

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #4

Vesuvius Erupit!

XXIV Augusti, LXXIX A.D.

(vicesimo quarto Augusti, undeoctogesimo Anno Domini)

a. d. ix kal. Sept., DCCCXXXII A.V.C.

(ante diem nonum kalendas Septembres, octingentesimo altero et tricesimo 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

Vesuvius Erupts!

24 August, 79 AD

(the 24th of August, the 79th year of the Lord)

(the 9th day before the kalends of September, in the 832nd 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. Today's Question

Lector: Quaestio hodierna est de eruptione Vesuviana: Cur Gaius Plinius, iunior, non vult ire cum patruo suo ad eruptionem investigandam? Responsum dabitur ad finem Fori Romani.

III. Quid novi?

Favonius: Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hos nuntios modo recepimus. Mons Vesuvius erupit! Tria oppida in Campania, Pompeii et Herculaneum et Stabiae magno in periculo sunt. Hodie paulo post meridiem terrae totam per Campaniam murmure maximo tremefactae sunt atque magna atraque nubes vomitari summo ex monte visa est. Nostra Iulia Pauli est in situ ipsissimo. Heus, Iulia! Adesne?

Iulia: Adsum, Marce. Salve!

Favonius: Et tu salve! Quid accidit apud te?

Lector: Today's question is about the eruption of Vesuvius: Why did Gaius Pliny, the younger, not want to go with his uncle to investigate the eruption? 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: Mt. Vesuvius has erupted! Three towns in Campania, Pompeii and Herculaneum and Stabiae are in great danger. Today a little after noon the lands through all of Campania were shaken with a very great rumbling and a huge black cloud was seen being spewn from the top of the mountain. Our own Julia Pauli is on the very site. Hey, Julia! Are you there?

Iulia: I'm here, Marcus. Hello!

Favonius: And hello to you! What is happening

Iulia: Plurima accidunt! Late longeque circum Montem Vesuvium caelum est tenebricosum - atque fiunt tremores vehementes tota per loca!

Favonius: Quidnam agit populus?

Iulia: Alii sunt territi, sed maior pars hominum est aliquantum stupefacta, nam nemo tantum spectaculum antea vidit.

Favonius: Ubi tu es, Iulia? Pompeiisne?

Iulia: Non Pompeiis, sed prope Misenum, ubi statio navalis est.

Favonius: Ergo eamus Misenum ubi est Iulia Pauli.

IV. Et alia (Interview with Pliny the Younger)

with you?

Iulia: Very many things are happening. Far and wide around Mt. Vesuvius the sky is dark – and violent tremors are happening everywhere!

Favonius: What in the world are the people doing?

Iulia: Some are frightened, but the greater part of the people is somewhat in shock, for nobody has seen such a sight before.

Favonius: Where are you, Julia? In Pompeii?

Iulia: Not in Pompeii, but near Misenum, where there is a naval base.

Favonius: Therefore, let's go to Misenum where Julia Pauli is.

IV. And Other Things (Interview with Pliny the Younger)

Iulia: Mecum est Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus, cuius patruus est Gaius Plinius Secundus, vir militaris et scriptor clarissimus. Salve, Gai!

Gaius: Salve tu; at verum non sentio tam salvus!

Iulia: Tibi consentio! Ubi est patruus?

Gaius: Abhinc quattuor horas discessit Plinius. Navem ascendit quod voluit auxilium ferre ad cives sub monte Vesuviano habitantes.

Iulia: Qualis vir fortis! Certe periculosum est!

Gaius: Sic est. Saepe autem dixit noster Plinius, "Fortes Fortuna iuvat."

Iulia: Nonne tu voluisti cum patruo ire?

Iulia: With me is Gaius Pliny Caecilius the Second, whose uncle is Gaius Pliny the Second, a military man and very famous author. Hello, Gaius!

Gaius: And hello to you; but I don't think you are so safe!

Iulia: I agree with you! Where is your uncle?

Gaius: Pliny left here four hours ago. He boarded a ship because he wanted to bring aid to the citizens living beneath Mt. Vesuvius.

Iulia: What a brave man! It's certainly dangerous!

Gaius: Yes it is. But often our Pliny has said "Fortune favors the brave."

Iulia: Didn't you want to go with your uncle?

Gaius: Is me rogavit, sed malui domi manere ad studendum.

Iulia: Ad studendum?! Nonne tu voluisti tantum spectaculum propius videre? Fortasse, Gai, tu eras magnopere territus.

Gaius: Egone? Haud! Mea studia pluris mihi sunt quam ulla spectacula!

Iulia: Plane video. At tamen, dic nobis de eruptione, si vis.

Gaius: Narrabo. Paulo post meridiem vidimus nubem maximam late extendentem sic ut rami arboris super Montem Vesuvium, atque etiam fulgores frequenter fumososque ignes vidimus!

Iulia: Quid fecisti?

Gaius: Egone? Nihil. Sed optimus patruus navem ascendit ad hanc rem investigandam;

Gaius: He asked me, but I preferred to stay at home to study.

Iulia: To study?! Didn't you want to see such a sight so nearby? Perhaps, Gaius, you were particularly frightened.

Gaius: Me? Not at all! My studies are more important to me than any sights!

Iulia: I clearly see that. But still, tell us about the eruption, if you please.

Gaius: I will. A little before noon we saw a very big cloud stretching widely over Mt. Vesuvius just like the branches of a tree, and also we frequently saw flashes of lightning and smoky flames!

Iulia: What did you do?

Gaius: I? Nothing. But my awesome uncle boarded a ship to investigate this thing; from that

ab illo tempore ipso nihil amplius de Plinio aut vidimus aut audivimus.

Iulia: Malam rem! At tamen, gratias agimus, Gai. Totum est, Marce Favoni. Rursus ad te.

Favonius: Gratias plurimas, Iulia. Plus de hac calamitate vobis narrabimus quando poterimus.

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 hodie sol lucet atque vix unus nimbus in caelo. Gratias Iovi! Auspicia autem sunt bona ad tempestatem crastinam. Sed ut iam audivimus, tempestas non tam bella est in Campania, apud Montem Vesuvium. Fortasse Vulcanus valde est

very moment nothing more about Pliny have we either seen or heard.

Iulia: What a terrible thing! But still, we thank you, Gaius. That's all, Marcus Favonius. Back to you.

Favonius: Thanks very much, Julia. We will tell you more about this calamity when we are able.

V. Today's Weather

Favonius: It's time to hear about the weather. For this purpose, here is Aulus Serenus!

Serenus: Thank you, Favonius. Let's see what the weather is today. Around Rome today the sun is shining and there is scarcely a cloud in the sky. Thanks to Jupiter! And the forecast is good for tomorrow's weather. But as we have already heard, the weather is not as beautiful in Campania, at Mt. Vesuvius. Perhaps Vulcan is very angry with the Pompeians! Now let's see

iratus Pompeianis! Nunc videamus quaenam sit tempestas circum Mare Nostrum. In Britannia pluit ut semper. Pluit quoque in Gallia. In Hispania sol vehementer lucet. Item in Africa, ubi est tam caldus quam furnus. In Graecia est caelum plerumque serenum. 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: Cur Gaius Plinius, iunior, non vult ire cum patruo suo ad eruptionem investigandam? Responsum est hoc: Maluit studere.

VII. Dictum Hodiernum

Favonius: Nunc tempus est videre nostrum

what the weather is around the Mediterranean Sea. In England it is raining, as always. It's also raining in France. In Spain the sun is extremely bright. Likewise in Africa, where it is as hot as a furnace. In Greece the sky is particularly calm. Now that's enough. I'm Aulus Serenus and I hope your skies may always be clear!

VI. Answer to the Question

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

Lector: Today's question was as follows: Why did Gaius Pliny, the Younger, not want to go with his uncle to investigate the eruption? This is the answer: He preferred to study.

VII. Today's Saying

Favonius: Now it's time to see our Saying of the

Dictum Hodiernum!

Lector: Hoc est dictum hodiernum: Fortes
Fortuna iuvat.

VIII. Valedictio

Favonius: Verba notanda. Ut repetamus nuntios
principales: Mons Vesuvius adhuc erumpit. Tria
oppida, Pompeii Herculaneumque et Stabiae
maximo in periculo sunt. Totum est ad hanc
editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas agimus
et di vobis faveant. Valete omnes!

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Day!

Lector: This is today's saying: Fortune favors
the brave.

VIII. Farewell

Favonius: Words to remember. To review our
main news: Mt. Vesuvius is still erupting. Three
towns, Pompeii and Herculaneum and Stabiae are
in very great danger. 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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