

CHAPTER VII: NATALIS URBIS

DATE	April 21, 30 AD
TOP STORY	Today is Rome's birthday!
FEATURE	Interview with Livia, daughter of the historian Titus Livius (Livy).

PROLOGVS

Today's episode takes place during the Parilia, a celebration of Rome's birthday. The festival, held each year on April 21, originally honored Pales, a rustic deity associated with livestock. By AD 30, however, when this episode takes place, the date April 21 was also identified as the date on which Romulus founded the city of Rome.

Where should we look for the story of the legendary founding of Rome, if not in the work called *Ab urbe condita* (*From the Founding of the City*)? This monumental history of Rome by Titus Livius, or Livy (59 BC–AD 17), originally ran to some 142 books, but less than a quarter of it has survived intact. Fortunately, among the surviving books are the first five, which deal with the hazy early history of Rome. Their mix of history and legend makes for very interesting reading.

Given that it is Rome's birthday, it seems fitting to reflect on the colorful history of Rome in this episode of *Forum Romanum*. Iulia Pauli has an exclusive interview with Livia Magi, the daughter of the historian Livy. Livia speaks first of her father's dedication to his *magnum opus*, a work that made him famous the world over. Then she reveals her favorite sections of her father's history. She loves to read the stories of Romulus and Remus, the Sabine women, and Lucretia, as well as those of the old-time Roman heroes Horatius, Mucius Scaevola, Cloelia, and Cincinnatus.

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

1. We hear of a certain man who traveled all the way from what Roman province, just to get a look at the famous historian Livy?
2. In the opening news segment, we learn that the current emperor Tiberius (who succeeded Augustus as emperor) is not in Rome but living in his *Villa Iovis* on what island?
3. How does Livia Magi describe her father?
4. What are some of the stories in Livy's early history of Rome that Livia says she likes best?
5. Why does Serenus mention Proserpina (the Greeks called her Persephone) in the Weather segment?
6. During the Weather, Serenus delivers a short lesson on the Winds. Can you identify the Latin names of the four winds he discusses?

VERSUS

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

THE SCRIPT

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!

QUAESTIO HODIERNA

LECTOR

Quaestio hodierna est de **Tito Livio**: Quidam homo usque a qua provincia iter fecit tantum ad Livium spectandum? Responsum dabitur ad finem Fori Romani.

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, cuius pater erat Titus Livius, historicus clarissimus.

PERSONA NOTANDA (INTERVIEW WITH DAUGHTER OF THE HISTORIAN LIVY)

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, 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?

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. Rursus ad te!

TEMPESTAS HODIERNA

FAVONIUS

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

SERENUS

Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quanam sit tempesta 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 **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!

FAVONIUS

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

RESPONSUM QUAESTIONI

LECTOR

Quaestio hodierna erat ut sequitur: Quidam homo usque a qua provincia iter fecit tantum ad Livium spectandum? Responsum est hoc: ab Hispania

FAVONIUS

Nunc tempus est videre nostrum Dictum Hodiernum!

DICTUM HODIERNUM

LECTOR

Hoc est dictum hodiernum: magnum opus.

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. Valete omnes!



Scene from *Natalis Urbis*

COMMENTARIUM

Titus Livius. Called "Livy" by modern English speakers, Titus Livius was Roman historian and author of a history of Rome (*Libri Ab Urbe Condita*). He was born in 59 BC and died in AD 16.

ante diem undecimum Kalendas Maias. Following the ancient Roman way of defining dates, this phrase translates "the 11th day before the Kalends of May," which makes it April 21, Rome's traditional founding day. (The Kalends is always the first day of the month.) The Romans declared that Romulus founded Rome on this day in 753 BC.

Tiberius / Capreae. Tiberius succeeded his stepfather Augustus as emperor of Rome in AD 14. Tiberius spent the last 10 years of his reign living on the island of Capri (*Capreae*) just south of the Bay of Naples. Ruins of his palace, the *Villa Iovis*, still remain.

ludi circenses. "Circus games" refer specifically to chariot races, since these races were held in a *circus*, a sporting venue shaped as a long oval.

libri ab Urbe Condita. This is the Latin title given for Livy's history of Rome. Only some of the many volumes in this history survive, including the first five on Rome's early history. "Ab Urbe Condita" means "from the founding of Rome" ("from when the city was founded") and is sometimes abbreviated as A.U.C. Since the Romans set their founding at 753 BC, that year becomes 1 A.U.C. This episode takes place in 30 AD, which would be 783 A.U.C.

ab Aenea Romuloque. Aeneas, a Trojan prince who escaped Troy when the Greeks destroyed it, is considered the founder of the Roman race (Vergil's *Aeneid* tells his story). Romulus is considered the founder of Rome itself.

in tablino. The *tablinum* was the master's study in a Roman house.

magnum opus. The phrase *magnum opus* (literally, "great work") is used to describe a masterpiece.

fabula de Sabinis mulieribus. The story of the Sabine women is a legend of how the Romans, when the city was first founded, stole women from the Sabine tribe to become their wives.

Lucretia. Lucretia was a young wife in the late monarchy who, according to legend, took her own life after she was raped by Sextus Tarquinius, the son of King Tarquin the Proud. Lucretia's death so enraged the people that they revolted, an event which led to the expulsion of King Tarquin and establishment of the Roman Republic.

Horatius / Mucius Scaevola / Cloelia / Cincinnatus. These are other legendary heroes of the very early Roman Republic. Horatius single-handedly defended a bridge against an invading army seeking to restore King Tarquin. Scaevola became single-handed when he thrust his hand into a fire to show his Etruscan captors how little he feared torture. Cloelia was a young woman who helped other women escape by swimming the Tiber. Cincinnatus was the retired patrician who "left his plow," coming out of retirement to lead an army to rescue his fellow Romans.

Proserpina. Proserpina is the Latin name for Persephone, the Greek mythological figure whose abduction by Hades to be his bride in the Underworld explains the change of seasons. When Persephone is in the Underworld, her mother Demeter (Roman Ceres) misses her so that the earth undergoes fall and winter. Upon Persephone's return to earth the flowers bloom and winter turns to spring.

Aelous. Aeolus is the mythical King of the Winds, said to live in a cave on an island near Sicily.

Aquilo / Auster / Volturnus / Favonius. These are the Roman names for the north, south, east, and west winds respectively. The west wind, Favonius, is better known by its Greek name Zephyrus. In naming this last wind, Serenus says, "Favonius, like our own Marcus Favonius," perhaps pointing out the coincidence of names more so than saying the Marcus Favonius is a windbag!

GLOSSARIUM

Salutatio et Quaestio Hodierna et Quid Novi?

Quid novi est? – What's new	septingentis – 700
At primum – But first	non aderit – will not be present
Quidam homo – A certain person	Di Tiberio faveant – May the gods look with favor
Ut notum est omnibus – As everyone knows	on Tiberius
natalis Urbis – the birthday of the City (Rome)	historicus – historian
Ut creditum est – As is believed	

Persona Notanda

exposuit – expounded on; explained	dum vivebat – while he was living
pauca – a few words	orbis terrarum – the world ("circle of lands")
Libenter – Gladly!	modo – only; just
a multo mane usque ad multam noctem – from early morning to late at night	aspiceret – to get a glimpse of
Vae tibi! – Poor you!	mortem sibi conscivit ad pudorem servandum – killed herself to protect her virtue
Et facere et pati fortiter Romanum est – "To do one's duty and endure hardship bravely is what makes us Roman."	aratrum – plow
	digni laudis – worthy of praise

Tempestas Hodierna et cetera

Quam bellus – How lovely!	Ad septentrionem partem – to the North
Ver – spring	ad partem australem – to the South
gemmas – buds	Ab oriente solis – From the East
tenebrosa – dark and gloomy	ab occidente solis – from the West
terra tepescit ventis leniter spirantibus – the earth grows warm under the winds' gentle breath	serena (caela) – sunny (skies)
Dum sic loquamur – While we are talking in this way (about this topic)	Felicem natalem – Happy birthday (to) . . .
fortasse – perhaps	di vobis faveant – May the gods look with favor on you

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! – Hello, everyone!

Mihi nomen est . . . – My name is . . .

Quid novi est? – What's new?

Ecce – Look!

Et nunc – And now . . .

videamus – Let's see

Ut notum est omnibus – As everyone knows

Mihi placet adesse – I'm happy to be here

Quaeso – Please

dic pauca de . . . – say a few words about . . .

Libenter – Gladly

non multum – not much

multo mane – early in the morning

ad multam noctem – until late at night

Vae tibi! – Poor you!

Difficillimum est – It is very difficult

Difficile erat – It was difficult

certe – certainly

ut pater saepe inquit – as my father often said

Nonne? – Right?

At tamen, - But anyway, . . .

Hem . . . – Hmmmm

Mihi placet fabula – I like the story (the story is
pleasing to me)

Mihi valde placet – I really like . . .

Maxime! – Absolutely!

Gratias tibi agimus – We thank you

Totum est – That's all; That's everything

sine dubio – without a doubt

Gratias Iovi! – Thanks (be) to Jupiter!

Verum satis est de . . . – Indeed that's enough
about . . .

Multas gratias – Thanks a lot

verba notanda – words to remember

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. Impersonal Verb: *Placet*

Latin has a class of verbs we call "impersonal verbs," because they have no person as their subject. Such verbs include *placet* ("it is pleasing"), *iuvat* ("it helps"), *licet* ("it is permitted"), and *oportet* ("it is necessary"). In this episode, there are a few examples of *placet* used in context. Notice that the subject (the person to whom it is pleasing) is in the dative and an infinitive is usually included in the expression.

Example in Context

1. Mihi placet adesse tecum.
2. Qui versus tibi maxime placent?
3. Atque mihi valde placet fabula de Sabinis mulieribus.
4. At cui non placent fabulae de heroibus?

Translation

1. I'm happy to be here (It is pleasing for me to be here).
2. Which passages do you like the most? (Which passages are the most pleasing to you?)
3. And I really like the story of the Sabine women. (The story is really pleasing to me.)
4. But who does not like stories of heroes? (To whom are stories of heroes not pleasing?)

2. Expressions of purpose – Gerundive

In English, we usually show purpose with an infinitive verb form—for example, "I came here to see you." In Latin, purpose is not shown with an infinitive. Instead, Latin uses several ways, such as the purpose verb in the subjunctive mood or a verbal noun and adjective form known as the gerund and gerundive. You can spot a gerund or gerundive by the *-nd* near the end of the form (like the *-nd* in the terms gerund and gerundive).

Example in Context

1. Quidam homo iter fecit ad Livium spectandum. (Compare: Quidam homo iter fecit ut Livium aspiceret.)
2. Ad hunc diem festivum celebrandum, Tiberius declaravit ludos circenses habendos.
3. Tiberius autem non aderit Romae ad ludos spectandos.
4. Romulus consilium cepit ad uxores captandas.
5. Lucretia mortem sibi conscivit ad pudorem servandam.
6. Cincinnatus aratrum reliquit ad Rem Publicam servandam.

Translation

1. A certain man traveled to see Livy.
2. To celebrate this festive day, Tiberius declared that chariot races should be held.
3. Tiberius, however, will not be in Rome to see the games.
4. Romulus formed a plan to steal [women to be their] wives.
5. Lucretia killed herself to preserve her honor.
6. Cincinnatus left his plow to save the Republic.

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 the gist—that is, an in-a-nutshell summary or paraphrase.

A. *Iulia asks Livia Magi about growing up as Livy's daughter.*

Iulia: 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, 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.

B. *Serenus gives a mini-lesson on the four winds.*

Serenus: 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 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.



The Palatine Hill, seen from the Roman Forum

EXERCITATIO

I. PARI RESPONDERE (MATCHING)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Titus Livius _____ | A. historia Romana a Livio scripta |
| 2. natalis Urbis _____ | B. miserae a Romanis captae uxores |
| 3. Romulus _____ | D. pontem solus defendit |
| 4. Tiberius _____ | E. Rex ventorum |
| 5. Villa Iovis _____ | F. matrona quae mortem sibi conscivit ad pudorem servandum |
| 6. libri Ab Urbe Condita _____ | G. provincia Romana in occidente solis |
| 7. Aeneas _____ | H. ventus septentrionalis |
| 8. 1 A.U.C. _____ | I. villae Romanae locus ubi laborat dominus |
| 9. tablinum _____ | J. ante diem XI Kal. Maias |
| 10. Hispania _____ | K. Plutonis uxor misera |
| 12. Remus _____ | L. pater gentis Romanae |
| 13. mulieres Sabinae _____ | M. Imperator Romanus Capreis habitans |
| 14. Lucretia _____ | N. 753 B.C. |
| 15. Horatius Cocles _____ | O. domus Tiberi Capreis |
| 16. Mucius Scaevola _____ | P. ventus ab occidente solis, Favonius Latine |
| 17. Cincinnatus _____ | Q. aratrum reliquit ad Rem Publicam servandam |
| 18. Proserpina _____ | R. Romam condidit |
| 19. Aeolus _____ | S. Romuli frater |
| 20. Aquilo _____ | T. historicus clarissimus |
| 21. Zephyrus _____ | U. dextram manum igni imposuit |

II. REDDE ANGLICE! (TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH)

1. a multo mane usque ad multam noctem
2. Ecce Quaestio Hodierna!
3. Et nunc videamus quid novi sit.
4. Ut notum est omnibus, hodie est natalis Urbis.
5. Plus quam septingentis annis ante, Romulus Romam condidit.
6. Tiberius manebit Capreis, in magnifica splendidaque villa Iovis.
7. Iulia Pauli loquebatur cum Livia Magi, cuius pater erat Titus Livius, historicus clarissimus.
8. Mihi placet adesse.
9. Dic nobis pauca, quaeso.
10. Vae tibi! Difficillimum est numquam patrem videre!
11. Mihi placet fabula de Romulo Remoque.
12. Cui non placent fabulae de heroibus antiquis Romanis?
13. Ver adest, totam per Italiam! Proserpina revenit!
14. Nonnumquam Aeolus, rex ventorum, ventos liberat, qui furiosi ruunt ad quattuor partes orbis terrarum!
15. Zephyrus est ventus qui spirat ab occidente solis.

III. VERSUM COMPLERE (SENTENCE COMPLETION)

Choose a word from the pool of Latin words below to fill in the blanks for each excerpt. Each word is used only once.

1. Salvete, omnes! Mihi nomen est Marcus Favonius et _____ est Forum Romanum!
2. Et nunc videamus quid novi _____.
3. Quaeso, Livia, dic nobis _____ de Livio patre
4. Et facere et pati fortiter _____ est.
5. Atque bene intellexi patrem _____ opus scribere.
6. Qui versus horum librorum _____ maxime placent?
7. Mihi placet facula de Romulo Remoque, in qua _____ geminos infantes nutrit.
8. Atque mihi valde placet fabula de _____ mulieribus . . .
9. Etiam placet fabula miseranda de Lucretia, quae _____ sibi conscivit ad pudorem servandum!
10. Erat _____, qui pontem defendit . . .
11. . . . atque Mucius Scaevola, qui dextram _____ igni imposuit
12. . . . et Cloelia, quae trans _____ natavit
13. . . . atque Cincinnatus, qui _____ reliquit ad Rem Publicam servandam!
14. . . . sed, vae nobis, _____ fugit.
15. Totum est hic, Favoni. _____ ad te!
16. Tempus _____ audire de tempestate.
17. Non tam procul a _____ sita est insula quaedam ubi habitate Aelous, rex ventorum.
18. Aulus Serenus sum atque _____ caela sint vobis valde serena
19. Nunc tempus est _____ nostrum Dictum Hodiernum!
20. Felicem _____ Urbi nostrae!

aratrum	est	hoc	Horatius	lupa
magnum	manum	mortem	natalem	pauca
Romanum	Rursus	Sabinis	Sicilia	sit
spero	tibi	tempus	Tiberim	videre

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

1. Hello, everyone!
2. What's new today?
3. the world (circle of lands)
4. Gladly!
5. a masterpiece
6. words to remember
7. That is all here, Favonius.
8. It's time to hear about the weather.
9. The sun is shining.
10. without a doubt
11. Aelous is King of the Winds
12. Now it's time to see our Quote of the Day!
13. Goodbye, everyone!

ΣΤΥΔΙΑ ΑΜΠΛΙΥΣ: **History, Legend, Folklore, and the Virtues They Illustrate**

Roman legendary and historical heroes illustrate the virtues that Roman culture advocated—courage, virtue, patience, endurance, devotion to one's country.

Students, either individually or in small teams, should do a little research on these people and events from American history, legend, and folktale.

Ask the students to prepare a short report in three parts: (1) a synopsis of the story, (2) a comparison to one or more people or events in Roman history, legend, or classical mythology, and (3) and brief discussion on the American virtues or aspects of the American character that the story illustrates.

1. Abe Lincoln—stories of growing up in a log cabin and educating himself; his honorary titles of "the rail splitter," "Honest Abe," and "the Great Emancipator"
2. The Alamo ("Remember the Alamo")
3. Ben Franklin's experiment proving lightning was electricity by flying a kite
4. Betsy Ross and the first American flag
5. The Boston Tea Party
6. Crispus Attucks
7. Daniel Boone
8. Davey Crockett
9. Groundhog Day
10. Hiawatha
11. John Hancock's "extra large" signature on the Declaration of Independence
12. John Henry
13. Johnny Appleseed
14. John Paul Jones ("I Have Not Yet Begun to Fight!")
15. Paul Bunyan
16. Paul Revere's ride
17. Pocahontas and Captain John Smith
18. Ponce de León and the Fountain of Youth
19. Rip Van Winkle
20. Washington and the cherry tree