

ANDROCLUS AND THE LION

A STORY FROM AULUS GELLIUS' *NOCTES ATTICAE*

WITH EXEGETICAL NOTES

FOR THE SECOND-YEAR LATIN STUDENT

by MICHAEL HENDRY

***TUSCALOOSAN DISPUTATIONS* EINZELSCHRIFTEN, 3**

© Michael Hendry 1995

(1) Apión, qui ‘Plístonícés’ appellátus est, litterís homo multís praeditus rérumque Graecárum plúrimá atque uariá sciéntiá fuit. (2) eius librí nón incelebrés feruntur, quibus omnium fermé, quae mírifica in Aegyptó uísuntur audiunturque, historia comprehenditur. (3) sed in hís, quae uel audísse uel légísse sésé dicit, fortassean uitió studióque ostentátionis sit loquácior — est enim sáné quam in praedicandís doctrínis suí uenditátor —; (4) hoc autem, quod in libró Aegyptiacórum quintó scrípsit, neque audísse neque légísse, sed ipsum sésé in urbe Romá uídísse oculís suís cónfirmat.

(5) ‘In Circó Maximó’ inquit ‘uénátionis amplíssimae pugna populó dabátur. (6) eius reí, Romae cum forte essem, spectátor’ inquit ‘fuí. (7) multae ibi saeuíentes ferae, magnítudínés béstiárum excelléntés, omniumque inuísitáta aut forma erat aut ferocia. (8) sed praeter alia omnia leónum’ inquit ‘immánitas admirátioní fuit praeterque omnis céterós únus. (9) ís únus leó corporis impetú et uastítudine terrificóque fremitú et sonóro, torís comísque ceruícum fluctuántibus animós oculósque omnium in sésé cónuerterat. (10) intróductus erat inter cómplúrís céterós ad pugnam béstiárum datus seruus uirí cónsuláris; eí seruó Androclus nómen fuit. (11) hunc ille leó ubi uídít procul, repente’ inquit ‘quási admiráns stetit ac deinde sensim atque placidé tamquam nóscitábundus ad hominem accédit. (12) tum caudam móre atque ritú adulántium canum clémenter et blandé mouet hominisque sé corporí adiungit crúraque eius et manús prope iam exanimátí metú linguá léniter demulcet. (13) homo Androclus inter illa tam atrocis ferae blandímenta ámissum animum recuperat, paulátim oculós ad cóntuéndum leónem refert. (14) tum quási mutuá récognitióne factá laetós’ inquit ‘et gratulábundós uidérés hominem et leónem.’

(15) Eá ré prorsus tam admirábilí maximós populí clamórés excitátós dicit accersítumque á Caesare Androclum quaesítamque causam, cur illí atrocíssimus leó úní parsisset. (16) ibi Androclus rem mírificam narrat atque admirándam. (17) ‘Cum prouinciam’ inquit ‘Africam prócónsuláris imperió meus dominus obtinéret, ego ibi iníquís eius et cótidiánís uerberibus ad fugam sum coactus et, ut mihi á dominó, terrae illíus praeside, tútiorés latébrae forent, in campórum et arénárum solítudínés cóncessí ac, sí défuisset cibus, cónsiliúm fuit mortem aliquó pactó quaerere. (18) tum sóle medió’ inquit ‘rabidó et flagrántí specum quandam nanctus remótam latébrósamque in eam me penetró et recondó. (19) neque multó post ad eandem specum uenit hic leó débílí únó et cruentó pede gemitús

édéns et murmura dolórem cruciátumque uulneris cómmiserántia.’ (20) atque illíc primó quidem cónspectú adueniéntis leónis territum sibi et pauéfactum animum dixit. (21) ‘sed postquam intrógressus’ inquit ‘leó, uti ré ipsá appáruit, in habitáculum illud suum, uidet mé procul délitéscentem, mítis et mansués accessit et sublátum pedem ostendere mihi et porrigere quásí opis petendae gratiá uísus est. (22) ibi’ inquit ‘ego stirpem ingentem uestígió pedis eius haeréntem reuellí cónceptamque saniem uolnere intimó expressí accúrátiusque sine magná iam formíidine siccauí penitus atque détersí cruórem. (23) illá tunc meá operá et medellá leuátus pede in manibus meis positó recubuit et quiéuit, (24) atque ex eó dié triennium tótum ego et leó in eádem specú eódemque et uictú uiximus. (25) nam, quás uénábátur ferás, membra opímióra ad specum mihi subgerébat, quae ego ignis copiam nón habéns meridiánó sóle torréns edébam. (26) sed ubi mé’ inquit ‘uítae illíus ferínae iam pertaesum est, leóne in uénátum prófectó reliquí specum et uiam fermé triduí permensus á mílitibus uísus adprehensusque sum et ad dominum ex Africá Romam déductus. (27) ís mé statim reí capitális damnandum dandumque ad béstiás curáuit. (28) intellegó autem’ inquit ‘hunc quoque leónem mé tunc separátó captum gratiam mihi nunc beneficií et medicínae referre.’

(29) Haec Apión dixisse Androclum tradit eaque omnia scripta circumlátaque tabulá populó déclárata atque ideo cunctís peténtibus dímissum Androclum et poená solútum leónemque eí suffrágiís populí dónátum. (30) ‘Posteá’ inquit ‘uidébámus Androclum et leónem loró tenuí reuinctum urbe tótá circum tabernás íre, dónári aere Androclum, flóribus spargí leónem, omnés ubíque obuiós dícere: “Hic est leó hospés hominis, hic est homo medicus leónis”.’

Notes

- 1 *Apión*: Greek nom. sg. Apion was an Alexandrian literary critic.
Plístonícés: Greek nom. sg. ‘victor in the most contests’, usually used of athletes.
(*plístos* or *pleistos* means ‘the most’, as in the Pleistocene Age, which is the most recent geologically, and *nícé* or *niké* means victory, as in Nike tennis shoes and Nike, the Winged Victory of Samothrace.)
praeditus, -a, -um: (+ abl.) ‘endowed with’.
- 2 *inceleber*, -bris, -bre: ‘unknown to fame, undistinguished’.
omnium: depends on *historia*.
fermé: ‘nearly, almost’. Used again in § 26.
- 3 *audísse*: shortened form of *audiússe*.
sésé: alternate form of *sé*, found again in § 9.
fortassean: ‘it may be, perhaps’ (+ subj.).
sáné quam: ‘decidedly, extremely, exceptionally’. (A weird idiom.)
praedícó, -*dícere*, -*dixí*, *dictum*: ‘proclaim’.
uenditátor, -*óris*, M.: ‘hawker, advertiser’.
- 4 *Aegyptiaca*: ‘Egyptian things’ = ‘writings about Egypt’.
confirmó, -*áre*, -*áuí*, -*átum*: ‘establish, support, prove’.
- 5 The Circus Maximus was, as the name implies, the largest stadium at Rome, used for chariot races and other events. It is depicted in Ben Hur.
uénatió, -*ónis*, F.: ‘wild-game hunt’. Near-synonym of *uénátus* in § 26.
- 7 *saeuíó*, *saeuíre*, *saeuíuí*, *saeuítum*: ‘to rage, be savage’.
excelléntés: Not ‘excellent’, but ‘unusual, extraordinary’.
inuísitátus, -a, -um: ‘unseen; unfamiliar, novel, strange’. It is a predicate here.
- 8 *immánitás*, -*átis*, F.: ‘hugeness, monstrosity’ < *immánis*, *immáne*, ‘huge’.
admíratió, *admíratiónis*, F.: Not ‘admiration’, but ‘amazement’. What kind of dative is this?
- 9 *impetus*, -*ús*, M.: ‘attack, assault; violence, vigor’.
fremítus, -*ús*, M.: ‘roar, growl’.
sonórus, -a, -um: ‘loud, resounding’.
torus, -*í*, M.: ‘cushion, couch, bed; muscle’ (here obviously the last).
coma, -ae, F.: ‘hair’.
ceruíx, -*ícis*, F.: ‘neck’ (plural often used for singular).
- 10 *complúres*, *complúrium*: Pl. only, ‘several, many’.
datus = ‘donated’ (by his master to make a better show).
consuláris, -e: ‘consular, man of consular rank (consul or ex-consul)’.
- 11 *repente*: ‘suddenly’.
sensim: ‘slowly, gradually’.
placidus, -a, -um: ‘agreeable; tame, friendly; tranquil’.
noscitábundus, -a, -um: ‘knowing again, recognizing’ (a *hapax legomenon*). Cf. *grátulábundus* in § 14.
- 12 *mós*, *móris*, M.: ‘custom’.
rítus, -*ús*, M.: ‘religious rite; practice, manner’.
adúló, *adúláre*, *adúláuí*, *adúlátus*: ‘(usu. of dogs) to fawn on; flatter’.
clémenter: ‘kindly, mildly, gently’.
blandé: ‘charmingly, seductively’. Cf. *blandímentum* in § 13.
crús, *crúris*, N.: ‘leg, lower leg, calf’.
exanimátus, -a, -um: ‘dead; half-dead; paralyzed’.
léniter: ‘gently’.
démulcéó, *démulcére*, *démulsí*, *démultum*: ‘rub soothingly, stroke’.
- 13 *blandímentum*, -*í*, N.: ‘coaxing, wheedling; endearment’.
recuperó: = *reciperó*, ‘get back, recover’.
paulatim: ‘little by little’.

- contueor, contuéri, contuitus sum*: ‘look at’.
- 14 *gratulábundus, -a, -um*: ‘offering congratulations’.
uidérés: What kind of subjunctive is this?
- 15 *prorsus*: ‘immediately; thoroughly’.
arcessó, arcessere, arcessúí, arcessítum: also *accersó*, etc. ‘to send for, summon’.
á Caesare: The emperor is presiding over the games. There is no way of knowing which emperor is meant.
parsisset: *parsí* is an irregular third principal part of *parcó, parcere, pepercí*, ‘to spare’, which takes the dative.
- 17 *cótidíanus, -a, -um*: ‘daily’ (also spelled *cott-* and *quót-*, the latter being the source of English ‘quotidian’).
praesés, -idis, MF.: ‘guardian, custodian; governor’.
latébrae, -árum, F.Pl.: ‘hiding place, lair’.
cibus, -i, M.: ‘food, nourishment’.
aliquó pactó: ‘in some way’.
- 18 *flagró, flagráre, flagráuí, flagrátum*: ‘blaze’.
specus/specú, -ús, MFN. (!): ‘cave’. What gender is it in this story?
nanciscor, nanciscí, nactus/nactus sum: ‘to get, acquire, obtain’.
penetró, penetráre, penetráuí, penetrátum: ‘to cause to go into; to go into’ (trans. or intrans.).
recondó, recondere, recondidí, reconditum: ‘put away, conceal, hide’.
- 19 *multó*: What kind of ablative is this?
debilis, -e: ‘weak’.
cruentus, -a, -um: ‘bloody, gory’.
gemitus, -ús, M.: ‘groan’.
édens: from *édó, édere, édidí, éditum*, ‘to give out, produce, emit’, a compound of *dare*, not to be confused with *edó, edere, edí, ésum*, ‘to eat’, which is found in § 25.
cruciátus, cruciátús, M.: ‘torture, torment’.
commiseror, commiserári, commiserátus sum: ‘to feel pity for’.
- 20 *conspectus, -ús, M.*: ‘sight, glimpse’.
pauefació: (= *pauor* + *facio*) ‘to terrify, alarm’.
What does *cómmiserántia* agree with?
- 21 *intrógregior, intrógregidí, intrógressus sum*: ‘go in, enter’.
ré ipsá: ‘in fact, in reality’.
habitáculum, -i, N.: ‘dwelling-place’ (near-hapax).
délitescó, -ere, délituí: (also *délitiscó*) ‘to hide oneself’.
mansués, -étis: ‘tame; gentle’.
- 22 *stírps, stírpis, F.*: ‘stem; splinter’.
uestígium, -i, N.: ‘footprint, track; sole of foot’.
reuelló, reuellere, reuellí/reuulsí, reuulsus: ‘to pluck loose, tear out’.
conceptam: here = ‘collected’.
saniés, saniéi, F.: ‘pus’. The wound is infected.
accúrátus, -a, -um: ‘careful, meticulous’.
formídó, formídinis, F.: ‘fear, terror’.
détergo, détergere, détersí: ‘to wipe off, wipe clean’.
cruor, cruóris, M.: ‘blood, gore’.
- 23 *opera, -ae, F.*: ‘effort, trouble’.
medella, -ae, F.: ‘healing, treatment’.
leuó, leuáre, leuáuí, leuátus: ‘lift; lighten; relieve’.
recumbó, recumbere, recubuí: ‘to lie down’.
quiéscó, quiéscere, quiéuí, quiétus: ‘to fall asleep; rest’.
- 24 *triennium, -i, N.*: ‘period of three years’.
uictus, -ús, M.: ‘food, nourishment, sustenance’. From the deponent verb *uescor*.
- 25 *uénor, uénári, uénátus sum*: ‘to hunt, go hunting’.
opímus, -a, -um: ‘plump; rich; choice’.
subgeró, subgerere, subgessí, subgestum: ‘to supply, bring when needed’ (among other meanings).
torreó, torrere, torruí: ‘to roast, parch’.
edó, edere/ésse, edí, ésum/essum: irreg. ‘to eat’.

- 26 *ferinus, -a, -um*: 'of or pertaining to wild beasts'.
pertaedet, pertaedere, pertaesum est: impersonal and semideponent (takes acc. of person affected + gen. of object of emotion) 'fill with weariness or disgust'.
uénátus, -ús, M.: 'hunt, hunting expedition'. Obviously formed from *uénor* (25).
profectó: Is this a participle or an adverb?
reliquí: Is this a verb or an adjective?
triduum, -í, N.: 'period of three days'.
permétior, permétiri, permensus sum: 'measure out, traverse, complete'.
- 27 *rés capitális*: = 'capital charge, death-penalty case'. The case is the so-called 'genitive of the charge', as in English, where one is accused or convicted of a crime.
cúró, cúráre, cúráuí, cúrátum: here = 'to undertake, see to it'.
- 28 *referre*: here = 'pay back'.
- 29 *tabula, -ae, F.*: 'panel, plank, billboard'.
hospes, -itis, MF.: 'guest' or 'host' — only the context tells. Which is it here?
dónó, dónáre, dónáuí, dónátum: 'present to, present with'. Rather like the English verb 'présent', it takes either acc. of gift + dat. of recipient, or acc. of recipient + abl. of gift. Both constructions are used in this passage, one here, and the other in § 30.
- 30 *lórum, -í, N.*: 'thong, strap'.
reinció, reincíre, reinxí, reinctum: 'tie down, restrain'.
taberna, -ae, F.: 'inn; shop, stall'.
spargó, spargere, sparsí, sparsum: 'scatter, strew'.
ubíque: (one word, not two) 'anywhere; everywhere'. Root of English 'ubiquitous'.
obuius, -a, -um: 'in one's way, met with'.