

Apocolocyntosis Notes 13-15

13.1 Claudius delighted with praises- doesn't realize it is ironic...

inicit illi manum: *inicare manum* = legal terminology for 'apprehend, arrest'.

Talhythius deorum [nuntius- gloss]: Agamemnon's herald: proverbial for heralds; of gods-Mercury.

capite obvoluto: 'with his head muffled up'.

Eden suggests hint that route to underworld via the Tarentum, site on Campus Martius thought to be entrance to the underworld.

13.2 *compendiaria* sc. *uia* by a short cut: Narcissus (private secretary) away from Rome at time of Claudius' death at Sinuessa, for gout cure; Agrippina forced him to commit suicide. Short cut because committed suicide and not ceremonially buried.

He us gleaming because of the thermal baths at Sinuessa or because he cut veins in a bath.

"quid di ad homines?" quasi-proverbial to express ironic surprise at a rarity.

13.3 "facile descenditur": paraphrases *Aen.* 6.126 *facillis descensus Averno*.

13.3 Hor. *Od.* 2.13.34 calls Cerberus this- normally 3 headed; 100-headed follows rare alternative tradition found e.g. in Pindar; Horace here invented *centiceps*- seems pretentious. dog- lampoons Narcissus's fear and debunks the famous hell-hound (shaggy, black; wouldn't like to meet him in dark).

13.4 ritual cry by Isis cult when celebrating discovery of new bull (Apis), thought to be incarnation of Osiris (his annual rebirth celeb). May pick up Claudius' interest in cults; also joke in that odd for Isis cult to worship as gods those who die. Claudius dead: how can he be reborn.

List of those killed for involvement in Messalina's activities (Gaius Silanus had married Messalina and wanted to take over; actor-dancer Mnester slept with Messalina after she got Claudius to order him to do what she wishes): I.e. their pleasure= Claudius' death, not fact he will be friends.

Possibly idea that Mnester cut down to size, literally, by beheading; possibly then making same height as Messalina.

13.4 ironical for the sake of decor, propriety.

13.5 freedmen not famous for looking after Claudius anyway.

"fratris filia"= Julia, d of Germanicus: 10.4.

"sororis filia"= Julia, d of Livia and Drusus: 10.4.

sons-in-law= L. Silanus (8.2; 10.4; 11.5) and Pompeius Magnus (11.2).

fathers-in-law= Appius Silanus (m to Messalina's mother Domitia i.e. stepfather-in-law: 11.5); Crassus Frugi (father of C's son-in-law Magnus).

mothers-in-law= Messalina's mother, Domitia Lepida, killed AD 53; Scribonia, mother of son-in-law Magnus (cf. L1.2).

13.6 C exclaims "everything full of friends" and asks how they got here: reference to his forgetfulness.

Claudius to be tried as Aug suggested: boot on other foot.

14.1 Sulla's law: *lex Cornelia de sicariis et ueneficis* which prescribed capital punishment for murder or attempted murder by weapon, poison or magic; also punished those who had given unjust sentences for capital offences.

nb Romanization of legal setting in underworld: Peto asks Aeacus to enter Claudius' name in official record; a *subscriptio* is the specification of crimes in an indictment: here = killing 35 senators (10 named in the *Apoc.*), 321 knights: similar figures in Suetonius.

14.2 Petronius has Claudius' eloquence...

14.2 adjournment not given: cf. Aug 11.5.

only one part of the case heard- as Claudius did.

Claudius to suffer what he inflicted, including judicial process.

14.3 normal punishment for those guilty under *lex Cornelia de sicariis* = banishment and property confiscation; need to find punishment appropriate to underworld situation.

Sisyphus- pushing stone; Ixion crucified on wheel.

15.2 Caligula had treated Claudius as fool (nb thrown him into river).

Claudius to be a clerical slave: legal interest, without power; under a freedman, as usual.