

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #21

Spectatores, Plaudite!

c. CLX A.C.

(circa centum sexagesimum annum ante Christum)

DXCIV A.V.C.

(c. annum quingentesimum nonagesimum quartum 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 de fabulis Plauti audiemus. Nostra Iulia Pauli loquetur cum histrione comico, qui Amphitruonem Plauti aget in scaena. Deinde, ut fit, Aulus Serenus de tempestate hodierna eloquetur. Tandem de his ludis scaenicis et de ludis aliis Scirtus Agitator pauca referet. Omnia

Viewers, Applaud!

c. 160 B.C.

(somewhere around 160 years before Christ)

594 A.U.C.

(the 594th year after the founding of Rome)

I. Greeting

Favonius: Hello, everyone! My name is Marcus Favonius, and this is Forum Romanum! What's new today? I'll give you a summary: Today we'll hear about the plays of Plautus. Our Julia Pauli will speak with a comic actor, who will act in a scene of Plautus' Amphitryon. Then, as usual, Aulus Serenus will speak about today's weather. Finally, Scirtus Agitator will relate a few things about these dramatic performances and other

haec—plus etiam—agentur hodie hac editione Fori Romani. Ante omnia, autem, ecce Dictum Hodiernum!

II. Dictum Hodiernum

Lector: Hoc est dictum hodiernum: Totus mundus agit histrionem. (“All the world’s a stage.”)

III. Quid novi?

Favonius: Verba notanda. Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hodie, Nonis Septembribus, Ludi Romani iterum celebrantur. His diebus festis fiunt Romae munera gladiatoria et ludi circenses atque ludi scaenici. Quattuor fabulae ad scaenam componuntur: duae tragoediae et duae comoediae. De quibus rebus ut plura audiamus, eamus nunc ad Iuliam Pauli quae est in Campo Martio.

games. All these things - and more - will take place today on this edition of Forum Romanum. Before everything, though, here is the saying of the day!

II. Saying of the Day

Lector: This is the saying of the day: The whole world plays the actor ["All the world's a stage."]

III. What's new?

Favonius: Words to remember. And now let's see what's new. Today, on the Nones of September, the Roman Games are again being celebrated. On these holidays in Rome gladiator games and chariot races and theater performances take place. Four plays are composed for the stage: two tragedies and two comedies. To hear more about these things, let's go now to Julia Pauli who is in the Campus Martius.

IV. Persona Notanda

Iulia: Gratias, Favoni. Ita ut dicis, adsum in Campo Martio ubi brevissimo tempore fabula Plauti agetur nam ludi scaenici fiunt ad Ludos Romanos celebrandos. Itaque ut pauca de his rebus narret, mecum est Titus Ambivius Baro, histrio comicus. Salve, Baro!

Baro: Et tu salve, Iulia Pauli. Quid agis, hodie?

Iulia: Tibi dico, ut plane vides.

Baro: Hilare. Tunc vis ergo ludos scaenicos aut fabulam Plauti agere?

Iulia: Nolo. Volo te narrare pauca de fabula quae ad scaenam componetur hodie.

IV. A Well-known Person

Iulia: Thanks, Favonius. It's as you say, I am in the Campus Martius where in a very short amount of time a play of Plautus will be performed for the dramatic performances are happening to celebrate the Roman Games. And so to tell a little about these things, Titus Ambivius Baro, a comic actor, is with me. Hello, Baro!

Baro: And hello to you, Julia Pauli. How are you, today?

Iulia: I'm talking to you, as you plainly see.

Baro: Hilarious. So, do you want to perform some dramatic scenes or Plautus' play?

Iulia: I don't. I want you to say a few things about the play which will be performed on stage today.

Baro: Volo maxime. Sed prius, volo introducere comicum egregium a nostra familia histrionum. Ecce Lucius Clunius Flaccus!

Iulia: Salve, Cluni Flacce!

Flaccus: Salva sis, Iulia Pauli! Et tu, Baro, salve! Usque vales?

Baro: Usque vides.

Flaccus: Ita pessime, igitur?

Baro: Tace, scelerum caput!

Flaccus: Taceo etiam. Et pergam tacere usque, nam nil nisi tacere ego possum—tacitus tamquam nox, tamquam piscis, tamquam mortuus. Re vera...

Baro: Em tibi, mastigia! Nunc fi obsequens,

Baro: I'd love to! But first, I want to introduce a famous comedian from our crew of actors. Here is Lucius Clunius Flaccus!

Iulia: Hello, Clunius Flaccus!

Flaccus: Greetings, Julia Pauli! And hello to you, Baro! How are you?

Baro: As you see.

Flaccus: That bad, then?

Baro: Shut up, you rascal!

Flaccus: I'll be silent, all right! And I'll continue to be silent, for I can do nothing but be silent - as silent as the night, as a fish, as death. In fact...

Baro: You better watch out, you wimp! Now

obsecro.

Flaccus: Obsequens semper ego sum—obsequens ventri et voluptatibus meis.

Baro: Tace parumper et comprime te aut tibi dabo magnum malum!

Flaccus: Iam habeo!

Baro: Abi hinc in malam rem!...

Iulia: Sed tamen, amabo, ne sit mora. Nonne tu dixisti vos partes Amphitruonis Plauti acturos esse?

Baro: Ita dixi et ita agemus.

Iulia: Age ergo, fiat hoc spectaculum.

Baro: Fiat maxime. Et nunc, spectatores, apportamus vobis Plautum...

please, be obedient.

Flaccus: I'm always obedient - obedient to my belly and my pleasures.

Baro: Shut up for a minute and get a hold of yourself, or I'll give you your just deserts!

Flaccus: I already have it.

Baro: Go to Hades!

Iulia: But please, don't delay. Didn't you say that you would perform parts in Plautus' Amphitryon?

Baro: I said it and we'll do it.

Iulia: Go on then, let's have this show.

Baro: Absolutely let's have it. And now, audience, we bring you Plautus...

Flaccus: ...ut nobis apportetis plausum...

Baro: ...et ego tibi apportabo plausum!

Asinius: Vae mihi!

Baro: Cur non tibi?! ...Sed tamen, spectatores, fiat fabula: Intrat Amphitruo a portu, bello reditus, ad uxorem Alcmenam salutandam. Amphitruo, autem, hoc nescit: Iuppiter, amore Alcmenae captus, mutavit sese in formam Amphitruonis et, post longam noctem, modo paulo ante a lecto Alcmenae discessit.

Baro/Amp: Amphitruo uxorem salutatur laetus speratam suam ...valuistin usque? exspectatum advenio? ...Et quom te gravidam et quom te pulchre plenam aspicio, gaudeo.

Flaccus/Alc: Obsecro ecastor, quid tu me deridiculi gratia sic salutas atque appellas, quasi

Asinius: ... so put your hands together for us...

Baro: ... and I'll "put my hands together" for you!

Asinius: Sucks to be me!

Baro: It does, doesn't it?! ... but audience, let the play begin: Amphitryon enters from the port, having returned from war, to greet his wife Alcmena. Amphitryon, however, doesn't know this: That Jupiter, captured by love for Alcmena, has changed himself into the form of Amphitryon and, after a long night, just a little before left Alcmena's bed.

Baro/Amp: Amphitryon happily greets his wife whom he has been longing for... Have you been well? Is my arrival expected? ... and since I see you pregnant and since I see you with child in a beautiful way, I rejoice.

Flaccus/Alc: Pray tell, by Castor, why do you greet and call me by name as a joke, as if you

dudum non videris quasique nunc primum
recipias te domum huc ex hostibus?

Baro/Amp: Immo equidem te nisi nunc hodie
nusquam vidi gentium!

Flaccus/Alc: Cur negas?

Baro/Amp: Quia vera didici dicere.

Flaccus/Alc: ... sed quid huc vos revortimini
tam cito? ... qui non abiisti ad legiones, ita uti
dudum dixeras?

Baro/Amp: Dudum? quam dudum istuc factum
est?

Flaccus/Alc: Temptas. iam dudum, modo!

Baro/Amp: Qui istuc potest fieri, quaeso, ut
dicis: iam dudum, modo?

haven't seen me for a long time and as if for the
first time you are just now coming home from
war?

Baro/Amp: Indeed, I say that until just now I
haven't seen you anywhere today.

Flaccus/Alc: Why do you deny it?

Baro/Amp: Since I learned to speak the truth!

Flaccus/Alc: ... but why are you returning here
to quickly? ... didn't you go off to your legions,
as you just said a moment ago?

Baro/Amp: A moment ago? How could that
have been done a moment ago?

Flaccus/Alc: You're messing with me! You just
did it, just a moment ago!

Baro/Amp: Please, how could it happen as you
say: How did I just do that, only a moment ago?

Flaccus/Alc: Obsecro equidem te certo heri advenientem ilico, et salutavi et valuisse usque exquisivi simul, mi vir, et manum prehendi et osculum tetuli tibi....

Baro/Amp: Tu me heri hic vidisti?

Flaccus/Alc: Ego, inquam, si vis decies dicere.

Baro/Amp: In somnis fortasse?

Flaccus/Alc: Immo vigilans vigilantem.

Baro/Amp: Ei misero mihi. ...Delirat uxor.

Iulia: Laudo, laudo! Nunc ego magnopere cupio reliquam fabulam spectare. Sed, ei miseris nobis, nil temporis relictum est. Summas gratias vobis agimus, histriones optimi, et bene valet. Totum est, Favoni. Rursus ad te!

Flaccus/Alc: I swear that yesterday in that very spot when you came home, I greeted you and as soon as I asked how you were doing, my husband, I held your hand and gave you a kiss...

Baro/Amp: You saw me here yesterday?

Flaccus/Alc: If you want, I'll say it ten more times!

Baro/Amp: Perhaps it was in a dream.

Flaccus/Alc: Nope. I was awake looking at you who were also awake.

Baro/Amp: Poor me... my wife is going crazy.

Iulia: Bravo, bravo! Now I really want to see the rest of the play. But, unfortunately for us, there's no time left. Thanks very much, excellent actors, and goodbye. That's all, Favonius. Back to you!

V. Tempestas Hodierna

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

Serenus: Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Volo haec dicere: ludi scaenici mihi placent maxime, praesertim fabulae Plautinae—Amphitruo, Aulularia, Mostellaria, Menaechmi, Miles Gloriosus, Pseudolus, Rudens, Captivi, et aliae. Sed tamen, videamus quoniam sit tempestas hodie. Romae dies bellissimus est, maxime idoneus ludis celebrandis. Ut manifestum est, Apollo ipse laetissimus erat his ludis scaenicis quod sol lucet splendide super totum Campum Martium ubi theatrum pro tempore collocatum est. Videamus quoniam sit tempestas alibi circum Mare Nostrum. In Graecia et in Asia etiam sol lucet. Sed in Aegypto et Africa, unde venit (ut aiunt) Terentius Afer ipse, pluit paullulum. Pluit quoque in Hispania et Gallia. Auspicia autem non tam bona sunt ad

V. Today's Weather

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

Serenus: Thanks, Favonius. I want to say this: I really like the theater, especially Plautus' plays - Amphitryon, Aulularia, Mostellaria, Menaechmi, Miles Gloriosus, Pseudolus, Rudens, Captivi, and the others. Nevertheless, let's see what the weather is like today. In Rome it's a very beautiful day, particularly suitable for celebrating the games. As is clear, Apollo himself was very happy about these dramatic performances because the sun is shining brightly over the entire Campus Martius where the temporary theater has been set up. Let's see what the weather is like in other places around the Mediterranean. In Greece and in Asia the sun is also shining. But in Egypt and in Africa, from which Terentius Afer himself comes (as they say), it's raining a little. It's also raining in Spain and in Gaul. But the

tempestatem crastinam, nam augures et astrologi imbres praedicant—sane caelum non idoneum ludis publicis et festis diebus. 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! Scirtus Agitator nominor, itaque eamus ad ludos! Quia Ludi Romani celebrantur, multi cives Romani in Campo Martio adsunt ad ludos spectandos. Heri erant munera gladiatoria, cras erunt ludi circenses, et, ut iam scitis, hodie sunt ludi scaenici. Re vera, ego ipse modo spectabam fabulam Terenti, *Hecyra* nomine. Me taedebat usque ad soporem! Fabula cadit et populus histriones exsibilant. Re vera, maior pars spectatorum priusquam fabula acta sit a theatro discesserat ut alios ludos— et

forecast is not so good for tomorrow's weather, for the augurs and astrologers are predicting showers - of course, not suitable weather for public games and holidays. But, now that's enough. I'm Aulus Serenus and I hope that your skies are always very clear!

VI. Sports

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

Scirtus: Greetings everybody! I am Scirtus Agitator, and so let's go to the games! Since the Roman Games are being celebrated, many Roman citizens are present in the Campus Martius to watch the games. Yesterday there were gladiator games, tomorrow there will be chariot races, and, as you already know, today there are theater performances. In fact, I myself just saw a play of Terence, called *Hecyra*. I was bored to death! The play ended and the people booed the actors. In truth, before the play was done most of

sane meliores ludos—aut alia certamina spectarent. At tamen, ut dicunt in ludis scaenicis “Acta est fabula!” Itaque, spectator bone, vive valeque et otiosus esto!

VII. Vaedictio

Favonius: Sed tamen, ludis amotis seria quaeramus. Ut repetamus nuntios principales: Hodie Romae ludi Romani iterum celebrantur. Totum est ad hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas agimus et vobis feliciter eveniat. Nunc, spectatores, valetate et nobis clare plaudite!

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the audience had left the theater for other shows - and of course, better shows - or to see other competitions. but, as they say in show business, "That's a wrap!" And so, dear viewer, live and be well and take it easy!

VII. Farewell

Favonius: But, with games set aside, let's turn our attention to serious matters. To review our main stories: Today in Rome the Roman games are being celebrated again. That's all for this edition of Forum Romanum. Thank you and may everything go well for you. Now, viewers, goodbye and applaud loudly for us!

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