

# 20<sup>TH</sup> LATIN SUMMER SCHOOL

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Education Building, University of Sydney

**LEVEL 4.Y**

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## LATIN SUMMER SCHOOL 2014

### Love, friendship, and living well: a selection of Horace's odes

Quintus Horatius Flaccus declares boldly at *Odes* 3.30.1 *exegi monumentum aere perennius* (I have completed a work more enduring than bronze). As we read these ambitious words from our vantage point of the 21<sup>st</sup> century they seem to have been remarkably prophetic. Horace's literary output, like that of his friend Virgil, has been an essential thread in the Western tradition.

Horace lived in extraordinary times. He was born to a freedman father in 65BC in Apulia in southern Italy. His father had a small landholding; and he prospered in his second occupation as a public auctioneer. He could therefore send his son Horace to Rome and then to Athens for an education that equalled that of any young upper-class Roman male. In the difficult years that followed the assassination of Julius Caesar Horace joined the Republican cause, becoming *tribunus militum* in the army of Brutus. When Brutus was defeated by Octavian, Horace, then aged 23, lost almost everything. His father's property in Apulia was confiscated in the proscription decreed by Antony, Lepidus, and Octavian; but he had sufficient funds on his return to Italy to buy the position of *scriba quaestorius*, secretary to the quaestors.

In Rome in this period Horace's friends Virgil and Varius the tragic poet introduced him to Maecenas, one of Octavian's trusted advisers, and a circle of like-minded men of equestrian rank with literary ambitions. In this environment (around 30BC) Horace produced his *Epodes* and *Satires*. They were followed by the first three books of *Odes*, published together in 23BC. A fourth book of odes was added some time later (13BC?), inspired by Augustus himself. Horace's *Epistles* and his *Ars poetica* date from about this period also, although the precise dating is a matter of some discussion.

Our reading for this week will be a selection of Horace's odes, lyric poems in a genre that can be traced back to early Greek lyric from Lesbos, produced by a poet trained in a Hellenistic style who lived in Rome in a period of intense literary (and political) activity.

The poems I have selected address a number of occasionally overlapping themes: (1) the natural realm and the cycle of life; (2) how to live one's life; (3) Horace and love; (4) the poet's reflections on piety and duty; and (5) on wine and the pleasures of friendship. Thus, for example, we will 'hear' Horace on the friendships he valued, especially with Maecenas and Virgil; the lessons he draws from the natural world; his preference for a simple life as a moral--and a poetic--choice; his slightly ironic presentation of himself as a lover; and his self-definition as a poet.

As we read each poem we shall pay attention to subject matter and the progression of thought, to form, and to language. We shall also consider Horace's versification. Our project for the week will be to evaluate the use Horace makes of this genre.

I very much look forward to a week with Horace--and with you!

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## MONDAY

### The natural world and the cycle of life

#### Ode 3.13

O fons Bandusiae splendidior uitro,  
dulci digne mero non sine floribus,  
    cras donaberis haedo,  
    cui frons turgida cornibus  
primis et uenerem et proelia destinat.           5  
frustra: nam gelidos inficiet tibi  
    rubro sanguine riuos  
    lasciui suboles gregis.  
te flagrantis atrox hora Caniculae  
nescit tangere, ti frigus amabile           10  
    fessis uomere tauris  
    praebes et pecori uago.  
fies nobilium tu quoque fontium  
me dicente cauis impositam ilicem  
    saxis, unde loquaces           15  
    lympae desiliunt tuae.

#### Ode 1.17

Velox amoenum saepe Lucretilem  
mutat Lycaeo Faunus et igneam  
    defendit aestatem capellis  
    usque meis pluuiosque uentos.  
impune tutum per nemus arbutos           5  
quaerunt latentes et thyma deuiuae  
    olentis uxores mariti  
    nec uirides metuunt colubras  
nec Martiales haediliae lupos,  
utcumque dulci, Tyndari, fistula           10  
    ualles et Vsticae cubantis  
    leuia personuere saxa.  
di me tuentur, dis pietas mea  
et musa cordi est. hic tibi copia  
    manabit ad plenum benigno           15  
    ruris honorum opulenta cornu;  
hic in reducta ualle Caniculae  
uitabis aestus et fide Teia  
    dices laborantes in uno  
    Penelopen uitreamque Circen;           20  
hic innocentis pocula Lesbii  
duces sub umbra nec Semeleius  
    cum Marte confundet Thyoneus  
    proelia nec metues proteruum  
suspecta Cyrum, ne male dispari           25  
incontinentes iniciat manus  
    et scindat haerentem coronam  
    crinibus immeritamque uestem.

## Ode 4.7

Diffugere nives, redeunt iam gramina campis  
arboribusque comae;  
mutat terra vices, et decrescentia ripas  
flumina praetereunt.  
Gratia cum Nymphis geminisque sororibus audit 5  
ducere nuda choros.  
immortalia ne speres, monet annus et alium  
quae rapit hora diem.  
frigora mitescunt Zephyris, ver proterit aestas,  
interitura, simul 10  
pomifer autumnus fruges effuderit, et mox  
bruma recurrit iners.  
damna tamen celeres reparant caelestia lunae:  
nos ubi decidimus  
quo pius Aeneas, quo dives Tullus et Ancus, 15  
pulvis et umbra sumus.  
quis scit an adiciant hodiernae crastina summae  
tempora di superi?  
cuncta manus avidas fugient heredis, amico  
quae dederis animo. 20  
cum semel occideris et de te splendida Minos  
fecerit arbitria,  
non, Torquate, genus, non te facundia, non te  
restituere pietas.  
infernis neque enim tenebris Diana pudicum 25  
liberat Hippolytum  
nec Lethaea valet Theseus abrumpere caro  
vincula Pirithoo.

72 lines



## Ode 2.14

Eheu fugaces, Postume, Postume,  
labuntur anni nec pietas moram  
    rugis et instanti senectae  
    adferet indomitaeque morti,  
non si trecenis quotquot eunt dies, 5  
amice, places illacrimabilem  
    Plutona tauris, qui ter amplum  
    Geryonen Tityonque tristi  
compescit unda, scilicet omnibus,  
quicumque terrae munere vescimur, 10  
    enaviganda, sive reges  
    sive inopes erimus coloni.  
frustra cruento Marte carebimus  
fractisque rauci fluctibus Hadriae,  
    frustra per autumnos nocentem 15  
    corporibus metuemus Austrum:  
visendus ater flumine languido  
Cocytos errans et Danaï genus  
    infame damnatusque longi  
    Sisyphus Aeolides laboris, 20  
linquenda tellus et domus et placens  
uxor, neque harum quas colis arborum  
    te praeter invisas cupressos  
    ulla brevem dominum sequetur.  
absumet heres Caecuba dignior 25  
servata centum clavibus et mero  
    tinguet pavementum superbo,  
    pontificum potiore cenis.

72 lines

## WEDNESDAY

### Horace and love

#### Ode 1.13

Cum tu, Lydia, Telephi  
ceruicem roseam, cerea Telephi  
laudas bracchia, uae, meum  
feruens difficili bile tumet iecur.  
tunc nec mens mihi nec color 5  
certa sede manet, umor et in genas  
furtim labitur, arguens  
quam lentis penitus macerer ignibus.  
uror, seu tibi candidos  
turparunt umeros immodicae mero 10  
rixae siue puer furens  
impressit memorem dente labris notam.  
non, si me satis audias,  
speres perpetuum dulcia barbare  
laedentem oscula, quae Venus 15  
quinta parte sui nectaris imbuit.  
felices ter et amplius  
quos irrupta tenet copula nec malis  
diuulsus querimoniis  
suprema citius soluet amor die.

#### Ode 1.5

Quis multa gracilis te puer in rosa  
perfusus liquidis urget odoribus  
grato, Pyrrha, sub antro?  
cui flauam religas comam  
simplex munditiis? heu quotiens fidem 5  
mutatosque deos flebit et aspera  
nigris aequora uentis  
emirabitur insolens  
qui nunc te fruitur credulus aurea,  
qui semper uacuam, semper amabilem 10  
sperat, nescius aurae  
fallacis. miseri, quibus  
intemptata nites! me tabula sacer  
uotiuu paries indicat uuida  
suspendisse potenti 15  
uestimenta maris deo.

#### Ode 4.1

Intermissa, Venus, diu  
rursus bella moves? parce precor, precor.  
non sum qualis eram bonae  
sub regno Cinarae. desine, dulcium  
mater saeva Cupidinum, 5  
circa lustra decem flectere mollibus  
iam durum imperiis; abi,  
quo blandae iuvenum te revocant preces.  
tempestivius in domum  
Pauli purpureis ales oloribus 10  
comissabere Maximi,  
si torrere iecur quaeris idoneum.  
namque et nobilis et decens  
et pro sollicitis non tacitus reis  
et centum puer atrium 15  
late signa feret militiae tuae,  
et quandoque potentior  
largi muneribus riserit aemuli,  
Albanos prope te lacus  
ponet marmoream sub trabe citrea. 20  
illic plurima naribus  
duces tura lyraque et Berecynthia  
delectabere tibia  
mixtis carminibus non sine fistula;  
illic bis pueri die 25  
numen cum teneris virginibus tuum  
laudantes pede candido  
in morem Salium ter quatent humum.  
me nec femina nec puer  
iam nec spes animi credula mutui 30  
nec certare iuvat mero  
nec vincere novis tempora floribus.  
sed cur heu, Ligurine, cur  
manat rara meas lacrima per genas?  
cur facunda parum decoro 35  
inter verba cadit lingua silentio?  
nocturnis ego somniis  
iam captum teneo, iam volucrem sequor  
te per gramina Martii  
Campi, te per aquas, dure, volubilis. 40

76 lines



## THURSDAY

### Reflections on piety and duty

#### Ode 3.2

Angustam amice pauperiem pati  
robustus acri militia puer  
    condiscat et Parthos ferocis  
        vexet eques metuendus hasta  
vitamque sub divo et trepidis agat 5  
in rebus. illum ex moenibus hosticis  
    matrona bellantis tyranni  
        prospiciens et adulta virgo  
suspiret, eheu, ne rudis agminum  
sponsus lacessat regius asperum 10  
    tactu leonem, quem cruenta  
        per medias rapit ira caedes.  
dulce et decorum est pro patria mori:  
mors et fugacem persequitur virum  
    nec parcat inbellis iuventae 15  
        poplitibus timidoque tergo.  
virtus repulsae nescia sordidae  
intaminatis fulget honoribus  
    nec sumit aut ponit securis  
        arbitrio popularis aurae: 20  
virtus recludens inmeritis mori  
caelum negata temptat iter via  
    coetusque vulgaris et udam  
        spernit humum fugiente pinna.  
est et fideli tuta silentio 25  
merces: vetabo, qui Cereris sacrum  
    volgarit arcanae, sub isdem  
        sit trabibus fragilemque mecum  
solvat phaselon: saepe Diespiter  
neglectus incesto addidit integrum; 30  
    raro antecedentem scelestum  
        deseruit pede Poena claudo.

### Ode 3.6

Delicta maiorum immeritus lues,  
Romane, donec templa refeceris  
    aedisque labentis deorum et  
    foeda nigro simulacra fumo.  
dis te minorem quod geris, imperas.     5  
hinc omne principium, huc refer exitum:  
    di multa neglecti dederunt  
    Hesperiae mala luctuosae.  
iam bis Monaeses et Pacori manus  
inauspicatos contudit impetus     10  
    nostros et adiecisse praedam  
    torquibus exiguis renidet;  
paene occupatam seditionibus  
delevit urbem Dacus et Aethiops,  
    hic classe formidatus, ille     15  
    missilibus melior sagittis.  
fecunda culpa saecula nuptias  
primum inquinavere et genus et domos:  
    hoc fonte derivata clades  
    in patriam populumque fluxit.     20  
motus doceri gaudet Ionicos  
matura virgo et fingitur artibus  
    iam nunc et incestos amores  
    de tenero meditatur ungui.  
mox iuniores quaerit adulteros     25  
inter mariti vina neque eligit  
    cui donet inpermissa raptim  
    gaudia luminibus remotis,  
sed iussa coram non sine conscio  
surgit marito, seu vocat institor     30  
    seu navis Hispanae magister,  
    dedecorum pretiosus emptor.  
non his iuventus orta parentibus  
infecit aequor sanguine Punico  
    Pyrrhumque et ingentem cecidit     35  
    Antiochum Hannibalemque dirum,  
sed rusticorum mascula militum  
proles, Sabellis docta ligonibus  
    versare glaebas et severae  
    matris ad arbitrium recisos     40  
portare fustis, sol ubi montium  
mutaret umbras et iuga demeret  
    bubus fatigatis, amicum  
    tempus agens abeunte curru.  
damnosa quid non inminuit dies?     45  
aetas parentum peior avis tulit  
    nos nequiores, mox daturos  
    progeniem vitiosiore.

## FRIDAY

### Wine and the pleasures of friendship

#### Ode 1.20

Vile potabis modicis Sabinum  
cantharis, Graeca quod ego ipse testa  
conditum leui, datus in theatro  
    cum tibi plausus,  
clare, Maecenas, eques, ut paterni                     5  
fluminis ripae simul et iocosa  
redderet laudes tibi Vaticani  
    montis imago.  
Caecubum et prelo domitam Caleno  
tu bibes uuam: mea nec Falernae                     10  
temperant uites neque Formiani  
    pocula colles.

#### Ode 3.21

O nata mecum consule Manlio,  
seu tu querellas sive geris iocos  
    seu rixam et insanos amores  
    seu facilem, pia testa, somnum,  
quocumque lectum nomine Massicum                 5  
servas, moveri digna bono die  
    descende Corvino iubente  
    promere languidiora vina.  
non ille, quamquam Socraticis madet  
sermonibus, te neglegit horridus:                 10  
    narratur et prisca Catonis  
    saepe mero caluisse virtus.  
tu lene tormentum ingenio admoves  
plerumque duro, tu sapientium  
    curas et arcanum iocoso                             15  
    consilium retegis Lyaeo,  
tu spem reducis mentibus anxii  
virisque et addis cornua pauperi  
    post te neque iratos trementi  
    regum apices neque militum arma.             20  
te Liber et si laeta aderit Venus  
segnesque nodum solvere Gratiae  
    vivaeque producent lucernae,  
    dum rediens fugat astra Phoebus.

### Ode 1.18

Nullam, Vare, sacra uite prius seueris arborem  
circa mite solum Tiburis et moenia Catili;  
siccis omnia nam dura deus proposuit neque  
mordaces aliter diffugiunt sollicitudines.  
quis post uina grauem militiam aut pauperiem crepat? 5  
quis non te potius, Bacche pater, teque, decens Venus?  
ac ne quis modici transiliat munera Liberi,  
Centaurea monet cum Lapithis rixa super mero  
debellata, monet Sithoniis non leuis Euius,  
cum fas atque nefas exiguo fine libidinum 10  
discernunt auidi. non ego te, candide Bassareu,  
inuitum quatiam nec uariis obsita frondibus  
sub diuum rapiam. saeua tene cum Berecyntio  
cornu tympana, quae subsequitur caecus Amor sui  
et tollens uacuum plus nimio Gloria uerticem 15  
arcanique Fides prodiga, perlucidior uitro.

*52 lines*

### Odes 3.30 (for reference)

Exegi monumentum aere perennius  
regalique situ pyramidum altius,  
quod non imber edax, non aquilo impotens  
possit diruere aut innumerabilis  
annorum series et fuga temporum. 5  
non omnis moriar multaue pars mei  
vitabit Libitinam: usque ego postera  
crescam laude recens, dum Capitolium  
scandet cum tacita virgine pontifex:  
dicar, qua uiolens obstreperit Aufidus 10  
et qua pauper aquae Daunus agrestium  
regnauit populorum, ex humili potens  
princeps Aeolium carmen ad Italos  
deduxisse modos. sume superbiam  
quaesitam meritis et mihi Delphica 15  
lauro cinge uolens, Melpomene, comam.