

Eta Sigma Phi
Fifty-second Annual Greek Translation Contest (2001)
Intermediate (*Koiné*)

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 paper should be your pen name.
(Underlined items are noted among the vocabulary helps.)

In this passage, Philo introduces the reasons why he considers a biography of Moses worth writing.

Μωυσέως τοῦ κατὰ μὲν τινὰς νομοθέτου τῶν Ἰουδαίων, κατὰ δὲ τινὰς ἐρμηνέως νόμων ἱερῶν, τὸν βίον ἀναγράψαι διενεόθη, ἀνδρὸς τὰ πάντα μεγίστου καὶ τελειοτάτου, καὶ γνώριμον τοῖς ἀξίοις μὴ ἀγνοεῖν αὐτὸν δὲ ὅστις ἦν ἐπὶ ἀληθείας ἴσασιν οὐ πολλοί, διὰ φθόνον ἴσως καὶ ἐν οὐκ ὀλίγοις τῶν διατεταγμένων ὑπὸ τῶν κατὰ πόλεις νομοθετῶν ἐναντίωσιν οὐκ ἐβελήσαντων αὐτὸν μνήμης ἀξιῶσαι τῶν παρ' Ἑλλησι λογίων· ὧν οἱ πλείους τὰς δυνάμεις ἃς ἔσχον διὰ παιδείας ὕβρισαν ἐν τε ποιήμασι καὶ τοῖς καταλογάδην συγγράμμασι κωμωδίας καὶ συβαριτικὰς ἀσελγείας συνθέντες, περιβόητον αἰσχύνην, οὓς ἔδει ταῖς φύσεσι καταχρήσασθαι πρὸς τὴν τῶν ἀγαθῶν ἀνδρῶν τε καὶ βίων ὑφήγησιν, ἵνα μὴ τὰς ἀμείνους ὑποθέσεις παρελθόντες τὰς ἀναξίους ἀκοῆς προκρίναι δοκῶσι σπουδάζοντες τὰ κακὰ καλῶς ἀπαγγέλλειν εἰς ὄνειδῶν ἐπιφάνειαν. ἀλλ' ἔγωγε τὴν τούτων βασκανίαν ὑπερβὰς τὰ περὶ τὸν ἄνδρα μηνύσω μαθὼν αὐτὰ κακὰ βιβλῶν τῶν ἱερῶν, ἃς θαυμάσια μνημεῖα τῆς αὐτοῦ σοφίας ἀπολέλοιπε, καὶ παρά τινων ἀπὸ τοῦ ἔθνους πρεσβυτέρων.

Notes and vocabulary:

ἐρμηνεύς, -έως, ὁ, *interpreter*

διανοέομαι, -νοήσομαι, διενεόθη, διανενόημαι, *have in mind, intend, c. inf.*

γνώριμος, -ον, *well known, familiar,*

διατάσσω, *appoint, classify*

καταλογάδην, adv. *"in prose"*

συβαριτικαὶ ἀσελγείαι, *acts of wanton violence*

περιβόητος, -ον, *noised abroad, talked about, famous*

καταχράομαι, *make full use of, apply* τινὶ πρὸς τι

ὑφήγησις, εὖς, ἡ, *leading, guidance, direction*

ἐπιφάνεια, ἡ, *appearance, coming into light or view*

βασκανία, ἡ, *malign influence, witchery, malignity, jealousy*