

4A (i) with the original

The temple of Hercules at Agrigentum isn't far from the forum. In it is a most beautiful statue of Hercules himself. Although I have seen many beautiful statues, gentlemen of the jury, I have never caught sight of a more beautiful one than that. Verres suddenly sent some armed slaves to this temple by night. They rushed there and began to storm the temple, but the temple guards shouted out, and tried to make a stand against the slaves and defend the temple. But the slaves of Verres pushed them aside with clubs and fists, and when they had broken the doors of the temple, tried to move the statue. Meanwhile a report began to spread through the whole of the city: the report was that slaves were storming the temple. Suddenly a (certain)¹ messenger, having entered the forum very quickly, announced that (certain) slaves were moving the statue of Hercules. All the Agrigentines, when they had gotten up and grabbed their arms, in a short time rushed to the temple from the whole of the city. When they reached the temple, they saw the slaves attempted with all their might to shift the statue. Then the Agrigentines, who were very angry indeed, suddenly attacked; many stones were thrown; the slaves of Verres fled. You've never heard of worse crimes, have you, gentlemen of the jury? And surely you've never learned² of more villainous deeds, have you? Listen, gentlemen of the jury, and pay still closer attention: soon you will hear of worse and more villainous things.

94. Herculis templum est apud Agrigentinos non longe a foro sane sactum apud illos et religiosum. Ibi est ex aere simulacrum ipsius Herculis, quo non facile dixerim quicquam me vidisse pulchrius (tametsi non tam multum in istis rebus intellego, quam multa vidi), usque eo, iudices, ut rictum eius ac mentum paulo sit attritius, quod in precibus et gratulationibus non solum id venerari, verum etiam osculari solent.

Ad hoc templum, cum esset iste Agrigenti, duce Timarchide repente nocte intempesta servorum armatorum fit concursus atque impetus.

Clamor a vigilibus fanique custodibus tollitur; qui primo cum obsistere ac

There is a temple of Hercules at Agrigentum, not far from the forum, considered very holy and greatly revered among the citizens. In it there is a brazen image of Hercules himself, than which I cannot easily tell where I have seen anything finer; (although I am not very much of a judge of those matters, though I have seen plenty of specimens;) so greatly venerated among them, O judges, that his mouth and his chin are a little worn away, because men in addressing their prayers and congratulations to him, are accustomed not only to worship the statue, but even to kiss it.

While Verres was at Agrigentum, on a sudden, one stormy night, a great assemblage of armed slaves, and a great attack on this temple by them, takes place, under the leading of Timarchides.

A cry is raised by the watchmen and guardians of the temple. And, at first,

¹ "A certain" seems an overtranslation here. I suspect JS are over-using *quidam*, which is not required here.

² *accipio* is fairly often used of receiving things by ear: "hear, learn".

defendere conarentur, male mulcati clavius ac fustibus repelluntur. Postea convolsis repagulis efractisque valvis demoliri signum ac vectibus labefactare conantur.

Interea ex clamore fama tota urbe percrebruit expugnari deos patrios non hostium adventu necopinato neque repentino praedonum impetu, sed ex domo atque ex cohorte praetoria manum fugitivorum instructam armatamque venisse.

95. Nemo Agrigenti neque aetate tam adfecta neque viribus tam infirmis fuit, qui non illa nocte eo nuntio excitatus surrexerit telumque, quod cuique fors offerebat, arripuerit. Itaque brevi tempore ad fanum ex urbe tota concurritur.

Horam amplius iam in demoliendo signo permulti homines moliebantur; illud interea nulla lababat ex parte, cum alii vectibus subietis conarentur commovere, alii deligatum omnibus membris rapere ad se funibus: ac repente Agrigentini concurrunt; fit magna lapidatio; dant sese in fugam istius praeclari imperatoris nocturni milites.

Duo tamen sigilla perparvola tollunt, ne omnino inanes ad istum praedonem religionum revertantur. Numquam tam male est Siculis, quin aliquid facete et commode dicant, velut in hac re aiebant in labores Herculis non minus hunc immanissimum verrem quam illum aprum Erymanthium referri oportere.

when they attempted to resist them and to defend the temple, they are driven back much injured with sticks and bludgeons. Afterwards, when the bolts were forced open, and the doors dashed in, they endeavor to pull down the statue and to overthrow it with levers.

Meantime, from the outcries of the keepers, a report got abroad over the whole city, that the national gods were being stormed, not by the unexpected invasion of enemies, or by the sudden irruption of pirates, but that a well armed and fully equipped band of fugitive slaves from the house and retinue of the praetor had attacked them.

95. No one in Agrigentum was either so advanced in age, or so infirm in strength, as not to rise up on that night, awakened by that news, and to seize whatever weapon chance put into his hands. So in a very short time men are assembled at the temple from every part of the city.

Already, for more than an hour, numbers of men had been laboring at pulling down that statue; and all that time it gave no sign of being shaken in any part; while some, putting levers under it, were endeavoring to throw it down, and others, having bound cords to all its limbs, were trying to pull it towards them. On a sudden all the Agrigentines collect together at the place; stones are thrown in numbers; the nocturnal soldiers of that illustrious commander ran away.

But they take with them two very small statues, in order not to return to that robber of all holy things entirely empty-handed. The Sicilians are never in such distress as not to be able to say something facetious and neat; as they did on this occasion. And so they said that this enormous boar³ had a right to be accounted one of the labors of Hercules, no less than the other boar of Erymanthus.

³ Verres is Latin for "boar" (wild pig)!