

Patriae Trepidantis Imago: Roma in Lucan's Bellum Civile

- 1) *Tum, si tantus amor belli tibi, Roma, nefandi,
Totum sub Latias leges cum miseris orbem,
In te verte manus; nondum tibi defuit hostis* (BC 1.21-3)

Then, Roma, if there is such great love of unspeakable war for you, when you have sent the whole world under Latin rule, turn your hand against yourself; not yet is there a lack of (foreign) enemies for you.¹

- 2) *His, Caesar, Perusina famas Mutinaeque labores
Accedant fatis et quas premit aspera classes
Leucas et ardenti servilia bella sub Aetna;
Multum Roma tamen debet civilibus armis,
Quod tibi res acta est* (BC 1.41-5)

To these fates, Caesar, Perusian famines and the labors of Mutina and the fleets which raging Leucas pressed add themselves and the slave wars under burning Aetna; nevertheless Roma owes much to civil wars, since these things have been done for you [or by you].

- 3) *Ut ventum est parvi Rubiconis ad undas,
Ingens visa duci patriae trepidantis imago
Clara per obscuram voltu maestissima noctem,
Turrigero canos effundens vertice crines,
Caesarie lacera nudisque adstare lacertis
Et gemitu permixta loqui: "Quo tenditis ultra?
Quo fertis mea signa, viri? si iure venitis,
Si cives, huc usque licet.* (BC 1.185-92)

When he came to the waters of the little Rubicon, a mighty phantom of the trembling fatherland was seen by the leader, she was clear in the dark night with a most mournful look, pouring down white hair from her turreted head, she stood with mangled hair and naked shoulders and with a groan mixed in she said: "To what place further do you march? Whither do you bear my standards, men? If you come justly, if you come as citizens, it is permitted to march only up to this place.

- 4) *Noua da mihi cernere litora ponti
Telluremque nouam: uidi iam, Phoebe, Philippos* (BC 1.693-4)

Give me, Apollo, new shores of the sea to look upon and a new land: I have seen already Philippi.

- 5) *Quidquid in hac acie gessisti, Roma, tacebo.* (BC 7.556)

What you did in this battle, Roma, I will keep quiet.

- 6) *haec ait, et lasso iacuit deserta furore* (BC 1.695)

She said these things, and fell down [dead?], deserted by her spent frenzy.

- 7) *Ecce parens verus patriae, dignissimus aris,
Roma, tuis, per quem numquam iurare pudebit,
Et quem, si steteris umquam cervice soluta,*

¹ Text of the BC is from Duff (1988) and all translations are my own.

Nunc, olim, factura deum es (BC 9.601-4)

Behold the true father of the fatherland, the most worthy man for your altars, Roma, by whom it will never be a shame to swear, and whom, if you ever stand firm with your neck having been freed, now, at some time in the future, you are going to make a god.

8) *Sed postquam condidit urna*
Supremos cineres, miserando concita voltu,
Effusas laniata comas contusaque pectus
Verberibus crebris cineresque ingesta sepulchri (BC 2.333-6)

But after she set the last ashes in the urn, she was agitated/hastening with a look that ought to be pitied, with mangled and disheveled hair and breast beaten with repeated lashes and covered in ashes of the tomb.

9) *...Da foedera prisci*
Inlibata tori, da tantum nomen inane
Conubii; liceat tumulo scripsisse: 'Catonis
Marcia'; nec dubium longo quaeratur in aevo,
Mutarim primas expulsu, an tradita, taedas (BC 2.341-5)

Grant me to renew the faithful compact of my first marriage; grant me only the name of wife; suffer men to write on my tomb, 'Marcia, wife of Cato'; let not the question be disputed in after time, whether I was driven out or handed over by you to a second husband.

10) *Fulminibus manes radiisque ornabit et astris*
Inque deum templis iurabit Roma per umbras (BC 7.458-9)

Roma will decorate dead men with lightning and halos and stars and she will swear by shadows in the temples of the gods

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