

Gesta Romanorum 273 King Lear

Theodosius in civitate Romana regnavit prudens valde et potens; qui tres filias pulchras	1
habebat, dixitque filiae seniori: "Quantum diligis me?"	2
At illa: "Certe plus quam me ipsam."	3
Ait ei pater: "Et te ad magnas divitias promovebo." Statim ipsam dedit uni regi opulento	4
et potenti in uxorem.	5
Post haec venit ad secundam filiam et ait ei: "Quantum diligis me?"	6
At illa: "Tantum sicut me ipsam." Imperator vero eam cuidam duci tradidit in uxorem.	7
Et post haec venit ad tertiam filiam et ait ei: "Quantum me diligis?"	8
At illa: "Tantum sicut vales et non plus neque minus."	9
Ait ei pater: "Ex quo ita est, non ita opulenter ero maritare sicut et sorores tuae." Tradidit	10
eam cuidam comiti in uxorem.	11

erus, ī – m – master of a house

marītō (1) – to marry

opulenter – *adv* – richly, sumptuously

opulentus, a, um – *adj* – wealthy, opulent

prōmoveō, ēre, mōvī, motum – to move forward, advance

prudēs, entis – *adj* – prudent

rēgnō (1) – to rule

Rōmānus, a, um – *adj* – Roman

secundus, a, um – *adj* – second

senior, ōris – *adj* – older

Theodosius, ī – m – Theodosius

valdē – *adv* – very

1. Theodosius – not the historical figure.

2. seniōrī – note the language change. This is comparative in morphology, yet superlative in meaning. It's similar to how the modern Romance languages work.

3. At illa – introduces daughter's dialog.

4. ipsam – intensifies by highlighting the antecedent's absence when used as a pronoun.

5. in uxōrem – in marriage; literally "into wife".

7. Tantum – note how it echoes the *quantum* from the question in the previous line.

cuidam ducī – to some duke; not just a leader.

9. et nōn – another way of saying *nec*.

10. Ex quō ita est – for this reason; literally "from which so it is".

erō – not the future of *sum*.

marītāre – getting married; an alternate form of *marītāris*.

(Or worse, a passive imperative. Or supply *dēbēs* if you really need it to be an infinitive, but then ask yourself: where's the accusative for this transitive verb?)

et – even

11. cuidam comitī – to some count; not just an associate.

Accidit cito post haec, quod imperator bellum contra regem Aegypti habebat. Rex vero 1
 imperatorem de imperio fugabat, unde bonum refugii habere non poterat. Scripsit litteras anulo 2
 suo signatas ad primam filiam suam, quae dixit, quod patrem suum plus quam se ipsam dilexit, 3
 ut ei succurreret in sua necessitate, eo quod de imperio expulsus erat. Filia cum has litteras eius 4
 legisset, viro suo regi casum primo narrabat. 5

Ait rex: "Bonum est, ut succurramus ei in hac sua magna necessitate. Colligam 6
 exercitum meum et cum toto posse meo adiuvabo eum." 7

Ait illa: "Istud non potest fieri sine magnis expensis. Sufficit, quod ei concedatis, 8
 quamdiu est extra imperium suum, quinque milites, qui ei associentur." Et sic factum est. Filia 9
 patri rescripsit, quod aliud auxilium ab ea habere non posset nisi quinque milites de sumptibus 10
 regis in societate sua. 11

adiuvō, āre, adiūvī, adiūtum – to help
Aegyptus, ī – f – Egypt
ānulus, ī – m – ring
associō (1) – to join with
expendō, ere, dī, ēnsūm – to weigh out
expellō, ere, pulī, pulsum – to drive out, eject
extrā – p + acc – outside of
posse – n indecl – manpower, often military
quamdiū – *adv* – as long as

1. quod – introduces indirect speech.
2. bonum – benefit.
- ānulo suō – means by which *signātās* happens.
3. sē ipsam – herself.
- quod – indirect speech again.
4. eī – him; dative complement of succurreret.
- succurreret – imperfect subjunctive; shows purpose after ut.
- This is why the emperor write the letter.
- suā – refers to the emperor; reflexive possessives are not as tightly reflexive in Medieval Latin, like here.
- eō quod – for the reason that.
5. legisset – pluperfect subjunctive after *cum*.

quīnque – *adj* – five
quod – *conj* – that
refugium, ī – n – recourse, refuge
rēscribō, ere, psī, ptum – to write back, reply
signō (1) – to mark, seal
societās, tātis – f – partnership, alliance
succurrō, ere, ī, cursūm – to run under, aid, help
sufficiō, ere, fēcī, fectum – to meet the need, suffice
sumptus, ūs – m – outlay, expense

6. succurrāmus – present subjunctive; shows result after *ut*.
- eī – him; dative complement of succurrāmus.
- suā – refers to the emperor; Medieval reflexives!
7. cum tōtō posse meō – with my whole posse; that's right, posse is posse.
8. concēdātis – present subjunctive; shows result after quod.
- associentur – present subjunctive; consecutive quī-clause used to show limit (but that probably just muddies a perfectly understandable thing).
- 10 quod – introduces indirect speech
- nisi – other than; this word can be tricky.
11. suā – properly reflexive here.

Imperator cum hoc audisset, contristatus est valde et infra se dicebat: "Heu mihi, tota
 spes mea erat in seniore filia mea, eo quod dixit, quod plus me dilexit quam se ipsam, et propter
 hoc ad magnam dignitatem ipsam promovi." 3

Scrpsit statim secundae filiae, quae dixit "Tantum te diligo quantum me ipsam", quod 4
 succurreret ei in tanta necessitate. At illa cum audisset, viro suo denuntiabat et ipsi consiliavit, 5
 ut nihil aliud ei concederet nisi victum et vestitum, quamdiu viveret, honeste pro tali rege, et 6
 super hoc litteras patri suo rescripsit. 7

Imperator cum hoc audisset, contristatus est valde, dicens: "Deceptus sum per duas 8
 filias. Iam temptabo tertiam, quae mihi dixit "Tantum te diligo, quantum vales." Litteras scripsit 9
 ei, ut ei succurreret in tanta necessitate, et quomodo sorores suae ei respondebant. Tertia filia 10

cōnsiliō (1) – to consult
contrīstō (1) – to make sad
dēcipiō, ere, cēpī, ceptum – to trap, cheat, deceive
dēnuntiō (1) – to declare
heu – *interj* – alas
infra – *prep* + *acc* – below, under
prōmoveō, ēre, mōvī, motum – to move forward, advance
quamdiū – *adv* – as long as

quod – *conj* – that
rēscribō, ere, psī, ptum – to write back, reply
secundus, a, um – *adj* – second
senior, ōris – *adj* – older
succurrō, ere, ī, cursūm – to run under, aid, help
temptō (1) – to try, test
valdē – *adv* – very
vīctus, ūs – *m* – sustinence, nourishment, victuals

1.5. imperator – in the topic position before *cum*.
 audisset – syncopated form of *audīvisset*; pluperfect
 subjunctive. Expressing when after *cum*.
 īnfra sē – to himself.
 Heu – often has an attached dative.
 2. eō quod – for the reason that.
 3. ipsam – intensive pronoun.
 5. succurreret – imperfect subjunctive; shows purpose after
quod.
 illa cum audisset – see line 1.

6. concēderet – imperfect subjunctive; shows what the plan
 will be after *ut*.
 nisi – except.
 vīveret – imperfect subjunctive; it's not indirect question, but
 we're not certain how long he'll live so subjunctive.
 7. super hoc – about this (matter); *super* is edging toward its
 Romance language meaning of "about".
 8. Imperātor cum hoc audisset – compare this to line 1.
 per – by; shows agent the way the modern Romance
 languages do. ¡Viva el cambio lingüístico! (Viva
 language change!)

cum vidisset inopiam patris sui, ad virum suum dixit: "Domine mi reverende, mihi succurre in 1
hac necessitate! Iam pater meus expulsus est ab hereditate sua." 2

Ait ei vir eius: "Quid vis tu, ut ei faciam?" 3

At illa: "Exercitum colligas et ad debellandum inimicum suum pergas cum eo!" 4

Ait comes: "Voluntatem tuam adimplebo." 5

Statim collegit magnum exercitum et sumptibus suis propriis cum imperatore perrexit ad 6
bellum. Victoriam obtinuit et imperatorem in imperio suo posuit. Tunc ait imperator: 7
"Benedicta hora, in qua genui filiam meam iunioem. Ipsam minus aliis filiabus dilexi et mihi 8
in magna necessitate succurrit, et aliae filiae meae defecerunt, propter quod totum imperium 9
reliquero post decessum meum filiae meae iuniori." Et sic factum est. Post decessum patris filia 10
iunior regnavit et in pace vitam finivit. 11

adimpleō, ēre, ēvī, ētum – to fill up
benedicō, ere, dixī, dictum – to bless, praise
dēbellō (1) – to finish a war
dēcēdō, ere, cessī, cessum – to go away, withdraw
expellō, ere, pulī, pulsum – to drive out, eject
finiō (4) – to finish
hērēditās, tātis – *f* – inheritance
inopia, ae – *f* – lack

iūnior, ōris – *adj* – younger
obtimeō, ere, uī, tum – to have, get
quod – *conj* – that
rēgnō (1) – to rule
reverendus, a, um – *adj* – inspiring awe, venerable
succurrō, ere, ī, cursūm – to run under, aid, help
sumptus, ūs – *m* – outlay, expense

1. virum – husband.
succurre – takes dative complement.
3. faciam – present subjunctive; introduced by *ut*.
4. colligās – present subjunctive; she's suggesting a course of
action for her husband.
ad dēbellandum – to finish off the war; *ad* + *gerund* shows
purpose.
suum – the not-quite-reflexive possessive. In classical Latin
it would be *ēius*.

pergās – present subjunctive; still suggested course of action.
5. comes – count, not companion.
7. suō – once again, the not-quite-reflexive possessive.
8. Benedicta – supply *est* if you need it here.
Ipsam – intensive pronoun.
9. succurrit – takes dative complement (up online 8).
propter quod – because of which.