

## Translation of the Reading Exercise on pages 295-6.

*Yes, this is tricky: you're reading Cicero's original Latin. This is Latin at the equivalent of the college reading level. If you can do this, you've achieved a hell of a lot in a single year of Latin. If you have lots of trouble with this, don't despair: the final won't be as hard, and you'll have time to improve your Latin if you go on next fall. I give the whole passage for any interested in reading beyond line 13.*

And so Gavius is led<sup>1</sup>the at once to the mayor of Messana, and on that very day, by chance, Verres came to Messana. The matter is reported to him: there was a Roman citizen who was complaining that he had been in the quarries at Syracuse, and who was entering a ship and threatening Verres very violently when he was dragged back and put under guard (by the folks reporting) . . . .

Verres thanks the men and praises their good will and diligence on his behalf, and goes himself to the forum, on fire with crime and madness; his eyes were burning, and cruelty shone forth from his whole face . . . .

Suddenly he orders that the man be dragged forward, stripped and bound, in the middle of the forum, and that the rods be readied. Poor Gavius kept crying out that he was a Roman citizen from the free town of Consanum, and that he had served under Lucius Raecius, a most distinguished Roman knight, who was doing business in Panhormus, from whom Verres could<sup>2</sup> confirm these things. (13)

Then that scoundrel (Verres, of course) <said> that he had learned that Gavius had been sent to Sicily by the leaders of the deserters<sup>3</sup> . . .

Then he (Verres) orders the man to be beaten violently all around. A Roman citizen, gentlemen of the jury, was beaten by rods in the midst of the forum of Messana, and<sup>4</sup> meanwhile no other groan, no cry is heard amidst the anguish and noise of the blows except for this: "I am a Roman citizen." With this mention of his citizenship he thought that he would push aside all these blows and drive away the torture from his body. Not only did he not manage to do this, to lessen the force of the rods through his pleas, but when he begged more often and invoked the word "citizen,"<sup>5</sup> the cross—the cross, I say!—was being readied for this unfortunate wretch, who had never seen that bane.

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<sup>1</sup> Historical present.

<sup>2</sup> For the subjunctive *posset*, see **GVE 142**.

<sup>3</sup> Here as elsewhere Verres claims that Gavius was a follower of Sertorius, a Roman who, after his side (the *populares*) had lost out in the conflict with the conservatives (*optimates* led by Sulla), set up an independent state in Spain. Sertorius won over many of the native tribes, and was joined by many Romans, whom their enemies considered deserters (*fugitivi*). Sertorius was murdered in 72 BC, two years before Verres was governor of Sicily.

<sup>4</sup> We have here a funny *cum* clause with the indicative (*audiebatur*). This usage is what is known as a *cum inversum*, in which, naturally but somewhat illogically, the subordinate *cum* clause gives the main action and the syntactically main clause gives the setting. In such cases the *cum* clause really links another main clause rather than introducing a subordinate one, and hence the indicative rather than the subjunctive is used. I translate *cum* here as "and" to bring out the force of the indicative in the *cum inversum* construction.

<sup>5</sup> Literally, "used the name of citizenship."