

#### 4A (iv)

At Syracuse there is a law concerning the priesthood of Jupiter—for the Syracusans think this priesthood is very important. This law bids the Syracusans to select three men from three tribes, through voting; then it is necessary that these three men draw lots. Thus one of the three becomes the priest of Jupiter. (55) A certain Theomnastus, a friend of Verres, was named one of the three thanks to the power and influence of that scoundrel (*istius* = Verres). So it was necessary that those three draw lots. The Syracusans, not having thought that Verres would never dare to trouble the lottery (= since they did not believe that Verres would ever mess with the lottery), were happily awaiting the outcome; for they expected that Verres would not pull the thing off ("achieve the matter"). What did Verres do? The scoundrel first forbid lots to be drawn, and ordered the Syracusans to name Theomnastum without any lottery (*extra ordinem*). The Syracusans said that this was not possible; besides, they said it was not right. So that scoundrel told them the Syracusans to read out to him the law concerning the priesthood. They read it out as follows: "As many men as we name through voting, that many lots we put into a jar. He whose name comes out of the jar becomes the priest." Then Verres <[said>, "How many men did you select?" The Syracusans responded, "Three." Verres: "So it is proper to put three lots in the vase, and draw out one?" The Syracusans: "That is proper." So Verres ordered the Syracusans to put three lots into the jar, all inscribed with the name of Theomnastus. A tremendous outcry rose up; the Syracusans said that this was not right. It seemed most criminal to everyone. What more shall I say? That's how Verres gave the very important priesthood of Jupiter to Theomnastus.