



AP[®] Latin Literature 2002 Sample Student Responses

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Horace believes in moderation above all else. In the poem he starts out talking to Licinius, saying that Licinius does follow his philosophy. "Revertur... Licini" (line 1, You live correctly, Licinius. He goes on to show the two images of excess, staying with a sailing analogy. "Neque... urgendo" (lines 1-2, neither of them pressing the deep). "~~Neque... urgendo~~" "Altimus... iniquum" (not seeking very near the shore.) On the one hand, going too near the deep could mean going down without hope of land or losing one's way. On the other hand, hugging the shore could mean hitting a reef. So he wants people to follow the "Auream mediam viam" at line 5, the golden mean which urges the middle way. Anyone who does this, Horace believes, will lead a happy life without fear of the gods striking one down for hubris. He gives advice for the good and bad times. "Rebus... appare" (Lines 9-10, appear bold and spirited with troubled things). "Sapienter... vela" (lines 10-12, Wisely ~~for~~ the same pull in the sails very swollen with a favorable wind.) His philosophy is actually pretty well thought out. Being strong in the bad times and being careful in the good times should help people get through life, which is what the golden mean advises.

LL9- Horace

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Horace's

In poem II.10 ~~in poem II.10~~, Horace addresses his friend Licinius, and advises him to seek the golden mean (auream mediocritatem). Horace begins the poem by advising him to hope for the best in hard times, and restraining happiness in good times (dum procellas... litas iniquum). By achieving the golden mean, Horace believes, all cares and worries will be abolished (caeret obsoleti). In the middle passage of the poem (text not given), Horace ~~compares~~ describes tall trees and towers, and states that they fall much heavier because of their great mass and size. This metaphor reflects Horace's philosophy that moderation, and simplicity is the best. ~~These~~ These ideas are part of the Epicurean philosophy, which Horace wrote many of his poems about.

In the final stanza (given), Horace uses a sailing metaphor to illustrate his philosophy (of the golden mean). Horace asserts, that while it is not favorable to be too timid and ~~careful~~ ^{careful}, one must draw in the sails when the 'favorable winds' (vento nimium secundo) get too strong (contrahes vento... turgida vela).