

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #3

Aedes Apollinis

Octobris IX, XXVIII A.C.
(nono Octobris, duodetricesimo ante Christum)

a. d. vii id. Oct., DCCXXVI A.V.C.
(ante diem septimum Idus Octobres, anno septingentesimo vicesimo sexto 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 Apolline et

The Temple of Apollo

October 9, 28 B.C.
(the 9th of October, the 28th year before Christ)

(seven days before the ides of October, in the 726th 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? 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 Apollo

rebus futuris praedicandis: Quis Cassandrae credidit? Responsum dabitur ad finem Fori Romani.

III. Quid novi?

Favonius: Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hodie, ante diem septimum Idus Octobres, Caesar Octavianus templum Apollini in monte Palatino consecravit. Apollo multis a gentibus deus solis veneratus est. Etiam est Apollo deus pulchritudinis et artis musicae, quam ob rem saepe hic est depictus lyram tenens.

Iulia: Ut fabula narratur, Apollo saepe in monte Parnasso habitat cum novem Musis, qua de causa Apollo, sicut Musae, maxime veneratus est a poetis.

Favonius: Usque ad nostram aetatem optimi poetae coronati sunt sertis laureis nam laurus est arbor Apollinis.

and predicting the future: Who believed Cassandra? The answer will be given at the end of Forum Romanum.

III. What's New?

Favonius: And now let's see what's new. Today, October 9th, Octavian Caesar dedicated a temple to Apollo on Mount Palatine. Apollo has been worshipped as god of the sun by many people. Also, Apollo is the god of beauty and of the art of music, on account of which often he is depicted holding a lyre.

Iulia: As the story is told, Apollo often dwells on Mount Parnassus, on account of which Apollo, like the Muses, has been worshipped particularly by poets.

Favonius: Up to our own age the best poets have been crowned by laurel wreaths, for the laurel is the tree of Apollo.

Iulia: Laurus est arbor Apollinis quod Apollo Daphnen amavit, sed Daphne non eum. Fugiens ab Apolline, Daphne laurus facta est. Ergo Apollo dixit laurum semper arborem sibi futuram esse.

Favonius: Etiam erat Apollo non beneficarius in re Cassandrae, nonne?

Iulia: Verum est. Apollo, ut deus vaticinationis, dedit Cassandrae facultatem rerum futurarum praedicandarum. Sed, quia Cassandra non eum amavit, Apollo effecit ut nemo Cassandrae crederet.

Favonius: Femina miserabilis erat Cassandra. Poterat res futuras videre, sed nemo ei credidit. At nunc, quia loquimur de rebus futuris, opportunum est introducere personam notandam, Sibyllam Cumaeam!

IV. ET ALIA (Interview with Cumaean Sibyl)

Iulia: The laurel is the tree of Apollo because Apollo loved Daphne, but Daphne did not love him. Fleeing from Apollo, Daphne became a laurel tree. Therefore, Apollo said that the laurel would always be his tree.

Favonius: Apollo also wasn't very beneficial in the matter of Cassandra, was he?

Iulia: It's true. Apollo, as the god of prophecy, gave Cassandra the ability to predict future events. But, since Cassandra did not love him, Apollo effected that nobody would believe Cassandra.

Favonius: Cassandra was a wretched woman. She was able to see future events, but nobody believed her. But now, since we are speaking about future events, it is opportune to bring in a well-known individual, the Cumaean Sibyl!

IV. And Other Things (Interview with Cumaean Sibyl)

Iulia: Mecum est Sibylla Cumaea, cuius patronus est deus Apollo ipse. Ave atque salve, Sibylla!

Sibyl: Salve, Iulia.

Iulia: Quaeso, Sibylla, dic nobis pauca de Apolline et de rebus futuris praedicandis.

Sibyl: Libenter. Sic ut Cassandram, Apollo olim me amavit.

Iulia: Amasne tu Apollinem?

Sibyl: Re vera, non multum. Difficile est deum amare. Di autem sunt immortales, ergo non senescunt tamquam nos mortales.

Iulia: Nonne tu immortalis es?

Sibyl: Immo. Non sum immortalis, modo grandissima natu. Sunt mihi multi anni.

Iulia: With me is the Cumaean Sibyl, whose patron is the god Apollo himself. Greetings and salutations, Sibyl!

Sibyl: Hello, Julia.

Iulia: Please, Sibyl, tell us a few things about Apollo and about predicting the future.

Sibyl: No problem. Just as Cassandra, Apollo once loved me.

Iulia: Do you love Apollo?

Sibyl: In truth, not much. It is difficult to love a god. And the gods are immortal, therefore they do not grow old as we mortals.

Iulia: Aren't you immortal?

Sibyl: On the contrary. I am not immortal, just very, very old. I am many years old.

Iulia: Nunc memini. Apollo tibi donavit tot annos vitae quot grana arenae potuisti manu tenere.

Sibyl: Sic est. Ergo plurimi anni nunc sunt mihi, sed ut plane vides, non sum tam iuvenis ut quondam. Mihi est vita longissima, sed iuventus non perpetua.

Iulia: Me miseret tui. At tamen, loquamur de aliis rebus. Nonne tu res futuras praedicare potes?

Sibyl: Immo etiam. Ego non possum, deus potest. Apollo per me praedicit.

Iulia: Per te?! Ridiculose!

Sibyl: Damnant quod non intellegunt!

Iulia: Me paenitet, Sibylla. Explica rem mihi,

Iulia: Now I remember. Apollo gave you as many years of life as the grains of sand you were able to hold in your hand.

Sibyl: It's true. Therefore, I am now many, many years old, but as you clearly see, I am not as young I once was. My life is very long, but my youth is not.

Iulia: I'm sorry for you. But still, let's talk about other things. Aren't you able to predict future events?

Sibyl: Wrong again. I am not able, the god is able. Apollo prophecies through me.

Iulia: Through you?! Ridiculous!

Sibyl: They condemn what they do not understand!

Iulia: I'm sorry, Sibyl. Explain this thing to me,

quaeso.

Sibyl: Temptabo. Mihi non est potestas; potestas est Apollini. Ego modo sum instrumentum vocale. Intellegisne?

Iulia: Teneo quid dicas. Quaeso, virgo, narra tu nobis quomodo Apollo per te dicere possit.

Sibyl: Licet. Ego magna in caverna sedeo, expectans deum ac lauri folia manducans.

Iulia: Laurine folia?

Sibyl: Sic. Brevi tempore omnes sensus mihi abstracti sunt. Deinde ... deus, ecce deus! Totum per corpus mihi est rabies fera!

Iulia: Mirandum!

Sibyl: Nunc Apollo possidet corpus mihi ac verba ab ore mihi fluunt — quidem non mea

please.

Sibyl: I'll try. The power is not mine; the power is Apollo's. I am just a vocal instrument. Do you understand?

Iulia: I get what you are saying. Please, maiden, tell us how Apollo is able to speak through you.

Sibyl: All right. I sit in a large cave, awaiting the god and chewing the leaves of the laurel tree.

Iulia: The leaves of the laurel tree?

Sibyl: Yes. In a short time all of my senses have been drawn away. Then... the god, behold the god! Through my whole body there is a wild madness!

Iulia: Amazing!

Sibyl: Now Apollo possesses my body and the words flow from my mouth – indeed they are not

verba sed verba Apollinis!

Iulia: Qualia verba?

Sibyl: Non tam certa sum. Ut mihi videtur, *Graece* dico atque versus poeticos facio. Etiam aenigma est.

Iulia: Mirabile auditu! Haec magni interest, virgo, sed nil temporis relictum est nobis. Multas gratias, Sibylla. Cura ut valeas.

V. Tempestas Hodierna

Favonius: Tempus est audire de tempestate. Quam ob rem, hic est Aulus Serenus!

Serenus: Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quaenam sit tempestas hodie. Circum Romam, sol splendide lucet. Gratias Apollini agimus! Caelum per reliquam Italiam est nubilum, praesertim apud Cumas, ubi habitat Sibylla. Ventosum est autem in Graecia, praesertim hic

my words but the words of Apollo.

Iulia: What sorts of words?

Sibyl: I'm not sure. As it seems to me, I speak Greek and create lines of poetry.

Iulia: Amazing to hear! This is very interesting, maiden, but there's no time remaining for us. Thanks very much, Sibyl. Take care.

V. Today's Weather

Favonius: It's time to hear about the weather. On account of which, here is Aulus Serenus!

Serenus: Thank you, Favonius. Let's see what the weather is like today. Around Rome, the sun is shining brightly. We give thanks to Apollo! The sky through the rest of Italy is cloudy, especially near Cumae, where the Sibyl lives. And it is windy in Greece, especially here (he

(demonstrat) ubi sunt Delphi, sedes notissimi oraculi Apollinis. Nubilum est circum Mare Aegaeum, sed sol splendide lucet super hanc insulam, Delos nomine. Delos, ut fabula narratur, est insula in qua Apollo et gemina soror Diana nati sunt. Qua re, Apollo saepe vocatus est "Delius." Tandem, pluit in Asia, ubi est Troia, urbs miserabilis Cassandrae. 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: Quis Cassandrae credidit? Responsum est hoc: Nemo.

VII. Dictum Hodiernum

points) where Delphi is, the very well known seat of the oracle of Apollo. It is cloudy around the Aegean Sea, but the sun is shining brightly around this island, named Delos. Delos, as the story goes, is the island on which Apollo and his twin sister Diana were born. Wherefore, Apollo is often called "Delius." Finally, it's raining in Asia Minor, Troy is, the city of miserable Cassandra. Now that's enough. I am Aulus Serenus and I hope that your skies may always be clear!

VI. Responsum Quaestioni

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

Lector: The question of the day was as follows: Who believed Cassandra? This is the answer: Nobody.

VII. Today's Saying

Favonius: Nunc tempus est videre nostrum
Dictum Hodiernum!

Lector: Hoc est dictum hodiernum: Damnant
quod non intellegunt.

VIII. Vaedictio

Favonius: Verba notanda. Ut repetamus nuntios
principales: Caesar Octavianus hodie templum
Apollinis in Monte Palatino consecravat. Totum
est ad hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias
summas agimus et di vobis faveant. Valet
omnes!

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Favonius: Now it is time to see our Saying of the
Day!

Reader: This is the saying of the day: They
condemn what they do not understand.

VIII. Farewell

Favonius: Words to remember. To repeat our
main news: today Octavian Caesar dedicated the
temple of Apollo on the Palatine hill. 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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