

ad Messalae Coruini, disertissimi uiri, illam sententiam “pudet
 10 imperii”. hic, p.c., qui uobis non posse uidetur muscam excitare, 3
 tam facile homines occidebat quam canis adsidit. sed quid ego de
 tot ac talibus uiris dicam? non uacat deflere publicas clades
 intuenti domestica mala. itaque illa omittam, haec referam; nam
 etiam si σφυρὸν meum [Graece] nescit, ego scio: ἔγγιον γόνου
 15 κνήμης. iste quem uidetis, per tot annos sub meo nomine latens, 4
 hanc mihi gratiam retulit, ut duas Iulias proneptes meas
 occideret, alteram ferro, alteram fame; unum abnepotem L.
 Silanum: uideris, Iuppiter, an in causa mala – certe in tua, si
 aequos futurus es. dic mihi, diue Claudii: quare quemquam ex
 20 his, quos quasque occidisti, antequam de causa cognosceres,
 antequam audires, damnasti? hoc ubi fieri solet? in caelo non fit.
 II ‘ecce Iuppiter, qui tot annos regnat, uni Volcano crus fregit, 1
 quem

ῥίψε ποδὸς τεταγὼν ἀπὸ βηλοῦ θεσπεσίω,

et iratus fuit uxori et suspendit illam: numquid occidit? tu
 5 Messalinam, cuius aequae auunculus maior eram quam tuus,
 occidisti. “nescio” inquis? di tibi malefaciant: adeo istuc turpius
 est quod nescisti quam quod occidisti. C. Caesarem non desiit 2
 mortuum persequi. occiderat ille socerum: hic et generum.

9 ad messal(a)e Ss: ad me ad mesale V: ā me ad messalae L: a me ad messale I
 disertissimi uiri al: u.d. s pudet Ss: precipet V: precipit ius Ll 11 adsidit
 S: excidit V codd. l plerique: exsedit L codd. l nonnulli: frust(r)um absidit s
 12 ac talibus Ss: actibus βl 13 illa al: illas s referam αω: referem V
 14 σφυρὸν meum Eden: sura mea Russo: sormeā S: f(ph-L)ormeā βl: soror mea s
 grece αω: om. Par. 8717, Par. 6395: del. Sonntag 14–15 ἔγγιον γόνου κνήμης
 dispexit Buecheler 16 iulias al: sicilias V: auias s proneptes s: proneptes al
 17 ferro ... fame al: fame ... ferro s abnepotem S: ab- uel ob- s: ad- βl
 18 silanum α: silandum V: sillanum ω 19 aec uos S: haec uos V: hic inter uos
 L: hic inter nos (uel uos) l: hic apud nos s futurus es S: futurus est βl: facturus
 est s 20 cognosceres αs: agnosceres Ll 21 hoc ubi fieri solet? in caelo non
 fit Ss: h.f.s.i.c? n.f. βl 1 regnat uni αω: regnatum V uolcano S: uulcano β:
 utrumque ω 3 Hom. Il. 1.591 agnouit Rhenanus 4 iratus fuit uxori et al:
 iratus uxori s 6 istuc S: istud βω 7 nescisti Ss: nesci V: nescis Ll
 occidisti c caesarem Ss: occidisti ic caesarem V: occidisti Illa G. caesarem Ll
 8 persequi S: prosequi β: utrumque ω

must resort to that saying of the most expressive Messala
 Corvinus: “My power shames me.” This man, honourable mem- 3
 bers, who gives you the impression of not being able to startle a
 fly, used to kill people as effortlessly as a dog squats on its
 haunches. But why do I mention men of such number and
 quality? I have no time to bewail national disasters when I
 contemplate family misfortunes. Therefore I shall pass over the
 former and deal with the latter. For I know that the knee is
 nearer than the shin, even if my anklebone does not. The speci- 4
 men you see, lurking under my name for so many years, paid me
 such thanks as to kill two Julias, my great-granddaughters, one
 by the sword, the other by starvation, and one great-great-
 grandson, L. Silanus: you, Jupiter, will judge whether his case
 was faulty – it was certainly the same as yours, if you are going to
 be fair. Tell me, deified Claudius, why did you convict any of
 these men and women, whom you killed, before you could
 examine the case, before you could hear the evidence? Where is
 this the customary practice? It is not so in heaven.

II ‘Look at Jupiter who has been king for so many years. Vulcan 1
 was the only one ... whose leg he broke;
 taking hold of his foot he hurled him from heaven’s own
 threshold.

And he got angry with his wife and hung her up. Did he ever kill?
 You killed Messalina, whose great-great-uncle I was just as much
 as yours. “I don’t know” you say? May the gods curse you: the
 fact that you didn’t know is far more disgraceful than the fact
 that you killed. Claudius did not stop making Gaius Caesar his 2
 target after his death. Gaius had killed his father-in-law;