

Monologue 1 = about the sea battle:

The battle was long overdue; and for the last two years, the pirates have never returned to the Aegean. Rome was spared from starvation. Most of our fleet was lost, I heard. The Tribune Arrius was thought lost, after all if he had fallen into the sea he would have probably sunk weighed down by his armour. A horrible way to go, drowning, so I hear.

But a galley slave who had broken free of his chains dragged him from the water. Don't ask me why. Of course, the tribune Arrius thought that the battle was lost, but the slave would not let him kill himself. In the end, they were picked up by another Roman vessel, and Arrius was given the news that they had indeed won – they lost the fleet but they did destroy the pirates.

He was more than a little blinded by gratitude I hear. He refused to return the slave to the oar, and instead ordered that the slave accompany him to Rome.

– *Praetorian guard, talking about the sea battle*

Monologue 2:

tsk! Hear me first. There is no law in the arena. Consider that. That young drunk, Massala, takes pride, far too much pride, in his wins, runt though he is. And in winning, unopposed.

You are a five time victor in the Circus Maximus. Imagine that Roman's arrogance trampled into the dust. Shamed before his Roman rabble, by a man of the very people they despise.

And it is not just his pride. The young Roman and his friends love gambling as much as they love their pride, and in that pride they would probably gamble their entire fortunes against their perceived difference between Roman and non-Roman. A slow and long shame, so much better than a quick death.

– *Casworan, talking to Judah Ben Hur about the upcoming Roman games.*

Monologue 3

Massala is nobly descended. In the early days of Rome, they were famous, some as senators, and some as soldiers. Their patronage was sought because they were – and are – rich. As rich as we. Yet if he boasted of his family, you might have shamed him by recounting yours... The founding of Rome was their beginning, and the most notable among Romans cannot trace their descent before the time of Romulus and Remus. Our people have at times been heedless of some parts of the law, but never of this part; The good Rabbai himself has followed the Books of Generations through three periods; from the promises to the opening of the Temple; to the present. Enabling us once more to trace the Hur lines of Jewish descent back unbroken fully two thousand years. You need kneel to no Roman emperor.

There is no law by which to determine the superiority of nations; hence the vanity of the claim, and the idleness of disputes about it.

- *Myriam, talking about Massala*

Monologue 4

No, but I know what they believe, and how dangerous belief can make otherwise unarmed men. Especially when they are on their home soil. I have seen it before among the druids of the Celts when I was fighting them in the northern lands. Religion can turn a cowed man into a man brave beyond fear of his own death. I saw the words of the Celtic druids turn women into screaming demons, who stripped to the waist in the most unseemly manner, rush into battle alongside their men, and they fought as in just a deadly manner.

- *Massala, talking about fighting in the Roman frontier territory of Britannia (England)*