

6.16

Natio est omnis Gallorum admodum dedita religionibus, atque ob eam causam, qui sunt adfecti gravioribus morbis quique in proeliis periculisque versantur, aut pro victimis homines immolant aut se immolatuos vovent administrisque ad ea sacrificia druidibus utuntur, quod, pro vita hominis nisi hominis vita reddatur, non posse deorum immortalium numen placari arbitrantur, publiceque eiusdem generis habent instituta sacrificia. Alii immani magnitudine simulacra habent, quorum contexta viminibus membra vivis hominibus complent; quibus succensis circumventi flamma exanimantur homines. Supplicia eorum qui in furto aut in latrocinio aut aliqua noxia sint comprehensi gratiora dis immortalibus esse arbitrantur; sed, cum eius generis copia defecit, etiam ad innocentium supplicia descendunt.

natio, nationis - nation

omnis – nom. sing. goes with natio

dedita [est] dedo, dedere, dedidi, deditum – dedicate, give up, surrender, devote

admodum – very much, very

ob eam causam – for this reason

qui – [illi] qui those who...

adfacio, adfacere, adfeci, adfectum – afflict, affect; do to, treat

grav-ior-ibus – comparative (review comparatives) – gravis, grave – serious

morbis, morbi – disease

quique – the -que is joining the two relative clauses - and those who

verso, -are, -avi, -atum – in the passive treat as a deponent verb – be engaged in

aut ...aut – either (this starts the main clause)

pro – on behalf of, in place of

victima, -ae – sacrificial animal

homines – direct object of immolant

immolo, -are, -avi, -atum – sacrifice

oveo, ovare, ovi, votum – vow

se [esse] immolatuos – (review infinitive forms) – indirect statement (review that too)

administer, administri – priest, attendant (supply the word *as*)

-que - again this joins the two clauses – and

ad – at

uto, uti, usu sum, usus – use (one of the 5 deponent verbs that takes the ablative – do you know the other 4)

quod – because nisi – unless

reddo, reddere, reddid, redditum – return, repay, restore, give back

The order of the clause reads like this: quod nisi vita hominis reddatur pro vitā hominis...

posse – possum, posse, potui

numen, numinis – divinity, divine force, divine will

placari – (placo, placare, placavi, placatum) – appease, placate (passive present infinitive – did you review these yet???)

arbitro, arbitrari, arbitratum sum, arbitratum – think

publice – publicly (nota bene: you can change a 1-2 declension adjective into an adverb by getting the base and then adding -e. Examples: malus \Rightarrow male – badly / latus \Rightarrow late - widely

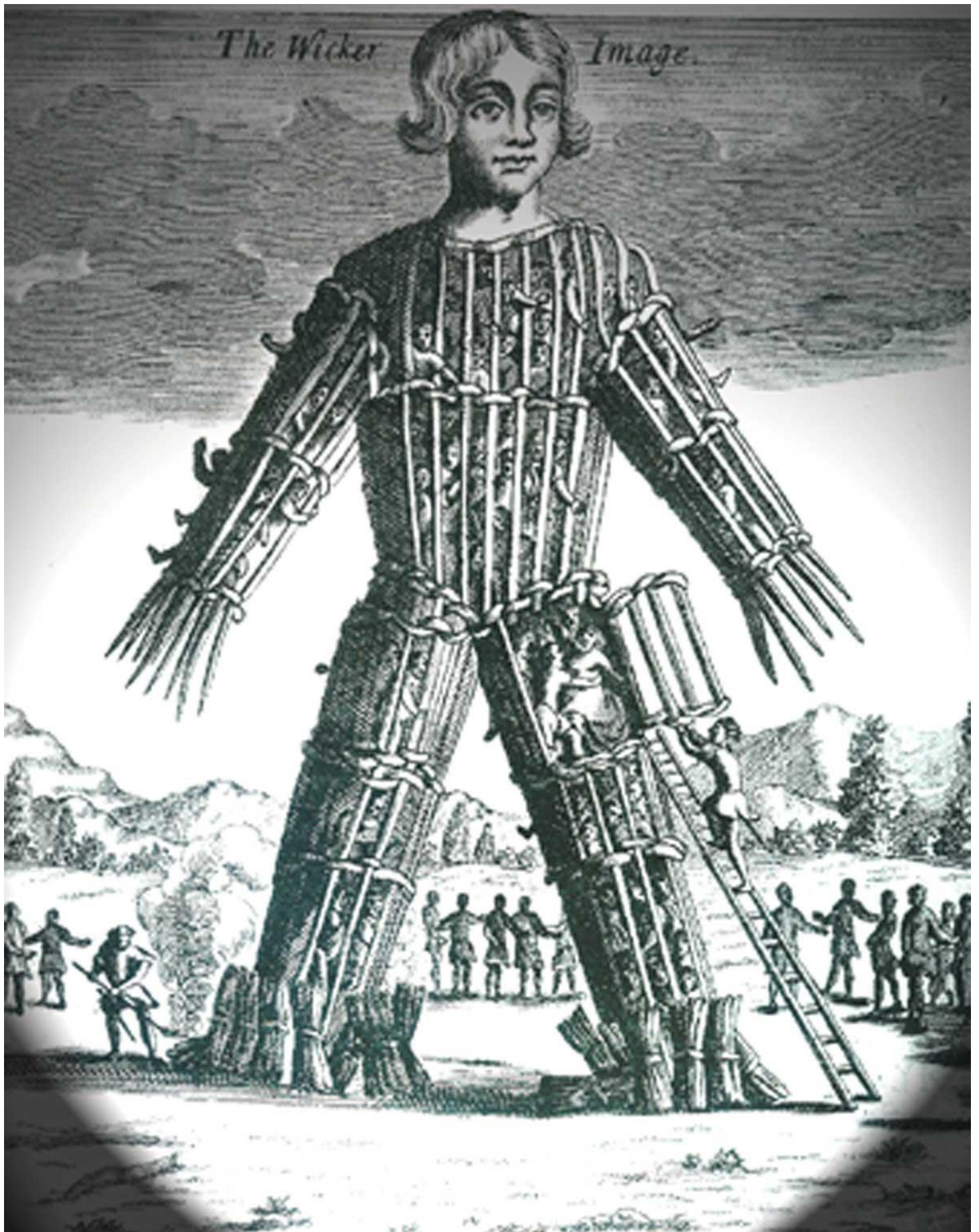
eiusdem generis - of the the same kind

habent instituta – they have established
 sacrificium, i – sacrifice
 alius, -a, -um – other
 immanis, immane – huge, immense
 magnitudo, magnitudinis – size immani magnitudine (ablative of description)
 simulacrum, simulacri – statue, image
 contexta – contexo, contexere, contexui, contextum – weave
 membrum, -i - limb (here the d.o.)
 vimen, viminis, n. – wicker
 vivus, -a, -um – alive, living
 compleo, complere, complui, completum – fill up, complete, cover
 quibus successis = et eis (simulacribus) succensis – ablative absolute – when these statues have
 been set on fire
 succendo, succendere, succendi, succensum – set fire below, kindle, burn
 circumvenio, circum venire, circumveni, circumventum – surround
 circumventi (participle modifying homines) – having been surrounded
 flamma, -ae – flame – ablative of means
 exanimo, -are, -avi, -atum – suffocate, render breathless, deprive of breath, exhaust; kill
 supplicum, -i – punishment
 furtum, -i – theft
 latrocinum, -i – robbery
 aliqua – (aliquis) – some
 noxia, -ae – crime, offense (from noceo, nocere -to do harm)
 sint comphrensis – subjunctive perfect passive (review these too) comphrendo, -ere,
 comphrendi, comphrensus – seize, capture
 gratiora – comparative – goes with supplica gratus, -a, -um – pleasing
 dis immortalibus – (dative) the immortal gods
 esse arbitantur – indirect statement (the subject of esse is supplica – *they believe the
 punishments of... are more pleasing...*)
 cum – temporal cum clause – when
 copia, copiae – an abundance
 defici, deficere, defeci, defectum – be insufficient, fail
 etiam – also
 descendo, descendere, descendi, descensum – resort to, climb down to, descend, go down
 innocens, innocentis - innocent

Here is the note from the text I am using.

How believable is it that Druids oversaw executions and sacrifices, in which human beings
 were enclosed in large wickerwork structures in human shape (simulacra) and burnt alive?
 When we execute criminals, we no longer allow large audiences, but, in previous centuries,
 public hangings were attended by large crowds. The Romans, of course, put on games before
 crowds where condemned criminals fought to the death or were killed by wild animals. “Human
 sacrifice”, on the other hand, was considered barbaric, even by the Romans.

p. 165 *Caesar Selections from his Commentarii De Bello Gallico Text.Notes.Vocabulary* by
 Hans-Friedrich Meuller



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