

Horace's Thoughts on 'Wealth'

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Humans are in competition to acquire wealth and always attempt to overshadow the other. Therefore, wealth has taken over the entire life of humans rather than being only a necessity. This has deviated humans from leading a free and normal life from fear and worry. In such a context, the current research examines how Horace attempts to bring the futility of riches into the attention of the society through an examination of the reflections on wealth in his poetry. The study investigates the practicality of these moral advices through reflecting into Horace's life experiences. Moreover, the study observes the suitability of these reflections to the modern society. The study is carried out as a library research and the primary sources are Horace's Odes, Epodes, Satires and Epistles. Apart from the primary sources, other contemporary literary works and modern scholarship is used for further substantiation. A profound study of Horace's poetry unveils many reflections on wealth. Horace points out the ephemerality of possessing wealth and the futility of wealth as death is common to both rich and poor. He encourages the people to lead a simple life with limited needs than a stressful life by accumulating wealth. His image of a happy man is of someone who knows the limits of acquiring wealth and uses it to fight against poverty. Horace has presented these ideas through self-realization and practice which reveals the practical use of them. Since present human love for riches is the same as Horace's time, it can be concluded that these morals are applicable to modern society.

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