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EPITOME OF BOOK ~~LXIV~~

LXV

- 1 Οἱ δ' ἐν τῇ Ῥώμῃ ὡς ἤκουσαν τὸ τοῦ Ὄθωνος πάθος, παραχρήμα, ὥσπερ εἰκὸς ἦν, μετεβάλλοντο· τὸν τε γὰρ Ὄθωνα, ὃν πρότερον ἐπήνον καὶ νικᾶν ἤνχοντο, εὐλοιδόρουν ὡς πολέμιον, καὶ τὸν Οὐιτέλλιον, ὃ κατηρώντο, καὶ ἐπήνον καὶ αὐτοκράτορα ἀνηγόρευον. οὕτω που οὐδὲν πάγιόν ἐστι τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων, ἀλλ' ὁμοίως οἱ τε ἐς τὰ μάλιστα ἀνθούντες καὶ οἱ ἐν τῷ ταπεινοτάτῳ ὄντες ἀστάθμητά τε αἰροῦνται, καὶ πρὸς τὰς τύχας σφῶν καὶ τοὺς ἐπαίνους καὶ τοὺς ψόγους τὰς τε τιμὰς καὶ τὰς ἀτιμίας λαμβάνουσι.—Xiph. 193, 12–23 R. St.
- 2^a Ὅντι δ' ἐν τῇ Γαλατία ὁ θάνατος ἠγγέλθη τοῦ Ὄθωνος. ἦλθε δὲ πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ ἡ γυνὴ καὶ τὸ παιδίον, καὶ ἐπὶ βήματος Γερμανικόν τε καὶ αὐτοκράτορα ἐπωνόμασεν, ἐξάετες ὄν.—Zon. 11, 16, p. 47, 3–7 D.
- 3 Ὅτι ὁ Οὐιτέλλιος εἶδεν ἐν Λουγδούνῳ μονομάχων ἀγῶνας καὶ ἐν Κρεμόνῃ, ὥσπερ οὐκ ἀρκοῦντος τοῦ πλήθους τῶν ἐν ταῖς μάχαις ἀπολωλότων καὶ τότε καὶ ἐτι ἀτάφῳ ἐρριμένῳ, ὡς καὶ αὐτὸς θεάσατο· διεξήλθε γὰρ διὰ παντὸς τοῦ χωρίου ἐν ᾧ ἔκειντο, ἐμπιμπλάμενος τῆς θέας ὥσπερ τότε νικῶν, καὶ οὐκ ἐκέλευσέ σφας οὐδ' ὡς ταφῆναι.—Exc. Val. 264^a (p. 698).
- 4 Οὐιτέλλιος δὲ ἐπεὶ ἐν τῇ Ῥώμῃ ἐγένετο, τὰλλὰ

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WHEN the people in Rome heard of the fate of A.D. 69 Otho, they naturally transferred their allegiance forthwith. And so Otho, whom they had previously been lauding and for whose victory they had been praying, was now abused as an enemy, whereas Vitellius, upon whom they had been invoking curses, was lauded and proclaimed emperor. So true is it that there is nothing constant in human affairs; but alike those who are most prosperous and those who are in the humblest station make an unstable choice and receive praise or blame, honour or dishonour, according as their fortunes shift.

News of Otho's death was brought to him [Vitellius] while he was in Gaul. There he was joined by his wife and son; and he placed the boy on a tribunal and gave him the titles of Germanicus and *imperator*, though he was only six years old.

Vitellius witnessed gladiatorial combats at Lugdunum and again at Cremona, as if the crowds of men who had perished in the battles and were even then lying unburied where they had been cast did not suffice. He beheld the slain with his own eyes, for he traversed all the ground where they lay and gloated over the spectacle as if it were still the moment of his victory; and not even then did he order them to be buried.

Vitellius, upon reaching Rome and arranging affairs

τε διόκει ὡς που καὶ ἐδόκει αὐτῷ, καὶ πρόγραμμα¹ ἔθετο δι' οὗ τοὺς ἀστρολόγους ἐξήλασε, προειπὼν σφισιν ἐντὸς τῆσδε τῆς ἡμέρας, ῥητὴν τινα τάξας, ἐξ ἀπάσης τῆς Ἰταλίας χωρῆσαι.² καὶ αὐτῷ ἐκεῖνοι νυκτὸς ἀντιπροθέντες γράμματα ἀντιπαρήγγειλαν ἀπαλλαγῆναι ἐκ τοῦ βίου ἐντὸς τῆς ἡμέρας ἐν ἣ ἐτελεύτησε. καὶ οἱ μὲν οὕτως ἀκριβῶς τὸ γενησόμενον προεγνώσαν.—Xiph. 193, 23–30 R. St., Zon. 11, 16, p. 47, 7–13 D.

- 2 Αὐτὸς δὲ τῇ τε τρυφῇ καὶ τῇ ἀσελγείᾳ προσκείμενος οὐδὲν ἔτι τῶν ἄλλων οὔτε τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων οὔτε τῶν θεῶν ἐφρόντιζεν. ἦν μὲν γὰρ καὶ ἀπ' ἀρχῆς τοιοῦτος οἶος περὶ τὰ καπηλεία καὶ περὶ τὰ κυβευτήρια τοὺς τε ὀρχηστὰς καὶ τοὺς ἀρματηλάτας ἐσπουδακέναι, καὶ ἀμύθητα ἐς τὰ τοιαῦτα ἀνήλισκε, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο καὶ δανειστὰς πολλοὺς εἶχε· τότε δὲ καὶ μάλλον, ἅτε καὶ ἐν τοσαύτῃ ἐξουσίᾳ καθεστῶς, ὕβριζε, καὶ τὸ πλείστον καὶ τῆς ἡμέρας καὶ τῆς νυκτὸς ἐδαπάνα ἀπλήστως τε ἐμπορούμενος καὶ συνεχῶς πάντα ἐξεμῶν, ὡς μόνῃ τῇ παρόδῳ τῶν σιτίων τρέφεσθαι. ἀφ' οὐπερ καὶ ἀνταρκεῖν ἐδύνατο, ἐπεὶ οἱ γε συνδειπνοῦντες αὐτῷ πάντ³ κακῶς ἀπήλλασσον.
- 3 πολλοὺς γὰρ αἰεὶ τοὺς πρῶτους ὁμοσίτους ἐποιεῖτο, καὶ πολλάκις καὶ παρ' αὐτοῖς εἰστιάτο· ὅθεν χαριέστατον λόγον εἰς τις αὐτῶν Οὐίβιος Κρίσπος ἀρρωστήσας, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο ἡμέρας τινὰς ἀπολειφθεὶς τοῦ συσσιτίου, εἶπεν, ὅτι “ εἰ

¹ Cf. Zonaras: φιλόματις δὲ ὑπάρχων καὶ μηδὲ τὸ βραχὺ πρᾶσσω ἄνευ αὐτῶν, τότε μὲν τοὺς ἀστρονόμους, ὕστερον δὲ καὶ τοὺς γόητας ἐξήλασε, προειπὼν κτ.έ.

² ἐξ—χωρῆσαι VC, ἐξ ἀπάσης ἐκχωρῆσαι τῆς Ἰταλίας Zon.

to suit him, issued¹ an edict banishing the astrologers A.D. 69 and commanding them to leave the whole of Italy by a certain specified day. They answered him by putting up at night another notice, in which they commanded him in turn to depart this life before the end of the very day on which he actually died.² So accurate was their foreknowledge of what should come to pass.

Vitellius, addicted as he was to luxury and licentiousness, no longer cared for anything else either human or divine. He had indeed always been inclined to idle about in taverns and gaming-houses, and devote himself to dancers and charioteers; and he used to spend incalculable sums on such pursuits, with the result that he had many creditors. Now, when he was in a position of so great authority, his wantonness only increased, and he was squandering money most of the day and night alike. He was insatiate in gorging himself, and was constantly vomiting up what he ate, being nourished by the mere passage of the food. Yet this practice was all that enabled him to hold out; for his fellow-banqueters fared very badly. For he was always inviting many of the foremost men to his table and he was frequently entertained at their houses. It was in this connexion that one of them, Vibius Crispus, uttered a very witty remark. Having been compelled for some days by sickness to absent himself from the convivial board, he said:

¹ Zonaras: Though he had a great regard for omens, and did nothing however trivial without consulting them, he banished the astrologers at this time and later the sorcerers.

² According to Suetonius (*Vit.* 14) they named the very same day that had been appointed by Vitellius.

³ πανν Zon. Ant., σφόδρα exc. Vat., πάντες VC, ὅμ. cod. Peir.

- 3 μὴ ἐνεροσῆκειν, πάντως ἂν ἀπωλώλειν." καὶ ἐγένετο ὁ χρόνος ὁ τῆς ἀρχῆς αὐτοῦ σύμπας οὐδὲν ἄλλο ἢ μέθαι τε καὶ κῶμοι· πάντα τε γὰρ τὰ τιμιώτατα καὶ ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τοῦ ὠκεανοῦ, ἵνα μηδὲν εἶπω πλέον, καὶ ἐκ τῆς γῆς καὶ ἐκ τῆς θαλάσσης συνήγητο, καὶ πολυτελῶς οὕτως ἐσκευάζετο ὥστε Οὐιτελλιανὰ καὶ νῦν ἐξ ἐκείνου καὶ πέμματα καὶ
- 2 ἄλλα τιὰ βρώματα ὀνομάζεσθαι. καὶ τί ἂν τις καθ' ἕκαστον αὐτῶν καταλέγοι, ὁπότε πρὸς πάντων ὁμοίως ὠμολογῆται δύο τε αὐτὸν μυριάδας μυριάδων καὶ δισχιλίας¹ πεντακοσίας ἐν τῷ τῆς ἀρχῆς χρόνῳ ἐς τὰ δεῖπνα δεδαπανηκέναι; ἐπέλιπέ τε γὰρ πάντα τὰ πολυτίμητα δι' ὀλίγου,
- 3 καὶ ἔδει πάντως αὐτὰ εἶναι. μίαν γοῦν ποτε λοπάδα πέντε καὶ εἴκοσι μυριάδων ἐσκεύασε, γλώττας τε καὶ ἐγκεφάλους καὶ ἥπατα καὶ ἰχθύων καὶ ὀρνίθων τινῶν ἐμβαλῶν. καὶ ἐπειδὴ ἀδύνατον ἦν κεραμεῶν τηλικαύτην γενέσθαι, ἀργύρου τε ἐποιήθη καὶ ἔμεινε πολὺν χρόνον ὥσπερ τι ἀνάθημα, μέχρις οὗ Ἀδριανὸς αὐτὴν ἰδὼν συνεχώνευσεν.—Xiph. 193, 30-194, 25 R. St., Exc. Val. 264^b (p. 698).
- 4 Ἐπειδὴ δ' ἄπαξ τούτων ἐμνημόνευσα, καὶ ἐκείνο προσθήσω ὅτι οὐδὲ τῇ οἰκίᾳ τῇ τοῦ Νέρωνος τῇ χρυσοῦ ἤρκετο, ἀλλὰ καίτοι σφόδρα καὶ τὸ ὄνομα καὶ τὸν βίον τά τε ἐπιτηδεύματα αὐτοῦ πάντα καὶ ἀγαπῶν καὶ ἐπαινῶν, ὅμως ἠτιᾶτο αὐτὸν κακῶς τε ὠκῆκέναι καὶ κατασκευῆ καὶ ὀλίγη καὶ ταπεινῇ κεχρησθαι² λέγων· νοσήσας γοῦν ποτε ἐξήτησεν οἶκημα ἐν ᾧ κατοικήσει·
- 2 οὕτως αὐτὸν οὐδὲ τῶν ἐκείνου τι ἤρρεσεν. ἡ γυνὴ δὲ αὐτοῦ Γαλερία ὡς ὀλίγου ἐν τῷ βασιλικῷ

"If I had not fallen ill, I surely should have perished." A.D. 69
 The entire period of his reign was nothing but a series of carousals and revels. All the most costly viands were brought from as far as the Ocean (not to say farther) and drawn from both land and sea, and were prepared in so costly a fashion that even now certain cakes and other dishes are named Vitellian, after him. And yet why should one name over all the details, when it is admitted by all alike that during the period of his reign he expended 900,000,000 sesterces on dinners? There soon was a famine in all costly articles of food, yet it was absolutely imperative that they should be provided. For example, he once caused a dish to be made that cost a million sesterces, into which he put a mixture of tongues and brains and livers of certain fishes and birds. As it was impossible to make so large a vessel of pottery, it was made of silver and remained in existence for some time, being regarded somewhat in the light of a votive offering, until Hadrian finally set eyes on it and melted it down.

Now that I have once touched on this subject, I will also add that not even Nero's Golden House could satisfy Vitellius. For though he admired and lauded the name and the life and all the practices of Nero, yet he found fault with him for living in such a wretched house, so scantily and meanly equipped. At any rate, when he fell ill one time, he looked about for a room to live in; so little did anything even of Nero's satisfy him. And his wife Galeria ridiculed the small amount of decoration found in the royal

¹ δισχιλίας VC Ant., χιλίας Zon. The larger figure is confirmed by Tac., *Hist.*, ii. 95.

² κεχρησθαι Rk., χρησθαι VC cod. Peir.

κόσμου εὐρεθέντος κατεγέλα. ἀλλ' οὗτοι μὲν ἐκ τῶν ἀλλοτριῶν ἀναλίσκοντες οὐδ' ἠρίθμουν τι ἐκ τῶν δαπανωμένων, οἱ δὲ δὴ δειπνίζοντές σφας ἐν μεγάλῳ κακῷ ἐγίγνοντο, πλὴν ὀλίγων οἷς τι ἀντὶ ἀπεδίδου. καίπερ οὐδ' ὅλης τῆς ἡμέρας οἱ αὐτοὶ εἰστίαν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ἄλλοι μὲν ἀκρατίσασθαι παρείχον, ἄλλοι δὲ ἀριστήσαι, ἕτεροι δὲ δεῖπνον, ἕτεροι μεταδόρπιά τινα πλησμονῆς παραμύθια· πάντες γὰρ οἱ δυνάμενοι εἰστίαν αὐτόν ἐσπούδαζον ὥστε ὀλίγων ἡμερῶν διελθουσῶν ἑκατὸν ἐς τὸν δεῖπνον μυριάδας ἀναλώσαι.¹ καὶ τὰ γενέθλια αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ δύο ἡμέρας ἐωρτάζετο, καὶ θηρία καὶ ἄνδρες πολλοὶ ἀπεκτάθησαν.—Xiph. 194, 25–195, 4 R. St., Exc. Val. 265 and 266 (p. 698).

6 Οὕτω δὲ βιοὺς οὐκ ἄμοιρος ἦν παντάπασι καὶ καλῶν ἔργων. τό τε γὰρ ἐπὶ Νέρωνος καὶ τὸ ἐπὶ Γάλβου τοῦ τε Ὄθωνος κοπὲν νόμισμα ἐτήρησεν, οὐκ ἀγανακτῶν ταῖς εἰκόσιν αὐτῶν· καὶ ὅσα τισὶν ἐδεδώρητο ἐφύλαξε, μηδένα μηδὲν ἀφελόμενος. καὶ οὔτε τὰ ἐκ τῶν συντελειῶν ἐποφληθέντα ἀπήτησεν οὔτε οὐσίαν τινὸς ἐδήμυσεν, ὀλίγους μὲν πάνυ τῶν τὰ Ὄθωνος πραξάντων ἀποκτείνας, μηδὲ τὰς ἐκείνων μέντοι οὐσίας τοὺς προσήκουτάς σφων ἀποστερήσας. καὶ τοῖς οἰκείοις δὲ τῶν πρότερον ποτε θανατωθέντων ἐδωρήσατο πάντα ὅσα ἔτι ἐν τῷ δημοσίῳ εὔρητο.²

3 ἀλλ' οὐδὲ τὰς διαθήκας τῶν ἀντιπολεμησάντων ἀντῶ καὶ ἐν ταῖς μάχαις πεσόντων ἠτιάσατο. ἀπηγόρευσε δὲ καὶ τοῖς βουλευταῖς καὶ τοῖς

¹ ὥστε—ἀναλώσαι VC, καὶ ἑκατὸν δὲ αὐτόν φασὶ μυριάδας ἐς δεῖπνον ἀναλώσαι cod. Peir.

² εὔρητο St., εὔρητο MSS.

apartments. This pair, then, as they were spending A.D. 69 other people's money, never stopped to count the cost of anything; but those who invited them to meals found themselves in great embarrassment, excepting a few to whom he gave something in return. Yet the same persons would not entertain him for the entire day, but one set of men furnished breakfast, another luncheon, another dinner, and still another certain kinds of dessert, "consolations for a jaded appetite." ¹ For all who were able to do so were eager to entertain him, so that in the course of a few days they spent four million sesterces for dinner.² His birthday celebrations lasted over two days and many wild beasts and men, too, were slain.

Though he lived this kind of life, he was not entirely without good deeds. For example, he retained the coinage minted under Nero, Galba and Otho, evincing no displeasure at their likenesses; and any gifts that they had bestowed upon any persons he held to be valid and deprived no one of any such possession. He did not collect any sums still owing of former levies, and he confiscated no one's property. He put to death but very few of those who had sided with Otho, and did not withhold the property of these even from their relatives. Upon the kinsmen of those previously executed he bestowed all their funds that were still to be found in the public treasury. He did not even find fault with the wills of such as had fought against him and had fallen in the battles. Furthermore he forbade

¹ This little phrase is taken from Plato's *Critias*, 115 B. The text is uncertain, due perhaps to the omission of some details by the epitomist. The reading of the Cod. Peir. is "and they say he spent four millions upon dinner," omitting the words "in the course of a few days."

ἰππεῦσι μονομαχεῖν ἢ ἐν ὀρχήστρα θέαν τιὰ παρέχειν. καὶ διὰ ταῦτα ἐπηρεῖτο.—Zon. 11, 16, p. 48, 9–24 D.

4, 4 "Ὅτι τοιούτου τοῦ Οὐιτελλίου ὄντος οὐδ' οἱ στρατιῶται ἐσωφρόνου, ἀλλὰ καὶ ὕβρεις καὶ ἀσέλγεια ὑπ' αὐτῶν πολλὰ πανταχοῦ ὁμοίως ἐγίγνοντο.—Exc. Val. 267 (p. 701).

5 "Ὅτι Βιτέλλιος ἀνέβη εἰς τὸ Καπιτώλιον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ ἠσπάσατο. ἐκεῖνη δὲ ἐπιεικῆς ἦν, καὶ ὅτε¹ πρώτον ἤκουσεν ὅτι Γερμανικὸς ἐπεκλήθη ὁ υἱὸς αὐτῆς, εἶπεν "ἐγὼ μὲν Βιτέλλιον ἀλλ' οὐ Γερμανικὸν τέτοκα."—Petr. Patr. exc. Vat. 93 (p. 218 Mai. = p. 199, 24–28 Dind.).

5 Γέλωτα μέντοι ὁ Οὐιτέλλιος πολλοῖς παρεῖχεν ὀρώντες γὰρ ἄνδρα σεμνοπροσωποῦντα ἐν ταῖς δημοσίαις προσδόοις² ὃν ἤδεσαν πέπορευκότα, καὶ ἐφ' ἵππου βασιλικοῦ καὶ ἐν χλαμύδι πορφυρᾷ ὃν ἠπίσταντο τοὺς ἀγωνιστὰς
2 ἵππους ἐν τῇ οὐνετείῳ³ ἐσθῆτι ψήχοντα, μετὰ τε ὄχλου στρατιωτῶν τοσούτου ἐς τὸ Καπιτώλιον ἀνιόντα ὃν οὐδεὶς οὐδ' ἐν τῇ ἀγορᾷ πρότερον διὰ τὸ τῶν δανειστῶν πλήθος ἰδεῖν ἐδύνατο, καὶ προσκυνούμενον πρὸς πάντων ὃν οὐδεὶς οὐδὲ φιλήσαι ποτε ἠθέλησεν, οὐκ
3 εἶχον ὅπως τὸν γέλωτα κατάσχωσιν. οἱ γὰρ μὴν δεδανεικότες τι αὐτῷ ἐξορμῶντος μὲν αὐτοῦ ἐς τὴν Γερμανίαν ἐπελάβοντο, καὶ μόλις ποτὲ κατεγγυηθέντα αὐτὸν ἀπέλυσαν· τότε δὲ οὐχ ὅσον οὐ κατεγέλων ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐθρήνον καὶ κατεκρύπτοντο, καὶ αὐτοὺς ἀναζητῶν τὴν τε σωτη-

¹ ὅτε St., ὅτι cod.

² προσδόοις Bs., προδόοις VC.

the senators and the knights to fight as gladiators or A.D. 69 to perform in any spéctacle in the orchestra. For these measures he was commended.

The character of Vitellius being such as I have described, the soldiers did not show any restraint either, but numerous instances of their wantonness and licentiousness were occurring everywhere alike.

Vitellius ascended the Capitol and embraced his mother. She was a good, honest soul, and when she first heard that her son had been given the name Germanicus, she said: "The child I bore was Vitellius, not Germanicus."

Vitellius, however, furnished many with material for amusement. They could not restrain their laughter when they beheld wearing a solemn face in the official religious processions a man whom they knew to have played the strumpet, or saw mounted on a royal steed and clad in a purple mantle him who used, as they knew full well, to wear the Blue costume and curry the race-horses, or when they beheld ascending the Capitol with sō great a crowd of soldiers him whom previously no one could catch a glimpse of even in the Forum because of the throng of his creditors, or saw receiving the adoration of all a man whom, a while before, nobody would readily have consented even to greet with a kiss. Indeed, those who had lent him anything had laid hold of him when he was setting out for Germany and would scarcely release him after he had given security. Now, however, so far from laughing at him, they were mourning and hiding themselves; but he sought them out, telling them he spared

³ οὐνετείῳ R. Steph., διβενετείῳ VC.

ρίαν σφίσιν ἐς τὸ ὀφειλόμενον ἀποδιδόναί ἔλεγε καὶ τὰ συμβόλαια ἀπήτει.—Xiph. 195, 4–17 R. St., Exc. Val. 268 (p. 701).

7 Ἐπεφοῖτα δὲ καὶ τοῖς θεάτροις συνεχῶς, ὥστε καὶ τὸν ὄμιλον ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀναρτᾶσθαι. συνεσίτει δὲ καὶ τοῖς δυνατωτάτοις ἀπλοῖζόμενος,¹ ὥστε αὐτοὺς ἔτι καὶ μᾶλλον προσεταιρίζεσθαι τῶν τε ἀρχαίων συμβιωτῶν ἰσχυρῶς ἐμέμνητο, καὶ πάνυ αὐτοὺς ἐτίμα, οὐκ ἀπαξιῶν γνωρίζειν τινὰ αὐτῶν δοκεῖν, ὥσπερ ἕτεροι· πολλοὶ γὰρ ἐπὶ μέγα παραλόγως ἀρθέντες μισοῦσι τοὺς συνειδότας σφίσι τὴν ἐν τῷ πρὶν ταπεινότητα.—Xiph. 195, 17–24 R. St.

8 Ὅτι ὁ Οὐιτέλλιος, Πρίσκου ἀντειπόντος τι αὐτῷ ἐν τῷ συνεδρίῳ καὶ τίνα καὶ τῶν στραιωτῶν καταδραμόντος, ἐπεκαλέσατο μὲν τοὺς δημάρχους ὡς καὶ τῆς παρ' αὐτῶν ἐπικουρίας δεόμενος, οὔτε δὲ αὐτὸς τι κακὸν τὸν Πρίσκον ἠργάσατο οὔθ' ὑπ' ἐκείνων παθεῖν εἶασεν, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔφη ὅτι “μὴ ταραττεσθε,² πατέρες, μηδ' ἀγανακτεῖτε, εἰ δύο ἄνδρες ἐξ ὑμῶν διηνέχθημέν τι πρὸς ἀλλήλους.” καὶ τοῦτο μὲν³ ἐξ ἐπιεικείας
3 πεποιηκέναι ἔδοξεν· ὅτι μέντοι τὸν Νέρανα μιμῆσθαι ἠθέλε καὶ ἐνήγισεν αὐτῷ,⁴ καὶ ὅτι τοσαῦτα ἐς τὰ δαίπνα ἀνήλισκεν, οἱ μὲν ἄλλοι καὶ κατὰ τοῦτ' ἔχαιρον, οἱ δὲ δὴ νοῦν ἔχοντες ἠχθοντο, εὐ ἐπιστάμενοι ὅτι οὐδὲ τὰ ἐξ ἀπάσης τῆς οἰκουμένης χρήματα ἀρκέσει.—Exc. Val. 269 (p. 701).

8 Πράττοντι δ' αὐτῷ ταῦτα σημεῖα ποιητὰ ἐγέ-

¹ ἀπλοῖζόμενος H. Steph., ἀπλωίζόμενος VC.

Helvidius Priscus son of
primipilaris
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Trium pleb. 36 praeta 70
their lives in payment of the debt he owed, and he A.D. 69 demanded back his notes. *Att. of Thras. Postes*

He was a constant attendant at the theatres, and by this won the attachment of the populace. He ate with the most influential men on free and easy terms, and this gained their favour to an even greater degree. His old companions he never failed to remember and honoured them greatly, not disdaining to appear to recognize any of them. In this he was unlike some others; for many who have unexpectedly attained to great power feel hatred for those who are acquainted with their former humble state.

Vitellius, when Priscus opposed him in the senate and also denounced the soldiers, called the tribunes to his side as if he needed their assistance. Yet he neither did Priscus any harm himself nor did he allow the tribunes to molest him, but merely said: “Be not disturbed, Fathers, nor indignant, that we two out of your number have had a little dispute with each other.” This act seemed to have been due to a kindly disposition. The fact, however, that he wished to imitate Nero and offered sacrifices to that emperor's Manes, and that he spent so great sums on dinners, though it caused joy to some, made sensible people grieve, since they were fully aware that not all the money in the whole world would be sufficient for him.

While he was behaving in this way, evil omens

² ταραττεσθε Val., ταραττεσθαι cod. Peir.

³ μὲν supplied by Bk.

⁴ αὐτῷ Bk., τε αὐτῷ cod. Peir.

νετο.¹ καὶ γὰρ κομήτης ἀστὴρ ἐφαντάσθη καὶ ἡ
σελήνη παρὰ τὸ καθεστηκὸς δις ἐκελειομένηαι
ἔδοξε· καὶ γὰρ τεταρταία καὶ ἑβδομαία ἐσκίασθη.
καὶ ἡλίου δύο ἅμα, ἓκ τε τῶν ἀνατολῶν καὶ
ἐκ τῶν δυσμῶν, τοῦτον μὲν ἀσθενῆ καὶ ὠχρὸν
2 ἐκείνον δὲ λαμπρὸν καὶ ἰσχυρὸν, εἶδον. ἐν τε
τῷ Καπιτωλίῳ ἴχνη πολλὰ καὶ μεγάλα δαι-
μόνων τινῶν ὡς καὶ κατεληλυθότων ἀπ' αὐτοῦ
ἑωράθη· καὶ ἔλεγον οἱ στρατιῶται οἱ τὴν νύκτα
ἐκείνην αὐτῷ ἐγκεκοιτηκότες ὅτι ὁ τοῦ Διὸς ναὸς
αὐτόματος σὺν πολλῷ κτύπῳ ἠνεφύχθη, ὥστε
τινὰς τῶν φυλάκων ἐκπλαγέντας ἀποψύξαι.—
Xiph. 195, 24—196, 1 R. St., Zon. 11, 16, p. 48,
25—32 D.

3¹ Ἐπράχθη² δὲ ταῦτα, καὶ ὁ Οὐεσπασιανὸς
Ἰουδαίοις πολεμῶν, πυθόμενος τὴν τε τοῦ Οὐί-
τελλίου καὶ τὴν τοῦ Ὄθωνος ἐπανάστασιν,
ἐβουλεύετο ὅ τι χρὴ πράξαι.—Xiph. 196, 1—3
R. St.

3^a Ὅτι ὁ Οὐεσπασιανὸς οὐτ' ἄλλως προπετήs ἦν,
καὶ ἐς ταραχώδη οὕτω πράγματα καὶ πάνυ ὄκνει
ἐαυτὸν καθεῖναι.—Exc. Val. 270 (p. 701).

3² Ἡ τε γὰρ τῶν ἀνθρώπων εὐνοία πολλὴ ἦν
πρὸς αὐτόν (ἡ γὰρ ἐκ τῆs Βρεττανίας δόξα καὶ

¹ Cf. Zonaras: ἐπὶ τούτοις ἠγγέλη αὐτῷ ἡ ἐν Ἰουδαίᾳ κατ'
αὐτοῦ ἐπανάστασις. καὶ δεινῶς κατέδεισε δι' αὐτὴν ἄλλων τε
συμβάντων σημείων καὶ τῆs σελήνης κτῆ.

² Cf. Zonaras (11, 16, p. 49, 1—8 D.): ἐπράχθη δὲ τὰ τῆs
ἐπαναστάσεως ἄδε. Οὐεσπασιανὸς ἐν Ἰουδαίᾳ διατρίβων (ὡς γὰρ
ἦδη ἰστόρηται, παρὰ Νέρωνος ἦν ἐκεῖσε σταλείs διὰ τὴν τῶν
Ἰουδαίων ἀποστασίαν) τῷ μὲν Γάλβῳ ἀνταρχήσαντι τὸν νῦν
ἐπεμψε Τίτον προσεροῦντα αὐτόν, ἐπανελθόντος δὲ Τίτου ἐπεὶ
καθ' ὅδον ἐμεμαθήκει τὴν τοῦ Οὐιτελλίου καὶ τοῦ Ὄθωνος ἐπανα-
στάσιν, πρὸς μοναρχίαν καὶ αὐτὸς ὤρμηθη.

occurred.¹ A comet was seen, and the moon, contrary A.D. 69
to precedent, appeared to suffer two eclipses, being
observed on the fourth and on the seventh day.
Also people saw two suns at once, one in the west
weak and pale, and one in the east brilliant and
powerful. On the Capitol many huge footprints
were seen, presumably of some spirits that had
descended from it. The soldiers who had slept there
on the night in question said that the temple of
Jupiter had opened of itself with great clangour and
that some of the guards had been so terrified that
they fainted.

At² the same time that this happened Vespasian,
who was engaged in warfare with the Jews, learned
of the rebellion of Vitellius and of Otho and was
deliberating what he should do.

Vespasian was never inclined to be rash, and he
hesitated very much about involving himself in such
troublesome affairs.

For not only was the popular feeling strong in
his favour—since his reputation won in Britain, his

¹ Cf. Zonaras. At this juncture the uprising against him
in Judaea was reported to him. And he was in great fear
because of it, since various omens, etc.

² Cf. Zonaras. The rebellion came about in this way.
Vespasian, who was tarrying in Judaea (for, as has already
been related [lxiii. 22, 1] he had been sent thither on account
of the revolt of the Jews), had sent his son to carry his
greetings to Galba when the latter had become emperor;
but when Titus returned, having learned on the way of the
rebellion of Vitellius and of Otho, Vespasian also set out to
gain the sovereignty.

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