

wherefore their treasure is their god--there is not room for two gods. And behold their treasure shall perish with them; for they shall perish." There it is again: to be carnal minded is death. What is an example of total carnal-mindedness? A shark;, I would say. He is a carnivore, and eating machine, his communal meals are feeding frenzies. Could anything be more carnally-minded? Yes. We have recently learned that sharks can be harmless, even friendly, with no desire to eat the diver who strokes them--under certain conditions. But there are men of single-minded voracity BOeskys, Milkins, Trumps, who follow the injunction of countless how-tooo-get-rich books, the first rule of which is NEVER stop thinking of how to turn the moment into cash Their relentless drive to gobble up whatever offers ;itself, with total ^{dis} regard for the liv^es and feelings of other creatures, surpasses that of any beast of the sea. ~~SOME~~ like Mr. Forbes, though not as savage are just as hungry for "the things of this life," which by nature are all perishable, corruptible and doomed--to be carnal-minded is death. Any other type of carnal-mindedness, even more literal, is the cult of the body which completely dominates our society. The body-builders which concentrate on every muscle and tendon with total dedication--for its own sake: your deltoids or triceps in any of themselves will bring you a prize. Could carnal-mindedness be ~~more~~ complete: incessant preoccupation with hair, with skin, with bumps and bulges, smells and enticements. The appearance is all.

But that is not the end, it gets worse: the titillating, excitement of sports that become increasingly physical and

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is more humorous about it than Juvenal, Martial is more scandalous, and Petronius is more horrendous, but all give us vivid eye-witness accounts that can be checked against each other. Well here are a few excerpts from Juvenal, and you may well ask, what civilization I am talking about in reading them. Remember this is the answer to the question of why Rome fell. When I was young everybody was asking the question, but nobody took the satirists as seriously as given the answer, right on target.

I, 30 (A famous line) How can you KEEP from writing satire when you look around you in this wicked city? Here comes Matho the Lawyer his huge bulk reclining in his magnificent litter (stretch-limousine), accompanied by his client, an informer who betrayed his best friend (the money would be split between the informer, the lawyer and the state). Everybody in the street is being pushed around by the strong-arm men of a notable spoliator (crook, swindler); here is a convicted felon who plundered a province, got an official slap on the wrist, and went to live in luxury (exiled but still hanging onto the wealth he stole). In the street you can see them everywhere: here is one looking as rich as Maecenas--and all he had to do was change the seal on a document. There is a lady of high society from whom young women can learn effective ways of poisoning their husbands. Of course everybody praises goodness and talks about morality, but goodness can be seen in the streets--it is crime that delivers the frugal living. Was there ever a time when vice flourished as it does today? There was greed more gross and universal or gambling

more a way of life? Men bring whole bankk-accounts to the casino...lose 5000 seterces on a throw, and then deny a shivering slave a rgg for his back. A man builds himsaelf seven villas and eats 7-course dinners alone while giving scraps of food only to the poor who have proven themselves worthy by proper subservience to him. "Money counts for everything here....Our hearts are set on riches, money is the Holy of Hollies itself, rthough of course we pay pious lip-service kto PEace, Victory, Honor, VIRTue, HOMe, country apple pie, motherhood, etc. while the storks that nest on the temple^s laugh themselves silly as our ^{piety} doings.

So Juvenal goes on, denouncing the ^asheap, gruding meanness of the rich. Who can put up with it? In the Second Book he talks about gay Lawyers, lady wrestlers, perfumes and dresses. In the 3rd Book we see :Rome of the Developers; the tall, flimsy, jerrybuilt tenement;;s, crammed with people forever at ri;sk from fire and collapsing structuress, while payingexorbitant ;rents. The poorlive in the parks and w;oods--hobo camps."There is no work for an honest man in the city", because of slave labor, of course: the slaves are ;brought in by conquest, for which the commoners are drafted for military raid^s all over the wrold. a system that paid for itsel.fThe comen and lawyers "that can make black white grab the fat ;government contracts for rivers, harbors, temples, sewer-cleaning, disposal of corpses, plumbing for new villas, the slave-auctioning business, etc. Mounteban;ks and adventurers end up so rich that they can decide who shall live and who shall dies [the Cena Trmialchiionis tells how it is done].

Another famous passage. "What shall I do in Rome? I am not good at lying...I know no astrology, have no connections with men I could rent out as hit-men [running a murder-service--sicarii]. The foreigners come in and promptly set themselves up as professionals inventing phoney titles and degrees for themselves, operating as chiropractors, massage parlors, palmists---big money. The poor must pass cash for everything. If you are poor your former friends will cut you in the street. There is a know-how to doing business: "you must bribe slaves to give you access to their masters so you can bribe them" (PACs). Here is a basic rule: "to him that hath will be given."

Bk. III. The noise, the garbage, the traffic, day and night. Sweage and garbage thrown from windows after dark. Day and night you get mugged. IF you stay ^{home} you at night, the homeless from the woods across the river swarm into town, and you can expect a break-in. Rome is the great Sewer.

Bk.IV. From a village in the Nile Delta comes "Curly"(Cf. Trimalchio) "Vicious, depraved, diseased, pathologically lustful, but admired and respected, free to do as he pleases, because he is very, very rich.

V. Shares at a banquet are apportioned exactly according to wealth (Otho's principle). This is also the M. Forbes principle) Environment: The seas have been fished out; too many nets and too big, the fish can't attain to a full size. Tiber fish are all infected from the sewers (Romans were proud of their sewers, as LA is of its freeways). The accepted practice as a host is to

let your poor guests know who they are and keep everything for yourself. But spoil as rich guest rotten: "Money, money! It's his money, not you he is calling Brother."

Bk. VI. ONce we were as n society, nothing was ever stolen Step by step justice left the earth for heaven [An; Anc. teach;iang]. Chastity went with her. Theater people are utterly promiscuous, they shock even the Alexandrians! And the richest are the kinkiest. ASs a rule, marr;ied couples hate eaach other ;14 hours a day. The self-centered wives of Rome, masssages, aerobics, workouts, ;mudbath;s, body-building, totasl eangrossment in appearasn;;ce;;. Hard as nailssssssssssssssssssssss.very dangerous women. Huge overuse of cosmetics, outrageous hair-dos, piles of jewels. The rich woman, everlastingly talking with as shrill intimidating voice, ordering floggins right and left, spending furiously, loaathing her huaband, his friends and his slaves, pastaronizing the Egyptian and Chaldaean quacks and astrologers. Child abuse is universal

Bk.VII.The high-powered lawyer must before all DRESS FOR SUCCESS, Charioteers and populasr comedieans h

R.Humphries: "Now we suffer the evils of long peace. Luxury hatches terrors worse than the wars, the price of conquering the world. Everyh crime is here, and every lust, as they ahve been since the day when Roman poverty perishe;d...Dirty money it was that ifrst imported among us foreign vice and our times broke down with overindulgence. Riches are flabby and soft....Vice is as very big business. Cneters of culture asre the wrestling school, the

jail, the gy;m...Quis custodet custodes?

Charioteers and miomes have huge incomes, but good artists are expected tro perform for nothing. A Roman spends 10 times more on his plumbing than on his childrens' education. Pupils in the scholls regularsly beat their teachers ujp. Terachers are held responsible for molding pupils' minds--"That is what you are paid ;for." Bu to get that pittence they usually have to ^{get a court order} ~~go to law~~. "A jockey gets more for a race that you get in a year."

VII. The rich produce abs. nothing. the VIP always leans on others. While we plunder the world, trying to rid the seas of pirates so we can be the only pirates, our own inner cities fall into ruins. The BIG men form Big corporation for the systematic plunder of the Empire. Our yout h run wild, indulged and yet neglected. We have made enemies of all the world [kOderint dum metueint] Farm poys grabbed for the army--no better off than convicts.

BK.IX. On inherited wealth; all our trust is built on fear. Your servants are your enemies

Bk.X. On human nature ~~X~~

Before the power of OFFICE you are helpless. Everybody prays for wealth--it is your only defense these days.. "Silly or downright ruinous are all the things we prasy for--power and gain, they will ruin us in the end." Once voters had a voince in ;govt., now elections are completely controlled, and the public appeased with bread andcircuses (and threats)...We are utter fools, Is there anything to live for at all? "Pray for a souns mind in a

soundbody, and a spirit UNAFRAID OF DEATH. And stop worshipping FORTUNA--SHE IS ONLY WHAT WE MAKE HER.

bK.xi EVERYBODY AS GOURMET; ^{an obsession of food & diet} THE ART OF THE BANQUET. (NASIDIANUS). THE ROMAN SELF-IMAGE: SIMPLE, UNSPOILED, RUGGED, ;NO-NONSENSE, TOUGH, honest brave, standing to all, etc. ON the utter vulgarity of Roman wealthy, spoiled beyond imagining. "Mopney is all;

but the Big Game is a major obsession with everybody--specatator sports on a huge scale.

Bk.XII. ON Religion > Supplication: Vivat Pacuvius quaeso vel Nestora totum, possideat quantum rapuit Nero, montibus aurum exaequet, nec amet quemquam nec ametur ab illo. (It is all for him only]

Bk. XIII. Theft, deception, taking by violence is regular daytime business in Rome. There are very few good men left. We are living in the 9th Age of the World [For them it WAS the Last Days] baser than the iron age. "There is no name for our kind of corruption. We call out for religion, reform, a moral awakening-- but aren't you as much interested in other people's money as the next man? Religion has become quite a show, but it has lost its meaning...If a man returns something entrusted to him it is considered a 7-days' wonder. A man of integrity is a freak. Today LUCK is everything, impersonal nature rules the world--things just happen. Those who believe in the gods don't hesitate to perjure themselves any more than anyone else does. The best place to size up our civilization is in the law-court, there you will