

In any fundamental discussion on Perpetua, it is of paramount importance to read carefully what the Latin text about her is actually saying. In this sense, a continuous return to the ancient sources remains as necessary as ever.

## Summary

Perpetua is well known for her lively first person account of her stay in prison before execution. In some recent papers, it has been doubted whether Perpetua actually composed this text herself. This paper argues that while we cannot be absolutely certain that Perpetua wrote “her” text, attempts to doubt her authorship cannot be based on the Latin text of the *Passio*, where it is clearly stated that Perpetua’s text was written *manu sua* “with her own hand”.

**Key words:** *Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis*; authenticity; St. Perpetua

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turnius”, where, however, these meanings are not given). Furthermore, the entire “alternative rendering” of *Pass. Perp.* 3,1-4 (ERIN RONSSE, *The Rhetoric of Martyrs*, pp. 319-321) leaves much to be desired.