

Seven Pieces On Roman Texts

O passi graviora dabit deus his quoque finem.
O, you who have suffered such grievous events, even to this will Jove grant an end.
Publius Virgilius Naso

Mortalia facta peribunt.
Mortal achievements will perish.
Quintus Horatius Flaccus

Pallida mors aequo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas regumque turres.
Pale death with equal pace assaults the hovels of the poor and the castles of kings.
Quintus Horatius Flaccus

Sed omnis una manet nox et calcanda semel via leti.
But one night waits for everyone, and we tread only once upon the path of death.
Quintus Horatius Flaccus

O miseris hominum mentes o pectora caeca. Qualibus in tenebris
O, wretched minds of men, o blind hearts! In what darkness
vitae quantisque periculis degitur hoc aevi quodcumque.
and how great perils is spent whatever this span of life!
Titus Lucretius Carus

Certa quidem finis vitae mortalibus adstat
In truth, a certain end of life attends to humans,
nec devitari letum pote quin obeamus.
nor can death be avoided, indeed we all must perish.
Nil igitur mors est ad nos neque pertinet hilum
Nothing, therefore, is death to us nor does it matter a bit,
quandoquidem natura animi mortalis habetur.
since the nature of the mind is known to be mortal.
Multo mortem igitur minus ad nos esse putandum
By far, therefore, must death be reckoned to us to be less,
si minus esse potest quam quod nihil esse videmus.
if it can be less than that which we see to be nothing.
Titus Lucretius Carus

Proinde licet quot vis vivendo condere saecula
Therefore you may by living well preserve the long age you want,
Mors aeterna tamen nihilo minus illa manebit.
eternal death, however, will none the less remain.
Nec minus ille diu iam non erit ex hodierno lumine qui finem vitae fecit
Nor anymore less long will someone not be who made an end of life by today's light
et ille mensibus atque annis qui multis occidit ante.
than someone who died many months or years before.
Natura videtur libera continuo dominis privata superbis
Nature is seen to be immediately free, rid of arrogant masters.
ipsa sua per se sponte omnis dis agere expers.
She alone of her own accord doing everything without gods.
Titus Lucretius Carus