

Vocabulary

Cum frāter Catullī in Asiā indigne perisset, ille impotēns multa per aequora vectus est ut mūnera postrēma frātrī daret. sē rogāvit quid facturū esset, dum gravis dolor eum tenet. olim tam facetī, tam venustī erant amīcī eius ut dē tenebrīs morteque numquam solēret cōgitāre; nunc impotēns tristēs curās nōvit. “deī sī eī favissent,” poeta sibi dīxit, “sane fātum mortis frātre indignum nōn perdidisset.” sibi imperāvit ut obdurāret; tamquam flēre maluit.

indigne – undeservedly

pereo, -ire, -ii, peritum – he had perished/died

impotens, impotentis – helpless, unable to control himself

veho, -ere, veki, vectum – he was carried

munus, -eris n – gifts

postremus, -a, -um – last, ultimate, final

gravis, grave – serious, heavy

teneo, -ere, tenui, tentum – (it) holds

facetus, -a, -um – witty

venustus, -a, -um – elegant

tenebrae, -arum f pl – darkness

soleo, -ere, solitus sum – he was accustomed

tristis, -e – sad

cura, -ae f – cares, troubles

nosco, -ere, novi, notum – he knew

faveo, -ere, favi, fautum – they had favored

sane – indeed

fatum, -i n – fate

perdo, -ere, peridi, perditum – it had destroyed

obduro, -are, -avi, -atum – he held out, he might hold out (I will not be picky about

conveying the subjunctive meaning, just acknowledge the tense)

malo, malle, malui – he preferred

Gender, Number, Case

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frater: m, s, nom

impotens: m, s, nom.

aequora: n, pl, acc

munera: n, pl, acc
 fratri: m, s, dat.
 gravis: m, s, nom
 eum: m, s, acc
 faceti: m, pl, nom
 tenebris: f, pl, abl
 tristes: f, pl, acc
 ei: m, s, dat
 sibi: m, s, dat
 mortis: f, s, gen

Verbs

Cum frāter Catullī in Asiā indigne perisset, ille impotēns multa per aequora vectus est ut mūnera postrēma frātrī daret. sē rogāvit quid facturū esset, dum gravis dolor eum tenet. olim tam facetī, tam venustī erant amīcī eius ut dē tenebrīs morteque numquam solēret cōgitāre; nunc impotēns tristēs curās nōvit. “deī sī eī favissent,” poeta sibi dīxit, “sane fātum mortis frātre indignum nōn perdidisset.” sibi imperāvit ut obdurāret; tamquam flēre maluit.

perisset:	3 rd sing.	pluperfect	active	subj.
vectus est:	3 rd sing.	perfect	passive	indic.
daret:	3 rd sing.	imperfect	active	subj.
rogavit:	3 rd sing.	perfect	active	indic.
tenet:	3 rd sing.,	present	active	indicative
erant:	3 rd plural	imperfect	active	indic.
cogitare	NA,	present	active	infinitive
novit:	3 rd sing.	perfect	active	indicative
favissent:	3 rd plural	pluperfect	active	subj.
maluit:	3 rd sing.	perfect	active	indic.

1. Cum frāter Catullī in Asiā indigne perisset, ille impotēns multa per aequora vectus est ut mūnera postrēma frātrī daret. *After Catullus's brother had died undeservedly in Asia, he (Catullus), helpless was carried over many waters so that he could give the final gifts to his brother.*
2. sē rogāvit quid facturū esset, dum gravis dolor eum tenet. *He asked himself what he was going to do, while heavy sorrow held him.*
3. olim tam facetī, tam venustī erant amīcī eius ut dē tenebrīs morteque numquam solēret cōgitāre; nunc impotēns tristēs curās nōvit. *Once his friends were so clever, so elegant, that he had never been accustomed to think about darkness and death; now, helpless, he knew/understood sorrowful cares.*
4. “deī sī eī favissent,” poeta sibi dīxit, “sane fātum mortis frātre indignum nōn perdidisset.” *If the gods had favored him, the poet said to himself, indeed the fate of death would not have destroyed my undeserving brother (i.e. who didn't deserve it)*

5. sibi imperāvit ut obdurāret, tamquam flēre maluit. *He commanded himself to be strong, although he preferred to weep.*