

LUCRETIUS III 962

(nunc aliena tua tamen aetate omnia mitte)
aequo animoque agedum + magnis + concede: necessest.

Here, if anywhere in the land of conjecture, the blushes of ingenuous shame will have to be quenched ¹⁾. Read *gigni*:

aequo animoque agedum *gigni* concede: necessest.

“(Now, however, give up everything that is alien to your age) and with calm mind, come, allow it to be generated...” For (*omnia*) *gigni* concede, compare I 613–14: *neque avelli quicquam neque deminui iam| concedit natura*. Nature herself is speaking. She needs everything that the old man would cling to in life’s feast, all of his atomic material, released in death, so that her generative process may continue: *materies opus est ut crescant postera saecula* (967).

The underlying principle is that stated in I 150, *nullam rem e nilo gigni divinitus umquam*²⁾. Its mortal implication is spelled out in I 263–64: *alid ex alio reficit natura nec ullam| rem gigni patitur nisi morte adiuta aliena*. So, here, implicitly, Nature must insist on the old man’s adjuvant death, *cedit enim rerum novitate extrusa vetustas| semper, et ex aliis aliud reparare necessest* (964–65); *namque aliud putrescit et aevo debile languet,| porro aliud succrescit et (e) contemptibus exit* (V 832–33).

Corruption of *gigni* into *magnis* would have been easy. Under the influence of *agedum*, *gigni* was copied as *magnis*, and *magnis* then was emended to *magnis*, an indirect object for *concede*.

The Pennsylvania State University

Archibald Allen

1) For a list of conjectures, see J.P.Vallot, *Miscellanea Critica* II ed. J.Irmscher (Leipzig 1965) 365 ff. Most recently, in this journal (118 [1975] 191 f.), D.J.Lilley proposed vocative *segnis*; for criticism, see K.Müller, *Mus. Helv.* 33 (1976) 222 ff.

2) Note, incidentally, for whatever support it may lend to my *gigni*, the metrical position of *gigni* in this line, paralleled in I 784, 837, II 300, and V 279.