



LATIN FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM, Level 2

LATIN STORY TO ACCOMPANY REVIEW 2

This tells the story of a Roman soldier accompanying Emperor Trajan as he sets out upon his campaign in Parthia. By the reign of Trajan, the Roman army had become a more efficient, bureaucratic-like means of expanding and maintaining the boundaries of the Roman Empire. Under Trajan's successor, Hadrian, the Roman Empire reached its largest geographical extent. As evidenced, however, by the severe measures against deserters, the Roman military was not always completely fearless or single-minded as the poet Horace praised in his *Odes*.

Rome's wars with Parthia, an area that is today's northeastern Iran and part of Turkmenistan, began in 54 BCE. Emperor Trajan made conquest in the East, and of Parthia in particular, priorities of his administration. In 113 CE, Trajan captured the Parthian capital Ctesiphon and installed a client king dependent on Rome.

The "Great Cameo of France" depicts the Julio-Claudian imperial family. In the top band center is the Divine Augustus. The seated emperor in the center band is Tiberius, near whose feet is a captive Parthian wearing a Phrygian cap that symbolizes his eastern origin. The cameo illustrates how Roman imperial power was projected through a strong show of force against "barbarians." To Tiberius's far left is Caligula and to his right, his mother and Augustus's wife, Livia.

The cameo is five-layered, made of sardonyx in the second quarter of the first century CE. The French king St. Louis purchased the cameo around 1246 in Constantinople and deposited it in the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris. In 1791, Louis XVI moved it to the Cabinet des Médailles, today's Museum of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

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A DEATH IN THE WAR WITH THE PARTHIANS

- 1 Imperātor ipse *imperāvit* nostrō agminī ut ad Parthiam iter faceret. Iter longissimum *trāns*
pontēs et flūmina fēcimus. Trāns silvās et agrōs iter fēcimus. Audīveram crūdēlissimōs et
difficilēs hostēs in Parthiā esse. Multōs annōs Parthī imperium Rōmānum vehementer
restitērunt. Multī imperātōrēs imperāvērunt mīlitibus ut Parthiam invāderēmus. Parthī
- 5 imperium suum semper dēfendērunt.



Ego Parthōs timēbam sed fidēlis eram. Fidēlis mīles eram. Exercitus Parthicus fortis erat, sed exercitus Rōmānus fortior erat. In legiōne meā erant veterēs, quī multum vidērunt, et adulēscentēs, quī mentem iuventūs habuērunt. Quamquam alii mīlitēs *plūs* pecūniae cupiēbant, putāvī inopia nec cibī nec vīnī esse. Veterēs mīlitēs multum bibēbant et iocō
 10 *an sēriō* dīcēbant carmina dē nōbīs futūra esse. Erant autem hostēs nec ferōciōrēs nec praeclāriōrēs quam Parthī. Nēmō intellēxit perīculum.

Imperātī sumus ut proxima castra invāderēmus. Parthī nōs dēcēpērunt; hoc locum nōn erat tūtum. Parthī contrā nōs furuērunt et nēminī pepercērunt. Nōs ipsī nēminī pepercimus. *Infēliciter* ūnus ē Parthīs mē vulnerāvit et in terrā iacēbam. “Fer auxilium!
 15 Fer auxilium!” Sed nēmō mē audīvit.

Dolēbam. Dē uxōre meā et filiā meā cōgitābam. Utinam *plūrēs* epistulās mīsissem. Eramne exemplar fortitūdinis? Multum propter imperium Rōmānum fēcī, multōs occīdī. Magnō dolōre mōtus sum. Eramne exemplar crūdēlitātis? Mīlitēs Rōmānōs contrā hostēs dēfendī; imperium Rōmānum ā clādibus dēfendī. Dux nōbīs iussūs dedit. Noster
 20 imperātor bellum gessit ut pācem habērēmus. Crēdidī nōs hostēs vincere ut pācem habērēmus. Parthī etiam contrā nōs pugnāvērunt ut pācem ipsīs habērent.

Imperium Rōmānum magnum erat; victōrēs in multīs partibus *mundī* fuerāmus. Utinam victōrēs in Parthiā essēmus. Utinam essent carmina dē victōribus, in quibus laudārēmur. Utinam carmina essent. Utinam valērēmus. Dulce et decōrum prō patriā morī.

VOCABULA NOVA

an sēriō – or seriously

imperō, imperāre, imperāvī, imperātum – to command, to order

infēliciter (*adv.*) – unfortunately

legiō, legiōnis, f. – legion

mundus, mundī, m. – world

plūs, plūris, n. – more; regularly used with a partitive genitive, also known as the genitive of the whole, here, with *pecūniae*.

plūrēs, plūra – more

trāns (*prep.*) – across