

**INT**ER montes Graecos vallis iacēbat variis flōribus laeta et omnium rērum fēcundissima. Dē montibus aquae frīgidae dēsiliēbant, et per campos virides fluēbant. Multi greges, multa equōrum boumque armenta in agris clīvisque errābant. Vallis montibus viridibus undique cingēbātur; nulli viātōres eō intrābant, nec hieme, ubi montes nive candidā teguntur, nec vēre, ubi hirundo argūta nīdum sub trabibus aedificat. Itaque incolae dē rēbus externis nihil sciēbant, sed bene beātēque vīvēbant, nec cūris sollicitis vexābantur.

Ad incolas in vallem ōlim dē caelo descendērunt Mūsae. Novem sunt Mūsae, poētārum carminumque deae. Ā Mūsis omnes hominum gentes, sed in p̄imis poētae, conservantur et docentur.

**argūtus, -a, -um**—shrill, clear.

**beātē**—happily.

**externus, -a, -um**—outside, external.

**fēcundus, -a, -um**—fruitful.

**fluo, 3, fluxi, fluxum**—I flow,

**frīgidus, -a, -um**—cold,

**hirundo, -inis, f.**—swallow.

**mons, montis, m.**—mountain.

**nīdus, -i, m.**—nest.

**nihil**—nothing.

**nix, nivis, f.**—snow.

**novem**—nine.

**scio, 4**—I know.

**varius, -a, -um**—various, manifold.

**vēr, vēris, n.**—spring.

**viridis, -e**—green.

**vīvo, 3, vixi, victum**—I live.

Watch out for the passive voice in this passage and be careful with tenses.



Among the Greek mountains lay a valley happy with diverse flowers, and of all things most fertile. Cold waters leapt down from the mountains and flowed through green plains. Many flocks and herds of good horses wandered in the fields and hills. The valley was surrounded by green mountains on every side. No travellers entered either by winter when the mountains are covered with white snow, nor by spring when the shrill swallow builds her nest under the rafters. And so the inhabitants knew nothing of things outside but they lived well and blessed nor were they vexed by worrying cares. The Muses once came down from heaven to the inhabitants of the valley. The muses were nine, goddesses of poets and of songs. By the Muses all tribes of men, but firstly [above all] poets, are protected and taught.

This Edenic description of the Valley of the Muses paints a glowing picture. You can see the real place here: <https://greece.greekreporter.com/2018/01/10/a-visit-to-greeces-valley-of-the-muses> . Sadly it is not the case that all a community needs to be happy is isolation from the outside world.

We know from the Bible that in reality sinful human nature is internal to us all! People often think that it is civilization that causes human problems and we could live an idyllic life if we were cut off from it. This “Noble Savage” idea first popularized by the French philosopher J J Rousseau (1712-1778) still resonates today. However, in reality, every human society has been *sollicitates vexabuntur* whether in touch with its fellow men or not. More about this topic can be found here:

<https://creation.com/the-wrong-glasses>