



CLASSICAL TURNS

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Job Ref.: DEC097

Client Name: [REDACTED]

Translation of English Phrase

As regards your request for a concise translation of “loyalty and virtue are everything”, I offer the following four suggestions. Please note that Latin idiom will not allow one to say something like *fides virtusque sunt omnia* (lit. ‘loyalty and virtue are everything’), as this would mean that these two abstract qualities equate to all things that exist. I take your quotation to mean, effectively, “loyalty and virtue are by far the two most important qualities”. Please contact me again (at no extra charge) if this is not what you mean by the phrase.

Nil nisi fides virtusque – lit. ‘nothing [is important / matters] except loyalty and virtue’

Nil sine virtute fideque – lit. ‘[there is] nothing without virtue and loyalty’

fides virtusque omnibus graviores - lit. ‘loyalty and virtue [are] more important than everything [else]’

or *fides virtusque omnibus graviora* – lit. ‘loyalty and virtue [are] more important things than everything [else]’

omnia vincit virtus – lit. ‘virtue conquers/trumps all’, reworking the famous phrase of Virgil (70-19 B.C.), the most celebrated poet of Ancient Rome, *omnia vincit amor* (‘love conquers all’, *Eclogues* X.69). The Roman concept of Virtue implicitly contained that of loyalty, so *fides* need not be expressed separately. If you would like it to be present, you may write *omnia vincit fides virtusque*, ‘loyalty and virtue conquer all’ (the verb *vincit* may remain singular – retaining the Virgilian echo – since *fides* and *virtus* function together as one subject, a construction that grammarians call ‘hendiadys’).

Feel free to email if you have any questions about the material above, or if you would like further advice on pronunciation or other matters.