

Cicero on what a Roman leader ought to do and not do

o di immortales! quam magnum est personam in re publica tueri principis! quae non animis solum debet, sed etiam oculis seruire ciuium. domum recipere legatum hostium, in cubiculum admittere, etiam seducere hominis est nihil de dignitate, nimium de periculo cogitantis. quod autem est periculum? nam si maximum in discrimen uenitur, aut libertas parata uictori est aut mors proposita uicto, quorum alterum optabile est, alterum effugere nemo potest. turpis autem fuga mortis omni est morte peior. nam illud quidem non adducor ut credam, esse quosdam, qui inuideant alicuius constantiae, qui labori eius, qui eius perpetuam in re publica adiuuanda uoluntatem et senatui et populo Romano probari moleste ferant. omnes id quidem facere debebamus, eaque erat non modo apud maiores nostros, sed etiam nuper summa laus consularium, uigilare, adesse animo, semper aliquid pro re publica aut cogitare aut facere aut dicere.

CICERO *Philippics* 8.29–30

magnum: take as predicate of the subject, the infinitive (= verbal noun, no?) *tueri*

persona: tr. “character”

quae: rel. pron.: what is the antecedent?

tueor: freq. syn. with *uideo*, depon.

seruire: be a *seruus* to + dat.

domum: take adverbially

legatus: an ambassador

cubiculum: tr. “drawing room” uel sim.

se+ducere: to lead away lit., tr. “confer privately”; no dir. obj. here

hominis..cogitantis: an “it belongs to” genitive (really just possessive): take the three infinitives as nominative compound subjects of *est* then this genitive as the predicate: eg *hominis amare est*: “it belongs to a human to fall in love” ie “it is characteristic of a human to fall in love”, or “to love is human”, etc.

nihil and *nimium*: take with *cogitantis*

discrimen: tr. “contest”; *maximum discrimen*: any elegant translations occur to the mind?

uenitur: impersonal 3rd sing. passive of vb of motion, lit. “it is come”

alter: nb really means “second of two” (hence Eng. “alternative”)

optabilis, is, e: desirable (what gender here)

turpis, is, e: shameful

peior comparative of what word? what gender here?

illud: take with *credam* in apposition to the acc. and inf. noun clause

adduco: tr. “persuade” or perhaps “lead along” ie mentally

inuideo: tr. “hold a grudge against” + dat.

constantia = Eng. deriv.

alicuius and *eius*: Cicero is of course thinking of himself

adiuuo: assist, here in an ablative gerundive modifying *re publica*

probo: approve; nb passive voice here and take as prolative with *uoluntatem* (tr. “willingness” here)

senatui and *populo*: datives of reference, take with *probari* as “in the eyes of” uel sim.

moleste fero: “bear with difficulty”, “take badly” + acc. (what’s the direct object?)

ea+que: take *ea* as demonstrative adjective to *summa laus*

consularis, is, e: here “man of consular rank”; what case and number?

apud: Fr. *chez* yet here figurative and not literal

uigilare and other inff. here: construe as nominatives (like *tueri* above) and take in apposition to *laus*