

4C(i)

Diodorus, who was Maltese, lived in Lilybaeum for many years. This man, whom I'm talking about, was born from a noble family and made a great impression<sup>1</sup> and was popular on account of his virtue, which all the Lilybitani recognized.<sup>2</sup> But when Verres was praetor,<sup>3</sup> he was almost on the point of losing everything which he had gathered at his home. For companions whom Verres had brought to Lilybaeum reported that Diodorus had certain cups <and that> these cups were more beautiful than all others—cups which,<sup>4</sup> as I later heard, Mentor had made with the highest skill. And when Verres heard this,<sup>5</sup> on fire with desire, he summoned Diodorus [to himself].<sup>6</sup> Diodorus said that he didn't have those cups at Lilybaeum himself,<sup>7</sup> (135) but had left them at Malta

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<sup>1</sup> *splendidus* here must appear to the high esteem granted Diodorus because of his virtue.

<sup>2</sup> *cognoverant* is a pluperfect form, and could literally mean "had come to understand". But what it regularly refers to is the state which follows upon understanding something, i.e., some sort of knowledge. Hence translate the pluperfect as if it were a perfect. The perfect *cognovi* should often be handled similarly: "I recognize, know" (rather than "I have learned").

<sup>3</sup> An ablative absolute. A bit more literally: "Verres being praetor". See **GVE §109**.

<sup>4</sup> The first time I taught this, I thought that the *quae* at the beginning of the parenthetical sentence *quae pocula, ut postea audivi. . .*) was a connecting relative (**GVE §107**). That's not quite right. We here have an antecedent, *pocula*, but it's been incorporated into the relative clause (i.e., been put after *quae*). As we do this sometimes in English, Jones and Sidwell don't bother to explain. (They gave us this construction to ease the way into the pure connecting relative, I think, but while it may ease things for students it makes things harder for professors!)

<sup>5</sup> *quod* is a connecting relative: see **GVE §107.sf**

<sup>6</sup> I.e., Verres called Diodorus over to Verres (*ad se*). We wouldn't bother with anything to translate the Latin *ad se* here.

<sup>7</sup> *Himself* here is an effort to reflect the emphatic initial placement of *se* (cf. **GVE §98** note 4). When *se* is emphatic, it's meaning approaches that of *ipse*. More neutral word order: *ille Lilybaei se ea pocula non habere respondit* = "He said that he didn't have those cups at Lilybaeum."

with a certain relative. At that point that scoundrel began to send<sup>8</sup> men to Malta, to write to certain Maltese, to demand the cups, to order Diodorus to hand over a letter addressed to that relative.<sup>9</sup> When he heard this, Diodorus, who had decided to preserve what was his own, sent a letter to his relative. And in this letter he had dared to write (140) that the relative ought to deny that he had the cups, but state that he had sent them to Lilybaeum within those few days. When the relative read this letter, he did this. Meanwhile Diodorus himself, who had decided to leave his home for a little while rather than lose his silver, left Lilybaeum.

4C (ii)

When that scoundrel heard this, he seemed to all to behave with no mild madness and rage; he acted in this way, because he had not been able to take Diodorus' silver. So he took to threatening<sup>10</sup> the absent Diodorus, to crying out in public, to bursting into tears. Finally he ordered his slaves to search the whole province for Diodorus;<sup>11</sup> but Diodorus had stolen the march on him<sup>12</sup> and collected his cups; by this time he was living in Rome. (150) So Verres, who wanted to summon Diodorus back to the province some way or another, thought up this plan: he decided to charge Diodorus, whom he knew to be absent, with some trumped-up accusation or other. The affair was clear to all of Sicily: Verres, due to his lust for silver, was prosecuting a man who wasn't even present.

Meanwhile Diodorus went around in tatters to patrons<sup>13</sup> and former guests whom he knew, and reported the whole story. When Verres' father and friends heard this, they

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<sup>8</sup> I've come over to "begin to" for the imperfects here. The original Latin uses the (historical) present here, by the way, so is no help in clarifying what's up. (No, we haven't met the historical present yet.)

<sup>9</sup> *dare litteras* here refers to Diodorus giving Verres a letter to be brought to Malta by the folks Verres is sending to Malta. There was no public mail service in the ancient world: all letters had to be carried by some private person or other, though the rich could send off their slaves with particularly important letters. But of course if Diodorus' letter was carried by Verres' men Diodorus could probably assume that it would be opened and read by Verres' men.

<sup>10</sup> "took to x-ing" is a rendering of the imperfects here.

<sup>11</sup> Lit., "to search for Diodorum in the whole province"

<sup>12</sup> Literally, "had moved his camp," a military phrase.

<sup>13</sup> Aristocratic Romans with whom he had some sort of subordinate relationship.

sent a letter to that scoundrel <telling him that> the story was clear to all of Rome, and unpopular; it was clear that everything was being done for the sake of silver; Verres was mad; he ought to take care; this one accusation could be the death of him. (160) When Verres read this, he saw that he had acted stupidly. For <he saw that > it was the first year that he was in charge of the province, and he didn't at this time have any money himself.<sup>14</sup> So he repressed his rage, not because of shame but because of dread and fear; he did not dare to prosecute the absent Diodorus. Meanwhile Diodorus, while Verres was praetor,<sup>15</sup> stayed away from the province and his home for almost three years.

(165) What more shall I say? Nothing can be clearer than this, gentlemen. At that time, with Verres as praetor, in all of Sicily nobody was able to protect or keep at home those things that Verres had set his heart on.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> I.e., he didn't have the money he would need to bribe a Roman jury were he charged with corruption in his province—as Cicero makes clear in the original.

<sup>15</sup> Ablative absolute—“Verres being praetor”.

<sup>16</sup> The original reads *quod isti paulo magis placeret* “which pleased that man a little more” i.e., ever so little.