

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #2

HANNIBAL AD PORTAS

Aestas, CCXI A.C.

(ducentesimo undecimo anno ante Christum)

Aestas, DXLIII A.V.C.

(quingentesimo quadragesimo 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 primum, ecce Quaestio Hodierna!

II. Quaestio Hodierna

Lector: Quaestio Hodierna est de Hannibale. Inter se et quem populum Hannibal puer inimicitiam aeternam iuravit? Responsum dabitur

HANNIBAL AT THE GATES

Summer, 211 B.C.

(summer in the 211th year before Christ)

(the 543rd year after the founding of Rome)

I. Salutatio

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 Hannibal. Between himself and what people did Hannibal as a young boy swear eternal enmity?

ad finem Fori Romani.

III. Quid Novi?

Favonius Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hos nuntios modo recepimus: Hannibal ad portas! Hannibal, ille Poenus detestatus omnibus Romanis, ad portas nostrae urbis est. Dum loquimur Hannibal est sub ipsis Romanis moenibus! Terror maximus totam urbem captat! Ut omnes nostrum scimus, Hannibal invictus est usque ad hoc temporis. Tot duces Romani proelium cum Hannibale commiserunt, quot duces aut victi aut mortui sunt. Ad amplius his de rebus audiendum, nostra Iulia Pauli est in Foro, ante Curiam.

IV. Et Alia (percontatio Iuliae Pauli cum Fabio Maximo)

Iulia: Gratias, Favoni. Ante Curiam in Foro sum et mecum est Q. Fabius Maximus Verrucosus,

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: Hannibal is at the gates! Hannibal, that Carthaginian hated by all Romans, is at the gates of our city. While we speak, Hannibal is under the Roman walls themselves! An extreme terror is gripping the whole city! As all of us know, Hannibal is undefeated up to this time. As many Roman leaders as have engaged in battle with Hannibal, so many leaders have either been conquered or killed. To hear more about these things, our own Julia Pauli is in the Forum, in front of the Senate House.

IV. And Other Things (Julia Pauli's interview with Fabius Maximus)

Iulia: Thanks, Favonius. I am in front of the Curia in the Forum and with me is Quintus

consularis, qui plurimum de Hannibale novit.
Salve, Fabi!

Fabius: Et tu salve! Mihi placet tecum loqui.

Iulia: Tu bene nosti hunc Hannibalem, nonne?

Fabius: Eum novi. Perfidus et pravus est, sicut omnes Poeni, sed in proelio nemo est acerior aut astutior, si licet mihi dicere.

Iulia: Tibi consentiunt multae matres Romanae quarum filii in proelio iam necati sunt.

Fabius: Identidem dixi: Noli proelium committere cum Hannibale. Ille Punicum monstrum non potest superari in proelio! Sed nemo mihi credidit. Flaminius non mihi credidit, et Aemilius Paulus. At ubi sunt isti magni imperatores nunc? Cum Plutone! Cave Hannibalem, inquam!

Fabius Maximus Verrucosus, former consul, who knows a lot about Hannibal. Hello, Fabius.

Fabius: And hello to you! I'm happy to speak with you.

Iulia: You know this Hannibal well, don't you?

Fabius: I know him. He is faithless and crooked, just like all Carthaginians, but in battle nobody is more fierce or more perceptive, if I may say so.

Iulia: Many Roman mothers, whose sons have already been killed in battle, agree with you.

Fabius: Again and again I have said it: Don't engage in battle with Hannibal. That Carthaginian monster is not able to be conquered in battle! But nobody believed me. Flaminius did not trust me, and Aemilius Paulus. But where are those great generals now? With Pluto! Beware of Hannibal, I say!

Iulia: Quid ergo necesse est nobis facere ut Hannibalem ab Italia expellamus?

Fabius: Non multum curo de Italia. Res Publica Romana est mihi curae! Ut saepissime ego dixi, oportet lente movere contra illum Hannibalem. Si paulatim exercitum Poenicum teramus, victoria nostra erit. Festina lente, ut dictum est.

Iulia: Sed certe aliquid nobis faciendum est? Hannibal est ad portas ipsas!

Fabius: Nil refert. Roma firmissime munita est. Nihil potest Hannibal agere hic. Hic "impetus" est nihil nisi prava desperatio. Mox Hannibal Roma discedet. Mihi crede.

Iulia: Esne tu certus?

Fabius: Certissime. Nil desperandum!

Iulia: What therefore do we need to do to drive Hannibal out of Italy?

Fabius: I don't care much about Italy. The Roman Republic is my concern! As I have very frequently said, it's right that we move slowly against that Hannibal. If we wear out the Carthaginian army little by little, the victory will be ours. Hurry slowly, as it is said.

Iulia: But certainly we need to do something? Hannibal is at the gates themselves!

Fabius: It doesn't matter. Rome is very firmly defended. Hannibal is able to do nothing here. Here an "attack" is nothing except twisted desperation. Soon Hannibal will leave Rome. Believe me.

Iulia: Are you certain?

Fabius: Absolutely certain. Don't worry!

Iulia: Nihilne faciamus?

Fabius: Nihil, inquam. Tempus est nobis amicus et inimicus Poenis.

Iulia: Iam satis intellego cur tu appelleris "Cunctator!"

Fabius: Si cunctando nobis Res Publica restituatur, fiat!

Iulia: Gratias maximas, Fabi Maxime. Rursus ad te, Favoni.

(Favonius Commentarium dat)

Favonius: Qualis homo est hic Hannibal? Plurima et dicta et scripta sunt. Ut traditum est, Hannibal puer, patris iussu, iuravit inimicitiam aeternam inter se et Populum Romanum. Quis nescit de Laco Trasumeno ubi exercitus Romanus exstinctus est? Quis nescit de Cannis ubi duo exercitus Romani exstincti? Quanta milia

Iulia: Should we do nothing?

Fabius: Nothing, I say. It's time for us to be a friend and an enemy to the Carthaginians.

Iulia: Now I understand pretty well why you are called "The Delayer"!

Fabius: If by delaying the Republic is restored to us, let it be!

Iulia: Thank you very much, Fabius Maximus. Back to you, Favonius.

(Favonius gives an editorial)

Favonius: What sort of man is this Hannibal? Many, many things have been both said and written. As it is recounted, Hannibal as a young boy, by order of his father, swore eternal enmity between himself and the Roman people. Who doesn't know about Lake Trasimenus where the Roman army was wiped out? Who doesn't know

militum Romanorum iam mortui sunt? Et hoc ipso tempore Hannibal ad portas Romanas ipsas est! Quid faciamus? Hic arbiter nuntiorum certe nescit. Di nos iuvent! (pause) Verum satis et superque est de Hannibale. Tempus est audire de tempestate hodierna. Quam ob rem hic est Aulus Serenus!

V. Tempestas Hodierna

Serenus: Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quaenam sit tempestas hodie. Circum Romam atque totam per Italiam est caldissimum, ut semper aestate. Sol vehementer lucet atque agri sunt paene tosti. Utinam Apollo agitare suum currum proximum Hannibali et eius Poenis atque incenderet totum exercitum Punicum! Aut fortasse Iuppiter pluat atque abluat Punicos multo cum fulmine! Aut melius, Neptunus faciat ut terrae motu omnes Punici

about Cannae where two Roman armies were destroyed? How many thousands of Roman soldiers have already been killed? And at this very moment Hannibal is at the Roman gates themselves! What should we do? This news reporter certainly doesn't know. May the gods help us! (pause) But that's enough and more than enough about Hannibal. It's time to hear about today's weather. For which reason here is Aulus Serenus!

V. Tempestas Hodierna

Serenus: Thank you, Favonius. Let's see what the weather is like today. Around Rome and through all of Italy it is very hot, as always in the summer. The sun is shining brightly and the fields are nearly cooked. I wish Apollo would drive his chariot very close to Hannibal and his Carthaginians and burn the entire Carthaginian army! Or perhaps Jupiter should rain and wipe out the Carthaginians with a bunch of lightning. Or rather, Neptune should make it so that all the

deleantur! (*pause*) Ignosce mihi, me paenitet. Non sum apud me hodie. At vero, ille Hannibal nos omnes perterritos pavidosque effecit. Ego quidem sum paene non compos mentis! At tamen, videamus quaenam sit tempestas alibi. In Africa, ubi sita est Carthago, illa urbs Poenica, tempestas quoque caldissima aridissimaque est. Item in Hispania, ubi Hannibal erat antequam Alpes Montes transivit ut nostram Italiam invaderet. In orientali parte Maris Nostri caldissimum est circum Phoenicen, unde venerunt Poenici qui condiderunt Carthaginem. Utinam Carthago non condita esset! Iterum inquam, ignosce mihi. Bellum, horridum bellum. 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: Inter

Carthaginian lands be destroyed by an earthquake. (*pause*) Forgive me, I'm sorry. I am not myself today. But that Hannibal has made all of us very frightened and intimidated. Indeed, I am nearly out of my mind! But still, let's see what the weather is like elsewhere. In Africa, where Carthage is located, that Phoenecian city, the weather is also very hot and very dry. Likewise in Spain, where Hannibal was before he crossed the Alps to invade our Italy. It is very hot in the eastern part of the Mediterranean around Phoenecia, whence the Phoenecians who founded Carthage came. I wish that Carthage had not been founded! Again I say, forgive me. War, horrible war. Now that's enough. I'm Aulus Serenus and I hope that your skies may always be calm

VI. Responsum Quaestioni

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

Lector: The question of the day was as follows:

se et quem populum Hannibal puer iuravit inimicitiam aeternam? Responsum est hoc: inter se et populum Romanum.

VII. Dictum Hodiernum

Favonius: Nunc tempus est videre nostrum Dictum Hodiernum!

Lector: Hodie sunt nobis duo dicta: Festina lente!; Nil desperandum!

VIII. Valedictio

Favonius: Verba notanda. Ut repetamus nuntios principales: Hannibal ad portas Romanas est! Di nos iuvent! Totum est ad hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas agimus et di vobis faveant. Valete, omnes!

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Between himself and what people did Hannibal as a boy swear eternal enmity? This is the answer: between himself and the Roman people.

VII. Today's Saying

Favonius: Now it's time to see Today's Saying.

Reader: Today there are two sayings for us: Hurry slowly! Don't worry!

VIII. Farewell

Favonius: Words to remember. To review our main news: Hannibal is at the Roman gates! May the gods help us! That's all for this edition of Forum Romanum. Thank you very much and may the gods be ever in your favor. Good bye, everyone!

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