FRAGMENTS OF BOOK XIV

57 "On the contrary, fearing the Romans, they appealed to Carthage and the Romans agreed to peace. Dio says, the Romans and Carthaginians had come to hold the most divergent opinions regarding the conduct of the war. For hopefulness, in that it leads all men to cheerfulness, makes them also more zealous and confident in the belief that they will be victorious; whereas hopelessness casts them into dejection and despair, and robs even courage of its strength."

Zonaras 8, 23.

23. These things inspired Hannibal with good hope, but threw the Romans into a state of profound terror; they divided their forces into two parts and sent out the consuls, Scipio Africanus to Sicily and Publius Scipio to Spain. Hannibal, desiring to invade Italy with all possible speed, marched on hurriedly, and traversed without a conflict the whole of Gaul lying between the Pyrenees and the Rhone. As far as the Rhone river no one came to oppose him, but at that point Scipio showed himself, although

87
Even as matters at a great distance and unknown are wont to disturb a great many, so now they struck no little fear to the hearts of the Spaniards. For the majority of a multitude making a campaign not for any reason of its own but in the capacity of allies is a strong force just so long as the men have hopes of obtaining some benefit without danger; but when they have come close to the conflict, they abandon their hopes of gain and lose their faith in promises. And for the most part they get it into their heads that they are by all means going to be successful in every case; consequently, even if they should meet with some reverse, they regard it lightly in comparison with the hopes which have been offsetting it.  

Zonaras 8, 23.

his troops were not with him. Nevertheless, with the help of the natives and their nearest neighbours, he had already destroyed the boats in the river and had posted guards over the stream. Hannibal, therefore, consumed some time in building rafts and skiffs, some out of single logs; but still, with the help of numerous workers, he had everything ready that was needful for crossing before Scipio’s army arrived. He sent his brother Mago, accompanied by the horsemen and a few light troops, to cross at a point where the river spreads out to a considerable width, its course being interrupted by islands; but he himself made a show of crossing by the visible ford, his object being that the Gauls should
BOOK XIV

When the preparations that had been made proved to be in no wise commensurate with the size of Hannibal’s army, and some one on this account suggested to him that the soldiers be fed on the flesh of their opponents, he did not take the idea amiss, but said he feared that some day through lack of bodies of that kind they might turn to eating one another.

Zonaras 8, 23.

be deceived and array themselves against him only, while stationing their guards with less care at other points along the river. And this is exactly what occurred. Mago had already got across the river when Hannibal and his followers were crossing by the ford. On reaching the middle of the stream they raised the war cry and the trumpeters joined with the blare of their instruments; and Mago fell upon their opponents from the rear. In this way the elephants and all the rest crossed in safety. They had just finished crossing when Scipio’s force arrived. Both sides, accordingly, sent horsemen to reconnoitre, and a cavalry battle ensued, with the same result as attended the war as a whole: the Romans, that is, after first getting the worst of it and losing a number of men, were in the end victorious.

Then Hannibal, in haste to set out for Italy, but suspicious of the more direct roads, turned aside from them and followed another, on which he met

1 Lacuna recognized by Bk.
Hannibal before beginning the struggle called together the soldiers and brought in the captives whom he had taken by the way; then he asked the latter whether they wished to undergo imprisonment in letters and to endure a grievous slavery or

Zonaras 8, 23.

with grievous hardships. For the mountains there are exceedingly precipitous, and the snow, which had fallen in great quantities, was driven by the winds and filled the chasms, and the ice was frozen very hard. These circumstances combined to cause his soldiers fearful suffering, and many of them perished by reason of the cold and lack of food; many also returned home. There is a story to the effect that he himself would also have turned back but for the fact that the road already traversed was longer and more difficult than the portion remaining before him. For this reason, then, he did not turn back, but suddenly appearing from out the Alps, spread astonishment and fear among the Romans.

So he advanced, taking possession of whatever lay before him. Scipio sent his brother Gaius 1 Scipio, who was serving as lieutenant under him, into Spain, either to seise and hold it or else to draw Hannibal back. He himself marched against Hannibal; and after waiting a few days they both advanced to the contest. But before beginning the struggle, Hannibal called together the soldiers and brought in the captives whom he had taken by the way; he asked the latter whether they preferred to undergo imprisonment and to endure a grievous

1 Gaius Scipio is meant wherever Zonaras writes this form.
to fight in single combat with one another on condition that the victors should be released without ransom. When they chose the second alternative, he set them to fighting. And at the end of the contest he said: “Now is it not shameful, soldiers, when these men who have been captured by us are so brave as to be eager to die in place of becoming slaves, that we on the other hand, shrink from incurring a little toil and danger for the sake of not being subservient to others—yes, and of ruling them besides?”

All the sufferings that we have ever endured when defeated by the enemy we will inflict upon them if we are victorious. For we be assured that by conquering we shall obtain all the benefits that I mention, but if conquered we shall not even have a safe means of escape. The victor straightway finds everything friendly, even if possibly it hates him, whereas to the vanquished no one any longer pays heed—not even those of his own household.

Those who have once failed in an enterprise against their foes are forever abashed before them and no longer venture to assume a bold front.

slavery or to fight in single combat with one another on condition that the victors should be released without ransom. When they chose the second alternative, he set them to fighting. And at the end of the contest he addressed his soldiers, encouraging them and whetting their eagerness for

95
Θωμάς 8, 23-25.

ετέρωθεν ταύτα καί ο Σκεπίων ὑπόστατον. άντε συνήθιζεν
μὲν ὡς ἦλθε τοῖς στρατευόμενοι μαχαίρισμοι, ὁ
Σκεπίων δὲ, προσημείας τό ἐπιτεθ' καὶ ἔτη
θείας συνορίας τοῖς ἀποβαλλομενοῖς καί αὐτὸν τροφεία,
ἀνθισθαι τ' ἀνόητον, ἐλθών γὰρ οὔ τις
καθήκεν ὧν ἐπεκεκιδακτήσατο ἐπιτίμιον, καθέσθαι
μὲν καὶ τῷ τεθ' οἴκαλει, καὶ αὐτῖκα τε ἐπιστεύειν
καὶ τῷ νυκτὸς ὑπέκυψαν.

24. Ἀναίμας δέ μεθ' ὧδε ἦμεραν τὴν ἀποχώρισιν
αὐτοῦ μακρὸν πρὸς τῷ Ἱραλείου ἐδέκτης, καὶ μήτε
εὐχαίρετο ἢ πλαύ τῆς ἐκρίσεως (ἐκατοπρότῳ γὰρ πυλῆ
τοῦ Σκεπίων), τὸν μὲν ἀδελφὸν Μάγανα σὺν
τοῖς ἱππεὺς διανοοῦσαίς καὶ ἐπιθυμοῦσας τοῖς
Ῥωμαίοις ἑκάστοις, αὐτῶν δὲ ἐναὶ πρὸς τὸν
πεντήκοντα τοῖς ἐλάφιοις κατὰ τὸν ἐπίτοιχον διατέθηκε 
καὶ ὅστις τοῖς ἑκάστοις ἥκας τοῖς ἐκατοπρότητοι,
καὶ ὅστις τῷ σφαίρῃ ἐπιθυμοῦσας, καταλαβότης ὅτι ὁ
Σκεπίων κατὰ χώραν ἐμελεῖ, καὶ ἑμαυτήσατο ἀνόητον, ἔλθων καὶ ὅστις τῷ
Γαλατείᾳ ἦσαν μὲ τοὺς ἐκατοπρότους, ὁ δέ οὖν
Σκεπίων ὕπε τοῦτο παρακόπτει καὶ ὑπὸ τοῦ πρόσ
ματος τοῦ θάνατον εὐποροῦσας ὑπὸ νεκρᾶ αὐτῶν ἐξανάτη
καὶ ἕτερων τοῖς ταφρώματα ἑποίμασεν διάβολο
καὶ αὐτῶν ὑπὲρνεν. μετά δὲ τοῦτο ἄβατον καὶ
ὁ Καρχερίδης καὶ τὸ ποτάμιον διὰ μίσους τοιο
πόρους ἐκπροσπέλασαν.

Ὁ μὲν οὖν Σκεπίων διὰ τὸ πρᾶγμα καὶ διὰ
tὰ συμβορεύοντο ἀνέχει καὶ διὰ λόγους μετεμέλους,
Ἀμβίας δὲ τὸ πολλὰ παραδόσα παρακολούθη χρός
μάχη αὐτῶν, ὅταν οὗτος ἦνοφθή καὶ ταράξῃ

BOOK XIV

Zonaras 8, 23-26.

war. Scipio also did the same on the Roman side. They then began the contest in the intention of fighting with their entire armies; but Scipio in a preliminary cavalry skirmish was defeated, lost many men, was wounded, and would have been killed, had not his son Scipio, though only seventeen or eighteen years old, come to his aid; he was consequently alarmed lest his infantry should meet with a similar reverse, and he at once fell back and that night withdrew from the field.

21. Hannibal learning at daybreak of his with-
drawal proceeded to the Po, and when he found there neither rafts nor boats—for they had been burned by Scipio—he ordered his brother Mago to swim across with the cavalry and pursue the Roman, whereas he himself marched up toward the sources of the river, and then ordered that the elephants should cross down stream. In this manner, while the water was temporarily dammed and spread out by the animals' bulk, he effected a crossing more easily than had been done before. Scipio, overtaken, stood his ground and would have offered battle but for the fact that by night the Gauls in his army deserted. Embarrassed by this occurrence and still suffering from his wound, he once more broke camp at nightfall and located his entrenchments on high ground. He was not pursued; but later the Carthaginians came up and encamped with the river between the two forces.

Scipio, on account of his wound and because of what had taken place, was inclined to wait and send for reinforcements; and Hannibal, after many attempts to provoke him to battle, finding that he

vol. II.

ii 97
could not do this and that he was short of provisions, attacked a fort where a large supply of food was stored for the Romans. As he made no headway, he used money to bribe the commander of the garrison, and thus got possession of the place by betrayal. He hoped also to capture the other points, partly by arms and partly by gold. Meanwhile Longus had entrusted Sicily to his lieutenant and had come in response to Scipio's call. Not much later, influenced by ambition, on the one hand, and also by the fact of a victory over some marauders, he presented himself in battle array. But he lost the day by falling into an ambuscade; and when Hannibal attacked him with his infantry and elephants, the followers of Longus turned to flight and many were put to the sword, while many others, heedless of the river, fell in and were drowned, so that only a few were saved with Longus. And yet Hannibal, though victorious, was not happy, because he had lost many soldiers and all his elephants except one by reason of the cold and their wounds. Accordingly, they arranged an armistice without any formal pledges, and both sides retired to the territory of their allies and passed the winter in the cities there. Abundant provisions kept coming to the Romans; but Hannibal, not satisfied with the contributions of the allies, made frequent raids upon the Roman villages and cities, sometimes conquering, sometimes being repulsed. Once he was beaten by Longus and his cavalry and received a wound. Some of the Romans, encouraged by this, came out by themselves to oppose him when he assailed them. These he destroyed and received the capitulation of  

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1 τοῦ Βα, τὰ Μα.  

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2 99
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