

Formative assignment 8 - Reading Latin G&E, p.257 & p.258 (Sections 5F & 5G)

Module: Intensive Latin 2 (HPLA7014)

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Reading Latin G&E, p.257

Reading exercise

is ita cum Caesare ēgit: sī pācem populus Rōmānus cum Helvētiīs faceret, in eam partem itūrōs atque ibi futūrōs Helvētiōs ubi eōs Caesar constituisset atque esse voluisset; sīn bellō sequi perseverāret, reminiscerētur et veteris incommodī et prīstinae virtūtis Helvētiōrum. quod improvisō ūnum pagum adortus esset, cum eī quī flūmen trānsissent suīs auxilium ferre nōn possent, nē ob eam rem aut suae magnopere virtūtī tribueret aut ipsōs dēspiceret. sē ita ā patribus maiōribusque suīs didicisse, ut magis virtūte quam dolō contenderent aut īnsidiīs nīterentur. quārē nē committeret ut is locus ubi cōstitissent ex calamitāte populī Rōmānī et interneciōne exercitūs nōmen caperet aut memoriam prōderet.

(Caesar, *Dē Bellō Gallicō* 1, 13.3-7)

Translation

He dealt with Caesar as follows: If the Roman people would make/made peace with the Helvetii, they would go to the region where Caesar had decided and wished them to be; but if he persisted in pursuing them with war, he should remember both the past defeat and the former bravery of the Helvetii. Because he had unexpectedly attacked a single canton while those who had crossed the river could not bear assistance to their fellows, he should not, for this reason, either attribute too much to his own bravery or despise them. They (the Helvetii) had learnt from their parents and ancestors to fight more with courage than with deceit and not to rely upon ambushes. He (Caesar) therefore should not allow it to happen that the place where they had taken their position gain its name or hand down the memory from a disaster of the Roman people and the slaughter of their army.

English-Latin

‘You can see, soldiers, in what danger our affairs are. Two armies prevent us from leaving these mountains without a battle. If we had not relied upon Lentulus, we would have already escaped. Now, however, we must fight, for our fatherland, for our liberty and for our lives. Do not be cowards. If we win, there is no doubt that safety is ours. If we yield through fear, nothing will stop us from being butchered.’

‘vidēre potestis, mīlitēs, quō in perīculō rēs nostrae sint. duo exercitūs nōs impediunt quōminus sine proeliō ex hīs montibus discēdāmus. nisi Lentulō nīxī essēmus, iam fūgissēmus. nunc tamen necesse est nōbīs/oportet nōs prō patriā, prō libertāte, prō vītā certāre. nē ignāvī fuerītis. sī vīcerimus, nōn dubium est quīn salūs nostra sit. sī metū cesserimus, nihil nōs impedit quōminus interficiāmur.’