

defuit. Quae si cui levior videtur, illa quidem certe quae summa sunt ex quo fonte hauriam sentio. 14 Nam nisi multorum praeceptis multisque litteris mihi ab adulescentia suasissem nihil esse in vita magno opere expetendum nisi laudem atque honestatem, in ea autem persequenda omnis cruciatus corporis, omnia pericula mortis atque exsili parvi esse ducenda, numquam me pro salute vestra in tot ac tantas dimicationes atque in hos profligatorum hominum cotidianos impetus obiecissem. Sed pleni omnes sunt libri,

167–168. **Quae...sentio**: “And if this (capacity) seems to anyone somewhat trivial, I certainly am aware from what source I derive those things (of it) that are of the highest importance.” **Quae**: the CONNECTING RELATIVE (= *et ea*), subject of *videtur*, singular because its compound antecedent (*oratio et facultas*) expresses a single idea through HENDIADYS (cf. *laudem atque honestatem, in ea*, note 169–173 below). **cui**: = *alicui* (see note on 1 above). **levior**: when not used to make a comparison, a comparative adjective can describe a quality of considerable (“rather,” “somewhat”) or excessive (“too”) degree, *B* 240.1. **illa**: neuter accusative plural, object of *hauriam* (cf. *quod sentio quam sit exiguum* [1–2 above]). **quae**: the antecedent is *illa*. **summa**: contrast with *levior*. **ex quo...hauriam**: an indirect question governed by **sentio**: the main verb of the APODOSIS of the condition.

168–175. An extended past contrary-to-fact condition (*B* 304.1), whose PROTASIS (*nisi...mihi...suasissem*) and APODOSIS (*numquam me...obiecissem*) BRACKET two indirect statements (*nihil esse...expetendum nisi laudem atque honestatem :: omnis cruciatus...omnia pericula...parvi esse ducenda*) arranged in ASYNDETON.

169–173. **praeceptis multisque litteris**: ablatives of means. **mihi**: dative object of *suasissem*. **magno opere**: “greatly,” an adverbial phrase (often written as one word). **nisi...honestatem**: (sc. *expetendam esse*) not another PROTASIS, but a modifying clause introducing an exception to *nihil*. **in ea...persequenda**: introduces the second indirect statement with *suasissem*, “in the pursuit of which” (*ea* is singular because the compound antecedent, *laudem atque honestatem*, while not strictly an instance of HENDIADYS, still conveys a single idea [cf. *oratio et facultas...quae*, note 165–167 above]). **omnis cruciatus...omnia pericula**: accusative plural subjects of the second indirect statement (*omnis* = *omnes*, see note on 62–63 above). Note the ANTITHESIS of *omnis...omnia* and *nihil* (subject of the first indirect statement). **parvi esse ducenda**: “ought to be considered of little importance” (*parvi* = genitive of indefinite value, *B* 203.1).

173–175. **numquam...obiecissem**: the APODOSIS of the condition. **me**: direct object of *obiecissem*. **vestra**: i.e., that of the *iudices*, but Cicero includes his entire audience. **in...dimicationes atque in hos...impetus**: the repetition of *in* balances the two prepositional phrases, but the addition of the demonstrative *hos* marks a shift from a general statement (*tot ac tantas*) to something more specific, perhaps an allusion to Cicero’s suppression of the Catilinarian conspiracy, and its consequences, during his consulship in 63 B.C.