

C. Plinius Marcellino Suo S.: letter salutation: the name of the sender in the nominative, the addressee in the dative (often with **suo** or **suae**), and the abbreviation **S.** or **S. D.**: *salutem* (or *salutem dicit*). The identity of Marcellinus is in doubt. He may be Aefulanus Marcellinus, the recipient of letter 8.23, also relating to a death.

1 **tristis**, -e *sad*. **Fundanus**, -i m. C. Minicius Fundanus, a friend of Pliny who became consul and later proconsul of Asia. He was a student of philosophy and a friend of Plutarch. **filia minore defuncta**: abl. of cause with **tristissimus**. **defungor**, -i, -functus/a sum *finish, die*. **qua puella**: abl. of comparison, translate “than.” Latin often begins a sentence with a relative pronoun or adjective to connect the new thought to the previous one. See below (6). **festivus**, -a, -um *lively, jolly, jovial*. **non modo...sed** *not only...but (also/even)*. **prope** (adv.) *nearly, practically*.

2 **nondum** *not yet*. **impleo**, -ere, -evi, -etum *fill, complete*. **anilis**, -e (cf. **senilis**) *of/suitable to an old woman*. **matronalis**, -e *of or suitable to a matrona*. **verecundia**, -ae f. *modesty, bashfulness, shyness*.

3 **ut** *how*. **cervix**, -icis f. *neck, shoulders* (often in pl.). **inhaereo**, -ere, -haesi, -haesum *hang on, cling to*. **complector**, -i, complexus/a sum *embrace*. **nutrix**, -icis f. *nurse, nanny*. **paedagogus**, -i m. *personal slave* who accompanied a child, *minder*. **praeceptor**, -oris m. *teacher*. She would have had private tutors for grammar school. Some of the philosophers of this time, notably Musonius Rufus and perhaps Plutarch, favored equal education for women. **pro for**. **diligere**, -ere, -lexi, -lectum *cherish, love, prize*. **lectito** (1) frequentative of **lego**, *read* (a frequentative is a verb derived usually from the supine stem of another verb to show intensity or repetition of action), thus *read often, eagerly, or assiduously*. **parce** (adv.) *sparingly*. **custodite** (adv.) *cautiously, with reserve*. **ludo**, -ere, lusi, lusum *play, frolic*. **qua...qua...qua**: ablative; anaphora – repetition for emotional effect. **illa**: nominative, referring to Fundanus’ daughter, whose name is not given, but would have been Minicia after her father’s *nomen*, and, since she is the younger daughter, she might be called Minicia Minor. Because of the custom of naming girls from their father’s *gens* name (cf. *Tullia, Julia, Cornelia*), there is no need to mention her name, although a second name (*Marcella*) is known from her epitaph (see illustration at right). Her urn and epitaph were found in the family tomb (ILS 1030): **D. M. Miniciae Marcellae Fundani f(iliae). v(ixit) a(nnos) xii m(enses) xi d(ies) vii**. **D.M.** = *Dis Manibus (to the dear departed, lit. “to the divine shades”)*. It is common to include months and even days when a very young person dies. There is a slight discrepancy between her age (not quite thirteen) and the age Pliny ascribes to her. **temperantia**, -ae f. *self-control, discretion*. **constantia**, -ae f. *perseverance, firmness*. **novissimus**: superlative of **novus**, -a, -um *new*; in superlative *most recent, last*. **valetudo**, -tudinis f. *health, often ill-health*.

4 **obsequor**, -i, -secutus/a sum *comply, yield/submit to* (+ dat.). **adhortor** (1, depon.) *encourage*. **destitutam** < destituo, -ere, -ui, -utum *forsake, defraud*. **viribus** < vir. **corporis viribus vigore animi**: N.B. the word order, thought of as forming an X (or *chi*), called *chiasmus*: $\begin{matrix} \text{corporis} & & & & \\ & \text{viribus} & \text{X} & \text{vigore} & \\ & & & & \text{animi} \end{matrix}$.

C. Plinius Caecilius Secundus (minor), Epistulae 5.16



In this letter (dated to the first decade of the 2nd century CE), Pliny the Younger writes to a friend about the tragic death of a young girl, the daughter of Fundanus. Pliny shows great affection for this modest, mature, brave girl who took such joy in living and learning. Already at 13 she displayed the virtues admired in grown women and was engaged to a fine young man (*egregius iuvenis*, 6). He offers a lively picture of a young woman in the contentment of her family life, studying, playing, socializing with adults, then falling ill and dying. Pliny is sensitive to a father’s sorrow, admonishing Marcellinus not to underestimate the father’s loss and grief.

C. PLINIUS MARCELLINO SUO S.

(1) *Tristissimus haec tibi scribo, Fundani nostri filia minore defuncta. Qua puella nihil umquam festivius amabilius, nec modo longiore vita sed prope immortalitate dignius vidi.* (2) *Nondum annos xiiii [quattuordecim] impleverat, et iam illi anilis prudentia, matronalis gravitas erat et tamen suavitas puellaris cum virginali verecundia.* (3) *Ut illa patris cervicibus inhaerebat! ut nos amicos paternos et amanter et modeste complectebatur! ut nutrices, ut paedagogos, ut praeceptores pro suo quemque officio diligebat! quam studiose, quam intellegenter lectitabat! ut parce custoditeque ludebat! Qua illa temperantia, qua patientia, qua etiam constantia novissimam valetudinem tulit!* (4) *Medicis obsequabatur, sororem patrem adhortabatur ipsamque se destitutam corporis viribus vigore animi sustinebat.*

- 5 **duro** (1) *make hard, harden, persevere, hold out*. **hic** refers to **vigor animi** (in 4). **illi**: dative of reference (translate *for*) referring to young Minicia. **usque ad** *right up to*. **spatium**, -i n. *extent, length*. **infractus** < **infringo** *break, weaken*. **quo = ut eo**: here introducing a relative clause of result.
- 6 **funus**, -eris n. *death*. **indignius** *more cruel* (with abl. of comparison). **destino** (1) *assign; engage, betroth*. **egregius**, -a, -um *outstanding*. **nuptiae**, -arum f. pl. *wedding*. **vocati** [**sumus**]: i.e. the invitations had already been sent out. **quod**: Latin sentences often begin with a relative pronoun; translate “and this.” **maeror**, -oris m. *grief, mourning*.
- 7 **exprimo**, -ere, -pressi, -pressum *squeeze out, express*. **acceperim** < **accipio** (**ad** + **capio**: note vowel reduction after a prefix in compound verbs). What use of the subjunctive does **quantum** introduce? Notice how the word order, **quantum animo vulnus**, shows his grief overwhelming his spirit. **ut multa luctuosa**: **ut** with **multa**, *how*. **multa luctuosa** object of **invenit**. **luctuosus**, -a, -um *causing sorrow, distressing*. **praecipio** (**prae** + **capio**), -ere, -cepi, -ceptum *take beforehand, figure out beforehand, direct*. **margaritum**, -i n. *pearl*. **vestes margarita gemmas**: asyndeton, lack of conjunctions. **quod**: the antecedent is **hoc**. **fuerat erogaturus**: “he had been about to spend”; future active periphrastic. **erogo** (1) *pay out, expend*. **tus**, turis n. *frankincense* (an aromatic gum used in funeral rites, religious ceremonies and in medicine). **unguentum**, -i n. *ointment*. **tus et unguenta et odores**: an example of polysyndeton, overuse of conjunctions. The first three items were bought for a joyous event; the latter three are bought later for her burial. **impendo**, -ere, -pendi, -pensum *pay out, disburse*.
- 8 **eruditus**, -a, -um *educated*. **ut qui...dederit**: relative clause of characteristic implying cause (“since he is the kind of person who”). **ab ineunte aetate** *from early youth*. **ineo**, -ire, -ii/ivi, -itum *enter, go/come in*. **aspensor** (1, depon.) *reject, disdain*. **expulsis virtutibus**: ablative absolute. **pietatis est totus**: **totus** with the genitive indicates the involvement of the subject; **pietas**, -atis f. here refers to *fatherly affection or devotion*.
- 9 **ignosco**, -ere, -novi, -notum *forgive, make allowances for*. **ignosces...cogitaveris**: future more vivid condition. **refero**, -ferre, -tuli, -latum *recall, reproduce*. **exscribo**, -ere, -scripsi, -scriptum *make a perfect copy of*.
- 10 **proinde** (adv.) *therefore, consequently*. **si quas**: “After **si**, **nisi**, **num**, and **ne**, ‘ali-’ goes on holiday” (i.e., **quis**, **quid** instead of **aliquis** after these particles). **memento**: imperative of **memini** *remember*. **solacium**, -i n. *comfort*. **castigatorius**, -a, -um *full of reproach/reproof, censorious*. Since Fundanus was a Stoic, Marcellinus might have expected him to bear his grief without show of emotion. **mollis**, -e *gentle, soft*.
- 11 **ut...sic** *just as...so*; a simile comparing grief to an open wound. **crudus**, -a, um *bleeding, raw*. **medens**, -entis m. *doctor*. **reformido** (1) *shun, draw back from in fear*. **ultra** (adv.) *of one’s own will, voluntarily*. **mox** (adv.) *soon, later on*. **admotus**, -a, -um *approach, apply* (as medicines). **vale**: the typical formula for closing a letter.

Plinius minor, Epistulae 5.16 (continued)

- (5) Duravit hic illi usque ad extremum, nec aut spatio valetudinis aut metu mortis infractus est, quo plures gravioresque nobis causas relinqueret et desiderii et doloris.
- (6) O triste plane acerbumque funus! o morte ipsa mortis tempus indignius! iam destinata erat egregio iuveni, iam electus nuptiarum dies, iam nos vocati. Quod gaudium quo maerore mutatum est!
- (7) Non possum exprimere verbis quantum animo vulnus acceperim, cum audiivi Fundanum ipsum--ut multa luctuosa dolor invenit--praecipientem, quod in vestes margarita gemmas fuerat erogaturus, hoc in tus et unguenta et odores impenderetur.
- (8) Est quidem ille eruditus et sapiens, ut qui se ab ineunte aetate altioribus studiis artibusque dediderit; sed nunc omnia, quae audiit saepe quae dixit, aspernatur expulsisque virtutibus aliis pietatis est totus.
- (9) Ignosces, laudabis etiam, si cogitaveris quid amiserit. Amisit enim filiam, quae non minus mores eius quam os vultumque referebat, totumque patrem mira similitudine exscripsit.
- (10) Proinde si quas ad eum de dolore tam iusto litteras mittes, memento adhibere solacium non quasi castigatorium et nimis forte, sed molle et humanum. Quod ut facilius admittat, multum faciet medii temporis spatium.
- (11) Ut enim crudum adhuc vulnus medentium manus reformidat, deinde patitur atque ultra requirit, sic recens animi dolor consolationes reicit ac refugit, mox desiderat et clementer admotis acquiescit. Vale.