

Nomen: _____

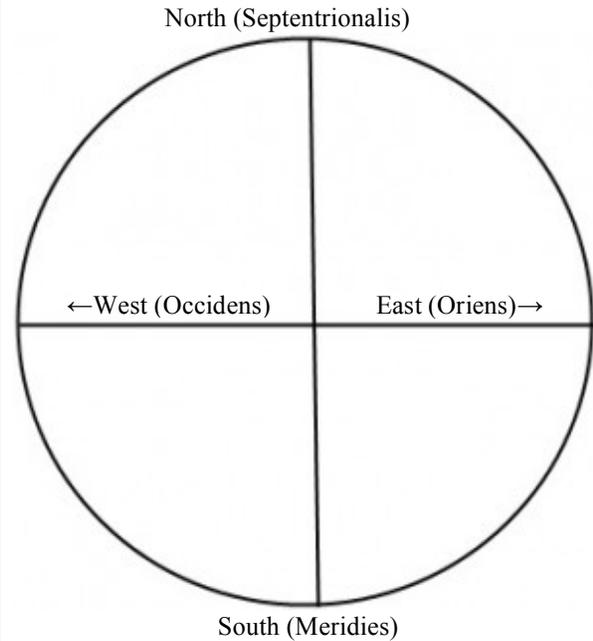
Auspicious

“Ego video...”

- lunam (the moon)
- fumam (smoke)
- nubem (a cloud)
- avem: _____ (ponite nomen avis hic)
 - corvus, -i (raven)
 - bubo, bubonis (owl)
 - cornix, -nicis (crow)
 - aquila, -ae (eagle)
 - picus martius, -i (woodpecker)
 - vultur, -uris (vulture)
 - gallina, -ae (hen)
 - accipiter, accipitris (hawk)

Quot? _____ (enter the correct Roman numeral from the list below):
I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Draw where you first saw the omen and which direction it moved to:



Announcing the results:

Auspices sunt _____.
(Choose a descriptor from the back of the page.)

Read the back of the page, then check the box that applies:

- Alio die?
- Aves admittunt?

Further notes or interpretation (use the “interpretation help” section on the back for tips):

Interpretation help:

Roman magic, like most magic, is sympathetic. This means that one thing can be a metaphor for another thing. If you are casting an evil spell, you use a black candle (or in the Romans' case you write it on something dull and gray like lead).

Keeping this in mind, think what the signs and portents you have seen could mean.

Some hints:

- Something moving toward the South (which is warm) or East (where the sun rises) is GOOD.
- Something moving West is BAD.
- The North is also generally BAD but also a location of great power. Jupiter is associated with the North, but not so much the warm, happy Jupiter that looks like Santa, but more the Jupiter that smites you with a lightning bolt.
- Seeing the same thing in a lucky number is GOOD
- Seeing the same thing in an unlucky number is BAD.
- Owls = BAD
- Eagles = Power or GOOD
- Bees = GOOD
- Odd numbers = more powerful than even numbers
- 7 is particularly lucky (why Rome is said to have seven hills, though really, if you count....)
- More is better if it's a good omen and the opposite is bad
- 12 is GOOD
- 13 is BAD
- Ravens: Favorable if seen to the East and unfavorable if to the West.

Though the Romans do have more detailed rules, and you can read about them in the sources below, for today, be creative! What do you think things should mean? Why?

Announcing the Auspices (In Latin!)

The question put to the gods in an augury is made in a straight yes or no format. "Do you approve of this?"

The results of an augury can therefore only be a favorable prediction (nuntiatio) or an unfavorable one (obnuntiatio).

A GOOD prediction or (nuntiatio) is described as:

- “favourable” (addictivae)
- “admitted”/“allowed” (admissivae)
- “prosperous” (secundae)
- “good omens” (praepetes)
- “Aves admittunt!” (The birds allow it.)

If the signs were BAD, this is announced by saying “Alio die!” “Another day,” or we should wait for another day.

BAD omens were called “clivia” or “clamatoria”

- They were described as “funerary” or “murderous” (funebres)
- “inhibiting” (inhibitae)
- “evil” (malae)
- “disastrous”/“plaintive” (lugubres).

If no sign is received, then it means that the gods are indifferent to the proposed action. One can proceed without the approval of the gods in this case, or wait until another day to take the auspices again.

Sources:

A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities by William Smith (available in Google Books)

http://www.societasviaromana.net/Collegium_Religionis/augury.php