

READING 29 (adapted) Cicero writes a remorseful letter from exile to his beloved wife, Terentia, who had to bring up their son, look after their 20-year-old daughter, and manage Cicero's estate and affairs in his absence, as well as work for his return. He blames himself for putting his wife and children in this situation and says he wishes he had followed another course.

Accēpī ab Aristocritō trēs epistulās, quās ego lacrimīs prope dēlēvī. cōnficior enim maerōre, mea Terentia, nec meae mē miseriae magis excruciant quam tuae vestraeque.

Ego autem hōc miserior sum quam tū, quae es miserrima, quod ipsa **calamitās** commūnis est utrīusque nostrum, sed culpa mea propria est. Meum fuit officium vel lēgātiōne vitāre perīculum vel **diligentiā** et cōpiīs resistere vel cadere fortiter. Hōc miserius, turpius, indignius nōbīs nihil fuit. quārē cum dolōre cōnficior tum etiam pudōre; pudet enim mē uxōrī meae optimae, suāvissimīs liberīs virtūtem et diligentiam nōn praestitisse Tū modo ad mē omnia diligentissimē scrībe; etsī magis iam rem quam litterās dēbeō spectāre. Curā et tibi persuadē, mihi tē cārius nihil esse nec umquam fuisse. Valē, mea Terentia, quam ego vidēre videor itaque dēbilitor lacrimīs.

Valē.

Vocabulary:

Aristocritus, -ī <i>m.</i>	Aristocritus, a friend of Cicero	pudor, -ōris <i>m.</i>	shame
prope (adv.)	nearly	pudeō, -ēre	to cause shame (with acc. + subjective infinitive)
maeror, -ōris <i>m.</i>	grief, sorrow	suāvis, -e	sweet, delightful
miseria, -ae <i>f.</i>	misery, distress	praestō, -āre, -stitī	to distinguish oneself (to someone – dat., in some way – abl.)
excruciō, -āre	to torture	exspectō, -āre	to hope for
calamitās, -tātis <i>f.</i>	disaster, damage	diligentissimē (adv.)	very carefully, in greatest detail
proprius, -a, -um	one's own	etsī (conj.)	although
officium, -iī <i>n.</i>	duty	umquam (adv.)	ever
vel ... vel ... vel	either ... or ... or	dēbilitō, -āre	to disable, weaken
lēgātiō, -iōnis <i>f.</i>	post of ambassador		
diligentia, -ae <i>f.</i>	careful management		
quārē (conj.)	therefore		