

**READING 38** *In 63 B.C. Catiline attempted to overthrow the Roman government, a plot which included the assassination of the consul, Cicero. Catiline's plans were discovered, and Cicero hastily summoned the senators to a meeting at which Catiline himself was present. In the following excerpt Cicero expresses surprise that Catiline would choose to remain in Rome where he is hated and feared by so many.*

Servī mehercule meī sī mē metuerent, ut tē metuunt omnēs cīvēs tuī, domum meam relinquere dēbere mē putārem; tū urbem [relinquere dēbere tē] nōn arbitrāris? et, sī mē meis cīvibus indignē suspectum tam grāviter atque offensum [esse] vidērem, carēre mē aspectū cīvium quam īfestis omnium oculis cōspicī māllem; tū, cum conscientiā scelerum tuōrum agnōscās odium omnium [esse] iūstum et iam diū tibi dēbitum, dubitās, quōrum mentēs sēnsūsque vulnerās, eōrum aspectum praesentiamque vītāre? Sī tē parentēs timērent atque ōdissent tuī neque eōs ūllā ratiōne plācāre possēs, ut opinor, ab eōrum oculis aliquō [locō] concēderes. Nunc tē patria, quae communis est parens omnium nostrum, ōdit ac metuit et iam diū nihil tē iūdicat nisi dē parricidiō suō cōgitāre; huius tū neque auctoritātem verebere nec iūdicium sequere nec vim pertimēscēs?

*Vocabulary:*

mehercule	“by Hercules!”	praesentia, -ae <i>f.</i>	presence
ut (+ indic.)	as	parēns, -ntis <i>m.</i> or <i>f.</i>	parent
indignē (adv.)	undeservedly	plācō, -āre	to appease, reconcile (with)
suspectus, -a, -um	suspected, mistrusted	opīnor, -ārī	to think, believe
offensus, -a, -um	offensive, odious	parricīdium, -iī <i>n.</i>	murder of a parent
aspectus, -ūs <i>m.</i>	sight	auctoritās, -tātis <i>f.</i>	authority
īfestus, -a, -um	hostile	pertimēscō, -ere	to fear greatly
conscientia, -ae <i>f.</i>	knowledge, consciousness		
agnōscō, -ere	to recognize		