

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #19

Commentarii Caesaris

XLVI A.C.

(anno quadragesimo sexto ante Christum)

DCCVIII A.V.C.

(anno septingentesimo octavo ab urbe condita)

I. Salutatio

Favonius: Salvete, omnes! Mihi nomen est Marcus Favonius et hoc est Forum Romanum! Quid novi est hodie? Summatim praedicam: Hodie, Iulia Pauli praesente, audiemus de Iuli Caesaris *Commentariis*. Deinde Aulus Serenus nobis narrabit qualis sit tempestas hodie. Quibus dictis, Scirtus Agitator eloquetur de triumpho magnifico quem Gaius Iulius Caesar hodie Romae agit. Omnia haec—plura etiam—agentur hac editione Fori Romani. Ante omnia, autem, ecce Dictum Hodiernum!

Caesar's Commentaries

46 B.C.

708 A.U.C.

(708th year after Rome's founding)

I. Salutatio

Favonius: Hello, everyone! My name is Marcus Favonius, and this is Forum Romanum! What's new today? I'll tell you in brief: Today, with Julia Pauli present, we'll hear about Julius Caesar's Commentaries. Then Aulus Serenus will tell us what sort of weather there is today. With those things said, Scirtus Agitator will speak about the magnificent triumph which Gaius Julius Caesar is putting on today in Rome. All these things - and more - will be done on this edition of Forum Roman. But before everything, here is the Saying

II. Dictum Hodiernum

Lector: Hoc est dictum hodiernum: Hominem te memento!

III. Quid novi?

Favonius: Verba notanda. Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hodie Gaius Iulius Caesar triumphum magnificentum splendidissimumque Romae agit. Ob victorias in bello Gallico atque Asiatico et Aegyptiaco Africanoque Senatus Caesari triumphos quaternos decrevit. Quia loquimur de Iulio Caesare suisque victoriis, opportunum est introducere hominem insignem hodiernum qui est cum Iulia Pauli.

IV. Persona Notanda

Iulia: Gratias, Favoni. Mecum est Aulus Hirtius, vir militaris et amicus Caesaris, qui multos annos

of the Day!

II. Saying of the Day

Lector: This is the saying of the day: Remember that you are only human!

III. What's New?

Favonius: Words to remember. And now let's see what's new. Today Gaius Julius Caesar is putting on a magnificent and very splendid triumph in Rome. Because of his victories in his Gallic and Asian and Egyptian and African Wars, the Senate has decreed four triumphs. Since we are speaking about Julius Caesar and his victories, it's opportune to introduce a famous man of the day who is with Julia Pauli.

IV. A Noteworthy Person

Iulia: Thanks, Favonius. With me is Aulus Hirtius, a military man and friend of Caesar, who

in Gallia cum Caesare pugnabat. Multum salve,
Aule Hirti!

Hirtius: Salve, Iulia Pauli. Pergratum est mihi tecum loqui de rebus gestis Iuli Caesaris in bello Gallico.

Iulia: Ergo, quia tu ipse in Gallia quattuor annos cum Caesare fuisti, quin tu narres pauca de gentibus Gallorum.

Hirtius: Ita faciam libenter. Ut Caesar suis in Commentariis Rerum Gestarum Galliae optime memoravit, Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres.

Iulia: Videor mihi haec verba iam audisse.

Hirtius: Etiam. At tamen, ut dicebam, unam partem Galliae incolunt fortissimi Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam Galli. De his Gallis velim pauca dicere.

fought for many years in Gaul with Caesar.
Greetings, Aulus Hirtius.

Hirtius: Hello, Julia Pauli. I'm pleased to speak with you about the things accomplished in Julius Caesar's Gallic War.

Iulia: Therefore, since you yourself were in Gaul for four years with Caesar, why don't you tell a few things about the Gallic people.

Hirtius: I'll do it freely. As Caesar told very well in his Commentaries of his Deeds Done in Gaul, Gaul is, as a whole, divided into three parts.

Iulia: It seems to me that I've already heard these words.

Hirtius: Yes. But nevertheless, as I was saying, the very brave Belgae live in one part of Gaul, the Aquitani another, the Galli a third. I'd like to say a few things about the Gauls.

Julia: Fiat, quaeso.

Hirtius: Optime. Galli, aut Celtae (nam ipsorum lingua Celtae appellantur), hanc speciem habent: sunt promisso capillo atque staturae magnae – re vera, brevitatem corporum nostrorum illi barbari contemnunt!

Julia: Iam scimus, quod sunt multi servi Gallici apud nos in Italia. Quid de aliis barbaris – id est, de Germanis et Belgis Britannisque?

Hirtius: Hi omnes inter se consuetudine differunt sed in multis aliis rebus plerumque similes sunt. Hi omnes – in primis Germani et Belgae et Britanni – sunt homines bellicosi, populo Romano inimici.

Julia: Sed plura dic, quaeso, de moribus barbarorum.

Julia: Yes, please.

Hirtius: Very good. The Gauls, or Celts (for they're called 'Celts' in their own language), have this appearance: they have wild hair and they are big - in truth, those barbarians mock the small size of our bodies!

Julia: We already know this, because there are many Gallic slaves with us in Italy. What about the other barbarians - that is, the Germans and the Belgians and the Britons?

Hirtius: All of these differ between themselves in manner, but in many other ways they are especially similar. All of these - primarily the Germans and Belgians and Britons - are warlike men, enemies to the Roman people.

Julia: But say more, please, about the habits of the barbarians.

Hirtius: Ita dicam. Galli qui nostram Provinciam incolunt habent aliquid cultus atque humanitatis – exempli gratia, agri culturae student, vestimenta texta sibi induunt, et vinum bibere solent.

Julia: Nonne omnes barbari vinum bibere solent?

Hirtius: Multi barbari – in primis Britanni et Germani – lac bibere solent. Agri culturae non student, atque pellibus sunt vestiti maiorque pars eorum victus in lacte, caseo, carne consistit.

Julia: Lac bibere – quam barbare et inhumane!

Hirtius: Si velis inhumanitatem aspicere, respice druides!

Julia: Ita vero! Dic nobis de druidibus, si vis.

Hirtius: I will. The Gauls who live in our Province have some culture and civility - for example, they study agriculture, they wear clothes woven for themselves, and they are accustomed to drink wine.

Julia: Aren't all the barbarians accustomed to drink wine?

Hirtius: Many barbarians - primarily the Britons and the Germans - are accustomed to drink milk. They don't study agriculture, and they are clothed with pelts, and the greater part of their food consists of milk, cheese, meat.

Julia: Drinking milk - how barbaric and uncivil!

Hirtius: If you'd like to see uncivility, look at the Druids!

Julia: Yes indeed! Tell us about the Druids, if you want.

Hirtius: Dicam. Ut noster Caesar tam emendate scripsit, apud Celtas sunt druides qui rebus divinis intersunt et religiones interpretantur. Ut dictum est, haec disciplina druidum in Britannia orta est atque inde in Galliam translata.

Julia: Nonne druides sic credunt: animas non mori sed post mortem transire ad corpora alia?

Hirtius: Ita est. Druides sic persuadent quam ob rem Celtae plerumque metum mortis neglegunt.

Julia: Dum loquimur de morte, nonne Caesar in Commentariis Rerum Gestarum Galliae memorat druides de hominibus crudelissime supplicium per sacrificia sumere!

Hirtius: Numquam ego ipse sacrificia huiusmodi vidi sed multi Galli narrant druides pro victimis *homines* immolare solere.

Hirtius: I will. As our Caesar wrote so perfectly, among the Celts there are Druids who attend to concerns of the gods and explain religious matters. As was said, the teaching of the Druids arose in England and was brought from there to Gaul.

Julia: Don't the Druids believe this: That souls don't die but after death cross over to other bodies?

Hirtius: It's true. The Druids convince them in this way, on account of which the Celts particularly set aside their fear of death.

Julia: While we are talking about death, doesn't Caesar in his 'Commentaries of the Things He Accomplished in Gaul' mention that Druids very cruelly punish people by sacrifice?

Hirtius: I myself have never seen sacrifices of this kind, but many Gauls say that the Druids are accustomed to sacrifice human beings as their

Julia: Homines pro victimis! Monstra narras et horrendum auditu!

Hirtius: Atque visu, ut aiunt. Alii habent simulacra immani magnitudine quorum membra contexta viminibus vivis hominibus complent, quibus incensis, circumventi flamma homines exanimantur.

Julia: Immolare homines pro victimis! Horrendum! Utinam sit nobis plus temporis quod velim in primis plura audire de animalibus mirandis Hercyniae silvae...

Hirtius: ...bos unicornis cervi figura aut alces quibus sunt crura sine nodis articulisque, fortasse?

Julia: Ita vero. Mihi magnopere placeret plura audire sed, ut aiunt, tempus fugit. Gratias ergo tibi ago, Aule Hirti. Cura ut valeas. Totum est

victims.

Julia: People as victims! You're talking about monstrous things and horrible to hear!

Hirtius: And to see, as they say. Some have effigies of immense size whose limbs woven with branches they stuff with living men, and after they are lit on fire, the people die surrounded by the fire.

Julia: To sacrifice people as victims! Horrible! I wish there were more time because I'd like to hear more, mainly about the amazing animals of the Hercynian forest...

Hirtius: ... the unicorn ox with a deer's shape or the elk whose legs lack joints and divisions, perhaps?

Julia: Yes. I would very much like to hear more, but, as they say, time flies. Therefore, thank you, Aulus Hirtus. Take care of yourself. That's all,

Favoni, rursus ad te!

V. Tempestas Hodierna

Favonius: Et nunc tempus est audire de tempestate hodierna. At vero Aulus Serenus abest. Hodie quia Gaius Iulius Caesar triumphum magnificum per Urbem agit, Aulus Serenus est in Foro Romano ipso – ergo eamus nunc ad Forum.

Serenus: Gratias tibi ago, Favoni! Adsum hic in Foro Romano ipso iuxta Viam Sacram!

Favonius: Quomodo res ibi se habent, Serene?

Serenus: Mirifice, Favoni, omnino mirifice! Totus populus Romanus, ut videtur, una adest ut videat hoc spectaculum gloriosum!

Favonius: At, Serene, ut tibi videtur, qualis est tempestas hodierna?

Favonius, back to you!

V. Today's Weather

Favonius: And now it's time to hear about today's weather. But Aulus Serenus is gone. Since today Gaius Julius Caesar is celebrating a magnificent triumph through the city, Aulus Serenus is in the Roman Forum itself - therefore let's go now to the Forum.

Serenus: Thank you, Favonius! I am here in the Roman Forum itself next to the Via Sacra!

Favonius: How are things going, Serenus?

Serenus: Awesome, Favonius, totally awesome! The whole Roman population, as it seems, is here together to see this glorious sight!

Favonius: But, Serenus, as far as you can tell, what's the weather like today?

Serenus: Sol lucet et lucebit usque—maxime idoneum diem festum celebrando! Ne unicum quidem nimbium in caelo videre potes. Auspicia autem sunt bona ad tempestatem crastinam ubi Caesar ipse pro toto populo Romano convivia splendide atque munera gladiatoria munifice apparabit!

Favonius: Quin ergo pauca dicas de his rebus apud Forum.

Serenus: Libenter dicam! Vix possum memorare quanta spectacula iam viderim! Erant animalia inusitata ab omnibus regionibus Caesare superatis – ab Gallia et Asia atque Aegypto et Africa! Atque quanta spolia praedaeque opulentissima in hac pompa vidimus! Vix credibile est!

Favonius: Optime. Sed ubi est Scirtus Agitator, Serene? Nonne hic etiam adest apud forum, triumphum spectans?

Serenus: The sun is shining and will keep on shining - an especially suitable day for celebrating a holiday! You're not able to see even one cloud in the sky. And the forecast is good for tomorrow's weather when Caesar himself will lavishly prepare feasts for the whole Roman people and will generously prepare gladiator games!

Favonius: Therefore, why not say a few things about these events in the Forum?

Serenus: I'll speak freely! I'm barely able to relate the sorts of sights I've already seen! There were strange animals from all the regions conquered by Caesar - from Gaul and Asia and Egypt and Africa! And we saw such great spoils and rich treasures in this parade! It's barely believable!

Favonius: Very good. But where is Scirtus Agitator, Serenus? Isn't he here in the Forum, watching the triumph?

Serenus: Scirtus adest prope Capitolium quo tendit pompa triumphalis. Heus Scirte, adesne?

Scirtus: Adsum, Serene, apud Capitolium quo tendit pompa triumphalis. Iam vidimus magistratus et senatores et exercitum populi Romani carmina paene obscena cantantem et “Io triumphe!” uno ore clamantem. Nonnulli ex his militibus ferunt titulos in quibus inscribitur “Veni, Vidi, Vici!”

Favonius: “Veni, vidi, vici!” Verba notanda. Sed quid aliud vidisti, Scirte?

Scirtus: Inter spolia et praedam multam ego ipse vidi hostes captivos in quibus erat ille Gallus Vercingetorix, ad mortem ducendus.

Serenus: Scirtus is here near the Capitoline where the triumphal procession is heading. Hey Scirtus, are you here?

Scirtus: I'm here, Serenus, at the Capitoline where the triumphal procession is heading. We've already seen the magistrates and senators and army of the Roman people singing nearly obscene songs and shouting "Yo Triumph!" with one voice. A few of these soldiers are carrying signs on which "I came, I saw, I conquered!" is written.

Favonius: "I came, I saw, I conquered!" Words to take note of. But what else did you see, Scirtus?

Scirtus: Among the spoils and massive treasure I myself saw the enemy captives in which there was that Gaul Vercingetorix, about to be led to his death.

Favonius: Vercingetorix ipse! Qualis est, ut tibi videtur?

Scirtus: Non tam insolens et superbus ut quondam, praesertim post hos annos multos in vinculis. Sed tamen, mecum est hi alii captivi Galli.

Favonius: Potesne ergo cum eis colloqui?

Scirtus: Conabor. Heus, barbari, ecquis vestrum Latine scit?

Gallus: Paulum modo.

Scirtus: Unde venis, Galle?

Gallus: *Celtae* sumus, non Galli. Arverni sumus. Vercingetorix dux noster est.

Scirtus: *Fuit* dux vester. Vos mox servi eritis et iste Vercingetorix mox mortuus, barbare.

Favonius: Vercingetorix himself! What sort of man is he, as he seems to you?

Scirtus: Not so insolent and proud as he once was, especially after these many years in chains. But still, there's with me these other Gallic captives.

Favonius: So, are you able to speak with them?

Scirtus: I'll try. Hey, barbarians, do any of you know Latin?

Gallus: Just a little.

Scirtus: Where do you come from, Gaul?

Gallus: We are *Celts*, not *Gauls*. We are Averni. Vercingetorix is our leader.

Scirtus: *Was* your leader. Soon you will be slaves and that Vercingetorix will be dead,

Favonius: Infeliciter nobis, Scirte, non est nobis multum temporis relictum. Vidistine tu triumphatorem ipsum?

Scirtus: Etiam illum vidi. Post haec spolia et captivos et milites et spectacula omnia ecce triumphator ipse, Gaius Iulius Caesar!

Favonius: Optime! Dic pauca, quaeso.

Scirtus: Erat tunica palmata et toga picta indutus stans in quadriga equis albis tracta! Et in eadem quadriga, post triumphatorem ipsum, stat quidam servus, diadema super caput eius manu tenens, et, ut dicunt, haec verba in Caesari aurem identidem insusurrabat, "Hominem te memento!"

barbarian.

Favonius: Unfortunately for us, Scirtus, there's no more time left for us. Have you seen the triumph itself?

Scirtus: Yes, I've seen it. After these spoils and captives and soldiers and all the shows, behold, the triumphant general himself, Gaius Julius Caesar!

Favonius: Excellent! Tell us a little, please.

Scirtus: He was standing there drawn by four white horses wearing the tunic decorated with palm leaves and the purple toga! And in the same four-horse chariot, behind the triumphing general himself, a certain slave is standing, holding a crown over Caesar's head, and, as they say, he was whispering these words again and again in Caesar's ear, "Remember that you are only human!"

Favonius: “Hominem te memento!” Verba etiam notanda. At tamen, nunc nobis eundum est.

Scirtus: Ergo ut dictum est in ludis scaenicis “Haec est fabula!” Ab Foro Romano nuntians, ego sum Scirtus Agitator.

VI. Valedictio

Favonius: Multas gratias vobis ago, Scirte Agitator et Aule Serene. Itaque, spectatores, totum est ad hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas agimus et vobis feliciter eveniat. Valete omnes!

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Favonius: "Remember that you are human!" Also words to remember, but now we need to go.

Scirtus: So, at it's said in show business "That's a wrap!" Reporting from the Forum Romanum, I am Scirtus Agitator.

VI. Farewell

Favonius: Thanks a lot, Scirtus Agitator and Aulus Serenus. And so, viewers, that's all for this edition of Forum Romanum. Thanks a lot, and may things turn out happily for you. Goodbye everyone!

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