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Empire of virtue? normative language and the legitimation of power in Roman North Africa

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Citation

Penders, S. M. H. J. (2021, October 7). *Empire of virtue?: normative language and the legitimation of power in Roman North Africa*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3217024>

Version: Publisher's Version

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This study examines the use of normative language in Roman North Africa from the first to the fourth centuries AD. From emperors down to provincial magistrates, powerful individuals throughout the Roman Empire employed the language of honour and virtue to legitimate their influential position over others. This book delves deeper into the intertwining layers of power and legitimacy, as well as their linguistic expression in the epigraphic culture of Africa Proconsularis and Mauretania Caesariensis. To what extent were ideological expressions of imperial virtue taken up in provincial epigraphy? How were local power relationships linguistically represented? And what can the use of normative language tell us of the ideals of legitimate power held within North African communities?

EMPIRE OF VIRTUE?

S.M.H.J. PENDERS

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