

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #24

Primis Supremisque Diebus

XLIII A.C.

(quadragesimo tertio anno ante Christum)

DCCXI A.V.C.

(septingentesimo undecimo anno ab urbe condita)

I. Salutatio

Julia Pauli: Salvete, omnes! Mihi nomen est Iulia Pauli—pro Marco Favonio nuntians—et hoc est Forum Romanum! Quid novi est hodie? Summatim praedicam: De primis supremisque diebus hodie loquemur. Audiemus primum de funere Auli Hirti, deinde de rebus multo magis felicioribus—id est, de susceptione infantis. Atque, ut semper fit, de tempestate hodierna Aulus Serenus breviter loquetur. Omnia haec—plus etiam—agentur hac editione Fori Romani.

On the First and Last Days

43 B.C.

711 A.U.C.

(711 years after the founding of Rome)

I. Greeting

Julia Pauli: Hello, everyone! My name is Julia Pauli – delivering the news for Marcus Favonius – and this is Forum Romanum! What’s new today? I’ll give a brief summary: We’ll speak today about the first and last days. We’ll hear first about the funeral of Aulus Hirtius, then about much happier things – that is, about the reception of a baby. And, as always happens, Aulus Serenus will speak briefly about today’s weather. All of these things – and more – will be

Ante omnia, autem, ecce Dictum Hodiernum!

II. Dictum Hodiernum

Lector: Hoc est dictum hodiernum: Omnia mutantur.

III. Quid novi?

Iulia: Verba notanda. Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Ut omnes Romae iam sciunt, Aulus Hirtius Quiris leto datus est. Ego ipsa domi mortui eram ut hanc conclamationem viderem. Itaque cur non videamus quid acciderit.

IV. Conclamatio

Iulia: Apud Hirtios adsumus, in atrio. Ut videre licet, ibi in lecto funebri iacet mortuus ipse, pedibus ad ianuam ut mos maiorum postulat. Atque ut videtis, atrium omnino obscurum est

done on this edition of Forum Romanum. Before everything, though, here's the Saying of the Day!

II. Saying of the Day

Lector: This is the saying of the day: All things change.

III. What's new?

Iulia: Words to remember. And now let's see what's new. As all in Rome already know, Aulus Hirtius Quiris has passed away. I was myself at the house of the dead man so that I saw the mourning ceremony. Therefore, why not take a look at what happened.

IV. Mourning

Iulia: We're here with the Hirtius family, in the atrium. As you can see, there the dead man himself lies in his funeral bed, with people standing at the door as tradition requires. And as

quod, prisco ritu, focus non iam igne lucet. Atque corpus iam lavatum toga praetexta indutum est, ut decet hominem qui honoribus amplissimis perfunctus est. Sed ecce! Ecce filius advenit ut mortuum conclamet! Taceo nunc ut melius audiatis.

Filius: “Aule Hirti! Aule Hirti! Aule Hirti, pater! “Conclamatum est!”

Julia: Ita vero, conclamatum est. Ut mos maiorum postulat, filius patrem mortuum conclamavit. Vixit Aulus Hirtius. Difficile est credere Hirtium mortuum esse. Re vera, videor mihi modo heri cum illo colloqui. Nam Hirtius, si forte spectabatis, erat in hoc ipso spectaculo, Foro Romano, tribus annis ante, de Commentariis Caesaris loquens. Abs hoc colloquio, ecce haec excerpta:

Julia: Immolare homines pro victimis!

you see, the atrium is completely dark because, according to the ancient right, the fireplace gives no light with its fire. And the body has already been bathed and dressed in the toga praetexta, as befits a man who has served in so many public offices. But look! Behold his son is arriving to call upon the dead man! I’ll be quiet now so that you may hear better.

Filius: “Aulus Hirtius! Aulus Hirtius! Aulus Hirtius, father! “We cry out for you!”

Julia: Yes, we cry out for you. As tradition demands, the son cried out for his dead father. Aulus Hirtius once lived. It’s difficult to believe that Hirtius is dead. Indeed, it seems that I just spoke with him yesterday. For Hirtius, if by chance you were watching, was on this very show, Forum Romanum, three years ago, speaking about Caesar’s Commentaries. From this conversation, here is an excerpt:

Julia: To sacrifice people as victims! Horrible! I

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 est. Alces quibus sunt arbores pro cubilibus...

Hirtius: Sunt multae aliae res quae non scriptae sunt in Commentariis de bello Gallico quod non erat Caesari occasio scribendi.

Julia: Fortasse tute ipse, Hirti, de his rebus plura scribas et Caesaris Commentarios suscipias.

Hirtius: Egone? Nullo pacto! Profecto stultitia atque arrogantia sit hunc laborem suscipere. Constat enim inter omnes Caesaris

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 in the shape of a deer or the elk whose legs lack joints and divisions, perhaps?

Julia: Yes. The elk who use trees for beds...

Hirtius: There are many other things which were not written in the Commentaries about the Gallic War because Caesar didn't have a chance to write them.

Julia: Perhaps you yourself, Hirtius, will write more about these things and take up the Commentaries of Caesar.

Hirtius: I? No deal! It would, of course, be foolishness and stupidity to take up this job. For it's well known among all that Caesar's

Commentarios Rerum Gestarum Galliae
elegantia [superari] non posse. Quam bene et
quam facile atque celeriter eos commentarios
Caesar perfecit!

Iulia: Ille erat vir ipse, tribus annis ante. Atque,
ut nunc nos omnes scimus, Aulus Hirtius unum e
libris Commentariorum Caesaris de Bello Gallico
scripsit. Sed nunc, debemus ire ad forum ubi
pompam funebrem exsequebantur. Adest in foro
Scirtus Agitator noster qui omnia singula nobis
narret. Heus, Scirte, adesne?

V. Pompa Funeris

Scirtus: Adsum, Iulia Pauli! Avete, omnes!
Scirtus Agitator ab foro ipso nuntians!

Iulia: Quid agitur ibi, Scirte.

Scirtus: Pompa funebris magna agitur. More

Commentaries of things done in Gaul are not
able to be surpassed in style. How well and how
easily and quickly Caesar finished those
commentaries!

Iulia: That was the man himself, three years
before. And, as we all know now, Aulus Hirtius
wrote one of the books of Caesar's
Commentaries Concerning the Gallic War. But
now, we ought to go to the forum where they
were ending the funeral procession. There in the
forum is our own Scirtus Agitator who will tell
us every single thing. Hey, Scirtus, are you there?

V. The Funeral Procession

Scirtus: I'm here, Julia Pauli! Greetings,
everyone! Scirtus agitator reporting from the
forum itself!

Iulia: What's happening there, Scirtus?

Scirtus: A magnificent funeral procession is

maiorum et supremis officiis populus Romanus Hirtium prosequitur. Iam vidimus—aut melius, audivimus—tubicines atque tubicines canentes quam clarissime ut etiam mortuus audire posset!

Iulia: [Quas] res aut quos homines iam vidisti?

Scirtus: Omnia et omnes! Si me roges, paene totus populus Romanus adest in foro.

Iulia: Sane Hirtius erat magnopere amatus apud populum Romanum!

Scirtus: Immo etiam. Romam venerunt multi ut spectent munera gladiatoria quae in honore mortui edentur, nam triginta paria gladiatorum pugnabunt. Si me rogas, apud vulgus pauci erant qui flocci faciant de Aulo Hirtio. Re vera, nec mirandum sit si quis in turba temptet surripere nummum sub lingua mortui positum!

happening. By tradition and by the highest public offices the Roman people follow Hirtius. Now we see – or rather, we hear – the flutists and trumpeters playing as loudly as possible so that even the dead might be able to hear!

Iulia: What things or what people have you already seen?

Scirtus: Everything and everyone! If you ask me, nearly the whole of the Roman people is present in the forum.

Iulia: Clearly Hirtius was particularly beloved among the Roman people!

Scirtus: Yes and no. Many have come to Rome to watch the gladiator shows which are held in honor of the dead, for thirty pairs of gladiators will fight. If you ask me, there are few in the crowd who give a rip about Aulus Hirtius. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if someone in the crowd tried to steal the coin placed under the

Julia: Si vis, Scirte, narra nobis plura de pompa funebri.

Scirtus: Narrabo. Maiores Hirtiorum adsunt—id est, homines imagines maiorum gerentes. Tota familia Hirtia adsunt atque paene omnes patres conscripti. Iam vidimus eos qui ferebant titulos in quibus inscriptae sunt res gestae mortui. Deinde erat oratio aut laudatio funebris, habita a filio.

Julia: Et nunc Aulus Hirtius efferetur ad bustum miserabile, locus in quo mortuus erit combustus et sepultus.

Scirtus: Ita vero, familia mox donabunt Hirtium postremo munere mortis extra moenia. Omnia rite et sollemniter agentur, ut decet *nobilem* hominem.

tongue of the dead man.

Julia: If you want, Scirtus, tell us more about the funeral procession.

Scirtus: I'll tell you. The ancestors of the Hirtii are here – that is, people carrying the images of the ancestors. The whole Hirtian family is here and nearly the whole senate. We already saw those who were bearing the placards on which the deeds of the dead man were written. Then there was a funeral speech and a eulogy, given by his son.

Julia: And now Aulus Hirtius will be borne to the sad tomb, the place where the dead man will be cremated and buried.

Scirtus: Yes, the family will soon bequeath Hirtius with the final gift of death outside the walls. All things will be done correctly and solemnly, as befits a noble man.

Iulia: Sane dignum est.

Scirtus: Et sane haud ita est homini plebeio cui funus publicum huiusmodi numquam factum est. Verum dico, cum homo egens abiit ad plures, nec pompa nec laudatio funebris in foro nec munera gladiatoria unquam videbis. Immo etiam, erit funus privatum – et breve et humile – non meridiano tempore sed media nocte ubi aderit nemo qui lugeat.

Iulia: Ignosce mihi, Scirte, sed tempus est audire de tempestate hodierna, qua de causa, amabo te, finem facias loquendi.

Scirtus: Ita faciam. Plura dicam si plus temporis haberem, sed satis iam dixi. Ut dictum est in ludis scaenicis—et certe ut dicendum est de Aulo Hirtio nostro – “Acta est fabula!” Itaque, spectator bone, vive valeque et otiosus esto!

Iulia: Indeed, it is worthy of him.

Scirtus: And, of course, it’s not at all like this for the Common man for whom a public funeral of this kind has never been done. But I say, when a person having nothing dies, there is neither a parade nor a funeral oration in the forum nor will you ever see gladiatorial shows. On the contrary, there will be a private funeral – both short and humble – not at noon, but in the middle of the night when nobody will be there to mourn.

Iulia: Forgive me, Scirtus, but it’s time to hear about today’s weather, for which reason, I’d appreciate it if you’d finish talking.

Scirtus: OK I will. I’d say more if I had more time, but I’ve said enough already. As the saying goes in showbusiness – and as certainly should be said about our friend Aulus Hirtius – “That’s a wrap!” And so, dear viewer, live and be well and take it easy!

VI. Tempestas Hodierna

Julia: Tempus est audire de tempestate hodierna. Quam ob rem, praesto est Aulus Serenus!

Serenus: Gratias tibi ago, Iulia Pauli. Si licet mihi pauca, cum iam fulvus cinis atque ossa fuero, spero talem pompam funebrem et tale funus publicum mihi futurum esse! Et in sepulcro meo sit incisum hoc elogium: “Hic iacet Aulus Serenus, homo inter homines. Nullas nisi serenas horas numeravit!” Sed tamen, videamus quoniam sit tempestas hodie. Caela nubila sunt hodie, ut decet pompam funebrem. Re vera, totam per Italiam caela etiam sunt nubila: praesertim in Etruria et in Latio atque in Campania. Ventosum est totum per Mare Internum (aut, ut dictum est, “Mare Nostrum”). Re vera, ventorum vi agitantur mare Tuscum et Adriaticum atque Mare Aegaeum. Cavete, nautae! Si quis sit navigaturus ad insulas Maris Interni, caveat diligenter. Caveto si iter tibi sit ad Sardiniam et Corsicam, aut ad Siciliam aut Cretam aut Rhodum. In Asia

VI. Today's Weather

Julia: It's time to hear about today's weather. For that, here is Aulus Serenus!

Serenus: Thank you, Julia Pauli. If I may be permitted to say a few things, when I am yellow ash and bones, I hope that there will be such a funeral procession and such a public funeral for me! And in my tomb may there be written this saying: “Here lies Aulus Serenus, a man among men. He counted nothing but peaceful hours!” But nevertheless, let's see what the weather is like today. The sky is cloudy today, as befits a funeral procession. Truly, through all of Italy the sky is also cloudy: especially in Etruria and in Latium and in Campania. It's windy through the whole of the Mediterranean (or, as is said, “Our Sea”). Truly, the Tyrrhenian and the Adriatic and the Aegean Seas are being stirred up by the force of the winds. Watch out, sailors! If anyone is going to sail to the islands of the Mediterranean, let him carefully watch out. Watch out if you're

et Aegypto, autem, nil nisi nubilum. Sed in Hispania et Lusitania, sol paulum lucet. Etiam sol lucet paulum in Gallia, ubi Aulus Hirtius ipse cum Gaio Iulio Caesare bellum Gallis intulit. At vero, fuit Iulius Caesar atque nunc fuit Aulus Hirtius. Itaque, ut fortasse Valerius Catullus poeta diceret, “atque in perpetuum, Hirti, ave atque vale!” Levis sit tibi terra! Sed tamen, iam satis est. Aulus Serenus sum atque spero caela sint vobis valde serena!

VII. Susceptio

Iulia: Gratias, Serene. Noster Marcus Favonius domi est quod hodie fiet susceptio. Et vos omnes invitati estis! Iam satis est de vitae exitu, cur non loquamur de vitae initio! Nata est infans genti Favoniae. Itaque eamus nunc domum Marci Favoni ut hanc susceptionem spectemus! In atrio

taking a journey to Sardinia and Corsica, or to Sicily or Crete or Rhodes. In Asia and in Egypt, though, there’s nothing but clouds. But in Spain and Portugal, the sun is shining a little. Also, the sun is shining a little in Gaul, where Aulus Hirtius himself and Gaius Julius Caesar waged war with the Gauls. But Julius Caesar once was and is no more, and now Aulus Hirtius was and is no more. So, as perhaps the poet Valerius Catullus would have said, “and forever and ever, Hirtius, hail and farewell!” May the earth be light upon you! But nevertheless, that’s enough for now. I’m Aulus Serenus and I hope that your skies will always be clear!

VII. The Baby Reception

Iulia: Thanks, Serenus. Our Marcus Favonius is at home because today a baby reception is going to take place. And you are all invited! Now that’s enough about the end of life, why not speak about the beginning of life! A baby has been born to the Favonius family. And so let’s go now to

nunc sumus, domi Marci Favoni. Mater pupam ad patris pedes iam posuit. Et nunc, si paterfamilias pupam suscipiat, filia familias haec erit. Spectemus quid fiat! “Suscepit! Suscepit! Paterfamilias pupam suscepit. Haec pupa mox ‘Favonia’ nominabitur. Feliciter Favoniis!

VIII. Valedictio

Iulia: Omnia ergo rite et sollemniter sunt acta. Ad summam, spectatores, hodie vidimus et exitium vitae et initium vitae. Supremum officium in Aulum Hirtium peractum est, atque, ne simus omnino tristes, noster Marcus Favonius paterfamilias Favonillam suscepit. Unum maestum et triste, alterum laetum et felix. Sane ita est vita; nec sine causa dictum est “Omnia mutantur” Aliquis mortuus est, aliquis natus: re vera, omnia mutantur. Totum ergo est ad hanc

the house of Marcus Favonius to watch the baby reception. We are now in the atrium, at the home of Marcus Favonius. His mother has now placed the babe at the feet of the father. And now, if the Paterfamilias receives the babe, this will be the family’s daughter. Let’s see what happens! “He’s receiving her! He’s receiving her! The Paterfamilias is receiving the babe. This babe will soon be called ‘Favonia’. Congratulations to the Favonii!

VIII. Farewell

Iulia: Therefore, everything was done properly and respectfully. To review, viewers, we’ve seen today both the end of life and the beginning of life. The final public service was performed for Aulus Hirtius, and, lest we be totally depressed, our Paterfamilias Marcus Favonius welcomed home a baby. One thing depressing and sad, the other joyful and happy. Of course, thus is life; nor without cause is it said that “All things change.” Someone is dead, someone is born:

editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas agimus
et vobis feliciter eveniat. Valete omnes!

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Indeed, all things change. Therefore, that's all for
this edition of Forum Romanum. We thank all of
you and wish you the best. Goodbye, everyone!

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