

EPITOME OF BOOK LXXIX

LXXVIII Μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα ἐς τοὺς Πάρθους στρατεύσας
 1, 1 πρόφασιν ὅτι οὐκ ἠθέλησεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἀρτάβανος
 τὴν θυγατέρα μνηστευσάμενῳ συνοικίσει (καὶ
 γὰρ εὖ ἠπίστατο ὅτι λόγῳ μὲν ἐκείνην γῆμαι,
 ἔργῳ δὲ τὴν τῶν Πάρθων βασιλείαν παρα-
 σπάσασθαι ἐπεθύμει), πολλὰ μὲν τῆς χώρας τῆς
 2 περὶ τὴν Μηδίαν, ἅτε καὶ ἑξαπιναίως ἐμπεσῶν
 ἐς αὐτήν, ἐκάκωσε, πολλὰ δὲ καὶ τείχη ἐπόρθησε,
 τὰ τε Ἀρβηλα παρεστήσατο, καὶ τὰ μνημεῖα τὰ
 βασιλικά τῶν Πάρθων ἀνορύξας τὰ ὅστ' ἔρριψεν·
 οἱ γὰρ Πάρθοι οὐδὲ ἐς χεῖρας αὐτῷ ἦλθον.
 3 οὐκ οὐδὲ ἔσχον τι ἐξαίρετον περὶ τῶν τότε
 πραχθέντων συγγράψαι, πλὴν ὅτι δύο στρατιῶ-
 ται ἀσκὸν οἴνου ἀρπάσαντες προσῆλθον αὐτῷ,
 ἰδιούμενος ὄλον ἐκάτερος τὸ λάφυρον, καὶ κελευσ-
 θέντες ὑπ' αὐτοῦ νείμασθαι τὸν οἶνον τὰ τε
 ξίφη ἐσπάσαντο καὶ τὸν ἀσκὸν διέτεμον ὡς καὶ
 ἐξ ἡμισείας αὐτὸν μετὰ τοῦ οἴνου ληψόμενοι.
 4 οὕτω γὰρ καὶ τὸν αὐτοκράτορά σφων ἠδοῦντο
 ὥστ' αὐτῷ καὶ περὶ τῶν τοιούτων ἐνοχλεῖν, καὶ
 φρονήσει ἐχρῶντο ὡς καὶ τὸν ἀσκὸν καὶ τὸν οἶνον
 ἀπολέσαι. οἱ μὲν οὖν βάρβαροι ἐς τὰ ὄρη καὶ
 ὑπὲρ τὸν Τίγριν ἀπέφυγον, ἵνα παρασκευάσωνται·
 ὁ δὲ δὴ Ἀντωνῖνος τοῦτο μὲν ἀπεκρύπτετο, ὡς

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AFTER this Antoninus made a campaign against ^{A. D. 216}
 the Parthians, on the pretext that Artabanus had
 refused to give him his daughter in marriage when
 he sued for her hand; for the Parthian king had
 realized clearly enough that the emperor, while
 pretending to want to marry her, was in reality
 eager to get the Parthian kingdom incidentally for
 himself. So Antoninus now ravaged a large section
 of the country around Media by making a sudden
 incursion, sacked many fortresses, won over Arbela,
 dug open the royal tombs of the Parthians, and
 scattered the bones about. This was the easier for
 him to accomplish inasmuch as the Parthians did
 not even join battle with him; and accordingly I
 have found nothing of especial interest to record
 concerning the incidents of that campaign except
 the following anecdote. Two soldiers who had
 seized a skin of wine came to him, each claiming
 the booty as his alone; and upon being ordered by
 him to divide the wine equally, they drew their
 swords and cut the wine skin in half, apparently
 expecting each to get a half with the wine in it.
 Thus they had so little reverence for their emperor
 that they troubled him with such matters as this,
 and exercised so little intelligence that they lost
 both the skin and the wine. The barbarians took
 refuge in the mountains beyond the Tigris in order
 to complete their preparations, but Antoninus sup-
 pressed this fact and took to himself as much credit

5 δὲ δὴ καὶ παντελῶς αὐτῶν, οὓς μηδὲ ἑώρακει, κεκρατηκῶς ἐσεμνύετο, καὶ μάλιστα ὅτι λέων τις ἐξαίφνης ἐξ ὄρους καταδραμὼν συνεμάχησεν 2 αὐτῷ, ὡς αὐτὸς ἐπέστειλεν. οὐ μόνον δὲ τὰ ἄλλα ἐκδιητᾶτο καὶ παρηνόμει καὶ ἐν αὐταῖς ταῖς στρατείαις (ἀλλὰ καὶ τινα ἰδίαν κ. τ. λ. c. 3. 3). Xiph. 337, 17—338, 6 R. St.

. . . ἀλλ' ¹ ἀλήθεια· καὶ γὰρ τῷ βιβλίῳ τῷ περὶ αὐτοῦ γραφέντι οἱ ἐνέτυχον. οὕτω γὰρ που πρὸς πάντα τοὺς βουλευτὰς διακειμένῳ συνήδει ἑαυτῷ ² ὥστε μηδ' ἐγκαλουμένων τι πολλῶν τοὺς τε δούλους καὶ τοὺς ἐξελευθέρους τοὺς τε φίλους αὐτῶν τοὺς πάνυ συλλαμβάνεσθαι τε ὑπ' αὐτοῦ καὶ διὰ βασάνων ἐρωτᾶσθαι “εἰ ἄρα ὁ δεῖνά με φιλεῖ” ἢ “ὁ δεῖνά με μισεῖ;” καὶ γὰρ τοι καὶ πρὸς ³ τὰ τῶν ἀστέρων διαγράμματα, καθ' ἃ ἐγεγέννητό τις τῶν πρώτων τῶν παρ' αὐτῷ, ⁴ ἔτεκμαίρετο, ὡς ἔλεγεν, τὸν τε οἰκείως οἱ καὶ τὸν ἄλλοτρίως ἔχοντα, καὶ πολλοὺς καὶ ἐκ τούτων τοὺς μὲν ἐτίμα τοὺς δ' ἀπόλλυεν.

3 Τῶν δ' οὖν Πάρθων τῶν τε Μήδων δεινῶς ἐφ' οἷς ἐπεπόνθεσαν ἀγανακτησάντων καὶ χεῖρα πολλήν παρασκευαζομένων ἐν παντὶ δέους ἐγένετο· θρασύτατος μὲν γὰρ ἀπειλησαί τι ⁵ καὶ προπετέστατος τολμήσαι, δειλότατος δὲ διακινδυνεῦσαι πη καὶ ἀσθενέστατος πονῆσαι ἦν.

¹ Here begins Cod. Vat. 1288 (V); see Vol. I. Pref. p. xxvi. This MS. has become illegible in many places and has suffered considerably from the trimming of the edges. In the present critical apparatus only such readings of V are recorded as clearly depart from the text of Boissevain here reproduced; this text includes some fairly certain additions

as if he had utterly vanquished these foes, whom as ^{A.D. 212} a matter of fact he had not even seen; and he was particularly elated because, as he himself wrote, a lion had suddenly run down from a mountain and fought on his side. Not only in other ways did he live in an unusual manner and violate precedents even on his very campaigns, (but he also invented a costume of his own, etc.)

. . . but truth; for I have read the book written by him about it. He realized so well how he stood with all the senators that the slaves and freedmen and most intimate friends of many of them who were not even under any charge at all were arrested by him and were asked under torture whether So-and-so loved him or So-and-so hated him. Indeed, he used to judge, as he said, even by the charts of the stars under which any of the prominent men about him had been born, which one was friendly to him and which was hostile; and on this evidence he honoured many persons and destroyed many others.

When the Parthians and the Medes, greatly ^{A.D. 217} angered by the treatment they had received, proceeded to raise a large army, he fell into the greatest terror. For, though he was most bold with his threats and most reckless in his undertakings, yet he was the greatest coward in the face of danger and the greatest weakling in the presence of hard-

(chiefly of parts of words and short phrases) made by various scholars to fill the more obvious lacunae.

² ἑαυτῷ supplied by Bs., following Sauppe (αὐτῷ after διακειμένῳ).

³ πρὸς supplied by Polak.

⁴ αὐτῷ Leich., ATTΩΝ V cod. Peir.

⁵ τι cod. Peir., om. V.

- 2 οὕτω γὰρ οὔτε τὸ καῦμα οὔθ' ὄπλα φέρειν ἔτι ἐδύνατο ὥστε καὶ τοὺς χειριδωτοὺς χιτῶνας ἐς θώρακος τρόπον τινὰ εἶδος πεποιημένους ἐνδύνειν, ἵνα τὴν τοῦ ὄπλου¹ δόξαν χωρὶς τοῦ βάρους αὐτοῦ ἔχων μήτε ἐπιβουλεύηται καὶ θαυμάζηται. καὶ αὐτοῖς καὶ ἄνευ μάχης πολλακίς ἐχρήτο.
- 3 χλαμύδα τε τοτὲ μὲν ὀλοπόρφυρον τοτὲ δὲ μεσόλευκον, ἔστι δ' ὅτε καὶ μεσοπόρφυρον, ὥσπερ καὶ ἐγὼ εἶδον, ἐφόρει. ἐν γὰρ τῇ Συρία τῇ τε Μεσοποταμίᾳ Κελτικοῖς καὶ ἐσθήμασιν καὶ ὑποδήμασιν ἐχρήσατο. καὶ τινα ἰδίαν ἐνδυσιν βαρβαρικῶς πως κατακόπτων καὶ συρράπτων ἐς μανδύης τρόπον προσεπεξεύρειν, καὶ αὐτὸς τε συνεχέστατα αὐτὴν ἐνέδυνεν, ὥστε καὶ Καράκαλλος διὰ τοῦτο ἐπικληθῆναι, καὶ τοὺς στρατιώτας μάλιστα ἀμφιένυσθαι ἐκέλευεν.
- 4 Αὐτὸν τε οὖν τοιοῦτον οἱ βάρβαροι ὀρῶντες ὄντα, καὶ ἐκείνους πολλοὺς μὲν ἀκούοντες εἶναι, ἐκ δὲ δὴ τῆς προτέρας τρυφῆς (τά τε γὰρ ἄλλα καὶ ἐν οἰκίαις² ἐχείμαζον, πάντα τὰ τῶν ξενοδοκούντων σφᾶς ὡς καὶ ἴδια ἀναλίσκοντες) καὶ ἐκ τῶν πόνων τῆς τε ταλαιπωρίας τῆς τότε αὐτοῖς παρούσης οὕτω καὶ τὰ σώματα τετραχωμένους καὶ τὰς ψυχὰς τεταπεινωμένους³
- 5 ὥστε μηδὲν τῶν λημμάτων ἔτι, ἃ πολλὰ αἰεὶ παρ' αὐτοῦ ἐλάμβανον, προτιμᾶν, αἰσθόμενοι, ἐπήρθησαν ὡς καὶ συναγωνιστὰς αὐτοὺς ἀλλ'

¹ τοῦ ὄπλου Bk., ΤΟΥΑΠΛΟΥ V, τοῦ ἀπλοῦ cod. Peir.

² ἐν οἰκίαις cod. Peir., ΕΝ|ΚΙΑΙ V, ἐνοικία Xiph.

³ τεταπεινωμένους Bk., ΤΕΤΑΛΛΗΠΩΡΗΜΕΝΟΥΣ V cod. Peir.

ships. He could no longer bear great heat or the weight of armour, and therefore wore sleeved tunics fashioned more or less like a breastplate,¹ so that, by creating the impression of armour without its weight, he could be safe from plots and at the same time rouse admiration. Indeed, he often wore this dress even when not in battle. His mantle was either of pure purple or of purple with a white stripe down the centre; though occasionally the stripe only was of purple, as I myself have seen. In Syria, however, and in Mesopotamia he used German clothing and shoes. He also invented a costume of his own, which was made in a rather foreign fashion out of small pieces of cloth sewed together into a kind of cloak²; and he not only wore this most of the time himself (in consequence of which he was given the nickname Caracallus), but he also prescribed it as the regular dress for the soldiers.

The barbarians, now, saw what sort of person he was and also heard that his troops, though numerous, had, in consequence of their previous luxury (among other things they had been passing the winter in houses and using up everything belonging to their hosts as if it were their own) and of their toils and present hardships, become so exhausted in body and so dejected in mind that they no longer cared at all about the largesses which they were constantly receiving in large amounts from Antoninus. Elated, therefore, to think that they were going to

¹ Perhaps the reference is to a linen breastplate, such as is mentioned in lxxvii (lxxviii). 7, 2.

² *Caracalla* was a Celtic or German word for a short, close-fitting cloak provided with a hood; but as modified by Antoninus it reached to the feet.

οὐ πολεμίους ἔξοντες, κ μά-
 4 ζουτος Ἀντωνίνος ἀντιπαρεσκευάζετο·
 οὐ μέντοι καὶ πολεμῆσαι αὐτῷ ἐξεγένετο, ἀλλ'
 ἐν μέσοις τοῖς στρατιώταις, οὓς μάλιστα ἐτίμα
 καὶ οἷς ἰσχυρῶς ἐθάρρει, κατεσφάγη. ἐπειδὴ
 γὰρ μάντις τις ἐν τῇ Ἀφρικῇ εἶπεν, ὥστε
 καὶ δημοσιευθῆναι, ὅτι καὶ τὸν Μακρίνον τὸν
 ἑπαρχον καὶ τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ Διαδουμενιανὸν¹
 2 αὐταρχῆσαι δεῖ, καὶ τοῦτο ἐκεῖνός τε ἐς τὴν
 Ῥώμην ἀναπεμφθεὶς Φλαουίῳ Ματερνιανῷ τῷ
 τότε τῶν ἐν τῷ ἄστει στρατιωτῶν ἄρχοντι
 ἐξέφηνε, καὶ ὃς τῷ Ἀντωνίνῳ παραχρῆμα ἐπέ-
 στείλεν, καὶ συνέβη ταῦτα μὲν τὰ γράμματα ἐς
 τὴν Ἀντιόχειαν πρὸς τὴν μητέρα τὴν Ἰουλίαν
 3 παραπεμφθῆναι, ἐπειδὴ ἐκεκέλευστο αὐτῇ πάντα
 τὰ ἀφικνούμενα διαλέγειν ἵνα μὴ μάτην οἱ ὄχλος
 γραμμάτων ἐν τῇ πολεμίᾳ ὄντι πέμπηται, ἕτερα
 δὲ ὑπὸ Οὐλπίου Ἰουλιανοῦ τοῦ τότε τὰς τιμήσεις
 ἐγκεχειρισμένου δι' ἄλλων γραμματοφόρων ὀρθῆναι
 πρὸς τὸν Μακρίνον, δηλοῦντα τὰ γιγνόμενα,
 ἀφικέσθαι, καὶ κατὰ τοῦτο τοῖς μὲν πρὸς τὸν
 4 αὐτοκράτορα γραφεῖσι διατριβὴν γενέσθαι, τὰ δὲ
 ἐκείνῳ ἐπισταλέντα φθῆναι ἀναγνωσθέντα αὐτῷ,
 ἐφοβήθη τε ὁ Μακρίνος μὴ καὶ διαφθαρῆ ὑπ'
 αὐτοῦ διὰ τε τοῦτο καὶ ὅτι Σεραπίων τις Αἰγύπ-
 τιος ἀντικρυσ τῷ Ἀντωνίνῳ πρὸ ὀλίγων ἡμερῶν
 εἰρήκει ὅτι τε ὀλιγοχρόνιος ἔσοιτο καὶ ὅτι ἐκεῖνος
 5 αὐτὸν διαδέξειτο, καὶ οὐκ ἀνεβάλετο. ὁ μὲν γὰρ
 Σεραπίων ἐπὶ τούτῳ τὸ μὲν πρῶτον λέοντι παρε-
 βλήθη, ἐπεὶ δ' οὐχ ἤψατο αὐτοῦ τὴν χεῖρα
 μόνον, ὡς φασι, προτείναντος, ἐφονεύθη, δυνηθεὶς

¹ Διαδουμενιανὸν Falc., Δουμενιανὸν Xiph. (and V?)

find them helpers rather than foes A.D. 217
 Antoninus made
 preparations in his turn; but it did not fall to his
 lot to carry on the war, for he was murdered in
 the midst of his soldiers, whom he most honoured
 and in whom he reposed vast confidence. It seems
 that a seer in Africa had declared, in such a manner
 that it became noised abroad, that both Macrinus,
 the prefect, and his son, Diadumenianus, were
 destined to hold the imperial power; and later
 this seer, upon being sent to Rome, had revealed
 this prophecy to Flavius Maternianus, who at
 the time commanded the soldiers in the city,
 and this man had at once written a letter to
 Antoninus. But it happened that this letter was
 diverted to Antioch to the emperor's mother Julia,
 since she had been instructed to sort everything
 that arrived and thus prevent a mass of unimportant
 letters from being sent to him while he was in the
 enemy's country; whereas another letter, written
 by Ulpianus Julianus, who was then in charge of the
 census, went by other couriers direct to Macrinus,
 informing him of the state of affairs. Thus the
 message to the emperor was delayed, while the
 despatch to Macrinus was read by him in good
 season. And so Macrinus, fearing he should be put
 to death by Antoninus on this account, especially as
 a certain Egyptian, Serapio, had told the emperor to
 his face a few days earlier that he would be short-
 lived and that Macrinus would succeed him, delayed
 no longer. Serapio had at first been thrown to a lion
 for this, but when, as the result of his merely holding
 out his hand, as is reported, the animal did not touch
 him, he was slain; and he might have escaped even

ἄν, ὡς γε ἔφη, μηδὲ τοῦτο παθεῖν δαιμόνων τινῶν ἐπικλήσει, εἰ μίαν ἡμέραν ἐπεβεβιώκει.

5 Ὁ δὲ δὴ Μακρίνος ἔπαθε μὲν οὐδέν, ἔσπευσε δ' ὑποπτεύσας ἀπολείσθαι, ἄλλως τε ὅτι καὶ τοὺς ἐταίρους αὐτοῦ τοὺς συνόντας ὁ Ἀντωνίνος ἐξαίφνης,¹ τῶν γενεθλίων αὐτοῦ, ἄλλον κατ' ἄλλην πρόφασιν, ὡς καὶ τιμῶν, ἀπέωστο.
 2 ταλα | τησ
 | ιτησ |
 ου | πε-
 πρωμένον αὐτῷ λήψεσθαι προσδοκῶν, καὶ τὸ παρωνύμιον ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τούτου ἐπεποίητο. καὶ τούτου δύο τε χιλιάρχους τῶν ἐν τῷ δορυφορικῷ τεταγμένων, Νεμεσιανόν τε καὶ Ἀπολλινάριον
 3 ἀδελφοὺς Αὐρηλίους, καὶ Ἰούλιον Μαρτιάλιον ἐν τε τοῖς ἀνακλήτοις στρατευόμενον καὶ ὀργὴν οἰκείαν τῷ Ἀντωνίνῳ ἔχοντα ὅτι οἱ ἑκατονταρχίαν αἰτήσαντι οὐκ ἔδεδώκει, παρασκευάσας ἐπε-
 4 βούλευσεν αὐτῷ. ἐπράχθη δὲ ὧδε. τῇ ὀγδόῃ τοῦ Ἀπριλίου ἐξορμήσαντά τε αὐτὸν ἐξ Ἐδέσσης ἐς Κάρρας, καὶ κατελθόντα ἀπὸ τοῦ ἵππου ὅπως ἀποπατήσει, προσελθὼν ὁ Μαρτιάλιος ὡς γε εἰπεῖν τι δεόμενος ἐπάταξε ξιφιδίῳ μικρῷ. καὶ αὐτὸς μὲν αὐτίκα ἀπέφυγε, καὶ διέλαθεν ἂν εἰ
 5 τὸ ξίφος ἀπερρίφει· νῦν δὲ γνωρισθεὶς ἀπ' αὐτοῦ ὑπὸ τινος τῶν Σκυθῶν τῶν σὺν Ἀντωνίνῳ ὄντων κατηκοντίσθη· ἐκείνον δὲ . . οἱ χιλίαρχοι ὡς

¹ πρὸ μιᾶς suggested by Bk. to fill lacuna.

¹ Probably an explanation of the name Diadumenus, later changed to Diadumenianus; compare *diadema*.

this fate,—or so he declared,—by invoking certain a.d. 217 spirits, if he had lived one day longer.

Macrinus came to no harm, but hastened his preparations, having a presentiment that otherwise he should perish, especially as Antoninus had suddenly, [on the day before] his birthday, removed those of Macrinus' companions that were with him, alleging various reasons in different cases, but with the general pretext of showing them honour, . . .

believing that it was fated for him to secure [the throne?], he had also chosen a name suggestive of this.¹ Accordingly, he secured the services of two tribunes assigned to the pretorian guard, Nemesianus and Apollinaris,² brothers belonging to the Aurelian gens, and of Julius Martialis,² who was enrolled among the *evocati* and had a private grudge against Antoninus for not having given him the post of centurion when he asked for it, and so formed his plot against Antoninus. It was carried out thus. On the eighth of April, when the emperor had set out from Edessa for Carrhae and had dismounted from his horse to ease himself, Martialis approached as though desiring to say something to him and struck him with a small dagger. Martialis immediately fled and would have escaped detection, had he thrown away his sword; but, as it was, the weapon led to his being recognized by one of the Scythians in attendance upon Antoninus, and he was struck down with a javelin. As for Antoninus, the

² Apollinarius and Martilius in the Greek.

καὶ βοηθοῦντες κατέσφαξαν. ὁ δὲ δὴ Σκύθης οὗτος οὐχ ὡς καὶ συμμαχῶν αὐτῷ μόνον, ἀλλ' ὡς καὶ φρουρὰν αὐτοῦ τρόπον τινα ἔχων συνῆν. 6 καὶ γὰρ Σκύθας καὶ Κελτούς, οὐ μόνον ἐλευθέρους ἀλλὰ καὶ δούλους, καὶ ἀνδρῶν καὶ γυναικῶν ἀφελόμενος, ὡπλίκει καὶ περὶ αὐτὸν εἶχεν, ὡς καὶ μᾶλλον αὐτοῖς ἢ τοῖς¹ στρατιώταις θαρσῶν· τὰ τε γὰρ ἄλλα καὶ ἑκατονταρχίαις σφᾶς ἐτίμα, 2 λέοντάς τε ἐκάλει. καὶ δὴ καὶ τοῖς πρέσβεσι τοῖς οἱ² ἐκ τῶν ἐθνῶν αὐτῶν πεμπομένοις καὶ διελέγετο³ πολλάκις μηδενὸς ἄλλου πλὴν τῶν ἐρμηνέων παρόντος, καὶ ἐνετέλλετο ὅπως, ἂν τι πάθῃ, ἔς τε τὴν Ἰταλίαν ἐσβάλωσι καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν Ῥώμην ἐλαύνωσιν ὡς καὶ εὐαλωτοτάτην οὔσαν· καὶ ἵνα δὴ⁴ μηδὲν ἐξ αὐτῶν ἐς ἡμᾶς ἐκφοιτήσῃ, 3 τοὺς ἐρμηνέας εὐθύς ἐφόνευεν. οὐ μὴν ἀλλὰ τοῦτό τε⁵ ἀπ' αὐτῶν τῶν βαρβάρων ὕστερον ἐμάθομεν, καὶ τὸ τῶν φαρμάκων παρὰ τοῦ Μακρίνου· πολλὰ γὰρ καὶ ποικίλα παρὰ τῶν ἐν τῇ ἄνω Ἀσίᾳ ἀνθρώπων τὰ μὲν μετεπέμψατο τὰ δὲ καὶ ἐπρίατο, ὥστε ἑπτακοσίας καὶ πεντήκοντα μυριάδας ἐς αὐτὰ⁶ ἀριθμηθῆναι, ἵνα καὶ παμπόλλους, ὅσους ἂν ἐθελήσῃ,⁷ καὶ διαφόρως 4 δολοφονήσῃ. καὶ ἐκεῖνα μὲν ἐν τῷ βασιλικῷ μετὰ ταῦθ' εὐρεθέντα κατεκαύθη· τότε δὲ⁸ οἱ στρατιῶται καὶ διὰ τοῦτο, καὶ πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις

¹ τοῖς supplied by Rk.

³ διελέγετο Urs., ΕΛΕΓΕΤΟ V.

⁵ τε Bk., MEN V.

² οἱ Bs., ΩΝ V.

⁴ δὴ Bk., ΤΕ V.

⁶ αὐτὰ Xiph., ΑΥΤΗΝ V.

⁷ ἐθελήσῃ Xiph., ΘΕΛΗΣΗ V.

tribunes, pretending to come to his rescue, slew him. A.D. 217
The Scythian mentioned was in attendance upon Antoninus, not merely as an ally, but also as a kind of body-guard. For the emperor kept Scythians and Germans about him, freemen and slaves alike, whom he had taken away from their masters and wives and had armed, apparently placing more confidence in them than in the soldiers; and among various honours that he showed them he made them centurions, and called them "lions." Furthermore, he would often converse with the envoys sent to him from time to time by the nations to which these soldiers belonged, when no one else but the interpreters was present, instructing them, in case anything happened to him, to invade Italy and march upon Rome, assuring them that it was very easy to capture; and to prevent any inkling of his conversation from getting to our ears, he would immediately put to death the interpreters. Nevertheless, we learned of it later from the barbarians themselves; and as for the poisons, we learned of them from Macrinus. It seems that Antoninus had been in the habit of requisitioning or even buying great quantities of various poisons from the inhabitants of Upper Asia, spending thirty million sesterces all told upon them, in order that he might secretly kill in different ways great numbers of men, in fact all that he wished; these poisons were later discovered in the royal apartments and were all burned. At the time, however, with which we are concerned the soldiers, both for this reason and also because, in addition to other grievances, they were

⁸ δὲ Leuncl., ΔΗ V.

τῷ τοὺς βαρβάρους σφῶν προτιμᾶσθαι δυσχεραίνοντες, οὐτ' ἄλλως ἔτι ὁμοίως ἔχαιρον αὐτῷ, καὶ ἐπιβουλευθέντι οὐκ ἐβοήθησαν.

5 Τοιοῦτῳ¹ μὲν τέλει ἐχρήσατο βιούς τε ἔτη ἑννέα καὶ εἴκοσι καὶ ἡμέρας τέσσαρας (τῇ γὰρ τετράδι τοῦ Ἀπριλίου ἐγεγέννητο) καὶ αὐταρχή-
7 σας ἔτη² ἕξ καὶ μῆνας δύο καὶ ἡμέρας δύο. καὶ μοι καὶ ἐνταῦθα τοῦ λόγου θαυμάσαι πάμπολλα ἐπέρχεται. ὃ τε γὰρ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ μέλλοντί οἱ ἐκ τῆς Ἀντιοχείας τὴν τελευταίαν ἔξοδον ποιήσασθαι ξιφῆρης ὄναρ ἐπέστη, λέγων ὅτι “ὡς σὺ τὸν ἀδελφὸν ἀπέκτεινας, καὶ ἐγὼ σὲ ἀποσφάξω.”
2 καὶ οἱ μάντις εἶπον αὐτῷ τὴν ἡμέραν ἐκείνην φυλάσσεσθαι, τούτῳ τῷ ῥήματι ἀντικρυς χρησάμενοι, ὅτι “αἱ τοῦ ἥπατος τοῦ ἱερείου πύλαι κέκλεινται.” ἀφ' οὗ δὴ καὶ διὰ θύρας τινὸς ἐξῆλθε, μηδὲν μηδὲ τοῦ λέοντος, ὃν καὶ Ἀκινάκην ὠνόμαζε καὶ ὁμοτράπεζον ὁμόκλινόν τε ἐποιεῖτο, φροντίσας, ὅτι καὶ ἐκράτησεν αὐτὸν ἐξιόντα καὶ
3 τὴν ἐσθῆτα αὐτοῦ προσκατέρρηξεν. ἔτρεφε μὲν γὰρ καὶ ἄλλους λέοντας πολλούς, καὶ αἰεὶ τινὰς περὶ αὐτὸν εἶχεν, ἐκείνους δὲ καὶ δημοσία πολλὰς κατεφίλει. ταῦτά τε οὖν οὕτως ἔσχε, καὶ ὀλίγον πρὸ³ τοῦ θανάτου αὐτοῦ ἔν τε τῇ Ἀλεξανδρείᾳ πῦρ ἐξαίφνης πολὺ, ὡς γε καὶ ἤκουσα, πάντα τὸν τοῦ Σαράπιδος ναὸν ἐνδοθεν κατασχόν
4 ἄλλο μὲν οὐδὲν τὸ παράπαν⁴ ἐλυμῆματο, τὸ δὲ δὴ ξίφος ἐκείνο ᾧ τὸν ἀδελφὸν ἀπεσφάκει μόνον ἔφθειρεν, καὶ μετὰ τοῦτο παυσαμένου αὐτοῦ ἀστέρες πολλοὶ ἐφάνησαν· καὶ ἐν τῇ Ῥώμῃ δαίμων τις ἀνθρώπου σχῆμα ἔχων ὄνον ἔς τε τὸ

¹ τοιοῦτῳ Urs., ΤΟΙΟΥΤΩΝ V.

vexed at seeing the barbarians preferred to them-
selves, were not in any case so delighted with their emperor as formerly, and did not aid him when he became the victim of a plot. A.D. 217

Such was the end to which Antoninus came, after living twenty-nine years and four days (for he had been born on the fourth of April), and after ruling six years, two months, and two days. At this point also in my narrative many things come to mind to arouse my astonishment. For instance, when he was about to set out from Antioch on his last journey, his father appeared to him in a dream, wearing a sword and saying, “As you killed your brother, so will I slay you”; and the soothsayers warned him to beware of that day, bluntly telling him in so many words that the gates of the victim’s liver were shut. After this he went out through a certain door, paying no heed to the fact that the lion which he was wont to call “Rapier” and had for a table-companion and bedfellow seized him as he went out and even tore his clothing. For he used to keep many lions and always had some of them around him, but this one he would often caress even in public. Besides these prodigies, a little while before his death a great fire, as I have heard, suddenly filled the entire interior of the temple of Serapis at Alexandria, but did no damage beyond destroying the sword with which Antoninus had slain his brother; and later, when the fire had stopped, many stars became visible. In Rome, moreover, a spirit having the appearance of a man

² ἔτη Xiph., ΕΤΗΤΕ V.

³ πρὸ Xiph., ΠΡΟΣ V.

⁴ τὸ παράπαν Urs., ΤΟΠΑΡΑ V, om. Xiph.

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