

Seneca's **MORAL EPISTLES**

Selected and Edited with
Introduction, Notes, and Vocabulary

by
Anna Lydia Motto



BOLCHAZY CARDUCCI PUBLISHERS, INC.
Wauconda, Illinois

General Editor:
Laurie Haight Keenan

Contributing Editor:
D. Scott VanHorn

Cover and Text Design:
Cameron Marshall

Cover Illustration:
Roman Bridge leading to Cordoba, Spain
from *Wanderings in Spain*, by Augustus J. C. Hare

Typesetting:
Charlene Hernandez, Green Tree Design

Latin text © Oxford University Press 1965.
Reprinted from **Seneca: Epistulae Morales** edited by L. D. Reynolds
(Oxford Classical Texts, 1965) by permission of Oxford University Press.

©copyright 2001 **Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.**

All rights reserved.

Previously published by Scholar's Press as

Seneca: Moral Epistles

©copyright 1985, American Philological Association

Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.

1000 Brown Street

Wauconda, IL 60084 USA

<http://www.bolchazy.com>

Printed in the United States of America

2001

by John S. Swift Co.

ISBN: 0-86516-487-8

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Seneca, Lucius Annaeus, ca. 4 b.c.–65 a.d.

[Epistulae morales ad Lucilium. Selections]

Seneca's Moral epistles / selected and edited with introduction, notes, and vocabulary
by Anna Lydia Motto

p. cm.

Rev. ed. of: Seneca Moral epistles. c1985.

Epistles in Latin.

Includes bibliography references (p.).

ISBN 0-86516-487-8

1. Conduct of life -- Early works to 1800. 2. Ethics--Early works to 1800. I. Motto,
Anna Lydia. II. Title.

PA6661.E7 M6 2001
876'.01--dc21

2001037979

TO: P. H. EPPS

Nullius boni sine socio iucunda possessio est.

CONTENTS

PREFACE	ix
INTRODUCTION .....	.xi
Seneca's Life and Work .....	.xi
Seneca's Philosophy .....	.xv
Seneca's Style .....	.xix
HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY .....	.xxv
CHRONOLOGY OF SENECA'S EXTANT WORKS .....	.xxvii
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY IN ENGLISH .....	.xxix
NOTE TO READERS .....	.xxxii
TEXT: SELECTED EPISTLES .....	.1
Epistle One: The Value of Time .....	.2
Epistle Two: He is Nowhere Who Is Everywhere .....	.4
Epistle Three: On Friendship .....	.6
Epistle Five: The Golden Mean .....	.8
Epistle Six: The Joy of Sharing One's Possessions with One's Friends .....	.12
Epistle Seven: Avoid the Crowd .....	.14
Epistle Eleven: Wisdom Unable to Suppress Natural Emotions .....	.20
Epistle Twelve: The Advantages of Old Age .....	.24
Epistle Fifteen: Against Strenuous Physical Exercise .....	.28
Epistle Sixteen: Philosophy: Life's Guide .....	.32
Epistle Eighteen: On Practicing Poverty .....	.36
Epistle Twenty-one: A Lasting Monument .....	.42
Epistle Twenty-three: True Joy Is a Stern Matter .....	.46
Epistle Twenty-seven: Virtue Alone Gives Everlasting Joy .....	.50
Epistle Twenty-eight: Travel Cannot Cure the Soul's Maladies .....	.54
Epistle Thirty-four: The Teacher's Joy at His Pupil's Success .....	.58
Epistle Thirty-seven: Soldiering toward the Good Life .....	.60
Epistle Thirty-eight: The Intimacy and Value of Conversation .....	.62
Epistle Forty-one: God within You .....	.64
Epistle Forty-two: The Rarity of the <i>Vir Bonus</i> .....	.68
Epistle Forty-three: No Escape from One's Own Conscience .....	.72
Epistle Forty-four: Philosophy Never Looks to Pedigrees .....	.74
Epistle Forty-seven: Not Slaves, but Fellow Slaves .....	.76
Epistle Fifty: Becoming Better Daily .....	.84
Epistle Fifty-one: Baiae and Vice .....	.88
Epistle Fifty-two: Man Needs a Moral Guide .....	.92
Epistle Fifty-three: Tossed upon Land and Sea .....	.98
Epistle Fifty-four: On Sickness and Death .....	.102
Epistle Fifty-six: The Philosopher in the Bathhouse .....	.104
Epistle Sixty: Man's Supplication for Affliction .....	.110
Epistle Sixty-one: Live Each Day As If It Were Your Last .....	.112
Epistle Sixty-two: Scorn Riches: Seize the Wealth of the Ages .....	.114

Epistle Sixty-three: The Moderation of Grief	116
Epistle Seventy-two: The Priority of Philosophy	122
Epistle Eighty: Virtue Is within the Reach of Those Who Wish It	126
Epistle Eighty-four: On Integrating Knowledge	130
Epistle Ninety: Wisdom, Skill, and the Golden Age	136
Epistle Ninety-six: On Paying the Manly Tribute to Life	156
Epistle One Hundred Twelve: The Intransigence of Vice	158
Epistle One Hundred Fourteen: Style is the Man	160
VOCABULARY	173

PREFACE

Seneca's Moral Epistles is a selection of forty of Seneca's *Epistulae Morales* that portray the *humanitas*, the deep sentiment, and the profound thought of this renowned Philosopher/Statesman of the Neronian Age. Living in an era of corruption and tyranny, Seneca came forth as a *Seelenartz*, a physician of souls, eager to impart to his fellow men the ethical and moral precepts that would enable them to overcome their weaknesses and attain *vera felicitas*.

The volume, designed primarily as a college textbook, contains some of Seneca's most exemplary letters together with commentary and running vocabulary on facing pages of the text. The student is thus saved from the tedium of having to flip back and forth from text to vocabulary to notes. With most necessary information accompanying the Latin text itself, one can read with greater rapidity and ease. A full vocabulary is provided at the end of the book and an introduction at the beginning gives an account of Seneca's life and work, of his philosophy and style.

The content of the forty letters deals with topics pertinent to the concerns of human beings in all epochs and in every society: epistles on friendship, on old age, on the value of time, on philosophy as the guide of life, on God, on the benefits of virtue and good deeds, on self-improvement, on proper exercise, on how to overcome boredom and despair, on the debunking of warfare, on the condemnation of slavery, on the denunciation of the gladiatorial combats, on valuing the human being for his inner rather than his outer possessions.

These short moral epistles readily lend themselves to philosophical discussion, to critical interpretation, and to literary analysis. As the reader completes one letter after another, he gains confidence in his use of the language as well as in his knowledge of literature and life.

My Latin text is that of L. D. Reynolds, *L. Annaei Senecae Ad Lucilium Epistulae Morales* (1965), published in the Oxford Classical Text series and reprinted here with permission.

I wish to thank *The Classical Bulletin* and also the Twayne Publishers for granting me permission to incorporate the following material into the introduction of this edition: "*Ingenium Facile et Copiosum*: Point and Counterpoint in Senecan Style," *The Classical Bulletin* 52: 1-4; given sentences from pages 35, 36, 41, 50, 59, 60, 63, 64, and 67 of my book *Seneca* (Twayne's World Authors Series, New York, 1973).

In addition, I am most grateful to Professor Preston H. Epps, who shared his notes with me regarding several of the Epistles in this volume. It was his generosity and encouragement that inspired me to edit the *Epistulae Morales* of Seneca. It is to this devoted teacher, scholar, and friend that I dedicate this book.

INTRODUCTION

In the first century A.D., during the early years of the Empire, Rome's despots regularly rewarded intimates, intellectuals, and courtiers alike with exile and extermination. Tacitus records, with superb irony, that "about this time, Lucius Piso, member of the pontifical order, died a natural death—a rare occurrence for one in so high a rank" (*Annals* 6.10). Social distinction, natural talents, and rational capacities were clearly disadvantageous. Into such a dangerous arena did our unusually able author set foot.

Seneca the philosopher was a polymath, a writer adept in innumerable fields—virtually a Renaissance Man. He is best known to us for his intense tragedies of blood, his consummate essays of philosophic advice, his pointed, level-headed moral epistles, and his questioning scientific treatises. His opinions, as well, are equally broad-minded and various. We laud him today as one who extolled humanitarianism in an era of slavery, who stoutly championed clemency in a period of stark brutality, who urged stoic self-restraint in a society devoted to effete lasciviousness, and who counseled potent frankness in a world consumed by adulation and obsequiousness.

Although living in an era of universal corruption and highhanded tyranny and forced to share his destiny with the Emperor Nero, this wealthy courtier and accomplished orator not only transmitted Stoic philosophy to posterity but so altered and enhanced it that it became more personal and humane. His own candid self-confrontations, his polished rhetoric, his deep sentiment, his profound thought—all have influenced men in every age and have duly earned for him a niche in an eternal Hall of Fame.

Seneca's Life and Work

Lucius Annaeus Seneca was born in Cordova, Spain, around 4 B.C., of a wealthy and erudite family. His father, Seneca the Elder (or "the Rhetor"), was a distinguished rhetorician, and his mother, Helvia, was a woman of intellect—well-trained in philosophy and the liberal arts. They had three sons: Novatus, the oldest, who pursued a political career; Mela, the youngest, who won fame as the father of the Roman poet Lucan; and Lucius Annaeus, renowned philosopher, orator, and statesman.

In infancy, Seneca traveled with his parents from Spain to Rome, where they established permanent residence. There, when Seneca came of age, he received training in grammar, rhetoric, and philosophy. He was bored by the teachings of pedantic, unimaginative grammarians, captivated by the training he received from well-known masters of rhetoric, and fascinated most by the wise precepts which he heard discussed by the leading philosophers of the day. By combining philosophical training with rhetorical skill, the young Seneca pursued equally the *vita contemplativa* and the *vita activa*.

His active political life, however, was interrupted by ill health, which he had endured from early childhood. He often refers in his epistles to general ill health as well

as to specific ills—fever, asthma, and catarrh. As a result of his infirmity, he decided to visit Egypt, where his maternal aunt, wife of the governor, through diligence and care, helped him regain his strength. To this unusual relative Seneca owed the first significant step in his political career. Through her influence, he obtained the quaestorship in Rome about A.D. 33, perhaps becoming aedile or tribune of the plebs about 36 or 37.

During these years of political advancement, Seneca's reputation as lawyer, philosopher, and writer likewise continued to grow, not only winning for him fame and wealth but also the envy of the mad emperor Caligula (A.D. 37–41), who even contemplated putting the sickly philosopher to death.

Having almost lost his life, Seneca decided to give up his perilous oratorical career and to devote himself more and more to literature and philosophy. It is very likely that he wrote at this time the *Consolation to Marcia* and the dialogue *On Anger*, which contains scathing remarks against Caligula.

In 41 Caligula was assassinated and his uncle Claudius ascended the throne. Seneca, who was on intimate terms with the princesses Julia Livilla and Agrippina, sisters of Caligula and nieces of Claudius, incurred the animosity of the jealous empress Messalina, Claudius' third wife. Regarding Seneca as a dangerous opponent, she accused him of an illicit intrigue with Julia. On this unfounded charge, Julia was exiled without trial and shortly afterward put to death; on the same unproved charge, Seneca was exiled to the barbaric, desolate island of Corsica, where he was to spend eight years of his life (A.D. 41–49).

Prior to his public misfortune, Seneca had been heavily burdened by domestic tragedies—the deaths of his wife, his son, and two of his nephews. To console himself and to alleviate his mother's sorrow, he addressed to her the *Consolation to Helvia* (c. A.D. 41–42), in which he discouraged her grief by setting before her those lofty philosophic precepts that fortify one against the cruel blows of fortune. True happiness, he argues, depends upon a mind that is not enslaved by fickle fortune's gifts. For such a mind, exile is but a change of place (*Ad Helv.* 6.1). Unfortunately, however, as time passed, Seneca began to lose, in exile, his philosophic calm. In fact, he became so despondent that in A.D. 43–44 he addressed to Polybius, Claudius' powerful secretary who had recently lost his brother, a consolation, in which, in sharp contrast to the *Consolation to Helvia*, he openly admits his misery and, in his eagerness to obtain his recall from exile, overtly flatters Polybius and the Emperor Claudius. If this was a failing on the philosopher's part, yet it was a distinctively human one. Seneca frequently recalls that he himself was far from being the ideal Stoic *sapiens* of moral perfection, that all men are flawed (*De Clementia* 1.6.3), and that all men display a kind of madness (*Ep.* 70.3). About himself he was ever candid as well as ambivalent: *virtutes discere vitia dediscere est* (*Ep.* 50.7), he counsels. Vice comes naturally; virtue must, after a contest, be imposed. Seneca well knows that Man must insist upon striving for the virtuous, while finding it difficult to eradicate vice.

But, whatever his motives and foibles, the *Ad Polybium* did not deliver Seneca from

exile, as the philosopher had hoped. Such release came five years later through changes in the imperial court. Messalina, denounced by Claudius' freedmen for her debaucheries and for conspiracy against the Emperor, was executed with her lover in 48.

Agrippina, Claudius' niece and fourth wife, as well as Nero's mother by Domitius, promptly recalled the philosopher from exile, bestowing upon him the tutorship of her twelve-year-old son. Soon, indeed, Nero would become the Emperor's adoptive son. Agrippina also awarded Seneca the praetorship and a place in the Senate. Thus, in 49, after eight years in exile, at the age of fifty-three, Seneca returned to Rome to play once more a dominant political role.

To assist Seneca in educating Nero, Agrippina had selected the rough but honest and ready soldier Burrus, later elevated by her to the post of prefect of the Praetorian Guard. Seneca and Burrus experienced an unusual friendship as they united day by day in restraining Nero's excesses and in controlling Agrippina's lawless spirit and her lust for power. After the Emperor Claudius' murder in 54 by Agrippina, who served him a dish of poisoned mushrooms, the two tutors and guides became prominent indeed, and under their tutelage the early principate of the young Nero came to be known as the *Quinquennium Neronis* (A.D. 54–59), a period marked by clemency in government. Divorced from misrule, this period was later proclaimed by the Emperor Trajan as the golden age of Imperial Rome.

This era, however, of equity and kindness was soon to end. The Empress Agrippina, coveting for herself supreme control of the state, became annoyed by the humane and just administration of Seneca and Burrus. Fearful of losing her power and inflamed with a jealous hatred, she threatened to give the throne to Britannicus, son of Claudius by Messalina. Agrippina's open support of the young prince filled Nero with dread, and he ordered Britannicus to be put to death by a poisonous drink. After Britannicus' murder, the hostility between mother and son as well as between tutor and pupil continued to mount. Increasingly, Nero succumbed to the influence of unprincipled men like Suillius, who, envious of Seneca's prestige and power, were anxious to eradicate his leadership. These unscrupulous men, together with Poppaea, Nero's new mistress, urged the Emperor to rid himself not only of his domineering mother but also of Seneca and Burrus. After several unsuccessful attempts to poison Agrippina and an attempt to drown her at sea, Nero had her bludgeoned to death with club and sword in her bedroom.

Although Seneca realized the dangerous waters upon which he was afloat, he did not abandon the ship of state. He continued to sail along for another three years until Burrus' death in 62 (whether by illness or by poisoning remains uncertain). But when Burrus was replaced by the debauched and licentious Tigellinus, Seneca became convinced that he could no longer play a leading role in the complex drama of the Neronian court. As a result, disillusioned and depressed by long, frustrating experience, the philosopher, at sixty-five, confronted his former pupil, asking permission to retire so that he might devote the remainder of his life to studies. Moreover, being perfectly willing to eliminate envy and to purchase freedom at the highest price, he offered to

return the millions of his wealth that the Emperor had bestowed upon him. Yet, leaders are not permitted to retire from a totalitarian state. When Nero refused to grant Seneca's request for withdrawal from public life, the philosopher boldly, on his own, assumed the posture of retirement: he avoided the court and the city, eschewed all factions and crowds, and embraced a life of self-exile, reclusion, and study.

What the cause of civilization here lost in the political realm, it certainly gained in philosophy and literature. For these years of retirement, A.D. 62–65, constitute the *anni mirabiles* of Seneca's literary career. To them can be assigned with certainty his *maximum opus*, the 124 *Moral Letters* (*Epistulae Morales*), as well as the seven books of *Natural Questions* (*Quaestiones Naturales*). To this same fruitful period, scholars involved in the insoluble problem of dating the Senecan corpus have often attributed the seven books *On Benefits* (*De Beneficiis*), the dialogues *On Leisure* (*De Otio*) and *On Providence* (*De Providentia*), along with several other works.

Though ensconced in the tranquillity of thought and composition, Seneca was nevertheless constantly harassed by an aura of impending doom. Since Nero had never officially released him from court, the shadow of imperial tyranny continued to haunt his retirement. By A.D. 65, three years after his attempted seclusion, he was accused of complicity in the so-called Pisonian conspiracy—a conspiracy that had as its object the murder of Nero and the transfer of supreme power to Piso. What role Nero's former teacher actually played in this conspiracy remains uncertain, but now Nero had found an excuse to liquidate his mentor. Like so many others implicated in the conspiracy, Seneca was instructed by military officers to commit suicide.

Tacitus (*Annals* 15.62–64) has left us a moving description of Seneca's last hours—detailing his courage in the face of death. Here Seneca is presented as recalling his sad friends from tears to fortitude by that very philosophy that had so strongly and for so long molded his own character. “Where,” he asks his companions, “were the precepts of wisdom? Where was that rationality developed over the years to help us face adversity?” Thereafter, Seneca speaks on a more personal note: “Who was, after all, unfamiliar with Nero's cruelty? There was nothing left for one who had murdered his brother and his mother but to slaughter his teacher and guide.” Why should his friends be surprised? Rather, they should accept the predictable and continue to regulate their lives despite the evils and mischance present in this world. Seneca himself, it is implied, had pursued such a pattern: he had directed his pinnacle in open seas and political waters when that was possible, and he had steadied his craft in studious streams and standing pools when that was possible. No such life, successful upon the various tides, could possibly have been in vain.

Forbidden, as Tacitus details, to make his last will, Seneca turns to his friends and observes that, prevented from rewarding their merit in the public coin, he could only leave to them his “richest” possession—“the image of his life” (*Annals* 15.62). As with Socrates before him, his “private coin” constitutes the wealth of a generous philosophic tradition. Such was his legacy to posterity.

Seneca's Philosophy

Seneca collects and collates his philosophic precepts from all sources, binding himself to the dogmas of no particular school. As a young man, he had come under the influence of philosophers from the various sects—Sotion the Pythagorean, Attalus the Stoic, Demetrius the Cynic. Although he allied himself to the Stoics more closely than to any other group of philosophers, yet his writings reveal him as an eclectic—one who was willing to assemble useful precepts from any school of thought. He writes: "I can dispute with Socrates, doubt with Carneades, achieve tranquillity with Epicurus, conquer human nature with the Stoics, exceed it with the Cynics" (*De Brev. Vit.* 14.2). Thus, Seneca was no sectarian dogmatist, but rather a seeker after truth:

"Epicurus," you say, "said this. What have you to do with the philosophy of another school?" What's truth is mine. (*Ep.* 12.11)

Unlike earlier philosophers, who had equally stressed three branches of study—ethics, physics, and dialectic—the Stoics (and particularly Seneca) primarily emphasized ethics alone. To be sure, the two most popular schools of philosophy in Imperial Rome were the Stoic and Epicurean—philosophies devoted to ethical conduct. Men like Seneca, in quest of intellectual freedom and tranquillity of mind, found the fundamental ethical teachings of these two schools very similar. The Stoics taught that virtue was the highest good; the Epicureans believed that pleasure was the *summum bonum*. But the Epicurean view of pleasure, as expounded by its founder, was by no means the later distorted idea of wine, women, and song. Since Epicurus taught that one cannot lead a life of pleasure without leading a life of honor, prudence, and justice, nor lead a life of honor, prudence, and justice which is not also a life of pleasure, the basic moral goals of Stoicism and Epicureanism seemed one and the same.

The cultural era of Rome under the early Empire was surprisingly modern, strikingly like our own. Local religions and provincial pieties had failed; an era of mass communications and of mass-man had ensued. If it was an age of cosmopolitan sophistication, yet it was also a period of personal crisis and individual loneliness. The advances of bureaucratic man only enhanced private isolation, indecision, and *Angst*.

In such a society, Seneca dedicated his every energy and devoted his entire life in an effort to impart to his fellow men the philosophic precepts of personal regulation, self-reliance, and control. He had acquired a deep understanding of human ignorance, misery, and sorrow, and he was eager to furnish harassed contemporary man with some remedy for his mental weaknesses and vacillations.

The mass of men, Seneca believes, are irresolute, ambitious, dubious, greedy, and impious, ready and willing to destroy one another in their selfish quest for material acquisitions. Yet, the spectacle of human greed and vice should not cause us to hate our fellow men. The wise man, Seneca insists, will seek to reform rather than oppose the vicious. He will look with kindness upon the crowd, regarding them as sick men in need of a physician. Seneca was strongly committed to the belief that even those

who have plunged heavily into depravity can, through proper guidance, progress along the path of virtue. His philosophic writings display deep insight into human frailties, together with an ardent zeal to salvage and elevate the moral tone of mankind.

Man, Seneca maintains, possesses a double nature—a physical nature which animals also enjoy and a rational nature which is man's distinguishing characteristic. The more the individual perfects his reason, the closer he comes to "nature," which is synonymous with God, who is "perfect reason." In fact, Seneca and the Stoics argue that to live "according to nature" is to live according to reason, the highest achievement of man.

Thus, every individual rises or falls on the scale of humanity and happiness as he succeeds or fails in harmonizing his actions with nature and reason. The more perfect his reason, the more fully does he possess that Stoic virtue which alone can give man everlasting joy. Only that which is absolutely good (*virtus*) can be considered a good, and only that which is absolutely bad (*turpitudō*) can be considered an evil. Such was the traditional Stoic teaching, which further distinguished all things which lie outside the categories of good and evil as being *indifferentia*. Among such "indifferent things," it is true, some (health and riches) are advantageous, while others (poverty and disease) are disadvantageous. However desirable or influential the former may be, Seneca and the Stoic school sharply distinguish between their purely relative value and the absolute value of virtue. Such virtue is man's sole and supreme good. It offers him a life that is consistent and a happiness that can be neither increased nor diminished by indifferent things and external conditions.

Men's sins and follies spring from unreason, from the pursuit of worldly possessions, such as riches, power, and sensual pleasure—Fortune's deceptive gifts. The wise man will detach himself from those extraneous possessions and will enjoy an unalterable serenity of mind. The reforming force that brings about such tranquillity is man's own spark of divine reason. Any man who cultivates his reason may obtain some degree of virtue. Consequently, Seneca and the Stoics avidly maintain that virtue can be developed within each individual human being. Since perfect reason and virtue are the same and since children do not possess reason, it follows that virtue is obtained by art, not by nature, by teaching and hard work, not by inheritance. Those who have not yet reached the ideal state of perfection should not despair but should continue persevering, confident that by training they will come day by day nearer to their goal. Every meaningful human life, according to Seneca, must be a journey, a progress.

Seneca distinguishes three classes of *proficientes*, persons traveling along the path of moral progress. First, there are those who have eliminated some vices but not all—avarice, for example, but not anger. Second, there are those who have overcome the worst passions but are not secure against relapse. Third, there are those who have eradicated vices and passions but who, failing to test themselves, lack the confidence of the ideal Stoic *sapiens*. Men, therefore, proceed by degrees on the path of

progress. Seneca is fully aware that “no one is strong enough to emerge from folly by himself; someone must lend him a hand, someone must lead him out” (*Ep.* 52.2). Again and again, Seneca insists upon man’s duty to aid his fellow man. Everywhere he recommends mercy, tolerance, kindness, and generosity to all: “Let us teach man to offer his hand to the shipwrecked, to show the road to the wanderer, to share his bread with the hungry” (*Ep.* 95.51). Such *humanitas* leads our philosopher to condemn anger, cruelty, warfare, and the ferocity of the gladiatorial combats. Moreover, his deep sentiment for mankind is further illustrated by his attitude toward slavery, toward the treatment of women, and toward the experience of friendship. Regarding slaves he writes:

“They are slaves” [claims the *adversarius*]. On the contrary, men. “They are slaves.” On the contrary, comrades. “They are slaves.” On the contrary, modest friends. “They are slaves.” On the contrary, fellow-slaves, if you reflect that fortune has equal power over all. . . . Remember that he whom you call your slave sprang from the same seed, enjoys the same sky, lives, breathes, and dies in the same way as yourself! . . . Live with your slave benignly, affably, and admit him into your conversation, into your counsels, into your feasts. . . . Let some dine with you because they are worthy; others, that they may become so. (*Ep.* 47.1, 10, 13, 15)

To Seneca, friendship is the expression of a natural instinct, a need for commitment: “For what reason do I seek a friend? To have someone to follow into exile, someone for whom I would risk my life” (*Ep.* 9.10). Related to the bond of friendship is a new and forceful note in Seneca’s writings extolling women. He frequently makes serious appeal for the rights of women, renouncing the trite commonplaces that regard them as physically and morally weak: “But who said that nature has dealt spitefully with women’s talent and narrowly confined their virtue? Believe me: should they wish it, they have an equal amount of vigor, an equal capacity for the performance of good deeds; they endure grief and suffering equally with men if they have been trained to it.” (*Ad Marc.* 16.1)

Seneca’s creed, therefore, is both leveling and lofty, restrictive and inclusive. It recognizes only one claim to rank or nobility—the capacity for and the attainment of virtue. It embraces in the universal commonwealth all human souls, freeborn or slave, male or female, emperor or peasant, heedless of how they might be classed by accident or by fortune.

Not only did Seneca devote his energies to assisting his fellow men and to conjoining them in a universal cosmopolis, but he also sought to plead God’s cause. Seneca, like the Stoics, believed that in the universe there is one supreme power, God, who appears under different names as Nature, Fate, or Reason. This deity, however described by human speech, is not an anthropomorphic, angry figure, but rather a divine, coherent principle that controls all things. Together with the Stoics, Seneca is a pantheist. Like them, he regards God as the “rational principle” that penetrates everything and is present everywhere. Such pantheism embraces also the concept

that every soul is of divine origin, a part of and a representative of God. Just as God is the secret power in nature that creates unity, so he is the hidden force in man that produces virtue: “Do you wonder that man goes to the gods? God comes to men; rather, what is closer, he comes into men; there is no good mind without God” (*Ep.* 73.16). God is our guide and our protector, whose spirit resides in our hearts.

Since God dwells in our hearts rather than in temples, man needs no prayer or organized worship. Seneca mocks empty superstition and denounces ritual and religious sacrifice. God does not seek such adoration. Rather, he is ever eager to serve and to aid men. Our sole duty to God is to believe in him as the creator and ruler of the universe and to imitate his benevolence. By progressing on the path of perfection, man becomes more virtuous, more like God. In fact, the ideal Stoic *sapiens* is similar to God in everything except his mortality. What is more, he even excels God, since “God is fearless through nature’s beneficence, the wise man through his own efforts” (*Ep.* 53.11). Such a man returns to Nature a better life than he received from her. Having rid himself of all fears, he confronts life and death with Stoic serenity and control.

Seneca is concerned not only with teaching men how to live well but also how to die well. To him, conduct in life and the preparation for death are of primary importance. Again and again he urges us to meditate upon death. Death is the final act of one’s life and reveals the strength and nature of one’s soul. Indeed, Seneca presents death as a harbor which everyone must enter at the close of life’s journey. Not only should man accept death, but, should circumstances require, he should even summon it. Suicide guarantees for man freedom of the human soul: “He who denies the right of committing suicide obstructs the road to liberty” (*Ep.* 70.14). Yet, only those, he tells us, oppressed by dire circumstances—extreme weakness in old age, incurable disease, insanity, debilitating poverty, or the inescapable tyranny of a despot—can rightfully resort to such a mode of exodus. Those, however, who commit suicide to escape the common ills of life are morally derelict and weak.

This attention to suicide and death often evokes powerful statements from our philosopher: “Death pursues me, life escapes me; teach me something that will help!” (*Ep.* 49.9). To guide men, to teach them how to face life’s end with serenity, he, like Socrates, offers them one of two alternatives: death is either painless annihilation, non-existence, with no infernal punishments, a return to that condition in which we were before birth, or it is a release of the soul from the prison of the body and the soul’s rising to the ethereal regions where it will enjoy the freedom, tranquillity, and happiness of the heavenly life.

To learn the difficult art of living nobly and of dying nobly, man must, according to the whole work of Seneca the philosopher, dedicate himself to the study of Philosophy. She alone can show man how to live without fear, how to overcome adversities, and how to extend kindnesses to his fellow men. She alone can rouse man from error and teach him the art of living well, i.e., of living according to nature or reason. Thus, Seneca writes, and writes conclusively: “There is no philosophy without virtue, nor virtue without philosophy” (*Ep.* 89.8).

The philosopher was as good as his word. Even at the moment of dying, as Tacitus records, Seneca continued to exhort and to console his friends, still in pursuit of that rational, contemplative goddess.

Seneca's Style

Seneca distinguished himself not only as an erudite eclectic philosopher who, borrowing and amalgamating ideas from every school, rendered them into a unity of his own, but also as an original, terse, and striking stylist, a master of word and phrase. Seneca once affirmed (*Ep.* 53.11), “. . . magni artificis est cluisse totum in exiguo” (“...it is characteristic of a great artist to have enclosed all things in a little place”). This expression may be aptly applied to his own stylistic art. Epigrammatic brevity, concentration, balance, and antithesis are typical of Seneca's type of prose, a type that French critics have designated the *style coupé*. In fact, Seneca's buoyant, pointed style became most popular in his own era. Quintilian, the Roman critic of the first century A.D., remarked a few decades after the philosopher's death that virtually Seneca alone among authors was being read by the younger generation. He refers to Seneca's “multae claraeque sententiae” and “minutissimae sententiae.” Similarly, Abraham Cowley in the seventeenth century speaks of “the dry chips of short lung'd Seneca,” and Erasmus observes that “truly from Seneca's reflections you can find something to imitate more easily than from others where maxims are neither frequent nor striking.”

Seneca was not the first to develop the pointed, laconic, clipped, epigrammatic style that is diametrically opposed to the long, rhythmic, eloquent, periodic sentences of Ciceronian prose. But, it must be observed that Seneca is master of this pointed style, the first distinguished philosopher to write with such wit, sparkle, and conciseness.

Let us consider a few examples:

Bona mens nec commodatur nec emitur. (*Ep.* 27.8)
(A good mind is neither borrowed nor bought.)

Effugere non potes necessitates, potes vincere. (*Ep.* 37.3)
(You cannot flee necessities, you can conquer them.)

Non continuo sibi vivit qui nemini. (*Ep.* 55.5)
(He who lives for no one does not necessarily live for himself.)

Here we witness instances of one of Seneca's strongest features, the use of the *sententia*, the neat and nearly proverbial saying. Moreover, his expression is concrete and earthy. The imagery in the first selection is taken from the marketplace, that of the second from warfare. The last instance suggests Seneca's play of mind, which joys in ironic indirection and understatement.

Seneca is also sensitive to the very sounds of words and their patterned arrangement on the page:

Haec in animo voluta, quae saepe audisti, saepe dixisti. (*Ep.* 24.15)
(Turn over in your mind these things which you have often heard, have often said.)

Multis timendi attulit causas timeri posse. (*Ep.* 14.10)
(Many a man who inspires fear has himself reasons to fear.)

Habui enim illos tamquam amissurus, amisi tamquam habeam. (*Ep.* 63.7)
(For I had them [dead friends] as if I were going to lose them, I lost them as if I have them [still].)

Levis es si ferre possum; brevis es si ferre non possum. (*Ep.* 24.14)
(You are light, if I can bear you; you are brief, if I cannot bear you.)

. . . cum his versare qui te meliorem facturi sunt, illos admitte quos tu potes
facere meliores. (*Ep.* 7.8)
(. . . go with those who will make you better, bring in those whom you can
make better.)

Notice the assonance in the first passage (*haec . . . quae saepe . . . saepe*), together with the rhyme (*audisti . . . dixisti*). Alliteration is dominant in the second selection (*timendi . . . timeri*), and a neat inversion of parts in the third (*Habui . . . tamquam amissurus, amisi tamquam habeam*), where the well-balanced repetition permits the sentence literally to turn back upon itself. Senecan style similarly illustrates “copiousness,” as in the patterned repetitiveness of the first passage (“these things which you have often heard, have often said”). A similar type of repetitive inversion is again to be observed in the last selection, where the generation of words is balanced and precise.

Together with such witty and neatly turned expressions, moreover, Seneca is often very close to one of his favorite devices—the paradox:

Mihi crede, verum gaudium res severa est. (*Ep.* 23.4)
(Believe me, true joy is a severe thing.)

Multa bona nostra nobis nocent. (*Ep.* 5.9)
(Our many blessings harm us.)

Multis ad philosophandum obstitere divitiae: paupertas expedita est, securae est. (*Ep.* 17.3)
(Wealth has hindered many from attaining wisdom: poverty is unimpeded and free from care.)

. . . infirmi animi est pati non posse divitias. (*Ep.* 5.6)
(. . . it is characteristic of a weak mind not to be able to endure wealth.)

Seneca's paradoxes (literally, contrary to common opinion) regularly shock the reader into paying greater attention. Thus, joy is a severity; blessings are harmful; poverty liberates, whereas wealth confines. The last example presents a particular kind of paradox, what the Greeks termed *para prosdokian*, the injecting at the end of a thought that which is unexpected. In this case, the reader might well have anticipated that an infirm mind could not endure poverty or some other stroke of ill fortune; yet, with a jolting reversal, he is informed that it is riches that the weakling cannot sustain. Seneca's prose, in short, ever crackles with neat twists, bold strokes, turns, and tergiversations. For Seneca, sound thinking, right thinking, is hard work; he will not allow his audience passively to relax; the audience must be forced to participate in any Stoic or Herculean labor. Jonathan Swift explains to his audience a very similar tactic: he intends his raillery "to nettle," to irritate his readers, because such provocation

Sets your Thoughts upon their Mettle:
 Gives Imagination Scope,
 Never lets your Mind elope:
 Drives out Brangling, and Contention,
 Brings in Reason and Invention.

("Epistle to a Lady," lines 218–22)

In any case, it is precisely these backstrokes, bounds, and returns in Senecan prose that continually offer his reader solid and lasting pleasure.

Finally, to obtain an overview of Seneca's performance, we should stand back and consider somewhat longer passages:

Pauper fiam: inter plures ero. Exul fiam: ibi me natum putabo quo mittar. Alligabor: quid enim? Nunc solutus sum? Ad hoc me natura grave corporis mei pondus adstrinxit. Moriar: hoc dicis, desinam aegrotare posse, desinam alligari posse, desinam mori posse (*Ep.* 24.17).

(I'll become poor: I shall be among the many. I'll be exiled: I shall think that I was born in that place to which I'm sent. I'll be imprisoned: What of it? Am I free right now? Nature has bound me to this heavy weight, my body. I'll die: you mean this, I shall cease to be able to be sick, I shall cease to be able to be imprisoned, I shall cease to be able to die.)

This present sample is typical of a great deal of Senecan practice in the *Epistulae Morales*. The passage is chatty at the same time that it is rhetorical; Seneca prided himself upon his ability to deliver ideas in high oratorical tones, yet he also considered his letters to be informal—conversations. There is, in effect, a distinctive tension obtained by thus yoking together the *genus grande* with the *genus humile*. Some critics have indeed claimed that such a mixture renders his style at war with itself. But such tensions are obviously deliberate and seem devised to create vigor, electricity, and pace.

But there is another, more dominant strategy revealed by this passage, that is frequently invoked in his prose, that is, the presence of a contest or debate. On either side of the colons appear two adversaries—almost, if you will, two parts of Seneca. The first, of course, is a neophyte, a non-Stoic, uttering clichés of popular reasoning: it’s a bad thing, this person pronounces again and again, to lose one’s money, to be exiled, to be tossed into prison, or to die. Responding to this generalized, protesting voice, Seneca answers with bold and confident philosophic strokes. In any event, the presence of such a generalized *adversarius* provides the passage with a remarkable back-and-forth tension of conflict, and the prose comes across to us with the race and force of a tennis match:

‘Servi sunt.’ Immo homines. ‘Servi sunt.’ Immo contubernales, ‘Servi sunt,’ Immo humiles amici, ‘Servi sunt.’ Immo conservi, si cogitaveris tantundem in utrosque licere fortunae (*Ep.* 47.1).

(“They’re slaves.” On the contrary, men. “They’re slaves.” On the contrary, comrades. “They’re slaves.” On the contrary, modest friends. “They’re slaves.” On the contrary, fellow-slaves, if you reflect that fortune has equal power over all.)

Here again is the contest, and the *adversarius*, unidentified, is nonetheless more clearly identifiable as the *vox populi*, as the crowd’s commonplace, stubbornly orthodox, and conservative opinion. The drama here becomes more apparent, for although the *adversarius* remains constant, never altering his opinion, Seneca’s argument alters and progresses to a climax; for while he merely holds, at the beginning, that slaves are human beings, he concludes by perceiving, with a sharp reversal, that we the freeborn are the slaves, caught in life’s and in fickle fortune’s web. In brief, Seneca’s prose takes spark and positive fire when a contender steps forward to do battle with him.

Sed iam debeo epistulam includere. ‘Sic’ inquis ‘sine ullo ad me peculio veniet?’ Noli timere: aliquid secum fert. Quare aliquid dixi? multum. Quid enim hac voce praeclarius quam illi trado ad te perferendam? ‘Malum est in necessitate vivere, sed in necessitate vivere necessitas nulla est.’ Quidni nulla sit? Patent undique ad libertatem viae multae, breves, faciles. Agamus deo gratias quod nemo in vita teneri potest: calcare ipsas necessitates licet. ‘Epicurus’ inquis ‘dixit: quid tibi cum alieno?’ Quod verum est meum est: perseverabo Epicurum tibi ingerere. (*Ep.* 12.10–11)

(But now I must close my letter. You say, “Will it come to me thus without any allotment?” Fear not; it brings something with it. Why have I said something? Rather, a great deal. For what is more brilliant than this saying which I entrust to it, to be sent along to you: “It is a bad thing to live in need, but there is no need to live in need.” Why is there no need? On all sides, many paths, short, easy, lie open to liberty. Let us give thanks to God that no one can be held in life. One may trample upon those very needs. “Epicurus.”)

you say, "said this. What have you to do with the philosophy of another school?" What's truth is mine. I shall continue to heap Epicurus upon you.)

In this last passage, the contest becomes more concrete, for the contestant materializes into Lucilius himself. Some of the most forceful moments in the *Epistulae* occur when this takes place. Throughout the letters, Seneca repeatedly, insistently addresses Lucilius as if he were present upon the scene. Indeed, when Seneca is not debating, as we have seen, with himself or with society and public opinion, an imaginary Lucilius is virtually omnipresent upon the stage, as the stubborn *interlocutor*, as a questioner or outright challenger of Seneca's arguments. Thus, he functions openly as *adversarius*, as recalcitrant opponent to Seneca himself.

We have not yet finished with altercation and contention, for there is *another* voice present in this passage—that of Epicurus, founder of the chief rival school to Stoicism. Seneca had, early in the letters, promised to "deliver" in each epistle some little saying from the divine wisdom of the past. It most frequently turns out to be a maxim by Epicurus or his followers. Here, then, is another rich source for skirmish and scrimmage. Seneca is doing much more than providing himself with one more paradoxical antagonist; he is giving himself the opportunity in the letters to generate a host of new voices that fill up the page. His terse, pointed prose is best served when cast in a dramatic arena, and his writing is remarkable, ultimately, for supplying so much of this tournament and collision.

Thus, Seneca is able to supply us with philosophy in a new key. While, it is true, his letters are always marked by a moral argument and a hortatory tone, they also, as short, experimental flights upon a variety of topics, surprise us as the nearest thing to our modern essays: Michel de Montaigne, the innovator in the genre of *essais*, refers to Seneca repeatedly, and Francis Bacon, his English counterpart, in his original dedication of his *Essays*, acknowledges a considerable debt to Seneca the philosopher.

Yet, Seneca's epistles ultimately go beyond being merely argument, philosophy, and essay. As we have shown, the rapid cut and thrust of his argument in these last-cited passages remind us that his work is vitally something more. For, with the incessant play of voices and the clash of contest, his epistles finally become a type of creative drama—the rich acting out of ideas in conflict. Perhaps it is the overall drama of Senecan prose—its tensions, its combat, its passionate note—that will continue to earn for him the highest and the most lasting praise.

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

31 B.C.–A.D. 14

Reign of Augustus

Seneca born, c. 4 B.C., at Cordova, Spain. Brought to Rome when a young child.

A.D. 14–37

Reign of Tiberius

Seneca visits Egypt, c. A.D. 19–20.

Returns to Rome in 31.

Commences active public career: Quaestor, c. 33, possibly Tribune or Aedile, *c.* 36 or 37.

A.D. 37–41

Reign of Caligula

Seneca as renowned orator, lawyer, and writer.

A.D. 41–54

Reign of Claudius

Seneca exiled to Corsica, 41–49.

Recalled to Rome in 49 by Agrippina, to become Nero's tutor. Praetor and Senator.

A.D. 54–68

Reign of Nero

Quinquennium Neronis, 54–59.

Death of Burrus in 62.

Semi-retirement, 62–65; Seneca composes *Epistulae Morales*.

Pisonian Conspiracy, 65. Seneca's suicide.

CHRONOLOGY OF SENECA'S EXTANT WORKS

Scholars have labored long to establish a precise chronology for Seneca's writings, but accurate dating has never been accomplished. After each title, I simply suggest a likely date.

Epigrammata super exilio (authorship doubtful) c. 41–49

Tragedies c. 45–55

Agamemnon

Hercules Furens

Medea

Oedipus

Phaedra

Thyestes

Troades

Hercules Octaeus (authorship in doubt)

Octavia (not by Seneca)

Phoenissae (fragment—possibly by Seneca)

The so-called “Dialogues”¹: c. 40–64

Ad Marciam de Consolatione (Dial. VI) c. 40–41

De Ira libri tres (Dial. III, IV, V) Bks. I–II c. 41; Bk. III c. 49

Ad Helviam Matrem de Consolatione (Dial. XII) c. 41–42

Ad Polybium de Consolatione (Dial. XI) c. 43–44

De Brevitate Vitae (Dial. X) c. 49

De Constantia Sapientis (Dial. II) c. 54–56

De Vita Beata (Dial. VII) c. 58–59

De Tranquillitate Animi (Dial. IX) c. 59–61

De Otio (Dial. VIII) c. 62

De Providentia (Dial. I) c. 63–64

Apocolocyntosis [*Ludus de Morte Claudii*] (authorship questioned) c. 54

De Clementia c. 53–56

De Beneficiis c. 58–63

Quaestiones Naturales c. 62–64

Epistulae Morales ad Lucilium c. 62–65

¹Dialogue numeration follows the Ambrosian MS.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. LATIN TEXTS

Reynolds, L. D., ed. *Annæi Senecæ, Ad Lucilium Epistolæ Morales*, 2 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1965.

Summers, W. C., ed. *Select Letters of Seneca*. London: Macmillan, 1910.

2. ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

Barker, E. P. *Seneca's Letters to Lucilius*, 2 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1932.

Campbell, R. *Seneca, Letters from a Stoic: Epistolæ Morales ad Lucilium*. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1969.

LOBB CLASSICAL LIBRARY SERIES:

Basore, J. W., ed. *Seneca, Moral Essays*, 3 vols. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; London: William Heinemann, 1928–1935.

Corcoran, T. H., ed. *Seneca, Natural Questions*, 2 vols. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; London: William Heinemann, 1971.

Gummere, R. M., ed. *Seneca, ad Lucilium Epistolæ Morales*. 3 vols. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; London: William Heinemann, 1917–1925.

3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Motto, A. L. and J. R. Clark. *Seneca: A Critical Bibliography, 1900–1980*. Amsterdam: Adolf M. Hakkert, 1989.

4. SCHOLARLY STUDIES

Arnold, E. V. *Roman Stoicism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1911.

Edelstein, L. *The Meaning of Stoicism*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1965.

Gould, J. B. *The Philosophy of Chrysippus*. Leiden: Brill, 1970.

Griffin, M. T. *Seneca: A Philosopher in Politics*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976.

Grimal, P. *Sénèque ou la conscience de l'empire*. Paris: Belles Lettres, 1978.

———. *Sénèque, sa vie, son oeuvre, sa philosophie*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1948.

Gummere, R. M. *Seneca the Philosopher and His Modern Message*. Boston: Marshall Jones, 1922.

Holland, F. *Seneca*. London: Longmans, Green, 1920.

Knoche, U. *Der Philosoph Seneca*. Frankfurt: V. Klostermann, 1933.

Marchesi, C. *Seneca*. Milan: Giuseppe Principato, 1934.

Motto, A. L. *Seneca Sourcebook: Guide to the Thought of Lucius Annaeus Seneca*. Amsterdam: A. M. Hakkert, 1970.

———. *Seneca*. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1973.

Motto, A. L. and J. R. Clark. *Essays on Seneca*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 1993.

Motto, A. L. *Further Essays on Seneca*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2001.

Pohlenz, M. *Die Stoa, Geschichte einer geistigen Bewegung*. 2 vols. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 1948–49.

- Rist, J. M. *Stoic Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1969.
 Sandbach, F. H. *The Stoics*. London: Chatto and Windus, 1975.
 Waltz, R. *Vie de Sénèque*. Paris: Librairie Académique, 1909.
 Zeller, Eduard. *Stoics, Epicureans and Sceptics*, trans. O. J. Reichel, Rev. ed.
 London: Longmans, Green, 1879.

xxxi

NOTE TO READERS

Running vocabularies are provided on pages opposite the Latin text. Since some teachers might not assign all the letters in order of sequence, each letter is presented as a complete unit, and the same vocabulary is sometimes repeated in various letters.

In the vocabulary glosses, adjectives formed from the perfect passive participle of verbs (e.g. **doctus**, -a, -um from **doceo**, -ere, **docui**, **doctus**) are listed as participial adjectives and marked *p. adj.*

The positive form of the corresponding adjective is usually given for adverbs. For example, the comparative adverb **indecentius** is glossed as **indecens**.

Alternative spellings of words such as **corroboro** for **conroboro** are supplied to familiarize students with both forms.

- 1 **SENECA LVCILIO SVO SALVTEM (DICIT):** "Seneca sends (lit., says) greetings to his Lucilius" was a felicitous combination of formal and informal address in letter writing among the Romans. Lucilius was Seneca's friend, to whom the philosopher addressed the *Epistulae Morales*, the *De Providentia*, and the *Naturales Quaestiones*. Born at Pompeii of humble origins, Lucilius advanced himself through diligence and hard work. He became a Roman knight as well as procurator in Sicily. He was also a devotee of philosophy and literature.
- 2 **fac:** an irregular imperative like *dic, duc, fer*.
- 7 **agentibus:** supply *nobis*; either dative of separation or ablative absolute.
- 8 **aliud:** "something different from what we should be doing."
- 12 **quidquid . . . est:** the object of *tenet*; *actatis* is genitive of the whole.
- 13 **quod . . . scribis:** this clause is the object of *fac*; *quod* is used frequently in Latin where one would expect the fuller *id quod*.
- 13-14 **ut . . . pendeas:** the Latin said, more logically than we do, depend or be dependent from rather than upon.
- 14 **hodierno . . . inieceris:** *hodierno* is dative with the compound verb; *manum inicio* is a technical term meaning "to lay one's hand upon and thus claim as one's own." Runaway slaves were thus legally reclaimed.
- 17-18 **ex qua . . . vult:** "from which [possession] anyone who desires evicts us"; i.e., if we do not carefully guard our time, people will snatch it from us.
- 18-20 **ut . . . patiantur:** *sed* should be understood after this clause; *inputari* is a technical term in accounting. It means "to enter or be charged to one's account." Seneca indicates here that men permit things which are easily replaced to be charged to their account, while time, man's most valuable asset and only possession, is not even recorded in his books.
- 21 **cum interim:** "when as a matter of fact."
- 25 **ratio . . . impensae:** another technical term in accounting. Lit., "the reckoning of the expense to me stands [correct]"; i.e., my account in this matter balances.
- 32 **sera . . . est:** a Latin proverb meaning "it's too late to be frugal when you reach the bottom of the cask."
- 2 **vindico,** 1, claim, set free
adhuc, *adv.*, until now
- 3 **aufero,** *auferrere*, *abstuli*, *ablatus*, 3, take away, remove
- 6 **iactura,** *-ae, f.*, a throwing away; loss
- 7 **ad tendo,** *-ere, -tendi, -tentus*, 3, pay attention
elabor, *-i, -lapsus*, 3 *dep.*, slip away
- 10 **aestimo,** 1, value
fallo, *-ere, fefelli, falsus*, 3, deceive
- 11 **praetereo,** *-ire, -ivi (-ii), irr.*, go by, pass by
- 13 **complector,** *-i, -plexus*, 3 *dep.*, embrace
- 14 **crastinus,** *-a, -um, adj.*, of the morrow, tomorrow's
crastinum, *-i, n.*, the morrow, tomorrow
hodiernus, *-a, -um, adj.*, of or relating to today
hodiernum, *-i, n.*, today
- 15 **differo,** *differre, distuli, dilatus, irr.*, delay
- 16 **tantum,** *adv.*, only
- 17 **lubricus,** *-a, -um, adj.*, slippery
- 18 **stultitia,** *-ae, f.*, foolishness
- 19 **inpetro,** 1, obtain
- 21 **ne . . . quidem,** *not . . . even*
- 23 **fortasse,** *adv.*, perhaps
praecipio, *-ere, -cepi, -ceptus*, 3, advise, teach
- 24 **ingenue,** *adv.*, frankly
apud, *prep. w. acc.*, in the case of
- 27 **plerique,** *-aeque, -aque, adj.*, very many
- 28 **inopia,** *-ae, f.*, poverty
redigo, *-ere, -egi, -actus*, 3, reduce
ignosco, *-ere, -novi, -notus*, 3, pardon
- 29 **succurro,** *-ere, -curri, -cursus*, 3, help
- 30 **supersum,** *-esse, -fui, irr.*, be left, remain
- 32 **fundus,** *-i, m.*, bottom
- 33 **imus,** *-a, -um, superl.* (of *inferus*), lowest

Epistle One
THE VALUE OF TIME

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Ita fac, mi Lucili: vindica te tibi, et tempus quod adhuc aut auferebatur aut subripiiebatur aut excidebat collige et serva. Persuade tibi hoc sic esse ut scribo: quaedam tempora eripiuntur nobis, quaedam subducuntur, quaedam effluunt. 5
Turpissima tamen est iactura quae per negligentiam fit. Et si volueris adtere, magna pars vitae elabitur male agentibus, maxima nihil agentibus, tota vita aliud agentibus. Quem mihi dabis qui aliquod pretium tempori ponat, qui diem aestimet, qui intellegat se cotidie mori? In hoc enim fallimur, 10
quod mortem prospicimus: magna pars eius iam praeteriit; quidquid aetatis retro est mors tenet. Fac ergo, mi Lucili, quod facere te scribis, omnes horas complectere; sic fiet ut minus ex crastino pendeas, si hodierno manum inieceris. Dum differtur vita transcurrit. Omnia, Lucili, aliena sunt, 15
tempus tantum nostrum est; in huius rei unius fugacis ac lubricae possessionem natura nos misit, ex qua expellit quicumque vult. Et tanta stultitia mortalium est ut quae minima et vilissima sunt, certe reparabilia, inputari sibi cum inpetravere patiantur, nemo se iudicet quicquam debere qui 20
tempus accepit, cum interim hoc unum est quod ne gratus quidem potest reddere.

Interrogabis fortasse quid ego faciam qui tibi ista praecipio. Fatebor ingenue: quod apud luxuriosum sed diligentem evenit, ratio mihi constat inpensae. Non possum dicere nihil 25
perdere, sed quid perdam et quare et quemadmodum dicam; causas paupertatis meae reddam. Sed evenit mihi quod plerisque non suo vitio ad inopiam redactis: omnes ignoscunt, nemo succurrit. Quid ergo est? non puto pauperem cui quantumcumque superest sat est; tu tamen malo serves 30
tua, et bono tempore incipies. Nam ut visum est maioribus nostris, 'sera parsimonia in fundo est'; non enim tantum minimum in imo sed pessimum remanet. *Vale.*

- 3 **discurris**: *dis-* and *di-* are the regular particles used in compounds to denote "this way and that," "hither and thither."
- 11 **ut . . . habeant**: this clause explains the preceding *hoc*.
- 12 **neesse est**: the subjunctive without *ut* sometimes follows *neesse est*.
nullius: i.e., of no author.
- 16 **medicamenta**: i.e., different and various kinds of medicines.
- 18 **Distringit**: see note to line 3.
- 21 **evolvere**: the regular and correct verb for this idea, if one recalls the construction of a Roman book.
- 35 **alieno imminet**: lit., "hangs over," i.e., "yearns for another's property."

- 4 **inquiето**, 1, disturb
iactatio, -onis, *f.*, tossing to and fro, restlessness
- 5 **consisto**, -ere, -stiti, -stitus, 3, stay in one place
- 6 **moror**, 1 *dep.*, linger
lectio, -onis, *f.*, reading
- 9 **nusquam**, *adv.*, nowhere
- 10 **ubique**, *adv.*, everywhere
exigo, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3, spend, pass
- 11 **hospitium**, -i, *n.*, hospitality, inn, hospitable reception
- 12 **ingenium**, -i, *n.*, genius, mind
- 13 **transmitto**, -cre, -misi, -missus, 3, pass through
prosum, **prodesse**, **profui**, *irr.*, help
- 14 **sumo**, -ere, **sumpsi**, **sumptus**, 3, take
- 15 **aeque**. . . **quam**, equally. . . as
- 16 **cicatrix**, -icis, *f.*, scar
- 18 **transitus**, -us, *m.*, passing
distingo, -ere, -trinxi, -trictus, 3, distract
- 20 **modo**, *adv.*, now
- 21 **fastidians**, -entis, *p. adj.*, squeamish
- 22 **degusto**, 1, taste
inquino, 1, pollute
- 23 **alo**, -ere, **alui**, **alitus** (**altus**), 3, nourish
quando, *adv.*, at any time
- 24 **adversus**, *prep. w. acc.*, against
- 25 **comparo**, 1, prepare, obtain
- 27 **excerpo**, -ere, -cerpsi, -cerptus, 3, pick out
concoquo, -ere, -coxi, -coctus, 3, digest
- 28 **adprehendo**, -ere, -hendi, -hensus, 3, seize upon
hodiernus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of or relating to today
hodiernum, -i, *n.*, today
- 29 **apud**, *prep. w. acc.*, in the works of
nanciscor, -i, **nactus** (**nactus**), 3 *dep.*, come upon, find
- 30 **tamquam**, *adv.*, as if
transfuga, -ae, *c.*, deserter
- 32 **parum**, *adv.*, little
- 33 **refert**, **referre**, **retulit**, *impers.*, it makes a difference
- ¶4 **arca**, -ae, *f.*, money box
horreum, -i, *n.*, granary
pasco, -ere, **pavi**, **pastus**, 3, graze
- 35 **fenero** (**faencro**), 1, lend on interest
- 36 **modus**, -i, *m.*, limit
- 37 **proximus**, -a, -um, *superl.* (of *propior*), next

Epistle Two
HE IS NOWHERE WHO IS EVERYWHERE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Ex iis quae mihi scribis et ex iis quae audio bonam spem de te concipio: non discurreis nec locorum mutationibus inquietaris. Aegri animi ista iactatio est: primum argumentum compositae mentis existimo posse consistere et secum morari. Illud autem vide, ne ista lectio auctorum multorum et omnis generis voluminum habeat aliquid vagum et instabile. Certis ingeniis inmorari et innutriti oportet, si velis aliquid trahere quod in animo fideliter sedeat. Nusquam est qui ubique est. Vitam in peregrinatione exigentibus hoc evenit, ut multa hospitia habeant, nullas amicitias; idem accidat necesse est iis qui nullius se ingenio familiariter applicant sed omnia cursim et properantes transmittunt. Non prodest cibus nec corpori accedit qui statim sumptus emittitur; nihil aequè sanitatem impedit quam remedium crebra mutatio; non venit vulnus ad cicatricem in quo medicamenta temptantur; non convalescit planta quae saepe transfertur; nihil tam utile est ut in transitu prosit. Distringit librorum multitudo; itaque cum legere non possis quantum habueris, satis est habere quantum legas. 'Sed modo' inquis 'hunc librum evolvere volo, modo illum.' Fastidientis stomachi est multa degustare; quae ubi varia sunt et diversa, inquinant non alunt. Probatos itaque semper lege, et si quando ad alios deverti libuerit, ad priores redi. Aliquid cotidie adversus paupertatem, aliquid adversus mortem auxili compara, nec minus adversus ceteras pestes; et cum multa percurreris, unum excerpe quod illo die concoquas. Hoc ipse quoque facio; ex pluribus quae legi aliquid adprehendo. Hodiernum hoc est quod apud Epicurum nactus sum (soleo enim et in aliena castra transire, non tamquam transfuga, sed tamquam explorator): 'honestae' inquit 'res est laeta paupertas'. Illa vero non est paupertas, si laeta est; non qui parum habet, sed qui plus cupit, pauper est. Quid enim refert quantum illi in arca, quantum in horreis iaceat, quantum pascat aut feneret, si alieno imminet, si non acquisita sed acquirenda computat? Quis sit divitiarum modus quaeris? primus habere quod necesse est, proximus quod sat est. *Vale.*

- 9 **hac abierit:** "that's O.K."; lit., "in this way, it will pass."
- 12 **sed de ipso prius:** "but first [reflect] about [the man] himself."
- 14 **Theophrasti:** Theophrastus (c. 372–c. 288 B.C.), disciple of Aristotle who succeeded him as head of the Peripatetic School. Theophrastus composed more than 200 treatises on philosophy, natural history, and rhetoric. Besides fragments, his only remaining works are his *Researches on Plants*, *Causes of Plants*, and his famous *Moral Characters*, a collection of 31 character sketches portraying human weaknesses and foibles.
- 16 **Cum placuerit fieri:** i.e., *cum tibi placuerit eum amicum fieri*.
- 18–19 **Tu . . . possis:** i.e., live so honorably that even an enemy could find no fault with you.
- 22 **docuerunt:** supply *homines* as direct object.
- 23 **et illi . . . fecerunt:** "and by being suspicious, they have granted [men] the right to commit wrong": *illi* is nom. pl.
- 37 **apud:** in citing an author, *apud*, "in the works of," "in the writings of," is regularly used. *Pomponium:* possibly Pomponius Secundus, writer of tragedies and epistles, one of Seneca's contemporaries. Pliny the Elder wrote his biography, and Quintilian considered him the best tragic poet of his day. Nothing of his work survives save the title of one of his plays.
- 37 **animo mandabitur:** supply *a te*.
- 39–40 **quiescenti . . . agenti:** datives of agent.
- 2 **perfero, -ferre, -tuli, -latus, irr.,** deliver
- 4 **ne . . . quidem, not . . . even**
- 7 **quomodo, adv.,** in which manner, as
- 8 **obvius, -a, -um, adj.,** meeting, at hand,
obvius, -i, m., one whom we meet
- succurro, -ere, -curri, -cursus, 3,** occur [to one's mind]
- dominus, -i, m.,** sir
- 10 **tantundem, adv.,** as much
- quantum, adv.,** as
- 12 **delibero, 1,** weigh carefully, consider
- 13 **praeposterus, -a, -um, adj.,** in a reversed order
- permisceo, -ere, -miscui, -mixtus, 2,** confuse
- 15 **an, conj.,** whether
- 18 **committo, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3,** entrust
- 20 **intervenio, -venire, -veni, -ventus, 4,** come up, happen
- arcanus, -a, -um, adj.,** secret
- 22 **fallo, -ere, fefelli, falsus, 3,** deceive
- 24 **coram, prep. w. abl.,** in the presence of
- 25 **tantum, adv.,** only
- 26 **quilibet, quae-, quod-, indef. adj.,** any
- 27 **uro, -ere, ussi, ustus, 3,** burn
- exonero, 1,** unload
- rursus, adv.,** on the other hand
- 28 **conscientia, -ae, f.,** a sharing of knowledge
- reformido, 1,** fear
- 29 **interius, comp. adj.,** deep within
- 30 **uterque, utraque, utrumque, adj.,** each
- 31 **alter . . . alter, the one . . . the other**
- 32 **reprehendo, -ere, -prehendi, -prehensus, 3,** reprimand
- 34 **exagitatus, -a, -um, adj.,** stirred up, agitated
- 35 **conkursatio, -onis, f.,** running about, restlessness
- 36 **molestia, -ae, f.,** annoyance
- dissolutio, -onis, f.,** lethargy
- 38 **latebra, -ae, f.,** hiding, hiding-place, darkness
- turbidus, -a, -um, adj.,** confused.
- turbidum, -i, n.,** confusion

Epistle Three ON FRIENDSHIP

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Epistulas ad me perferendas tradidisti, ut scribis, amico tuo; deinde admones me ne omnia cum eo ad te pertinentia communicem, quia non soleas ne ipse quidem id facere: ita eadem epistula illum et dixisti amicum et negasti. Itaque si proprio illo verbo quasi publico usus es et sic illum amicum vocasti quomodo omnes candidatos 'bonos viros' dicimus, quomodo obvios, si nomen non succurrit, 'dominos' salutamus, hac abierit. Sed si aliquem amicum existimas cui non tantundem credis quantum tibi, vehementer erras et non satis nosti vim verae amicitiae. Tu vero omnia cum amico delibera, sed de ipso prius: post amicitiam credendum est, ante amicitiam iudicandum. Isti vero praepestero officia permiscent qui, contra praecepta Theophrasti, cum amaverunt iudicant, et non amant cum iudicaverunt. Diu cogita an tibi in amicitiam aliquis recipiendus sit. Cum placuerit fieri, toto illum pectore admitte; tam audaciter cum illo loquere quam tecum. Tu quidem ita vive ut nihil tibi committas nisi quod committere etiam inimico tuo possis; sed quia interveniunt quaedam quae consuetudo fecit arcana, cum amico omnes curas, omnes cogitationes tuas misce. Fidelem si putaveris, facies; nam quidam fallere docuerunt dum timent falli, et illi ius peccandi suspicando fecerunt. Quid est quare ego ulla verba coram amico meo retraham? quid est quare me coram illo non putem solum? Quidam quae tantum amicis committenda sunt obviis narrant, et in quaslibet aures quidquid illos urit exonerant; quidam rursus etiam carissimorum conscientiam reformidant et, si possent, ne sibi quidem credituri interius premunt omne secretum. Neutrum faciendum est; utrumque enim vitium est, et omnibus credere et nulli, sed alterum honestius dixerim vitium, alterum tutius. Sic utrosque reprehendas, et eos qui semper inquieti sunt, et eos qui semper quiescunt. Nam illa tumultu gaudens non est industria sed exagitatae mentis concursatio, et haec non est quies quae motum omnem molestiam iudicat, sed dissolutio et languor. Itaque hoc quod apud Pomponium legi animo mandabitur: 'quidam adeo in latebras refugerunt ut putent in turbido esse quidquid in luce est'. Inter se ista miscenda sunt: et quiescenti agendum et agenti quiescendum est. Cum rerum natura delibera: illa dicet tibi et diem fecisse se et noctem. *Val.*

- 19 **nostrī**: genitive of the whole (partitive genitive) after *nihil*.
- 21–22 **a qua . . . separabit**: “a lack of similarity [in mores] will prevent us from [keeping] this promise”; *qua = hac*. Recall such phrases as *quae cum ita sint*, translated “since these things are so,” where the relative pronoun is used instead of the demonstrative.
- 24 **secundum naturam vivere**: “to live according to nature” is the keynote of Stoic philosophy. By this phrase, the Stoics mean that one must strive to live according to reason, the highest good in man, the distinguishing characteristic of man and God. To the Stoics, Reason is identical with Nature, God, and Providence. The more man perfects his Reason, the closer he comes to God, who is perfected rationality.
- 28 **non magno**: ablative of price, “at no great cost.”
- 30 **non incompta**: an example of LITOTES (a figure of speech that asserts the negative of its opposite), lit., “not inelegant” (i.e., “elegant”).
- 38–39 **pati . . . divitias**: an example of PARA PROSDOKIAN (a figure of speech with which an author introduces a turn contrary to what is expected). The reader would have expected *frugalitatem* instead of *divitias*.
- 2 **pertinaciter**, *adv.*, constantly
- 3 **ago**, -ere, *egi*, *actus*, 3, be concerned with
- cotidie**, *adv.*, daily
- 4 **tantum**, *adv.*, only
- 5 **proficio**, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, make progress
- conspicio**, -ere, -spexi, -spectus, 3, notice
- 6 **habitus**, -us, *m.*, appearance
- 7 **notabilis**, -e, *adj.*, ostentatious
- asper**, -era, -erum, *adj.*, rough
- cultus**, -us, *m.*, attire
- intonsus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, unshorn
- 8 **barba**, -ae, *f.*, beard
- cubile**, -is, *n.*, bed
- humus**, -i, *f.*, ground, **humi**, on the ground
- 9 **ambitio**, -onis, *f.*, ostentation
- 10 **evito**, 1, avoid
- 11 **invidiosus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, odious
- consuetudo**, -inis, *f.*, custom
- 12 **excerpo**, -ere, -cerpsi, -cerptus, 3, withdraw
- intus**, *adv.*, within
- frons**, **frontis**, *f.*, outward appearance
- 13 **convenio**, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, be suitable
- splendo**, -ere, -ni, 2, shine
- 14 **caelatura**, -ae, *f.*, carving
- 17 **alioquin**, *adv.*, otherwise
- emendo**, 1, improve
- 18 **fugo**, 1, put to flight
- 20 **sensus**, -us, *m.*, feeling
- 21 **congregatio**, -onis, *f.*, sociability
- 23 **nempe**, *conj.*, to be sure
- 25 **torqu**, -ere, **torsi**, **tortus**, 2, twist, torment
- munditia**, -ae, *f.*, cleanliness, neatness
- 26 **vilis**, -e, *adj.*, cheap
- 27 **taeter**, -ra, -rum, *adj.*, nauseating
- quemadmodum**, *adv.*, just as
- 28 **usitatus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, customary
- 29 **exigo**, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3, demand
- 31 **suspicio**, -ere, -spexi, -spectus, 3, look up to, esteem
- 32 **agnosco**, -ere, -novi, -nitus, 3, understand
- 33 **intersum**, -esse, -fui, *irr.*, be different
- 35 **potius**, *adv.*, rather
- quam**, *adv.*, than
- suppellex**, -lectilis, *f.*, furniture
- 36 **fictile**, -is, *n.*, earthenware

Epistle Five THE GOLDEN MEAN

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quod pertinaciter studes et omnibus omissis hoc unum agis, ut te meliorem cotidie facias, et probo et gaudeo, nec tantum hortor ut perseveres sed etiam rogo. Illud autem te admoneo, ne eorum more qui non proficere sed conspici cupiunt facias aliqua quae in habitu tuo aut genere vitae notabilia sint; asperum cultum et intonsum caput et neglegentio-rem barbam et indictum argento odium et cubile humi positum et quidquid aliud ambitionem perversa via sequitur evita. Satis ipsum nomen philosophiae, etiam si modeste tractetur, invidiosum est: quid si nos hominum consuetudini coeperimus excerpere? Intus omnia dissimilia sint, frons populo nostra conveniat. Non splendeat toga, ne sordeat quidem; non habeamus argentum in quod solidi auri caelatura descenderit, sed non putemus frugalitatis indicium auro argentoque caruisse. Id agamus ut meliorem vitam sequamur quam vulgus, non ut contrariam: alioquin quos emendari volumus fugamus a nobis et avertimus; illud quoque efficimus, ut nihil imitari velint nostri, dum timent ne imitanda sint omnia. Hoc primum philosophia promittit, sensum communem, humanitatem et congregationem; a qua professione dissimilitudo nos separabit. Videamus ne ista per quae admirationem parare volumus ridicula et odiosa sint. Nempe propositum nostrum est secundum naturam vivere: hoc contra naturam est, torquere corpus suum et faciles odisse munditias et squalorem adpetere et cibis non tantum vilibus uti sed taetris et horridis. Quemadmodum desiderare delicatas res luxuriaest, ita usitatas et non magno parabiles fugere dementiae. Frugalitatem exigit philosophia, non poenam; potest autem esse non incompta frugalitas. Hic mihi modus placet: temperetur vita inter bonos mores et publicos; suspiciant omnes vitam nostram sed agnoscant. 'Quid ergo? eadem faciemus quae ceteri? nihil inter nos et illos intererit?' Plurimum: dissimiles esse nos vulgo sciat qui inspexerit propius; qui domum intraverit nos potius miretur quam suppellectilem nostram. Magnus ille est qui fictilibus sic utitur quemadmodum argento, nec ille minor est qui sic argento utitur quemadmodum fictilibus; infirmi animi est pati non posse divitias.

- 41 **Hecatonem:** Hecato of Rhodes, Stoic philosopher of the first century B.C., pupil of Panaetius.
- 41-42 **etiam ad. . . proficere:** "helps also as a remedy against fear."
- 45 **custodiam et militem:** *custodiam*, in the sense of "prisoner," is a post-Augustan usage. To prevent a prisoner from escaping, a common chain linked together both the prisoner and the soldier who held him in custody.

- 40 **lucellum, -i, n.,** small profit
- 41 **apud, prep. w. acc.,** in the works of
- 42 **desino, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs, 3,** cease
- 43 **pariter, adv.,** alike
- 44 **dissideo, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, 2,** be different
- 45 **catena, -ae, f.,** chain
- custodia, -ae, f.,** prisoner
- 46 **copulo, 1,** link
- pariter, adv.,** together
- 47 **uterque, utraque, utrumque, adj.,** each
- 48 **sollicitus, -a, -um, adj.,** full of anxiety
- 49 **quod, conj.,** the fact that
- 50 **apto, 1,** fit, adapt
- 52 **fera, -ae, f.,** wild beast

Sed ut huius quoque diei lucellum tecum communicem, 40
 apud Hecatonem nostrum inveni cupiditatum finem etiam
 ad timoris remedia proficere. 'Desines' inquit 'timere, si
 sperare desieris.' Dices, 'quomodo ista tam diversa pariter
 sunt?' Ita est, mi Lucili: cum videantur dissidere, coniuncta 45
 sunt. Quemadmodum eadem catena et custodiam et militem
 copulat, sic ista quae tam dissimilia sunt pariter incedunt:
 spem metus sequitur. Nec miror ista sic ire: utrumque
 pendentis animi est, utrumque futuri expectatione solliciti.
 Maxima autem utriusque causa est quod non ad praesentia 50
 aptamur sed cogitationes in longinqua praemittimus; itaque
 providentia, maximum bonum condicionis humanae, in
 malum versa est. Ferae pericula quae vident fugiunt, cum
 effugere, securae sunt: nos et venturo torquemur et praeterito.
 Multa bona nostra nobis nocent; timoris enim tormentum 55
 memoria reducit, providentia anticipat; nemo tantum prae-
 sentibus miser est. *Valē.*

- 4-5 **Quidni** . . . **attolli**: "why would I not have (i.e., of course I have) many qualities [in me] that should be reorganized—some played down, some played up."
- 10 **illius verae**: these words and *illius* in the following line refer to *amicitiae*.
- 14 **honestae**: direct object of *cupiendi*.
- 16 **et** . . . **adversa**: "and what's more [they know that they have] adversity [in common]."
- 17 **quantum momenti**: "how much change."
- 20 **in hoc**: "for this purpose"; *hoc* is accusative.
- 25 **ne** . . . **inpendas**: "in order that you may not expend much effort."
- 28 **in rem** . . . **oportet**: "it is necessary that you go to the circumstances at hand." The subjunctive without *ut* sometimes follows *oportet*.
- 31 **Zenonem** . . . **expressisset**: Zeno (335-263 B.C.), founder of the Stoic School at Athens. Cleanthes (331-232 B.C.), successor to Zeno as head of the Stoic School. Cleanthes reproduces (*exprimit*) the image of his teacher, Zeno.
- 32-33 **observavit** . . . **viveret**: "he (Cleanthes) observed whether he (Zeno) lived according to his own rule." The more usual construction would be: *et observavit, an is ex formula sua viveret*.
- 35-36 **Metrodorum** . . . **Epicuri**: Epicurus (341-270 B.C.), founder of the Epicurean School. Metrodorus, Hermarchus, and Polyacnus were disciples of Epicurus.
- 37 **in hoc**: see note to line 20.
- 37 **prosis**: supply *mibi*.
- 40 **Hecatonem**: Hecato of Rhodes, Stoic philosopher of the first century B.C., pupil of Panaetius.
- 42 **Scito**: "know," future imperative of *scio*, -ire.

- 2 **tantum**, *adv.*, only
- 3 **supersum**, -esse, -fui, *irr.*, be left, remain
- 5 **argumentum**, -i, *n.*, proof
- 6 **translatus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *transfero*), transferred
- quod**, *conj.*, the fact that
- adhuc**, *adv.*, up to this point
- 7 **ager**, -ra, -rum, *adj.*, sick
- 10 **fiducia**, -ae, *f.*, confidence
- 11 **utilitas**, -atis, *f.*, interest
- divello**, -ere, -velli, -vulsus, 3, tear asunder
- 15 **quidni**, *adv.*, why not?, of course
- 19 **experior**, -iri, *expertus*, 4 *dep.*, try, test, find
- transfundo**, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, pour, heap
- 20 **disco**, -ere, *didici*, 3, learn
- 21 **licet**, although
- eximius**, -a, -um, *adj.*, extraordinary
- 25 **passim**, *adv.*, everywhere
- prosum**, *prodesse*, *profui*, *irr.*, be useful
- 26 **protinus**, *adv.*, at once
- 27 **convictus**, -us, *m.*, intimacy
- oratio**, -onis, *f.*, set speech
- 29 **amplius**, *comp.* (of *ample*), more
- 31 **tantummodo**, *adv.*, only
- 33 **diversus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, different
- in diversum**, in different directions
- 36 **contubernium**, -i, *n.*, dwelling together
- 37 **accerso** (*arcesso*), -ere, -ivi, -itus, 3, summon
- proficio**, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, make progress
- 39 **diurnus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, daily
- mercedula**, -ae, *f.*, small reward
- 40 **apud**, *prep. m. acc.*, in the works of

Epistle Six
THE JOY OF SHARING ONE'S POSSESSIONS
WITH ONE'S FRIENDS

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Intellego, Lucili, non emendari me tantum sed transfurari; nec hoc promitto iam aut spero, nihil in me superesse quod mutandum sit. Quidni multa habeam quae debeant colligi, quae extenuari, quae attolli? Et hoc ipsum argumentum est in melius translati animi, quod vitia sua quae adhuc ignorabat videt; quibusdam aegris gratulatio fit cum ipsi aegros se esse senserunt. Cuperem itaque tecum communicare tam subitam mutationem mei; tunc amicitiae nostrae certiorum fiduciam habere coepissem, illius verae quam non spes, non timor, non utilitatis suae cura divellit, illius cum qua homines moriuntur, pro qua moriuntur. Multos tibi dabo qui non amico sed amicitia caruerint: hoc non potest accidere cum animos in societatem honesta cupiendi par voluntas trahit. Quidni non possit? sciunt enim ipsos omnia habere communia, et quidem magis adversa. 5

Concipere animo non potes quantum momenti adferre mihi singulos dies videam. 'Mitte' inquis 'et nobis ista quae tam efficacia expertus es.' Ego vero omnia in te cupio transfundere, et in hoc aliquid gaudeo discere, ut doceam; nec me ulla res delectabit, licet sit eximia et salutaris, quam mihi uni sciturus sum. Si cum hac exceptione detur sapientia, ut illam inclusam teneam nec enuntiem, reiciam: nullius boni sine socio iucunda possessio est. Mittam itaque ipsos tibi libros, et ne multum operae inpendas dum passim profutura sectaris, inponam notas, ut ad ipsa protinus quae probo et miror accedas. Plus tamen tibi et viva vox et convictus quam oratio proderit; in rem praesentem venias oportet, primum quia homines amplius oculis quam auribus credunt, deinde quia longum iter est per praecepta, breve et efficax per exempla. Zenonem Cleanthes non expressisset, si tantummodo audisset: vitae eius interfuit, secreta perspexit, observavit illum, an ex formula sua viveret. Platon et Aristoteles et omnis in diversum itura sapientium turba plus ex moribus quam ex verbis Socratis traxit; Metrodorum et Hermarchum et Polyaenum magnos viros non schola Epicuri sed contubernium fecit. Nec in hoc te accerso tantum, ut proficias, sed ut prosis; plurimum enim alter alteri conferemus. 20

Interim quoniam diurnam tibi mercedulam debeo, quid me hodie apud Hecatonem delectaverit dicam. 'Quaeris' inquit 'quid profecerim?' amicus esse mihi coepi. Multum profecit: numquam erit solus. Scito esse hunc amicum omnibus. *Val.* 25 30 35 40

- 6 **Quod:** the antecedent of *quod* is *hoc* (following line). Latin prefers the relative to the demonstrative pronoun at the beginning of a sentence or clause.
- 9 **nemo non:** "everyone"; an example of LITOTES.
- 10 **nescientibus:** dative in agreement with the ind. obj., *nobis*.
- 16 **meridianum spectaculum:** gladiatorial combats lasted an entire day and to prevent tedium were varied in form. In the morning wild animals fought against wild animals, or men (called *bestiarii*) fought against such animals. In the afternoon, trained gladiators fought one another. In between these morning and afternoon combats, there was a *spectaculum meridianum* which was supposed to relieve the heaviness of the other two by furnishing, as Seneca says, *lusus* ("light entertainment"), *sales* ("wit"), *et aliquid laxamenti* ("some relaxation"). But instead, one came upon even greater butchery. Condemned criminals with no defensive armor were forced into the arena to divert the audience.
- 18 **ante:** i.e., at the morning spectacle.
- 22 **ordinariis paribus et postulaticiiis:** "to ordinary pairs [of gladiators] and [to pairs] on request": *postulaticiiis* refers to unusual fighters kept on reserve to satisfy an audience's demand for encores.
- 22-23 **Quidni praeferant:** "Why should they not prefer it?" i.e., of course they prefer it.
- 23 **Quo:** "to what end," "for what purpose"; *quo* is a causal ablative.
- 26 **iubent:** supply *spectatores* as subject of this verb.
- 27 **exitus. . . est:** i.e., death was the only thing these fighters might hope for, since each was required to keep fighting until he met his superior.
- 27-28 **Ferro. . . geritur:** "the whole affair is carried on with sword and fire." These condemned criminals were forced out into the arena with swords and red hot brands.
- 30 **quid meruisti:** lit., "what have you deserved," where the meaning is "what have you done to deserve" to see this.
- 31 **Occide, verbera, ure:** commands addressed by the audience to those designated to drive the condemned criminals with sword, lash, and fire into the encounter. See note to lines 27-28.

- 2 **praecipue, adv.,** especially
- turba, -ae, f.,** crowd
- 3 **nondum, adv.,** not yet
- tuto, adv.,** safely
- inbecillitas, -atis, f.,** weakness
- 5 **compono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3,** put in order
- fugo, 1,** put to flight
- 6 **aeger, -ra, -rum, adj.,** sick
- usque, adv.,** all the way
- eo, adv.,** to such a pitch
- 7 **offensa, -ae, f.,** harm
- 8 **reficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3,** restore
- 9 **conversatio, -onis, f.,** association
- 10 **adlino, -ere, -levi, -litus, 3,** smear on
- utique, adv.,** certainly
- 11 **quo. . . hoc = quanto. . . tanto,** the. . . the
- 12 **damnosus, -a, -um, adj.,** harmful
- spectaculum, -i, n.,** show
- 13 **desido, -ere, -sedi, 3,** settle down
- subrepto, -ere, -repsi, -reptus, 3,** creep in
- 15 **immo, adv.,** nay, rather
- 16 **casus, -us, m.,** chance, **casu = forte,** by chance
- lusus, -us, m.,** entertainment
- 17 **sal, -is, n. and m. in sing., m. always in pl.,** salt, wit
- laxamentum, -i, n.,** relaxation
- 18 **cruor, -oris, m.,** blood
- 19 **nugae, -arum, f.,** trifles
- merus, -a, -um, adj.,** pure
- 20 **ictus, -us, m.,** blow
- 21 **plerique, pleraeque, pleraque, adj.,** the majority
- 23 **galea, -ae, f.,** helmet
- scutum, -i, n.,** shield
- munimentum, -i, n.,** protective armor
- 24 **mora, -ae, f.,** delay
- mane, adv.,** in the morning
- 25 **meridie, adv.,** in the afternoon
- 28 **vaco, 1,** be empty
- harena, -ae, f.,** arena
- latrocinium, -i, n.,** highway robbery
- 31 **verbero, 1,** lash
- 32 **parum, adv.,** too little, not enough
- 33 **plaga, -ae, f.,** blow
- 34 **obvius, -a, -um, adj.,** exposed

Epistle Seven
AVOID THE CROWD

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quid tibi vitandum praecipue existimes quaeris? turbam. Nondum illi tuto committeris. Ego certe confitebor inbecillitatem meam: numquam mores quos extuli refero; aliquid ex eo quod composui turbatur, aliquid ex iis quae fugavi redit. 5
Quod aegris evenit quos longa inbecillitas usque eo adfecit ut nusquam sine offensa proferantur, hoc accidit nobis quorum animi ex longo morbo reficiuntur. Inimica est multorum conversatio: nemo non aliquod nobis vitium aut commendat aut inprimit aut nescientibus adlinit. Utique quo 10
maior est populus cui miscemur, hoc periculi plus est. Nihil vero tam damnosum bonis moribus quam in aliquo spectaculo desidere; tunc enim per voluptatem facilius vitia subrepunt. Quid me existimas dicere? avarior redeo, ambitiosior, luxuriosior? immo vero crudelior et inhumanior, quia inter homines 15
fui. Casu in meridianum spectaculum incidi, lusus expectans et sales et aliquid laxamenti quo hominum oculi ab humano cruore adquiescant. Contra est: quidquid ante pugnatum est misericordia fuit; nunc omissis nugis mera homicidia sunt. Nihil habent quo tegantur; ad ictum totis corporibus ex- 20
positi numquam frustra manum mittunt. Hoc plerique ordinariis paribus et postulatiis praeferunt. Quidni praeferant? non galea, non scuto repellitur ferrum. Quo munimenta? quo artes? omnia ista mortis morae sunt. Mane leonibus et ursis homines, meridie spectatoribus suis obiciuntur. Interfectores interfecturis iubent obici et victorem in aliam detinent 25
caedem; exitus pugnantium mors est. Ferro et igne res geritur. Haec fiunt dum vacat harena. 'Sed latrocinium fecit aliquis, occidit hominem.' Quid ergo? quia occidit, ille meruit ut hoc pateretur: tu quid meruisti miser ut hoc spectes? 'Occide, verbera, ure! Quare tam timide incurrit in ferrum? quare parum audacter occidit? quare parum libenter moritur? Plagis agatur in vulnera, mutuos ictus nudis et obviis pectoribus excipiant.' Intermissum est spectaculum: 30

35 **ne nihil agatur:** lit., "lest nothing be done," i.e., "that there may be no lull" in the excitement.

35-36 **ne. . .intellegitis:** Seneca is addressing the barbarian spectators who are shouting for blood and murder.

37-38 **Agite. . .discere:** Seneca is here employing a striking paradox: the performers in the brutal "show" are innocent, whereas it is the spectators he addresses who are cruel. Thus the meaning of this passage is: thank the gods that these poor men in the arena cannot learn the brutality and cruelty you are attempting to teach them. If they were so low by nature as to learn such lessons readily, the world would be a much worse place to live in than it is.

40 **transitur:** Latin is fond of this passive impersonal use of intransitive verbs. Constructed according to English idiom, it would be: *facile est transire ad plures*.

40 **Socrati:** this and the following datives are datives of separation.

40 **Catoni et Laelio:** Marcus Porcius Cato the Younger (95-46 B.C.) was an arch political opponent of Julius Caesar. When Caesar defeated Pompey in the battle of Thapsus, virtually becoming Emperor, Cato, staunch defender of liberty and the Republic, committed suicide. Seneca repeatedly extols Cato's noble character and often refers to him as the ideal Stoic sage. Gaius Laelius, an erudite man and well-known philosopher, surnamed the "Wise," was the personal friend of Scipio Africanus the Younger, conqueror of Carthage (146 B.C.). To Laelius, Cicero paid special honor by making him the principal speaker in the *De Amicitia*.

41-42 **nemo. . .ingenium:** "no one of us who cultivates his natural power to the greatest extent"; *cum maxime*, a rather frequent expression in Seneca, means "to the greatest extent," "however much," or sometimes "just now"; *concinnamus* agrees logically with *nostrum* rather than grammatically with *nemo*.

46 **candido et simplici:** dative in agreement with the other person implied in the use of *comes*. A dative plural modifying an understood *nobis* would be more in harmony with English idiom.

47 **adfricuit:** a gnomic perfect as if a present. This perfect is used to express a general truth and implies that what has happened once will happen again.

48-49 **aut imiteris aut oderis:** supply *populum* as object.

54 **Non est quod:** "there is no reason why." This expression is frequent in Silver Latin. It occurs again five lines down in this epistle. The verb in the *quod* clause is regularly in the subjunctive. The *non est* is equivalent to *non necesse est*. When it has this meaning, it is generally followed by an *ut* or, as here, *quod* clause. *Quod* may thus be seen beginning its encroachment upon the functions of *ut*.

54-55 **in medium:** supply *populum*.

58-59 **ad intellectum tui:** "to understand you"; *tui* is objective genitive.

35 **iugulo, 1,** cut the throat, kill
age, come now!

ne. . .quidem, not. . .even

38 **disco, -ere, didici, 3,** learn

39 **subduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus,**
3, withdraw

tener, -era, -erum, adj., tender

40 **excutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus,**
3, shake out

41 **adeo, adv.,** so

43 **comitatus, -us, m.,** retinue

44 **convictor, -oris, m.,** companion

45 **delicatus, -a, -um, adj.,** luxurious
mollio, 4, soften

46 **quamvis, adv.,** however,
although

47 **rubigo, -inis, m.,** rust

adfrico, -are, -fricui, -fricatus,
1, rub on

48 **publice, adv.,** publicly, i.e., by
the crowd

51 **quantum, adv.,** as far as
versor, 1 dep., associate

54 **publico, 1,** make public

ingenium, -i, n., talent

56 **merx, mercis, f.,** merchandise

58 **instituo, -ere, -stitui,**
-stitutus, 3, train

'interim iugulentur homines, ne nihil agatur'. Age, ne hoc 35
quidem intellegitis, mala exempla in eos redundare qui
faciunt? Agite dis immortalibus gratias quod eum docetis
esse crudelem qui non potest discere.

Subducendus populo est tener animus et parum tenax recti:
facile transitur ad plures. Socrati et Catoni et Laelio excutere 40
morem suum dissimilis multitudo potuisset: adeo nemo no-
strum, qui cum maxime concinnamus ingenium, ferre impe-
tum vitiorum tam magno comitatu venientium potest. Unum
exemplum luxuriae aut avaritiae multum mali facit: convictor
delicatus paulatim enervat et mollit, vicinus dives cupidita- 45
tem inritat, malignus comes quamvis candido et simplici
rubiginem suam adfricuit: quid tu accidere his moribus credis
in quos publice factus est impetus? Necesse est aut imiteris
aut oderis. Utrumque autem devitandum est: neve similis
malis fias, quia multi sunt, neve inimicus multis, quia dissi- 50
miles sunt. Recede in te ipse quantum potes; cum his versare
qui te meliorem facturi sunt, illos admitte quos tu potes
facere meliores. Mutuo ista fiunt, et homines dum docent
discunt. Non est quod te gloria publicandi ingenii producat in
medium, ut recitare istis velis aut disputare; quod facere te 55
vellem, si haberes isti populo idoneam mercem: nemo est qui
intellegere te possit. Aliquis fortasse, unus aut alter incidet,
et hic ipse formandus tibi erit instituendusque ad intellectum
tui. 'Cui ergo ista didici?' Non est quod timeas ne operam
perdideris, si tibi didicisti. 60

- 62-63 **quae occurrunt**. . .**tria**: "three excellent sayings which occur to me concerning approximately the same topic."
- 63 **in debitum**: "toward canceling my debt." In Epistle 2, Seneca had promised to share with Lucilius in every letter an outstanding quotation. He is sending three quotations in this letter. One is to pay the present debt, the other two are sent as payment "in advance" (*in antecessum*). Seneca describes the payment of these quotations by many financial terms.
- 64 **Democritus**: Democritus (c. 460-c. 360 B.C.), known as the "laughing philosopher," developed fully the atomic theory of matter, reducing everything to atoms and void. Epicurus was greatly indebted to him.
- 65 **Bene et ille**: supply *ait*.
- 66-67 **quo**. . .**perventurae**: lit., "whither looked so great attention to an art destined to reach a very few?" I.e., "what was the use of so great attention to an art destined to reach a very few?"
- 70 **multis**: supply *scribo*.
- 73-74 **ecquid**. . .**tibi**: "have you any reason why you should be pleased with yourself?"
- 64 **antecessus**, -us, *m.*, a going before, in *antecessum*, in advance
pro, *prep. w. abl.*, for, in place of, as good as
- 65 **ambigo**, -ere, 3, wander about, doubt, dispute
- 69 **consors**, -sortis, *adj.*, sharing in, partaking of
- 71 **condo**, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, store away
- 72 **contemno**, -ere, -tempsi, -temptus, 3, scorn
- 73 **adsensio**, -onis, *f.*, agreement, applause
- 74 **introrsus**, *adv.*, inwards

Sed ne soli mihi hodie didicerim, communicabo tecum
quae occurrunt mihi egregie dicta circa eundem fere sensum
tria, ex quibus unum haec epistula in debitum solvet, duo
in antecessum accipe. Democritus ait, 'unus mihi pro populo
est, et populus pro uno'. Bene et ille, quisquis fuit (ambigitur
enim de auctore), cum quaereretur ab illo quo tanta diligentia
artis spectaret ad paucissimos perventurae, 'satis sunt' inquit
'mihi pauci, satis est unus, satis est nullus'. Egregie hoc
tertium Epicurus, cum uni ex consortibus studiorum suorum
scriberet: 'haec' inquit 'ego non multis, sed tibi; satis enim
magnum alter alteri theatrum sumus'. Ista, mi Lucili, con-
denda in animum sunt, ut contemnas voluptatem ex plurium
adsensione venientem. Multi te laudant: ecquid habes cur
placeas tibi, si is es quem intellegant multi? introrsus bona
tua spectent. *Vale.*

65

70

- 7-8 **adeo**. . **rubor**: "so did he blush from deep within."
 8 **Hic**: i.e., rubor.
 17-18 **illo vitio**. . **admonet**: "and through that weakness admonishes even the most robust of her power."
 23 **Sulla**: Sulla, distinguished leader of the aristocratic party, opponent of Marius, head of the democratic party. Sulla became dictator at Rome in 82 B.C.
 24 **Pompei**: Gnaeus Pompeius, renowned for his military achievements, was called "Pompey the Great." He became consul in 70 B.C. In 60 B.C. he joined the so-called First Triumvirate—a private coalition formed by Caesar, Crassus, and himself which aimed to shape and to control affairs in Rome.
 24-25 **numquam non**: "always"; an example of LITOTES.
 25 **Fabianum**: Papirius Fabianus, of the Sextian School of philosophy, was one of Seneca's teachers.
 28-29 **quae**. . **pronos**: "which even if it does not rattle the inexperienced [yet] affects them [thus] if they are naturally prone to this tendency."
 34 **cum multum**. . **diuque**: "however much and however long."

- 2 **indoles**, -is, *f.*, natural disposition, nature
 4 **profectus**, -us, *m.*, progress
gustus, -us, *m.*, taste
 6 **subito**, *adv.*, suddenly
deprehendo, -ere, -prehendi, -prehensus, 3, catch off guard
verecundia, -ae, *f.*, modesty
 7 **excutio**, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake out
 8 **quantum**, *adv.*, as far as
 9 **exuo**, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3, strip off, shake off
 11 **ponuntur = deponuntur lenio**, 4, assuage
 13 **sudor**, -oris, *m.*, sweat
aliter, *adv.*, otherwise
 14 **aestuo**, 1, be hot
genu, -us, *n.*, knee
 15 **collido**, -ere, -lisi, -lisus, 3, dash together
titubo, 1, falter
labrum, -i, *n.*, lip
 16 **usus**, -us, *m.*, experience
 18 **rubor**, -oris, *m.*, blushing
 19 **subitus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, sudden
adfundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, pour on, spread on
 20 **tener**, -era, -erum, *adj.*, tender, youthful
frons, frontis, *f.*, brow
nihilominus, *adv.*, nevertheless
 22 **erubesco**, -ere, erubui, 3, redden, blush
quasi, *adv.*, as if
 23 **effundo**, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, pour out
 24 **mollis**, -e, *adj.*, soft
 25 **coram**, *prep. w. abl.*, in the presence of
utique, *adv.*, especially
contio, -onis, *f.*, meeting
 26 **testis**, -is, *c.*, witness
 27 **decet**, -ere, decuit, *impers.*, 2, it fits, it becomes
 28 **inexercitatus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, inexperienced
 29 **concutio**, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake, agitate
 31 **cito**, *adv.*, quickly
 32 **abigo**, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3, drive away
alioquin, *adv.*, otherwise

Epistle Eleven
WISDOM UNABLE TO SUPPRESS
NATURAL EMOTIONS

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Locutus est mecum amicus tuus bonae indolis, in quo quantum esset animi, quantum ingenii, quantum iam etiam profectus, sermo primus ostendit. Dedit nobis gustum, ad quem respondebit; non enim ex praeparato locutus est, sed subito deprehensus. Ubi se colligebat, verecundiam, bonum in adulescente signum, vix potuit excutere; adeo illi ex alto suffusus est rubor. Hic illum, quantum suspicor, etiam cum se confirmaverit et omnibus vitiis exuerit, sapientem quoque sequetur. Nulla enim sapientia naturalia corporis aut animi vitia ponuntur: quidquid infixum et ingenitum est lenitur arte, non vincitur. Quibusdam etiam constantissimis in conspectu populi sudor erumpit non aliter quam fatigatis et aestuantibus solet, quibusdam tremunt genua dicturis, quorundam dentes colliduntur, lingua titubat, labra concurrunt: haec nec disciplina nec usus umquam excutit, sed natura vim suam exercet et illo vitio sui etiam robustissimos admonet. Inter haec esse et ruborem scio, qui gravissimis quoque viris subitus adfunditur. Magis quidem in iuvenibus apparet, quibus et plus caloris est et tenera frons; nihilominus et veteranos et senes tangit. Quidam numquam magis quam cum erubuerint timendi sunt, quasi omnem verecundiam effuderint; Sulla tunc erat violentissimus cum faciem eius sanguis invaserat. Nihil erat mollius ore Pompei; numquam non coram pluribus rubuit, utique in contionibus. Fabianum, cum in senatum testis esset inductus, erubuisse memini, et hic illum mire pudor decuit. Non accidit hoc ab infirmitate mentis sed a novitate rei, quae inexercitatos, etiam si non concutit, movet naturali in hoc facilitate corporis pronos; nam ut quidam boni sanguinis sunt, ita quidam incitati et mobilis et cito in os prodeuntis. Haec, ut dixi, nulla sapientia abigit: alioquin haberet rerum naturam sub imperio, si omnia eraderet vitia. Quaeumque adtribuit condicio nascendi et corporis temperatura, cum multum se diuque animus composuerit, haerebunt; nihil horum vetari potest, non

- 54 *ad memoriam*. . . *cius*: "by the recollection of that one," i.e., by calling him to mind.
- 56-57 *Catonem*. . . *Laelium*: see *Ep.* 7, note to line 40.
- 57 *eum*: i.e., *aliquem*.
- 58-59 *cuius*. . . *ipse animum ante se ferens vultus*: lit., "whose face itself revealing the soul before it"; i.e., "whose face itself mirroring the soul within."
- 60-61 *ad quem*. . . *corrige*s: "following whom our very character may fashion itself; you will not correct what is crooked except with the use of a ruler."

- 35 *haereo*, -ere, *haesi*, *haesus*, 2, cling
- 36 *accerso* (*arcesso*), -ere, -ivi, -itus, 3, summon
adfectus, -us, *m.*, emotion
- 39 *summitto*, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, lower
figo, -ere, *fixi*, *fixus*, 3, fix
- 41 *adversus*, *prep. in acc.*, against
- 42 *proficio*, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, help
- 44 *clausula*, -ae, *f.*, conclusion
- 46 *diligo*, -ere, -lexi, -lectus, 3, love, esteem
- 47 *tamquam*, *adv.*, as if
- 48 *praecipio*, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus, 3, teach
- 49 *inmerito*, *adv.*, undeservedly
- 50 *peccatum*, -i, *n.*, sin
- tollo*, -ere, *sustuli*, *sublatus*, 3, lift up, remove
- 51 *vereor*, -eri, *veritus*, 2 *dep.*, respect
- 53 *tantum*, *adv.*, only
- 57 *remissus*, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of remitto*), mild
- 60 *opus est*, there is need
- 61 *exigo*, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3, measure, weigh

magis quam accersi. Artifices scaenici, qui imitantur adfectus, qui metum et trepidationem exprimunt, qui tristitiam repraesentant, hoc indicio imitantur verecundiam. Deiciunt enim vultum, verba summittunt, figunt in terram oculos et deprimunt: ruborem sibi exprinlere non possunt; nec prohibetur hic nec adducitur. Nihil adversus haec sapientia promittit, nihil proficit: sui iuris sunt, iniussa veniunt, iniussa discedunt. 40

Iam clausulam epistula poscit. Accipe, et quidem utilem ac salutarem, quam te adfigere animo volo: 'aliquis vir bonus nobis diligendus est ac semper ante oculos habendus, ut sic tamquam illo spectante vivamus et omnia tamquam illo vidente faciamus'. Hoc, mi Lucili, Epicurus praecepit; custodem nobis et paedagogum dedit, nec inmerito: magna pars peccatorum tollitur, si peccaturis testis adsistit. Aliquem habeat animus quem vereatur, cuius auctoritate etiam secretum suum sanctius faciat. O felicem illum qui non praesens tantum sed etiam cogitatus emendat! O felicem qui sic aliquem vereri potest ut ad memoriam quoque eius se componat atque ordinet! Qui sic aliquem vereri potest cito erit verendus. Elige itaque Catonem; si hic tibi videtur nimis rigidus, elige remissioris animi virum Laelium. Elige eum cuius tibi placuit et vita et oratio et ipse animum ante se ferens vultus; illum tibi semper ostende vel custodem vel exemplum. Opus est, inquam, aliquo ad quem mores nostri se ipsi exigant: nisi ad regulam prava non corriges. *Vale.* 45 50 55 60

- 6 **quid mihi futurum est:** "what is to become of me."
- 13 **Quod. . .sit:** "let this be between you and me" or "between you and me"; *quod = hoc*. Cf. *Ep.* 5, lines 21–22.
- 16 **foras. . .spectat:** a comic reference to the Roman custom of placing corpses near the entrance with their feet facing the door to emphasize their exit from life.
- istunc:** acc. masc. sing. of *istic, istaec, istuc* (*iste* + deictic enclitic particle *-ce* shortened to *-c*).
- 17 **alienum mortuum tollere:** "to hoist (for burial) someone else's dead"; i.e., his previous owner should have retained him and assumed responsibility for his burial.
- 18 **sigillaria:** small images or figures presented to children as gifts during the last days of the Saturnalia, a Roman winter festival similar to Christmas.
- 21 **dentēs. . .cadunt:** "his teeth are just now falling out." Seneca is jestingly referring to second childhood. For the expression *cum maxime*, see *Ep.* 7, line 42.
- 27 **summam manum:** "the finishing touch."
- 30 **in extrema tegula:** "on the edge of the roof."
- 34 **tam seni. . .quam iuveni:** inverted for *tam iuveni. . .quam seni*. Seneca is being paradoxical here; one would expect the old to be more fully mindful of death than the young.
- 35 **citamur ex censu:** "summoned from the censor's list." The census was a register of Roman citizens, ranking them as either *seniores* or *iuniores*.

- 2 **argumentum, -i, n.,** proof
- 3 **suburbanum, -i, n.,** suburban villa
- queror, -i, questus, 3 dep.,** complain
- inpena, -ae, f.,** expense
- 4 **dilabor, -i, -lapsus, 3 dep.,** fall down
- vilicus, -i, m.,** steward
- 5 **vitium, -i, n.,** fault
- 8 **stomachor, 1 dep.,** be angry or vexed
- platanus, -i, f.,** plane-tree
- 9 **nodosus, -a, -um, adj.,** knotty
- retorridus, -a, -um, adj.,** dried up
- 11 **circumfodio, -ere, -fodi, -fusus, 3, dig**
- genius, -i, m.,** guardian spirit
- 15 **merito, adv.,** deservedly
- ostium, -i, n.,** entrance
- 16 **foras, adv.,** out of doors, out
- nanciscor, -i, nactus, 3 dep.,** get
- 19 **delicium, -i, n.,** little darling, pet
- 20 **pupulus, -i, m.,** little boy
- delicium, -i, n.,** little darling, sweetheart
- 21 **prorsus, adv.,** absolutely
- 23 **conplector, -i, -plexus, 3 dep.,** embrace
- 25 **pomum, -i, n.,** fruit
- decor, -oris, m.,** charm
- 26 **dedo, -ere, dedidi, deditus, 3,** give up
- mergo, -ere, mersi, mersus, 3,** sink, immerse
- 28 **differo, differre, distuli, dislatus, irr.,** put off, delay
- 29 **devexus, -a, -um, adj.,** sliding downward
- praeceps, -cipitis, adj.,** fallen
- 31 **succedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3,** follow
- 32 **egeo, -ere, egui, 2,** be in need of

Epistle Twelve
THE ADVANTAGES OF OLD AGE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quocumque me verti, argumenta senectutis meae video. Veneram in suburbanum meum et querebar de inpensis aedificii dilabentis. Ait vilicus mihi non esse negligentiae suae vitium, omnia se facere, sed villam veterem esse. Haec villa inter manus meas crevit: quid mihi futurum est, si tam putria sunt aetatis meae saxa? Iratus illi proximam occasionem stomachandi arripio. 'Apparet' inquam 'has platanos negligi: nullas habent frondes. Quam nodosi sunt et retorridi rami, quam tristes et squalidi trunci! Hoc non accideret si quis has circumfoderet, si inrigaret.' Iurat per genium meum se omnia facere, in nulla re cessare curam suam, sed illas vetulas esse. Quod intra nos sit, ego illas posueram, ego illarum primum videram folium. Conversus ad ianuam 'quis est iste?' inquam 'iste decrepitus et merito ad ostium admotus? foras enim spectat. Unde istunc nactus es? quid te delectavit alienum mortuum tollere?' At ille 'non cognoscis me?' inquit: 'ego sum Felicio, cui solebas sigillaria adferre; ego sum Philositi vilici filius, deliciolum tuum'. 'Perfecte' inquam 'iste delirat: pupulus, etiam delicium meum factus est? Prorsus potest fieri: dentes illi cum maxime cadunt.'

Debeo hoc suburbano meo, quod mihi senectus mea quocumque adverteram apparuit. Conplectamur illam et amemus; plena <est> voluptatis, si illa scias uti. Gratissima sunt poma cum fugiunt; pueritiae maximus in exitu decor est; deditos vino potio extrema delectat, illa quae mergit, quae ebrietati summam manum inponit; quod in se iucundissimum omnis voluptas habet in finem sui differt. Iucundissima est aetas devexa iam, non tamen praeceps, et illam quoque in extrema tegula stantem iudico habere suas voluptates; aut hoc ipsum succedit in locum voluptatum, nullis egeret. Quam dulce est cupiditates fatigasse ac reliquisse! 'Molestum est' inquis 'mortem ante oculos habere.' Primum ista tam seni ante oculos debet esse quam iuveni (non enim citamur ex censu); deinde nemo tam senex est ut inprobe unum diem speret. . . .

- 38 **peculio**: *peculium* originally meant "property in cattle"; then it came to have the general meaning "property." Here, in continuation of the business metaphor concerned with quotations, it seems to have the meaning of "allotment" or "allowance."
- 40 **illi**: "to it"; i.e., to the letter.
- 41-42 **Quidni nulla sit**: "why is there no need?" i.e., "of course there is no need!"
- 45 **alieno**: "a philosopher of another school."

- 42 **pateo**, -ere, patui, 2, lie open
- 44 **calco**, 1, trample upon
- 46 **ingero**, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, heap on
- 47 **aestimo**, 1, value

Sed iam debeo epistulam includere. 'Sic' inquis 'sine ullo ad me peculio veniet?' Noli timere: aliquid secum fert. Quare aliquid dixi? multum. Quid enim hac voce praeclarius quam illi trado ad te perferendam? 'Malum est in necessitate vivere, sed in necessitate vivere necessitas nulla est.' Quidni nulla sit? patent undique ad libertatem viae multae, breves faciles. Agamus deo gratias quod nemo in vita teneri potest: calcare ipsas necessitates licet. 'Epicurus' inquis 'dixit: quid tibi cum alieno?' Quod verum est meum est; perseverabo Epicurum tibi ingerere, ut isti qui in verba iurant nec quid dicatur aestimant, sed a quo, sciant quae optima sunt esse communia. *Vale.*

8 *illam secundam*: supply *valetudinem*; refers to physical health which should come second in importance, mental health coming first.

quae. . . *constabit*: an idiomatic expression meaning "which will cost you no great price"; *magno* is an abl. of price with *pretio* understood.

15 *locum laxa*: "make room"; *laxo, -are*, stretch out, expand.

16 *huic*. . . *curae*: i.e., athletic training.

19 *Accedunt*: lit., "approach": here it means "are added" and is a variant for *adice quod* (line 13, above).

in *magisterium*: "for instruction"; a rather frequent construction for expressing purpose in Silver Latin. Earlier Latin would have preferred the dative case.

20 *homines*: in apposition with *mancipia* (line 19).

quibus: dative of agent. With the compound tenses of the passive (as here *actus est*), the dative of agent is often used instead of the ablative of agent.

20-21 *ad votum*: "according to their wish."

22-23 *multum*. . . *regesserunt*: "they have taken in a large quantity of drink that will go down more deeply during a period of fasting."

23 *cardiaci*: used to describe a man "with heart-burn" or "with stomachache." This ailment was treated by drinking wine or by sweats, or by both. Hence, Seneca's statement here that "drinking and sweating is the life of a man with stomach trouble."

25 *cuius*. . . *est*: *cuius* refers to *tempori*; *ratio habenda est* means literally "an account must be considered," where the idiomatic meaning is "account must be taken" of something.

26-28 *saltus*. . . *fullonius*: the *vel*'s indicate Seneca's triple division of *saltus*: *qui*. . . *levat* refers to the high jump; *qui*. . . *mittit* refers to the broad jump; *saliaris* refers to jumping about like the leaping priests of Mars, called *Salii*. Their festival was celebrated in March. Dressed in costumes and carrying the sacred shields (*ancilia*), they went from place to place singing and dancing; *fullonius* refers to the Roman fuller or laundry man who washed clothes by jumping upon them in a tub of water.

29 *usum rude facile*: The daggers indicate a difficulty in the manuscript reading.

35 *ut*. . . *remittatur*: "that it is not unhinged but relaxed."

2 *usque, adv.*, right up to

5 *demum, adv.*, at length, precisely

6 *furius, -a, -um, adj.*, mad, furious

furius, -i, m., madman

freneticus, -a, -um, adj., frantic

freneticus, -i, m., frantic man

7 *praecipue, adv.*, especially

9 *stultus, -a, -um, adj.*, foolish

minime, superl. adv., not at all

10 *litteratus, -a, -um, adj.*,

learned, liberally educated

lacertus, -i, m., generally pl., muscles

cervix, -icis, f., shoulders

11 *latus, -eris, n.*, side, lung

sagina, -ae, f., stuffing

12 *torus, -i, m.*, muscle

opimus, -a, -um, adj., fat

13 *adicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus, 3, add*

quod, conj., the fact that

sarcina, -ae, f., burden

14 *elido, -ere, -lisi, -lisis, 3,*

shatter, crush

quantum, adv., as much as

16 *incommodus, -a, -um, adj.*,

inconvenient

incommodum, -i, n., incon-

venience

dedo, -ere, dedidi, deditus, 3,

give up

17 *exhaurio, -ire, -hausi,*

-haustus, 4, drain

inhabilis, -e, adj., unfit

intentio, -onis, f., application

[to anything]

19 *nota, -ae, f.*, mark, note, stamp

mancipium, -i, n., slave

20 *oleum, -i, n.*, oil

21 *desudo, 1, perspire*

24 *lasso, 1, make weary, exhaust*

25 *praecipuus, -a, -um, adj.*, special

26 *saltus, -us, m.*, jumping

28 *contumeliosus, -a, -um, adj.*,

insulting, abusive

quilibet, quae-, quid-, indef.

pron., anyone

29 *cito, adv.*, quickly

31 *alo, -ere, alui, altus (alitus),*

3, nourish

frigus, -oris, n., cold

aestus, -us, m., heat

32 *ne. . . quidem, not. . . even*

33 *inminco, -ere, 2, hang over*

34 *pugillares, -ium, m.*, writing

tablets

35 *gestatio, -onis, f.*, riding

36 *concutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus,*

3, shake

officio, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3,

hinder

37 *ambulatio, -onis, f.*, walking

Epistle Fifteen

AGAINST STRENUOUS PHYSICAL EXERCISE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Mos antiquis fuit, usque ad meam servatus aetatem, primis epistulae verbis adicere 'si vales bene est, ego valeo'. Recte nos dicimus 'si philosopharis, bene est'. Valere enim hoc demum est. Sine hoc aeger est animus; corpus quoque, etiam si magnas habet vires, non aliter quam furiosi aut frenetici validum est. Ergo hanc praecipue valetudinem cura, deinde et illam secundam; quae non magno tibi constabit, si volueris bene valere. Stulta est enim, mi Lucili, et minime conveniens litterato viro occupatio exercendi lacertos et dilatandi cervicem ac latera firmandi; cum tibi feliciter sagina cesserit et tori creverint, nec vires umquam opimi bovis nec pondus aequabis. Adice nunc quod maiore corporis sarcina animus eliditur et minus agilis est. Itaque quantum potes circumscribe corpus tuum et animo locum laxa. Multa sequuntur incommoda huic deditos curae: primum exercitationes, quarum labor spiritum exhaurit et inhabilem intentioni ac studiis acrioribus reddit; deinde copia ciborum subtilitas inpeditur. Accedunt pessimae notae mancipia in magisterium recepta, homines inter oleum et vinum occupati, quibus ad votum dies actus est si bene desudaverunt, si in locum eius quod effluxit multum potionis altius in ieiuno iturae regesserunt. Bibere et sudare vita cardiaca est. Sunt exercitationes et faciles et breves, quae corpus et sine mora lassent et tempori parcant, cuius praecipua ratio habenda est: cursus et cum aliquo pondere manus motae et saltus vel ille qui corpus in altum levat vel ille qui in longum mittit vel ille, ut ita dicam, saliaris aut, ut contumeliosius dicam, fullonius: quoslibet ex his elige fusum rude facile. Quidquid facies, cito redi a corpore ad animum; illum noctibus ac diebus exerce. Labore modico alitur ille; hanc exercitationem non frigus, non aestus inpediet, ne senectus quidem. Id bonum cura quod vetustate fit melius. Neque ego te iubeo semper imminere libro aut pugillaribus: dandum est aliquod intervallum animo, ita tamen ut non resolvatur, sed remittatur. Gestatio et corpus concutit et studio non officit: possis legere, possis dictare, possis loqui, possis audire, quorum nihil ne ambulatio quidem vetat fieri. . . .

- 40 **unum graecum**: the daggers indicate a difficulty in the manuscript reading. Several remedies have been proposed, among which is *munus Graecum* (Haase's conjecture), "a Greek gift."
- 43 **Babae et Isonis**: Baba and Ison, contemporary court fools. Supply *vitam* with *Babae et Isonis*.
- 47-48 **ex fortuna pendere**: English idiom says: "depend on fortune."
- 51 **Quid. . . ceteris**: lit., "what is there to you with others?" i.e., "what have you to do with others?" or "why compare yourself with others?"
- 60 **prope ab ultimo**: *prope* with *ab* + ablative = near to.

- 39 **pusillum**, -i, *n.*, small amount
negotium, -i, *n.*, trouble
mercedula, -ae, *f.*, small recompense
- 40 **accedo**, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, approach, be added
- 44 **caecus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, blind
- 48 **subinde**, *adv.*, continually
consequor, -i, -secutus, 3 *dep.*, attain
- 50 **adversus**, *prep. w. acc.*, to
- 53 **aliquando**, *adv.*, finally, at some time or other
- 54 **adsequor**, -i, -secutus, 3 *dep.*, attain
- 55 **impleo**, -ere, -plevi, -pletus, 2, satisfy
haurio, -ire, hausi, haustus, 4, drain
sitis, -is, *f.*, thirst
- 56 **mittantur = dimittantur**
speciosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, showy
- 57 **sors**, sortis, *f.*, lot
inpetro, 1, demand
- 58 **obliviscor**, -i, -oblitus, 3 *dep.*, forget
- 59 **congero**, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, amass [a great quantity]
- 60 **ut**, *conj.*, although

Detraxi tibi non pusillum negotii: una mercedula et
†unum graecum† ad haec beneficia accedet. Ecce insigne 40
praeceptum: 'stulta vita ingrata est, trepida; tota in futurum
fertur'. 'Quis hoc' inquis 'dicit?' idem qui supra. Quam tu
nunc vitam dici existimas stultam? Babae et Isionis? Non
ita est: nostra dicitur, quos caeca cupiditas in nocitura, certe
numquam satiatura praecipitat, quibus si quid satis esse 45
posset, fuisset, qui non cogitamus quam iucundum sit nihil
poscere, quam magnificum sit plenum esse nec ex fortuna
pendere. Subinde itaque, Lucili, quam multa sis consecutus
recordare; cum aspexeris quot te antecedant, cogita quot
sequantur. Si vis gratus esse adversus deos et adversus vitam 50
tuam, cogita quam multos antecesseris. Quid tibi cum ceteris?
te ipse antecessisti. Finem constitue quem transire ne possis
quidem si velis; discedant aliquando ista insidiosa bona et
sperantibus meliora quam adsecutis. Si quid in illis esset 55
solidi, aliquando et implerent: nunc haurientium sitim con-
citant. Mittantur speciosi apparatus; et quod futuri temporis
incerta sors volvit, quare potius a fortuna inpetrem ut det,
quam a me ne petam? Quare autem petam? oblitus fragilitatis
humanae congeram? in quid laborem? Ecce hic dies ultimus
est; ut non sit, prope ab ultimo est. *Val.*

- 10 non opus est: not in the manuscripts but conjectured by Haase.
 14 non est quod: "there is no reason why."
 18 est: "it consists."
 39 illo: adv., "thither," "to that point."

- 2 liqueo, -ere, liqui (licui), 2,
 be clear
 3 ne. . .quidem, not. . .even
 4 ceterum, *adv.*, but
 5 inchoo, 1, begin
 cotidianus, -a, -um, *adj.*, daily
 8 robur, -oris, *n.*, strength, vigor
 11 proficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3,
 go forward, make progress
 12 fictus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of
 fingo), feigned
 14 cito, *adv.*, quickly
 15 excutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus,
 3, shake out, examine
 18 adhibeo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2,
 summon, employ
 19 oblectatio, -onis, *f.*, pleasure,
 amusement
 20 dispono, -ere, -posui,
 -positus, 3, arrange
 22 anceps, -ipitis, *adj.*, uncertain
 25 prosum, prodesse, profui,
irr., be of use, help
 34 tueor, -eri, tuitus, 2 *dep.*,
 defend, protect
 35 contumaciter, *adv.*, obstinately
 38 inligo, 1, fasten, bind
 39 subitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, sudden
 40 delabor, -labi, -lapsus, 3 *dep.*,
 fall down

Epistle Sixteen

PHILOSOPHY: LIFE'S GUIDE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Liquere hoc tibi, Lucili, scio, neminem posse beate vivere, ne tolerabiliter quidem, sine sapientiae studio, et beatam vitam perfecta sapientia effici, ceterum tolerabilem etiam inchoata. Sed hoc quod liquet firmandum et altius cotidiana meditatione figendum est: plus operis est in eo ut proposita custodias quam ut honesta proponas. Perseverandum est et adsiduo studio robur addendum, donec bona mens sit quod bona voluntas est. 5

Itaque <non opus est> tibi apud me pluribus verbis aut adfirmatione tam longa: intellego multum te profecisse. Quae scribis unde veniant scio; non sunt ficta nec colorata. Dicam tamen quid sentiam: iam de te spem habeo, nondum fiduciam. Tu quoque idem facias volo: non est quod tibi cito et facile credas. Excute te et varie scrutare et observa; illud ante omnia vide, utrum in philosophia an in ipsa vita profeceris. Non est philosophia populare artificium nec ostentationi paratum; non in verbis sed in rebus est. Nec in hoc adhibetur, ut cum aliqua oblectatione consumatur dies, ut dematur otio nausea: animum format et fabricat, vitam disponit, actiones regit, agenda et omittenda demonstrat, sedet ad gubernaculum et per ancipitia fluctuantium derigit cursum. Sine hac nemo intrepide potest vivere, nemo secure; innumerabilia accidunt singulis horis quae consilium exigant, quod ab hac petendum est. Dicit aliquis, 'quid mihi prodest philosophia, si fatum est? quid prodest, si deus rector est? quid prodest, si casus imperat? Nam et mutari certa non possunt et nihil praeparari potest adversus incerta, sed aut consilium meum occupavit deus decrevitque quid facerem, aut consilio meo nihil fortuna permittit.' Quidquid est ex his, Lucili, vel si omnia haec sunt, philosophandum est; sive nos inexorabili lege fata constringunt, sive arbiter deus universi cuncta disposuit, sive casus res humanas sine ordine inpellit et iactat, philosophia nos tueri debet. Haec adhortabitur ut deo libenter pareamus, ut fortunae contumaciter; haec docebit ut deum sequaris, feras casum. Sed non est nunc in hanc disputationem transeundum, quid sit iuris nostri si providentia in imperio est, aut si factorum series inligatos trahit, aut si repentina ac subita dominantur: illo nunc revertor, ut te moneam et exhorter ne patiaris impetum animi tui delabi et refrigescere. Contine illum et constitue, ut habitus animi fiat quod est impetus. 40

- 47 *Istuc*: an alternative form of *istud*.
 48 *ad naturam vives*: see *Ep.* 5, line 24.
 52 *eo*: adv., "to such a pitch," "to such a point."
 61 *progresso*: supply *tibi*; translate "for you having advanced far."

- 49 *exiguus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, little, small
 50 *locuples*, -etis, *adj.*, wealthy, rich
 53 *tantum*, *adv.*, only
 54 *calco*, 1, tread upon
 56 *disco*, -ere, *didici*, 3, learn
 57 *desino*, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs, 3, cease, stop
 58 *extremus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, extreme, last
extremum, -i, *n.*, end
 61 *alicubi*, *adv.*, somewhere, anywhere

Iam ab initio, si te bene novi, circumspicies quid haec epistula munusculi adtulerit: excute illam, et invenies. Non est quod mireris animum meum: adhuc de alieno liberalis sum. Quare autem alienum dixi? quidquid bene dictum est ab ullo meum est. Istuc quoque ab Epicuro dictum est: 'si ad naturam vives, numquam eris pauper; si ad opiniones, numquam eris dives'. Exiguum natura desiderat, opinio immensum. Congeratur in te quidquid multi locupletes possederant; ultra privatum pecuniae modum fortuna te provehat, auro tegat, purpura vestiat, eo deliciarum opumque perducatur ut terram marmoribus abscondas; non tantum habere tibi liceat sed calcare divitias; accedant statuae et picturae et quidquid ars ulla luxuriae elaboravit: maiora cupere ab his discas. Naturalia desideria finita sunt: ex falsa opinione nascentia ubi desinant non habent; nullus enim terminus falso est. Via eunti aliquid extremum est: error immensus est. Retrahe ergo te a vanis, et cum voles scire quod petes, utrum naturalem habeat an caecam cupiditatem, considera num possit alicubi consistere: si longe progresso semper aliquid longius restat, scito id naturale non esse. *Val.*

- 2 **December:** during this month, from the 17th to the 23rd, was celebrated the Saturnalia, a festival in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture, who, as the father of Jupiter, was considered to be the patron of a pristine Golden Age. The Saturnalia was a period of rejoicing and good will similar to our Christmas season. Gifts were exchanged, schools were closed, war was not declared, and slaves, temporarily freed, were permitted to criticize their masters and to speak with liberty on any subject; all was merriment and unrestrained mirth.
- 2-3 **Ius. . .datum est:** "the right of extravagance has been openly granted."
- 4-5 **tamquam. . .agendarum:** "as if there were any difference between the Saturnalia and working days."
- 10 **exuendam togam:** during the Saturnalia the toga was taken off and a showy dressing-gown, called *synthesis*, was put on.
- 10-12 **Nam. . .mutavimus:** translate *voluptatis. . .mutavimus* first, then *quod. . .solebat*; *in tumultu* refers to civil uprisings or wars; *tristi tempore*, to public misfortunes.
- 13 **arbitri. . .functus:** "having played the role of judge [in this matter]."
- 14 **pilleatae:** *pilleatus, -a, -um*, adj., wearing the *pilleus*. The *pilleus* was a felt cap worn by the Romans at festivals and entertainments, especially during the Saturnalia; it was also given to slaves at their manumission as a sign of their freedom.
- 16 **solus:** i.e., the soul (*animo*, line 15).
- 17 **capit:** *animus* is the subject.
- 18 **nec. . .abducitur:** "neither goes [of its own volition] nor is led."
Hoc: explained by *siccum ac sobrium esse*.
- 29 **decurrit:** a technical military term, "goes through military exercises."
vallum iacit: "he throws up a fortification."
- 30 **necessario:** supply *labori*.

- 2 **sudo**, 1, sweat
- 3 **apparatus, -us, m.**, preparation
- 5 **adeo, adv.**, so, to such an extent
- 6 **olim, adv.**, once, formerly
- 7 **hic, adv.**, here
- libenter, *adv.*, gladly
- 9 **dissideo, -ere, -sedi, -sessus**, 2, be at variance
- 10 **exuo, -ere, -ui, -utus**, 3, take off
- 14 **forte, adv.**, by chance
- 16 **procumbo, -ere, -cubui, -cubitus**, 3, fall, sink
- 17 **blandus, -a, -um, adj.**, enticing
- 20 **excerpo, -ere, -cerpsi, -cerptus**, 3, separate
- insignio, 4, distinguish one's self
- 21 **licet, -ere, licuit, impers.**, 2, it is permitted
- 23 **ceterum, adv.**, but
- 24 **praecipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus**, 3, teach
- 25 **interpono, -ere, -posui, -positus**, 3, set aside
- aliquot, *indec. adj.*, several
- vilis, -e, *adj.*, cheap
- 26 **horridus, -a, -um, adj.**, coarse
- 29 **supervacuus, -a, -um, adj.**, superfluous
- 30 **lasso**, 1, make weary, exhaust
- sufficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, be fit for
- 32 **prope, adv.**, near, close to
- 33 **expavescio, -ere, -pavi**, 3, fear
- disco, -ere, didici, 3, learn

Epistle Eighteen
ON PRACTICING POVERTY

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

December est mensis: cum maxime civitas sudat. Ius luxuriae publice datum est; ingenti apparatu sonant omnia, tamquam quicquam inter Saturnalia intersit et dies rerum agendarum; adeo nihil interest ut <non> videatur mihi errasse 5
qui dixit olim mensem Decembrem fuisse, nunc annum. Si te hic haberem, libenter tecum conferrem quid existimares esse faciendum, utrum nihil ex cotidiana consuetudine movendum an, ne dissidere videremur cum publicis moribus, et hilarius cenandum et exuendam togam. Nam quod fieri nisi 10
in tumultu et tristi tempore civitatis non solebat, voluptatis causa ac festorum dierum vestem mutavimus. Si te bene novi, arbitri partibus functus nec per omnia nos similes esse pilleatae turbae voluisses nec per omnia dissimiles; nisi forte 15
his maxime diebus animo imperandum est, ut tunc voluptatibus solus abstineat cum in illas omnis turba procubuit; certissimum enim argumentum firmitatis suae capit, si ad blanda et in luxuriam trahentia nec ita nec abducitur. Hoc multo fortius est, ebrio ac vomitante populo siccum ac sobrium 20
esse, illud temperantius, non excerpere se nec insignire nec misceri omnibus et eadem sed non eodem modo facere; licet enim sine luxuria agere festum diem.

Ceterum adeo mihi placet temptare animi tui firmitatem ut ex praecepto magnorum virorum tibi quoque praecipiam: 25
interponas aliquot dies quibus contentus minimo ac vilissimo cibo, dura atque horrida veste, dicas tibi 'hoc est quod timebatur?' In ipsa securitate animus ad difficilia se praeparet et contra iniurias fortunae inter beneficia firmetur. Miles in media pace decurrit, sine ullo hoste vallum iacit, et super- 30
vacuo labore lassatur ut sufficere necessario possit; quem in ipsa re trepidare nolueris, ante rem exerceas. Hoc secuti sunt qui omnibus mensibus paupertatem imitati prope ad inopiam accesserunt, ne umquam expavescerent quod saepe didicissent.

- 34–36 **Timoneas**. . . **ludit**: Timon was a renowned Athenian misanthrope of the fifth century who lived in the forest and led a life withdrawn from his fellow men; the phrase *pauperum cellas* refers to small rooms in which the poor lived. Wealthy men, imitating the poor, often included in their luxurious abodes a small, simple room whither the worn out *dives* could withdraw from the glitter of extravagance; *per*. . . **ludit**: “through which luxury (i.e., luxurious men), because of boredom of wealth, amuses itself” or “through which the extravagance of wealth amuses its boredom.”
- 37 **sordidus**: this adjective not only means “dirty” but also “small,” “paltry”; *panis durus et sordidus* is best translated “bread hard and small in quantity.” This meaning is supported by the words *maligne famem extingueret* and *gloriatum non toto asse <se> pasci* in lines 49 and 53.
- triduo et quadriduo**: “for three or four days.” Seneca frequently uses an ablative rather than an accusative to express duration of time.
- 39 **dipondio**: “on a penny”; *dipondium* was a Roman coin worth two asses.
- 41 **dabit et irata**: “[fortune] even when angered will give.”
- 45 **palum**: “a stake.” Roman soldiers learned to fight by attacking a stake set in the ground.
- 51 **an**. . . **pensaret**: “whether [what was lacking] was worthy of someone’s purchasing it with great effort”; *dignum [erat] quod*. . . **pensaret**: the adjectives *dignus*, *indignus*, *aptus*, and *idoneus* are followed by a descriptive relative clause in the subjunctive. The verb *penso*, *-are* here has the Silver Latin meaning to “purchase.”
- 52 **Charino magistratu**: “when Charinus was in office”: Charinus was archon in 308–307 B.C. Athenian government had a board of nine principal magistrates (*archontes*), the chief of whom (the *archon eponymos*) gave his name to the year in which he held the office.
- 53 **Polyaenum**: Polyaenus, a mathematician who followed the tenets of Epicurus.
- 54 **Metrodorum**: Metrodorus, a disciple and intimate friend of Epicurus.
- 61–62 **sepositos**. . . **pascit**: “he who is going to kill those set aside for capital punishment does not feed [them] so meagerly.”
- 63 **ad extrema**. . . **decretis**: “by those condemned to death.”
- 68–69 **aude**. . . **deo**: Vergil, *Aeneid* 8.364–365. When Aeneas enters the humble dwelling of Evander, the king utters these words to the Roman hero after mentioning that Hercules, the great victor, had also graced that house.
- 36 **grabattus**, -i, *m.*, pallet, small couch
- sagum**, -i, *n.*, coarse cloak
- 37 **interdum**, *adv.*, sometimes
- 43 **nomen**, -inis, *n.*, account (*lit.* name)
- suspicio**, -ere, -spexi, -spectus, 3, look up to
- 45 **aliquando**, *adv.*, now and then
- 49 **maligne**, *adv.*, hardly, scarcely
- 53 **glorior**, 1 *dep.*, boast
- pasco**, -ere, pavi, pastus, 3, feed
- 54 **proficio**, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, make progress
- 55 **victus**, -us, *m.*, food
- saturitas**, -atis, *f.*, fullness, satiety
- 56 **subinde**, *adv.*, constantly
- reficio**, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, restore
- 57 **polenta**, -ae, *f.*, barley
- 58 **frustum**, -i, *n.*, picce
- hordeacium**, -i, *n.*, barley
- 63 **ne**. . . **quidem**, *not.*. . . even
- 64 **praeoccupo**, 1, seize beforehand, forestall
- 66 **destino**, 1, choose, appoint
- 68 **contemno**, -ere, -temptsi, -temptus, 3, scorn
- 69 **fungo**, -ere, finxi, fictus, 3, mould

Non est nunc quod existimes me dicere Timoneas cenas et
 pauperum cellas et quidquid aliud est per quod luxuria 35
 divitiarum taedio ludit: grabattus ille verus sit et sagum et
 panis durus ac sordidus. Hoc triduo et quadriduo fer, interdum
 pluribus diebus, ut non lusus sit sed experimentum:
 tunc, mihi crede, Lucili, exultabis dipondio satur et intelleges
 ad securitatem non opus esse fortuna; hoc enim quod necessi- 40
 tati sat est dabit et irata. Non est tamen quare tu multum
 tibi facere videaris (facies enim quod multa milia servorum,
 multa milia pauperum faciunt): illo nomine te suspice, quod
 facies non coactus, quod tam facile erit tibi illud pati semper
 quam aliquando experiri. Exerceamur ad palum, et ne 45
 inparatos fortuna deprehendat, fiat nobis paupertas familiaris;
 securius divites erimus si scierimus quam non sit grave pau-
 peres esse. Certos habebat dies ille magister voluptatis
 Epicurus quibus maligne famem extingueret, visurus an
 aliquid deesset ex plena et consummata voluptate, vel quan- 50
 tum deesset, et an dignum quod quis magno labore pensaret.
 Hoc certe in iis epistulis ait quas scripsit Charino magistratu
 ad Polyænum; et quidem gloriatur non toto asse <se> pasci,
 Metrodorum, qui nondum tantum profecerit, toto. In hoc
 tu victu saturitatem putas esse? Et voluptas est; voluptas 55
 autem non illa levis et fugax et subinde reficienda, sed stabilis
 et certa. Non enim iucunda res est aqua et polenta aut
 frustum hordeacii panis, sed summa voluptas est posse capere
 etiam ex his voluptatem et ad id se deduxisse quod eripere
 nulla fortunæ iniquitas possit. Liberaliora alimenta sunt 60
 carceris, sepositos ad capitale supplicium non tam anguste
 qui occisurus est pascit: quanta est animi magnitudo ad id
 sua sponte descendere quod ne ad extrema quidem decretis
 timendum sit! hoc est praeoccupare tela fortunæ. Incipe
 ergo, mi Lucili, sequi horum consuetudinem et aliquos dies 65
 destina quibus secedas a tuis rebus minimoque te facias
 familiarem; incipe cum paupertate habere commercium;

aude, hospes, contemnere opes et te quoque dignum
 finge deo.

- 78 *necesse est scias*: *necesse est* often takes the subjunctive without *ut*.
- 83 *maximum*: supply *ignem*.

- 71 *interdico*, -ere, -dixi, -dictus, 3, forbid
- 75 *complico*, 1, fold up
- 77 *numeratio*, -onis, *f.*, payment
quam, *adv.*, how
- 78 *in*, *prep. w. acc.*, against
- 79 *adfectus*, -us, *m.*, emotion
- 81 *interest*, *impers.*, it matters
- 82 *refert*, *impers.*, it matters
- 83 *rursus*, *adv.*, on the other hand
- 84 *scintilla*, -ae, *f.*, spark
foveo, -ere, *fovi*, *fotus*, 2,
nourish
usque, *adv.*, right up to
- 85 *exitus*, -us, *m.*, outcome

Nemo alius est deo dignus quam qui opes contempsit; quarum possessionem tibi non interdico, sed efficere volo ut illas intrepide possideas; quod uno consequeris modo, si te etiam sine illis beate victurum persuaseris tibi, si illas tamquam exituras semper aspexeris. 70

Sed iam incipiamus epistulam complicare. 'Prius' inquis 'redde quod debes.' Delegabo te ad Epicurum, ab illo fiet numeratio: 'inmodica ira gignit insaniam'. Hoc quam verum sit necesse est scias, cum habueris et servum et inimicum. In omnes personas hic exardescit adfectus; tam ex amore nascitur quam ex odio, non minus inter seria quam inter lusus et iocos; nec interest ex quam magna causa nascatur sed in qualem perveniat animum. Sic ignis non refert quam magnus sed quo incidat; nam etiam maximum solida non receperunt, rursus arida et corripit facilia scintillam quoque fovit usque in incendium. Ita est, mi Lucili: ingentis irae exitus furor est, et ideo ira vitanda est non moderationis causa sed sanitatis. *Vale.* 75 80 85

- 2 **istis**: i.e., those who encourage Lucilius to pursue worldly glory.
- 10-11 **ascenditur**: "is a step upwards."
- 12 **alieno**: supply *lucē*, "with another's light," i.e., "with borrowed light."
- 16 **Idomeneo**: Idomeneus (c. 325-c. 270 B.C.), friend of Epicurus and Greek biographer and historian from Lampsacus who wrote a life of Socrates and a history of Samothrace.
- 18-19 **regiae**. . . **tractantem**: "at that time a minister endowed with regal power and [one] handling important matters."
- 21 **Idomenea**: masc., acc., sing. of the Greek consonant declension.
- 22-23 **megistanas et satrapas**: masc., acc., pl. of the Greek consonant declension.
- 23-24 **ex**. . . **petebatur**: "from whom Idomeneus' glory was being sought."
- 24 **Nomen Attici**: Atticus, the intimate friend of Cicero to whom the orator addressed one of his four collections of letters. Atticus' daughter married Agrippa, minister of Augustus. Their daughter Vipsania Agrippina married Tiberius, to whom she bore Drusus Caesar who, in A.D. 23, met death at an early age, the victim of Sejanus, Tiberius' wicked minister. Had not the letters of Cicero preserved the name of Atticus, that name would have perished in spite of Atticus' intimacy with the imperial family.
- 35-38 **fortunati**. . . **habebit**: Vergil, *Aeneid* 9.446-449. The passage refers to Nisus and Euryalus, Trojans who came to Italy with Aeneas and who sacrificed their lives together to warn Aeneas of the Rutilian attack. Their loyalty and friendship to each other were proverbial.

- 2 **negotium**, -i, *n.*, trouble
- 6 **parum**, *adv.*, too little, not enough
- dispicio**, -ere, -spexi, -spectus, 3, see
- 9 **fulgor**, -oris, *m.*, glitter, glory
tamquam, *adv.*, as if
- 12 **niteo**, -ere, 2, shine
- 13 **extrinsecus**, *adv.*, from without
- percussio**, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, strike
- 17 **speciosus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, showy
- 21 **mentior**, -iri, -itus, 4 *dep.*, lie, cheat
- 22 **incido**, -ere, -cidi, -cisus, 3, cut into, engrave
- megistanes**, -um, *m.*, grandees
- 23 **titulus**, -i, *m.*, a title, a title of honor, glory, honor
- 25 **sino**, -ere, sivi, situs, 3, allow
- gener**, -eri, *m.*, son-in-law
- 26 **progener**, -eri, *m.*, grand-daughter's husband
- pronepos**, -otis, *m.*, great-grandson
- 27 **adplico**, -are, -avi (-ui), -atus (-itus), 1, attach
- 28 **ingenium**, -i, *n.*, genius, man of genius
- 29 **exero (exsero)**, -ere, -erui, -ertus, 3, thrust out
- quandoque**, *adv.*, at some time or other
- 32 **gratia**, -ae, *f.*, favor
- duro**, 1, last, remain
- 34 **praesto**, -are, -stiti, -stitus (-status), 1, fulfill, keep one's promise
- 36 **eximo**, -ere, -emi, -emptus, 3, remove
- 39 **medium**, -i, *n.*, the midst of all, the public
- 40 **vigesco**, -ere, vigui, 3, become vigorous, thrive

Epistle Twenty-One
A LASTING MONUMENT

SENECA Lucilio Svo Salutem

Cum istis tibi esse negotium iudicas de quibus scriperas? Maximum negotium tecum habes, tu tibi molestus es. Quid velis nescis, melius probas honesta quam sequeris, vides ubi sit posita felicitas sed ad illam pervenire non audes. Quid sit autem quod te inpediat, quia parum ipse dispicis, dicam: magna esse haec existimas quae relicturus es, et cum proposuisti tibi illam securitatem ad quam transiturus es, retinet te huius vitae a qua recessurus es fulgor tamquam in sordida et obscura casurum. Erras, Lucili: ex hac vita ad illam ascenditur. Quod interest inter splendorem et lucem, cum haec certam originem habeat ac suam, ille niteat alieno, hoc inter hanc vitam et illam: haec fulgore extrinsecus veniente percussa est, crassam illi statim umbram faciet quisquis obstiterit: illa suo lumine inlustris est. Studia te tua clarum et nobilem efficiunt. Exemplum Epicuri referam. Cum Idomeneo scriberet et illum a vita speciosa ad fidelem stabilemque gloriam revocaret, regiae tunc potentiae ministrum et magna tractantem, 'si gloria' inquit 'tangeris, notio rem te epistulae meae facient quam omnia ista quae colis et propter quae coleris'. Numquid ergo mentitus est? quis Idomeneas nosset nisi Epicurus illum litteris suis incidisset? Omnes illos megistanas et satrapas et regem ipsum ex quo Idomenei titulus petebatur oblivio alta suppressit. Nomen Attici perire Ciceronis epistulae non sinunt. Nihil illi profuisset gener Agrippa et Tiberius progener et Drusus Caesar pronepos; inter tam magna nomina taceretur nisi <sibi> Cicero illum adplicuisset. Profunda super nos altitudo temporis veniet, pauca ingenia caput exerent et in idem quandoque silentium abitura oblivioni resistent ac se diu vindicabunt. Quod Epicurus amico suo potuit promittere, hoc tibi promitto, Lucili: habebis apud posteros gratiam, possum tecum duratura nomina educere. Vergilius noster duobus memoriam aeternam promisit et praestat:

fortunati ambo! si quid mea carmina possunt,
nulla dies umquam memori vos eximet aevo,
dum domus Aeneae Capitolii immobile saxum
accolet imperiumque pater Romanus habebit.

Quoscumque in medium fortuna protulit, quicumque membra ac partes alienae potentiae fuerant, horum gratia viguit,

- 41-42 **post.** . . **defecit**: "after them memory [of them] quickly disappeared."
- 46 **de suo**: "from his own account."
- 47 **Pythoclea**: *masc., acc., sing.* of the Greek consonant declension. Pythocles was a friend of Idomeneus.
- 63-65 **ut.** . . **proben**: "so that they (i.e., the *egregia dicta Epicuri*) may prove."
- 65-66 **quocumque.** . . **vivendum**: i.e., no matter what school of philosophy men follow, they must live honorably.
- 67 **et inscriptum hortulis**: The daggers indicate a difficulty in the manuscripts reading.

- 42 **dignatio**, -onis, *f.*, reputation
tantum, *adv.*, only
- 43 **adhaereo**, -ere, -haesi, -haesus, 2, cling to
- 44 **excipio**, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus, 3, receive, welcome, continue
- 45 **gratis**, *adv.*, free of charge, gratis
- 46 **redimo**, -ere, -emi, -emptus, 3, pay for
- 47 **locuples**, -etis, *adj.*, rich
publicus, -a, -um, *adj.*, common, ordinary
- 48 **anceps**, -ipitis, *adj.*, ambiguous, dangerous
- 50 **apertus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, open, obvious
- 51 **disertus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of disero*), well-spoken
- 57 **impleo**, -ere, -plevi, -pletus, 2, fill, make full
- 60 **censeo**, -ere, -sui, -sus, 2, express an opinion
- 63 **co**, *adv.*, therefore
libenter, *adv.*, willingly, gladly
egregius, -a, -um, *adj.*, distinguished
- 64 **velamentum**, -i, *n.*, cover, screen
- 67 **hortulus**, -i, *m.*, garden
- 69 **polenta**, -ae, *f.*, barley
- 70 **ecquid** = *nonne*
- 73 **consenesco**, -ere, -senui, 3, grow old
- 75 **desino**, -ere, -sivi (-sui), -situs, 3, cease
- 76 **licet**, *impers.*, it is permitted
differo, -ferre, **distuli**, **dilatatus**, *irr.*, postpone
- 77 **commonefacio**, -ere, -feci, -factus, 3, admonish
- 78 **inpendo**, -ere, -pendi, -pensus, 3, expend
- 80 **modo**, *adv.*, only

domus frequentata est, dum ipsi steterunt: post ipsos cito memoria defecit. Ingeniorum crescit dignatio nec ipsis tantum honor habetur, sed quidquid illorum memoriae adhaesit excipitur.

Ne gratis Idomeneus in epistulam meam venerit, ipse eam 45
de suo redimet. Ad hunc Epicurus illam nobilem sententiam scripsit qua hortatur ut Pythoclea locupletem non publica nec accipiti via faciat. 'Si vis' inquit 'Pythoclea divitem facere, non pecuniae adiciendum sed cupiditati detrahendum est.' 50
Et apertior ista sententia est quam <ut> interpretanda sit, et disertior quam ut adiuvanda. Hoc unum te admoneo, ne istud tantum existimes de divitiis dictum: quocumque trans- 55
tuleris, idem poterit. Si vis Pythoclea honestum facere, non honoribus adiciendum est sed cupiditatibus detrahendum; si vis Pythoclea esse in perpetua voluptate, non voluptatibus 60
adiciendum est sed cupiditatibus detrahendum; si vis Pythoclea senem facere et implere vitam, non annis adiciendum est sed cupiditatibus detrahendum. Has voces non est quod Epicuri esse iudices: publicae sunt. Quod fieri in senatu solet 65
faciendum ego in philosophia quoque existimo: cum censuit aliquis quod ex parte mihi placeat, iubeo illum dividere sententiam et sequor quod probo.

Eo libentius Epicuri egregia dicta commemoro, ut istis qui ad illum confugiunt spe mala inducti, qui velamentum ipsos vitiorum suorum habituros existimant, probent quo- 65
cumque ierint honeste esse vivendum. Cum adieris eius hortulos †et inscriptum hortulis† 'HOSPES, HIC BENE MANEBIS, HIC SVMVM BONVM VOLVPTAS EST', paratus erit istius domicilii custos hospitalis, humanus, et te polenta excipiet et aquam quoque large ministrabit et dicet, 'ecquid bene acce- 70
ptus es?' 'Non iritant' inquit 'hi hortuli famem sed extinguunt, nec maiorem ipsis potionibus sitim faciunt, sed naturali et gratuito remedio sedant; in hac voluptate consenui.' De his tecum desiderii loquor quae consolationem non recipiunt, quibus dandum est aliquid ut desinant. Nam de illis extra- 75
ordinariis quae licet differre, licet castigare et opprimere, hoc unum commonefaciam: ista voluptas naturalis est, non necessaria. Huic nihil debes; si quid inpendis, voluntarium est. Venter praecepta non audit: poscit, appellat. Non est tamen molestus creditor: parvo dimittitur, si modo das illi 80
quod debes, non quod potes. *Vale.*

- 4-5 **verba quaerentium**: equivalent to our "groping about for subjects of conversation."
- 7 **ne gaudeas**: the second person present and perfect subjunctives are sometimes used in commands and prohibitions instead of the more usual imperative mood.
- 28 **in alto**: "deep."
- 32-33 **quod. . introrsus**: "[a joy] which reveals more the deeper you go"; or "[a joy] which reveals more when you get to the inside or heart of it."
- 34 **felicem**: supply *te*.
- 37 **te. . parte**: these are in apposition to *tuo*.
- 41 **stat**: supplied by Madvig to complete the meaning of the clause.

- 2 **quam**, *adv.*, how
- 3 **remissus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *remitto*), mild
- 4 **ineptiae**, -arum, *f.*, absurdities
- 5 **prosum**, *prodesse*, *profui*, *irr.*, help, be of use
- 8 **culmen**, -inis, *n.*, summit, height
- 10 **sollicitus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, anxious, troubled
- 11 **prorito**, 1, incite, tempt
licet, although
- 13 **disco**, -ere, *didici*, 3, learn
- 14 **summoveo**, -ere, -movi, -motus, 2, remove
- 15 **oblectamentum**, -i, *n.*, delight
devito, 1, avoid
immo, *adv.*, nay, nay rather
- 16 **contra**, *adv.*, on the contrary
desum, -esse, -fui, -futurus, *irr.*, fail, be lacking
- 17 **modo**, *adv.*, only
- 18 **impleo**, -ere, -plevi, -pletus, 2, fill
- 19 **forte**, *adv.*, by chance
- 20 **alacer**, -cris, -cre, *adj.*, cheerful
- 21 **quisquam**, *quae*-, *quid*- (quic-), *indef. pron.*, anyone, anything
- 22 **contemno**, -ere, -tempsi, -temptus, 3, scorn, despise
- 24 **frenum**, -i, *n.*, bridle, reins
- 25 **verso**, 1, turn, turn over, consider
- 25 **blandus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, enticing, tempting
- 26 **deficio**, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, fail
semel, *adv.*, once
- 27 **levis**, -e, *adj.*, trifling, of small value
metallum, -i, *n.*, mine, quarry
fructus, -us, *m.*, profit, yield
- 28 **summum**, -i, *n.*, surface
- 29 **fodio**, -ere, *fodi*, *fusus*, 3, dig
- 30 **perfusorius**, -a, -um, *adj.*, slight, superficial
- 31 **invecticius**, -a, -um, *adj.*, imported, not genuine
- 34 **praesto**, -are, -stiti, -stitus (-status), 1, show, display, render
dissicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus, 3, throw aside
conculco, 1, trample upon
- 39 **suggero**, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, furnish, supply
- 41 **praeceps**, -cipitis, *n.*, precipice, extreme danger

Epistle Twenty-three
TRUE JOY IS A STERN MATTER

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Putas me tibi scripturum quam humane nobiscum hiemps egerit, quae et remissa fuit et brevis, quam malignum ver sit, quam praeposterum frigus, et alias ineptias verba quaerentium? Ego vero aliquid quod et mihi et tibi prodesse possit scribam. Quid autem id erit nisi ut te exhorter ad bonam mentem? Huius fundamentum quod sit quaeris? ne gaudeas vanis. Fundamentum hoc esse dixi: culmen est. Ad summa pervenit qui scit quo gaudeat, qui felicitatem suam in aliena potestate non posuit; sollicitus est et incertus sui quem spes aliqua proritat, licet ad manum sit, licet non ex difficili petatur, licet numquam illum sperata deceperint. Hoc ante omnia fac, mi Lucili: disce gaudere. Existimas nunc me detrahere tibi multas voluptates qui fortuita summoveo, qui spes, dulcissima oblectamenta, devitandas existimo? immo contra nolo tibi umquam deesse laetitiam. Volo illam tibi domi nasci: nascitur si modo intra te ipsum fit. Ceterae hilaritates non implent pectus; frontem remittunt, leves sunt, nisi forte tu iudicas eum gaudere qui ridet: animus esse debet alacer et fidens et supra omnia erectus. Mihi crede, verum gaudium res severa est. An tu existimas quemquam soluto vultu et, ut isti delicati loquuntur, hilariculo mortem contemnere, paupertati domum aperire, voluptates tenere sub freno, meditari dolorum patientiam? Haec qui apud se versat in magno gaudio est, sed parum blando. In huius gaudii possessione esse te volo: numquam deficiet, cum semel unde petatur inveneris. Levium metallorum fructus in summo est: illa opulentissima sunt quorum in alto latet vena adsidue plenius responsura fodienti. Haec quibus delectatur vulgus tenuem habent ac perfusoriam voluptatem, et quodcumque invecticum gaudium est fundamento caret: hoc de quo loquor, ad quod te conor perducere, solidum est et quod plus pateat introrsus. Fac, oro te, Lucili carissime, quod unum potest praestare felicem: dissice et conculca ista quae extrinsecus splendent, quae tibi promittuntur ab alio vel ex alio; ad verum bonum specta et de tuo gaude. Quid est autem hoc 'de tuo'? te ipso et tui optima parte. Corpusculum quoque, etiam si nihil fieri sine illo potest, magis necessariam rem crede quam magnam; vanas suggerit voluptates, breves, paenitendas ac, nisi magna moderatione temperentur, in contrarium abituras. Ita dico: in praecipiti voluptas <stat>

- 47 **unam prementis viam:** a strong way of expressing the consistency necessary to the attainment of a *mens bona*.
- 50 **suspensi. . .vagi:** adjectives agreeing with the subject of *possunt*.
- 57 **aeris alieni:** *aes alienum*, "another's coin," is the regular word in Latin for "debt."
- 64 **cum maxime:** "just now." Cf. *Ep.* 7, lines 41-42.

- 44 **tutus, -a, -um, adj.,** safe
- 48 **transilio, -ire, -ivi (-ui), 4,**
leap across
ne. . .quidem, not. . .even
- 51 **dispono, -ere, -posui, -positus,**
3, arrange
- 53 **veho, -ere, vexi, vectus, 3,**
carry
- 54 **torrens, -entis, p. adj. (of**
torreo), rushing
- 59 **modo, adv.,** just now, lately
- 64 **ordior, -iri, orsus, 4 dep.,**
begin
- 65 **propemodum, adv.,** almost,
nearly
- 66 **desino, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs,**
3, cease, stop

ad dolorem vergit nisi modum tenuit; modum autem tenere in eo difficile est quod bonum esse credideris: veri boni aviditas tuta est. Quod sit istud interrogas, aut unde subeat? Dicam: ex bona conscientia, ex honestis consiliis, ex rectis actionibus, ex contemptu fortuitorum, ex placido vitae et continuo tenore unam prementis viam. Nam illi qui ex aliis propositis in alia transiliunt aut ne transiliunt quidem sed casu quodam transmittuntur, quomodo habere quicquam certum mansurumve possunt suspensi et vagi? Pauci sunt qui consilio se suaque disponent: ceteri, eorum more quae fluminibus innatant, non eunt sed feruntur; ex quibus alia lenior unda detinuit ac mollius vexit, alia vehementior rapuit, alia proxima ripae cursu languescente deposuit, alia torrens impetus in mare eiecit. Ideo constituendum est quid velimus et in eo perseverandum. 45

Hic est locus solvendi aeris alieni. Possum enim tibi vocem Epicuri tui reddere et hanc epistolam liberare: 'molestum est semper vitam inchoare'; aut si hoc modo magis sensus potest exprimi, 'male vivunt qui semper vivere incipiunt'. 'Quare?' inquis; desiderat enim explanationem ista vox. Quia semper illis imperfecta vita est; non potest autem stare paratus ad mortem qui modo incipit vivere. Id agendum est ut satis vixerimus: nemo hoc praestat qui orditur cum maxime vitam. Non est quod existimes paucos esse hos: propemodum omnes sunt. Quidam vero tunc incipiunt cum desinendum est. Si hoc iudicas mirum, adiciam quod magis admireris: quidam ante vivere desierunt quam inciperent. *Vale.* 60 65

- 8 **pudebit:** supply *te*, "it will make you ashamed."
- 11 **magno:** ablative of price; translate "at a high price."
- 19 **infra:** supply *diem*, "below the sun"; *dies* not only means "day" but also "daylight," "sun."
- 21 **continget. . . cessatur. . . festinetur:** Seneca (somewhat artfully) employs here the impersonal construction instead of the more blunt personal construction with *tu* as the subject. Latin uses intransitive verbs impersonally more freely than English does. With *continget* supply *tibi*; *non quidem. . . festinetur*: "you, to be sure, have not been idle up till now but you must increase your speed."
- 23 **res ista:** the development of virtue *ex se sibi*.
- 24 **aliud litterarum genus:** i.e., other studies as opposed to philosophy.
- 27 **illi:** dative after *excideret*; translate "escaped him."
- 30 **nomenclator:** a slave who announced the names of guests at large gatherings. This important gentleman was undoubtedly also called into service at the morning *salutatio*. The *nomenclator* was originally a political attaché who pointed out to the master the voters by name.
- 30-31 **non reddidit sed inponit:** i.e., when he cannot remember a caller's name he makes up one for him.
- 34 **teneret:** supply *memoria* (abl.).
- 36 **non invenerat, faciendos locavit:** "if he did not find them, he had them made to order"; *locare* with the gerundive means "to contract for having a thing done." This sentence illustrates well Seneca's tendency to use compound rather than complex sentences. This would have been written as a conditional sentence by earlier writers.
- 3 **ideo, adv.,** for that reason
vaco, 1, have time for, have
leisure for
- 4 **inprobus, -a, -um, adj.,** bold
curatio, -onis, f., cure
obeo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4,
offer
tamquam, adv., as if
- 5 **valetudinarius, -i, n.,** hospital
iaceo, -ere, iacui, iacitus, 2, lie
- 8 **exigo, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3,**
deliberate, consult
- 10 **circa, prep. w. acc.,** regarding
praesto, -stare, -stiti, -stitus
(-status), fulfill, offer
- 11 **luo, -ere, lui, 3,** pay for
tantum, adv., only
- 12 **quemadmodum, adv.,** just as
- 13 **deprehendo, -ere, -prehendi,**
-prehensus, 3, detect
- 16 **potius, adv.,** rather
- 19 **nubes, -is, f.,** cloud
modus, -i, m., manner, way,
modo, in the manner of
- 21 **contingo, -ere, -tigi, -tactus,**
3, befall, fall to one's lot
- 22 **vigilia, -ae, f.,** sleeplessness
- 23 **inpendo, -ere, -pendi, -pensus,**
3, expend
- 24 **adiutorium, -i, n.,** assistance
- 27 **beatus, -a, -um, adj.,** wealthy
indecens, -entis, adj.,
unbecoming
- 28 **modo, adv.,** now
- 30 **vetulus, -a, -um, adj.,** old
- 31 **perperam, adv.,** wrongly
tribus, -us, f., tribe, mob
- 32 **persaluto, 1,** greet one by one
nihilominus, adv., nevertheless
- 33 **compendiarius, -a, -um, adj.,**
short
compendiaria, -ae, f., (supply
via), short cut
- emo, -ere, emi, emptus, 3, buy
- 35 **lyricus, -i, m.,** lyric poet
- 37 **familia, -ae, f.,** household of
slaves
- comparo, 1, prepare
- 38 **subinde, adv.,** continually
- 39 **refero, -ferre, -tuli, -latus,**
irr., repeat
excido, -ere, -cidi, 3, stumble

Epistle Twenty-seven
VIRTUE ALONE GIVES EVERLASTING JOY

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

'Tu me' inquis 'mones? iam enim te ipse monuisti, iam correxisti? ideo aliorum emendationi vacas?' Non sum tam improbus ut curationes aeger obeam, sed, tamquam in eodem valetudinario iaceam, de communi tecum malo conloquor et remedia communico. Sic itaque me audi tamquam tecum loquar; in secretum te meum admitto et te adhibito tecum exigo. Clamo mihi ipse, 'numera annos tuos, et pudebit eadem velle quae volueras puer, eadem parare. Hoc denique tibi circa mortis diem praesta: moriantur ante te vitia. Dimitte istas voluptates turbidas, magno luendas: non venturae tantum sed praeteritae nocent. Quemadmodum scelera etiam si non sunt deprehensa cum fierent, sollicitudo non cum ipsis abit, ita improbarum voluptatum etiam post ipsas paenitentia est. Non sunt solidae, non sunt fideles; etiam si non nocent, fugiunt. Aliquod potius bonum mansurum circumspice; nullum autem est nisi quod animus ex se sibi invenit. Sola virtus praestat gaudium perpetuum, securum; etiam si quid obstat, nubium modo intervenit, quae infra feruntur nec umquam diem vincunt.' Quando ad hoc gaudium pervenire continget? non quidem cessatur adhuc, sed festinetur. Multum restat operis, in quod ipse necesse est vigiliam, ipse laborem tuum impendas, si effici cupis; delegationem res ista non recipit. Aliud litterarum genus adiutorium admittit. Calvisius Sabinus memoria nostra fuit dives; et patrimonium habebat libertini et ingenium; numquam vidi hominem beatum indecentius. Huic memoria tam mala erat ut illi nomen modo Ulixis excideret, modo Achillis, modo Priami, quos tam bene noverat quam paedagogos nostros novimus. Nemo vetulus nomenclator, qui nomina non reddit sed inponit, tam perperam tribus quam ille Troianos et Achivos persalutabat. Nihilominus eruditus volebat videri. Hanc itaque compendiarium excogitavit: magna summa emit servos, unum qui Homerum teneret, alterum qui Hesiodum; novem praeterea lyricis singulos adsignavit. Magno emisse illum non est quod mireris: non invenerat, faciendos locavit. Postquam haec familia illi comparata est, coepit convivas suos inquietare. Habebat ad pedes hos, a quibus subinde cum peteret versus quos referret, saepe in medio verbo excidebat.

- 42 **analectas:** *analectae* were slaves who picked up crumbs after a meal. Satellius playfully advises Calvisius to employ *grammaticos analectas* who would not only pick up crumbs but words that his master had forgotten.
- 43 **centenis millibus.** .constare: with *centenis millibus* supply *sesterium*; *constare* with a genitive or (as here) ablative of price was a mercantile technical term. Cf. the English expression "it stood him twenty dollars."
- 43 **minoris:** genitive of value or indefinite price; translate "at a lesser sum."
- 46 **hominem:** in apposition to *illum*.
- 48 **istuc:** an alternate form of *istud*.
- 52 **accipe.** .quod debeo: see *Ep.* 7, line 63.

- 40 **adrosor, -oris, m.,** gnawer, parasite
- 41 **adrisor, -oris, m.,** fawner, flatterer
- 42 **derisor, -oris, m.,** mocker
- 44 **totidem, indecl. adj.,** just so many, just as many
- scrinium, -i, n.,** bookcase
- 46 **luctor, 1 dep.,** wrestle
- 47 **gracilis, -e, adj.,** thin
- 50 **commodo, 1, lend**
- venalis, -e, adj.,** for sale
- 51 **cotidie, adv.,** daily
- 52 **ad, prep. w. acc.,** according to
- 53 **compositus, -a, -um, p. adj.** (*of compono*), arranged, regulated
- 54 **aliter, adv.,** otherwise
- aliter atque aliter, now in one way now in another**

Suasit illi Satellius Quadratus, stultorum divitum adrosor 40
et, quod sequitur, adrisor, et, quod duobus his adiunctum est,
derisor, ut grammaticos haberet analectas. Cum dixisset
Sabinus centenis millibus sibi constare singulos servos, 'minoris'
inquit 'totidem scrinia emisses'. Ille tamen in ea opinione
erat ut putaret se scire quod quisquam in domo sua sciret. 45
Idem Satellius illum hortari coepit ut luctaretur, hominem
aegrum, pallidum, gracilem. Cum Sabinus respondisset, 'et
quomodo possum? vix vivo', 'noli, obsecro te' inquit 'istuc
dicere: non vides quam multos servos valentissimos habeas?'
Bona mens nec commodatur nec emitur; et puto, si venalis 50
esset, non haberet emptorem: at mala cotidie emitur.
Sed accipe iam quod debeo et vale. 'Divitiae sunt ad legem
naturae composita paupertas.' Hoc saepe dicit Epicurus
aliter atque aliter, sed numquam nimis dicitur quod num-
quam satis discitur; quibusdam remedia monstranda, 55
quibusdam inculcanda sunt. *Vale.*

- 3-4 **quod**. . . **mentis**: this clause explains the preceding *hoc*.
- 7 **terraeque**. . . **recedant**: Vergil, *Aeneid* 3.72. Aeneas refers to the lands and cities that recede as he and his comrades sail from one place to another encountering different perils.
- 12 **in inritum cedit**: "is good for nothing," "is of no avail"; *inritus*, -a, -um, in vain, useless.
- 16 **vatis**: a genitive with *habitus* understood; *vatis* refers to the Cumaeen Sibyl or prophetess.
- 18-19 **bacchatur**. . . **deum**: Vergil, *Aeneid* 6.78-79. The Cumaeen Sibyl or prophetess resists submission to Phoebus and hopelessly tries to shake the god from her breast. But unable to do so and fully inspired, she proceeds to make predictions to Aeneas.
- 21-23 **sicut**. . . **demergunt**: "just as a fixed cargo on a ship does not unbalance it [whereas] a cargo that shifts unevenly more readily tilts that side where it has settled"; *minus* = *non*.
- 24 **istuc**: an alternate form of *istud*.
- 27 **quis**: in the sense of *qualis*. This whole clause is the subject of *interest*. Lit., "what sort of a person [you are who have come] rather than where you have come is of importance"; i.e., the condition in which you have come to a place is of greater importance than the place to which you have come.
- 32-33 **prima**. . . **credere**s: with *quaeque prima*. . . *quaeque* supply *regio*: "Every [region you came to] first would have pleased you, if you believed that every [region] was your own." This idea refers to *patria mea totus hic mundus est*, line 30.
- 37 **disponere se**: "to arrange oneself"; i.e., choose one's environment.

- 2 **quasi**, *adv.*, as if it were
- 3 **peregrinatio**, -onis, *f.*, traveling
- 4 **discutio**, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake off
- 8 **queror**, -i, **questus**, 3 *dep.*, complain
- 10 **prosum**, **prodesse**, **profui**, *irr.*, be of use, aid
- 12 **iactatio**, -onis, *f.*, frequent motion, restlessness
- 15 **habitus**, -us, *m.*, condition, disposition
- 18 **bacchor**, 1 *dep.*, revel, rave
- 19 **excutio**, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake out
- 20 **vado**, -ere, 3, go
insido, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, sit or settle down
- 21 **incommodus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, troublesome
- 23 **incumbo**, -ere, -cubui, -cubitus, 3, lean upon
- 24 **eximo**, -ere, -emi, -emptus, 3, take out, remove
- 26 **quilibet**, **quae**-, **quid**-, *indef. adj.*, any
angulus, -i, *m.*, corner
- 27 **qualiscumque**, **qualecumque**, *adj.*, of whatever sort
- 28 **addico**, -ere, -dixi, -dictus, 3, give up or over, attach
- 29 **persuasio**, -onis, *f.*, conviction
- 31 **liqueo**, -ere, **liqui** (**licui**), 2, be clear
- 32 **subinde**, *adv.*, continually
- 33 **quisque**, **quaeque**, **quodque**, *adj.*, whoever or whatever it be, each, every
- 34 **peregrinor**, 1 *dep.*, travel
- 36 **turbidus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, tumultuous
- 38 **procul**, *adv.*, far, at a distance

Epistle Twenty-eight
TRAVEL CANNOT CURE THE SOUL'S MALADIES

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Hoc tibi soli putas accidisse et admiraris quasi rem novam quod peregrinatione tam longa et tot locorum varietatibus non discussisti tristitiam gravitatemque mentis? Animum debes mutare, non caelum. Licet vastum traieceris mare, 5
 licet, ut ait Vergilius noster,

terraeque urbesque recedant,

sequentur te quocumque perveneris vitia. Hoc idem querenti cuidam Socrates ait, 'quid miraris nihil tibi peregrinationes prodesse, cum te circumferas? premit te eadem causa quae expulit'. Quid terrarum iuvare novitas potest? quid cognitio urbium aut locorum? in inritum cedit ista iactatio. Quaeris quare te fuga ista non adiuvet? tecum fugis. Onus animi deponendum est: non ante tibi ullus placebit locus. Talem nunc esse habitum tuum cogita qualem Vergilius noster 10
 vatis inducit iam concitatae et instigatae multumque habentis in se spiritus non sui: 15

bacchatur vates, magnum si pectore possit
 excussisse deum.

Vadis huc illuc ut excutias insidens pondus quod ipsa iactatione incommodius fit, sicut in navi onera in mota minus urgent, inaequaliter convoluta citius eam partem in quam incubuere demergunt. Quidquid facis, contra te facis et motu ipso nocet tibi; aegrum enim concutis. At cum istuc exemeris malum, omnis mutatio loci iucunda fiet; in ultimas expellaris terras licebit, in quolibet barbariae angulo conloceris, hospitalis tibi illa qualiscumque sedes erit. Magis quis veneris quam quo interest, et ideo nulli loco addicere debemus animum. Cum hac persuasionem vivendum est: 'non sum uni angulo natus, patria mea totus hic mundus est'. Quod si 20
 liqueret tibi, non admirareris nil adiuvari te regionum varietatibus in quas subinde priorum taedio migras; prima enim quaeque placuisset si omnem tuam crederes. Nunc <non> peregrinaris sed erras et ageris ac locum ex loco mutas, cum illud quod quaeris, bene vivere, omni loco positum sit. Num 25
 quid tam turbidum fieri potest quam forum? ibi quoque licet quiete vivere, si necesse sit. Sed si liceat disponere se, spectum quoque et viciniam fori procul fugiam; nam ut

- 41 **Dissentio ab his:** Latin says "disagree from," where we say "disagree with."
- 46 **inquit:** the subject is one of the *his qui* of line 41.
- 50 **portorium:** here the quotation due Lucilius for each letter (see *Ep.* 7, line 63) is spoken of as "tax" or "duty."
- 54 **cogitare:** supply *eos* as subject.
- 39 **gravis, -e, adj.,** unwholesome
valetudo, -inis, *f.*, health
- 40 **necdum, adv.,** and not yet
convalesco, -ere, -valui, 3,
gain strength
- 41 **parum, adv.,** too little
- 42 **cotidie, adv.,** daily
- 43 **conductor, 1 dep.,** struggle
- 45 **rixor, 1 dep.,** quarrel
- 48 **contemno, -ere, -tempsti,**
-temptus, 3, scorn
quantuslibet, quanta-,
quantum-, *adj.*, however
great
- 49 **turba, -ae, f.,** crowd
- 50 **desino, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs,**
3, stop
- 51 **notitia, -ae, f.,** knowledge
egregie, *adv.*, excellently
- 53 **deprehendo, -ere, -prehendi,**
-prehensus, 3, detect,
discover
- 54 **glorior, 1 dep.,** boast
- 56 **coarguo, -ere, -argui, 3,**
convict
fungor, -i, functus, 3 *dep.*,
perform
- 57 **novissime, superl. adv.,** lastly
deprecator, -oris, *m.*, intercessor
aliquando, *adv.*, at times
offendo, -ere, -fendi, -fensus,
3, punish

loca gravia etiam firmissimam valetudinem temptant, ita
bonae quoque menti necdum adhuc perfectae et convalescenti 40
sunt aliqua parum salubria. Dissentio ab his qui in fluctus
medios eunt et tumultuosam probantes vitam cotidie cum
difficultatibus rerum magno animo conluctantur. Sapiens
feret ista, non eliget, et malet in pace esse quam in pugna;
non multum prodest vitia sua proiecisse, si cum alienis rixan- 45
dum est. 'Triginta' inquit 'tyranni Socraten circumsteterunt
nec potuerunt animum eius infringere.' Quid interest quot
domini sint? servitus una est; hanc qui contempsit in quanta-
libet turba dominantium liber est.

Tempus est desinere, sed si prius portorium solvero. 50
'Initium est salutis notitia peccati.' Egregie mihi hoc dixisse
videtur Epicurus; nam qui peccare se nescit corrigi non vult;
deprehendas te oportet antequam emendes. Quidam vitiis
gloriantur: tu existimas aliquid de remedio cogitare qui mala
sua virtutum loco numerant? Ideo quantum potes te ipse 55
coargue, inquire in te; accusatoris primum partibus fungere,
deinde iudicis, novissime deprecatoris; aliquando te offende.
Vale.

- 6 *aliter*. .*quam ut*: "other than that."
 13 *hortantem*: supply *me* as subject.
 13-15 *Quid illud*. .*constat*: "What of that? you say. 'I'm still willing.' The most important element lies precisely in this [i.e., willingness]; it is not merely, as the proverb has it, that 'Well begun is half done' [for willingness constitutes *more than half*]. Such willingness is the essence of the mind."
 21 *in recto*: "on the right track."

- 2 *discutio*, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake off
recalesco, -ere, -calui, 3, become warm, glow
quotiens, *adv.*, whenever, as often as
 4 *olim*, *adv.*, sometime ago
superiatio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus, 3, outstrip
 5 *fetus*, -us, *m.*, breeding, offspring
grex, *gregis*, *m.*, flock
 6 *alumnus*, -i, *m.*, pupil
intueor, -eri, -tuitus, 2 *dep.*, look upon, regard
 8 *ingenium*, -i, *n.*, mind
tener, -era, -erum, *adj.*, young
 9 *subito*, *adv.*, suddenly
adsero, -ere, -serui, -sertus, 3, claim
 10 *indoles*, -is, *f.*, nature
 11 *lente*, *adv.*, slowly
subinde, *adv.*, repeatedly, continually
 12 *invicem*, *adv.*, in turn
 17 *absolutus*, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of absolvo*), complete
 19 *incumbo*, -ere, -cubui, -cubitus, 3, apply or devote one's self
 20 *congruo*, -ere, -grui, 3, harmonize
percutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, strike, stamp

Epistle Thirty-four
THE TEACHER'S JOY AT HIS PUPIL'S SUCCESS

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Cresco et exulto et discussa senectute recalesco quotiens
 ex iis quae agis ac scribis intellego quantum te ipse—nam
 turbam olim reliqueras—superieceris. Si agricolam arbor ad
 fructum perducta delectat, si pastor ex fetu gregis sui capit 5
 voluptatem, si alumnum suum nemo aliter intuetur quam ut
 adulescentiam illius suam iudicet, quid evenire credis iis
 qui ingenia educaverunt et quae tenera formaverunt adulta
 subito vident? Adsero te mihi; meum opus es. Ego cum
 vidissem indolem tuam, inieci manum, exhortatus sum, 10
 addidi stimulos nec lente ire passus sum sed subinde incitavi;
 et nunc idem facio, sed iam currentem hortor et invicem
 hortantem. 'Quid illud?' inquis 'adhuc volo.' In hoc pluri-
 mum est, non sic quomodo principia totius operis dimi-
 dium occupare dicuntur. Ista res animo constat; itaque pars 15
 magna bonitatis est velle fieri bonum. Scis quem bonum
 dicam? perfectum, absolutum, quem malum facere nulla
 vis, nulla necessitas possit. Hunc te prospicio, si persevera-
 veris et incubueris et id egeris ut omnia facta dictaque tua
 inter se congruant ac respondeant sibi et una forma percussa 20
 sint. Non est huius animus in recto cuius acta discordant.

Vale.

- 2-3 **Quod** . . . **rogatus es**: "you have taken an oath, you have promised [to be] a good man; this is the mightiest bond regarding a sound mind." The infinitive clause *virum bonum*, which has an *esse* understood with it, is the object of both *promisisti* and *rogatus es*. The *quod* clause is in apposition to this object infinitive clause: *sacramento rogatus es* is a technical military phrase meaning "you have been bound by an oath."
- 4 **militiam**: i.e., "soldiering [toward virtue]."
- 6 **uri** . . . **necari**: this was the cruel oath taken by the gladiator when he made a contract with his master: *uri, vinciri, verberari, ferroque necari patior*. For the butchery of the gladiatorial combats, see *Ep.* 7.
- 7-8 **edunt** . . . **reddant**: i.e., these gladiators were well nourished and lived from wages received for fighting in the arena, but sooner or later they had to pay with their blood.
- 8 **cavetur**: the verb *caveo* is here used impersonally in the sense of "receive bail or security" from a person. The person from whom it is received is in the ablative with *a* or *ab*, and that for which the bail is received is expressed by an *ut* or *ne* clause.
- a **te**: supply *cavetur*.
- 10 **misericordiam populi temptare**: the defeated gladiator could appeal to the audience's mercy to spare his life.
- 15 **Fit via <vi>**: Vergil, *Aeneid* 2.494. In Book 2, Aeneas, at the request of Dido, narrates the fall of Troy. This quotation refers to the incident where the Greeks, led by Achilles' son Pyrrhus, force their way into the palace of Priam, the Trojan king.
- 18 **contingere**: subject of the verb.
- 29 **non ire sed ferri**: for an explanation of these words, cf. *Ep.* 107, line 11: *Ducunt volentem fata, nolentem trahunt*, where Seneca is quoting from the Stoic Cleanthes.

- 4 **mollis**, -e, *adj.*, soft
- 5 **auctoramentum**, -i, *n.*, oath
- 6 **uro**, -ere, ussi, ustus, 3, burn
- vincio**, -ire, vinxi, victus, 4, bind
- neco**, 1, slay
- 7 **loco**, 1, lease or hire out
- 8 **vel**, *conj.*, even
- invitus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, against one's will
- 9 **libens**, -entis, *p. adj.* (of libet), willing, gladly
- summitto**, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, lower
- 12 **porro**, *adv.*, moreover
- prosum**, **prodesse**, **profui**, *irr.*, bc of use
- lucrifico**, 1, gain
- missio**, -onis, *f.*, discharge
- 13 **expedio**, 4, set free, liberate
- 18 **contingo**, -ere, -tigi, -tactus, 3, attain
- aliter**, *adv.*, otherwise
- 19 **stultitia**, -ae, *f.*, folly
- adfectus**, -us, *m.*, emotion
- 20 **interdum**, *adv.*, sometimes
- alternus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, by turns, alternately
- alternis** (*abl. pl.*, supply *vicibus*), alternately, by turns
- 21 **pariter**, *adv.*, together
- 23 **gradus**, -us, *m.*, step
- 25 **adgredior**, -i, -gressus, 3 *dep.*, go to, approach
- incido**, -ere, -cidi, -casus, 3, fall upon
- 27 **illo**, *adv.*, to that situation
- impetus**, -us, *m.*, impulse
- inpingo**, -ere, -pegi, -pactus, 3, drive
- 29 **subito**, *adv.*, suddenly
- turbo**, -inis, *m.*, whirlpool

Epistle Thirty-seven
SOLDIERING TOWARD THE GOOD LIFE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quod maximum vinculum est ad bonam mentem, promisisti virum bonum, sacramento rogatus es. Deridebit te, si quis tibi dixerit mollem esse militiam et facilem. Nolo te decipi. Eadem honestissimi huius et illius turpissimi auctoramenti verba sunt: 'uri, vinciri ferroque necari'. Ab illis qui manus harenae locant et edunt ac bibunt quae per sanguinem reddant cavetur ut ista vel inviti patiantur: a te ut volens libensque patiaris. Illis licet arma summittere, misericordiam populi temptare: tu neque summittere nec vitam rogabis; recto tibi invictoquo moriendum est. Quid porro prodest paucos dies aut annos lucrificare? sine missione nascimur. 'Quomodo ergo' inquis 'me expediam?' Effugere non potes necessitates, potes vincere.

Fit via <vi>; 15

et hanc tibi viam dabit philosophia. Ad hanc te confer si vis salvus esse, si securus, si beatus, denique si vis esse, quod est maximum, liber; hoc contingere aliter non potest. Humilis res est stultitia, abiecta, sordida, servilis, multis adfectibus et saevissimis subiecta. Hos tam graves dominos, interdum alternis imperantes, interdum pariter, dimittit a te sapientia, quae sola libertas est. Una ad hanc fert via, et quidem recta; non aberrabis; vade certo gradu. Si vis omnia tibi subicere, te subice rationi; multos reges, si ratio te rexerit. Ab illa discas quid et quemadmodum adgredi debeas; non incidis rebus. Neminem mihi dabis qui sciat quomodo quod vult coeperit velle: non consilio adductus illo sed impetu incontactus est. Non minus saepe fortuna in nos incurrit quam nos in illam. Turpe est non ire sed ferri, et subito in medio turbine rerum stupentem quaerere, 'huc ego quemadmodum veni?'
Vale.

- 6 **consilium**: supply *sed* before the second *consilium* in this line. Seneca frequently employs ASYNDETON (the omission of a conjunction between words, phrases, or sentences).
- 8 **ubi vero**: "but indeed when."
- 10 **haerent**: supply *animo*: the subject is *submitiora verba*.
- 14 **non late**. . . **crescit**: "it is not largely in evidence, if you look at it; [but] increases with use."
- 15 **Pauca**. . . **dicuntur**: cf. *nec enim multis opus est sed efficacibus* (lines 10-11).
- 19 **ipsa**: i.e., *mens*.

- 2 **merito**, *adv.*, deservedly
exigo, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3,
 demand
commercium, -i, *n.*, exchange
- 3 **frequentio**, 1, repeat often
proficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3,
 help
minutatim, *adv.*, little by little
- 4 **inrepo**, -ere, -repsi, -reptus,
 3, creep into
effundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3,
 pour out
- 5 **strepitus**, -us, *m.*, noise
- 6 **clare**, *adv.*, in a loud voice
- 7 **aliquando**, *adv.*, at some time
 or other
contio, -onis, *f.*, speech
- 9 **disco**, -ere, didici, 3, learn
submitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of*
submitto), soft
- 10 **haereo**, -ere, haesi, haesus, 2,
 cling
- 11 **modus**, -i, *m.*, manner, way,
modo, in the manner of, like
spargo, -ere, sparsi, sparsus,
 3, scatter
- 12 **quamvis**, *adv.*, however
exiguus, -a, -um, *adj.*, small
idoneus, -a, -um, *adj.*, suitable
- 13 **explico**, 1, unfold
auctus, -us, *m.*, growth
diffundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus,
 3, spread
- 15 **excipio**, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus, 3,
 receive
- 16 **convalesco**, -ere, -valui, 3,
 gain strength
exsurgo, -ere, -surrexi, 3, rise
 up
- 17 **efficio**, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3,
 accomplish
angustus, -a, -um, *adj.*,
 narrow, small
- 18 **tantum**, *adv.*, only
- 19 **invicem**, *adv.*, in turn

Epistle Thirty-eight
THE INTIMACY AND VALUE OF CONVERSATION

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Merito exigit ut hoc inter nos epistularum commercium frequentemus. Plurimum proficit sermo, quia minutatim inrepat animo: disputationes praeeparatae et effusae audiente populo plus habent strepitus, minus familiaritatis. Philo- 5
 sophia bonum consilium est: consilium nemo clare dat.
 Aliquando utendum est et illis, ut ita dicam, contionibus, ubi qui dubitat impellendus est; ubi vero non hoc agendum est, ut velit discere, sed ut discat, ad haec submissiora verba veniendum est. Facilius intrans et haerent; nec enim multis 10
 opus est sed efficacibus. Seminis modo spargenda sunt, quod quamvis sit exiguum, cum occupavit idoneum locum, vires suas explicat et ex minimo in maximos auctus diffunditur. Idem facit ratio: non late patet, si aspicias; in opere crescit. Pauca sunt quae dicuntur, sed si illa animus bene exceperit, 15
 conualescunt et exsurgunt. Eadem est, inquam, praeceptorum condicio quae seminum: multum efficiunt, et angusta sunt. Tantum, ut dixi, idonea mens rapiat illa et in se trahat; multa invicem et ipsa generabit et plus reddet quam acceperit. *Val.* 20

- 6 a te: Latin says "near from" where the English idiom demands "near to."
- 13 quis deus. . .deus: Vergil, *Aeneid* 8.352. With *quis deus a sit* is to be understood. In Book 8, Aeneas seeks the aid of King Evander, a Greek from Arcadia who had founded the small town Pallanteum, which was to become the future site of Rome. Through the mouth of Evander, Vergil points out the historic places of the imperial city. When the King describes the site of the future Capitol in Book 8, he employs the line quoted here.
- 14–16 Si tibi. . .summovens: here Seneca deviates from his usual crisp style with short clauses. This passage is a sample of Seneca's use of the complex sentence in the periodic style; *lucus* is modified by the two adjectives *frequens* and *summovens*. The ablatives *vetustis arboribus*. . .*egressis* are due to the idea of fullness in *frequens*; *conspectum* is the object of *summovens*, and the genitive clause *ramorum aliorum alios protegentium* depends upon *densitate*; *alios* is the object of *protegentium*.
- 23–25 coluntur. . .sacrauit: Seneca sometimes changes from the active to the passive and vice versa in the same sentence.
- 29–30 quam ut. . .possit: lit., "than that it can be believed. . ." i.e., "to be believed similar to this tiny body in which it exists." The subjunctive *possit* is used in a result clause after the comparative degree and is introduced by *quam ut*.
- 30 isto: supply *corpusculo*.
- 31 omnia: object of *transeuntem*, which modifies *animum*.
- 32 quidquid. . .optimusque: object of *ridentem*, which modifies *animum*.
- 34 itaque. . .descendit: "and so, in respect to its greater part it is there [i.e., in heaven] whence it descended"; *maiore*. . .*parte* is ablative of respect or specification.
- 36 in hoc: "for this purpose."
- 39 nostris. . .interest: "it takes part in our affairs as if it were a superior"; *interest* is here not the impersonal "it concerns" but the personal form of the verb *intersum*, *-esse*, be present, take part in.

- 2 salutaris, -e, *adj.*, wholesome, beneficial
- 3 stultus, -a, -um, *adj.*, foolish
- 4 inpetro, 1, obtain
- 5 aedituus, -i, *m.*, keeper of a temple
simulacrum, -i, *n.*, statue
quasi, *adv.*, as if
- 9 prout, *conj.*, just as
tracto, 1, treat
- 12 unusquisque, unaquaque, unumquidque, *indef. pron.*, each one, each
- 14 vetustus, -a, -um, *adj.*, old
solitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, usual
- 15 egredior, -i, -gressus, 3 *dep.*, go beyond
frequens, -entis, *adj.*, crowded, filled
lucus, -i, *m.*, grove
- 16 protego, -ere, -texi, -tectus, 3, cover
summoveo, -ere, -movi, -motus, 2, remove
proceritas, -atis, *f.*, tallness
- 17 secretum, -i, *n.*, solitude
- 18 numen, -inis, *n.*, divinity
- 19 specus, -us, *m.*, cave
penitus, *adv.*, deep within
exedo, -ere, -edi, -esus, 3, cat up
suspendo, -ere, -pendi, -pensus, 3, support
- 20 laxitas, -atis, *f.*, roominess
- 21 excavatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of excavo), hollowed out
percutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, strike
- 22 caput, -itis, *n.*, source
subitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, sudden
- 23 abditum, -i, *n.*, hiding
amnis, -is, *m.*, stream
- 24 calens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of caleo), hot
stagnum, -i, *n.*, pool
opacitas, -atis, *f.*, shade
- 31 tamquam, *adv.*, as if
- 33 adminiculum, -i, *n.*, support
- 34 quemadmodum, *adv.*, just as
- 35 radius, -i, *m.*, ray
contingo, -ere, -tigi, -tactus, 3, touch
- 36 unde, *adv.*, whence, from where
- 37 propior, propius, *comp. adj.*, nearer, more closely
conversor, 1 *dep.*, associate
- 38 haereo, -ere, haesi, haesus, 2, cling
- 39 nitor, -i, nisus (nixus), 3 *dep.*, strive

Epistle Forty-one
GOD WITHIN YOU

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Facis rem optimam et tibi salutarem si, ut scribis, perseveras ire ad bonam mentem, quam stultum est optare cum possis a te inpetrare. Non sunt ad caelum elevandae manus nec exorandus aedituus ut nos ad aurem simulacri, quasi magis exaudiri possimus, admittat: prope est a te deus, tecum est, intus est. Ita dico, Lucili: sacer intra nos spiritus sedet, malorum bonorumque nostrorum observator et custos; hic prout a nobis tractatus est, ita nos ipse tractat. Bonus vero vir sine deo nemo est: an potest aliquis supra fortunam nisi ab illo adiutus exurgere? Ille dat consilia magnifica et erecta. In unoquoque virorum bonorum

(quis deus incertum est) habitat deus.

Si tibi occurrerit vetustis arboribus et solitam altitudinem egressis frequens lucus et conspectum caeli <densitate> ramorum aliorum alios protegentium summovens, illa proceritas silvae et secretum loci et admiratio umbrae in aperto tam densae atque continuae fidem tibi numinis faciet. Si quis specus saxis penitus exesis montem suspenderit, non manu factus, sed naturalibus causis in tantam laxitatem excavatus, animum tuum quadam religionis suspitione percutiet. Magnorum fluminum capita veneramur; subita ex abdito vasti amnis eruptio aras habet; coluntur aquarum calentium fontes, et stagna quaedam vel opacitas vel immensa altitudo sacrauit. Si hominem videris interritum periculis, intactum cupiditatibus, inter adversa felicem, in mediis tempestatibus placidum, ex superiore loco homines videntem, ex aequo deos, non subibit te veneratio eius? non dices, 'ista res maior est altiorque quam ut credi similis huic in quo est corpusculo possit'? Vis isto divina descendit; animum excellentem, moderatum, omnia tamquam minora transeuntem, quidquid timemus optamusque ridentem, caelestis potentia agit. Non potest res tanta sine adminiculo numinis stare; itaque maiore sui parte illic est unde descendit. Quemadmodum radii solis contingunt quidem terram sed ibi sunt unde mittuntur, sic animus magnus ac sacer et in hoc demissus, ut propius [quidem] divina nossemus, conversatur quidem nobiscum sed haeret origini suae; illinc pendet, illuc spectat ac nititur, nostris tamquam melior interest. Quis est

- 41 **aliena**: i.e., the externals or outer possessions of a man.
co: "than that man."
- 44 **mittitur**: supply *in arenam*.
- 47 **speciosus ex horrido**: i.e., attractive to people from the fear he inspires.
- 47-48 **non. .aspici**: this infinitive clause explains the preceding *hic*.
- 48 **praefertur**: supply "by the bettors."
- 49 **suo**: used of the internal self as opposed to the external self (see *aliena*, line 41).
- 50 **pondere. .corum quae tulit**: "by the weight of those things which it has borne," i.e., with the weight of the fruit it bears. The *ipsa* in this clause is rather widely separated from its noun, *adminicula*.
- 51 **cui**: dative after *dependent*.
- 53 **quod ipsius est**: "which is [characteristic] of himself," i.e., what is peculiar to his own nature; *ipsius* is a predicate genitive of possession.
- 40 **niteo, -ere, 2**, shine
- 42 **protinus, adv.**, straightway, at once
- 43 **aureus, -a, -um, adj.**, golden
frenum, -i, n., (pl. freni, m. or frena n.), bit, bridle
aliter, adv., differently
- 44 **iuba, -ae, f.**, mane
contracto, 1, touch, handle
- 45 **incultus, -a, -um, adj.**, unadorned, wild
- 46 **hic, haec, hoc, dem. adj.**, and *pron.*, the latter
scilicet, adv., of course
- 47 **speciosus, -a, -um, adj.**, good-looking
decor, -oris, m., glory
- 48 **bratteatus, -a, -um, adj.**, gilded
glorior, 1 dep., boast
- 49 **vitis, -is, f.**, vine
palmes, -itis, f., shoot
onero, 1, load
- 50 **adminiculum, -i, n.**, prop
deduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, lead down, drag
- 52 **dependeo, -ere, 2**, hang from
or on
proprius, -a, -um, adj., special, peculiar
- 54 **formosus, -a, -um, adj.**, beautiful
sero, -ere, sevi, satus, 3, sow, plant
- 55 **fenero, 1**, lend on interest
- 59 **inpleo, -ere, -plevi, -pletus, 2**, fulfill
- 62 **trudo, -ere, trusi, trusus, 3**, push

ergo hic animus? qui nullo bono nisi suo nitet. Quid enim 40
est stultius quam in homine aliena laudare? quid eo demen-
tius qui ea miratur quae ad alium transferri protinus possunt?
Non faciunt meliorem equum aurei freni. Aliter leo aurata
iuba mittitur, dum contractatur et ad patientiam recipiendi
ornamenti cogitur fatigatus, aliter incultus, integri spiritus: 45
hic scilicet impetu acer, qualem illum natura esse voluit,
speciosus ex horrido, cuius hic decor est, non sine timore
aspici, praefertur illi languido et bratteato. Nemo gloriari
nisi suo debet. Vitem laudamus si fructu palmites onerat, si
ipsa pondere [ad terram] eorum quae tulit adminicula de- 50
ducit: num quis huic illam praeferret vitem cui aureae uvae,
aurea folia dependent? Propria virtus est in vite fertilitas;
in homine quoque id laudandum est quod ipsius est. Fami-
liam formonsam habet et domum pulchram, multum serit,
multum fenerat: nihil horum in ipso est sed circa ipsum. 55
Lauda in illo quod nec eripi potest nec dari, quod proprium
hominis est. Quaeris quid sit? animus et ratio in animo
perfecta. Rationale enim animal est homo; consummatur
itaque bonum eius, si id inplevit cui nascitur. Quid est
autem quod ab illo ratio haec exigat? rem facillimam, secun- 60
dum naturam suam vivere. Sed hanc difficilem facit com-
munis insania: in vitia alter alterum trudimus. Quomodo
autem revocari ad salutem possunt quos nemo retinet, popu-
lus inpellit? *Val.*

- 4 **secundae notae**: "of the second class." The following *ille alter* means "that other," i.e., "first class."
- 6 **ex intervallo**: "after a long interval of time."
- 10 **At**: "but" introduces Lucilius' supposed objections.
- 12 **nequitiaest**: "does wickedness have"; *nequitiae* is dative of possession; *nequitiaest* = *nequitiae est*.
- 15-16 **non minus**. . **aperuit**: "[but] when their own strength has pleased them (i.e., when they are capable of exercising their strength), their vices will be no less daring than those which prosperity has already disclosed."
- 20 **ut**. . **deficitur**: "lacks the favor of fortune [which would enable it] to dare deeds equal to the worst"; i.e., the multitude simply lacks the opportunity to exercise its vices. *Deficio* in the passive means "to be wanting in," "to lack."
- 21 **eadem**. . **volunt**: "you will find out that their desires are the same: [if you] give them power to do whatever they wish." The words in brackets, *subaudi si*, are untranslatable because the text is defective here.
- 22 **Meministi**: in this paragraph we are given an instance of that type of man mentioned above, who, once he escapes restraint, displays all of his vices and thereby induces his own downfall.
- 31-32 **quaedam tanti non sunt**: "some things are not of so much worth," i.e., are of less value [than the superfluous things].
- 2 **atque**, *conj.*, and yet
- 3 **cito**, *adv.*, quickly
- 5 **fortasse**, *adv.*, perhaps
tamquam, *adv.*, like
semel, *adv.*, once
- 7 **in**, *prep. v. acc.*, among,
regarding
eximius, -a, -um, *adj.*,
extraordinary
- 8 **adhuc**, *adv.*, still
- 9 **profiteor**, -eri, -fessus, 2 *dep.*,
profess
nondum, *adv.*, not yet
- 12 **displiceo**, -ere, -plicui,
-plicitus, 2, displease
- 13 **subitus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, sudden
inpotenter, *adv.*, intemperately
- 14 **inbecillus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, weak,
powerless
- 17 **explico**, 1, unfold
tuto, *adv.*, safely
- 18 **tracto**, 1, handle
rigeo, -ere, 2, be stiff
- 19 **torpeo**, -ere, 2, be numb
- 23 **volaticus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, flighty
- 24 **pinna**, -ae, *f.*, wing
mentior, 4 *dep.*, lie
pluma, -ae, *f.*, feather
- 25 **remitto**, -ere, -misi, -missus,
3, leave behind
- 27 **onerosus**, -a, -um, *adj.*,
burdensome
- 28 **supervacuus**, -a, -um, *adj.*,
superfluous
- 29 **adfecto**, 1, strive after
- 30 **contendo**, -ere, -tendi,
-tentus, 3, hasten
inspicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus,
3, see
commodus, -a, -um, *adj.*,
advantageous
- 31 **incommodus**, -a, -um, *adj.*,
disadvantageous
- 33 **consto**, -stare, -stiti, -status,
1, cost
stupor, -oris, *m.*, stupidity
- 34 **emo**, -ere, emi, emptus, 3, buy
- 36 **inpendo**, -ere, -pendi, -pensus,
3, expend
- 37 **amoenus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, pleasant
fructuosus, -a, -um, *adj.*,
profitable
- 38 **praedium**, -i, *n.*, estate
- 39 **iactura**, -ae, *f.*, loss
- 40 **vilis**, -e, *adj.*, cheap
- 41 **quotiens**, *adv.*, as often as,
whenever
- 42 **institor**, -oris, *m.*, huckster
merx, *mercis*, *f.*, merchandise

Epistle Forty-two
THE RARITY OF THE VIR BONUS

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Iam tibi iste persuasit virum se bonum esse? Atqui vir bonus tam cito nec fieri potest nec intellegi. Scis quem nunc virum bonum dicam? hunc secundae notae; nam ille alter fortasse tamquam phoenix semel anno quingentesimo nascitur. Nec est mirum ex intervallo magna generari: mediocria et in turbam nascentia saepe fortuna producit, eximia vero ipsa raritate commendat. Sed iste multum adhuc abest ab eo quod proficitur; et si sciret quid esset vir bonus, nondum esse se crederet, fortasse etiam fieri posse desperaret. 'At male existimat de malis.' Hoc etiam mali faciunt, nec ulla maior poena nequitiae est quam quod sibi ac suis displicet. 'At odit eos qui subita et magna potentia inpotenter utuntur.' Idem faciet cum idem potuerit. Multorum quia inbecilla sunt latent vitia, non minus ausura cum illis vires suae placuerint quam illa quae iam felicitas aperuit. Instrumenta illis explicandae nequitiae desunt. Sic tuto serpens etiam pestifera tractatur dum riget frigore: non desunt tunc illi venena sed torpent. Multorum crudelitas et ambitio et luxuria, ut paria pessimis audeat, fortunae favore deficitur. Eadem velle [subaudi si] cognosces: da posse quantum volunt. Meministi, cum quendam adfirmares esse in tua potestate, dixisse me volaticum esse ac levem et te non pedem eius tenere sed pinnam? Mentitus sum: pluma tenebatur, quam remisit et fugit. Scis quos postea tibi exhibuerit ludos, quam multa in caput suum casura temptaverit. Non videbat se per aliorum pericula in suum ruere; non cogitabat quam onerosa essent quae petebat, etiam si supervacua non essent.

Hoc itaque in his quae adfectamus, ad quae labore magno contendimus, inspicere debemus, aut nihil in illis commodi esse aut plus incommodi: quaedam supervacua sunt, quaedam tanti non sunt. Sed hoc non pervidemus et gratuita nobis videntur quae carissime constant. Ex eo licet stupor noster appareat, quod ea sola putamus emi pro quibus pecuniam solvimus, ea gratuita vocamus pro quibus nos ipsos inpendimus. Quae emere nollemus si domus nobis nostra pro illis esset danda, si amoenum aliquod fructuosumve praedium, ad ea paratissimi sumus pervenire cum sollicitudine, cum periculo, cum iactura pudoris et libertatis et temporis; adeo nihil est cuique se vilius. Idem itaque in omnibus consiliis rebusque faciamus quod solemus facere quotiens ad institorem alicuius mercis accessimus: videamus hoc

- 43 **quanti deferatur**: "at what price it is being sold"; *defero* is the technical word for "bring to market to sell."
 47 **de . . . agetur**: "it is a question of gain."
 55–56 **sed cogitat**: "but he thinks [he feels their loss]."
 56–57 **habere se**: subject of *contigit*.

- 45 **extorqueo**, -ere, -torsi, -tortus, 2, twist out, wrest
 47 **verso**, 1, consider
 48 **nempe**, *conj.*, to be sure
adventicius, -a, -um, *adj.*, foreign, external
 51 **adsuesco**, -ere, -suevi, -suetus, 3, become accustomed to
 54 **damnum**, -i, *n.*, loss
 56 **quotus quisque**, **quotum** **quidque**, *pron.*, how many; (*ironically*) how few
 57 **contingo**, -ere, -tigi, -tactus, 3, fall to one's lot

quod concupiscimus quanti deferatur. Saepe maximum pretium est pro quo nullum datur. Multa possum tibi ostendere quae acquisita acceptaque libertatem nobis extorserint; 45
nostri essemus, si ista nostra non essent. Haec ergo tecum ipse versa, non solum ubi de incremento agetur, sed etiam ubi de iactura. 'Hoc perituum est.' Nempe adventicium fuit; tam facile sine isto vives quam vixisti. Si diu illud habuisti, perdis postquam satiatu es; si non diu, perdis 50
antequam adsuecas. 'Pecuniam minorem habebis.' Nempe et molestiam. 'Gratiam minorem.' Nempe et invidiam. Circumspice ista quae nos agunt in insaniam, quae cum plurimis lacrimis amittimus: scies non damnum in iis molestum esse, sed opinionem damni. Nemo illa perisse sentit sed 55
cogitat. Qui se habet nihil perdidit: sed quoto cuique habere se contigit? *Val.*

- 5 **hunc locum:** i.e., Rome.
- 11 **in provincia:** Lucilius was procurator in Sicily.
- 19-20 **lanitores.** . . **opposit:** "our conscience, not our pride, has placed keepers at [our doors]."
- 20 **deprendi:** predicate after *sit*.
- 6 **metior, -iri, mensus, 4 dep.,**
measure
- moror, 1 dep., dwell**
- 7 **emineo, -ere, -minui, 2, stand**
out
- 9 **tollo, -ere, sustuli, sublatus,**
3, raise
- deprimo, -ere, -pressi,**
-pressus, 3, lower
- 10 **gubernaculum, -i, n., rudder**
- 11 **exiguus, -a, -um, adj., small**
licet, although
- contemno, -ere, -tempsi,**
-temptus, 3, scorn
- 12 **quemadmodum, adv., how**
- 13 **eo, adv., for that reason,**
therefore
- 15 **paries, -etis, m., wall**
- tego, -ere, texi, tectus, 3,**
protect
- 16 **plerumque, adv., for the most**
part, generally
- tutus, -a, -um, adj., safe**
- 17 **pecco, 1, sin**
- 18 **vix, adv., scarcely**
- quisquam, quae-, quid- (quic-),**
indef. pron., anyone, anything
- aperio, -ire, -ui, -ertus, 4,**
open
- 19 **ostium, -i, n., door**
- 20 **subito, adv., suddenly**
- 21 **prosum, prodesse, profui,**
irr., be of use
- 22 **vito, 1, avoid**
- 23 **sollicitus, -a, -um, adj.,**
disturbed
- 24 **refert, impers., it matters**

Epistle Forty-three
NO ESCAPE FROM ONE'S OWN CONSCIENCE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quomodo hoc ad me pervenerit quaeris, quis mihi id te cogitare narraverit quod tu nulli narraveras? Is qui scit plurimum, rumor. 'Quid ergo?' inquis 'tantus sum ut possim excitare rumorem?' Non est quod te ad hunc locum respiciens metiaris: ad istum respice in quo moraris. Quidquid inter vicina eminent magnum est illic ubi eminent; nam magnitudo <non> habet modum certum: comparatio illam aut tollit aut deprimit. Navis quae in flumine magna est in mari parvula est; gubernaculum quod alteri navi magnum alteri exiguum est. Tu nunc in provincia, licet contemnas ipse te, magnus es. Quid agas, quemadmodum cenes, quemadmodum dormias, quaeritur, scitur: eo tibi diligentius vivendum est. Tunc autem felicem esse te iudica cum poteris in publico vivere, cum te parietes tui tegent, non abscondent, quos plerumque circumdatos nobis iudicamus non ut tutius vivamus, sed ut peccemus occultius. Rem dicam ex qua mores aestimes nostros: vix quemquam invenies qui possit aperto ostio vivere. Ianitores conscientia nostra, non superbia opposuit: sic vivimus ut deprendi sit subito aspici. Quid autem prodest recondere se et oculos hominum auresque vitare? Bona conscientia turbam advocat, mala etiam in solitudine anxia atque sollicita est. Si honesta sunt quae facis, omnes sciant; si turpia, quid refert neminem scire cum tu scias? O te miserum si contemnis hunc testem! *Val.*

- 2 **te pusillum facis**: "you are making yourself out [to be] insignificant," "you are disparaging yourself."
- 2-3 **tecum egisse**: "dealt with you."
- 8 **quattuordecim**: the fourteen rows of seats at the theater or arena reserved by Roman law for the knights (*equites*). These seats were situated just behind those in the senatorial zone. The knights comprised the second class of Rome's hierarchy, the first class being the senatorial order, the third, the plebeian.
- 17 **hoc**: explained by the following *a nullo te nobilitate superari*.
- 23 **ad vetera**: "to ancient times."
- 27 **fumosis**: "smoky," "full of smoke." The Lares and especially the Penates were traditionally the spirits (of ancestors and gods) sacred to the private home. Their figures were situated in the *atrium* or central room, at the hearth. At every meal, a portion of the food was reserved for the Penates and cast into the flaming hearth—hence Seneca's imagery here.
- 28-29 **cui . . licet surgere**: lit., "to which [soul] it is permitted to rise," i.e., "this soul may rise."
- 32 **non populo auctore**: "not according to the judgment of the crowd."
- 33 **veniant**: supply *ingenui* as subject.
- 38 **eius**: i.e., *securitas*.
- 42 **quo plus . . hoc . . magis**: "the more . . the more."

- 2 **iterum**, *adv.*, again
- 3 **eximo**, -ere, -emi, -emptus, 3, take away from, free from
- 5 **stemma**, -atis, *n.*, pedigree
- 9 **curia**, -ae, *f.*, senate
- 12 **quisquam**, *quae*-, *quid*- (*quic*-), *indef. pron.*, anyone, anything
- luceo**, -ere, *luxi*, 2, shine
- 13 **rigo**, 1, water
- hortus**, -i, *m.*, garden
- 14 **loco**, 1, let out to hire
- 16 **maiores**, -um, *m. pl.*, ancestors
- 17 **protinus**, *adv.*, at once
- 18 **totidem**, *indef. adj.*, just as many
- 19 **ultra**, *prep. w. acc.*, beyond
- iaceo**, -ere, *iacui*, 2, lie
- 20 **orior**, -iri, *ortus*, 4 *dep.*, spring from
- 21 **misceo**, -ere, *miscui*, *mixtus*, 2, mix
- sursum**, *adv.*, upwards
- deorsum**, *adv.*, downwards
- sursum deorsum**, up and down, topsy-turvy
- 22 **generosus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, noble
- 23 **intueor**, -eri, -tuitus, 2 *dep.*, look at, consider
- alioquin**, *adv.*, otherwise
- 24 **inde**, *adv.*, from that time
- 25 **ortus**, -us, *m.*, beginning
- usque**, *adv.*, all the way in, *prep. w. acc.*, towards, for, regarding
- 28 **quicumque**, *quae*-, *quod*-, *indef. adj.*, any whatever
- 30 **libertinus**, -i, *m.*, freedman
- 31 **consequor**, -i, *secutus*, 3 *dep.*, attain, reach
- ingenuus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, free-born
- ingenuus**, -i, *m.*, free-born man
- 33 **unde**, *adv.*, whence
- quo**, *adv.*, whither
- 35 **depravo**, 1, pervert, distort
- 38 **securitas**, -atis, *f.*, freedom from care
- 39 **inconcussus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, unshaken
- sollicitudo**, -inis, *f.*, anxiety
- 40 **tantum**, *adv.*, only
- sarcina**, -ae, *f.*, burden
- 42 **inpendo**, -ere, -pendi, -pensus, 3, expend
- 44 **inplico**, 1, entangle

Epistle Forty-four
PHILOSOPHY NEVER LOOKS TO PEDIGREES

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Iterum tu mihi te pusillum facis et dicis malignius tecum egisse naturam prius, deinde fortunam, cum possis eximere te vulgo et ad felicitatem hominum maximam emergere. Si quid est aliud in philosophia boni, hoc est, quod stemma non inspicit; omnes, si ad originem primam revocantur, a dis sunt. Eques Romanus es, et ad hunc ordinem tua te perduxit industria; at mehercules multis quattuordecim clausa sunt, non omnes curia admittit, castra quoque quos ad laborem et periculum recipiant fastidiose legunt: bona mens omnibus patet, omnes ad hoc sumus nobiles. Nec reicit quemquam philosophia nec eligit: omnibus lucet. Patricius Socrates non fuit; Cleanthes aquam traxit et rigando horto locavit manus; Platonem non accepit nobilem philosophia sed fecit: quid est quare desperes his te posse fieri parem? Omnes hi maiores tui sunt, si te illis geris dignum; geres autem, si hoc protinus tibi ipse persuaseris, a nullo te nobilitate superari. Omnibus nobis totidem ante nos sunt; nullius non origo ultra memoriam iacet. Platon ait neminem regem non ex servis esse oriundum, neminem non servum ex regibus. Omnia ista longa varietas miscuit et sursum deorsum fortuna versavit. Quis est generosus? ad virtutem bene a natura compositus. Hoc unum intuendum est: alioquin si ad vetera revocas, nemo non inde est ante quod nihil est. A primo mundi ortu usque in hoc tempus perduxit nos ex splendidis sordisque alternata series. Non facit nobilem atrium plenum fumosis imaginibus; nemo in nostram gloriam vixit nec quod ante nos fuit nostrum est: animus facit nobilem, cui ex quacumque condicione supra fortunam licet surgere. Puta itaque te non equitem Romanum esse sed libertinum: potes hoc consequi, ut solus sis liber inter ingenuos. 'Quomodo?' inquis. Si mala bonaque non populo auctore distinxeris. Intuendum est non unde veniant, sed quo eant. Si quid est quod vitam beatam potest facere, id bonum est suo iure; depravari enim in malum non potest. Quid est ergo in quo erratur, cum omnes beatam vitam optent? quod instrumenta eius pro ipsa habent et illam dum petunt fugiunt. Nam cum summa vitae beatae sit solida securitas et eius inconcussa fiducia, sollicitudinis colligunt causas et per insidiosum iter vitae non tantum ferunt sarcinas sed trahunt; ita longius ab effectu eius quod petunt semper abscedunt et quo plus operae impenderunt, hoc se magis impediunt et feruntur retro. Quod evenit in labyrintho properantibus: ipsa illos velocitas implicat. *Val.*

- 6-7 **tantundem**. . *fortuna*: the sentence means "if you will take into consideration how much power fortune has over each of these" (i.e., slave and master). *Fortunae* may be taken as a genitive after *tantundem* or as a dative after *licere*.
- 8 **quare**: supply *turpe existimant* from the preceding clause. A subjunctive *sit* is to be supplied too with the following *nisi*.
- 10 **capit**: "holds" or "is able to hold." Cf. the English *capacity*.
- 13 **in hoc**: "for this purpose." The hapless slaves may not move their lips even in talk, much less in eating.

- 2 **libenter**, *adv.*, willingly, gladly
- 4 **decet**, -ere, **decuit**, *impers.*, 2, it fits, it suits
immo, *adv.*, nay, rather, on the contrary
- 5 **contubernalis**, -is, *c.*, comrade
- 6 **conservus**, -i, *m.*, fellow slave
- tantundem**, *adv.*, just so much
- 7 **utroque**, **utraque**, **utrumque**, *adj.*, both
licet, -ere, **licuit**, *impers.*, 2, it is allowed
- 9 **consuetudo**, -inis, *f.*, custom
turba, -ae, *f.*, crowd
- 10 **edo**, -ere, **edi**, **esus**, 3, eat
- 11 **onero**, 1, load
venter, -tris, *m.*, stomach
desuetus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of* **desuesco**), unaccustomed
- 12 **egero**, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, carry or bring out, vomit
- 13 **labrum**, -i, *n.*, lip
ne. . **quidem**, *not.* . . even
- 14 **virga**, -ae, *f.*, rod
conpesco, -ere, -pescui, 3, check, restrain
- 15 **verber**, -eris, *n.*, lash
tussis, -is, *f.*, coughing
sternumentum, -i, *n.*, sneezing
singultus, -us, *m.*, hiccupping
- 16 **malum**, -i, *n.*, punishment
interpellatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.*, (*of* **interpello**), interrupted
luo, -ere, **lui**, 3, pay for
- 17 **ieiunus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, hungry
- 18 **coram**, *prep. w. abl.*, in the presence of
- 19 **tantum**, *adv.*, only
os, **oris**, *n.*, mouth
- 20 **consuo**, -ere, -sui, -sutus, 3, sew
porrigo, -ere, -rexi, -rectus, 3, offer
cervix, -icis, *f.*, neck
- 21 **convivium**, -i, *n.*, feast
- 22 **tormentum**, -i, *n.*, torture
- 23 **iacto**, 1, toss about
totidem, *indecl. adj.*, just so many
quot, *indecl. adj.*, how many, tot. . .quot, so many. . .as
- 25 **quod**, *conj.*, the fact that
tamquam, *adv.*, as if
- 26 **iumentum**, -i, *n.*, beast of burden
- 27 **discumbo**, -ere, -cubui, -cubitus, 3, recline
sputum, -i, *n.*, spit
detergeo, -ere, -tersi, -tersus, 2, wipe up

Epistle Forty-seven
NOT SLAVES BUT FELLOW SLAVES

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Libenter ex iis qui a te veniunt cognovi familiariter te cum servis tuis vivere: hoc prudentiam tuam, hoc eruditionem decet. 'Servi sunt.' Immo homines. 'Servi sunt.' Immo contubernales. 'Servi sunt.' Immo humiles amici. 5
'Servi sunt.' Immo conservi, si cogitaveris tantundem in utrosque licere fortunae. Itaque rideo istos qui turpe existimant cum servo suo cenare: quare, nisi quia superbissima consuetudo cenanti domino stantium servorum turbam circumdedit? Est ille plus quam capit, et ingenti aviditate 10
onerat distentum ventrem ac desuetum iam ventris officio, ut maiore opera omnia egerat quam ingessit. At infelicibus servis movere labra ne in hoc quidem, ut loquantur, licet; virga murmur omne conpescitur, et ne fortuita quidem 15
verberibus excepta sunt, tussis, sternumenta, singultus; magno malo ulla voce interpellatum silentium luitur; nocte tota ieiuni mutique perstant. Sic fit ut isti de domino loquantur quibus coram domino loqui non licet. At illi quibus non tantum coram dominis sed cum ipsis erat sermo, quorum os 20
non consuebatur, parati erant pro domino porrigere cervicem, periculum imminens in caput suum avertere; in conviviis loquebantur, sed in tormentis tacebant. Deinde eiusdem adrogantiae proverbium iactatur, totidem hostes esse quot servos: non habemus illos hostes sed facimus. Alia interim 25
crudelia, inhumana praetereo, quod ne tamquam hominibus quidem sed tamquam iumentis abutimur. [quod] Cum ad cenandum discubuimus, alius sputa deterget, alius reliquias

- 31 **nisi quod**: "except for the fact that," "except that." Here the *quod* adds very little and seems hardly necessary.
- 32 **necessitatis**: supply *causa*.
- 33-34 **cum actate luctatur**: the reference is to slaves who were full-grown and male but who were kept youthful and female in appearance. Debauched Roman masters exhibited such slaves to excite the envy of their wayward guests. As Seneca says below, such slaves had to be men in their more private services to their masters and boys in their public services. Seneca's metaphor, then, "that they had to wrestle with their age," is truly apt. The beards of such slaves were kept shaved especially close or were pulled out by the roots.
- 35 **militari habitu**: "with a soldier's appearance."
- 40-41 **obsonatores. . . subtilis est**: "the buyers of provisions who have a subtle knowledge of their master's palate"; *obsonatores* were the "purchasers of victuals" and also the makers of the menus. Their task was to keep a close watch upon the fastidiousness and fickleness of their master's palate and keep themselves prepared to administer to it satisfactorily and at once.
- 44 **sustinet**: an understood *dominus* is the subject of this verb, which here means "to endure." With *his* supply *servis*.
- 45 **Di melius**: idiomatic in Latin for "God forbid." The full expression is *Di melius velint*.
- 46 **ex istis**: supply *servis*.
- 49 **in. . . coniectus**: "thrown into the first group." Slaves put up for sale were grouped into various categories. The first group consisted of the least desirable.
- 50 **in. . . experitur**: lit., "on whom the crier or auctioneer tries out his voice"; i.e., the auctioneer has to put forth his best sales talk in order to persuade the buyers to purchase slaves of such inferior caliber.
- 52 **domino. . . Callistus**: "at what cost to the master was Callistus sold"; *domino* is dative of reference: *multa* is not the adjective but a noun in the ablative case (attendant circumstance). Callistus is the subject of *venditus est* understood; *quam* is an adverb.
- 53 **Vis tu cogitare**: a colloquial expression, "just remember to reflect," or "please reflect." The imperative of *volo* is lacking; this expression substitutes for it.
- 56 **Variana clade**: "at the time of Varus' disaster." Quintilius Varus was commander of the Roman armies in Germany. He was enticed by the crafty German chief, Arminius, to enter the Teutoburgian forest. There, Varus' army was cut to pieces and Varus himself committed suicide.
- 56-57 **senatorium. . . gradum**: "commencing to attain senatorial rank through military service."

- 28 **temulentus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, drunken
temulentus, -i, *m.*, drunken man
- 28 **torus**, -i, *m.*, couch
subditus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of subdo), placed at
- 29 **scindo**, -ere, **scidi**, **scissus**, 3, cut
clunis, -is, *m.* and *f.*, rump
ductus, -us, *m.*, carving
- 30 **eruditus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of erudio), skilled
frustum, -i, *n.*, bit, piece
excutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, cut off
- 31 **altilis**, -e, *adj.*, fattened
altilis (supply *avis*), -is, *f.*, fowl
decenter, *adv.*, properly
seco, -are, **secui**, **sectus**, 1, cut
- 34 **luctor**, 1 *dep.*, wrestle
- 35 **glaber**, -bra, -brum, *adj.*, beardless
retritus, -a, -um, *adj.*, rubbed down
penitus, -i, *m.*, hair
penitus, *adv.*, thoroughly
evello, -ere, -velli, -vulsus, 3, tear out
- 37 **cubiculum**, -i, *n.*, bedroom
- 38 **censura**, -ae, *f.*, rating
expecto, 1, wait to see
- 40 **crastinum**, -i, *n.*, tomorrow
in crastinum, for tomorrow
- 42 **nauseabundus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, nauseated
erigo, -ere, -rexi, -rectus, 3, arouse
- 43 **fastidio**, 4, cause nausea
esurio, 4, be hungry, long for
- 46 **limen**, -inis, *n.*, door
- 47 **inpango**, -ere, -pegi, -panctus, 3, fix upon
titulus, -i, *m.*, sales-tag
- 48 **reiculus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, worthless
mancipium, -i, *n.*, slave
produco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, expose, or put up for sale
- 50 **invicem**, *adv.*, in turn
apologo, 1, reject
- 54 **semen**, -inis, *n.*, seed, origin
aeque, *adv.*, equally
spiro, 1, breathe
- 55 **ingenuus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, free-born
- 59 **contemno**, -ere, -tempsti, -temptus, 3, scorn

temulentorum <toro> subditus colligit. Alius pretiosas aves
 scindit; per pectus et clunes certis ductibus circumferens
 eruditam manum frustra excutit, infelix, qui huic uni rei 30
 vivit, ut altitia decenter secet, nisi quod miserior est qui hoc
 voluptatis causa docet quam qui necessitatis discit. Alius
 vini minister in muliebrem modum ornatus cum aetate
 luctatur: non potest effugere pueritiam, retrahitur, iamque
 militari habitu glaber retritit pilis aut penitus evulsis tota 35
 nocte pervigilat, quam inter ebrietatem domini ac libidinem
 dividit et in cubiculo vir, in convivio puer est. Alius, cui
 convivarum censura permissa est, perstat infelix et expectat
 quos adulatio et intemperantia aut gulae aut linguae revo-
 cet in crastinum. Adice obsonatores quibus dominici palati 40
 notitia subtilis est, qui sciunt cuius illum rei sapor excitet,
 cuius delectet aspectus, cuius novitate nauseabundus erigi
 possit, quid iam ipsa satietate fastidiat, quid illo die esuriat.
 Cum his cenare non sustinet et maiestatis suae deminutionem
 putat ad eandem mensam cum servo suo accedere. Di melius! 45
 quot ex istis dominos habet! Stare ante limen Callisti domi-
 num suum vidi et eum qui illi inpegerat titulum, qui inter
 reicula manicipia produxerat, aliis intransibus excludi. Ret-
 tulit illi gratiam servus ille in primam decuriam coniectus,
 in qua vocem praeco experitur: et ipse illum invicem apolo- 50
 gavit, et ipse non iudicavit domo sua dignum. Dominus
 Callistum vendidit: sed domino quam multa Callistus!

Vis tu cogitare istum quem servum tuum vocas ex isdem
 seminibus ortum eodem frui caelo, aequae spirare, aequae vivere,
 aequae mori! tam tu illum videre ingenuum potes quam ille 55
 te servum. Variana clade multos splendidissime natos, sena-
 torium per militiam auspicantes gradum, fortuna depressit:
 alium ex illis pastorem, alium custodem casae fecit. Contemne
 nunc eius fortunae hominem in quam transire dum contemnis
 potes. 60

- 67-68 *Bona aetas est: supply tibi, "you are still young."*
- 68-70 *Hecuba. . . Croesus. . . Darei mater. . . Platon. . . Diogenes:* famous free-born personages who at some time in their lives fell into slavery. *Hecuba:* the wife of king Priam, after the fall of Troy, was taken captive and fell to the lot of Odysseus. *Croesus:* the wealthy, renowned king of Lydia, was defeated in 548 B.C. by Cyrus, the Persian king, and fell into the conqueror's hands. *Darei mater:* Sisigambis, the mother of Darius III, the last king of Persia; she was taken prisoner by Alexander the Great. *Platon:* Plato was sold into slavery by Dionysius the Elder, tyrant of Syracuse, who opposed the teachings of the philosopher; he remained only a short time in bondage. *Diogenes:* famous philosopher of the Cynic School; in his old age, while sailing to Aegina, he was captured by pirates, taken to Crete, and put up for sale; he was purchased by a wealthy Corinthian, who, amazed at Diogenes' wit, took him to Corinth and gave him his freedom.
- 78-79 *non quo. . . sed quo utique:* i.e., *non ut eo solo die. . . sed ut eo die utique.*
- 80 *ius dicere:* "to administer justice."
- 84 *ut puta:* "as for instance."
- 87-88 *ex sordida conversatione:* "as a result of mean association."

- 61 *locus, -i, m.,* topic
usus, -us, m., treatment
- 62 *contumeliosus, -a, -um, adj.,*
 insulting
- 65 *quotiens, adv.,* as often as
- 66 *tantundem, adv.,* just so much
- 70 *comiter, adv.,* affably
- 71 *convictus, -us, m.,* social life
- 72 *locus, -i, m.,* point
- 73 *deprehendo, -ere, -prehendi,*
-prehensus, 3, catch
- 74 *osculo, 1,* kiss
- 75 *invidia, -ae, f.,* hostility
- 76 *contumelia, -ae, f.,* insult
- 79 *vescor, vesci, 3 dep.,* eat
utique, adv., in any case, at
 any rate
- 80 *pusillus, -a, -um, adj.,* tiny
- 83 *quasi, adv.,* as if
- 84 *mulio, -onis, m.,* muleteer
- 85 *bubulcus, -i, m.,* herdsman
- 85 *ministerium, -i, n.,* duty
- 86 *casus, -us, m.,* fate
- 88 *convictus, -us, m.,* association
excutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus,
 3, shake out

Nolo in ingentem me locum inmittere et de usu servorum disputare, in quos superbissimi, crudelissimi, contumeliosissimi sumus. Haec tamen praecepti mei summa est: sic cum inferiore vivas quemadmodum tecum superiorem velis vivere. Quotiens in mentem venerit quantum tibi in servum <tuum> liceat, veniat in mentem tantundem in te domino tuo licere. 'At ego' inquis 'nullum habeo dominum.' Bona aetas est: forsitan habebis. Nescis qua aetate Hecuba servire coeperit, qua Croesus, qua Darei mater, qua Platon, qua Diogenes? Vive cum servo clementer, comiter quoque, et in sermonem illum admitte et in consilium et in convictum. 65

Hoc loco adclamabit mihi tota manus delicatorum 'nihil hac re humilium, nihil turpius'. Hos ego eosdem deprehendam alienorum servorum osculantes manum. Ne illud quidem videtis, quam omnem invidiam maiores nostri dominis, omnem contumeliam servis detraxerint? Dominum patrem familiae appellaverunt, servos, quod etiam in mimis adhuc durat, familiares; instituerunt diem festum, non quo solo cum servis domini vincerentur, sed quo utique; honores illis in domo gerere, ius dicere permiserunt et domum pusillam rem publicam esse iudicaverunt. 'Quid ergo? omnes servos admovebo mensae meae?' Non magis quam omnes liberos. Erras si existimas me quosdam quasi sordidioris operae reiecturum, ut puta illum mulionem et illum bubulcum. Non ministeriis illos aestimabo sed moribus: sibi quisque dat mores, ministeria casus adsignat. Quidam cenent tecum quia digni sunt, quidam ut sint; si quid enim in illis ex sordida conversatione servile est, honestiorum convictus excutiet. 75 80 85

- 92 *ipsum*: supply *equum*.
- 104 *pilleum*: a felt cap given to a slave when liberated, as a sign of his manumission.
- 106 'Ita' inquit 'proprusus?': the remark of some incensed objector; "does he actually mean this?" he says."
- 111 *verborum castigatione uteris*: lit., "you employ verbal punishment," i.e., you never punish your slave harshly, you merely scold him.
- 111 *muta*: supply *animalia*.
- 112 Non. . . *laedit*: non goes with *laedit*. Translate: "whatever irks us does not [necessarily] harm us too."
- 113 ut. . . *respondit*: "so that whatever does not answer to our will." The preposition *ex* sometimes has the meaning "according to" or "in conformity with."
- 119 *acceperunt iniuriam*: i.e., they pretend they have received an injury. This is an example of Senecan BRACHYLOGY or conciseness; *acceperunt* refers to *quasi iniuriam acceperint*, line 116.
- 121 Hoc: i.e., the following *placent sibi*, permanent.
- 89 *tantum*, *adv.*, only
curia, -ae, *f.*, senate-house
- 91 *cesso*, 1, be idle
artifex, -ficus, *m.*, artist
quemadmodum, *adv.*, just as
- 92 *stultus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, foolish
emo, -ere, *emi*, *emptus*, 3,
 buy
- 93 *stratum*, -i, *n.*, saddle
frenum, -i, *n.* (*pl.* = *freni*, *m.*
 or *frena*, *n.*), bridle
- 94 *modo*, *adv.*, only
- 97 *libido*, -inis, *f.*, lust
- 98 *anicula*, -ae, *f.*, little old woman
- 99 *ancillula*, -ae, *f.*, maid-servant
mancipium, -i, *n.*, slave
- 100 *pantomimus*, -i, *m.*,
 ballet-dancer
- 102 *hilaris*, -e, *adj.*, cheerful
- 103 *potius*, *adv.*, rather
- 105 *fastigium*, -i, *n.*, summit
- 106 *tamquam*, *adv.*, as if
- 107 *saluator*, -oris, *m.*,
 early-morning caller
obliviscor, -i, *oblitus*, 3 *dep.*,
 forget
- 108 *parum*, *adv.*, too little
- 111 *verber*, -eris, *n.*, lash
- 112 *rabies*, -ei, *f.*, rage
- 113 *deliciae*, -arum, *f. pl.*, luxury
- 114 *induo*, -ere, -dui, -dutus, 3,
 put on, assume
- 115 *inbecillitas*, -atis, *f.*, weakness
alienus, -a, -um, *adj.*, another's
excandesco, -ere, -candui, 3,
 grow hot
- 116 *saevio*, 4, rage
- 117 *praesto*, -are, -stiti, 1, render
- 118 *queror*, -i, *questus*, 3 *dep.*,
 complain
- 120 *moror*, 1 *dep.*, delay
- 122 *levis*, -e, *adj.*, fickle
malitia, -ae, *f.*, wickedness

Non est, mi Lucili, quod amicum tantum in foro et in curia
 quaeras: si diligenter adtenderis, et domi invenies. Saepe 90
 bona materia cessat sine artifice: tempta et experire. Quem-
 admodum stultus est qui equum empturus non ipsum
 inspicit sed stratum eius ac frenos, sic stultissimus est qui
 hominem aut ex veste aut ex condicione, quae vestis modo
 nobis circumdata est, aestimat. 'Servus est.' Sed fortasse liber 95
 animo. 'Servus est.' Hoc illi nocebit? Ostende quis non sit: alius
 libidini servit, alius avaritiae, alius ambitioni, <omnes spei>,
 omnes timori. Dabo consularem aniculae servientem, dabo
 ancillulae divitem, ostendam nobilissimos iuvenes mancipia
 pantomimorum: nulla servitus turpior est quam voluntaria. 100
 Quare non est quod fastidiosi isti te deterreant quominus
 servis tuis hilarem te praestes et non superbe superiorem:
 colant potius te quam timeant.

Dicet aliquis nunc me vocare ad pilleum servos et dominos
 de fastigio suo deicere, quod dixi, 'colant potius dominum 105
 quam timeant'. 'Ita' inquit 'prorsus? colant tamquam clien-
 tes, tamquam salutatores?' Hoc qui dixerit obliviscetur id
 dominis parum non esse quod deo sat est. Qui colitur, et
 amatur: non potest amor cum timore misceri. Rectissime
 ergo facere te iudico quod timeri a servis tuis non vis, quod 110
 verborum castigatione uteris: verberibus muta admonentur.
 Non quidquid nos offendit et laedit; sed ad rabiem cogunt
 pervenire deliciae, ut quidquid non ex voluntate respondit
 iram evocet. Regum nobis induimus animos; nam illi quoque
 obliti et suarum virium et inbecillitatis alienae sic excan- 115
 descunt, sic saeviunt, quasi iniuriam acceperint, a cuius rei
 periculo illos fortunae suae magnitudo tutissimos praestat.
 Nec hoc ignorant, sed occasionem nocendi captant queren-
 do; acceperunt iniuriam ut facerent.

Diutius te morari nolo; non est enim tibi exhortatione 120
 opus. Hoc habent inter cetera boni mores: placent sibi,
 permanent. Levis est malitia, saepe mutatur, non in melius
 sed in aliud. *Val.*

- 6-7 *ut* . . . *facias*, *ut* . . . *ponas*, *ut intellegas*: these clauses are in apposition to *aliud*.
- 7-8 *intellegas* . . . *rerum*: "you are realizing that the vices which you thought characteristic of circumstances are your own"; *rerum* here means "circumstances" or "environment," as the following words *locis et temporibus* show.
- 10 **Harpasten**: Greek acc., sing., fem. Parasites, jesters, and buffoons were frequently in the houses of the great, and were found in the courts of Philip, Alexander, and Eastern potentates. In Roman times, for example, the buffoon Gabba occupied a permanent place in the household of the Emperor Augustus. That such buffoons were sometimes freaks is clear from *prodigiis* in the succeeding sentence.
- 15 **paedagogum**: this is the regular word in Latin to denote a person assigned to another to lead him wherever he must go. This woman had a "guide" assigned to her after she had gone blind.
- migret**: *migro* is intransitive here and means "change one's residence or quarters."
- 4 **valde**, *adv.*, very
- 6 **cotidie**, *adv.*, daily
- 7 **ponas = deponas**
- 9 **quocumque**, *adv.*, wherever
- 10 **fatuus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, foolish
fatua, -ac, *f.*, fool
- 11 **prodigium**, -i, *n.*, monstrosity
- 12 **quando**, *adv.*, at any time
- 13 **subito**, *adv.*, suddenly
desino, -ere, -sivi (-siii),
-situs, 3, cease, stop
- 14 **caecus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, blind
- 15 **subinde**, *adv.*, repeatedly
- 16 **tenebrosus**, -a, -um, *adj.*,
dark
- 17 **liqueo**, -ere, **liqui** (**licui**), 2,
be clear
- 19 **aliter**, *adv.*, in another way,
differently
- 20 **sumptuosus**, -a, -um, *adj.*,
extravagant
- 21 **inpena**, -ae, *f.*, expense
exigo, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3,
demand
iracundus, -a, -um, *adj.*,
irascible
- 22 **nondum**, *adv.*, not yet
constituo, -ere, -stitui,
-stitutus, 3, fix or settle
upon
- 24 **extrinsecus**, *adv.*, outside,
external
- 26 **aegroto**, 1, be sick
curo, 1, care for, cure
- 27 **morbus**, -i, *m.*, disease
discutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus,
3, dispel

Epistle Fifty
BECOMING BETTER DAILY

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Epistolam tuam accepi post multos menses quam miseram; supervacuum itaque putavi ab eo qui adferebat quid ageres quaerere. Valde enim bonae memoriae est, si meminit; et tamen spero te sic iam vivere ut, ubicumque eris, sciam quid agas. Quid enim aliud agis quam ut meliorem te ipse cotidie facias, ut aliquid ex erroribus ponas, ut intellegas tua vitia esse quae putas rerum? Quaedam enim locis et temporibus adscribimus; at illa, quocumque transierimus, secutura sunt. Harpasten, uxoris meae fatuam, scis hereditarium onus in domo mea remansisse. Ipse enim aversissimus ab istis prodigiis sum; si quando fatuo delectari volo, non est mihi longe quaerendus: me rideo. Haec fatua subito desiit videre. Incrediblem rem tibi narro, sed veram: nescit esse se caecam; subinde paedagogum suum rogat ut migret, ait domum tenebricosam esse. Hoc quod in illa ridemus omnibus nobis accidere liqueat tibi: nemo se avarum esse intellegit, nemo cupidum. Caeci tamen ducem quaerunt, nos sine duce erramus et dicimus, 'non ego ambitiosus sum, sed nemo aliter Romae potest vivere; non ego sumptuosus sum, sed urbs ipsa magnas inpensas exigit; non est meum vitium quod iracundus sum, quod nondum constitui certum genus vitae: adulescentia haec facit'.

Quid nos decipimus? non est extrinsecus malum nostrum: intra nos est, in visceribus ipsis sedet, et ideo difficulter ad sanitatem pervenimus quia nos aegrotare nescimus. Si curari coeperimus, quando tot morborum tantas vires discutiemus?

- 33 **illud**: "the following" is explained by the infinitive clause *posse . . . influere*.
- 35 **ante**: with *quam* in the following line. This is an example of **TMESIS**, the separation of parts of a compound word by one or more words set between them.
- 40 **explicat**: "folds out of" their crookedness, i.e., "straightens."
natae: supply *trabes*.
- 49 **eo**: "for that reason"; abl. of cause.
- 51–52 **Contraria . . . haerent**: "opposites have difficulty in clinging to that which is alien."
- 58 **cogenda**: supply *mens*.

- 28 **ne . . . quidem**, not . . . even
negotium, -i, *n.*, trouble
- 29 **adhibeo**, -ere, -hibui, -hibitus,
2, call on, summon
tener, -era, -erum, *adj.*, tender
- 30 **rudis**, -e, *adj.*, raw, unhardened
- 31 **deficio**, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3,
revolt
erubesco, -ere, **crubui**, 3,
blush
- 33 **despero**, 1, despair of, give up
casus, -us, *m.*, chance
casu = forte, by chance
- 34 **influo**, -ere, -fluxi, -fluxus, 3,
flow or rush upon
- 36 **recorrigo**, -ere, -correxī,
-correctus, 3, amend, reform
- 37 **induresco**, -ere, -durui, 3,
harden
pravitas, -atis, *f.*, depravity
- 38 **expugno**, 1, conquer
pertinax, -acis, *adj.*, persistent
intentus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of*
intendo), unceasing
- 39 **robur**, -oris, *n.*, wood
rectus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of*
rego), right, straight
rectum, -i, *n.*, straightness
quamvis, *adv.*, however much
flexus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of*
flecto), bent
- 40 **trabs**, **trabis**, *f.*, beam
calor, -oris, *m.*, heat
aliter, *adv.*, otherwise
tingo, -ere, **finxi**, **fictus**, 3,
fashion
- 41 **exigo**, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3,
demand
- 42 **umor**, -oris, *m.*, liquid
obsequens, -entis, *p. adj.* (*of*
obsequor), yielding
- 48 **disco**, -ere, **didici**, 3, learn
- 49 **dedisco**, -ere, -didici, 3, unlearn
- 50 **semel**, *adv.*, once
- 52 **depello**, -ere, -puli, -pulsus,
3, drive out
exturbo, 1, thrust out
- 53 **secundum**, *prep. w. acc.*,
according to
- 54 **infestus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, hostile
quemadmodum, *adv.*, just as
- 56 **tutela**, -ae, *f.*, guarding
- 57 **inbecillus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, weak
formido, 1, fear
inexpertus, -a, -um, *adj.*,
untried
- 59 **protinus**, *adv.*, immediately
- 60 **pariter**, *adv.*, equally, at the
same time

Nunc vero ne quaerimus quidem medicum, qui minus negotii haberet si adhiberetur ad recens vitium; sequerentur teneri et rudes animi recta monstrantem. Nemo difficulter ad naturam reducitur nisi qui ab illa defecit: erubescimus discere bonam mentem. At mehercules, <si> turpe est magistrum huius rei quaerere, illud desperandum est, posse nobis casu tantum bonum influere: laborandum est et, ut verum dicam, ne labor quidem magnus est, si modo, ut dixi, ante animum nostrum formare incipimus et recorrigere quam indurescat pravitas eius. Sed nec indurata despero: nihil est quod non expugnet pertinax opera et intenta ac diligens cura. Robora in rectum quamvis flexa revocabis; curvatas trabes calor explicat et aliter natae in id finguntur quod usus noster exigit: quanto facilius animus accipit formam, flexibilis et omni umore obsequentior! Quid enim est aliud animus quam quodam modo se habens spiritus? vides autem tanto spiritum esse faciliorem omni alia materia quanto tenuior est. Illud, mi Lucili, non est quod te inpediat quominus de nobis bene speres, quod malitia nos iam tenet, quod diu in possessione nostri est: ad neminem ante bona mens venit quam mala; omnes praeoccupati sumus; virtutes discere vitia dediscere <est>. Sed eo maiore animo ad emendationem nostri debemus accedere quod semel traditi nobis boni perpetua possessio est; non dediscitur virtus. Contraria enim male in alieno haerent, ideo depelli et exturbari possunt; fideliter sedent quae in locum suum veniunt. Virtus secundum naturam est, vitia inimica et infesta sunt. Sed quemadmodum virtutes receptae exire non possunt facilisque earum tutela est, ita initium ad illas eundi arduum, quia hoc proprium inbecillae mentis atque aegrae est, formidare inexperta; itaque cogenda est ut incipiat. Deinde non est acerba medicina; protinus enim delectat, dum sanat. Aliorum remediorum post sanitatem voluptas est, philosophia pariter et salutaris et dulcis est. *Val.*

- 2 **Quomodo quisque potest:** supply *faciat*.
- 4 **Messala.** . . **Valgius:** M. Valerius Messala Corvinus, a renowned author, orator, and literary patron of the Augustan Age. Valgius Rufus was a distinguished poet of the Augustan Age and intimate friend of Horace.
- 8 **Bais:** Baiae, a much-frequented and luxurious resort in Campania, opposite Puteoli.
- 18 **Canopum:** Canopus, a city of Egypt, twelve miles from Alexandria, whose inhabitants were known for their dissoluteness and debauchery.
- 19 **ne Baias quidem:** supply *eliget*, "nor will he choose Baiae either."
- 26 **quae.** . . **luxuria:** "which luxury as if loosened from [the restraint of] law."
- 30 **Hannibalem:** Hannibal, the renowned Carthaginian general of the Second Punic War (218–201 B.C.), son of Hamilcar. The reference is to Hannibal's stay in Capua, where the Carthaginian soldiers, weakened by the pleasures of this luxurious city, forgot how to conquer.
- 32 **fomenta:** *fomentum*, -i, n., a hot or cold compress applied for medical purposes; *fomenta* here may refer to warm baths. The word also has the figurative meanings, "remedy," "solace," "alleviation."

- 5 **evomo**, -ere, -ui, -itus, 3, vomit forth
- 6 **tantum**, *adv.*, only
- 7 **editus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *edo*), high
- 8 **videlicet**, *adv.*, clearly
- 9 **iaceo**, -ere, *iacui*, *iacitus*, 2, lie low
- 10 **utcumque**, *adv.*, however
- 11 **dos**, *dotis*, *f.*, gift
- 12 **celebro**, 1, visit frequently
- 13 **desumo**, -ere, -sumpsi, 3, take for one's self, choose
- 14 **aliqua**. . . *aliqua* = *alia*. . . *alia*, one. . . another
- 15 **secessus**, -us, *m.*, retirement
- 16 **quamvis**, *adv.*, although
- 17 **frugi**, indecl. *adj.*, temperate
- 18 **deversorium**, -i, *n.*, resort, lodging
- 19 **quemadmodum**, *adv.*, just as
- 20 **tortor**, -oris, *m.*, torturer
- 21 **ne**. . . *quidem*, not. . . either, not. . . even
- 22 **popina**, -ae, *f.*, eating-house
- 23 **comessatio**, -onis, *f.*, revel
- 24 **symphonia**, -ae, *f.*, musical performance
- 25 **strepens**, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *strepo*), noisy
- 26 **inritamentum**, -i, *n.*, incentive
- 27 **procul**, *adv.*, far
- 28 **indomitus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, unsubdued
- 29 **primus**, -a, -um, *superl. adj.*, first
- 30 **in primis**, especially
- 31 **saevus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, austere
- 32 **ingenium**, -i, *n.*, nature
- 33 **adgredior**, -i, *gressus*, 3 *dep.*, approach, attack, undertake
- 34 **calens**, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *caleo*), hot
- 35 **stagnum**, -i, *n.*, bath
- 36 **sudatorium**, -i, *n.*, sweating-room
- 37 **siccus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, dry
- 38 **exhaurio**, -ire, -hausi, -haustus, 4, drain
- 39 **sudor**, -oris, *m.*, sweat
- 40 **foveo**, -ere, *fovi*, *fotus*, 2, cherish, pamper
- 41 **operam dare**, give attention to
- 42 **desidia**, -ae, *f.*, sloth

Epistle Fifty-one
BAIAE AND VICE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quomodo quisque potest, mi Lucili: tu istic habes Aetnam, t̄et illuc̄t nobilissimum Siciliae montem (quem quare dixerit Messala unicum, sive Valgius—apud utrumque enim legi—non reperio, cum plurima loca evomant ignem, non tantum edita, quod crebrius evenit, videlicet quia ignis in altissimum effertur, sed etiam iacentia), nos, utcumque possumus, contenti sumus Bais; quas postero die quam attigeram reliqui, locum ob hoc devitandum, cum habeat quasdam naturales dotes, quia illum sibi celebrandum luxuria desumpsit. 5

‘Quid ergo? ulli loco indicendum est odium?’ Minime; sed quemadmodum aliqua vestis sapienti ac probo viro magis convenit quam aliqua, nec ullum colorem ille odit sed aliquem parum putat aptum esse frugalitatem professo, sic regio quoque est quam sapiens vir aut ad sapientiam tendens declinet tamquam alienam bonis moribus. Itaque de secessu cogitans numquam Canopum eliget, quamvis neminem Canopus esse frugi vetet, ne Baias quidem: deversorium vitiorum esse coeperunt. Illic sibi plurimum luxuria permittit, illic, tamquam aliqua licentia debeat loco, magis solvitur. Non tantum corpori sed etiam moribus salubrem locum eligere debemus; quemadmodum inter tortores habitare nolim, sic ne inter popinas quidem. Videre ebrios per litora errantes et comessiones navigantium et symphoniarum cantibus strepentes lacus et alia quae velut soluta legibus luxuria non tantum peccat sed publicat, quid necesse est? Id agere debemus ut inritamenta vitiorum quam longissime profugiamus; indurandus est animus et a blandimentis voluptatum procul abstrahendus. Una Hannibalem hiberna solverunt et indomitum illum nivibus atque Alpibus virum enervaverunt fomenta Campaniae: armis vicit, vitiis victus est. Nobis quoque militandum est, et quidem genere militiae quo numquam quies, numquam otium datur: debellandae sunt in primis voluptates, quae, ut vides, saeva quoque ad se ingenia rapuerunt. Si quis sibi proposuerit quantum operis adgressus sit, sciet nihil delicate, nihil molliter esse faciendum. Quid mihi cum istis calentibus stagnis? quid cum sudatoriis, in quae siccus vapor corpora exhausurus includitur? omnis sudor per laborem exeat. Si faceremus quod fecit Hannibal, ut interrupto cursu rerum omissoque bello fovendis corporibus operam daremus, nemo non intempestivam desidiam, victori 40

- 43 **vincenti**: "one striving for victory"; present participle with conative force.
- 50 **idem**. . **ira**: "both ambition and anger will desire that they have the same amount of jurisdiction over me"; *sibi* is dative of possession.
- 53-54 **fortunam in aequum deducere**: "to bring fortune down to a level [with yourself]."
- 54-55 **Quo**. . **poterit**: "the day on which I understand that she has more power, she will have no power"; an example of Seneca's use of paradox.
- 57-58 **nec**. . **regio**: "and without doubt one's abode has some power to break one's vigor."
- 59 **in aspero**: "on harsh ground." Seneca frequently uses adjectives as substantives. Other examples of such usage in this letter are *ex confragoso* (line 61), "from a rugged place," and *ex edito* (line 70), "from a lofty place."
- 61 **urbanus et verna**: "town-bred"; *verna* is a slave born in his master's house, a homeborn slave.
- 63 **in primo**. . **nitidus**: "the man anointed [with unguents] and glittering [in appearance] is defeated by the first [whiff of] dust."
- 65 **Literni**. . **Scipio**: Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus Major, who brought the Second Punic War to an end by his victory at Zama (202 B.C.). He then spent his retirement in his estate at Liternum in Campania, where he had withdrawn after having been denounced by enemies at Rome.
- 65 **quam Bais**: supply *exulavisset*.
- 65-66 **ruina**. . **conlocanda**: "such a fall did not need a setting so soft."
- 78 **duxisset**: "had constructed."
- 85 **φιλήτας**: Greek acc. pl., "thieves," with a pun on **φιλήτας**, "lovers."

- 43 **nedum**, *adv.*, not to mention
merito, *adv.*, rightly
- 44 **licet**, -ere, **licuit**, *impers.*, 2, it is permitted
- 47 **immo**, *adv.*, nay rather
- 48 **excutio**, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake off
- 51 **adfectus**, -us, *m.*, emotion
discerpo, -ere, -cerpsi, -cerptus, 3, tear to pieces
- 56 **intentus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *intendo*), attentive to
- 57 **amoenitas**, -atis, *f.*, pleasantness
nimius, -a, -um, *adj.*, too much
- 58 **quilibet**, **quae**-, **quod**-, *indef. adj.*, any
iumentum, -i, *n.*, beast of burden
- 59 **ungula**, -ae, *f.*, hoof
- 60 **paluster**, -tris, -tre, *adj.*, marshy
pascuum, -i, *n.*, pasture
saginatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *sagino*), fattened
cito, *adv.*, quickly
subtero, -ere, -trivi, -tritus, 3, bruise
- 61 **segnis**, -e, *adj.*, sluggish
- 63 **deficio**, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, fail
- 65 **exulo**, 1, live in exile
- 68 **exstruo**, -ere, -struxi, -structus, 3, construct
- 69 **iugum**, -i, *n.*, summit
- 70 **speculor**, 1 *dep.*, examine, explore
- 72 **excito**, 1, erect
- 75 **cumba**, -ae, *f.*, boat
- 76 **convicium**, -i, *n.*, loud noise
- 77 **vallum**, -i, *n.*, entrenchment
- 78 **quidni**, *adv.*, why not?; of course
- 79 **classicum**, -i, *n.*, war-trumpet
- 81 **persequor**, -i, **secutus**, 3 *dep.*, pursue, proceed against
modus, -i, *m.*, limit
- 83 **lanio**, 1, rend
aliter, *adv.*, otherwise
nequeo, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, be unable
- 84 **revello**, -ere, -velli, -vulsus (-volsus), 3, tear out
exturbo, 1, drive away
- 85 **invisus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, hateful
latro, -onis, *m.*, thief
- 86 **in hoc**, for this purpose
amplector, -i, **plexus**, 3 *dep.*, embrace

quoque, nedum vincenti, periculosam, merito reprehenderet: minus nobis quam illis Punica signa sequentibus licet, plus periculi restat cedentibus, plus operis etiam perseverantibus. 45
 Fortuna mecum bellum gerit: non sum imperata factururus; iugum non recipio, immo, quod maiore virtute faciendum est, excutio. Non est emolliendus animus: si voluptati cessero, cedendum est dolori, cedendum est labori, cedendum est paupertati; idem sibi in me iuris esse volet et ambitio et ira; inter tot adfectus distrahar, immo discerpar. Libertas proposita est; ad hoc praemium laboratur. Quae sit libertas quaeris? 50
 Nulli rei servire, nulli necessitati, nullis casibus, fortunam in aequum deducere. Quo die illam intellexero plus posse, nil poterit: ego illam feram, cum in manu mors sit? 55

His cogitationibus intentum loca seria sanctaque eligere oportet; effeminat animos amoenitas nimia, nec dubie aliquid ad corrumpendum vigorem potest regio. Quamlibet viam iumenta patiuntur quorum durata in aspero ungula est: in molli palustrique pascuo saginata cito subteruntur. Et fortior miles ex confragoso venit: segnus est urbanus et verna. Nullum laborem recusant manus quae ad arma ab aratro transferuntur: in primo deficit pulvere ille unctus et nitidus. Severior loci disciplina firmat ingenium aptumque magnis conatibus reddit. 60
 Literni honestius Scipio quam Bais exulabat: ruina eiusmodi non est tam molliter conlocanda. Illi quoque ad quos primos fortuna populi Romani publicas opes transtulit, C. Marius et Cn. Pompeius et Caesar, extruxerunt quidem villas in regione Baiana, sed illas inposuerunt summis iugis montium: videbatur hoc magis militare, ex edito speculari late longaeque subiecta. Aspice quam positionem elegerint, quibus aedificia excitaverint locis et qualia: scies non villas esse sed castra. Habitaturum tu putas umquam fuisse illic M. Catonem, ut praenavigantes adulteras dinumeraret et tot genera cumbarum variis coloribus picta et fluitantem toto lacu rosam, ut audiret canentium nocturna convicia? nonne ille manere intra vallum maluisset, quod in unam noctem manu sua ipse duxisset? Quidni mallet, quisquis vir est, somnum suum classico quam symphonia rumpi? 75

Sed satis diu cum Bais litigavimus, numquam satis cum vitiis, quae, oro te, Lucili, perseguere sine modo, sine fine; nam illis quoque nec finis est nec modus. Proice quaecumque cor tuum laniant, quae si aliter extrahi nequirent, cor ipsum cum illis revellendum erat. Voluptates praecipue exturba et invisissimas habe: latronum more, quos φιλήτας Aegyptii vocant, in hoc nos amplectuntur, ut strangulent. *Val.* 85

- 13 **Metrodorum**: Metrodorus (331–278 B.C.), a disciple and intimate friend of Epicurus.
- 15 **bene**. . **agitur**: lit., “it is waged well with us,” i.e., we are treated or fare well.
- 21 **color**: i.e., “class.”
- 22 **Hermarchum**: Hermarchus (fl., 341–270 B.C.), disciple of Epicurus and his successor as head of the Epicurean school.
- 23–24 **alteri**. . **suspicit**: “he congratulates the one (i.e., Metrodorus) more, he looks up to the other (i.e., Hermarchus) more.”
- 27 **puram aream**: i.e., a naturally solid foundation.
- 30–31 **intuentibus**. . **latet**: i.e., that which caused the greatest difficulty in erecting one of the buildings is entirely hidden from the sight of observers. The parentheses around *alter* and the three asterisks indicate textual difficulties in the manuscript.
- 32–33 **manu**. . **facienda sunt**: “must be moulded or made by hand,” i.e., artificially.
- 34 **hunc**: supply *sed* before this word. Seneca frequently employs ASYNDETON (the omission of a conjunction between words, phrases, or sentences).

- 2 **alio**. . **alio**, in one direction. . in another
tendo, -ere, **tetendi**, **tentus**, 3, stretch, aim
- 3 **eo**, **adv.**, there
conductor, 1 **dep.**, struggle, wrestle
- 4 **semel**, **adv.**, once for all
- 7 **revello**, -ere, -velli, -vulsus (-vulsus), 3, tear away
- 9 **porrigo**, -ere, -rexi, -rectus, 3, hold forth, offer
- 12 **indigeo**, -ere, -ui, 2, be in need of
- 14 **egregius**, -a, -um, **adj.**, excellent, outstanding
ingenium, -i, **n.**, nature, character
- 16 **ne**. . **quidem**, not. . even
- 19 **fastidio**, 4, loathe, despise
- 20 **tantum**, **adv.**, only
- 24 **uterque**, **utraque**, **utrumque**, **adj.**, each
- 26 **excito**, 1, erect
- 27 **excelsus**, -a, -um, **adj.**, lofty, high
- 28 **protinus**, **adv.**, at once, immediately
lasso, 1, make weary, exhaust
- mollis**, -e, **adj.**, soft
- 29 **fluvidus**, -a, -um, **adj.**, moist
humus, -i, **f.**, ground
- 32 **expeditus**, -a, -um, **p. adj.** (of **expedio**), unimpeded, free, easy
- 34 **negotium**, -i, **n.**, trouble

Epistle Fifty-two
MAN NEEDS A MORAL GUIDE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quid est hoc, Lucili, quod nos alio tendentes alio trahit et eo unde recedere cupimus inpellit? quid conluctatur cum animo nostro nec permittit nobis quicquam semel velle? Fluctuamur inter varia consilia; nihil libere volumus, nihil absolute, nihil semper. 'Stultitia' inquis 'est cui nihil constat, nihil diu placet.' Sed quomodo nos aut quando ab illa revellemus? Nemo per se satis valet ut emergat; oportet manum aliquis porrigat, aliquis educat. Quosdam ait Epicurus ad veritatem sine ullius adiutorio exisse, fecisse sibi ipsos viam; hos maxime laudat quibus ex se impetus fuit, qui se ipsi protulerunt: quosdam indigere ope aliena, non ituros si nemo praecesserit, sed bene secuturos. Ex his Metrodorum ait esse; egregium hoc quoque, sed secundae sortis ingenium. Nos ex illa prima nota non sumus; bene nobiscum agitur, si in secundam recipimur. Ne hunc quidem contempseris hominem qui alieno beneficio esse salvus potest; et hoc multum est, velle servari. Praeter haec adhuc invenies genus aliud hominum ne ipsum quidem fastidiendum eorum qui cogi ad rectum conpelli que possunt, quibus non duce tantum opus sit sed adiutore et, ut ita dicam, coactore; hic tertius color est. Si quaeris huius quoque exemplar, Hermarchum ait Epicurus talem fuisse. Itaque alteri magis gratulatur, alterum magis suspicit; quamvis enim ad eundem finem uterque pervenerit, tamen maior est laus idem effecisse in difficiliore materia. Puta enim duo aedificia excitata esse, ambo paria, aequae excelsa atque magnifica. Alter puram aream accepit, illic protinus opus crevit; alterum fundamenta lassarunt in mollem et fluvidam humum missa multumque laboris exhaustum est dum pervenitur ad solidum: intuentibus quidquid fecit <alter> * * * alterius magna pars et difficilior latet. Quaedam ingenia facilia, expedita, quaedam manu, quod aiunt, facienda sunt et in fundamentis suis occupata. Itaque illum ego feliciorem dixerim qui nihil negotii secum habuit, hunc quidem melius de se meruisse qui malignitatem naturae suae vicit et ad sapientiam se non perduxit sed extraxit.

- 40 **ad priores:** "to those of former times," "the ancients."
- 43 **communes locos volvunt:** "roll out or reel off common-places."
- 43 **circulantur:** *circulator, -ari, 1 dep.*, collect people around one's self (as fakery or traveling performers do who extract money from the gullible crowd). The noun *circulator* means "peddler," "quack," "charlatan," "a boastful and unscrupulous pretender to knowledge."
- 51 **causa:** here separated, somewhat irregularly, from its genitive.
- 52 **captante clamores:** "striving after shouts of applause."
- 53 **Tacete. . . praebete:** Seneca is addressing men in general rather than Lucilius alone.
- 58 **Apud Pythagoram:** *apud* with a proper noun is regular for "at the house or school of." Pythagoras, renowned Greek philosopher of the sixth century B.C., was the founder of the Pythagorean School of philosophy. His disciples had to endure a disciplined and stern initiation which consisted of keeping silence, of subsisting on a frugal vegetable diet, of performing some duty each hour of the day, and of undergoing frequent examinations of the conscience. Pythagoras supported the doctrine of metempsychosis or transmigration of the soul into different bodies, he himself claiming that he recollected the different bodies his own soul had animated before he obtained the identity of Pythagoras. He conceived that the fundamental essence of all things was to be found not in matter but in numbers.
- 64 **Fabianus:** Fabianus Papirius, teacher of Seneca and philosopher of the Sextian School, founded by Quintus Sextius the Elder in the time of Julius Caesar. Sextius was an original thinker with eclectic tendencies and with Stoic and Pythagorean leanings.
- 70 **minimis:** supply *rebus*.
- 71-72 **relatus. . . digitus:** the Romans regarded the scratching of the head with a single finger as an indication of lasciviousness or effeminacy.
- 42 **praecipito, 1,** throw headlong, hurl, hasten
- 46 **deprehendo, -ere, -prehendi, -prehensus, 3,** catch, seize
- 49 **dissero, -ere, -serui, -sertus, 3,** discuss, speak
modo, adv., only
- 50 **propositum, -i, n.,** purpose
- 53 **seco, -are, secui, sectus, 1,** cut
praebeo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, offer, furnish
- 55 **ingemesco, -ere, -ui, 3,** groan
- 56 **sane, adv.,** indeed, to be sure
licet, -ere, licuit, impers., 2, it is permitted or allowed
- 57 **quidni, adv.,** why not?, of course
- 61 **inperitus, -a, -um, adj.,** inexperienced, ignorant
- 65 **interdum, adv.,** sometimes
- 66 **molliter, adv.,** softly
- 67 **elabor, -i, elapsus, 3 dep.,** slip forth
intersum, -esse, -fui, irr., be different, make a difference
- 70 **inpudicus, -a, -um, adj.,** lewd, incontinent
- incessus, -us, m.,** gait
- 72 **flexus, -us, m.,** turning

Hoc durum ac laboriosum ingenium nobis datum scias licet; imus per obstantia. Itaque pugnemus, aliquorum invocemus auxilium. 'Quem' inquis 'invocabo? Hunc aut illum?' Tu vero etiam ad priores revertere, qui vacant; adjuvare nos possunt non tantum qui sunt, sed qui fuerunt. Ex his autem qui sunt eligamus non eos qui verba magna celeritate precipitant et communes locos volvunt et in privato circulantur, sed eos qui vita docent, qui cum dixerunt quid faciendum sit probant faciendo, qui docent quid vitandum sit nec umquam in eo quod fugiendum dixerunt deprehenduntur; eum elige adiutorem quem magis admireris cum videris quam cum audieris. Nec ideo te prohibuerim hos quoque audire quibus admittere populum ac disserere consuetudo est, si modo hoc proposito in turbam prodeunt, ut meliores fiant faciantque meliores, si non ambitionis hoc causa exercent. Quid enim turpius philosophia captante clamores? numquid aeger laudat medicum secantem? Tacete, favete et praebete vos curationi; etiam si exclamaveritis, non aliter audiam quam si ad tactum vitiorum vestrorum ingemescatis. Testari vultis attendere vos moverique rerum magnitudine? sane liceat: ut quidem iudicetis et feratis de meliore suffragium, quidni non permittam? Apud Pythagoram discipulis quinque annis tacendum erat: numquid ergo existimas statim illis et loqui et laudare licuisse?

Quanta autem dementia eius est quem clamores inperitorum hilarem ex auditorio dimittunt! Quid laetaris quod ab hominibus his laudatus es quos non potes ipse laudare? Disserebat populo Fabianus, sed audiebatur modeste; erumpebat interdum magnus clamor laudantium, sed quem rerum magnitudo evocaverat, non sonus inoffense ac molliter orationis elapsae. Intersit aliquid inter clamorem theatri et scholae: est aliqua et laudandi elegantia. Omnia rerum omnium, si observentur, indicia sunt, et argumentum morum ex minimis quoque licet capere: inprudicum et incessus ostendit et manus mota et unum interdum responsum et relatus ad caput digitus et flexus oculorum; inprobum risus, insanum vultus habitusque demonstrat. Illa enim in apertum per notas exeunt: qualis quisque sit scies, si quemadmodum laudet, quemadmodum laudetur aspexeris. Hinc atque illinc philosopho manus auditor intentat et super ipsum caput mirantium turba consistit: non laudatur ille nunc, si intellegis, sed conclamatur. Relinquantur istae voces illis artibus quae propositum habent populo placere: philosophia adoretur.

- 84 **At:** not found in the manuscripts but supplied by Hense.
ad rem: "the subject matter," while *verba composita* means "the style," "rhetoric."
- 89-90 **apud populum. . . apud se:** "in the presence of the people. . . in the presence of one's self" (i.e., the lecturer). Seneca means that a full discussion of the subject would involve the question of what privileges a lecturer should allow himself when lecturing in public and again what license should be allowed the hearers or public when they attend a lecture.
- 90 **fecisse:** *damnum* with the verb *facere* regularly means "to suffer loss."
- 91 **in penetralibus:** lit., "in her innermost sanctuary," i.e., for what she really is.
- 92 **institorem:** "a mere salesman or huckster," while *antistitem* means "a genuine master or high priest."

- 80 **aliquando,** *adv.*, sometimes
 85 **alioquin,** *adv.*, otherwise
 87 **differo, differre, distuli, dilatus, irr.,** postpone
 92 **nanciscor, -i, nactus (nactus),**
 3 *dep.*, find, come upon

Permittendum erit aliquando iuvenibus sequi impetum animi, tunc autem cum hoc ex impetu facient, cum silentium sibi imperare non poterunt; talis laudatio aliquid exhortationis adfert ipsis audientibus et animos adulescentium exstimulat. <At> ad rem commoveantur, non ad verba composita; alioquin nocet illis eloquentia, si non rerum cupiditatem facit sed sui. 80

Differam hoc in praesentia; desiderat enim propriam et longam executionem, quemadmodum populo disserendum, quid sibi apud populum permittendum sit, quid populo apud se. Damnum quidem fecisse philosophiam non erit dubium postquam prostituta est; sed potest in penetralibus suis ostendi, si modo non institorem sed antistitem nanta est. *Vale.* 85 90

- 3 Solvi: supply *navem*: translate, "I set out."
- 5-6 Parthenope. . .Puteolos: Parthenope is the ancient name for Naples. Since Pompeii, Lucilius' birthplace, and Naples are both in Campania, Seneca refers to Parthenope as *tua*. Puteoli, a town of Campania, is between Baiae and Naples.
- 8 Nesida: Nesis, an island on the coast of Campania.
- 8 praecisurus. . .sinus: "for the purpose of cutting off all the curves of the coast."
- 13 aspera. . .inportuosa: adjectives modifying an understood *litorea*; "the coast was rugged and without harbors."
- 14-15 Peius. . .succurreret: "I was feeling too ill for danger to occur to me" (lit., "worse than that danger would occur to me"); a result clause after the comparative *peius*.
- 16-17 quae. . .effundit: "which stirs the bile but doesn't throw it off"; i.e., a seasickness which causes dry heaves.
- 18 coegi, peteret: i.e., *coegi ut peteret*.
- 20 obvertunt. . .proras: Vergil, *Aeneid* 6.3. Aeneas and his men reach Cumae and disembark. The reference is to the method of anchoring their ship.
- 22 ancora. . .iacitur: Vergil, *Aeneid* 3.277. In the course of their wanderings, Aeneas and his crew drop anchor at Actium in Acarnania.
- 23 frigidae: supply *aquae*.
- 28-29 Ulixem. . .faceret: "Ulysses was not so destined to an angry sea that he encountered shipwreck everywhere."
- 30 vicensimo anno: it took Ulysses ten years to return home; Seneca will require twice that amount of time whenever he sails.
- 41 ubi ut: "when once."
- 3 languidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, gentle
- 4 sordidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, mean
fere, *adv.*, almost
- 6 subripio, -ere, -ripui, -reptus,
3, steal
quavis, *adv.*, however much,
although
- impendeo, -ere, 2, threaten
- 7 protinus, *adv.*, straightway, at
once
- 8 derigo (dirigo), -ere, -rexi,
-rectus, 3, set straight out
eo, *adv.*, to that point
- 10 aequalitas, -atis, *f.*, calm
corrumpo, -ere, -rupi,
-ruptus, 3, corrupt, entice
- 11 inclinatio, -onis, *f.*, swelling
subinde, *adv.*, continually
- 12 gubernator, -oris, *m.*, pilot
- 16 segnis, -e, *adj.*, sluggish
- 17 vellet nollet, willy-nilly
- 24 psychroluta, -ae, *m.*,
cold-water bather
gausapatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, clad
in a cloak
- 25 erepo, -ere, -repsi, 3, creep
- 35 nedum, *adv.*, not to mention
eo. . .quo, the. . .the
- 36 motiuncula, -ae, *f.*, attack of
fever
- 37 exardesco, -ere, -arsi, -arsus,
3, burn
perpersicius, -a, -um, *adj.*, who
has suffered or endured much
- 38 articulus, -i, *m.*, joint
punctiuncula, -ae, *f.*, pricking
pain
adhuc, *adv.*, until now
- dissimulo, 1, conceal
- 39 talus, -i, *m.*, ankle
- 41 talaria, -ium, *n.*, ankles
intendo, -ere, -tendi, -tentus,
3, stretch out, swell
- 42 podagra, -ae, *f.*, gout

Epistle Fifty-three
TOSSED UPON LAND AND SEA

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quid non potest mihi persuaderi, cui persuasum est ut navigarem? Solvi mari languido; erat sine dubio caelum grave sordidis nubibus, quae fere aut in aquam aut in ventum resolvuntur, sed putavi tam pauca milia a Parthenope tua usque Puteolos subripi posse, quamvis dubio et inpendente caelo. Itaque quo celerius evaderem, protinus per altum ad Nesida derexi praecisurus omnes sinus. Cum iam eo processissem ut mea nihil interesset utrum irem an redirem, primum aequalitas illa quae me corruerat periit; nondum erat tempestas, sed iam inclinatio maris ac subinde crebrior fluctus. Coepi gubernatorem rogare ut me in aliquo litore exponeret: aiebat ille aspera esse et inportuosa nec quicquam se aeque in tempestate timere quam terram. Peius autem vexabar quam ut mihi periculum succurreret; nausia enim me segnis haec et sine exitu torquebat, quae bilem movet nec effundit. Institi itaque gubernatori et illum, vellet nollet, coegi, peteret litus. Cuius ut viciniam attigimus, non expecto ut quicquam ex praeceptis Vergilii fiat,

obvertunt pelago proras 20

aut
ancora de prora iacitur:

memor artificii mei vetus frigidae cultor mitto me in mare, quomodo psychrolutam decet, gausapatus. Quae putas me passum dum per aspera erepo, dum viam quaero, dum facio? Intellexi non inmerito nautis terram timeri. Incredibilia sunt quae tulerim, cum me ferre non possem: illud scito, Ulixem non fuisse tam irato mari natum ut ubique naufragia faceret: nausiator erat. Et ego quocumque navigare debuero vicensimo anno perveniam.

Ut primum stomachum, quem scis non cum mari nausiam effugere, collegi, ut corpus unctione recreavi, hoc coepi mecum cogitare, quanta nos vitiorum nostrorum sequeretur oblivio, etiam corporalium, quae subinde admonent sui, nedum illorum quae eo magis latent quo maiora sunt. Levis aliquem motiuncula decipit; sed cum crevit et vera febris exarsit, etiam duro et perpessio confessionem exprimit. Pedes dolent, articuli punctiunculas sentiunt: adhuc dissimulamus et aut talum extorsisse dicimus nos aut in exercitacione aliqua laborasse. Dubio et incipiente morbo quaeritur nomen, qui ubi ut talia coepit intendere et utrosque distortos pedes fecit, necesse est podagram fateri.

- 43 **Contra evenit:** "the opposite happens."
- 43-44 **quo. . .minus:** i.e., *quanto peius. . .tanto minus.*
- 45-46 **et species. . .cogitat:** "both receives visions in his sleep and sometimes when asleep is aware that he is asleep."
- 55 **precario:** lit., "by entreaty or request"; i.e., when the other matters (cf. *omnibus aliis rebus* of the preceding line) permit, or in your spare time.
- 58 **in remissione:** "in the midst of your recovery."
- 62-63 **non est res subsiciva; ordinaria est:** "she is not a thing for one's spare time; she is regular" (i.e., she requires regular attention); *subsicivus, -a -um* literally means "cut off," "left remaining."
- 67 **Idem. . .omnibus:** "philosophy [says] the same thing in all matters."
- 80 **laxo sinu eludit:** "she wards them off with the loose fold [of her garment]."
- 47 **sopor, -oris, m.,** sleep
somnium, -i, n., dream
- 50 **expergiscor, -i, perrectus, 3**
dep., awake, arouse one's self
- 51 **coarguo, -ere, -argui, 3,** expose
- 52 **excutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus,**
3, shake off
- 54 **complexus, -us, m.,** embrace
- 58 **quam primum,** as soon as possible
- 64 **dimidium, -i, n.,** half
- 73 **cludo, -ere, clusi, clusus, 3,**
shut, close
- exiguus, -a, -um, adj.,** little
- 78 **retundo, -ere, -tudi, -tus**
(-tunsus), 3, beat, blunt
- 79 **defetigo (defatigo), 1,** weary,
fatigue, tire, exhaust
- 80 **discutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus,**
3, dash to pieces
- 81 **respuo, -ere, -spui, -sputus,**
3, spit back

Contra evenit in his morbis quibus adficiuntur animi: quo quis peius se habet, minus sentit. Non est quod mireris, Lucili carissime; nam qui leviter dormit, et species secundum quietem capit et aliquando dormire se dormiens cogitat: gravis sopor etiam somnia extinguit animumque altius mergit quam ut in ullo intellectu sui sit. Quare vitia sua nemo confitetur? quia etiam nunc in illis est: somnium narrare vigilantis est, et vitia sua confiteri sanitatis indicium est. Expergiscamur ergo, ut errores nostros coarguere possimus. Sola autem nos philosophia excitabit, sola somnum excutiet gravem: illi te totum dedica. Dignus illa es, illa digna te est: ite in complexum alter alterius. Omnibus aliis rebus te nega, fortiter, aperte; non est quod precario philosopheris. Si aeger esses, curam intermisisses rei familiaris et forensia tibi negotia excidissent nec quemquam tanti putares cui advocatus in remissione descenderes; toto animo id ageres ut quam primum morbo liberareris. Quid ergo? non et nunc idem facies? omnia impedimenta dimitte et vaca bonae menti: nemo ad illam pervenit occupatus. Exercet philosophia regnum suum; dat tempus, non accipit; non est res subsiciva; ordinaria est, domina est, adest et iubet. Alexander cuidam civitati partem agrorum et dimidium rerum omnium promittenti 'eo' inquit 'proposito in Asiam veni, ut non id acciperem quod dedissetis, sed ut id haberetis quod reliquissem'. Idem philosophia rebus omnibus: 'non sum hoc tempus acceptura quod vobis superfuerit, sed id vos habebitis quod ipsa reiecero'. Totam huc converte mentem, huic adside, hanc cole: ingens intervallum inter te et ceteros fiet; omnes mortales multo antecedes, non multo te dii antecedent. Quaeris quid inter te et illos interfuturum sit? diutius erunt. At mehercules magni artificis est cluisse totum in exiguo; tantum sapienti sua quantum deo omnis aetas patet. Est aliquid quo sapiens antecedit deum: ille naturae beneficio non timet, suo sapiens. Ecce res magna, habere inbecillitatem hominis, securitatem dei. Incredibilis philosophiae vis est ad omnem fortuitam vim retundendam. Nullum telum in corpore eius sedet; munita est, solida; quaedam defetigat et velut levia tela laxo sinu eludit, quaedam discutit et in eum usque qui miserat respuit. *Vale.*

45

50

55

60

65

70

75

80

- 3 **Quo genere:** "in what way" or "[an illness] of what kind."
- 5 **Graeco nomine:** i.e., asthma.
- 13-15 **Tam. . . distulit:** "If I take delight in this result, as if in good health, I'm acting as foolishly as he who thinks he has won [his case] when he has [merely] postponed his trial."
- 29-30 **quid. . . desinas:** "for what does it matter whether you do not begin or whether you cease [to be]."
- 31-32 **nam. . . erat:** "since I was in no condition to speak."
- 34 **remansit:** supply *suspirium* as subject.
- 36 **eius:** i.e., *spiritus*.
- 36-37 **Quomodo. . . suspirem:** "[Let it do] whatever it pleases, provided that I do not sigh from my soul"; i.e., provided that the sigh is caused by physical asthma rather than mental grief of soul. Seneca plays with the two meanings of *suspirium*.
- 38 **nihil. . . toto:** "I make no plans for an entire day."
- 44 **coactura est:** supply *necessitas* as subject.
- 2 **commeatus, -us, m.,** respite, furlough
valetudo, -inis, f., health
repente, adv., suddenly
- 3 **prorsus, adv.,** certainly, absolutely
- 6 **suspirium, -i, n.,** shortness of breath
valde, adv., very
- 7 **procella, -ae, f.,** storm
ferē, adv., almost
desino, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs, 3, cease
- 10 **quidni, adv.,** why not?
aegroto, 1, be sick
- 11 **egero, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3,** draw out
- 12 **aliquando, adv.,** at some time or other, finally
spiritus, -us, m., breath
- 17 **adquiesco, -ere, -quievi, -quietus, 3,** find comfort in
- 22 **atqui, conj.,** and yet, nevertheless
- 24 **lucerna, -ae, f.,** lamp
- 26 **utrimque, adv.,** on either side
- 30 **uterque, utraque, utrumque, adj.,** both
- 33 **anhelitus, -us, m.,** panting
- 35 **quamvis, adv.,** although
ex natura, naturally
- 39 **piget, -ere, piguit, impers., 2,** it displeases, it grieves
- 41 **hic, adv.,** here, in this place
- 43 **invitus, -a, -um, adj.,** unwilling

Epistle Fifty-four ON SICKNESS AND DEATH

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Longum mihi commeatum dederat mala valetudo; repente me invasit. 'Quo genere?' inquis. Prorsus merito interrogas: adeo nullum mihi ignotum est. Uni tamen morbo quasi adsignatus sum, quem quare Graeco nomine appellem nescio; 5
satis enim apte dici suspirium potest. Brevis autem valde et procellae similis est impetus; intra horam fere desinit: quis enim diu exspirat? Omnia corporis aut incommoda aut pericula per me transierunt: nullum mihi videtur molestius. Quidni? aliud enim quidquid est aegrotare est, hoc animam egerere. Itaque medici hanc 'meditationem mortis' vocant; facit enim aliquando spiritus ille quod saepe conatus est. Hilarem me putas haec tibi scribere quia effugi? Tam ridicule facio, si hoc fine quasi bona valetudine delector, quam ille, quisquis vicisse se putat cum vadimonium distulit. 10
15

Ego vero et in ipsa suffocatione non desii cogitationibus laetis ac fortibus adquiescere. 'Quid hoc est?' inquam 'tam saepe mors experitur me? Faciat: [at] ego illam diu expertus sum.' 'Quando?' inquis. Antequam nascerer. Mors est non esse. Id quale sit iam scio: hoc erit post me quod ante me fuit. Si quid in hac re tormenti est, necesse est et fuisse, antequam prodiremus in lucem; atqui nullam sensimus tunc vexationem. Rogo, non stultissimum dicas si quis existimet lucernae peius esse cum extincta est quam antequam accenditur? Nos quoque et extinguimur et accendimur: medio illo tempore aliquid patimur, utrimque vero alta securitas est. In hoc enim, mi Lucili, nisi fallor, erramus, quod mortem iudicamus sequi, cum illa et praecesserit et secutura sit. Quidquid ante nos fuit mors est; quid enim refert non incipias an desinas, cum utriusque rei hic sit effectus, non esse? 20
25
30

His et eiusmodi exhortationibus (tacitis scilicet, nam verbis locus non erat) adloqui me non desii; deinde paulatim suspirium illud, quod esse iam anhelitus coeperat, intervalla maiora fecit et retardatum est. At remansit, nec adhuc, quamvis desierit, ex natura fluit spiritus; sentio haesitationem quandam eius et moram. Quomodo volet, dummodo non ex animo suspirem. Hoc tibi de me recipe: non trepidabo ad extrema, iam praeparatus sum, nihil cogito de die toto. Illum tu lauda et imitare quem non piget mori, cum iuvenit vivere: quae est enim virtus, cum eiciaris, exire? Tamen est et hic virtus: eicior quidem, sed tamquam exeam. Et ideo numquam eicitur sapiens quia eici est inde expelli unde invitus recedas: nihil invitus facit sapiens; necessitatem effugit, quia vult quod coactura est. *Valē.* 35
40

- 3 **seposito**: supply *viro*, "for a man withdrawn."
- 5 **in** . . . **adducere**: lit., "can bring the ears to disgust or annoyance"; i.e., "can weary the ears."
- 12-13 **actum est**: lit., "it has been done"; i.e., "it's all over," "I've had it."
- 16-17 **alipilum** . . . **experimentem**: "think of the hair plucker continually forcing out his slender, shrill voice so that he may be more noticeable [to the customers]."
- 19-21 **iam** . . . **vendentis**: supply *cogita*, the direct objects of which are *exclamations* . . . *botularium* . . . *crustularium* . . . *institores*.
- 22 **te** . . . **ferreum** . . . **surdum**: accusatives of exclamation.
- 23 **Chrysippum**: Chrysippus (280-207 B.C.), successor of Cleanthes as head of the Stoic School.
- 24 **perducat ad mortem**: an idiomatic, metaphorical expression, like the English "bores a person to death," "drives a person crazy."

- 4 **balneum** (*balineum*), -i, *n.*, bathhouse
- 6 **plumbum**, -i, *n.*, leaden-weight
- 7 **gemitus**, -us, *m.*, grunt
quotiens, *adv.*, as often as
- 8 **remitto**, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, let go
sibilus, -i, *m.*, hissing
acerbus, -a, -um, *adj.*, harsh, shrill
- 9 **unctio**, -onis, *f.*, anointing, massage
- 10 **crepitus**, -us, *m.*, noise
inlido, -ere, -lisi, -lisus, 3, beat against
umerus, -i, *m.*, shoulder
- 11 **prout**, *conj.*, according as
- 12 **pilicrepus**, -i, *m.*, ball-player
pila, -ae, *f.*, ball
- 13 **scordalus**, -i, *m.*, quarrelsome fellow
fur, *furis*, *c.*, thief
deprendo (*deprehendo*), -ere, -prendi, -prensus, 3, catch
- 14 **piscina**, -ae, *f.*, pool
- 15 **salio**, -ire, salui, saltus, 4, leap
- 16 **rectus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of rego*), right, all right
- 18 **vello**, -ere, vulsi, vulsus, 3, pluck
ala, -ae, *f.*, armpit
pro, *prep. w. abl.*, instead of
- 19 **biberarius**, -i, *m.*, man selling drinks
botularius, -i, *m.*, sausage-maker
- 20 **crustularius**, -i, *m.*, confectioner
popina, -ae, *f.*, eating-house
institor, -oris, *m.*, huckster
- 21 **insignitus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of insignio*), marked, striking
- 22 **ferreus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, made of iron
surdus, -a, -um, *adj.*, deaf
- 23 **consto**, -are, -stiti, -status, 1, stand firm, be unshaken
- 24 **adsiduus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, continual
salutatio, -onis, *f.*, good-morning greeting
- 25 **fremitus**, -us, *m.*, loud noise
curo, 1, pay attention to
- 26 **deiectus**, -us, *m.*, fall
quamvis, *adv.*, although
- 27 **fragor**, -oris, *m.*, din
- 28 **avoco**, 1, distract

Epistle Fifty-six
THE PHILOSOPHER IN THE BATHHOUSE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Peream si est tam necessarium quam videtur silentium in studia seposito. Ecce undique me varius clamor circumsonat: supra ipsum balneum habito. Propone nunc tibi omnia genera vocum quae in odium possunt aures adducere: cum fortiores 5
 exercentur et manus plumbo graves iactant, cum aut laborant aut laborantem imitantur, gemitus audio, quotiens retentum spiritum remiserunt, sibilos et acerbissimas respiraciones; cum in aliquem inertem et hac plebeia unctione contentum incidi, audio crepitum inlisae manus umeris, 10
 quae prout plana pervenit aut concava, ita sonum mutat. Si vero pilicrepus supervenit et numerare coepit pilas, actum est. Adice nunc scordalum et furem deprensus et illum cui vox sua in balineo placet, adice nunc eos qui in piscinam cum ingenti impulsae aquae sono saliant. Praeter istos quorum, si nihil aliud, rectae voces sunt, alipilum cogita tenuem et stridulam vocem quo sit notabilior subinde exprimentem nec umquam tacentem nisi dum vellit alas et alium pro se clamare cogit; iam biberari varias exclamaciones et botularium et crustularium et omnes popinarum institores 20
 mercem sua quadam et insignita modulatione vendentis.

'O te' inquis 'ferreum aut surdum, cui mens inter tot clamores tam varios, tam dissonos constat, cum Chrysippum nostrum adsidua salutatio perducatur ad mortem.' At mehercules ego istum fremitum non magis curo quam fluctum aut deiectum aquae, quamvis audiam cuidam genti hanc unam fuisse causam urbem suam transferendi, quod fragorem Nili cadentis ferre non potuit. Magis mihi videtur vox avocare 25

- 29 **animum adducit**: "draws the mind [to it]."
- 32 **ad Metam Sudantem**: *Meta Sudans* or "Sweating Column," a cone-shaped public fountain from which water issued from various openings; its remains still stand near the Colosseum.
- 33 **nec cantat sed exclamat**: "he does not play a tune but [merely] blasts notes."
- 39 **dum**. . . **non**: Seneca sometimes uses *non* for *ne* in negative clauses of *proviso*.
- 43 **Omnia**. . . **quiete**: A fragment by the Latin poet Varro Atacinus (82–36 B.C.), who translated the *Argonautica* of Apollonius Rhodius (c. 295–215 B.C.). Varro also wrote epigrams, elegies, satires, and an epic poem *De Bello Sequanico* dealing with Caesar's exploits in Gaul.
- 46 **insomnia**: "dreams": the neuter noun of the second declension, *insomnium*, -ii, n., has two meanings, "sleeplessness" and "dream." The first declension noun, *insomnia*, -ae, f., means "sleeplessness."
- 50–51 **suspensum**. . . **ponitur**: "those coming close to him walk on tip-toe." Lit., "the foot-step of those coming close to him is placed in suspense"; *suspensus*, -a, -um figuratively means "suspended," "pressing or touching lightly," "on tiptoe."
- 57 **nos male habet**: "takes evil hold of us."
- 60 **vacat**: *impers.* + *dat.*, "there is time or leisure for a thing."
- 63 **secessisse**: in post-Augustan authors, the verb *secedo*, -ere has the meaning "retire" from public into private life.

- 29 **crepitus**, -us, *m.*, noise
tantum, *adv.*, only
- 30 **impleo**, -ere, -plevi, -pletus, 2, fill
verbero, 1, beat
avocatio, -onis, *f.*, distraction
circumstrepo, -ere, -strepui, -strepitus, 3, make a noise
- 31 **esseda**, -ae, *f.*, carriage
faber fabri, *m.*, carpenter
inquilinus, -i, *m.*, resident
- 32 **serrarius**, -i, *m.*, one who saws
vicinus, -a, -um, *adj.*, near, nearby, neighboring
- 33 **tubula**, -ae, *f.*, small trumpet
experior, -iri, -pertus, 4 *dep.*, test
tibia, -ae, *f.*, flute
etiannunc, *conj.*, moreover
- 34 **subinde**, *adv.*, continually
- 36 **vel**, *conj.*, even
pausarius, -i, *m.*, boatswain
remex, -igis, *m.*, oarsman
- 37 **modus**, -i, *m.*, measure, beat
- 38 **foris**, *adv.*, out of doors, outside
- 39 **rixor**, 1 *dep.*, quarrel
- 40 **dissideo**, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, 2, sit apart, be at variance
- 41 **prosum**, *prodesse*, **profui**, *irr.*, be of use
- 42 **adfectus**, -us, *m.*, emotion
fremo, -ere, **fremui**, **fremitus**, 3, roar
- 46 **insomnium**, -i, *n.*, dream
- 48 **explico**, -are, -plicavi (-plicui), -plicatus (-plicitus), 1, unfold
laxus, -a, -um, *adj.*, spacious
- 50 **turba**, -ae, *f.*, crowd
conticesco, -ere, -ticui, 3, become silent
- 51 **nempe**, *conj.*, to be sure
- 52 **acritudo**, -inis, *f.*, malady, care
queror, -i, **questus**, 3 *dep.*, complain
- 53 **obstrepo**, -ere, -strepui, -strepitus, 3, roar
- 54 **conpesco**, -ere, -pescui, 3, check, restrain
- 55 **iaceo**, -ere, **iacui**, **iacitus**, 2, lie down
interdum, *adv.*, sometimes
- 60 **distingo**, -ere, -strinxi, -strictus, 3, occupy
- 61 **discutio**, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake off
- 62 **statio**, -onis, *f.*, position
- 63 **paenitentia**, -ae, *f.*, dissatisfaction
latebra, -ae, *f.*, hiding-place, retreat
- 64 **recrudescio**, -ere, -crudui, 3, break out again

quam crepitus; illa enim animum adducit, hic tantum aures implet ac verberat. In his quae me sine avocatione circumstrepunt essedas transcurrentes pono et fabrum inquilinum et serrarium vicinum, aut hunc qui ad Metam Sudantem tubulas experitur et tibus, nec cantat sed exclamat: etiam nunc molestior est mihi sonus qui intermittitur subinde quam qui continuatur. Sed iam me sic ad omnia ista duravi ut audire vel pausarium possim voce acerbissima remigibus modos dantem. Animum enim cogo sibi intentum esse nec avocari ad externa; omnia licet foris resonent, dum intus nihil tumultus sit, dum inter se non rixentur cupiditas et timor, dum avaritia luxuriaque non dissideant nec altera alteram vexet. Nam quid prodest totius regionis silentium, si adfectus fremunt?

Omnia noctis erant placida composita quiete.

Falsum est: nulla placida est quies nisi quam ratio composuit; nox exhibet molestiam, non tollit, et sollicitudines mutat. Nam dormientium quoque insomnia tam turbulenta sunt quam dies: illa tranquillitas vera est in quam bona mens explicatur. Aspice illum cui somnus laxae domus silentio quaeritur, cuius aures ne quis agitet sonus, omnis servorum turba conticuit et suspensum accedentium propius vestigium ponitur: huc nempe versatur atque illuc, somnum inter aegritudines levem captans; quae non audit audisse se queritur. Quid in causa putas esse? Animus illi obstreperit. Hic placandus est, huius conpescenda seditio est, quem non est quod existimes placidum, si iacet corpus: interdum quies inquieta est; et ideo ad rerum actus excitandi ac tractatione bonarum artium occupandi sumus, quotiens nos male habet inertia sui inpatiens. Magni imperatores, cum male parere militem vident, aliquo labore conpescunt et expeditionibus detinent: numquam vacat lascivire districtis, nihilque tam certum est quam otii vitia negotio discuti. Saepe videmur taedio rerum civilium et infelicis atque ingratae stationis paenitentia secessisse; tamen in illa latebra in quam nos timor ac lassitudo coniecit interdum recrudescit ambitio.

- 83–86 **et me. . . timentem**: Vergil, *Aeneid* 2.726–729. Aeneas is describing his emotions when he, carrying his father Anchises on his shoulders and leading his son Ascanius by the hand, flees with them from burning Troy. The word *comiti* refers to his son, the word *oneri*, to his father. Romans traditionally recognized this tableau as exemplary of familial and public duty.
- 87 **Prior ille**: i.e., the fearless Aeneas of the first two lines.
- 89 **hic alter**: i.e., the fearful Aeneas of the last two lines.
- 90–91 **quem. . . deiecit**: “a single sound, whatever it is, taken as the noise [of the enemy], has upset him.”
- 92 **sarcinae**: “burdens.” Seneca compares Aeneas, carrying his father Anchises, to luxurious men weighed down by the burden of their wealth.
- 100–101 **cum. . . invenerit**: Homer, *Odyssey* 12.165–200, describes how Odysseus, on the advice of the sorceress Circe, stopped the ears of his companions with wax so that they might sail past the Sirens and their songs in safety.

- 65 **excido, -ere, -cidi, -cismus, 3**, cut or root out
desino, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs, 3, stop
- 66 **parum, adv.**, too little, not enough
cedo, -ere, cessi, cessus, 3, yield
- 67 **aliquando, adv.**, sometimes
cedo, -ere, cessi, cessus, 3, depart
sollicito, 1, disturb
- 69 **eo. . . quo = tanto. . . quanto**, by so much. . . by how much, the. . . the
- 73 **simulatus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of simulo)**, feigned
- 74 **subsido, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, 3**, sink, settle down
- 75 **bona fide**, genuinely, truly
receptus, -us, m., retreat
contemno, -ere, -tempsi, -temptus, 3, scorn
- 77 **concentus, -us, m.**, harmonious music
- 79 **introsus, adv.**, inwards, within
accido, -ere, -cidi, 3, happen
- 80 **erigo, -ere, -rexi, -rectus, 3**, arouse
- 81 **conceptus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of concipio)**, preconceived
curiosus, -a, -um, adj., full of care, anxious
- 83 **dudum, adv.**, lately, recently
- 84 **glomero, 1**, gather together
- 86 **suspensus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of suspendo)**, anxious
pariter, adv., equally
- 87 **vibro, 1**, brandish
arieto, 1, strike violently
- 88 **inpello, -ere, -puli, -pulsus, 3**, drive on, overthrow
- 89 **inperitus, -a, -um, adj.**, untaught, ignorant
- 91 **exanimo, 1**, deprive of life, terrify greatly
- 96 **blandior, -iri, blanditus, 4 dep.**, flatter
minor, 1 dep., threaten
- 98 **convicium, -i, n.**, noise

Non enim excisa desiit, sed fatigata aut etiam obirata rebus 65
 parum sibi cedentibus. Idem de luxuria dico, quae videtur
 aliquando cessisse, deinde frugalitatem professos sollicitat
 atque in media parsimonia voluptates non damnatas sed
 relictas petit, et quidem eo vehementius quo occultius.
 Omnia enim vitia in aperto leniora sunt; morbi quoque tunc 70
 ad sanitatem inclinant cum ex abdito erumpunt ac vim sui
 proferunt. Et avaritiam itaque et ambitionem et cetera mala
 mentis humanae tunc perniciosissima scias esse cum simulata
 sanitate subsidunt. Otiosi videmur, et non sumus. Nam si
 bona fide sumus, si receptui cecinimus, si speciosa contemp- 75
 psimus, ut paulo ante dicebam, nulla res nos avocabit, nullus
 hominum aviumque concentus interrumpet cogitationes
 bonas, solidasque iam et certas. Leve illud ingenium est nec
 sese adhuc reduxit introsus quod ad vocem et accidentia
 erigitur; habet intus aliquid sollicitudinis et habet aliquid 80
 concepti pavoris quod illum curiosum facit, ut ait Vergilius
 noster:

et me, quem dudum non ulla iniecta movebant
 tela neque adverso glomerati ex agmine Grai,
 nunc omnes terrent aerae, sonus excitat omnis 85
 suspensum et pariter comitique onerique timentem.

Prior ille sapiens est, quem non tela vibrantia, non arietata
 inter <se> arma agminis densi, non urbis impulsae fragor
 territat: hic alter inperitus est, rebus suis timet ad omnem
 crepitum expavescens, quem una quaelibet vox pro fremitu 90
 accepta deiecit, quem motus levissimi exanimant; timidum
 illum sarcinae faciunt. Quemcumque ex istis felicibus elegeris,
 multa trahentibus, multa portantibus, videbis illum 'comiti-
 que onerique timentem'. Tunc ergo te scito esse compositum
 cum ad te nullus clamor pertinebit, cum te nulla vox tibi 95
 excutiet, non si blandietur, non si minabitur, non si inani
 sono vana circumstrepet. 'Quid ergo? non aliquando com-
 modius est et carere convicio?' Fateor; itaque ego ex hoc
 loco migrabo. Experiri et exercere me volui: quid necesse est
 diutius torqueri, cum tam facile remedium Ulixes sociis 100
 etiam adversus Sirenas invenerit? *Vale.*

- 5 **nostrorum**: "of our relatives."
eo. . **feliciter**: "the more happily they've been realized, the more harmful they are." *eo*. . *quo* = *tanto*. . *quanto*.
- 8 **vocem gratuitam**: i.e., words that ask no favor of the gods.
- 11-12 **unius mensae instrumentum**: "supplies for a single meal."
- 18 **quantulum**. . **datur**: i.e., nature is satisfied with very little; it is man's greed that covers more than nature requires.
- 20 **Sallustius**: Sallust, *Catiline* 1.1.
- 25 **licet**: *ut* is sometimes omitted after *licet*.
- in limine ipso**. . **marmor**: "on the very marble threshold."
 Note that *marmor* (a noun) is in apposition to *in limine ipso* and suggests the idea of a tomb.

- 2 **queror**, -i, **questus**, 3 *dep.*, complain
- 3 **nondum**, *adv.*, not yet
- 7 **execratio**, -onis, *f.*, curse
- quandoque**, *adv.*, at some time
- 8 **quousque**, *adv.*, how long
- 10 **satio**, -onis, *f.*, planting
- 11 **meto**, -ere, **messui**, 3, reap
- 13 **iugerum**, -i, *n.*, acre
- pascuum**, -i, *n.*, pasture
- 16 **alvus**, -i, *f.*, belly
- modicus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, moderate in size
- 17 **edax**, -acis, *adj.*, voracious
- 18 **minime**, *superl. adv.*, not at all
- 19 **venter**, -tris, *m.*, belly
- 23 **latito**, 1, hide
- 24 **torpeo**, -ere, 2, be torpid, sluggish
- quomodo**, *adv.*, as
- conditivum**, -i, *n.*, tomb
- 25 **licet**, -ere, **licuit**, *impers.*, 2, it is permitted

Epistle Sixty
MAN'S SUPPLICATION FOR AFFLICTION

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Queror, litigo, irascor. Etiamnunc optas quod tibi optavit
 nutrix tua aut paedagogus aut mater? nondum intellegis
 quantum mali optaverint? O quam inimica nobis sunt vota
 nostrorum! eo quidem inimiciora quo cessere felicius. 5
 Iam non admiror si omnia nos a prima pueritia mala sequuntur:
 inter execrationes parentum crevimus. Exaudiant di quan-
 doque nostram pro nobis vocem gratuitam. Quousque pos-
 cemus aliquid deos? [quasi] ita nondum ipsi alere nos possu-
 mus? Quamdiu sationibus implebimus magnarum urbium 10
 campos? quamdiu nobis populus metet? quamdiu unius
 mensae instrumentum multa navigia et quidem non ex uno
 mari subvehent? Taurus paucissimorum iugerum pascuo
 impletur; una silva elephantis pluribus sufficit: homo et
 terra et mari pascitur. Quid ergo? tam insatiabilem nobis 15
 natura alvum dedit, cum tam modica corpora dedisset, ut
 vastissimorum edacissimorumque animalium aviditatem vin-
 ceremus? Minime; quantulum est enim quod naturae datur!
 Parvo illa dimittitur: non fames nobis ventris nostri magno
 constat sed ambitio. Hos itaque, ut ait Sallustius, 'ventri 20
 oboedientes' animalium loco numeremus, non hominum,
 quosdam vero ne animalium quidem, sed mortuorum. Vivit
 is qui multis usui est, vivit is qui se utitur; qui vero latitant
 et torpent sic in domo sunt quomodo in conditivo. Horum
 licet in limine ipso nomen marmoris inscribas: mortem suam 25
 antecesserunt. *Vale.*

- 5-6 *ut* . . . *sit*: "so that for me [every] day may be like an entire life."
 6 *rapio*: supply *diem* as object.
 8 *cum maxime*: "just now." See *Ep.* 7, lines 41-42.
 9-10 *quia* . . . *pendeo*: "because I am not too anxious [to know] how long this will last."
 12 *Da operam*: "pay attention," "see to it."
 19-20 *Satis* . . . *est*: "life is sufficiently equipped [with necessities]."

- 2 *ago*, -ere, *egi*, *actus*, 3, do
 7 *vel*, *conj.*, even
 12 *libenter*, *adv.*, willingly
 13 *invitus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, unwilling
 14 *excipio*, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus, 3, take
 17 *exigo*, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3, demand
 18 *in primis*, especially, above all
 20 *instrumentum*, -i, *n.*, supply, provision

Epistle Sixty-one
LIVE EACH DAY AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Desinamus quod voluimus velle. Ego certe id ago <ne>
senex eadem velim quae puer volui. In hoc unum eunt dies,
in hoc noctes, hoc opus meum est, haec cogitatio, inponere
veteribus malis finem. Id ago ut mihi instar totius vitae dies 5
sit; nec mehercules tamquam ultimum rapio, sed sic illum
aspicio tamquam esse vel ultimus possit. Hoc animo tibi hanc
epistulam scribo, tamquam me cum maxime scribentem mors
evocatura sit; paratus exire sum, et ideo fruar vita quia quam
diu futurum hoc sit non nimis pendeo. Ante senectutem 10
curavi ut bene viverem, in senectute ut bene moriar; bene
autem mori est libenter mori. Da operam ne quid umquam
invitus facias: quidquid necesse futurum est repugnanti, id
volenti necessitas non est. Ita dico: qui imperia libens excipit
partem acerbissimam servitutis effugit, facere quod nolit; 15
non qui iussus aliquid facit miser est, sed qui invitus facit.
Itaque sic animum componamus ut quidquid res exiget, id
velimus, et in primis ut finem nostri sine tristitia cogitemus.
Ante ad mortem quam ad vitam praeparandi sumus. Satis
instructa vita est, sed nos in instrumenta eius avidi sumus; 20
deesse aliquid nobis videtur et semper videbitur: ut satis
vixerimus, nec anni nec dies faciunt sed animus. Vixi, Lucili
carissime, quantum satis erat; mortem plenus expecto. *Vale.*

- 2-3 **qui**. . . **videri volunt**: "who want it to seem."
 8 **abduco**: supply *me*.
 9 **quibus**. . . **congregavit**: "to whom some circumstance has joined me."
 10 **cum optimo quoque**: "with all the best"; *optimus quisque* means "every best man," i.e., all the best.
 12 **Demetrius**: Demetrius of Sunium, renowned Cynic philosopher, who taught in Rome during Caligula's reign.
 13 **relictis conchyliatis**: supply *viris*.
 14 **Quidni admirer**: "why should I not admire him?"
 18 **tamquam**. . . **permiserit**: "as if he has surrendered to others the possession of all things." Demetrius, like the Stoic sage, is self-sufficient, fortified against external forces, and therefore does not need material possessions.

- 2 **mentior**, -iri, -itus, 4 *dep.*, lie
 turba, -ae, *f.*, crowd
 3 **simulo**, 1, feign, pretend
 5 **commodo**, 1, lend
 6 **consto**, -are, -stiti, -status, 1,
 be located, be settled
 7 **tracto**, 1, draw, conduct
 9 **moror**, 1 *dep.*, linger
 13 **conchyliatus**, -a, -um, *adj.*,
 clothed in purple
 15 **contemno**, -ere, -tempti,
 -temptus, 3, scorn

Epistle Sixty-two
SCORN RICHES; SEIZE THE WEALTH OF THE AGES

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Mentiuntur qui sibi obstare ad studia liberalia turbam
negotiorum videri volunt: simulant occupationes et augent
et ipsi se occupant. Vaco, Lucili, vaco, et ubicumque sum,
ibi meus sum. Rebus enim me non trado sed commodo, nec 5
consector perdendi temporis causas; et quocumque constiti
loco, ibi cogitationes meas tracto et aliquid in animo salutare
converso. Cum me amicis dedi, non tamen mihi abduco nec
cum illis moror quibus me tempus aliquod congregavit aut
causa ex officio nata civili, sed cum optimo quoque sum; ad 10
illos, in quocumque loco, in quocumque saeculo fuerunt,
animum meum mitto. Demetrium, virorum optimum,
mecum circumfero et relictis conchyliatis cum illo seminudo
loquor, illum admiror. Quidni admirer? vidi nihil ei deesse.
Contemnere aliquis omnia potest, omnia habere nemo potest: 15
brevisissima ad divitias per contemptum divitiarum via est.
Demetrius autem noster sic vivit, non tamquam contempserit
omnia, sed tamquam aliis habenda permiserit. *Vale.*

- 2 **Molestē fero**: "I am sorry."
- 11 **in unum**. . **.diem**: Homer, *Iliad* 19.228–229. In this reference, when Achilles refuses to eat or drink until he has avenged the death of his comrade Patroclus, Odysseus urges him to mourn but one day and to strengthen himself and his comrades with food and drink before returning to battle.
- Niobam**: *Iliad* 24.602. When Achilles informs Priam that he will return Hector's corpse, the hero urges the aged king to eat his supper, reminding him that even Niobe, whose twelve children perished in her palace, took thought of food.
- 18–19 **Non**. . **.quo**: "I am not putting it off to a period of time longer [than that] by which."
- 22 **custodienti**: supply *tibi*.
- 22–23 **eoque**. . **.desinit**: "the sharper it is, the more quickly it comes to a halt"; *eo*. . **.quo = tanto**. . **.quanto**.
- 28 **Attalus**: Attalus, Stoic philosopher, teacher of Seneca.

- 4 **contingo, -ere, -tigi, -tactus**, 3, befall
- 6 **vellico**, 1, sting
tantum, adv., only
ignosco, -ere, -novi, -notus, 3, pardon
- 7 **prolabor, -i, lapsus**, 3 *dep.*, fall
nimius, -a, -um, adj., too much, excessive
- 9 **ploro**, 1, wail, lament
- 11 **dumtaxat, adv.**, only
- 12 **unde, adv.**, whence, from what source
- 13 **argumentum, -i, n.**, proof
desiderium, -i, n., loss
- 15 **stultitia, -ae, f.**, folly
ambitio, -onis, f., desire for display
- 17 **iam, adv.**, soon
- 18 **quilibet, quae-, quod-, indef. adj.**, some, any
- 19 **mulceo, -ere, mulsi, mulsus**, 2, soothe
- 20 **luctus, -us, m.**, grief
resideo, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, 2, quiet down
cum primum, as soon as
- 22 **elabor, -i, lapsus**, 3 *dep.*, slip away
- 23 **desino, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs**, 3, cease
- 25 **sicut, adv.**, just as, as
- 27 **morsus, -us, m.**, sting, pain
- 28 **defungor, -i, functus**, 3 *dep.*, die
- 29 **quomodo, adv.**, in what manner, even as
pomum, -i, n., fruit
- 30 **suaviter, adv.**, agreeably, pleasantly
- 31 **amaritudo, -inis, f.**, bitterness
- 32 **ango, -ere, anxi, anctus (anxus)**, 3, cause pain
- 33 **incolumis, -e, adj.**, safe and sound
mel, mellis, n., honey
placcnta, -ae, f., cake
- 34 **retractatio, -onis, f.**, remembrance
- 41 **interpretor, 1 dep.**, interpret
aufero, auferre, abstuli, ablatu, irr., take away

Epistle Sixty-three
THE MODERATION OF GRIEF

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Molesto fero decessisse Flaccum, amicum tuum, plus tamen aequo dolere te nolo. Illud, ut non doleas, vix audebo exigere; et esse melius scio. Sed cui ista firmitas animi continget nisi iam multum supra fortunam elato? illum quoque ista res vellicabit, sed tantum vellicabit. Nobis autem ignosci potest prolapsis ad lacrimas, si non nimiae decucurrerunt, si ipsi illas repressimus. Nec sicci sint oculi amisso amico nec fluant; lacrimandum est, non plorandum. Duram tibi legem videor ponere, cum poetarum Graecorum maximus ius flendi dederit in unum dumtaxat diem, cum dixerit etiam Niobam de cibo cogitasse? Quaeris unde sint lamentationes, unde inmodici fletus? per lacrimas argumenta desiderii quaerimus et dolorem non sequimur sed ostendimus; nemo tristis sibi est. O infelicem stultitiam! est aliqua et doloris ambitio. 'Quid ergo?' inquis 'obliviscar amici?' Brevem illi apud te memoriam promittis, si cum dolore mansura est: iam istam frontem ad risum quaelibet fortuita res transferet. Non differo in longius tempus quo desiderium omne mulcetur, quo etiam acerrimi luctus residunt: cum primum te observare desieris, imago ista tristitiae discedet. Nunc ipse custodis dolorem tuum; sed custodienti quoque elabitur, eoque citius quo est acrior desinit. Id agamus ut iucunda nobis amissorum fiat recordatio. Nemo libenter ad id redit quod non sine tormento cogitaturus est, sicut illud fieri necesse est, ut cum aliquo nobis morsu amissorum quos amavimus nomen occurrat; sed hic quoque morsus habet suam voluptatem. Nam, ut dicere solebat Attalus noster, 'sic amicorum defunctorum memoria iucunda est quomodo poma quaedam sunt suaviter aspera, quomodo in vino nimis veteri ipsa nos amaritudo delectat; cum vero intervenit spatium, omne quod angebat extinguitur et pura ad nos voluptas venit'. Si illi credimus, 'amicos incolumes cogitare melle ac placenta frui est: eorum qui fuerunt retractatio non sine acerbitate quadam iuvat. Quis autem negaverit haec acria quoque et habentia austeritatis aliquid stomachum excitare?' Ego non idem sentio: mihi amicorum defunctorum cogitatio dulcis ac blanda est; habui enim illos tamquam amissurus, amisi tamquam habeam.

Fac ergo, mi Lucili, quod aequitatem tuam decet, desine beneficium fortunae male interpretari: abstulit, sed dedit. Ideo amicis avide fruamur quia quamdiu contingere hoc

- 46 **in vivis**: "when they were alive."
 51 **qui . . . solacium**: "who are powerless (i.e., if they have no power) to console us for the one who has been buried."
 75 **Annaeum Serenum**: to this intimate friend, Annaeus Serenus, Seneca dedicated the dialogues *De Constantia Sapiientis*, *De Otio*, and *De Tranquillitate Animi*.

- 45 **moror**, 1 *dep.*, delay, loiter
 47 **luceo**, -ere, luxi, luctus, 2, mourn
 48 **maereo**, -ere, 2, mourn, lament
 49 **serus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, late
adfectus, -us, *m.*, emotion
 53 **quicumque, quae**-, quid-, *indef. rel. pron.*, whoever, whatever
 54 **ne . . . quidem**, not . . . even
 55 **despolio**, 1, rob
 57 **scapulae**, -arum, *f.*, shoulders
 58 **effero, efferre, extuli, clatus**, *irr.*, carry out, bury
 59 **satius**, *comp. (of satis)*, better
reparo, 1, acquire
 64 **lassitudo**, -inis, *f.*, weariness
 65 **quam primum**, as soon as possible
 70 **rogus**, -i, *m.*, funeral pile
revello, -ere, -velli, -vulsus (-volsus), 3, tear away
 71 **citus**, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of cicio)*, quick
 73 **inmerito**, *adv.*, undeservedly
 74 **simulo**, 1, feign
stultus, -a, -um, *adj.*, foolish
 80 **minor, minus**, *comp. (of parvus)*, younger

possit incertum est. Cogitemus quam saepe illos reliquerimus
 in aliquam peregrinationem longinquam exituri, quam saepe
 eodem morantes loco non viderimus: intellegemus plus nos 45
 temporis in vivis perdidisse. Feras autem hos qui neglegen-
 tissime amicos habent, miserrime lugent, nec amant quem-
 quam nisi perdiderunt? ideoque tunc effusius maerent quia
 verentur ne dubium sit an amaverint; sera indicia adfectus
 sui quaerunt. Si habemus alios amicos, male de iis et meremur 50
 et existimamus, qui parum valent in unius elati solacium;
 si non habemus, maiorem iniuriam ipsi nobis fecimus quam
 a fortuna accepimus: illa unum abstulit, nos quemcumque
 non fecimus. Deinde ne unum quidem nimis amavit qui plus
 quam unum amare non potuit. Si quis despoliatus amissa 55
 unica tunica conplorare se malit quam circumspicere quo-
 modo frigus effugiat et aliquid inveniat quo tegat scapulas,
 nonne tibi videatur stultissimus? Quem amabas extulisti:
 quaere quem ames. Satius est amicum reparare quam flere.
 Scio pertritum iam hoc esse quod adiecturus sum, non 60
 ideo tamen praetermittam quia ab omnibus dictum est:
 finem dolendi etiam qui consilio non fecerat tempore in-
 venit. Turpissimum autem est in homine prudente remedium
 maeroris lassitudo maerendi: malo relinquo dolorem quam
 ab illo relinquo; et quam primum id facere desiste quod, 65
 etiam si voles, diu facere non poteris. Annum feminis ad
 lugendum constituere maiores, non ut tam diu lugerent, sed
 ne diutius: viris nullum legitimum tempus est, quia nullum
 honestum. Quam tamen mihi ex illis mulierculis dabis vix
 retractis a rogo, vix a cadavere revulsis, cui lacrimae in totum 70
 mensem duraverint? Nulla res citius in odium venit quam
 dolor, qui recens consolatorem invenit et aliquos ad se
 adducit, inveteratus vero deridetur, nec inmerito; aut enim
 simulatus aut stultus est.
 Haec tibi scribo, is qui Annaeum Serenum carissimum 75
 mihi tam inmodice flevi ut, quod minime velim, inter
 exempla sim eorum quos dolor vicit. Hodie tamen factum
 meum damno et intellego maximam mihi causam sic lugendi
 fuisse quod numquam cogitaveram mori eum ante me posse.
 Hoc unum mihi occurrebat, minorem esse et multo minorem— 80
 tamquam ordinem fata servarent! Itaque adsidue cogitemus
 tam de nostra quam omnium quos diligimus mortalitate.
 Tunc ego debui dicere, 'minor est Serenus meus: quid
 ad rem pertinet? post me mori debet, sed ante me potest'.

85 percutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus,
3, strike

Quia non feci, inparatum subito fortuna percussit. Nunc 85
cogito omnia et mortalia esse et incerta lege mortalia; hodie
fieri potest quidquid unquam potest. Cogitemus ergo, Lucili
carissime, cito nos eo perventuros quo illum pervenisse mae-
remus; et fortasse, si modo vera sapientium fama est recipit-
que nos locus aliquis, quem putamus perisse praemissus est. 90
Vale.

- 6-7 **ut parata sint**: "so that they (referring to *quaecumque* . . . *deposita sunt*) may be ready."
 8-9 **Cum** . . . **moram**: "as soon as I have hope for a longer stay in the same place."
 12-13 **et quidem totis**: supply *diebus*: "and even on days wholly busy."
 18 **huic**: i.e., *philosophia*.
 28 **eum**: direct object of an understood *impediat* supplied from *impediat*.
 34 **exiret** . . . **intraret**: "if it entered [from without], it would depart from his soul."
 34-35 **Aliquando** . . . **intervenit**: "sometimes from without [something] intervenes by which he is reminded of his mortality."

- 2 **liqueo**, -ere, liqui, 2, be clear
edisco, -ere, -didici, 3, learn thoroughly
 4 **situs**, -us, *m.*, mould, disuse
cohaereo, -ere, -haesi, -haesus, 2, cling together
 5 **explico**, 1, unroll
 6 **subinde**, *adv.*, from time to time
excutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake out, examine
 7 **exigo**, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3, demand
in praesentia, for the present
differo, -ferre, **distuli**, **dilatus**, *irr.*, postpone
 10 **cisium**, -i, *n.*, light two-wheeled gig
 11 **lectus**, -i, *m.*, couch
desidero, 1, require
 13 **succedo**, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, follow, come along
 14 **sero**, -ere, **sevi**, **satus**, 3, sow
 15 **dilatio**, -onis, *f.*, delaying
perago, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3, go through, accomplish
 16 **incumbo**, -ere, -cubui, -cubitus, 3, devote one's self
 17 **vaco**, 1, have leisure
 20 **usque**, *adv.*, all the way
 21 **refert**, *impers.*, it matters, it makes a difference
 23 **intendo**, -ere, -tendi, -tentus, 3, stretch, stretch out
dissilio, -ire, -silui, -sultus, 4, leap apart
 25 **summoveo**, -ere, -movi, -motus, 2, remove
 26 **studium**, -i, *n.*, study
 27 **atqui**, *conj.*, and yet
studeo, -ere, **studui**, 2, study
 29 **alacer**, -cris, -cre, *adj.*, cheerful, lively
 30 **adhuc**, *adv.*, still
interscindo, -ere, -scidi, -scisus, 3, break
contexo, -ere, -texui, -textus, 3, weave
 33 **domesticus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, private, one's own
 36 **cutis**, -is, *f.*, skin
stringo, -ere, **strinxi**, **strictus**, 3, graze, touch lightly
aliquo, *adv.*, somewhere
 37 **adflo**, 1, blow on, breathe on
 38 **extrinsecus**, *adv.*, from without
 39 **interdum**, *adv.*, sometimes
pustula, -ae, *f.*, blister, pimple
 40 **ulcusculum**, -i, *n.*, little ulcer
in alto, deep within

Epistle Seventy-two
THE PRIORITY OF PHILOSOPHY

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quod quaeris a me liquebat mihi (sic rem edidiceram) per se; sed diu non retemptavi memoriam meam, itaque non facile me sequitur. Quod evenit libris situ cohaerentibus, hoc evenisse mihi sentio: explicandus est animus et quaecumque apud illum deposita sunt subinde excuti debent, ut parata sint quotiens usus exegerit. Ergo hoc in praesentia differamus; multum enim operae, multum diligentiae poscit. Cum primum longiorem eodem loco speravero moram, tunc istud in manus sumam. Quaedam enim sunt quae possis et in cisio scribere, quaedam lectum et otium et secretum desiderant. Nihilominus his quoque occupatis diebus agatur aliquid et quidem totis. Numquam enim non succedent occupationes novae: serimus illas, itaque ex una exeunt plures. Deinde ipsi nobis dilationem damus: 'cum hoc peregero, toto animo incumbam' et 'si hanc rem molestam composuero, studio me dabo'. Non cum vacaveris philosophandum est, sed ut philosopheris vacandum est; omnia alia neglegenda ut huic adsideamus, cui nullum tempus satis magnum est, etiam si a pueritia usque ad longissimos humani aevi terminos vita producitur. Non multum refert utrum omittas philosophiam an intermittas; non enim ubi interrupta est manet, sed eorum more quae intenta dissiliunt usque ad initia sua recurrit, quod a continuatione discessit. Resistendum est occupationibus, nec explicandae sed summovendae sunt. Tempus quidem nullum est parum idoneum studio salutari; atqui multi inter illa non student propter quae studendum est. 'Incidet aliquid quod inpediat.' Non quidem eum cuius animus in omni negotio laetus atque alacer est: imperfectis adhuc interscinditur laetitia, sapientis vero contextitur gaudium, nulla causa rumpitur, nulla fortuna; semper et ubique tranquillus est. Non enim ex alieno pendet nec favorem fortunae aut hominis expectat. Domestica illi felicitas est; exiret ex animo si intraret: ibi nascitur. Aliquando extrinsecus quo admoneatur mortalitatis intervenit, sed id leve et quod summam cutem stringat. Aliquo, inquam, incommodo adflatur; maximum autem illud bonum fixum est. Ita dico, extrinsecus aliqua sunt incommoda, velut in corpore interdum robusto solidoque eruptiones quaedam pustularum et ulcuscula, nullum in alto malum est. Hoc, inquam, interest inter consummatae sapientiae virum et alium procedentis quod inter sanum et ex morbo gravi ac diutino emergentem,

- 43 **cui** . . . **accessio**: "for whom in place of health there is a lighter attack [of his illness]."
- 44 **in eadem**: supply *mala* or *incommoda*.
- 45 **ne** . . . **amplius**: "he cannot even fall [into illness] any more."
- 47 **excitatur**: supply *medicus* as subject.
- 57 **haec est quae**: "she it is who"; *haec* refers to *ratio*.
- 58 **Attalus**: Attalus, Stoic philosopher, teacher of Seneca.
- 61 **ad spem venturi**: i.e., in the hope of getting other pieces of bread or meat.
- 63-64 **ad rapinam** . . . **attoniti**: "aroused and frantic to snatch something else."
- 66-67 **Habet** . . . **summo**: "someone has good intentions, he has made progress, but lacks much to reach the top"; *summo* refers to the *summum bonum*, the highest good or virtue.

- 43 **ad tendo**, -ere, -tendi, -tentus, 3, pay attention
subinde, *adv.*, continually
- 45 **ad tempus**, for a period of time
- 47 **praesto**, -are, -stiti, -stitus, 1, guarantee
- 47 **excito**, 1, arouse from sleep
- 48 **semel**, *adv.*, once for all
in totum, completely
- 51 **momentum**, -i, *n.*, importance
- 52 **accedo**, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, be added
- 54 **inhio**, 1, gape
ultra citroque, *adv.*, hither and thither
- 55 **mancipium**, -i, *n.*, property, permanent possession
- 58 **ingratus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, unpleasant, disagreeable
- 59 **aliquando**, *adv.*, at some time or other, ever
frustum, -i, *n.*, bit
- 60 **protinus**, *adv.*, immediately
integer, -gra, -grum, *adj.*, whole
- 61 **hio**, 1, open, open the mouth
- 63 **statim**, *adv.*, immediately
- 65 **obvenio**, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, come in the way of, fall to
secure, *adv.*, calmly
- 68 **alternis**, supply *vicibus*, alternately
modo, *adv.*, now
- 69 **inperitus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, inexperienced
rudis, -e, *adj.*, uninstructed
praecipitatio, -onis, *f.*, falling headlong
- 70 **inanis**, -e, *adj.*, void
- 71 **adhuc**, *adv.*, still
- 72 **adludo**, -ere, -lusi, -lusus, 3, play with
contingo, -ere, -tigi, -tactus, 3, reach
- 73 **sub ictu**, within reach
ne . . . **quidem**, not . . . even
- 74 **nondum**, *adv.*, not yet
siccus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dry
siccum, -i, *n.*, dry land
- 75 **discrimen**, -inis, *n.*, difference
- 77 **deterior**, -ius, *comp. adj.*, worse
- 80 **desino**, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs, 3, cease, stop

cui sanitatis loco est levior accessio: hic nisi adtendit, sub-
 inde gravatur et in eadem revolvitur, sapiens recidere non
 potest, ne incidere quidem amplius. Corpori enim ad tempus 45
 bona valetudo est, quam medicus, etiam si reddidit, non
 praestat—saepe ad eundem qui advocaverat excitatur:
 <animus> semel in totum sanatur. Dicam quomodo intellegas
 sanum: si se ipse contentus est, si confidit sibi, si scit omnia
 vota mortalium, omnia beneficia quae dantur petunturque, 50
 nullum in beata vita habere momentum. Nam cui aliquid
 accedere potest, id imperfectum est; cui aliquid abscedere
 potest, id inperpetuum est: cuius perpetua futura laetitia est,
 is suo gaudeat. Omnia autem quibus vulgus inhiat ultro
 citroque fluunt: nihil dat fortuna mancipio. Sed haec quoque 55
 fortuita tunc delectant cum illa ratio temperavit ac miscuit:
 haec est quae etiam externa commendet, quorum avidis
 usus ingratus est. Solebat Attalus hac imagine uti: 'vidisti
 aliquando canem missa a domino frustra panis aut carnis
 aperto ore captantem? quidquid excepit protinus integrum 60
 devorat et semper ad spem venturi hiat. Idem evenit nobis:
 quidquid expectantibus fortuna proiecit, id sine ulla volu-
 ptate demittimus statim, ad rapinam alterius erecti et at-
 toniti.' Hoc sapienti non evenit: plenus est; etiam si quid
 obvenit, secure excipit ac reponit; laetitia fruitur maxima, 65
 continua, sua. Habet aliquis bonam voluntatem, habet pro-
 fectum, sed cui multum desit a summo: hic deprimitur
 alternis et extollitur ac modo in caelum adlevatur, modo
 defertur ad terram. Inperitis ac rudibus nullus praecipita-
 tionis finis est; in Epicureum illud chaos decidunt, inane 70
 sine termino. Est adhuc genus tertium eorum qui sapientiae
 adludunt, quam non quidem contigerunt, in conspectu tamen
 et, ut ita dicam, sub ictu habent: hi non concutiuntur, ne
 defluunt quidem; nondum in sicco, iam in portu sunt. Ergo 75
 cum tam magna sint inter summos imosque discrimina, cum
 medios quoque sequatur fluctus suus, sequatur ingens peri-
 culum ad deteriora redeundi, non debemus occupationibus
 indulgere. Excludendae sunt: si semel intraverint, in locum
 suum alias substituent. Principiis illarum obstemus: melius 80
 non incipient quam desinent. *Val.*

- 2-3 **Hodierno**. . **spectaculi**: "Today I have leisure, thanks not so much to myself but to the show"; **beneficio** means "by the help, aid, support" and is equivalent to the colloquial English "thanks to."
- 5 **hac ipsa fiducia**: "because of this very assurance."
- 7 **eunti**. . **sequenti**: supply *homini*.
- 19 **non unius hominis**: i.e., of more than one opponent.
- 25 **Illis**: i.e., the athletes, *quorum lacertos umerosque miramur* (lines 16-17).
- 31-32 **Peculium**. . **numerant**: "in return for their liberty, they pay the money which they accumulated by depriving their bellies."
- 3 **sphaeromachia**, -ae, *f.*, boxing-match
- 5 **crepo**, -are, **crepui**, **crepitus**, 1, creak
subinde, *adv.*, continually
- 6 **ostium**, -i, *n.*, door
adlevo, 1, lift up, raise
velum, -i, *n.*, curtain
tuto, *adv.*, safely
- 8 **priores**, -um, *m.*, predecessors
- 9 **servio**, 4, be a slave to
assentior, 4 *dep.*, give approval
- 11 **interpellator**, -oris, *m.*, interrupter
secretum, -i, *n.*, solitude
- 12 **excutio**, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake out, drive out
- 14 **ingenium**, -i, *n.*, mind
- 15 **fidelis**, -e, *adj.*, genuine
ludorius, -a, -um, *adj.*, relating to play
- 17 **lacertus**, -i, *m.*, muscle
umerus, -i, *m.*, shoulder
revolvo, -ere, -volvi, -volutus, 3, ponder
- 18 **exercitatio**, -onis, *f.*, training
- 19 **pugnus**, -i, *m.*, fist
pariter, *adv.*, at the same time, together
calx, -cis, *f.*, heel
- 20 **pulvis**, -eris, *m.*, dust
- 21 **madeo**, -ere, **madui**, 2, be wet, drip
- 22 **conroboro (corroboro)**, 1, strengthen
ictus, -us, *m.*, blow
- 23 **conculco**, 1, trample under foot
- 24 **egeo**, -ere, **egui**, 2, be in need of
- 26 **contingo**, -ere, -tigi, -tactus, 3, befall
apparatus, -us, *m.*, equipment
- 27 **inpena**, -ae, *f.*, expense
- 30 **mancipium**, -i, *n.*, slave
sordes, -is, *f.*, filth
- 31 **exuo**, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3, strip off, get rid of
- 34 **arca**, -ae, *f.*, money box
emo, -ere, **emi**, **emptus**, 3, buy
- 35 **coicio (conicio)**, -ere, -ieci, -iectus, 3, throw together, collect, record
- 38 **iugum**, -i, *n.*, yoke
- 40 **vultus**, -us, *m.*, face, expression
- 41 **sollicitudo**, -inis, *f.*, anxiety, trouble
in alto, deep within
- 42 **finco**, -ere, **finxi**, **fictus**, 3, feign

Epistle Eighty
VIRTUE IS WITHIN THE REACH
OF THOSE WHO WISH IT

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Hodierno die non tantum meo beneficio mihi vaco sed spectaculi, quod omnes molestos ad sphaeromachian avocavit. Nemo inrumpet, nemo cogitationem meam inpediet, quae hac ipsa fiducia procedit audacius. Non crepabit subinde ostium, non adlevabitur velum: licebit tuto vadere, quod magis necessarium est per se eunti et suam sequenti viam. Non ergo sequor priores? facio, sed permitto mihi et invenire aliquid et mutare et relinquere; non servio illis, sed assentior. 5

Magnum tamen verbum dixi, qui mihi silentium promittentiam et sine interpellatore secretum: ecce ingens clamor ex stadio perfertur et me non excutit mihi, sed in huius ipsius rei contemplationem transfert. Cogito mecum quam multi corpora exerceant, ingenia quam pauci; quantus ad spectaculum non fidele et lusorium fiat concursus, quanta sit circa artes bonas solitudo; quam inbecilli animo sint quorum lacertos umerosque miramur. Illud maxime revolvo mecum: si corpus perduci exercitatione ad hanc patientiam potest qua et pugnos pariter et calces non unius hominis ferat, qua solem ardentissimum in ferventissimo pulvere sustinens aliquis et sanguine suo madens diem ducat, quanto facilius animus corroborari possit ut fortunae ictus invictus excipiat, ut proiectus, ut conculcatus exurgat. Corpus enim melius eget rebus ut valeat: animus ex se crescit, se ipse alit, se exercet. Illis multo cibo, multa potione opus est, multo oleo, longa denique opera: tibi continget virtus sine apparatu, sine inpensa. Quidquid facere te potest bonum tecum est. Quid tibi opus est ut sis bonus? velle. Quid autem melius potes velle quam eripere te huic servituti quae omnes premit, quam mancipia quoque condicionis extremae et in his sordibus nata omni modo exuere conantur? Peculium suum, quod comparaverunt ventre fraudato, pro capite numerant: tu non concupisces quanticumque ad libertatem pervenire, qui te in illa putas natum? Quid ad arcam tuam respicis? emi non potest. Itaque in tabellas vanum coicitur nomen libertatis, quam nec qui emerunt habent nec qui vendiderunt: tibi des oportet istud bonum, a te petas. Libera te primum metu mortis (illa nobis iugum inponit), deinde metu paupertatis. Si vis scire quam nihil in illa mali sit, compara inter se pauperum et divitum vultus: saepius pauper et fidelius ridet; nulla sollicitudo in alto est; etiam si qua incidit cura, velut nubes levis transit: horum qui felices vocantur hilaritas ficta 40

- 45 *agere felicem*: "to play the part of a happy man."
- 46 *ullo*: supply *exemplo*.
- 50-52 *en.* . *Isthmos*: "Behold, I rule over Argos; Pelops left me a kingdom, where the Isthmus is lashed by the Hellespont and by the Ionian sea." The author of this passage is unknown; Quintilian (9.4.140) quotes it. Seneca wants to stress the point that life, like acting, often causes men to play roles which certainly do not become them. Here an actor who is a meager, poor slave in real life comes on stage playing the part of a mighty king. *Argis.* . *Pelops*: Pelops, ruler of a large part of the Peloponnesus, including the cities of Argos and Mycenae. It is very likely that the role being played by this slave is that of King Atreus, Pelops' son, notorious for his boasting, his cruelty, and his treacherous seizure of power. *ponto.* . *Helles*: the Hellespont, the sea named after Helle, a maiden drowned in that body of water.
- 55 *quod.* . *occides*: the author of this passage is unknown. *quieris*: a syncopated form for *quieveris*; from *quiesco*, -ere, *quievi*, *quietus*, 3, keep quiet.
- 66 *insigni capitis decorum*: "adorned with royal headdress."
- 67 *fasciam solve*: "remove the diadem"; *fascia*, -ae, f., literally means "band" or "bandage."
- 43 *eo*, *adv.*, for that reason, on that account
quidem, *adv.*, indeed
- 44 *interdum*, *adv.*, sometimes
palam, *adv.*, openly
aerumna, -ae, f., trouble
- 45 *exedo*, -ere, -edi, -esus, 3, eat up, consume
- 45 *saepius*, *comp. adv.* (*of saepe*), rather often
- 47 *mimus*, -i, m., mime, drama, farce
- 48 *latus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, broad, wide, proud
- 49 *resupinus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, with head thrown back, i.e., proudly
- 50 *linquo*, -ere, *liqui*, 3, leave
- 53 *modius*, -i, m., measure of grain
denarius, -i, m., denarius, a Roman coin
- 54 *superbus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, proud
inpotens, -entis, *adj.*, arrogant
tumidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, swollen
- 55 *occido*, -ere, -cidi, -casus, 3, fall, die
- 56 *diurnus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, daily
diurnum, -i, n., daily allowance
centunculus, -i, m., small patch or patchwork
- 58 *lectica*, -ae, f., litter
personatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, masked
- 59 *contemno*, -ere, -tempsti, -temptus, 3, scorn
despolio, 1, strip
- 60 *stratum*, -i, n., saddle
venalis, -e, *adj.*, for sale
venalis, -is, m., slave for sale
- 61 *involve*, -ere, -volvi, -volutus, 3, wrap up
mango, -onis, m., slave dealer
- 62 *lenocinium*, -i, n., ornament, finery
- 64 *sive.* . *sive*, *conj.*, if . . or if
crus, *cruris*, n., leg
alligo, 1, bind
brachium, -i, n., arm
- 68 *perpendo*, -ere, -pendi, -pensus, 3, weigh, examine
sepono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, lay aside

est aut gravis et suppurata tristitia, eo quidem gravior
quia interdum non licet palam esse miseros, sed inter aeru-
mnas cor ipsum exedentes necesse est agere felicem. Saepius 45
hoc exemplo mihi utendum est, nec enim ullo efficacius
exprimitur hic humanae vitae mimus, qui nobis partes quas
male agamus adsignat. Ille qui in scaena latus incedit et haec
resupinus dicit,

en impero Argis; regna mihi liquit Pelops, 50
qua ponto ab Helles atque ab Ionio mari
urgetur Isthmos,

servus est, quinque modios accipit et quinque denarios. Ille
qui superbus atque inpotens et fiducia virium tumidus ait,

quod nisi quieris, Menelae, hac dextra occides, 55

diurnum accipit, in centunculo dormit. Idem de istis licet
omnibus dicas quos supra capita hominum supraque turbam
delicatos lectica suspendit: omnium istorum personata
felicitas est. Contemnes illos si despoliaveris. Equum empturus
solvi iubes stratum, detrahis vestimenta venalibus ne qua 60
vitia corporis lateant: hominem involutum aestimas? Man-
gones quidquid est quod displiceat, id aliquo lenocinio
abscondunt, itaque ementibus ornamenta ipsa suspecta sunt:
sive crus alligatum sive brachium aspiceres, nudari iuberet et
ipsum tibi corpus ostendi. Vides illum Scythiae Sarmatiaeve 65
regem insigni capitis decorum? Si vis illum aestimare totum-
que scire qualis sit, fasciam solve: multum mali sub illa latet.
Quid de aliis loquor? si perpendere te voles, sepone pecuniam,
domum, dignitatem, intus te ipse considera: nunc qualis sis
aliis credis. *Vale.* 70

- 5 **aliena opera**: "by the toil of someone else," i.e., by the bearers of his *lectica* or litter.
prosint: the subject of this verb is *itinera*.
- 6-7 **Sunt**. . . **necessariae**: supply *lectiones*.
- 10 **non sine studio tamen**: this seems to be Seneca's warning that any reading, to be profitable, must be accompanied by study. From the form the argument takes in the succeeding sentence, it appears that the word *studio* used with *fatigatum* refers to composition.
- 12 **de stilo dico**: "I'm talking about writing."
- 12-13 **Invicem**. . . **commendandum est**: "Alternately one must go from one to the other"; *invicem*, "by turns," "alternately," is an old accusative which came to be used as an adverb.
- 14 **stilus**. . . **corpus**: "the pen (or writing) may reduce to bodily form."
- 18-19 **liquentia**. . . **cellas**: Vergil, *Aeneid* 1.432-433. When Aeneas and Achates reach Carthage, they marvel at the activity of the inhabitants, who, like busy bees, work constantly to build their newly founded city.
- 20 **De illis**: i.e., the bees.
- 22 **Quibusdam**: supply *scriptoribus*.
- 23 **illis**: supply *apibus* (dative of possession). The infinitive clause is the subject of *placet*.
- 28 **animal**: here in the sense of "creature," which includes insects.
- 29 **in**. . . **verti**: "is changed into this substance" (i.e., honey); the subject of the infinitive *verti* is the following relative clause.
- 2 **segnitia**, -ae, *f.*, sluggishness
excutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake out
valetudo, -inis, *f.*, health
- 3 **prosum**, **prodesse**, **profui**, *irr.*, be useful to
- 4 **piger**, -gra, -grum, *adj.*, lazy
- 6 **lectio**, -onis, *f.*, reading
- 9 **alo**, -ere, **alui**, **altus** (**alitus**), 3, nourish
- 10 **reficio**, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, restore
tantum, *adv.*, only
- 11 **contristo**, 1, sadden, depress
- 12 **exhaurio**, -ire, -hausi, -haustus, 4, drain
diluo, -ere, -lui, -lutus, 3, dilute
- 14 **apis**, -is, *f.*, bee
- 15 **vagor**, 1 *dep.*, wander
mel, **mellis**, *n.*, honey
- 16 **carpo**, -ere, **carpsi**, **carptus**, 3, pluck
dispono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, arrange
- 17 **favus**, -i, *m.*, honeycomb
digero, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, distribute
- 19 **stipo**, 1, pack close, crowd
- 20 **constat**, *impers.*, it is agreed
sucus, -i, *m.*, juice
- 21 **protinus**, *adv.*, at once
sapor, -oris, *m.*, flavor, savor
- 22 **proprietas**, -atis, *f.*, property
spiritus, -us, *m.*, breath
- 24 **arundo**, -inis, *f.*, sugar-cane
- 25 **ros**, **roris**, *m.*, dew
caelum, -i, *n.*, climate
umor, -oris, *m.*, moisture, secretion
pinguis, -e, *adj.*, rich
- 27 **contraho**, -ere, -traxi, -tractus, 3, draw together, collect
- 28 **conditura**, -ac, *f.*, preservation
- 29 **dispositio**, -onis, *f.*, arrangement
tener, -era, -erum, *adj.*, tender
- 30 **virens**, -entis, *p. adj.* (*of vireo*), green
decerpo, -ere, -cerpsi, -cerptus, 3, pluck, cull

Epistle Eighty-four
ON INTEGRATING KNOWLEDGE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Itinera ista quae segnitiam mihi excutiunt et valetudini
meae prodesse iudico et studiis. Quare valetudinem adiuvent
vides: cum pigrum me et negligentem corporis litterarum
amor faciat, aliena opera exerceor. Studio quare prosint 5
indicabo: a lectionibus <non> recessi. Sunt autem, ut existimo,
necessariae, primum ne sim me uno contentus, deinde ut,
cum ab aliis quaesita cognovero, tum et de inventis iudicem
et cogitem de inveniendis. Alit lectio ingenium et studio 10
fatigatum, non sine studio tamen, reficit. Nec scribere tantum
nec tantum legere debemus: altera res contristabit vires et
exhauriet (de stilo dico), altera solvet ac diluet. Invicem hoc
et illo commendandum est et alterum altero temperandum, ut
quidquid lectione collectum est stilus redigat in corpus. Apes,
ut aiunt, debemus imitari, quae vagantur et flores ad mel 15
faciendum idoneos carpunt, deinde quidquid attulere dis-
ponunt ac per favos digerunt et, ut Vergilius noster ait,

liquentia mella
stipant et dulci distendunt nectare cellas.

De illis non satis constat utrum sucum ex floribus ducant qui 20
protinus mel sit, an quae collegerunt in hunc saporem mixtura
quadam et proprietate spiritus sui mutant. Quibusdam enim
placet non faciendi mellis scientiam esse illis sed colligendi.
Aiunt inveniri apud Indos mel in arundinum foliis, quod aut
ros illius caeli aut ipsius arundinis umor dulcis et pinguior 25
gignat; in nostris quoque herbis vim eandem sed minus
manifestam et notabilem poni, quam persequatur et contra-
hat animal huic rei genitum. Quidam existimant conditura
et dispositione in hanc qualitatem verti quae ex tenerrimis
virentium florentiumque decerpserint, non sine quodam, ut 30
ita dicam, fermento, quo in unum diversa coalescunt.

- 44 *ne aliena sint*: "that they may not remain (be) foreign matter" to us or in us.
- 55-56 *omnibus*. . *inpressit*: "has impressed his own form on all things which he drew from whatever model he chose."
- 58 *Aliqua illic*: supply *vox*; *illic*, i.e., in the chorus.
- 35 *adhibeo*, -ere, -hibui, -hibitus, 2, apply
ingenium, -i, *n.*, nature
facultas, -atis, *f.*, power
- 36 *libamentum*, -i, *n.*, libation
confundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, mix together
unde, *adv.*, whence
- 39 *quamdiu*, *adv.*, as long as
- 40 *perduro*, 1, last, hold out
innato, 1, flow
- 41 *demum*, *adv.*, at last
- 43 *praesto*, -are, -stiti, -stitus (-status), 1, guarantee
haurio, -ire, hausi, haustus, 4, drain, take in
- 44 *concoquo*, -ere, -coxi, -coctus, 3, digest
alioqui, *adv.*, otherwise
- 45 *adsentior*, -sentiri, -sensus, 4 *dep.*, welcome
- 47 *dissideo*, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, 2, be different
- 48 *comprendo*, -ere, -prendi, -prensus, 3, comprise, fasten together
- 49 *tantum*, *adv.*, only
- 51 *quomodo*, *adv.*, in what manner, even as
- 52 *imago*, -inis, *f.*, portrait
- 54 *aliquando*, *adv.*, sometimes
ne. . *quidem*, *not.* . . *even*
- 57 *conpeto*, -ere, -petivi (-petii), -petitus, 3, come together
quam, *adv.*, how
- 59 *accedo*, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, be added
- 60 *tibia*, -ae, *f.*, flute
- 62 *commissio*, -onis, *f.*, entertainment
- 63 *olim*, *adv.*, once
via, -ae, *f.*, aisle
- 64 *ordo*, -inis, *m.*, row
cavea, -ae, *f.*, theater
aeneator, -oris, *m.*, trumpeter
cingo, -ere, cingi, cinctus, 3, surround
pulpitum, -i, *n.*, stage
- 65 *tibia*, -ae, *f.*, flute
organum, -i, *n.*, musical instrument
concentus, -us, *m.*, harmony
- 68 *conspiro*, 1, breathe together, unite, blend

Sed ne ad aliud quam de quo agitur abducatur, nos quoque
 has artes debemus imitari et quaecumque ex diversa lectione
 congressimus separare (melius enim distincta servantur), deinde
 adhibita ingenii nostri cura et facultate in unum saporem 35
 varia illa libamenta confundere, ut etiam si apparuerit unde
 sumptum sit, aliud tamen esse quam unde sumptum est
 appareat. Quod in corpore nostro videmus sine ulla opera
 nostra facere naturam (alimenta quae accepimus, quamdiu
 in sua qualitate perdurant et solida innatant stomacho, onera 40
 sunt; at cum ex eo quod erant mutata sunt, tunc demum in
 vires et in sanguinem transeunt), idem in his quibus aluntur
 ingenia praestemus, ut quaecumque hausimus non patiamur
 integra esse, ne aliena sint. Concoquamus illa; alioqui in
 memoriam ibunt, non in ingenium. Adsentiamur illis fideliter 45
 et nostra faciamus, ut unum quiddam fiat ex multis, sicut
 unus numerus fit ex singulis cum minores summas et dissi-
 dentes computatio una comprehendit. Hoc faciat animus noster:
 omnia quibus est adiutus abscondat, ipsum tantum ostendat
 quod effecit. Etiam si cuius in te comparebit similitudo quem 50
 admiratio tibi altius fixerit, similem esse te volo quomodo
 filium, non quomodo imaginem: imago res mortua est. 'Quid
 ergo? non intelletur cuius imiteris orationem? cuius argu-
 mentationem? cuius sententias?' Puto aliquando ne intellegi
 quidem posse, Si magni vir ingenii omnibus quae ex quo 55
 voluit exemplari traxit formam suam inpressit, ut in unitatem
 illa competant. Non vides quam multorum vocibus chorus
 constet? unus tamen ex omnibus redditur. Aliqua illic acuta
 est, aliqua gravis, aliqua media; accedunt viris feminae, inter-
 ponuntur tibiae: singulorum illic latent voces, omnium 60
 apparent. De choro dico quem veteres philosophi noverant:
 in commissionibus nostris plus cantorum est quam in theatris
 olim spectatorum fuit. Cum omnes vias ordo canentium
 implevit et cavea aeneatoribus cincta est et ex pulpito omne
 tibiarum genus organorumque consonuit, fit concentus ex 65
 dissonis. Talem animum esse nostrum volo: multae in illo
 artes, multa praecepta sint, multarum aetatum exempla,
 sed in unum conspirata.

71 **Hanc**: "her," i.e., reason.

75-76 **tam**. . .**secum**: "it is as anxious to see no one ahead of itself as [to see] no one [on a par] with itself", *solicita est* employs the same construction as is employed after verbs of fearing.

77 **duplici**: supply *invidia*.

77-78 **si is**. . .**et invidet**: "if he who is envied also feels envy." Verbs like *invideo* that govern the dative case become impersonal in the passive and the dative is retained; *cui invidetur* means literally "to whom it is envied."

79-80 **multum**. . .**intraveris**: "they impose [upon you] many insults when you enter, more when you have entered." The subjects of *habent* are *domus* and *limina*; *ut intres* and *cum intraveris* are used in the sense of "whenever." The subjunctive is frequently used in the second person singular to indicate an indefinite subject ("you" means "anyone").

81-82 **in praerupto**. . .**in lubrico**: adjectives used as substantives, "on a precipice. . .on slippery ground."

87 **dignitatis**: to be taken with *fastigium*, not with *via*.

88 **libet**: supply *tibi*.

88 **cui**. . .**summisit**: "to which Fortune has surrendered herself." I.e., Fortune has no control over the wise man, that man who has reached the height of dignity (*fastigium dignitatis*).

88-89 **omnia**. . .**aspicies**: "you will indeed see beneath you (i.e., at your feet) all things which are regarded as most lofty [by the crowd]."

69 **intentio**, -onis, *f.*, effort

70 **vito**, 1, avoid

72 **iamdudum**, *adv.*, at once

74 **mollio**, 4, soften
ambitus, -us, *m.*, canvassing
for office

75 **tumidus**, -a, -um, *adj.*,
swollen

ventosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, like
the wind, fickle

78 **intueor**, -eri, -tuitus, 2 *dep.*,
gaze upon

79 **rixa**, -ae, *f.*, quarrel, brawl
limen, -inis, *n.*, threshold

80 **praetereo**, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus,
irr., go past, pass by

81 **gradus**, -us, *m.*, step
adgestus, -us, *m.*, overcrowding
suspensus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of*
suspendo), hanging,
endangered

82 **istic**, *adv.*, there

potius, *adv.*, rather

83 **simul**, *adv.*, at the same time

84 **emineo**, -ere, -ui, 2, stand out

85 **quamvis**, *adv.*, although

pusillus, -a, -um, *adj.*, small

86 **trames**, -itis, *m.*, path

87 **confragosus**, -a, -um, *adj.*,
broken, rough

fastigium, -i, *n.*, height
conscendo, -ere, -scendi,

-scensus, 3, ascend

88 **vertex**, -icis, *m.*, height

libet, -ere, libuit, *impers.*, 2, it
is pleasing

'Quomodo' inquis 'hoc effici poterit?' Adsidua intentione:
si nihil egerimus nisi ratione suadente, nihil vitaverimus nisi ratione suadente. Hanc si audire volueris, dicet tibi: relinque ista iamdudum ad quae discurritur; relinque divitias, aut periculum possidentium aut onus; relinque corporis atque animi voluptates, molliunt et enervant; relinque ambitum, tumida res est, vana, ventosa, nullum habet terminum, tam sollicita est ne quem ante se videat quam ne secum, laborat invidia et quidem duplici. Vides autem quam miser sit si is cui invidetur et invidet. Intueris illas potentium domos, illa tumultuosa rixa salutantium limina? multum habent contumeliarum ut intres, plus cum intraveris. Praeteri istos gradus divitum et magno adgestu suspensa vestibula: non in praerupto tantum istic stabis sed in lubrico. Huc potius te ad sapientiam derige, tranquillissimasque res eius et simul amplissimas pete. Quaecumque videntur eminere in rebus humanis, quamvis pusilla sint et comparatione humillimorum exstant, per difficiles tamen et arduos tramites adeuntur. Confragosa in fastigium dignitatis via est; at si conscendere hunc verticem libet, cui se fortuna summisit, omnia quidem sub te quae pro excelsissimis habentur aspicias, sed tamen venies ad summa per planum. *Vale.*

70

75

80

85

90

- 4 **nos debere**: subject of *haberetur*.
- 5 **pro certo haberetur**: the phrase *pro certo habere* means "to regard as certain."
- 6-7 **cuius. . . omnibus**: "[the gods] have given to none the knowledge of philosophy [but] to all the potential [of acquiring such knowledge]."
- 10-11 **non obvenit**: "she does not accidentally fall to our lot."
- 12-13 **beneficiaria res**: "a thing bestowed as a favor," i.e., something acquired without effort on the part of the recipient.
- 18 **Quod**: i.e., *consortium*.
- 20 **fuit**: in the sense of "became."
- 20-21 **desierunt. . . propria**: this paradox indicates that one is impoverished when one becomes greedy for everything. Supply *omnia* before *propria*.
- 25 **praecedit**: "goes before as leader," just as the preceding *praesunt* means "are before or above as leader." The animal kingdom is a favorite source of illustrations for all who "would follow nature as a guide."
- 28 **pro maximo**: the preposition here means "takes the place of" or "is in the place of." i.e., among men, excellence of character takes the place of extreme size (*maximo*).
- Animo**: ablative of cause, "for. . .," "because of. . ."
- 31 **potest**: supply the infinitive *facere* of which *quantum vult* will be the direct object. The same infinitive is to be supplied with the following *posse* and with *debet* also.
- 33 **Posidonius**: Posidonius of Rhodes (c. 135-51 B.C.), Stoic philosopher, scientist, historian, and pupil of Panaetius (director of the Stoic School in Athens). Posidonius acquired a renowned reputation for his brilliant writings, only fragments of which remain. He was visited in Rhodes by Romans of distinction, including Cicero and Pompey.
- manus**: "bands" or "tribes," which the wise ruler restrained.
- 38 **regnum**: "royal authority," "despotism," "tyranny."
- 39 **per. . . posse**: lit., "through whom he had begun to have power"; we would say "from whom he had received his power."
- 12 **suspicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus, 3**, look up to
- 14 **verum, -i, n.**, truth
- 15 **comitatus, -us, m.**, train, band, retinue
consero, -ere, -serui, -sertus, 3, connect, join together
- 16 **cohaereo, -ere, -haesi, -haesus, 2**, cling together
- 17 **penes, prep. w. acc.**, with, in the possession or power of
consortium, -i, n., fellowship
- 18 **aliquamdiu, adv.**, for some time
- 20 **desino, -ere, -sivi (-siii), -situs, 3**, cease
- 23 **arbitrium, -i, n.**, judgment
- 24 **potior, -ius, comp. adj. (of potis)**, more powerful
deterior, -ius, comp. adj., inferior, weaker
- 26 **armentum, -i, n.**, herd
torus, -i, m., muscle
- 27 **mas, maris, m.**, male
- 28 **rector, -oris, m.**, ruler
- 30 **tuto, adv.**, safely
- 32 **perhibeo, -ere, -hibui, -hibitus, 2**, assert, maintain
- 33 **contineo, -ere, -tinui, -tentus, 2**, hold in check, curb, subdue
- 34 **tueor, -eri, tuitus, 2 dep.**, guard, protect
- 37 **arceo, -ere, arcui, 2**, keep off
- 39 **experior, -iri, expertus, 4 dep.**, try
- 40 **in, prep. w. acc.**, to, towards, regarding, for
- 41 **minor, 1 dep.**, threaten
pareo, -ere, parui, paritus, 2, obey
- 42 **subrepto, -ere, -repsi, -reptus, 3**, creep in

Epistle Ninety
WISDOM, SKILL, AND THE GOLDEN AGE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quis dubitare, mi Lucili, potest quin deorum immortalium munus sit quod vivimus, philosophiae quod bene vivimus? Itaque tanto plus huic nos debere quam dis quanto maius beneficium est bona vita quam vita pro certo haberetur, nisi ipsam philosophiam di tribuissent; cuius scientiam nulli dederunt, facultatem omnibus. Nam si hanc quoque bonum vulgare fecissent et prudentes nasceremur, sapientia quod in se optimum habet perdidisset, inter fortuita non esse. Nunc enim hoc in illa pretiosum atque magnificum est, quod non obvenit, quod illam sibi quisque debet, quod non ab alio petitur. Quid haberes quod in philosophia suspiceres si beneficiaria res esset? Huius opus unum est de divinis humanisque verum invenire; ab hac numquam recedit religio, pietas, iustitia et omnis alius comitatus virtutum consortarum et inter se cohaerentium. Haec docuit colere divina, humana diligere, et penes deos imperium esse, inter homines consortium. Quod aliquamdiu inviolatum mansit, antequam societatem avaritia distrahit et paupertatis causa etiam iis quos fecit locupletissimos fuit; desierunt enim omnia possidere, dum volunt propria. Sed primi mortalium quique ex his geniti naturam incorrupti sequebantur eundem habebant et ducem et legem, commissi melioris arbitrio; natura est enim potioribus deteriora summittere. Mutis quidem gregibus aut maxima corpora praesunt aut vehementissima: non praecedit armenta degener taurus, sed qui magnitudine ac toris ceteros mares vicit; elephantorum gregem excelsissimus ducit: inter homines pro maximo est optimum. Animo itaque rector eligebatur, ideoque summa felicitas erat gentium in quibus non poterat potentior esse nisi melior; tuto enim quantum vult potest qui se nisi quod debet non putat posse.

Illo ergo saeculo quod aureum perhibent penes sapientes fuisse regnum Posidonius iudicat. Hi continebant manus et infirmiore a validioribus tuebantur, suadebant dissuadebantque et utilia atque inutilia monstrabant; horum prudentia ne quid deesset suis providebat, fortitudo pericula arcebat, beneficentia augebat ornabatque subiectos. Officium erat imperare, non regnum. Nemo quantum posset adversus eos experiebatur per quos coeperat posse, nec erat cuiquam aut animus in iniuriam aut causa, cum bene imperanti bene pareretur, nihilque rex maius minari male parentibus posset quam ut abiret e regno. Sed postquam subreptibus vitiis

- 44 **tulere: fero** is the regular word in Latin for introducing a law.
Solon: Solon (c. 640 – c. 558 B.C.). renowned Athenian statesman, poet, and lawgiver, one of the seven wise men.
- 46 **Lycurgum:** Lycurgus, famous legendary Spartan lawgiver of the ninth century B.C. He is said to have framed the constitution responsible for the peculiar political system which grew up at Sparta.
- 47 **Zaleuci. . . Charondae:** Zalcucus of Magna Graecia (7th cent. B.C.) and Charondas of Sicily (6th cent. B.C.) were famous lawgivers and disciples of Pythagoras.
- 48 **atrio:** the atrium was the large reception room of the Roman house. Here it means the “waiting or consulting room” of the lawyers.
- 48 **Pythagorae:** see *Ep.* 52, line 58.
- 50 **per Italiam Graeciae:** one way of referring to Magna Graecia in Latin.
- 53 **sparsos:** supply *homines*.
- 56 **tectorum supra tecta:** “story on story.”
- 57 **vivaria piscium:** “fishponds,” constructed so that the fastidious might have their fish no matter what the weather might be. Otherwise, the storms of winter might interfere seriously with menus.
 in hoc: “for the purpose”; *hoc* is accusative.
- 61–62 **Quid. . . dare:** English idiom expects a *quam* (“than”) in this form of statement.
- 62–63 **cum tanto. . . periculo:** i.e., of falling down.
- 63 **suspendit:** an architectural term meaning “build upon arches.”
- 64 **enim:** ironical in tone.
- 66 **Ista:** i.e., *decidere et. . . scindere*.
- 68 **designata:** “the parts marked out” to show where the wood was to be cut.
- 69 **nam. . . lignum:** Vergil, *Georgics* 1.144. In the first book of the *Georgics*, Vergil celebrated and explained to farmers the “arts” of tilling the soil; nowadays skillful methods and labor are necessary, whereas, in the primitive Golden Age life was much simpler and nature yielded her bounties without requiring men to toil. Thus, in those early days, men did not use metal saws to cut wood fancily but required merely the simple wooden wedge to split wood.
- 76 **sed:** brackets indicate that Reynolds follows Axelson who omitted this word from the text.

- 48 **consultus, -i, m.,** lawyer
- 49 **secessus, -us, m.,** retreat
- disco, -ere, didici, 3,** learn
- 51 **hactenus, adv.,** up to this point
- adsentior, 4 dep.,** agree with
- 52 **cotidianus, -a, -um, adj.,**
 daily, in *cotidiano*, daily
- 53 **fabrica, -ae, f.,** artisan’s trade
- spargo, -ere, sparsi, sparsus, 3,** scatter
- casa, -ae, f.,** hut
- tego, -ere, texi, tectus, 3,**
 cover, protect
- 54 **suffodio, -ere, -fodi, -fossus, 3,** dig out, excavate
- exedo, -ere, -edi, -esus, 3,** eat up, consume, destroy
- 55 **molior, 4 dep.,** build
- 56 **machinatio, -onis, f.,**
 mechanism, device
- 58 **gula, -ae, f.,** gullet, throat, gluttony
- quamvis, adv.,** however much
- 60 **sagino, 1,** fatten
- 61 **clavis, -is, f.,** key
- sera, -ae, f.,** bolt
- 63 **inmineo, -ere, 2,** hang down over
- parum, adv.,** little, too little, not enough
- 67 **quadratum, -i, n.,** square
- tignum, -i, n.,** timber, log
- serra, -ae, f.,** saw
- 68 **trabs, trabis, f.,** beam
- scindo, -ere, scidi, scissus, 3,** cut
- 69 **cuneus, -i, m.,** wedge
- fissilis, -e, adj.,** that can be split
- lignum, -i, n.,** wood
- 70 **tectum, -i, n.,** roof
- cenatio, -onis, f.,** dining-hall
- epulum, -i, n.,** public banquet
- 71 **abies, -etis, f.,** fir
- 72 **vicus, -i, m.,** street
- lacunar, -aris, n.,** panelled ceiling
- 73 **furca, -ae, f.,** fork-shaped pole
- utrimque, adv.,** on both sides
- fulcio, -ire, fulsi, fultus, 4,**
 prop up, support
- 74 **spisso, 1,** thicken, pack closely
- ramale, -is, n.,** twig, branch
- proclive, -is, n.,** slope
- 75 **imber, imbris, m.,** rain
- quamvis, adv.,** however
- 76 **culmus, -i, m.,** straw

in tyrannidem regna conversa sunt, opus esse legibus coepit,
 quas et ipsas inter initia tulere sapientes. Solon, qui Athenas
 aequo iure fundavit, inter septem fuit sapientia notos; 45
 Lycurgum si eadem aetas tulisset, sacro illi numero accessisset
 octavus. Zaleuci leges Charondaeque laudantur; hi non in
 foro nec in consultorum atrio, sed in Pythagorae tacito illo
 sanctoque secessu didicerunt iura quae florenti tunc Siciliae
 et per Italiam Graeciae ponerent. 50

Hactenus Posidonio adsentior: artes quidem a philosophia
 inventas quibus in cotidiano vita utitur non concesserim, nec
 illi fabricae adseram gloriam. 'Illa' inquit 'sparsos et aut casis
 tectos aut aliqua rupe suffossa aut exesae arboris trunco docuit
 tecta moliri.' Ego vero philosophiam iudico non magis ex- 55
 cogitasse has machinationes tectorum supra tecta surgentium
 et urbium urbes prementium quam vivaria piscium in hoc
 clausa ut tempestatum periculum non adiret gula et quam-
 vis acerrime pelago saeviente haberet luxuria portus suos in
 quibus distinctos piscium greges saginaret. Quid ais? philo- 60
 sophia homines docuit habere clavem et seram? Quid aliud
 erat avaritiae signum dare? Philosophia haec cum tanto
 habitantium periculo imminetia tecta suspendit? Parum
 enim erat fortuitis tegi et sine arte et sine difficultate naturale
 invenire sibi aliquod receptaculum. Mihi crede, felix illud 65
 saeculum ante architectos fuit, ante tectores. Ista nata sunt
 iam nascente luxuria, in quadratum tigna decidere et serra
 per designata currente certa manu trabem scindere;

nam primi cuneis scindebant fissile lignum.

Non enim tecta cenationi epulum recepturae parabantur, 70
 nec in hunc usum pinus aut abies deferebatur longo vehi-
 culorum ordine vicis intrementibus, ut ex illa lacunaria auro
 gravia penderent. Furcae utrimque suspensae fulciebant
 casam; spissatis ramalibus ac fronde congesta et in proclive
 disposita decursus imbribus quamvis magnis erat. Sub his 75
 tectis habitare [sed] securi: culmus liberus textit, sub mar-
 more atque auro servitus habitat.

- 79 **isto**. .*modo*: lit., "in that manner." We would say "according to that kind of argument or reasoning."
- 81–82 **tunc**. .*saltus*: Vergil, *Georgics* 1.139–140. Men after the fall from the Golden Age had to work to capture their food, learning how to hunt with hounds, to set traps, to smear twigs with bird-lime (a sticky substance made from holly or mistletoe that captured small birds). Seneca contends that it was not intellectual or philosophic wisdom (*sapientia*) that taught men these tricks, but necessity, skillfulness, and shrewdness (*sagacitas*).
- 82 **inventum**: supply *est*.
- 84 **sapientes fuisse**: supply the words *quod indicat* from the previous sentence.
- 85–86 **tellus**. .*fudisset*: "the earth, having melted the veins [of ore] lying on the surface had poured [them] forth."
- 86–87 **tales**. .*quales colunt*: "such men. . .as are concerned with (or interested in)."
- 90–91 **corpore**. .*spectante*: Seneca is referring to the Platonic concept (*Republic* 586) that man's upright posture is more suited to contemplate heavenly than earthly affairs.
- 92 **facilis**: this word sometimes means "easy-going" and is followed by an ablative of specification, as here, or by *in* with the ablative.
- 94 **Diogenen**. .*Daedalum*: Seneca again distinguishes between *sagacitas* and *sapientia*. Daedalus, on the one hand, is the archetype of "ingenuity," the legendary Athenian inventor and craftsman, said to have created the wedge, saw, ax, potter's wheel, and ship's sails. He is most renowned for having created the famous Cretan Labyrinth to incarcerate the monstrous Minotaur, half bull, half man. Diogenes of Sinope (c. 400–325 B.C.), on the other hand, was an early Cynic philosopher, noted for his austere life of simplicity, abstinence, and self-control. The symbol of his extreme self-abnegation was the famous earthenware tub in which he was reputed to have lived.
- 97 **cum**: not found in the manuscripts but supplied by Baehrens.
- 102–103 **versatilia**. .*laquearia*. .*coagmentat*: Seneca's description here of such luxurious excesses as the movable panelled ceiling recalls the rotating roof in the dining-hall of Nero's Golden House (Suetonius, *Nero* 31) as well as the banquet hall of Trimalchio in Petronius (*Satyricon* 60).
- 106 **posse nos habitare**: a verb of saying must be supplied before this and the following infinitive clauses.

- 78 **ferramentum**, -i, *n.*, tool
- 79 **fabrilis**, -e, *adj.*, mechanical
- 81 **laqueus**, -i, *m.*, snare, trap
- viscum, -i, *n.*, bird-lime
- 82 **saltus**, -us, *m.*, woods
- 85 **aduro**, -ere, -ussi, -ustus, 3, scorch
- 87 **ne**. .*quidem*, not. .even
- 88 **malleus**, -i, *m.*, hammer
- 89 **forceps**, -cipis, *m.* and *f.*, tongs
- 92 **victus**, -us, *m.*, manner of life, way of living
- quidni**, *adv.*, why not?
- 93 **expeditus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *expedio*), unimpeded
- convenit**, *impers.*, it is fitting, becoming, appropriate
- 94 **uter, utra, utrum**, *adj.*, which of the two
- 95 **comminiscor**, -i, *mentus*, 3 *dep.*, invent
- 96 **protinus**, *adv.*, immediately
- eximo**, -ere, -emi, -emptus, 3, take out
- 97 **perula**, -ae, *f.*, little wallet, pocket
- calix**, -icis, *m.*, cup
- obiurgatio**, -onis, *f.*, chiding, reproving
- 98 **supervacuum**, -a, -um, *adj.*, superfluous
- sarcina**, -ae, *f.*, baggage
- complico**, -are, -avi (-plicui), -atus (-plicitus), 1, fold up
- 99 **dolium**, -i, *n.*, tub
- cubito**, 1, lie down
- 101 **crocum**, -i, *n.*, and **crocus**, -i, *m.*, saffron
- latens**, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *lateo*), hidden, concealed
- fistula**, -ae, *f.*, pipe
- euripus**, -i, *m.*, canal
- 102 **siccus**, 1, drain dry, empty
- versatilis**, -e, *adj.*, movable, revolving
- cenatio**, -onis, *f.*, dining-room
- 103 **laquear**, -aris, *n.*, panel
- coagmento**, 1, join, cement
- subinde**, *adv.*, continually
- 104 **succedo**, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, enter, approach
- fericulum**, -i, *n.*, course
- 106 **marmorarius**, -i, *m.*, worker in marble
- 107 **faber, fabri**, *m.*, carpenter, engineer
- 108 **serica**, -orum, *n.*, Seric (Chinese) garments, silks
- 109 **summus**, -i, *n.*, surface
- 111 **cocus**, -i, *m.*, cook

In illo quoque dissentio a Posidonio, quod ferramenta
fabrilia excogitata a sapientibus viris iudicat; isto enim modo
dicat licet sapientes fuisse per quos 80

tunc laqueis captare feras et fallere visco
inventum et magnos canibus circumdare saltus.

Omnia enim ista sagacitas hominum, non sapientia invenit.
In hoc quoque dissentio, sapientes fuisse qui ferri metalla
et aeris invenerint, cum incendio silvarum adusta tellus in 85
summo venas iacentis liquefacta fudisset: ista tales inveniunt
quales colunt. Ne illa quidem tam subtilis mihi quaestio
videtur quam Posidonio, utrum malleus in usu esse prius an
forcipes coeperint. Utraque invenit aliquis excitati ingenii,
acuti, non magni nec elati, et quidquid aliud corpore incur- 90
vato et animo humum spectante quaerendum est. Sapiens
facilis victu fuit. Quidni? cum hoc quoque sacculo esse quam
expeditissimus cupiat. Quomodo, oro te, convenit ut et
Diogenem mireris et Daedalum? Uter ex his sapiens tibi
videtur? qui serram commentus est, an ille qui, cum vidisset 95
puerum cava manu bibentem aquam, fregit protinus exem-
ptum e perula calicem <cum> hac obiurgatione sui: 'quamdiu
homo stultus supervacuas sarcinas habui!', qui se conplucit
in dolio et in eo cubitavit? Hodie utrum tandem sapien- 100
torem putas qui invenit quemadmodum in immensam altitu-
dinem crocum latentibus fistulis exprimat, qui euripos subito
aquarum impetu implet aut siccatur et versatilia cenationum
laquearia ita coagmentat ut subinde alia facies atque alia
succedat et totiens tecta quotiens fericula mutantur, an eum 105
qui et aliis et sibi hoc monstrat, quam nihil nobis natura
durum ac difficile imperaverit, posse nos habitare sine mar-
morario ac fabro, posse nos vestitos esse sine commercio
sericorum, posse nos habere usibus nostris necessaria si con-
tenti fuerimus iis quae terra posuit in summo? Quem si 110
audire humanum genus voluerit, tam supervacuum sciet
sibi cocum esse quam militem.

- 113 **Simplici cura:** ablative of price translated by "of," "with." *Consto* occurs frequently in Latin as little more than the verb *to be*.
- 114 **in deliciis laboratur:** "toil is expended on luxuries." The passive voice is sometimes employed for brief and compact expression.
- 115 **districtos:** a participial adjective in agreement with an understood *nos*.
- 120 **hodieque:** "even today"; *-que* is here used in the sense of *et*, meaning "even," "also."
- 121 **murum:** genitive plural of *mus*.
- 123 **de:** brackets indicate Reynolds' desire to omit this word from the text.
- 144 **contraria:** i.e., things which fight actively against the healthful and the normal.
- 145-146 **circitatur. . . strepit:** "is belabored and deafened"; the two verbs suggest that peddlers selling their wares fill the city with shouting and noise.
- 113 **expeditus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of expedio),** easy
- 117 **pellis, -is, f.,** skin
- 118 **quco, -ire, quivi (quii), quitus, 4,** bc able
- cortex, -icis, m.,** bark
- 118 **plerique, -aeque, -aque, adj.,** very many
- 120 **consero, -ere, -serui, -sertus, 3,** join together
- tergum, -i, n.,** skin
- 121 **vulpes, -is, f.,** fox
- induo, -ere, -dui, -dutus, 3,** clothe
- mus, muris, c.,** mouse
- mollis, -e, adj.,** soft
- 122 **quilibet, quae-, quid-, indef. pron.,** any
- virgeus, -a, -um, adj.,** made of twigs or rods
- cratis, -is, f.,** wicker-work, hurdle
- 123 **texo, -ere, texui, textus, 3,** weave
- oblino, -ere, -levi, -litus, 3,** smear
- lutum, -i, n.,** mud
- stipula, -ae, f.,** straw, stubble
- 124 **opcrio, -ire, -ui, -ertus, 4,** cover
- fastigium, -i, n.,** roof
- pluvia, -ae, f.,** rain
- devexum, -i, n.,** slope
- 125 **labor, -i, lapsus, 3 dep.,** fall, fall down
- 127 **abdo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3,** hide, conceal
- 128 **excavatus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of excavo),** hollowed out
- specus, -us, m.,** cave
- 129 **defossus, -us, m.,** pit, dug-out
- nimius, -a, -um, adj.,** excessive
- 131 **humus, -i, f.,** soil, earth
- 132 **actus, -us, m.,** part, role
- 134 **aegre, adv.,** painfully
- 136 **fastidium, -i, n.,** loathing, disdain
- 137 **fomentum, -i, n.,** warm application
- 138 **obvius, -a, -um, adj.,** at hand, easy to obtain
- modus, -i, m.,** measure, limit
- 139 **prout, conj.,** in proportion as
- 141 **descisco, -ere, -scivi (-scii), -scitus, 3,** free one's self from, revolt from
- 142 **ingenium, -i, n.,** wit
- 143 **supervacuum, -a, -um, adj.,** superfluous
- 144 **novissime, superl. adv.,** lastly

Illi sapientes fuerunt aut certe sapientibus similes quibus
 expedita erat tutela corporis. Simplici cura constant neces-
 saria: in delicias laboratur. Non desiderabis artifices: sequere
 naturam. Illa noluit esse districtos; ad quaecumque nos 115
 cogebat instruxit. 'Frigus intolerabilest corpori nudo.' Quid
 ergo? non pelles ferarum et aliorum animalium a frigore satis
 abundeque defendere queunt? non corticibus arborum plerae-
 que gentes tegunt corpora? non avium plumae in usum vestis
 conseruntur? non hodieque magna Scytharum pars tergis 120
 vulpium induitur ac murum, quae tactu mollia et inpenetra-
 bilia ventis sunt? Quid ergo? non quilibet virgeam cratem
 texuerunt manu et vili obliverunt luto, deinde [de] stipula
 aliisque silvestribus operuere fastigium et pluviis per devexa
 labentibus hiemem transiere securi? 'Opus est tamen calorem 125
 solis aestivi umbra crassiore propellere.' Quid ergo? non vetu-
 stas multa abdidit loca quae vel iniuria temporis vel alio quo-
 libet casu excavata in specum recesserunt? Quid ergo? non in
 defosso latent Syrticae gentes quibusque propter nimios solis
 ardores nullum tegimentum satis repellendis caloribus soli- 130
 dum est nisi ipsa arens humus? Non fuit tam iniqua natura
 ut, cum omnibus aliis animalibus facilem actum vitae daret,
 homo solus non posset sine tot artibus vivere; nihil durum
 ab illa nobis imperatum est, nihil aegre quaerendum, ut
 possit vita produci. Ad parata nati sumus: nos omnia nobis 135
 difficilia facilius fastidio fecimus. Tecta tegimenta que et
 fomenta corporum et cibi et quae nunc ingens negotium facta
 sunt obvia erant et gratuita et opera levi parabilia; modus
 enim omnium prout necessitas erat: nos ista pretiosa, nos 140
 mira, nos magnis multisque conquirenda artibus fecimus.
 Sufficit ad id natura quod poscit. A natura luxuria descivit,
 quae cotidie se ipsa incitat et tot saeculis crescit et ingenio
 adiuvat vitia. Primo supervacua coepit concupiscere, inde
 contraria, novissime animum corpori addixit et illius deser- 145
 vire libidini iussit. Omnes istae artes quibus aut circitatur

- 146 **negotium gerunt**: "carry on the business."
 150 **infractos**: "broken," "weakened," comparable, no doubt, to our "effeminate."
 153-162 **Incredibilest.** . . in quo: this is a difficult, run-on passage, atypical of Seneca's normally curt and lucid style. The more highly technical terms include: *stamen*, -inis, n., warp, tautened thread on an upright loom; *subtemen*, -inis, n., woof, threads woven and spun in weaving; *trama*, -ae, f., woof (web, weft), threads woven and spun in weaving; *spatha*, -ae, f., batten or spoon-shaped paddle used to interweave threads on the loom: *textrinum*, -i, n., weaving. The passage might be rendered as follows:

It is incredible, my Lucilius, how easily sweet oratory can lead even great men away from truth. Witness Posidonius—in my opinion, [one] of those who contributed most to philosophy—when he wants to describe initially how some threads are [wound and] turned, others are drawn from [a spool] that is loose and pliable, then how the threads by means of suspended weights stretch out this upright warp [on the loom], then how the inserted thread, which softens the harshness of the web that presses on both sides, is forced to come together and to be joined by means of the batten—he said that the art of weaving too was invented by [ancient] philosophers, having forgotten that this more subtle type [of weaving] was invented in later days, [the type] in which. . . .

- 163-165 **tela**. . . **dentēs**: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 11.55, 56, 58: lines 55 and 56 are cited here exactly from the Ovidian passage; line 58 is quoted rather freely. Seneca's version may be translated as follows:

The web is bound by the beam; the reed separates the warp. The woof by sharp shuttles is inserted between [the threads], And the apportioning teeth strike it with their broad comb.

- 169-170 **proscissum**. . . **iteratum**: *proscissum* refers to the initial ploughing and *iteratum* to additional ones.

- 146 **olim**, *adv.*, formerly, in times past
 148 **textor**, -oris, *m.*, weaver
officina, -ae, *f.*, workshop
 149 **coquo**, -ere, *coxi*, *coctus*, 3, cook
mollis, -e, *adj.*, soft, effeminate, unmanly
 150 **recedo**, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, retire, withdraw
 151 **ops**, *opis*, *f.*, resources
finio, 4, limit
 157 **filum**, -i, *n.*, thread
 158 **tela**, -ae, *f.*, web, thread
 163 **iugum**, -i, *n.*, yoke
vincio, -ire, *vinxi*, *vinctus*, 4, bind
harundo, -inis, *f.*, reed
 164 **radius**, -i, *m.*, shuttle, sharp piece of wood similar to a needle
 166 **contingo**, -ere, -tigi, -tactus, 3, happen, fall to one's lot
 167 **celo**, 1, conceal
 169 **facunde**, *adv.*, eloquently
proscindo, -ere, -di, -ssus, 3, cut, plough
aratrum, -i, *n.*, plough
solum, -i, *n.*, ground
 170 **itero**, 1, repeat, plough again
 171 **herba**, -ae, *f.*, weeds
 172 **succresco**, -ere, -crevi, -cretus, 3, spring up
neco, 1, kill
seges, -etis, *f.*, crop
 173 **tamquam**, *adv.*, as if
 175 **pistrinum**, -i, *n.*, mill
 177 **panis**, -is, *m.*, bread
fruges, -um, *f.*, grain
 179 **umor**, -oris, *m.*, moisture
 180 **lubricus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, slippery
 181 **concoquo**, -ere, -coxi, -coctus, 3, cook, digest
 182 **accedo**, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, approach, be added
 183 **ad**, *prep. m. acc.*, according to
 184 **adtritus**, -us, *m.*, rubbing
 186 **tero**, -ere, *trivi*, *tritrus*, 3, rub
spargo, -ere, *sparsi*, *sparsus*, 3, sprinkle
 187 **tractatio**, -onis, *f.*, handling
perdomo, -are, -domui, -domitus, 1, subdue
fungo, -ere, *finxi*, *fictus*, 3, mould
 188 **testa**, -ae, *f.*, earthen vessel
furnus, -i, *m.*, oven
 190 **sutrinum**, -i, *n.*, shoemaker's trade

civitas aut strepit corpori negotium gerunt, cui omnia olim tamquam servo praestabantur, nunc tamquam domino parantur. Itaque hinc textorum, hinc fabrorum officinae sunt, hinc odores coquentium, hinc molles corporis motus docentium mollesque cantus et infractos. Recessit enim ille naturalis modus desideria ope necessaria finiens; iam rusticitatis et miseriae est velle quantum sat est. 150

Incredibilest, mi Lucili, quam facile etiam magnos viros dulcedo orationis abducat a vero. Ecce Posidonius, ut mea fert opinio, ex iis qui plurimum philosophiae contulerunt, dum vult describere primum quemadmodum alia torqueantur fila, alia ex molli solutoque ducantur, deinde quemadmodum tela suspensis ponderibus rectum stamen extendat, quemadmodum subtemen insertum, quod duritiam utrimque comprimentis tramae remolliat, spatha coire cogatur et iungi, textrini quoque artem a sapientibus dixit inventam, oblitus postea repertum hoc subtilius genus in quo 160

tela iugo vincta est, stamen secernit harundo, inseritur medium radiis subtemen acutis, quod lato paviunt insecti pectine dentes. 165

Quid si contigisset illi videre has nostri temporis telas, in quibus vestis nihil celatura conficitur, in qua non dico nullum corpori auxilium, sed nullum pudori est? Transit deinde ad agricolas nec minus facunde describit proscissum aratro solum et iteratum quo solutior terra facilius pateat radicibus, tunc sparsa semina et collectas manu herbas ne quid fortuitum et agreste succrescat quod necet segetem. Hoc quoque opus ait esse sapientium, tamquam non nunc quoque plurima cultores agrorum nova inveniant per quae fertilitas augeatur. Deinde non est contentus his artibus, sed in pistrinum sapientem 170
 mittit; narrat enim quemadmodum rerum naturam imitatus panem coeperit facere. 'Receptas' inquit 'in os fruges concurrens inter se duritia dentium frangit, et quidquid excidit ad eosdem dentes lingua refertur; tunc umore miscetur ut facilius per fauces lubricas transeat; cum pervenit in ventrem, aequali eius fervore concoquitur; tunc demum corpori accedit. Hoc aliquis secutus exemplar lapidem asperum aspero inposuit ad similitudinem dentium, quorum pars immobilis motum alterius expectat; deinde utriusque adritu grana franguntur et saepius regeruntur donec ad minutiam frequenter trita redigantur; tum farinam aqua sparsit et adsidua tractatione perdomuit finxitque panem, quem primo cinis calidus et fervens testa percoxit, deinde furni paulatim reperti et alia genera quorum fervor serviret arbitrio.' Non multum afuit quin sutrinum quoque inventum a sapientibus diceret. 185
 180
 185
 190

- 191 **ratio**. .*recta ratio*: in the philosopher's judgment, *ratio* is to be distinguished from *recta ratio* as *vita* is from *bona vita* (a distinction which goes as far back as Plato, *Crito* 48). This distinction is called to our attention in the next line of this paragraph as well as in the very opening sentence of the epistle.
- 195 a **tergo**: "from behind," "in the rear."
- 197 **in utrumque**: "to one side or the other."
- 201 **hodieque**: see note to line 120.
- 208 **capacia populorum**: "able to hold crowds of people"; *capax* takes the genitive.
- 208 **verborum notas**: lit., "signs for words," i.e., shorthand.
- 209 **excipitur**: "is taken down"; *excipio* is the word regularly employed for taking notes.
- 219-220 **cui**. .*serviunt*: "the ornaments of life are also slaves to that one to whom life is a slave."
- 226-227 **quid**. .*perpetitae*: "what are the souls sought for the second class of godhood"; *perpetitae*, participial adjective from *per-* + *peto*. The passage is doubtless a reference to the demigods (for example, Hercules, Dionysus).
- 191 **comminiscor**, -i, *commentus*, 3 *dep.*, contrive, invent
- 192 **inventum**, -i, *n.*, invention
- 193 **amnis**, -is, *m.*, river
- 194 **velum**, -i, *n.*, sail
- 195 **gubernaculum**, -i, *n.*, rudder
- 197 **cauda**, -ae, *f.*, tail
- momentum**, -i, *n.*, motion
- 198 **flecto**, -ere, *flexi*, *flexus*, 3, bend
- 200 **immo**, *adv.*, on the contrary
- 202 **specularia**, -orum, *n. pl.*, windows
- testa**, -ae, *f.*, tile
- 203 **suspensura**, -ae, *f.*, vault
- 204 **paries**, -etis, *m.*, wall
- tubus**, -i, *m.*, pipe
- circumfundo**, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, pour around
- 205 **simul**, *adv.*, at the same time
- simul ac**, at the same time as, as well as
- foveo**, -ere, *fovi*, *fotus*, 2, warm, heat
- 206 **fulgeo**, -ere, *fulsi*, 2, shine, gleam
- 207 **moles**, -is, *f.*, mass
- levis**, -e, *adj.*, smooth, polished
- 208 **suscipio**, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus, 3, support, prop up
- 209 **quamvis**, *adv.*, however
- citatus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *cito*), fast, rapid
- 210 **mancipium**, -i, *n.*, slave
- commentum**, -i, *n.*, invention
- 212 **eruo**, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3, bring forth
- 213 **tuba**, -ae, *f.*, trumpet
- tibia**, -ae, *f.*, flute
- 214 **excipio**, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus, 3, receive
- spiritus**, -us, *m.*, breath
- 215 **vox**, *vocis*, *f.*, sound
- 216 **molior**, 4 *dep.*, devise
- 217 **opifex**, -icis, *m.*, artisan, workman
- 220 **ceterum**, *adv.*, but
- tendo**, -ere, *tetendi*, *tentus*, 3, stretch, aim at, strive after
- 221 **illo**, *adv.*, to that place, thither
- 222 **exuo**, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3, strip
- 223 **vero**, *adv.*, but, indeed
- 224 **sino**, -ere, *sivi*, *situs*, 3, allow
- intersum**, -esse, -fui, *irr.*, be different
- tumidus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, swollen
- 226 **inferi**, -orum, *m. pl.*, gods of the lower world
- lares**, -um (-ium), *m.*, household gods
- genius**, -i, *m.*, guardian spirit

Omnia ista ratio quidem, sed non recta ratio commenta
 est. Hominis enim, non sapientis inventa sunt, tam meher-
 cules quam navigia quibus annes quibusque maria trans-
 imus, aptatis ad excipiendum ventorum impetum velis et
 additis a tergo gubernaculis quae huc atque illuc cursum
 195
 navigii torqueant. Exemplum a piscibus tractum est, qui
 cauda reguntur et levi eius in utrumque momento velocita-
 tem suam flectunt. 'Omnia' inquit 'haec sapiens quidem
 invenit, sed minora quam ut ipse tractaret sordidioribus
 ministris dedit.' Immo non aliis excogitata ista sunt quam
 200
 quibus hodieque curantur. Quaedam nostra demum prodisse
 memoria scimus, ut speculariorum usum perlucente testa
 clarum transmittentium lumen, ut suspensuras balneorum
 et impressos parietibus tubos per quos circumfunderetur calor
 qui ima simul ac summa foveret aequaliter. Quid loquar
 205
 marmora quibus templa, quibus domus fulgent? quid lapi-
 deas moles in rotundum ac leve formatas quibus porticus et
 capacia populorum tecta suscipimus? quid verborum notas
 quibus quamvis citata excipitur oratio et celeritatem linguae
 manus sequitur? Vilissimorum mancipiorum ista commenta
 210
 sunt: sapientia altius sedet nec manus edocet: animorum
 magistra est. Vis scire quid illa eruerit, quid effecerit? Non
 decoros corporis motus nec varios per tubam ac tibiam
 cantus, quibus exceptus spiritus aut in exitu aut in transitu
 215
 formatur in vocem. Non arma nec muros nec bello utilia
 molitur: paci favet et genus humanum ad concordiam vocat.
 Non est, inquam, instrumentorum ad usus necessarios opifex.
 Quid illi tam parvola adsignas? artificem vides vitae. Alias
 quidem artes sub dominio habet; nam cui vita, illi vitae
 quoque ornantia serviunt: ceterum ad beatum statum tendit,
 220
 illo ducit, illo vias aperit. Quae sint mala, quae videantur
 ostendit; vanitatem exuit mentibus, dat magnitudinem
 solidam, inflatam vero et ex inani speciosam reprimat, nec
 ignorari sinit inter magna quid intersit et tumida; totius
 naturae notitiam ac sui tradit. Quid sint di qualesque
 225
 declarat, quid inferi, quid lares et genii, quid in secundam
 numinum formam animae perpetitae, ubi consistent, quid

- 232 **hebes visus est:** "[our] vision is [too] dull."
- 236 **a corporibus. . . ad incorporalia:** i.e., "from the concrete to the abstract."
- 243 **Anacharsis:** Anacharsis, a Scythian philosopher who traveled extensively in Greece in the sixth century B.C. At Athens he made the friendship of Solon. He is said to have invented not only the potter's wheel but the true anchor with second fluke.
- 245 **apud Homerum invenitur:** *Iliad* 18.600-601.
- 247-248 **sapiens. . . sapiens:** "although he was a philosopher when he invented it, it was not the philosopher in him that invented it"; *tamquam = qua*, "in so far as," "in so much as."
- 249 **qua homines:** "in so far as they are men."
- 254 **Democritus:** Democritus of Abdera, atomistic philosopher (c. 460 - c. 360 B.C.). Since he laughed at the follies of mankind, he came to be known as the laughing philosopher in contrast to the melancholy Heraclitus (fl. c. 500 B.C.), who wept at human vanities.
- 256 **medio saxo:** "center-stone," "keystone."
- 258 **vobis:** dative after *excidit*; translate "it has escaped you." For *excidit* meaning "fall out of one's head or memory," see also *Ep.* 27, line 28.
- 261 **hodieque:** see note to line 120.
in: not found in the manuscripts but supplied by Schweighauser.
- 267 **tardis ad divina:** i.e., slow to see the divine.
- 228 **initiamenta, -orum, n. pl.,** rites of initiation
- 229 **sacrum, -i, n.,** shrine, temple
- 230 **resero, 1,** unlock
- 233 **indo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3,** impart, give to
- 234 **proprie, adv.,** properly, peculiarly, strictly for one's self
- figuro, 1,** shape, fashion
- 237 **excutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3,** shake out, strike out
- 238 **uterque, utraque, utrumque, adj.,** both
- 240 **abduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3,** withdraw, divorce one's self from
- 241 **omnino, adv.,** at all
- 243 **ponenda = deponenda**
- 244 **figulus, -i, m.,** potter
- circuitus, -us, m.,** circling, revolving
- vas, vasis, n.,** vessel
- 245 **apud, prep. w. acc.,** in the works of
- 251 **vitrearius, -i, m.,** glass-worker, glass-blower
- 252 **vitrum, -i, n.,** glass
- habitus, -us, m.,** shape
- 253 **effingo, -ere, -finxi, -fictus, 3,** fashion, mould
- 254 **desino, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs, 3,** cease
- 255 **fornix, -icis, m.,** arch
- 256 **alligo, 1,** bind, tie
- 258 **ferē, adv.,** for the most part, usually
- porro, adv.,** then
- 259 **ebur, -oris, n.,** ivory
- mollio, 4,** soften
- 260 **decoquo, -ere, -coxi, -coctus, 3,** cook, boil
- calculus, -i, m.,** pebble
- zmaragdus, -i, m.,** emerald
- 261 **coctura, -ae, f.,** cooking, boiling
- 262 **licet,** although
- 264 **peritus, -a, -um, adj.,** skillful
- exercitatus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of exercito),** expert
- 268 **derigo (dirigo), -ere, -rexi, -rectus, 3,** arrange, direct
- tantum, adv.,** only
- 269 **aliter, adv.,** otherwise
- excipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus, 3,** receive, welcome

agant, quid possint, quid velint. Haec eius initiamenta sunt, per quae non municipale sacrum sed ingens deorum omnium templum, mundus ipse, reseratur, cuius vera simulacra 230
 verasque facies cernendas mentibus protulit; nam ad spectacula tam magna hebes visus est. Ad initia deinde rerum redit aeternamque rationem toti inditam et vim omnium seminum singula proprie figurantem. Tum de animo coepit inquirere, unde esset, ubi, quamdiu, in quot membra divisus. 235
 Deinde a corporibus se ad incorporalia transtulit veritatemque et argumenta eius excussit; post haec quemadmodum discernentur vitae aut vocis ambigua; in utraque enim falsa veris inmixta sunt.

Non abduxit, inquam, se (ut Posidonio videtur) ab istis 240
 artibus sapiens, sed ad illas omnino non venit. Nihil enim dignum inventu iudicasset quod non erat dignum perpetuo usu iudicaturus; ponenda non sumeret. 'Anacharsis' inquit 'invenit rotam figuli, cuius circuitu vasa formantur.' Deinde quia apud Homerum invenitur figuli rota, maluit videri 245
 versus falsos esse quam fabulam. Ego nec Anacharsim auctorem huius rei fuisse contendo et, si fuit, sapiens quidem hoc invenit, sed non tamquam sapiens, sicut multa sapientes faciunt qua homines sunt, non qua sapientes. Puta velocissimum esse sapientem: cursu omnis anteibit qua velox est, non 250
 qua sapiens. Cuperem Posidonio aliquem vitrearium ostendere, qui spiritu vitrum in habitus plurimos format qui vix diligenti manu effingerentur. Haec inventa sunt postquam sapientem invenire desimus. 'Democritus' inquit 'invenisse dicitur fornicem, ut lapidum curvatura paulatim inclinatorum medio saxo alligaretur.' Hoc dicam falsum esse; 255
 necesse est enim ante Democritum et pontes et portas fuisse, quarum fere summa curvantur. Excidit porro vobis eundem Democritum invenisse quemadmodum ebur molliretur, quemadmodum decoctus calculus in zmaragdum converteretur, qua hodieque coctura inventi lapides <in> hoc utiles 260
 colorantur. Ista sapiens licet invenerit, non qua sapiens erat invenit; multa enim facit quae ab imprudentissimis aut aequae fieri videmus aut peritius atque exercitatus.

Quid sapiens investigaverit, quid in lucem protraxerit 265
 quaeris? Primum verum naturamque, quam non ut cetera animalia oculis secutus est, tardis ad divina; deinde vitae legem, quam ad universa dextit, nec nosse tantum sed sequi deos docuit et accidentia non aliter excipere quam imperata.

- 275–276 **quae civem. . . voluptati:** a thrust at the Epicurean philosophy which asserted that it was unnecessary for the wise man to take part in politics, that the gods were remote from and indifferent to human affairs, and that pleasure was the highest good.
- 276 **de:** not found in the manuscripts but supplied by Princianus.
- 282 **Sicut aut:** the daggers indicate a difficulty in the reading supplied by the manuscripts.
- 282–285 **cum. . . discurre:** for the thought in this sentence, cf. section 3 of this epistle; *docuere* is not found in the manuscripts but supplied by Reynolds, following Buecheler.
- 292 **fas erat:** i.e., right in the sight of the gods, whereas *ius est* means right according to the legal standard of men.
in **medium:** “for the public good.”
- 290–293 **nulli. . . ferebat:** Vergil, *Georgics* 1.125–128. Seneca again, as earlier in this letter (lines 69 and 81–82) cites Vergil’s description of men in a natural state of grace in the Golden Age. In those days, it was unnecessary for mankind to labor or to till the soil; nature herself freely bestowed all earthly gifts. Men had no need for boundaries or private property; all of nature’s munificence was mutually and benevolently shared.
- 295 **sufficiebat. . . in tutelam:** “she was sufficient for the guardianship.”
- 305 **per sua longam peregrinationem:** best understood by remembering Trimalchio’s desire (Petronius, *Satyricon* 48) “to add Sicily to his possessions in order that, when he wanted to go to Africa, he might travel through his own boundaries (estate).”
- 306 **propagatio:** here means “extension,” lit., “begetting.”
- 313 **sibi iaceret:** “was lying idle for him.” The verb *iaceo, -ere* is sometimes used in the sense of “lie idle or unemployed”; *sibi* is emphatic and means “for his own use.”

- 270 **veto, -are, -ui, -itus, 1,** forbid
pareo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, obey
quisque, quaeque, quidque,
indef. pron., each one, each thing
- 271 **perpendo, -ere, -pendi,**
-pensus, 3, weigh carefully,
consider
- 272 **palam, adv.,** openly, publicly
- 278 **delenio, 4,** charm, cajole
- 281 **artificium, -i, n.,** handicraft, art
disco, -ere, didici, 3, learn
- 283 **promiscue, adv.,** promiscuously,
indiscriminately
- 284 **dissocio, 1,** separate from
fellowship, disunite
rapina, -ae, f., plunder
- 284 **consortio, -onis, f.,** fellowship
- 285 **discurro, -ere, -curri**
(-curri), -cursus, 3, run in
different directions
- 287 **suspicio, -ere, -spexi,**
-spectus, 3, look up to
- 290 **subigo, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3,**
plough, cultivate
arvum, -i, n., field
- 291 **signo, 1,** put a mark upon, mark
partior, 4 dep., divide
limes, -itis, m., boundary
- 293 **posco, -ere, poposci, 3,** demand
- 296 **ops, opis, f.,** resources
- 297 **locuples, -ctis, adj.,** rich
- 299 **seduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus,**
3, take away, carry off
- 300 **redigo, -ere, -egi, -actus, 3,**
drive back, reduce
- 302 **amitto, -ere, -misi, -missus,**
3, lose
licet, although
- reparo, 1,** get back, recover
- 303 **vicinus, -i, m.,** neighbor
pello, -ere, pepuli, pulsus, 3,
drive out, expel
- 306 **eo, adv.,** there
- 308 **diripio, -ere, -ripui, -reptus,**
3, plunder
- 309 **largus, -a, -um, adj.,**
abundant, copious
- 311 **concor, concordis, adj.,** of
the same mind, harmonious

- Vetuit parere opinionibus falsis et quanti quidque esset
vera aestimatione perpendit; damnavit mixtas paenitentia
voluptates et bona semper placitura laudavit et palam fecit
felicissimum esse cui felicitate non opus est, potentissimum
esse qui se habet in potestate. Non de ea philosophia loquor
quae avem extra patriam posuit, extra mundum deos, quae
virtutem donavit voluptati, sed <de> illa quae nullum bonum
putat nisi quod honestum est, quae nec hominis nec fortunae
muneribus deleniri potest, cuius hoc pretium est, non posse
pretio capi. 270
- Hanc philosophiam fuisse illo rudi saeculo quo adhuc
artificia deerant et ipso usu discebantur utilia non credo.
†Sicut aut† fortunata tempora, cum in medio iacerent bene-
ficia naturae promiscue utenda, antequam avaritia atque
luxuria dissociavere mortales et ad rapinam ex consortio
<docuere> discurrere: non erant illi sapientes viri, etiam si
faciebant facienda sapientibus. Statum quidem generis hu-
mani non alium quisquam suspexerit magis, nec si cui per-
mittat deus terrena formare et dare gentibus mores, aliud
probaverit quam quod apud illos fuisse memoratur apud quos
280
- nulli subigebant arva coloni;
ne signare quidem aut partiri limite campum
fas erat: in medium quaerebant, ipsaque tellus
omnia liberius nullo poscente ferebat. 290
- Quid hominum illo genere felicius? In commune rerum
natura fruebantur; sufficiebat illa ut parens in tutelam
omnium; haec erat publicarum opum segura possessio. Quid-
ni ego illud locupletissimum mortalium genus dixerim in quo
pauperem invenire non posses? Inrupit in res optime positas
avaritia et, dum seducere aliquid cupit atque in suum ver-
tere, omnia fecit aliena et in angustum se ex inmenso redegit.
Avaritia paupertatem intulit et multa concupiscendo omnia
amisit. Licet itaque nunc conetur reparare quod perdidit,
licet agros agris adiciat vicinum vel pretio pellens vel iniuria,
licet in provinciarum spatium rura dilatet et possessionem
vocet per sua longam peregrinationem: nulla nos finium
propagatio eo reducet unde discessimus. Cum omnia feceri-
mus, multum habebimus: universum habebamus. Terra ipsa
fertilior erat inlaborata et in usus populorum non diripien-
tium larga. Quidquid natura protulerat, id non minus in-
venisse quam inventum monstrare alteri voluptas erat; nec
ulli aut superesse poterat aut deesse: inter concordēs divide-
batur. Nondum valentior inposuerat infirmiori manum, non-
dum avarus abscondendo quod sibi iaceret alium necessariis
300
305
310

- 322-323 *insigne*. . . *noctium*: in apposition with *mundus*.
- 323 in *praeceps* *agebatur*: lit., "was drawn headlong."
- 329 *instar*: an indeclinable noun meaning "image," "likeness." It is used with the possessive genitive in the sense "as big as" (lit., "the likeness of").
- 338 *hoc*. . . *est*: "this title now applies to those who attain the highest accomplishments." Seneca believes that, in the Golden Age (*aureum saeculum*, paragraph 5), the wise or better men naturally ruled. Yet because in that simple period all men followed nature and nature supplied every want and was herself virtuous, there was little need for the pursuit of wisdom. Only in later ages, when men had learned vices and had become divorced from their natural habitat, did it become necessary for the better men, by obvious struggle and effort of mind, to recover and consciously comprehend what had previously been innocently and unconsciously known—the rules for right reason and sound conduct and the principles for living a "life in accordance with nature." *Idem tibi de philosophia dico. Fuit aliquando simplicior inter minora peccantis et levi quoque cura remediabiles: adversus tantam morum eversionem omnia conanda sunt* (*Ep.* 95.29). Nowadays, because such knowledge must be discovered by strength of will and deliberate intellectual percipience, Seneca maintains that wisdom and philosophy are one and the same; hence, those who in this fallen world attain such insights are considered to have achieved the highest of accomplishments.
- 345 *lapides in*: not found in the manuscripts but supplied by Schweighauser.
- 314 *cesso*, 1, be idle, be at leisure
- 315 *incruentus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, without bloodshed, unstained
in, *prep.* w. *acc.*, against
- 316 *fera*, -ae, *f.*, wild beast
- 317 *imber*, -bris, *m.*, rain
vilis, -e, *adj.*, cheap
- 318 *tutus*, -a, -um, *adj.*, safe, secure
- 319 *suspirium*, -i, *n.*, sigh
- 321 *caelatus*, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of caelo*), carved
laquear, -aris, *m.*, panelled ceiling
- 322 *superlabor*, -i, *lapsus*, 3 *dep.*, glide over
insignis, -e, *adj.*, remarkable
- 324 *interdiu*, *adv.*, by day
- 325 *libet*, -ere, *libuit*, *impers.*, it is pleasing
intueor, -eri, -tuitus, 2 *dep.*, observe, gaze upon
- 326 *vergo*, -ere, 3, bend, turn
- 327 *vago*, 1 *dep.*, wander
spargo, -ere, *sparsi*, *sparsus*, 3, strew, scatter
- 328 *paveo*, -ere, *pavi*, 2, tremble, quake
- 329 *increpo*, -are, -crepui, -crepitus, 1, make a noise
attonitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, astonished, stunned
- 330 *spiritus*, -us *m.*, air
perflatus, -us, *m.*, breeze
- 331 *rupes*, -is, *f.*, rock
rivus, -i, *m.*, stream
- 332 *fistula*, -ae, *f.*, water-pipe
iter, *itineris*, *n.*, path
obsolefactus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of obsolefacio*), worn out, spoiled
sponte, *abl.*, at will, freely, of one's own accord
- 333 *agrestis*, -e, *adj.*, rural, rustic
quamvis, *adv.*, however
egregius, -a, -um, *adj.*, admirable, excellent
- 341 *quemadmodum*, *adv.*, just as
- 342 *indoles*, -is, *f.*, natural disposition, nature
- 343 *ingenium*, -i, *n.*, mental power, mind
consummatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of consummo*), perfect, complete
- 345 *faex*, *faecis*, *f.*, dregs

quoque excluserat: par erat alterius ac sui cura. Arma cessa-
 bant incruentaeque humano sanguine manus odium omne in 315
 feras verterant. Illi quos aliquod nemus densum a sole pro-
 texerat, qui adversus saevitiam hiemis aut imbris vili re-
 ceptaculo tuti sub fronde vivebant, placidas transigebant sine
 suspirio noctes. Sollicitudo nos in nostra purpura versat et
 acerrimis excitat stimulis: at quam mollem somnum illis 320
 dura tellus dabat! Non inpendebant caelata laquearia, sed in
 aperto iacentis sidera superlabeantur et, insigne spectaculum
 noctium, mundus in praecipitium agebatur, silentio tantum
 opus ducens. Tam interdum illis quam nocte patebant pro-
 spectus huius pulcherrimae domus; libebat intueri signa ex 325
 media caeli parte vergentia, rursus ex occulto alia surgentia.
 Quidni iuaret vagari inter tam late sparsa miracula? At vos
 ad omnem tectorum pavetis sonum et inter picturas vestras,
 si quid increpuit, fugitis attoniti. Non habebant domos instar
 urbium: spiritus ac liber inter aperta perflatus et levis umbra 330
 rupis aut arboris et perlucidi fontes rivique non opere nec
 fistula nec ullo coacto itinere obsolefacti sed sponte currentes
 et prata sine arte formosa, inter haec agreste domicilium
 rustica politum manu—haec erat secundum naturam domus,
 in qua libebat habitare nec ipsam nec pro ipsa timentem: 335
 nunc magna pars nostri metus tecta sunt.

Sed quamvis egregia illis vita fuerit et carens fraude, non
 fuere sapientes, quando hoc iam in opere maximo nomen est.
 Non tamen negaverim fuisse alti spiritus viros et, ut ita
 dicam, a dis recentes; neque enim dubium est quin meliora 340
 mundus nondum effetus ediderit. Quemadmodum autem
 omnibus indoles fortior fuit et ad labores paratior, ita non
 erant ingenia omnibus consummata. Non enim dat natura
 virtutem: ars est bonum fieri. Illi quidem non aurum nec
 argentum nec perlucidos <lapis in> ima terrarum faece 345
 quaerebant parcebantque adhuc etiam mutis animalibus:
 tantum aberat ut homo hominem non iratus, non timens,

348 **tantum**. . . **occideret**: "that man neither angry nor fearful but merely for sport would kill his fellow-man was so far absent [from that age]"; *ut*. . . **occideret** is a substantive clause used as the subject of **aberat**. For Seneca's condemnation of human slaughter in the gladiatorial shows, see *Ep.* 7.

350 **est**: not found in the manuscripts but supplied by Feige.

348 **pingo**, -ere, **pinxi**, **pictus**, 3,
paint, embroider

349 **texo**, -ere, **texui**, **textus**, 3,
weave

eruo, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3, dig out

351 **interest**, *impers.*, it makes a difference

desum, -esse, -fui, *irr.*, be
wanting, be lacking

354 **institutus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of*
instituo), trained, educated

356 **erudio**, 4, educate, instruct

tantum spectaturus occideret. Nondum vestis illis erat picta,
nondum texebatur aurum, adhuc nec eruebatur. Quid ergo
<est>? Ignorantia rerum innocentes erant; multum autem 350
interest utrum peccare aliquis nolit an nesciat. Deerat illis
iustitia, deerat prudentia, deerat temperantia ac fortitudo.
Omnibus his virtutibus habebat similia quaedam rudis vita:
virtus non contingit animo nisi instituto et edocto et ad
summum adsidua exercitatione perducto. Ad hoc quidem, 355
sed sine hoc nascimur, et in optimis quoque, antequam erudias,
virtutis materia, non virtus est. *Val.*

- 8 **incurrerunt**: supply *mihī*.
- 10 **cum maxime**: "just now"; see *Ep.* 7, lines 41–42.
- 18–19 **de capite**: "for your life."
- 23 **Videris**: the second person present and perfect subjunctives are sometimes used in commands and prohibitions instead of the more usual imperative mood.
- 32 **contumeliae causa**: "on account of [man's] contempt for them."

- 2 **indignor**, 1 *dep.*, be angry at
queror, -i, **questus**, 3 *dep.*,
complain
- 7 **decumbo**, -ere, -cubui, 3, fall
sick
fenus, -oris, *n.*, interest
crepo, -are, **crepui**, **crepitus**,
1, creak
damnum, -i, *n.*, loss
- 8 **parum**, *adv.*, too little, not
enough
- 9 **decerno**, -ere, -crevi, -cretus,
3, decree
- 10 **adfectus**, -us, *m.*, emotion
detego, -ere, -texi, -tectus, 3,
uncover, disclose
- 12 **adsentior**, -iri, -sensus, 4 *dep.*,
agree with
- 13 **umquam**, *adv.*, ever
excipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus, 3,
receive
- 14 **vultus**, -us, *m.*, face, expression
tributum, -i, *n.*, tax
invitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unwilling
- 15 **gemo**, -ere, **gemui**, **gemitus**,
3, groan
- 17 **vesica**, -ae, *f.*, bladder
- 18 **propius**, *comp. adv.*, closer
- 20 **quomodo**, *adv.*, in what
manner, even as
- 21 **pulvis**, -eris, *m.*, dust
lutum, -i, *n.*, mud
pluvia, -ae, *f.*, rain
careo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, lack
incommodum, -i, *n.*,
inconvenience, trouble
- 23 **dedecet**, -ere, -decuit, *impers.*,
2, it is unbecoming
quemadmodum, *adv.*, how
votum, -i, *n.*, prayer, wish
- 24 **tantum**, *adv.*, only
- 25 **deliciae**, -arum, *f. pl.*, luxury
- 27 **macellum**, -i, *n.*, meat-market,
provision-market
atqui, *conj.*, and yet
- 28 **operosus**, -a, -um, *adj.*,
laborious
- 29 **sursum**, *adv.*, up
deorsum, *adv.*, down
- 30 **obeo**, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4,
travel through
- 31 **putidus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, rotten
molliter, *adv.*, softly, weakly
turturilla, -ae, *f.*, little turtle
dove
- 32 **tutus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, safe

Epistle Ninety-six
ON PAYING THE MANLY TRIBUTE TO LIFE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Tamen tu indignaris aliquid aut quereris et non intellegis nihil esse in istis mali nisi hoc unum quod indignaris et quereris? Si me interrogas, nihil puto viro miserum nisi aliquid esse in rerum natura quod putet miserum. Non feram me quo die aliquid ferre non potero. Male valeo: pars fati est. Familia decubuit, fenus offendit, domus crepuit, damna, vulnera, labores, metus incucurrerunt: solet fieri. Hoc parum est: debuit fieri. Decernuntur ista, non accidunt. Si quid credis mihi, intimos adfectus meos tibi cum maxime detego: in omnibus quae adversa videntur et dura sic formatus sum: non pareo deo sed adsentior; ex animo illum, non quia necesse est, sequor. Nihil umquam mihi incidet quod tristis excipiam, quod malo vultu; nullum tributum invitus conferam. Omnia autem ad quae gemimus, quae expavescimus, tributa vitae sunt: horum, mi Lucili, nec speraveris immunitatem nec petieris. Vesicae te dolor inquietavit, epistulae venerunt parum dulces, detrimenta continua—propius accedam, de capite timuisti. Quid, tu nesciebas haec te optare cum optares senectutem? Omnia ista in longa vita sunt, quomodo in longa via et pulvis et lutum et pluvia. 'Sed volebam vivere, carere tamen incommodis omnibus.' Tam effeminata vox virum dedecet. Videris quemadmodum hoc votum meum excipias; ego illud magno animo, non tantum bono facio: neque di neque deae faciant ut te fortuna in deliciis habeat. Ipse te interroga, si quis potestatem tibi deus faciat, utrum velis vivere in macello an in castris. Atqui vivere, Lucili, militare est. Itaque hi qui iactantur et per operosa atque ardua sursum ac deorsum eunt et expeditiones periculosissimas obeunt fortes viri sunt primoresque castrorum; isti quos putida quies aliis laborantibus molliter habet turturillae sunt, tuti contumeliae causa. *Vale.*

- 5 **artificio:** *artificium*, -ii, n., profession, trade, handicraft. Translate here "hobby." Vine-growing was one of Seneca's favorite hobbies.
- 8 **eius:** "of it"; i.e., of the grafted part.
- 11 **mandas:** supply *quem*: "whom you entrust [to me]."
- 12 **Simul. .induruit:** "at one and the same time he has become soft and hard"; *emarcuit* (from *emarcesco*, -ere, *emarcui*, wither away) and *induruit* (from *induresco*, -ere, *indurui*, become hard) recall *durus* and *mollis* of lines 3 and 4.
- 13 **At cupit ipse:** supply *rationem*.
- 15 **Stomachum. .luxuria:** "luxury has caused him displeasure."
- 19-20 **nunc. .convenit:** "at present there is disagreement between them" (i.e., between himself and luxury).

- 2 **ut, conj.,** as
- 3 **instituo, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3,**
train
valde, adv., very
immo, adv., nay rather
- 5 **quilibet, quae-, quod-, indef.**
adj., any
- 6 **insitio, -onis, f.,** grafting
vitiss, -is, f., vine
exedo, -ere, -edi, -esus, 3, cut
up
gracilis, -e, adj., slender
- 7 **surculus, -i, m.,** grafting
alo, -ere, alui, alitus (altus),
3, nourish
- 9 **praecido, -ere, -cidi, -cibus, 3,**
cut off
- 10 **iterum, adv.,** again
- 12 **indulgeo, -ere, -dulsi, -dultus,**
2, indulge in
- 14 **mentior, -iri, -itus, 4 dep.,** lie
- 15 **cito, adv.,** soon, quickly
- 17 **simul, adv.,** at the same time
- 18 **fides, -ei, f.,** promise
- 19 **invisus, -a, -um, adj.,** hateful

Epistle One Hundred Twelve
THE INTRANSIGENCE OF VICE

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Cupio mehercules amicum tuum formari ut desideras et institui, sed valde durus capitur; immo, quod est molestius, valde mollis capitur et consuetudine mala ac diutina fractus. Volo tibi ex nostro artificio exemplum referre. Non quaelibet insitionem vitis patitur: si vetus et exesa est, si infirma gracilisque, aut non recipiet surculum aut non alet nec adplicabit sibi nec in qualitatem eius naturamque transibit. Itaque solemus supra terram praecidere ut, si non respondit, temptari possit secunda fortuna et iterum repetita infra terram inseratur. Hic de quo scribis et mandas non habet vires: indulgit vitiis. Simul et emarcuit et induruit; non potest recipere rationem, non potest nutrire. 'At cupit ipse.' Noli credere. Non dico illum mentiri tibi: putat se cupere. Stomachum illi fecit luxuria: cito cum illa redibit in gratiam. 'Sed dicit se offendi vita sua.' Non negaverim; quis enim non offenditur? Homines vitia sua et amant simul et oderunt. Tunc itaque de illo feremus sententiam cum fidem nobis fecerit invisam iam sibi esse luxuriam: nunc illis male convenit. *Vale.*

5

10

15

20

- 9 **Hoc**: ablative of cause, "because of this," used in response to the repeated *quare*.
- 10-11 **talis**. . *vita*: Cicero (*Tusculan Disputations* 5.47) attributes this saying to Socrates.
- 12 **dicendi**: the daggers indicate a difficulty in the manuscript reading.
- 18-19 **adflatur**: lit., "is inspired," i.e., "is infected," "is contaminated."
- 26 **Maecenas**: Gaius Maecenas, Roman knight, minister of Augustus, and renowned patron of learned men. His literary circle included Vergil and Horace. To him Vergil dedicated the *Georgics* and Horace the *Odes*. Both poets bestow highest praise upon him and express their gratitude for his generous support of their creative talents. Maecenas himself was a prolific writer, but only a few fragments of his work survive.
- 29 **disinctus**: here metaphorically in the sense of "loose," "dis-solute."
- 31 **uxor**: Maecenas' wife, Terentia, is described by Seneca (*De Prov.* 3.10) as "wayward" (*morosa*).
- 31 **fuerat**: the indicative may be used in the apodosis of a contrary to fact condition.
- 34-35 **Maecenas**. . *suo*: Reynolds, following Gruter, considers these words an interpolation.

- 4 **aliquando**, *adv.*, sometimes
explicatio, -onis, *f.*, unfolding, expounding, exposition
- 5 **infractus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *infringo*), broken, subdued
canticum, -i, *n.*, song
alias...alias, at one time...at another time
- 6 **egredior**, -i, -gressus, 3 *dep.*, go out of, pass beyond
- 8 **translatio**, -onis, *f.*, metaphor
- 9 **inverecunde**, *adv.*, shamelessly
vulgo, *adv.*, everywhere
- 13 **deliciae**, -arum, *f.*, pleasure, luxury
- 14 **argumentum**, -i, *n.*, proof
- 15 **modo**, *adv.*, only
- 16 **ingenium**, -i, *n.*, character, nature
- 18 **siccus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, dry
vitio, 1, spoil
- 19 **pigre**, *adv.*, lazily
- 20 **incessus**, -us, *m.*, gait
- 21 **mollitia**, -ae, *f.*, softness, effeminacy
ferox, -ocis, *adj.*, high-spirited, courageous
gradus, -us, *m.*, step
- 24 **tingo**, -ere, *finxi*, *fictus*, 3, mould, shape
- 25 **parco**, -ere, *parui*, *paritus*, 2, obey
- 26 **quam**, *adv.*, as
- 29 **discingo**, -ere, -cinxī, -cinctus, 3, ungird
- 30 **tam**. . *quam*, *so.*. . as
insignitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *insignio*), striking, conspicuous
cultus, -us, *m.*, attire, appearance
comitatus, -us, *m.*, escort, attendant, retinue
- 33 **diffluo**, -ere, -fluxi, -fluxus, 3, flow in different directions
- 35 **amnis**, -is, *m.*, stream
comans, -antis, *p. adj.* (of *como*), having long hair
- 36 **ut**, *adv.*, how
alveus, -i, *m.*, channel
lynter (*linter*), -ris, *f.*, boat
aro, 1, plough
vadum, -i, *n.*, shallow water
- 38 **labrum**, -i, *n.*, lip
columbor, 1 *dep.*, bill or kiss like doves
ut, *adv.*, as
cervix, -icis, *f.*, neck
lassus, -a, -um, *adj.*, weary

Epistle One Hundred Fourteen
STYLE IS THE MAN

Seneca Lucilio Svo Salutem

Quare quibusdam temporibus provenerit corrupti generis oratio quaeris et quomodo in quaedam vitia inclinatio ingeniorum facta sit, ut aliquando inflata explicatio vigeret, aliquando infracta et in morem cantici ducta; quare alias 5
 sensus audaces et fidem egressi placuerint, alias abruptae sententiae et suspiciosae, in quibus plus intellegendum esset quam audiendum; quare aliqua aetas fuerit quae translationis iure uteretur inverecunde. Hoc quod audire vulgo soles, 10
 quod apud Graecos in proverbium cessit: talis hominibus fuit oratio qualis vita. Quemadmodum autem uniuscuiusque actio †dicendi† similis est, sic genus dicendi aliquando imitatur publicos mores, si disciplina civitatis laboravit et se in deliciis dedit. Argumentum est luxuriae publicae orationis lascivia, 15
 si modo non in uno aut in altero fuit, sed adprobata est et recepta. Non potest alius esse ingenio, alius animo color. Si ille sanus est, si compositus, gravis, temperans, ingenium quoque siccum ac sobrium est: illo vitiato hoc quoque adflatur. Non vides, si animus elanguit, trahi membra et pigre moveri pedes? si ille effeminatus est, in ipso incessu apparere mollitiam? si ille acer est et ferox, concitari gradum? si furit aut, quod furori simile est, irascitur, turbatum esse corporis motum nec ire sed ferri? Quanto hoc magis accidere ingenio putas, quod totum animo permixtum est, ab illo fingitur, 20
 illi paret, inde legem petit? 25

Quomodo Maecenas vixerit notius est quam ut narrari nunc debeat quomodo ambulaverit, quam delicatus fuerit, quam cupierit videri, quam vitia sua latere noluerit. Quid ergo? non oratio eius aequae soluta est quam ipse discinctus? non tam insignita illius verba sunt quam cultus, quam comitatus, quam domus, quam uxor? Magni vir ingenii fuerat si illud egisset via rectiore, si non vitasset intellegi, si non etiam in oratione difflieret. Videbis itaque eloquentiam ebrii hominis involutam et errantem et licentiae plenam. [Maecenas de cultu suo.] Quid turpius 'amne silvisque ripa comantibus'? Vide ut 'alveum lyntribus arent versoque vado remittant hortos'. Quid? si quis 'feminae cinno crispas et labris columbatur incipitque suspirans, ut cervice lassa 30
 35

- 46 *in*: included in the later manuscripts.
- 51 *spadones duo*: in apposition to *comitatus*.
- 52 *uxorem milliēns duxit*: "married his wife a thousand times." In *De Prov.* 3.10 Seneca mentions that Maecenas was daily rejected by his wife but repeatedly restored to favor.
- 73-74 *illi . . . sunt*: "usual things are [regarded] as mean in its eyes"; *illi* (dative of reference) refers to *animus*.
- 39 *fano*, 1, dedicate, consecrate
inremediabilis, -e, *adj.*,
 implacable
rimor, 1 *dep.*, pry into, search,
 explore
- 40 *lagona*, -ae, *f.*, flask, bottle
- 41 *festum*, -i, *n.*, festival, holiday
cereus, -i, *m.*, wax taper
filum, -i, *n.*, thread
crepax, -acis, *adj.*, sounding,
 creaking
- 42 *focus*, -i, *m.*, hearth
investio, 4, clothe, cover,
 surround
- 47 *pallium*, -i, *n.*, cloak
- 48 *utrimque*, *adv.*, on both sides
aliter, *adv.*, otherwise
fugitivus, -i, *m.*, fugitive slave
- 49 *strepo*, -ere, -ui, -itus, 3,
 make a noise, roar, resound
- 51 *spado*, -onis, *m.*, eunuch
- 53 *struo*, -ere, *struxi*, *structus*,
 3, arrange
- 56 *parco*, -ere, *peperci*, *parsus*,
 3, spare
- 58 *portentosus*, -a, -um, *adj.*,
 monstrous, unnatural
- 59 *deliciae*, -arum, *f.*,
 fastidiousness, fussiness
mollis, -e, *adj.*, soft, effeminate
mitis, -e, *adj.*, mellow, mature
- 60 *ambages*, -is, *f.*,
 circumlocution, ambiguity
transversus, -a, -um, *p. adj.*
 (*of transverto*), inverted
- 61 *quivis*, *quac-*, *quid-*, *indef.*
pron., anyone
- 62 *nimius*, -a, -um, *adj.*, too
 much, excessive
- 63 *interdum*, *adv.*, sometimes
- 64 *fundo*, -ere, *fudi*, *fusus*, 3,
 pour, spread
cultus, -us, *m.*, care, cultivation
- 65 *supellex*, -lectilis, *f.*, furniture
- 66 *laxitas*, -atis, *f.*, roominess,
 spaciousness
- 67 *adveho*, -ere, -vexi, -vectus, 3,
 carry, bring
- 68 *lacunar*, -aris, *n.*, panelled
 ceiling
- 69 *lautitia*, -ae, *f.*, brightness,
 splendor
- 71 *includo*, -ere, -clusi, -clusus,
 3, end, close
- 72 *adsuesco*, -ere, -suevi, -suetus,
 3, become accustomed to
- 73 *fastidio*, 4, scorn, despise
- 74 *modo*, *adv.*, now
- 75 *exoletus*, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of*
exolesco), obsolete

fanantur nemoris tyranni'. 'Inremediabilis factio rimantur
epulis lagonaque temptant domos et spe mortem exigunt.' 40
'Genium festo vix suo testem.' 'Tenuisve cerei fila et cre-
pacem molam.' 'Focum mater aut uxor investiunt.' Non
statim cum haec legeris hoc tibi occurret, hunc esse qui
solutis tunicis in urbe semper incesserit (nam etiam cum
absentis Caesaris partibus fungeretur, signum a distincto 45
petebatur); hunc esse qui <in> tribunali, in rostris, in omni
publico coetu sic apparuerit ut pallio velaretur caput exclusis
utrimque auribus, non aliter quam in mimo fugitivi divitis
solent; hunc esse cui tunc maxime civilibus bellis strepentibus
et sollicita urbe et armata comitatus hic fuerit in publico, 50
spadones duo, magis tamen viri quam ipse; hunc esse qui
uxorem milliens duxit, cum unam habuerit? Haec verba tam
inprobe structa, tam neglegenter abiecta, tam contra con-
suetudinem omnium posita ostendunt mores quoque non
minus novos et pravos et singulares fuisse. Maxima laus illi 55
tribuitur mansuetudinis: pepercit gladio, sanguine abstinuit,
nec ulla alia re quid posset quam licentia ostendit. Hanc
ipsam laudem suam corrumpit istis orationis portentosissimae
delicis; apparet enim mollem fuisse, non mitem. Hoc istae
ambages compositionis, hoc verba transversa, hoc sensus 60
miri, magni quidem saepe sed enervati dum exeunt, cuius
manifestum facient: motum illi felicitate nimia caput. Quod
vitium hominis esse interdum, interdum temporis solet. Ubi
luxuriam late felicitas fudit, cultus primum corporum esse
diligentior incipit; deinde suppellectili laboratur; deinde in 65
ipsas domos inpenditur cura ut in laxitatem ruris excurrant,
ut parietes advectis trans maria marmoribus fulgeant, ut
tecta varientur auro, ut lacunaribus pavimentorum respon-
deat nitor; deinde ad cenas lautitia transfertur et illic com-
mendatio ex novitate et soliti ordinis commutatione captatur, 70
ut ea quae includere solent cenam prima ponantur, ut quae
advenientibus dabantur exeuntibus dentur. Cum adsuevit
animus fastidire quae ex more sunt et illi pro sordidis solita
sunt, etiam in oratione quod novum est quaerit et modo
antiqua verba atque exoleta revocat ac profert, modo fingit 75

- 76 **et ignota ac:** the daggers indicate a difficulty in the manuscript reading.
- 76-77 **pro cultu habetur:** "is regarded as [a mark of] elegance."
- 96 **maximae fama:** supply *vires* before these words.
- 101-102 **duodecim tabulas:** The twelve tables, a code of Roman laws framed by a commission of ten magistrates (*decemviri*) in 451 B.C. These laws, written on twelve bronze tablets, were displayed in the forum where they were seen and read by all. Only fragments of this code, expressed in succinct, precise, clear language which revealed the Roman genius for legal expression, have come down to us.
- 102 **Gracchus. . Crassus. . Curio:** Gaius Sempronius Gracchus, tribune in 123 B.C.; he and his brother Tiberius became champions of the poor classes against the rich and won renown as eminent popular orators. L. Licinius Crassus was consul in 95 B.C.; Cicero fictively recreated him as one of the principal speakers in the *De Oratore*. C. Scribonius Curio, consul in 76 B.C., was an outstanding orator and intimate friend of Julius Caesar.
- 103 **Appium. . Coruncanium:** Appius Claudius Caecus, outstanding orator and censor (312-308 B.C.), who built the first celebrated Roman road, the Via Appia, and also many aqueducts in Rome. J. Coruncanius was a consummate orator who served as consul in 280 B.C.
- 105 **in sordes incidunt:** "fall into a low style."
- 107 **in usu:** "in [daily] use."
- 109-110 **ille. . vellit:** i.e., the former polishes the whole leg, the latter doesn't even shave the armpits.
- 118 **Quid illa:** "what [of] that," a colloquial expression.

- 76 **deflecto, -ere, -flexi, -flexus,**
3, vary the form of [a word]
increbresco, -ere, -crebui, 3,
become frequent
- 77 **translatio, -onis, f.,** metaphor
- 78 **praecido, -ere, -cidi, -cिसus, 3,**
cut off, abbreviate
- 79 **detineo, -ere, -tinui, -tentus,**
2, detain, delay
- 80 **porrigo, -ere, -rexi, -rectus,**
3, put forth, extend
usque, adv., all the way
- 84 **descisco, -ere, -scivi (-scii),**
-scitus, 3, revolt from,
deviate from
- 85 **convivium, -i, n.,** banquet
- 87 **procido, -cidere, -cidi, 3,** fall
- 88 **tantum, adv.,** only
- 89 **corona, -ae, f.,** crowd
- 92 **venia, -ae, f.,** indulgence to
faults, pardon
- 94 **ignosco, -ere, -novi, -notus,**
3, pardon, forgive
dissimulo, 1, conceal, keep
secret
- 95 **prosum, prodesse, profui,**
irr., help
- 102 **nimis, adv.,** too much, over-
much, excessively
- 104 **usitatus, -a, -um, adj.,**
common, ordinary
- 108 **pecco, 1,** commit a fault, make
a mistake
- 109 **crus, cruris, n.,** leg
ne. . quidem, not. . . even
ala, -ae, f., armpit
- 110 **vello, -ere, vulsi, vulsus, 3,**
pluck out, pull out
- 112 **asper, -era, -erum, adj.,** rough
- 113 **de industria,** purposely
- 114 **salebra, -ae, f.,** jolt, roughness
- iunctura, -ae, f.,** joining
- 115 **percutio, -ere, -cussi,**
-cussus, 3, strike
- 116 **blandior, 4 dep.,** soothe, caress
molliter, adv., softly, gently
labor, -i, lapsus, 3 dep., glide
- 117 **differo, differre, distuli,**
dilatus, irr., put off, delay
- 118 **clausula, -ae, f.,** end of a
clause
lentus, -a, -um, adj., slow
- 119 **devexus, -a, -um, adj.,** sweeping
down
- 120 **pes, pedis, m.,** rhythm, meter

¶ et ignota ac† deflectit, modo, id quod nuper increbuit, pro
cultu habetur audax translatio ac frequens. Sunt qui sensus
praecidant et hoc gratiam sperent, si sententia pependerit et
audienti suspensionem sui fecerit; sunt qui illos detineant et
porrigant; sunt qui non usque ad vitium accedant (necesse
est enim hoc facere aliquid grande temptanti) sed qui ipsum
vitium ament. 80

Itaque ubicumque videris orationem corruptam placere,
ibi mores quoque a recto descivisse non erit dubium. Quo-
modo conviviorum luxuria, quomodo vestium aegrae civi-
tatis indicia sunt, sic orationis licentia, si modo frequens est,
ostendit animos quoque a quibus verba exeunt procidisse. 85
Mirari quidem non debes corrupta excipi non tantum a
corona sordidiore sed ab hac quoque turba cultiore; togis
enim inter se isti, non iudicis distant. Hoc magis mirari potes,
quod non tantum vitiosa sed vitia laudentur. Nam illud 90
semper factum est: nullum sine venia placuit ingenium. Da
mihi quemcumque vis magni nominis virum: dicam quid illi
aetas sua ignoverit, quid in illo sciens dissimulaverit. Multos
tibi dabo quibus vitia non nocuerint, quosdam quibus pro- 95
fuerint. Dabo, inquam, maximae famae et inter admiranda
propositos, quos si quis corrigit, delet; sic enim vitia virtuti-
bus inmixta sunt ut illas secum tractura sint.

Adice nunc quod oratio certam regulam non habet: con-
suetudo illam civitatis, quae numquam in eodem diu stetit,
versat. Multi ex alieno saeculo petunt verba, duodecim 100
tabulas loquuntur; Gracchus illis et Crassus et Curio nimis
culti et recentes sunt, ad Appium usque et Coruncanium
redeunt. Quidam contra, dum nihil nisi tritum et usitatum
volunt, in sordes incidunt. Utrumque diverso genere corru- 105
ptum est, tam mehercules quam nolle nisi splendidis uti ac
sonantibus et poeticis, necessaria atque in usu posita vitare.
Tam hunc dicam peccare quam illum: alter se plus iusto
colit, alter plus iusto negligit; ille et crura, hic ne alas quidem
vellit. 110

Ad compositionem transeamus. Quot genera tibi in hac
dabo quibus peccetur? Quidam praefractam et asperam
probant; disturbant de industria si quid placidius effluxit;
nolunt sine salebra esse iuncturam; virilem putant et fortem
quae aurem inaequalitate percutiat. Quorundam non est 115
compositio, modulatio est; adeo blanditur et molliter labitur.
Quid de illa loquar in qua verba differuntur et diu expectata
vix ad clausulas redeunt? Quid illa in exitu lenta, qualis
Ciceronis est, devexa et molliter detinens nec aiter quam
solet ad morem suum pedemque respondens? 120

- 121 **Non tantum:** the asterisks indicate that the manuscripts omit some words necessary for a balanced structure of the sentence.
- 124 **nihil. .sonant:** "[are] nothing more than they sound."
- 126 **Sallustio:** Gaius Sallustius Crispus, Roman historian (86-35 B.C.). Two of Sallust's works, the *Bellum Catilinae* and the *Bellum Jugurthinum* have come down to us. We also possess fragments of his *Historiae*, dealing with the period 78-67 B.C.
- 127-128 **ante expectatum cadentia:** "ending unexpectedly."
- 128 **Arruntius:** L. Arruntius, Roman orator and historian who became consul in A.D. 6. His historical writings dealt with the Punic Wars.
- 130 **apud Sallustium:** in citing an author, *apud*, "in the works of," "in the writings of," is regularly used.
- 133 **fugam nostris fecere:** "they put our men to flight."
- 134-135 **Panhormitanos. .fecere:** "caused the inhabitants of Panormus (modern Palermo, Sicily) to surrender to the Romans." The use of the infinitive *dedere* with the verb *fecere* (rather than the more classical construction of *ut* plus the subjunctive) appears to be colloquial.
- 148 **Regulo:** M. Atilius Regulus, consul in 267 and 256 B.C., Roman hero during the First Punic War. Captured by the Carthaginians, he was sent to Rome to propose peace between the two hostile countries. If unsuccessful in his mission, he was bound by oath to return to Carthage for mortal punishment. Rather than argue for peace, he heroically urged his countrymen to continue the war and as a result suffered a most cruel death at the hands of the enemy.
- 155 **servata. . parte:** "the remaining portion [of the hair] being preserved and hanging down" (i.e., allowed to grow long).
- 157 **oculis transire:** "to escape the eyes."
- 158-159 **dum conspici:** supply *possint*.
- 163 **quid aliud quam:** "what else is it," "what else than [this may I call it]."
- 121 **sententiae, -arum, f. pl.,** pointed thoughts
- 122 **pusillus, -a, -um, adj.,** petty, insignificant
inprobus, -a, -um, adj., bad, bold, shameless
- 123 **licet, -ere, licuit, impers., 2,** it is permitted
nitor, -i, nisus (nixus), 3 dep., lean, rest, strive
- 136 **contexo, -ere, -texui, -textus, 3,** weave
- 138 **incido, -ere, -cidi, -cisis, 3,** fall upon accidentally
- 140 **hiemo, 1,** be wintry, stormy, cold
- 143 **oneraria, -ae, f.,** merchant-vessel
praeter, prep. w. acc., besides, in addition to
- 144 **aquilo, -onis, m.,** north wind
- 145 **desino, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs, 3,** cease, stop
infulcio, -ire, -fulsi, -fultus, 4, put in, insert
- 147 **tempero, 1,** keep from, refrain from
- 150 **proprius, -a, -um, adj.,** one's own
- 151 **adfectus, -us, m.,** emotion
- 153 **fluxus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of fluo),** flowing, loose, slack
- 154 **intervello, -ere, -vulsi, -vulsus, 3,** pluck out here and there, thin
labrum, -i, n., lip
pressius, comp. adv., rather closely
- tondeo, -ere, totondi, tonsus, 2,** shear
- 155 **adrado, -ere, -rasi, -rasus, 3,** shave
lacerna, -ae, f., cloak
- 156 **sumo, -ere, sumpsi, sumptus, 3,** put on, wear
perlucens, -entis, p. adj. (of perluceo), transparent
- 158 **vel, conj.,** even
reprehendo, -ere, -prehendi, -prehensus, 3, censure, blame
- 161 **titubo, 1,** falter, hesitate
- 162 **cedo, -ere, cessi, cessus, 3,** yield
prodo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, betray, surrender
- 164 **labo, 1,** totter, fall
- 165 **habitus, -us, m.,** appearance, demeanor
incessus, -us, m., gait

Non tantum * * * in genere sententiarum vitium est, si aut pusillae sunt et pueriles aut improbae et plus ausae quam pudore salvo licet, si floridae sunt et nimis dulces, si in vanum exeunt et sine effectu nihil amplius quam sonant.

Haec vitia unus aliquis inducit, sub quo tunc eloquentia est, ceteri imitantur et alter alteri tradunt. Sic Sallustio vigente anputatae sententiae et verba ante expectatum cadentia et obscura brevitatis fuere pro cultu. L. Arruntius, vir rarae frugalitatis, qui historias belli Punici scripsit, fuit Sallustianus et in illud genus nitens. Est apud Sallustium 'exercitum argento fecit', id est, pecunia paravit. Hoc Arruntius amare coepit; posuit illud omnibus paginis. Dicit quodam loco 'fugam nostris fecere', alio loco 'Hiero rex Syracusanorum bellum fecit', et alio loco 'quae audita Panhormitanos dedere Romanis fecere'. Gustum tibi dare volui: totus his contextitur liber. Quae apud Sallustium rara fuerunt apud hunc crebra sunt et paene continua, nec sine causa; ille enim in haec incidebat, at hic illa quaerebat. Vides autem quid sequatur ubi alicui vitium pro exemplo est. Dixit Sallustius 'aquis hiemantibus'. Arruntius in primo libro belli Punici ait 'repente hiemavit tempestas', et alio loco cum dicere vellet frigidum annum fuisse ait 'totus hiemavit annus', et alio loco 'inde sexaginta onerarias leves praeter militem et necessarios nautarum hiemante aquilone misit'. Non desinit omnibus locis hoc verbum infulcire. Quodam loco dicit Sallustius 'dum inter arma civilia aequi bonique famas petiti'. Arruntius non temperavit quominus primo statim libro poneret ingentes esse 'famas' de Regulo. Haec ergo et eiusmodi vitia, quae alicui inpressit imitatio, non sunt indicia luxuriae nec animi corrupti; propria enim esse debent et ex ipso nata ex quibus tu aestimes alicuius adfectus: iracundi hominis iracunda oratio est, commoti nimis incitata, delicati tenera et fluxa. Quod vides istos sequi qui aut vellunt barbam aut intervellunt, qui labra pressius tondent et adradunt servata et summissa cetera parte, qui lacernas coloris improbi sumunt, qui perlucentem togam, qui nolunt facere quicquam quod hominum oculis transire liceat: irritant illos et in se avertunt, volunt vel reprehendi dum conspici. Talis est oratio Maecenatis omniumque aliorum qui non casu errant sed scientes volentesque. Hoc a magno animi malo oritur: quomodo in vino non ante lingua titubat quam mens cessit oneri et inclinata vel prodita est, ita ista orationis quid aliud quam ebrietas nulli molesta est nisi animus labat. Ideo ille curetur: ab illo sensus, ab illo verba exeunt, ab illo nobis est habitus, vultus, incessus. Illo sano

125

130

135

140

145

150

155

160

165

- 168-169 **Rege.** . *fidem*: Vergil. *Georgics* 4.212-213. In describing the *modus vivendi* of bees, Vergil employs these lines to emphasize their absolute allegiance to their queen and their confused behavior when she is lost.
- 173 **conatus**: a noun modified by *omnis*: "every effort."
- 191-192 **Numquid.** . *furor est*: *numquid* is an interrogative adverb used to introduce a question and need not be translated; Reynolds inserts *non* to give the negative force: "is there not madness in this?"
- 198 **consulum**: the Romans employed the names of the consuls to designate given years. For example, "in the consulships of Caesar and Bibulus" would refer to the year 59 B.C.

- 167 **procumbo**, -ere, -cubui, -cubitus, 3, fall down
- 168 **incolumis**, -e, *adj.*, unharmed
- 171 **pareo**, -ere, *parui*, *paritus*, 2, obey
- obtempero**, 1, obey, conform to
- 172 **simul**, *adv.*, at once
- 173 **marceo**, -ere, 2, be weak, languid
- 174 **similitudo**, -inis, *f.*, simile
- 175 **modo**, *adv.*, now
- intueor**, -eri, -tuitus, 2 *dep.*, look upon, contemplate
- 177 **inpotens**, -entis, *adj.*, weak, immoderate, uncontrolled
- 178 **dirus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, awful
- 179 **excipio**, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus, 3, take hold of, capture
- 181 **haurio**, -ire, *hausi*, *haustus*, 4, drink up, consume
- contrecto**, 1, touch, handle
- 182 **exedo**, -ere, -edi, -esus, 3, consume
- medulla**, -ae, *f.*, marrow
- 184 **pro**, *prep. w. abl.*, in place of
- 185 **sumministrato**, -oris, *m.*, promoter
- 186 **aufero**, *aufferre*, *abstuli*, *ablatus*, *irr.*, take away, remove
- 187 **quod**, *conj.*, because
- 189 **exoletus**, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of exolesco*), grown out of use, obsolete, emasculated
- convolutus**, 1, whirl or roll round rapidly
- 190 **maereo**, -ere, 2, be sad, grieve
- 191 **cesso**, 1, cease, stop, be idle, do nothing
- 193 **inbecillus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, weak
- 194 **culina**, -ae, *f.*, kitchen
- 195 **cocus**, -i, *m.*, cook
- 196 **veterarius**, -a, -um, *adj.*, old, mature
- 197 **vindemia**, -ae, *f.*, vintage
- horreum**, -i, *n.*, granary, storehouse
- 199 **colonus**, -i, *m.*, settler
- aro**, 1, plough
- fodio**, -ere, *fodi*, *fossus*, 3, dig
- 200 **sero**, -ere, *sevi*, *satus*, 3, sow

ac valente oratio quoque robusta, fortis, virilis est: si ille procubuit, et cetera ruinam sequuntur.

Rege incolumi mens omnibus una est:
amisso rupere fidem.

Rex noster est animus; hoc incolumi cetera manent in officio, parent, obtemperant: cum ille paulum vacillavit, simul dubitant. Cum vero cessit voluptati, artes quoque eius actusque marcent et omnis ex languido fluidoque conatus est. 170

Quoniam hac similitudine usus sum, perseverabo. Animus noster modo rex est, modo tyrannus: rex cum honesta intuetur, salutem commissi sibi corporis curat et illi nihil imperat turpe, nihil sordidum; ubi vero inpotens, cupidus, delicatus est, transit in nomen detestabile ac dirum et fit tyrannus. 175

Tunc illum excipiunt adfectus inpotentes et instant; qui initio quidem gaudet, ut solet populus largitione nocitura frustra plenus et quae non potest haurire contrectans; cum vero magis ac magis vires morbus exedit et in medullas nervosque descendere deliciae, conspectu eorum quibus se nimia aviditate inutilem reddidit laetus, pro suis voluptatibus habet alienarum spectaculum, sumministrator libidinum testisque, quarum usum sibi ingerendo abstulit. Nec illi tam gratum est abundare iucundis quam acerbum quod non omnem illum apparatus per gulam ventremque transmittit, quod non cum omni exoletorum feminarumque turba convolutatur, maeretque quod magna pars suae felicitatis exclusae corporis angustiis cessat. Numquid enim, mi Lucili, <non> in hoc furor est, quod nemo nostrum mortalem se cogitat, quod nemo inbecillum? immo quod nemo nostrum unum esse se cogitat? Aspice culinas nostras et concursantis inter tot ignes cocos: unum videri putas ventrem cui tanto tumultu comparatur cibus? Aspice veteraria nostra et plena multorum saeculorum vindemiis horrea: unum putas videri ventrem cui tot consulum regionumque vina cluduntur? Aspice quot locis terra vertatur, quot millia colonorum arent, fodiant: unum videri putas ventrem cui et in Sicilia et in Africa seritur? 180 185 190 195 200

- 201 unusquisque, unaquaeque,
unumquidque, *indef. pron.*,
each one
- 202 metior, -iri, mensus, 4 *dep.*,
measure
simul, adv., at the same time,
at once
- 203 prosum, prodesse, profui,
irr., be of use, benefit
- 205 aevum, -i, *n.*, life
respicio, -ere, -spexi,
-spectus, 3, look to, have
regard for

Sani erimus et modica concupissemus si unusquisque se numeret, metiatur simul corpus, sciat quam nec multum capere nec diu possit. Nihil tamen aeque tibi profuerit ad temperantiam omnium rerum quam frequens cogitatio brevis aevi et huius incerti: quidquid facies, respice ad mortem. *Val.* 205

VOCABULARY

A

- a, ab, prep. w. abl.,** from, away from, by
abdutum, -i, n., hiding, concealment
abditus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of abdo), concealed, secret
abdo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, hide
abduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, lead or take away, withdraw
abeo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, go away
aberro, 1, wander, lose one's way
abicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus [ab-iacio], 3, throw away or down
abiectus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of abicio), low, common, abject
abies, -etis, f., fir
abigo, -ere, -egi, -actus [ab-ago], 3, drive away
abrumpo, -ere, -rupi, -ruptus, 3, break off
abruptus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of abrumpo), broken, disconnected, abrupt
abscedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, go away, depart
abscondo, -ere, -di (-didi), -ditus, 3, hide
absens, -entis, adj., absent
absolute, adv., absolutely, perfectly, completely
absolutus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of absolvo), perfect, complete
absolvo, -ere, -solvi, -solutus, 3, loosen, free; complete, finish
abstineo, -ere, -tinui, -tentus [abs-teneo], 2, hold or keep away from, abstain from
abstrahō, -ere, -traxi, -tractus, 3, draw away
absum, abesse, afui, afuturus, irr., be away, be absent
abunde, adv., copiously, abundantly
abundo, 1, abound
abutor, -uti, -usus, 3 dep., abuse
ac, reduced form of atque, conj., and
accedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus [ad-cedo], 3, go towards, approach; be added
accendo, -ere, -cendi, -census, 3, kindle, set on fire, light
accipio, -a, -um, p. adj. (of accipio), received, taken
accerso, see arcesso
accessio, -onis, f., approach, access, attack
accido, -ere, -cidi [ad-cado], 3, fall to, happen
accipio, -cipere, -cepi, -ceptus [ad-capio], 3, take, receive
accusator, -oris, m., accuser
acer, acris, acre, adj., sharp, keen
acerbitas, -atis, f., bitterness
acerbus, -a, -um, adj., bitter, harsh
Achilles, -is, m., Achilles
Achivus, -a, -um, adj., Greek
accolo, -ere, -colui, -cultus, 3, dwell by or near, inhabit
acquirō, -ere, -quisivi, -quisitus [ad-quaero], 3, add to, acquire
acta, -orum, n. pl., actions
actio, -onis, f., action
actus, -us, m., doing or performing a thing, action, role
acuo, -ere, acui, acutus, 3, sharpen, spur on, incite
acutus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of acuo), sharpened, sharp, acute
ad, prep. w. acc., to, toward, against; for; according to
adclamo, 1, cry out at
addico, -ere, -dixi, -dictus, 3, give up or over, attach
addo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, give to, give, add
adduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, draw to oneself, lead, bring
adeo, -ire, -ii (-ivi), -itus, 4, go to or towards, approach
adeo, adv., to that point, so far, so much, so, to such an extent
adflecto, 1, strive after
adflectus, -us, m., emotion
adfero, -ferre, -tulī, -latus, irr., bring to, bring
adficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus [ad-facio], 3, affect
adfigo, -ere, -fixi, -fixus, 3, fasten to, fix to or in
adfirmatio, -onis, f., affirmation, assertion
adfirmo, 1, assert
adflo, 1, blow on, breathe on
adfrico, -are, -fricui, -fricatus, 1, rub on
adfundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, pour on, spread on
adgestus, -us, m., carrying to, accumulation, overcrowding
adgredior, -i, -gressus [ad-gradior], 3 dep., go to, approach; attack; undertake
adhaereo, -ere, -haesi, -haesus, 2, cling to
adhibeo, -ere, -ui, -itus [ad-habeo], 2, have by or near, summon; apply
adhortor, 1 dep., urge
adhuc, adv., up to this point, thus far, until now, still
adicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus [ad-iacio], 3, throw to or at; add
adiungo, -ere, -iunxi, -iunctus, 3, add
adiutor, -oris, m., assistant, helper
adiutorium, -i, n., assistance
adiutus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of adiuvo), aided, helped
adiuvo, -are, -iuvi, -iutus, 1, help, assist
adlevo, 1, lift up, raise
adlino, -ere, -levi, -litus, 3, smear on
adloquor, -i, -locutus, 3 dep., address, exhort, encourage

- adludo**, -ere, -lusi, -lusus, 3, play with
adminiculum, -i, *n.*, support
admiratio, -onis, *f.*, admiration, wonder, astonishment
admiror, 1 *dep.*, wonder at, be surprised; admire
admitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, admit
admoneo, -ere, -monui, -monitus, 2, advise, admonish
admoveo, -ere, -movi, -motus, 2, move to, place near
adolesco, -ere, -olevi (-ui), -ultus, 3, grow up, mature
adoro, 1, worship, honor
adpeto, -ere, -petivi, -petitus, 3, seek
adplico, -are, -avi (-ui), -atus (-itus), attach
adprehendo, -ere, -hendi, -hensus, 3, seize upon
adprobo, 1, approve, prove, establish
adquiesco, -ere, -quievi, -quietus, 3, rest, repose, find rest or comfort
adquiro, -ere, -quisivi, -quisitus [ad-quaero], 3, add to, acquire
adquisitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **adquiro**), acquired
adrado, -ere, -rasi, -rasus, 3, shave
adrisor, -oris, *m.*, one who smiles approvingly, flatterer
adrogantia, -ae, *f.*, arrogance
adrosor, -oris, *m.*, gnawer, parasite
adsensio, -onis, *f.*, agreement; applause
adsentior, -sentiri, -sensus, 4 *dep.*, assent to, agree with; welcome
adsequor, -i, -secutus, 3 *dep.*, attain
adsero, -ere, -serui, -sertus, 3, claim
adsideo, -ere, -sedi, -sessus [ad-sedeo], 2, sit near
adsiduus, -a, -um, *adj.*, continual, constant
adsigno, 1, assign
adsisto, -ere, -stiti, 3, stand at, by, or near
adsuesco, -ere, -suevi, -suetus, 3, become accustomed to
adsum, -esse, -fui, -futurus, *irr.*, be at, near, be present
adtendo, -ere, -tendi, -tentus, 3, pay attention
adtribuo, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3, assign
adtritrus, -us, *m.*, rubbing
adulatio, -onis, *f.*, flattery
adulescens, -entis, *adj.*, young; *subst. m.*, young man
adulescentia, -ae, *f.*, youth
adultera, -ae, *f.*, adulteress
adultus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **adolesco**), grown up, adult
aduro, -ere, -ussi, -ustus, 3, scorch
adustus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **aduro**), scorched
advectus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **adveho**), carried, brought
adveho, -ere, -vexi, -vectus, 3, carry, bring
advenio, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, arrive
adventicius, -a, -um, *adj.*, foreign, strange; accidental, external
adversus, -a, -um, *adj.*, hostile, adverse
adversus, *prep. w. acc.*, to, towards, against
adverto, -ere, -verti, -versus, 3, turn towards, turn
advoco, 1, call, summon
aedificium, -i, *n.*, building
aedituus, -i, *m.*, keeper of a temple
aeger, -ra, -rum, *adj.*, sick
aegre, *adv.*, painfully, with difficulty
aegritudo, -inis, *f.*, sickness, malady
aegrotto, 1, be sick
Aegyptius, -i, *m.*, an Egyptian
Aeneas, -ae, *m.*, hero of Vergil's Aeneid
aeneator, -oris, *m.*, trumpeter
aequalis, -e, *adj.*, equal
aequalitas, -atis, *f.*, evenness, smoothness; calm; equality
aequaliter, *adv.*, equally
aeque, *adv.*, equally
aequitas, -atis, *f.*, fairness, justice, equanimity
aequo, 1, equal
aequus, -a, -um, *adj.*, even, equal, level, fair, just
aerumna, -ae, *f.*, trouble, toil
aes, *aeris*, *n.*, copper, bronze; **aes alienum**, debt
aestimatio, -onis, *f.*, valuation, appraisal, estimation
aestimo, 1, value, estimate, judge
aestivus, -a, -um, *adj.*, pertaining to summer, summer-like, summer
aestuo, 1, boil, be hot
aestus, -us, *m.*, heat
aetas, -atis, *f.*, age
aeternus, -a, -um, *adj.*, everlasting, eternal
Aetna, -ae, *f.*, Mount Aetna in Sicily
aevum, -i, *n.*, age, time, life
affero, afferre, attuli, allatus [ad-fero], *irr.*, carry, bring
Africa, -ae, *f.*, Africa
ager, agri, *m.*, field, piece of land
agilis, -e, *adj.*, light, nimble, active
agito, 1, stir, agitate
agmen, -inis, *n.*, line of march, army
agnosco, -ere, -novi, -nitus, 3, know, understand, recognize, acknowledge
ago, -ere, egi, actus, 3, do, drive, discuss, live, spend, pay attention to, be concerned with;
age, **agite**, used as an interjection, come now!
gratias agere, give thanks, thank
agrestis, -e, *adj.*, wild, rustic, rural
agricola, -ae, *m.*, farmer
Agrippa, -ae, *m.*, Agrippa, son-in-law of Atticus, Cicero's intimate friend
aio, *def. verb.*, say, assert

ala, -ae, *f.*, wing; shoulders and armpits of a man
 alacer, -cris, -cre, *adj.*, cheerful, lively
 Alexander, -dri, *m.*, Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.), king of Macedonia
 alias, *adv.*, at another time; *alias*. . . *alias*, at one time. . . at another time
 alicubi, *adv.*, somewhere, anywhere
 alienus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of or belonging to another, another's; strange, foreign
 alimentum, -i, *n.*, food
 alioqui (alioquin), *adv.*, otherwise
 alipilus, -i, *m.*, hair plucker
 aliquamdiu, *adv.*, for some time
 aliquando, *adv.*, at some time or other, now and then, sometimes, finally
 aliquis, -quid, *indef. subst.*, someone, something; also aliqui, -qua, -quod, *indef. adj.*, some
 aliquo, *adv.*, somewhere
 aliquot, *indecl. adj.*, several, some
 aliter, *adv.*, otherwise, differently; **aliter atque aliter**, now in one way, now in another
 alius, alia, aliud, *adj.*, other, another; *alius*. . . *alius*, one, another; *alii*. . . *alii*, some, . . . others; *alio*. . . *alio*, in one direction. . . in another
 alligo, 1, bind
 alo, -ere, alui, alitus (altus), 3, nourish
 Alpes, -ium, *f.*, the Alps
 alter, -era, -erum, *adj.*, other (of two), the other; another; **alter**. . . **alter**, the one. . . the other
 alternus, -a, -um, *adj.*, one after the other, by turns, alternately; **alternis** (*abl. pl.*, supply *vicibus*), alternately, by turns
 altis, -e, *adj.*, fattened; **altis** (supply *avis*), *f.*, fowl
 altitudo, -inis, *f.*, height, altitude; depth
 altus, -a, -um, *adj.*, high, deep; **ex alto**, from deep down within; **in alto**, deep within; *subst.*, **altum**, -i, *n.*, depth, deep sea
 alumnus, -i, *m.*, pupil
 alveus, -i, *m.*, channel
 alvus, -i, *f.*, belly
 amaritudo, -inis, *f.*, bitterness
 ambages, -is, *f.*, circumlocution, ambiguity
 ambigo, -ere [amb-ago], 3, wander about; doubt, dispute
 ambiguus, -a, -um, *adj.*, uncertain, doubtful, ambiguous
 ambitio, -onis, *f.*, canvassing for office; ambition, ostentation
 ambitiosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, ambitious
 ambitus, -us, *m.*, going around, canvassing for office
 ambo, -ac, -o, *adj.*, both
 ambulatio, -onis, *f.*, walking
 ambulo, 1, walk
 amicitia, -ae, *f.*, friendship

amicus, -a, -um, *adj.*, friendly; *amicus*, -i, *m.*, friend
 amissus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *amitto*), lost
 amitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, let go, lose
 amnis, -is, *m.*, stream, river
 amo, 1, love
 amoenitas, -atis, *f.*, pleasantness
 amoenus, -a, -um, *adj.*, pleasant, charming
 amor, -oris, *m.*, love
 ample, *adv.*, amply; *comp.*, **amplius**, more
 amplector, -plecti, -plexus, 3 *dep.*, embrace
 amplius, *comp.* (of *ample*), more, longer
 amplus, -a, -um, *adj.*, large, great, ample
 an, *conj.*, or, whether
 Anacharsis, -is, *m.*, Anacharsis, renowned Scythian philosopher, 6th cent. B.C., friend of Solon
 analecta, -ae, *m.*, a slave who picked up crumbs after a meal
 anceps, -ipitis, *adj.*, ambiguous, dangerous; doubtful, uncertain
 ancillula, -ae, *f.*, maid-servant
 ancora, -ae, *f.*, anchor
 ango, -ere, anxi, anctus and anxus, 3, cause pain
 angulus, -i, *m.*, corner
 angustia, -ae, *f.*, narrowness
 angustus, -a, -um, *adj.*, narrow; slight, meager, small
 anhelitus, -us, *m.*, panting
 anicula, -ae, *f.*, a little old woman
 animal, -alis, *n.*, living creature, animal
 animus, -i, *m.*, mind, soul, spirit, breath; thought
 annus, -i, *m.*, year
 anputatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *anputo*), cut off, amputated
 anputo, 1, cut off, amputate
 ante, *adv.* and *prep. w. acc.*, before, in front of
 antecedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, go before, precede
 antecessus, -us, *m.*, a going before; **in antecessum**, in advance
 anteeo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), 4, go before, excel, surpass
 antequam, *adv.*, before
 anticipo, 1, anticipate
 antiquus, -a, -um, *adj.*, ancient
 antistes, -itis, *m.* and *f.*, high priest
 anxius, -a, -um, *adj.*, anxious, uneasy
 aperio, -ire, -ui, -ertus, 4, uncover, lay bare, reveal
 apertus, -a, -um, *adj.*, open, obvious
 apis, -is, *f.*, bee
 apologo, 1, reject
 apparatus, -us, *m.*, equipment, apparatus, provision
 appareo, -ere, -ui, -itus [ad-pareo], 2, appear
 appello, 1, call, name
 Appius, -i, *m.*, Appius Claudius Caecus, outstanding orator and censor (312-308 B.C.) who built the Via Appia
 applico [ad-plico], 1, fasten, attach, apply

aptatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of apto), fitted, adapted
 apto, 1, fit, adapt
 aptus, -a, -um, *adj.*, fit, suited
 apud, *prep. v. acc.*, at, with, by, near, among; at one's house, in one's possession, in the works of; in the case of
 aqua, -ae, *f.*, water
 aquilo, -onis, *m.*, north wind
 ara, -ae, *f.*, altar
 aratrum, -i, *n.*, plow
 arbiter, -tri, *m.*, witness, judge
 arbitrium, -i, *n.*, judgment, decision
 arbor, -oris, *f.*, tree
 arca, -ae, *f.*, money box
 arcanus, -a, -um, *adj.*, secret
 arceo, -ere, -cui, -ctus, 2, keep off, ward off
 arcesso, -ere, -ivi, -itus, 3, summon
 architectus, -i, *m.*, architect
 ardens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of ardeo), hot, glowing
 ardeo, -ere, -arsi, -arsus, 2, burn, glow
 ardor, -oris, *m.*, heat, burning
 arduus, -a, -um, *adj.*, steep, difficult, arduous
 area, -ae, *f.*, open space, site for a house
 arens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of areo), dry, arid
 areo, -ere, 2, be dry
 argentum, -i, *n.*, silver
 Argi, -orum, *m.*, Argos
 argumentatio, -onis, *f.*, argumentation
 argumentum, -i, *n.*, argument, proof
 aridus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dry, arid
 arieto, 1, strike violently
 Aristoteles, -is, *m.*, Aristotle of Stagira, 384–322 B.C., the renowned Greek philosopher, founder of the Peripatetic School
 arma, -orum, *n.*, arms
 armentum, -i, *n.*, herd
 armo, 1, arm
 aro, 1, plough
 arripio, -ere, arripui, arreptus [ad-rapio], 3, seize upon, snatch
 Arruntius, -i, *m.*, L. Arruntius, Roman orator and historian, consul in A.D. 6
 ars, artis, *f.*, art, skill
 articululus, -i, *m.*, joint
 artifex, -ficus, *m.*, artist, artisan, worker
 artificium, -i, *n.*, occupation, trade, profession, skill, art
 arundo, -inis, *f.*, reed, sugar-cane
 arvum, -i, *n.*, field
 as, assis, *m.*, the as, a Roman coin
 ascendo, -ere, -scendi, -scensus, 3, climb, ascend
 Asia, -ae, *f.*, Asia
 aspectus, -us, *m.*, sight
 asper, -cra, -erum, *adj.*, rough, harsh
 aspicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus [ad-specio], 3, look at, see

assentior, -iri, -sensus, 4 *dep.*, agree with, give approval
 at, *conj.*, but, moreover
 Athenae, -arum, *f.*, Athens
 atque, *conj.*, and
 atqui, *conj.*, and yet
 atrium, -i, *n.*, open court in a Roman house, atrium, reception room
 Attalus, -i, *m.*, Stoic philosopher, teacher of Seneca
 Atticus, -i, *m.*, Atticus, intimate friend of Cicero, to whom the orator addressed one of his four collections of letters
 attingo, -ere, -tigi, -tactus [ad-tango], 3, arrive at a place, approach, reach
 attollo, -ere, 3, raise up, lift up
 attonitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of attono), thunderstruck, stunned, astonished, confounded, senseless; frantic
 attono, -ere, -tonui, -tonitus, 3, strike with thunder, stun, make senseless
 auctor, -oris, *m.*, author, authority, voucher
 auctoramentum, -i, *n.*, oath
 auctoritas, -atis, *f.*, influence, authority
 auctus, -us, *m.*, increase, growth
 audaciter (audacter), *adv.*, boldly
 audax, -acis, *adj.*, bold, audacious
 audeo, -ere, ausus, 2 *semi-dep.*, dare
 audio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, hear, listen
 auditor, -oris, *m.*, hearer, auditor
 auditorium, -i, *n.*, lecture-room
 aufero, auferre, abstuli, ablatu, *irr.*, take away, remove
 augeo, -ere, auxi, auctus, 2, increase, augment
 aura, -ae, *f.*, breeze
 auratus, -a, -um, *adj.*, golden
 aureus, -a, -um, *adj.*, golden
 auris, -is, *f.*, ear
 aurum, -i, *n.*, gold
 auspicio, 1 *dep.*, take the auspices; begin, enter upon; attain, receive
 austeritas, -atis, *f.*, harshness, austerity
 ausus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of audeo), having dared, having ventured
 aut, *conj.*, or; aut. . . aut, either. . . or
 autem, *conj.*, but, however, moreover
 auxilium, -i, *n.*, help, aid
 avaritia, -ae, *f.*, greed, avarice
 avarus, -a, -um, *adj.*, greedy, avaricious
 aversus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of averto), turned away
 averto, -ere, -verti, -versus, 3, turn away
 aviditas, -atis, *f.*, vehement desire, avarice
 avidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, greedy
 avis, -is, *f.*, bird
 avocatio, -onis, *f.*, distraction
 avoco, 1, call away, distract

B

Baba, -ae, *m.*, Baba, a court fool in the age of Seneca
bacchor, 1 *dep.*, revel, rave
Baiae, -arum, *f.*, Baiae, a luxurious resort in Campania
Baianus, -a, -um, *adj.*, belonging to Baiae
balneum, -i, *n.*, see balneum
balneum, -i, *n.*, bath, bathhouse
barba, -ae, *f.*, beard
barbarus, -a, -um, *adj.*, foreign, barbarian
beatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, happy, blessed, wealthy
bellum, -i, *n.*, war
bene, *adv.*, well, rightly
beneficentia, -ae, *f.*, kindness, beneficence
beneficiarius, -a, -um, *adj.*, relating to a favor, bestowed as a favor
beneficium, -i, *n.*, kindness, benefit
biberarius, -i, *m.*, the man selling drinks
bibo, -ere, *bibi*, *bibitus*, 3, drink
bilis, -is, *f.*, gall, bile
blandimentum, -i, *n.*, allurement, blandishment
blandior, -iri, -itus, 4 *dep.*, flatter, soothe, caress
blandus, -a, -um, *adj.*, enticing
bonitas, -atis, *f.*, goodness
bonus, -a, -um, *adj.*, good; *comp.*, *melior*, -ius, better; *superl.*, *optimus*, -a, -um, best
bos, *bovis*, *c.*, ox, cow
botularius, -i, *m.*, sausage-maker
brachium, -i, *n.*, arm
bratteatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, gilded
brevis, -e, *adj.*, short, brief
bubulcus, -i, *m.*, herdsman

C

cadaver, -eris, *n.*, dead body, cadaver
cado, -ere, *cecid*, *casus*, 3, fall
caecus, -a, -um, *adj.*, blind
caedes, -is, *m.*, slaughter
caelatura, -ae, *f.*, carving
caelatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (*of caelo*), carved, engraved
caelestis, -e, *adj.*, heavenly, celestial
caelo, 1, carve, engrave
caelum, -i, *n.*, sky, heaven, atmosphere, climate
Caesar, -aris, *m.*, C. Julius Caesar (c. 102–44 B.C.), the renowned general, statesman, and author, assassinated by Brutus and Cassius
calco, 1, trample upon
calculus, -i, *m.*, pebble
calens, -entis, *p. adj.* (*of caleo*), hot
caleo, -ere, -ui, 2, be warm, hot
calidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, hot
calix, -icis, *m.*, cup, goblet

Callistus, -i, *m.*, Callistus, a slave who later became a master and scorned his former master
calor, -oris, *m.*, warmth, heat
calx, -cis, *f.*, heel
Campania, -ae, *f.*, Campania, a district of Central Italy
campus, -i, *m.*, field, plain
candidatus, -i, *m.*, candidate
candidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, glistening, white, pure
canis, -is, *c.*, dog
cano, -ere, *cecini*, 3, sing, sound, play
Canopus, -i, *m.*, Canopus, a city of Egypt, twelve miles from Alexandria, whose inhabitants were known for their debauchery
canticum, -i, *n.*, song
canto, 1, sing, play on an instrument
cantor, -oris, *m.*, singer
cantus, -us, *m.*, song
capax, -acis, *adj.*, able to hold
capio, -ere, *cepi*, *captus*, 3, take, seize
capitalis, -e, *adj.*, capital
Capitolium, -i, *n.*, the Capitol
capto, 1, seize, catch, capture
caput, -itis, *n.*, head, top, summit, source
carcer, -eris, *m.*, prison
cardiacus, -a, -um, *adj.*, suffering from a disease of the stomach
careo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, *w. abl.*, be without, lack
carmen, -inis, *n.*, poem, song
caro, *carnis*, *f.*, flesh, meat
carpo, -ere, *carpsi*, *carptus*, 3, pluck
carus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dear
casa, -ae, *f.*, hut, cottage
castigatio, -onis, *f.*, punishment, chastisement
castigo, 1, punish, check, restrain
castrum, -i, *n.*, castle, fort; *pl.*, *castra*, -orum, camp
casus, -us, *m.*, falling down, fall; occurrence, accident, chance; *casu = forte*, by chance
catena, -ae, *f.*, chain
Cato, -onis, *m.*, M. Cato, the Younger (95–46 B.C.), political opponent of Julius Caesar
cauda, -ae, *f.*, tail
causa, -ae, *f.*, cause, reason; *causa (abl. used as prep.)*, for the sake of
cavea, -ae, *f.*, hollow place, cavity; theater
caveo, -ere, *cavi*, *cautus*, 2, be on one's guard, take care, take heed, beware
cavus, -a, -um, *adj.*, hollow
cedo, -ere, *cessi*, *cessus*, 3, go, depart; yield
celebro, 1, visit frequently
celer, -eris, -e, *adj.*, swift, quick
celeritas, -atis, *f.*, speed, swiftness
cella, -ae, *f.*, hut, cell
celo, 1, conceal
cena, -ae, *f.*, dinner

- cenatio, -onis, *f.*, dining-hall
 ceno, 1, dine
 censeo, -ere, -sui, -sus, 2, express an opinion
 censura, -ae, *f.*, rating
 census, -us, *m.*, census; censor's list
 centeni, -ae, -a, *num. adj.*, a hundred each, a hundred
 centunculus, -i, *m.*, a small patch or patchwork
 cereus, -a, -um, *adj.*, waxen, of wax; cereus, -i, *m.*, wax taper
 cerno, -ere, crevi, cretus, 3, see, perceive, discern
 certe, *adv.*, certainly, surely
 certus, -a, -um, *adj.*, sure, fixed, certain
 cervix, -icis, *f.*, neck, back of the neck, back or shoulders
 cesso, 1, leave off, cease, delay; be idle, be negligent, do nothing
 ceterus, -a, -um, *adj.*, the rest of, the remaining;
 ceterum, *adv.*, for the rest, moreover, but
 chaos, *n.*, chaos
 Charinus, -i, *m.*, Charinus, archon in 308–307 B.C.
 Charondas, -ae, *m.*, a famous lawgiver of the 6th cent. B.C., disciple of Pythagoras
 chorus, -i, *m.*, chorus
 Chrysippus, -i, *m.*, Chrysippus (280–207 B.C.), successor of Cleanthes as head of the Stoic School
 cibus, -i, *m.*, food
 cicatrix, -icis, *f.*, scar
 Cicero, -onis, *m.*, M. Tullius Cicero, the renowned orator and philosopher, 106–43 B.C.
 cingo, -ere, cinxi, cinctus, 3, surround
 cinis, -eris, *m.*, ashes
 cinnus, -i, *m.*, mixed drink of spelt-grain and wine
 circa, *adv.* and *prep. m. acc.*, around, about, concerning
 circito, 1, make busy
 circuitus, -us, *m.*, circling, revolving
 circulator, 1 *dep.*, collect people around one's self
 circumdo, -dare, -dedi, -datus, 1, put around, place around, surround
 circumfero, -ferre, -tuli, -latus, *irr.*, carry around
 circumfodio, -ere, -fodi, -fossus, 3, dig around
 circumfundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, pour around
 circumscribo, -ere, -scripsi, -scriptus, 3, draw together, circumscribe, restrain
 circumsono, -are, -sonui, -sonatus, 1, sound around
 circumspicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus, 3, look around, survey, ponder upon, consider
 circumsto, -are, -steti, -status, 1, stand around
 circumstrepo, -ere, -strepui, -strepitus, 3, roar, make a noise around
 cisium, -i, *n.*, a light two-wheeled gig
 citatus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of cito)*, fast, rapid
 cito, 1, put in quick motion, move rapidly; cite, summon
 cito, *comp*, citius, *superl*, citissime, *adv.*, quickly, speedily
 citro, *adv. (found only in combination with ultro)*, hither and thither
 citus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of cicio)*, quick, speedy
 civilis, -e, *adj.*, civil
 civis, -is, *c.*, citizen
 civitas, -atis, *f.*, citizenship; state
 clamo, 1, shout, cry aloud
 clamor, -oris, *m.*, loud shouting, noise
 clare, *adv.*, in a loud voice
 clarus, -a, -um, *adj.*, clear, loud; famous, renowned
 classicum, -i, *n.*, war-trumpet
 claudo, -ere, clausi, clausus, 3, close
 clausula, -ae, *f.*, conclusion, close, end
 clausus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of claudo)*, closed, enclosed
 clavis, -is, *f.*, key
 Cleanthes, -is, *m.*, Cleanthes (331–232 B.C.), successor to Zeno as head of the Stoic School
 clementer, *adv.*, kindly, affably
 cliens, -entis, *m.*, client, dependent
 cludo, -ere, clusi, clusus, 3, shut, close
 clunis, -is, *m.* and *f.*, rump
 coactor, -oris, *m.*, one who forces
 coactus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of cogo)*, forced, compelled
 coagmento, 1, join, cement
 coalesco, -ere, -alui, -alitus, 3, grow together, coalesce, unite
 coarguo, -ere, -argui, 3, convict, expose
 coactura, -ae, *f.*, cooking, boiling
 cocus, -i, *m.*, cook
 coeo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, go or come together
 coepi, coepisse, coeptus (used only in perf. tenses), have begun, began
 coetus, -us, *m.*, meeting, assembly
 cogitatio, -onis, *f.*, thought
 cogitatus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of cogito)*, thought, deliberated, reflected
 cogito, 1, think, reflect
 cognitio, -onis, *f.*, knowledge, acquaintance
 cognosco, -ere, -gnovi, -gnitus, 3, recognise, learn
 cogo, -ere, coegi, coactus [con-ago], 3, drive together, collect; force, compel
 cohaereo, -ere, -haesi, -haesus, 2, cling together
 coicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus [con-iacio], 3, throw together, unite
 collido, -ere, -lisi, -lisus [con-laedo], 3, dash together
 colligo, -ere, -legi, -lectus [con-lego], 3, bring together, collect

colo, -ere, colui, cultus, 3, cultivate, worship,
honor, cherish
colonus, -i, *m.*, settler
color, -oris, *m.*, color, hue; class, kind
coloratus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of coloro), colored,
specious
coloro, 1, color
columbor, 1 *dep.*, bill or kiss like doves
comans, -antis, *p. adj.* (of como), having long
hair, hairy
comes, -itis, *c.*, companion, comrade
comessatio, -onis, *f.*, revel
comitatus, -us, *m.*, retinue, band, train
comiter, *adv.*, affably
commeatus, -us, *m.*, respite, furlough
commemoro, 1, recall to mind, mention, relate
commendatio, -onis, *f.*, recommendation,
commendation, praise
commendo, 1, recommend
commentum, -i, *n.*, invention, fabrication
commeo, 1, come and go
commercium, -i, *n.*, trade, commerce, intercourse,
exchange
comminiscor, -i, commentus, 3 *dep.*, contrive,
invent
commissio, -onis, *f.*, contest, entertainment,
concert
commissus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of committo),
entrusted
committo, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, entrust
commodo, 1, lend
commodus, -a, -um, *adj.*, advantageous,
convenient
commonefacio, -ere, -feci, -factus, 3, admonish
commotus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of commoveo),
moved, aroused, excited
commoveo, -ere, -movi, -motus, 2, move,
arouse, excite
communico, 1, share, communicate
communis, -e, *adj.*, common
commutatio, -onis, *f.*, charge
como, 1, be furnished with hair
comparatio, -onis, *f.*, comparison
compareo, -ere, -parui, 2, appear
comparo, 1, prepare, obtain
comparo, 1, compare
compendiarius, -a, -um, *adj.*, short, compendious;
compendiaria, -ae, *f.*, (supply *via*), short way,
short cut
compesco, -ere, -pescui, 3, check, restrain
complector, -i, -plexus, 3 *dep.*, embrace
complexus, -us, *m.*, embrace
complico, -are, -avi (-ui), -atus (-itus), 1, fold
together, fold up
compono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, put together,
collect; put in order, arrange, settle

compositio, -onis, *f.*, composition, arrangement
compositus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of compono), put
in order, arranged, settled
conatus, -us, *m.*, attempt, effort, undertaking
concauus, -a, -um, *adj.*, hollow
concedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, grant, allow,
concede
concentus, -us, *m.*, singing together, harmony,
harmonious music
conceptus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of concipio),
conceived
conchyliatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, purple, clothed in
purple
concinno, 1, fit together carefully, arrange
concipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus [con-capio], 3,
take, receive, conceive
concitatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of concito), stirred
up, aroused
concito, 1, stir up, excite
conclamo, 1, shout together
concoquo, -ere, -coxi, -coctus, 3, digest
concordia, -ae, *f.*, harmony, concord
concors, concordis, *adj.*, of the same mind, united,
agreeing, harmonious
conculco, 1, trample under foot
concupisco, -ere, -pivi (-pii), -pitus, 3, desire
eagerly, covet
concurro, -ere, -curri, -cursus, 3, run together
conkursatio, -onis, *f.*, running about, restlessness
concurso, 1, rush together, run about
concutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake, agitate
condicio, -onis, *f.*, condition
conditivum, -i, *n.*, tomb
conditua, -ae, *f.*, preservation
condo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, found, establish;
store away, conceal
confero, -ferre, -tuli, -latus, *irr.*, bring together,
contribute, grant, bestow; confer, converse; se
conferre, betake oneself, flee
confessio, -onis, *f.*, confession
conficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, make, complete,
accomplish
confido, -ere, -fisis, 3, *v. dat.* and *abl.*, trust,
confide
confirmo, 1, strengthen
confiteor, -eri, -fessus, 2 *dep.*, confess, admit
confragosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, broken, rugged, rough
confugio, -ere, -fugi, 3, flee for refuge
confundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, pour together,
mix together, confuse
congero, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, carry or bring
together, collect, amass
congestus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of congero), brought
together, collected, amassed
congregatio, -onis, *f.*, assembling together,
sociability

congrego, 1, collect, join, unite
congruo, -ere, -ui, 3, harmonize
conicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus [con-iacio], 3, throw
coniectus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of conicio), thrown
coniungo, -ere, -iunxi, -iunctus, 3, join together, unite
conloco, 1, place
conloquor, -i, -locutus, 3 *dep.*, converse with
conductor, 1 *dep.*, struggle
conor, 1 *dep.*, try, attempt
conpello, -ere, -puli, -pulsus, 3, compel
conpesco, -ere, -pescui, 3, check, restrain
conpeto, -ere, -petivi, -petitus, 3, come together
complico, -are, -avi (-ui), -atus (-itus), 1, fold up
conploro, 1, bewail, weep
comprendo, -ere, -prendi, -prensus, 3, comprise, fasten together
conprimo, -ere, -pressi, -pressus, 3, press together
computatio, -onis, *f.*, reckoning, computation
computo, 1, reckon, calculate, compute
conquiro, -ere, -quisivi, -quisitus, 3, seek for
conroboro (corroboro), 1, strengthen
conscendo, -ere, -scendi, -scensus [con-scando], 3, ascend, mount
conscientia, -ae, *f.*, a sharing of knowledge; knowledge in oneself; consciousness of right or wrong; conscience
consector, 1 *dep.*, follow, pursue
consensco, -ere, -senui, 3, grow old
consequor, -i, -secutus, 3 *dep.*, attain
consero, -ere, -serui, -sertus, 3, connect, join together
conservus, -i, *m.*, fellow slave, servant
considero, 1, consider, reflect upon
consilium, -i, *n.*, plan, purpose, advice, counsel
consisto, -ere, -stiti, -stitus, 3, stand still, halt, stay in one place, stop, dwell
consolatio, -onis, *f.*, consolation
consolator, -oris, *m.*, consoler
consono, -are, -sonui, 1, sound together
consortium, -i, *n.*, fellowship
consors, -sortis, *adj.*, sharing in, partaking of
conspectus, -us, *m.*, sight, view
conspicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus, 3, look at, notice
conspiro, 1, breathe together, unite, blend
constans, -antis, *p. adj.* (of consto), firm, constant
constituo, -ere, -stitui, -stitutus [con-statuo], 3, set up, establish, settle upon
consto, -are, -stiti, -status, 1, stand together, stand; stand firm, be consistent; stand at the price of, cost; *constat*, *impers.*, it is agreed
constringo, -ere, -strinxī, -strictus, 3, bind
consuetudo, -inis, *f.*, custom, habit
consul, -ulis, *m.*, cōsul

consularis, -e, *adj.*, consular
consultus, -i, *m.*, lawyer
consummatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of consummo), complete, perfect, consummate
consummo, 1, add together, sum up; complete
consumo, -ere, -sumpsi, -sumptus, 3, consume, spend
consuo, -ere, -sui, -sutus, 3, sew
contemno, -ere, -tempsi, -temptus, 3, scorn
contemplatio, -onis, *f.*, contemplation
contemptus, -us, *m.*, scorn, contempt
contendo, -ere, -di, -tus, 3, hasten, contend; maintain, assert
contentus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of contineo), content, satisfied
contexo, -ere, -texui, -textus, 3, weave
conticesco, -ere, -ticui, 3, become silent
contineo, -ere, -tinui, -tentus, 2, hold together, hold in check, curb, subdue
contingo, -ere, -tigi, -tactus [con-tango], 3, touch; befall; fall to one's lot, attain
continuatio, -onis, *f.*, continuity
continuo, 1, continue
continuus, -a, -um, *adj.*, continuous
contio, -onis, *f.*, assembly, meeting, speech
contra, *prep. n. acc.*, against; *adv.*, on the contrary
contraho, -ere, -traxi, -tractus, 3, draw together, collect
contrarius, -a, -um, *adj.*, opposite, opposed, contrary
contrecto (contracto), 1, touch, handle
contristo, 1, sadden, depress
contubernalis, -is, *c.*, comrade, companion
contubernium, -i, *n.*, dwelling together, companionship, intimacy
contumaciter, *adv.*, obstinately
contumelia, -ae, *f.*, insult
contumeliosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, insulting, abusive
convalesco, -ere, -valui, 3, become strong
conveniēns, -entis, *p. adj.* (of convenio), agreeing; fit for, suitable
convenio, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, come together, be fitting, be suitable; *convenit*, *impers.*, it is agreed upon
conversatio, -onis, *f.*, association, conversation
converso, 1, turn around; *converser*, 1 *dep.*, live with, associate with
converto, -ere, -verti, -versus, 3, turn round, direct towards
convicium, -i, *n.*, loud cry, shout, clamor
convictor, -oris, *m.*, one who lives with another, constant associate, companion
convictus, -us, *m.*, a living together, intimacy, social life
conviva, -ae, *c.*, guest
convivium, -i, *n.*, feast, banquet

convolutus, 1, whirl or roll round rapidly
 copia, -ae, *f.*, supply, abundance; resources,
 troops, forces
 copulo, 1, link
 coquo, -ere, -xi, -ctus, 3, cook
 cor, cordis, *n.*, heart
 coram, *prep. w. abl.*, in the presence of
 corona, -ae, *f.*, wreath, crown; crowd
 corporalis, -e, *adj.*, relating to the body, corporeal
 corpus, -oris, *n.*, body
 corpusculum, -i, *n.*, tiny body, corpuscle, atom
 corripo, -ere, -rexi, -rectus [con-rego], 3, make
 straight, correct
 corripio, -ere, -ripui, -reptus [con-rapio], 3,
 seize, catch
 corrumpo, -ere, -rupi, -ruptus, 3, break, destroy,
 corrupt, entice
 Coruncanius, -i, *m.*, T. Coruncanius, orator and
 consul (280 B.C.)
 corruptus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of corrumpo), cor-
 rupted, bad
 cortex, -icis, *m.*, bark, rind
 cotidianus, -a, -um, *adj.*, daily
 cotidie, *adv.*, daily
 crassus, -a, -um, *adj.*, thick, dense
 Crassus, -i, *m.*, L. Licinius Crassus, consul in 95
 B.C.
 crastinus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of the morrow, tomor-
 row's; *subst.*, crastinum, -i, *n.*, the morrow,
 tomorrow; in crastinum, for tomorrow
 cratis, -is, *f.*, wicker-work, hurdle
 creber, -bra, -brum, *adj.*, frequent
 creditor, -oris, *m.*, creditor
 credo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, believe, trust
 crepax, -acis, *adj.*, sounding, creaking
 crepitus, -us, *m.*, noise
 crepo, -are, crepui, crepitus, 1, creak
 cresco, -ere, crevi, cretus, 3, grow
 crispo, 1, curl, crisp
 crocum, -i, *n.*, and crocus, -i, *m.*, saffron
 Croesus, -i, *m.*, Croesus, the wealthy and
 renowned king of Lydia (560–546 B.C.)
 crudelis, -e, *adj.*, cruel
 crudelitas, -atis, *f.*, cruelty
 cruor, -oris, *m.*, blood
 crus, cruris, *n.*, leg
 crustularius, -i, *m.*, confectioner
 cubiculum, -i, *n.*, bedroom
 cubile, -is, *n.*, bed, couch
 cubito, 1, lie down
 culina, -ae, *f.*, kitchen
 culmen, -inis, *n.*, height
 culmus, -i, *m.*, straw
 cultor, -oris, *m.*, cultivator
 cultus, -us, *m.*, care, cultivation, culture; attire,
 appearance

cultus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of colo), cultivated, tilled,
 cultured
 cum, *prep. w. abl.*, with
 cum, *conj.*, when, since, although; cum maxime,
 to the greatest extent, however much; just now;
 cum primum, as soon as, as soon as possible
 cumba, -ae, *f.*, boat
 cunctus, -a, -um, *adj.*, whole, all, entire
 cuneus, -i, *m.*, wedge
 cupiditas, -atis, *f.*, eager desire, passionate longing,
 avarice
 cupidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, desirous, eager; avaricious
 cupio, -ere, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 3, desire
 cur, *interrog. adv.*, why?
 cura, -ae, *f.*, care, concern
 curatio, -onis, *f.*, cure
 curia, -ae, *f.*, senate, senate-house
 Curio, -onis, *m.*, C. Scribonius Curio, consul in
 76 B.C.
 curiosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, full of care, anxious;
 curious
 curo, 1, care for, pay attention to; cure, heal
 curro, -ere, cucurri, cursus, 3, run
 cursim, *adv.*, hastily, quickly
 cursus, -us, *m.*, running, course
 curvatura, -ae, *f.*, bending, curving
 curvo, 1, bend, curve
 custodia, -ae, *f.*, watching, guarding, custody;
 prisoner
 custodio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, guard, watch
 custos, -odis, *c.*, guard, watch, protector
 cutis, -is, *f.*, skin

D

Daedalus, -i, *m.*, Daedalus, the legendary Athenian
 inventor, father of Icarus, renowned for having
 created the Cretan labyrinth to incarcerate the
 monstrous Minotaur, half bull, half man
 damno, 1, condemn
 damnosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, harmful
 damnum, -i, *n.*, loss
 Dareus, -i, *m.*, Darius III, the last king of Persia,
 whose mother, Sisigambis, was taken prisoner
 by Alexander the Great
 de, *prep. w. abl.*, from, down from; about,
 concerning
 dea, -ae, *f.*, goddess
 debello, 1, wage war, conquer, overcome
 debeo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, owe, ought
 debitum, -i, *n.*, debt
 decedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, go away, depart;
 depart from life, die
 December, -bris, *m.*, December
 decenter, *adv.*, properly
 decerno, -ere, -crevi, -cretus, 3, decide, decree

- decerpo**, -ere, -cerpsi, -cerptus [de-carpo], 3, pluck off, cull
decet, -ere, decuit, *impers.*, 2, it fits, it becomes
decido, -ere, -cidi [de-cado], 3, fall down
decido, -ere, -cidi, -cisus [de-caedo], 3, cut down
decipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus [de-capio], 3, cheat, deceive
declaro, 1, make clear, demonstrate, disclose
declino, 1, avoid, decline
decoctus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of decoquo), cooked, boiled
decoquo, -ere, -xi, -ctus, 3, cook, boil
decor, -oris, *m.*, charm, grace, glory
decorus, -a, -um, *adj.*, decorous, adorned
decrepitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, very old, decrepit
decretus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of decerno), decreed
decumbo, -ere, -cubui, 3, fall down, fall sick
decuria, -ae, *f.*, class, division, group
decurro, -ere, -curri (-cucurri), -cursus, 3, run down, maneuver, charge, go through military exercises
decursus, -us, *m.*, running down, downward course; drainage
dedecet, -decere, -decuit, *impers.*, it is unbecoming
dedico, 1, dedicate, devote
dedo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, give up, surrender
deduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, lead, bring, lead down, drag
defendo, -ere, -di, -sus, 3, guard, protect, defend
defero, -ferre, -tuli, -latus, *irr.*, bring, bear, carry down; technically, bring to market to sell, sell
defetigo, 1, wear out
deficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus [de-facio], 3, fail, become less, disappear; revolt; passive voice, be wanting in, lack
deflecto, -ere, -flexi, -flexus, 3, bend downwards, turn aside; inflect, vary the form of [a word]
defluo, -ere, -fluxi, -fluxus, 3, flow down
defossus, -us, *m.*, cave, pit, dug-out
defunctus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of defungor), dead
defungor, -i, -functus, 3 *dep.*, finish, complete; depart, die
degener, -eris, *adj.*, degenerate, unworthy, base
degusto, 1, taste
deicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus, 3, throw down, cast down
deiectus, -us, *m.*, fall
deinde, *adv.*, then
delabor, -i, -lapsus, 3 *dep.*, fall down
delecto, 1, delight
delegatio, -onis, *f.*, substitution, delegation of one person by another
delego, 1, transfer, entrust, assign
delenio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, charm, cajole
deleo, -ere, -levi, -letus, 2, destroy
delibero, 1, weigh carefully, consider
delicatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, soft, delicate, luxurious, effeminate
deliciae, -arum, *f. pl.*, pleasure, luxury, delight, fastidiousness, fussiness
delicolum, -i, *n.*, little darling or sweetheart
delicium, -i, *n.*, little darling, sweetheart
deliro, 1, be crazy, be mad
demens, -mentis, *adj.*, mad, insane
dementia, -ae, *f.*, madness
demergo, -ere, -mersi, -mersus, 3, sink
Demetrius, -i, *m.*, Demetrius of Sunium, renowned Cynic philosopher who taught in Rome during Caligula's reign
deminutio, -onis, *f.*, lessening, diminution
demissus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of demitto), sent down
demitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, send down, bring down
demo, -ere, dempsi, demptus, 3, take away, remove
Democritus, -i, *m.*, Democritus (c. 460 - c. 360 B.C.), atomic philosopher, to whom Epicurus was indebted
demonstro, 1, show, demonstrate, point out
demum, *adv.*, at length, at last
denarius, -i, *m.*, Roman coin
denique, *adv.*, finally
dens, dentis, *m.*, tooth
densitas, -atis, *f.*, thickness, density
densus, -a, -um, *adj.*, thick, close, dense
deorsum, *adv.*, downwards; sursum deorsum, up and down, topsy-turvy
depello, -ere, -puli, -pulsus, 3, drive out
dependeo, -ere, 2, hang from, hang down
depono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, put down, lay aside
depravo, 1, pervert, distort; corrupt, deprave
deprecator, -oris, *m.*, one who begs off, an intercessor
deprehendo (deprendo), -ere, -prehendi (-prendi), -prehensus (-prensus), 3, catch off guard, catch, seize, detect, discover
deprehensus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of deprehendo), caught off guard, caught, seized
depressus, *see* deprehensus
deprimo, -ere, -pressi, -pressus, 3, press down, depress
derideo, -ere, -risi, -risus, 2, laugh at, mock, deride
derigo (dirigo), -ere, -rexii, -rectus [dis-rego], 3, set straight out, set straight; arrange, direct
derisor, -oris, *m.*, mocker
descendo, -ere, -scendi, -scensus, 3, go down, descend
descisco, -ere, -scivi (-ii), -scitus, 3, free one's self from, revolt from, deviate from

describo, -ere, -scripsi, -scriptus, 3, describe
deservio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, serve, be a slave to
desiderium, -i, *n.*, desire, longing, loss
desidero, 1, desire, long for, require
desidia, -ae, *f.*, sloth
desido, -ere, -sedi, 3, settle down
designatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *designo*), marked out
designo, 1, mark out, designate
desino, -ere, -sivi (-sii), -situs, 3, cease, stop, desist
desisto, -ere, -stiti, -stitus, 3, cease, desist
despero, 1, be without hope, despair of, give up
despoliatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *despolio*), plundered, despoiled
despolio, 1, plunder, despoil, strip
destino, 1, choose, appoint
desudo, 1, perspire
desuesco, -ere, -suevi, -suetus, 3, become unaccustomed to
desuetus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *desuesco*), unaccustomed
desum, -esse, -fui, -futurus, *irr.*, fail, be lacking
desumo, -ere, -sumpsi, 3, take for one's self, choose
detego, -ere, -texi, -tectus, 3, uncover, disclose
detergeo, -ere, -tersi, -tersus, 2, wipe up
deterior, -ius, *comp. adj.*, worse, inferior
deterreo, -ere, -terrui, -territus, 2, frighten, deterr
detestabilis, -e, *adj.*, detestable
detineo, -ere, -tinui, -tentus [*de-teneo*], 2, hold back, detain, delay
detraho, -ere, -traxi, -tractus, 3, draw off or from, take away
detrimentum, -i, *n.*, detriment, injury
deus, -i, *m.*, *nom. pl.*, dei, dii, di, god, deity
deversorium, -i, *n.*, resort
deverto, -ere, -verti, -versus, 3, turn aside
devertex, -i, *n.*, slope
devertex, -a, -um, *adj.*, moving downward, sweeping down
devito, 1, avoid
devoro, 1, swallow, devour
dexter, -tra, -trum, *adj.*, right; **dextra**, -ae, *f.*, right hand
di, *see deus*
dico, -ere, dixi, dictus, 3, say, tell
dicto, 1, dictate
dictum, -i, *n.*, word, saying
dies, -ei, *m.* and *f.*, day, daylight; time
differo, differre, distuli, dilatus [*dis-fero*], *irr.*, bear apart, scatter; put off, postpone, delay
difficilis, -e, *adj.*, difficult
difficultas, -atis, *f.*, difficulty
difficulter, *adv.*, with difficulty

diffluo, -ere, -fluxi, -fluxus, 3, flow in different directions, be loose
diffundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, spread
digero, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, distribute
dignatio, -onis, *f.*, dignity, reputation
dignitas, -atis, *f.*, worth, worthiness; rank, position, honor, dignity
dignus, -a, -um, *adj.*, worthy
dilabor, -i, -lapsus, 3 *dep.*, glide apart, fall down
dilatio, -onis, *f.*, delaying
dilato, 1, spread out, extend
diligens, -entis, *adj.*, careful, diligent
diligenter, *adv.*, carefully, diligently
diligentia, -ae, *f.*, diligence
diligo, -ere, -lexi, -lectus [*dis-lego*, choose out], 3, love, esteem
diluo, -ere, -lui, -lutus, 3, dilute
dimidium, -i, *n.*, half
dimitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, send away, dismiss
dinumero, 1, count up, enumerate
Diogenes, -is, *m.*, Diogenes, famous philosopher of the Cynic School (c. 400 – c. 325 B.C.)
dipondium, -i, *n.*, the sum of two asses
diripio, -ere, -ripui, -reptus, 3, plunder
dirus, -a, -um, *adj.*, awful
discedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, go apart, go away, withdraw, depart
discerno, -ere, -crevi, -cretus, 3, separate, set apart, distinguish, discern
discerpo, -ere, -cerpsi, -cerptus, 3, tear to pieces
discinctus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *discingo*), ungirt, loose, dissolute
discingo, -ere, -cinxī, -cinctus, 3, ungird
disciplina, -ae, *f.*, discipline
discipulus, -i, *m.*, pupil, disciple
disco, -ere, didici, 3, learn, take lessons in
discordo, 1, be at discord, disagree
discrimen, -inis, *n.*, difference
discumbo, -ere, -cubui, -cubitus, 3, recline
discurro, -ere, -cucurri (-curri), -cursus, 3, run apart, run hither and thither
discutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake off, dash to pieces
disertus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *dissero*), eloquent, well-expressed
dispicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus, 3, see through
displiceo, -ere, -plicui, -plicitus [*dis-placeo*], 2, displease
dispono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, arrange
dispositio, -onis, *f.*, arrangement
dispositus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *dispono*), arranged
disputatio, -onis, *f.*, argument, debate
disputo, 1, discuss, debate, argue
dissentio, -ire, -sensi, -sensus, 4, disagree
dissero, -ere, -serui, -sertus, 3, treat of, discuss a subject

dissicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus, 3, throw aside
 dissideo, -ere, -sedi, -sessus [dis-sedeo], 2, sit
 apart, be at variance, be different
 dissilio, -ire, -silui, -sultus [dis-salio], 4, leap apart
 dissimilis, -e, *adj.*, unlike
 dissimilitudo, -inis, *f.*, lack of similarity
 dissimulo, 1, conceal, hide, keep secret
 dissocio, 1, separate from fellowship, disunite
 dissolutio, -onis, *f.*, breaking up, dissolution,
 destruction; want of energy, lethargy
 dissonus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dissonant, discordant
 dissuadeo, -ere, -suasi, -suasus, 2, advise against,
 dissuade
 distendo, -ere, -tendi, -tentus, 3, stretch apart,
 expand; fill full, distend
 distentus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *distendo*), distended,
 full
 distinctus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *distinguo*),
 separated, distinct
 distinguo, -ere, -stinxi, -stinctus, 3, separate,
 distinguish
 disto, -are, -stiti, 1, stand apart, differ
 distorqueo, -ere, -torsus, -tortus, 2, twist apart,
 distort
 distortus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *distorqueo*),
 distorted, disformed
 distraho, -ere, -traxi, -tractus, 3, tear asunder,
 distract
 districtus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *distringo*), distracted,
 occupied
 distringo, -ere, -trinx, -trictus, 3, draw apart,
 distract
 disturbo, 1, throw into confusion, disturb
 diu, *adv.*, long, a long time
 diurnus, -a, -um, *adj.*, daily; *diurnum*, -i, *n.*,
 daily allowance
 diutinus, -a, -um, *adj.*, lasting a long time, long
 diutius, diutissime, *comp.* and *superl.* of *diu*
 divello, -ere, -velli, -vulsus, 3, tear asunder
 diversus, -a, -um, *adj.*, various, different, diverse
 dives, -itis, *adj.*, rich, wealthy
 divido, -ere, -visi, -visus, 3, divide
 divinus, -a, -um, *adj.*, divine
 divitiae, -arum, *f. pl.*, wealth
 do, dare, dedi, datus, 1, give
 doceo, -ere, docui, doctus, 2, teach
 doleo, -ere, dolui, doliturus, 2, suffer pain,
 grieve, sorrow
 dolium, -i, *n.*, large earthenware jar or wooden
 cask, tub
 dolor, -oris, *m.*, pain, sorrow, grief
 domesticus, -a, -um, *adj.*, domestic, private
 domicilium, -i, *n.*, dwelling, home
 domina, -ae, *f.*, mistress, ruler
 dominicus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of or belonging to a
 master

dominor, 1 *dep.*, rule, be master
 dominium, -i, *n.*, rule, power
 dominus, -i, *m.*, master
 domus, -us, or -i, *f.*, house, home
 donec, *conj.*, until; as long as, while
 dono, 1, grant, bestow
 dormio, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, sleep
 dos, dotis, *f.*, dowry, gift
 Drusus, -i, *m.*, Drusus Caesar, great-grandson of
 Atticus, Cicero's intimate friend
 dubius, -a, -um, *adj.*, doubting, doubtful, dubious;
 sine dubio, without doubt
 dubito, 1, doubt, hesitate
 duco, -ere, duxi, ductus, 3, lead, draw out,
 extend, build
 ductus, -us, *m.*, drawing, carving
 ductus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *duco*), led, drawn out
 dudum, *adv.*, a little while ago, lately, recently
 dulcedo, -inis, *f.*, sweetness, pleasantness, charm
 dulcis, -e, *adj.*, sweet, pleasant
 dum, *conj.*, while, so long as, until
 dummodo, *conj.*, provided that
 dumtaxat, *adv.*, only
 duo, -ae, -o, *num. adj.*, two
 duplex, -icis, *adj.*, double
 duritia, -ae, *f.*, harshness, hardness
 duro, 1, make hard, become hard, last, remain
 durus, -a, -um, *adj.*, hard
 dux, ducis, *c.*, leader

E

e, *prep. w. abl.*, see *ex*
 ebrietas, -atis, *f.*, drunkenness
 ebrius, -a, -um, *adj.*, drunk, intoxicated
 ebur, -oris, *n.*, ivory
 ecce, *interj.*, lo!, behold!
 ecquis, -qua, -quid, *indef. interrog. pron.*,
 (whether) any? anyone? anything?
 edax, -acis, *adj.*, greedy
 edisco, -ere, -didici, 3, learn thoroughly
 editus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *edo*), high, lofty
 edo, -ere, edi, esus, 3, eat
 edo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, give out, bring forth
 edoceo, -ere, -cui, -ctus, 2, teach, instruct
 edoctus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *edoceo*), taught,
 instructed
 educo, 1, bring up, rear, educate
 educo, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, lead out
 effectus, -us, *m.*, effect
 effeminatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *effemino*),
 effeminate
 effemino, 1, make effeminate, enervate
 effero, efferre, extuli, elatus [ex-fero], *irr.*,
 bring forth or out, carry out, bury
 effetus, -a, -um, *adj.*, weakened, effete, worn out

efficax, -acis, *adj.*, effective, efficient, efficacious
efficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus, 3, bring about, effect, make, accomplish
effingo, -ere, -finxi, -fictus, 3, fashion, mould
effluo, -ere, -fluxi, -fluxus [ex-fluo], 3, flow out, vanish, disappear
effugio, -ere, -fugi, -fugitus, 3, flee, escape
effundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus [ex-fundo], 3, pour out
effusus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *effundo*), poured out, immoderate, unrestrained
egeo, -ere, egui, 2, be in need of
egero, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, carry or bring out, vomit
ego, mei, *gen.*, mihi, *dat.*, me, *acc.* and *abl.*, *pers. pron.*, I
egredior, -i, -gressus [ex-gradior], 3 *dep.*, go beyond
egregie, *adv.*, excellently, admirably
egregius, -a, -um, *adj.*, excellent, distinguished
egressus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *egredior*), having gone beyond
ecicio, -ere, eieci, eiectus [ex-iacio], 3, throw out, eject
eiusmodi (is and modus), of this kind, such
elabor, -i, clapsus, 3 *dep.*, slip away
elaboro, 1, work out, elaborate
elanguesco, -ere, -guit, 3, grow faint, feeble
elapsus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *elabor*), having slipped forth
elatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *effero*), brought forth, carried out, buried; exalted, elevated
elegantia, -ae, *f.*, elegance
elephantus, -i, *c.*, elephant
elevo, 1, lift up, raise
elido, -ere, -lisi, -lisis, 3, shatter, crush
eligo, -ere, -legi, -lectus, 3, choose, select
eloquentia, -ae, *f.*, eloquence
eludo, -ere, -lusi, -lusus, 3, delude, deceive
emaresco, -ere, emarui, 3, wither away
emendatio, -onis, *f.*, improvement, emendation
emendo, 1, improve
emergeo, -ere, -mersi, -mersus, 3, rise, emerge
emineo, -ere, -ui, 2, stand out
emitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, send forth, send out
emo, -ere, emi, emptus, 3, buy
emollio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, soften
emptor, -oris, *m.*, buyer
en, *interj.*, lo! behold!
enervatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *enervo*), weakened, enervated
enervo, 1, weaken, enervate
enim, *conj.*, for
enuntio, 1, tell, divulge, disclose
eo, ire, ii (ivi), itus, 4, go

eo, *adv.*, thither, to that place; so far, to such a pitch; on that account, therefore, for that reason;
eo magis. . . **quo magis**, the more. . . the more
Epicureus, -a, -um, *adj.*, Epicurean
Epicurus, -i, *m.*, Epicurus, 341–270 B.C., founder of the Epicurean School
epistula, -ae, *f.*, letter, epistle
epulum, -i, *n.*, public banquet
eques, -itis, *c.*, horseman, rider, knight
equus, -i, *m.*, horse
erado, -ere, -rasi, -rasus, 3, scratch out, eradicate
erectus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *erigo*), lifted up, upright, erect, aroused
erepo, -ere, -repsi, 3, creep
ergo, *adv.*, therefore, then
erigo, -ere, -rexi, -rectus [ex-rego], 3, place upright, lift up, erect, arouse
eripio, -ere, -ripui, -reptus [ex-rapio], 3, snatch away, steal
erro, 1, make a mistake, wander, err
error, -oris, *m.*, error
erubescio, -ere, erubui, 3, redden, blush
erudio, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, educate, instruct, teach
eruditio, -onis, *f.*, learning, erudition
eruditus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *erudio*), learned, erudite, skilled
erumpo, -ere, -rupi, -ruptus, 3, break out
eruo, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3, bring forth, dig out
eruptio, -onis, *f.*, bursting or breaking forth, eruption
essedā, -ae, *f.*, chariot, carriage
esurio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, be hungry, long for
et, *conj.*, and, also, even; *et*. . . *et*, both. . . and
etiam, *conj.*, also, even, still, yet; *etiamnunc*, moreover
euripus, -i, *m.*, canal
evado, -ere, -vasi, -vasus, 3, go out, go forth
evello, -ere, -velli, -vulsus, 3, tear out
evenio, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, come out, turn out, happen
evito, 1, avoid
evoco, 1, call forth
evolvo, -ere, -volvi, -volutus, 3, roll out
evomo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 3, vomit forth
evulsus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *evello*), torn out
ex or **e**, *prep. m. abl.*, out of, from
exagitatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, stirred up, agitated
exanimo, 1, deprive of life, terrify greatly
exardesco, -ere, -arsi, -arsus, 3, burn, kindle, break out
exaudio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, hear plainly
excandescio, -ere, -candui, 3, grow hot
excavatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *excavo*), hollowed out
excavo, 1, hollow out

excellens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *excello*), high, lofty, excellent
excello, -ere, -cellui, -celsus, 3, excel, be distinguished
excelsus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *excello*), lofty, elevated
exceptio, -onis, *f.*, exception, restriction
exceptus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *excipio*), received
excerpo, -ere, -cerpsi, -cerptus [ex-carpo], 3, pick out, choose, withdraw, separate
excido, -ere, -cidi [ex-cado], 3, fall out, root out, slip out unawares, escape; stumble
excido, -ere, -cidi, -ciscus [ex-caedo], 3, cut or root out
excipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus [ex-capio], 3, take out, except; receive, welcome, continue; take hold of, capture
excitatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *excito*), aroused, excited
excito, 1, arouse, stir up, excite; erect
exclamatio, -onis, *f.*, exclamation
exclamo, 1, shout, cry aloud
excludo, -ere, -clusi, -clusus [ex-claudio], 3, shut out, exclude
exclusus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *excludo*), shut out, excluded
excogito, 1, scheme, devise
excurro, -ere, -cucurri (-curri), -cursus, 3, run out
excuto, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, shake out, cut off
execratio, -onis, *f.*, curse, execration
exedo, -ere, -edi, -esus, 3, eat up, consume
exemplar, -aris, *n.*, copy, model, exemplar
exemplum, -i, *n.*, example
exeo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, *irr.*, go out
exerceo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, exercise, train, practice
exercitatio, -onis, *f.*, exercise, training
exercitatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *exercito*), practiced, exercised
exercito, 1, exercise diligently, practice
exercitus, -us, *m.*, army
exero (exsero), -ere, -erui, -ertus, 3, thrust out
exesus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *exedo*), eaten up
exhauro, -ire, -hausi, -haustus, 4, drain out, exhaust
exhibeo, -ere, -hibui, -hibitus, 2, exhibit, display
exhortatio, -onis, *f.*, exhortation, encouragement
exhortor, 1 *dep.*, encourage, exhort
exigo, -ere, -egi, -actus [ex-ago], 3, spend, pass; demand, measure, weigh, deliberate, consult
exiguus, -a, -um, *adj.*, small
eximius, -a, -um, *adj.*, extraordinary
eximo, -ere, -emi, -emptus, 3, take away, take out, remove
existimo, 1, think
exitus, -us, *m.*, going out, exit; outcome, result, end

exolesco, -ere, -olevi, -oletus, 3, grow up, grow out of use or out of date, become obsolete
exoletus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *exolesco*), grown out of use, obsolete
exonero, 1, unload
exoro, 1, beg, implore
expavescio, -ere, -pavi, 3, fear, dread
expectatio, -onis, *f.*, waiting for, expectation
expectatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *expecto*), awaited, expected, longed for; ante *expectatum*, unexpectedly
expecto, 1, wait for, await, expect
expedio, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, set free, liberate
expeditio, -onis, *f.*, expedition
expeditus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *expedio*), unimpeded, free, easy
expello, -ere, -puli, -pulsus, 3, drive out, expel
expergiscor, -i, -perrectus, 3 *dep.*, awake, rouse one's self
experimentum, -i, *n.*, experiment
experior, -iri, expertus, 4 *dep.*, try, test, find
explanatio, -onis, *f.*, explanation
explicatio, -onis, *f.*, unfolding, expounding, exposition
explico, -are, -plicavi (-plicui), -plicatus (-plicitus), 1, unfold
explorator, -oris, *m.*, explorer
expono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, put out, expose
expositus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *expono*), exposed
exprimo, -ere, -pressi, -pressus, 3, press out, express, model, portray
expugno, 1, take by storm, conquer
executio, -onis, *f.*, execution; discussion, following out
exspiro, 1, breathe out, expire
exstimulo, 1, excite, stimulate
exsto, 1, stand out
exstruo, -ere, -struxi, -structus, 3, build, construct
exsurgo, -ere, -surrexi, 3, rise up
extendo, -ere, -di, -tus, 3, stretch out, extend
extenuo, 1, make thin, reduce
exter and **exterus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, outward, foreign, strange
externus, -a, -um, *adj.*, external, foreign
extinguo, -ere, -tinxi, -tinctus, 3, put out, extinguish
extollo, -ere, extuli, and rarely *exsustuli*, 3, lift up, raise up
extorqueo, -ere, -torsus, -tortus, 2, twist out, wrest
extra, *prep. m. acc.*, outside of
extrahio, -ere, -traxi, -tractus, 3, draw out, drag out
extraordinarius, -a, -um, *adj.*, extraordinary
extremum, -i, *n.*, end

extremus, -a, -um, *adj.*, *superl.* (of **exter** and **exterus**), outermost, extreme, last
extrinsecus, *adv.*, from without, outside, external
exturbo, 1, thrust out, drive away
exulo, 1, live in exile
exulto, 1, rejoice
exuo, -ere, -ul, -utus, 3, strip off, shake off, get rid off

F

faber, **fabri**, *m.*, carpenter, metal-worker, engineer
Fabianus, -i, *m.*, Fabianus, of the Sextian School
of philosophy, one of Seneca's teachers
fabrica, -ae, *f.*, art or trade of an artisan
fabrico, 1, fashion, form
fabrilis, -e, *adj.*, belonging to an artificer, mechanical
fabula, -ae, *f.*, story
facies, -ei, *f.*, face
facilis, -e, *adj.*, easy
facilitas, -atis, *f.*, casiness, ease
facio, -ere, feci, factus, 3, make, do
factio, -onis, *f.*, faction
factum, -i *n.*, deed, act
facultas, -atis, *f.*, power, ability
fecunde, *adv.*, eloquently
faeneror (**feneror**), 1 *dep.*, lend on interest
faex, **faccis**, *f.*, dregs
fallo, -ere, **fefelli**, **falsus**, 3, deceive, beguile
falsus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **fallo**), feigned, false
fama, -ae, *f.*, fame, reputation
fames, -is, *f.*, hunger
familia, -ae, *f.*, household of slaves, household, the entire household or family
familiaris, -e, *adj.*, familiar, intimate
familiaritas, -atis, *f.*, intimacy, familiarity
familiariter, *adv.*, intimately, familiarly
fano, 1, dedicate, consecrate
farina, -ae, *f.*, meal, flour
fas, *indecl.*, *n.*, divine law and right; **fas est**, it is right, it is lawful
fascia, -ae, *f.*, band, bandage, diadem
fastidio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, dislike, loath; cause nausea; scorn, despise; **fastidiens**, -entis, *p. adj.*, squeamish
fastidiose, *adv.*, fastidiously
fastidiosus, -a, -um, *p. adj.*, fastidious
fastidium, -i, *n.*, loathing, disdain
fastigium, -i, *n.*, height, summit, high position; roof
fateor, -eri, **fassus**, 2 *dep.*, confess, admit
fatigo, 1, tire out, weary
fatum, -i, *n.*, fate
fatuus, -a, -um, *adj.*, foolish, fatuous; **fatuus**, -i, *m.*, fool

fauces, -ium, *f.*, throat
faveo, -ere, **favi**, **fautus**, 2, favor
favor, -oris, *m.*, favor, goodwill, partiality
favus, -i, *m.*, honeycomb
febris, -is, *f.*, fever
Felicio, -onis, *m.*, Felicio, Seneca's pet slave, son of the steward Philositus mentioned in Ep. 12.3
felicitas, -atis, *f.*, happiness, felicity, good fortune, prosperity
felicitet, *adv.*, happily
felix, -icis, *adj.*, happy
femina, -ae, *f.*, woman
fenero (**faenero**), 1, lend on interest
fenus, -oris, *n.*, interest
fera, -ae, *f.*, wild beast
fere, *adv.*, almost, nearly, for the most part, usually
fericulum, -i, *n.*, tray, course
fermentum, -i, *n.*, fermentation
fero, **ferre**, **tuli**, **latus**, *irr.*, carry, bear, endure, tolerate
ferox, -ocis, *adj.*, bold, courageous, high-spirited
ferramentum, -i, *n.*, tool
ferreus, -a, -um, *adj.*, made of iron
ferrum, -i, *n.*, iron; sword
fertilis, -e, *adj.*, fruitful, fertile
fertilitas, -atis, *f.*, fruitfulness, fertility
fervens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of **ferveo**), glowing, hot
ferveo, -ere, **ferbui**, 2, be hot, seethe, boil
fervor, -oris, *m.*, heat
festino, 1, hasten, hurry
festum, -i, *n.*, holiday, festival, feast
festus, -a, -um, *adj.*, festive
fetus, -us, *m.*, bearing, breeding, offspring
fictile, -is, *n.*, earthenware
fictus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **fingo**), feigned
fidelis, -e, *adj.*, faithful, loyal, genuine, lasting
fideliter, *adv.*, faithfully, honestly
fidens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of **fido**), confident
fides, -ei, *f.*, trust, confidence; promise; **bona fide**, genuinely, truly
fido, -ere, **fisus**, 3 *semi-dep.*, trust, confide
fiducia, -ae, *f.*, confidence, trust
figo, -ere, **fixi**, **fixus**, 3, fix, fasten
figulus, -i, *m.*, potter
figuro, 1, shape, fashion
filius, -i, *m.*, son
filum, -i, *n.*, thread
fingo, -ere, **finxi**, **fictus**, 3, fashion, form, mould
finio, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, limit, bound
finis, -is, *m.* and *f.*, boundary, limit, end
fio, **fieri**, **factus sum**, *pass.* of **facio**, be made of, be done, become, happen
firmitas, -atis, *f.*, firmness
firmo, 1, make firm, strengthen
firmus, -a, -um, *adj.*, firm, strong
fissilis, -e, *adj.*, that may be split

fistula, -ae, *f.*, pipe
 Flaccus, -i, *m.*, Flaccus, friend of Lucilius
 flecto, -ere, flexi, flexus, 3, bend, twist
 fleo, -ere, flevi, fletus, 2, weep, lament
 fletus, -us, *m.*, weeping
 flexibilis, -e, *adj.*, that can be bent, flexible
 flexus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of flecto), bent, twisted
 flexus, -us, *m.*, turning
 florens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of floreo), blooming, fresh
 floreo, -ere, florui, 2, bloom, flower
 floridus, -a, -um, *adj.*, flowery
 flos, floris, *m.*, flower
 fluctuo, 1, move up and down, fluctuate, vacillate
 fluctus, -us, *m.*, wave
 fluidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, flowing, fluid, moist, loose
 flumen, -inis, *n.*, river, stream
 fluo, -ere, fluxi, fluxus, 3, flow
 fluvidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, moist
 fluvito, 1, flow
 fluxus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of fluo), flowing, loose, slack
 focus, -i, *m.*, fireplace, hearth
 fodio, -ere, fodi, fossus, 3, dig
 folium, -i, *n.*, leaf
 fomentum, -i, *n.*, warm application, warm baths; pampering
 fons, fontis, *m.*, fountain
 foras, *adv.*, out of doors, out
 forceps, -cipis, *m.* and *f.*, tongs
 forensis, -e, *adj.*, relating to the market or forum
 foris, *adv.*, out of doors, outside, without
 forma, -ae, *f.*, form, shape
 formido, 1, fear
 formo, 1, form, shape, fashion
 formosus, -a, -um (formosus, -a, -um), *adj.*, beautiful, handsome
 formula, -ae, *f.*, rule
 fornix, -icis, *m.*, arch, vault
 forsitan, *adv.*, perhaps
 fortasse, *adv.*, perhaps
 forte, *adv.*, by chance
 fortitudo, -inis, *f.*, bravery, fortitude
 fortis, -e, *adj.*, brave, strong
 fortuitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, accidental, fortuitous
 fortuna, -ae, *f.*, fortune, fate, chance
 fortunatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, fortunate
 forum, -i, *n.*, forum, market place
 foveo, -ere, fovi, fatus, 2, nurse, nourish, fondle
 fractus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of frango), broken down
 fragilitas, -atis, *f.*, frailty, weakness
 fragor, -oris, *m.*, noise, din
 frango, -ere, fregi, fractus, 3, break
 fraudo, 1, cheat, defraud
 frans, fraudis, *f.*, deceit, deception
 fremitus, -us, *m.*, loud noise
 fremo, -ere, fremui, fremitus, 3, roar

freneticus, -a, -um, *adj.*, frantic
 frenum, -i, *n.*, (*pl.* = freni, *m.* or frena, *n.*), bit, bridle
 frequens, -entis, *adj.*, crowded, filled, frequent
 frequenter, *adv.*, frequently
 frequento, 1, visit frequently, frequent, repeat often
 frigidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, cold, frigid
 frigus, -oris, *n.*, cold
 frons, frondis, *f.*, leaf
 frons, frontis, *f.*, forehead, brow; outward appearance
 fructuosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, profitable
 fructus, -us, *m.*, fruit; profit, yield
 frugalitas, -atis, *f.*, frugality, economy
 frugi, *indecl. adj.*, temperate
 fruor, frui, fructus, 3 *dep.*, enjoy
 frustra, *adv.*, in vain
 frustrum, -i, *n.*, bit, piece
 frux, frugis, and more frequently in *pl.* fruges, -um, *f.*, fruit, produce, grain
 fuga, -ae, *f.*, flight
 fugax, -acis, *adj.*, fleeting, swift
 fugio, -ere, fugi, fugitus, 3, flee, run away
 fugitivus, -i, *m.*, fugitive, fugitive slave
 fugo, 1, put to flight
 fulcio, -ire, fulsi, fultus, 4, prop up, support
 fulgeo, -ere, fulsi, 2, shine, gleam
 fulgor, -oris, *m.*, glitter, gleam
 fullonius, -a, -um, *adj.*, of or belonging to a fuller or laundryman
 fumosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, smoky, full of smoke
 fundamentum, -i, *n.*, foundation
 fundo, 1, found, lay the foundation of
 fundo, -ere, fudi, fusus, 3, pour, pour out, spread
 fundus, -i, *m.*, bottom, foundation
 fungor, -i, functus, 3 *dep.*, perform
 fur, furis, *c.*, thief
 furca, -ae, *f.*, fork-shaped poles
 furiosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, mad, furious
 furnus, -i, *m.*, oven
 furo, -ere, -ui, 3, be mad, furious
 furor, -oris, *m.*, madness
 futurus, -a, -um, *fut. p.* of sum

G

galea, -ae, *f.*, helmet
 gaudeo, -ere, gavisus, 2 *semi-dep.*, rejoice
 gaudium, -i, *n.*, joy
 gausapatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, clad in a cloak
 gemitus, -us, *m.*, groan, grunt
 gemo, -ere, gemui, gemitus, 3, groan
 gener, -eri, *m.*, son-in-law
 genero, 1, beget, produce

generosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, noble, magnanimous
 genitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of gigno), born,
 begotten
 genius, -i, *m.*, guardian spirit
 gens, -tis, *f.*, people, tribe, nation
 genu, -us, *n.*, knee
 genus, -eris, *n.*, race, family, birth; tribe, species;
 kind, sort
 gero, -ere, gessi, gestus, 3, bear, carry on, wage
 gestatio, -onis, *f.*, riding
 gigno, -ere, genui, genitus, 3, beget, bring forth,
 bear
 glaber, -bra, -brum, *adj.*, without hair, beardless
 gladius, -i, *m.*, sword
 glomero, 1, gather together
 gloria, -ae, *f.*, glory, fame, renown
 glorior, 1 *dep.*, boast
 grabbatus, -i, *m.*, pallet, small couch
 Gracchus, -i, *m.*, Gaius Sempronius Gracchus,
 tribune in 123 B.C.
 gracilis, -e, *adj.*, thin, slender
 gradior, -i, gressus, 3 *dep.*, step, walk
 gradus, -us, *m.*, step, step towards something,
 rank
 Graecia, -ae, *f.*, Greece
 Graecus, -a, -um, *adj.*, Greek
 grammaticus, -a, -um, *adj.*, grammatical; *subst.*,
 grammaticus, -i, *m.*, grammarian
 granum, -i, *n.*, grain
 gratia, -ae, *f.*, gratitude, thankfulness; favor, grace
 gratis, *adv.*, free of charge
 gratuitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, gratuitous, free
 gratulatio, -onis, *f.*, congratulation
 gratus, -a, -um, *adj.*, pleasing, agreeable; grateful,
 thankful
 gravis, -e, *adj.*, heavy, serious
 gravitas, -atis, *f.*, weight, heaviness
 gravo, 1, burden, trouble
 grex, gregis, *m.*, herd, flock, litter
 gubernaculum, -i, *n.*, rudder
 gubernator, -oris, *m.*, helmsman, steersman, pilot
 gula, -ae, *f.*, gullet, palate, appetite
 gustus, -us, *m.*, taste

H

habeo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, have, hold, possess
 habito, 1, dwell, inhabit
 habitus, -us, *m.*, appearance, condition, disposition,
 demeanor
 hac, *adv.*, (*abl.* of hic, supply parte or via), here,
 this way
 hactenus, *adv.*, up to this point
 haereo, -ere, haesi, haesus, 2, cling
 haesitatio, -onis, *f.*, hesitation
 Hannibal, -is, *m.*, Hannibal, the renowned

Carthaginian general of the Second Punic War
 (218–201 B.C.), son of Hamilcar
 arena, -ae, *f.*, sand, sandy place, arena
 Harpaste, *f.*, female clown of Seneca's wife
 harundo, -inis, *f.*, reed
 haurio, -ire, hausi, haustus, 4, drain, take in,
 drink up, consume
 hebes, -etis, *adj.*, dull
 Hecato, -onis, *m.*, Hecato of Rhodes, Stoic
 philosopher of the first cent. B.C., pupil of
 Panactius
 Hecuba, -ae, *f.*, Hecuba, wife of King Priam of
 Troy
 Hellespontus, -i, *m.*, the Hellespont
 herba, -ae, *f.*, grass, herb, weeds
 hereditarius, -a, -um, *adj.*, hereditary, inherited
 Hermarchus, -i, *m.*, Hermarchus, successor of
 Epicurus as head of the Epicurean School
 Hesiodus, -i, *m.*, Hesiod, the oldest Greek poet
 after Homer, author of the *Works and Days* and
 the *Theogony*
 hibernus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of winter, wintry, winter;
subst., hibernum, -i, *n.*, winter
 hic, haec, hoc, *dem. adj.* and *pron.*, this; he, she,
 it; the latter
 hic, *adv.*, here
 hiemo, 1, be wintry, stormy, cold
 hiems (hiemps), -em-is, *f.*, winter
 Hiero, -onis, *m.*, Hiero, king of Syracuse
 (478–467 B.C.)
 hilariculus, -a, -um, *adj.*, cheerful
 hilaris, -e, *adj.*, cheerful, merry
 hilaritas, -atis, *f.*, cheerfulness, mirth, hilarity
 hinc, *adv.*, from here, hence; on this side; *hinc*
atque illinc, on this side and on that
 hio, 1, open, open the mouth
 historia, -ae, *f.*, history
 hodie, *adv.*, today
 hodiernus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of or relating to today
 Homerus, -i, *m.*, Homer, the renowned Greek
 epic poet, author of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*
 homicidium, -i, *n.*, murder, homicide
 homo, -inis, *m.*, human being, man
 honeste, *adv.*, honorably
 honestus, -a, -um, *adj.*, honorable
 honor, -oris, *m.*, honor, distinction, office of
 dignity
 hora, -ae, *f.*, hour, time
 hordeacius, -a, -um, *adj.*, of or relating to barley
 horreum, -i, *n.*, granary, storehouse
 horridus, -a, -um, *adj.*, rough, coarse, dreadful,
 horrid
 hortor, 1 *dep.*, urge
 hortulus, -i, *m.*, garden
 hortus, -i, *m.*, garden
 hospes, -itis, *c.*, host, guest, stranger

hospitalis, -e, *adj.*, hospitable
 hospitium, -i, *n.*, hospitality, hospitable reception;
 guest's lodging, inn
 hostis, -is, *c.*, enemy
 huc, *adv.*, hither, here
 humanitas, -atis, *f.*, humanity, human feeling,
 kindness
 humanus, -a, -um, *adj.*, human, humane
 humilis, -e, *adj.*, humble
 humus, -i, *f.*, ground; humi, on the ground

I

ibi, *adv.*, there, then
 ictus, -us, *m.*, blow, stroke, hit; sub ictu, within
 reach
 idem, eadem, idem, *dem. adj.* and *pron.*, the same
 ideo, *adv.*, for this reason, therefore
 Idomeneus, -ei, *m.*, Idomencus, a Greek writer
 and statesman in the age of Epicurus
 idoneus, -a, -um, *adj.*, suitable, fit
 ignis, -is, *m.*, fire
 ignorantia, -ae, *f.*, ignorance
 ignoro, 1, not know, be ignorant of
 ignosco, -ere, -novi, -notus [in-(g)nosco], 3,
 pardon, forgive
 ignotus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unknown
 ille, illa, illud, *dem. adj.* and *pron.*, that; he, she,
 it
 illic, *adv.*, there, at that place
 illinc, *adv.*, from that place, thence
 illo, *adv.*, to that place, thither; to that situation
 illuc, *adv.*, thither, there
 imago, -inis, *f.*, image, statue
 imber, -bris, *m.*, rain
 imitatio, -onis, *f.*, imitation
 imitor, 1 *dep.*, imitate
 immensus, -a, -um, *adj.*, immense, vast
 immineo, -ere, 2, hang over, threaten
 immo, *adv.*, nay, nay rather, on the contrary
 immobilis, -e, *adj.*, immovable
 immodicus, -a, -um, *adj.*, immoderate, excessive
 immunitas, -atis, *f.*, immunity, exemption
 imperator, -oris, *m.*, commander, leader
 imperium, -i, *n.*, command, rule
 impero, 1, order, command
 impetus, -us, *m.*, violent impulse, violence, attack,
 impetus
 impleo, *see* inpleo
 imus, -a, -um, *superl.* (of *inferus*), lowest
 in, *prep. w. abl.*, in, on, upon; *w. acc.*, into, among,
 to, towards, against, at, regarding, for
 inaequalitas, -atis, *f.*, inequality, irregularity
 inaequaliter, *adv.*, unequally, unevenly
 inanis, -e, *adj.*, empty, void; inane, -is, *n.*, void,
 emptiness

inbecillitas, -atis, *f.*, weakness
 inbecillus, -a, -um, *adj.*, weak, powerless
 incedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, go, march along,
 proceed
 incendium, -i, *n.*, conflagration, fire
 incertus, -a, -um, *adj.*, uncertain
 incessus, -us, *m.*, gait
 inchoo, 1, begin
 incido, -ere, -cidi, -casus [in-cado], 3, fall upon,
 happen upon, happen, meet
 incido, -ere, -cidi, -cibus [in-caedo], 3, cut into,
 engrave
 incipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus [in-capio], 3, begin,
 undertake
 incitatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *incito*), aroused
 incito, 1, incite, arouse
 inclinatio, -onis, *f.*, leaning, bending, inclination;
 alteration, change
 inclinatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *inclino*), bent,
 inclined
 inclino, 1, bend, lean, incline
 includo, -ere, -clusi, -clusus [in-claudio], 3, shut
 in, enclose, end, close
 incolumis, -e, *adj.*, uninjured, safe and sound
 incommodus, -a, -um, *adj.*, disadvantageous,
 inconvenient, unsuitable; *subst.*, incommodum,
 -i, *n.*, inconvenience, disadvantage
 incomptus, -a, -um, *adj.*, inelegant, rude
 inconcussus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unshaken, firm
 incorporalis, -e, *adj.*, bodiless, incorporeal
 incorruptus, -a, -um, *adj.*, uncorrupted
 increbresco, -ere, -crebrui, 3, become frequent
 incredibilis, -e, *adj.*, incredible
 incrementum, -i, *n.*, growth, increase, gain
 increpo, -are, -crepui, -crepitus, 1, make a noise
 incruentus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unstained, bloodless
 inculco [in-calco], 1, trample in, impress upon,
 inculcate
 incultus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unadorned, wild
 incumbo, -ere, -cubui, -cubitus, 3, lean upon,
 apply or devote one's self
 incurro, -ere, -curri (-cucurri), -cursus, 3, run
 upon or against
 incurvatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *incurvo*), bent
 incurvo, 1, bend
 inde, *adv.*, thence, from there; from that time
 indecens, -entis, *adj.*, unbecoming
 Indi, -orum, *m. pl.*, Indians
 indicium, -i, *n.*, mark, sign, indication
 indico, -ere, -dixi, -dictus, 3, declare, make
 known, proclaim
 indigeo, -ere, -ui, 2, need, be in need of
 indignor, 1 *dep.*, be angry at
 indo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, impart, give to
 indoles, -is, *f.*, natural disposition, nature, mind
 indomitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, un subdued

- induco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3**, lead on, lead, bring in
indulgeo, -ere, -dulsi, -dultus, 2, indulge, give oneself up to
induo, -ere, -dui, -dutus, 3, put on, assume, clothe
induresco, -ere, -durui, 3, harden, become hard
induro, 1, make hard, harden
industria, -ae, f., industry, diligence; *de industria*, purposely
ineptiae, -arum, f. pl., absurdities
iners, -ertis, adj., sluggish, inert
inertia, -ae, f., unskillfulness, sluggishness
inexercitatus, -a, -um, adj., inexperienced, unexercised
inexorabilis, -e, adj., inexorable
inexpertus, -a, -um, adj., inexperienced, untried
infelix, -icis, adj., unhappy
infero, inferre, intuli, illatus, irr., bring, carry; introduce
inferus, -a, -um, comp., inferior, *superl.*, **infirmus** or **imus, adj.**, low, below; **in imo**, in the bottom;
inferi, -orum, m. pl., gods of the lower world
infestus, -a, -um, adj., hostile
infigo, -ere, -fixi, -fixus, 3, fix in, fasten in
infirmitas, -atis, f., weakness, infirmity
infirmus, -a, -um, adj., weak, infirm
infixus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of infigo), fixed to or in, fastened to or in
inflatus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of inflo), inflated
inflo, 1, blow into or upon, inflate
influo, -ere, -fluxi, -fluxus, 3, flow or rush upon
infra, adv. and prep. m. acc., below
infractus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of infringo), broken, weakened, subdued
infringo, -ere, -fregi, -fractus [in-frango], 3, break, weaken
infulcio, -ire, -fulsi, -fultus, 4, put in, insert
ingemesco, -ere, -ui, 3, groan
ingenitus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of ingigno), inborn, innate
ingenium, -i, n., nature, character, cleverness, wit, mind, talent, genius
ingens, -entis, adj., vast, immense, huge
ingenuus, -a, -um, adj., native, not foreign; free-born, noble, honorable; frank, sincere
ingero, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, heap on, carry in or upon
ingigno, -ere, -genui, -genitus, 3, implant by birth or nature
ingratus, -a, -um, adj., displeasing, ungrateful
inhabilis, -e, adj., unfit
inhio, 1, gape
inhumanus, -a, -um, adj., cruel, inhuman
inicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus [in-iacio], 3, throw upon, cast upon
iniectus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of inicio), thrown upon, cast upon
inimicus, -a, -um, adj., unfriendly, hostile;
inimicus, -i, m., enemy
iniquitas, -atis, f., unevenness, unfairness, injustice, inequity
iniquus, -a, -um, adj., unequal, unfair, unjust
initiamenta, -orum, n. pl., rites of initiation
initium, -i, n., beginning
iniuria, -ae, f., injury
iniussus, -a, -um, adj., unbidden
inlaboratus, -a, -um, adj., not labored, uncultivated
inlido, -ere, -lisi, -lilus, 3, beat against
inligo, 1, fasten, bind
inlustris, -e, adj., famous, noble, illustrious
inmensus, -a, -um, adj., immense, vast
inmerito, adv., undeservedly
inmineo, -ere, 2, hang over, threaten
inmiscuo, -ere, -scui, -xtus, 2, mix in, intermix, intermingle
inmitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, send in, cause or allow to go in
inmoror, 1, stay, remain, linger
immortalis, -e, adj., immortal
inmotus, -a, -um, adj., unmoved, motionless, fixed
innato, 1, flow
innocens, -entis, adj., guiltless, innocent
innumerabilis, -e, adj., innumerable, countless
innutrio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, bring up, educate with or among
inoffense, adv., without stumbling, without hindrance
inopia, -ae, f., want, need, poverty
inpango, -ere, -pegi, -panctus, 3, fix upon
inparatus, -a, -um, adj., unprepared
inpatiens, -entis, adj., unable to bear or endure, impatient
impedimentum, -i, n., hindrance, impediment
impedio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, hinder, impede
inpello, -ere, -puli, -pulsus, 3, drive on, urge on, impel; strike, overthrow
inpendeo, -ere, 2, hang over, hang over menacingly, threaten
inpendo, -ere, -pendi, -pensus, 3, expend
inpenetrabilis, -e, adj., impenetrable
inpensa, -ae, f., expense, cost
inperfectus, -a, -um, adj., imperfect
inperitus, -a, -um, adj., unskilled, inexperienced, ignorant
inpetro, 1, gain one's request, obtain, demand
inpingo, -ere, -pegi, -pactus, 3, drive
inpleo, -ere, -plevi, -pletus, 2, fill up, satisfy
inplico, -are, -plicavi, -plicitus (-plicatus), 1, enfold, entangle

- inpono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, place upon, impose**
inportuosus, -a, -um, adj., without harbors
inpotens, -entis, adj., weak, unrestrained, arrogant
inpotenter, adv., weakly, powerlessly, intemperately
inpressus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of inprimo), pressed upon
inprimo, -ere, -pressi, -pressus [in-premo], 3, press upon
inprobus, -a, -um, adj., bad, wicked; bold, impudent
inprudens, -entis, adj., not knowing, ignorant, imprudent
inpuclius, -a, -um, adj., shameless, loud, impudent
inpulsus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of inpello), driven on, urged on, impelled; stricken, overthrown
inputo, 1, to impute to, to charge to one's account
inquam, -is, -it, v., def., I say
inquierto, 1, disturb
inquietus, -a, -um, adj., unquiet, restless
inquilinus, -i, m., inhabitant of a place which is not one's own, tenant, lodger
inquino, 1, pollute, contaminate
inquirio, -ere, -quisivi, -quisitus [in-quaero], 3, seek, investigate, inquire into
inquis, see inquam
inremediabilis, -e, adj., incurable, irremediable; implacable
inrepto, -ere, -repsi, -reptus, 3, creep into
inrigo, 1, irrigate
inritamentum, -i, n., incentive
inrito, 1, stir up, incite
inritus, -a, -um, adj., in vain, useless
irumpo, -ere, -rupi, -ruptus, 3, break in, interrupt
insania, -ae, f., madness, insanity
insatiabilis, -e, adj., that cannot be satisfied, insatiable
inscribo, -ere, -scripsi, -scriptus, 3, write upon, inscribe
inscriptus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of inscribo), written upon, inscribed
inseco, -are, -cui, -ctus, 1, cut into, cut up
insectus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of inseco), cut into, cut up
insero, -ere, -serui, -sertus, 3, put in, insert
insertus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of insero), inserted
insideo, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, 2, sit or settle on
insidiosus, -a, -um, adj., deceitful, treacherous, insidious
insido, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, 3, sit or settle on
insigne, -is, n., mark, sign, sign or badge of honor, decoration
insignio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, put a mark or sign upon, distinguish one's self
insignis, -e, adj., marked, distinguished, renowned, remarkable
insignitus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of insignio), marked, striking
insitio, -onis, f., grafting
insomnium, -i, n., dream
inspicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus [in-specio], 3, look in or on, see in or on, inspect, contemplate, observe, see
instabilis, -e, adj., unstable, changeable
instar, n., indecl., image, likeness
instigatus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of instigo), stimulated, incited
instigo, 1, goad on, stimulate, incite
institor, -oris, m., huckster, pedlar
instituo, -ere, -ui, -tutus [in-statuo], 3, train, establish, institute
institutus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of instituo), trained, educated
insto, -are, -stiti, -staturus, 1, stand in or on, press upon, urge
instructus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of instruo), set up, furnished, equipped
instrumentum, -i, n., tool, instrument, means
instruo, -ere, -struxi, -structus, 3, set up, furnish, equip
intactus, -a, -um, adj., untouched
integer, -gra, -grum, adj., whole, entire
intellectus, -us, m., understanding
intellego, -ere, -lexi, -lectus [inter-lego], 3, understand
intemperantia, -ae, f., intemperance, want of moderation
intempestivus, -a, -um, adj., untimely
intendo, -ere, -tendi, -tentus, 3, stretch out, extend, direct towards, intend
intentio, -onis, f., attention, application, effort
intento, 1, stretch out
intentus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of intendo), stretched out, extended; anxious, intent, attentive to, unceasing
inter, prep. w. acc., between, among
interdico, -ere, -dixi, -dictus, 3, forbid
interdiu, adv., by day
interdum, adv., sometimes
interest, impers., it concerns, it matters, it is of importance
interfactor, -oris, m., murderer, slayer
interficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus [inter-facio], 3, kill
interim, adv., meanwhile, in the meantime
interior, -ins, comp. adj., inner, inside; intimus, -a, -um, superl., inmost, farthest
intermitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, interrupt, neglect
interpellator, -oris, m., interrupter
interpello, 1, interrupt
interpono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, put or place between, insert; set aside

interpretor, 1 *dep.*, explain, interpret
 interritus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unterrified
 interrogo, 1, ask, interrogate
 interrumpo, -ere, -rupi, -ruptus, 3, interrupt
 interruptus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of interrumpo),
 interrupted
 interscindo, -ere, -scidi, -scissus, 3, cut off,
 break
 intersum, -esse, -fui, *irr.*, be between, be in the
 midst of; be different; be present, take part in;
impers., interest, it concerns, it matters, it is of
 importance, it makes a difference
 intervallum, -i, *n.*, interval, distance
 intervello, -ere, -vulsi, -vulsus, 3, pluck out here
 and there, thin
 intervenio, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, come between,
 intervene
 intimus, -a, -um, *superl. adj.*, see interior
 intolerabilis, -e, *adj.*, intolerable, unbearable
 intonsus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unshorn
 intra, *adv.* and *prep. v. acc.*, within
 intremo, -ere, -ui, 3, tremble, shake
 intrepide, *adv.*, without trembling, undauntedly,
 intrepidly
 intrepidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, not trembling,
 undaunted, intrepid
 intro, 1, enter
 introrsus, *adv.*, inwards, inwardly, within
 intueor, -eri, -tuitus, 2 *dep.*, look at, contemplate,
 consider
 intus, *adv.*, within
 inutilis, -e, *adj.*, useless
 invado, -ere, -vasi, -vasus, 3, go in, come in,
 invade, attack
 investicius, -a, -um, *adj.*, imported, not genuine
 invenio, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, come upon, find
 inventum, -i, *n.*, invention
 inventus, -us, *m.*, invention
 invereconde, *adv.*, shamelessly
 investigo, 1, track out, investigate
 investio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, clothe, cover
 inveteratus, -a, -um, *adj.*, old, inveterate
 invicem, *adv.*, in turn, by turns, alternately
 invictus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unconquered
 invideo, -ere, -vidi, -visus, 2, envy
 invidia, -ae, *f.*, envy, hostility
 invidiosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, full of envy, causing
 envy, envied; odious
 inviolatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unhurt, inviolate
 invisus, -a, -um, *adj.*, hateful
 invitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, unwilling, against one's will
 invoco, 1, call upon, invoke
 involvo, -ere, -volvi, -volutus, 3, roll upon, roll
 about, wrap up, involve
 involutus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of involvo), wrapped
 up, involved, tangled

Ionius, -a, -um, *adj.*, Ionian
 ipse, -a, -um, *intens. pron.*, self, very
 ira, -ae, *f.*, anger
 iracundus, -a, -um, *adj.*, irascible, angry
 irascor, -i, iratus, 3 *dep.*, be angry, become
 angered
 iratus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of irascor), angry, enraged
 is, ea, id, *dem. adj.* and *pron.*, this, that; he, she, it
 Isio, -onis, *m.*, Isio, a court fool in the age of
 Seneca
 iste, ista, istud (istuc), *dem. adj.* and *pron.*, this
 or that; that of yours, that sort
 Isthmus, -i, *m.*, the Isthmus
 istic, *adv.*, there
 ita, *adv.*, thus, so
 itaque, *adv.*, and so, therefore, for that reason
 iter, itineris, *n.*, journey, way, road, path
 itero, 1, do a second time, repeat; plough again
 iterum, *adv.*, again, a second time, repeatedly

I CONSONANT

iaceo, -ere, iacui, iacitus, 2, lie, lie down
 iacio, -ere, ieci, iactus, 3, throw, throw up
 iactatio, -onis, *f.*, tossing, restlessness
 iacto, 1, toss about
 iactura, -ae, *f.*, a throwing away, loss
 iam, *adv.*, now, already, presently, soon
 iamdudum, *adv.*, at once
 ianitor, -oris, *m.*, door-keeper, porter
 ianua, -ae, *f.*, door
 iciunus, -a, -um, *adj.*, fasting
 iocus, -i, *m.*, joke, jest
 iuba, -ae, *f.*, the mane of an animal
 iubeo, -ere, iussi, iussus, 2, order
 iucundus, -a, -um, *adj.*, pleasant, agreeable
 iudex, -icis, *m.*, judge
 iudicium, -i, *n.*, judgment
 iudico, 1, judge
 iugerum, -i, *n.*, acre
 iugulo, 1, cut the throat, slay, kill
 ingum, -i, *n.*, yoke, team, pair of horses; ridge or
 summit of a mountain
 iumentum, -i, *n.*, beast of burden
 iunctura, -ae, *f.*, joining
 iungo, -ere, -nxi, -nctus, 3, join
 iuro, 1, swear, take an oath
 ius, iuris, *n.*, right, law; ius dicere, to administer
 justice
 iussus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of iubeo), ordered
 iustitia, -ae, *f.*, justice
 iustus, -a, -um, *adj.*, just, right
 iuvenis, -is, *adj.*, young, youthful; *subst.*, iuvenis,
 -is, *c.*, young man, young woman
 iuvo, -are, iuvi, iutus, 1, help, aid; please, delight

L

- labo**, 1, totter, fall
labor, -oris, *m.*, work, labor, effort
labor, **labi**, **lapsus**, 3 *dep.*, fall, fall down, glide
laboriosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, full of toil, laborious
laboro, 1, work,
labrum, -i, *n.*, lip
labyrinthus, -i, *m.*, labyrinth
lacerna, -ae, *f.*, cloak
lacertus, -i, *m.*, generally *pl.*, muscles
lacrima, -ae, *f.*, tear
lacrimo, 1, weep
lacunar, -aris, *n.*, panelled ceiling
lacunarium, -i, *n.*, panelled ceiling
lacus, -us, *m.*, lake
laedo, -ere, **laesi**, **laesus**, 3, hurt, injure
Laelius, -i, *m.*, Laelius, well-known philosopher, surnamed the "Wise," personal friend of Scipio Africanus the Younger, conqueror of Carthage (146 B.C.)
laetitia, -ae, *f.*, joy, happiness
laetor, 1 *dep.*, rejoice
laetus, -a, -um, *adj.*, joyous, happy
lagona, -ae, *f.*, flask, bottle
lamentatio, -onis, *f.*, lamentation
languesco, -ere, -gui, 3, become weak, languid, decrease
languidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, weak, languid, dull, gentle
languor, -oris, *m.*, languor, weariness
lanio, 1, rend, tear
lapideus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of stone
lapis, -idis, *m.*, stone
laquear, -aris, *n.*, panel in a ceiling
laqueus, -i, *m.*, snare, trap
lar, -is, *m.*, usually *pl.*, **lares**, -um (-ium), household gods
large, *adv.*, largely, plentifully, abundantly
largitio, -onis, *f.*, largess
largus, -a, -um, *adj.*, large, abundant, plentiful
lascivia, -ae, *f.*, wantonness, licentiousness
lascivio, -ire, -ii, -itus, 4, sport, play, be wanton
lassitudo, -inis, *f.*, weariness, lassitude
lasso, 1, make weary, exhaust
lassus, -a, -um, *adj.*, weary
late, *adv.*, widely, broadly, far and wide
latebra, -ae, *f.*, hiding, hiding-place
latens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *lateo*), concealed, hidden
lateo, -ere, -ui, 2, lie hidden
latito, 1, hide
latro, -onis, *m.*, thief, robber
latrocinium, -i, *n.*, robbery, highway robbery
latus, -a, -um, *adj.*, wide, broad
latus, -eris, *n.*, side
laudatio, -onis, *f.*, praise
laudo, 1, praise
laus, **laudis**, *f.*, praise, glory
lautitia, -ae, *f.*, splendor, elegance
laxamentum, -i, *n.*, relaxation
laxitas, -atis, *f.*, roominess, width, spaciousness
laxo, 1, stretch out, expand
laxus, -a, -um, *adj.*, wide, spacious
lectica, -ae, *f.*, litter
lectio, -onis, *f.*, reading
lectus, -i, *m.*, small bed, couch
legitimus, -a, -um, *adj.*, lawful, legal, legitimate
lego, -ere, **legi**, **lectus**, 3, collect, gather together, choose; read
lenio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, assuage
lenis, -e, *adj.*, smooth, mild, gentle
lenocinium, -i, *n.*, ornament, finery
lente, *adv.*, slowly
lentus, -a, -um, *adj.*, slow
leo, -onis, *m.*, lion
levis, -e, *adj.*, light, fickle, unstable
levis, -e, *adj.*, smooth, polished
levo, 1, raise, lift up
lex, **legis**, *f.*, law
libamentum, -i, *n.*, libation
libens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *libeo*), willing, gladly
libenter, *adv.*, willingly, gladly
liber, -era, -erum, *adj.*, free
liber, **libri**, *m.*, book
liberalis, -e, *adj.*, liberal, generous
libere, *adv.*, freely
libero, 1, set free, liberate
libertas, -atis, *f.*, freedom, liberty
libertinus, -i, *m.*, freedman
libet, **libere**, **libuit** or **libitum est**, *impers.*, 2, it is pleasing
libido, -inis, *f.*, unrestrained desire, wantonness, lust
licentia, -ae, *f.*, license, freedom from restraint
licet, **licere**, **licuit** or **licitum est**, *impers.*, 2, it is allowed, it is permitted; **licet** *m. subj.*, granting that, even if, although
lignum, -i, *n.*, wood
limen, -inis, *n.*, threshold, door
limes, -itis, *m.*, boundary
lingua, -ae, *f.*, tongue; language
linquo, -ere, **liqui**, 3, leave
linter, **lintris**, *f.*, boat
liquefacio, -ere, -feci, -factus, 3, *pass.*, liquefio, -fieri, -factus, melt
liquens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *liqueo*), flowing, liquid
liqueo, -ere, **liqui** (**licui**), 2, be fluid, liquid; be clear
Liternum, -i, *n.*, Liternum, a town in Campania
litigo, 1, quarrel, dispute
littera, -ae, *f.*, letter (of the alphabet); *pl.*, letter, epistle; literature; learning

litteratus, -a, -um, *adj.*, learned, liberally educated
 litus, -oris, *n.*, shore
 loco, 1, place, put; contract for having a thing
 done; lease or hire out
 locuples, -etis, *adj.*, rich, wealthy
 locus, -i, *m.*, (*pl. m. loci* or *n. loca*), place; topic,
 point
 longe, *adv.*, far, far away, by far; long
 longinquus, -a, -um, *adj.*, distant
 longius, *comp. of longe*
 longissime, *superl. of longe*
 longus, -a, -um, *adj.*, long; distant
 loquor, loqui, locutus, 3 *dep.*, speak
 lubricus, -a, -um, *adj.*, slippery
 lucellum, -i, *n.*, small profit
 luceo, -ere, luxi, 2, shine, gleam
 lucerna, -ae, *f.*, lamp
 Lucilius, -i, *m.*, Lucilius, Seneca's friend, to
 whom the philosopher addressed the *Epistulae*
Morales
 lucrifico, 1, gain
 luctor, 1 *dep.*, wrestle
 luctus, -us, *m.*, mourning, grief
 locus, -i, *m.*, grove
 ludo, -ere, lusi, lusus, 3, play, play with, amuse
 oneself
 lusus, -i, *m.*, game, sport, joke, jest
 lugeo, -ere, luxi, luctus, 2, mourn
 lumen, -inis, *n.*, light
 luo, -ere, lui, 3, pay for
 lusorius, -a, -um, *adj.*, relating to play
 lusus, -us, *m.*, play, sport, game, amusement,
 entertainment
 lutum, -i, *n.*, mud, mire
 lux, lucis, *f.*, light
 luxuria, -ae, *f.*, luxury
 luxuriosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, luxurious, immoderate
 Lycurgus, -i, *m.*, Lycurgus, legendary Spartan
 lawgiver of the ninth century B.C.
 lyricus, -a, -um, *adj.*, lyric; *subst.*, lyricus, -i, *m.*,
 lyric poet

M

macellum, -i, *n.*, meat-market
 machinatio, -onis, *f.*, mechanism, device
 mado, -ere, madui, 2, be wet, drip
 Maecenas, -atis, *m.*, Maecenas, Roman knight,
 minister of Augustus, renowned patron of
 learned men
 maereo, -ere, 2, mourn, grieve, lament
 maeror, -oris, *m.*, mourning, grief
 magis, *comp. adv.*, more, rather
 magister, -tri, *m.*, teacher, master
 magisterium, -i, *n.*, office of instructor of youth,
 tutorship, teaching

magistra, -ae, *f.*, mistress
 magistratus, -us, *m.*, office, magistracy; magistrate
 magnificus, -a, -um, *adj.*, magnificent
 magnitudo, -inis, *f.*, greatness, magnitude
 magnus, -a, -um, *comp.*, maior, *superl.*, maximus,
adj., great, large; magno, at a great price;
 maior, older; maiores, ancestors; maximus,
 oldest, eldest
 maiestas, -atis, *f.*, dignity, majesty
 maior, maiores, *comp. (of magnus)*, greater, larger,
 older; maiores, ancestors
 male, *adv.*, badly
 maligne, *adv.*, maliciously, malignantly; stingily,
 hardly, scarcely
 malignitas, -atis, *f.*, maliciousness, malignity
 malignus, -a, -um, *adj.*, malicious, malignant,
 wicked
 malitia, -ae, *f.*, wickedness, evil
 malleus, -i, *m.*, hammer
 malo, malle, malui, *irr.*, prefer
 malus, -a, -um, *comp.*, peior, *superl.*, pessimus,
adj., bad, evil, wicked
 malum, -i, *n.*, punishment
 mancipium, -i, *n.*, slave; property
 mando, 1, entrust, recommend
 mane, *adv.*, in the morning
 maneo, -ere, mansi, mansus, 2, remain
 mango, -onis, *m.*, slave dealer
 manifestus, -a, -um, *adj.*, clear, evident, manifest
 mansuetudo, -inis, *f.*, mildness, clemency,
 gentleness
 manus, -us, *f.*, hand, band
 marceo, -ere, 2, wither, be weak, be languid
 mare, -is, *n.*, sea
 Marius, -i, *m.*, C. Marius (157-86 B.C.), the
 conqueror of Jugurtha, seven times consul, rival
 of Sulla, leader of the popular party at Rome
 marmor, -oris, *n.*, marble
 marmorarius, -i, *m.*, worker in marble, marble-
 mason
 mas, maris, *m.*, male
 mater, -tris, *f.*, mother
 materia, -ae, *f.*, matter, material
 maxime, *adv. superl. (of magis)*, in the highest
 degree, most of all, especially
 maximus, -a, -um, *superl. (of magnus)*, greatest,
 largest
 medicamentum, -i, *n.*, drug, medicine, remedy
 medicina, -ae, *f.*, medicine
 medicus, -i, *m.*, doctor
 mediocris, -e, *adj.*, moderate; mediocre
 meditatio, -onis, *f.*, meditation, preparation for
 anything, practicing
 meditor, 1 *dep.*, meditate
 medium, -i, *n.*, the midst of all, the public
 medius, -a, -um, *adj.*, middle, middle of, midst

medulla, -ae, *f.*, marrow
 megistanes, -um, *m.*, grandees, magnates, nobles
 mehercules, as an oath, by Hercules
 mel, mellis, *n.*, honey
 melior, -ius, *comp.* (of bonus), better
 membrum, -i, *n.*, member, part, limb
 meminī, -isse, *pf.* in sense of pres., remember, recollect
 memor, -oris, *adj.*, mindful, remembering
 memoria, -ae, *f.*, memory
 memoro, 1, mention, call to mind, recount, relate
 mens, mentis, *f.*, mind
 mensa, -ae, *f.*, table; food, meal
 mensis, -is, *m.*, month
 mentior, -iri, -itus, 4 *dep.*, lie, cheat
 mercedula, -ae, *f.*, small reward
 merces, -edis, *f.*, pay, wages, reward; merchandise
 mereo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, deserve, merit
 mergo, -ere, mersi, mersus, 3, sink, immerse
 meridie, *adv.*, in the afternoon
 merito, *adv.*, deservedly
 merus, -a, -um, *adj.*, pure
 merx, mercis, *f.*, merchandise, goods, wares
 Messala, -ae, *m.*, Marcus Valerius Messala
 Corvinus, renowned orator, author, and literary patron of the Augustan Age
 meta, -ae, *f.*, conical columns set in the ground at each end of the Roman Circus; goal, turning point
 metallum, -i, *n.*, mine, quarry, metal
 metior, -iri, mensus, 4 *dep.*, measure
 meto, -ere, messui, 3, reap
 Metrodorus, -i, *m.*, Metrodorus, disciple of Epicurus, 331-278 B.C.
 metus, -us, *m.*, fear
 meus, -a, -um, *poss. adj.* and *pron.*, my, mine
 migro, 1, remove from one place to another, move, migrate
 mihi, *see ego*
 miles, -itis, *m.*, soldier
 militaris, -e, *adj.*, of or relating to a soldier, military
 militia, -ae, *f.*, military service
 milito, 1, be a soldier, wage war
 mille, milia, -ium, *num. adj.*, a thousand; mille (passuum), 1000 paces; in the *pl.*, milia (passuum)
 miliens, *adv.*, a thousand times
 mimus, -i, *m.*, mime, drama, farce
 minime, *superl. adv.*, least, very little, not at all, by no means
 minimus, -a, -um, *superl.* (of parvus), smallest, least
 minister, -tri, *m.*, servant, attendant, assistant
 ministerium, -i *n.*, service, duty
 minor, 1 *dep.*, threaten

minor, minus, *comp.* (of parvus), smaller, less
 minutatim, *adv.*, in small pieces, little by little, gradually
 minutia, -ae, *f.*, smallness, minuteness
 miraculum, -i, *n.*, marvel, wonder
 mire, *adv.*, wonderfully
 miror, 1 *dep.*, look at, admire, wonder, be astonished
 mirus, -a, -um, *adj.*, surprising, wondrous, astonishing
 misceo, -ere, miscui, mixtus, 2, mix, mingle
 miser, -era, -erum, *adj.*, wretched
 miseria, -ae, *f.*, wretchedness, misery
 misericordia, -ae, *f.*, pity
 missio, -onis, *f.*, discharge
 mitis, -e, *adj.*, gentle, mild
 mitto, -ere, misi, missus, 3, let go, send
 mixtura, -ae, *f.*, mixture
 mixtus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of misceo), mixed, mingled
 mobilis, -e, *adj.*, moveable, excitable, pliable
 moderatio, -onis, *f.*, moderation
 moderatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, moderate, modest
 modeste, *adv.*, moderately, modestly
 modicus, -a, -um, *adj.*, moderate
 modius, -i, *m.*, measure of grain
 modo, *adv.*, only; now, but now
 modulatio, -onis, *f.*, modulation, rhythmical measure, singing and playing
 modus, -i, *m.*, measure, limit, boundary; moderation, control; manner, way, method
 mola, -ae, *f.*, coarse meal, flour
 moles, -is, *f.*, mass, heap
 molestia, -ae, *f.*, annoyance, trouble
 molestus, -a, -um, *adj.*, annoying, troublesome
 molior, -iri, -itus, 4 *dep.*, build, devise
 mollis, -e, *adj.*, soft, gentle, mild, effeminate
 mollio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, soften
 mollitia, -ae, *f.*, softness, effeminacy
 molliter, *adv.*, softly, gently, mildly
 momentum, -i, *n.*, movement, motion; change; importance
 moneo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, warn, admonish
 mons, montis, *m.*, mountain
 monstro, 1, show, point out
 mora, -ae, *f.*, delay
 morbus, -i, *m.*, disease
 morior, mori, mortuus, 3 *dep.*, die
 moror, 1 *dep.*, linger, dwell, delay
 mors, mortis, *f.*, death
 morsus, -us, *m.*, biting, sting
 mortalis, -e, *adj.*, mortal
 mortalitas, -atis, *f.*, mortality
 mortuus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of morior), dead
 mos, moris, *m.*, custom, habit; *pl.*, mores, morum, character

motiuncula, -ae, *f.*, slight motion; in medicine, attack of fever
motus, -us, *m.*, motion, movement
motus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *moveo*), moved
moveo, -ere, *movi*, **motus**, 2, move, change
mulceo, -ere, **mulsi**, **mulsus**, 2, soothe
muliebris, -e, *adj.*, of a woman, womanly
muliercula, -ae, *f.*, little woman
mulio, -onis, *m.*, mule-driver, muleteer
multa, -ae, *f.*, punishment, fine, cost
multitudo, -inis, *f.*, large number, multitude
multo, *adv.*, much; by far
multus, -a, -um, *adj.*, much, many; *comp.*, **plus**, **pluris**, more; *superl.*, **plurimus**, -a, -um, very much, very many
munditia, -ae, *f.*, cleanliness, neatness
mundus, -i, *m.*, world
municipalis, -e, *adj.*, belonging to a town, municipal
munimentum, -i, *n.*, protection
munio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, fortify, protect
munus, -eris, *n.*, duty, office, service; gift
munusculum, -i, *n.*, small present, small gift
murus, -i, *m.*, wall
mus, **muris**, *c.*, mouse
murmur, -uris, *n.*, murmur
mutatio, -onis, *f.*, change
muto, 1, change, alter
mutuo, *adv.*, mutually, reciprocally
mutus, -a, -um, *adj.*, mute, silent
mutuus, -a, -um, *adj.*, mutual

N

nam, *conj.*, for
nanciscor, **nancisci**, **nanctus** (**nactus**), 3 *dep.*, get, obtain, come upon
narro, 1, narrate, tell, relate
nascor, **nasci**, **natus**, 3 *dep.*, be born, spring up, arise
natura, -ae, *f.*, nature; **ex natura**, naturally
naturalis, -e, *adj.*, natural
natus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *nascor*), born
naufragium, -i, *n.*, shipwreck
nauseabundus, -a, -um, *adj.*, nauseated
nausia, -ae, *f.*, sea-sickness, nausea
nausiator, -oris, *m.*, one who is apt to feel nausea, who vomits easily
nauta, -ae, *m.*, sailor
navigium, -i, *n.*, ship
navigo, 1, *sail*, navigate
navis, -is, *f.*, ship
ne, *adv.*, not, that . . . not
-ne, *interrogative suffix*
nec (**neque**), *conj.*, and not, neither, nor
necdum, *adv.*, and not yet
necessarius, -a, -um, *adj.*, necessary
nece, *adj.*, *n.*, necessary, fated; *with est*, it is necessary
necessitas, -atis, *f.*, need, necessity
neco, 1, kill, slay
necque, *see nec*
nectar, -aris, *n.*, nectar
nedum, *adv.*, not to mention
neglegens, -entis, *adj.*, negligent, careless
neglegentia, -ae, *f.*, carelessness, negligence
negligenter, *adv.*, carelessly
neglego, -ere, -lexi, -lectus, 3, neglect
nego, 1, deny
negotium, -i, *n.*, business, occupation; trouble
nemo, -inis, *m.*, no one, nobody; *adj.*, no
nemus, -oris, *n.*, woods, grove
nempe, *conj.*, to be sure, certainly, truly
neque, *see nec*
nequeo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, be unable
nequitia, -ae, *f.*, wickedness
nervus, -i, *m.*, sinew, nerve
nescio, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, not know, be ignorant
Nesis, -idis, *f.*, Nesis, an island on the coast of Campania
nitor, -oris, *m.*, brightness, splendor
neu, *see neve*
neuter, -era, -rum, *adj.*, neither (of two)
neve (**neu**), *conj.*, or not, and not, nor;
neve . . . **neve**, neither . . . **nor**
nihil, *n.*, *indecl.*, nothing; *adv.*, not at all, not in the least
nihilominus, *adv.*, nevertheless
Nilus, -i, *m.*, the river Nile
nimis, *adv.*, too much, too
nimius, -a, -um, *adj.*, too much, excessive
Nioba, -ae, *f.*, Niobe, daughter of Tantalus and mother of seven sons and seven daughters
nisi, *conj.*, unless, if not, except
niteo, -ere, 2, shine
nitidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, glittering, shining
nitor, **nisi**, **nisus** (**nixus**), 3 *dep.*, lean, rest, strive
nix, **nivis**, *f.*, snow
nobilis, -e, *adj.*, well-known, famous, noble
nobilitas, -atis, *f.*, nobility
noceo, -ere, **nocui**, **nocitus**, *v. dat.*, 2, harm, injure
nodosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, knotty
nolo, **nolle**, **nolui**, *irr.*, be unwilling, not wish
nomen, -inis, *n.*, name; account
nomenclator, -oris, *m.*, nomenclator, a slave who announced to his master the names of guests at large gatherings
non, *adv.*, no, not
nondum, *adv.*, not yet
nonne, *interrog. adv. introducing a question expecting an affirmative answer*

nos, *pl. of ego*
 nosco, -ere, novi, notus, 3, know
 noster, -tra, -trum, *poss. adj. and pron., our, ours*
 nota, -ae, *f.*, mark, note, sign, stamp
 notabilis, -e, *adj.*, notable, striking, ostentatious
 notitia, -ae, *f.*, knowledge
 notus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of nosco)*, known
 novem, *indecl. num. adj.*, nine
 novissime, *superl. adv.*, lastly
 novitas, -atis, *f.*, newness
 novus, -a, -um, *adj.*, new, strange; *superl.*,
 novissimus, -a, -um, *adj.*, latest, last
 nox, noctis, *f.*, night
 nubes, -is, *f.*, cloud
 nudo, 1, lay bare, strip, expose
 nudus, -a, -um, *adj.*, bare, nude
 nugae, -arum, *f.*, trifles, nonsense
 nullus, -a, -um, *adj.*, no, none
 num, *interrog. adv. expecting a negative answer;*
v. indir. questions, whether
 numen, -inis, *n.*, divine will, divinity
 numeratio, -onis, *f.*, payment
 numero, 1, count
 numerus, -i, *m.*, number
 numquam, *adv.*, never
 numquid, *interrog. adv. used to introduce a direct question.* There is no corresponding term in English.
 nunc, *adv.*, now
 nuper, *adv.*, recently, lately
 nusquam, *adv.*, nowhere
 nutrio, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, nourish
 nutrix, -icis, *f.*, nurse

O

o and oh, *interj.*, oh! O!
 oboeo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, go to, travel through; offer
 obicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus [ob-iacio], 3, throw in the way of, throw before, expose
 obirascor, -irasci, -iratus, 3 *dep.*, be angry
 obiratus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of obirascor)*, angry, wrathful
 obiurgatio, -onis, *f.*, chiding, blaming
 oblectamentum, -i, *n.*, delight, pleasure
 oblectatio, -onis, *f.*, pleasure, amusement
 obliuo, -ere, -levi, -litus, 3, smear
 oblitus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of obliviscor)*, having forgotten
 oblivio, -onis, *f.*, forgetfulness, oblivion
 obliviscor, oblivisci, oblitus, 3 *dep.*, forget
 oboediens, -entis, *p. adj. (of oboedio)*, obedient
 oboedio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, give ear to, obey
 obscurus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dark, obscure

obsecro, 1, beg, pray, implore
 obsequens, -entis, *p. adj. (of obsequor)*, yielding, obedient
 obsequor, -sequi, -secutus, 3 *dep.*, comply with, obey
 observator, -oris, *m.*, observer, watcher
 observo, 1, watch, observe
 obsolefacio, -ere, -feci, -factus, 3, wear out, spoil
 obsolefactus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of obsolefacio)*, worn out, spoiled
 obsonator, -oris, *m.*, purchaser of victuals
 obsto, -stare, -stiti, -status, 1, stand in the way of, oppose, resist
 obstrepro, -ere, -strepui, -strepitus, 3, make a loud noise, roar
 obtempero, 1, obey, conform to, comply with
 obvenio, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, come in the way of, occur to, happen, fall to, fall to the lot of
 obverto, -ere, -verti, -versus, 3, turn towards
 obvius, -a, -um, *adj.*, in the way, exposed, meeting; at hand, easy to obtain
 occasio, -onis, *f.*, opportunity, occasion
 occido, -ere, -cidi, -cisis [ob-caedo], 3, kill, slay
 occido, -ere, -cidi, -casus [ob-cado], 3, fall, fall down; die
 occulo, -ere, -cului, -cultus, 3, hide, conceal
 occultus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of occulo)*, hidden, secret, occult
 occupatio, -onis, *f.*, occupation
 occupatus, -a, -um, *p. adj. (of occupo)*, busy, occupied
 occupo, 1, occupy, take possession of, lay hold of, seize
 occurro, -ere, -curri, -cursus [ob-curro], 3, run to meet; occur
 oculus, -i, *m.*, eye
 odi, odisse, osurus, *def.*, hate
 odiosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, odious, hateful
 odium, -i, *n.*, hatred
 odor, -oris, *m.*, smell, odor
 offendo, -ere, -fendi, -fensus, 3, strike or knock against; punish; offend
 offensa, -ae, *f.*, harm
 officina, -ae, *f.*, workshop
 officio, -ere, -feci, -fectus [ob-facio], 3, hinder
 officium, -i, *n.*, duty
 oleum, -i, *n.*, oil
 olim, *adv.*, once, formerly, some time ago
 omitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, let go, omit
 omnino, *adv.*, altogether, entirely, at all
 omnis, -e, *adj.*, all, every
 oneraria, -ae, *f.*, ship of burden, merchant-vessel
 onero, 1, load
 onerosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, burdensome
 onus, -eris, *n.*, burden, load
 opacitas, -atis, *f.*, shade

opera, -ae, *f.*, effort, labor; operam dare, give attention to, pay attention, see to it
 operio, -ire, -ui, -ertus, 4, cover
 operosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, laborious
 opifex, -icis, *m.*, artisan, workman
 opimus, -a, -um, *adj.*, rich, fat
 opinio, -onis, *f.*, opinion
 oportet, -ere, oportuit, 2, *impers.*, it is necessary, one ought
 oppono, -ere, -posui, -positus [ob-pono], 3, put or place towards, before, against
 opprimo, -ere, -pressi, -pressus [ob-premo], 3, press against, overwhelm, crush, oppress
 ops, opis, *f.*, wealth, means, aid
 optimus, -a, -um, *superl. adj.* (of bonus), best
 opto, 1, wish, desire
 opulens, -entis, *adj.*, rich
 opus, *indecl. n.*, need, necessity; opus est, it is necessary, there is need, one needs, one requires
 opus, -eris, *n.*, work, labor
 oratio, -onis, *f.*, speech, style
 ordinarius, -a, -um, *adj.*, regular, ordinary
 ordino, 1, set in order, settle, arrange
 ordior, -iri, orsus, 4 *dep.*, begin
 ordo, -inis, *m.*, series, row, order
 organum, -i, *n.*, musical instrument
 origo, -inis, *f.*, origin, source
 orior, -iri, ortus, 4 *dep.*, rise, be born, spring
 ornamentum, -i, *n.*, ornament, decoration
 orno, 1, adorn, ornament
 oro, 1, beg
 ortus, -us, *m.*, rising, dawn, beginning
 os, oris, *n.*, mouth, face
 osculo, 1, kiss
 ostendo, -ere, -tendi, -tentus, 3, show, display
 ostentatio, -onis, *f.*, ostentation
 ostium, -i, *n.*, entrance, door
 otiosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, idle, at leisure
 otium, -i, *n.*, leisure, peace, repose

P

paedagogus, -i, *m.*, pedagogue, teacher, guide
 paene, *adv.*, almost, nearly
 paenitentia, -ae, *f.*, repentance, penitence, dissatisfaction
 paeniteo, -ere, 2, repent
 pagina, -ae, *f.*, page
 palam, *adv.*, openly, publicly
 palatum, -i, *n.*, and palatus, -i, *m.*, palate, taste
 pallidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, pale, pallid
 pallium, -i, *n.*, cloak, mantle
 palmes, -itis, *f.*, young branch or shoot of a vine
 paluster, -tris, -tre, *adj.*, marshy
 Panhormitanus, -i, *m.*, inhabitant of Panormus (modern Palermo, Sicily)

panis, -is, *m.*, bread
 pantomimus, -i, *m.*, ballet-dancer
 par, paris, *adj.*, equal, even; subst., pair
 parabilis, -e, *adj.*, that can be easily obtained
 paratus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of paro), prepared, ready
 parco, -ere, peperci, parsus, 3, save, spare
 parens, -entis, *c.*, parent
 pareo, -ere, parui, paritus, 2, appear; obey
 paries, -etis, *m.*, wall
 pariter, *adv.*, equally, alike, together, at the same time
 paro, 1, get, obtain, prepare
 pars, partis, *f.*, part, role
 parsimonia, -ae, *f.*, thriftiness, parsimony
 Parthenope, -es, *f.*, Parthenope, the ancient name for Naples
 partior, -iri, -itus, 4 *dep.*, divide
 parum, *adv.*, little, too little, not enough
 parvulus or parvolus, -a, -um, *adj.*, very small, very little
 parvus, -a, -um, *comp.*, minor; *superl.*, minimus, small, little; *adj.*, minor (supply *natu*), younger
 pascuo, -ere, pavi, pastus, 3, feed, pasture, graze
 pascuus, -a, -um, *adj.*, fit for pasture; pascuum, -i, *n.*, pasture
 passim, *adv.*, everywhere
 passus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of patior), suffered, endured
 pastor, -oris, *m.*, shepherd
 pateo, -ere, patui, 2, lie open
 pater, -tris, *m.*, father
 patientia, -ae, *f.*, endurance, patience
 patior, pati, passus, 3 *dep.*, suffer, allow, endure
 patria, -ae, *f.*, fatherland
 patricius, -a, -um, *adj.*, patrician, noble
 patrimonium, -i, *n.*, patrimony
 pauci, -ae, -a, *adj.*, few; *subst.*, pauci, -orum, *m. pl.*, few
 paulatim, *adv.*, gradually, little by little
 paulus, -a, -um, *adj.*, little, small; paulo, *abl. as adv.*, a little; paulum, *acc. as adv.*, a little
 pauper, -eris, *adj.*, poor
 paupertas, -atis, *f.*, poverty
 pausarius, -i, *m.*, commander of the rowers, boatswain
 paveo, -ere, pavi, 2, tremble
 pavimentum, -i, *n.*, pavement
 pavio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, beat, strike
 pavor, -oris, *m.*, fear
 pax, pacis, *f.*, peace
 peccatum, -i, *n.*, sin, fault
 pecco, 1, sin, err, do wrong, make a mistake
 pecten, -inis, *m.*, comb
 pectus, -oris, *n.*, heart, breast
 peculium, -i, *n.*, property in cattle, property; allotment, allowance

- pecunia**, -ae, *f.*, money
peior, **peius**, *comp.* (of **malus**), worse
pelagus, -i, *n.*, sea
pellis, -is, *f.*, skin
Pelops, -opis, *m.*, Pelops, son of Tantalus, father of Atreus and Thyestes
pendeo, -ere, **pependi**, 2, hang, hover; depend
pendo, -ere, **pependi**, **pensus**, 3, weigh, pay
penes, *prep. w. acc.*, with, in the possession or power of
penetralia, -ium, *n. pl.*, the inner part, interior, sanctuary
penitus, *adv.*, deep within, thoroughly
penso, 1, weigh, consider; pay for, purchase
per, *prep. w. acc.*, through
percoquo, -ere, -xi, -ctus, 3, boil or cook thoroughly; heat
percurro, -ere, -cucurri (-curri), -cursus, 3, run through
percutio, -ere, -cussi, -cussus, 3, strike, stamp
perdo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, destroy, ruin; lose, waste
perdomo, -are, -ui, -itus, 1, subdue
perduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, lead or bring to
perduro, 1, last, hold out
peregrinatio, -onis, *f.*, wandering, peregrination, traveling
peregrinor, 1 *dep.*, travel
pereo, -ire, -ii (-ivi), -itus, 4, perish
perfecte, *adv.*, perfectly, completely
perfectus, -a, -um, *adj.*, perfect, complete
perfero, -ferre, -tuli, -latus, *irr.*, carry through, deliver
perflatus, -us, *m.*, blowing through, wind, breeze
perfusorius, -a, -um, *adj.*, slight, superficial
perhibeo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, assert, maintain
periculosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dangerous
periculum, -i, *n.*, danger
peritus, -a, -um, *adj.*, skilled
perlucens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of **perluceo**), shining through, transparent
perluceo, -ere, -xi, 2, shine through, be transparent
perlucidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, shining, very clear
permaneo, -ere, -mansi, -mansus, 2, remain, stay; last, abide
permisceo, -ere, -miscui, -mixtus, 2, mix, mingle, confuse
permitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, give up, allow, permit
perniciosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dangerous, pernicious
perpendo, -ere, -pendi, -pensus, 3, weigh, examine, consider
perperam, *adv.*, wrongly, falsely
perpessicius, -a, -um, *adj.*, one who can endure much
perpetitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **perpeto**), sought
perpeto, -ere, -ivi, -itus, 3, seek
perpetuus, -a, -um, *adj.*, continuous, perpetual
persaluto, 1, greet one by one
persequor, -sequi, -secutus, 3 *dep.*, pursue, proceed against
persevero, 1, persevere
persona, -ae, *f.*, person, character
personatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, masked; fictitious, not genuine
perspicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus [per-specio], 3, see through, behold
persto, -stare, -stiti, -status, 1, stand firm, stand fixed
persuadeo, -suadere, -suasi, -suasus, 2, persuade
persuasio, -onis, *f.*, persuasion; conviction
pertinaciter, *adv.*, constantly, pertinaciously
pertinax, -acts, *adj.*, persistent
pertineo, -ere, -tinui, 2, pertain to
pertritus, -a, -um, *adj.*, worn out, very trite
perula, -ae, *f.*, little wallet, pocket
pervenio, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, come to, reach
perversus, -a, -um, *adj.*, perverted
pervideo, -ere, -vidi, -visus, 2, see clearly
pervigilo, 1, watch, remain awake
pes, **pedis**, *m.*, foot; metrical foot, meter
pessimus, -a, -um, *superl.* (of **malus**), worst
pestifer, -fera, -ferum and **pestiferus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, deadly, pestiferous
pestis, -is, *f.*, plague, pestilence
peto, -ere, **petivi**, **petitus**, 3, seek, ask, beg
Philositus, -i, *m.*, Philositus, steward of Seneca, mentioned in *Ep.* 12,3
philosophia, -ae, *f.*, philosophy
philosophor, 1 *dep.*, philosophize
philosophus, -i, *m.*, philosopher
phoenix, -icis, *m.*, phoenix
pictura, -ae, *f.*, painting
pictus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **pingo**), painted, embroidered
pietas, -atis, *f.*, dutiful conduct, loyalty, piety
piger, -gra, -grum, *adj.*, lazy
piget, **pigere**, **piguit** or **pigitum est**, *impers.*, 2, it displeases, it grieves
pigre, *adv.*, lazily
pila, -ae, *f.*, ball
pilicrepus, -i, *m.*, ball-player
pilleatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, wearing the **pilleus** or felt cap
pilleus, -i, *m.*, and **pilleum**, -i, *n.*, a felt cap worn by slaves when liberated
pilus, -i, *m.*, hair
pingo, -ere, **pinxi**, **pictus**, 3, paint, embroider
pinguis, -e, *adj.*, fat, rich
pinna, -ae, *f.*, wing
pinus, -i and -us, *f.*, pine
piscina, -ae, *f.*, pool

piscis, -is, *m.*, fish
 pistrinum, -i, *n.*, mill
 placenta, -ae, *f.*, cake
 placeo, -ere, placui, placitus, 2, please, delight,
 give pleasure
 placidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, calm, placid
 placo, 1, soothe, calm
 plaga, -ae, *f.*, blow
 planus, -a, -um, *adj.*, level, flat
 platanus, -i, *f.*, plane-tree
 Platon, -onis, *m.*, Plato, 427-347 B.C., the
 renowned Greek philosopher, disciple of
 Socrates, and founder of the Academy
 plebeius, -a, -um, *adj.*, common, plebeian, low,
 cheap
 plenus, -a, -um, *adj.*, full
 plerumque, *adv.*, for the most part, usually,
 generally
 plerisque, -aque, -umque, generally *pl.*,
 plerique, -aeque, -aque, *adj.*, very many, a
 large part, the majority
 ploro, 1, wail, lament
 pluma, -ae, *f.*, feather
 plumbum, -i, *n.*, lead, leaden-weight
 plurimus, -a, -um, *superl.* (of multus), very
 much, very many
 plus, pluris, *comp.* (of multus), more
 pluvia, -ae, *f.*, rain
 podagra, -ae, *f.*, gout
 poena, -ae, *f.*, punishment, penalty
 poeta, -ae, *m.*, poet
 poeticus, -a, -um, *adj.*, poetic
 polenta, -ae, *f.*, barley
 polio, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, polish, adorn
 Polyaeus, -i, *m.*, Polyaeus, a mathematician
 who followed the tenets of Epicurus
 Pompeius, -i, *m.*, Cn. Pompey, consul in 70 B.C.
 In 60 B.C., he joined the First Triumvirate,
 consisting of himself, Caesar, and Crassus
 Pomponius, -i, *m.*, Pomponius, one of Seneca's
 contemporaries who wrote letters and tragedies
 pomum, -i, *n.*, fruit
 pondus, -eris, *n.*, weight
 pono, -ere, posui, positus, 3, put, place
 pons, -ntis, *m.*, bridge
 popina, -ae, *f.*, eating-house
 popularis, -e, *adj.*, popular
 populus, -i, *m.*, people
 porrigo, -ere, -rexi, -rectus, 3, put forth, extend;
 offer
 porro, *adv.*, further, then, moreover
 porta, -ae, *f.*, gate
 portentosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, monstrous, unnatural
 porticus, -us, *f.*, portico, colonnade
 porto, 1, carry
 portorium, -i, *n.*, tax

portus, -us, *m.*, harbor, port
 posco, -ere, poposci, 3, demand
 Posidonius, -i, *m.*, Posidonius, c. 135-151 B.C.,
 Stoic philosopher, pupil of Panaetius
 positus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of pono), placed
 possessio, -onis, *f.*, possession
 possideo, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, 2, possess
 possum, posse, potui, *irr.*, be able, can, have
 power, can do
 post, *prep. m. acc.* and *adv.*, after, behind
 postea, *adv.*, afterwards
 posterus, -a, -um, *adj.*, coming after, following;
 subst., posteri, -orum, *m. pl.*, posterity
 postquam, *adv.*, after
 postulaticius, -a, -um, *adj.*, demanded, requested
 potens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of possum), powerful,
 mighty
 potentia, -ae, *f.*, power
 potestas, -atis, *f.*, power, opportunity
 potio, -onis, *f.*, drink, potion
 potior, -ius, *comp. adj.* (of potis), preferable,
 better; potius, *n. as adv.*, rather, more
 potis, -e, *adj.*, able, powerful
 potius, *see* potior
 praebeo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, offer, furnish
 praecedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, go before,
 precede
 praecipis, -cipitis, *adj.*, headlong, declining, fallen;
 hasty, quick
 praecipis, -itis, *n.*, precipice, extreme danger
 praecipitum, -i, *n.*, instruction, teaching, precept
 praecido, -ere, -cidi, -cismus [prae-caedo], 3, cut
 off, abbreviate
 praecipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus [prae-capio], 3,
 take beforehand, anticipate; tell beforehand,
 instruct, advise
 praecipitatio, -onis, *f.*, falling headlong
 praecipito, 1, cast down headlong, hurl, hasten
 praecipue, *adv.*, especially, particularly
 praecipuus, -a, -um, *adj.*, especial
 praeco, -onis, *m.*, public crier, herald
 praedium, -i, *n.*, estate
 praefero, -ferre, -tulī, -latus, *irr.*, carry before,
 prefer
 praefractus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of praefringo),
 broken, abrupt
 praefringo, -ere, -fregi, -fractus [prae-frango],
 3, break to pieces
 praemitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, send forth or
 ahead
 praemium, -i, *n.*, reward
 praenavigo, 1, sail by or past
 praecoocupo, 1, seize beforehand
 praeparo, 1, make ready, prepare
 praeposterus, -a, -um, *adj.*, reversed, inverted,
 perverted

praerumpo, -ere, -rupi, -ruptus, 3, break off
praeruptus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **praerumpo**),
 broken off; steep, precipitous
praesens, -entis, *adj.*, present, in person, at hand;
subst., praesentia, -ium, *n. pl.*, the present; in
 praesentia, for the present
praesto, -are, -stiti, -stitus (-status), 1, fulfill keep
 one's promise; offer, show, render; guarantee
praesum, -esse, -fui, *irr.*, preside or rule over, be
 in charge of
praeter, *adv.* and *prep. w. acc.*, beyond, beside, in
 addition to
praeterea, *adv.*, furthermore, besides, moreover
praetereo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, go by, pass by
praeteritus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **praetereo**), gone
 by, past
praetermitto, -mittere, -misi, -missus, 3, pass
 over, neglect, omit
pratium, -i, *n.*, meadow, lawn
pravitas, -atis, *f.*, depravity
pravus, -a, -um, *adj.*, crooked, perverse
precario, *adv.*, by entreaty or request
premo, -ere, pressi, pressus, 3, press
preme, *adv.*, with pressure; closely, tightly
pressus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **premo**), pressed,
 compressed, concise
pretiosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, costly, precious
pretium, -i, *n.*, price, worth, value
Priamus, -i, *m.*, Priam, King of Troy during the
 Trojan War, as reported in the *Iliad*
primo, *adv.*, at first
primor, -oris, *m.*, first in rank, most distinguished
primum, *adv.*, first, in the first place; **cum primum**,
 as soon as; **quam primum**, as soon as possible
primus, -a, -um, *superl. adj.*, see **prior**
principium, -i, *n.*, beginning, origin
prior, -ius, *comp. adj.*, former, first; *subst.*, **priores**,
 -um, *m.*, ancestors; **primus**, -a, -um, *superl.*
adj., first, foremost; in **primis**, especially, chiefly
prius, *adv.*, before, sooner, first
privatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, private
pro, *prep. w. abl.*, before, in front of; in defense of,
 on behalf of, for, for the sake of; in place of; as,
 as good as
probatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **probo**), approved,
 excellent
probo, 1, try, test, prove, examine, approve
probus, -a, -um, *adj.*, good, upright
procedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, go forth, proceed
procella, -ae, *f.*, storm
proceritas, -atis, *f.*, tallness
procido, -ere, -cidi [**pro-cado**], 3, fall
procido, -ere, [no perf.], -ciscus [**pro-caedo**], 3,
 strike down
procisus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **procido**), struck down
proclive, -is, *n.*, slope

procul, *adv.*, far, at a distance
procumbo, -ere, -cubui, -cubitus, 3, fall, sink
prodeo, -ire, -ii, -itus, 4, go, come forth
prodigium, -i, *n.*, prodigy, portent, omen;
 monster, monstrosity
prodo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, betray, surrender
produco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, lead or bring
 forth, prolong, produce, expose or put up for
 sale
profectus, -us, *m.*, progress
profero, -ferre, -tuli, -latus, *irr.*, carry forth;
 offer
professio, -onis, *f.*, acknowledgment, profession,
 promise
professus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **profiteor**), professed
proficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus [**pro-facio**], 3, make
 progress, advance; assist, help
profiteor, -eri, -fessus, 2 *dep.*, profess
profugio, -ere, -fugi, -fugitus, 3, flee away from,
 escape
profundus, -a, -um, *adj.*, deep, profound
progener, -eri, *m.*, granddaughter's husband
progressus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **progredior**), go
 forth, proceed
prohibeo, -ere, -hibui, -hibitus [**pro-habeo**], 2,
 hold off, forbid
proicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus [**pro-iacio**], 3, throw
 forth, throw down
prolabor, -labi, -lapsus, 3 *dep.*, fall
promitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, promise
promiscue, *adv.*, promiscuously, indiscriminately
pronepos, -otis, *m.*, great-grandson
pronus, -a, -um, *adj.*, inclined, forward
propagatio, -onis, *f.*, begetting, propagating;
 extension
prope, *adv.* and *prep.*, near, near by, close to
propello, -ere, -puli, -pulsus, 3, drive forth, drive
 away, keep off, ward off
propemodum, *adv.*, nearly, almost
propereo, 1, hasten
propior, **propius**, *comp. adj.*, nearer, closer;
superl., proximus, nearest, next
propono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, put forth,
 propose
propositum, -i, *n.*, plan
propositus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of **propono**), put
 forth, proposed
proprie, *adv.*, properly, peculiarly, strictly for
 oneself
proprietas, -atis, *f.*, property, peculiarity
proprius, -a, -um, *adj.*, one's own, peculiar,
 characteristic of
propter, *prep. w. acc.*, on account of, for the sake
 of
prora, -ae, *f.*, prow
proprito, 1, incite, tempt

prorsus, *adv.*, utterly, absolutely, wholly
 prospicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus, 3, look forward,
 look out upon
 prospectus, -us, *m.*, view, sight
 prostituo, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3, expose publicly to
 prostitution, prostitute
 prosum, prodesse, profui, *irr.*, help, be of use
 protego, -ere, -teti, -tectus, 3, cover, protect
 protinus, *adv.*, at once, immediately, straightway
 protraho, -ere, -traxi, -tractus, 3, drag forth,
 bring forth or out
 prout, *conj.*, just as, according as, in proportion as
 proveho, -ere, -xi, -ctus, 3, carry forward
 provenio, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, come forth
 proverbium, -i, *n.*, proverb
 providentia, -ae, *f.*, foresight, forethought,
 providence
 provideo, -ere, -vidi, -visus, 2, see to, look after,
 provide
 provincia, -ae, *f.*, province
 proximus, -a, -um, *superl.* (of *propior*), nearest,
 next
 prudens, -entis, *adj.*, wise, prudent
 prudentia, -ae, *f.*, wisdom, prudence
 psychroluta, -ae, *m.*, one who bathes in cold water
 publice, *adv.*, publicly, by the crowd
 publico, 1, make public
 publicus, -a, -um, *adj.*, public, common, ordinary
 pudet, -ere, -uit, *impers.*, 2, it makes ashamed
 pudor, -oris, *m.*, shame, modesty, decency
 puer, pueri, *m.*, boy
 puerilis, -e, *adj.*, childish, puerile
 pueritia, -ae, *f.*, boyhood
 pugillares, -ium, *m. pl.*, writing tablets
 pugna, -ae, *f.*, fight, battle
 pugno, 1, fight
 pugnus, -i, *m.*, fist
 pulcher, -chra, -chrum, *adj.*, beautiful
 pulpitem, -i, *n.*, platform, stage
 pulvis, -eris, *m.*, dust
 punctiuncula, -ae, *f.*, pricking pain
 Punicus, -a, -um, *adj.*, Punic, Carthaginian
 pupulus, -i, *m.*, little boy
 purpura, -ae, *f.*, purple
 purus, -a, -um, *adj.*, clean, pure
 pusillus, -a, -um, *adj.*, very small, tiny; *subst.*,
 pusillum, -i, *n.*, small amount
 pustula, -ae, *f.*, blister
 Puteoli, -orum, *m.*, Puteoli, a town in Campania,
 between Baiae and Naples
 putidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, rotten, putrid
 puto, 1, think
 putris, -e, *adj.*, rotten
 Pythagoras, -ae, *m.*, Pythagoras, Greek
 philosopher of the 6th cent. B.C., founder of the
 Pythagorean School of philosophy

Pythocles, *m.*, Pythocles, friend of Idomeneus in
 the age of Epicurus

Q

qua, *adv.*, on which side, where
 quadratum, -i, *n.*, square
 quaero, -ere, quaesivi, quaesitus, 3, seek, ask,
 ask for, inquire
 quaesitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *quaero*), sought
 out
 quaestio, -onis, *f.*, question
 qualis, -e, *adj.*, of what sort, what kind of;
 talis. . .qualis, such. . .as
 qualiscumque, quaecumque, *adj.*, of whatever
 sort
 qualitas, -atis, *f.*, quality, property
 quam, *interrog. adv.*, how, how much; *rel. adv.*, as
 much, as, than; *quam primum*, as soon as pos-
 sible; (*wish superl.*) as. . .as possible
 quamdiu, *interrog. adv.*, how long; *rel. adv.*, as
 long as
 quamvis, *adv.*, however much, however; although
 quando, *adv.* and *conj.*, when, at any time, since
 quandoque, *adv.*, at some time or other
 quantulus, -a, -um, *adj.*, how little
 quantuluscumque, -acumque, -umcumque, *adj.*
 how little soever, however small
 quantus, -a, -um, *adj.*, how great, how much, as
 great as, as; *quantum, acc. as adv.*, how much,
 how, as much, as, as far as, as much as
 quantuscumque, -acumque, -umcumque, *adv.*,
 how great soever
 quantuslibet, -alibet, -umlibet, *adj.*, as great as
 you will, however great
 quare, *interrog.* and *rel. adv.*, on what account,
 why, wherefore
 quasi, *adv.*, as if, as if it were
 quatrimum, -i, *n.*, a space of four days
 quattuordecim, *num. adj.*, fourteen
 quemadmodum, *interrog.* and *rel. adv.*, in what
 manner, how, just as
 queo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, be able
 queror, queri, questus, 3 *dep.*, complain
 qui, quae, quod, *rel. adj.* and *pron.*, who, which,
 what
 quia, *conj.*, because
 quicumque, quae-, quid-, *indef. rel. pron.* and
 quicumque, quae-, quod -, *indef. adj.*, whoever,
 whatever
 quid, *adv.*, why; *see also quis*
 quidam, quaedam, quoddam, *indef. adj.*, certain.
 some; *quidam, quaedam, quiddam, indef.*
pron., a certain one or thing
 quidem, *adv.*, truly, indeed, to be sure;
 ne. . .quidem, not even, nor. . .either

quidni? *adv.*, why not?, of course
quies, quietis, f., quiet, repose
quiesco, -ere, quievi, quietus, 3, rest, repose, be quiet
quietus, -a, -um, adj., quiet, peaceful
quiete, adv., quietly, peaceably
quilibet, quae-, quid-, indef. pron. and **quilibet, quae-, quod-, indef. adj.**, anyone you please, anyone, any, some
quin, conj., that, but that; *adv.*, why not
quingentesimus, -a, -um, adj., five hundredth
quinque, num. adj., five
quis, quid, interrog. pron., who, what; **quid, why quis, quid, indef. pron.**, any, anyone, anything; someone, something
quisquam, quae-, quid- (quic-), indef. pron., anyone, anything
quisque, quaeque, quidque, indef. pron. and **quisque, quaeque, quodque, indef. adj.**, each one, each thing, every
quisquis, quidquid, indef. rel. pron., whoever, whatever
quivis, quaevis, quidvis, indef. pron. and **quivis, quaevis, quodvis, indef. adj.**, anyone, anything
quo, adv., whither, to what end, for what purpose; *with comp. introducing a quo purpose clause*, in order that; **eo magis. . . quo magis**, the more. . . the more
quo. . . hoc = quanto. . . tanto, the. . . the quocumque, adv., wherever
quod, conj., that, because, in that, the fact that
quominus, conj., that not, from, *after verbs of hindering, preventing, etc.*
quomodo, adv., in what way, in which manner, as
quoniam, conj., since
quoque, conj., also, too
quot, indecl. adj., how many; **tot. . . quot, so many. . . as**
quotiens, adv., whenever, as often as, how many times, how often; **totiens. . . quotiens, so often. . . as**
quotusquisque, -quaeque, -quodque, adj., -quidque, *pron.*, how many; *ironically*, how few
quotusque, adv., how long

R

rabies, -ei, f., rage, fury
radius, -i, m., ray; shuttle (sharp piece of wood similar to a needle)
radix, -icis, f., root
ramale, -is, n., usually *pl.*, twigs, branches
ramus, -i, m., branch, twig
rapina, -ae, f., plundering, robbery, pillage
rapio, -ere, rapui, raptus, 3, snatch
raritas, -atis, f., fewness, rarity

rarus, -a, -um, adj., rare
ratio, -onis, f., reckoning, account, way, means; reason
rationalis, -e, adj., of or belonging to reason, reasonable, rational
recalesco, -ere, -calui, 3, become warm, glow
recedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, go back, recede, retreat, retire, withdraw
recens, -entis, adj., new, fresh, young, recent
receptaculum, -i, n., receptacle, shelter, retreat
receptus, -us, m., drawing back, retreat
receptus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of recipio), received, taken
recido, -ere, -cidi, -casurus [re-cado], 3, fall back
recipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus [re-capio], 3, take, receive
recito, 1, read aloud or publicly, recite
recondo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, conceal, hide
recordatio, -onis, f., recollection, remembrance
recordor, 1 dep., remember
recorrigo, -ere, -correxī, -correctus [re-con-rego], 3, amend, reform
recreo, 1, refresh, restore
recrudescō, -ere, recrudui, 3, become raw again; break out again
rector, -oris, m., ruler, leader
recurro, -ere, -curri, -cursus, 3, run back
recte, adv., rightly
rectus, -a, -um, p. adj. (of rego), right, straight, erect
recuso, 1, refuse, reject
reddo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, give back, return, render, restore
redeo, -ire, -ii (-ivi), -itus [re-co], 4, go back, return
redigo, -ere, -egi, -actus [re-ago], 3, drive back, reduce
redimo, -ere, -emi, -emptus [re-emo], 3, pay for
reduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, bring back
redundo [re-undo], 1, overflow, be very abundant, abound
refero, -ferre, -tuli, -latus, irr., bring back, repeat
refers, referre, retulit, irr. impers., it is important, it matters, it makes a difference
reficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus [re-facio], 3, make afresh, restore
reformido, 1, fear
refrigesco, -ere, -frixi, 3, grow cold
refugio, -ere, -fugi, -fugitus, 3, flee away, escape
regero, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, bring back
regio, -onis, f., region
regius, -a, -um, adj., royal
regnum, -i, n., royal power, rule, authority; despotism, tyranny
rego, -ere, rexi, rectus, 3, direct, rule

regula, -ae, *f.*, rule, pattern, model; ruler
Regulus, -i, *m.*, M. Atilius Regulus, consul in 267 and 256 B.C., Roman hero during the First Punic War
reicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus [re-iacio], 3, throw back, reject
reiculus, -a, -um, *adj.*, worthless
relatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of refero), brought back
relictus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of relinquo), abandoned, relinquished
religio, -onis, *f.*, respect for what is sacred, religion
relinquo, -ere, -liqui, -lictus, 3, leave behind, abandon, relinquish
reliquiae, -arum, *f.*, remains
remaneo, -ere, -mansi, -mansus, 2, remain
remedium, -i, *n.*, remedy
remex, -igis, *m.*, rower, oarsman
remissio, -onis, *f.*, breaking off, interrupting, relaxation, recovery
remissus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of remitto), mild
remitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, send back, return, leave behind; give up, let go, yield, relax
remollio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, soften
reparabilis, -e, *adj.*, that can be repaired or restored, repairable
reparo, 1, acquire again, get back, recover
repello, -ere, repuli (reppuli), -pulsus, 3, drive back, repel
repente, *adv.*, suddenly
repentinus, -a, -um, *adj.*, sudden, unexpected
reperio, -ire, repperi, repertus, 4, find, find out, discover
repeto, -ere, -petivi (-ii), -petitus, 3, seek again
repono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, put back, return
repraesento, 1, represent, show
reprehendo, -ere, -prehendi, -prehensus, 3, blame, reprehend, censure
reprimo, -ere, -pressi, -pressus [re-premo], 3, hold back, restrain, repress
repugnans, *p. adj.* (of repugno), contrary, opposed
repugno, 1, oppose, resist
res, rei, *f.*, thing, matter, event, circumstance; **res publica**, state, republic
resero, 1, unlock, open
resideo, -ere, -sedi, -sessus [re-sedeo], 2, quiet down
resisto -ere, -stiti, 3, stand back, resist
resolvo, -ere, -solvi, -solutus, 3, unbind, loosen
resono, -are, -sonui (-sonavi), 1, resound
respicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus [re-spicio], 3, look back, reflect upon, have respect for, look to
respiratio, -onis, *f.*, respiration
respondeo, -ere, -spondi, -sponsus, 2, answer, respond

responsum, -i, *n.*, answer
respuo, -ere, -spui, -sputus, 3, spit back, reject, refuse
resto, -are, -stiti, 1, remain, be left
resupinus, -a, -um, *adj.*, with head thrown back, i.e., proudly
retardo, 1, delay, retard
retempto, 1, test
retentus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of retineo), held back
retineo, -ere, -tinui, -tentus [re-teneo], 2, hold back
retorridus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dried up
retractatio, -onis, *f.*, remembrance
retractus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of retracto), drawn back or away
retraho, -ere, -traxi, -tractus, 3, draw back, take back
retritus, -a, -um, *adj.*, worn down, rubbed down
retro, *adv.*, back, backwards, behind
retundo, -ere, -tudi, -tus (tunsus), 3, beat, blunt
revello, -ere, -velli, -vulsus, 3, tear out or away
revertor, -i, -versus, 3 *dep.*, return
revoco, 1, call back, recall
revolveo, -ere, -volvi, -volutus, 3, roll back, revolve, return; ponder
rex, regis, *m.*, king, ruler
rideo, -ere, risi, risus, 2, laugh
ridiculus, -a, -um, *adj.*, ridiculous, laughable
rigeo, -ere, 2, be stiff
rigo, 1, water
rimor, 1, pry into, search, explore
ripa, -ae, *f.*, bank
risus, -us, *m.*, laughter
rivus, -i, *m.*, stream
rixa, -ae, *f.*, quarrel, brawl
rixor, 1 *dep.*, quarrel
robur, -oris, *n.*, strength; hard wood
robustus, -a, -um, *adj.*, strong, robust
rogo, 1, ask, beg
rogus, -i, *m.*, funeral pile
Roma, -ae, *f.*, Rome
Romanus, -a, -um, *adj.*, Roman
ros, roris, *m.*, dew
rosa, -ae, *f.*, rose
rostra, -orum, *n. pl.*, the speaker's platform
rota, -ae, *f.*, wheel
rotundus, -a, -um, *adj.*, rotund, round
rubesco, -ere, rubui, 3, redden, blush
rubigo, -inis, *m.*, rust
rubor, -oris, *m.*, redness, blush
rudis, -e, *adj.*, rough, rude, raw, untrained, uninstructed
ruina, -ae, *f.*, fall, ruin, disaster
rumor, -oris, *m.*, rumor, gossip
rumpo, -ere, rupi, ruptus, 3, break

ruo, -ere, rui, rutilus, 3, rush, hasten
 rupes, -is, *f.*, rock, cliff
 rursus and rursum, *adv.*, on the other hand,
 again
 rus, ruris, *n.*, country, farm
 rusticitas, -atis, *f.*, rustic manners, rusticity

S

Sabinus, -i, *m.*, Calvisius Sabinus, an example of the vulgar *nouveaux riches* in the age of Seneca
 sacer, -era, -crum, *adj.*, sacred, holy
 sacramentum, -i, *n.*, oath
 sacro, 1, make holy, consecrate
 sacrum, -i, *n.*, shrine, temple
 saeculum, -i, *n.*, age, generation, century
 saepe, *adv.*, often, frequently
 saevio, -ire, -ii, -itus, 4, rage
 saevitia, -ae, *f.*, ferocity, cruelty, severity
 saevus, -a, -um, *adj.*, cruel, fierce, savage
 sagacitas, -atis, *f.*, shrewdness, skillfulness, keenness
 sagina, -ae, *f.*, stuffing
 sagino, 1, fatten
 sagum, -i, *n.*, coarse cloak
 sal, -is, *n.* and *m.* in *sing.*, *m.* always in *pl.*, salt, wit
 salebra, -ae, *f.*, roughness, harshness
 saliaris, -e, *adj.*, of or belonging to the Salii (priests of Mars)
 salio, -ire, salui, 4, leap
 Sallustianus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of or like Sallust, Sallustian
 Sallustius, -i, *m.*, Sallust, Roman historian (86–35 B.C.)
 saltus, -us, *m.*, jumping
 saltus, -us, *m.*, forest, woods
 salubris, -e, *adj.*, healthy, healthful, salubrious
 salus, -utis, *f.*, health, safety; greeting, salutation
 salutaris, -e, *adj.*, healthful, wholesome, salutary
 salutatio, -onis, *f.*, good morning greeting
 saluto, 1, greet, salute
 salutor, -oris, *m.*, one who greets, a caller, a visitor
 salvus, -a, -um, *adj.*, safe, sound
 sancio, -ire, sanxi, sanctus, 4, make sacred, make inviolable
 sanctus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *sancio*), sacred, holy, inviolable
 sanguis, -inis, *m.*, blood
 sanc, *adv.*, indeed, to be sure
 sanitas, -atis, *f.*, sound state of mind, sanity, health
 sano, 1, heal, cure
 sanus, -a, -um, *adj.*, sound, healthy
 sapiens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *sapio*), wise; subst., wise man

sapientia, -ae, *f.*, wisdom
 sapio, -ere, -ii, 3, be wise
 sapor, -oris, *m.*, taste, flavor, savor
 sarcina, -ae, *f.*, burden, load
 Sarmatia, -ae, *f.*, Sarmatia, the name for what is now modern Poland
 sat, *see* satis
 Satellius Quadratus, -i, *m.*, a parasite, fawner, and mocker of wealthy men in the age of Seneca
 satietas, -atis, *f.*, abundance, satiety
 satio, 1, satisfy, satiate
 satio, -onis, *f.*, sowing, planting
 satis (abbreviated *sat*), *adj.* and *adv.*, enough, sufficient; *sati*, *comp.*, better, preferable
 satrapes, -ae and -is, satrapa, -ae, *m.*, satraps, -apis, *m.*, the governor of a Persian province, satrap
 satur, -ura, -urum, *adj.*, full, satiated
 saturitas, -atis, *f.*, fullness, satiety
 Saturnalia, -ium, *n.*, Saturnalia, a festival celebrated Dec. 15–17, in honor of Saturn, god of planting. It was a period of general rejoicing during which presents were exchanged and slaves were waited upon by their masters
 saxum, -i, *n.*, stone, rock
 scaena, -ae, *f.*, stage, scene
 scaenicus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of the stage, theatrical
 scapulae, -arum, *f.*, shoulders, back
 scelus, -eris, *n.*, crime, wickedness
 schola, -ae, *f.*, leisure, learned leisure; school
 scientia, -ae, *f.*, knowledge
 scilicet, *adv.*, of course, evidently
 scindo, -ere, scidi, scissus, 3, cut
 scintilla, -ae, *f.*, spark
 scio, -ire, scivi, scitus, 4, know, know how to
 Scipio, -onis, *m.*, Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus Major, who brought the Second Punic War to an end by his victory at Zama (202 B.C.)
 scordalus, -i, *m.*, quarrelsome fellow
 scribo, -ere, scripsi, scriptus, 3, write
 scrinium, -i, *n.*, bookcase
 Scythia, -ae, *m.*, Scythian
 Scythia, -ae, *f.*, Scythia, country north of the Black and the Caspian Seas
 scrutator, 1, scrutinize
 scutum, -i, *n.*, shield
 se, *see* sui
 secedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus, 3, go away, withdraw, retire
 secessus, -us, *m.*, retirement, retreat
 seco, -are, secui, sectus, 1, cut
 secretum, -i, *n.*, secret; solitude
 sector, 1 *dep.*, follow, pursue
 secundum, *prep.* *v. acc.*, following, according to, next to

- secundus**, -a, -um, *adj.*, following, following the first, second
secure, *adv.*, safely, securely, without care
securitas, -atis, *f.*, freedom from care, security, calm
securus, -a, -um, *adj.*, free from care, secure, calm
sed, *conj.*, but
sedeo, -ere, *sedi*, *sessus*, 2, sit, settle
sedes, -is, *f.*, seat, abode, habitation
seditio, -onis, *f.*, dissension, sedition
sedo, 1, settle, soothe, calm
seduco, -ere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, take away, carry off
seges, -etis, *f.*, crop
segnis, -e, *adj.*, slow, sluggish
segnitia, -ae, *f.*, sluggishness
semel, *num. adv.*, once, a single time, once for all
semen, -inis, *n.*, seed
seminudus, -a, -um, *adj.*, half-naked
semper, *adv.*, always
senatorius, -a, -um, *adj.*, senatorial
senatus, -us, *m.*, senate
senectus, -utis, *f.*, old age
senex, -is, *adj.*, old; *subst. m.*, old man
sensus, -us, *m.*, feeling, sense, meaning, thought
sententia, -ae, *f.*, thought, opinion
sentio, -ire, *sensi*, *sensus*, 4, feel, perceive, see
separo, 1, separate
sepono, -ere, -posui, -positus, 3, set aside
sepositus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *sepono*), set aside, withdrawn
septem, *num. adj. indecl.*, seven
sequor, *sequi*, *secutus*, 3 *dep.*, follow
sera, -ae, *f.*, lock, bolt
Serenus, -i, *m.*, Annaeus Serenus, Seneca's intimate friend to whom he dedicated the dialogues *De Constantia Sapientis*, *De Otio* and *De Tranquillitate Animi*
serica, -orum, *n. pl.*, Seric (Chinese) garments, silks
series (no gen. or dat.), -em, -e, *f.*, row, succession, series
serius, -a, -um, *adj.*, serious
sermo, -onis, *m.*, talk, conversation
sero, -ere, *sevi*, *satus*, 3, sow, plant
serpens, -entis, *c.*, snake, serpent
serra, -ae, *f.*, saw
serrarius, -i, *m.*, one who saws
serus, -a, -um, *adj.*, late
servatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *servo*), preserved, saved
servilis, -e, *adj.*, slavish, servile
servio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, be a slave, serve
servitus, -utis, *f.*, slavery, servitude
servo, 1, keep, preserve, save
servus, -i, *m.*, slave
severus, -a, -um, *adj.*, serious, severe
sexaginta, *num. adj.*, sixty
si, *conj.*, if
sibilus, -i, *m.*, hissing, whistling
sic, *adv.*, thus, so
siccus, 1, drain, dry, empty
siccus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dry, temperate; *siccum*, -i, *n.*, dry land
Sicilia, -ae, *f.*, Sicily
sicut, *adv.*, just as, as
sidus, -eris, *n.*, star
sigillaria, -orum, *n. pl.*, small images or figures
signo, 1, put a mark upon, mark
signum, -i, *n.*, sign, mark, signal; watchword
silentium, -i, *n.*, silence
silva, -ae, *f.*, woods, forest
silvester, -tris, -tre, *adj.*, belonging to a woods or forest
similis, -e, *adj.*, like, similar
similitudo, -inis, *f.*, likeness, similitude; simile
simplex, -icis, *adj.*, single, simple, pure
simul, *adv.*, at once, at the same time; *simul ac*, at the same time as, as well as
simulacrum, -i, *n.*, image, portrait, statue
simulatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *simulo*), feigned
simulo, 1, feign, pretend, simulate
sine, *prep. w. abl.*, without
singularis, -e, *adj.*, singular, unique, extraordinary, exceptional
singuli, -ae, -a, *adj.*, one at a time, separate, single, each
singultus, -us, *m.*, sobbing; hiccupping
sino, -ere, *sivi*, *situs*, 3, allow, permit
sinus, -us, *m.*, bending, curve, fold
Sirena, -ae, *f.*, usually *pl.*, Sirens, birds with the faces of women
sitis, -is, *f.*, thirst
situs, -us, *m.*, mould, disuse
sive and **seu**, *conj.*, or if; *sive*. . . *sive*. . . *seu*, whether. . . or, if. . . or if
sobrius, -a, -um, *adj.*, sober
societas, -atis, *f.*, society, companionship, association
socius, -i, *m.*, ally, comrade, companion
Socrates, -is, *m.*, Socrates, 469–399 B.C., the celebrated Greek philosopher
sol, *solis*, *m.*, sun
solacium, -i, *n.*, consolation, solace
soleo, -ere, *solitus*, 2 *semi-dep.*, be accustomed, be wont
solidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, solid
solitudo, -inis, *f.*, solitude
solitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *soleo*), usual, customary
sollicito, 1, disturb
sollicitudo, -inis, *f.*, anxiety, solicitude, care

sollicitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, full of anxiety, anxious, solicitous, stirred up, disturbed

Solon, -onis, *m.*, Solon, c. 640–c. 558 B.C., renowned Athenian statesman, poet, and lawgiver, one of the seven wise men

solum, *adv.*, alone, only; non **solum**. . . **sed etiam**, not only. . . but also

solum, -i, *n.*, ground

solus, -a, -um, *adj.*, alone, only, sole

solutus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *solvo*), loosened, set free

solvo, -ere, *solvi*, **solutus**, 3, loosen, set free, solve, pay a debt, pay

somnium, -i, *n.*, dream

somnus, -i, *m.*, sleep

sono, -are, *sonui*, **sonitus**, 1, resound, make a noise

sonus, -i, *m.*, noise, sound

sopor, -oris, *m.*, sleep

sordeo, -ere, *sordui*, 2, be dirty

sordes, -is, *f.*, generally *pl.*, **sordes**, -ium, *f.*, dirt, filth, meanness, sordidness

sordidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dirty, sordid, mean; small, paltry

sors, *sortis*, *f.*, lot, fate, chance; order, rank

spado, -onis, *m.*, eunuch

spargo, -ere, *sparsi*, **sparsus**, 3, scatter, sprinkle

sparsus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *spargo*), scattered

spatha, -ae, *f.*, batten or spoon-shaped paddle used to interweave threads on the loom

spatium, -i, *n.*, space, period of time, interval

species, -ei, *f.*, sight, look, appearance; vision

speciosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, showy, good-looking

spectaculum, -i, *n.*, show, sight, spectacle

spectator, -oris, *m.*, spectator

specto, 1, look at, look to as an aim or object, aim

specto, -oris, *m.*, spectator

specularia, -orum, *n.*, window panes, windows

specular, 1 *dep.*, examine, explore

specus, -us, *m.*, cave

spero, 1, hope

spes, *spei*, *f.*, hope

sphacromachia, -ae, *f.*, boxing-match

spiritus, -us, *m.*, breath, air, spirit, soul

spiro, 1, breathe

spisso, 1, thicken, pack closely

splendeo, -ere, -ui, 2, shine

splendidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, bright, splendid

splendor, -oris, *m.*, brilliance, splendor

(*spons*), -tis, *f.*, free-will (only found in gen. and abl.); **sponte**, of one's own accord, voluntarily, freely

sponte, *see spons*

sputum, -i, *n.*, spittle

squalidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, squalid, dirty

squalor, -oris, *m.*, filthiness, squalor

stabilis, -e, *adj.*, firm, stable

stagnum, -i, *n.*, standing water, pool, pond, bath
stamen, -inis, *n.*, warp, tautened thread on an upright loom

statim, *adv.*, at once, immediately

statio, -onis, *f.*, station, office, position

statua, -ae, *f.*, statue

status, -us, *m.*, condition, state

stemma, -atis, *n.*, crown, chaplet, nobility, pedigree

sternumentum, -i, *n.*, sneezing

stilus, -i, *m.*, pen; writing

stimulus, -i, *m.*, goad, spur, stimulus

stipo, 1, pack close, crowd

stipula, -ae, *f.*, straw

sto, *stare*, *steti*, **status**, 1, stand

stomachor, 1 *dep.*, be angry or vexed

stomachus, -i, *m.*, stomach; good digestion; taste, liking; dislike, distaste

strangulo, 1, choke, strangle

stratum, -i, *n.*, saddle

strepens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *strepo*), noisy

strepitus, -us, *m.*, noise

strepo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 3, make a loud noise, creak, clash

stridulus, -a, -um, *adj.*, creaking, shrill

stringo, -ere, *strinxi*, **strictus**, 3, graze

structus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *struo*), arranged

struo, -ere, *struxi*, **structus**, 3, arrange

studeo, -ere, *studui*, 2, be eager, study

studium, -i, *n.*, zeal, eagerness, study, pursuit

stultitia, -ae, *f.*, foolishness, folly

stultus, -a, -um, *adj.*, foolish

stupeo, -ere, -ui, 2, be amazed, be astonished

stupor, -oris, *m.*, stupidity; astonishment, amazement

suadeo, -ere, *suasi*, **suasus**, 2, advise, persuade

suaviter, *adv.*, sweetly, agreeably, pleasantly

sub, *prep. w. abl.*, under, beneath

subdo, -ere, -didi, -ditus, 3, put, place at, near, under

subditus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *subdo*), placed at or near

subduco, -ducere, -duxi, -ductus, 3, draw from under, take away, steal, withdraw

subeo, -ire, -ii, -itus, 4, go under, come under, come upon

subicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus [sub-*iacio*], 3, throw under, place under, subdue, subject

subiectus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *subicio*), lying beneath

subigo, -ere, -egi, -actus [sub-*ago*], 3, plough, cultivate

subinde, *adv.*, continually, repeatedly

subito, *adv.*, suddenly

subitus, -a, -um, *adj.*, sudden, unexpected

submitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *submitto*), lowered, low, soft
submitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, let down, lower
subrepto, -ere, -repsi, -reptus, 3, creep in
subripio, -ere, -ripui, -reptus [sub-rapio], 3, take away secretly, steal
subsicivus, -a, -um, *adj.*, that is cut off and left remaining, remaining over, occasional, incidental
subsido, -ere, -sedi, -sessus, 3, sink, settle down
substitutio, -ere, -stitui, -stitutus [sub-statuo], 3, substitute
subtemen, -inis, *n.*, woof, threads woven in weaving
subtero, -ere, -trivi, -tritus, 3, wear out, bruise
subtilis, -e, *adj.*, thin, fine, acute, subtle
subtilitas, -atis, *f.*, accuracy, subtlety
suburbanum, -i, *n.*, suburban villa
subveho, -ere, -vexi, -vectus, 3, carry, convey
succedo, -ere, -cessi, -cessus [sub-cedo], 3, go beneath; follow, come along, enter, approach
succresco, -ere, -crevi, -cretus [sub-cresco], 3, spring up
succurro, -ere, -curri, -cursus [sub-curro], 3, run to aid, help, succor; occur [to one's mind]
sucus, -i, *m.*, juice
sudatorium, -i, *n.*, sweating-room
sudo, 1, perspire, sweat
sudor, -oris, *m.*, sweat
sufficio, -ere, -feci, -fectus [sub-facio], 3, be sufficient, suffice; be fit for
suffocatio, -onis, *f.*, suffocation
suffodio, -ere, -fodi, -fosus, 3, dig out, excavate
suffosus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *suffodio*), dug out, excavated
suffragium, -i, *n.*, vote
suffundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus [sub-fundo], 3, pour beneath, spread through, suffuse
suggero, -ere, -gessi, -gestus, 3, furnish, supply
sui, *gen.*, sibi, *dat.*, se or sese, *acc.* and *abl.*, *reflex. pron.* 3rd pers., himself, herself, itself, themselves
Sulla, -ae, *m.*, Sulla, distinguished leader of the aristocratic party, opponent of Marius, head of the democratic party. Sulla became dictator of Rome in 32 B.C.
sum, esse, fui, futurus, *irr.*, be, exist
summa, -ae, *f.*, main thing, chief point; sum, sum total, sum of money
sumministrato, -oris, *m.*, one who aids or assists, promoter
submitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *submitto*), let down, lowered, hanging down
summitto, -ere, -misi, -missus [sub-mitto], 3, lower; subject, submit; send
summoveo, -ere, -movi, -motus [sub-moveo], 2, remove

summus, -a, -um, *superl. adj.* (of *superus*), highest, very high, uppermost; last, extreme; **sumum**, -i, *n.*, top, highest place, surface
sumo, -ere, sumpsit, sumptus, 3, take, take up, put on, wear
sumptuosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, costly, expensive, sumptuous; extravagant
supellex, -lectilis, *f.*, *abl.* -lectile and -lectili, *f.*, furniture
super, *prep. w. acc.*, above, upon
superbia, -ae, *f.*, pride, haughtiness
superbus, -a, -um, *adj.*, proud, haughty
superior, -oris, *comp.* (of *superus*)
superiatio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus, 3, throw over, exceed, outstrip
superlabor, -labi, -lapsus, 3 *dep.*, glide over
supero, 1, surpass, excel
supersum, -esse, -fui, *irr.*, be over and above; be left, remain
superus, -a, -um, *comp.*, superior, *superl.*, supremus, **summus**, *adj.*, upper, higher, above, on high, high
supervacuus, -a, -um, *adj.*, superfluous, useless
supervenio, -ire, -veni, -ventus, 4, come over, come along
supplicium, -i, *n.*, punishment
supprimo, -ere, -pressi, -pressus [sub-premo], 3, press down, suppress
suppuratus, -a, -um, *adj.*, full of sores
supra, *adv.* and *prep.*, above, over
surculus, -i, *m.*, young shoot, sprout, scion, graft
surdus, -a, -um, *adj.*, deaf
surgo, -ere, surrexi, surrectus, 3, rise
sursum, *adv.*, upwards, on high; **sursum deorsum**, up and down, topsy-turvy
suscipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptus [sub-capio], 3, support, hold up, prop up
suspendo, -ere, -pendi, -pensus, 3, hang up; support, suspend
suspensura, -ae, *f.*, vault, arch
suspensus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *suspendo*), suspended, hanging, endangered, uncertain, anxious
suspicio, -ere, -spexi, -spectus [sub-specio], 3, look up to
suspicio, -onis, *f.*, suspicion; notion, idea, conception
suspicio, 1 *dep.*, suspect
suspiciosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, suspicious
suspirium, -i, *n.*, sigh, shortness of breath, asthma
suspiro [sub-spiro], 1, breathe deeply, sigh
sustineo, -ere, -tinui, -tentus [sub-teneo], 2, hold up, support, sustain, endure, bear
sutrinum, -i, *n.*, shoemaker's trade
suus, -a, -um, *poss. adj.* and *pron.*, his, her, its, their own

symphonia, -ae, *f.*, concert, musical performance
Syrcticus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of or belonging to the
 Syrtcs

T

tabella, -ae *f.*, flat board, tablet
tabula, -ae, *f.*, tablet for writing; XII tabulae,
 the Twelve Tables, a code of Roman laws
 framed by a commission of ten magistrates in
 451 B.C.
taceo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, be silent
tacitus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *tacco*), silent, tacit
tactus, -us, *m.*, touch
taedium, -i, *n.*, weariness, tedium
tacter, -ra, -rum, *adj.*, foul, offensive, nauseating
talaria, -ium, *n. pl.*, ankles
talis, -e, *adj.*, of such a kind, such; **talis**. . .**qualis**,
 such. . .as
talus, -i, *m.*, ankle
tam, *adv.*, so, so much, as, as much; **tam**. . .**quam**,
 so. . .as
tamen, *adv.*, yet, still, however, nevertheless
tamquam, *adv.*, as, just as, as if
tango, -ere, tetigi, tactus, 3, touch
tantum, *acc. as adv.*, only, merely
tantummodo, *adv.*, only
tantundem, *acc. as adv.*, just so much, as much
tantus, -a, -um, *adj.*, so great, so much
tantusdem, **tantadem**, **tantundem**, *adj.*, just so
 much; **tantundem**, *acc. as adv.*, just so much,
 as much
tardus, -a, -um, *adj.*, slow, tardy
taurus, -i, *m.*, bull
tector, -oris, *m.*, builder
tectum, -i, *n.*, roof, dwelling
tectus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of *tego*), 3, covered,
 protected
tegimentum, -i, *n.*, covering
tego, -ere, texi, tectus, 3, cover, protect
tegula, -ae, *f.*, roofing-tile, roof
tela, -ae, *f.*, web, that which is woven
telum, -i, *n.*, weapon
tellus, -uris, *f.*, earth
temperans, -antis, *p. adj.* (of *tempero*), moderate,
 temperate
temperantia, -ae, *f.*, self-control, temperance
temperatura, -ae, *f.*, temperature
tempero, 1, keep from, refrain from; regulate,
 temper
tempestat, -atis, *f.*, storm, tempest
templum, -i, *n.*, temple
tempto, 1, try, attempt, test
tempus, -oris, *n.*, time, occasion, circumstance
temulentus, -a, -um, *adj.*, drunken, intoxicated
tenax, -acis, *adj.*, holding fast, tenacious

tendo, -ere, tetendi, tentus, 3, stretch, extend;
 strive, aim at
tenebricosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, dark
teneo, -ere, tenui, tentus, 2, hold, possess
tener, -era, -erum, *adj.*, tender, young
tenor, -oris, *m.*, uninterrupted course, tenor
tenuis, -e, *adj.*, thin, slender
tergum, -i, *n.*, rear, back, hide, skin
terminus, -i, *m.*, limit, bound, boundary
tero, -ere, trivi, tritus, 3, rub
terra, -ae, *f.*, earth, ground, land
terrenus, -a, -um, *adj.*, earthly
territo, 1, frighten, terrify
tertius, -a, -um, *adj.*, third
testa, -ae *f.*, earthen vessel, tile
testis, -is, *c.*, witness
testor, 1 *dep.*, bear witness, testify; show, prove
texo, -ere, -xui, -xtus, 3, weave
textor, -oris, *m.*, weaver
textrinum, -i, *n.*, weaving
theatrum, -i, *n.*, theatre, audience
Theophrastus, -i, *m.*, Theophrastus, disciple of
 Aristotle who succeeded him as head of the
 Lyceum
Tiberius, -i, *m.*, Tiberius, husband of the grand-
 daughter of Atticus, Cicero's intimate friend
tibia, -ae, *f.*, flute
tignum, -i, *n.*, timber
timeo, -ere, -ui, 2, be afraid, fear
timide, *adv.*, timidly, fearfully
timidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, fearful, timid
Timoneus, -a, -um, *adj.* (of *Timon*), Athenian
 misanthrope and miser
timor, -oris, *m.*, fear
titubo, 1, falter
titulus, -i, *m.*, label, title; sales-tag; glory, honor
toga, -ae, *f.*, toga
tolerabiliter, *adv.*, bearably, tolerably
tollo, -ere, sustuli, sublatus, 3, lift up, remove
tondeo, -ere, totondi, tonsus, 2, shear, clip
tormentum, -i, *n.*, torment
torpeo, -ere, 2, be numb, be sluggish, be torpid
torqueo, -ere, torsi, tortus, 2, twist, torment
torrens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of *torreo*), burning, hot;
 rushing
torreo, -ere, torru, tostus, 2, burn, scorch
tortor, -oris, *m.*, torturer
torus, -i, *m.*, couch, bed; muscle
tot, *indecl. adj.*, so many
totidem, *indecl. adj.*, just so many, just as many
totiens, so often; **totiens**. . .**quotiens**, so
 often. . .as
totus, -a, -um, *adj.*, all, the whole, entire; in
 totum, completely
trabs, **trabis**, *f.*, a beam of wood
tractatio, -onis, *f.*, handling, management

tracto, 1, treat, handle, draw, conduct
 trado, -ere, -didi, -ditus [trans-do], 3, hand
 over, surrender
 traho, -ere, traxi, tractus, 3, draw, drag
 traicio, -erc, -ieci, -iectus [trans-iacio], 3, throw
 over or across
 trama, -ae, *f.*, woof, web, weft
 trames, -itis, *m.*, road, path
 tranquillitas, -atis, *f.*, calmness, tranquillity
 tranquillus, -a, -um, *adj.*, calm, tranquil
 trans, *prep. v. acc.*, across
 transcurro, -ere, -cucurri (-curri), -cursus, 3,
 run across, pass over, pass by
 transeo, -ire, -ivi (-ii), -itus, 4, cross over, pass
 over, pass through
 transfero, -ferre, -tuli, -latus, *irr.*, carry over,
 transfer
 transfiguro, 1, transform, transfigure
 transfuga, -ae, *c.*, deserter
 transfundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusus, 3, pour, heap
 transigo, -erc, -egi, -actus [trans-ago], 3, pass
 time, spend
 transilio, -ire, -ivi (-ui) [trans-salio], 4, leap
 across
 transitus, -us, *m.*, passing over or across, going
 through
 translatio, -onis, *f.*, metaphor
 translatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of transfero), carried
 over, transferred
 transmitto, -ere, -misi, -missus, 3, send across,
 pass through
 transverto, -ere, -verti, -versus, 3, turn across or
 athwart
 transversus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of transverto),
 turned across, lying across, athwart, crosswise,
 inverted
 tremo, -ere, -ui, 3, tremble
 trepidatio, -onis, *f.*, alarm, trepidation
 trepido, 1, tremble
 trepidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, trembling
 tribunale, -alis, *n.*, tribunal
 tribuo, -ere, -ui, -utus, 3, assign, bestow
 tribus, -us, *f.*, tribe, mob
 tributum, -i, *n.*, tax, contribution
 triduum, -i, *n.*, a space of three days
 triginta, *indecl. num.*, thirty
 tristis, -e, *adj.*, sad, sorrowful
 tristitia, -ae, *f.*, sadness
 tritus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of tero), rubbed, much
 trodden; common, trite
 Troianus, -a, -um, *adj.*, Trojan
 trudo, -ere, trusi, trusus, 3, push, shove
 truncus, -i, *m.*, trunk
 tu, tui, *pers. pron.*, you
 tuba, -ae, *f.*, trumpet
 tubule, -ae, *f.*, small trumpet

tubus, -i, *m.*, pipe
 tueor, -eri, tuitus, 2 *dep.*, defend, protect, guard
 tum, *adv.*, then, at that time
 tumidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, swollen
 tumultus, -us, *m.*, confusion, tumult
 tumultuosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, tumultuous
 tunc, *adv.*, then, at that time
 tunica, -ae, *f.*, tunic
 turba, -ae, *f.*, crowd
 turbatus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of turbo), disturbed,
 thrown into confusion
 turbidus, -a, -um, *adj.*, confused, disordered,
 tumultuous
 turbo, 1, disturb, throw into confusion
 turbo, -inis, *m.*, whirlpool, whirlwind
 turbulentus, -a, -um, *adj.*, restless, disturbed,
 turbulent
 turpis, -e, *adj.*, base, foul
 turturilla, -ae, *f.*, little turtledove
 tussis, -is, *f.*, cough
 tutela, -ae, *f.*, guarding, protection, care
 tuto, *adv.*, safely
 tutus, -a, -um, *adj.*, safe, secure; tutum, -i, *n.*,
 safety; tuto, *adv.*, safely, securely
 tuus, -a, -um, *poss. adj.* and *prom.*, your, yours
 tyrannis, -idis, *f.*, tyranny
 tyrannus, -i, *m.*, tyrant

U

ubi, *adv.*, where, when
 ubicumque, *adv.*, wherever
 ubique, *adv.*, everywhere
 ulcusculum, -i, *n.*, a little ulcer
 Ulixes, -is, *m.*, Ulysses
 ullus, -a, -um, *adj.*, any
 ulterior, -ius, *comp. adj.*, farther, further
 ultimus, -a, -um, *superl. adj.*, farthest, most
 distant, last
 ultra, *adv.* and *prep.*, beyond
 ultro, *adv.*, on the other side, beyond; ultro
 citro, hither and thither
 umbra, -ae, *f.*, shade, shadow
 umerus, -i, *m.*, shoulder
 umor, -oris, *m.*, liquid, moisture
 umquam, *adv.*, ever
 unctio, -onis, *f.*, anointing, massage
 unctus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of ungo), anointed
 unda, -ae, *f.*, wave
 unde, *adv.*, whence, from where
 undique, *adv.*, on all sides, everywhere
 ungo (unguo), -ere, unxi, unctus, 3, anoint
 ungula, -ae, *f.*, hoof, claw
 unicus, -a, -um, *adj.*, sole, only, unique
 unitas, -atis, *f.*, unity, oneness
 universum, -i, *n.*, whole world, universe

unus, -a, -um, *num. adj.*, one, alone, only
 unusquisque, unaquaque, unumquidque,
indef. pron., each one, each
 urbanus, -a, -um, *adj.*, urbane, refined, elegant
 urbs, -is, *f.*, city
 urgeo, -ere, ursi, 2, push, press, urge
 uro, -ere, ussi, ustus, 3, burn
 ursa, -ae, *f.*, bear
 usitatus, -a, -um, *adj.*, customary, common,
 ordinary
 usque, *adv.*, all the way, as far as
 usus, -us, *m.*, use, practice, experience, treatment
 ut (or uti), *adv.* and *conj.*; *with indic.*, as, when,
 how; *with subj.*, in order that, so that, that;
 although
 utcumque, *adv.*, in what manner soever, however
 utra, utrum, *adj.*, which (of two)
 uterque, utraque, utrumque, *adj.*, each (of two),
 both
 utilis, -e, *adj.*, useful
 utilitas, -atis, *f.*, usefulness, utility, advantage,
 interest
 utique, *adv.*, in any case, certainly, especially
 utor, uti, usus, 3 *dep.*, use, enjoy
 utrimque, *adv.*, on either side, on both sides
 utrum, *conj.*, whether; utrum. . . an, whether. . . or
 uva, -ae, *f.*, cluster, bunch of grapes
 uxor, -oris, *f.*, wife, spouse

V

vacillo, 1, vacillate, waver
 vaco, 1, be empty, have time for, be at leisure
 vadimonium, -i, *n.*, bail, security (for appearance
 on a particular day before a court of law)
 vado, -ere, 3, go
 vadum, -i, *n.*, shallow water
 vagor, 1 *dep.*, wander
 vagus, -a, -um, *adj.*, wandering, roaming, vague
 valde, *adv.*, exceedingly, very
 valens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of valeo), strong, powerful
 valeo, -ere, -ui, -itus, 2, be strong, be well, have
 power, have force; vale, farewell
 valetudinarium, -i, *n.*, hospital
 valetudo, -inis, *f.*, health
 Valgius, -i, *m.*, Valgius Rufus, a distinguished
 poet of the Augustan Age and intimate friend of
 Horace
 validus, -a, -um, *adj.*, strong, powerful
 vallum, -i, *n.*, rampart, wall, fortification
 vanitas, -atis, *f.*, emptiness, vanity
 vanus, -a, -um, *adj.*, empty; vain, fickle
 vapor, -oris, *m.*, vapor, steam
 Varianus, -a, -um, *adj.*, of Varus; Quintilius
 Varus, commander of the Roman armies of
 Germany

varie, *adv.*, diversely, in various ways
 varietas, -atis, *f.*, variety
 vario, 1, vary, change, alter
 varius, -a, -um, *adj.*, various, manifold, diverse;
 varying, changing
 vas, vasis, *n.*, vessel
 vastus, -a, -um, *adj.*, huge, immense, vast
 vates, -is, *c.*, soothsayer, prophet, seer
 -ve (shortened form of vel), *enclit. conj.*, or
 vehemens, -entis, *adj.*, violent, vehement
 vehementer, *adv.*, vehemently
 vehiculum, -i, *n.*, vehicle
 veho, -ere, -xi, -ctus, 3, carry
 vel, *conj.*, or, even; vel. . . vel, either. . . or
 velamentum, -i, *n.*, cover, screen
 vellico, 1, sting
 vello, -ere, vulsi, vulsus, 3, pluck
 velo, 1, cover, veil
 velocitas, -atis, *f.*, quickness, rapidity, velocity
 velox, -ocis, *adj.*, swift, rapid
 velum, -i, *n.*, covering, curtain, sail
 velut, *adv.*, just as, as if
 vena, -ae, *f.*, vein
 venalis, -e, *adj.*, for sale, on sale; venalis, -is, *m.*,
 slave offered for sale
 vendo, -ere, vendidi, venditus, 3, sell
 venenum, -i, *n.*, poison
 veneratio, -onis, *f.*, respect, veneration
 veneror, 1 *dep.*, reverence, venerate
 venia, -ae, *f.*, indulgence to faults, pardon
 venio, -ire, veni, ventus, 4, come
 venter, -tris, *m.*, belly, stomach
 ventosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, like the wind, fickle
 venturus, -a, -um, *fut. p.* of venio
 ventus, -i, *m.*, wind
 ver, veris, *n.*, spring
 verber, -eris, *n.*, lash, blow
 verbero, 1, lash, beat
 verbum, -i, *n.*, word
 verecundia, -ae, *f.*, modesty
 vereor, -eri, veritus, 2 *dep.*, fear, respect
 Vergilius, -i, *m.*, Vergil, great Roman poet of the
 Augustan Age
 vergo, -ere, 3, bend, turn, incline
 veritas, -atis, *f.*, truth
 verna, -ae, *c.*, slave born in the master's house,
 home-born slave
 vero, *adv.*, truly, indeed; but, yet
 versatilis, -e, *adj.*, turning round, revolving
 verso, 1, turn, turn over; turn over in one's mind,
 think over, consider; versor, 1 *dep.*, associate
 versus, -a, -um, *p. adj.* (of verito), turned
 versus, -us, *m.*, verse
 vertex, -icis, *m.*, height
 verito, -ere, verti, versus, 3, turn
 verus, -a, -um, *adj.*, true, real

vescor, vesci, 3 *dep.*, feed, eat
 vesica, -ae, *f.*, bladder
 vestibulum, -i, *n.*, entrance-court, entrance
 vestigium, -i, *n.*, foot-step
 vestimentum, -i, *n.*, clothing, garment
 vestio, -ire, -ivi, -itus, 4, clothe
 vestis, -is, *f.*, garment, clothing, clothes
 veteranus, -a, -um, *adj.*, old, veteran
 veterarius, -a, -um, *adj.*, old, mature
 veto, -are, -ui, -itus, 1, avoid, forbid
 vetulus, -a, -um, *adj.*, old
 vetus, -eris, *adj.*, old, ancient
 vetustas, -atis, *f.*, old age, age
 vetustus, -a, -um, *adj.*, old, ancient
 vexatio, -onis, *f.*, trouble, vexation
 vexo, 1, annoy, molest, vex
 via, -ae *f.*, way, road
 vibro, 1, vibrate, brandish
 vicensimus, -a, -um, *adj.*, twentieth
 vicinia, -ae, *f.*, neighborhood, vicinity
 vicinus, -a, -um, *adj.*, near, neighboring; *subst.*,
 vicinus, -i, *m.*, vicina, -ae, *f.*, neighbor;
 vicinum, -i, *n.*, neighborhood, vicinity
 vicis, *gen.*, vices, *nom. pl. f.*, change, alternation,
 vicissitude
 victor, -oris, *m.*, victor
 victus, -us, *m.*, food, manner of life, way of living
 vicus, -i, *m.*, street
 videlicet, *adv.*, clearly
 video, -ere, vidi, visus, 2, see; *pass.*, be seen,
 seem, appear
 vigeo, -ere, 2, be vigorous, thrive
 vigesco, -ere, vigui, 3, become vigorous, thrive
 vigilia, -ae, *f.*, sleeplessness, wakefulness
 vigilo, 1, be awake, watch
 vigor, -oris, *m.*, vigor
 villicus, -i, *m.*, steward
 vilis, -e, *adj.*, cheap, common, base
 villa, -ae, *f.*, country-house, estate
 vincio, -ire, vinxi, vinctus, 4, bind
 vinco, -ere, vici, victus, 3, conquer, overcome,
 subdue
 vinculum, -i, *n.*, bond
 vindemia, -ae, *f.*, grapes, wine, vintage
 vindico, 1, claim, set free
 vinum, -i, *n.*, wine
 violentus, -a, -um, *adj.*, violent
 vir, viri, *m.*, man
 virens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of vireo), green, blooming
 vireo, -ere, 2, be green

virga, -ae, *f.*, rod
 virgeus, -a, -um, *adj.*, made of twigs or rods
 virilis, -e, *adj.*, manly, virile
 virtus, -utis, *f.*, manliness, courage, virtue
 vis, vis, *f.*, power, strength, force
 viscum, -i, *n.*, bird-lime
 viscus, -eris, *n.*, usually *pl.*, viscera, -um, entrails,
 viscera
 visum, -i, *n.*, something seen, sight
 vita, -ae, *f.*, life
 vitio, 1, spoil
 vitiosus, -a, -um, *adj.*, faulty, bad, corrupt
 vitis, -is, *f.*, vine
 vitium, -i, *n.*, fault, weakness, vice
 vito, 1, avoid
 vitrearius, -i, *m.*, glass-worker, glass-blower
 vitrum, -i, *n.*, glass
 vivarium, -i, *n.*, an enclosure in which game, fish,
 etc. are kept alive
 vivo, -ere, vixi, victus, 3, live
 vivus, -a, -um, *adj.*, alive, living
 vix, *adv.*, scarcely, hardly
 voco, 1, call, summon
 volaticus, -a, -um, *adj.*, fleeting, flighty
 volens, -entis, *p. adj.* (of volo), willing, glad
 volo, velle, volui, *irr.*, wish, be willing, want
 volumen, -inis, *n.*, volume
 voluntarius, -a, -um, *adj.*, voluntary
 voluntas, -atis, *f.*, wish, will, desire
 voluptas, -atis, *f.*, pleasure
 volvo, -cre, volvi, volutus, 3, roll, revolve, turn
 vomito, 1, vomit
 votum, -i, *n.*, vow, wish, prayer
 vox, vocis, *f.*, voice, word, saying
 vulgaris, -e, *adj.*, common, ordinary, vulgar
 vulgo, *adv.*, commonly, generally, in public
 vulgus, -i, *n.*, rarely *m.*, crowd, people
 vulnus, -eris, *n.*, wound
 vulpes, -is, *f.*, fox
 vultus, -us, *m.*, expression of the face, countenance,
 face

Z

Zaleucus, -i, *m.*, Zaleucus, a famous lawgiver of
 the 7th cent. B.C., disciple of Pythagoras
 Zeno, -onis, *m.*, Zeno (335-263 B.C.), founder of
 the Stoic School at Athens
 zmaragdus, -i, *m.*, emerald