

## SUMMARY

Present paper introduces a modern Hungarian translation of Emperor JULIAN's last work written for the people of Antioch (Or. XII.), in order to regulate them, what is also known as *Misopogon*. Recent scholarship in Hungary has not paid fair attention to its author and its age which was definitely a boundary between declining ancient culture and rising Christianity. Moreover, it seems to be salutary to focus on our scholarly interests on this quite peculiar oration, because it is not solely an unusual form of a ruler's self-interpretation in a marvellous literary work, it is also a rich historical source which adumbrates the lifestyle, the ideas and mind of the Apostate.

In the summer of 362 A.D. JULIAN left Constantinople for Syrian Antioch chosen as a new capital. According to the testimonies of LIBANIUS, who was a native citizen of Antioch, people were quite spirited, casual and ambitious there. Julian's personality did not tolerate any kind of public spectacles or incontinence. His austere lifestyle and addiction to literary studies, and especially his explicit pagan restoration provoked the citizens. Moreover, Julian frequently visited and restored many pagan shrines. At the same time he neglected to participate in public festivals of the city. The conflict was sharpened when Julian intervened in the prices of grain, because the great part of the population was suffering from the lack of supply caused by summer droughts and the requisition of JULIAN's growing army recruited in this area against Persia in order to finally protect the eastern borders of the Empire. Although, Julian imported large amounts of cereals, he could not solve the crisis due to the speculations of local merchants. Therefore, the poor were nearly starving at the end of the year. In the first days of the New Year, citizens started to mock the Emperor composing and circulating jokes and scornful rhymes about his outfit and austere lifestyle, and also his ruling. JULIAN certainly was displeased at the people, and decided to leave this ungrateful city. Before the desertion, he posted this satirical work to the front of the palace composed in February to strike back at Antioch by defending his personality in this peculiar way. Then he went to war against Persia in March 363.

According to our judgement *Misopogon* is more than a summary of a conflict between a city and a magistrate. The stress is not on the political circumstances, but the vital point and message of this work refers to the universal values and morality concerning not only the personality of the Emperor, but also the right sentiment in which a law-abiding Roman citizen should have been partaken to protect the moral unity of the Empire.

