



ADDITIONAL READINGS FROM NEPOS' *LIFE OF ATTICUS*

1. THE PEOPLE OVER FORTUNE

Atticus is friend to the people, not to fortune.

CORNĒLIĪ NEPŌTIS ATTICUS, 9.3–6

In the previous section you read that Antony was sent into exile, and that his wife Fulvia and his children were threatened by persecution. Marcus Antonius, or Mark Antony, a fascinating and contradictory political figure (since tradition has presented him either as a villain or as a powerful and enchanting leader destroyed by his own weakness), was losing ground at that time. Everybody seemed to be against him, backed by the authority of the senate and fueled by Cicero's eloquence, who delivered his famous orations called *The Philippics*. These were named after the speeches of the Greek orator Demosthenes and were delivered against the Macedonian king Philip. The word "Philippic" remained proverbial for any fiery accusation. Atticus, literary adviser, publisher and banker, as well as an intimate friend of Cicero, found himself in a delicate situation with regard to his relationship with Antony.

- 1 9. 3. Atticus cum Cicerōnis intimā familiāritāte ūterētur, amīcissimus
 esset Brūtō, nōn modo nihil hīs indulsit ad Antōnium violandum, sed
 ē contrāriō familiārēs ēius ex urbe profugientēs, quantum potuit, tēxit,
 quibus rēbus indignērunt, adiūvit. 4. . . . Ipsī Fulviae, cum lītibus
5 distinērētur māgnisque terrōribus vexārētur, tantā dīligentiā officium
 suum praestitit, ut nūllum illa stiterit vadimōnium sine Atticō; spōnsor
 omnium rērum fuerit.



VOCABULARY

- 1 cum + subjunctive – although
 *intimus, a, um – most intimate, closest
 *familiāritās, familiāritātis, f. – familiarity
 ūtor + ablative – to avail oneself of, use, enjoy
 *amīcus, a, um – friendly
- 2 modo (adv.) – only
 indulgeō, ēre, indulsī, indultum + dative – to be indulgent, grant as a favor to
 violō, āre, āvī, ātum – to violate, harm
- 3 ē contrāriō – on the contrary
 *familiāris, familiāris, m./f. – family member
 profugiō, ere, profūgī, — – to run away, flee
 *tegō, ere, tēxī, tēctum – to cover, protect
- 4 indigeō, ēre, indiguī, — + ablative – to lack, need
 *adiuvō, āre, adiūvī, adiūtum – to help
- 5 distineō, ēre, distinuī, distentum – to hold apart, distract
 terror, terrōris, m. – terror
 vexō, āre, āvī, ātum – to trouble, harass
 *diligentia, ae, f. – carefulness, attentiveness
 officium, ī, n. – favor, duty
- 6 *praestō, āre, praestitī, praestitum – to make available, supply
 vadimōnium, ī, n. – guarantee that the defendant will appear before the judge: vadimōnium
 sistere (sistō, sistere, stitī) – to show up in court to answer bail
 spōnsor, spōnsōris, m. – guarantor, one who formally guarantees the good faith of another

READING NOTES

- 1–2 *Atticus cum . . . nōn modo nihil . . . sed* Note that *cum* in this sentence has a meaning similar to “although,” and the thought contrasting with *cum* is marked by *nōn modo nihil . . . sed . . .*
- 3 *familiārēs eius* “His family members” refers to Antony’s relatives.
- 6 *illa* “she” refers to Fulvia.



CORNĒLIĪ NEPŌTIS ATTICUS, 9.3–6, CONTINUED

5. Quīn etiam, cum illa fundum secundā fortūnā
ēmisset in diem neque post calamitātem versūram facere potuisset, ille
sē interposuit pecūniamque sine faenore sineque ūllā stipulātiōne
10 crēdidit, maximum existimāns quaestum memorem grātumque
cognōscī simulque aperiēns sē nōn fortūnae, sed hominibus solēre
esse amīcum. 6. Quae cum faciēbat, nēmō eum temporis causā facere
poterat existimāre. Nēminī enim in opīniōnem veniēbat Antōnium
rērum potītūrum . . .

VOCABULARY

- 7 quīn etiam – and furthermore
fundus, ī, m. – country estate, farm
secundus – following, favorable, second
- 8 *emō, ere, ēmī, emptum – to buy
in diem – for a future day
*calamitās, calamitātis, f. – disaster, misfortune, calamity
versūra, ae, f. – exchanging one creditor for another
- 9 interpōno, ere, interposuī, interpositum – to put between; sē interpōnere – to intervene, interfere
faenus, faenoris, n. – interest, profit
stipulātiō, stipulātiōnis, f. – demanding of a guarantee from a prospective debtor
- 10 crēdō – to lend money, believe
*existimō, āre, āvī, ātum – to value, esteem, think
quaestus, quaestūs, m. – profit
*memor, memoris – remembering, mindful (of one's obligations)
*grātus, a, um – thankful, appreciative
- 11 *cōgnōscō, ere, cōgnōvī, cōgnitum – to get to know, find to be
- 12 quae = et haec
temporis causā – to suit the occasion
- 13 *opiniō, opiniōnis, f. – opinion, mind
- 14 potior, potiri, potitus sum + genitive – to make oneself master of, take possession of

*Words marked with an asterisk will need to be memorized later in the chapter.

READING NOTES

- 7–8 *cum illa fundum secundā fortunā ēmisset* The phrase *secundā fortunā* means “in favorable circumstances.” Originally meaning “following,” or “blowing in the direction of one’s course,” here *secundus* means “favorable.” You have already learned that *secundus* can mean “second.”
in diem This expression which means “by a future day” indicates that the farm she bought was to be paid for by a future, agreed-upon day.
- 9 *versūram facere* The phrase *versūram facere* means “to refinance a loan with a new creditor.”
- 10–11 *maximus existimāns quaestum memorem grātumque cognōscī* “Thinking that the greatest profit was to be found mindful of his obligations and thankful . . .”
- 12 *aperiēns* The verb *aperiō, -ire, aperuī, apertum* can mean not only “to open,” but also “to reveal.”
eum This accusative subject of an indirect statement refers to Atticus.
- 14 *Nēmīnī . . . in opiniōnem veniēbat* The phrase *in opiniōnem venire* (with the dative indicating the person involved) means “to occur to” someone.
Antōnium rērum potitūrum The word *rēs* in the plural often means simply “affairs” or “circumstances.”

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in Latin using the text on pp. 378 and 380. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted.

1. Eratne Atticus Cicerōnis amīcus?
2. Eratne Atticus Brūtī amīcus?
3. Erantne Cicero et Brūtus Antōniī amīcī?
4. Quōcum stābat Atticus, cum Cicerōne et Brūtō, an (*or*) cum Antōniō?
5. Quid fēcit Atticus, cum Antōniī familiārēs Rōmā fugerent?
6. Quid fiēbat illō tempore Fulviae, Antōniī uxōrī?
7. Quibus duōbus modīs Atticus Fulviam adiūvit?
8. Quid Atticus maximum quaestum existimābat?
9. Putābantne hominēs ab Atticō Fulviam temporis causā adiuvārī? Cūr?

VOCABULARY TO LEARN

NOUNS

calamitās, calamitātis, f. – disaster, misfortune, calamity

familiāritās, familiāritātis, f. – familiarity

diligentia, ae, f. – carefulness, attentiveness, diligence

opīniō, opīniōnis, f. – opinion, mind

ADJECTIVES

amīcus, a, um – friendly

familiāris, familiāris, m./f. – family member, close friend

grātus, a, um – thankful, appreciative

intimus, a, um – most intimate, closest

memor, memoris + genitive – remembering, mindful of (usually of one's obligations)

VERBS

adiuvō, āre, adiūvī, adiūtum – to help

cōgnōscō, ere, cōgnōvī, cōgnitum – to get to know, find to be

emō, ere, emī, emptum – to buy

existimō, āre, āvī, ātum – to value, esteem, think

praestō, āre, praestitī, praestitum – to make available, supply

tegō, ere, tēxī, tēctum – to cover, protect

► EXERCISE 1

The following conversation might have taken place between Atticus and Fulvia during the period in which she was in trouble. Fulvia, married to Mark Antony (this was her third marriage), was a very active person in the politics of the late republic, and in some ways a prototype of the future empresses.

Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs and phrases in parentheses. Then translate the dialogue into English. The Reading Vocabulary may be consulted.

Atticus: Salvē, Fulvia! Quōmodo hodiē valēs?

Fulvia: Tot lītibus distineor et tantīs terrōribus vexor ut _____ (mihi vīrēs iam nōn sunt). Quis mē miserrimam adiuvābit?

Atticus: Ipse ad tē vēnī ut _____ (auxilium tibi ferō). Parātus sum omnia prō tē facere. Quid est mihi faciendum?

Fulvia: Ad iūdicem mihi est eundum. Licetne mihi tē rogāre ut _____ (spōnsor meus fīēs)?

Atticus: Nūllum vadimōnium sistere dēbēbis sine mē. Semper veniam ut tē _____ (adiuvō). Tēcum semper ambulābō.

Fulvia: Grāta sum, Attice, vir optime, prō benevolentīā tuā, et semper hūius reī memor erō. Sī marītus meus Rōmam redīre _____ (potest), multa officia tibi praestābit.

Atticus: Tē adiuvāre volō, quia nōn mihi placet amīcōs in calamitātibus relinquere. Nūlla alia est causa.

Fulvia: At mihi est quoque alia calamitās.

Atticus: Dīcās mihi _____ (quid est)!

Fulvia: Fundum in diem ēmī, sed nunc versūram facere nōn possum, quamquam cōnor.

Atticus: Pecūniam tibi crēdam sine faenore et sine stipulātiōne.

Fulvia: At pecūniā sine faenore mihi crēditā, nūllus quaestus erit tibi.

Atticus: Existimō _____ (maximus quaestus est grātum memoremque cognōscī). Valē nunc, Fulvia! Postea veniam ut _____ (pecūniam tibi dō) et ut _____ (ad iūdicem īmus).

Fulvia: Valē, vir amīcīssime!