

ETA SIGMA PHI

Fifty-sixth Annual Latin Translation Contest (2006) Advanced

To be written as an examination, under supervision, within a maximum of two hours. No dictionary or other help is permitted. Please write in ink on every other line of the paper provided. The only identification on the contest paper should be the contestant's pen name.

St. Augustine discusses the guilt of his fellow N. African Apuleius, who was accused of practicing black magic and who lived some three hundred years before the Christian theologian. Apuleius' speech in his own defense survives; he also wrote a treatise on daemones entitled De Deo Socratis, alluded to in this same passage.

Postremo Apuleius ipse numquid apud Christianos iudices de magicis artibus accusatus est? Quas utique¹ sibi obiectas si diuinas et pias esse nouerat et diuinarum potestatum operibus congruas, non solum eas confiteri debuit, sed etiam profiteri, leges culpans potius, quibus haec prohiberentur et damnanda putarentur, quae haberi miranda et ueneranda oporteret. Ita enim uel sententiam suam persuaderet iudicibus, uel, si illi secundum iniquas leges saperent² eumque talia praedicantem³ atque laudantem morte multarent, digna animae illius daemones dona rependerent, pro quorum diuinis operibus praedicandis humanam uitam sibi adimi non timeret; sicut martyres nostri, cum eis pro crimine obiceretur Christiana religio, qua nouerant se fieri saluos et gloriosissimos in aeternum, non eam negando temporales poenas euadere delegerunt, sed potius confitendo profitendo praedicando et pro hac omnia fideliter fortiterque tolerando et cum pia securitate moriendo leges, quibus prohibebatur, erubescere compulerunt mutarique fecerunt. Huius autem philosophi Platonici copiosissima et disertissima extat oratio, qua crimen artium magicarum a se alienum esse defendit seque aliter non uult innocentem uideri nisi ea negando, quae non possunt ab innocente committi.

¹ utique (adv.) = certainly, surely

² sapio, sapere, -ii = (here) be inspired, educated, informed

³ praedico, -are = (here) proclaim, extol, commend