

A Latin Christian Adaptation of Cicero

Abstract

The earliest Christian apology that was written in Latin was that of Minucius Felix: a dialogue called *The Octavius* (late 2nd century AD). This dialogue, which aims to convince pagan Romans to accept Christianity is interestingly largely based on a pagan Roman source: *De Natura Deorum*, of Cicero. Cicero's work provided the structure for this Christian apology, and one passage from it (1,25-42) is taken over verbatim as Chapter 19 of the *Octavius*. We will compare these two texts (pagan and Christian) and see what we can learn about the continuing reliance of early Roman Christianity on the classical tradition.