CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Early Christian Lives

Athanasius of Alexandria and other early Christian writers · *c. AD 356–420 · H. Ellershaw (Antony); W. H. Fremantle (Jerome); Alexander Roberts (Sulpitius Severus)*

You have entered upon a noble rivalry with the monks of Egypt by your determination either to equal or surpass them in your training in the way of virtue. So Athanasius addresses the brethren, in H. Ellershaw's English, at the head of the Life of Antony. Antony, you must know, was by descent an Egyptian, reared in the same Faith. The collection also holds lives from Jerome and Sulpitius Severus, in other English. For grades 9–12. Name the translator of the life you are in.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this collection as what it is—several early Christian lives, in three English versions, opening with Athanasius's Life of Antony—rather than as a single modern book with one translator?

"Antony you must know was by descent an Egyptian: his parents"

Life of Antony, the beginning of the narrative

The hosted file is a collection. Athanasius's Life of Antony, in H. Ellershaw's English, stands first: he writes to the brethren in foreign parts of a noble rivalry with the monks of Egypt in the way of virtue. Then the life itself: Antony you must know was by descent an Egyptian; his parents were of good family and possessed considerable wealth, and as they were Christians he also was reared in the same Faith. The file also holds lives from Jerome (W. H. Fremantle) and from Sulpitius Severus (Alexander Roberts), including Paul, Malchus, Hilarion, and Martin among them. Name the writer and the translator of the life you are reading. For grades 9–12. Quote the lives, not only a later series title. One map cannot teach the whole collection. CCEL NPNF texts, as catalogued.

KEY CHARACTERS

Athanasius of Alexandria
Who sends the Life of Antony to the brethren in foreign parts

Antony
An Egyptian, reared in the Christian faith, whose life opens this collection

His parents
Christians, of good family, in whose home he was first brought up

Jerome, and Sulpitius Severus
Whose lives of Paul, Malchus, Hilarion, and Martin, among others, also stand in this file, in other English

HOW TO BEGIN THIS COLLECTION

> *"You have entered upon a noble rivalry with the monks of Egypt by your determination either to equal or surpass them in your training in the way of virtue. For"*
>
> Athanasius's address

> *"Antony you must know was by descent an Egyptian: his parents"*
>
> Life of Antony

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Noble Rivalry in the Way of Virtue

LIFE OF ANTONY, ATHANASIUS'S ADDRESS

You have entered upon a noble rivalry with the monks of Egypt by your determination either to equal or surpass them in your training in the way of virtue. The first life is sent as encouragement, not as a curiosity.

- Keep "noble rivalry" and "way of virtue."
- Ellershaw's English of Athanasius.
- 9–12.
- Quote the address, then the life.

> *"You have entered upon a noble rivalry with the monks of Egypt by your determination either to equal or surpass them in your training in the way of virtue. For"*
>
> Life of Antony, Athanasius's address

02

Antony, an Egyptian, Reared in the Faith

LIFE OF ANTONY, THE NARRATIVE

Antony you must know was by descent an Egyptian: his parents were of good family and possessed considerable wealth, and as they were Christians he also was reared in the same Faith. The life begins in a household.

- Keep "you must know" and "reared in the same Faith." Footnote numbers in the file are editorial; do not include them in a quotation if they break the sentence.
- 9–12.
- Ellershaw.
- A particular life, not a later slogan only.

> *"Antony you must know was by descent an Egyptian: his parents"*
>
> Life of Antony, the beginning of the narrative

03

Parents, Wealth, and a Home

LIFE OF ANTONY, THE BEGINNING

His parents were of good family and possessed considerable wealth. In infancy he was brought up with his parents, knowing nought else but them and his home. The desert is not the first fact.

- Keep the parents, and the home, first.
- 9–12.
- The later solitude is a later page.
- Quote this English.

> *"his parents were of good family and possessed considerable wealth"*
>
> Life of Antony, the beginning of the narrative

04

Reared in the Same Faith

LIFE OF ANTONY, THE BEGINNING

And as they were Christians he also was reared in the same Faith. The life is already a life in the Church, from childhood.

- Keep "the same Faith."
- 9–12.
- Athanasius, in Ellershaw.
- Do not skip the household for later wonders only.

> *"and as they were Christians he also was reared in the same Faith. In"*
>
> Life of Antony, the beginning of the narrative

05

A Collection, Three English Versions

THE EDITION

The catalogue names H. Ellershaw (Antony), W. H. Fremantle (Jerome), and Alexander Roberts (Sulpitius Severus), from CCEL NPNF texts. The file includes Antony, and lives of Paul, Malchus, Hilarion, and Martin among others. Name the writer and the translator of the life you assign. For grades 9–12. Quote the lives, not only a series title. One map cannot teach the whole collection.

- Name all three translators when you describe the file.
- Antony stands first; the others are not this first page.
- 9–12.
- A collection of lives, not a modern anthology title only.

> *"You have entered upon a noble rivalry with the monks of Egypt by your determination either to equal or surpass them in your training in the way of virtue. For"*
>
> Life of Antony, Athanasius's address

A rivalry in the way of virtue | A child reared in the Faith | Antony's life, first in the file | A collection, honestly named | Several writers, several English versions

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. Athanasius opens with a noble rivalry in the way of virtue, then: "Antony you must know was by descent an Egyptian," reared in the same Faith. Ellershaw's English.
2. This is a collection, with three translators: Ellershaw, Fremantle, and Roberts. Name the writer and the translator of the life you are in.
3. The file also holds Paul, Malchus, Hilarion, and Martin, among others. One map cannot teach them all.
4. For grades 9–12. Quote the lives, not only a later series title. Drop footnote numbers from quotations.

Quotations are verbatim from the H. Ellershaw (Antony); W. H. Fremantle (Jerome); Alexander Roberts (Sulpitius Severus), CCEL NPNF2-04/NPNF2-06/NPNF2-11, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/early-christian-lives/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.