

Nugae Dē Divō Augustō – Pars Prīma

Suetonius (*Dē Vitā Divī Augustī, Selections from Chapters 73, 76-83*)

In these selections we learn not about the history or political accomplishments of Augustus, but rather about some of his more mundane and less-discussed aspects: what did he look like? what did he eat? what was a day in his life like? and more!

Appearance

Forma fuit eximia	1
et per omnēs aetatis gradūs, venustissima,	2
quamquam et omnis lenociniī neglegēs:	3
in capite comendō tam incuriosus,	4
ut raptim compluribus simul tonsoribus operam daret	5
ac modo tonderet modo raderet barbam.	6
Vultu[s] erat vel in sermone vel tacitus, tranquill[us] seren[us]que.	7
Oculōs habuit clarōs ac nitidōs,	8
quibus existimari volēbat inesse quiddam divinī vigoris.	9
Traditur: corpore maculōsō,	10
dispersīs per pectus atque alvum genitivīs notīs	11
in modum et ordinem ac numerum stellārum caelestis ursae,	12
et callīs ad impetiginis formam.	13

Health and Exercise

Gravēs et periculōsās valitūdinēs per omnem vitam expertus est.	14
Quārē quassātō corpore,	15
neque frigora neque aestūs facile tolerābat.	16
Verum, tantam infirmitatem magnā curā tuēbātur,	17
in primīs, lavandī raritate	18
(unguēbātur enim saepius).	19
Aut sudabat ad flammam,	20
deinde perfundēbātur aqua.	21
Exercitātiōnēs equōrum et armōrum, post civilia bella, omisit;	22
et ad pilam folliculumque transiit,	23
mox nihil aliud quam vectābātur et deambulābat,	24
ita ut in extremīs spatiīs, subsultim decurreret.	25
Animī laxandī causā, modo piscābātur,	26
modo talīs aut ocellatīs nucibusque ludēbat.	27

• VOCABULARIA ET GRAMMATICA

- 1 **eximius, a, um** – ‘exceptional’
- 2 **gradus, ūs, m.** – ‘step’; **venustus, a, um** – ‘graceful’
- 3 **lenocinium, i, n.** – ‘flashy adornment’
- 4 **incuriosus, a, um** – ‘negligent, indifferent’
- 5 **como, comere** – ‘to arrange or adorn (the hair)’
- 6 **raptim** – ‘hurriedly’; **tonsor, oris, m.** – ‘barber’
- 6 **tondo, ere** – ‘to clip’; **rado, ere** – ‘to shave’
- 8-9 **nitidus, a, um** – ‘bright’;
- 10 **traditur** – synonym for *dicitur*, here followed by a string of ablatives of description which tells us about Augustus’ body
- 11 **maculosus, a, um** – ‘spotted’
- 11 **alvus, i, m.** – ‘stomach’; **genitivīs notīs** – ‘birthmarks’
- 12 **caelestis ursae** – reference to the star constellation ursa, whose quantity of stars would have been particularly visible in ancient times.
- 13 **callum, i, n.** – ‘callus’
- 13 **impetigo, impetiginis, f.** – A skin disease. Symptomns: One or more pimple-like lesions surrounded by reddened skin. Lesions fill with pus, then break down over 4–6 days and form a thick crust. Impetigo is often associated with insect bites, cuts, and other forms of trauma to the skin. Itching is common.
- 14 **valitudo, valitudinis, f.** – ‘health’
- 15 **quare** – ‘thus’; **quasso, are, avi, atus** – ‘to batter’
- 17 **tueor, tueri, tutus sum** – ‘to protect, watch’
- 18 **rariate** – what English word does this look like? It is a third decl. noun; what case must it be in?
- 19 **ungeo, unguere** – ‘to rub or anoint with oil’
- 20 **sudo, sudare** – ‘to sweat’
- 23 **pila, ae, f.** – ‘ball’; **folliculus, i, m.** – ‘balloon ball’
- 24 **vecto, are** – ‘to carry’ (here, by horse)
- 25 **deambulabat** – more leisurely than *ambulabat* – a ‘stroll’
- 25 **in extremīs spatiīs** – i.e., at the end of his exercise
- 25 **subsultim** – ‘with frequent leaps into the air’
- 25 **decurreret** – how does the prefix *de* affect the verb *curreret*?
- 27 **talīs** – ‘dice game’; **ocellatus, i, m.** – ‘marble’
- 27 **nux, nucis, f.** – ‘nut’

• QUAESTIONES

1. How is Augustus’ form described? (lines 1-2)
2. What example does Suetonius give as proof that Augustus was unconcerned with looking flashy? (lines 3-6)
3. What does Suetonius tell us about Augustus’ expression? (line 7)
4. How did Augustus feel about his eyes? (lines 8-9)
5. What three things characterized Augustus’ skin? (lines 10-13)
6. Was Augustus typically free of illness or not? How do you know? (lines 14-21)
7. Instead of washing regularly, how did Augustus care for himself? (lines 18-21)
8. What types of exercise did Augustus do before the war? After? (lines 22-27)

Nugae Dē Divō Augustō – Pars Secunda

Suetonius (*Dē Vitā Divī Augustī, Selections from Chapters 73, 76-83*)

Clothing

Veste nōn temerē alia quam domestica usus est, 28
ab sorore et uxore et filiā neptibusque confectā; 29
togīs neque restrictīs neque fusīs, 30
clavō nec latō nec angustō, 31
calciamentīs altiusculīs, 32
ut procerior quam erat videretur. 33

Food and Drink

Cibī: minimī erat atque vulgaris. 34
Secundarium panem et pisciculōs minūtōs et caseum et ficōs viridēs 35
maximē appetēbat. 36
Vinī, quoque parcissimus erat. 37
Prō potiōne, sumēbat perfūsum aquā frigidā panem 38
aut cucumeris frustum, vel lactuculae thyrsium, 39
aut recēns aridumve pomum. 40

Day in the Life

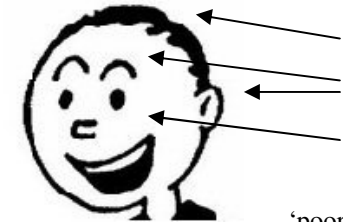
Post cibum meridiānum, 41
ut vestitus calciatusque erat, paulisper conquiescēbat. 42
Ā cenā in lexiculam sē lucubratoriam recipiēbat. 43
Ibi, donec residua conficeret, 44
ad multam noctem permanēbat. 45
In lectum inde transgressus, 46
nōn amplius quam septem horās dormiēbat. 47
Matutinā vigiliā offendēbātur. 48
Saepe indigens somnī, 49
et dum per vicos deportaretur, condormiēbat. 50

Old Age

Sed in senectā, 51
[habuit] dentēs rarōs et exiguōs et scabrōs; 52
capillum leviter inflexum et subflavum; 53
supercilia coniuncta; mediocrēs aures; 54
colorem inter aquilum candidumque; staturam brevem. 55

• VOCABULARIA ET GRAMMATICA

- 28 **veste** – why ablative here?; **non temerē** – ‘hardly’
29 **neptis, is, f.** – ‘granddaughter’
30 **fusīs** – comes from *fundō*, so what does it mean?
31 **clavus, i, m.** – ‘stripe (on a toga)’
32 **calciamentum, i, n.** – ‘shoe’
33 **procerior** – synonym for *altior*
35 **ficus, i, m.** – ‘fig’; **viridis** – ‘fresh, green’
37 **parcus, a, um** – ‘sparing’
38 **prō** – here, ‘instead of’; **perfusus, a, um** – ‘soaked’; **potione** – ‘drink’, particularly alcoholic”
39-40 **frustum, i, n.** – ‘scrap, piece’; **lactuca, ae, f.** – ‘lettuce’
thyrsium, i, n. – ‘heart’; **pomum, i, n.** – ‘apple’
43 **lecticulam lucubratoriam** – his ‘work-by-lamp-light-couch’
48 **matutinus, a, um** – ‘early morning’
vigilia, ae, f. – ‘wakefulness, rising’
49-50 **indigens** – ‘needy’; **vicōs** – synonym for *viās*
52-54 *partēs faciei*



- 52 **exiguus, a, um** – ‘poor’; **scaber, bra, brum** – ‘corroded’
53 **infecto, ere, inflexi, inflexus** – ‘to curve’
subflavum – if *flavum* is ‘yellow,’ what is *subflavum*?
55 **aquilus, a, um** – ‘swarthy, dark’

• QUAESTIONES

9. Describe Augustus’ clothing in general, and specifically his toga and shoes. (lines 28-33)
10. What types of food did Augustus like? (lines 34-36)
11. What did he often eat instead of drinking wine? (lines 37-40)
12. Describe a day in the life of Augustus. (lines 41-47)
13. What was the result of Augustus only getting 7 hours of sleep? (lines 48-50)
14. What happened to Augustus’ body in his old age? (lines 51-55)
15. Consider all the details Suetonius has given us about Augustus. What impression do we get of Augustus? What type of person is he? Do you know anyone like him?