

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #15

Circum Mare Nostrum

CLXVII A.D.

(centesimo sexagesimo septimo anno Domini)

CMXX A.V.C.

(nongentesimo vicesimo 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: Nosce te ipsum.

III. Quid novi?

Around the Mediterranean

167 A.D.

920 A.U.C.

(920 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 before everything, here is the saying of the day!

II. Saying of the Day

Reader: This is the saying of the day: Know yourself.

III. What's New?

Favonius: Verba notanda. Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Ut omnes in urbe iam sciunt, Roma pestilentia mortifera adhuc conflictata est. Multi cives omnibus ex ordinibus iam funere ablati sunt. Cotidie enim nescioquae pompa funebris vel oratio funebris et visa et audita est. Ut videtur, plurimi cives, proletarii in primis, moriuntur ipsis in triviis et plateis. Ab quavis parte urbis perfacile homo olfacere potest odorem corporum extra moenia crematorum. Aedes templeque urbis atque omnia loca sacra populus frequentat obsecrans Apollinem Iovemque et omnes alios divos ut hanc pestem avertant. Nempe Roma cito fit urbs morbo doloreque sepulta. Permulti homines iam ab urbe discesserunt ut salutem alteris in partibus Italiae peterent. Legati iam missi sunt Delphos qui deorum gratiam conciliarent. Iulia Pauli ipsa, nostra nuntia vaga et intrepida, etiam iter longissimum fecit Delphos, loca sanctissima et sedem Apollinis. Eamus ergo cito ad eam.

Favonius: Words to remember. And now let's see what's new. As all in the city already know, Rome has been afflicted with a deadly plague for a while now. Many citizens from all classes have already died. Every day another funeral procession or funeral oration is seen or heard. As it seems, many citizens, mainly the working class, are actually dying in the cross-roads and in the streets. From any part of the city, a person can easily smell the odor of bodies burning outside the walls. The people are visiting the shrines and temples of the city and all sacred places begging Apollo and Jupiter and all the other gods to turn away this plague. Rome is quickly becoming a city buried in death and suffering. Many people have already left the city to seek health in other parts of Italy. Representatives have already been sent to Delphi to obtain the favor of the gods. Julia Pauli herself, our mobile and intrepid reporter, has also made the very long journey to Delphi, the most holy place and the seat of power of Apollo. So,

IV. Persona Notanda

Julia: Gratias, Favoni. Adsum Delphis, sub monte Parnaso, oppido clarissimi in terris oraculi Apollinis.

Favonius: Ecquid audivistis a legatis missis qui oraculum Delphis petant?

Julia: Nondum ab ipsa Pythia revererunt hi legati. Quia interea nullum verbum audivi, censebam opportunum fore ut in colloquium venirem cum Pausania, cui obveni paulo ante.

Favonius: Optime, Iulia, fiat hoc colloquium.

Julia: Adsum Delphis, sub monte Parnaso, sede clarissimi Apollinis oraculi et mecum est Pausanias, peregrinator ac scriptor clarissimus.

let's quickly head over to her.

IV. A Person You Should Meet

Julia: Thanks, Favonius. I'm here in Delphi, under Mt. Parnassus, the town of the most famous oracle of Apollo.

Favonius: Have you heard anything from the representatives sent to seek the Oracle of Delphi?

Julia: These representatives have not yet returned from the Pythia. Since I've heard no word for a while, I thought there would be a chance to speak with Pausanias, whom I met a little earlier.

Favonius: Excellent, Julia, go ahead with this interview.

Julia: I'm here in Delphi, at the foot of Mt. Parnassus, the seat of power of the most famous oracle of Apollo, and with me is Pausanias, a

Ave atque salve, Pausanias!

Pausanias: Salva sis, Iulia Pauli. Feliciter evenit ut ego tibi convenirem.

Iulia: Verone? Quid ita?

Pausanias: Quod ego Fori Romani et operae tuae fautor maximus sum et quod velim omnibus spectatoribus enuntiare meos libros de peregrinationibus mox, ut spero, confecturos esse.

Iulia: Bene, et quomodo hic liber inscribetur?

Pausanias: “Hellados Periegesis” Suavest, nonne?

Iulia: Suave. Sed tu non solum totam per Graeciam itinera fecisti, sed etiam circum paene totum Mare Nostrum, nonne?

traveler and very well-known author. Greetings and salutations, Pausanias!

Pausanias: Hello, Julia! I’m so lucky to meet you.

Julia: Really? Why so?

Pausanias: Because I’m a really big fan of Forum Romanum and your work and because I’d like to announce to all the viewers that my books about my travels will soon, as I hope, be done.

Julia: Good, and what will this book be called?

Pausanias: “Description of Greece” Nice, eh?

Julia: Nice. But you didn’t make your travels only through all of Greece, but also around nearly the entire Mediterranean, right?

Pausanias: Ita vero, tametsi Graecia maxime mea refert. Sane multas per gentes vectus sum, nam multis in partibus Maris Interni fui. Modo modo ex itinere Aegypto redivi.

Julia: Utinam ad Aegyptum iter facerem! Visitavistine pyramides magnas!

Pausanias: Visitavi. Etiam Alexandriam et suam bibliothecam amplissimam visi et per flumen Nilum usque ad Memphim nave eleganti sicut rex vectus sum.

Julia: Suavissime. Et cur tu nunc huc venisti?

Pausanias: Loca sacra maximi momenti mihi sunt. Volo in primis tropaea hic posita intueri. Me iuvat non solum loca visitare sed magis audire et intellegere fabulas quas haec loca ferunt. Mei multum interest.

Pausanias: Yes, even though Greece matters the most to me. Indeed, I was brought through many peoples, for I have been in many parts of the Mediterranean. I just returned from a journey in Egypt.

Julia: I wish that I could visit Egypt! Did you visit the Great Pyramids?

Pausanias: I did. I also saw Alexandria and its huge library, and I traveled on the Nile river to Memphis on a luxurious ship, just like a king.

Julia: Very nice. And why have you now come here?

Pausanias: Holy places are especially important to me. Primarily I want to see the treasures located here. It helps me not just to visit places but rather to hear and to understand the stories that they tell. That matters a lot to me.

Julia: Teneo quid dicas. Cuique loco sunt multae fabulae.

Pausanias: Sine dubio verumst. Quod magis est, volui Delphos venire quia hic locus est, ut aiunt, umbilicus aut media pars orbis terrarum ipsa.

Julia: Hoc est quod dicunt. At quo iter est tibi nunc?

Pausanias: In animo habeo iter ad Arcadium ingredi quia plurimae res fabulosae ibi narrantur atque etiam sunt multa genera avium—aves spectare autem mea multum interest. At vero, malim nonnullum intervallum otiosum prius quam in viam me iterum dabo nam de via fessissimus sum.

Julia: Ut debes, quod longum itineris spatium iam emensus es ab Aegypto usque ad hoc oraculum tam celebre!

Julia: I get what you're saying. Each place has many stories.

Pausanias: Without a doubt that's true. What's more, I wanted to come to Delphi because this the place is, as they say, the navel or actual middle of the world.

Julia: This is what they say. But where are you off to now?

Pausanias: I have in mind to journey to Arcadia because a whole lot of myths are told there and there are also many kinds of birds – and I like to look at birds a lot. But I'd prefer some bit of leisure before I head out on the road again, for I am very tired from the journey.

Julia: As you ought to be, because you've already passed a long distance from Egypt all the way to this super famous oracle.

Pausanias: Recte dicis. Atque quam tortuosae angustaeque et arduae sunt viae huc ferentes. Iter paene impeditum est. Nempe difficile est ascensus Apollini!

Julia: Facete dictum. Sed, ut opinor, brevissimo tempore tu iterum viis te committes et plura itinera facies quia sic est tuus mos.

Pausanias: Non nego meum esse morem. Sane ut inscriptum est hic in Apollinis templo, γῶθι σεαυτόν, quod dictum Latine est “nosce te ipsum.”

Julia: Verba notanda, ut ait noster Favonius. Sed iterum loquamur de itineribus factis. Quomodo iter facere soles?

Pausanias: Ut plerumque fit, in parte orientali nave vehi malo, at vero in occidentali parte, vias Romanas ingredi nonnumquam malo. In Graecia enim Via Egnatia, in Gallia Via Domitia, et in

Pausanias: Right you are. And the roads leading here are so twisted and narrow and steep. The way is nearly impassable. The climb is almost a challenge for Apollo!

Julia: Well said. But, in my opinion, in a very short time you will hit the road again and make more trips, as is your way.

Pausanias: I don't deny that it is my way. As it is written here on Apollo's temple: *gnothi seauton*, which in Latin is “Know yourself.”

Julia: Words to remember, as our Favonius says. But let's talk again about the journeys you've made. How do you normally travel?

Pausanias: Normally, in the east I prefer to be brought by ship, but in the west, I sometimes prefer to travel the Roman roads. For I'm accustomed to set out in Greece by the Via

Italia, Flaminia et Aemilia et Via Appia proficisci soleo.

Julia: Nonne tu times ne a latronibus piratisve capteris vel etiam caedaris?

Pausanias: Antiquis temporibus viae latronum plenae et maria piratarum infesta erant, sed his temporibus adsunt praesidiis nobis non solum milites in viis sed etiam naves longae in maribus.

Julia: Atque ubi aut apud quem te iuvat noctes deversari?

Pausanias: Malo deversari cum amicis aut familiaribus. Sunt nonnulla deversoria et cauponae per vias sitae. Sed saepius sunt haec deversoria aliquantum sordida et periculosa. Lectorum stragula sordidissima sunt atque etiam nescioquibus cimicibus infesta.

Julia: Et iter quam longum aut quot milium

Egnatia, in France by the Via Domitia, and in Italy, by the Via Flaminia, Amelia, and Appia.

Julia: Aren't you afraid that you'll be captured or even killed by brigands or pirates?

Pausanias: In the old days the roads were full of brigands and the seas were full of pirates, but in these days, there are for our protection not only soldiers on the roads but also military ships on the seas.

Julia: And where or with whom does it please you to spend the night?

Pausanias: I prefer to stay with friends or relatives. There are some hotels and inns located along the road. But more often than not these hotels are pretty dirty and dangerous. The bed coverings are very filthy and even infested with who knows what kinds of bugs.

Julia: And how long of a journey or how many

passuum uno die tu soles facere?

Pausanias: Si res bene aguntur—id est, et equi et raeda officio funguntur—nonnumquam triginta aut quadraginta milia passuum.

Julia: Hui! Mirandum est.

Pausanias: Fieri potest te iter celerrimum facere si terras gentesque bene noveris. Bene memini quando ego Marathone proficiscens Athenas—scisne autem apud Marathonem pugnatum est inter Persos et Athenaeos...

Julia: Ignosce mihi, Pausanias, sed pace tua, finis loquendi faciendus est nobis quia nil temporis relictum est.

Pausanias: Ad aliud tempus, fortasse.

Julia: Libenter. Gratias plurimas tibi ago, Pausanias. Cura ut valeas et bona sint itinera

miles are you accustomed to go in one day?

Pausanias If things are going well – that is, both horses and carriage are doing their job – sometimes thirty or forty miles.

Julia: Wow! That’s amazing.

Pausanias: It’s possible to travel very quickly if you know the land and the people well. I remember well when I was heading from Marathon to Athens... But did you know there was a battle fought at Marathon between the Persians and the Athenians...

Julia: I’m sorry, Pausanias, but with your permission, we need to finish our interview because there’s no time remaining.

Pausanias: At another time, perhaps.

Julia: Freely. Thanks a lot, Pausanias. Take care of yourself and may your future trips be blessed.

futura. Haec est fabula 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. Hodie Romae (et vero ubique in Italia) est caelum maxime idoneum populi animis—id est, triste et maestum et nubilosum. Nempe Phoebus Apollo mavult sagittas pestiferas in nos Romanos mittere quam currum agere. Vae nobis. Quidnam faciamus?

Utinam sicut Iulia Pauli possem iter longe Roma facere! Cum multi augures omnesque astrologi urbem iam fugissent, nescio qualia sint auspicia ad tempestatem crastinam. At tamen, videamus quaenam sit tempestas alibi circum Mare Nostrum. Etiam est caelum nubilosum super insulas Corsicam Sardiniamque. Nobis opus est procella maxima quae nebulas nimbosque atque

That's the story 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. Today in Rome (and, in reality, everywhere in Italy) the weather is particularly suited to the spirits of the people – that is, sad and depressed and cloudy. Lately Phoebus Apollo prefers to send his plague-bearing arrows against us Romans than to drive his chariot. Woe is us. What in the world are we going to do?

I wish that, like Julia Pauli, I were able to make a journey far from Rome! Since many augurs and all the astrologers have already left the city, I don't know what the forecast is for tomorrow's weather. But still, let's see what the weather is like other places around the Mediterranean. The

etiam hanc pestem nefandam procul a nobis abigat. Enimvero Londini in Britannia, Lutetiae in Gallia, et Coloniae Agrippinae in Germania imbres frequentes fiunt. Gadibus in Hispania et Carthagini in Africa caletur, ut fit his temporibus anni. Etiam caletur Alexandriae in Aegypto et Ephesi in Asia. In Graecia autem et Athenis et Spartae sol plerumque lucet. Iterum dico: utinam ibi in Graecia adessem. Vero, 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! At prius, velim pauca de hac pestilentia dicere. Olim Romae erant Romani, et in Italia Italiani. Sed

weather is also cloudy over the islands of Corsica and Sardinia. We need a big storm which will drive away the fog and clouds and even this wicked plague far from us. In London, England, Paris, France, and in Cologne, Germany heavy rains are falling. It's hot in Cadiz, Spain, and in Carthage, Africa, as happens at this time of year. Also, it's hot in Alexandria, Egypt and in Ephesus, Asia. Moreover, in Greece, both in Athens and in Sparta, the sun is shining a lot. I say it again: I wish I were there in Greece. But, now that's enough. I'm Aulus Serenus and I hope your skies are always very clear!

VI. Sports

Favonius: Thanks a lot, Serenus. And now, so that we can hear about sports, here is Scirtus Agitator!

Scirtus: Hi everyone! Let's get to sports! But first, I'd like to say a few things about this plague. Once upon a time in Rome there were

nunc, hi “peregrinatores” sicut Pausanias totum per orbem terrarum itinera faciunt per vias aut naves nostras, secum ferentes mores malos et pestes peiores! Si me roges, peregrinatores pestem mortiferam Romam attulerunt! Nonne dixi hoc fore? Longe nostra patria absint omnes peregrini, quorum culpa pestilentia tam perniciosa totam urbem conflictavit! Apage istos peregrinos, aio! Satis superque est. Nunc eamus ad ludos. Ludi hodierni editi sunt ab Imperatore Caesare Augusto Marco Aurelio Antonino et consensu omnium optimi erant. In circo, factio Albata sex cursus vicit, item factio Prasina sex, Russata tres, et Veneta misera unicum tantum. In amphitheatro, pro salute populo Romano munus editum est quo nonnulli barbari a Germania et Parthia ad bestias missi sunt. Deinde triginta gladiatorum paria pugnarunt. Ex hoc numero, perierunt viginti duo gladiatores (nam populus vehementius voluit sanguinem effundi hodie). Bona pars mortuorum erant captivi a finibus Germanicis coacti. Etiam fit naumachia hodie in Laco Fucino, in quo navali proelio exhibebantur

Romans, and in Italy there were Italians. But now, these “foreigners” like Pausanias are making trips all over the world by our roads and ships, bringing with them bad morals and worse diseases! If you ask me, foreigners have brought the deadly plague to Rome! Didn’t I say that this would happen? May all foreigners be far from our fatherland, because of whom such a terrible plague has struck our city! Away with those foreigners, I say! That’s more than enough. Now let’s get to sports. Today’s sports were put on by the Emperor Caesar Augustus Marcus Aurelius Antoninus and by the consent of all they were very good. In the Circus, the white team won six races, also the green team won six, the red team three, and the poor blue team only one. In the amphitheater, for the health of the Roman people a show was put on in which some barbarians from Germany and Parthia were sent to the beasts. Then Thirty pairs of gladiators fought. From this number, twenty-two gladiators died (for the people really wanted blood to be spilled today). A good part of the dead were captives

viginti naves triremes scelestis hominibus
captivisque barbaris completae. Proelium
vehementissime pugnatum est, quod
spectatoribus nonnihil gaudi praebuit. At tamen,
ut dicitur in ludis scaenicis, acta est fabula!
Atque interea, spectator care, vive valeque et
otiosus esto!

VII. Vaedictio

Favonius: Gratias, Scirte. Et nunc, ludis amotis
seria quaeramus. Ut repetamus nuntios
principales: Roma pestilentia mortifera adhuc
conflictata est. Delphos iam missi sunt legati qui
gratiam deorum conciliarent. Sic factumst hodie.
Gratias plurimas Pausaniae peregrinatori agere
volumus. Totum est ad hanc editionem Fori
Romani. Gratias summas agimus et di vobis
faveant. Valet omnes!

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subdued from borders of Germany. Also, a naval
battle happened today in Lake Fucinus, and in
that naval battle twenty-three triremes filled with
criminals were displayed. They fought the battle
with the greatest effort, which gave some degree
of joy to the audience. But, as the saying in
showbusiness goes, that's a wrap! And in the
meantime, dear viewer, live and be well and take
it easy!

VII. Goodbye

Favonius: Thanks, Scirtus. And now, with
games set aside, let's talk about serious matters.
To review our main news: Rome is still being
afflicted with a deadly plague. Representatives
have already been sent to Delphi to beg for the
good will of the gods. That's it for today. We
want to extend our special thanks to the foreigner
Pausanias. Thanks a lot, and may the gods bless
you. Goodbye, everyone!

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