Statius in his *Thebaid* is acutely aware of the functioning of time, and of the interplay of time and memory. In Argos, Thebes, and Nemea, the three sites of the epic, crucial narrative threads are interwoven in the context of annual or triennial celebrations. While the epic action is thus associated with powerful recurring frameworks of commemoration, the poet later declares that the fraternal warfare he is describing should be confined to “one day only.” Nevertheless, the epilogue finally depicts the *Thebaid* as a crucial voice in the progress of Rome’s literary history. Ultimately, the epic teaches its readers an important lesson which is also relevant to Roman constructions of time and memory: celebrations of a city’s stories of origin must be treated with caution. They might already be implicated in a process of self-destruction.