

## Why are you staring at the clock?

*Ubi sunt qui ante nos fuerunt?*

Where are those who were before us?

### **Corinthians 15:32**

The Egyptians in their banquets exhibited a skeleton to the guests, to remind them of the brevity of human life saying as they did so, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

### **"The Wanderer," Anglo-Saxon elegy (circa 900 CE)**

No wonder therefore, in all the world,  
If shadow darkens upon my soul  
How one by one proud warriors vanish  
From the halls that knew them, and day by day  
All this earth ages and droops unto death.

### **Memento Mori from *Libre Vermell de Montserrat* (1399)**

Life is short, and shortly it will end;  
Death comes quickly and respects no one,  
Death destroys everything and takes pity on no one.

### **from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* Act 5 Scene 1 (1601)**

Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio: a fellow  
of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy: he hath  
borne me on his back a thousand times; and now, how  
abhorred in my imagination it is! my gorge rims at  
it. Here hung those lips that I have kissed I know  
not how oft. Where be your gibes now? your  
gambols? your songs? your flashes of merriment,  
that were wont to set the table on a roar? Not one  
now, to mock your own grinning? quite chap-fallen?  
Now get you to my lady's chamber, and tell her, let  
her paint an inch thick, to this favour she must  
come; make her laugh at that.