

“Human Sacrifice at Perugia”

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Seneca, *De Clementia*, 11.1

fuerit moderatus et clemens, nempe post mare Actiacum Romano cruore infectum, nempe post fractas in Sicilia classes et suas et alienas, nempe post Perusinas aras et proscriptiones.

Augustus was restrained and merciful, but truly after the Actian sea was corrupted with Roman blood, after fleets – his own and others – were broken in Sicily, after the Perusian altars and proscriptions.

Suetonius, *Vita Divi Augusti*, 15

Perusia capta in plurimos animadvertit, orare veniam vel excusare se conantibus una voce occurrens, *moriendum esse*. Scribunt quidam, trecentos ex dediticiis electos, utriusque ordinis ad aram Divo Iulio extractam Idibus Martiis hostiarum more mactatos.

When Perugia was captured, he punished many; meeting those trying to seek favor or excuse themselves with one reply, “you must die.” Some write that 300 men, chosen from the prisoners of both orders, were slaughtered at an altar erected to the Deified Julius on the Ides of March in the manner of sacrifices.

Cassius Dio, *Historiae*, 44.14.4

καὶ λόγος γε ἔχει ὅτι οὐδ’ ἀπλῶς τοῦτο ἔπαθον, ἀλλ’ ἐπὶ τὸν βωμὸν τὸν τῷ Καίσαρι τῷ προτέρῳ ὠσιωμένον ἀχθέντες ἰππῆς τε τριακόσιοι καὶ βουλευταὶ ἄλλοι τε καὶ ὁ Καννούτιος ὁ Τιβέριος

And the story goes that they did not merely suffer death in an ordinary form but were led to the altar consecrated to the former Caesar and were there sacrificed – three hundred knights and many senators, among them Tiberius Cannutius.¹

Velleius Paterculus, 2.74

Usus Caesar virtute et fortuna sua Perusiam expugnavit. Antonium inviolatum dimisit, in Perusinos magis ira militum quam voluntate saevitum ducis.

Caesar, having enjoyed his own valor and fortune, stormed Perugia. He released Antonius unharmed; rage was vented upon the Perusians more by the anger of the soldiers than by the will of the commander.

Appian, *The Civil Wars*, 5.48

τοὺς δὲ Περυσίους ἀπὸ τοῦ τείχους παρακαλοῦντας ἐκέλευσεν ἤκειν, ἄνευ τῆς βουλῆς μόνης: καὶ ἐλθοῦσι συνέγνω. οἱ δὲ βουλευταὶ τότε μὲν φύλαξι παρεδόθησαν, μετ’ οὐ πολὺ δὲ ἀνηρέθησαν.

He commanded the Perusians who stretched out their hands to him from the walls, to come forward, all except their town council, and as they presented themselves he pardoned them; but the councilors were thrown into prison and soon afterward put to death.²

¹ Translation from Herbert Baldwin Foster’s 1917 translation.

² Translation from Horace White’s 1913 translation.