

2020 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Advanced Prose--Male Character

Scaevola Defies Lars Porsenna

Inter tantās fortūnae minās metuendus magis quam metuēns, “Rōmānus sum” inquit, “cīvis; C. Mūcium vocant. Hostis hostem occīdere voluī, nec ad mortem minus animī est, quam fuit ad caedem; et facere et patī fortia Rōmānum est. Nec ūnus in tē ego hōs animōs gessī; longus post mē ōrdō est idem petentium decus. ... Hoc tibi iuventūs Rōmāna indīcimus bellum. Nūllam aciem, nūllum proelium timueris; ūnī tibi et cum singulīs rēs erit.” Cum rēx simul Trā Infēnsus periculōque conterritus circumdārī ignēs minitābundus iubēret nisi exprōmeret properē quās Insidiārum sibi minās per ambāgēs iacēret, “En tibi” inquit, “ut sentiās quam vīle corpus sit iīs quī magnam glōriam vident”; dextramque accēnsō ad sacrificium foculō inicit.

Livy, *Ab Urbe Conditā*, II.12

A man to be feared more than fearing among such great threats of fortune, he said, “I am a Roman citizen; they call me Gaius Mucius. As an enemy I wanted to kill my foe, and I do not have less spirit for death than I had for murder; it is a Roman trait to do and to suffer brave actions. And I have not been alone to bring this determined spirit against you; there is a long line behind me of others seeking the same glory. ... We, the young men of Rome, declare this war against you. Fear no battle line, fear no battle; this goal will rest with individual Romans who are out for you alone.” When the king, at the same time inflamed by anger, terrified by danger, and full of threats, ordered fires to be set around (Mucius) if he did not quickly reveal what threats and plots were lying mysteriously in wait for him, (Mucius) said, “Look! This is for you, so you may realize how worthless the body is for those who see great glory;” he cast his right hand into the hearth which had been lit for his sacrifice.”