

Chapter 1 : Spare Time Entertainment, Portland, ME

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The Paestum frescoes may represent the continuation of a much older tradition, acquired or inherited from Greek colonists of the 8th century BC. This is described as a munus plural: The enemy, besides their other warlike preparation, had made their battle-line to glitter with new and splendid arms. There were two corps: The Romans had already heard of these splendid accoutrements, but their generals had taught them that a soldier should be rough to look on, not adorned with gold and silver but putting his trust in iron and in courage. The Dictator, as decreed by the senate, celebrated a triumph, in which by far the finest show was afforded by the captured armour. So the Romans made use of the splendid armour of their enemies to do honour to their gods; while the Campanians, in consequence of their pride and in hatred of the Samnites, equipped after this fashion the gladiators who furnished them entertainment at their feasts, and bestowed on them the name Samnites. Their Campanian allies stage a dinner entertainment using gladiators who may not be Samnites, but play the Samnite role. Other groups and tribes would join the cast list as Roman territories expanded. Most gladiators were armed and armoured in the manner of the enemies of Rome. High status non-Romans, and possibly Romans too, volunteered as his gladiators. By BC, "small" Roman munera private or public, provided by an editor of relatively low importance, may have been so commonplace and unremarkable they were not considered worth recording: The climax of the show which was big for the time was that in three days seventy four gladiators fought. It proved immensely popular. Gladiator games offered their sponsors extravagantly expensive but effective opportunities for self-promotion, and gave their clients and potential voters exciting entertainment at little or no cost to themselves. Despite an already enormous personal debt, he used gladiator pairs in silvered armour. Legislation of AD by Marcus Aurelius did little to stop it, and was completely ignored by his son, Commodus. Later games were held by an editor, either identical with the munerator or an official employed by him. As time passed, these titles and meanings may have merged. From the Principate onwards, private citizens could hold munera and own gladiators only under Imperial permission, and the role of editor was increasingly tied to state officialdom. Bigger games were put on by senior magistrates, who could better afford them. The largest and most lavish of all were paid for by the emperor himself. In the mid-republican munus, each type seems to have fought against a similar or identical type. In the later Republic and early Empire, various "fantasy" types were introduced, and were set against dissimilar but complementary types. For example, the bareheaded, nimble retiarius "net-man", armoured only at the left arm and shoulder, pitted his net, trident and dagger against the more heavily armoured, helmeted Secutor. Passing literary references to others has allowed their tentative reconstruction. Other novelties introduced around this time included gladiators who fought from chariots or carts, or from horseback. The trade in gladiators was empire-wide, and subjected to official supervision. Their training as gladiators would give them opportunity to redeem their honour in the munus. Mark Antony chose a troupe of gladiators to be his personal bodyguard. Tiberius offered several retired gladiators, sesterces each to return to the arena. Cassius Dio takes pains to point out that when the much admired emperor Titus used female gladiators, they were of acceptably low class. Before he became emperor, Septimius Severus may have attended the Antiochene Olympic Games, which had been revived by the emperor Commodus and included traditional Greek female athletics. His attempt to give Rome a similarly dignified display of female athletics was met by the crowd with ribald chants and cat-calls. Most of his performances as a gladiator were bloodless affairs, fought with wooden swords; he invariably won. On another occasion, he decapitated a running ostrich with a specially designed dart, carried the bloodied head and his sword over to the Senatorial seats and gesticulated as though they were next. Other highlighted features could include details of venationes, executions, music and any luxuries to be provided for the spectators, such as an awning against the sun, water sprinklers, food, drink, sweets and occasionally "door prizes". For enthusiasts and gamblers, a more detailed program libellus

was distributed on the day of the munus, showing the names, types and match records of gladiator pairs, and their order of appearance. The event may also have been used to drum up more publicity for the imminent game. They were followed by a small band of trumpeters tubicines playing a fanfare. Images of the gods were carried in to "witness" the proceedings, followed by a scribe to record the outcome, and a man carrying the palm branch used to honour victors. The magistrate editor entered among a retinue who carried the arms and armour to be used; the gladiators presumably came in last. A crude Pompeian graffito suggests a burlesque of musicians, dressed as animals named Ursus tibicen flute-playing bear and Pullus cornicen horn-blowing chicken, perhaps as accompaniment to clowning by paegniarii during a "mock" contest of the ludi meridiani. A general melee of several, lower-skilled gladiators was far less costly, but also less popular. Even among the ordinarii, match winners might have to fight a new, well-rested opponent, either a tertiarus "third choice gladiator" by prearrangement; or a "substitute" gladiator suppositicius who fought at the whim of the editor as an unadvertised, unexpected "extra". Most were probably of poor quality, [88] but the emperor Caracalla chose to test a notably skilled and successful fighter named Bato against first one suppositicius, whom he beat, and then another, who killed him. Combats between experienced, well trained gladiators demonstrated a considerable degree of stagecraft. Among the cognoscenti, bravado and skill in combat were esteemed over mere hacking and bloodshed; some gladiators made their careers and reputation from bloodless victories. Suetonius describes an exceptional munus by Nero, in which no-one was killed, "not even noxii enemies of the state. Most matches employed a senior referee summa rudis and an assistant, shown in mosaics with long staffs rudes to caution or separate opponents at some crucial point in the match. Referees were usually retired gladiators whose decisions, judgement and discretion were, for the most part, respected; [92] they could stop bouts entirely, or pause them to allow the combatants rest, refreshment and a rub-down. Their instruments are a long straight trumpet tubicen, a large curved horn Cornu and a water organ hydraulis. Pollice verso A match was won by the gladiator who overcame his opponent, or killed him outright. Victors received the palm branch and an award from the editor. An outstanding fighter might receive a laurel crown and money from an appreciative crowd but for anyone originally condemned ad ludum the greatest reward was manumission emancipation, symbolised by the gift of a wooden training sword or staff rudis from the editor. Martial describes a match between Priscus and Verus, who fought so evenly and bravely for so long that when both acknowledged defeat at the same instant, Titus awarded victory and a rudis to each. His gravestone in Sicily includes his record: Delicatus made this for his deserving comrade-in-arms. The contract between editor and his lanista could include compensation for unexpected deaths; [] this could be "some fifty times higher than the lease price" of the gladiator. When Caligula and Claudius refused to spare defeated but popular fighters, their own popularity suffered. In general, gladiators who fought well were likely to survive. Once a band of five retiarii in tunics, matched against the same number of secutores, yielded without a struggle; but when their death was ordered, one of them caught up his trident and slew all the victors. Caligula bewailed this in a public proclamation as a most cruel murder. To die well, a gladiator should never ask for mercy, nor cry out. So the gladiator, no matter how faint-hearted he has been throughout the fight, offers his throat to his opponent and directs the wavering blade to the vital spot. The Christian author Tertullian, commenting on ludi meridiani in Roman Carthage during the peak era of the games, describes a more humiliating method of removal. One arena official, dressed as the "brother of Jove", Dis Pater god of the underworld strikes the corpse with a mallet. Another, dressed as Mercury, tests for life-signs with a heated "wand"; once confirmed as dead, the body is dragged from the arena. Whether the corpse of such a gladiator could be redeemed from further ignominy by friends or familia is not known. The taint of infamia was perpetual. According to Cassius Dio, the emperor Caracalla gave the gladiator Bato a magnificent memorial and State funeral; [89] more typical are the simple gladiator tombs of the Eastern Roman Empire, whose brief inscriptions include the following: Titus Flavius Satyrus set up this monument in his memory from his own money. Paitraeites with his cell-mates set this up in memory". Modern scholarship offers little support for the once-prevalent notion that gladiators, venatores and bestiarii were personally or professionally dedicated to the cult of the Graeco-Roman goddess Nemesis. Rather, she seems to have represented a kind of "Imperial Fortuna" who dispensed Imperial retribution on the one hand, and Imperially subsidised gifts on the other "€" including the

munera. Having no personal responsibility for his own defeat and death, the losing gladiator remains the better man, worth avenging. Doom killed me, not the liar Pinnas. No longer let him boast. I had a fellow gladiator, Polyneikes, who killed Pinnas and avenged me. Claudius Thallus set up this memorial from what I left behind as a legacy. Few gladiators survived more than 10 contests, though one survived an extraordinary bouts; [] and another died at 90 years of age, presumably long after retirement. He was lanista of the gladiators employed by the state circa BC to instruct the legions and simultaneously entertain the public. Socially, they were infames, on a footing with pimps and butchers and despised as price gougers. In the late Republican era, a fear of similar uprisings, the usefulness of gladiator schools in creating private armies, and the exploitation of munera for political gain led to increased restrictions on gladiator school ownership, siting and organisation. Their contract auctoramentum stipulated how often they were to perform, their fighting style and earnings. A condemned bankrupt or debtor accepted as novice novicius could negotiate with his lanista or editor for the partial or complete payment of his debt. Faced with runaway re-enlistment fees for skilled auctorati, Marcus Aurelius set their upper limit at 12, sesterces. Fighting styles were probably learned through constant rehearsal as choreographed "numbers". An elegant, economical style was preferred. Training included preparation for a stoical, unflinching death. Successful training required intense commitment. Soldiers were routinely marked on the hand. Juvenal describes the segregation of gladiators according to type and status, suggestive of rigid hierarchies within the schools: Retiarii were kept away from damnati, and "fag targeteers" from "armoured heavies". As most ordinarii at games were from the same school, this kept potential opponents separate and safe from each other until the lawful munus. Its replacement could have housed about and included a very small cell, probably for lesser punishments and so low that standing was impossible. Their daily, high-energy, vegetarian diet consisted of barley, boiled beans, oatmeal, ash and dried fruit. Gladiators were sometimes called hordearii "eaters of barley ". Modern customs and institutions offer few useful parallels to the legal and social context of the gladiatoria munera [] In Roman law, anyone condemned to the arena or the gladiator schools damnati ad ludum was a servus poenae slave of the penalty , and was considered to be under sentence of death unless manumitted.

Chapter 2 : Syria - Wikipedia

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Reliefs from Tel Halaf dating to the Aramean kingdom of Bit Bahiani Around the 14th century BC, various Semitic peoples appeared in the area, such as the semi-nomadic Suteans who came into an unsuccessful conflict with Babylonia to the east, and the West Semitic speaking Arameans who subsumed the earlier Amorites. They too were subjugated by Assyria and the Hittites for centuries. The Egyptians fought the Hittites for control over western Syria; the fighting reached its zenith in BC with the Battle of Kadesh. From this point, the region became known as Aramea or Aram. From these coastal regions they eventually spread their influence throughout the Mediterranean , including building colonies in Malta , Sicily, the Iberian peninsula modern Spain and Portugal , the coasts of North Africa, and most significantly, founding the major city state of Carthage in modern Tunisia in the 9th century BC which was much later to become the center of a major empire, rivaling the Roman Empire. The Assyrians introduced Imperial Aramaic as the lingua franca of their empire. This language was to remain dominant in Syria and the entire Near East until after the Arab Islamic conquest in the 7th and 8th centuries AD, and was to be a vehicle for the spread of Christianity. Assyrian domination ended after the Assyrians greatly weakened themselves in a series of brutal internal civil wars, followed by an attacking coalition of their former subject peoples; the Medes , Babylonians , Chaldeans , Persians , Scythians and Cimmerians. During the fall of Assyria, the Scythians ravaged and plundered much of Syria. During this period, Syria became a battle ground between Babylonia and another former Assyrian colony, that of Egypt. The Babylonians, like their Assyrian relations, were victorious over Egypt. Thus, it was the Greeks who introduced the name "Syria" to the region. Originally an Indo-European corruption of "Assyria" in northern Mesopotamia, the Greeks used this term to describe not only Assyria itself but also the lands to the west which had for centuries been under Assyrian dominion. Eventually parts of southern Seleucid Syria were taken by Judean Hasmoneans upon the slow disintegration of the Hellenistic Empire. Syria briefly came under Armenian control from 83 BC, with the conquests of the Armenian king Tigranes the Great , who was welcomed as a savior from the Seleucids and Romans by the Syrian people. However, Pompey the Great , a general of the Roman Empire rode to Syria, captured Antioch , its capital, and turned Syria into a Roman province in 64 BC, thus ending the Armenian control over the region which had lasted two decades. Syria prospered under Roman rule, being strategically located on the silk road which gave it massive wealth and importance, making it the battleground for the rivaling Romans and Persians. Temple of Jupiter, Damascus Palmyra , a rich and sometimes powerful native Aramaic -speaking kingdom arose in northern Syria in the 2nd century; the Palmyrene established a trade network that made the city one of the richest in the Roman empire. Prior to the Arab Islamic Conquest in the 7th century AD, the bulk of the population were Arameans , but Syria was also home to Greek and Roman ruling classes, Assyrians still dwelt in the north east, Phoenicians along the coasts, and Jewish and Armenian communities was also extant in major cities, with Nabateans and pre-Islamic Arabs such as the Lakhmids and Ghassanids dwelling in the deserts of southern Syria. The matriarch of the family and Empress of Rome as wife of emperor Septimius Severus was Julia Domna , a Syrian from the city of Emesa modern day Homs , whose family held hereditary rights to the priesthood of the god El-Gabal. Her great nephews, also Arameans from Syria, would also become Roman Emperors, the first being Elagabalus and the second, his cousin Alexander Severus. He was emperor from to , [51] and ruled briefly during the Crisis of the Third Century. During his reign, he focused on his home town of Philippopolis modern day Shahba and began many construction projects to improve the city, most of which were halted after his death. Syria is significant in the history of Christianity ; Saulus of Tarsus, better known as the Apostle Paul , was converted on the Road to Damascus and emerged as a significant figure in the Christian Church at Antioch in ancient Syria, from which he left on many of his missionary journeys. Watt says "It is tempting to suppose that Muhammad was already envisaging something of the expansion which

took place after his death", and that the rapid march of his troops must have "impressed all those who heard of it". In the mid-7th century, the Umayyad dynasty, then rulers of the empire, placed the capital of the empire in Damascus. The Umayyad dynasty was then overthrown in by the Abbasid dynasty, which moved the capital of empire to Baghdad. Arabic "made official under Umayyad rule" became the dominant language, replacing Greek and Aramaic of the Byzantine era. In , the Egypt-based Tulunids annexed Syria from the Abbasids, and were later replaced by once the Egypt-based Ikhshidids and still later by the Hamdanids originating in Aleppo founded by Sayf al-Dawla. The Mongols under Ghazan defeated the Mamluks. Sections of Syria were held by French, English, Italian and German overlords between and AD during the Crusades and were known collectively as the Crusader states among which the primary one in Syria was the Principality of Antioch. The coastal mountainous region was also occupied in part by the Nizari Ismailis, the so-called Assassins, who had intermittent confrontations and truces with the Crusader States. Later in history when "the Nizaris faced renewed Frankish hostilities, they received timely assistance from the Ayyubids. Aleppo fell to the Mongols of Hulegu in January, and Damascus in March, but then Hulegu was forced to break off his attack to return to China to deal with a succession dispute. The Mamluk leader, Baibars, made Damascus a provincial capital. When he died, power was taken by Qalawun. In the meantime, an emir named Sunqur al-Ashqar had tried to declare himself ruler of Damascus, but he was defeated by Qalawun on 21 June, and fled to northern Syria. Al-Ashqar, who had married a Mongol woman, appealed for help from the Mongols. The Mongols of the Ilkhanate took the city, but Qalawun persuaded Al-Ashqar to join him, and they fought against the Mongols on 29 October, in the Second Battle of Homs, which was won by the Mamluks. Timur-Lenk also conducted specific massacres of the Aramean and Assyrian Christian populations, greatly reducing their numbers. Ottoman Syria Main article: The Ottoman system was not burdensome to Syrians because the Turks respected Arabic as the language of the Quran, and accepted the mantle of defenders of the faith. Damascus was made the major entrepot for Mecca, and as such it acquired a holy character to Muslims, because of the beneficial results of the countless pilgrims who passed through on the hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca. His short-term rule over the domain attempted to change the demographics and social structure of the region: By, however, he had to surrender the area back to the Ottomans. From, Tanzimat reforms were applied on Ottoman Syria, carving out the provinces vilayets of Aleppo, Zor, Beirut and Damascus Vilayet; Mutasarrifate of Mount Lebanon was created, as well, and soon after the Mutasarrifate of Jerusalem was given a separate status. During the conflict, genocide against indigenous Christian peoples was carried out by the Ottomans and their allies in the form of the Armenian Genocide and Assyrian Genocide, of which Deir ez-Zor, in Ottoman Syria, was the final destination of these death marches. Initially, the two territories were separated by a border that ran in an almost straight line from Jordan to Iran. This border was later recognized internationally when Syria became a League of Nations mandate in [63] and has not changed to date.

Chapter 3 : Moonlighter's Guide to a Sparetime Fortune: Richard Michaels: www.nxgvision.com: Books

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The position of the latter will be slightly unusual with respect to this sign, and will have a fundamental impact on Sagittarians. The main emphasis will have to be kept on the field of work - personal relationships, drama, and all sorts of other experiences will move to the background. Actually, you must move them to the background, for your own sake. This does not mean that if your child comes up to you and asks for some help doing his homework that you should refuse to help him, saying that you have more than enough to do without his homework. You should avoid such extremes in following this recommendation. However, business issues will now be big, and you will need a lot of time and energy to solve them. Some creative approach will be very much appreciated at the same time, so try to be original. However, avoid being "extravagant" - the stars sincerely hope that you understand the difference between these concepts. In addition, the second fall month is good in terms of self-development. It is possible to successfully acquire new knowledge, incorporating some improvements in your work. Changes in relation to spiritual development might be a little controversial. It seems that the stars do not say anything about this, but the lack of an answer is not a positive answer. That is why you need to move cautiously if you feel a sudden urge to practice yoga or any other spiritual practice. Here are some more details on the sphere of finance and business. It is necessary to mention once again that Sagittarius representatives are going to be lucky in October. With all other things being equal, circumstances will develop in your favor, so you just need to take the control of the situation and start turning your plans into reality. Try to find a golden middle in how you use your spare time. Do not rush, but do not procrastinate unnecessarily. This is an important thing to do, or you might destabilize yourself and make your success less significant. For those Sagittarius with private business ventures, take into account the following aspect: Think about what type of joint projects you can start, how you can create excellent profits, and protect yourself from risks. Everything is real; you just need some time to think about the situation in more detail. You can do that "thinking" in the company of your close friends. As far as Sagittarius who does not have his own business, everything will be a little more dynamic and slightly easier for him. No difficulties are found in terms of misunderstandings with colleagues. You will actually have a better understanding of the situation. If so, do not hesitate to use such an amazing opportunity for your benefit. The sphere of personal relations in October will not bring Sagittarius representatives any significant problems, although one of your relatives may unconsciously destabilize your situation. If this happens, do not rush to judgment, and try to understand the situation fully in order to make the most objective and adequate decision. In general, you will have not that much time to analyze family problems, although these problems will not be big enough to really worry about them. The stars advise Sagittarius representatives with families not to lose heart, regardless of the circumstances. If something has not been resolved by now, it still does not mean that the situation has no solution at all. If you find yourself in a conversation with your crush, do not insist on anything, even if you clearly recognize that you are right. Uranus is not acting in favor of your sign, so any pressure can easily be perceived as aggression, even if you do not mean it. Single Sagittarius representatives will feel reserved and calm, and it is unlikely that anything will be able to prevent them from turning their plans into reality. If you see your goal, do not change direction under any circumstances. You have to be stubborn yet flexible, just like a stream of water. You should also avoid imposing your opinion on others, except in the most critical situations, when the outcome is too important to be left to play out without your intervention. In all other instances, you should just stay away from getting involved with issues that do not pertain to you at all. This period is good just for simply enjoying your life.

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