

## Prayer Before Study

Ineffable Creator,  
Who, from the treasures of Your wisdom.  
has established three hierarchies of angels,  
has arrayed them in marvelous order  
above the fiery heavens,  
and has marshalled the regions  
of the universe with such artful skill.

You are proclaimed  
the true font of light and wisdom.  
and the primal origin  
raise high beyond all things.

Put forth a ray of Your brightness  
into the darkened places of my mind;  
disperse from my soul  
the twofold darkness  
into which I was born:  
sin and ignorance.

You make eloquent the tongues of infants.  
Refine my speech  
and pour forth upon my lips  
the goodness of Your blessing.

Grant to me  
keenness of mind, capacity to remember,  
skill in learning,  
subtlety to interpret,  
and eloquence in speech.

May you  
guide the beginning of my work  
direct its progress,  
and bring it to completion.

You Who are true God and true Man.  
Who live and reign, world without end.  
Amen.

— Saint Thomas Aquinas