“Philosophy as Therapy and Self-Transformation in Seneca”

Aldo Setaioli
Professor Emeritus of Latin Language and Literature at the University of Perugia (Italy)

Seneca, the tutor and advisor of the Roman emperor Nero, left behind a wide range of philosophical writings. The first goal of Seneca’s philosophy is the therapy of the soul - in other words, the moral progress of the reader as well as of the writer himself. This is a process entailing several stages. The philosophical therapist will first address the emotions of the reader still far removed from wisdom and reason; he will then encourage ascetical ‘exercises’, and finally he will be able to appeal to reason. An important role in this spiritual progress is also played by reading.

Aldo Setaioli is Professor Emeritus of Latin Language and Literature at the University of Perugia (Italy). He has published widely in the area of Latin literature, never losing sight of Greek antecedents and devoting special attention to such authors as Catullus, Virgil and his commentators, Horace, Seneca, and Petronius. His research interests have been in the philosophical and allegorical interpretations of classical myth and poetry, as well as afterlife beliefs in the Greek and Roman world down to late antiquity.

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6.30pm - 7.30pm
Theatre C
Old Arts Building
The University of Melbourne
PARKVILLE VIC 3010

Admission is free. Bookings are required. Seating is limited.

To register visit: http://alumni.unimelb.edu.au/aldosetaioli

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