

[6.17] Deum maximē Mercurium colunt. *Huius sunt plūrima simulācra: hunc omnium inventōrem artium ferunt, hunc viārum atque itinerum ducem, hunc ad quaestūs pecūniae mercātūrāsque habēre vim maximam arbitrantur. Post hunc Apollinem et Mārtem et Iovem et Minervam.*

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**Apollō, -inis, m.**, the god Apollo.  
**ars, artis, f.**, skill, art; *pl.* the arts.  
**colō, colere, coluī, cultum**, cultivate, dwell in; honor, worship.  
**de-us, -ī** (*nom. pl.*: **dii**; *dat. pl.*: **dis**), *m.*, god.  
**dux, ducis, m.** [**dūcō**, lead], leader, commander, general; guide.  
**invent-or, -ōris, m.** [**inveniō**, find], inventor, author.  
**Iuppiter, Iovis, n.** (App. §27), *m.*, Jupiter, chief god of the Roman state.  
**magis, adv. comp.** [from **magnus**, large], more, rather; *superl.*: **maximē**, especially.  
**Mār-s, -tis, m.**, Mars, the god of war.

**mercātūr-a, -ae, f.** [**mercor**, trade], a commercial enterprise, trade.  
**Mercur-ius, -ī, m.**, Mercury, a god especially associated by the Romans with trade.  
**Minerv-a, -ae, f.**, the goddess Minerva, who was associated with wisdom and the liberal arts.  
**pecūni-a, -ae, f.**, property, wealth; money.  
**post, prep.** with *acc.*, behind, after.  
**quaest-us, -ūs, m.** [**quaerō**, seek], gain, acquisition.  
**simulācr-um, -ī, n.** [**simulō**, make like], image, statue.  
**vi-a, -ae, f.**, way, road, route; journey, march.

**1. Mercurium:** the god Mercury was associated especially with business and shady deals. Caesar often accuses the Gauls of not living up to their promises. This aspect of their religion would in the minds of Caesar's readers tend to justify Caesar's opinion. It was common for all ancient people to call other people's gods by their own names. The Romans called Greek gods by Roman names, and the Greeks called Roman gods by Greek names. Caesar applies the same principle to the Celtic gods.

**2. hunc = Mercurium.** The first **hunc** is the acc. subject of the unexpressed inf. *esse* in indirect statement with **ferunt**. The second **hunc** is likewise the acc. subject of an unexpressed *esse*, but on what verb of speaking does this indirect statement depend? There are three possibilities: **ferunt**, an unexpressed verb of speaking, or **arbitrantur**. The third **hunc**, however, is the acc. subject of the inf. **habēre** in indirect statement dependent on **arbitrantur**. The repetition of **hunc** at the beginning of each phrase is called ANAPHORA

(App. §302, *a.*) and the lack of conjunctions ASYNDETON (App. §301, *a.*).

**3. viārum . . . ducem:** Mercury assisted travelers.

**3–4. quaestūs pecūniae mercātūrāsque:** again, Caesar emphasizes Mercury's mercantile interests. It is also worth mentioning that politicians of senatorial rank (Caesar would be included in this category) considered businessmen decidedly of a lower class in comparison with themselves. In our country today, successful business leaders enjoy much higher prestige than their counterparts did in Rome. Caesar likely emphasizes Mercury's status as the chief Celtic god as a way to signal to his readers that Gauls have different values from Romans.

**4. Post hunc = post Mercurium colunt.** Caesar has ellipted the verb, as he knows his readers will be able to supply it from the previous sentence. Note the POLYSYNDETON; see App. §301, *f.*: the chief god of the Roman state, Jupiter, is just one among many.