

Abstract: In the first book of Rutilius Namazianus's *De reditu suo* the verses 189-204 represent the poet's last vision of Rome, contemplated from a certain distance while awaiting to leave from the coast of Ostia. Rutilio provides a 'concise' picture of the city with its lights and heights, which make up a landscape where auditory sensations do not lack; greater attention is paid to the sense of sight and to the perception of the moving look. The significant exegetic issues of these verses probably arise because the framework outlined does not correspond to a real vision, but to a subjective representation, to the illusion to see the beloved city once again and to hear the sounds originated in it.

Keywords: Rutilius Namatianus, Roma, Look, Distance, Light.