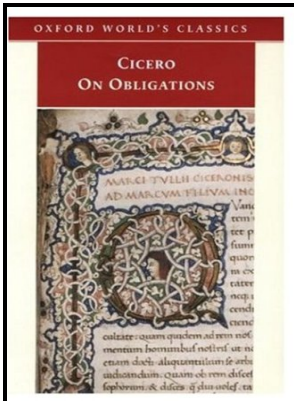


# On moral obligation - a new translation of Ciceros De Officiis

Faber - On Duties by Marcus Tullius Cicero



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Notes: Bibliographical footnotes.

This edition was published in 1967



Filesize: 18.65 MB

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**De Officiis : definition of De Officiis and synonyms of De Officiis (English)**

But a still closer social union exists between kindred.

**de Officiis**

Those who rely most upon the quality of their voice take the Epigoni and the Medus; those who place more stress upon the action, choose the Melanippa and the Clytaemnestra; Rupilius, whom I remember, always played in the Antiope, Aesopus rarely in the Ajax.

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And so no other animal has a sense of beauty, loveliness, harmony in the visible world; and Nature and Reason, extending the analogy of this from the world of sense to the world of spirit, find that beauty, consistency, order are far more to be maintained in thought and deed, and the same Nature and Reason are careful to do nothing in an improper or unmanly fashion, and in every thought and deed to do or think nothing capriciously.

**Cicero, On Obligations: De Officiis**

Promises are, therefore, not to be kept, if the keeping of them is to prove harmful to those to whom you have made them; and, if the fulfilment of a promise should do more harm to you than good to him to whom you have made it, it is no violation of moral duty to give the greater good precedence over the lesser good.

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