

## FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #12

### Gens Togata

#### **Martii XVII, CLXXX A.D.**

(septimo decimo [die] Martii, centesimo octogesimo Anno Domini)

#### **a. d. xvi kal. Apr., CMXXXIII A.V.C.**

(ante diem sextum decimum kalendas Apriles, nongentesimo tricesimo tertio [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 prius, ecce Quaestio Hodierna!

#### ***II. Quaestio Hodierna***

**Lector:** Quaestio Hodierna est de vestimentis

### The People Who Wear the Toga

#### **March 17, 180 AD**

(the seventeenth day of March, the 180th year of the Lord)

(16 days before the kalends of April, 933 years after the founding of Rome)

#### ***I. Greeting***

**Favonius:** Hello, everyone! My name is Marcus Favonius and this is Forum Romanum! What's new today? We'll see in a little bit. But first, here's the Question of the Day!

#### ***II. Question of the Day***

**Lector:** The Question of the Day is about Roman

Romanis: Quod vestimentum Romanum signum pacis erat? Responsum dabitur ad finem Fori Romani.

### *III. Quid novi?*

**Favonius:** Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hos nuntios modo recepimus: Imperator Caesar Augustus Marcus Aurelius Antoninus mortuus est! Vindobonae, prope fines Imperii Romani, ubi tot annos Imperator noster cum barbaris bellum gerebat, in morbum mortiferum Marcus Aurelius cecidit atque mox mortem obiit. Iulia?

**Iulia:** Marcus Aurelius omnibus a gentibus maxime delectus erat. Non solum Imperator maximus sed etiam Stoicus erat, scribens multum de vitae oneribus quae toleranda sunt. Marco Aurelio mortuo, filius Commodus habenas rerum tenebit. Bene sit Commodus!

**Favonius: (aside)** Immo etiam, bene sit

clothing: What Roman garment was a sign of peace? 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: The Emperor Caesar Augustus Marcus Aurelius Antoninus is dead! In Vienna, near the borders of the Roman Empire where for so many years our Emperor waged war with the barbarians, Marcus Aurelius fell into a deadly illness and soon died. Julia?

**Iulia:** Marcus Aurelius was particularly delighted by all people. Not only was he a very great Emperor but also a Stoic, writing a lot about the burdens of life which must be endured. After Marcus Aurelius' death, his son Commodus will hold the reigns of things. Good luck to Commodus!

**Favonius: (aside)** No, good luck to us! Yes

nobis! Ita vero, Iulia, bene sit Commodus! Hic ad Forum Romanum saepe nos audimus nonnullas querelas de nuntiis quos optamus narrare, tot mortes tot calamitates. Semper mala, numquam bona. Itaque nihil amplius de mortibus aut calamitatibus hodie narrabimus.

**Iulia:** Sic est, quod hodie, ut notumst omnibus, est Liberalia\*, festa Liberi quae apud Graecos "Dionysia" appellata; nam deus qui nostra lingua est Liber aut Bacchus, Graece est Dionysus.

**Favonius:** Apud nos Romanos, Liberalia est dies ubi puer egregius primam togam indutus est! Quia de toga loquimur, loquamur de vestimentis Romanis. Ad his de rebus narrandum, nobiscum est vestispica clarissima, Pomponia Mela.

*IV. Et alia (spectaculum vestis Romanae)*

indeed, Julia, good luck to Commodus! Here at Forum Romanum we've frequently heard some complaints about the news which we choose to report, so many deaths, so many misfortunes. Always bad things, never good things. And so, today, we'll report nothing more about deaths or misfortunes.

**Iulia:** Yes, there is the fact that today, as is known to all, it's the Liberalia, Liber's festival, which is called among the Greeks the "Dionysia"; for the god who in our language is called Liber or Bacchus, in Greek is called Dionysus.

**Favonius:** Among us Romans, the Liberalia is a day when a noble boy is dressed in his first toga. Since we're talking about the toga, let's talk about Roman clothing. To speak about these things, with us is a very famous fashionista, Pomponia Mela.

*IV. And other things (Roman Fashion Show)*

**Mela:** Gratias summas, Favoni. Omnia vestimenta Romana divisa sunt in tria principia, in quibus sunt tunica et toga et stola. Cuncti tunicam gerunt—viri feminaeque, cives et peregrini. Tunica autem debet esse inornata ac simplex, promissa ad genua cinctaque cingulo balteove. Si vir egregius aut clarissimus (olim equestris aut senatori ordinis), clavus, angustus aut latus, adest in tunica. Super tunicam est toga. Toga tota nostra est. Nam, ut bene scitis, gens togata sumus! Belli civis Romanus gladium sumit sed pace togam sumit ergo toga pacis signum est.

**Favonius:** Certe. Ut Marcus Tullius Cicero inquit, Cedant arma togae!

**Mela:** Recte dicis. Ecce hic puer egregius, Gaius Annius Florus, nomine, cui sunt quindecim anni. Hodie, Liberalibus festis, Gaius togam virilem

**Mela:** Thank you, Favonius! All Roman clothing is divided into three categories, among which there are the tunic and toga and stola. All people wear the tunic - men and women, citizens and foreigners. But the tunic ought to be undecorated and uncomplicated, let down to the knees and bound with a belt or girdle. If the man is noble or upper-class (at one time of the equestrian or senatorial order), a stripe, narrow or wide, is present on the tunic. The toga is on top of the tunic. The toga is ours alone. For, as you well know, we are the people who wear the toga! In war, the Roman citizen takes up the sword, but in peace, he takes up the toga, therefore the toga is the symbol of peace.

**Favonius:** Absolutely. As Marcus Tullius Cicero says, 'Let weapons give way to the toga!'

**Mela:** Well said. Check out this noble youth, Gaius Annius Florus, by name, who is fifteen years old. Today, during the Liberalia, he will put

primum indutus erit. Toga, ut scitis, est vestimentum laneum; gravissimum longissimumque. De togis, haec res est: oportet sinus quam elegantissime fluere. Cives Romani— id est, mares—soli togam gerere solent. Quamquam, ut aiunt, antiquis in temporibus mulieres quoque togam sumpserunt, his temporibus tamen femina honesta numquam togata est. Vestimentum muliebres est stola. Oportet stolam extendere ab collo usque ad talia, cincta zona sic. Nonnumquam mulier pallam induit super stolam.

**Favonius:** Optime, Mela. Multas gratias tibi agimus.

**Mela:** Nihil est.

### *V. Tempestas Hodierna*

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

on the toga of manhood for the first time. The toga, as you know, is a wool garment; very heavy and very long. Where togas are concerned, this is the thing: The *sinus* (front pocket) needs to flow as elegantly as possible. Roman citizens - that is, males - alone are accustomed to wear the toga. Although, as they say, in the old days women also took up the toga, but in these days an honest woman is never in a toga. A woman's clothing is the stola. The stola needs to stretch from the neck all the way to the ankles, with the belt cinched in this way. Sometimes a woman puts on the palla over the stola.

**Favonius:** Very good, Mela. Thank you very much.

**Mela:** It's nothing.

### *V. Today's Weather*

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

**Serenus:** Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quaenam sit tempestas hodie. In Italia hodie est varietas caeli — alias sol lucet alias nubilosum est. Fortasse Iuppiter ipse non certus est utrum laetus an tristis sit: tristis quod bene delectus Marcus Aurelius mortuus est, laetus quod hodie est Liberalium dies. Bene memini illum diem cum adhuc essem servus quando filius domini togam virilem sumpsit. Quam laeti eramus! Quam...

**Favonius:** Ignosce mihi, Serene, sed de tempestate loquebaris?

**Serenus:** Sane...ignosce mihi, mea culpa est. Ubi eram? Nunc memini...circum Mare Nostrum temperatio caeli est; sol lucet plerumque sed paucis in partibus pluit, scilicet in Britannia pluit, ut semper. Et pluit hic non tam procul a Germaniae finibus ubi noster Imperator optimus verissimusque Marcus Aurelius tam miserande mortuus est. Qualem hominem! Scisne, Favoni,

**Serenus:** Thank you, Favonius. Let's see what the weather is like today. In Italy today there is a variety of weather - in some places the sun is shining in other places it is cloudy. Perhaps Jupiter himself is not sure whether he is happy or sad: sad because well beloved Marcus Aurelius is dead, happy because today is the day of the Liberalia. I remember well that day when I was still a servant when my master's son took up the toga of manhood. How happy we were! How...

**Favonius:** Forgive me, Serenus, but were you speaking about the weather?

**Serenus:** Of course... forgive me, it's my fault. Where was I? Now I remember... around the Mediterranean the weather is mild; the sun is mostly shining but in a few places, it's raining; of course, it's raining in England, as always. And it's raining here not so far from the borders of Germany where our excellent and very honest emperor Marcus Aurelius died so sadly. What a

Marcum Aurelium Graece scripsisse?

**Favonius:** Bene scio, Serene, et bene scio tempus fugere!

**Serenus:** Iterum ignosce mihi. Iam satis est. Aulus Serenus sum atque spero caela sint vobis valde serena!

### *VI. Responsum Quaestioni*

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

**Lector:** Quaestio hodierna erat ut sequitur: Quod vestimentum Romanum signum pacis erat? Responsum est hoc: toga.

### *VII. Dictum Hodiernum*

**Favonius:** Nunc tempus est videre nostrum Dictum Hodiernum!

man! Do you know, Favonius, that Marcus Aurelius wrote Greek?

**Favonius:** I know it well, Serenus, and well I know that time flies!

**Serenus:** Again, forgive me. Now it's enough. I'm Aulus Serenus and I hope that your skies are very clear.

### *VI. The Answer to the Question*

**Favonius:** Thanks, Serenus. And now, here is the answer to the question of the day.

**Lector:** The Question of the Day was as follows: What Roman garment was the sign of peace? The answer is this: The toga.

### *VII. The Saying of the Day*

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

**Lector:** Dictum hodiernum est hoc: Cedant arma togae.

### *VIII. Valedictio*

**Favonius:** Verba notanda. Ut repetamus nuntios principales: Hodie, ante diem sextum decimum Kalendas Apriles, Imperator Caesar Augustus Marcus Aurelius Antoninus mortuus est.

**Iulia:** Atque hodie Liberalia sunt, dies quo puer egregius togam virilem sumit et civis Romanus fit.

**Favonius:** Totum est ad hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas agimus et di vobis faveant.

**Favonius and Iulia:** Valete, omnes!

\* Līberālia hodiē sunt = diēs Līberālium est (< Līberālia -ium n pl)

**Lector:** This is the saying of the day: Let arms yield to the toga.

### *VIII. Farewell*

**Favonius:** Words to remember. To review our main news: Today, on the 16th day before the Kalends of April, the emperor Caesar Augustus Marcus Aurelius Antoninus died.

**Iulia:** And today is the Liberalia, the day when a noble boy takes up the toga of manhood and becomes a Roman citizen.

**Favonius:** That's all for this edition of Forum Romanum. We thank you and may the gods favor you.

**Favonius and Iulia:** Goodbye, everyone!

\* today is Liberalia = it's the day of Liberalia



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