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Around the beginning of 2019, when I decided to dedicate the 2nd Salzburg Spring Symposium (*Salzburger Frühlingssymposium*) to the topic of solitude, loneliness and isolation in the Graeco-Roman antiquity, nobody could have predicted that almost a year later this subject would grow so much in significance and relevance. The rapid spread of the Coronavirus pandemic, which paralysed the world in the first half of the year 2020, rendered the conference scheduled for April 2020 impossible. However, the scholars involved did not lose their enthusiasm and, while being imprisoned in the isolation and solitude imposed on them, they prepared their contributions to the present volume – all in all, writing is an essentially solitary affair. Therefore, it is to the authors of the articles included here that I would like to express my profound gratitude in the first place.

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