

must follow them, and go whither so many great orators, so many venerable sages, (Heraclitus, Pythagoras, Socrates,) so many heroes of ancient times, so many generals and kings of later ages, have gone before us.

Add to these, Eudoxus, Hipparchus, Archimedes, and other mathematicians of acute and sublime genius, of unwearied application, of various knowledge, and proud of their discoveries. Nay, those facetious gentlemen, who, like Menippus, made a jest of the frail and transitory state of human life: Consider, I say, that all these different characters are long since consigned to the gloomy mansions of the dead. And, indeed, what evil are they sensible of in their tombs? or what evil do they suffer, whose very names are buried in oblivion?

In short, there is nothing here much worth our attention, but to act on all occasions with a regard to truth and justice, and to live peaceably even with those who act with fraud and injustice.

42. When you would revive your spirits, recollect the virtues and good qualities of

of your friends and acquaintance: the diligence and attention of one; the modesty of another; the generosity of a third, and so on. For nothing is more soothing to the imagination, than that we are surrounded by friends in whom an assemblage of those good qualities displays itself. These then you should always retain in your memory, for your consolation and refreshment.

43. As you do not complain that you weigh only ten stone, suppose, instead of twenty, you have no more reason to be dissatisfied that your life is limited to a certain number of years and not further extended. As you are content with the dimensions of your person, you ought to be so with the space of life which is allotted you.

44. Let us, if we can, persuade others to be just and reasonable. But however *they* act, let *us* do what reason and justice require. If, indeed, any one should by force prevent your acting as you wish to do, you may at least have recourse to patience and equanimity; and thus let one virtue supply the place of another. And remember, that you undertake

The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, published in 1792



Itaq; equis Romā petūt. Regias nurus in  
cōuiuio & luxu deprehēdūt. Exide Collati  
am petūt: Lucretiā iter ancillas in lanificio  
offendūt. Ita ea pudicissima iudicatur: ad  
quam corrumpendam Tarquinius Sextus  
nocte Collatiā rediit. & iure propinquitatis  
in domum Collatini uenit: & cubiculum  
Lucretiæ irrupit. Pudicitiam expugnauit.  
Illa postera die aduocatis patre & cōiuge  
rem exposuit. Et se cultro quem ueste te/  
xerat occidit. Illi in exiciū regū coniurāt.  
Eorumq; exilio necē Lucretiæ uēdicarūt.  
**T** Vnius Brutus sorore Tarquini  
Superbi genitus: cum eandem  
fortnam timerent: quam frater  
inciderat: qui ob diuitias & prudentiam  
ab auunculo fuerat occisus: stultiā finxit.  
Vnde Brutus dictus iuuenibus regiis Del/  
phos eūtib; ridiculi gratia comes accitus  
baculo sambuceo aurum fufum deo donū  
tulit. Vbi responsum est eū Romæ sūmā  
potestatē habiturum: qui primus matrē  
oscularetur. Ipse terrā osculatus ē. Deide  
propter Lucretiæ stuprum cū Tricipitino

7  
& Collatino in exitium regum cōiurauit.  
Quibus in exiliū actis cōsul creatus filios  
suosque cum aquiliis & uiteliis cōiurantē  
uirgis casos securi percussit. Deinde in  
prælio quod aduersus eos gerebat sigulari  
certamiē cū Arōte filio Tarqni cōgressus  
se ambo mutuis uulneribus occiderunt:  
cuius corpus in foro positū a collega lau/  
datum: matronæ anno luxerunt. *d'omne melle.*

**O** Orfena rex etruscorum cū Tar/  
qnos in urbē restituere tētare.  
& primo impetu Ianiculum ce/  
pisset. Oratius Cocles illo cognomiē q; in  
alio prælio oculū amiserat pro ponte sub/  
licio stetit: & aciē hostiū sustinuit donec  
pons atergo interromperetur: cum quo in  
Tiberim decidit: & armatus ad suos trā/  
nauit. Ob hoc tantum agri publice datū:  
q̄tū uno die arari potuisset. Statua quoq;  
ei in Vulcanali posita. *d' l. mure. Bruta.*

**O** Orfena rex cū urbem obsideret:  
Mutius Scevola corde uir roma/  
næ constantiæ senatum adiit. Et  
ueniam transfugiendi petiit necem regis