

*auribus tenere lupum: Intention in Cicero's Pro Marcello*

This discussion examines the problem of intention in Cicero's *Pro Marcello*. The speech holds a unique space in the trajectory of Cicero's career. The orator found himself in a precarious position under Caesar's regime, foreshadowing the challenges later orators would face during the Principate. The version of the speech that survives at first read is an encomium to the man who had upended the republic Cicero had spent his career trying to preserve. Readers ever since have struggled with the content of the speech. Was Cicero bowing to the pressure of the new political reality presented by the ascension of Caesar? Are certain passages of the speech meant to be veiled threats or calls to arms to the Senate? Was the *Pro Marcello* a 'figured' speech?

The discussion is divided into three parts. First, the persona Cicero attempts to project to Caesar and the Senate is examined by using the letters shared between Cicero and other orators of the time in order to put the speech in a broader historical context. Next, the rhetorical tools Cicero employs to structure the speech and insert himself into the pardon of Marcellus, a man who had long been a staunch opponent of Caesar, are examined. Finally, the discussion focuses on how Cicero appeals to both of his audiences. He encourages Caesar to utilize *clementia* as a thoughtful political policy and reminds the Senate of the bloody period of civil war it had only narrowly survived. By framing his advice within praise, Cicero attempts to influence Caesar the dictator from a position of safety and implore the Senate to work with Caesar in the hopes that the machinery of government can again return to a Republican model.