

CICERO, *PRO ARCHIA* 28:
AD PERFICIENDUM †ADORTAVI

Nam quas res nos in consulatu nostro vobiscum simul pro salute huius urbis atque imperi et pro vita civium proque universa re publica gessimus, attigit hic versibus atque inchoavit. Quibus auditis, quod mihi magna res et iucunda visa est, hunc ad perficiendum † adortavi.

In this note I suggest that the corrupted *adortavi* in the text of *Pro Archia* 28 should be emended to *coepi adhortari*. The following arguments can be cited in support of my suggestion:

(i) It is clear from the stemma of Kasten's edition that the reading *adortavi* was present in the archetype of the known MSS.¹ The reading of E – *adhortatus sum* – seems a scribal emendation.² Most philologists have searched, quite reasonably, for a solution that would take into account the paradosis and would thus be able to explain the process of corruption (*adornavi* Klotz, *adoptavi* Kasten, *adhortari non destiti* Busche). My proposal fulfils this requirement.

(ii) Cicero often combines *coepi* with infinitives of verbs meaning 'encourage', 'incite', 'solicit', 'request', cf. *Luc.* 63 *Hortensius autem vehementer admirans ... me quoque ... coepit hortari, ut sententia desisterem*; *Verr.* 2.90 *hortari homines coepit, ut aliquid Sthenio periculi crearent criminisque confingerent*; *Verr.* 2.94 *Agathinum, novum adfinem atque hospitem, coepit hortari*; *Clu.* 47 *cuius servum Diogenem Fabricius ad venenum Habito dandum ... sollicitare coepit*; cf. also *Verr.* 2.47, 4.66, 4.149; *Clu.* 144; *Fam.* 11.13.3. The first three cases are particularly striking, since *coepi* is combined with *hortari*.

(iii) *coepi adhortari* gives a good and expected sense. Since *coepi* in this expression is phraseological, the phrase is equivalent in meaning to *adhortatus sum*. A similar meaning is offered by Busche's emendation – *adhortari non destiti* – but it is not as strongly supported by Ciceronian usage.

(iv) Finally, *coepi adhortari* gives a regular Ciceronian clausula – cretic + spondee.³

That being so, I suggest printing the passage as follows:

Nam quas res nos in consulatu nostro vobiscum simul pro salute huius urbis atque imperi et pro vita civium proque universa re publica gessimus, attigit hic versibus atque inchoavit. Quibus auditis, quod mihi magna res et iucunda visa est, hunc ad perficiendum coepi adhortari.

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¹ Cicero, *Scripta quae manserunt omnia*, fasc. 19, ed. H. Kasten (Leipzig 1966), XI.

² Another argument for rejecting this reading is that it forms a clausula alien to the Ciceronian use (bacchius plus trochee), as was observed by K. Rzepkowski, 'Pro Archia § 28. Colometry and textual criticism', *AAntHung* 47 (2007), 341–8, at 347. The author suggests reading *sum adhortatus*, on the basis of rhythmical considerations, but the way of corruption would then be hardly explainable.

³ Cf. Quint. *Inst.* 9.4.97 quoting Cic. *Cael.* 31 *criminis causa*. Cf. also an identical clausula in Cic. *Off.* 1.35 *ipse adhortari*.