

Sallust Notes BC 7-8

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Sed: “now”. “*Sed*: frequently used by S. at the beginning of a sentence merely to continue the narrative, like δέ in Greek (e.g., 23.1, 43.2)—also sometimes to introduce digressions (e.g., 8.1, 18.1, 25.1, 53.2) or an afterthought (50.3).” (Ramsey ad loc).

eā tempestāte: at this time; time when; *tempestās* often denotes time in Sallust. “*ea tempestate*: archaic and poetical for *eo tempore*, which S. uses only twice in the *Cat.* (48.7, 50.4).” (Ramsey ad loc).

coepēre = *coepērunt* (syncopated 3p perfect.) + *quisque*: they all began; (*coepi* takes infinitive). The nom. sg. subject *quisque* expresses universality: ‘every man’ (hence plural verb). *quisque*: “nom. standing in partitive apposition with the pl. subject which is understood from *coepere*.” (Ramsey ad loc).

sē...extollere: i.e. distinguish themselves: lit., “to raise up”, with the reflexive.

in promptu: ““on display,” a common expression with *esse* or *habere*; *promptus*, from the original notion of exposing something to view, is used in combination with these verbs to denote that which is visible or available for use.” (Ramsey ad loc).

Nam: “frequently used by S. where the connection is not strictly logical due to the omission of a statement that can easily be understood from the context, e.g., here: “<the opposite was formerly the case> for...”” (Ramsey ad loc).

regibus: dat. with the pred. adj. in the comparative *suspectiores*.

“S.’s attitude to the kingship ... is in keeping with the attitude to kingship and tyranny which is part of the historical and annalistic tradition.” (McGushin, *ad loc.*)

boni: McGushin says it means “talented here.

iīs: = *eīs*. “to them”; dative of reference.

aliēna: of another.

cīvitās: “subject of the indirect question introduced by *quantum* (adv.). Its position early in the sentence is meant to signal a contrast with *quisque* above (7.1). The statement is not strictly true. Historically Rome actually declined in power during the period immediately following independence from Etruscan domination and the removal of an aggressive central authority represented by the Tarquins.” (Ramsey ad loc); “According to Livy’s version the history of Rome after the expulsion of the Tarquins was for some time a story of decline rather than of progress.” (McGushin, *ad loc.*)

incrēdibile est: it is... (to relate how much..).

memorātū: to...; ‘in...,’ supine (PPP + ū) of *memorō*, ‘recall,’ and abl. of respect.

adeptā libertāte: ablative absolute. “*adepta* is treated as passive, although the verb is deponent. A few instances of *adipiscor* in a passive sense in the indicative and the infinitive may be found in early Latin, but this seems to be the first use of the participle as passive.” (Ramsey ad loc). It is not usual to have a deponent participle having a passive meaning.

quantum...crēverit: how much the state (*cīvitās* is subject); indirect question with pf. subj.

brevī (sc. *tempore*): in...; abl. of time when.

tanta cupīdō glōriae incesserat: verb used absolutely here. “logically this clause should have introduced the previous statement in the form of a result clause (“such a great desire for glory had become prevalent that ...”), but S. prefers parataxis, which gives both clauses equal weight. The second clause is almost added as an afterthought which is offered as an explanation.” (Ramsey ad loc).

iam primum: now for the first time; adv.

iuventūs = *iuvenes*.

simul ac: at the same time as, as soon as. Only here in Sallust who usually has *ubi primum* (but just had *primum*).

belli: objective genitive with *patiēns*.

in castris: “=in bello, a frequent extension of the basic meaning “camp.”” (Ramsey ad loc).

in decōris (sc. et) *armīs...equīs*: asyndeton.

lubīdinem habēbant: “*lubido*, next to *scorta* here, has its normal meaning ‘lust’ and the double meaning (*delectationem habere*) is exploited deliberately.” (McGushin, ad loc.)

“with *habebant* and *in+abl.*=“took pleasure in ...”; something of the common pejorative connotation of *lubido* (i.e., “unlawful desire,” “lust” e.g., 5.6) may be felt with the phrase *in scortis atque conviviis*, while with the first set of abls., the sense is positive (=delectatio).” “a switch to the pl. after two verbs in the sing. (*erat, discebat*) is made possible by the collective sense of the subject *iuentus* and the distance of the verb from the noun.” (Ramsey ad loc).

tālibus vīrīs: for such men; dat. of interest/reference.

īnsolitus (*erat et*): predicative adjective: understand verb “was” and “and”. Note the triple anaphora of *non* (to provide emphasis) (so *non...ullus* instead of *nullus*).

arduos: = *arduus*. Nb alliteration.

formīdulōsus: predicate; understand “was”.

virtūs omnia domuerat: parataxis (could have been causal clause).

glōriae: “objective gen. with *certamen* (a “contest for”) whose verbal equivalent *certare* is construed with *de+abl.*” (Ramsey ad loc).

maxumum = *maximum*.

ipsōs: (*virōs*) *ipsōs*; i.e. among one another, intensive pronoun.

sē quisque...properābat: i.e. everyone urged one another + complementary inf. “*se*: acc. subject of the following inf., while a series of simple complementary inf. would be more normal with *properare*. The reflexive is probably introduced here due to the presence of *quisque* which is often accompanied by this pronoun”. (Ramsey ad loc).

hostem ferīre: “an archaic expression (= *hostem occidere*) found twice elsewhere in S. (60.4; Jug. 85.33)”. (Ramsey ad loc).

cōnspicī: passive infinitive; i.e. to be noticed.

dum facinus faceret: “while he was doing such a deed”: with impf. subj.; subjunctive of a subordinate verb in indirect speech (or equiv. acc. + inf. construction). “The subj. is due to the fact that the *dum* clause expresses a thought that is in the mind of the subject of *properabat* and is therefore in virtual indirect discourse.” (Ramsey ad loc). An eg of *figura etymologica* (two words together which are etymologically linked).

properābat: “hurry to bring it about (that)”.

eas divitias: “a double acc. governed by *putabant* (...). *Eos* and *eam* are both demonstrative pronouns (not adjs.) standing for *ea* (neut. acc. pl.—the things just enumerated by the inf.), which has been attracted to the gender of the predicate nouns”. (Ramsey ad loc).

ingentem ... honestas: “these adjs. are to be taken predicatively after the two objects of *volebant*: “on a grand scale ... provided it was gained by honest means.” This sentence virtually repeats the statement in the preceding clause and serves to conclude this topic with a reference to *gloria*, which introduced this section (7.3)”. (Ramsey ad loc).

diuitias honestas: understand “et”. Note the stress of wanting money honorably.

laudis auidi, pecuniae liberales: antithesis again. The nouns are objective genitives.

memorāre possum: infinitive after *possum*. “the MSS overwhelmingly favor *possem* (impf. subj. in the apodosis of a contrary to fact condition). The indicative, however, (attested here by Servius) is normally preferred in the main clause of a contrary to fact condition when the verb is one of obligation, necessity, possibility, or ability”. (Ramsey ad loc)

quibus in locīs...fūderit: in which the Roman people overwhelmed troops...; ind. question with pf. subj. *fundō*, governed by *memorāre*.

parvā manū: abl. means; *manus* here denotes a group, unit or band of men

quās urbēs...cēperit: understand “and [I can recall] cities ... which...; 2nd ind. question (with pf. subj. capiō).

pugnandō: by...; means, a gerund (-ing). ““by assault,” standing for *oppugnando* or *expugnando*. S. often substitutes a simple verb for the compound. *Pugnando* with *capere* is perhaps a shortened version of the phrase *vi pugnando* (with *capere* or similar verbs), which frequently occurs in military or related contexts and may be a time-honored military expression.” (Ramsey ad loc).

nī (= *nisi*)...*traheret*: if...were not drawing...; *nīsī*, protasis of a pres. contrary to fact.

ea rēs: this subject; i.e quibus...cēperit.

nos: “pl. for the sing. after *possum* just above; one can easily interpret this shift to the pl. as a reference to S. and his readers”. (Ramsey ad loc).

longius: too far; comparative adverb can, as here, express excess.

inceptō: undertaking; substantive from perfect passive participle.

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ea: = *fortuna*; “reference to the subject of the previous sentence by means of the demonstrative pronoun in the nom. produces parataxis and is a common feature of early Latin. S. deliberately uses this simple syntax here in preference to a relative pronoun (*quae*) or a subordinate conjunction (e.g., *quia*), which would have produced a more polished complex sentence out of the two clauses.” (Ramsey ad loc).

"The idea of *fortuna* portrayed here should be taken as a Greek concept in a Greek context; *fortuna* is represented as the arbitrary power which lies beyond the control of man." (McGushin, *ad loc.*)

ex lubīdine: on a whim; ‘from a desire’. "according to (lit., from) caprice," a common meaning of *ex* in S. Nearly the same thought is expressed at 51.25. (Ramsey ad loc).

ex vero: *verum*=*aequum* ("fair," "reasonable"), as it often does in the expression *verum est*. (Ramsey ad loc).

rēs gestae: matters undertaken, things done; subject.

aestumo: “used esp. of judging the merit of a thing after estimating its weight or value; preferable to the less colorful *existimo* (simply "to judge," "hold an opinion") which is found in a few MSS” (Ramsey ad loc).

fuēre= *fuērunt*: syncopated 3p perfect of *sum*.

vērū: “but”; adversative adv. acc.

aliquantō: "to some extent," "somewhat"; abl. of degree of difference with *minores*, sc. *fuere*. (Ramsey ad loc).

minōrēs (*erant*): were...; nom. pred. comparative adj.; supply a linking verb, *rēs* is the subject.

feruntur: (subject= *rēs*) “the sense is virtually equivalent to *celebrare*, *extollere*, = "make known," "celebrate" (lit., "report") (Ramsey ad loc).

fāmā: abl. of means: “by fame”.

prōvēnērere = *prōvēnērunt*: syncopated 3p pf. ““came forth," "appeared"; a word used only once by S. and apparently archaic for *appareo*. (Ramsey ad loc).

ibi: = “apud eos (i.e., *Atheniensis*)” (Ramsey ad loc).

scriptorum magna ingenia: “=*scriptores magni ingeni*; by an inversion of the logical grammatical relationship, known as hypallage and commonly found in poetry, S. emphasizes the *ingenium* of these writers by making this word the subject here and below” (Ramsey ad loc).

per terrārum orbem: over the world, ‘through the sphere of lands’ an idiom.

facta: “deeds”.

pro maxumis: understand “deeds”; “equivalent to *quasi maxuma essent*”. (Ramsey ad loc).

quī fēcēre (fēcērunt): Steadman suggest we supply an object, e.g. 'these deeds; contrast Ramsey: "most MSS have qui ea fecere which would make the statement refer specifically to the Athenians. S. is not adverse to the repetition of the demonstrative in such close proximity, but the sense is slightly improved if we omit ea following the evidence of one of our best MSS, P1, and some recentiores, which are supported by two citations of this passage; fecere is then used in an absolute sense: "those who have acted," i.e., "performed deeds" (cf. 3.1). (Ramsey ad loc).

quantum: "adv. with potuere [potuerunt] extollere, (lit., "however much"), correlative to tanta" (Ramsey ad loc). Subject = *praeclāra ingenia*. Ramsey translates "... is considered as great as the illustrious intellects have been able to exalt it with their words."

habētur: is considered (to be); 'is held'

eam: it; i.e. virtūs.

verbis: abl. means.

ea copia: "'this advantage" (i.e., of having their deeds extolled by talented writers)—not=*copia clarorum ingeniorum*; for *copia*="advantage," "opportunity," cf. 17.6. "(Ramsey ad loc).

populō Rōmānō...fuit: dative of possession.

prudentissimus quisque: take together. The most prudent, each and every one,; partitive apposition.

maxumē: especially; superlative adverb. Roman distrust of *otium* taking over.

ingenium ... corpore: "cf. 2.1ff. where the merits of the exclusive exercise of one or the other were considered. (Ramsey ad loc).

optimus quisque: quisque and superlative again.

facere quam dicere: governed by *mālēbat*: preferred to act rather than to say.

quam introduces a clause of comparison.

bene facta: "good deeds," "brave acts" (cf. 3.1 *bene facere*), sometimes written as one word; the participle, although it is being used as a substantive, is still modified by an adv. The expression seems to be archaic. (Ramsey ad loc).

sua...laudārī: and prefer that their deeds were praised by others (indirect speech, governed by *mālēbat*).

ipse: (than) "he himself" (relate the deeds [sc. *facta*] of others); i.e. *quisque*.

(*facta*) *aliōrum*: ellipsis, supply acc. obj.