

For Me Personally, The Most Fundamental Attitudinal Adjustment That Comes From Epicurean Philosophy: "Live Like You Were Dying"

Post by "Don" of September 26, 2023 at 8:08 AM

Quintus Horatius Flaccus

Carmina Liber I

Carmen XI

Tu ne quaesieris, scire nefas, quem mihi, quem tibi

Finem di dederint, Leuconoe, nec Babylonios

Temptaris numeros. Ut melius quidquid erit pati,

Seu pluris hiemes seu tribuit Iuppiter ultimam,

Quae nunc oppositis debilitat pumicibus mare

Tyrrhenum: sapias, vina liques, et spatio brevi

Spem longam reseces. Dum loquimur, fugerit invida

Aetas: carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero

Horace Odes 1:11

Ask not ('tis forbidden knowledge), what our destined term of years,

Mine and yours; nor scan the tables of your Babylonish seers.

Better far to bear the future, my Leuconoe, like the past,

Whether Jove has many winters yet to give, or this our last;

This, that makes the Tyrrhene billows spend their strength against the shore.

Strain your wine and prove your wisdom; life is short; should hope be more?

In the moment of our talking, envious time has ebb'd away.

Seize* the present; trust tomorrow e'en as little as you may.

*Note: pluck, harvest is more literal

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