

2-12-2013

On the Ancients and, I Guess, the Modern Mind

Timothy Miank
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/amaranthus>

Recommended Citation

Miank, Timothy (1976) "On the Ancients and, I Guess, the Modern Mind," *Amaranthus*: Vol. 1976: Iss. 2, Article 11.
Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/amaranthus/vol1976/iss2/11>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Amaranthus by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

On the Ancients and, I Guess, The Modern Mind

What freedoms do the ancients give
To followers who then must live
When thoughtful remedies are done?
Of freedoms ancients give us none,
Except to tell that when we look
No answers live within a book.

Sweet Homer--how could he employ
A wooden horse within great Troy?
This bard, who praised all bloody death
And sang aloud Hector's last breath,
Makes war seem worthy of the trust
We place beneath the reddened dust.

Old Aristophanes did say
That sex prevents the black decay
Of war when women join the fight
And keep their lovers home at night.
Did he not know that wars are bought
While innocence, asleep, is caught?

On the Ancients (Continued)

And also Greek Euripides;
He pitied passion's poor disease!
When violent mothers kill all youth
All innocence must go, and truth
Must know no easy choice to find
The tavern of the eager mind.

Sweet Virgil wrote the Roman theme
Which made Augustus' eyes to stream
With pride for the great city-state
Where multitudes were born to fate.
Oh, Virgil were your writings sold
To fill your pockets of the gold?

Grand Seneca, the Roman mind
Was in the government entwined;
He fingered all the city treasure
While Nero fiddled for his pleasure.
Such open minds indeed display
The grandeur of the Roman way!

(Continued)

On the Ancients (Continued)

And Horace, though he lit the fire
Beneath the seat of great satire,
Did leave for Juvenal to play
The hottest lyric of the day.
Were such criticisms wise
When burned so near to frozen eyes?

As one is forced to throw abuse
At ancients, let one make a truce;
It's not that ancient thought is bad,
But only human, so be glad!
And as for answers, let me find
My truths within my human mind.

--Timothy Miank