

Reading Questions: Augustine I, *City of God*

1. What does Troy's loss of Minerva reveal?
2. Why is purity not threatened by violation of the body according to Augustine?
3. What dilemma is faced by those who would defend Lucretia's suicide? Why, ultimately, does Augustine think she killed herself? Was she justified in doing so?
4. When is killing someone not murder? Does this seem plausible to you?
5. In what manner should Christians enjoy their earthly blessings? How should they view adversity when they face it?
6. What is the dilemma posed by Cicero regarding free will and fate? What is Augustine's solution to this dilemma?
7. Why does God allow Rome to dominate the known world according to Augustine?
8. What motivates Roman conquest? How did pursuing that end help make the ancient Romans morally better/more virtuous?
9. What does the happiness of Christian rulers consist in?
10. Why does Augustine think that the Platonists are the wisest of the pre-Christian philosophers? What parallels are there between the beliefs of each?