EPITOME OF BOOK LXXX

About Avitus, called also the False Antoninus, and the murders that he committed (chs. 1–7).
About his lawless deeds and how he married the Vestal (chs. 9, 11).
About E-leogabalus and how he summoned Urania to Rome and united her in marriage with E-leogabalus (chs. 11–12).
About his licentiousness (chs. 13–16).
How he adopted his cousin and changed his name to Alexander (chs. 17–18).
How he was overthrown and slain (chs. 19–21).

Duration of time, the remainder of the consulship of Macrinus and Adventus, together with four additional years, in which there were the magistrates (consuls) here enumerated:

A.D. 219 The False Antoninus (II) and Q. Tineius Sacerdos.
220 The False Antoninus (III) and M. Valerius Comazon.
221 C. Vettius Gratus Sabinianus and M. Flavius Vitellius Seleucus.
222 The False Antoninus (IV) and M. Aurelius Severus Alexander.

Now Avitus, otherwise known as the False Antoninus, or the Assyrian, or Sardanapalus, or even Tiberinus (this last appellation he received after he had been slain and his body had been thrown into the Tiber), at the time of which we are speaking.

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1 'Ἀδβήτου Urs., ΑΛΒΕΝΤΟΤ V.
2 ὑπατείας Urs., ΤΙΠΑΤΙΑΣ V.
3 Κ. Τυνέιος Bv., ΚΤΙΝΑ V.
4 Μ. Οὐδαλέριος Bv., ΛΟΛΟΥΜΑΙ V.
5 Γ. Βέττιος Bv., ΓΒ. ΤΤ V.
6 Γράτος Lüncl. (Γράτος), ΤΡΑΤΟΣ V.
7 Σαβινιανός Lüncl., ΣΑΒΙΑΝ’ V.
8 Φλάβιος Momßen, ΦΑ V.
9 Βιτέλλιος Bv., ΒΙΤΕΛΛ V.
10 Ἀδρήλιος Σενήρος Urs., ΑΤΡΗΑΙΟΣΕΤΗΡ V.
11 καὶ supplied by Urs.
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

entered Antioch on the day following the victory, A.D. 218
after first promising two thousand sesterces a piece to
the soldiers with him to prevent them from sacking
the city, a thing which they were very anxious to do.
This amount he collected in part from the people.
And he sent to Rome such a despatch as was to
be expected, making many derogatory remarks
about Macrinus, especially with reference to his low
birth and his plot against Antoninus. For example,
he said among other things: "This man, to whom
it was not permitted even to enter the senate-house
after the proclamation debarring all others than sen-
ators, dared treacherously to murder the emperor
whom he had been trusted to guard, dared to
appropriate his office and to become emperor before
he had been senator." About himself he made
many promises, not only to the soldiers but also to
the senate and to the people, asserting that he
would always and in all things emulate Augustus, to
whose youth he likened his own, and Marcus
Antoninus. He also wrote the following, alluding to
the derogatory remarks spread broadcast about him
by Macrinus: "He undertook to disparage my age,
when he himself had appointed his five-year-old son
[emperor]."

Besides this communication that he forwarded to
the senate, he sent not only to the senate but also to
the legions the notebooks found among the soldiers
and the letters of Macrinus written to Maximus,
hoping that these would cause them to hold his
predecessor's memory in even greater detestation

2 ἄξιον Lecum., ἐξερτόν V.
and to feel greater affection for him. In both the message to the senate and the letter to the people he styled himself emperor and Caesar, the son of Antoninus, the grandson of Severus, Pius, Felix, Augustus, proconsul, and holder of the tribunician power, assuming these titles before they had been voted, and he used, not the [name] [of Avitus,] but that of his [pretended] [father],

... the notebooks of the soldiers

... for Macrinus' Caesar

to the Pretorians and to the Alban legionaries who were in Italy he <wrote> and that he was consul and [high priest (?)]... and the...

... [Marius Censorinus] leadership... read... of Macrinus... himself, as if not sufficiently] by his own [voice able] to make public... the letters of Sardanapalus to be read... by (?) Cl[audius Pollio], [whom] he had enrolled among the ex-consuls, [and] commanded that if anyone resisted him, he should call on the soldiers for assistance; accordingly, [the sen]ate, though unwillingly, read everything to those... For, by reason of the necessity hanging over them, they were unable to do any of the things that were proper or expedient... but were panic-stricken by fear... and Macrinus, whom they had often commended, they now reviled, together with his son, regarding

1 Cf. Exc. Val.: “The False Antoninus sent letters to the senate through Pollio, the consul, and commanded him,” etc.

DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

μοίρα σύν τε τῷ νιύτε ἐλαίανόρτησαν, καὶ τών Ταραύτων, ὡς καὶ πολλοί ἄλοιμεν ἀντιδείχθησαν πολλάκις ἤθελησαν, τά τε ἐξέμενον, καὶ τών νιύτε δῆδεν αὐτῶν ἡγεύτο ὅμοιον γενέσθαι αὐτῷ.

Εὖ μὲν οὖν τῇ 'Ρώμῃ παῦτα, ὁ δ' Ἀουίτος τῶν Πολλάνων . . . τῆς Γερμανίας . . . . ἀρίστας προσέβαζεν, ἐπεὶ καὶ Βιθυνιάς . . . . . τα ἑκένως παρερχόμενε. αὐτῶς δὲ καταμείναις τινὰς μήνας ἐν τῇ 'Αντιοχείᾳ μέχρις ὥσς τὴν ἀρχὴν πανταχῶθην ἐξεβιασθοῦντο, ἕως τὴν Βιθυνιάν ἠλθὼν, πάρεδρον . . . . . οἱ πολλάκις . . . . . θη. ὃστε καὶ κατὰ τὴν 'Ἀντιο-

 iNdExς χείτων εἰώθει, ποινώμενον. ἔνθα δὲ ἐπίσχεσιμῶς ἐς τὴν Ἰταλίαν διὰ τῆς Ὁρᾶκης καὶ τῆς Μυσίας καὶ τῆς Παυσινίας ἔκατεμες ἐπαρθή, καλεί μέχρι τῆς τοῦ βίου τελευτήσας κατέμευν, ἐν μὲν τι καὶ σφοδρὰ ἀγαθοῦ αὐτοκράτορος ἔργον ποιήσαι (πολλῶν γὰρ πολλά καὶ ἰδιωτῶν καὶ δήμων, τῶν τε . . . . . . . . οἱ αὐτοῦ τούτων . . . . . . . . τῆς τε Βουλῆς, καὶ ιδία καὶ κοινή ἐς τε τῶν Καράκαλλου καὶ ἑαυτῶν, ἐκ τῶν τοῦ Μακρίνου γεγομάτων, καὶ λόγω καὶ ἔργῳ ύβρισμάτων, οὔς εὐδενί 3 το παρά πάντω ὅτε ἐπεξείνα ε ἐφ' ὃτε ἐπεξήλθεν}; ἐς δὲ δὴ τἀλλα πάντα καὶ ἀισχροτοῦσα καὶ παρασυνότα καὶ μαυραφωτα ἐξοκείλας, ὡστε τις μὲν τις αὐτῶν μηδ' ἄρχην τῶποτ' ἐν τῇ 'Ρώμῃ γενόμενα ὡς καὶ πάρσια ἀκμάζαι, τὰ δὲ καὶ τολμηθέντα ἄλλοτε 5 ἄλλους

1 Cf. Exc. Val.: "And they voted Macrinus a public enemy and heaped abuse upon him."
2 τῶν τε—τῆς τε Βουλῆς V, καὶ αὐτῶν Ραμαίων Exc. Val. τῶν τε 'Ραμαίων αὐτῶν, τῶν τε ἐπίπεδων τῆς τε Βουλῆς Bs.

EPITOME OF BOOK LXXX

him in the light of a public enemy; 3 while as for A.D. 218 Tarautas, whom they had often wished to declare a public enemy, they now exalted him and prayed that his alleged son should be like him.

This was what was taking place in Rome. As for Avitus, he appointed Pollio to govern . . . Germany . . since Pollio had very . . . ly subdued Bithynia. He himself, after remaining some months in Antioch, until he had established his authority on all sides, went to Bithynia, [where he] frequently employed [Ganny]s as his associate [in the government], as he had been accustomed to do at Antioch. After passing the winter there, he proceeded into Italy through Thrace, Moesia, and both the Pamonia, and there he remained until the end of his life. One action of his was worthy of a thoroughly good emperor; for, although many individuals and communities alike, including the [Romans] themselves (?), both [knight]s and senators, had privately and publicly, by word and by deed, heaped insults upon both Caracallus and himself, as a result of the letters of Macrinus, he neither threatened to make reprisals nor actually did make any in a single instance. But, on the other hand, he drifted into all the most shameful, lawless, and cruel practices, with the result that some of them, never before known in Rome, came to have the authority of tradition, while others, that had been attempted by

3 οὐδεὶς Xiph., ΟΤΕΝ V cod. Peir.
4 ἐπεξήλθεν BK., ΕΠΕΞΗΕΙΝ V2 cod. Peir.
5 ἄλλοτε BK., ἈΛΛΑΤΕ V.
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

ős ἑκάστοις, ἔτεσι τρισὶ καὶ¹ μησὶν ἐννέα ἡμέραις τε τέταρτοι, ἐν αἷς ἡ ἡρέμη, ὡς γ' ἄν τις ἀπὸ τῆς μάχης ἐν ἦ τὸ παντελὲς χρόνος ἔσχεν ἄριστες ἔνδυσεν, ἀνυήσκονθεν ἐφονευσεν μὲν γὰρ ἐν τῇ Συρίᾳ τὸν τε Νέαστρα καὶ Φάβιον Ἀγριππίνου τὸν ἀρχοντα αὐτῆς, τὸν τὸν ἱππέων τῶν ἀμφὶ τὸν Μακρίνου τοὺς πρῶτους· ὅπερ πον καὶ τῶν ἐν τῇ Ῥώμῃ τοὺς μᾶλλον οἰκειοθείντας αὐτῷ εἰργάσατο· καὶ τῇ Ἀραβίᾳ² Πεικάνον Καιριάνον τὸν ἐπιτετραμβέκον οὐσίαν, ὅτι μὴ παραχρῆμα αὐτῷ διὸ προσέθετο, ἐν τῇ Κύπρῳ Κλαύδιον ᾿Ατταλον τὸν τῆς Θράκες ποτὲ ἁράματα, καὶ ὑπὸ μὲν τοῦ Σεονῆρον ἐκ τοῦ συνεδρίου ἐν τῷ τοῦ Νίγρου του πολέμου ἐκπεσόντα, ὑπὸ δὲ τοῦ Ταραύτου ἐν αὐτὸ ἐπαναχθέντα, καὶ τότε ἐκ τοῦ κλήρου τῇ Κύπρῳ προσταχθέντα, ὅτι τὸ Κομάλοντι προσεκρούκεν· στρατευόμενον γὰρ ποτὲ αὐτῶν ἐν Ὁράκη καὶ κακογρηγοῦσαντα τι ἐσ τοὺς τριήματα ἀπεσαραστοῦ σατοῦ. τοιοῦτος γὰρ τὸ τοῦ Κομάζου ὅν καὶ τοῦ τοῦνα ἐκ τοῦ μίμου καὶ γελοιοτοπίας ἔχου τοῦ τοῦ δορυφόρου ἢρξαν, ἐν μηδέμα τῷ παραστάτῃ ἐπιτροπεία ἡ καὶ προστασία· τῷ πλὴς τῆς τοῦ 2 στρατοπεδοῦ ἐξετασθεῖς, καὶ τὰς τιμὰς τὰς ὑπάτικας ἐλαβεν, καὶ μετὰ τοῦτο καὶ ὑπάτευσεν καὶ ἐπολιάρχησεν, όντα ἀπαξ μόνον ἄλλα καὶ δευτέρον καὶ τρίτον, ὁ μηδεῖ πῶς ἀλλο ὑπήρξεν ὁδεῖν τοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἐν τοῖς παρανομωτάτοις ἐξαριστηκεν.

1 Kai Leuncl., ΚΛΕΙΝ Β.  
2 τῆς Ῥώμης Ραιατ. ΤΙΣΑΡΑΒΙΑΣ Β.  
3 τοῦ Νίγρου Λευνς., ΝΙΤΡΙΝΟΤ Β.  
4 προστασία Χίφ., ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑ Β.  

444

EPITOME OF BOOK LXXX

various men at different times, flourished merely for A.D. 218 the three years, nine months and four days during which he ruled,—reckoning from the battle in which he gained the supreme power. For example, while still in Syria, he slew Nestor and Fabius Agrippinus, the governor of the province, as well as the foremost knights among Macrinus' followers; and he visited the same punishment upon the men in Rome who had been most intimate with Macrinus. In Arabia he put to death Pica Caerianus,¹ who was in charge of that province, because he had not immediately declared his allegiance to the new ruler; and in Cyprus, Claudius Attalus, because he had offended Comazon. Attalus had once been governor of Thrace, had been expelled from the senate by Severus during the war with Niger, but had been restored to it by Tarautas, and had at this time been assigned by the lot to Cyprus. He had incurred Comazon's ill will by having once sent him to the galleys for some wrongdoing of which he was guilty while serving in Thrace. Yet this Comazon, in spite of having such a character and a name derived from mimes and buffoonery, now commanded the Pretorians, though he had been tried in no position of responsibility or command whatever, except that over the camp; and he obtained the rank of consul and later actually became consul, and also city prefect, and that not once only, but even a second and a third time—a thing that had never before happened in the case of anybody else; hence this will be counted as one of the greatest violations of precedent.

1 The name is probably erroneous; Hirschfeld would read Caecilianus, Klein suggests Caesianus.
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

3. Ὅ μὲν οὖν Ἀτταλὸς δι' ἐκεῖνον ἀπέθανεν, ὁ δὲ Ἰχθιόπανος διὰ τοὺς 'Ἀλβαίους ᾧ ἐγκατά− 
τώς ἐπὶ τοῦ Μακρίνου ὑγείατο, Καστίνιος θ' ὦτι δραστηρίως τε ῃν καὶ πολλὰς στρατιώταις, ἐκ τῶν ἀρχῶν ὑπὲρ ἐκ τῆς πρὸς τῶν Ἀντωνίουν συνουσίας, ἐγνώστει διόπτερ καὶ ὕπο τοῦ Μακρίνου τὴν ἄλλος προσπερμιθεὶς ἐν Βιθυνίᾳ τὴν διήμερὰ ἐποίητο. τοῦτον τε οὖν ἀπεκτείνευ, καὶ τῇ γερουσίᾳ περὶ ἀυτοῦ γράψας ὅτι αὐτὸν εἰρήθην τῇ Ρώμης, ὅπερ καὶ τὸν Ἀσπανό τὸν Ἰουλίου, ὕπο τοῦ Μακρίνου

5. ἀποκατέστησεν, καὶ Σύλλας τὸν τῆς Καππα− 
δοκίας ἀρέσει, καὶ περὶ ἀπηλλαγμένον ἐξ αὐτῆς,

6. ὀποίου, οὔτοι μὲν δὴ διὰ ταῦτα ἄρωμον, καὶ οὐδὲ ἐπεστάλη τι περὶ αὐτοῦ τῇ γερουσίᾳ,

7. Σέλει οὖν Ἰχθιόπανος τοῦ πολίτηργος ἔκγραψας ὅτι τι ἐπιλύτει καὶ ὅτι μέγας καὶ νοῦν ἔχων ἢ, πρόφασιν ὡς καὶ συνηπτοῦς τινὰς τῶν ἐν τῷ Ἀλβανῷ στρατευομένων (καὶ μόνον γε ἐκείνου ἀποδεκνύστοις τινὰ ἠκούσειν

8. ἐν τῷ παλατίῳ, ἐν δὲ καὶ ἐσφαγῇ), Ὡμελειανὸς τε Παύτος ὅτι εἰκόνις τινὰς ἐαυτὸν ἐπιχυρύσασ

1 Ἀλβαίους Φαλο, ΑΑΒΙΝΙΟΤΥ V.

2 Καστινίος θ' ὄτι Βσ., ΚΑΙΤΙΝΟΣ V ( itch added by T and first L corr. to S).

3 ὄτι Λεοντ., ΟΤΙΤΕ V.

4 δὴ Υρ., ΔΕ V.

5 γε Βκ., ΤΕ V.

446

EPITOME OF BOOK LXXX

Attalus, then, was put to death on Comazon's A.D. 218 account. Tricicianus, however, lost his life because of the Alban legion, which he had commanded with a firm hand during Maecrinus' reign. And Castinus perished because he was energetic and was known to many soldiers in consequence of the commands he had held and of his intimate association with Antoninus; he had accordingly been living in Bithynia, whither he had been sent ahead for other reasons. The emperor now put him to death, in spite of the fact that he had written concerning him to the senate that he had restored this man who had been banished from Rome by Maecrinus, just as he had done in the case of Julius Asper. He also slew Sulla, who had been governor of Cappadocia but had left the province, because Sulla had meddled in some matters that did not concern him and also because, when summoned from Rome by the emperor, he had contrived to meet the German troops returning home after their winter in Bithynia, a period during which they had created some little disturbance. These men, then, perished for the reasons I have given, and no statements about them were communicated to the senate. On the other hand, Seius Carus, the grandson of Fuscianus, the former prefect of the city, was killed because he was rich, influential, and prudent, but on the pretext that he was forming a league of some of the soldiers stationed near the Alban Mount; he heard the emperor alone prefer certain charges against him in the palace, and there he was also slain. Valerianus Paetus lost his life because he had stamped some likenesses of himself and plated them with gold to serve as orna−
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

πρὸς παλλακίδων κοσμήματα ἐξετύπωσεν ἐκ γάρ τούτον καὶ αἰτίαν ἐπίτιμην ὡς καὶ ἐς ¹ Καππα-
δοκίαν ὁμορρ θα πατρίδι αὐτοῦ ὁδηγαὶ (Ὑαλήθης
gάρ ἦν) ἀπελθεῖν ἐπὶ νεωτερισμὸ διανοοῦμενος, καὶ
cατὰ τοῦτο χρυσοὺς γλύμμα ἐαυτοῦ ἑρώτασ
tοιοῦμενος.

5 Καὶ ἐπὶ τούτων καὶ ὑπὸ τῆς βούλης ἐθανα-
tώθῃ ὁ Μεσσάλας ὁ Σίλιος ὁ τε Βάσσος ὁ
Πομπάνως, ἐγκλῆματα λαβόντες ὅτι ² τοῖς
πραπτομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἱρέσκετο. τούτῳ
gάρ οὐδὲ τῇ βουλῇ γράφει περὶ αὐτῶν ὕπνησεν,
ἐξετάσας τε αὐτοὺς τοῦ ἐαυτοῦ βίου καὶ ἐπιτι-
μητας τῶν ἐν τῷ παλατίῳ δρομέων εἰπὼν ἔλεην:
"τὰς γάρ τοι τῆς ἐπιβουλῆς δήθεν αὐτῶν ἄπο-
deίξεις οὐκ ἐπέμψα ὑμῖν," ἐφή, ὅτι μάτη ἀνα-
γραφθήσεται ἐμελλὼν ἑδὲ σφῶν τεθηκότων.

3 ὑπὲρ δὲ τι καὶ ἔπεσεν αἰτίαμα πρὸς Μεσσάλαν,
ὅτι πολλὰ ἐρρωμένοις ἐν τῷ συνεδρίῳ ἀπεδαίνετο
dιόνυκα καὶ κατ' ἄρχας αὐτῶν ἐς τὴν Συρίαν, ὡς
cαὶ πάνυ τι αὐτῶν δεώμενος, μετεπέμψω, ὅπως
μὴ καὶ καθιγμών αὐτὴ ἀλλοδαίως γένηται.

4 τῷ δὲ τε Βάσσο, ὅτι ἐγνωσκαὶ καὶ ἐνπροπὴ καὶ
eὐγενὴς ἐς ἐχεν τοῦ τα γὰρ Σεβινόρο τοῦ ³ Κλαυ-
νίου καὶ τοῦ Ἐμπινίου τοῦ Μάρκου ἀπόγονος ἦν.
ἐμέλεια καὶ ἐγγείων αὐτήν, μηδὲ ἐκθρησκᾷ

5 τὴν συμφορὰν ἐπιτρέψας. καὶ περὶ μὲν τῶν
gάμων αὐτοῦ, ὃν τε ἐγάμει ὃν τε ἐγγέματο, αὐτίκα
λελέξαται καὶ γάρ ἱμδρίξετο καὶ ἐθηλύνετο καὶ

¹ ἐς supplied by Larnc. ² οτ. Bs., ΟΤΙΕΦ V.

EPITOME OF BOOK LXXX

ments for his mistresses. This led to the charge A.D. 218
that he was intending to go off to Cappadocia,
which bordered on his native land (he was a
Galatian), for the purpose of starting a rebellion,
and that this was the reason why he was making
gold pieces bearing his own likeness.

Following these murders, Silius Messalla and
Pomponius Bassus were condemned to death by
the senate, on the charge of being displeased at what
the emperor was doing. For he did not hesitate to
write this charge against them even to the senate,
calling them investigators of his life and censors of
what went on in the palace. "The proofs of their
plots I have not sent you," he wrote, "because it
would be useless to read them, as the men are
already dead." There was a further ground of
complaint against Messalla, the fact, namely, that
he resolutely laid bare many facts before the senate.
This was what led the emperor in the first place to
send for him to come to Syria, preferring to have
great need of him, whereas he really feared that
Messalla might take the lead in bringing about a
change of mind on the part of the senators. In the
case of Bassus, the real motive lay in the fact that
he had a wife both fair to look upon and of noble
rank; for she was a descendant of Claudius Severus
and of Marcus Antoninus. At all events, the
emperor married her, not allowing her even to
mourn her loss. An account will be given presently
of his marriages, in which he both married and
was bestowed in marriage; for he appeared both as

³ τοῦ supplied by Bk.
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