

**WEEK ELEVEN:**  
**The Formidable Opponent – Hannibal III**

**Tuesday: Treating with the Enemy II: Hannibal and Scipio at Zama**

For Tuesday, we will briefly explore how Publius Cornelius Scipio turned the tide in the Second Punic War by completing the conquest of Spain and then by invading Africa, which prompts the Carthaginian senate to recall Hannibal from Italy to defend their homeland. Scipio and Hannibal would meet—both in person and in battle—near Zama in what would turn out to become the final blow to Carthage and would lead to them accepting very unfavorable terms of surrender to Rome. Scipio would come to bear the *cognomen* (= nickname sometimes also called *agnomen*) “Africanus,” the first Roman to take an honorary name of this sort from the people he defeats in battle. NB: the Publius Cornelius Scipio that we encountered in Hannibal’s first engagements with Romans was Scipio Africanus’ father. His uncle, Lucius Cornelius Scipio, also fought against Hannibal in Italy and the Carthaginians in Spain during the opening years of the war.

Read Livy’s account of Scipio Africanus’ arrival in Spain and his first few engagements there, leading to his sack of Carthago Nova (“New Carthage”). Pay close attention to his speeches and the actions that he takes in the sack of the city and its aftermath. There is also an *optional* reading about the Battle at the Metaurus, which turned out to be a huge blow suffered by Carthage as Hannibal’s brother, Hasdrubal, was defeated and killed after at last making his way to Italy in an attempt to join up with Hannibal’s forces. Had the two brothers successfully joined together, their collective strength would likely have overwhelmed the Roman armies.

Lastly, read Livy’s narrative of the final encounter in the war: the Battle of Zama. After Scipio completed the Roman conquest of Spain, which thoroughly weakened Hannibal’s power base and undercut his chance for increased military or financial support and would ultimately lead to the Carthaginian senate calling for Hannibal to end his Italian campaign, which—after great initial success—had dragged on for about 15 years without any further progress. Before the battle of Zama, Scipio and Hannibal meet in person to discuss the war and the chances for peace. With no chance of an agreement at this point, both sides prepare for battle. The Romans are eventually victorious, though the battle is no breeze. Afterward, Livy continues the narrative for some of the aftermath of Scipio’s African campaign and then ends the Third Decade with a brief account of Scipio’s triumph.

**Assignment:**

- **Turning the Tide - Scipio in Spain: Livy AUC 26.41-51** (= Yardley trans. pp. 363-377), *Optional: Battle at the Metaurus: Livy AUC 27.39-51* (= Yardley trans. pp. 431-447)
- **The Battle of Zama: Livy AUC 30.29-45** (= Yardley trans. pp. 595-618)

**Reading Questions:**

- How does Scipio’s initial campaigns in Spain compare to Hannibal’s initial campaigns in Italy? How does Scipio become successful in a place where the Romans had previously had so much trouble?
- What do you make of Scipio’s speech as he arrives in Spain? How does it incorporate the events of the recent and far past? What is Scipio doing with this speech?

- What is the focus of the meeting between Hannibal and Scipio before Zama?
- What leads to the Romans' success in the Battle of Zama? Why does Hannibal fail?
- How does Livy end the Third Decade? What is the effect of this ending and how does it compare to the beginning (opening of Book 21)?
- How are Hannibal and Scipio different? How are they similar?

### Thursday: Special Presentation: "Side by Side by Plutarch"

For Thursday, we will be treated to a special presentation by Prof. Fran Titchener from Utah State University. Her presentation will analyze the vocabulary of Plutarch's *Parallel Lives* to show how he incorporates into his lives of Greeks and Romans vocabulary that is generally reserved for Barbarians. I do not want to steal her thunder any more than that, but suffice it to say that the topic is right up our alley!

Plutarch was a Greek author, priest (of Delphi), and magistrate living during the height of the Roman Empire (ca. 40s-120 CE). He wrote very broadly, composing philosophy, dialogues, speeches, essays on all sorts of topics—including literary history: he wrote a famous essay *On the Malice of Herodotus*, which criticizes Herodotus on a number of points but mostly for his failure to criticize the non-Medizing Greeks for any of their actions. He is most famous, though, for his collection of biographies that we call the *Parallel Lives*. In these biographies Plutarch pairs up one notable Greek and one notable Roman from history and describes each of their lives separately. He then attaches a *synkrisis*, a comparison between the two lives and how he sees that the subjects are similar or different, especially in respect to their virtues and failings. If you will recall, Nepos also wrote biographies organized into the lives of Romans and others, but the explicit pairing of particular figures and the formal *synkrisis* that lays out how they match up are Plutarch's innovations.

We will read Plutarch's *Life of Nicias*, and its comparison with Crassus. The texts are available online (as linked below). If you have the time, please read the *Life of Crassus* as well. Nicias was an Athenian general and statesman during the Peloponnesian War, who was also incredibly wealthy. In the initial stages of the war, Nicias was a successful commander, who was noted for being cautious and a strong advocate for making peace. He was the key engineer of the peace treaty that ended the first major phase of the war, a treaty usually called the "Peace of Nicias." This peace would not last. We discussed earlier about the Sicilian Expedition (in the context of our reading of *Trojan Women*) and what it meant for Athens in the context of the war. Nicias was the reluctant general tasked with the command of the Sicilian Expedition after he had opposed it in all the debates that preceded the decision to undertake the campaign. As you read the life, pay close attention to the type of language and the activities attributed to Nicias.

#### Assignment:

- **Plutarch, *Life of Nicias*** (available here: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/nicias.html>)
- **Plut., *Synkrisis of Nicias/Crassus*** ([http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/crassus\\_n.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/crassus_n.html))
- (OPTIONAL) **Plut., *Life of Crassus*** (<http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/crassus.html>)

#### Reading Questions:

- Focus on the language describing Nicias and the behavior attributed to him in the *Life*. Does Nicias act in a way that is expected for a Greek aristocrat, general, and statesman?

**People, Terms, Events and Concepts, to know from Week Eleven:**

Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus

*cognomen**agnomen*

Spain

Carthago Nova

Gaius Laelius

Mago

Hill of Mercury

Spanish hostages

Zama

Hannibal

Masinissa

Naraggara

the Meeting of Hann. and Scip.

*imperium*

Plutarch

*Parallel Lives**synkrisis*

Nicias

Crassus

Sicilian Expedition

Alcibiades