EPITOME OF BOOK LXXV

LXXV Σεούρησος μὲν δὴ αὐτοκράτωρ οὗτο γενόμενος
1,1 τούς μὲν δορυφόρους 1 τοὺς χειρουργοῦσαντας τὸ
κατὰ τὸν Περτίνακα ἔργον θανάτῳ εξήλθασε, τοὺς δὲ ἄλλους, πρὸν ἐν τῇ Ῥώμῃ γενέσθαι μετα-
πευφάμενος καὶ ἐν πεδίῳ περισσών οὐκ εἰδότας τὸ
μέλλον σφίξας συμβῆσαν, πολλά τε καὶ πικρὰ ὑπὲρ τῆς ἢς τοῦ αὐτοκράτορά σφὸν παρα-
νομίας ὑπεδίδας αὐτοῖς, τῶν τε ὅπλων ἀπέλυσε
τοὺς τε ἱπποὺς ἀφεῖλεν καὶ τῆς Ῥώμης ἀπήλα-
σεν. 2 εὖθα δὴ οἱ μὲν ἄλλοι καὶ ἀκόντες τὰ τε
ὅπλα ἀπερρίπτοντο καὶ τοὺς ἱπποὺς ἴφιεσαν, ἐν
τε τοῖς χίτῳς ἀξίωσον ἐσκεδάγνυτον· εἰς δὲ τις,
οὐκ ἔθελσαντος τοῦ ἱπποῦ ἀποστῆναι ἄλλῳ,
ἐπακολουθοῦντος αὐτῷ καὶ χρεμετίζοντος, καὶ
ἐκεῖνον καὶ ἔτων κατεχρήσατο καὶ ἐδόκει τοῖς
ὁρῶσι καὶ ὁ ἵππος ἱδέως ἀποθύμηκεν.

1 δορυφόρους placed here instead of after γενέσθαι by Bs.,
who also supplies the second τοῖς.
2 Cf. Exc. Salm.: Σεούρησος ἐστειλε γράμματα εἰς Ῥώμην ὑπα-
νήματα αὐτοῦ τοὺς στρατιώτας. συνελθόντες δὲ ἔθελον εἰπὼν
ὅτι καὶ κῶν μὴ αὐτῷ ἐγένοσαν αὐτόχειρες Περτίνακος τοῦ βασιλέως,
ἄλλα, δὲν αὐτῶς ἀνελεῖ τοὺς ἀποκεντισάντας ἐκείνου, τοῦτο μὴ
ποιήσαστε ὑπὲρ αἰσθήσεων μὴ φοβοῦντες ἐκείνου: "ἐκαὶ ὑπολαμπὲς τα-
χθέντες," ἔφη, "οὐκ ἐν τῇ μισέῃ μέρει τα ἔστα δικαίωμα
αὐτῷ ἐν τῇ δεξαμενῷ· καὶ ἀπολαβὼν τὰ ὑπαλ καὶ τοὺς ἱπποὺς, ἀπε-
διδάξας αὐτοῖς. εἰς δὲ στρατιώτατος, οὐκ ἀναηχοῦντος τοῦ ἵππου
ἀποκεπαλεῖν αὐτὸν, ἄλλῳ ἀκολουθοῦντος καὶ χρεμετίζοντος, ὑπεραλ-
γῆς γενόμενος τῶν ἱπποῦ ἐσφαξε καὶ ἔτων.

SEVERUS, on becoming emperor in the manner a.d. 193
described, inflicted the death penalty on the Pre-
torians who had taken part in the slaying of
Pertinax; and as for the others, he summoned
them, before he came to Rome, and having sur-
rounded them in the open while they were ignorant
as yet of the fate in store for them, uttered many
bitter reproaches against them for their lawless
heed against their emperor, and then relieved them
of their arms, took away their horses, and banished
them from Rome. 1 Thereupon the majority of
them proceeded reluctantly to throw away their
arms and let their horses go, and were scattering,
wearing only their tunics and ungirded; but one
man, when his horse would not go away, but kept
following him and neighing, slew both the beast
and himself, and it seemed to the spectators that
the horse, too, was glad to die.

1 Cf. Exc. Salm.: "Severus sent letters to Rome summon-
ing the soldiers to come out to meet him. And when
they had assembled, he reproached them, declaring
that even though they had not been the actual slayers
themselves of the emperor Pertinax, nevertheless,
through their failure to
sly as they should have done, those who had killed
him, they were responsible for his murder. 'As men
appointed for the guarding of the emperor,' he said,
'you gird your swords, not on your left side, but on
your right.' And
taking from them their arms and their horses, he drove
them away. But one soldier, when his horse refused
to leave him, but kept following him and neighing, was
over-
come by grief and slew both the horse and himself."
After doing this Severus entered Rome. He A.D. 103 advanced as far as the gates on horseback and in cavalry costume, but there he changed to civilian attire and proceeded on foot; and the entire army, both infantry and cavalry, accompanied him in full armour. The spectacle proved the most brilliant of any that I have witnessed; for the whole city had been decked with garlands of flowers and laurel and adorned with richly coloured stuffs, and it was ablaze with torches and burning incense; the citizens, wearing white robes and with radiant countenances, uttered many shouts of good omen; the soldiers, too, stood out conspicuous in their armour as they moved about like participants in some holiday procession; and finally, we [senators] were walking about in state. The crowd chafed in its eagerness to see him and to hear him say something, as if he had been somehow changed by his good fortune; and some of them held one another aloft, that from a higher position they might catch sight of him.

Having entered the city in this manner, he made us some brave promises, such as the good emperors of old had given, to the effect that he would not put any senator to death; and he took oath concerning this matter, and, what was more, also ordered it to be confirmed by a joint decree, prescribing that both the emperor and anyone who should aid him in any such deed should be considered public enemies, both they and their children. Yet he himself was the first to violate this law instead of keeping it, and made away with many senators; indeed, Julius Solon himself, who framed

1 μέχρι: Leonnol., καὶ μέχρι VC.
2 φωτί: Naber, φωτί VC.
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

This decree at his behest, was murdered not long after. There were many things Severus did that were not to our liking, and he was blamed for making the city turbulent through the presence of so many troops and for burdening the State by his excessive expenditures of money, and most of all, for placing his hope of safety in the strength of his army rather than in the good will of his associates [in the government]. But some found fault with him particularly because he abolished the practice of selecting the body-guard exclusively from Italy, Spain, Macedonia and Noricum,—a plan that furnished men of more respectable appearance and of simpler habits,—and ordered that any vacancies should be filled from all the legions alike. Now he did this with the idea that he should thus have guards with a better knowledge of the soldier's duties, and should also be offering a kind of prize for those who proved brave in war; but, as a matter of fact, it became only too apparent that he had incidentally ruined the youth of Italy, who turned to brigandage and gladiatorial fighting in place of their former service in the army, and in filling the city with a throng of motley soldiers most savage in appearance, most terrifying in speech, and most boorish in conversation.

The signs which had led him to hope for the imperial power were as follows. When he was admitted to the senate, he dreamed that he was

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1 te supplied by Reim.
2 βαρύνα Reim., ἐβάρυνεν cod. Peir.
3 te supplied by R. Steph.
4 μόνον cod. Peir., μόνων VC.
5 μὲν supplied by Val.
6 ἐκπηγμένοις Bk., ἐκπηγμένος cod. Peir.
7 χρησάμενος Reim., χρησάμενος cod. Peir.
8 σαφέστατα τὴν Bk., σαφέστατην cod. Peir.
9 συμμικτον cod. Peir., συμμίκτων VC.
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

suckled by a she-wolf just as Romulus had been. A.D. 193

When he was about to marry Julia, Faustina, the wife of Marcus, prepared their nuptial chamber in the temple of Venus near the palace. On another occasion water gushed from his hand, as from a spring, while he slept. When he was governor at Lugdunum, the whole Roman dominion approached and saluted him—in a dream, I mean. At another time he was taken up by someone to a place commanding a wide view, and as he gazed down from there upon all the land and all the sea he laid his fingers on them as one might on an instrument capable of playing all modes,¹ and they all sang together. Again, he thought that in the Roman Forum a horse threw Pertinax, who had mounted it, but readily took himself on its back. These things he had learned from dreams; but also when awake he had, while yet a youth, seated himself through ignorance upon the imperial throne. These, then, were some of the signs that pointed in his case to the supreme power.

Upon establishing himself in power he erected a shrine to Pertinax, and commanded that his name should be mentioned at the close of all prayers and all oaths; he also ordered that a golden image of Pertinax should be carried into the Circus on a car drawn by elephants, and that three gilded thrones should be borne into the other amphitheatres in his honour. His funeral, in spite of the time that had elapsed since his death, was carried out as follows. In the Roman Forum a wooden platform was constructed hard by the marble rostra, upon which

¹ Cf. Plato, Rep. 399 C.
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

was set a shrine, without walls, but surrounded by columns, cunningly wrought of both ivory and gold. In it there was placed a bier of the same materials, surrounded by heads of both land and sea animals and adorned with coverlets of purple and gold. Upon this rested an effigy of Pertinax in wax, laid out in triumphal garb; and a comely youth was keeping the flies away from it with peacock feathers, as though it were really a person sleeping. While the body lay there in state, Severus as well as we senators and our wives approached, wearing mourning; the women sat in the porticos, and we men under the open sky. After this there moved past, first, images of all the famous Romans of old, then choruses of boys and men, singing a dirge-like hymn to Pertinax; there followed all the subject nations, represented by bronze figures attired in native dress, and the guilds of the City itself—those of the lictors, the scribes, the heralds, and all the rest. Then came images of other men who had been distinguished for some exploit or invention or manner of life. Behind these were the cavalry and infantry in armour, the race-horses, and all the funeral offerings that the emperor and we [senators] and our wives, the more distinguished knights, and communities, and the corporations of the City, had sent. Following them came an altar gilded all over and adorned with ivory and gems of India. When these had passed by, Severus mounted the rostra and read a eulogy of Pertinax. We shouted our

1 πενθικῶς Sylb., ... μυθικῶς VC.
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

λόγων αὐτοῦ ἔπεμβολεν, τὰ μὲν ἐπαινοῦντες τὰ δὲ καὶ θρησκοῦντες τῶν Περτίνακα, πλείστα δὲ επειδῆ ἐπαύσατο. καὶ τέλος, μελλουσάς τῆς κλήσεως κινηθήσεθαι, πάντες ἀμα ὁλοφυρμέθα καὶ πάντες ἐπεδακρύσαμεν. κατεκόμμασαν δὲ αὐτὴν ἀπὸ τοῦ βήματος οὐ τε ἀρχιερεῖ καὶ αἱ ἀρχαὶ αἱ τε ἐνεπτόσαι καὶ αἱ εἰς νεώτα ἀπόδε. 3 δειγμέναι, καὶ ἵππεσι τις φέρει ἔσσαν. οἱ μὲν οὖν ἀλλοι πρὸ τῆς κλήσεως προῆμεν, καὶ τινες ἐκόπτοντο ἔτερον πενθιμὸν τι ὑπαυλωτῶν· ὁ δ' αὐτοκράτωρ εὑρ' ἀπαίσιν ἤπετο, καὶ ὦτος εἰς τὸ Ἀρείον πεδίον ἀφικόμεθα. ἔπεσκεύαστο δὲ ἐν αὐτῷ πυρὰ πυργειδῆς τρίβολος, ἐλέφαντι καὶ χρυσῷ μετὰ ἀνδριάντων τινῶν κεκοσμημένη, καὶ ἐπ' αὐτῆς τῆς ἄκρας ἄρμα ἐπὶ χρυσουμένη, ὑπερ' ὁ

4 Περτίναξ ἦλαυνεν. ἐς οὖν ταύτην τὰ ὑπάρχοντα ἐνεβλήθη καὶ ἡ κλίνη ἐνέστηθ. καὶ μετὰ τούτο τὸ εἰπόλεον ὁ τε Σευμβρός καὶ οἱ συγχεινοὶ τῶν Περτίνακος ἐβιβλησαν, καὶ ὁ μὲν ἐπὶ βῆμα ἀνέβη, ἤμενε δ' ἡ βουλὴ πλὴρη τῶν ἀρχόντων ἐπὶ ἱερία, ὅπως ἀσφαλῶς ὑπὲρ ἀμα καὶ ἐπιτηθεῖος τὰ τηνύμενα 5 θεωρήσαμεν, οἱ δὲ ἄρχοντες καὶ ἡ ἵππας τὸ τέλος προσφέρουσι σφάισιν ἐσκευαζόμενοι, οἱ τε ἵππεις οἱ στρατεύονται καὶ ὁ πεζοὶ περὶ τὴν πυραμ πολτικὰς τε ἀμα καὶ πολεμικὰς 1 διεξόδους διελέπτουσσιν διεξῆλθον εἰδ' ὦτος οἱ ὑπάρχο εἰς ἀυτὴν ἄνεπτατο. καὶ ὁ μὲν Περτίνακος ὦτος ἡθανατίσθη. - Χιπ. 294, 30 - 296, 32 R. Στ. 6

"Οτι ὁ Περτίναξ, τὸ μὲν εὔπολεμον ἄγροικον τὸ

1 πολεμικὰς Sylb., πολτικὰς VC.
2 ἐς Bl., ἐπ' VC.

EPITOME OF BOOK LXXV

approval many times in the course of his address, A.D. 193
now praising and now lamenting Pertinax, but our shouts were loudest when he concluded. Finally, when the bier was about to be moved, we all lamented and wept together. It was brought down from the platform by the high priests and the magistrates, not only those who were actually in office at the time but also those who had been elected for the ensuing year; and they gave it to certain knights to carry. All the rest of us, now, marched ahead of the bier, some beating our breasts and others playing a dirge on the flute, but the emperor followed behind all the rest; and in this order we arrived at the Campus Martius. There a pyre had been built in the form of a tower having three stories and adorned with ivory and gold as well as a number of statues, while on its very summit was placed a gilded chariot that Pertinax had had won to drive. Inside this pyre the funeral offerings were cast and the bier was placed in it, and then Severus and the relatives of Pertinax kissed the effigy. The emperor then ascended a tribunal, while we, the senate, except the magistrates, took our places on wooden stands in order to view the ceremonies both safely and conveniently. The magistrates and the equestrian order, arrayed in a manner befitting their station, and likewise the cavalry and the infantry, passed in and out around the pyre performing intricate evolutions, both those of peace and those of war. Then at last the consuls applied fire to the structure, and when this had been done, an eagle flew aloft from it. Thus was Pertinax made immortal.

Although a warlike nature usually ends up by
being harsh and a peaceful one cowardly, Pertinax A.D. 153 excelled equally in both respects, being formidable in war and shrewd in peace. He showed boldness, of which bravery is an ingredient, toward foreigners and rebels, but clemency, into which justice enters, toward his countrymen and the orderly element. When advanced to preside over the destinies of the world, he never showed himself unworthy of his increased dignity, so as to appear more subservient in some things and more haughty in others than was fitting, but remained unchanged absolutely from first to last—being dignified without sullenness, gentle without humility, shrewd without knavery, just without excessive strictness, frugal without stinginess, high-minded without boastfulness.

Severus now made a campaign against Niger. This man was an Italian of the equestrian order, and was remarkable for nothing either good or bad, so that one could neither praise nor censure him very much; and so he had been assigned to Syria by Commodus. He had as one of his lieutenants Aemilius, since this man, by remaining neutral and watching events in order to take advantage of them, seemed to surpass all the senators of that day in understanding and in experience of affairs (he had been tested in many provinces and as a result had grown conceited), and also because he was a relative of Albinus.

Niger was not a man of keen intelligence in any case, but made mistakes in spite of his vast power. At this time he was more puffed up than ever, so
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