

2. THE SHIP OF STATE

Atticus is compared to a captain who brings his ship to a safe harbor after a storm.

CORNĒLIĪ NEPŌTIS ATTICUS, 10

As Cornelius Nepos himself would observe, fortune changed easily in the turbulent times of the first century BCE. In November 43 BCE, Antony, together with his allies Lepidus and Octavian, were appointed triumvirs for the restoration of the state for the period of five years. What followed, of course, was the proscription of their enemies. The proscribed people were declared outlaws and executed, and all their property was confiscated. Atticus's close friend Cicero met his death in Antony's proscription.

- 1 10. 1. Conversa subitō fortūna est. Ut Antōnius rediit in Italiam,
nēmō nōn magnō in periculō Atticum putārat propter intimam
familiāritātem Cicerōnis et Brūtī. 2. Itaque ad adventum imperātōrum
dē forō dēcesserat, timēns prōscriptiōnem . . . tanta varietās hīs
5 temporibus fuit fortūnae, ut modo hī, modo illi in summō essent aut
fastigiō aut periculō . . .



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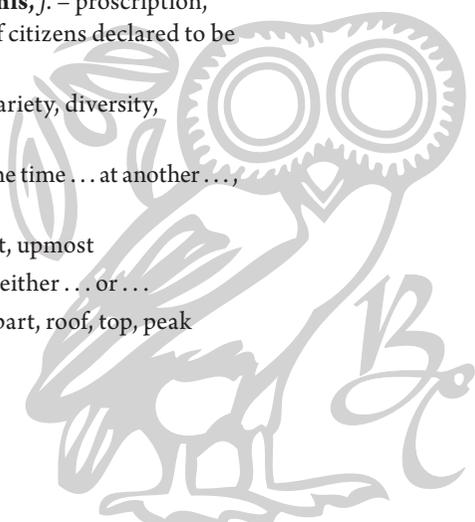


VOCABULARY

- 1 **convertō, ere, converti, conversum** – to rotate, invert
***ut** + perfect indicative – as soon as, when
rediit – an alternative form of rediit from redeō, redire, redivī, reditum (“to go back, return”)
***Italia, ae, f.** – Italy
- 2 **nēmō nōn** – everybody (two negatives make a positive)
- 3 ***adventus, adventūs, m.** – arrival
ad adventum – by (the time of) the arrival
***imperātor ōris, m.** – general, commanding officer, emperor
- 4 ***forum, ī, n.** – Forum Rōmānum, the main square in Rome
dēcēdō, ere, dēcessi, dēcessum – to go away, withdraw
prōscriptiō, prōscriptiōnis, f. – proscription, publishing the names of citizens declared to be outlaws
varietās, varietātis, f. – variety, diversity, changeable nature
- 5 ***modo . . . modo . . .** – at one time . . . at another . . . , now . . . now . . .
***summus, a, um** – highest, upmost
***aut** – or; **aut . . . aut . . .** – either . . . or . . .
- 6 **fastigium, ī, n.** – highest part, roof, top, peak

READING NOTES

- 1 *Ut . . . rediit* When an *ut* clause has a perfect indicative verb, it translates “as soon as” or “when.”
- 2 *nēmō nōn* Double negatives like this amount to a strong affirmation. The meaning is “virtually everyone.”
putārat This is a shortened/contracted form of *putāverat*. The *-ve-* or *-vi-* in the perfect or pluperfect can sometimes be lost: for example, *amāssēt=amāvissēt, amārunt=amāvērunt*.
- 3 *Cicerōnis et Brūti* Translate these two genitives as “with Cicero and Brutus.”
- 4–5 *tanta varietās hīs temporibus fuit fortunae* The phrase means there was “so much shifting of fortune.” The phrase *hīs temporibus* is an ablative of time meaning “in/at these times.”



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CORNĒLIĪ NEPŌTIS ATTICUS, 10, CONTINUED

4. Antōnius autem etsī tantō odiō ferēbātur
in Cicerōnem, ut nōn solum eī, sed etiam omnibus eius amīcīs esset
inimīcus eōsque vellet prōscribere, multīs hortantibus tamen Atticī
memor fuit officiī et eī, cum requisisset ubinam esset, suā manū scrīpsit,
10 nē timēret statimque ad sē venīret: sē eum . . . dē prōscrīptōrum
numerō exēmissee. Ac nē quod perīculum incideret, quod noctū fiēbat,
praesidium eī mīsīt . . . 5–6. Quod sī gubernātor praecipuā laude fertur,
quī nāvem ex hieme marīque scopulōsō servat, cūr nōn singulāris eius
existimētur prūdentia, quī ex tot tamque gravibus procellīs cīvīlibus ad
15 incolumitātem pervēnit?



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