

Pudor and *Pudicitia*: Lost Morals and the Fate of the Roman Republic

Sonya Wurster, The University of Melbourne (swurster@unimelb.edu.au)
CAMWS Saturday April 14 2018

Caelius' *pudor* and *pudicitia*

1. Cic. *Cael.* 9

verum ad istam omnem orationem brevis est defensio. nam quoad aetas M. Caeli dare potuit isti suspicioni locum, fuit primum ipsius pudore, deinde etiam patris diligentia disciplinaque munita. Qui ut huic virilem togam dedit nihil dicam hoc loco de me; tantum sit, quantum vos existimatis; hoc dicam, hunc a patre continuo ad me esse deductum; nemo hunc M. Caelium in illo aetatis flore vidit nisi aut cum patre aut mecum aut in M. Crassi castissima domo, cum artibus honestissimis erudiretur.

Indeed the defense to that speech is brief. For as far as the age of Marcus Caelius could give rise to that suspicion, first he was defended by his *pudor*, then he was also defended by the care and discipline of his father. For, as soon as he gave him the *toga virilis*, I shall say nothing of myself at this point — you yourselves can work out how much it is worth— I shall say this, that he was led by his father to me without delay; no one saw this Marcus Caelius in that flower of his youth except with his father, with me or in the very morally sound home of Marcus Crassus, and being instructed in the most respectable arts.

2. Cic. *Cael.* 47

an hic, si sese isti vitae dedidisset, consularem hominem admodum adulescens in iudicium vocavisset? hic, si laborem fugeret, si obstrictus voluptatibus teneretur, in hac acie cotidie versaretur, appeteret inimicitias, in iudicium vocaret, subiret periculum capitis, ipse inspectante populo Romano tot iam menses aut de salute aut de gloria dimicaret?

Would Caelius, if he had given himself up to the life of pleasure, have prosecuted a man of consular rank while still a young man? If he had fled hard work, if he were bound and if he were held by pleasures, would he everyday turn to this line of battle, would he strive for rivalries, would he prosecute, would he incur danger, would he, in the sight of the Roman people, struggle for so many months for either safety or for glory?

3. Cic. *Cael.* 48

si quis est, qui etiam meretriciis amoribus interdictum iuventuti putet, est ille quidem valde severus ...

if there is someone, who were to think it forbidden to young men to have love affairs with prostitutes, that certain person is very severe ...

Clodia's lack of *pudor* and *pudicitia*

4. Sallust's depiction of Sempronia = Sall. *Cat.* 24 and 25

5. Clodia is not a real *univira* = Cic. *Cael.* 38, 49 and 55

6. Clodia's lack of discretion = Cic. *Cael.* 32; Clodia's public revenge = Cic. *Cael.* 35

7. Clodia's willingness to let her alleged bad behavior to be aired publicly = Cic. *Cael.* 35, 53 and 63

8. Clodia does not properly support the men of her gens = Cic. Cael. 33 and 34; her control of Clodius derives from their incestuous relationship = Cic. Cael. 32 and 36

Saving the res publica

9. Cic. Cael. 78

habet a M. Caelio res publica, iudices, duas accusationes vel obsides periculi vel pignora voluntatis. Quare oro obtestorque vos, iudices, ut, qua in civitate paucis his diebus Sex. Cloelius absolutus sit, quem vos per biennium aut ministrum seditionis aut ducem vidistis ...

The republic, judges, has from Marcus Caelius these two accusations, either pledges to secure it from danger or guarantees of his goodwill. Therefore, I beg and implore you, judges, that, after Sextus Cleolius has been acquitted within these last few days in this very city, a man whom you have seen for the last two years as the minister or leader of sedition ...

10. Cic. Rep. 5.8

ut enim gubernatori cursus secundus, medico salus, imperatori victoria, sic huic moderatori rei publicae beata civium vita proposita est, ut opibus firma, copiis locuples, gloria ampla, virtute honesta sit.

For as the aim of a helmsmen is a favorable voyage, of the doctor health, of the general victory, so the aim of a ruler of the republic is the happy life of citizens, so that it is fortified in wealth, rich in material resources, great in glory and honored in virtue.

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