

4B(i)

Lampsacum is a city on the Hellespont, gentlemen.¹ This city is more famous and more renowned than any other city of Asia,² and its inhabitants are themselves more orderly than any other people. For they prefer to live as Greeks,³ taking it easy and enjoying peace, rather than to stir up trouble. Verres once came to Lampsacum, which led to a great calamity and almost to the destruction of that city.⁴ The men of Lampsacum led that scoundrel to a certain Janitor⁵ as his host, and they lodged⁶ his retinue with other hosts. As was the custom of that scoundrel, he at once ordered his retinue—men worse than all others, and more shameless—to find him a woman more beautiful than the rest. You all know, gentlemen, that Verres has always desired women more beautiful than the rest.

¹ I can't bring myself to keep typing "judges", though that is a more literal translation.

² The Roman province of Asia included the western part of Asia Minor; it was thus more or less equivalent to the western third of modern Turkey. There were many famous Greek cities here, so Cicero is giving Lampsacum high (and inflated) praise.

³ The citizens of the city of Lampsacum were Greeks, though most people in the surrounding region may well not have Greeks. Greeks had founded city-states in Asia Minor many hundreds of years before the Romans came on the scene; there would be many Greeks in what is now Turkey until ethnic cleansing following the first world war.

⁴ *ciuitas* means, among other things, "state", i.e., an independent political unit, not a state on the US model. Lampsacum, like most ancient cities, was originally actually a city-state, i.e., a self-ruling unit (*polis* in Greek). So "city" is a good translation here, although you should keep in mind that *ciuitas* doesn't refer to a physical town as a collection of buildings: *oppidum* ("town") or *urbs* ("city") will do for that. So you don't routinely say that you're going to the *ciuitas* to do some shopping. Of course the Romans now were ultimately in control of Lampsacum, as of all other city-states in the Mediterranean, as the tale of Verres will show, although city-states retained a good amount of autonomy for their internal affairs.

⁵ We could anglicize his name to Mr. Porter, Mr. Doorman, if you'd like.

⁶ Many have been tempted to make *collacarunt* (*for collacauerunt*) passive, probably because they assumed *comites* was nominative, since it fell at the beginning of the clause. That is, you wrote "the friends were lodged" instead of "they (the people of Lampsacum) lodged the friends." Perhaps "lodge" isn't often transitive in English.

4B (ii)

A certain Rubrius was a companion of that scoundrel, and man tailor-made to further his (Verres') lusts.⁷ This fellow, who was accustomed to look into all these things with amazing skill, reported to him that there was a man, Philodamus, who was better than all the other men of Lampsacum; <that> he was a person of much honor and great reputation among them; <that> he had a daughter of exceeding beauty; but <that> she was a girl of the greatest purity, chastity, and modesty. Verres, when he heard these things, caught fire with the utmost lust. He immediately said that he would move to Philodamus's. His host, Janitor, suspecting nothing, but thinking that he had offended Verres himself, began to hold back the man very forcefully. So Verres, making use of another plan, told Rubrius to move to Philodamus's. Philodamus, when he heard this, came to that scoundrel with the greatest speed. He denied that this was his duty, denied that he would take in that man; he himself was accustomed to taking in praetors and consuls, not their friends. What more am I to say? The scoundrel ignored that man's request entirely, and ordered his slaves to transfer Rubrius to Philodamus's, although he was under no obligation to take him in.

⁷ "A man made for his (Verres's) lusts," literally.