

Roman law: the art of the fair and good?

Women and the law: The laudatio Turiae



... You became an orphan suddenly before the day of our wedding, when both your parents were murdered together in the solitude of the countryside. **It was mainly due to your efforts that the death of your parents was not left unavenged.** For I had left for Macedonia, and your sister's husband Cluvius had gone to the Province of Africa ...

Laudatio Turiae, 1st century BC, Museo Nazionale, Rome .

This is a part of the **laudatio Turiae**, a tombstone on which is carved a eulogy from a husband to his dead wife (Turia). These kinds of inscriptions generally praise the virtuous life that the deceased has led. For many women, including the early part of the Turia inscription, there is a great emphasis on their role as mothers and wives, housekeepers and wool-workers. This part of the laudatio however, praises Turia for something quite different; avenging the death of her parents.

How do you think Turia might have 'avenged' the death of her parents?

Do you think that if her husband had not been in Macedonia and her sister's husband had not been in Africa, Turia would have avenged her parents death?

Does the fact the inscription is on a tombstone change your interpretation of the story at all?