

Q3.

This poem by Horace encapsulates his epicurean philosophy to enjoy life and not to be frugal because death is inevitable. In the poem Horace uses imagery and references to cultural beliefs in order to create a vivid picture of death and to convey his message that everyone will die.

The tone of the poem is serious and Horace immediately begins with a woful cry 'ehen'. The pathetic repetition of 'Postume, Postume' and the connotations of this name introduce the theme of death. The word placement of 'anni' ~~and~~ after the verb 'labuntur' and the separation from ~~fruges~~ 'fruges' ~~qu~~ creates a definite sense of time and the passing

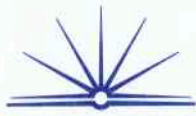
of time because the year has literally 'shipped by'. Horace uses a tricolon crescendo 'ingis et instanti senectae ... indomitae morti' reflecting the idea of the inevitability of wrinkles and old age and building up to a climax of death, thus reflecting his theme that death is unavoidable.

The placement and hyperbole of 'trecentis' at the beginning of the second stanza continues the idea of the inevitability of death because not even with three hundred bulls can ~~death~~ death be avoided. The direct reference to Pluto 'inlacrimabilem Plutona' and the long adjective proceeding his mention ^{creating an emphasis} refers to the fact that the power is with the gods, whose will it is that we all will die. The connotations of



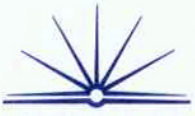
the reference to 'Geryonem Tityonque' - two monsters, reflect the power of Pluto, because he even confines two monsters, Geryon, ~~Pluto~~ even with his three huge bodies. The reference to Pluto ~~and~~ gives ~~an~~ a physical 'image' of death and the separation of 'tristi' and 'unda' in the next stanza, further creates an image of the underworld and the streams, almost flowing through the poem, from the second stanza to the third.

Horace uses periphrasis in the third stanza to show that death is inevitable for everyone - 'quicumque terrae munere vescitur', every one who eats will die. The gerundives of obligation 'enaviganda' and specifically 'visendus' and 'linguenda' placed at the beginning



of their stanzas reflect the inevitability of death ~~by~~ by creating an insistent and forceful tone.

The repetition of 'frustra... frustra' creates a definite sense of the fact that ~~it~~ it is in vain that we avoid death. Horace identifies three dangers on earth, 'cruentus Marte', which by the metonym ~~for~~ Mars meaning war, because he was the god of war, creates a consciousness of ~~inevitability~~ mortality and immortality because obviously all the gods were immortal. 'rauci... Hadriae' the specific reference to the Adriatic would have had a more powerful meaning for Romans who would understand the full dangers that this reference ~~in part~~ creates



images of. The final reference to the southwind 'Austrum' would also have had an impact on the Romans who would have fully realised the ~~full~~ dangers of the southwind in winter. By using all these specific references Horace is able to accentuate the fact that it is in vain that we avoid all these because death is inevitable.

The vivid imagery created by the adjectives 'flumine languido' and 'ater coctos' create specific images of death making his theme that death is unavoidable more confronting. The word 'languido' particularly conjures up images of the sluggish and slow streams running through the underworld. The reference to the



infamous race of Daemons and to Sisyphus, whose punishment was to push a rock up a mountain forever, creates a definite picture of death and further accentuates Horace's theme by confronting the reader.

The poem concludes with two contrasting images of a wasteful heir, spilling the wine and the frugal addressee saving it. The use of the comparative 'dignior' reinforces that it is better to drink and be merry, like the heir 'heres', than to save the wine. The hyperbole 'centum clavibus' reflects the fact that the ~~old~~ man is frugal but what is he saving it all for, because the heir will just waste it. This final stanza reflects Horace's



epicurean philosophy ~~that~~ not to be frugal and save the wine but rather to drink it and seize the moment. Throughout the poem, Horace creates a vivid image of death and the underworld and through his language shows the inevitability of death, in order to highlight his final message in the final stanza - death is inevitable so don't save the wine, bring it forth and enjoy the moment.