

EPITOME OF BOOK LXII

- LXI Ἦν δέ τις Μάρκος Σάλουιος Ὄθων, ὃς οὕτως
 11, 2 ἔκ τε τῆς ὁμοιότητος τῶν τρόπων καὶ τῆς κοινω-
 νίας τῶν ἀμαρτημάτων τῷ Νέρωνι φέκείωτο ὥστε
 καὶ εἰπὼν ποτε πρὸς αὐτόν “οὕτω με Καίσαρα
 ἴδοις” οὐδὲν διὰ τοῦτο κακὸν ἔπαθεν, ἀλλὰ
 τοσοῦτον μόνον ἀντήκουσεν ὅτι “οὐδὲ ὑπατόν σε
 ὄψομαι.” τούτῳ τὴν Σαβίναν, ἐξ εὐπατριδῶν
 οὔσαν, ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀνδρὸς ἀποσπάσας ἔδωκε, καὶ
 3 αὐτῇ ἀμφοτέροι ἀμα ἐχρώντο. φοβηθεῖσα οὖν
 ἢ Ἀγριππίνα μὴ γήμηται τῷ Νέρωνι (δεινῶς γὰρ
 ἤδη αὐτῆς ἐρᾶν ἤρξατο), ἔργον ἀνοσιώτατον ἐτόλ-
 μησεν· ὥσπερ γὰρ οὐχ ἰκανὸν ὄν¹ ἐς μυθολογίαν
 ὅτι τὸν θεῖον τὸν Κλαύδιον ἐς ἔρωτα αὐτῆς² ταῖς τε
 γοητείαις ταῖς τε ἀκολασίαις καὶ τῶν βλεμμάτων
 καὶ τῶν φιλημάτων ὑπηγάγετο, ἐπεχείρησε καὶ
 4 τὸν Νέρωνα ὁμοίως καταδουλώσασθαι. ἀλλ’
 ἐκείνο μὲν εἶπ’ ἀληθῶς ἐγένετο εἴτε πρὸς τὸν
 τρόπον αὐτῶν ἐπλάσθη οὐκ οἶδα· ἃ δὲ δὴ πρὸς
 πάντων ὁμολογῆται λέγω, ὅτι ἑταίραν τινὰ τῇ
 Ἀγριππίνῃ ὁμοίαν ὁ Νέρων δι’ αὐτὸ τοῦτο ἐς τὰ
 μάλιστα ἠγάπησε, καὶ αὐτῇ τε ἐκείνῃ προσπαί-
 ζων καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις ἐνδεικνύμενος ἔλεγεν ὅτι καὶ
 τῇ μητρὶ ὁμιλοῖη.
- 12 Μαθοῦσα δὲ ταῦθ’ ἢ Σαβίνα ἀνέπεισε τὸν

¹ ὄν supplied by H. Steph.

² αὐτῆς H. Steph., αὐτῆς VC.

EPITOME OF BOOK LXII

THERE was a certain Marcus Salvius Otho, who A.D. 58
 had become so intimate with Nero through the
 similarity of their character and their companion-
 ship in crime that he was not even punished for
 saying to him one day, “As truly as you may expect
 to see me Caesar!” All that he got for it was the
 response: “I shall not see you even consul.” It
 was to him that the emperor gave Sabina, a woman
 of patrician family, after separating her from her
 husband,¹ and they both enjoyed her together.
 Agrippina, therefore, fearing that Nero would marry
 the woman (for he was now beginning to entertain
 a mad passion for her), ventured upon a most unholy
 course. As if it were not notoriety enough for her
 that she had used her blandishments and immodest
 looks and kisses to seduce her uncle Claudius, she
 undertook to enslave even Nero in similar fashion.
 Whether this actually occurred, now, or whether it
 was invented to fit their character, I am not sure;
 but I state as a fact what is admitted by all, that
 Nero had a mistress resembling Agrippina of whom
 he was especially fond because of this very resem-
 blance, and when he toyed with the girl herself or
 displayed her charms to others, he would say that
 he was wont to have intercourse with his mother.

Sabina on learning of this persuaded Nero to get A.D. 59

¹ Rufius (or Rufrius) Crispinus; see Tac. *Ann.* xiii. 45;
 xv. 71; Suet. *Nero* 35.

Νέρωνα ὡς καὶ ἐπιβουλευούσαν οἱ αὐτὴν διολέ-
 σαι. καὶ αὐτὸν καὶ ὁ Σενέκας, ὡς πολλοῖς καὶ
 ἀξιοπίστοις ἀνδράσιν εἶρηται, παρώξυνεν, εἴτ' οὖν
 τὸ ἔγκλημα τὸ καθ' ἑαυτοῦ ἐπηλυγάσασθαι βουλη-
 θεῖς, εἴτε καὶ τὸν Νέρωνα ἐς μαιφονίαν ἀνόσιον
 προαγαγεῖν¹ ἐβελήσας, ἵν' ὡς τάχιστα καὶ πρὸς
 2 θεῶν καὶ πρὸς ἀνθρώπων ἀπόληται. ἐπεὶ δὲ καὶ
 ἐκ τοῦ προφανοῦς ὠκνοῦν τὸ ἔργον καὶ κρύφα διὰ
 φαρμάκων οὐκ εἶχον αὐτὴν ἀνελεῖν (πάντα γὰρ
 ἐκείνη ἰσχυρῶς ἐφυλάσσετο), ναῦν ἰδόντες ἐν
 τῷ θεάτρῳ διαλυομένην τε αὐτὴν ἐφ' ἑαυτῆς καὶ
 τινα θηρία ἀφιεΐσαν, καὶ συνισταμένην αὐ πάλιν
 ὥστε καὶ ἐρρώσθαι, τοιαύτην ἑτέραν ταχέως
 3 ἐναυπηγήσαντο.² ὡς δὲ ἦ τε ναὺς ἐγεγόνει καὶ
 ἡ Ἀγριππίνα ἐτεθεράπευτο (πάντα γὰρ τρόπον
 ἐκολάκευεν αὐτήν, ἵνα μὴ τι ὑποτοπήσασα
 φυλάξῃται), ἐν μὲν τῇ Ῥώμῃ οὐδὲν ἐτόλμησε
 ποιῆσαι, μὴ καὶ ἐκδημοσιευθῆ³ τὸ μίασμα, πόρρω
 δὲ ἐς τὴν Καμπανίαν ἀπάρας καὶ παραλαβὼν
 τὴν μητέρα ἔπλευσεν ἐπ' αὐτῆς ἐκείνης τῆς νεῶς
 λαμπρότατα κεκοσμημένης, ὡς καὶ ἐπιθυμίαν
 αὐτῇ ἐμβαλεῖν αἰεὶ ποτε τῇ νηὶ χρῆσθαι.
 13 Ἐλθὼν τε ἐς Βαύλους δείπνᾷ τε πολυτελέ-
 τατα ἐπὶ πολλὰς ἡμέρας ἐποίησε καὶ τὴν μητέρα
 ἐν αὐτοῖς φιλοφρόνως εἰστίασεν, ἀποδῶν τε
 πᾶν ποθεῖν ἐπλάττετο καὶ παροῦσαν ὑπερησπᾶ-
 ζετο, αἰτεῖν τε ἐκέλευεν ὅ τι βούλοιο, καὶ μὴ
 2 αἰτούσῃ πολλὰ ἐχαρίζετο. ἐπεὶ δὲ ἐνταῦθα

¹ προαγαγεῖν Bk., προσαγαγεῖν VC.

² ἐναυπηγήσαντο Rk., ἐναυπηγήσατο VC.

³ ἐκδημοσιευθῆ Rk., ἐκδημοσιευθῆναι VC.

rid of his mother, alleging that she was plotting A.D. 59
 against him. He was incited likewise by Seneca
 (or so many trustworthy men have stated), whether
 from a desire to hush the complaint against his
 own name, or from his willingness to lead Nero on
 to a career of unholy bloodguiltiness that should
 bring about most speedily his destruction by gods
 and men alike. But they shrank from doing the deed
 openly and, on the other hand, were unable to put
 her out of the way secretly by means of poison, since
 she took extreme precautions against any such
 possibility. One day they saw in the theatre a ship
 that automatically parted asunder, let out some
 beasts, and then came together again so as to be
 once more seaworthy; and they at once caused
 another to be built like it. By the time the ship
 was finished Agrippina had been quite won over by
 Nero's attentions, for he exhibited devotion to her
 in every way, to make sure that she should suspect
 nothing and be off her guard. He did not dare to
 do anything in Rome, however, for fear the crime
 should become generally known. Hence he went
 off to a distance, even to Campania, accompanied by
 his mother, making the voyage on this very ship,
 which was adorned in most brilliant fashion, in the
 hope of inspiring in her a desire to use the vessel
 constantly.

When they reached Bauli, he gave for several
 days most costly dinners, at which he entertained
 his mother with every show of friendliness. If she
 were absent he feigned to miss her sorely, and if
 she were present he was lavish of caresses. He
 bade her ask whatever she desired and bestowed
 many gifts without her asking. When matters had

ἦν,¹ οὕτω δὴ ἀπὸ τοῦ δείπνου περὶ μέσας
 νύκτας περιλαμβάνει τε αὐτήν, καὶ πρὸς τὸ
 στέρνον προσαγαγὼν, καὶ φιλήσας καὶ τὰ ὄμματα
 καὶ τὰς χεῖρας, “μητέρ” τε εἰπὼν, “ἔρρωσό μοι
 καὶ ὑγίαινε· ἐν γὰρ σοὶ καὶ ἐγὼ ζῶ καὶ διὰ
 σὲ βασιλεύω,” παρέδωκεν αὐτὴν Ἀνικῆτῳ
 ἀπέλευθέρῳ ὡς καὶ κομοῦντι οἴκαδε ἐπὶ τοῦ
 3 πλοίου οὐ κατεσκευάκει. ἀλλ’ οὐ γὰρ ἦνεγκεν ἢ
 θάλασσα τὴν μέλλουσαν ἐπ’ αὐτῇ τραγωδίαν
 ἔσσεσθαι, οὐδ’ ὑπέμεινε τὴν ψευδολογίαν τῆς ἀνο-
 σιουργίας ἀναδέξασθαι, διελύθη μὲν ἡ ναὺς καὶ ἡ
 Ἀγριππίνα ἐς τὸ ὕδωρ ἐξέπεσεν, οὐ μόντοι καὶ
 ἀπέθανεν, ἀλλὰ καίτοι καὶ ἐν σκότῳ καὶ διακορῆς
 μέθης οὔσα, τῶν τε ναυτῶν ταῖς κώπαις ἐπ’
 αὐτὴν χρωμέναν ὥστε καὶ Ἀκερρωνίαν² Πῶλλαν
 4 τὴν σύμπλουν αὐτῆς ἀποκτείνει, διεσώθη. καὶ
 ἐλθοῦσα οἴκαδε οὔτε προσεποιήσατο οὐτ’ ἐξέφηνε
 τὸ ἐπιβούλευμα, ἀλλὰ καὶ πρὸς τὸν υἱὸν ἔπεμψε
 κατὰ τάχος, καὶ τό τε συμβεβηκὸς αὐτῇ ὡς κατὰ
 τύχην συμπεπτωκὸς ἔλεγε, καὶ ὅτι σώζοιτο εὐηγ-
 γελίζετο³ δὴθεν αὐτῆ. ἀκούσας δὲ ταῦθ’ ὁ Νέρων
 οὐκ ἐκαρτέρησεν, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν πεμφθέντα ὡς
 ἐπὶ τῇ αὐτοῦ⁴ σφαγῇ ἤκουτα ἐκόλασε, καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν
 μητέρα τὸν Ἀνικῆτον εὐθύς μετὰ τῶν ναυτῶν
 5 ἀπέστειλε· τοῖς γὰρ δορυφόροις οὐκ ἐπίστευσε
 τὸν θάνατον αὐτῆς. ἰδοῦσα δὲ σφας ἐκείνη
 ἔγνω τε ἐφ’ ἃ ἤκουσι, καὶ ἀναπηδήσασα ἐκ τῆς
 κούτης τὴν τε ἐσθῆτα περιερρήξατο, καὶ τὴν

reached this stage, he embraced her at the close of A.D. 59
 dinner about midnight, and straining her to his
 breast, kissed her eyes and hands, exclaiming:
 “Strength and good health to you,¹ mother. For
 you I live and because of you I rule.” He then
 gave her in charge of Anicetus, a freedman, ostensibly
 to convey her home on the ship that he had
 prepared. But the sea would not endure the
 tragedy that was to be enacted on it, nor would it
 submit to be liable to the false charge of having
 committed the abominable deed; and so, though
 the ship parted asunder and Agrippina fell into the
 water, she did not perish. Notwithstanding that it
 was dark and that she was glutted with strong drink
 and that the sailors used their oars against her with
 such force that they killed Acerronia Polla, her
 companion on the trip, she nevertheless got safely
 to shore. When she reached home, she affected
 not to realize that it was a plot and kept it quiet,
 but speedily sent to her son a report of the occur-
 rence, calling it an accident, and conveyed to him
 the good news (as she assumed it to be) that she
 was safe. Upon hearing this Nero could not restrain
 himself, but punished the messenger as if he had
 come to assassinate him and at once despatched
 Anicetus with the sailors against his mother; for
 he would not trust the Praetorians to slay her. When
 she saw them, she knew for what they had come, and
 leaping up from her bed she tore open her clothing,

¹ Both verbs used in the Greek were common formulas of leave-taking.

¹ ἐνταῦθα ἦν Rk., ἐνταῦθ’ . . . V, ενταυθ . . . C.

² Ἀκερρωνίαν Ryckius, ἀκερωνίαν VC.

³ εὐηγγελίζετο Bs., εὐηγγέλιζε H. Steph., εὐηγγελίκει VC.

⁴ αὐτοῦ Dindorf, αὐτοῦ VC.

- γαστέρα ἀπογυμνώσασα “παῖε,” ἔφη, “ταύτην, Ἀνίκητε, παῖε, ὅτι Νέρωνα ἔτεκεν.”
- 14 Οὕτω μὲν ἡ Ἀγριππίνα ἢ τοῦ Γερμανικοῦ θυγάτηρ, ἢ τοῦ Ἀγρίππου ἑγγονος, ἢ τοῦ Αὐγούστου ἀπόγονος, ὑπ’ αὐτοῦ τοῦ νείους, ᾧ τὸ κράτος ἐδεδώκει, δι’ ὃν ἄλλους τε καὶ τὸν θεῖον ἀπεκτόνει,
- 2 κατεσφάγη. μαθὼν δὲ ὁ Νέρων ὅτι τέθηκεν, οὐκ ἐπίστευσεν· ὑπὸ γὰρ τοῦ μεγέθους τοῦ τολμήματος ἀπιστία αὐτῷ ὑπεχύθη· καὶ διὰ τοῦτο αὐτόπτης ἐπεθύμησε τοῦ πάθους γενέσθαι. καὶ αὐτὴν τε πᾶσαν εἶδε γυμνώσας καὶ τὰ τραύματα αὐτῆς ἐπεσκέψατο, καὶ τέλος πολὺ καὶ τοῦ φόνου ἀνοσιώτερον ἔπος ἐφθέγγετο· εἶπε γὰρ ὅτι
- 3 “οὐκ ἤδειν ὅτι οὕτω καλὴν μητέρα εἶχον.” καὶ τοῖς τε δορυφόροις ἀργύριον ἔδωκεν, ἵνα δῆλον ὅτι πολλὰ τοιαῦτα γίνεσθαι εὐχωνται, καὶ τῇ γερουσίᾳ ἐπέστειλεν, ἄλλα τε ὅσα συνήδει αὐτῇ καταριθμῶν, καὶ ὅτι ἐπεβούλευσέ τε αὐτῷ καὶ
- 4 φωραθεῖσα ἑαυτὴν διεχρήσατο.¹ καὶ τῇ μὲν βουλῇ ταῦτα ἐπέστειλεν, αὐτὸς δὲ ταῖς τε νυξίν ἐξεταράττετο ὥστε καὶ ἐκ τῆς εὐνῆς ἑξαπιναιῶς ἀναπηδᾶν, καὶ μεθ’ ἡμέραν ὑπὸ σαλπίγγων δῆτινων πολεμικόν τι καὶ θορυβῶδες ἐκ τοῦ χωρίου ἐν ᾧ τὰ τῆς Ἀγριππίνης ὄστα ἔκειτο ἠχουσῶν ἐδειματοῦτο· διὸ καὶ ἄλλοσε ἤει, καὶ ἐπειδὴ κἀνταῦθα τὰ αὐτῷ συνέβαινε, ἄλλοσε ἐμπλήκτως μεθίστατο.—Xiph. 152, 15–154, 27 R. St.
- 11, 1 “Ὅτι ὁ Νέρων, οἷα ἀληθὲς μὲν μηδὲν παρὰ μηδενὸς ἀκούων, πάντας δὲ ἐπαινοῦντας τὰ πεπραγ-

¹ διεχρήσατο VC², κατεχρήσατο C¹.

exposing her abdomen, and cried out; “Strike here, A.D. 59 Anicetus, strike here, for this bore Nero.”

Thus was Agrippina, daughter of Germanicus, grand-daughter of Agrippa, and descendant of Augustus, slain by the very son to whom she had given the sovereignty and for whose sake she had killed her uncle and others. Nero, when informed that she was dead, would not believe it, since the deed was so monstrous that he was overwhelmed by incredulity; he therefore desired to behold the victim of his crime with his own eyes. So he laid bare her body, looked her all over and inspected her wounds, finally uttering a remark far more abominable even than the murder. His words were: “I did not know I had so beautiful a mother.” To the Praetorians he gave money, evidently to inspire in them the hope that many such crimes would be committed; and to the senate he sent a letter in which he enumerated the offences of which he knew she was guilty, and charged also that she had plotted against him and on being detected had committed suicide. Yet in spite of what he told the senate his own conscience was so disturbed at night that he would leap suddenly from his bed, and by day, when he merely heard the blare of trumpets sounding forth some stirring martial strain from the region where lay Agrippina’s bones,¹ he would be terror-stricken. He therefore kept changing his residence; and when he had the same experience in the new place also, he would move in utter fright elsewhere.

Since Nero did not hear a word of truth from anybody and saw none but those who approved of his

¹ Near her villa at Bauli.

μένα ὀρών, λανθάνειν τε ἐφ' οἷς ἐδεδράκει ἢ καὶ ὀρθῶς αὐτὰ πεποιηκέαι ἐνόμισε, κάκ τούτου πολὺ χείρων καὶ ἐς τὰ ἄλλα ἐγένετο. πάντα τε γὰρ ὅσα ἐξῆν αὐτῷ ποιεῖν, καὶ καλὰ ἡγήλιτο εἶναι, καὶ τοῖς φόβῳ τι ἢ κολακείᾳ αὐτοῦ λέγουσιν ὡς καὶ πάνυ ἀληθεύουσι προσείχεν. τέως μὲν γὰρ φόβοις καὶ θορύβοις συνέιχετο· ἐπεὶ δ' οἱ πρέσβεις πολλὰ καὶ¹ κεχαρισμένα αὐτῷ εἶπον, ἀνεθάρσησε—Exc. Val. 240 (p. 686).

- 15 Οἱ δὲ ἐν τῇ Ῥώμῃ ἄνθρωποι ἀκούσαντες ταῦτα, καίπερ ἀχθόμενοι, ἔχαιρον νομίζοντες αὐτὸν ἐκ τούτου γε πάντως ἀπολείσθαι. τῶν δὲ βουλευτῶν οἱ μὲν ἄλλοι πάντες προσεποιούντο χαίρειν ἐπὶ τοῖς γεγενοῖσι, καὶ συνήδοντο δῆθεν τῷ Νέρωνι, καὶ ἐψηφίζοντο πολλὰ οἷς ᾧοντο αὐτῷ χαριεῖ-
 2 σθαι· ὁ Πούπλιος δὲ δὴ Θρασέας Παῖτος ἦλθε μὲν ἐς τὸ συνέδριον καὶ τῆς ἐπιστολῆς ἐπήκουσεν, ἀναγνωσθείσης δὲ αὐτῆς ἐξανέστη τε εὐθύς πρὶν καὶ ὀτιοῦν ἀποφήσασθαι καὶ ἐξῆλθε, διότι ἂ μὲν ἤθελεν
 3 εἰπεῖν οὐκ ἐδύνατο, ἂ δὲ ἐδύνατο² οὐκ ἤθελεν. ἐν δὲ τῷ αὐτῷ τρόπῳ καὶ τὰ ἄλλα πάντα διῆγεν· ἔλεγε γὰρ ὅτι “εἰ μὲν ἐμὲ μόνον ὁ Νέρων φονεύσειν ἔμελλε, πολλῇν ἂν εἶχον τοῖς ἄλλοις ὑπερκολακεύουσιν αὐτὸν³ συγγνώμην· εἰ δὲ καὶ ἐκείνων τῶν σφόδρα αὐτὸν ἐπαινούτων πολλοὺς τοὺς μὲν ἀνάλωκε τοὺς δὲ καὶ ἀπολέσει, τί χρῆ μάτην ἀσχημονοῦντα δουλοπρεπῶς φθαρῆναι, ἐξὸν ἐλευ-
 4 θερῶς ἀποδοῦναι τῇ φύσει τὸ ὀφειλόμενον; ἐμοῦ

¹ καὶ supplied by Bk.

² ἐδύνατο Bk., ἠδύνατο VC.

³ αὐτὸν Sylb., αὐτῷ VC.

actions, he thought that his past deeds had not A. D. 59 been found out, or even, perhaps, that there was nothing wrong in them. Hence he became much worse in other respects also. He came to believe that anything that it was in his power to do was right, and gave heed to those whose words were inspired by fear or flattery, as if they were utterly sincere in what they said. So, although for a time he was subject to fears and disturbances, yet after the envoys had made to him a number of pleasing speeches he regained his courage.

The people of Rome, on hearing of these occurrences, rejoiced in spite of their disapproval of them, thinking that now at last his destruction was assured. As for the senators, all but Publius Thrasea Paetus pretended to rejoice at what had taken place and ostensibly shared in Nero's satisfaction therein, voting many measures by which they thought to win his favour. Thrasea, like the rest, attended the meeting of the senate and listened to the letter, but when the reading was ended, he at once rose from his seat and without a word left the chamber, inasmuch as he could not say what he would and would not say what he could. And indeed this was always his way of acting on other occasions. He used to say, for example: "If I were the only one that Nero was going to put to death, I could easily pardon the rest who load him with flatteries. But since even among those who praise him to excess there are many whom he has either already disposed of or will yet destroy, why should one degrade oneself to no purpose and then perish like a slave, when one may pay the debt to nature like a freeman? As for me, men will talk

μὲν γὰρ περὶ καὶ ἔπειτα λόγος τις ἔσται, τούτων δέ, πλὴν κατ' αὐτὸ τοῦτο ὅτι ἐσφάγησαν, οὐδεὶς." τοιοῦτος μὲν ὁ Θρασεῆς ἐγένετο, καὶ τοῦτο αἰεὶ πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ἔλεγε "ἐμὲ Νέρων ἀποκτεῖναι μὲν δύναται, βλάψαι δὲ οὐ."

16 Νέρωνα¹ δὲ μετὰ τὸν τῆς μητρὸς φόνον εἰσιόντα ἐς τὴν Ῥώμην δημοσίᾳ μὲν ἐθεράπευον, ἰδίᾳ δέ, ἐν ᾧ γε καὶ παρρησιάζασθαι τινες ἀσφαλῶς ἐδύναντο, καὶ μάλα αὐτὸν ἐσπάραττον. τοῦτο μὲν γὰρ μολγόν τέ τινα ἀπ' ἀνδριάντος αὐτοῦ νύκτωρ ἀπεκρέμασαν, ἐνδεικνύμενοι ὅτι ἐς ἐκεῖνον 2 αὐτὸν δέοι ἐμβεβλησθαι· τοῦτο δὲ παιδίον ἐς τὴν ἀγορὰν ρίψαντες προσέδησαν αὐτῷ πινάκιον λέγον "οὐκ ἀναιροῦμαί σε, ἵνα μὴ τὴν μητέρα ἀποσφάξῃς."—Xiph. 154, 27–155, 19 R. St.

2^a "Ὅτι εἰσιόντος Νέρωνος εἰς τὴν Ῥώμην τοὺς τῆς Ἀγριππίνης ἀνδριάντας καθείλον."² μὴ φθάσαντες δὲ ἕνα ἀποτεμεῖν ῥάκος αὐτῷ ἐπέβαλον ὥστε δοκεῖν ἐγκαλύπτεσθαι, καὶ τις παραχρήμα ἐπιγράψας προσέπηξε τῷ ἀνδριάντι "ἐγὼ αἰσχύνομαι καὶ σὺ οὐκ αἰδῆῃ."—Petr. Patr. exc. Vat. 50 (p. 210 sq. Mai. = p. 193, 13–18 Dind.).

2^b Καὶ ἦν μὲν καὶ ἀναγινώσκειν πολλαχόθι ὁμοίως γεγραμμένον

"Νέρων Ὀρέστης Ἀλκμέων μητροκτόνοι,"³

ἦν δὲ καὶ ἀκούειν αὐτὸ τοῦτο λεγόντων ὅτι Νέρων 3 τὴν μητέρα ἀνεχρήσατο· συχνοὶ γὰρ ὡς καὶ λελαληκότας τινὰς αὐτὸ ἐσήγγελον, οὐχ οὕτως

¹ νέρωνα C², νέρων VC¹.

² καθείλον Mai., καθείλεν cod.

³ μητροκτόνοι VC Zon., μητροκτόνος exc. Vat.

of me hereafter, but of them never, except only ^{A.D. 59} to record the fact that they were put to death." Such was the man that Thrasea showed himself to be; and he was always saying to himself: "Nero can kill me, but he cannot harm me."

When Nero entered Rome after the murder of his mother, people paid him reverence in public, but in private, so long at least as any could speak their minds with safety, they tore his character to shreds. For one thing, they hung a leathern bag by night on one of his statues to signify that he himself ought to be thrown into one.¹ Again, they cast into the Forum a baby to which was fastened a tag bearing the words: "I will not rear you up, lest you slay your mother."

At Nero's entrance into Rome they pulled down the statues of Agrippina. But there was one that they did not cut loose soon enough, and so they threw over it a garment which gave it the appearance of being veiled. Thereupon somebody at once composed and affixed to the statue this inscription: "I am abashed and thou art unashamed."

In many places alike one could read the inscription:

"Orestes, Nero, Alcmeon, all matricides."

And people could even be heard saying in so many words that Nero had put his mother out of the way; for information that certain persons had talked to this effect was lodged by many men whose

¹ A reference to the well-known punishment prescribed for parricides. The criminal was sewn up in a leather bag together with a dog, a cock, a viper and an ape, and thrown into the water to drown.

ἰν' ἐκείνους ἀπολέσωσιν, ὡς ἵνα τὸν Νέρωνα διαβάλωσιν. ὅθεν οὐδεμίαν τοιαύτην δίκην προσήκατο, ἥτοι μὴ βουλόμενος ἐπὶ πλείον δι' αὐτῆς τὴν φήμην ἐπαυξῆσαι, ἢ καὶ καταφρονῶν ἤδη τῶν λεγομένων. ὁ μόντοι ἥλιος σύμπας ἐν μέσαις ταῖς θυσίαις ταῖς ἐπὶ τῇ Ἀгриππίνῃ κατὰ τὸ ψήφισμα γενομέναις ἐξέλιπεν, ὥστε καὶ ἀστέρας ἐκφανῆναι.¹ καὶ οἱ ἐλέφαντες οἱ τὴν τοῦ Αὐγούστου ἀρμάμαξαν ἄγοντες ἐς μὲν τὸν ἵππόδρομον ἐσήλθον καὶ μέχρι τῆς τῶν βουλευτῶν ἕδρας ἀφίκοντο, γενόμενοι δὲ ἐνταῦθα ἔστησαν καὶ περαιτέρω οὐ προεχώρησαν. καὶ ὁ δὲ καὶ μάλιστα ἄν τις ἐτεκμήρατο ἐκ τοῦ δαιμονίου γεγονέναι, σκηπτὸς ποτε τὸ δείπνου αὐτοῦ πᾶν ἐσφερόμενόν οἱ κατέφλεξεν, ὥσπερ τις ἄρπυια τὰ σιτία αὐτοῦ ἀφελόμενος.—Xiph. 155, 19–156, 2 R. St.

17 Ὅτι καὶ τὴν Δομιτίαν τὴν τηθίδα, ἣν καὶ αὐτὴν ὡς μητέρα τιμᾶν ἔλεγεν, ἐπαπέκτεινε φαρμάκῳ, οὐδ' ἀνέμεινεν ὀλίγας ἡμέρας ἰν' ἄλλως ὑπὸ τοῦ γήρωσ ἀποθάνη, ἀλλ' ἐπεθύμησε καὶ ἐκείνην ἀπολέσαι· καὶ ἔσπευσέ γε τοῦτο ποιῆσαι διὰ τὰ κτήματα αὐτῆς τὰ ἐν ταῖς Βαίαις καὶ ἐν τῇ² Ῥαβεννίδι³ ὄντα, ἐν οἷς καὶ ἡβητήρια⁴ εὐθύς μεγαλοπρεπῆ κατεσκευάσεν, ἃ καὶ δεῦρο ἀνθεῖ.—Exc. Val. 241 (p. 686), Xiph. 156, 2–6 R. St.

Ἐπὶ δὲ δὴ τῇ μητρὶ καὶ ἑορτὴν μεγίστην δὴ καὶ πολυτελεστάτην ἐποίησεν, ὥστε ἐν πέντε ἡ καὶ⁵ ἕξ ἅμα θεάτροις ἐπὶ πολλὰς ἡμέρας πανηγυρίσαι, ὅτε δὴ καὶ ἐλέφας ἀνήχθη ἐς τὴν ἀνωτάτω τοῦ

purpose was not so much to destroy the others as A.D. 59 to bring reproach on Nero. Hence he would admit no suit brought on such a charge, either because he did not wish that the rumour should thereby gain greater currency, or because he by this time felt contempt for anything people said. Nevertheless, in the midst of the sacrifices that were offered in Agrippina's honour in pursuance of a decree, the sun suffered a total eclipse and the stars could be seen. Also the elephants which drew the chariot of Augustus, when they had entered the Circus and proceeded as far as the senators' seats, stopped at that point and refused to go any farther. And there was another incident in which one might surely have recognized the hand of Heaven. I refer to the thunderbolt that descended upon Nero's dinner and consumed it all as it was being brought to him, like some harpy snatching away his food.

He also poisoned his aunt Domitia, whom he likewise claimed to revere like a mother. He would not even wait a few days for her to die a natural death of old age, but was eager to destroy her also. His haste to do this was inspired by her estates at Baiae and in the neighbourhood of Ravenna, on which he promptly erected magnificent gymnasia that are flourishing still.

In honour of his mother he celebrated a most magnificent and costly festival, the events taking place for several days in five or six theatres at once. It was on this occasion that an elephant was led up

³ Ῥαβεννίδι cod. Peir., ραβεννίδι θαλάσση VC.

⁴ ἡβητήρια cod. Peir., νικητήρια VC, ἐνηβητήρια Bk. (cf. Herod. 2, 133).

⁵ ἡ καὶ V, καὶ C.

¹ ἐκφανῆναι Leuncl., ἐκφῆναι VC.

² καὶ ἐν τῇ cod. Peir., τῇ τε VC.

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