

Horace seems to be set in the firm belief that country life is better than life in the city. This is shown by his tale of the town mouse and the country mouse where he takes a mouse from each place and shows the other round the place where he lives.

“aridum et ore ferens acinum semesaque lardi frusta dedit, cupiens varia fastidia cena vincere tangentis male singula dente supebro; cum oater ipse domus palea porrectus in harno esset ador loliumque, dapis meliora relinquens.” “and carrying a dry grape in his mouth he gave him half-eaten scraps of bacon fat, desiring with varied food to overcome the contempt of the city mouse who was hardly touching a thing with his haughty tooth while the father of the house himself stretched out on this year’s straw was eating spelt and darnel leaving the better part of the banquet.”

From this we can plainly see that the country mouse has a kind soul, who brings out the good food for his guest and eats the simple things himself so as not to take away from the city mouse. However, the city mouse has been rude by barely even trying the food that the country mouse has so nicely given him

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When they head off to the city mouse’s house they have to do it under cover of night. The

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city mouse performed the duties of a host licking all the food beforehand (in case it was poisoned). Suddenly the doors screeched open and they ran all over the place in terror. This shows that while the town mouse might have fancier food and furnishings he has to be

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careful and scared even in his own house.

This shows Horace’s attitude towards each lifestyle. He sees life in the country as simple but easy and the city luxurious but probably not worth the hassle it brings in living there being beset by dangers.

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