

The name Cossus appears three times in Juvenal.¹ The Cossus of 3,184 is a rich *patronus*:

quid das, ut Cossum aliquando salutes,
ut te respiciat clauso Veiento labello?²

In 8,21 the name appears as a touchstone for nobility of character:

Paullus vel Cossus vel Drusus moribus esto.³

There is no reason to wonder at the choice of the name in either passage. In the early Republic the Cossi were an illustrious family of the ancient *gens Cornelia*; a number of them had particularly distinguished careers in the fifth and fourth centuries (one, A. Cornelius Cossus, *R.-E.*, no. 112, took the *spolia opima* in 428).⁴ Though the family's glory then seems to have waned, the name Cossus was revived as a praenomen among the Cornelii Lentuli in the early empire. The splendor of this family is well attested; to Cicero (*Fam.*, III, 7, 5) *Lentulitas* represented the epitome of high birth.

The first Lentulus to bear the name Cossus seems to have been Cossus Cornelius Cn. f. Lentulus (*P. I. R.*,² C1380: Groag supposes that Cossus did not himself assume the agnomen *Gaetulicus*, but bestowed it upon one of his sons), cos. 1 B. C.,

¹ I follow Knoche and Clausen in rejecting the vulgate *Cossus* at 7, 144.

² Any notion that Cossus might be a *delator* or at least a powerful and potentially harmful noble like Veiento must be ruled out, as that would spoil the thrust of the satirist in *clauso . . . labello*. Cossus must be quite the opposite of Veiento for proper effect here: "What do you pay to assure the good will of a Cossus? / Or to avoid the ill will of a Veiento?"

³ Compare Sen., *Clem.*, I, 9, 10: *Cedo, si spes tuas solus impedio, Paullusne te, et Fabius Maximus, et Cossi, et Servilii ferent, tantumque agmen nobilium, non inania nomina praeferentium, sed eorum qui imaginibus suis decori sunt.*

⁴ See *M. R. R.*, II, p. 551; *R.-E.*, s. v. "Cossus" and "Cornelius", nos. 111 ff.

victor over the Gaetuli in A. D. 6, a man of affluence,⁵ and undoubtedly known to every educated member of Juvenal's audience. This Cossus had two sons who also attained consular rank: Cossus Cornelius Cossi f. Lentulus (*P. I. R.*,² C1381), cos. A. D. 25 (*Tac., Ann.*, IV, 34, 1), and Cn. Cornelius Cossi f. Lentulus Gaetulicus (*P. I. R.*,² C1390), cos. A. D. 26 (*Tac., Ann.*, IV, 42, 3 and 46, 1), the latter so popular that Tiberius felt constrained to leave him, alone of the *adfines Seiani*, untouched (*Tac., Ann.*, VI, 30, 2-7).⁶ The son of the consul of 25, Cossus Cornelius Lentulus (*P. I. R.*,² C1382), held that office himself in 60 (*Tac., Ann.*, XIV, 20, 1); his cousin, the son of the consul of 26, Cossus Cornelius Lentulus Gaetulicus (*P. I. R.*,² C1392), was probably the father of the Cornelia selected *ex familia Cossorum* as a Vestal Virgin in 62 (*Tac., Ann.*, XV, 22, 4). In fact, there is no record of a black sheep among the Cossi. What Juvenal must have intended when he chose the name was Cossus as a type: a man of position, venerable lineage, wealth, and high moral character.

This brings us then to the apparent anomaly of Juvenal, 10, 201 f. In treating the folly of the wish for long life, the satirist describes the physical changes that attend old age (198 ff.): "All old men look the same. Their limbs tremble, and so do their voices. An old man has no hair; his nose—he's just like a baby!—is always running; he has to break his bread with toothless gums":

usque adeo gravis uxori natisque sibi,
ut captatori moveat fastidia Cosso.

Here *gravis* modifies *senis*, understood as subject of *moveat*, after *senum* in 198. This presents no difficulty, though an expressed subject would be helpful at this point. From what is known of the Cossi, and because of Juvenal's feeling for the name in earlier Satires, I propose that he did in fact put in a subject:

usque adeo gravis uxori natisque sibi,
ut captatori moveat fastidia Cossus.

⁵ Dio, *ind.* LV, and LV, 28, 3 f.; Vell., II, 116, 2; his father was probably Cn. Cornelius Lentulus, cos. 18 B. C. (*P. I. R.*,² C1378).

⁶ Though this leniency might have been partly a result of Tiberius' friendship with his father: cf. Crook, *Consilium Principis*, nos. 117 f.

Cossus would be appropriate as the victim of *captatio*—he is in 3, 184 introduced as the type of a rich man of good family pursued by those of lower rank. Juvenal would hardly have given a *captator* the name, and especially not in the passage in question, as it would shift the emphasis away from his subject, without any new effective satirical point. The point of the proposed reading, the corruption of which by a simple, early scribal error hardly requires explanation,⁷ is effective and pertinent: Juvenal means to let no one suppose that he can escape the evils of old age, least of all those with illustrious *stemmata* and inherited wealth (the group which had furnished Juvenal an object for his eighth satire). Juvenal's meaning at 10, 201 f., therefore, is this—and he stresses it by placing the subject of the sentence in the emphatic final position—that *every* man who lives to great age eventually grows repulsive, “so loathsome to his wife, his children, and himself, that he would turn away even a fortune-hunter in disgust, though he be a Cossus.”

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ON THE ALLEGEDLY HELIOCENTRIC THEORY OF VENUS BY HERACLIDES PONTICUS.

The *locus classicus* for ascribing to Heraclides Ponticus (and by implication to Plato) an epicyclic and heliocentric theory for the motion of Venus is a sentence in Chalcidius (ch. 110, ed. Wrobel, p. 176, 22-5) where it is said that Venus is located *interdum superior, interdum inferior sole*. This indeed seems to imply a variation of geocentric distance of the planet and hence to represent, in combination with the limited elongation from the sun, a heliocentric motion of Venus.

⁷ This sort of corruption at the end of a verse is not uncommon; examples from Juvenal include *agros* for *agri* (3, 141), *moechi* for *moechae* (6, 278), *Priapo* for *Priapi* (6, 316), *illos* for *illis* (9, 122), *peractum* for *peracto* (12, 86). Cf. *socius* in P for *socio* (10, 254, at mid-verse). The alteration of *Cossus* to *Cosso* was probably quite accidental, though it may have been deliberate had the erring scribe supposed that the name must go with *captatori*.