

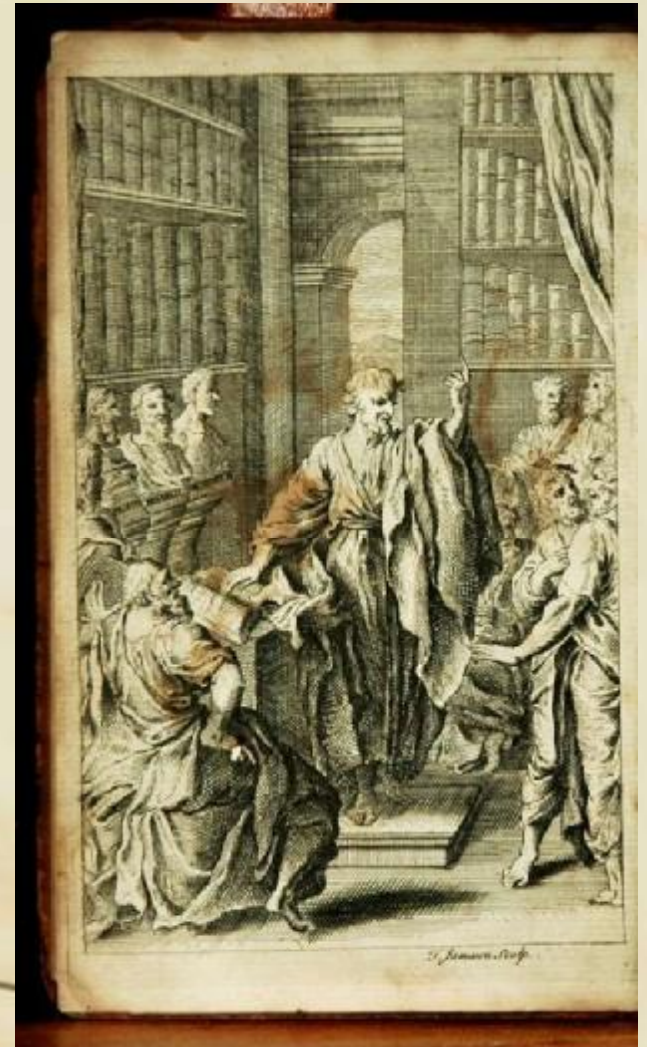


Biography and Contribution of

Contrib

LONGINUS

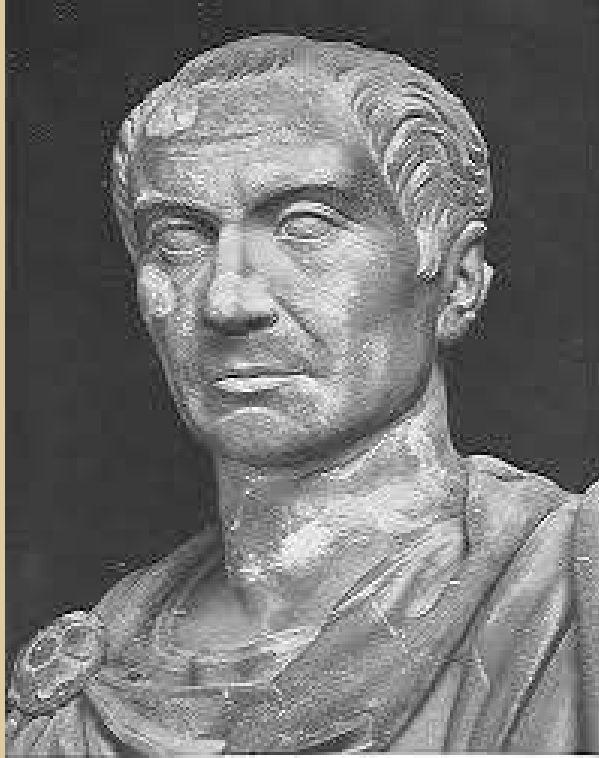
c.213–273



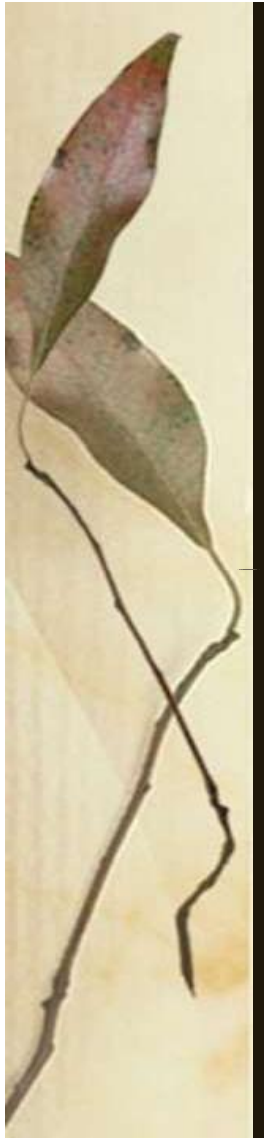


LONGINUS, c.213–273

- critics have disputes among themselves about his name, time and birth place. According to them, he is either **Cassius Longinus** or **Dionysius Longinus**
- Greek rhetorician and philosopher of the Neoplatonic school
- He taught rhetoric at Athens
- He later became counselor to Queen Zenobia of Palmyra; when the anti-Roman policy he had advocated failed, he was delivered to the Romans, who executed him as a traitor



- First literary critic to borrow from a different literary tradition and earning him the title of the first comparative critic in literary history
- Concentrated on the single element of a text and he is the first critic to define a literary classic
- One cannot accurately judge a literary work, he argues, unless one is exceeding well read



- Longinus's '**On the Sublime**' is a critical document of great world and significance that garners an important place in the history of literature
- When our *intellects*, our *emotions*, and our *wills* harmoniously respond to a given work of art, we know we have been touched by the *sublime*
- A well-read critic can evaluate and recognize what is great or what Homer calls *sublime*

- Before Longinus, the critics believed that the function of poetry was to instruct or to delight or both and if it is prose, its function was to persuade also. But Longinus was not satisfied with this formula.





- He said that the epics of Homer, the lyrics of Sappho and Pindar, and the tragedies of Aeschylus and Sophoclea were great not only account of these elements only, but also one account of their sublimity. **The aim of a great work of art to transport the reader out of himself. It is has a capacity to move the reader to divine joy. This is the quality of sublime.** So a great work of art does not only please or instruct, but it also moves, transports, elevates. It pleases all and it peas all the time.

—He believed “**Nothing is poetry unless it transports.**”
According to him the work of art become excellent, only when it has power to subliminate, By sublimity Longinus means **elevation**’ or ‘**loftiness** or ‘a certain distinction and excellence in composition.



- Thus Longinus is the golden balance between Plato and Aristotle, Homer and Shelley, classicism and Romanticism down to Eliot's modernism. As a critic he displays a rare breadth and universality of outlook.
- Moreover, his mind is free from any prejudice. His judgments are essentially apt. They have been supported by posterity. Atkins says, "There are in short, many respects in which Longinus stands high as a judicial critic."



**THE
END**