

## Livy's "Civil Wars"

1. Et bellum utrimque summa ope parabatur, civili simillimum bello, prope inter parentes natosque, Troianam utramque prolem, cum Lavinium ab Troia, ab Lavinio Alba, ab Albanorum stirpe regum oriundi Romani essent (1.23.1).

And so with all their resources, both sides prepared for war, which was most similar to a civil war, nearly among parents and children; both were Trojan offspring, since Lavinium originated from Troy, Alba from Lavinium, and the Romans from the lineage of Alban kings.

2. Forte in duobus tum exercitibus erant trigemini fratres, nec aetate nec viribus dispares (1.24.1).

By chance in both armies there were triplet brothers, not unlike in age or in strength.

3. imperium agebatur in tam paucorum virtute atque fortuna positum. Itaque ergo erecti suspensique in minime gratum spectaculum.... Nec his nec illis periculum suum, publicum imperium servitiumque obversatur animo futuraque ea deinde patriae fortuna quam ipsi fecissent (1.25.3).

Authority was staked on the *virtus* and fortune of so few men. So they stood focused on the unpleasing spectacle...Neither side was mindful of their own danger, but thought of the public's sovereignty and servitude and how they themselves would dictate the future fortune of their fatherlands with their courage.

4. Movet feroci iuveni animum comploratio sororis in victoria sua tantoque gaudio publico. Stricto itaque gladio simul verbis increpans transfigit puellam. "Abi hinc cum immaturo amore ad sponsum," inquit, "oblita fratrum mortuorum vivique, oblita patriae. Sic eat quaecumque Romana lugebit hostem" (1.26.3).

His sister's weeping, in the middle of his own victory and the people's rejoicing, stirred the fierce young man's spirit. Straightaway therefore he drew his sword and stabbed the girl, rebuking her, "Go to your fiancée with your untimely love. You are forgetful of your own brothers, those dead and alive, and you are forgetful of your fatherland. Let this be the reward for any Roman women who mourn a foreign enemy."

5. Atrox visum id facinus patribus plebique, sed recens meritum facto obstabat (1.26.5).

This act seemed cruel to the patricians and the plebs, but his recent worthy actions offset the deed.

6. Non tulit populus nec patris lacrimas nec ipsius parem in omni periculo animum, absolveruntque admiratione magis virtutis quam iure causae. Itaque ut caedes manifesta aliquo tamen piaculo lueretur, imperatum patri ut filium expiaret pecunia publica (1.26.12).

Neither the people nor the patricians could bear the father's tears or the man's spirit, equal to all danger. They acquitted him more out of admiration for his virtue than justice of the case. And so, in order to cleanse clear murder with another expiation, it was ordered that the father atone for his son's action at public expense.

7. Curam acuebat quod adversus Latinos bellandum erat, lingua, moribus, armorum genere, institutis ante omnia militaribus congruentes (8.6.15).

Concern [about the conflict] was heightened because the war would be fought against the Latins, who were similar in language, customs, arms, and above all military institutions.

8. Fuit autem civili maxime bello pugna similis; adeo nihil apud Latinos dissonum ab Romana re praeter animos erat (8.8.2).

However, the conflict was very similar to civil war, so far as nothing was dissimilar between the Latins and the Romans except courage.

9. Movet ferocem animum iuvenis seu ira seu detractandi certaminis pudor seu inxsuperabilis vis fati. Oblitus itaque imperii patrii consulumque edicti, praeceps ad id certamen agitur (8.7.8).

Either anger or shame at backing down from a fight or the insurmountable power of fate stirred the fierce spirit of the young man. Forgetful of his father's commands and the consuls' edict, he was driven headlong into the contest.

10. "triste exemplum sed in posterum salubre iuventuti erimus. Me quidem cum ingenita caritas liberum tum specimen istud virtutis deceptum vana imagine decoris in te movet" (8.7.18)

We will be a sad exemplum, yet one beneficial to young men afterwards. Indeed, while the natural concern for a child stirs me, so does your sign of *virtus*, distorted by the empty image of honor.

11. "Ut me omnes" inquit, "pater, tuo sanguine ortum vere ferrent, provocatus equestris haec spolia capta ex hoste caeso porto" (8.7.13-14)

He said, "Father, I bring these equestrian spoils that I took from a defeated enemy after he called me into battle so that all might say that I am truly from your stock."

12. Exanimati omnes tam atroci imperio...metu magis quam modestia quieverunt...postquam cervice caesa fusus est cruor, tam libero conquestu coortae voces sunt, ut neque lamentis neque exsecrationibus parceretur spoliisque contectum iuvenis corpus, quantum militaribus studiis funus ullum concelebrari potest, structo extra vallum rogo cremaretur (8.7.20-21).

Everyone, stunned by such fierce authority...was quiet more from fear than respect...[but] after the blood and gore poured from his neck, their voices rose up with such unrestrained complaints that they spared neither cries nor curses and they covered the young man's body with his spoils.

They built a pyre outside the wall of the camp and burned his body with as many military funerary honors as possible.

13. Fecit tamen atrocitas poenae oboedientiore duci militem; et praeterquam quod custodiae vigiliaeque et ordo stationum intentionis ubique curae erant, in ultimo etiam certamine, cum descensum in aciem est, ea severitas profuit (8.8.1)

However, the severity of the punishment made the army more obedient to its leader; and moreover because there was more care given to the watch, the guard-duties, and the organization of the posts at all points, even during the final fight, when the battle lines were penetrated, the sternness of the punishment was beneficial.