

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #6

NON HUMILIS MULIER!

(de Cleopatra)

X Augusti, XXX A.C.

(decimo Augusti, tricesimo ante Christum)

a. d. iv id. Aug. DCCXXIV A.V.C.

*(ante diem quartum Idus Augustas
septingentesimo vicesimo quarto 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 rebus

NOT A MEEK WOMAN!

(concerning Cleopatra)

August 10, 30 BC

*(the 4th day before the Ides of August, 724 years
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

Reader: The Question of the Day is about

Aegyptiis: Unde erant Ptolemaei? Responsum dabitur ad finem Fori Romani.

III. Quid novi?

Favonius: Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hos nuntios modo recepimus. Cleopatra est mortua! Cleopatra, regina Aegypti, mortem sibi conscivit. Ut nobis nuntiatum est, Cleopatra se interemit morsu serpentis; aspis erat, ut nuntium est. Cleopatra mortua, regnum Ptolemaeum in Aegypto nunc finitum est. Ptolemaei, autem, qui a Macedonia venerunt, Aegyptum regebant usque a morte Alexandri Magni, paene trecentis annis ante. Ut videret quid cives Romani putarent de morte Cleopatrae, hodie antea Iulia Pauli ad Forum ivit.

IV. Et alia (Iulia Pauli in Foro interrogans praetereuntes)

Egyptian things: Where did the Ptolemys come from? 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: Cleopatra is dead! Cleopatra, the queen of Egypt, has committed suicide. As it was reported to us, Cleopatra killed herself with the bite of a snake; it was an asp, as the report goes. With Cleopatra dead, the Ptolemaic kingdom is now finished in Egypt. And the Ptolemys, who came from Macedonia, ruled Egypt, all the way back from the death of Alexander the Great, nearly three hundred years before. In order to see what the Roman citizens think about the death of Cleopatra, earlier today Julia Pauli went to the Forum.

IV. And other things... (Julia Pauli in Forum interviewing passers-by)

Iulia: Adsum in Foro Romano. Magna commotio est hic in Foro, nam multi cives modo audiverunt Cleopatram tandem mortuam esse. Salve, mi amice! Licetne mihi rogare pauca?

Civis: Licet, paulisper.

Iulia: Quid tu censes de morte Cleopatrae?

Civis: Gaudeo multum! Fatale monstrum mortuum est! Nunc est bibendum, ut aiunt! Ergo, eundum est mihi!

Iulia: Ave atque vale! Heus tu, te volo!

Horatius: Mene vis?

Iulia: Maxime, si licet. Mihi nomen est Iulia Pauli et velim rogare pauca de morte Cleopatrae.

Julia: I'm here in the Roman Forum. There is a great commotion here in the Forum, for many citizens just heard that Cleopatra has finally died. Hello, my friend! Is it all right for me to ask you a few things?

Citizen: It's all right, for a little bit.

Julia: What do you think about the death of Cleopatra?

Citizen: I rejoice greatly! The deadly monster is dead! "It's Miller time!" as they say! Therefore, I need to go!

Julia: Good-bye and see you later! Hey you, I want you!

Horace: You want me?

Julia: Absolutely, if it's all right. My name is Julia Pauli and I'd like to ask a few things about the death of Cleopatra.

Horatius: Agedum, roga.

Iulia: Gratias, amice. At quid est nomen tibi?

Horatius: Quintius Horatius Flaccus.

Iulia: Horatius Flaccus, hem ... hoc nomen novi.
Nonne tu poeta es?

Horatius: Quidam sic censent.

Iulia: Quid tu hic in Foro?

Horatius: Ibam forte Via Sacra, sicut meus est
mos, mortem Cleopatrae meditans.

Iulia: Mirandum est, nonne? Audistine de
serpente? Aspis erat, ut aiunt.

Horatius: Iam audivi. Tractare aspidem

Horace: Go on, ask.

Julia: Thank you, my friend. But what is your
name?

Horace: Quintius Horatius Flaccus.

Julia: Horatius Flaccus, hmm... I know this
name. Aren't you a poet?

Horace: So some say.

Julia: What are you doing here in the Forum?

Horace: By chance I was going on the Via
Sacra, as is my custom, thinking about the death
of Cleopatra.

Julia: It's amazing, isn't it? Did you hear about
the snake? It was an asp, as they say.

Horace: I've already heard. To handle a wild

asperam! Non humilis mulier, Cleopatra, ad usque supremum tempus!

Julia: Fortasse. Illi Ptolemaei! Omnes dementes, ut mihi videtur.

Horatius: Certe nescio. Verum constat Cleopatram dementem pugnare cum Octaviano, sed regina pulsa est amore Antonii, nonne?

Julia: Stultus et improbus hic amor erat!

Horatius: Fortasse. At ingenium ingens erat in Cleopatra. Certe erat Cleopatra mulier gratissima; nam sic censuerunt non solum Marcus Antonius sed etiam Iulius Caesar.

Julia: Verum est. Ut tibi videtur, cur Cleopatra tam gratissima erat?

Horatius: Cur? Non tam certus sum. Haec erat mulier comis urbanaque atque intellegens et

asp! She was not a meek woman, Cleopatra, all the way up to the last moment!

Julia: Maybe so. Those Ptolemys! They're all crazy, as it seems to me.

Horace: I certainly don't know. It's an established fact that Cleopatra was out of her mind to fight with Octavian, but the queen was driven by her love for Antony, wasn't she?

Julia: This love was foolish and improper!

Horace: Perhaps. But there was great genius in Cleopatra. Certainly Cleopatra was a very charming woman; for not only Marc Antony but also Julius Caesar thought so.

Julia: It's true. In your opinion, why was Cleopatra so well-liked?

Horace: Why? I am not certain. She was an obliging and well-mannered and intelligent and

audacissima. Nonne tu audisti de Cleopatra se in tapete celante ut ad Caesarem adveniret?

Iulia: Audivi. Audacter factum!

Horatius: Ita vero. At tamen, me paenitet, non est mihi tempus. Necesse ire est. Numquid vis?

Iulia: Satis habeo, gratias. Nil ultra quaero. Quo nunc iter est tibi?

Horatius: Rus eo, nam hic in Foro sunt multi qui me vexent. Ecce vulgus!

Iulia: Vale, Horati. Totum est, Marce Favoni. Rursus ad te!

Favonius: Gratias, Iulia. Bene factum.

V. Tempestas Hodierna

very forward. Haven't you heard about Cleopatra concealing herself in a rug so that she could meet Caesar?

Julia: I have heard. Daringly done!

Horace: Yes, indeed. But still... I'm sorry, I don't have the time. I need to go. You don't want anything else, do you?

Julia: I have enough, thanks. I seek nothing more. Where are you heading now?

Horace: I'm going to the country, for here in the Forum there are many people to bother me. Look at the rabble!

Julia: Bye, Horace. That's all, Marcus Favonius. Back to you!

Favonius: Thanks, Julia. Well done.

V. Today's Weather

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

Serenus: Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quaenam sit tempestatas hodie. Totam per Italiam aestuosa est hodie, ut semper his temporibus anni. Auspicia autem sunt bona ad tempestatem crastinam. Ventosum est autem in Graecia, praesertim hic in Macedonia, unde venerunt Alexander Magnus et primus Ptolemaeus. Et ventosum est apud Actium, ubi Caesar Octavianus navali proelio superavit Cleopatram Antoniumque. In Aegypto, regno Cleopatrae terraque pyramidum aridum et percaldum est. Ecce Nilus, fluens in Mare Nostrum! Ecce Alexandria, ubi est bibliotheca clarissima et Pharos notissimus. Auspicia mala sunt Aegypto ad tempestatem futuram. Fortasse illi di Aegyptiaci Isis et Serapis atque Osiris, quocum nunc est Cleopatra, habent nil potestatis aut sanctitatis in re tempestatis! At tamen, iam satis est. Aulus Serenus sum atque spero caela sint

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

Serenus: Thank you, Favonius. Let's see what the weather is like today. Through all of Italy it is very hot today, as always at this time of year. But the forecast is good for tomorrow's weather. However, it's windy in Greece, particularly here in Macedonia, whence Alexander the Great and the first Ptolemy came. And it is windy at Actium, where Octavian Caesar overcame Cleopatra and Antony in a naval battle. In Egypt, the kingdom of Cleopatra and the land of the pyramids, it is dry and very hot. Behold the Nile, flowing into Our Sea! Behold Alexandria, where there is a very famous library and the very well known Pharos lighthouse. The forecast is bad for upcoming weather in Egypt. Perhaps those Egyptian gods Isis and Serapis and Osiris, with whom Cleopatra now is, have no power or authority in the matter of weather! Nevertheless, now that's enough. I am Aulus Serenus and I

vobis valde serena!

VI. Responsum Quaestioni

Favonius: Multas gratias, Serene. Et nunc, ecce responsum quaestioni hodiernae.

Lector: Quaestio hodierna erat ut sequitur: Unde erant Ptolemaei? Responsum est hoc: a Macedonia.

VII. Dictum Hodiernum

Favonius: Nunc tempus est videre nostrum Dictum Hodiernum!

Lector: Hoc est dictum hodiernum: Non humilis mulier!

VIII. Valedictio

Favonius: Verba notanda. Ut repetamus nuntios principales: Cleopatra mortua est! Totum est ad

hope that your skies may always be clear.

VI. Answer to the Question

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

Reader: The Question of the day was as follows: From where did the Ptolemys come? This is the answer: from Macedonia.

VII. Today's Saying

Favonius: Now it is time to see our saying of the day!

Reader: This is today's saying: Not a meek woman!

VIII. Farewell

Favonius: Words to remember. To review our main news: Cleopatra is dead! That's all for this

hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas
agimus et di vobis faveant. Valet omnes!

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edition of Forum Romanum. Thanks a lot and
may the gods be ever in your favor. Good bye,
everyone!

2016 Translated by Joseph Klomparens