

**READING 37** (*slightly edited*) From 55 to 44 B.C. Cicero wrote various philosophical works, among them *De Senectute* (*On Old Age*). In this excerpt he writes about the immortal nature of the soul and concludes with some comforting words that the Persian leader Cyrus, on his deathbed, said to his sons.

Sic persuāsī mihi, sic sentiō, cum tanta **celeritās** animōrum sit, tanta memoria praeteritōrum futūrōrumque prūdentia, tot artēs, tantae **scientiae**, tot **inventa**, nōn posse eam nātūram, quae rēs eās **contineat**, esse mortālem. et cumque semper **agitētur** animus nec principium **mōtūs** habeat, quia sē ipse moveat, [sentiō] nē finem mōtūs quidem habitūrum esse, quia numquam sē ipse sit relictūrus. et, cum **simplex** animī esset nātūra, neque habēret in sē quicquam **admixtum dispār** suī atque **dissimile**, [sentiō] nōn posse eum dīvidī; et, sī nōn posset [dīvidī], nōn posse interīre; ....

moriēns Cyrus maiōr haec dīcit: ‘Nōlīte arbitrārī, Ō mihi cārissimī filiī, mē, cum ā vōbīs discesserō, nūsquam aut nūllum fore. Nec enim, dum eram vōbīscum, animum meum vidēbātis, sed eum esse in hōc corpore ex eīs rēbus quās gerēbam intellegēbātis.

Eundem igitur esse crēdite, etiamsī nūllum vidēbitis.’

*Vocabulary:*

celeritās, -tātis <i>f.</i>	speed	admisceō, -ēre, -uī,	to mix, combine
praeteritus, -a, -um	past events, the past	-mixtus	
futūrus, -a, -um	future events, the future	dispār, -aris	different in kind
prūdentia, -ae <i>f.</i>	foreknowledge	dissimilis, -e	dissimilar
scientia, -ae <i>f.</i>	knowledge, erudition	dīvidō, -ere	to divide, separate
inventum, -ī <i>n.</i>	discovery	intereō, -īre	to perish, die
contineō, -ēre	to contain (§132)	Cyrus maiōr	Cyrus the elder,
agitō, -āre	to move; <i>pass.</i> move oneself		“Cyrus the Great,”
principium, -iī <i>n.</i>	primary cause, origin		ruler of the
mōtus, -ūs <i>m.</i>	motion, movement	nūsquam (adv.)	Persian empire
simplex, -icis	single, consisting of one element	fore = futūrum esse	nowhere
		etiamsī ( <i>sub. conj.</i> )	although