

ETA SIGMA PHI 65th Annual Latin Translation Contest (2015)

Advanced Latin

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

Cicero asserts that old age has no particular term

Senectutis autem nullus est certus terminus, recteque in ea vivitur, quoad munus officii exsequi et tueri possit mortemque contemnere; ex quo fit, ut animosior etiam senectus sit quam adulescentia et fortior. Hoc illud est quod Pisistrato tyranno a Solone responsum est, cum illi quaerenti, qua tandem re fretus sibi tam audaciter obsisteret, respondisse dicitur: 'Senectute.' Sed vivendi est finis optimus, cum integra mente certisque sensibus opus ipsa suum eadem quae coagmentavit, natura dissolvit. Ut navem, ut aedificium idem destruit facillime, qui construxit, sic hominem eadem optime quae conglutinavit natura dissolvit. Iam omnis conglutinatio recens aegre, inveterata facile divellitur. Ita fit ut illud breve vitae reliquum nec avidè adpetendum senibus nec sine causa deserendum sit; vetatque Pythagoras iniussu imperatoris, id est dei, de praesidio et statione vitae decedere. Solonis quidem sapientis est elogium, quo se negat velle suam mortem dolore amicorum et lamentis vacare. Volt, credo, se esse carum suis. Sed haud scio an melius Ennius:

Nemo me lacrimis decoret, neque funera fletu faxit.

Non censet lugendam esse mortem, quam immortalitas consequatur.

NOTES:

- line 1: *quoad*: so long as
- line 2: *officii*: genitive case
- line 3: *Pisistratus -i, m.*: tyrant of Athens, who died in 527 B.C.
- line 4: *Solon, -onis, m.*: one of the Seven Wise Men of Greece
- line 4: *fretus -a, -um*: relying on, depending on; *with the ablative*
- line 4: *sibi* = Pisistratus
- line 5: *dicitur*: subject of this verb is Solon
- line 6: *ipsa...eadem* agreeing with *natura*
- line 6: *coagmento (1)*: to fix together, to join together
- line 9: *aegre*: with difficulty
- line 11: *iniussu*: without orders
- line 12: *elogium -i, n.*: a maxim, a short saying
- line 13: *vaco (1)*: to be without, to be free from; *with the ablative*
- line 15: *faxit = fecerit*