

## XXIII

Intereā Porsennae facta Rōmānōs nōn fefellērunt. Virginēs vestālēs prope ignem sacrum deōs ōrābant ; mātṛōnae cum liberis suis dōna ad templa ferēbant ; senēs victimās in āris mactābant ; iuvenēs in Campō Martiō sē ad arma proeliumque parābant, et moenia multō labōre firmābant ; vigilēs in moenibus stābant et campōs clīvōsque spectābant. Subitō vigilēs corusca Etruscōrum arma procul vidērunt. Mox inter hostēs Porsennam, et Porsennae ā dextrā Sextum, vidērunt. Deinde cīvēs odiī et terrōris plēnī magnā vōce clāmāvērunt et animōs ad proelium firmāvērunt. Sed consulēs timēbant, quod paucī erant Rōmānī, multī et validī hostēs.

consul, -ulis, *m.*—consul, chief  
magistrate at Rome.

dextra, -ae, *f.*—right hand : ā  
dextrā—on the right.

firmitas, -itatis, *f.*—I strengthen.

hostis, -is, *c.*—enemy.

ignis, -is, *m.*—fire.

mātṛona, -ae, *f.*—matron.

moenia, -ium, *n. pl.*—town walls.

odium, -i, *n.*—hatred.

pauci, -ae, -a—few.

proelium, -i, *n.*—battle.

sacer, -ra, -rum—sacred.

senex, senis, *c.*—an old person.

Vestālis, -e—Vestal, belonging  
to Vesta.

vigil, -ilis, *m.*—sentinel.

Translate and check with my attempt which is on the next page. Take care with tenses. When translating the imperfect (...*bam*, ...*bas*, ...*bat* ...*bamus* ...*batis* ...*bunt* etc.) consider the alternatives in English e.g. “they prepared” or “they were preparing.” Sometimes the context makes one a better translation than the other.

Meanwhile, the deeds of Porsenna did not escape the notice of the Romans. The Vestal Virgins were entreating the gods near the sacred fire; the mothers with their children were bringing gifts to the temples, the old men were sacrificing victims on the altars; the young men were preparing themselves for arms and battle in the Field of Mars; watchmen were standing on the walls and were watching the fields and woods. Suddenly the watchmen saw the flashing arms of the Etruscans. Soon, among the enemies they saw Porsenna and at the right hand of Porsenna, Sextus. Then the citizens, full of hatred and terror, shouted with a loud voice and braced their spirits for battle. But the consuls feared, because the Romans were few and the enemies were many and strong.

Notice I chose “were entreating”, “were bringing” etc. here for the imperfect because it seems to paint the scene better prior to “suddenly”. However “entreated”, “brought” etc. would be just as correct. I also used “braced” for *firmaverunt* because “strengthened” sounds wrong in English here. I also thought “entreating” made more sense than “begging” or “praying” for the same reason. Don't be afraid to start to do this kind of thing now. An idiomatic translation (so long as it is correct, of course!) will be better – and gain marks in an exam.