



LATIN FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM, Level 1

LATIN STORY TO ACCOMPANY CHAPTER 4

This short story tells of Mithridates VI, the Persian king, who, following the poisoning of his father, attempted to make himself immune to all poisons by ingesting many different types. In doing so, he created the so-called *mithridatium*, a combination of poisons that was a supposed antidote. Mithridates waged war against the Romans on three separate occasions before meeting his death at the hands of his own men.



This medal was produced by the Swiss firm Jean Dasser & Sons between 1740 and 1750. It depicts the suicide of Mithridates. As an enemy soldier approaches, Mithridates takes his own life with a sword as a cup of ineffective poison lies at his feet. While many accounts of Mithridates's death suggest that he was killed by his bodyguard, the scene depicted here tells a different story. Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. <http://www.cngcoins.com>. Wikimedia Commons. Creative Commons 2.5.

MITHRIDATĒS

1 In castrīs *Persicīs* est praeclārus rēx, Mithridātēs. Multa venēna *bibit*. Itaque Mithridātēs praemium magnum habet; venēnō nōn *moritur*.

Mithridātēs rēx *Persicus* est. *Gerit* multa bella *contrā* Rōmānōs. Mithridātēs bene iubet virōs. Rēx magnus est, sed nōn iūstus. *Gerit* bellum *contrā* Sullam, *ducem* Rōmānum.

5 *Gerit* bellum *contrā* Lucullum, *ducem* Rōmānum. Deinde *gerit* bellum *contrā* Pompeium, *ducem* Rōmānum. Virī *Persicī* bellum habēre *nōlunt*.



Posteā filius Mithridātis, Pharnacēs, timet. Pharnacēs bellum contrā Rōmānōs habēre nōn *vult*. Rōmānī virī armātī et magnī sunt. Pompeius *dux* magnus Rōmānus est. Pharnacēs et virī Persicī *sēcēdunt*, sed Mithridātēs dolum videt. Mithridātēs virōs in
 10 vinculīs tenet sed nōn filium, Pharnacem.

Deinde Pharnacēs in castra Rōmāna intrat et iubet virōs Rōmānōs *rēgem* malum in vinculīs tenēre.

Mithridātēs filium timet et ē castrīs *fugit*. Rēx nōn debet in vinculīs *tenērī*. Mithridātēs venēnum bibit sed nōn moritur. Mithridātēs nōn venēnō sed *gladiō* moritur.

VOCABULA NOVA

bibit – drinks

contrā (*adv.*) – against

ducem, *m.* (*direct object*) – leader

dux, *m.* – leader

fugit – flees

gerit bellum – wages war

gladiō – by a/the sword

moritur – dies

nōlunt – do not want

Persicus, *-a, -um* – Persian

rēgem, *m.* (*direct object*) – king

rēx, *m.* – king

sēcēdunt – rebel, revolt

tenērī – to be held

vult – wants