

### Cicero *Pro Plancio* 3

*at ego, cum casu diebus eis itineris faciendi causa decedens e provincia Puteolos forte venissem, cum plurimi et lautissimi in eis locis solent esse, concidi paene, iudices, cum ex me quidam quaesisset quo die Roma exissem et num quidnam esset novi.*

*cui cum respondissem me a provincia decedere: “etiam mehercule,” inquit, “ut opinor, ex Africa.”*

*huic ego iam stomachans fastidiose “immo ex Sicilia” inquam.*

*tum quidam, quasi qui omnia sciret, “quid tu nescis,” inquit “hunc quaestorem Syracusis fuisse?”*

Cicero carries on with his anecdote.

***at ego,***

***(cum casu diebus eis itineris faciendi causa***

*Eis diebus* “in those days” i.e. “at that time”. *itineris faciendi causa* “by reason of [my] journey” i.e. in order to continue my journey by land to Rome. (The chance mentioned (*casu*) is related to the time of Cicero's arrival at Puteolos [see below] which was the height of the season there.

***decedens e provincia Puteolos forte venissem,***

*Decedens e provincia* “as I was leaving my province”. *Venissem* is a pluperfect subjunctive best translate it “I just happened (*forte*) to come”.

***cum plurimi et lautissimi in eis locis solent esse,***

Notice the ...*imi* endings indicating superlatives. These words are the subjects of *solent*. You could supply “men” or “people” or use the superlative adjectives as the subject.

***concidi paene, iudices, cum ex me quidam quaesisset***

*concidere* “to collapse”. *Ego* is the subject. (*paene concidere*; this expression has a very modern sound we still use the English equivalent to *paene concidere* when colloquially explaining how we reacted to a surprising remark!) *quaerere* “to ask”. *Quidam* is the subject. What they asked is in the next line:

***quo die Roma exissem et num quidnam esset novi.***

*Quidnam* “what” i.e. freely “whether there was anything new” i.e. “what was the news [from Rome]?” *Numquidnam novi?* was a common salutation meaning “what's the news?”

Translate or compare.

But I, (when by chance at that time by reason of my journey, as I was leaving my province I just happened to come to Puteolos when the most and most praiseworthy men were accustomed to be in that place) nearly collapsed when someone asked me on what day I had left Rome and whether there was any news?

You can experiment with the word order of this to make it more free flowing in English.

Cicero is surprised to find that the questioner does not even know who he is: he thinks he is someone come from Rome not the great returning quaestor from Sicily!

Puteolos is now called Pozzuoli. It was important in Cicero's day as a good harbour south of Rome with a thriving market for goods from abroad. Here the fashionable Romans would come for holidays and Cicero arrived at the height of the season. He emphasises that this was accidental by using two words for "by chance" *casu* and *forte*. He does not want his listeners to think his arrival at this fashionable watering-place was deliberately timed to coincide with the availability of the maximum audience to praise him. Now follows the report of a rather humiliating conversation:

***cui, cum respondissem me a provincia decedere: "etiam mehercule," inquit, "ut opinor, ex Africa."***

*Opinari* "to think" (deponent).

***huic ego iam stomachans fastidiose "immo ex Sicilia" inquam.***

*Stomachans* "irritated" *fastidiose* "scornfully", *immo* "no".

***tum quidam, quasi qui omnia sciret, "quid tu nescis," inquit "hunc quaestorem quidam "someone" quasi "as if" quid "What?"***

***Syracusis fuisse?"***

Translate and compare.

who when I replied [that] I was just leaving a province said “from Africa, I think, by Hercules”. To this I, now irritated, replied scornfully, “No from Sicily.” Then someone as if he was one who knew everything [or maybe “some know-all”] said, “What? Don't you know anything? This is the quaestor from Syracuse.”

There were two quaestors on Sicily one at Syracuse the other at Lilybaeum. Cicero had been quaestor at Lilybaeum. Poor Cicero!

Carry on with your flashcards. The ones on quizlet are not put up by me so you can get someone else's translation to compare mine with if you use them. <https://quizlet.com/321570959/latin-cicero-a-useful-lesson-translation-flash-cards/>