Let fall a tear as you pass by; for we are those

guests of Antiochus whom his house slew when it

fell, and God gave us in equal shares this place

for a banquet and a tomb. Four of us from Tegea

lie here, twelve from Messene, five from Argos, and

half of the banqueters were from Sparta, and Antiochus

himself. A fifth of the fifth part of those

who perished were from Athens, and do thou, Corinth,

weep for Hylas alone.

How many guests were there?

(scroll down for the solution)

Calculation

$4 + 12 + 5 + 1/2x + 1 + 1/25x + 1 = x$

$1/2x + 1/25x + 23 = x$

$25x + 2x + 50*23 = 50x$

$50*23 = (50 - 27)x$

$x = (50*23)/23$

Solution

There were 50 guests.