

THE FAMILY OF ATTICUS

CORNĒLIĪ NEPŌTIS ATTICUS, 1.1-2

Atticus came from an old family, but not one of the highest nobility. His father was well-to-do, and was deeply interested in literature, an interest which was transmitted to Atticus.

1. Titus Pompōnius Atticus, ab orīgine ultimā stirpis Rōmānae generātus, perpetuō ā māiōribus acceptam equestrem obtinuit dignitātem. 2. Patre ūsus est diligente et, ut tum erant tempora, dītī in prīmisque studiōsō litterārum. Hic, prout ipse amābat litterās, omnibus doctrīnīs, quibus puerīlis aetās impertīrī dēbet, filium ērudīvit.

VOCABULARY

- 1 **orīgō, orīginis, f.** – origin
ultimus, a, um – farthest, most remote
stirps, stirpis, f. – stock, descent, race
- 2 **generō, āre, āvī, ātum** – to give birth, procreate;
pass. to descend from
perpetuō (adv.) – without interruption
maiōrēs, maiōrum, m. pl. – ancestors
equestris, equestre – equestrian, related to the social class of knights
obteneō, ēre, obtinui, obtentum – to hold
- 3 **dignitās, dignitātis, f.** – dignity, social position
pater, patris, m. – father
ūsus est + ablative – he enjoyed
diligēns, diligentis – diligent
ut – as, when, according to
dītī = dīvite
- 3-4 **in prīmīs** – especially, first of all
- 4 **studiōsus, a, um + genitive** – interested in
prout (conj.) – as
ipse – himself
- 5 **doctrīna, ae, f.** – learning, erudition
puerīlis, puerile – related to *puer*; **puerīlis aetās** – boyhood
aetās, aetātis, f. – age
impertiō, ire, impertivi, impertitum – to share, provide (*to give a pars*)
ērudīō, ire, ērudivī, ēruditum – to educate, instruct

READING NOTES

- 1-2 *ab orīgine ultimā stirpis Rōmānae generātus* Understand *generātus* with *ab*. Atticus was “descended from the remotest/most ancient origin of Roman stock.”
- 2 *acceptam* Perfect passive participle of *accipiō* – to accept, receive.
- 2-3 *equestrem . . . dignitātem* This phrase means “the social position of an equestrian/knight.”
- 3 *ūsus est* This passive looking verb has the active meaning “he enjoyed” and it governs the ablative phrase *patre diligente*.
- ut tum erant tempora* With an indicative verb *ut* means “when/as.” This phrase means “as the times/standards then were.” In other words, Atticus’s father was rich by the standards of an earlier age.
- 3-4 *dītī in prīmisque studiōsō litterārum* “Rich and especially interested in literature.”
- 4-5 *omnibus doctrīnīs, quibus puerīlis aetās impertīrī dēbet, filium ērudīvit* The pronoun *quibus* referring to *doctrīnīs* is an ablative of means with the verb *impertīrī*; *omnibus doctrīnīs* is an ablative of means to be taken with *ērudīvit*. The phrase *quibus puerīlis aetās impertīrī dēbet* means “with which boyhood ought to be provided.”