

## A MISUNDERSTOOD PASSAGE IN ST. JEROME (*EPIST.* 30, 1)

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### ABSTRACT

The first sentence of Jerome's first letter to Paula contains a passage which translators have hitherto misunderstood (*Epist.* 30, 1). The present note endeavours to clarify the problem by adducing a passage of Marius Victorinus' commentary on Cicero's *De inventione* (1, 34, 58-9). Comparison of these passages of Victorinus and Jerome illustrates some typical features of the latter's compositional and self-imitatory technique.

*Keywords:* Cicero, Jerome, Marius Victorinus, *sylogismus*.

St. Jerome's *Letter* 30 is important. It is the first surviving one to be addressed to St. Paula, the woman who was destined to become his lifelong companion. The purpose of this epistle is to elucidate the acrostical (or "alphabetic") Psalms. This letter is accordingly used in the Vulgate as a preface to the