

“Immortal Efforts: Divine Audiences in Cicero’s *Post Reditum* Speeches”

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<p>1. <i>ego meam salutem deserui, ne propter me civium vulneribus res publica cruentaretur; illi meum reditum non populi Romani suffragiis, sed flumine sanguinis intercludendum putaverunt</i> (Red. Sen. 6).</p>	<p>1. <b>I abandoned my safety</b>, in order that the republic not be stained by the wounds of [its] citizens; <b>they thought that my return could be blocked, not by the votes of the Roman people, but by a river of blood.</b></p>
<p>2. <i>At inimici mei, mense Ianuario cum de me ageretur, corporibus civium trucidatis flumine sanguinis meum reditum intercludendum putaverunt... cum privati parietum se praesidio, non legum tuerentur, tribuni plebis vobis inspectantibus vulnerarentur, ad magistratum domos cum ferro et facibus iretur, consulis fasces frangerentur, deorum immortalium templa incenderentur, rem publicam esse nullam putavi</i> (Red. Pop. 14).</p>	<p>2. <b>But my enemies</b> — when, in the month of January, my case was discussed — <b>thought my return could be blocked by a river of blood after slaughtering the bodies of many citizens.</b> ...when private individuals sought protection in the walls of their houses, not the laws, tribunes of the plebs were wounded before your eyes, swords and torches were brought to the homes of magistrates, the consular rods were broken, the temples of the immortal gods were burned, I did not think the Republic was anything.</p>
<p>3. <i>Possum ego satis in Cn. Pompeium umquam gratus videri? qui non solum apud vos, qui omnes idem sentiebatis, sed etiam apud universum populum salutem populi Romani et conservatam per me et coniunctam esse cum mea dixerit...qui populum Romanum pro me tamquam pro fratre aut pro parente non solum hortatus sit, verum etiam obsecravit</i> (Red. Sen. 29).</p>	<p>3. Can I ever seem grateful enough to Cn. Pompey? [The one] who said, not only among you, all of whom felt the same way, but also among the entire people <b>that the safety of the Roman people was both saved through me and joined with me</b>... who not only encouraged the Roman people on my behalf as if for a brother or a parent, but he implored [on my behalf].</p>
<p>4. <i>primum vos docuit meis consiliis rem publicam esse servatam causamque meam cum communi salute coniunxit hortatusque est, ut auctoritatem senatus, statum civitatis, fortunas civis bene meriti defenderetis; tum in perorando posuit vos rogari a senatu, rogari ab equitibus Romanis, rogari ab Italia cuncta, deinde ipse ad extremum pro mea vos salute non rogavit solum, verum etiam obsecravit</i> (Red. Pop. 16).</p>	<p>4. First, <b>he told you that the republic was saved through my planning and he joined my cause with the common safety [of the republic]</b> and he encouraged that you defend well the authority of the senate, the standing of the state, and the fortunes of a deserving citizen. <b>Then, in closing, he offered that you were asked by the senate, you were asked by the Roman knights, and you were asked by all of Italy, and finally he not only asked you for my safety but implored you.</b></p>
<p>5. <i>quid denique illo die, quem P. Lentulus mihi fratrique meo liberisque nostris natalem constituit non modo ad nostram, verum etiam ad sempiterni memoriam temporis</i> (Red. Sen. 27)?</p>	<p>5. Lastly what [happened] <b>on that day, which P. Lentulus established as a birthday for me</b>, and for my brother, and for our children, to be a memory not only for us but for all time?</p>

<p>6. <i>a parentibus, id quod necesse erat, parvus sum procreatus, a vobis natus sum consularis. illi mihi fratrem incognitum, qualis futurus esset, dederunt, vos spectatum et incredibili pietate cognitum reddidistis. rem publicam illis accepi temporibus eam, quae paene amissa est; a vobis eam recipravi, quam aliquando omnes unius opera servatam iudicaverunt (Red. Pop. 5)</i></p>	<p>6. From [my] parents, as it was necessary, I was born small; by you I was created a consular. They gave a brother to me, without knowing what sort he would be; you returned [him to me] observed and known by his incredible piety. I received the republic, which was almost lost, from their time; I have restored it, which everyone decided the works of one man saved.</p>
<p>7. <b>Princeps P. Lentulus, parens ac deus nostrae vitae, fortunae, memoriae, nominis, hoc specimen virtutis, hoc indicium animi, hoc lumen consulatus sui fore putavit, si me mihi, si meis, si vobis, si rei publicae reddidisset (Red. Sen. 8).</b></p>	<p>7. <b>The chief man, P. Lentulus, parent and god of our life, fortune, memory, and name, thought that this would be proof of his virtue, a marker of his character, a distinction of his consulship, if he restored me to myself, to my children, to you, and to the republic.</b></p>
<p>8. <i>kalendis vero Ianuariis postea quam orba res publica consulis fidem tamquam legitimi tutoris imploravit, P. Lentulus consul, parens, deus, salus nostrae vitae, fortunae, memoriae, nominis, simul ac de sollemni deorum religione rettulit, nihil humanarum rerum sibi prius quam de me agendum iudicavit (Red Pop. 11).</i></p>	<p>8. But on the Kalends of January, after the orphaned republic had implored the faith of the consul as its legitimate guardian, <b>the consul P. Lentulus, parent, god, savior of our life, fortune, memory, name</b>, as soon as he had carried out the solemn rites of the gods, decided that he should do nothing regarding human affairs before my business.</p>
<p>9. <i>itaque [Metellus] divinitus exstitit non modo salutis defensor, qui ante hoc suum beneficium fuerat inimicus, verum etiam ascriptor dignitatis meae (Red. Sen. 26).</i></p>	<p>9. And so [Metellus], who before his act of kindness was an enemy, stands divinely not only as a defender of my safety but also as a backer of my worthiness.</p>
<p>10. <i>atque haec cura, Quirites, erit infixam animo meo sempiterna, ut cum vobis, qui apud me deorum immortalium vim et numen tenetis, tum posteris vestris cunctisque gentibus dignissimus ea civitate videar... (Red. Pop. 25).</i></p>	<p>10. This concern, Quirites, will be forever fixed in my mind, that I might seem most worthy in that state, not only by you, <b>who hold the power and command of the immortal gods in my view</b>, but also by your descendants and all nations...</p>

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