

## SENECA *Dē Quālitāte Temporis*

Omnia tempus edax dēpascitur, omnia carpit,  
omnia sēde movet, nil sinit esse diū.  
flūmina dēficiunt, profugum mare lītora siccāt,  
subsīdunt montēs et iuga celsa ruunt.  
quid tam parva loquor? mōlēs pulcherrima caelī 5  
ardēbit flammis tōta repente suīs.  
omnia mors poscit; lex est, nōn poena, perīre;  
hic aliquō mundus tempore nullus erit.

### New Vocabulary:

*aliquis, aliqua, aliquid*, ‘some, some or other’. Most forms = *quis, quid* with *ali-* tacked on.

*ardeō, ardēre, arsī, arsum*, ‘burn, be on fire’.

*celsus, celsa, celsum*, ‘lofty, high’.

*dēficiō, dēficere, dēfēcī, dēfectum*, ‘fail, give out, run out’.

*dēpascō, dēpascere, dēpāvī, dēpastum*, ‘devour, consume’. The passive form is used as a ‘middle’.

*edax, edācis*, 3<sup>rd</sup> decl. adjective of 1 ending, ‘voracious, tending to eat’.

*flūmen, flūminis*, N., ‘river’.

*iugum, iugī*, N., ‘ridge, mountain’.

*lītus, lītoris*, N., ‘shore’.

*loquor, loquī, locūtus sum*, ‘speak’.

*mare, maris*, N., ‘sea’.

*mōlēs, mōlis*, F., ‘mass’.

*mundus, mundī*, M., ‘world, universe’.

*pereō, perīre, perīī*, ‘pass away, perish, die’.

*poena, poenae*, F., ‘punishment, penalty’.

*poscō, poscere, poposcī*, ‘demand, ask for’.

*profugus, profuga, profugum*, ‘fleeing, fleeting’.

*repente*, Adv., ‘suddenly’.

*ruō, ruere, ruī*, ‘rush, stampede; fall, collapse’.

*sēdēs, sēdis*, F., ‘seat’.

*siccō, siccāre, siccāvī, siccātum*, ‘dry’ (the verb).

*sinō, sinere, sīvī, sītum*, ‘permit, allow’.

*subsīdō, subsīdere, subsēdī*, ‘settle, sink, subside’.

**Questions:**

What event or process does this poem portray?

How does Seneca's Stoic philosophical portrayal resemble Christian teaching? How does it differ?

Line 7 contains one of Seneca's best lines: *lex est, nōn poena, perīre*. What exactly does it mean?

How do the verb tenses add to the meaning of the poem? Hint: there are only two different tenses.

What is the overall tone of this poem?

Source: *Anthologia Latina* 224 Shackleton Bailey = 232 Riese = IV.55 Buecheler.

Notes and vocabulary by Michael Hendry, 2020.