

Seneca (2996 – 3065)



Si vis studere philosophiae animoque, hoc studium non potest valere sine frugalitate. Haec frugalitas est paupertas voluntaria. Tolle, igitur, istas excusationes: "Nondum satis pecuniae habeo. Si quando illud 'satis' habebo, tum me totum philosophiae dabo." Incipe nunc philosophiae, non pecuniae, studere.

— Epistulae 17.5

If you wish to devote yourself to philosophy and to the soul, this pursuit is not able to be strong without frugality. This frugality is voluntary poverty. Therefore, take away those excuses of yours: "I don't yet have enough money. If ever I shall have that 'enough', then I shall give my entire self to philosophy." Begin now, to devote yourself to philosophy, not to money.

Works

Ad Helviam matrem, De consolatione

(To Helvia, On consolation)

Ad Marciam, De consolatione

(To Marcia, On consolation)

De Beneficiis

(On Benefits)

De Brevitate Vitae

(On the shortness of life)

De Clementia

(On Clemency)

De Consolatione ad Polybium

(To Polybius, On consolation)

De Constantia Sapientis

(On the Firmness of the Wise Person)

De Ira

(On anger)

De Otio

(On leisure)

De Providentia

(On providence)

De Tranquillitate Animi

(On tranquillity of mind)

De Vita Beata

(On the happy life)

Epistulae morales ad Lucilium

(Letters to Lucilius Junior)

Naturales quaestiones

STUPIDITY