



ASCS LATIN UNSEEN TRANSLATION COMPETITION 2011

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Passage for translation

In a letter written from exile, Cicero acknowledges the inherent goodness of his wife Terentia who is showing indefatigable strength in working for his return to Rome, and he blames himself for the hardships he has inflicted upon his family. He worries in particular how his daughter and son will cope with the changed circumstances. While Terentia believes that such misfortune was fated, Cicero claims to have utterly misread the political situation, having put trust in the wrong people and ignored those who favoured him.

Et litteris multorum et sermone omnium perfertur ad me incredibilem tuam virtutem et fortitudinem esse teque nec animi neque corporis laboribus defatigari. me miserum! te ista virtute, fide, probitate, humanitate in tantas aerumnas propter me incidisse, Tulliolumque nostram, ex quo patre tantas voluptates capiebat, ex eo tantos percipere luctus! nam quid ego de Cicerone dicam? qui cum primum sapere coepit, acerbissimos dolores miseriasque percepit. quae si, tu ut scribis, fato facta putarem, ferrem paulo facilius; sed omnia sunt mea culpa commissa, qui ab iis me amari putabam, qui invidabant, eos non sequebar, qui petebant.

Cicero *Ad Familiares* 14.1.1