

ÆLFRIC'S COLLOQUIUM

The *Colloquium* is a conversation between a monastic schoolmaster and his pupils. The basic text is in Latin with an Old English interlinear word-for-word translation. The Old English has therefore been treated somewhat freely here, especially with respect to word order, but has in no sense been rewritten. The language is Late West Saxon. The *Colloquium* is published in Wright-Wülcker, *Anglo-Saxon and Old English Vocabularies*, W. H. Stevenson, *Early Scholastic Colloquies*, and Garmonsway, *Ælfric's Colloquium*.

Discipuli: Wē cildru biddaþ þē, ēalā lärēow, þæt þū tæce
ūs sprecan on Lēden ġereorde rihte, for þām ungelærede wē syndon, and ġewemmodliče wē sprecaþ.

Magister: Hwæt wille gē sprecan?

D: Hwæt rēce wē hwæt wē sprecan, būton hit riht spræc sȳ
and behēfe, næs īdel oþje fracoð?

M: Wille gē bēon beswungen on leornunge?

D: Lēofre is ūs bēon beswungen for läre þænne hit ne cunnan; ac wē witon þē bilewitne wesan, and nellan onbelædan swingla ūs būton þū bēo tō genydd fram ūs.

M: Ic āxie þē, hwæt spricst þū? Hwæt hæfst þū weordes?

Discipulus: Ic eom ġeanwyrde munuc, and ic singe ælcē dæg sefon tīda mid ġebrōþrum, and ic eom bysgod on rādinga and on sange; ac þāh hwæþere ic wolde betwēnan leornian sprecan on Lēden ġereorde.

M: Hwæt cunnon þās, þīne ġefēran?

D: Sume synt yrþlingas, sume scēaphyrdas, sume oxanhyrdas, sume ēac swylcē huntan, sume fisceras, sume fugeleras, sume ċēapmenn, sume sceōwyrhtan, sealteras, bæceras.