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contumacious, *adj.*

Pronunciation: /kɒntju:'meɪʃəs/

captured 10/17/12

Forms: Also 16 **-atious**.

Etymology: < Latin *contumāci-* (*contumāx*); see *CONTUMAX adj.* and *-ACIOUS suffix*.

1.

a. Contemning and obstinately resisting authority; stubbornly perverse, insubordinate, rebellious. (Of persons and their actions.)

- 1603 R. KNOLLES *Gen. Hist. Turkes* 997 The Turcoman nation..were growne verie contumatious.
- 1655 T. FULLER *Church-hist. Brit.* II. 83 His contumacious Company-keeping (contrary to his Confessours command) with an Excommunicated Count.
- 1772 S. DENNE & W. SHRUBSOLE *Hist. Rochester* 127 To reduce the contumacious monks to obedience.
- 1829 I. TAYLOR *Nat. Hist. Enthusiasm* x. 291 That spirit of contumacious scrupulosity which is the parent of schism.

†**b.** Of diseases: Not readily yielding to treatment, stubborn. *Obs.*

- 1605 T. TYMME tr. J. Du Chesne *Pract. Chymicall & Hermeticall Physicke* III. 152 Contumacious sicknesses.
- 1684 tr. T. Bonet *Guide Pract. Physician* VIII. 263 In contumacious Diseases.

2. *Law.* Wilfully disobedient to the summons or order of a court.

- a1600 R. HOOKER *Of Lawes Eccl. Politie* (1648) VI. 17 Contumacious persons, which refuse to obey their sentence.
- 1726 J. AYLIFFE *Parergon Juris Canonici Anglicani* 190 He is in Law said to be a contumacious Person, who, on his Appearance afterwards, departs the Court without leave.
- 1823 J. LINGARD *Hist. Eng.* VI. 202 On her refusal to appear in person or by her attorney, she was pronounced contumacious.
- 1859 N. HAWTHORNE *Fr. & Ital. Jrnls.* II. 282 Contumacious prisoners were put to a dreadful torture.

DERIVATIVES

contu'maciously *adv.*

- 1626 J. PORY in H. Ellis *Orig. Lett. Eng. Hist.* i. 333 III. 243 They contumaciously refused to go.
- 1675 H. NEVILLE tr. Machiavelli *State France* in *Wks.* 260 The Clients are contumaciously litigious.
- 1841 MACAULAY *Warren Hastings* in *Edinb. Rev.* Oct. 236 Imposing a fine when that assistance was contumaciously withheld.

contu'maciousness *n.*

- 1654 R. CODRINGTON tr. Justinus *Hist.* 219 Having their contumaciousness punish'd with a Pestilence.
- 1676 R. WISEMAN *Severall Chirurg. Treat.* i. xxv. (R.), The difficulty and contumaciousness of cure [of elephantiasis].
- 1887 *Spectator* 28 May 723 Various delays in deciding upon his contumaciousness.

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