

Module 12: The Renaissance

Topic 1 Warm-Up: *Petrarch, Epistolae Metrica*

Excerpt

"I despise what melancholy fate has brought us wretches in these evil years. Long before my birth time smiled and may again, for once there was, and yet will be, more joyful days. But in this middle age time's dregs sweep around us, and we beneath a heavy load of vice. Genius, virtue, glory now have gone, leaving chance and sloth to rule. Shameful vision this! We must awake or die!"

Source: *Petrarch, Epistolae Metrica*