

Book VII.
Title XIII.

For what reasons slaves receive liberty as a reward.
(Pro quibus servi praemium accipiunt libertatem.)

Bas. 48.18; Dig. 40.8.

7.13.1. Emperors Diocletian and Maximian to Firminus.

Since scrupulous solicitude for increasing and stimulating observance of fidelity should be rewarded by law, if you persisted strenuously to avenge the murder of your master, as shown, by uncorrupted means of proof, you will, for such valuable services, be rewarded with liberty, which an ancient senate decree and statutes of emperors provided should be given those who avenge the murder of their masters. You will not receive liberty ipso facto, but by the decree of the president when you go before him. Promulgated December 7 (290).

Note.

The reward here mentioned was long given to slaves, in order to encourage them to avenge the murder of their master. Such murders were not infrequently committed by slaves of the master. We hear of a number of them in the early part of the empire.

Other cases of liberty as a reward are mentioned in this title, and where the owner was not involved in any guilt, compensation was doubtless in all cases paid to him or her. C. 9.11.1, gives liberty to a slave who denounces secret cohabitation between his mistress and another slave. In C. 1.3.37, it is provided that a slave who becomes a monk shall be free as long as he remains in the monastery. See also Nov. 5.2 pr-3; Nov. 123, c. 4; and C. 17.

7.13.2. Emperor Constantine to Januarius.

Slaves who expose coiners who secretly commit the crime of coining adulterated money, are rewarded with Roman citizenship and their masters shall receive the value of such slaves from the fisc.

Given at Rome November 20 (321).

C. Th. 9.21.2.

7.13.3. The same to the people.

If a slave exposes the crime of rape of a virgin which has been concealed or compromised, he shall be rewarded with liberty.

Given at Aquileia March 31 (320).

C. Th. 9.21.1.

7.13.4. Emperors Gratian, Valentinian and Theodosius to Agrius, Praetorian Prefect.

If a slave exposes a deserter from the army, he shall be given liberty.

Promulgated at Rome July 15 (380).

C. Th. 7.18.4.1.