērō mē cum absentiae tum īnfirmitātis tuae ratiō incerta et varia sollicitūdine exterret. Vereor omnia, imāginor omnia, quaeque nātūra metuentium est, ea maximē mihi quae maximē abōminor fingō. **5.** Quō impēnsius rogō, ut timōrī meō cottīdiē singulīs vel etiam bīnīs epistulīs cōnsulās. Erō enim sēcūrior dum legō, statimque timēbō cum lēgerō. Valē.

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abōminor, -ārī, -ātus sum: abhor, loathe
absentia, -ae f.: absence, 2
abundantia, -ae f.: abundance
ānxius, -a, -um: anxious, anxiety-ridden
apparō (1): gain or prepare in addition, add, 1
ārdēns, -entis: burning, blazing; passionate
bīnī, -ae, -a: two each
Calpurnia, -ae f.: Calpurnia (wife of Pliny), 2
Campānia, -ae f.: Campania, 2
cōnsulō, -ere: consult, console, consider (dat.), 3
corpusculum, -ī n.: frail body, little body
cottīdiē: daily, every day
cupiō, -ere, -īvī, -ītum: desire, 2
dēnique: in short, in the end, finally, 2
dēsiderō (1): desire, long for, greatly wish
dīligō, -ere, -lexī, -lectum: love, esteem
ecquis, ecquid: any(one, thing); whether, 2
exterreō, -ēre, -uī, -itum: terrify, 2
imāginor, -ārī, -ātus sum: imagine
impensus, -a, -um: expensive, weighty, great
īnfirmitās, -tātis f.: weakness
inoffēnsus, -a, -um: unharmed, unhindered
interdum: sometimes, occasionally, 3
metuō, -ere, -uī: dread, fear, 3
nātūra, -ae f.: nature, 2
numquam: never, 3
occupātiō, -iōnis f.: occupation, business matters
praecipuē: especially, particularly
proficīscor, -ī, -fectus: set out, make forth, 3
prōsequor, -ī, -secūtus sum: escort, pursue, 2
queror, querī, questus sum: complain, 2
ratiō, -ōnis f.: calculation, reasoning, 3
regiō, -ōnis f.: region
sēcessus, -ūs m.: retreat, recess, retirement
sēcūrus, -a, -um: free from care, untroubled
simul: at the same time, together, 3
sine: without (*abl*.), 2
singulī, -ae, -a: one-by-one; *subst*. details
sollicitūdō, -inis f.: anxiety, worry, 2
subsequor, -ī, -secūtus sum: follow after
timeō, -ēre, timuī: be afraid, fear, 3
trānsmittō, -ere, -mīsī: let/send through, cross
valētūdō, -dinis f.: health, strength, 2
varius, -a, -um: various, 3
vereor, -ērī, -itus sum: fear; revere
voluptās, -ātis: pleasure, enjoyment

1 **C. Plīnius Calpurniae suae s(alūtem dīcit)**: *Gaius Plinius (sends greetings) to his Calpurnia*
2 **sum questus**: *I (have) complained*; 1s pf. dep.
quae...nōn sunt passae: *which did not allow (me)*; 'did suffer' 3p pf. dep.: translate active
aut...prōsequī aut...subsequī: *either to escort ...or to...*; pres. dep. infs.; mē is acc. subject
3 **proficīscentem**: pres. pple modifies acc.obj. tē
causā: *for the sake of (your)* + preceding gen.
4 **(tē) profectam**: *(you)...*; dep. PPP ('having Xed,) modifies missing tē as object of subsequī
ē vestīgiō: *on your footsteps*; i.e. just behind
simul esse: *to be together (with you)*
5 **ut oculīs meīs crēderem**: *so that...might...*; purpose with 1s impf. subj. either abl. of means or dat. ind. obj. ('believe my eyes that...')
quid vīribus (et) quid corpusculō apparārēs: *what (you added)...(and) what you added...*;

ind. question with 2s impf. subj. apparō, 'gain'
vīribus, corpusculō: *to (your)..., to (your)...*; dat. of compound verb; vīribus is dat. pl. of vīs
(et) ecquid...trānsmitterēs: *(and) whether in short you were passing without harm (to your health) through the pleasures of that retreat and the abundance of the region*; ind. question with impf. subj.; 'let (yourself) go through' (i.e. enjoy but not impair your health!)

7 **Equidem…dēsīderārem**: *I for my part would...* 1s impf. subj., contrary to fact (sī impf. subj., impf. subj.) etiam fortem is an implied protasis
etiam fortem tē: *you, even (if being) strong*
nōn sine cūrā: i.e. anxiously
est enim suspēnsum et ānxium: *for it is suspenseful and anxiety-ridden...*; causative

8 **nihil scīre**: *to...*; infinitive subject of est
dē eō quem...dīligās: *about the one whom...*; relative of characteristic with 2s pres. subj.; the generalizing 'you' subject applies to everyone
ārdentissimē: superlative adv.
Nunc vērō: *but now, but as it is*

9 **cum absentiae tum īnfirmitātis tuae ratiō**: *calculation both of your...and of...*; cum...tum are correlatives that often mean 'both...and' (lit. 'when...at that same time') when used together; two objective genitives modifying nom. ratiō
incerta et varia: adjs. modifying fem. sg. ratiō
sollicitūdine: *with..*; abl. of cause

10 **quaeque nātūra metuentium est**: *and as is the nature of those fearing*; lit. 'what is the nature...' relative clause of comparison; the entire clause that follows is the antecedent. Quae should be neut. sg. quod but is attracted into the fem. sg. quae by nātūra; cf. quālis
ea...quae maximē abōminor: *those things which...*; ea is neut. acc. pl. demonstrative and antecedent of the relative clause that follows
maximē: *especially, in particular*; superlative

11 **mihi**: *for myself*; dat. of interest
Quō impensius: *the more weightily*; 'by this much more weightily,' abl. degree of difference or possibly abl. of cause: 'because of which...'
ut timōrī meō...cōnsulās: *that...*; ind. command with 2s pres. subj. + dat. obj.

12 **singulīs vel etiam bīnīs epistulīs**: abl. means vel etiam, 'or even'
Erō: 1s fut. sum
cum lēgerō: *after I have read (it)*; cum clause with 1s fut. pf., often translated as pres. or pf.

cūra, -ae f.: care, concern, anxiety, worry, 5 **vīs, vīs f. :** force, power; *pl*. **vīrēs**, strength, 5

Campania offers Calpurnia comfort and Pliny anguish

1st Half: Calpurnia's physical health improves when away in Campania, a region that includes the Bay of Naples and Vesuvius. She is likely in Baiae, a seaside resort near Misenum. Wealthy Romans had second homes along the bay, and the hot springs were believed to have health-restoring powers.

2nd Half: Pliny's mental health declines while remaining in Rome. Business prevents Pliny from going with Calpurnia, just as homework kept him from his uncle. Calpurnia is in the area where the eruption occurred. Where Calpurnia and others see pleasure, relaxation, and rejuvenation, Pliny likely recalls death and suffering. The frequent use of the synonyms below highlights Pliny's agitated state.

Pliny writes as if he had made a **LIST OF SYNONYMS** for fear, desire, strength, worry, and imagination and put as many possible (*) into a letter to express the magnitude of his anguish.

1. **metuō, -ere, -uī**: dread, fear, 3*
   metus, -ūs m.: dread, fear, 10
2. **timeō, -ēre, timuī**: be afraid, fear, 3*
   timor, -oris m.: fear, dread, 6*
3. **vereor, -ērī, -itus sum**: fear; revere, 1*

1. **cupiō, -ere, -īvī, -ītum:** desire, 2*
   cupīdō, -dinis f.: desire, longing, 1
2. **dēsiderō (1)**: desire, long for, 1*
   dēsīderium, -iī n.: desire, longing, 1
3. **dīligō, -ere, -lexī, -lectum**: love, esteem, 1*

1. **fortis, -e**: strong, brave, 7*
2. **valētūdō, -dinis f.**: health; strength, 2*
   invalēscō, -ere, -uī: become strong, 1
   invalidus, -a, -um: not strong, weak
   valeō, -ēre, -uī: fare well, be strong, 6*
3. **vīs, vīs f. :** force, power; *pl*. **vīrēs**, strength, 5*

1. **ānxius, -a, -um**: anxious, anxiety-ridden, 1*
2. **cūra, -ae f.**: care, concern, anxiety, worry, 5*
   cūrō (1): care for, take care of, 2
   sēcūritās, -tātis f.: freedom from care, 2
   sēcūrus, -a, -um: free from care, untroubled,1*
3. **sollicitūdō, -inis f.**: anxiety, worry, 2*

C. Plīnius Calpurniae suae s. 1

Scrībis tē absentiā meā nōn mediocriter afficī ūnumque habēre sōlācium, quod prō mē libellōs meōs teneās, saepe etiam in vestīgiō meō collocēs. **2.** Grātum est quod nōs requīris, grātum quod hīs fōmentīs acquiēscis; invicem ego epistulās tuās lectitō atque identidem in manūs quasi novās sūmō. **3.** Sed eō magis ad dēsīderium tuī accendor: nam cuius litterae tantum habent suāvitātis, huius sermōnibus quantum dulcēdinis inest! Tū tamen quam frequentissimē scrībe, licet hoc ita mē dēlectet ut torqueat. Valē. 5

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absentia, -ae f.: absence, 2
acquiēscō, -ere: gain rest, become calm; rest
afficiō, -ere, -fēcī: affect, treat, do to
Calpurnia, -ae f.: Calpurnia (wife of Pliny), 2
collocō (1): place, arrange
dēlectō (1): delight
dēsīderium, -iī n.: desire, longing
dulcedō, -inis f.: sweetness, 2
fōmentum, -ī n.: salve, bandage, poultice
frequēns, frequentis: crowded, 3
grātus, -a, -um: pleasing; grateful, 2
identidem: again and again, repeatedly, 2
insum, -esse, -fuī: be in
invicem: in turn, 2
lectitō (1): read often, read again and again
libellus, -ī m.: little book, 2
licet: it is allowed or permitted; although, 2
littera, -ae f.: (alphabet) letter; *pl*. letter, 2
mediocriter: moderately, ordinarily
quantus, -a, -um: how much/great
requīrō, -ere, -sivī (-siī): search/seek/ask for, 3
saepe: often, 3
sōlācium, -ī n.: solace, comfort, 2
suāvitās, -tātis f.: sweetness
sūmō, -ere, sumpsī, sumptum: take, spend, 2

1 **C. Plīnius Calpurniae suae s(alūtem dīcit)**: *Gaius Plinius (sends greetings) to his Calpurnia*
2 **tē... afficī...habēre**: *that you...*; ind. disc.; pres. pass. inf. afficiō and pres. act. habeō
absentiā meā: *by...*; abl. of cause
quod...teneās...(et) saepe...collocēs: *namely because...*; causal clause with subjunctive of subordinate verb in ind. disc.; 2s pres. subj. teneō and collocō; libellōs is obj. of both verbs
3 **prō mē**: *in place of me*
lībellōs meōs: *my books*; obj. of both verbs
in vestīgiō meō: *in my place*; 'in my tracks,' i.e. where Pliny usually sat and worked at home
Grātum est: *it is pleasing...*; impersonal verb
4 **quod nōs requīris**: *that you ask again about us*; i.e. the writings and Pliny; quod introduces a noun clause (originally an acc. of respect: 'in respect to the fact that...'); subject of grātum est
(et) grātum (est): *(and it is) pleasing...*
quod hīs fōmentīs acquiēscis: *that...*; another noun clause; logical subject of grātum (est)
hīs fōmentīs: *with these salves*; i.e. the books; a fōmentum is is a medical ointment applied to a wound or inflammation; Pliny likens the books to a form of medicine
5 **quasi novās**: *as if...*; conditional clause of comparison
eō magis: *the more*; 'by that much more,' abl. degree of difference, but interpreted by some as an abl. of cause: 'because of this...'
6 **tuī**: *for you*; objective gen. sg. of pronoun tū
accendor: 1s pres. pass. accendō
cuius litterae...habent: *whose letters...*; relative clause and gen. sg.; the antecedent is huius below—translate after the clause below
tantum suāvitātis: *so much sweetness*; acc. obj. and partitive gen.
7 **huius sermōnibus quantum dulcēdinis inest**: *how great the sweetness is in conversations of this one!*; exclamatory sentence; dulcēdinis is partitive gen.; sermōnibus is dat. of compound verb, and huius is gen. possession; suāvitās and dulcēdō are synonyms for 'sweet' or 'pleasant'
quam frequentissimē: translate quam + a superlative (here, adv.) as 'as X as possible'
scrībe: sg. imperative
8 **Licet hoc... dēlectet**: *although this should...*; licet introduces a concessive clause with 3s pres. subj. (this construction originally was an impers. licet 'it is allowed' and an jussive subj.)
ita...ut (mē) torqueat: *so...that it...*; result clause with pres. subj.

accendō, -ere, -ī, ēnsum: kindle, enflame, enrage, 4 **sermō, -mōnis m.**: conversation, talk, 4

Letters offer Calpurnia comfort and Pliny torment

1st Half: Pliny's letters give Calpurnia comfort

1. The letters are a substitute for Pliny himself: Pliny notices that his wife treats his writings as if they were Pliny himself (cf. *prō mē*) and even places them where Pliny usually spends time. Pliny suggests that this substitution is what gives Calpurnia comfort when Pliny is away.

2. The letters are a form of medicine: Metaphor is the use of imagery to invite comparison of things not alike. Pliny claims his books are an ointment or bandage (*fōmentīs*) to Calpurnia.

2nd Half: Calpurnia's letters give Pliny anguish

3. Rereading letters enflames Pliny. While Calpurnia accepts Pliny's writings in place of her husband, Calpurnia's letters set Pliny on fire (*accendor*) with longing for the real woman.

4. Frequent letters torture Pliny. While Pliny's writings serve as a form of medicine for Calpurnia, her frequent letters delight and, more importantly, torture (*torquet*) Pliny!

Calpurnia grew up in Comum, Pliny's home town in Northern Italy. She married Pliny around AD 97 (or perhaps in 104). At the time Pliny was 36-7, and she was likely about 15, since it was her first marriage. Pliny had been married twice before and lost his second wife to illness in 97. Remarriage was common, and Pliny still was without an heir. Pliny and Calpurnia never had children, but Pliny's letters strongly suggest that the marriage was a very happy one.

Word Building: CEND- "burn" vs. SCEND-, "climb"

accendō, -ere, -ī, ēnsum: kindle, enflame, enrage, 4
incendō, -ere, -ī, -ēnsum: kindle, burn, 2
incendium, -ī n.: fire, conflagration, 1

scandō, -ere, scandī: climb, 1
ascendō, -ere, -ī, -ēnsum: ascend, mount, 2
dēscendō, ere, ī, -ēnsum: descend, 1

Word Building: Verb Infixes -SC- and -IT-

The infixes help us understand the verbs **acquiē<u>sc</u>is**, "become calm" and **lec<u>it</u>ō**, "I read repeatedly" on the facing page. Note that **-sc-** is found only in present stems, because, when the verb is in the past tense, the action is no longer in progress (e.g. nōscō "learn" (i.e. begin to know) but nōvī "know.").

-SCO become X, grow X, begin to X

acquiēscō, -ere: rest, gain rest, become calm, 1
adsuēscō, -ere, -ēvī: grow accustomed, 1
crebrēscō, -ere: become frequent, 1
crēscō, -ere, crēvī, crētum: grow, 3
dehīscō, -ere: split open, yawn, gape, 2
discō, -ere, didicī: learn, 1
horrescō, -ēre, -uī; begin to shudder, bristle, 1
illūcescō, -ere, illūxī: grow light, 1
invalēscō, -ere, -uī: become strong, 1
nōscō, -ere, nōvī, nōtum: learn; *pf*. know, 5
agnōscō, -ere, -nōvī, -nōtum: recognize, 2
cōgnōscō, -ere, -nōvī, -nitum: learn, know, 2
quiēscō, -ere, -ēvī, -ētum: rest, 5
senēscō, -ere, -uī: grow old, 1
vānēscō, -ere, -uī: vanish, disappear, 1

-TO/-ITO keep Xing, X repeatedly/often

agitō (1): drive (repeatedly); chase, hunt, 1
dictō (1): say often, keep saying, 1
lectitō (1): read often or repeatedly, 1
nōscitō (1): learn, recognize; *pf*. know, 1
territō (1): terrify, keep terrifying, 1
volitō (1): flitter, flutter, fly, 1