

It's Complicated: Silius' Camillus and the Camillus of his Predecessors

1. Aen. 6.825-29:

aspice Torquatum et referentem signa Camillum.
illae autem paribus quas fulgere cernis in armis,
concordes animae nunc et dum nocte prementur,
heu quantum inter se bellum, si lumina vitae
attigerint, quantas acies stragemque ciebunt...

Look at Torquatus and Camillus returning the standards. But those souls, which you see gleaming in equal arms, even now in concord while they are pressed down by the night, alas how great a war they will wage with one another—if only the light of life never reached them—how many battle lines and how much destruction will they bring about...

2. Prop. 3.11.67:

nunc ubi Scipiadae classes, ubi signa Camilli?

“Now where are the fleets of Scipio, where are the standards of Camillus.”

3. Pun. 7.555-63:

succensere nefas patriae, nec foedior ulla 555
culpa sub extremas fertur mortalibus umbras.
sic docuere senes. Quantus qualisque fuisti,
cum pulsus lare et extorris Capitolia curru
intrares exul! tibi corpora caesa, Camille,
damnata quot sunt dextra! pacata fuissent 560
ni consulta viro mensque impenetrabilis irae,
mutassentque solum sceptris Aeneia regna
nullaque nunc stares terrarum vertice, Roma.

It is nefas to nurse hatred against one's fatherland, nor is there any more wicked blame to be carried by mortals down to the shades of death. This is what our ancestors have taught us. How great and excellent you (i.e. Camillus) were when you came back, although an exile expelled from your home, and entered the Capitoline an exile on your chariot! How many bodies you slayed, Camillus, how many you condemned with your right hand! And if that man's plans had not been pacified and his mind not immune to his anger, the kingdom of Aeneas would have changed the land for its scepters and you, Rome, would not now be standing at the top of the world.

4. Pun. 7.515-17:

Dividitur miles, Fabioque equitumque magistro
imperia aequantur. fremitus spernebat et expers
irarum senior.

The forces are split in two, and command is allotted equally to Fabius and his Master of Horse. The elder man was immune to anger and refrained from recriminations [following Littlewood].

5. Appian, Ital. fr. 8.2:

αὐτὸς δὲ βαρυθυμῶν ἐς τὴν Ἀρδεατῶν πόλιν μετόκησεν, εὐξάμενος τὴν Ἀχιλλεῖον εὐχήν, ἐπιποθῆσαι Ῥωμαίους Κάμιλλον ἐν καιρῷ. καὶ ἀπήντησεν αὐτῷ καὶ τότε οὐ πολὺ ὕστερον: Κελτῶν γὰρ τὴν πόλιν καταλαβόντων ὁ δῆμος ἐπὶ Κάμιλλον κατέφυγε καὶ δικτάτορα αὐτῆς εἵλετο...

But Camillus, in his indignation, went in exile to the city of Ardea and he prayed the prayer of Achilles, that in time the Romans might long for Camillus. And not much later that's precisely what happened; for as soon as the Gauls had taken the city, the people fled to Camillus and elected him again as dictator...

6. Plutarch, Camillus 13.1:

ἐκεῖνος μὲν οὖν, ὥσπερ ὁ Ἀχιλλεὺς, ἀράς θέμενος ἐπὶ τοὺς πολίτας καὶ μεταστὰς...

And so Camillus, just like Achilles, put a curse upon his countrymen and withdrew in exile...

7. Liv. 5.32.9 cf. Il. 1.240-41:

in exilium abiit, precatus ab dis immortalibus... desiderium sui ciuitati ingratae facerent.

He withdrew into exile and prayed to the immortal gods...that they would bring about for the ungrateful people a longing for him.

ἦ ποτ' Ἀχιλλῆος ποθῆ ἴξεται υἴας Ἀχαιῶν

Surely at some point a longing for Achilles will come to the sons of the Achaeans.

8. Pun. 7.742-43:

ocius huc aquilas servataque signa referte.
hic patria est, murique urbis stant pectore in uno.

Quickly, return here the eagles and the saved standards! Here is the fatherland, and the walls of the city stand on this one man.

9. Horsfall (2013) ad Aen. 6.825:

"I have wondered whether another association of Camillus might explain his position here: he was also famed for setting up the temple of Concordia in 367 BCE, which lends ample point to the transition (otherwise not immediately justifiable) from Camillus to Caesar and Pompey."

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