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CLAUDIAN
VOLUME II



Translated by
MAURICE PLATNAUER

CLAUDIAN

VOLUME II

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WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY

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藏书章



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CLAUDIAN

CLAUDII CLAUDIANI CARMINA

DE CONSULATU STILICHONIS

LIBER SECUNDUS

(XXII.)

Hactenus armatae laudes : nunc qualibus orbem
moribus et quanto frenet metuendus amore,
quo tandem flexus trabeas auctore rogantes
induerit fastisque suum concesserit annum,
mitior incipiat fidibus iam Musa remissis. 5

Principio magni custos Clementia mundi,
quae Iovis incoluit zonam, quae temperat aethram
frigoris et flammae medio, quae maxima natu
caelicolum. nam prima chaos Clementia solvit
congeriem miserata rudem vultuque sereno 10
discussis tenebris in lucem saecula fudit.
haec dea pro templis et ture calentibus aris
te fruitur posuitque suas hoc pectore sedes.
haec docet ut poenis hominum vel sanguine pasci
turpe ferumque putes ; ut ferrum, Marte cruentum,
siccum pace feras ; ut non infensus alendis 16

¹ Claudian seems to have in his mind partly the Epicurean doctrine of *ἔπος* and partly the personification of the *Clementia Caesaris*, well known as a legend on so many

THE POEMS OF CLAUDIAN

ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP

BOOK II

(XXII)

Thus far the warrior's praise ! Now let my gentler Muse relax the strings and tell by what virtues he governs the world, tempering fear with love, say what counsel moved him at last to assume those consular robes that cried out to him, and bestowed on our annals a year named after himself.

In the beginning Love¹ was the guardian of this vast universe, she who dwelt in the sphere of Jove, who attempers the sky 'twixt cold and heat, who is eldest of the immortals. For Love, pitying the elemental confusion, first disentangled Chaos ; with a smile she scattered the darkness and bathed the world in light. She dwelleth now not in temples nor by altars warm with incense but in thy heart wherein she has made her home. Taught by her thou accountest it cruel and barbarous to batten on suffering and human slaughter ; the sword that drips blood in war thou wearest unstained in peace ; Roman coins. See, also, for *Clementia* as a goddess, Claud. xvii. 166, and Stat. *Theb.* xii. 481 *et sqq.*

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materiem praestes odiis ; ut sontibus ultro
ignovisse velis, deponas ocius iram
quam moveas, precibus numquam implacabilis obstes,
obvia prosternas prostrataque more leonum 20
despicias, alacres ardent qui frangere tauros,
transiliunt praedas humiles. hac ipse magistra
das veniam victis, hac exorante calores
horrificos et quae, numquam nocitura, timentur
iurgia contentus solo terrore coerces 25
aetherii patris exemplo, qui cuncta sonoro
concutiens tonitru Cyclopum spicula differt
in scopulos et monstra maris nostrique cruoris
parcus in Oetaeis exercet fulmina silvis.

Huic divae germana Fides eademque sorori 30
corde tuo delubra tenens sese omnibus actis
inserit. haec docuit nullo livescere fuco,
numquam falsa loqui, numquam promissa morari ;
invisos odisse palam, non virus in alto
condere, non laetam speciem praemittere fraudi, 35
sed certum mentique parem componere vultum ;
occulto saevire vetat, prodesse remittit.
haec et amicitias longo plus tempore firmat
mansuroque adamante ligat ; nec mobile mutat
ingenium, parvae strepitu nec vincula noxae 40
dissolvi patitur, nec fastidire priorem
inlicitur veniente novo. benefacta tenere,
respuere offensas facilis, pariterque minoris
officii magnique memor superare laborat

ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, II

though angered thou feedest with no fuel the flame of hatred ; thou forgivest the guilty even before they ask, thou layest aside thy wrath more readily than thou art moved to wrath, thou never turnest a deaf ear to prayers, all who oppose thee thou overthrowest, but deignest not to touch them when overthrown, like a lion who lusts to rend in pieces the fierce bull, but passes by the cowering prey. At her bidding thou extendest pardon to the conquered ; at her prayer thou refrainest the dread fires of thine anger and those threats, not the less terrible for being unfulfilled ; it is enough for thee to inspire awe, even as the heavenly Father who, shaking the world with his loud thunder, hurls the bolts of the Cyclopes upon rocks and sea-monsters and, sparing the blood of man, expends his lightnings on the forests of Oeta.

Good Faith too, Love's sister, has made her shrine in thy heart and joins herself to all thine actions. She has taught thee to practise no hypocrisy, never to speak falsehood, never to postpone the fulfilment of thy promises ; to hate openly those thou hatest, and not to hide the poison of resentment in thy heart nor let a false smile mask treachery but to make thy countenance the sure mirror of thy mind. She gainsayeth secret vengeance but encourageth secret benefits. She strengthens friendships also, that grow more firm by lapse of time and binds them with chains of lasting adamant ; not hers is the fickle change of mood, nor does she permit close ties to be broken by the rumour of some petty injury, nor is she lured to scorn the old friend when a new one comes. Mindful of past benefits, quick to forget wrongs, she remembers services alike small or great and strives to outdo

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utque hostes armis, meritis sic vincit amicos. 45
haec foveat absentes, haec longe sola remotis
consulit, haec nullis avidam rumoribus aurem
pandit, ut ignarum numquam laesura clientem
insidiosa tuos alienent murmura sensus.

Nec vivis adnexus amor meminisse sepultos 50
desinit ; in prolem transcurrit gratia patrum.
hac tu Theodosium, tenuit dum sceptrum, colebas,
hac etiam post fata colis ; nec pignora curas
plus tua quam natos, dederat quos ille monendos
tutandosque tibi. iustos nimiumque fideles 55
fama putat, qui, cum possint commissa negare,
maluerint nullo violati reddere quaestu :
at Stilicho non divitias aurique relictum
pondus, sed geminos axes tantumque reservat
depositum teneris, quantum sol igneus ambit. 60
quid non intrepidus credas, cui regia tuto
creditur ?

Hoc clipeo munitus Honorius altum
non gemit patrem vitaeque et lucis in ipso
limine, contemptus numquam, dat iura subactis
gentibus et secum sentit crevisse triumphos. 65
quem tu sic placida formas, sic mente severa,
ut neque desidia tradas, dum pronus ad omne
quod libet obsequeris, nec contra nixus ovantem
confringas animum : secreto consona regno
ceu iuvenem doceas, moles quid publica poscat : 70
ceu sanctum venerere senem patriisque gubernes
imperium monitis ; dominum summissus adores ;
obsequiis moderare ducem, pietate parentem.

ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, II

them, overcoming friends with devotion as an enemy with arms. She safeguards the absent and is the sole protector of those far away ; she opens not a greedy ear to rumours, so that never does the stealthy whisper that would injure some unsuspecting client estrange thy sympathies.

Nor does the love that clings to the living forget the dead, and the gratitude a father earned is paid to his children. This kept thee loyal to Theodosius while yet he wielded the sceptre, loyal, too, after his death ; nor carest thou more for thine own offspring than for the sons he entrusted to thy guidance and protection. Just and most faithful does Fame account those, who, though they might deny a trust, have chosen rather to fulfil it, unpolluted by greed of gain ; but it is not riches, not a huge heritage of gold that Stilicho holds in trust for the young heirs, but two hemispheres and all that is embraced within the sun's fiery orbit. What wouldst thou not fearlessly entrust to him to whom a kingdom is entrusted safely ?

Defended by this buckler Honorius did not mourn his noble sire, and on life's very threshold, ne'er scorned by any, he dictates laws to conquered races and sees his triumphs increase with his years. Him thou dost seek to shape as with kindly so with severe mind ; neither to sloth dost thou deliver him by a ready yielding to all his wishes, nor by opposing dost thou crush his eager spirit : as a youth thou teachest him in secret a king's lesson—his duty to his people ; as a reverend senior thou payest him honour and governest the empire at a father's bidding ; to thy lord thou givest humble worship ; thou guidest thy master with obedience, thy sire

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hinc fuit ut primos in coniuge disceret ignes
 ordiri que virum non luxuriante iuventa, 75
 sed cum lege tori, casto cum foedere vellet.
 principe tu felix genero : felicior ille
 te socero.

Fratrem levior nec cura tuetur
 Arcadium ; nec, si quid iners atque impia turba
 praetendens proprio nomen regale furori 80
 audeat, adscribis iuveni. discordia quippe
 cum fremeret, numquam Stilicho sic canduit ira,
 saepe laccessitus probris gladiisque petitus,
 ut bello furias ultum, quas pertulit, iret
 inlicito causamque daret civilibus armis : 85
 cuius fulta fide mediis dissensibus aulae
 intemeratorum stabat reverentia fratrum.
 quin et Sidonias chlamydes et cingula bacis
 aspera gemmatasque togas viridesque smaragdo
 loricas galeasque redundantes hyacinthis 90
 gestatosque patri capulis radiantibus enses
 et vario lapidum distinctas igne coronas
 dividis ex aequo, ne non augusta supellex
 ornatusque pares geminis heredibus essent.
 mittitur et miles, quamvis certamine partes 95
 iam tumeant. hostem muniri robore mavis
 quam peccare fidem : permittis iusta petenti
 idque negas solum, cuius mox ipse repulsa
 gaudeat et quidquid fuerat deforme mereri.

Omnes praeterea, puro quae crimina pellunt 100
 ore, deae iunxere choros unoque receptae

ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, II

with love. Hence it was that he knew not passion before matrimony and preferred to vindicate his manhood not in a youth of debauchery, but in the chaste bonds of legal wedlock. Blessed art thou in having an emperor for a son-in-law ; more blessed he with thee for father.

Care no less tender watched over Honorius' brother, Arcadius. Rightly thou ascribest not to that youth the outrages of the feeble, vicious mob that seeks to screen its own mad folly behind the name of a king. Nay, even when discord raged never did Stilicho so burn with anger, though oft assailed by insult, oft attacked with the sword, that he sought to avenge the frenzy he endured by unholy war and give a handle to civil strife ; stayed on his loyalty, mid all the factions of a court, the hallowed friendship of those brothers stood inviolate. Nay more, thou dividedst equally with him Sidonian cloaks, belts studded with pearls, jewelled togas, breastplates thick with green emeralds, helmets flashing with sapphires, swords with gleaming handles thy sire had wielded, crowns bright with the glint of manifold jewels, that both might be equal heirs of their imperial sire's rich furniture and apparel. Thou didst send soldiers to Byzantium also, though civil strife was already raising its head. Rather wouldst thou reinforce a foe than fail thy pledge ; all that he fairly asks thou grantest and refusest only that the withholding of which he himself will shortly approve, and that to obtain which were shameful.

Moreover, all the virtues whose pure aspect puts all wickedness to flight live conjoined in thee and, dwelling within thine heart, aid thee in the

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pectore diversos tecum cinguntur in usus.
 Iustitia utilibus rectum praeponere suadet
 communesque sequi leges iniustaque numquam
 largiri sociis. durum Patientia corpus 105
 instruit, ut nulli cupiat cessisse labori ;
 Temperies, ut casta petas ; Prudentia, ne quid
 inconsultus agas ; Constantia, futils ne quid
 infirmumque geras. procul importuna fugantur
 numina, monstriferis quae Tartarus edidit antris : 110
 ac primam scelerum matrem, quae semper habendo
 plus sitiens patulis rimatur faucibus aurum,
 trudis Avaritiam ; cuius foedissima nutrix
 Ambitio, quae vestibulis foribusque potentum
 excubat et pretiis commercia pascit honorum, 115
 pulsa simul. nec te gurgēs corruptior aevi
 traxit ad exemplum, qui iam firmaverat annis
 crimen et in legem rapiendi verterat usum.
 denique non dives sub te pro rure paterno
 vel laribus pallet ; non insidiator oberrat 120
 facturus quemcumque reum. non obruta virtus
 paupertate latet. lectos ex omnibus oris
 evehis et meritum, non quae cunabula, quaeris,
 et qualis non unde satus. sub teste benigno
 vivitur ; egregios invitant praemia mores. 125
 hinc priscae redeunt artes ; felicibus inde
 ingeniis aperitur iter despectaque Musae
 colla levant, opibusque fluens et pauper eodem
 nititur ad fructum studio, cum cernat uterque
 quod nec inops iaceat probitas nec inertia surgat 130
 divitiis.

Nec te iucunda fronte fefellit

ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, II

manifold businesses of life. Justice teaches thee to prefer the right to the useful, to obey the general laws of mankind and never to enrich thy friends at others' cost. Patience strengthens thy body so that it seeks never to yield to toil. Temperance guides thee to chaste desires. Prudence will have thee do nought without forethought, Constancy nought without decision and firm purpose. The deadly vices which Tartarus sends up from his monstrous abyss fly far from thee; but first and foremost thou banishest Avarice, mother of crimes, greedy for more the more she possesses, searching ever open-mouthed for gold; with her thou drivest out her most foul nurse, Ambition, who watches at the gate of the powerful and haunts their dwelling-places, cherishing the sale of honours for gold. This age's more turbid stream of corruption has not drawn thee to follow its examples—corruption which had with lapse of time established crime and turned the custom of rapine into a law. Beneath thy rule the rich tremble not for the safety of ancestral lands or houses; no informer stalks the world set on making no matter whom his victim. Virtue suffers no eclipse by poverty. Thou exaltest men of all countries, asking what are their merits not their place of birth, what their character not whence their origin. A generous prince takes note of our life; rewards allure into the ways of virtue. Hence it comes that the arts of old flourish once more; the path to fortune is open to genius, while poesy again raises her despised head. Rich and poor strive with equal zeal towards their ends, for both see that, as poverty cannot depress merit, so riches cannot elevate incapacity.

Fair-fronted wantonness deceives thee not, wanton-

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luxuries, praedulce malum, quae dedita semper
 corporis arbitriis hebetat caligine sensus
 membraque Circaeis effeminat acrius herbis,
 blanda quidem vultus, sed qua non taetrior ulla 135
 interius : fucata genas et amicta dolosis
 inlecebris torvos auro circumlinit hydros.
 illa voluptatum multos innexuit hamis :
 te numquam conata capit. non prava libido
 stupris advigilat ; non tempora somnus agendi 140
 frustratur ; nullo citharae convivia cantu,
 non pueri lasciva sonant. quis cernere curis
 te vacuum potuit ? quis tota mente remissum
 aut indulgentem dapibus, ni causa iuberet
 laetitiae ? non indecores aeraria lassant 145
 expensae ; parvo non improba littera libro
 absentum condonat opes. a milite parcus
 diligeris ; neque enim neglectas pace cohortes
 tunc ditas, cum bella fremunt. scis nulla placere
 munera, quae metuens illis, quos spreverat, offert 150
 serus et incassum servati prodigus auri.
 antevenis tempus non expectantibus ultro
 munificus mensaeque adhibes et nomine quemque
 compellas clari, sub te quod gesserat olim,
 admonitum facti, figendaque sensibus addis 155
 verba, quibus magni geminatur gratia nodi.¹

Nec, si quid tribuas, iactatum saepius idem
 exprobrare soles nec, quos promoveris, alto
 turgidus adloqueris fastu nec prospera flatus

¹ *I retain Birt's nodi (VP II), but doni (V² and the other MSS.) is very tempting.*

ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, II

ness, that sweet curse, which surrendering to the arbitrament of the body dulls the wits with darkness, enervating the limbs with bane more deadly than that of Circe. Fair, indeed, is her face but none is fouler within; dyed are her cheeks; clothed about is she with treacherous lures, and deadly vipers hide them in her golden hair. Many hath she caught with the bait of pleasure, thee, though often has she tried, she has never ensnared. No lust bids thee wake for adultery's sake, nor does sleep cheat the hours of toil. Neither the strains of the lyre nor the wanton song of boys accompany thy repast. Has any seen thee free from care, thy mind entirely at rest, or indulging in the banquet unless some public rejoicing commanded? No shameful expenditure strains the resources of the treasury, no pitiless missive in a tiny roll disposes of the property of the absent. Though thrifty thou art beloved of the army, for thou neglectest not thy soldiers in peace, and dost not only enrich them when war is toward. Thou knowest that belated gifts, offered in fear to those hitherto scorned, earn no gratitude: 'tis but a useless flinging away of gold as uselessly hoarded. Thou preventest thy soldiers' needs and art generous over and above their expectations; thou callest them to thy board and addresseth each by his name, mindful of all the brave deeds ever done by each beneath thy banners. To thy gifts thou addest praises that will ever be remembered, whereby the grace of your close bond is doubled.

When bountiful thou dost not also turn the bounty into a reproach, nor dost thou address those whom thou hast advanced with the language of disdainful patronage; nor yet does prosperity make thee