

READING

The “Renaissance” is the French name for an intellectual movement—fueled by a deep admiration for the culture of ancient Rome and a strong desire to imitate it—that began in the city-states of Italy during the fourteenth century. This enthusiasm for revisiting and perpetuating ancient Roman cultural achievements inspired Italians of that era to immense creativity in many fields. The first major humanist (the term we use for those who championed the cause of the Renaissance) was Petrarch (1304–1374), an Italian who traveled often to other regions of Europe in part because he held a clerical office that required him to remain for several years in Avignon, then the seat of the papacy. But he also traveled alone, for pleasure—a rare practice in the fourteenth century.

Today Petrarch is recognized as a major literary figure in Latin: some of his Latin works, including the meditative *Sēcrētum* (*Secret Writing*) and his many letters, are treasured as classics of humanist Latin.

Petrarch, like other humanists, viewed himself as continuing the Latin literary tradition begun by the classical Romans and felt so close to the long-dead Roman authors that he wrote letters to them. Petrarch ran across some of Cicero’s private correspondence that revealed a worried, hesitant man. The contrast between Cicero’s personality in his public writings and in his personal letters prompted Petrarch to write to Cicero, who left the world 1300 years before it welcomed Petrarch.

FRANCISCUS CICERŌNĪ SUŌ SALŪTEM DĪCIT

- 1 Epistulās tuās diū multumque quaesītās atque, cum nōn exspectābam, inventās, avidissimē lēgī. Vix crēdēbam, Mārce Tullī, quam multa dīcerēs, quantās lacrimās funderēs, quam saepe animum tuum mūtārēs. Iam sciēbam quālis magister aliīs fuissēs; nunc tandem intellegō
- 5 quis tū tibi fueris. Ubicumque es, audiās hoc nōn iam cōsiliū, sed lāmentum, quod ūnus posterōrum tuī nōminis studiōsissimus nōn sine lacrimīs fundit. Ō, senex semper inquiēte atque anxie, cūr tot contentiōnibus et simultātibus haud ūtilibus, interesse voluisti? Ubi ōtium quod et aetātī et profesiōnī et fortunāe conveniēbat relīquistī?
- 10 Quī tē falsus glōriāe splendor senem adulēscentium bellis implicuit et ad indignam philosophō mortem rapuit?
- Heu, prō aliīs lūmen tenēbās et viam ostendēbās ut rēctē ambulārent, ipse tamen cecidistī. Cūr hoc est factum? Quī furor tē in tot hostēs impēgit? Amor, crēdō, reī pūblicae. At sī tantum fidē et libertāte

- 15 **movēbāris, quid tē ad potentiōrēs trahēbat? Cūr dē virtūtibus verba semper ōrnātissima dīcēbās, sī tēmetipsum audīre nōlēbās? Utinam potuissēs in tranquillō locō rūsticō tamquam vērus philosophus senēscere, utinam nē dē honōribus tam multum cōgitāvissēs, utinam nē Catilīnās in animō tuō habuissēs!**
- 20 **In aeternum valē, mī Cicero!**

READING VOCABULARY

***aetās, aetātis, f.** – age

anxius, a, um – anxious

avidē (adv.) – eagerly, greedily

Catilīna, ae, m. – Catiline†

contentiō, contentiōnis, f. – contest, fight

conveniō, ire, convēnī, conventum + *dative* – to be becoming to, be appropriate for, meet

falsus, a, um – false

***fidēs, fideī, f.** – faith

Franciscus (ī, m.) Petrarca (ae, m.) – Francis Petrarch†

***fundō, ere, fūdī, fūsum** – to pour (out)

furor, furōris, m. – madness, fury

***glōria, ae, f.** – glory

haud (adv.) – not

heu (interj.) – alas!

impingō, ere, impēgī, impāctum – to push, drive into

implicō, āre, implicuī, implicitum/āvī, ātum + *dative* – to involve

in aeternum – forever

indignus, a, um + *dative* – unworthy of

inquiētus, a, um – restless, unquiet

intersum, interesse, interfui, — + *dative* – to get involved in, participate into

ipse (tū) – yourself

lāmentum, ī, n. – lament, complaint

***libertās, libertātis, f.** – freedom

***lūmen, lūminis, n.** – light

***nōlēbās** – you did not want

ō! – oh!

***ōrnātus, a, um** – adorned

***ōtium, ī, n.** – leisure, free time (*usually engaged in literary activity*)

philosophus, ī, m. – philosopher

***potēns, potentis** – powerful

posterī, ōrum, m. pl. – descendants, coming generations

professiō, professiōnis, f. – profession

***pūblicus, a, um** – common

rēs pūblica – state, republic

***quālis, quāle** – what sort of

rapiō, ere, rapuī, raptum – to snatch

rēctē (adv.) – correctly

senēscō, ere, senuī, — – to get old, grow old

simultās, simultātis, f. – rivalry

splendor, splendōris, m. – splendor, glamor

***studiōsus, a, um** + *genitive* – fond of

***tamquam** – as

tēmetipsum – yourself

***tot (adv.)** – so many

***trahō, ere, trāxī, trāctum** – to drag, draw

tranquillus, a, um – quiet, calm

***ubi?** – where?

ubicumque (conj.) – wherever

***ūnus, ūna, ūnum** – one

***ūtilis, ūtile** – useful

***vix (adv.)** – hardly

***voluistī** – you wanted

*Words marked with an asterisk will need to be memorized later in the chapter.

†Additional information about the words marked with the double dagger will be in the **Take Note** section that follows the Reading Vocabulary.