

Apocolocyntosis Notes 10-12

10.1ff Augustus' achievements meant to reflect badly on Claudius' acts, especially as Claudius presumed to emulate Augustus (Momigliano notes this: says this bit was the "real kernel" of attack on Claudius. Augustus ashamed at creation imperial authority which Claudius went on to abuse). nb reference to laws: under Claudius pointless. nb turning point- Claudius no longer sees harmless.

nb Eden suggests speech mimics Augustus' style: "In the formal structure of the satire Augustus' speech of indictment marks the central peak, preceded by the Laudes Neronis and followed by the mock *Elogium Claudii*." (Eden)

10.1 sententiae ...dicendae- dative of purpose; *loco* =local ablative: to put his own motion in turn.

10.2 Corvinus appointed praefect of city and soon resigned.

10.3 readiness of Claudius to kill; "publicas cades" idea: Claudius disaster to Rome.

10.3 as dog squats on its haunches- possibly hint at excretion.

10.4 Claudius had two great-granddaughters killed (due to Messalina): nb Julia Livilla, daughter of Germanicus, banished and died in exile- one of charges was adultery with Seneca.

10.4 L. Silanus prev ref 8.2: son-in-law charged with incest.

10.4 *aequos*= *aequus* (Eden).

10.4 Claudius' judgement of cases without trial

11.1 after a rebellion, Zeus had dangled Hera from heaven and thrown out other gods to earth inc Hephaestus; Eden notes *suspendere* and *crus frangere*= harsh slave punishments- but harsh slave treatment to family not as bad as Claudius'.

11.1 reference to Claudius' heedlessness/absent-mindedness about those he'd ordered executed

11.2 *persequi*- "persecute" (got rid of statues/acts of Caligula) and "imitate"- still cruel.

11.2 Caligula had killed father of first wife; Claudius killed father-in-law (Appius Silanus: see 11.5- strictly, stepfather-in-law) and son-in-law, either L. Silanus or (prob) Pompeius Magnus, m. to C's daughter Antonia.

11.2 *tulit* = *abstulit*.

11.2 not a clan of Assaracus- aristoc who claimed descent from Trojans (Assaracus= great-grandfather of Aeneas).

11.2 stupid enough to rule idea again cf. 1.1.

11.3 reference to speech defect; possibly sc. "hic meus est".

11.4 *summa rei*: sc. *haec est*.

11.4 reciting from tablet- in senate member could read out written motion.

11.5 *excedere* etc- official terms; nb heaven equivalent of Italy; Olympus equivalent of Rome.

11.6 senators could move towards proposer they supported.

11.6 Mercury= escorter of dead to underworld.

11.6 quotes Catullus 3.12.

Eden 12 "Some themes of this chapter- public rejoicing over the death of a tyrant; mourners singing a dirge- reappear in Lucian, *Dial. Mort.* 10, and may derive from Menippus: Weinreich 107ff. But they are of comparative insignificance in the context of Seneca's wittily inventive Romanization"

12.1 "sibi uelit" i.e. mean.

12.1 suggestion Claudius was deaf.

12.1 rejoicing of people = recurring idea.

12.2 idea of liberty now Claudius dead.

12.2 barristers upset- C judging cases himself, encouraged cases; contrast happiness of legal experts who now could be heard.

12.2 Claudius' reign as Saturnalia.

12.3 see Eden on content following funeral praise (usually ending with consolatio- no need here)

nb grand language; irony: Claudius praised for wit; bravery; speed; credited with achievements of his generals (not personally involved in East); by end, Parthians gaining upper hand (nb Persian ie Parthian).

British invasion 43AD.

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nb in underworld, Claudius doesn't take Minos' role.