

[6.16] Nātiō est omnis Gallōrum admodum dēdita religiōnibus, atque ob eam causam, quī sunt adfectī graviōribus morbīs quīque in proeliīs periculīsque versantur, aut prō victimīs hominēs immolant aut sē immolātūrōs vovent administrisque ad ea sacrificia Druidibus ūtuntur, quod, prō vitā hominis nisi hominis vitā reddātur, nōn posse deōrum immortalium nūmen plācārī arbitrantur, publicēque eiusdem generis habent institūta sacrificia.

adminis-ter, -trī, m. [minister, servant], attendant, priest.
admodum, adv. [modus, measure], literally: up to the measure; very much, very; with numbers, fully; with negative, at all.
af-ficiō, -ficere, -fēcī, -fectum [ad + faciō, do], do to, treat, affect; afflict.
dē-dō, -dere, -didī, -ditum [dō, give], give up, give over, yield, surrender; devote; sē dēdere, submit, surrender.
deus, -ī (nom. pl.: dīi; dat. pl.: dīs), m., god.
Druid-ēs, -um, m., the Druids, the priests of the Celts in Gaul and Britain.
immolō, I, sacrifice.
immortāl-is, -e, adj. [in + mortālis, mortal], not mortal, immortal, deathless.
in-stituō, -stituere, -stitui, -stitūtum [statuō, set up], set up or put in order, draw up; train, educate; procure, prepare; build, construct; begin, determine, decide upon, adopt.
morb-us, -ī, m., illness, sickness, disease.

nāti-ō, -ōnis, f. [nāscor, be born], people, tribe, nation.
nisi, conj., [ne- + sī, if], if not, except, unless.
nūm-en, -inis, n., divinity, god; divine force or will.
ob, prep. with acc., on account of, for.
plācō, I, appease, please.
pūblicē, adv. [pūblicus, public], publicly, in the name of the state, on behalf of the state.
red-dō, -dere, -didī, -ditum [red- + dō, give], give back, return, restore; give or return something due or owed; make or cause to be; render.
religi-ō, -ōnis, f., religion; in pl., religious ceremonies, rites; superstitions.
sacrific-ium, -ī, n. [sacer, sacred + faciō, make], sacrifice.
versō, I, turn; deal with; pass. as deponent, turn oneself; be, remain; be engaged in; fight.
victim-a, -ae, f., victim; a sacrificial animal.
vīt-a, -ae, f. [cf. vivō, live], life, lifestyle.
voveō, vovēre, vōvī, vōtum, vow.

1. dēdita religiōnibus: “devoted to religious ceremonies and superstitions.” Among educated Romans and Greeks, excessive religiosity was considered a sign of weakness. The Romans took great care to worship the gods correctly, but they were suspicious of those who were unduly fearful or in awe of the supernatural.

2. graviōribus morbīs: abl. of manner; see App. §142.

4. immolātūrōs: fut. active inf. with esse omitted in indirect statement dependent on vovent.

4-5. administrisque . . . Druidibus: “Druids as officiating priests”; abl. with the deponent verb ūtor; see App. §145.

5-6. nisi . . . reddātur: subjunctive in the protasis (if-clause) of a condition in indirect statement; see App. §272. Ancient religion often operated on the principle of “like for like.”

6. nūmen: acc. subject of the inf. posse in indirect statement dependent on arbitrantur. The clause expresses the conclusion (apodosis) of a condition in indirect statement; see App. §272.

7. habent institūta: “they have established”; for the use of the verb habere with a past part., see App. §286, b.