

Horace - Letter to Tibullus - A Hog of Epicurus' Herd

Post by "Cassius" of August 9, 2018 at 1:22 PM

I've not attempted to read much into Horace's background; probably it would be good somewhere to list some links to good references to his life beyond just [wikipedia](#). Surely there will be some articles too which explore specifically his Epicurean aspects. I believe I remember reading that Horace had perhaps been a soldier on the Republican side at Philippi? OK:

"Rome's troubles following the assassination of [Julius Caesar](#) were soon to catch up with him. [Marcus Junius Brutus](#) came to Athens seeking support for the republican cause. Brutus was fêted around town in grand receptions and he made a point of attending academic lectures, all the while recruiting supporters among the young men studying there, including Horace. [An educated young Roman could begin military service high in the ranks and Horace was made tribunus militum](#) (one of six senior officers of a typical legion), a post usually reserved for men of senatorial or equestrian rank and which seems to have inspired jealousy among his well-born confederates. [He learned the basics of military life while on the march, particularly in the wilds of northern Greece, whose rugged scenery became a backdrop to some of his later poems. It was there in 42 BC that Octavian](#) (later [Augustus](#)) and his associate [Mark Antony](#) crushed the republican forces at the [Battle of Philippi](#). Horace later recorded it as a day of embarrassment for himself, when he fled without his shield, [but allowance should be made for his self-deprecating humour. Moreover, the incident allowed him to identify himself with some famous poets who had long ago abandoned their shields in battle, notably his heroes Alcaeus and Archilochus](#). The comparison with the latter poet is uncanny: Archilochus lost his shield in a part of Thrace near Philippi, and he was deeply involved in the Greek colonization of [Thasos](#), where Horace's die-hard comrades finally surrendered."

Also I see there is a reference to Suetonius' "Life of Horace" ([Latin](#), but we need English 😊) [Loeb](#) (limited access)

Here we go - [Life of Horace](#) at LacusCurtius