

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #1

GRAECIA CAPTA

Martii I, LXXXVI A.C.

(primo die Martis, octogesimo sexto anno ante Christum)

kal. Mar. DCLXVIII A.V.C.

(kalendis Martiis, sexagesimo sexagesimo octavo anno ab urbe condita)

I. Salutatio

Favonius: Salvete, omnes! Mihi nomen est Marcus Favonius et hoc est Forum Romanum! Quid novi est hodie? Brevi tempore videbimus. At primum, ecce Quaestio Hodierna!

II. Quaestio Hodierna

Lector: Quaestio hodierna est de rebus Graecis:

GREECE CAPTURED

March 1, 86 B.C.

(the first day of March, the 86th year before Christ)

(the kalends of March, the 668th year after the founding of Rome)

I. Greeting

Favonius: Hello, everyone! My name is Marcus Favonius and this is Forum Romanum! What's new today? In a short time we'll see. But first, here's the Question of the Day.

II. Question of the Day

Lector: The question of the day is about Greek

Tot civitates in Italia meridiana Graecae sunt ut illa pars Italiae saepe esset appellata _____ . Responsum dabitur ad finem Fori Romani.

III. Quid Novi?

Favonius: Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hos nuntios modo recepimus: Lucius Cornelius Sulla Athenas cepit! Hodie, Kalendis Martiis, L. Cornelius Sulla, imperator Romanus, obsidione Athenas cepit. Hanc obsidionem Athenis exercitus Romanus exsequebatur multos menses sed hodie copiae Romanae tandem iter in urbem ruina moenium invenerunt.

Iulia: Gratias, Favoni. Athenae, clarissima urbium Graecarum, uno anno ante in amicitiam venerunt cum Mithridate, nefario atque perfido hoste populi Romani. Qua de causa, Cornelius Sulla, qui bellum contra Mithridatem adhuc feliciter gerit, oppugnationem in Athenas fecit. Favoni?

things: There are so many Greek states in southern Italy that that part of Italy is often called _____ ? The answer will be given at the end of Forum Romanum.

III. What's New?

Favonius: And now let's see what's new. We just received this news: Lucius Cornelius Sulla has captured Athens! Today, on the Kalends of March, L. Cornelius Sulla, a Roman general, by siege has captured Athens. The Roman army has carried out this siege for many months, but today the Roman forces at last found a way into the city by the destruction of the walls.

Iulia: Thanks, Favonius. Athens, the most famous of Greek cities, one year before came into an alliance with Mithridates, an evil and deceitful enemy of the Roman people. Therefore, Cornelius Sulla, who is still successfully waging war against Mithridates, made an attack against Athens. Favonius?

Favonius: Multae partes Athenarum detrimentum acceperunt: agora, locus communis similis nostro foro, accepit detrimentum grave. Etiam detrimentum accepit Erectheum, templum sanctissimum in acropole. Parthenon autem, clarissimum templum Athenae, quoque in acropole situm, nil detrimentum accepit, quoad scimus.

Iulia: Sulla, cum copiae Romanae Athenas intrarent, iussit urbem non flammis incendi. Sulla, ut videtur, demonstrabat reverentiam rerum Graecarum. Favoni?

IV. Et Alia (Commentarius a Roscio Gallo)

Favonius: Reverentiam rerum Graecarum. Saepe nos Romani dicunt de humanitate aut, si vis, de cultura nostra et Graeca. Fatendum est culturam Graecam praeclaram esse. Re vera, sunt multi qui dicant culturam Graecam meliorem quam

Favonius: Many parts of Athens have received damage: the agora, a gathering place similar to our forum, has received serious damage. Also the Erectheion, a very holy temple on the Acropolis, has received damage. But the Parthenon, the very famous temple of Athena, also located on the Acropolis, has received no damage, as far as we know.

Iulia: Sulla, when the Roman forces were first entering Athens, ordered that the city not be lit on fire. Sulla, as it seems, was showing his reverence for Greek things. Favonius?

IV. And Other Things (Editorial by Roscius Gallus)

Favonius: Reverence for Greek things. Often we Romans speak about the humanities or, if you will, about our and Greek culture. It must be admitted that Greek culture is wellknown. In truth, there are many who say that Greek culture

nostram esse. Ad his de rebus dicendum, hic est histrio clarissimus, Quintus Roscius Gallus.

Roscius: Salvete! Gratum est mihi adesse vobiscum. Et gratissimum est mihi dicere de cultura Graeca. Saepe dictum est, "Cultura Graeca moribus Romanis detrimento est." Marcus Cato Censorius persaepe hoc dixit. At verum, nonne Cato ipse Graece et dicere et scribere poterat? Nonne Cato Romam portavit Quintum Ennium, clarissimum poetam? Multi homines dicunt culturam Graecam intulisse magna mala Rei Publicae Romanae! Quid mali est in scriptis Platonis aut Aristotelis aut Herodoti? Quid mali est in tragoediis Aeschyli aut Sophoclis aut Euripedis? Quid in comeodiis Aristophanis? Quid ergo mali est apud Homerum? Nonne Ilias Odysseaque sunt optima maximaque carmina umquam scripta? Praeter has litteras bonas, modo cogita de artibus! Cogita de architectura! Cogita de medicina astrologiaque! Ut multis videtur, mos maiorum in periculo est.

is better than ours. To speak about these things, here is a very well-known historian, Quintus Roscius Gallus.

Roscius: Hello! It's nice to be here with you. And it is very nice to speak about Greek culture. Often it has been said "Greek culture is damaging to Roman values." Marcus Cato the censor said this very often. But, wasn't Cato himself able both to speak and to write in Greek? Didn't Cato bring to Rome Quintus Ennius, a very famous poet? Many people say that the culture of Greece has brought many evils to our Republic! What evil is there in the writings of Plato or of Aristotle or of Herodotus? What evil is there in the tragedies of Aeschylus or Sophocles or Euripides? What about in the comedies of Aristophanes? What evil is there, then, in Homer? Aren't the Iliad and Odyssey the best and greatest poems ever written? Besides this good literature, just think about the arts! Think about architecture! Think about medicine and astronomy! As it seems to many, the

Quomodo potest? Quidnam periculi est in rebus Graecis? Re vera, cultura Graeca plurimos annos in Italia fuit. Ut bene scitis, pars meridiana nostrae Italiae appellata est Magna Graecia! Graecane cultura periculosa?! Minime, inquam! Immo etiam, ut mihi videtur, cultura Graeca intulit nil nisi bonum Rei Publicae Romanae!

Favonius: Multas gratias, Rosci Galle! Dicendum est: Sententia Roscii Galli non necessarie est sententia Fori Romani.

V. Tempestas Hodierna

Favonius: Tempus est audire de tempestate. Quam ob rem, hic est Aulus Serenus!

Serenus: Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quaenam sit tempestas hodie. Per maiorem partem Italiae sol lucet, praesertim super Latium

tradition of our ancestors is in danger. How is it possible? What in the world is dangerous in Greek things? In truth, Greek culture has been in Italy for very many years. As you well know, the southern part of our own Italy has been called “Greater Greece”! Is Greek culture dangerous?! No way, I say! On the contrary, as it seems to me, Greek culture has even brought nothing but good to the Roman Republic!

Favonius: Thank you very much, Roscius Gallus! It must be said: the opinion of Roscius Gallus is not necessarily the opinion of Forum Romanum.

V. Today's Weather

Favonius: It's time to hear about the weather. For that reason, here is Aulus Serenus!

Serenus: Thank you, Favonius. Let's see what the weather is like today. Through the greater part of Italy the sun is shining, particularly over

Romamque. Gratias Iovi! Auspicia autem item sunt bona ad tempestatem crastinam. Sed ad meridiem, in parte Italiae saepe appellata "Magna Graecia" pluit multum. Fortasse caelum lacrimat ob Athenas a Sulla captas! Pluit hic ubi sunt Neapolis et Pompeii et Capua. Ventosa madidaque hic in insula Sicilia, ubi sunt multae civitates Graecae, ut, exempli gratia, Syracusae, notissima urbs in Sicilia.

Etiam pluit hic ubi est Brundisium, portus a quo nobis est mos navigare ad Graeciam. Ventosum et turbidum est Mare Adriaticum. Nec mirum, totam per Graeciam nubilosum est, praesertim hic ubi sunt miserae Athenae et Piraeus, portus Athenarum. Etiam ventosum et madidum est hic in Peloponneso ubi est Sparta. In Thessalia, ubi situs est Mons Olympus, pluit et tonat fulgetque! Ut Mare Adriaticum, Mare Aegaeum turbidum est, praesertim ad meridiem maris ubi sita est Creta. Tempestatas ergo totas per terras Graecas horrida est, ut dignum, nam illi Graeculi non debent esse amici Mithridati, regi Pontico, et

Latium and Rome. Thanks to Jupiter! And the forecast is also good for tomorrow's weather. But to the south, in the part of Italy often called "Magna Graecia" it is raining a lot. Perhaps the sky is crying for Athens captured by Sulla! It's raining here where Naples and Pompeii and Capua are. It is windy and wet here in the island of Sicily, where there are many Greek states, like, for example, Syracuse, a very well-known city in Sicily.

It's also raining here where Brindisi is, the port from which we are accustomed to sail to Greece. The Adriatic Sea is windy and rough. And it's not surprising, through all of Greece it is cloudy, particularly here where wretched Athens and Piraeus, the port of Athens, are. It's also windy and wet here on the Peloponnese where Sparta is. In Thessaly, where Mount Olympus is located, it is raining and thundering and lightning. Like the Adriatic Sea, the Aegean Sea is rough, particularly to the south of the sea where Crete is located. The weather through all the lands of

inimici nobis Romanis! Iam satis est. Aulus Serenus sum atque spero caela sint vobis valde serena!

Favonius: Multas gratias, Serene. Et nunc, ecce responsum quaestioni hodiernae.

Responsum Quaestioni

Lector: Quaestio hodierna erat ut sequitur: Tot civitates in Italia meridiana Graecae erant ut illa pars Italiae saepe esset appellata ____ ____.

Responsum est hoc: Magna Graecia.

Favonius: Nunc tempus est videre nostrum Dictum Hodiernum!

VI. Dictum Hodiernum

Lector: Dictum hodiernum excerptum a scriptis

Greece is terrible, as is fitting, for those Greeklings shouldn't have been friends of Mithridates, king of Pontus, and enemies to us Romans. Now that's enough. I'm Aulus Serenus and I hope that your skies may always be calm.

Favonius: Thanks a lot, Serenus. And now, here's the answer to the question of the day.

Answer to the Question

Reader: Today's question was as follows: There were so many Greek states in southern Italy that that part of Italy was frequently called ____ ____.

This is the answer: Magna Graecia

Favonius: Now it's time to see our saying of the day.

VI. Today's Saying

Reader: Today's saying was taken from the

poetae Horatii. Graecia capta ferum victorem cepit.

VII. Valedictio

Favonius: Verba notanda. Ut repetamus nuntios principales: Lucius Cornelius Sulla Athenas cepit! Multae partes urbis, imprimis agora et Erectheum in acropole, detrimenta acceperunt. Parthenon autem nil detrimenti accepit. Totum est ad hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas agimus et di vobis faveant. Valet omnes!

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writings of the poet Horace: Captured Greece took its crude captor captive.

VII. Farewell

Favonius: Memorable words! To review our main news: Lucius Cornelius Sulla has captured Athens! Many parts of the city, primarily the Agora and the Erectheion on the Acropolis, have been damaged. The Parthenon, however, has not been damaged. That's all for this edition of Forum Romanum. Thanks a lot, and may the gods be ever in your favor. Good-bye everyone!

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