

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #14

Fortuna Muliebris

XLVI A.C.

(quadragesimo sexto anno ante Christum)

DCCVIII A.U.C.

(septingentesimo 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. Ante omnia, autem, ecce Dictum Hodiernum!

II. Dictum Hodiernum

Lector: Hoc est dictum hodiernum: mos maiorum.

A Woman's Lot in Life

46 B.C.

708 A.U.C.

(708 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 of all, here's the Saying of the Day.

II. Saying of the Day

Reader: This is the saying of the day: the tradition of our ancestors.

III. Quid novi?

Favonius: Verba notanda. Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hodie Gaius Iulius Caesar munera gladiatoria magna et splendidissima edidit. Haec munera autem edita sunt a Caesare in memoriam suae filiae, Iuliae. Iulia, ut plane meminerunt omnes, mortua est miserabiliter duodecim annis ante, laboribus Lucinae confecta. Tam bene delecta erat Iulia ut iussu Populi funus magnificum in Campo Martio ederetur. Iulia mortua, vix credibile erat quantum luctus dolorisque esset apud paene totum Populum Romanum. Ad plura audienda de Iulia et aliis matronis gentis Iuliae, eamus cito ad nostram Iuliam Pauli quae est cum nostra persona insigni et hodierna.

IV. Persona Notanda

Iulia: Gratias, Favoni. Mecum est Atia, Marci Balbi filia, Ut fortasse iam scitis, Atia est filia sororis Iulii Caesaris et consobrina Iuliae, cuius

III. What's new?

Favonius: Words to remember. And now let's see what's new. Today Gaius Julius Caesar put on wonderful and amazing gladiatorial shows. These shows were put on by Caesar in memory of his daughter, Julia. Julia, as everyone obviously remembers, sadly died twelve years ago, overtaken by childbirth. Julia had been so beloved that by order of the people a magnificent funeral was given on the Campus Martius. After Julia died, it was hard to believe how much grief and pain there was with the whole Roman people. To hear more about Julia and other ladies of the Julian clan, let's go quickly to our Julia Pauli who is with our famous person of the day.

IV. A Person You Should Meet

julia: Thanks, Favonius! With me is Atia, the daughter of Marcus Balbus. As perhaps you already know, Atia is the daughter of Julius

in honore ludi splendidissimi hodie editi sunt.
Salveto, Atia.

Atia: Salva sis, Iulia Pauli.

Iulia: Perbenigna es tu quae in conloquium
nobiscum venis.

Atia: Nihil est. Gaudeo tecum loqui.

Iulia: Optime. Hoc tempore tu es uxor Marci
Philippi, sed olim Gaii Octavii, nonne?

Atia: Fateor. Binae nuptiae mihi fuere. Me
aliquantulum pudet quia non sum, ut aiunt,
“univira,” sed meus vir prior, Gaius Octavius,
mortuus est plus quam decem annis ante.

Iulia: Ab hoc matrimonio priore autem liberos
procreavisti duos.

Caesar’s sister and cousin of Julia, in whose
honor the incredibly amazing games have been
given today. Hello, Atia.

Atia: Hello to you, Julia Pauli.

Julia: You are very kind to speak with us.

Atia: It’s nothing. I’m happy to speak with you.

Julia: Excellent. At this time you are the wife of
Marcus Philippus, but once of Gaius Octavius,
right?

Atia: I admit it. I’ve had two marriages. For quite
a while I was ashamed because I was not, as they
say, a “one-man-woman,” but my previous
husband, Gaius Octavius, died more than ten
years ago.

Julia: And from this previous marriage you had
two children.

Atia: Etiam: puerum Gaium et puellam Octaviam.

Iulia: Quot annos nata eras tu quando coniunx Gaio Octavio fieres?

Atia: Si recte memini, eram puella annorum circa quindecim.

Iulia: Cum ego mariti nomen accepi, ego puella annorum quattuordecim eram. Meus maritus Lucius Paulus, autem, erat iuvenis annorum viginti et septem.

Atia: Bene memini illius diei extremo mense Iunio quo nupta sum Gaio Octavio. Quam laeta at vero quam pavida trepidaque eram cum, bulla relicta, tunicam rectam mater mihi induit.

Iulia: Quid aliud de illo die nuptiali in memoria

Atia: Yes: a boy, Gaius, and a girl, Octavia.

Julia: How many years old were you when you became Gaius Octavius' wife?

Atia: If I remember correctly, I was a girl of around fifteen years of age.

Julia: When I took the name of my husband, I was a fourteen-year-old girl. But my husband Lucius Paulus was a twenty-seven-year-old man.

Atia: I remember well that day at the end of the month of June when I was married to Gaius Octavius. How happy, but at the same time how pale and frightened, I was when, with my bulla left behind, my mother dressed me in my wedding dress.

Julia: What else do you remember about the

adhuc tenes?

Atia: Plurima, paene omnia, ut credo. Domi patris mei, ut noster est mos, nuptiae sunt factae atque post dapem munificentissimam pompa ducta est festivissima, multis “Feliciter!” clamantibus, usque mariti novi domum.

Julia: Optime. At tamen loquamur paulisper de Iulia, consobrina tua et filia Iulii Caesaris.

Atia: Libenter. Si recte memini, Iulia erat puella annorum circa viginti tres cum sponsa est Pompeio Magno, qui eodem tempore erat vir circa quadraginta septem annorum.

Julia: Erat igitur magnum annorum discrimen inter Iuliam et Pompeium Magnum. Nonne?

wedding day?

Atia: A whole lot, nearly everything, as I believe. The wedding was done at my father’s house, as is our custom, and after a lavish dinner a very happy procession, with many shouts of “Congratulations!”, was led all the way to the house of my new husband.

Julia: Very good. But let’s talk a little about Julia, your cousin and the daughter of Julius Caesar.

Atia: No problem. If I remember correctly, Julia was a girl around twenty-three years old when she was betrothed to Pompey the Great, who at that time was a man around forty-seven years old.

Julia: Therefore, there was quite a difference of age between Julia and Pompey the Great. Wasn’t there?

Atia: Erat. Has nuptias pater Iulius Caesar consul conciliavit. Sed, Iulia brevi tempore bene dilexit Pompeium Magnum, et is eam. Pergravissime tulit Pompeius mortem Iuliae, sanctissimae coniugis, quae eum reliquit in lacrimis.

Iulia: Ut mihi narratum est Iulia mortua est inter labores Lucinae.

Atia: Sic accidit miserabiliter.

Iulia: Quid pupulo misero factumst?

Atia: Quod est gravissimum, infans paucis diebus post, nullo nomine etiam, mortuus est.

Iulia: Pessime. Sed dic nobis, quaeso, qualis mulier Iulia fuerit?

Atia: Dicam libenter. Optima et laudanda matrona Romana erat Iulia—pulcherrima, pia,

Atia: There was. Julius Caesar, while consul, arranged this marriage. But Julia, in a short time, loved Pompey the Great a lot, and he loved her. Pompey bore the death of Julia, his highly revered wife, very grievously; she left him in tears.

Julia: As it was recounted to me, Julia died in childbirth.

Atia: Yes, sadly it happened.

Julia: What became of the unfortunate new baby?

Atia: What's saddest of all, the baby, even before it was named, died in a few day.

Julia: That's the worst. But tell us, please, what sort of woman was Julia.

Atia: I'll tell you freely. Julia was the best and most to be praised Roman matron – very

pudica, frugi, et casta, certam diligentiam obsequiumque bonum marito suo praestitit. Procul dubio erat Iulia insigne pudicitiae exemplum.

Ancilla: Ita me di ament, valde dissimilis illis “matronis” hodiernis...

Atia: St! Quin taces, nam inter me et Iuliam Pauli fit hoc colloquium.

Iulia: Sed aliquid veri verbis huius anus inest, nonne?

Atia: Fateor. His temporibus Romae sunt nonnullae mulieres huiusmodi quae morem matronarum parvi faciunt—matronae quae domum non servant, quae more virorum in triclinio recumbere solent atque adeo—vix credibile—cum viris comissatum ire!

Iulia: Fortasse loqueris de talibus mulieribus sicut Clodia Metelli aut Fulvia aut Sempronia?

beautiful, pious, pure, frugal, and chaste, she provided absolute hard work and good obedience to her husband. Without a doubt Julia was a noteworthy example of female virtue.

Maid servant: So help me god, very unlike those matrons today....

Atia: Be quiet! Why don't you be quiet, because this conversation is between me and Julia Pauli.

Julia: But isn't there some truth in the words of this old woman?

Atia: I admit it. These days in Rome there are some women of the sort who don't give a rip about the tradition of matrons – matrons who don't keep the house, who are accustomed to recline in the dining room like men and – hard to believe – to party with men!

Julia: Perhaps you're talking about such women as Clodia Metelli or Fulvia or Sempronia?

Atia: Nolo aliquam nominatim appellare.

Ancilla: Si me roges...

Atia: (ad ancillam) Tantum rogamus ut taceas.!

Julia: Enimvero num censes ut materfamilias Romana vitam suam agere debeat sicut matrona Graeca, cui nefas est domu ipsa excedere?

Atia: Non ita censeo. Sane licet matronis nostris in Foro aut theatris versari aut in convivium duci. Verum etiam, ut opinor, quae fuerant vitia antiquis temporibus apud quasdam matronas Romanas his diebus mores sunt. Ubinam sunt illae matronae pristinorum temporum sicut Cornelia, Gracchorum mater?

Ancilla: Ubinam est mos maiorum? **(looks at Atia)** Nil verbi addam.

Atia: I don't want to call anyone by name.

Maidservant: If you ask me...

Atia: (to maidservant) We only ask that you be quiet!

Julia: Surely you don't think that a Roman Materfamilias ought to live her life like a Greek matron, for whom it's forbidden to leave the house on her own?

Atia: I don't think so. Of course it's OK for our matrons to walk in the Forum or theaters or to be taken to dinner. But also, as I think, things which had been vices in ancient times are with certain Roman matrons customs these days. Where are those matrons of the good old days like Cornelia, the mother of the Gracchi?

Maidservant: Where in the world is the tradition of our ancestors? **(looks at Atia)** I'll add not

Julia: Ita vero, ubinam est mos maiorum! Me paenitet, Atia, nil temporis nobis relictum. Ad aliud tempus, igitur. Gratias summas et cura ut valeas! Totum est hic, Favoni. Rursus ad te!

V. Tempestas Hodierna

Favonius: Tempus est audire de tempestate hodierna. Itaque, ecce Aulus Serenus!

Serenus: Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quaenam sit tempestas hodie. Romae sol splendide lucet. Caldissimus dies hodie, caldissimus. Sudor totum per corpus mihi perfluit. Aestuosum est, quasi Phoebus Apollo ipse in urbe esset. At tamen, est dies idoneus gladiatoribus spectandis! Atque qualia munera mirabilia et quantam munificentiam! Ut patronus mihi semper ait, noster Caesar optima et magnificissima munera dare solet. Etiam sol

another word.

Julia: Yes indeed, where in the world is the tradition of our ancestors! I'm sorry, Atia, there's no time left for us. At another time, then. Thanks a lot and good bye! That's all here, Favonius. Back to you!

V. Today's Weather

Favonius: It's time to hear about today's weather. And so, here is Aulus Serenus.

Serenus: Thanks, Favonius. Let's see what the weather is like today. In Roma the sun is shining brightly. The day today is very hot, very hot. Sweat is flowing over my whole body. It's sweltering, as if Phoebus Apollo himself were in the city. But still, the day is suitable for watching gladiatorial shows! And such amazing shows and such liberality! As my patron always tells me, our Caesar is accustomed to put on the best and most magnificent shows. The sun is also shining

lucet paene totam per Italiam. Aestuat in parte meridiana—id est Magna Graecia—praesertim hic Brindisi et hic Pompeiis. Auspicia enim sunt bona ad tempestatem crastinam. Et nunc, videamus quaenam sit tempestatas alibi, circum Mare Nostrum. Temperatio caeli est; sol lucet plerumque sed paucis in partibus pluit, scilicet in Hibernia, Britannia et Gallia et Germania. In Hispania et Sicilia et Africa autem, sol adhuc vehementer lucet. Multos dies iam Iuppiter non pluit! Qua de causa, agri tam aridi quam pulvis sunt! Vae agricolis miseris! In Graecia et Asia est caelum plerumque serenum. At tamen, iam satis est. Aulus Serenus sum atque spero caela sint vobis valde serena!

VI. De Ludis

Favonius: Multas gratias, Serene. Et nunc, ut de ludis audiamus, praesto est Scirtus Agitator!

Scirtus: Avete omnes! Eamus ad ludos! Ut iam

through nearly all of Italy. It's sweltering in the southern part – that is Magna Graecia – especially here in Brindisi and here in Pompeii. And the forecast for tomorrow's weather is good. And now, let's see what the weather is in other places around the Mediterranean. The weather is nice; the sun is mostly shining, but in a few parts it's raining, namely in Ireland, England and France and Germany. In Spain and in Sicily and in Africa, however, the sun is still shining brightly. For many days now Jupiter has not rained! Because of this, the fields are as dry as dust! Poor wretched farmers! In Greece and Asia, the weather is mostly nice. But now that's it. I'm Aulus Serenus and I hope that your weather will always be very nice!

VI. Sports

Favonius: Thanks, Serenus. And now, to hear about sports, here is Scirtus Agitator!

Scirtus: Hello everyone! Let's get to sports! As

audistis, munera gladiatoria data sunt hodie ab Gaio Iulio Caesare, et consensu omnium optima erant haec munera. Circa quinquagena gladiatorum paria pugnarunt. Ab his, circa triginta gladiatores perierunt (plerumque Africani et Asiatici captivi etiam nonnulli Galli). Multi gladiatores autem missi sunt, propterea quod benevolentia spectatorum munificentia Caesaris bene capta est. Identidem clamores sic exorti sunt: “Ave valeatque Caesar!” At tamen, ut dicitur in ludis scaenicis, acta est fabula! Atque interea, spectator care, vive valeque et otiosus esto!

VII. Valedictio

Favonius: Gratias, Scirte. Ut repetamus nuntios principales: Hodie munera gladiatoria munificissime edita sunt a Iulio Caesare in memoriam suae benedilectae filiae. Sic factumst hodie. Gratias plurimas Atiae agere volumus. Totum est ad hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas agimus et di vobis faveant.

you’ve already heard, gladiatorial shows have been given today by Gaius Julius Caesar, and in the opinion of all these were the best games. Nearly 50 pairs of gladiators fought. From these, around thirty gladiators died (mostly African and Asian captives and some Gauls). Moreover, many gladiators were spared, on account of which the good will of the audience was very taken with the generosity of Caesar. Again and again the shouts arose thus: “Hail and be well, Caesar!” But, as it’s said in showbusiness, that’s a wrap! And in the meantime, dear viewer, live and be well and take it easy!

VII. Goodbye

Favonius: Thanks, Scirtus. To review our main new: Today gladiatorial games were very generously given by Julius Caesar in memory of his very beloved daughter. It happened like this today. We want to give our greatest thanks to Atia. That’s all for this edition of Forum Romanum. Thanks a lot and may the gods bless

Valete omnes!

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you. Goodbye, everyone!

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