# **Cicero: Ancient Classics for English Readers**

Cicero was a Roman philosopher, orator, and statesman who lived from 106 BC to 43 BC. He is considered one of the greatest orators of all time, and his writings on rhetoric and philosophy have been widely studied for centuries.

Cicero was born in Arpinum, a small town in central Italy. He studied rhetoric in Rome under the tutelage of the famous orator Crassus. Cicero quickly rose through the ranks of Roman politics, serving as quaestor, aedile, praetor, and consul. He was also a successful military commander, leading the Roman legions to victory in several wars.



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by Rev. W. Lucas Collins

★ ★ ★ ★ 4.3 out of 5 Language : English File size : 379 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 138 pages Lending : Enabled X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



Cicero's political career was marked by both success and failure. He was a strong supporter of the Roman Republic, but he also had to contend with the growing power of Julius Caesar. Cicero was eventually forced into exile by Caesar, but he later returned to Rome and played a role in the assassination of Caesar.

Cicero's writings are a valuable source of information about Roman history, politics, and philosophy. His most famous works include:

- De Oratore (On the Orator)
- De Republica (On the Republic)
- De Legibus (On the Laws)
- De Officiis (On Duties)

Cicero's writings have had a profound influence on Western thought. His ideas about rhetoric, politics, and ethics have been adopted by generations of scholars and statesmen. Cicero is considered one of the most important figures in classical literature, and his works continue to be read and studied today.

#### Cicero's Life and Work

#### **Early Life and Education**

Marcus Tullius Cicero was born on January 3, 106 BC, in Arpinum, a small town in central Italy. His father was a wealthy landowner, and his mother was a well-educated woman. Cicero received a traditional Roman education, which included studying grammar, rhetoric, and philosophy.

Cicero was a brilliant student, and he quickly rose to prominence in the Roman educational system. He studied under some of the most famous teachers of his time, including the orator Crassus and the philosopher Philo.

#### **Political Career**

Cicero began his political career in 75 BC, when he was elected quaestor. He quickly rose through the ranks of Roman politics, serving as aedile in 69 BC, praetor in 66 BC, and consul in 63 BC. Cicero was a successful politician, and he played a major role in Roman politics during the late Republic.

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#### **Later Life and Death**

After the assassination of Caesar, Cicero became one of the leaders of the Roman Republic. He fought against the forces of Mark Antony and Octavian, but he was eventually defeated and killed in 43 BC.

### **Cicero's Writings**

Cicero was a prolific writer, and he produced a wide range of works, including speeches, philosophical treatises, and letters.

### **Speeches**

Cicero was one of the greatest orators of all time. His speeches are known for their eloquence, wit, and persuasive power. Some of his most famous speeches include:

- The Catiline Orations
- The Pro Milone Oratio

The Philippics

### **Philosophical Treatises**

Cicero was also a philosopher, and he wrote a number of philosophical treatises. His most famous philosophical works include:

- De Oratore (On the Orator)
- De Republica (On the Republic)
- De Legibus (On the Laws)
- De Officiis (On Duties)

#### Letters

Cicero was a prolific letter writer, and he left behind a vast collection of letters. His letters provide valuable insights into his personal life, his political career, and his thoughts on a wide range of topics.

## Cicero's Legacy

Cicero is considered one of the most important figures in classical literature. His writings have had a profound influence on Western thought, and his ideas about rhetoric, politics, and ethics continue to be studied and debated today.

Cicero's legacy is also evident in the many institutions that bear his name. The Cicero Society is a scholarly organization dedicated to the study of Cicero's life and work. The Cicero Center for the Study of Rhetoric and Law is a research center at the University of Michigan that promotes the study of rhetoric and law.

Cicero is a towering figure in the history of Western thought. His writings are a valuable source of information about Roman history, politics, and philosophy. Cicero is considered one of the greatest orators of all time, and his ideas about rhetoric, politics, and ethics continue to be studied and debated today.



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