

5. BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE, THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Despite his social prominence, Atticus preferred a simple and serene lifestyle at home.

CORNĒLIĪ NEPŌTIS ATTICUS, 13

Now you will read how Atticus used to live at home with his family. The word *familia* in Latin, when referring to the noble class, often means the whole household, slaves included. The head of the family was called by the archaic word *paterfamiliās*, i.e., *pater familiae*. Atticus's grumpy uncle, about whom you read in Chapter 8, is mentioned here again. Despite the sternness of his uncle, Atticus was persistently kind to him, and was rewarded for his kindness—the uncle left his nice home to Atticus!

- 1 13. 1. Neque vērō ille vir minus bonus pater familiās habitus est
quam cīvis. Nam cum esset pecūniōsus, nēmō illō minus fuit emāx,
minus aedificātor. Neque tamen nōn in prīmīs bene habitāvit
omnibusque optimīs rēbus ūsus est. 2. Nam domum habuit in colle
5 Quirīnālī Tamphiliānam, ab avunculō hērēditāte relictam; cūius
amoenitās nōn aedificiō, sed silvā cōnstābat. Ipsum enim tēctum
antīquitus cōstitutum plūs salis quam sūmptūs habēbat; in quō
nihil commūtāvit, nisi sī quid vetustāte coāctus est.

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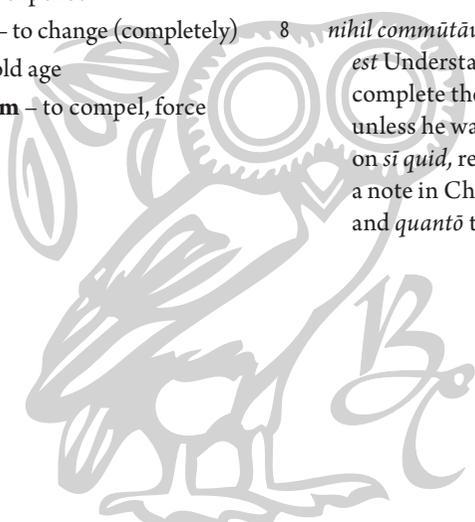


VOCABULARY

- 1 **vērō** (*adv.*) – in fact, truly
- 2 **pecūniōsus, a, um** – moneyed, provided with money
emāx, emācis – fond of buying
- 3 **aedificātor, aedificatōris, m.** – builder; devoted to building (*functioning as an adjective*)
in primīs (imprimīs) – especially, above all
- 4 ***collis, collis, m.** – hill; collis **Quirīnālis** – the Quirinal is one of the seven hills of Rome
- 5 **Tamphilīana (domus)** – made by the architect Tamphilus
***hērēditās, hērēditātis, f.** – inheritance
- 6 **amoenitās, amoenitātis, f.** – pleasantness (of a place)
***aedificium, ī, n.** – building
***cōnstō, āre, cōnstītī,** — + *ablative* – to consist in
***tēctum, ī, n.** – roof, house
- 7 **antīquitus (adv.)** – from old times
plūs + *partitive genitive* – more (of)
***sāl, salis, m.** – salt, a quality that gives taste, wit
***sūmptus, sūmptūs, m.** – expense
- 8 **commūtō, āre, āvī, ātum** – to change (completely)
vetustās, vetustātis, f. – old age
***cōgō, ere, cōēgī, cōāctum** – to compel, force

READING NOTES

- 1–2 *Neque verō ille vir minus bonus pater familiās habitus est quam cīvis* Here *habitus est* means “was considered as.” *Ille vir* refers to Atticus.
- 3 *Neque tamen nōn in primīs bene habitāvit* The double negative virtually constitutes an affirmative—“yet he did live very well.”
- 4 *optimīs rēbus ūsus est* The verb *ūtor* often as here has the meaning “enjoy.”
- 5–6 *cūius amoenitās* Translate “its pleasantness” or “the pleasantness of this <house>.”
- 6–7 *tēctum . . . plūs salis quam sūmptūs habēbat* In the singular *plūs* is a neuter noun that takes the genitive, whereas *plūrēs* (the plural form) is an adjective that agrees with the case, number, and gender of the noun it modifies. *Salis* in this context means “taste.”
- 8 *nihil commūtāvit, nisi sī quid vetustāte cōāctus est* Understand the infinitive *commūtāre* to complete the meaning of *cōāctus est*, i.e., “. . . unless he was forced to change anything.” And on *sī quid*, remember the rule already quoted in a note in Chapter 10, “after *sī, nisi, nē, num, quō,* and *quantō* the ‘ali-s’ drop away.”



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CORNĒLIŪ NĒPŌTIS ATTICUS, 13, CONTINUED

3. Ūsus est

familiā, sī ūtilitāte iūdicandum est, optimā; sī fōrmā, vix mediocrī.

- 10 Namque in eā erant puerī litterātissimī, anagnōstae optimī et plūrimī librāriī, ut nē pedisequus quidem quisquam esset, quī nōn utrumque hōrum pulchrē facere posset, parī modō artificēs cēterī, quōs cultus domesticus dēsīderat, apprīmē bonī . . . 5. Ēlegāns, nōn magnificus; splendidus, nōn sūmptuōsus: omnisque dīligentia munditiam, nōn
- 15 affluentiam affectābat.



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