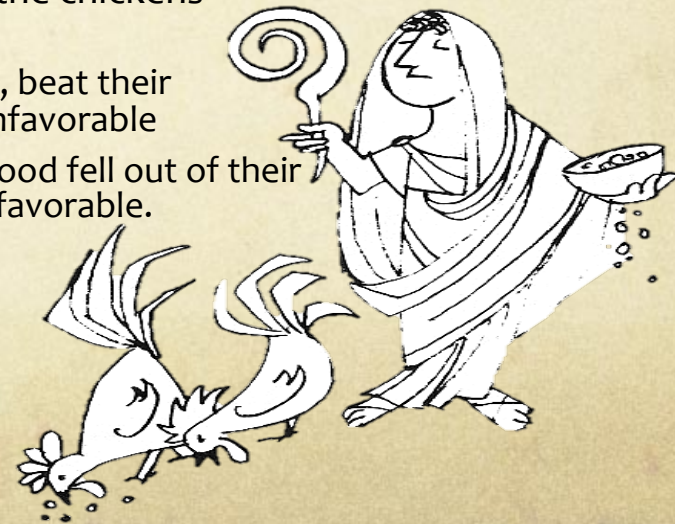


Superstitions in Ancient Rome

Ex Tripudiis

- This process was reserved for predicting the outcome of military expeditions
- Occupatio
 - A *pullarius*, who was responsible for feeding chickens (*pulli*)
- Tools of the trade
 - Chickens
 - Chicken food; typically a soft cake or dried seeds (pulse)
- Methods
 - When the time came, the *pullarius* would release the chickens from their enclosures and feed them.
 - If the chickens refused to come out, called loudly, beat their wings or flew away, the signs were considered unfavorable
 - If the chickens ate greedily, especially such that food fell out of their mouths while eating, the signs were considered favorable.
 - Favorable signs were called *tripudium*



Ex Caelo

- Occupatio
 - An *augur* who looks to the sky to interpret the weather or the flight patterns of birds
- Tools of the trade
 - A man with a sense of direction
 - Wind, thunder, lightning or birds
- Methods
 - An *augur* would stand facing the east, with the north to his left and the south to his right and the west at his back.
 - Thunder, lightning, wind or birds coming from his left would be considered favorable. Those coming from the right would be considered unfavorable.

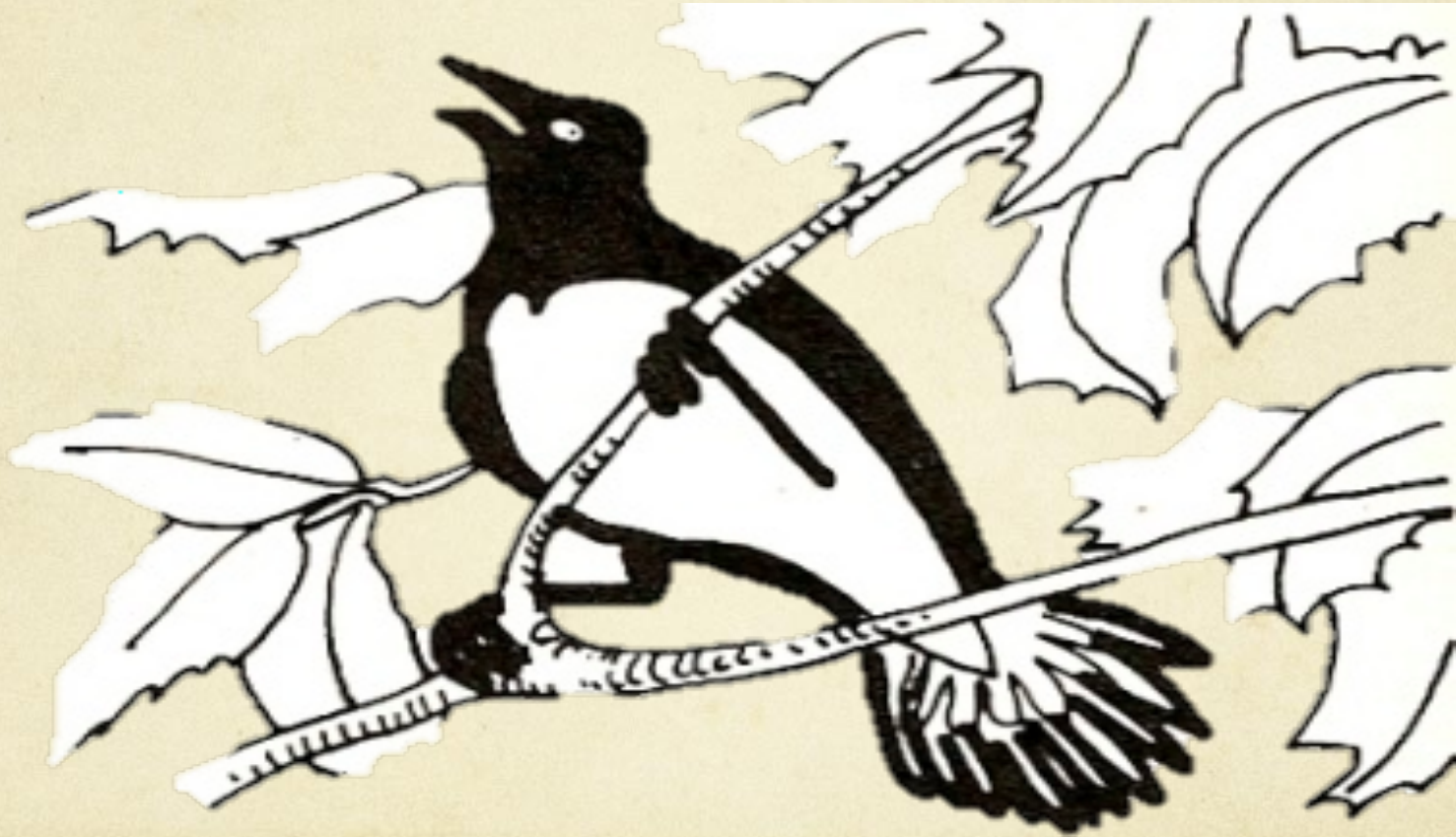


Ex visceribus

- Occupatio
 - A *haruspex* who would examine the entrails of a sacrificed animal
- Tools of the trade
 - A man or woman skilled in the trade of *haruspicy*
 - Fresh guts of a recent sacrifice
- Methods
 - First the animal was slaughtered according to a ritual.
 - Next, the animal was butchered and the *haruspex* looked at the size, shape, color, markings and other qualities or certain organs, especially the liver, gall, heart and lungs.
 - Irregularities were a bad omen
 - After the animal was examined, the meat was roasted and a feast was held



Oscen, oscinis



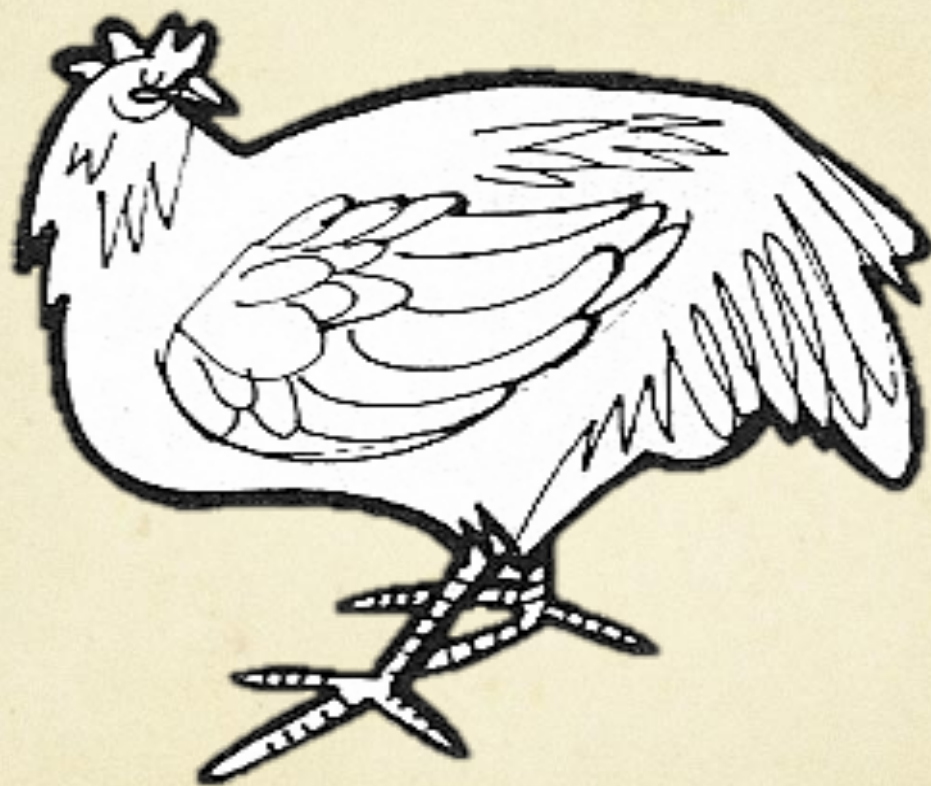
Divinatio, divinationis



Ex quadripedibus



Pullus, pulli



Ales, alites



Sacrificium, sacrificii

