

15 Quaeret quispiam: "Quid? Illi ipsi summi viri,
 185 quorum virtutes litteris proditae sunt, istane doctrina
 quam tu effers laudibus eruditi fuerunt?" Difficile est hoc
 de omnibus confirmare, sed tamen est certum quid res-
 pondeam. Ego multos homines excellenti animo ac vir-
 tute fuisse et sine doctrina, naturae ipsius habitu prope
 190 divino per se ipsos et moderatos et gravis exstitisse fateor;
 etiam illud adiungo: saepius ad laudem atque virtutem
 naturam sine doctrina quam sine natura valuisse doctrinam.

184–186. **Quaeret quispiam:** Cicero again uses the rhetorical figure OCCUPATIO (cf. *quaeres*, 144–145 above) to anticipate and then rebut an argument against the value of literary pursuits. The objection, framed as a question in direct statement, asks whether Rome's illustrious *summi viri* would have achieved their historic greatness without benefit of a liberal arts education.

"**Quid?**": see note on 126 above. **Illi ipsi summi viri:** the subject of the main clause is emphatically introduced by both a demonstrative and intensive pronoun, the former serving also to ANTICIPATE the relative *quorum* clause. **litteris:** ablative of means with *proditae sunt*, "recorded in literature." **istane doctrina:** the ablative of means, modifying *eruditi fuerunt*, is introduced by the intensive pronoun *ista*, ANTICIPATING the following relative *quam* clause, while the placement of the enclitic interrogative particle *-ne* (B 162.2.c) focuses the question on *doctrina*: "was it by means of this particular education...?" **laudibus:** construe with *eruditi fuerunt*: "educated to greatness," or perhaps "raised to glory."

186–188. **hoc:** neuter accusative singular, object of *confirmare*, the subjective infinitive of *difficile est*. **quid respondeam:** an indirect question, subject of *est certum*.

188–190. **Ego...fateor:** the HYPERBATON of subject and verb BRACKETS two indirect statements in ASYNDETON. **homines:** the subject of both *fuisse* and *exstitisse*. **excellentium animo ac virtute:** ablatives of quality or description, used predicatively to modify *homines* (B 224.1). **sine doctrina, naturae...habitu:** the distinction is between greatness achieved through learning (*doctrina*), or natural endowment (*naturae*). **divino:** construe with *habitu*. **et moderatos et gravis:** accusative plural complements of *homines* (*gravis* = *graves*, see note on 62–63 above).

191–192. **illud:** object of *adiungo* and antecedent of the following indirect statement (B 246.2). **saepius...quam:** "more often...than..." the comparative construction balances the two clauses of the BIPARTITE indirect statement. **valuisse:** the verb of both *naturam* and *doctrinam*, construe with *ad laudem atque virtutem*, "has had the power to achieve glory and excellence."

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