

ETC.

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SUMMER ISSUE 3

ETC. THE PODCAST.

COMING FALL 2022.



“SURVIVING
SUMMER
GREEK”.

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PRESENTED BY:



WITH
DRYDEN + RUSSELL

REGENT D&D
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+ THE USUAL TOMFOOLERY...

SURVIVING SUMMER GREEK

ABIGAIL GERMAIN

If you have been around Regent College for any length of time, you will likely have heard mention of the infamous Hebrew and Greek intensive language courses that take place every Spring and Summer. Horror stories circulate about the intensive nature of these courses and they are dubbed with the, albeit derogatory and unfortunate, name "Suicide languages".

This year I took on the challenge of Summer Greek fully aware of the stories and the potential intensity of the course, yet completely unprepared for what the experience would be. The following is some insight into one person's perspective on this course after five of the seven weeks. Disclaimer: This course is not for the faint of heart or for the purpose of enjoying a language. In the words of my observant teenage brother on hearing about my experience, "it's like running a marathon at a sprint."

For some context, Summer Greek is a fully online course this year; it is usually about four hours of class every morning, Monday through Thursday; and we cover all the basics of Biblical Greek in seven weeks. You might be thinking "okay, that sounds intense and slightly unpleasant, but perfectly manageable," and you are not wrong. However, if you are like me with a background of learning and loving languages and with the propensity to do everything by extremes then you may want to think again.

Firstly, I have to say in all honesty, an intensive language course like this should never be taught online except in the direst of circumstances. The challenge of sitting in front of a screen for four hours, the limitation of teaching tools inherent to online learning, and the loss of classroom camaraderie are all factors that do not need to be added to an already fundamentally challenging experience. I have been fortunate enough to have a couple of amazing classmates who have been committed to meeting in person regardless and together making the best of it. However, we collectively agree that a classroom environment is an irreplaceable asset.

Second, expectations are important. My past experience with languages made me start this course expecting to soak it all in and love the learning process. I was excited to dive into Scripture at its root and be fascinated by the many discoveries and connections I would make.

Sadly, I have been sorely disappointed. There is no

time or brain capacity to truly apply anything we are learning during this course. Yes, we read through passages from the New Testament, but fully engaging with it has not seemed possible. I spent the first three weeks trying to make myself love the material and the next two weeks coming to terms with the fact that I needed to set that aside.

On a more positive note, I do fully intend and expect to love Greek in the future once the basics are in place and I am getting more sleep.

Third, if like me, you love to feel in control, knowledgeable in your area of study, and hyper-prepared for every assignment and test then the challenge of this course may simply be the discipline of "letting go." Since day three, I have not once felt prepared or in control even though I am technically doing everything required of me and more. I stuff hundreds of rules, paradigms, and vocabulary words into my head where they precariously perch, taunting me with their transience and capriciousness. In week five, combine this with exhaustion and you will find yourself sitting in front of an exam unable to remember any of the rules that distinguish between those darned imperfect, aorist, perfect, and passive verbs. My deepest apologies to our hardworking TA for the new version of Greek that I unintentionally created on that exam. Hopefully, it offers some interest and humour to the tedium of the grading experience.

Throughout this course, perspective is key. Even if you love languages, Summer Greek is merely a stepping stone to bigger and better things. It does not define you as a person or even your skill with languages. Yes, the frustration of being confronted with one's limitations is real and potentially humiliating, but in the long run, even this is not a bad thing.

Thus, after these seven weeks are done, the course will have served its purpose. My fellow surviving classmates and I will have the basics of Biblical Greek at our disposal; we will be prepared to take on Intermediate Greek in the Fall; we will have hopefully learned some valuable life lessons as well as deepened some amazing friendships. So, if you are considering doing Summer Greek, be warned that you may find yourself facing challenges and learning lessons that have absolutely nothing to do with Greek.

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NOTES FROM THE UNDERDARK, EP. 3: "RETURN TO NAUEM"

JONATHAN LIPPS

We return to our fledgling heroes in the aftermath of a savaging by a band of Kotopoio (one of the many definitely evil bird-like species we have encountered so far). It was the middle of the night, and so we went back to sleep in order to recover and heal wounds; fortunately no more attacks came our way. The next morning, with Fenn's spiritual tank all filled up, he was able to restore poor Orwin to full health.

Buoyed by the return of our party member from near-death, we decided to carve up some Kotopoio meat and start a fire to feast on their presumably chickeny flesh. This is where we made a critical error, since to get firewood, Orwin went into the nearby forest and was immediately set upon by two Cornix! He quickly lost all sense of himself in the midst of the screeching psychic attacks of these dread flyers, and fell down on the ground, near once again to death's door. The party rushed to his aid and were able to injure one of the birds, whereupon they retreated deeper into the forest. Relying once again on Fenn's healing prayer, Orwin was brought back from the brink of death and we fled hastily from the forest, having learned the apparently cardinal rule of this world: DO NOT GO INTO THE WOODS!

Thankfully this was the last injurious encounter on the way to Nauem, where we faced another kind of problem in our attempt to return to the Kademenes Academy for further instruction: Nauem appeared to be about to boil over with some kind of pagan populist uprising. Being associated with Kademenes and the D'murge Pantheon, we couldn't risk going through the front gate anymore. Luckily, Evendur had secret knowledge of a hidden entryway and we were able to make our way through the city to the Academy, where we were welcomed by the sisters there.

At this point the party took care of personal business (some of which was quite secretive, I must say) while awaiting our audience with Lady Tyrella, mistress of the Academy. Our meeting with her was informative; Nauem was indeed, as we had heard, a powder keg. Tyrella feared for the safety of those in the Academy and requested our help in devising a way to secret out as many of the more vulnerable members as possible, preferably to a safe house further South (for there had been ill omens and dreams of horrors arising in the North).

It was to our surprise then, when at breakfast the next morning, a mysterious woman and her sister intruded upon our planning session, saying they had come from the South and that no hope for escape was to be found there, and asking us to take the escapees North with them instead. The suspicions of the party were immediately raised, not least because the woman seemed to know our purpose. While we were mostly of one mind to overtly thank the women and then seek our own council once we were in private, Orwin once again displayed a fair amount of his "deal" by first attempting to flirt with one of the women, and then (loudly and publicly) proclaiming that we should kill them on the basis that they were obviously up to no good.

And so, dear reader, we regret to inform you that we have no answer to the Orwin question as of yet. We'll all have to wait until next time to figure out just how the party intends to escort a bunch of vulnerable Kademenes folk to safety, and whether Orwin gets arrested for attempted murder by any local authorities along the way!

DAD JOKE OF THE WEEK:

MY FRIEND DIED IN THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE WE DIDN'T KNOW HIS BLOOD TYPE.

HE KEPT TELLING US, "BE POSITIVE," BUT IT WAS HARD GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

"SO YOU'LL SMOKE A CIGARETTE BUT YOU WON'T READ ORIGEN?"

- OVERHEARD AT REGENT

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INTRODUCING: ETC. THE PODCAST.

DRYDEN DEMCHUK, SENIOR EDITOR

“This is exactly what the world needs - another podcast where white dudes talk theology” Russell quipped to me when I first pitched the idea to him. And I’ll admit, the cliché isn’t lost on me either. It’s a tale as old as podcasting itself.

But the good news is that this isn’t a theology podcast, and it won’t just be white dudes doing the talking.

THE VISION:

ETC. is a difficult publication to define, because it is exactly what it sounds like - it is the *et cetera* of life at Regent - the extras, the scraps, the unfinished thoughts, the after-hours rants, the behind-the-scenes glimpses, the gags, the reflections, the monologues, and the stories. All the aspects of graduate-theology-student life that don’t fit into the classroom or the assignments. ETC. has aimed to be the outlet of these snippets for decades past, and, Lord willing, it will continue to do so decades into the future.

There is before us, however, a world of opportunity beyond the written word which has yet to be explored. Rest assured that the physical publication is not going anywhere - our upcoming podcast project is a supplementation to the publication, not a replacement.

The podcast will feature conversations between myself (Dryden), RCSA member Russell Dueck-Price, and guests from around the Regent community. These guests may be students, alumni, faculty, or staff. Our conversations may be goofy, they may be profound, they may be theological, they may be ridiculous, they may be all of the above all at once.

The podcast will aim to amuse, entertain, educate, and illuminate the Regent community. We hope it is a way for community members to learn about each other, learn from each other, and learn with each other.

THE DELIVERY:

The show’s pilot / preview episode is currently available online.

Season one of the podcast will officially launch in September of 2022. Episodes will be released every two weeks, on an alternating schedule with the physical publication (that’s right - you will now be receiving new ETC. content, either visual or audible, every week!) The podcast is currently available for streaming and download on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts. If there is another podcasting platform that you would like to see us on, please feel free to let us know.

A direct link to the show is currently visible in the ETC. Instagram bio.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

The first thing that every member of the Regent community may do to assist in this podcast is to leave a rating and a review of the podcast on your favourite platform. This will help to make the show visible to a wider audience.

The second thing you may do is reach out to be a guest on the show! If you are currently enrolled in even one class at Regent, have graduated from Regent in the past, or are currently employed by Regent, you are welcome to reach out to be a guest.

Potential guests are not expected to have any special expertise, experience, or genius. ETC. desires to be a community and conversation that includes any and all members of the Regent community, and we believe that every member of our community has something valuable to share.

You may indicate your desire to be on the show by sending an email to ETC. or a direct message to our instagram page. See contact information below.

Selected guests will be invited to join in a recorded conversation with Russell and I, lasting roughly 45-60 minutes. This conversation can be held virtually or in person, but we all know that in-person is more fun!

One more important note - this podcast is not a production of Regent College. This podcast is an independent endeavour by the RCSA. Any views, opinions, or ideas expressed in this podcast do not necessarily align with those of Regent College or the RCSA.

That should be all for now. On behalf of the RCSA, allow me to express our deepest gratitude to the Regent community for supporting ETC. over the years, and for the excitement that has already been expressed by the community regarding this project.

Keep rockin.

WHERE TO GET IN TOUCH:

EMAIL: ETCETERA@REGENT-COLLEGE.EDU

INSTAGRAM: [@REGENT_ETC](https://www.instagram.com/REGENT_ETC)

PODCAST LINK IN INSTAGRAM BIO.

