EPITOME OF BOOK LXVIII

After Domitian, the Romans appointed Nerva A.D. 96. Cocceius emperor. Because of the hatred felt for Domitian, his images, many of which were of silver and many of gold, were melted down; and from this source large amounts of money were obtained. The arches, too, of which a very great number were being erected to this one man, were torn down. Nerva also released all who were on trial for maiestas and restored the exiles; moreover, he put to death all the slaves and the freedmen who had conspired against their masters and allowed that class of persons to lodge no complaint whatever against their masters; and no persons were permitted to accuse anybody of maiestas or of adopting the Jewish mode of life. Many of those who had been informers were condemned to death, among others Seras, 1 the philosopher. When, now, no little commotion was occasioned by the fact that everybody was accusing everybody else, Pouto, the consul, is said to have remarked that it was bad to have an emperor under whom nobody was permitted to do anything, but worse to have one under whom everybody was permitted to do everything; and Nerva, on hearing this, ordered that this condition of affairs should cease for the future. Now Nerva was so old and so feeble in health (he always, for instance, had

1 The name is suspicious and is perhaps corrupt.
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2 ποτε ἤμει, ἀνθρώπων. Ἀντίοχος δὲ καὶ ἄνθρωπος
ταυτό 1 χρυσὸν ἡ ἀργυροῦ γίνεται. τὸ ἐν τῷ ὀφθαλμῷ τοῦ ᾿Αρνητή
μέσον πᾶσα ἀπόθεμεν ὅσα ἐν τῷ βασιλείῳ ἦν ἐν ἀγαθοῖς ἒκρήθη, τὸ τι πάντων πληρότερον τῶν θρόνων ἤ ἐκλείουσεν καὶ παντελεοσώς μηδέν μὴν κτήσεως ἐχαρίσατο, βουλευτὰς τε τῆς τοῦ ἀγγείου
τοῦ καὶ τῆς διαφορῆς προστάτων. χρυσίμων δὲ ἄποιρων πολλὰ μὲν ἐμπείρες καὶ σκεψίν καὶ ἀργυρίῳ καὶ χρυσῷ, ἄλλα τε ἐπιτληκτικά καὶ ἐκ τῶν ἐξούσιων καὶ ἐκ τῶν βασιλείων, πολλὰ δὲ καὶ χρυσίμων καὶ ἀργυρίων, μᾶλλον δὲ πάντα πλήρες τῶν ἀναγκών, ἄδικου δὲ μέγιστιν καὶ περὶ τῶν τιμῶν πάντων ἐμπεριστεράσσετο, ἄλλα καὶ ἐν ἀρτι
3 ταύτῃ πολλοῦ εὐφράγετας, καὶ πολλὰς μὲν ἀργυρίων πολλὰς δὲ ἐπιποδρομίως ἄλλα τε τῶν τίθεν ἐκάθες κατεδέχοντο, συντήροντος ὅσον τε τὰ δια
πασμάτα. ἄρμος δὲ καὶ ἐν ἥραν ἡμέρας μεγάλα τῶν βουλευτῶν φοινίκεις, ὕβεβαιοντο τε τῶν ἵκων καίστη ἐπεδυκαζότος, ἐπηρεάτε ὑπάρχον τε ἀνάμεσα τοῦ ἐν ἀρτι ἀποφθέγματο πολλῶν τῶν μυθῶν δὲ ἐξελέγατο ομοῦ, τοῦ δὲ Ὀμηρίνου, καίστην πολλάκις αὐτοκράτορα ἑν
καθίσαντας, οὐσὶ ὑπεταινόντας συνομόστους προσφορὰς, ἐφ’ ὑπὸ τῷ μεγάλῳ τελευτησάντων ἐκτοπίσθη ἐκ μεγάς Οἰνόρρης τοῦ κράτους πολὺ ἐκτείνοντο ἄλλα τῇ παραξίᾳ. 3 Νέρωνος δὲ συνών ἤρχο καὶ δεῖτο ποτε

1 εἰτη Βκ., αὐτὸ ΨC. 2 ἐν supplied by Βκ. 3 μῆλο Βκ., μῆλο ΨC.

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to vomit up his food) that he was rather weak. He a,d. 16
also forbade the making of gold or silver statues in
his honour. To those who had been deprived of
their property without cause under Domitian he gave
back all that was still to be found in the imperial
treasury. To the very poor Romans he granted
allotments of land worth 60,000,000 sesterces,
putting some senators in charge of their purchase
and distribution. When he ran short of funds, he
sold much wearing apparel and many vessels of silver
and gold, besides furniture, both his own and that
which belonged to the imperial residence, and many
estates and houses—in fact, everything except what
was indispensable. He did not, however, haggle
over the price, but in this very matter benefited
many persons. He abolished many sacrifices, many
horse-races, and some other spectacles, in an attempt
to reduce expenditures as far as possible. In the
senate he took oath that he would not pay any of
the senators, and he kept his pledge in spite of
plots against himself. Moreover, he did nothing
without the advice of the foremost men. Among
his various laws were those prohibiting the castra-
tion of any man, and the marrying by any man of
his own niece. When consul he did not hesitate
17 to take as his colleague Vindex Rufus, though this
man had often been saluted as emperor. After
Rufus' death an inscription was placed on his tomb
to the effect that, after conquering Vindex, he had
chained the power, not for himself, but for his
country. 1
Nerva ruled so well that he once remarked: “I

1 Cf. Ixxiii. 25 and Pliny, Epist. vi. 10.

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have done nothing that would prevent my laying A.D. 97
down the imperial office and returning to private
life in safety. 2 When Calpurnius Crassus, a descen
dant of the famous Crassus, had formed a plot with
some others against him, he caused them to sit
beside him at a spectacle (they were still ignorant
of the fact that they had been informed upon) and
gave them swords, ostensibly to inspect and see if
they were sharp (as was often done), but really in
order to show that he did not care even if he died
then and there.

Gaius Aelianus, who had become commander of the
Practorians under him as he had been under
Domitian, incited the soldiers to mutiny against him,
after having induced them to demand certain persons
for execution. 3 Nerva resisted them stoutly, even
to the point of baring his collar-bone and presenting
them to his throat; but he accomplished nothing,
and those whom Aelianus wished were put out of
the way. Nerva, therefore, finding himself held in
such contempt by reason of his old age, ascended the
Capitol and said in a loud voice: 4 "May good success
attend the Roman senate and people and myself.
I hereby adopt Marcus Ulpius Nerva Trajan." 5

1 Cf. Joann. Antich. (fr. 110 M. v. 1-6) : οτι Νέρβας,
εκεί ταλαγάνο πάντα το γήινα καταποιητα ξένωσε "συναλλαγήν οποία
cro, οι των Ευθυγράμμων και εκ των Παρθών, κρατικοτάτων ακο
dέντα, εκδόθη τοις εγκακομένοις προς Αλειάνοι τούς διαφόρων
εργάσιμων Εθνών έντολην έποιησε έν Νέρβας και σέβθη ημίοντα.
3 R.): de Caesaris 6ο δρόμος έντονα εν προφήτεο τραγοκεφαλί
cro, εκείνο τον Καταρχήν και λαμβανον ακούγατο, έστη το επί questo
δωρεάν και μεγάλη βοήθεια το διά θυσίας και το πέτον στον
Τυρλόνικο παράρτητο, ἵνα "δοθεί τότε Νέρβας Νέρβας Τραγοκεφαλί
cλόου λάμανταν."
Afternwards in the senate he appointed him Caesar, and sent a message to him written with his own hand (Trajan was governor of Germany):

"May the Danians by thy shafts requite my tears." 1

Thus Trajan became Caesar and later emperor, although there were relatives of Nerva living. But Nerva did not esteem family relationship above the safety of the State, nor was he less inclined to adopt Trajan because the latter was a Spaniard instead of an Italian or Hailot, 2 inasmuch as no foreigner had previously held the Roman sovereignty; for he believed in looking at a man's ability rather than at his nationality. Soon after this act he passed away, having ruled one year, four months and nine days; his life prior to that time had comprised sixty-five years, ten months and ten days.

Trajan, before he became emperor, had had a dream of the following nature. He thought that an old man in purple-bordered toga and vesture and with a crown upon his head, as the senate is represented in pictures, impressed a seal upon him with a finger ring, first on the left side of his neck and then on the right. When he became emperor, he sent a letter to the senate, written with his own hand, in which he declared, among other things, that he would not slay nor disfrock any good man; and he confirmed this by oaths not only at the time but also later.

1 Homer, II. 4, 43.
2 An Italian was one of the old Italian stock, an Hailot was a resident alien or descendant of foreign colonists in Italy, the name being applied particularly to the Greek stock in Southern Italy.
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was strong in body, being in his forty-second year when he began to rule, so that in every enterprise he toiled almost as much as the others; and his mental powers were at their highest, so that he had neither the recklessness of youth nor the sluggishness of old age. He did not envy nor slay any one, but honoured and exalted all good men without exception, and hence he neither feared nor hated any one of them. To slanders he paid very little heed and he was no slave of anger. He restrained equally from the money of others and from unjust murders. He expended vast sums on wars and vast sums on works of peace; and while making very many urgently needed repairs to roads and harbours and public buildings he drained no one's blood for any of these undertakings. He was so high-minded and generous that, after enlarging and embellishing the Circus, which had crumbled away in places, he merely inscribed on it a statement that he had made it adequate for the Roman people. For these deeds, now, he took more pleasure in being loved than in being honoured. His association with the people was marked by affability and his intercourse with the senate by dignity, so that he was loved by all and dreaded by none save the enemy. He joined others in the chase and in banquets, as well as in their labours and plans and jests. Often he would take three others into his carriage, and he would enter the houses of citizens, sometimes even without a guard, and enjoy himself there. Education in the strict sense he lacked, when it came to speaking, but its substance he both knew and applied; and there was no quality which he did not possess in a high degree.

1 aitē H. Steph., aitē VC.
I know, of course, that he was devoted to boys and wine, but if he had ever committed or endured any base or wicked deed as the result of this, he would have incurred censure; as it was, however, he drank all the wine he wanted, yet remained sober, and in his relation with boys he harmed no one. And even if he did delight in war, nevertheless he was satisfied when success had been achieved, a most bitter foe overthrown and his countrymen exalted. Nor did the result which usually occurs in such circumstances—conquest and arrogance on the part of the soldiers—ever manifest itself during his reign; with such a firm hand did he rule them.

For these reasons, then, Decius was good cause to fear him. When Trajan in his campaign against the Dacians had drawn near Tapae, where the barbicani were encamped, a large mushroom was brought to him on which was written in Latin characters a message to the effect that the Buri and other allies advised Trajan to turn back and keep the peace. Nevertheless he engaged the foe, and saw many wounded on his own side and killed many of the enemy. And when the bandages gave out, he is said not to have spared even his own clothing, but to have cut it up into strips.

1 Cf. Tactica. And Trajan, having reached the later, immediately freed the Romans across the Danube against the Dacians.

2 παρασκευεῖτο Α. Φερβ. χρήματος Ιωνίως εδόθη. Αμαλίας δικαίους διήγησε ο Φίλιππος τόπος τούτον εδέχεται. VC.

3 Βόριος Διον., Βόριος ΒΙ.

4 Βόριος Διον., Βόριος ΒΙ.
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