

FORUM ROMANUM: SHOW #7 (EPISODIA VII)

NATALIS URBIS

XXI Aprilis, XXX A.D.

(uno et vicesimo Aprilis, tredecimo Anno Domini)

a. d. xi kal. Mai. DCCLXXXIII A.V.C.

(ante diem undecimum kalendas Maias, septingentesimo octogesimo tertio 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 Tito Livio:

THE BIRTH OF THE CITY

April 21, 30 AD

(11 days before the kalends of May, 783 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

Lector: The Question of the Day is about Titus

Quidam homo usque a qua provincia iter fecit tantum ad Livium spectandum? Responsum dabitur ad finem Fori Romani.

III. Quid novi?

Favonius: Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Ut notum est omnibus, hodie, ante diem undecimum Kalendas Maias, est natalis Urbis. Ut creditum est, hoc die, plus quam septingentis annis ante, Romulus Romam condidit. Iulia?

Iulia: Ad hunc diem festivum celebrandum, Imperator Tiberius Iulius Caesar Augustus declaravit ludos circenses habendos. Tiberius autem non aderit Romae ad ludos spectandos. Manebit Capreis, in magnifica splendidaque villa Iovis. Di Tiberio faveant.

Favonius: Quia hodie est natalis Urbis, dignum est loqui de historia Romana; quam ob rem nostra Iulia Pauli loquebatur cum Livia Magi,

Livius: A certain man made a journey all the way from what province only to see Livy? The answer will be given at the end of Forum Romanum.

III. What's New?

Favonius: And now let's see what's new. As everyone knows, today, the 21st of April, is the birthday of the City. As it is accepted, on this day, more than 700 years ago, Romulus founded Rome. Julia?

Iulia: To celebrate this holiday, the emperor Tiberius Julius Caesar Augustus decreed that chariot races be held. Tiberius, however, will not be present in Rome to see the games. He will remain in Capri, in the magnificent and splendid villa of Jupiter. May the gods bless Tiberius.

Favonius: Since today is the birthday of the City, it is appropriate to speak about the history of Rome; for this reason our own Julia Pauli has

cuius pater erat Titus Livius, historicus clarissimus.

IV. Et alia (interrogatio cum Livia Magi, filia historici Titi Livii)

Iulia: Ut notum est omnibus, Titus Livius erat clarissimus Romanus historicus qui scripsit libros *Ab Urbe Condita*, in quibus exposuit totam historiam Romanam, ab Aenea Romuloque usque ad paene nostram aetatem. Livia Magi est filia Titi Livi. Salve, Livia!

Livia: Salve, Iulia. Mihi placet adesse tecum hodie.

Iulia: Quaeso, Livia, dic nobis pauca de Livio patre.

Livia: Libenter. Pater historiae studiosissimus erat. Re vera, de rebus aliis non multum curabat. Semper enim in tablino pater erat,

been speaking with Livia Magi, whose father was Titus Livius, the very famous historian.

IV. And other things... (Interview with Livia Magi, daughter of historian Titus Livius)

Iulia: As everyone knows, Titus Livius was a very famous Roman historian who wrote books about the founding of the city, in which he explained the whole history of Rome, from Aeneas and Romulus all the way to nearly our own age. Livia Magi is the daughter of Titus Livius. Hello, Livia!

Livia: Hi, Julia. I'm pleased to be here with you today.

Iulia: Please, Livia, tell us a few things about your father Livy.

Livia: No problem. Father was very devoted to history. In truth, he did not care much about other things. For father was always in the office,

scribens a multo mane usque ad multam noctem.
Paene numquam ego vidi patrem!

Iulia: Vae tibi! Difficillimum est numquam patrem videre!

Livia: Difficile erat, certe. At Romana sum atque, ut pater saepe inquit, "Et facere et pati fortiter Romanum est." Atque bene intellexi patrem magnum opus scribere.

Iulia: Hoc magnum opus, autem, fecit Livium patrem dum vivebat notissimum multas per partes orbis terrarum, nonne?

Livia: Sic erat. Olim quidam homo iter Romam fecit usque ab Hispania modo ut Livium aspiceret!

Iulia: Haec audivi. At tamen hodie, natalis Urbis, loquamur de scriptis patris Livi. Qui versus horum librorum tibi maxime placent?

writing from early in the morning until late at night. I almost never saw my father!

Iulia: Poor you! It's really difficult to never see your father!

Livia: It was certainly difficult. But I am a Roman and, as father often said, "It is Roman both to act and to endure bravely." And I understood well that father was writing a Magnum Opus.

Iulia: And this Magnum Opus made your father Livy, while he was living, very famous through many parts of the world, didn't it?

Livia: It was so. Once a certain man made the journey to Rome all the way from Spain just to take a look at Livy!

Iulia: I've heard this. But today, the birthday of the city, let's talk about the writings of your father, Livy. Which lines of these books please

Livia: Hem. Versus in libris primis. Mihi placet fabula de Romulo Remoque, in qua lupa geminos infantes nutrit. Atque mihi valde placet fabula de Sabinis mulieribus, ubi Romulus consilium cepit ad uxores captandas! Etiam placet fabula miseranda de Lucretia, quae mortem sibi conscivit ad pudorem servandum!

Iulia: Miseram Lucretiam!

Livia: Maxime. At cui non placent fabulae de heroibus antiquis Romanis? Erat Horatius, qui pontem defendit, atque Mucius Scaevola, qui dextram manum igni imposuit, et Cloelia, quae trans Tiberim natavit, atque Cincinnatus, qui aratrum reliquit ad Rem Publicam servandam!

Iulia: Hi heroes certe sunt digni laudis, Livia, sed, vae nobis, tempus fugit. Gratias ergo tibi agimus, Livia Magi. Totum est hic, Favoni.

you the most?

Livia: Hmm. The lines in the first books. I like the story about Romulus and Remus, in which the wolf suckled the twin babies. And I like the story about the Sabine women, when Romulus came up with the plan to catch wives! I also like the tragic story about Lucretia, who committed suicide to preserve her reputation.

Iulia: Poor Lucretia!

Livia: Indeed. But who doesn't like the stories about the old Roman heroes? There was Horatio, who defended the bridge, and Mucius Scaevola, who placed his right hand into the fire, and Cloelia, who swam across the Tiber, and Cincinnatus, who left his plow to save the Republic!

Iulia: These heroes are certainly worthy of praise, Livia, but too bad for us, time flies. Therefore, we thank you, Livia Magi. That's all,

Rursus ad te!

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. Quam bellus dies est hodie, natalis Urbis! Ver adest, totam per Italiam! Flores gemmas agunt avesque in arboribus cantant! Sine dubio iam Proserpina revenit, domu tenebrosa relicta! Gratias Iovi! Enimvero gratias Plutoni! Sol lucet atque “terra tepescit ventis leniter spirantibus.” Dum sic loquimur, fortasse paulum dicendum est de ventis. Non tam procul a Sicilia sita est insula quaedam ubi habitat Aeolus, rex ventorum. In hac insula est caverna maxima ubi Aeolus ventos furentes firmissime retinet. Nonnumquam autem, deis volentibus, Aeolus liberat ventos, qui furiosi e caverna ruunt ad quattuor partes orbis terrarum! Ad septentrionem partem extra Germaniam ruit

Favonius. Back to you!

V. Today's Weather

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

Serenus: Thank you, Favonius. Let's see what the weather is like today. How beautiful the day is today, the birthday of the City! Spring is here, through all of Italy! Flowers are producing buds and birds are singing in the trees! Without a doubt now Persephone has returned, with her shadowy home left behind! Thanks be to Jupiter! Indeed, thanks be to Pluto! The sun is shining and “the earth grows warm with breezes blowing lightly.” While we're speaking in this way, perhaps a little needs to be said about the winds. Not so far away from Sicily a certain island is located where Aeolus, the king of the winds, lives. On this island there is a huge cave where Aeolus keeps a very firm grip on the raging winds. But sometimes, with the gods giving

Aquilo. Auster ruit ad partem australem infra terras Libyam et Aegyptum. Ab oriente solis in Asia sufflat tertius ventus qui nostra lingua Volturnus vocatur, Graece est Eurus. Tandem est Favonius—ut noster Marcus Favonius—qui ventus Graece est Zephyrus. Hic ventus spirat ab occidente solis extra Hispaniam. Verum satis est de ventis. Tempus iam fugit! 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: Quidam homo usque a qua provincia iter fecit tantum ad Livium spectandum?
Responsum est hoc: ab Hispania

assent, Aeolus frees the winds, which rush wildly out of the cave to the four directions of the earth! Aquilo rushes out of Germany to the north. Auster rushes to the south below the lands of Libya and Egypt. From the rising of the sun in Asia blows the third wind, which in our tongue is called Volturnus, in Greek, it's Eurus. Finally there is Favonius – like our Marcus Favonius – a wind which in Greek is called Zephyrus. This wind blows from the setting of the sun out of Spain. But that's enough about the winds. Now time is flying! I'm Aulus Serenus and I hope that your skies may always be calm.

VI. Answer to the Question

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: A certain man made a journey all the way from what province only to see Livy? This is the answer: from Spain.

VII. Dictum Hodiernum

Favonius: Nunc tempus est videre nostrum
Dictum Hodiernum!

Lector: Hoc est dictum hodiernum: magnum
opus.

VIII. Valedictio

Favonius: Verba notanda. Ut repetamus nuntios
principales: Hodie, ante diem undecimum
Kalendas Maias, est natalis urbis Romanae!
Felicem natalem Urbi nostrae! Totum est ad
hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas
agimus et di vobis faveant. Valetate omnes!

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VII. Today's Saying

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

Lector: This is Today's Saying: Magnum Opus.

VIII. Farewell

Favonius: Words to remember. To repeat our
main news: Today, April 21st, is the birthday of
the city of Rome! Happy birthday to our city!
That's all for this edition of Forum Romanum.
Thank you very much and may the gods be ever
in your favor. Good bye, everybody!

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