Now that Marcus has assumed the *toga virilis*, Cornelius will begin to consider his public career. In the early Republic, boys began their training for public life when they were much younger than Marcus is now. In those days fathers took their sons with them while they carried out their public duties. This story shows that Papirius, though still wearing the *toga praetexta*, had already learned how to be discreet.


Venit ad senātum postridiē mātrōnārum caterva. Lacrimāntēs atque obscurantēs ōrāvērunt ut ūnā uxor duōs virōs habēret potius quam ut ūnus vir duās uxōrēs. Senātōrēs ingredientēs in Čuriām mīrabantur quid mātrōnāe vellent. (continued)

1. mōs, mōris, m., custom
2. posterus, -a, -um, next, following
   placuit, it was decided
   nē quis, that no one
3. ēnūntiō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus, to reveal,
   divulge
4. patrēs, patrum, m. pl., senators
   eō magis, all the more
2. āgō, agere, ēgī, āctus, to do, drive; here, to discuss, debate
   prōferō, prōferre, prōtuli, prōlātus, irreg., to carry forward, continue
7. urgeō, urgēre, ursī, to press, insist
7. dīxit āctum esse, be said that there had been a debate
6. utrum...an..., whether...or...
8. habēret, should have
   trepidāns, trepidantis, in a panic
10. caterva, -ae, f., crowd
11. potius quam, rather than

**Exercise 52a**

Respondē Latīnē:

1. Qui mōs senātōribus Rōmæ fuit?
2. Quālis rēs in senātū agēbatūr?
3. Quid senātōribus placuit?
4. Quid māter Papīriūm rogāvit?
5. Quid puer respondit?
6. Quid mulier vehementius faciēbat?
7. Quid puer prūdēns dīxit?
8. Quid māter fēcit?
Puer Papirius in medium progressus narravit quid mater audire cupivisset et quid ipse mater dixisset. Senatus fidem atque ingenium pueri laudavit ac consultum fecit ne postea pueri cum patribus in Curiam introirent praeter illum unum Papirium. Puer o 15 postea cognomen honoris causae Praetextatus datum est quod tantam prudentiam praebuerat.

14. *fidēs, fideī, f., good faith, reliability, trust*

- *ingenium, -ī, n., intelligence, ingenuity*
- *consultum, -ī, n., decree*

16. cognomen, cognominis, n., surname (third name of a Roman)

Respondē Latinē:
9. Quid Papirius senātōribus narrāvit?
10. Quod consultum senātus fecit?
11. Cūr cognomen Papirīō datum est?

**Building the Meaning**

**Impersonal Verbs**

You have seen the following impersonal verbal phrases and impersonal verbs since early in this course (for discussion, see Chapter 20):

1. **necessē est, it is necessary**
   Nōbis necessē est statim discēdere. (9:13–14)
   *To leave immediately is necessary for us.*
   *It is necessary for us to leave immediately.*

2. **licet, licēre, licuit + dat., it is allowed**
   Vōbis licet hic cēnāre. (cf. 20:8)
   *To dine here is allowed for you.*
   *It is allowed for you to dine here.*
   *You are allowed to dine here.*
   *You may dine here.*

The underlined infinitives are the subjects of the impersonals, but other translations, as suggested above, make better English.

You have seen licet used in the infinitive in an indirect statement:

Puer tamen respondit non licēre eam rem enuntiāre. (52:4)
*The boy, however, replied that it was not allowed to reveal that matter.*
Here is another verb that may be used impersonally:

3. *placeō, placēre, placui + dat.*, *to please*

This verb can be used with a noun as its subject:

Placuit ne tibi cēna, Gaï? (34h:3)
Did the dinner please you, Gaïus?
Did you like the dinner, Gaïus?

Or it may be used with an impersonal subject (expressed or unexpressed):

"Quintus Valerius vult tē in mātrimōnium dūcere, id quod nōbīs placet.
Placet tibi, Cornēlia?" "Mihi quoque placet," respondit. (50:17–21)
"Quintus Valerius wishes to marry you, (that) which is pleasing to us. Is it pleasing to you, Cornelia?" "It is also pleasing to me," she replied.

This verb is often used impersonally in the perfect tense, meaning not *it pleased* but *it was decided*, with a clause in the subjunctive as its subject:

Placuit nē quis eam rem ēnūntiāret. (52:2–3)
*That no one should reveal this matter was decided.*
*It was decided that no one should reveal this matter.*

You have seen these other impersonal verbs:

4. *decent, decēre, decuiit, it is right, proper, fitting*

Nōn decent patrem déspondère filiam ēnsca mātre. (50:15–16)
*That a father betroth his daughter without the mother knowing is not fitting.*
*It is not fitting that a father betroth his daughter without the mother knowing.*
*It is not fitting for a father to betroth his daughter without the mother knowing.*

Here the accusative and infinitive construction serves as the subject of the impersonal verb.

5. *oportet, oportēre, oportuit, it is right, fitting; ought*

Festināre tē oportet. (50:9)
*That you hurry is right/fitting.*
*It is right/fitting that you hurry.*
*You ought to hurry.*

6. *taedet, taedēre, taesum est, boredom with/ weariness of something (gen.) affects one (acc.), one is bored with/ weary of something*

Nota: the perfect tense form is passive in form but active in meaning.

Mē taedet sōlitūdinis. (50:2)
*Boredom with/ Weariness of solitude affects me.*
*I am bored with/ weary of solitude.*
EXERCISE 52b
Read aloud and translate:

1. Papirio non licuit rem enuntiare.
2. Papirii responsum matris non placuit.
3. Papirio tamen necesse erat rem celare.
4. Pueri non decuit rem matris enuntiare.
5. Papirium matris interrogatioinis taesum est.
7. Papirio placuit ut aliam rem matris narraret.

interrogatioi, interrogatioinis, f., questioning

EXERCISE 52c
Read aloud and identify the type of subordinate clause in each sentence. 
Then translate:

1. Senatores Papirio imperaverrunt ne rem enuntiaret.
2. Mater Papirii rogavit filium quid a senatoribus actu esset.
3. Puer respondit se eam rem non enuntiaturum esse.
4. Silentium pueri matrem adeo incitat vivere vehementius quaeret.
5. Cum mater responsum audivisset, domo egressa est.
7. Trepidantes oraverrunt ut una uxor duos viros habet potius quam ut unus vir duas uxores.
8. Senatores mirabantur cur matronae hoc dicere.
10. Ingenium pueri senatores adeo dextervivere ut eis cognomen dederint.

mœs maiorum literally, “the custom of the ancestors,” inherited custom, tradition
mœs pro lege A long-established custom has the force of law.
mœre suo in one’s own way
nullum more without precedent, unparalleled

Mœribus antiquis res stat Rœmœna virisque. On customs and men of olden times the Roman state stands firm. (Ennius)
Ö tempora! Ö mœrœs! How times and customs have changed!
(Cicero, Orations against Catiline 1.2)