

Marcus Encolpus' Tomb Inscription

Post by "Don" of July 7, 2023 at 12:19 PM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

Translated:

<http://poemsintranslation.blogspot.com/2014/12/marcus...ellias.html?m=1>

"Dis" is not part of his wife's name, but seems to relate to the word discedere, "to depart". He built the tomb after she died (departed), for both of them, as well as for their liberti, freed slaves.

That's a great find, Joshua! Well done!

I had just begun to translate the Greek, and, yep, That's a good fluid translation there! I'm going to paste their translation here because it's too good for people to miss if they don't click the link:

Do not pass by my epitaph, dear passer-by.

Stop. Read and learn, and when you understand, go on:

There is no Charon waiting on a boat in Hades.

No judge named Aeacus, no dog called Cerberus.

All of us who've gone dead down here are now no more

Than rotting bone and ash. I've told it as it is

And have no more to say. Now, passer-by, go on

And know I keep the rule of dead men: tell no tales.

This tomb's just stone. So bring no myrrh or garlands.

Do not waste money on a fire.

If you want to gift me something, you should have

Done it when I was still alive.

If you mix wine with ash you just get mud.

Besides, the dead do not drink wine.

Just sprinkle some soil. Say: what I was before
I was, I have become once more.