

## CHAPTER XII: GENUS TOGATA

DATE	March 17, 180 AD
TOP STORY	The emperor Marcus Aurelius has died!
FEATURE	To celebrate the Liberalia, a discussion of the toga and a fashion show

### PROLOGVS

The breaking news in this episode is the death of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (AD 121–180, emperor 161–180). Throughout his years as guardian of the empire he protected it from incursions by various tribes, and also had ambitious plans for its expansion—in fact, he died at Vindobona (modern Vienna) while on a military campaign. He also devoted much of his time to the study of philosophy, particularly that of the Stoics.

Today, Marcus Aurelius is perhaps best remembered for his *Mediations*, in which he recorded, in Greek, his musings on such topics as personal duty, virtue, and the nature of the gods. He was the last of Rome's "five good emperors," who presided over a period of relative harmony and prosperity from 96 to 180. Marcus Aurelius was succeeded by his only surviving son, Commodus, who by the end of his rule was generally viewed as a dangerous madman.

It so happens that today's broadcast takes place during the Liberalia—the annual festival of Liber, a Roman god of fertility and wine often associated with the Greek Dionysus. Liber may also have presided over the transition of boys from childhood to adulthood, because it was during his festival that boys ceremonially put on the *toga virilis*, or the toga of manhood. The *Forum Romanum* crew has decided that the Liberalia is the perfect time to air a fashion show, so in this episode fashion expert Pomponia Mela offers an in-depth look at the different types of clothing popular among Romans.

Here are some questions to help you know what to look for:

1. What is the answer to today's *Quaestio Hodierna*?
2. What are the three main Roman garments, according to special guest Pomponia Mela?
3. What does Pomponia Mela mean when she says, "*Toga tota nostra est*"?
4. How old is Gaius Annius Florus, the young man who models his first toga?
5. What are some of the attributes of the toga that Pomponia Mela mentions?
6. According to Pomponia, the *stola* on a woman extends (or covers) from the neck to what part of the body?
7. According to Serenus, how's the weather today in Italy?
8. What do we find out about Serenus' childhood in this episode?
9. What is today's *dictum hodiernum* and how does it relate to what we learn in the show?

VERSUS

**Nota Bene:** People, places, things explained in the Notes section (*Commentarium*) are in boldface. Terms defined in the Vocabulary section (*Glossarium*) are underlined.

*SALUTATIO*

**FAVONIUS**

Salvete, omnes! Mihi nomen est Marcus Favonius et hoc est Forum Romanum!  
Quid novi est hodie? Brevi tempore videbimus. At prius, ecce Quaestio Hodierna!

*QUAESTIO HODIERNA*

**LECTOR**

Quaestio Hodierna est de vestimentis Romanis: Quod vestimentum Romanum signum pacis erat?  
Responsum dabitur ad finem Fori Romani.

*QUID NOVI?*

**FAVONIUS**

Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hos nuntios modo recepimus: Imperator Caesar Augustus **Marcus Aurelius Antoninus** mortuus est! **Vindobonae**, prope fines Imperii Romani, ubi tot annos Imperator noster cum barbaris bellum gerebat, in morbum mortiferum Marcus Aurelius cecidit atque mox mortem obiit. Iulia?

**IULIA**

Marcus Aurelius omnibus a gentibus maxime delectus erat. Non solum Imperator maximus sed etiam **Stoicus** erat, scribens multum de vitae oneribus quae toleranda sunt. Marco Aurelio mortuo, filius **Commodus** habenae rerum tenebit. Bene sit Commodus!

**FAVONIUS**

(*aside*) Immo etiam, bene sit nobis!

(*sees that he's on camera*) Ita vero, Iulia, bene sit Commodus! Hic ad Forum Romanum saepe nos audimus nonnullas querelas de nuntiis quos optamus narrare, tot mortes tot calamitates. Semper mala, numquam bona. Itaque nihil amplius de mortibus aut calamitatibus hodie narrabimus.

**IULIA**

Sic est, quod hodie, ut notumst omnibus, est **Liberalia**, festa Liberi quae apud Graecos “Dionysia” appellata; nam deus qui nostra lingua est Liber aut Bacchus, Graece est Dionysus.

**FAVONIUS**

Apud nos Romanos, Liberalia est dies ubi puer egregius primam togam indutus est!  
Quia de toga loquimur, loquamur de vestimentis Romanis. Ad his de rebus narrandum, nobiscum est vestispica clarissima, Pomponia Mela.

*PERSONA NOTANDA (ROMAN FASHION SHOW)*

**MELA**

Gratias summas, Favoni. Omnia vestimenta Romana divisa sunt in tria principia, in quibus sunt **tunica et toga et stola**. Cuncti tunicam gerunt—viri feminaeque, cives et peregrini. Tunica autem debet esse inornata ac simplex, promissa ad genua cinctaque cingulo balteove. Si **vir**

**egregius aut clarissimus (olim equestris aut senatori ordinis)**, clavus, angustus aut latus, adest in tunica. Super tunicam est toga. Toga tota nostra est. Nam, ut bene scitis, **gens togata** sumus! Belli civis Romanus gladium sumit sed pace togam sumit ergo toga pacis signum est.

FAVONIUS

Certe. Ut Marcus Tullius Cicero inquit, **Cedant arma togae!**

MELA

Recte dicis! Ecce hic puer egregius, Gaius Annius Florus, nomine, cui sunt quindecim anni. Hodie, Liberalibus festis, Gaius **togam virilem** primam indutus erit. Toga, ut scitis, est vestimentum laneum; gravissimum longissimumque. De togis, haec res est: oportet sinus quam elegantissime fluere. Cives Romani—id est, mares—soli togam gerere solent. Quamquam, ut aiunt, antiquis in temporibus mulieres quoque togam sumpserunt, his temporibus tamen femina honesta numquam togata est. Vestimentum muliebri est stola. Oportet stolam extendere ab collo usque ad talia, cincta zona sic. Nonnumquam mulier **pallam** induit super stolam.

FAVONIUS

Optime, Mela! Multas gratias tibi agimus.

MELA

Nihil est.

#### TEMPESTAS HODIERNA

FAVONIUS

Tempus est audire de tempestate. Quam ob rem, ecce Aulus Serenus!

SERENUS

Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quoniam sit tempesta hodie. In Italia hodie est varietas caeli — alias sol lucet alias nubilosum est. Fortasse Iuppiter ipse non certus est utrum laetus an tristis sit: tristis quod bene delectus Marcus Aurelius mortuus est, laetus quod hodie est Liberalium dies. Bene memini illum diem cum adhuc essem servus quando filius domini togam virilem sumpsit. Quam laeti eramus! Quam...

FAVONIUS

Ignosce mihi, Serene, sed de tempestate loquebaris?

SERENUS

Sane...ignosce mihi, mea culpa est. Ubi eram? Nunc memini...circum **Mare Nostrum** temperatio caeli est; sol lucet plerumque sed paucis in partibus pluit, scilicet in Britannia pluit, ut semper. Et pluit hic non tam procul a Germaniae finibus ubi noster Imperator optimus verissimusque Marcus Aurelius tam miserande mortuus est. Qualem hominem! Scisne, Favoni, Marcum Aurelium Graece scripsisse?

FAVONIUS

Bene scio, Serene, et bene scio tempus fugere!

SERENUS

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Iterum ignosce mihi. Iam satis est. Aulus Serenus sum atque spero caela sint vobis valde serena!

**FAVONIUS**

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

*RESPONSUM QUAESTIONI*

**LECTOR**

Quaestio Hodierna erat ut sequitur: Quod vestimentum Romanum signum pacis erat?  
Responsum est hoc: toga

**FAVONIUS**

Nunc tempus est videre nostrum Dictum Hodiernum!

*DICTUM HODIERNUM*

**LECTOR**

Dictum hodiernum est hoc: **Cedant arma togae.**

*VALEDICTIO*

**FAVONIUS**

Verba notanda. Ut repetamus nuntios principales: Hodie, **ante diem sextum decimum Kalendas Apriles**, Imperator Caesar Augustus Marcus Aurelius Antoninus mortuus est.

**IULIA**

Atque hodie Liberalia sunt, dies quo puer egregius togam virilem sumit et civis Romanus fit.

**FAVONIUS**

Totum est ad hanc editionem Fori Romani. Gratias summas agimus et di vobis faveant.

**FAVONIUS ET IULIA**

Valete, omnes!



Scene from *Gens Togata*

## COMMENTARIUM

**Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.** Marcus Aurelius ruled as emperor from 161 to 180 AD. He is considered the last of the so-called "good emperors," who who presided over a period of relative harmony and prosperity.

**Vindobona.** The Emperor Marcus Aurelius spent much of his reign fighting the tribes along the northern border of the Roman Empire and died at Vindobona, modern day Vienna, the capital of Austria.

**Stoicus.** Marcus Aurelius wrote a work in Greek called the *Meditations*, in which he expresses stoic ideals. The Stoics believed people should calmly except events as the inevitable result of divine will. If someone is called "stoic" today, it usually means that person appears indifferent to pain or suffering.

**Commodus.** Commodus was the son of Marcus Aurelius and succeeded him as emperor. Commodus ruled as emperor from 180 to 192 AD. By the end of his twelve-year rule, Commodus was generally viewed as a dangerous madman. He became more and more obsessive about performing as a gladiator, calling himself Hercules Romanus, and even renaming Rome *Colonia Commodiana*. Finally he was assassinated when a hired wrestler strangled him.

**Liberalia.** The Liberalia was the festival of Liber (associated with Bacchus or Dionysus) on March 17. On this day, young men assumed the *toga virilis*.

**tunica et toga et stola.** The *tunic* was the everyday garment of the ancient Romans; it basically looked like a long night shirt that was belted. The *toga*, as the signature garment of the free-born Roman male, signifies Roman culture; it was a long, heavy, flowing single-piece robe worn as formal garment, the way business suits are worn today. The *stola* was the garment worn by Roman women.

**vir egregius aut (vir) clarissimus.** During the Roman Empire, in the time of Marcus Aurelius (2<sup>nd</sup> century AD), the term *vir egregius* was used to describe a man of the equestrian rank (middle to upper class), and *vir clarissimus* to describe a man of senatorial rank.

**gens togata / Cedant arma togae.** The phrase *gens togata* is often translated, "the race that wears the toga." The toga was the official garment of the Roman citizen and as such it became a symbol for Roman civilization. It also became a symbol for peace and diplomacy in contrast to the outfit of a Roman soldier at war. It was the toga as symbol for diplomacy that Cicero had in mind in saying, "Let arms yield to the toga!" (*cedant arma togae*).

**toga virilis.** The putting on of this "toga of manhood" symbolized the rite of passage in which the boy becomes a man, like the bar mitzvah ceremony in Judaism. While a Jewish male celebrates his bar mitzvah at age 13, the freeborn Roman youth generally assumed his *toga virilis* at age 15.

**palla.** The *palla* was an outer garment worn by women over the stola.

**Mare Nostrum.** The phrase *Mare Nostrum* ("Our Sea") was occasionally used by the Romans to designate the Mediterranean Sea.

**ante diem sextum decimum Kalendas Apriles.** Literally, "the sixteenth day before the Kalends of April," this is the ancient Roman designation for March 17. The Roman month had three markers: Kalends, Nones, and Ides. The Kalends was always the first of the month; the Nones was 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> (depending on the month), and the Ides was the 13<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.

## GLOSSARIUM

### Salutatio et Quaestio Hodierna et Quid Novi?

At prius – But first	habenae rerum – power ("the reins of government")
vestimenta – clothing	Immo etiam – On the contrary; Well actually
modo – just now	querelae de nuntiis – "complaints about the news"
finis – boundary	opto, optare – to choose
morbus – disease, sickness	puer egregius – "boy from a good family"
mortem obiit – died ("met his death")	induo, induere – to put on [clothing]
omnibus a gentibus – "by all races/peoples"	vestispica – "keeper of the wardrobes"; fashion expert
vitae onera – "life's burdens"	

### Persona Notanda

principia – main categories	belli . . . pace – "in war . . . in peace"
Cuncti – All; Everyone	laneum – woollen; made of wool
peregrini – foreigners	sinus – the folds (of the toga)
promissa ad genua – "stretching down to the knees"	mares – males
cinctaque cingulo balteove – "and cinched with a strap or belt"	Quamquam – Although
clavus – stripe (on the tunic)	femina honesta – "an honorable (decent) woman"
angustus - narrow	talia – ankles
	zona – girdle; woman's belt

### Tempestas Hodierna et Responsum Questioni et Dictum Hodiernum Valectioque

Quam ob rem – For that reason	Quam laeti – How happy
alias . . . alias – "in some places . . . in other places"	temperatio caeli – "a mixed sky"
nubilosum – cloudy	plerumque – for the most part
utrum – whether	non tam procul a – "not so far from"
bene delectus – "well loved"	tam miserande – "so pitifully"; "so sadly"
memini – I remember	Graece – "in Greek"
cum adhuc essem – "when I was still . . ."	Iterum – Again; A second time

## Useful Expressions

Here are some examples of conversational Latin used in this show. Try out some or all of these useful expressions in your own Latin conversations.

Salvete, omnes! – Greetings, everyone!	Multas gratias tibi agimus – We thank you very much
Mihi nomen est . . . – My name is . . .	Nihil est – (after "thank you") You're welcome;
Quid novi est? – What's new?	Don't mention it; It's nothing
brevi tempore – in a short time	Tempus est . . . – It's time [to] . . .
ecce – Here's . . .	Gratias tibi ago – Thank you
Et nunc – And now . . .	fortasse – perhaps; maybe
Videamus quid novi sit – Let's see what's new	non certus est – [he] is not sure
maxime – very much; especially	bene memini – I remember well
non solum . . . sed etiam – not only . . . but also	Ignosce mihi – Excuse me
Bene sit [dative]! – Good luck to . . .	Sane – Right
Immo etiam – Well actually . . .	mea culpa est – my fault; my bad
Ita vero – Yes indeed	sol lucet – the sun is shining
Sic est – That's true; So it is	pluit – it's raining
ut notumst omnibus – as everybody knows	ut semper – as always
Gratias summas [ago] – I thank you very, very much	Qualem hominem! – What a guy!
ut bene scitis – as you (all) know well	Scisne . . .? – Do you know [that] . . .?
Certe – Certainly	Bene scio – Sure I know
Recte dicis! – Right you are!	Iam satis est – Enough already
haec res est – here's the deal; here's the key point	Multas gratias – Many thanks!
id est – that is	verba notanda – words to remember
ut aiunt – as they say	Totum est – That's everything; That's all
his temporibus – nowadays	Di vobis faveant – May the gods bless you
Optime! – Very well done!	Valete, omnes! – Goodbye, everyone!

## GRAMMATICA

As a grammarian, you should know a grammatical form when you see it. But as a translator, always use context as your guide and remember that a true translation sounds good in English.

1. Exclaiming things: uses of *qualis*, *quam*, and *tam*.

Latin has a peculiar construction called "Accusative of Exclamation"—a none-too-creative title courtesy of the grammarians. Basically, when you want to exclaim a phrase like "What a great idea!" you put the words in the accusative case. The adverbs *quam* and *tam* are also used in exclamatory expressions—for example "How happy!" and "So sad!"

**Example in Context**

1. Qualem hominem!
2. Quam laeti eramus!
3. Tam miserande mortuus est

**Translation**

1. What a man!
2. How happy we were!
3. He died so pitifully.

## 2. Saying things indirectly: Indirect Statement and Indirect Question

In Latin statements made indirectly ("I know that you are listening") have the subject of the indirect statement in the accusative and the verb in the infinitive (*Scio te audire*). On the other hand, questions asked indirectly ("I know who is listening") have the verb in the subjunctive mood (*Scio quis audiat*.)

**Example in Context**

1. Videamus quid novi sit.
2. Videamus quaenam sit tempestas hodie.
3. Scisne Marcum Aurelium Graece scripsisse?
4. Bene scio tempus fugere

**Translation**

1. Let's see what's new.
2. Let's see how the weather is today.
3. Do you know that Marcus Aurelius wrote in Greek?
4. I know well that time is flying.

## 3. Deponent Verbs

Deponent verbs are an interesting class of Latin verbs: they are passive voice in form but we translate them as active voice.

**Example in Context**

1. Marcus Aurelius Antoninus mortuus est!
2. Loquamur de vestimentis Romanis!
3. . . . de tempestate loquebaris?
4. Quaestio Hodierna erat ut sequitur . . .

**Translation**

1. Marcus Aurelius Antoninus has died!
2. Let's talk about Roman clothing!
3. You were talking about the weather?
4. The Question of the Day was as follows . . .



## RECITATIO

Practice reading aloud—with your teacher or in pairs—these excerpts from the show. After you practice reading aloud, sum up in a few words what the excerpt is about. At this point, don't translate, just give a summary.

MELA: Toga tota nostra est. Nam, ut bene scitis, gens togata sumus! Belli civis Romanus gladium sumit sed pace togam sumit ergo toga pacis signum est.

FAVONIUS: Certe. Ut Marcus Tullius Cicero inquit, Cedant arma togae!

MELA: Recte dicis! Toga, ut scitis, est vestimentum laneum; gravissimum longissimumque. De togis, haec res est: oportet sinus quam elegantissime fluere. Cives Romani—id est, mares—soli togam gerere solent. Quamquam, ut aiunt, antiquis in temporibus mulieres quoque togam sumpserunt, his temporibus tamen femina honesta numquam togata est.

FAVONIUS: Optime, Mela! Multas gratias tibi agimus.

MELA: Nihil est.

## DELIBERANDA

1. The toga was a huge garment—about 20 feet by 10 feet—in the shape of a semicircle. It was heavy and uncomfortable, and you needed someone's help to put it on. So why do you think a race of farmers, engineers, architects, and soldiers like the Romans would continue to wear such an impractical garment for hundreds of years?
2. Marcus Favonius wears a toga on every show; and under his toga he wears a tunic with a stripe down the middle. Aulus Serenus never wears a toga. Instead, he wears a colorful tunic—colorful, but no purple stripe down the middle. What do the outfits of these two characters suggest about their socio-economic background?
3. Can you think of types of clothing today that are symbolic of a people, a type of person, a person's status, a person's affiliation with a group, and so on?



**Favonius shows his status by sporting a toga and a tunic with a narrow stripe**

## EXERCITATIO

### I. PARI RESPONDERE (MATCHING)

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Romani _____                   | A. vestis quam cuncti gerunt         |
| 2. Vindobona _____                | B. ubi pluit, ut semper              |
| 3. Commodus _____                 | C. ubi Marcus Aurelius mortem obiit  |
| 4. Marcus Aurelius _____          | D. vestis muliebris (aut feminea)    |
| 5. Liber _____                    | E. vestis super stolam               |
| 6. toga virilis _____             | F. oportem stolam extendere hactenus |
| 7. tunica _____                   | G. Marci Aureli filius               |
| 8. toga _____                     | H. qui scripsit, "Cedant arma togae" |
| 9. stola _____                    | I. vestis civis Romani               |
| 10. Cicero _____                  | J. Bacchus vel Dionysus              |
| 11. palla _____                   | K. gens togata                       |
| 12. ab collo usque ad talia _____ | L. servus olim, nunc libertus        |
| 13. Aulus Serenus _____           | M. prima toga adolescentis           |
| 14. Britannia _____               | N. Mare Internum alias dictum        |
| 15. Mare Nostrum _____            | O. Meditationes scripsit             |

### II. VERUM AUT FALSUM? (TRUE OR FALSE?)

1. Marcus Aurelius Vindobonae—non tam procul a Germaniae finibus—mortuus est.
2. Liberalibus puer—vel adolescens—togam virilem indutus est.
3. Togam viri feminaeque vel cives vel peregrini gerunt.
4. Stola est vestis muliebris, promissa ad genua cinctaque balteo.
5. Toga est vestimentum laneum, gravissimum longissimumque.

### III. REDDE ANGLICE! (TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH)

1. Brevi tempore videbimus quid novi sit.
2. Marcus Aurelius bellum cum barbaris in Germaniae finibus gerebat.
3. Marco Aurelio mortuo, filius Commodus habenas rerum tenuit.
4. Nil amplius de calamitatibus hodie narrabimus.
5. Liberalia est festa Liberi.
6. Deus, qui lingua Latina "Liber," apud Graecos "Dionysus" appellatus est.
7. Vestimenta Romana sunt tunica et toga et stola.
8. Tunica est vestis inornata et simplex, promissa ad genua cinctaque balteo.
9. Toga est signum pacis quod belli civis Romanus gladium sumit, sed pace togam sumit.
10. Adolescens cui sunt quindecim anni togam virilem sumit.
11. Cives Romani soli togam gerere solent.
12. Femina honesta numquam togam gerunt.
13. In Italia hodie alias sol lucet, alias nubilosum est.
14. Cum adhuc esset servus, Aulus Serenus filium domini togam virilem sumere spectavit.
15. Scisne Marcum Aurelium *Meditationes* Graece scripsisse?

### IV. QUOMODO DICITUR LATINE? (HOW DO YOU SAY EACH IN LATIN?)

1. Let arms yield to the toga.
2. The toga is all ours.
3. Excuse me.
4. It is my fault (the fault is mine).
5. Where was I? Now I remember!
6. I know that time is flying.

**STVDIA AMPLIVS: Sartorial Scavenger Hunt**

Have students do their own research—using books, the Internet, et cetera—on the following items of clothing worn in the Roman World. They are to identify what the Latin term means, state who wore this item, and then indicate where they found an image or representation of the item—from a drawing, a photo of a sculpture, etc. As an option (or bonus), have students draw on a piece of paper a quick sketch of each item they find.

#	Latin	Meaning	Worn By	Image Found
1.	bracae			
2.	bullae			
3.	calceus			
4.	caliga			
5.	corona civica			
6.	flammeum			
7.	lacerna			
8.	mulleus			
9.	palla			
10.	pallium			
11.	paenula			
12.	pilleus			
13.	sagum			
14.	solea			
15.	stola			
16.	subligaculum			
17.	toga virilis			
18.	toga candida			
19.	toga praetexta			
20.	tunica			