

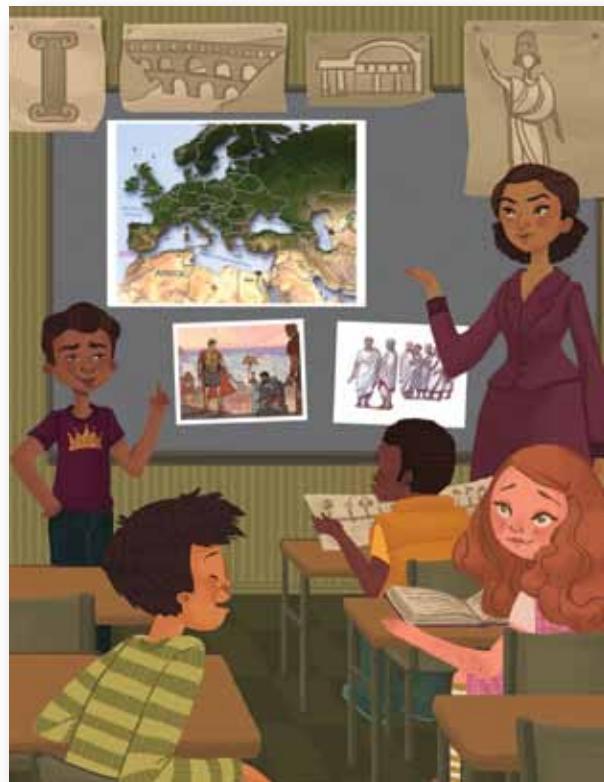
Stories of Ancient Rome

Unit 4 Reader



Core Knowledge®

GRADE 3



Stories of Ancient Rome

Unit 4 Reader

Skills Strand

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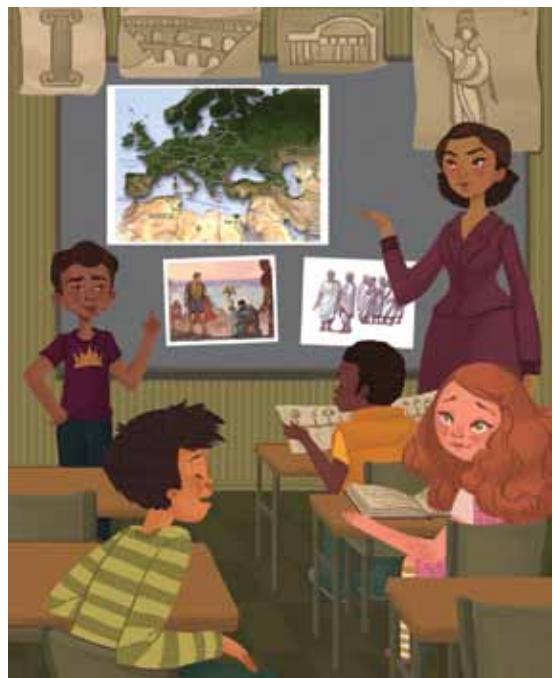
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Chapter 1

Rome, Then and Now

“This is Rome,” said Mrs. Teachwell, pointing to a black dot on the classroom map.

“But this is Rome too,” she added, as she traced a circle that was so large it seemed to touch all four sides of the map.

The students looked confused.

“How can it be both?” Charlie Chatter shouted out.

“I’ll explain,” Mrs. Teachwell said, “but please raise your hand if you would like to speak.”

Charlie Chatter nodded. It was not the first time he had heard this. In fact, Mrs. Teachwell had asked him to raise his hand many times, but it was hard for Charlie. His mouth seemed to be faster than his hand.

“Rome started out as a little town along the Tiber River,” Mrs. Teachwell explained.



Mrs. Teachwell and her students, looking at a map showing Rome

“Like Egypt on the Nile?” Charlie asked.

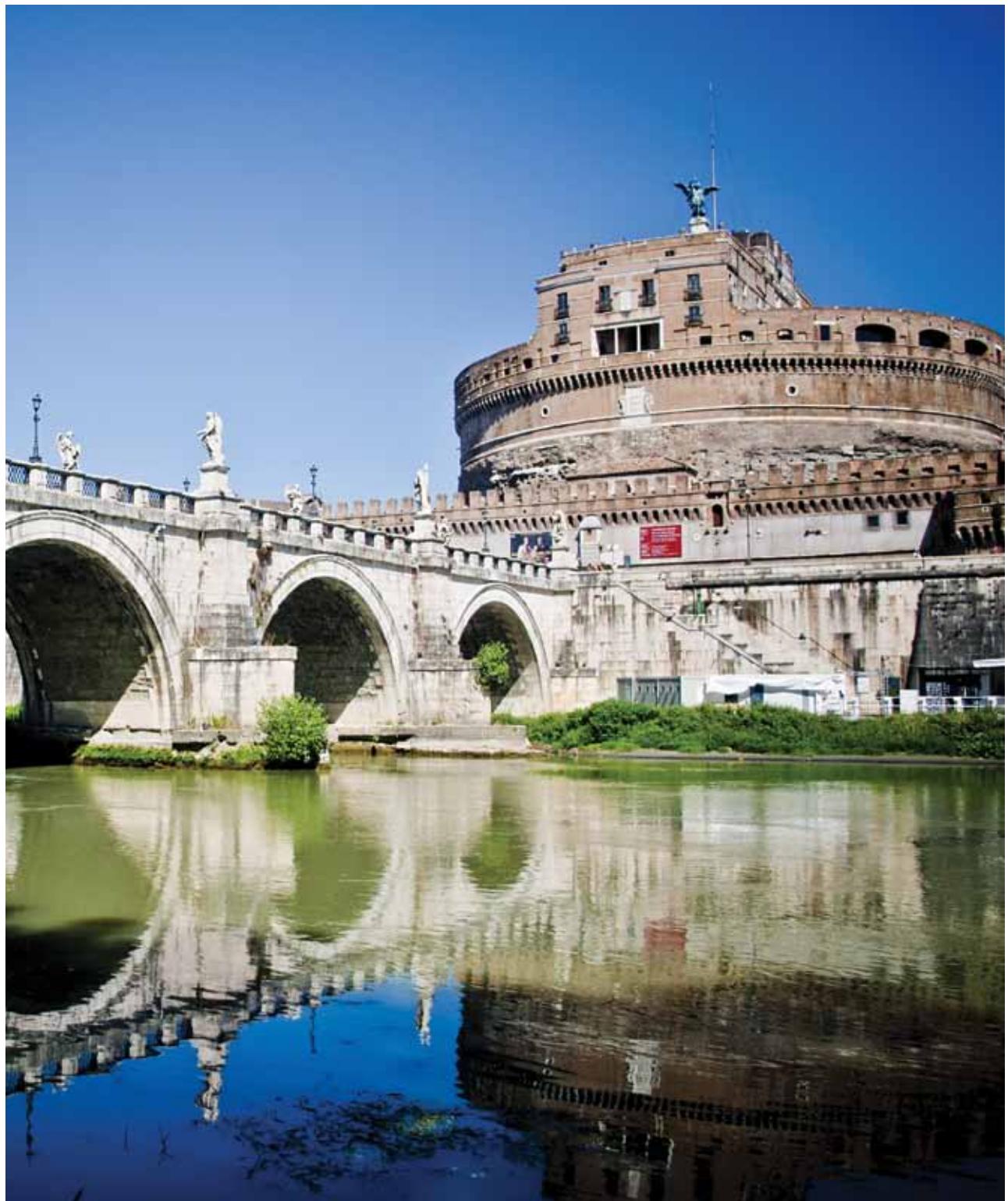
“Yes,” said Mrs. Teachwell, “but let’s see that hand!”

The students giggled.

“As Charlie has just reminded us,” Mrs. Teachwell said, “many **civilizations** spring up along the banks of a river. Rome was no exception. It sprang up here, on the banks of the Tiber River, among seven hills. At first, Rome was just a few houses on a hill. Then, it grew and grew and grew. After a while, people started building houses on other hills nearby. Then, the little towns on the hills grew together to make a big city. In fact, to this day, Rome is known as the ‘City of Seven Hills’.

“Then, the Romans fought wars with their neighbors. The Romans won most of these wars. They defeated the **Etruscans**, who lived north of them. They **conquered** the Greeks, who had settled to the south, as well. It wasn’t long before they controlled most of this piece of land that we call Italy.”

Mrs. Teachwell traced the outline of Italy with her finger.



Present-day Rome and the Tiber River

“Check it out!” Charlie Chatter shouted. “Italy looks like a boot!”

“Yes,” said Mrs. Teachwell. “Italy does look like a boot, but please, Charlie, raise your hand! This is your last warning. Now, does anyone know what this body of water that the boot of Italy sticks out into is called?”

Rachel Readmuch, who always had her nose in a book, raised her hand. Mrs. Teachwell called on her.

“It’s called the **Mediterranean**,” said Rachel.

“That’s right!” said Mrs. Teachwell. “This is the **Mediterranean** Sea. Rome grew so much that, at its peak, the Romans controlled all the land around the **Mediterranean** Sea. They took over most of Spain and France. They took over this area that we call the Balkans. They took over Greece and much of Turkey. They took over the Middle East, Egypt, and the coast of North Africa.”

Tim Timetable, who loved to learn about when things happened, put up his hand.

“When was all this happening?”



*A map of the ancient Roman **civilization***

“Rome started growing about two thousand five hundred years ago,” Mrs. Teachwell explained. “It started growing about five hundred years before the birth of **Jesus**, in the years we call **BC** or **BCE**. It was still growing when **Jesus** was born. In fact, **Jesus** was born here, in a part of the Middle East that was controlled by the Romans,”

Tim Timetable made a note of the date.

Mrs. Teachwell went on: “We will be studying Rome for three weeks or so. Each day, we will have a report on a topic connected to ancient Rome. I’ll give the first few reports. Then, each of you can do some research and give the next few. How does that sound?”

The kids cheered. They were eager to learn more about Rome. Rachel Readmuch already knew quite a lot. Tim Timetable had lots of questions about what happened when. As for Charlie Chatter, he was looking forward to the day when he would get to give his report. Then, he would get to talk without having to raise his hand first!



Parts of Roman buildings still remain today, even though they were built over two thousand years ago.

Chapter 2

The Legend of Romulus and Remus



Mrs.
Teachwell's
Report

We learned last time that Rome started as a small town and grew to become a big city. Then, it grew some more until it became a great **empire**. That's what **historians** tell us.

The Romans themselves have a story about how their city got started that they like to tell. They say that Rome was founded by twins who had been saved by a wolf.

The twins were named **Romulus** and **Remus**. They were the children of a woman named Rhea Silvia and the god Mars. Their mother loved them, but her brother, the king of Latium, did not. He saw the boys as a **threat**. He thought they might grow up and take his crown from him. The king told one of his servants to find the twins and drown them in the Tiber River.



*The king of Latium told one of his servants to drown **Romulus** and **Remus**.*

The servant found the twins, but he could not bring himself to drown them. Instead, he put the boys in a basket. Then, he set the basket in the river. The basket floated downstream. It drifted and drifted until, at last, it washed up on the banks of the river.



The servant set the twins in a basket, which he put in the Tiber River.

A **she-wolf** found the twins. She saw that they were hungry. She took them to her cave. There she gave them the same milk she fed to her wolf pups.

Later, the twins were adopted by a shepherd. The shepherd raised them well. They grew up to be smart and strong.



Romulus and Remus were saved by a kind *she-wolf* and later raised by a shepherd.

When they were 18, **Romulus** and **Remus** decided to create a city of their own. They wanted to build a city on the banks of the Tiber, somewhere among the seven hills, not far from where they had washed ashore as babies.

Soon, however, the brothers began to fight.

“Let’s build our city here!” said **Romulus**, pointing to a hill.

“No!” said **Remus**. “This hill over here is a much better spot.”



Romulus and Remus argued about where to build their city.

So each brother started building his own city on a different hill. Each knew that it would be important to have a strong wall to protect the city he was building. After a few days, **Remus** decided to visit **Romulus** to see how his city was coming along. It takes a long time to build a city, so **Remus** did not expect **Romulus's** city to be finished. He decided, however, to **taunt** his brother and made fun of his unfinished wall. "You call that a wall?" he said. "That wall would not keep anyone out!" Then, to make his point, he stepped over the wall.



Remus taunts Romulus and steps over his wall.

That made **Romulus** angry. He and **Remus** started to fight. No longer remembering that they were fighting one another, **Romulus** and **Remus** battled with all their might. Suddenly, **Remus** collapsed, fell to the ground, and died. When **Romulus** saw what he had done, he began to cry. He had not wished to kill his brother. He dug a grave for **Remus**.

Romulus went on building his city. He named it Rome after himself.

The rest, as they say, is history. Rome grew and grew. It became a great city, the center of a mighty **empire**.

The government of Rome made coins. The coins showed two young boys reaching up to touch a **she-wolf**. The people of Rome handed these coins back and forth. They used them to buy food and drinks. They used them to pay bills and buy clothing. And all of them knew who the two boys on the coin were: they were **Romulus** and **Remus**, the **legendary** founders of Rome.



An ancient Roman coin showing Romulus and Remus with the she-wolf

Chapter 3

The Roman Gods, Part I



Mrs.
Teachwell's
Report

Let's learn about the gods and goddesses of Rome.

The ancient Romans did not believe in one God who ruled the entire world. They believed in many gods.

In many ways, the Roman gods acted like human beings. They ate and drank. They played tricks on each other. They fell in love and got into fights. But there was one main way in which the gods were not like human beings: the gods were **immortal**. Human beings might live for many years. Some might even live to be one hundred. Eventually, though, they would die. The gods, on the other hand, lived forever. They did not—and could not—die.

The Romans' ideas about their gods were similar to the ancient Greeks. In fact, they worshipped many of the same gods as the Greeks, but they called those gods by different names. The chart shows the Roman names for some Greek gods you may already know.

Greek and Roman Gods

GREEK NAME		ROMAN NAME	GREEK NAME		ROMAN NAME
ZEUS		JUPITER	ARES		MARS
HERA		JUNO	HERMES		MERCURY
POSEIDON		NEPTUNE	DIONYSUS		BACCHUS
APHRODITE		VENUS	ATHENA		MINERVA
EROS		CUPID	APOLLO		APOLLO

The top god, sometimes called the father of the **immortals**, was a strong, bearded figure. The Greeks called him Zeus. The Romans called him Jupiter.

Jupiter was a mighty god. He carried a thunderbolt that he could throw at anyone who angered him. If Jupiter threw his thunderbolt at you, that was the end of you.

Jupiter lived on **Mount Olympus**, with the other gods.



*Jupiter was the father of the **immortals**.*

Juno was Jupiter's wife. She was the goddess of **marriage** and the protector of wives.

The Roman gods were all related. They were like a big family. Jupiter's brother Neptune was the god of the seas and oceans.



*Juno, Jupiter's wife, was the goddess of **marriage**.*

There are many statues of Neptune. In most of them, he is holding a special, three-pronged spear called a **trident**. Neptune's **trident** had magical powers. The god could use it to stir up storms and waves. He could also wave it over the stormy seas and make the **rough** seas smooth.

Roman sailors prayed to Neptune. "Great Neptune!" they prayed. "Send us good weather and smooth sailing!"



Neptune, the god of the seas, with his magical trident

Mars was the god of war. Soldiers would pray to him before a big battle. The Romans fought a lot of wars, so they spent a lot of time praying to Mars.



Mars was the god of war.

Mercury was one of Jupiter and Juno's sons. He was the **messenger** of the gods. He was as fast as a flash. In paintings, he is often shown with wings on his hat and his shoes, to show how fast he was.

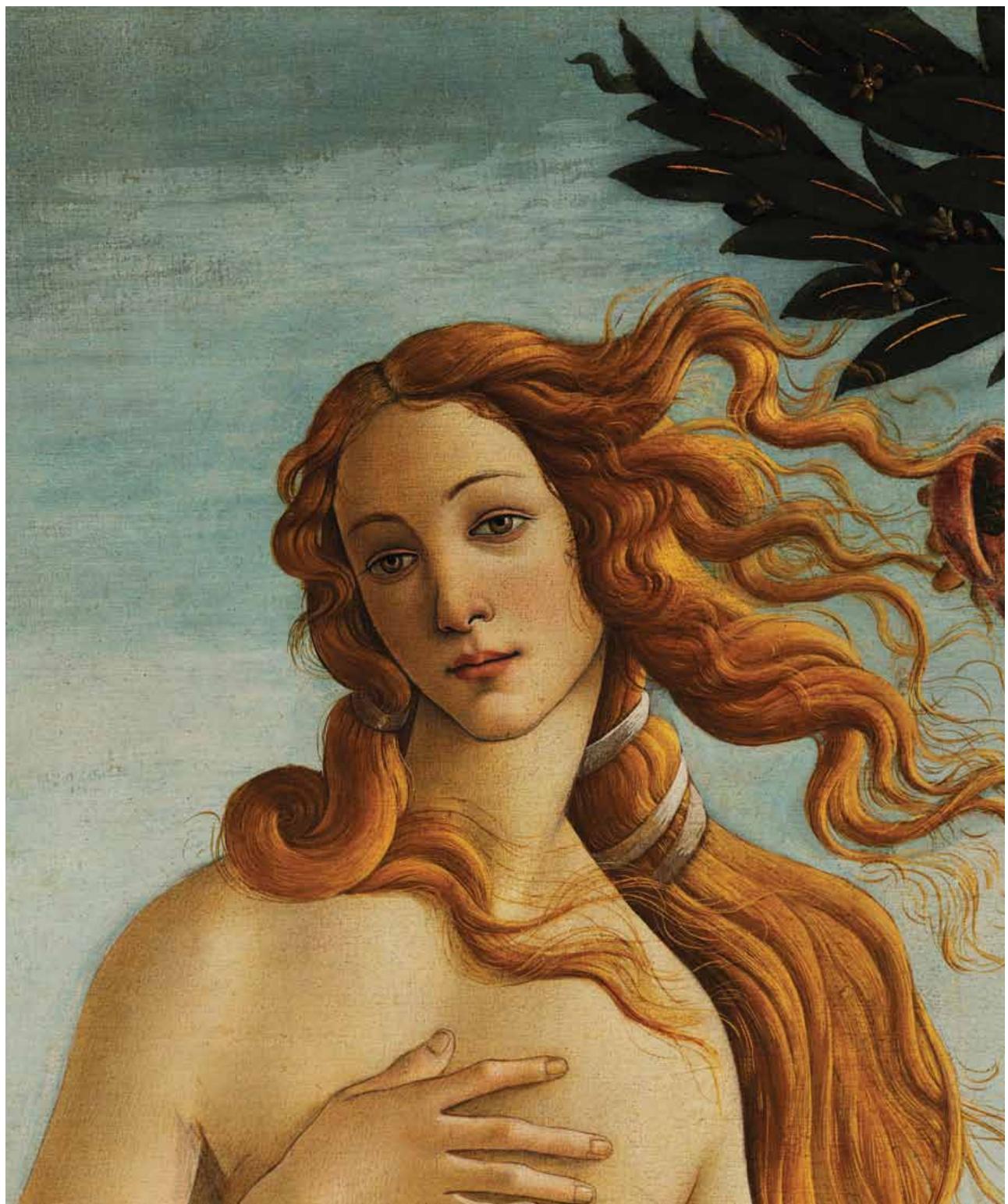


*Mercury was the **messenger** of the gods.*

Venus was the goddess of love. She was very **beautiful**.

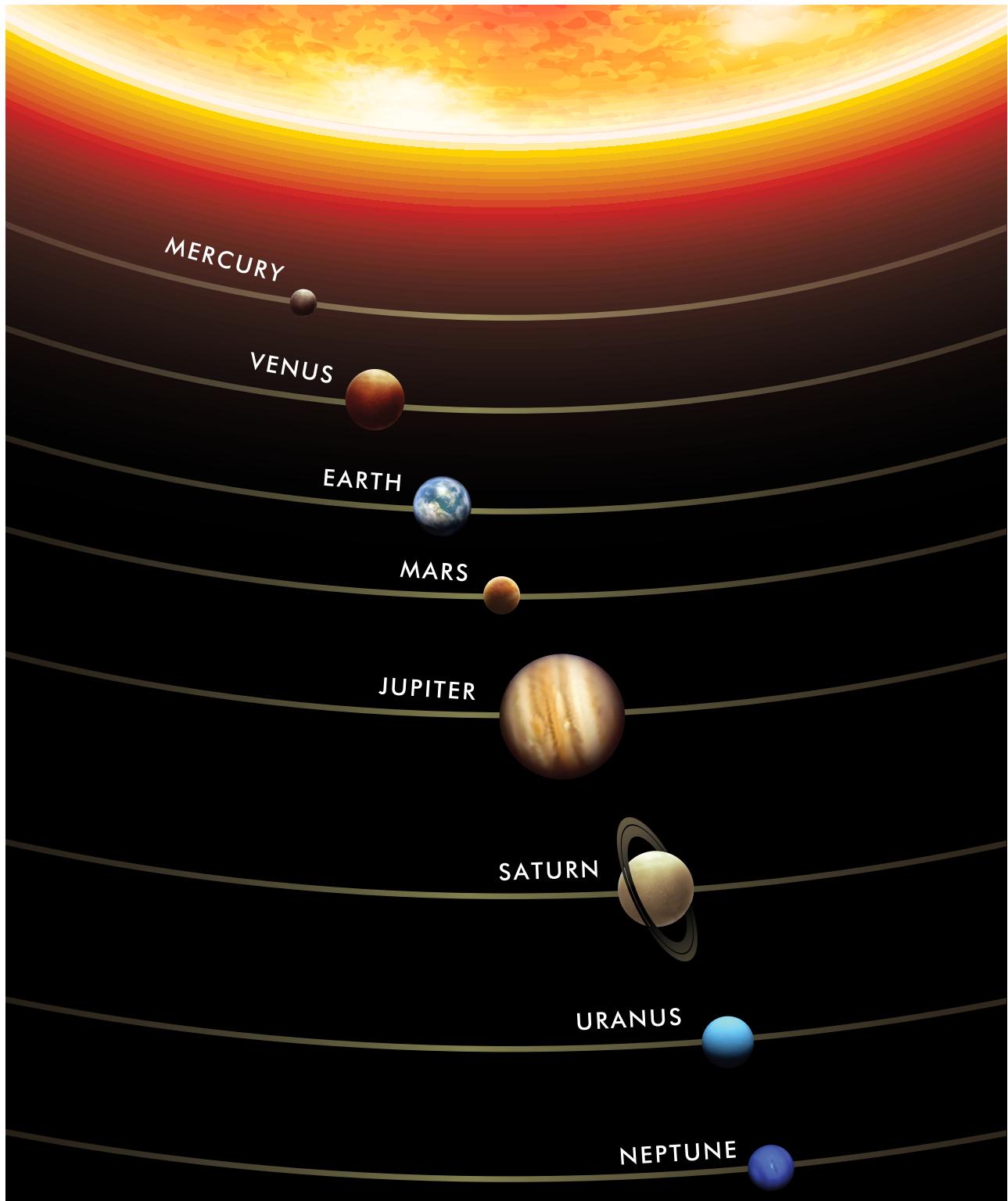
If Venus wanted someone to fall in love, she could send her son Cupid on a **mission**. Cupid would shoot the person with one of his magic arrows. The person would then fall in love with the first person he or she saw.

Cupid is still with us today. You will see little Cupids all over the place on Valentine's Day, when we celebrate love.



Venus was the goddess of love. She was also Cupid's mother.

Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Neptune are the names of planets in our solar system. These planets are named after the Roman gods. For example, the planet Mars is named after Mars, the Roman god of war.



The planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Neptune are named after Roman gods and goddesses.

Chapter 4

The Roman Gods, Part II

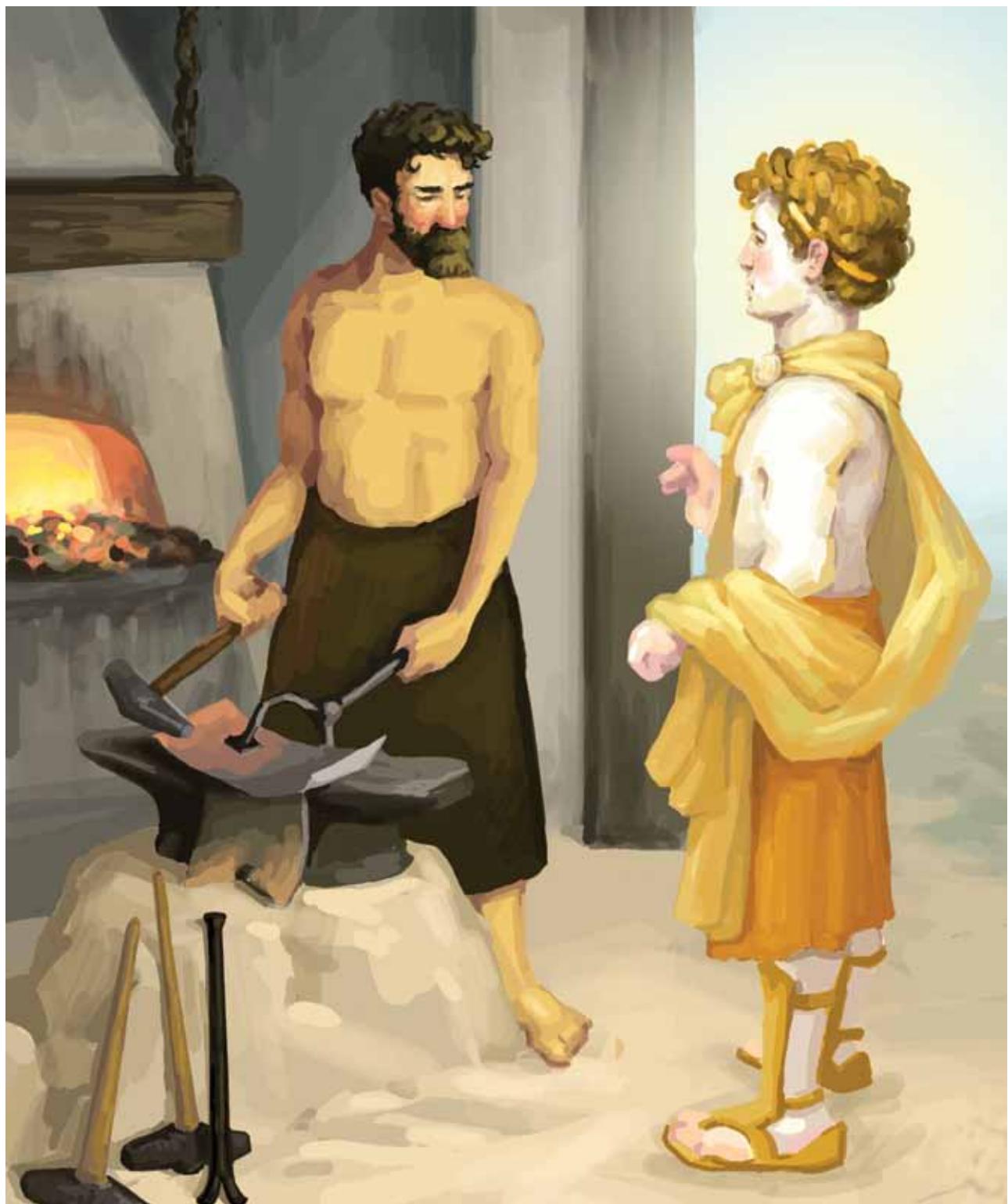


Mrs.
Teachwell's
Report

Good morning, class! Last time we learned about some of the Roman gods and goddesses. Today, I'd like to tell you about a few more gods and goddesses.

Vulcan was the **blacksmith** of the gods. He melted iron and other metals. Then, he shaped the metal to make a sword, a helmet, or a shield.

Vulcan was the god of fire and volcanoes.



Apollo, the god of the sun (right), talking to Vulcan, the god of fire (left)

Apollo was the god of the sun. He was also the god of music and poetry.

Apollo is another god who was worshipped by both the Greeks and the Romans. He had a famous **shrine** at Delphi, in Greece. When the Greeks and Romans wanted advice, they would send messengers to Delphi. The **priestess** of Apollo would give them an answer. It was almost never a clear answer, though. Often, it was more like a riddle that they had to figure out on their own.



Apollo

Minerva was the goddess of **wisdom**. She was also the goddess of crafts and weaving.

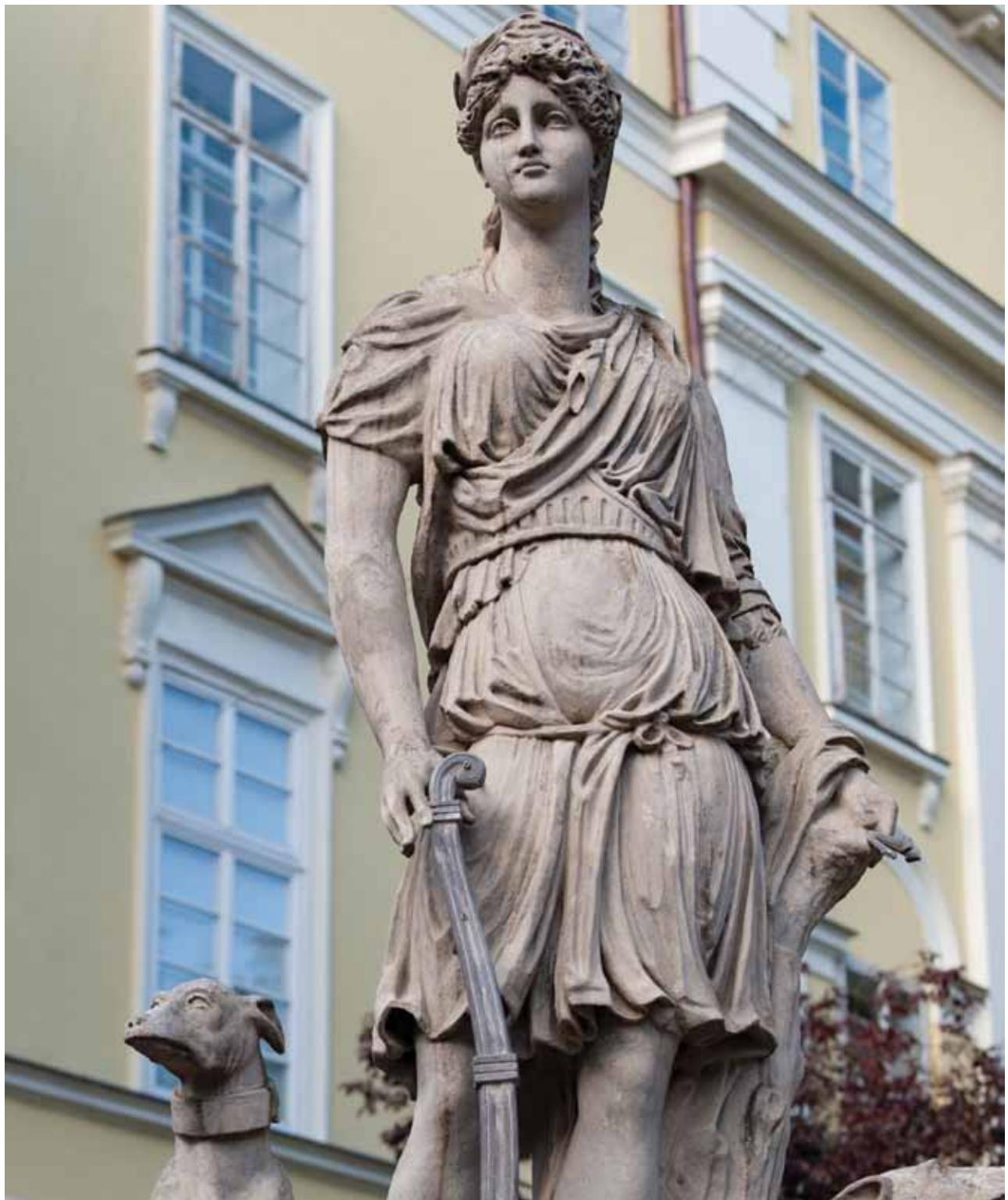
According to legend, Minerva was not born in the usual way. One day, Jupiter complained of a headache. Then—presto!—Minerva sprang, fully grown, from his head.

Minerva's special animal was the owl. Sometimes she was painted with an owl perched on her shoulder.



Minerva springing forth from Jupiter's head

Diana was the goddess of the moon. She was also the goddess of the hunt. In statues, she is often shown as a young girl, with a bow and arrow. Sometimes, the sculptor will also show one of her dogs or a deer.



Diana was the goddess of the moon and the hunt.

Bacchus was the Roman god of grapes and wine. He was followed by women and **satyrs**, who were half man and half goat.

A famous story tells how pirates tried to kidnap Bacchus. That was a big mistake. The god transformed himself into a lion. He turned the boat into a lush garden. As for the pirates, he changed them into dolphins and sent them splashing away in the ocean.



Bacchus, the Roman god of grapes and wine

Chapter 5

Cupid and Psyche, Part I



Rachel
Readmuch's
Report

The Romans, like the Greeks, had many myths they liked to tell. Some of these were stories about the gods. Some were stories about heroes. Some were love stories. The myth I am going to share with you is a love story.

Once there was a king who had three daughters. All three were lovely, but the youngest, whose name was Psyche [SIE-kee], was so beautiful that words could not describe her. She was so beautiful that people began to say she was more beautiful than the goddess Venus.

Venus heard about Psyche. She was mad with **jealousy**. Was she, a goddess, to be forgotten on account of some young, pretty girl? She swore that would never happen!



Venus, the goddess of love, was **jealous** when she heard others talking of the beautiful, young Psyche.

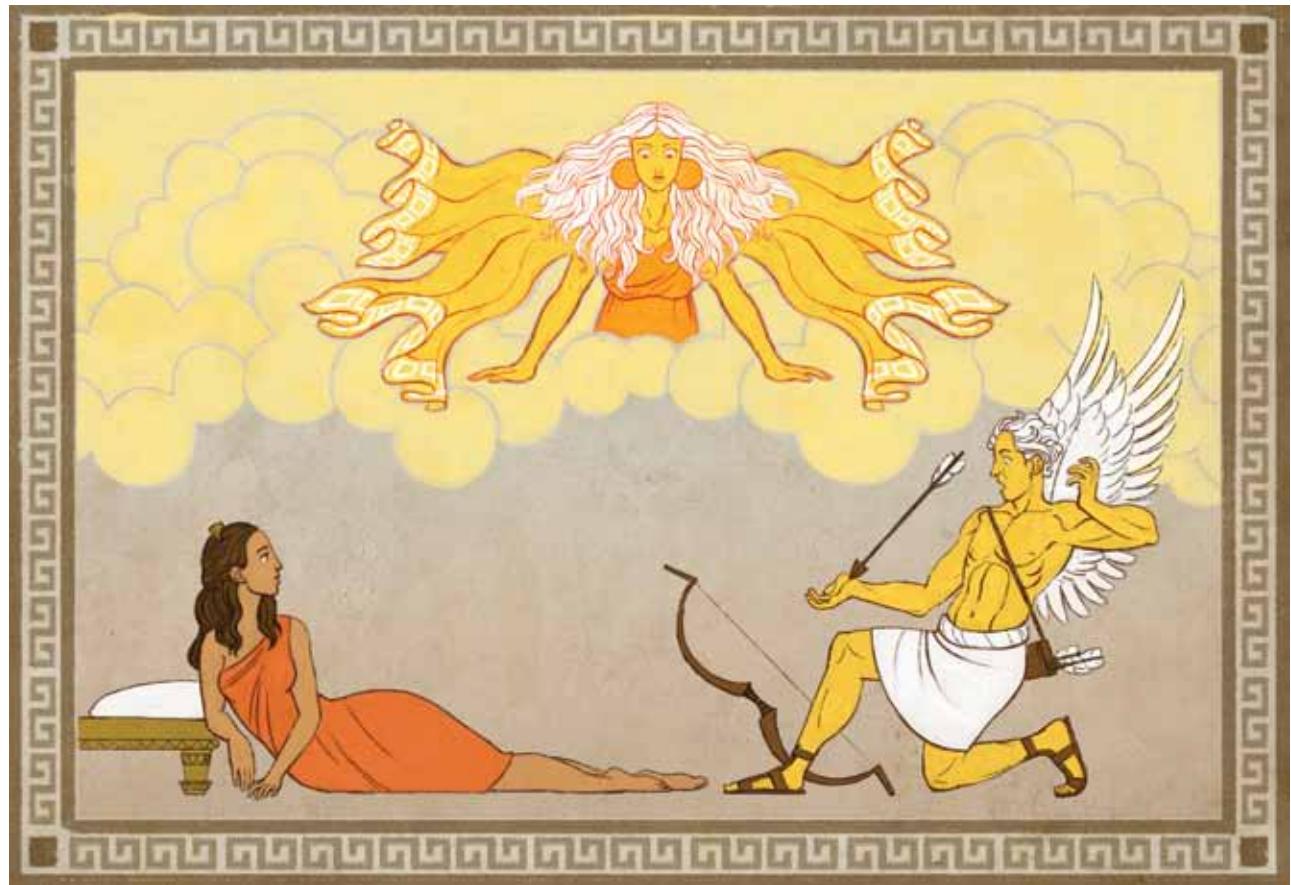
Venus went to her son, Cupid.

“My son,” she said, “punish that girl! Shoot her with one of your arrows. Make her fall in love with the ugliest man on Earth.”

Cupid set off to **do his mother’s bidding**. He took his bow and arrow and flew down to Earth. He took aim at Psyche. At the last minute, though, his finger slipped. Instead of shooting Psyche, he **pricked** himself. So Cupid fell in love with Psyche.

Cupid came up with a plan that would let him visit Psyche in secret. He sent a message to Psyche’s family. It said that the gods had chosen a husband for Psyche. Psyche was ordered to climb to the top of a mountain, where she would meet her husband. She was also told that her husband was not a man, but a terrible monster.

Psyche was brave. She began to climb the mountain. Halfway up, she felt a warm wind surround her. Suddenly, she found herself in a magnificent palace, with fountains and gardens all around.



Cupid aimed his arrow at Psyche. Instead of shooting Psyche, Cupid pricked himself.

At first, Psyche was alone. When night fell, she lay down on a bed. During the night, Cupid visited her. He told her he was the husband the gods had chosen for her. Cupid stayed all night. He treated Psyche tenderly but he left before the sun rose.

Night after night, Cupid came to visit Psyche. He came only at night and he always left before the sun rose. Psyche knew him only in the darkness, but she accepted him as her husband.

One night, Psyche asked her husband why he came only at night, when she could not see him.

“Why do you wish to see me?” Cupid replied.
“What does it matter what I look like? I love you. I treat you well. All I ask is that you love me.”

Psyche understood her husband’s words. Still, she was **curious**. Who was her husband? What did he look like? Why did he hide? Was he really a terrible monster? She felt that she had to find out.



Night after night, Cupid visited Psyche in the magnificent palace.

One night, Psyche waited until her husband fell asleep. Then she got up and lit a lamp. She carried the lamp to the bed and lifted it up. What she saw was no monster, but the lovely face of Cupid himself. Her hand trembled with delight and a drop of hot oil fell from the lamp. The oil landed on Cupid's shoulder and awoke him.

Cupid looked up at Psyche with sad eyes. "I asked only for your trust," he said, "but this act of yours shows that you do not trust me. When trust is gone, love must **depart**."

Then, Cupid flew away. The palace vanished into thin air and Psyche was left alone.



Psyche trembled when she saw Cupid, dropping hot oil on his shoulder.

Chapter 6

Cupid and Psyche, Part II



Rachel
Readmuch's
Report

When Cupid left Psyche, Psyche was very sad. She tried to find Cupid. She wandered night and day. But she could not find her lost love.

At last, Psyche went to the temple of Venus. She begged the goddess to help her find Cupid.

Venus was not **eager** to help. She was still jealous of Psyche and her beauty. She gave Psyche a task, **confident** the girl could never complete it. She led Psyche to a huge pile of grain. In the pile were wheat, millet, barley, and lentils, all mixed up.

“Sort the grains into stacks by morning,” Venus ordered. Then, with a **laugh**, she disappeared.



Psyche begging Venus to help her find Cupid

Psyche saw that there were millions of seeds. She knew there was no way she could finish the task. She sat down and began to cry. Then, something wonderful happened. Through her tears, Psyche noticed a seed moving, then another, and then many more. An army of ants had come to **aid** her. Each ant was carrying a seed. Together, they sorted seeds into separate piles.

In the morning, Venus was surprised to find the work done.

“Your next task will not be so easy!” she said. “Take this box to the **underworld** and ask the queen of that realm, Proserpina [pro-SER-pee-nə], to send me a little of her **beauty**.”

Psyche’s heart sank. No human had ever visited the **underworld** and returned to tell the tale. Just then, a voice spoke to her.



An army of ants comes to aid Pysche.

“Take a coin for the boatman,” the voice said. “If you pay him, he will carry you across the river to the **underworld**. Take a cake, as well. If you give the cake to the three-headed dog who guards the **underworld**, he will let you pass. Above all, once Proserpina has placed **beauty** in the box, do not open it!”

Psyche obeyed the mysterious voice. She traveled safely to the **underworld** and Proserpina gave her the box of **beauty** for Venus.

Psyche could not help wondering what was inside the box. She lifted the lid and peeked inside. A deep sleep came over her. She fell senseless to the ground.



*Psyche was told to take a coin for the boatman and a cake to the three-headed dog to enter the **underworld**. There, she received the box of **beauty** from Proserpina.*

Luckily, Cupid was watching. Although he was disappointed in Psyche, he was still very much in love with her. When he saw her lying on the ground, he took **pity** on her. He lifted the sleeping spell and Psyche awoke.

“See what curiosity gets you?” Cupid said. He smiled at Psyche. Psyche smiled back.

Psyche delivered the box to Venus.

Cupid went to Jupiter and begged to marry Psyche with Jupiter’s blessing. Jupiter agreed. He allowed Psyche to drink **ambrosia**, the drink of the gods. Psyche became immortal. So Cupid and Psyche were married and lived happily ever after.



*Psyche became immortal after drinking **ambrosia**, the drink of the gods.*

Chapter 7

The Sword of Damocles



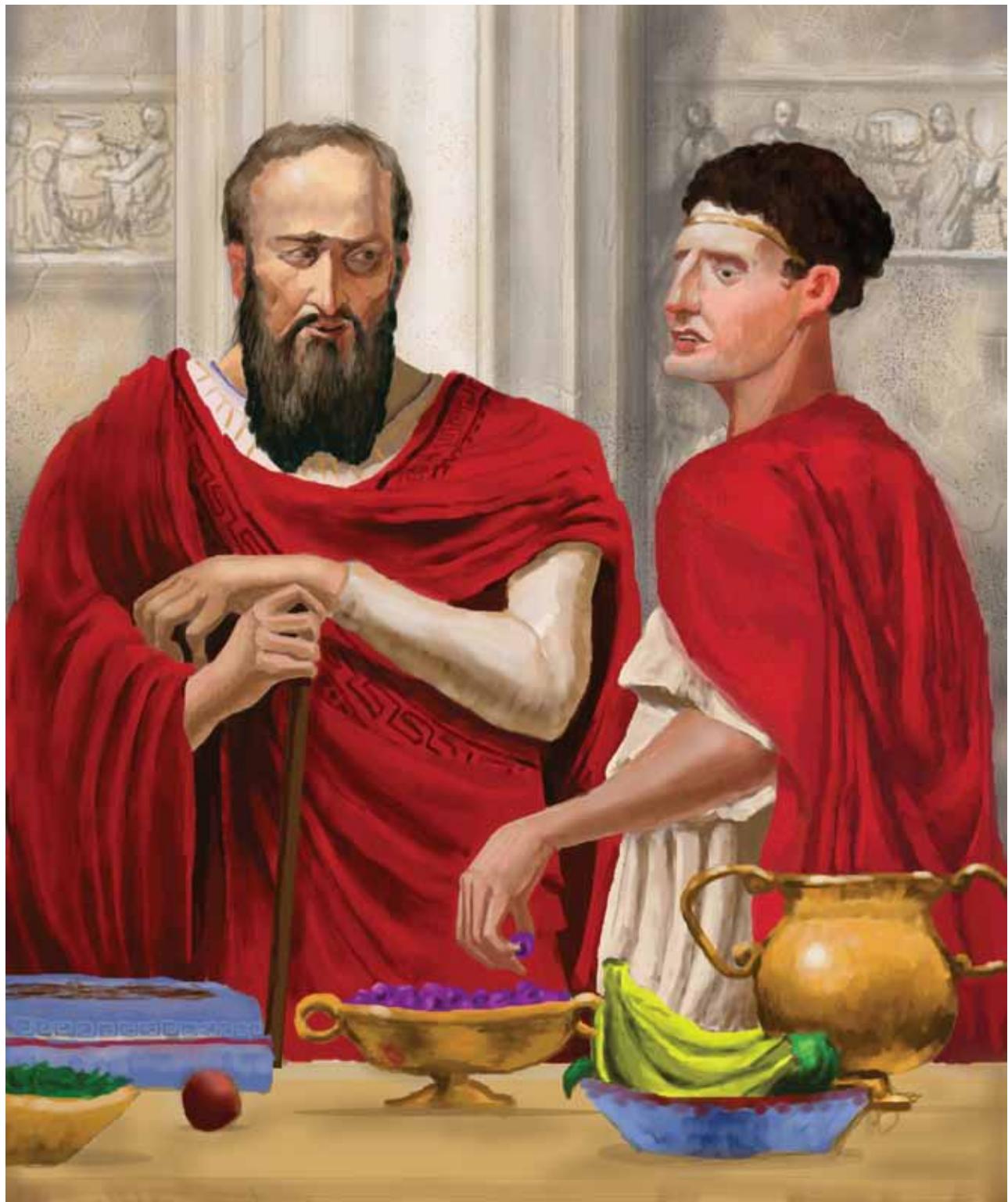
Dave
King's
Report

Have you ever wished you were a king? Does that seem like the best job a person could have? Well, before you decide for sure, listen to this legend that was made famous by the Roman writer Cicero [SIS-er-oe] more than two thousand years ago.

Damocles [DA-mə-kleez] was a friend of **Dionysius** [die-ə-NIS-ee-us], the king of Syracuse, a city in southern Italy. **Damocles** envied his friend. He believed that the king had a very good life. He had all the riches and power he could want. What could be better?

“You think I’m lucky?” **Dionysius** said to him one day. “If you think so, let’s trade places. You sit here, on the throne. Try it for just one day. Then, tell me if you still think I’m lucky.”

Damocles accepted his friend’s invitation. He was eager to live the life of a king.



Damocles accepting Dionysius's invitation to be king for one day

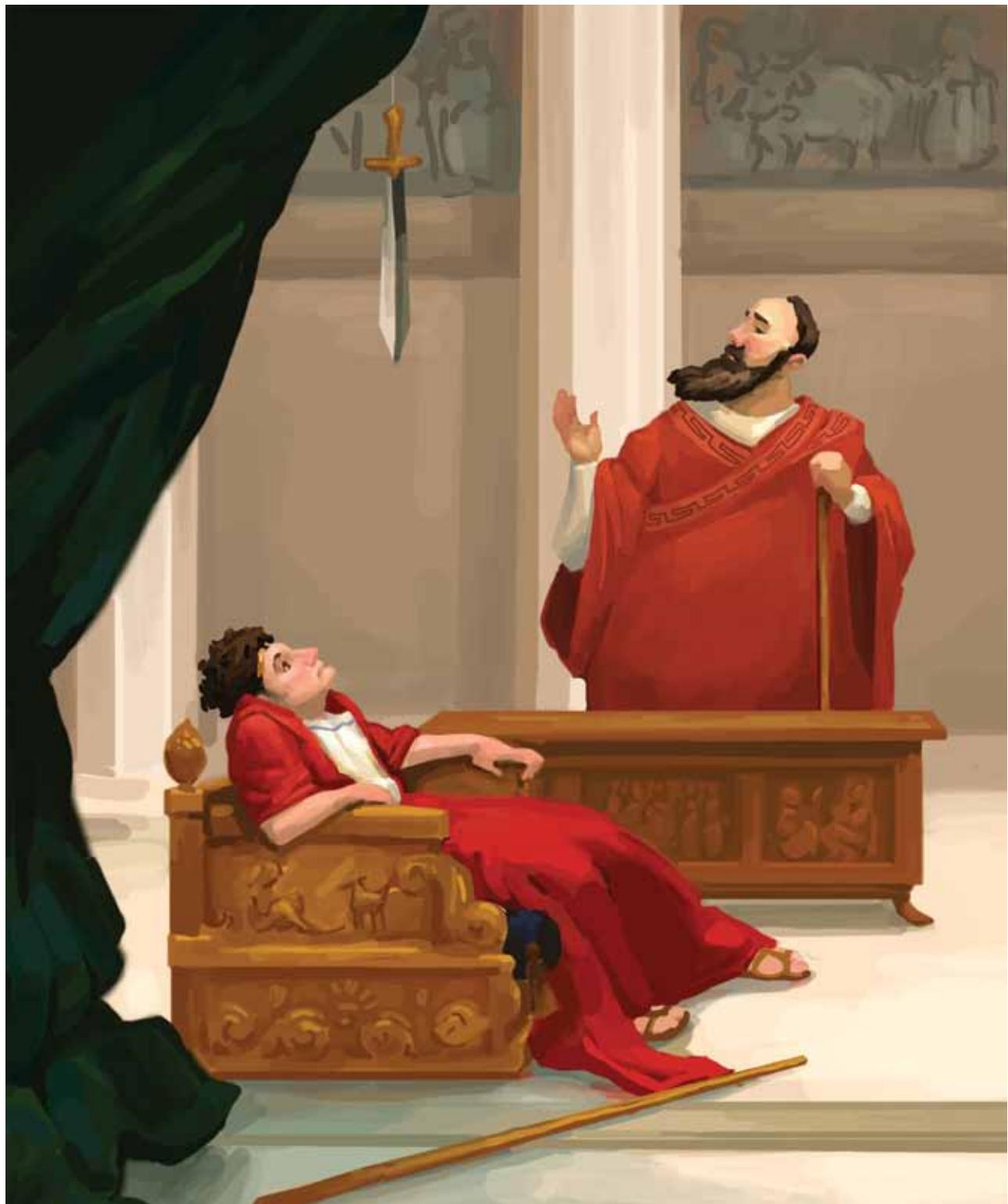
When the day came, **Damocles** ordered servants to bring him fine robes. He had them set out a great **banquet** of food. He ordered expensive wine and fine music. He sat back, sure that he was the happiest man in the world.

Then, he looked up. He caught his breath in fear. Above his head was a sword. It was **dangling** from the ceiling, held by a single strand of horse's hair. **Damocles** could not speak. He could not eat. He could not enjoy the music. He could not even move.

“What is the matter, my friend?” asked **Dionysius**.

“How can I **conduct** my life with that sword hanging above me?” **Damocles** asked.

“How indeed?” answered **Dionysius**. “Now you know how it feels to be king. That sword hangs over my head every minute of every day. There is always the chance the thread will break. An **advisor** may turn on me. An enemy spy may attack me. I might make an unwise decision that brings my **downfall**. You see, my friend, with power comes danger.”



Damocles sits on the throne of King **Dionysius**, with the sword dangling from the ceiling.

Chapter 8

The Roman Republic



Dave
King's
Report

For many years, Rome was **governed** by kings. Some of these kings were good men who ruled well. Some were bad men who treated the Romans poorly.

One of the kings was so bad he convinced the Romans that they should get rid of kings altogether. His name was Tarquin. The Romans called him Tarquin the Proud. Tarquin was a **tyrant**. He was a **cruel** ruler who treated the people badly. In the end, the people got so mad at Tarquin that they joined together and drove him out.

Once King Tarquin had been driven out, the Romans set up a different sort of **government**. They set up a **republic**—a kind of **government** with no kings.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES?	MONARCHY	REPUBLIC
<i>Who rules?</i>		
<i>How long is the rule?</i>	The king usually rules until he dies.	Officials serve for a set length of time.
<i>Who replaces the ruler?</i>	A king is usually succeeded by his oldest son.	A new official is elected to replace the previous official .

*How is a **monarchy** different from a **republic**?*

One of the most important parts of the Roman **republic** was the **Senate**. The **Senate** was a group of older men who met to make decisions and pass laws. Many of the **senators** were from old, wealthy families. Almost all of them had fought in the army and earned the trust of their fellow Romans.

Each year, the people would **elect** two men to serve as **consuls**. To be chosen as a **consul** was a great **honor**. It was the most powerful position in the Roman **republic**.

Rome was a **republic**, but it was not a **democracy**. Some people played a role in the **government**, but many more played no role at all.

In the early years of the Roman **republic**, one group held most of the power. These were the **patricians**. The word **patrician** comes from the Latin word *pater*, or father. The **patricians** thought of themselves as the fathers of the people. They felt that it was their job to take care of the people in the same way that parents take care of their children. The **patricians** were from wealthy, old families. All of the men in the **Senate** were **patricians**. In the early days of the **republic**, the men selected to be **consuls** were also **patricians**.



*In the early days of the republic, the **consuls** and the **senators** were **patricians** from wealthy Roman families.*

The rest of the people—the ones who were not **patricians**—were called **plebeians**. The **plebeians** were the poorer people. In the early years of the **republic**, they had very little power.

The Roman **republic** lasted for more than five hundred years. Many Romans loved the **republic**. They thought it was the best kind of **government** a country could have. They were, however, not the only ones who thought so.

The **Founding Fathers of the United States** also believed a **republic** was the best kind of **government**. When the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776, they broke away from a king (King George III) and set up a **republic**. They created a **Senate** that was modeled on the Roman **Senate**. They created a president who was a lot like the Roman **consuls**. They even built **government** buildings that looked like ancient Roman buildings. So you can see that Roman ideas about **government** have had a big influence all around the world.



This is the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C. Many American government buildings look like ancient Roman buildings.

Chapter 9

Hannibal Crosses the Alps

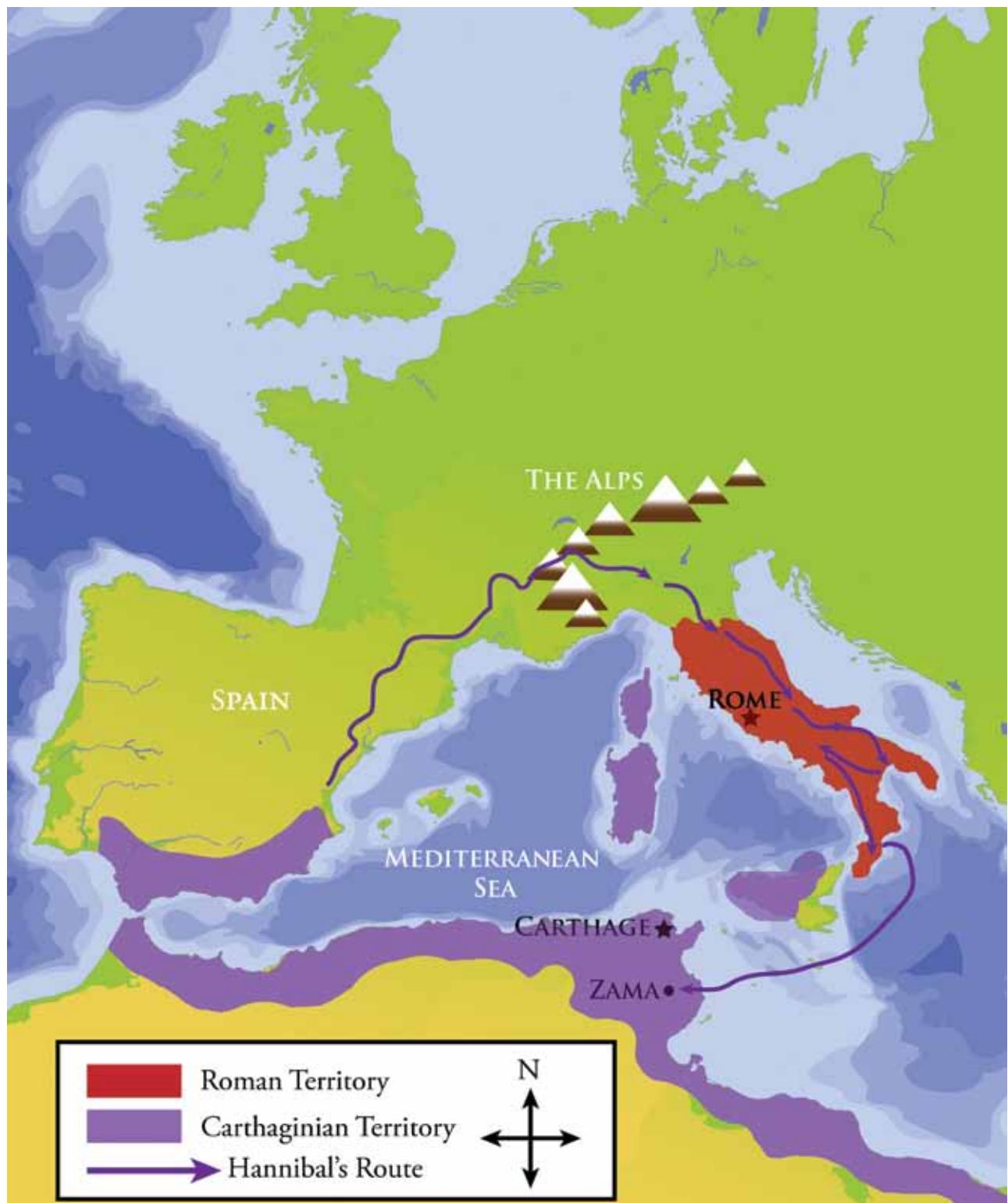


Tim
Timetable's
Report

The Romans faced many enemies, but the strongest and most determined enemy they ever faced was an African general named **Hannibal**.

Hannibal came from **Carthage**, a city on the coast of Africa. **Carthage** was home to many merchants and traders. **Carthage** also had an army and a navy. The **Carthaginians** took over much of North Africa and Spain. They even took over islands off the coast of Italy.

The Romans saw **Carthage** as a **rival**. They fought three wars against **Carthage**. These wars are known as the **Punic Wars** and are thought to have been fought during the years 264–146 BC.

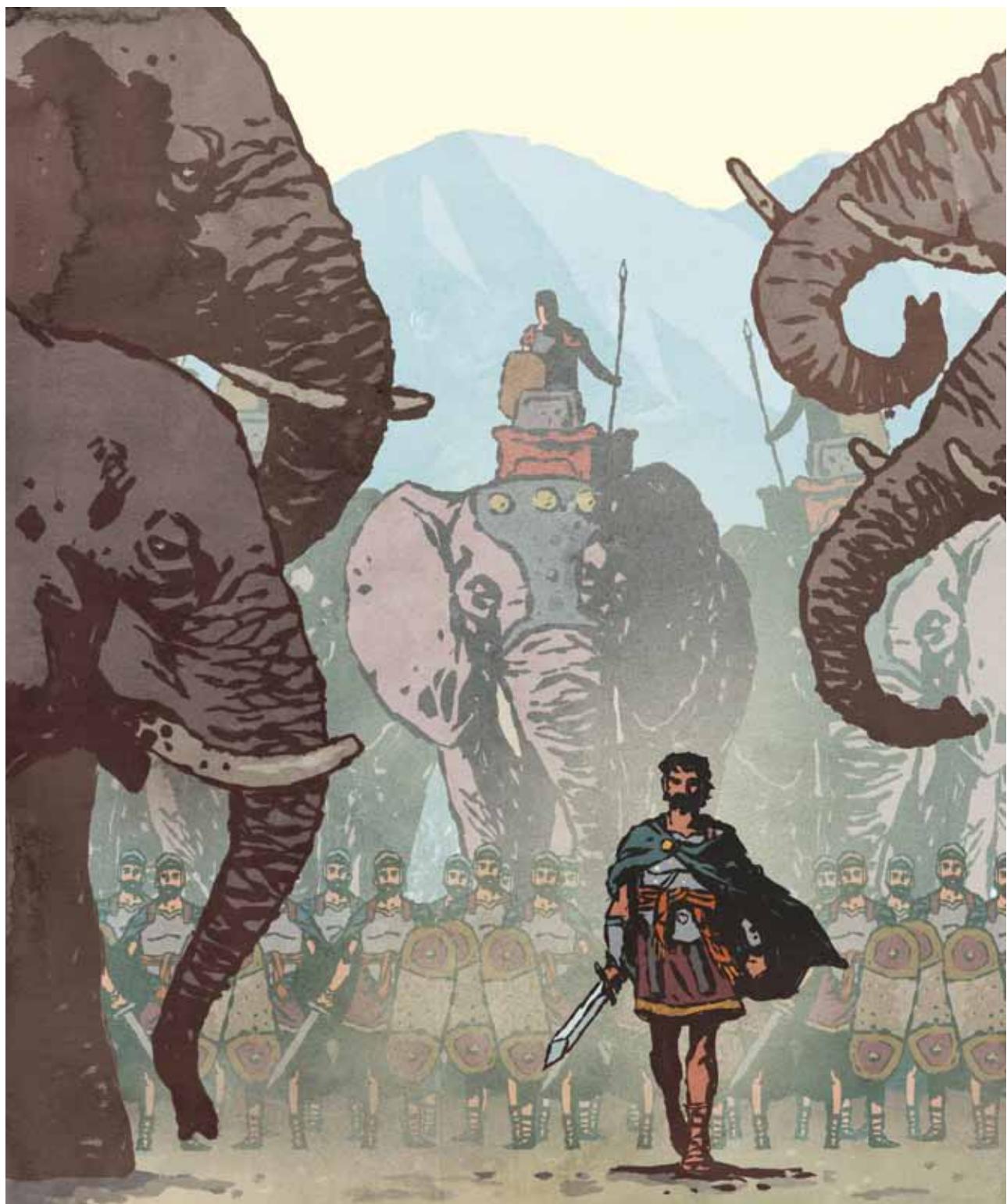


Map of Roman and Carthaginian territories

Hannibal's father fought against Rome in the First **Punic War**, 264–241 BC. He made his son swear he would carry on the fight against Rome. **Hannibal** swore he would and kept his promise. It was **Hannibal** who led the fight against Rome in the Second **Punic War**, 218–201 BC.

Hannibal gathered an army in Spain. He had tens of thousands of foot soldiers. He had thousands more who fought on horseback. Best of all, he had his special forces: a squad of elephants. **Hannibal** had learned that few men are brave enough to stand and fight when they see a thundering herd of elephants coming their way.

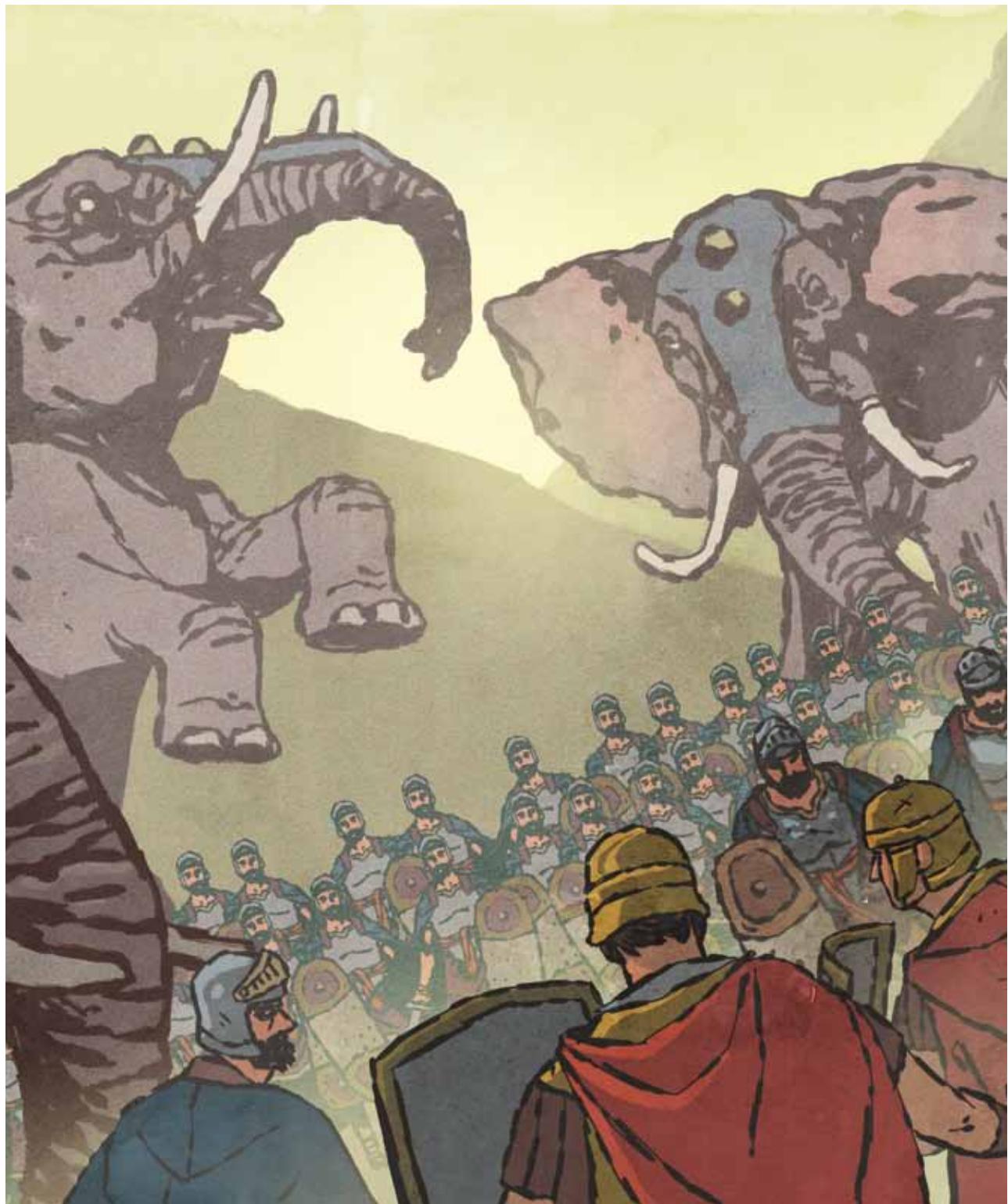
Hannibal wanted to attack Rome. However, to **invade** Italy, he would have to march his army over a range of mountains called the Alps. The Alps were tall. The peaks were covered with snow and ice. There were no big roads that led across. There were only a few slippery paths.



Hannibal gathering his army to cross over the Alps

Most men would not have tried to cross the mountains, but **Hannibal** was not like most men. He marched his army over the mountains. His men suffered terribly. Some died from rockslides or **avalanches**. Others froze to death. Many of the elephants did not make it across. In the end, though, **Hannibal** got his army across the mountains and into Italy.

In Italy, **Hannibal** went on the attack. He beat the Romans at Trebbia [TREB-bee-ə] in 218 BC. Then, he wiped out an entire Roman army at the Battle of Trasimene [TRAZ-i-meen] in 217 BC. The Romans lost 15,000 men. The Battle of Cannae [CAN-ie] was even worse. The Romans lost at least 50,000 men, including 80 of their 300 senators.



Hannibal and his troops won several battles against the Romans.

People thought that might be the beginning of the end for Rome. They did not see how the Romans could go on. But the Romans did go on. They raised another army and sent it out to stop **Hannibal**. This time, the Romans avoided big battles. Instead, they fought a lot of little battles. They attacked **Hannibal's** army here and there. They blocked his troops and slowed down his marches. They also launched a **counter-attack**. A Roman general named Scipio [SKIP-ee-oe] took Roman troops to Africa. The leaders of **Carthage** wrote to **Hannibal**. They told him to come home and protect **Carthage**.

Hannibal did as he was told. He left Italy and returned to **Carthage**. At the Battle of Zama, he **confronted** Scipio. This time, the Romans were **victorious**. **Hannibal** won most of the battles in the Second **Punic War** but he lost the war.

After the Battle of Zama in 202 BC, **Carthage** was never quite the same. They fought another war against Rome—the Third **Punic War** in the years 149-146 BC—but it was clear that **Carthage** was sinking and Rome was on the rise.



Hannibal surrendered to Scipio in Zama.



Chapter 10

Julius Caesar: Great Fighter, Great Writer

Mrs.
Teachwell's
Report

After the Punic Wars, generals started to play a big part in Roman history. Roman generals went all around the Mediterranean, fighting battles and conquering new lands. Some of these generals became heroes. Some of them got to be so famous and so popular that they threatened to take over the republic. That's what happened with **Julius Caesar**.

Julius Caesar came from an old Roman family. He was proud and ambitious, with a high opinion of himself.

When he was a young man, **Caesar** was captured by pirates. The pirates told him they would kill him unless he could pay a **ransom** of twenty **talents**. **Caesar** laughed at them. He told them they clearly didn't know what sort of man they had captured. He was **Julius Caesar**. He was not a man to be **ransomed** for just twenty **talents**! **Caesar** told the pirates he would not allow himself to be **ransomed** for less than fifty **talents**!



Caesar told the pirates he was worth a larger ransom.

Caesar told his friends to raise the money. He stayed with the pirates, writing poems. He read some of his poems to the pirates. They shrugged. They didn't care much for poetry. They were pirates, not poets. They just wanted to collect the **ransom** money. **Caesar** got angry at the pirates. He scolded them for not liking his poems. He told them they had no taste. He told them they were **barbarians**. He told them someday he would come back and punish them for their bad taste. The pirates thought **Caesar** was joking. Maybe they thought he was crazy. At any rate, as soon as they got the **ransom** money, they quickly forgot about him. But **Caesar** did not forget about them. He went back to Rome, got some ships, and hired some good fighters. Then, he tracked down the pirates and killed them.

Caesar quickly **established** himself as a man who knew what to do with his sword and also with his pen. Once, he was sent to Asia. The people there were in **revolt**. **Caesar** led a Roman army there and put down the **revolt**. Then, he got out his pen to write his report. The normal thing would have been to write a long report, filling several pages, but that was not **Caesar's** style.



Caesar quickly became known as a brave and determined soldier.

This is the report **Caesar** sent back to Rome:

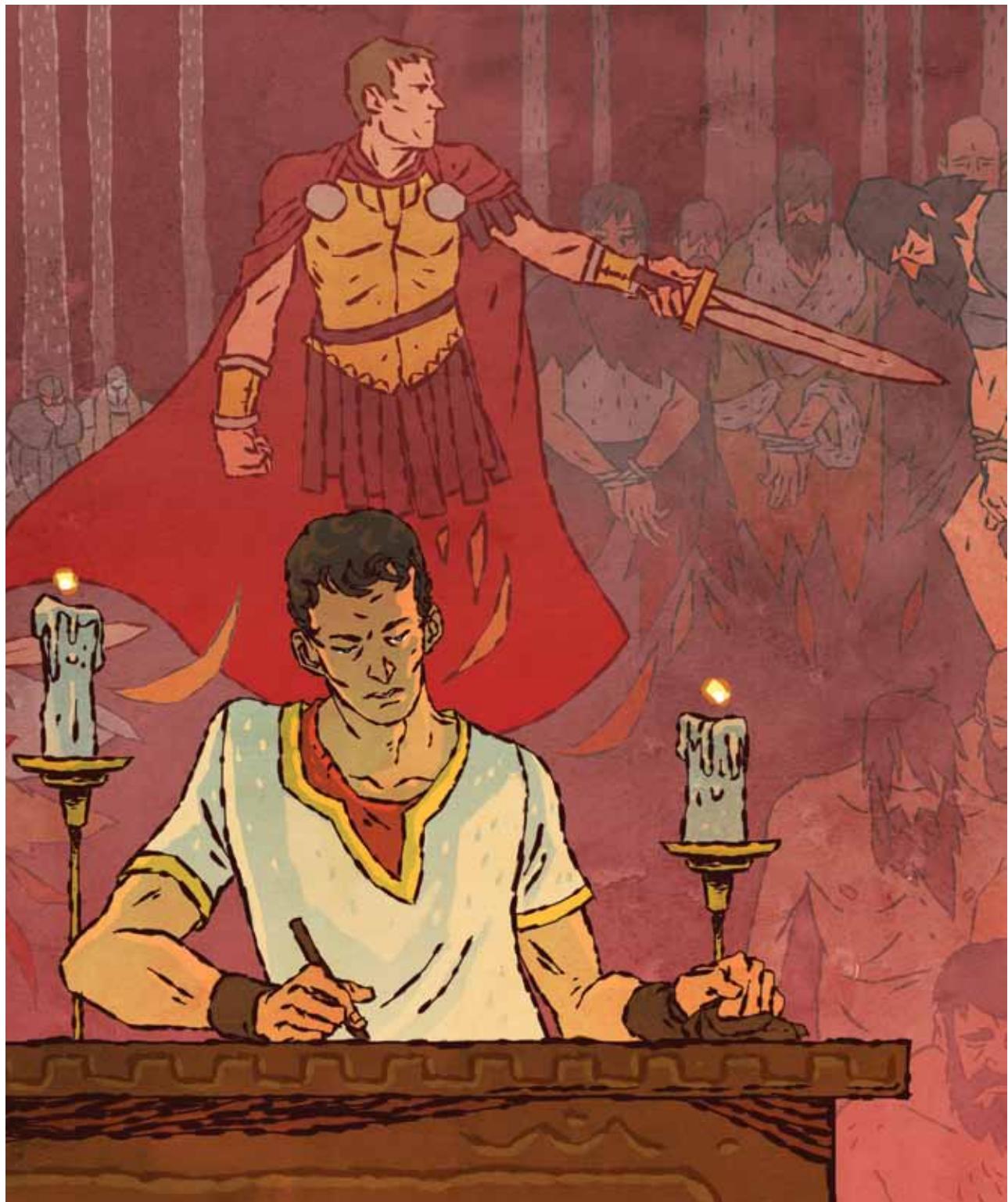
Veni, vidi, vici. [wae-NEE, wee-DEE, wee-KEE]

That's the whole report. Those three words—written in **Latin**, the language of ancient Rome—mean, “I came, I saw, I conquered.” What else was there to say? Mission accomplished!

Caesar led an army into the land the Romans called Gaul. Today, we call it France. Gaul was not part of the Roman civilization when **Caesar** marched in, but it was when he marched out a few years later. **Caesar** conquered it. Then, he wrote a book about how he did it. The first sentence in his book is famous.

It is written in **Latin**. In English, the words mean, “The whole of Gaul is divided into three parts.”

If you ever study **Latin**, you may have a chance to read **Caesar’s** book on the Gallic Wars. It’s so clear and so well-written that teachers all around the world still use it to teach **Latin** to students.



Caesar writing about his conquest of Gaul

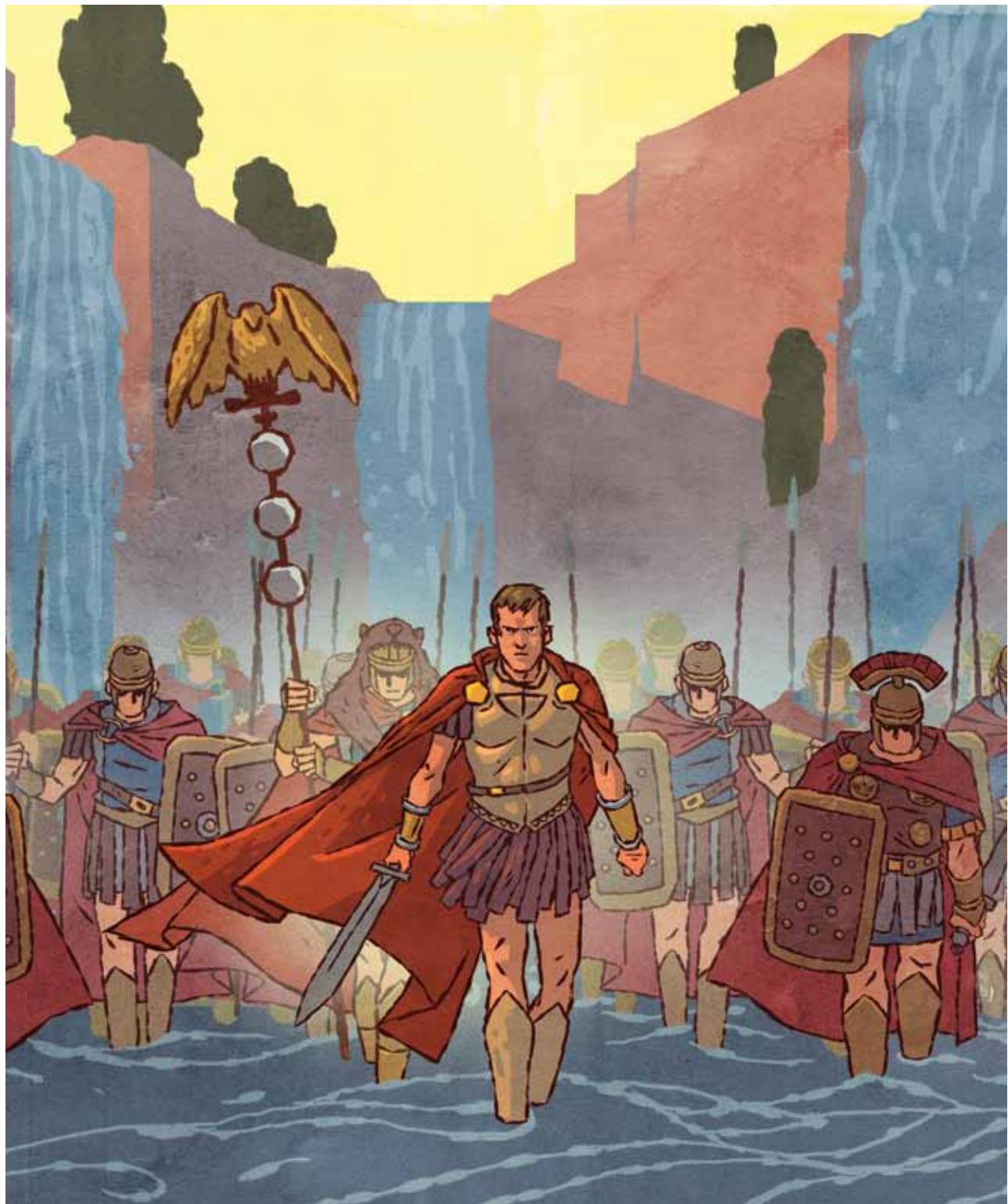


Chapter 11

Julius Caesar: Crossing the Rubicon

After he conquered Gaul, Caesar started marching back to Rome. By this time, the Roman senators were very nervous about Caesar. They thought he might march into Rome and take over. The senators sent Caesar a message. They told him to stop and send his soldiers home. They ordered him not to cross the **Rubicon** River. If he did, they said he would not be treated as a hero. Instead, he would be treated as a **traitor** and an invader.

In the year 49 BC, Caesar crossed the **Rubicon**. He is said to have remarked in Latin, “The die is cast.” That was his way of saying he knew he was taking a big risk. Crossing the **Rubicon** meant there was no turning back.



*Caesar crossing the **Rubicon** with his troops*

Caesar's actions led to a **civil war**—a war in which Romans fought against Romans. Caesar was the leader on one side. Pompey [POM-pee], another famous Roman general, was the leader on the other side. Caesar **defeated** Pompey and chased him to Egypt, where Pompey was killed.

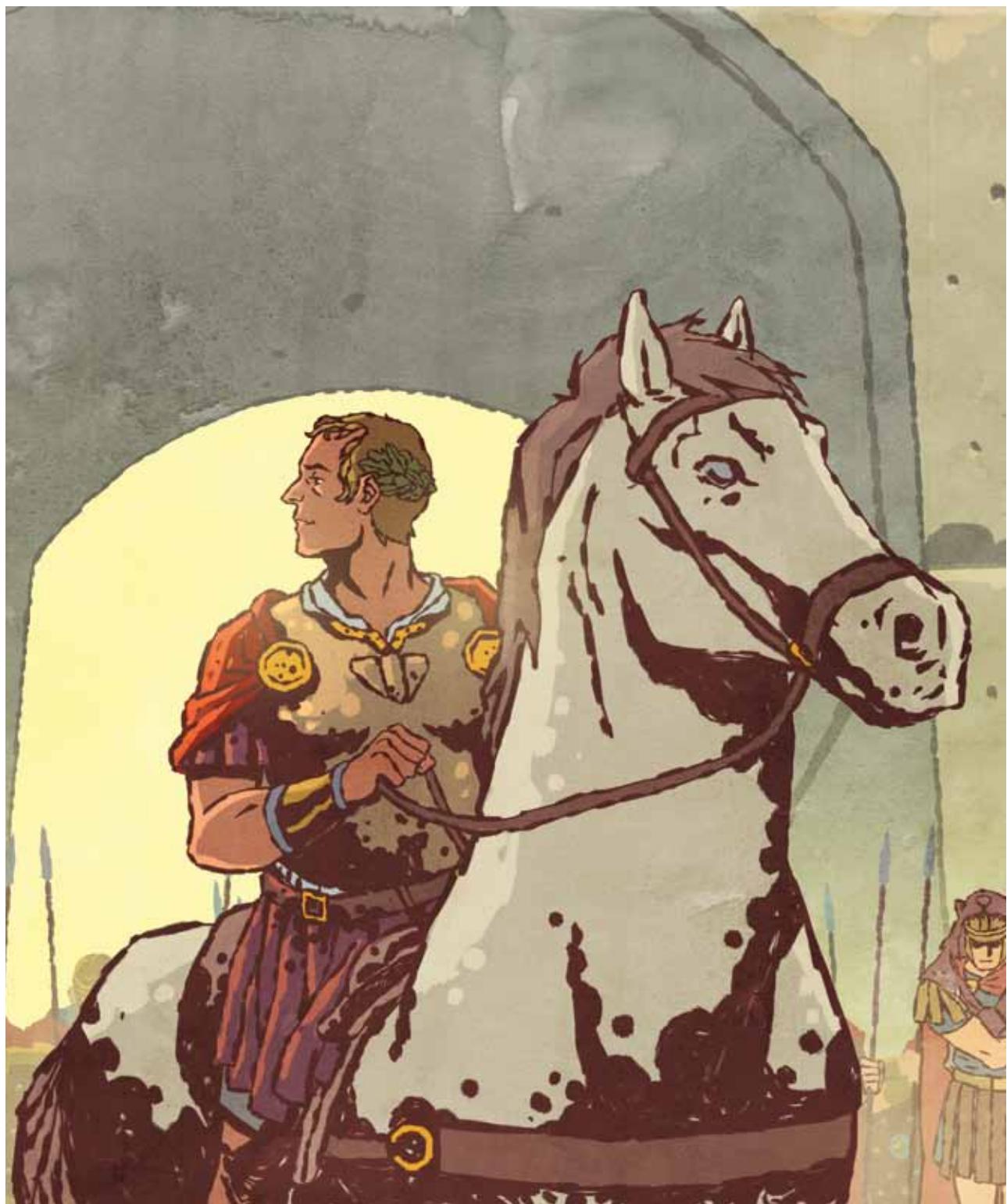
When Caesar got to Egypt, he found another country tangled up in a **civil war**. The princess **Cleopatra** was trying to take power from her brother. Caesar sided with **Cleopatra**. He helped her become Queen of Egypt.

Caesar had big plans. He didn't think Rome was run the way it should be. He wanted to change a lot of things. He had the Senate pass new laws. He replaced the old calendar with the one we still use today. (Did you know that the month of July is named for Julius Caesar?)



Caesar met **Cleopatra** in Egypt and helped her become queen.

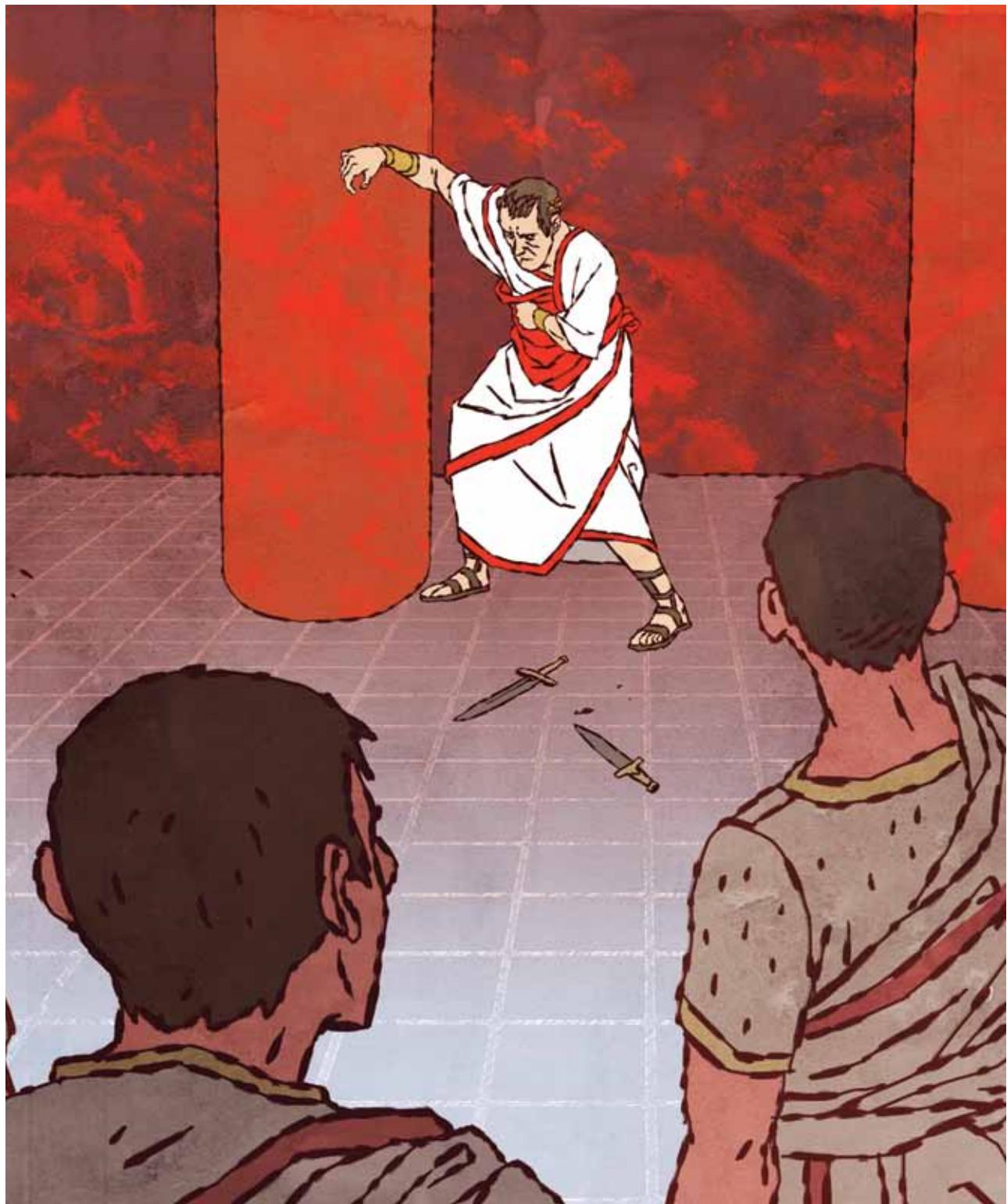
Caesar wanted to do more, but he felt he needed more power. He got himself appointed **dictator**. At first, he was appointed **dictator** for only one year. That was not so **unusual**. The Romans had chosen **dictators** in the past. A **dictator** could be put in power during times of trouble. But the **dictator** was only supposed to rule for a little while, until the troubles passed. That was not what Caesar had in mind. He had himself appointed **dictator** for ten years. That upset a lot of people. How do you think those people felt a little later, when Caesar had himself appointed **dictator** for life? That was really too much for some people. For hundreds of years, Rome had been a republic. Now, Caesar was setting himself up as a **dictator**. Perhaps, he even wanted to be a king. That was even more upsetting. The Romans had driven out the kings hundreds of years earlier.



*Caesar became **dictator** of Rome for life.*

A group of Romans agreed that Caesar was a threat to the republic. They stabbed him to death in the Senate.

Some of the men who stabbed Julius Caesar were men he considered friends. One of them, Brutus, was a man Caesar had treated almost like a son. How could these men kill Caesar? Brutus explained that it was not that he loved Caesar less, but that he loved Rome—and the Roman republic—more. Brutus and the other **conspirators** killed Caesar to save Rome. At least, that was the plan.



The senators who stabbed Caesar thought they were saving the Roman republic.

Chapter 12

After Caesar: Augustus and the Roman Empire



Charlie
Chatter's
Report

The men who killed Julius Caesar were trying to save the republic. They did not succeed. After Caesar was killed, another civil war broke out. The man who came out on top at the end of the war was a man known as **Augustus** Caesar, or just **Augustus**.

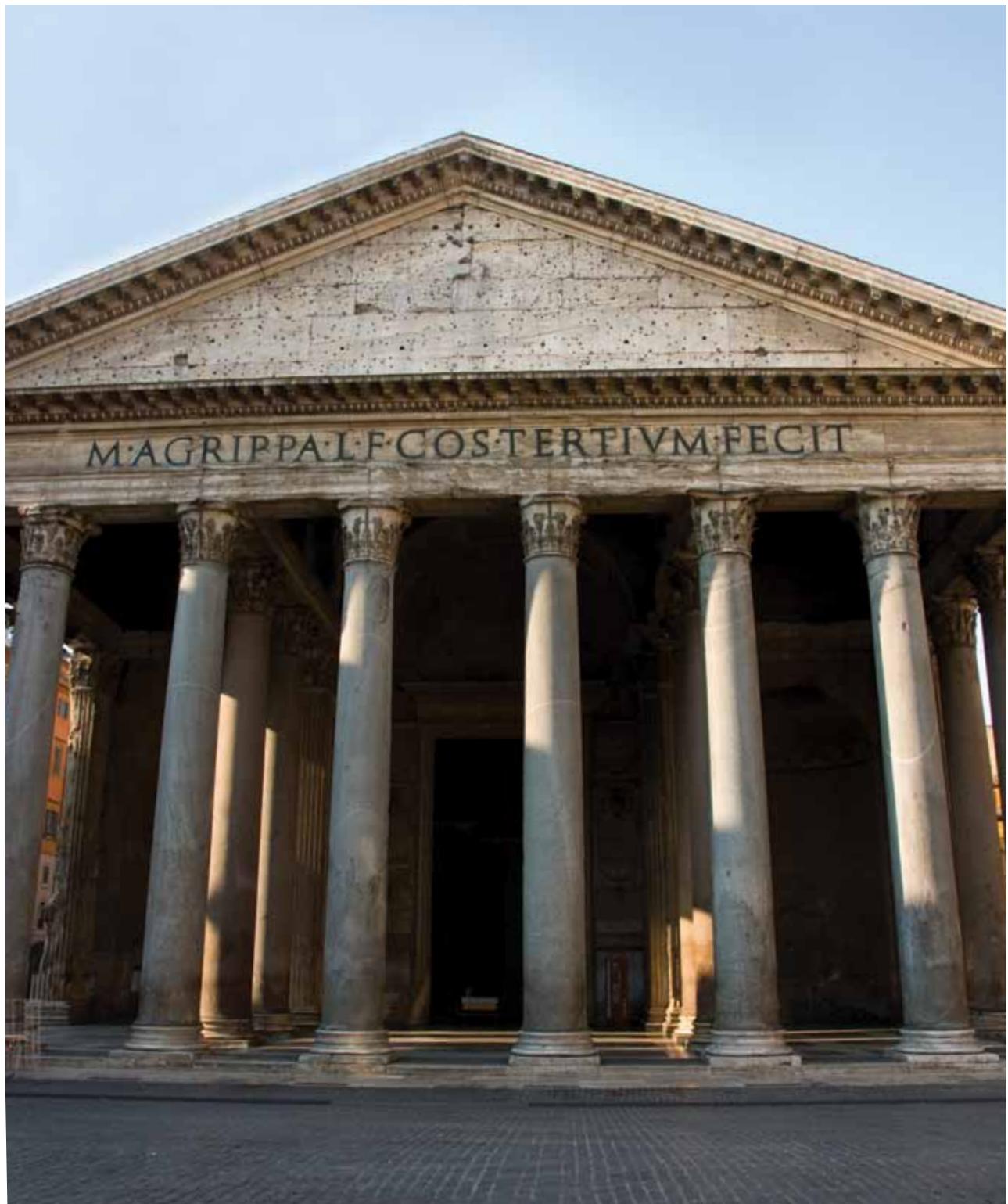
Augustus was an adopted son of Caesar and he agreed with Caesar that Rome needed to change. But he was smart. He knew that the Romans cared about their history. They would not be happy if he came to power and changed everything all at once. What he did instead was very clever. He made himself emperor and he made it clear that he intended to serve until he died. That meant Rome was no longer a republic. But **Augustus** did not sweep away all of the old **traditions**. He let the Romans keep the Senate and consuls. Still, everybody knew that it was **Augustus** who was really in charge.



A marble statue of Augustus Caesar

Augustus brought peace to a country that had been fighting civil wars for many years. He **reformed** the government and conquered new lands. He set up monuments. He built **magnificent** new buildings, including temples, theaters, and bath houses. He also repaired old buildings and decorated them with fancy stone, like marble. He once boasted that he “found Rome brick and left it marble.”

One of the most famous buildings built during the **reign of Augustus** is the **Pantheon**. The **Pantheon** was built as a temple to all the Roman gods. (*Pan-* means all and *theo-* means gods.) The **Pantheon** is a beautiful building with a dome roof. While the original building was destroyed in a fire, the Pantheon still standing today was built to replace it. Thousands of tourists visit it every day.



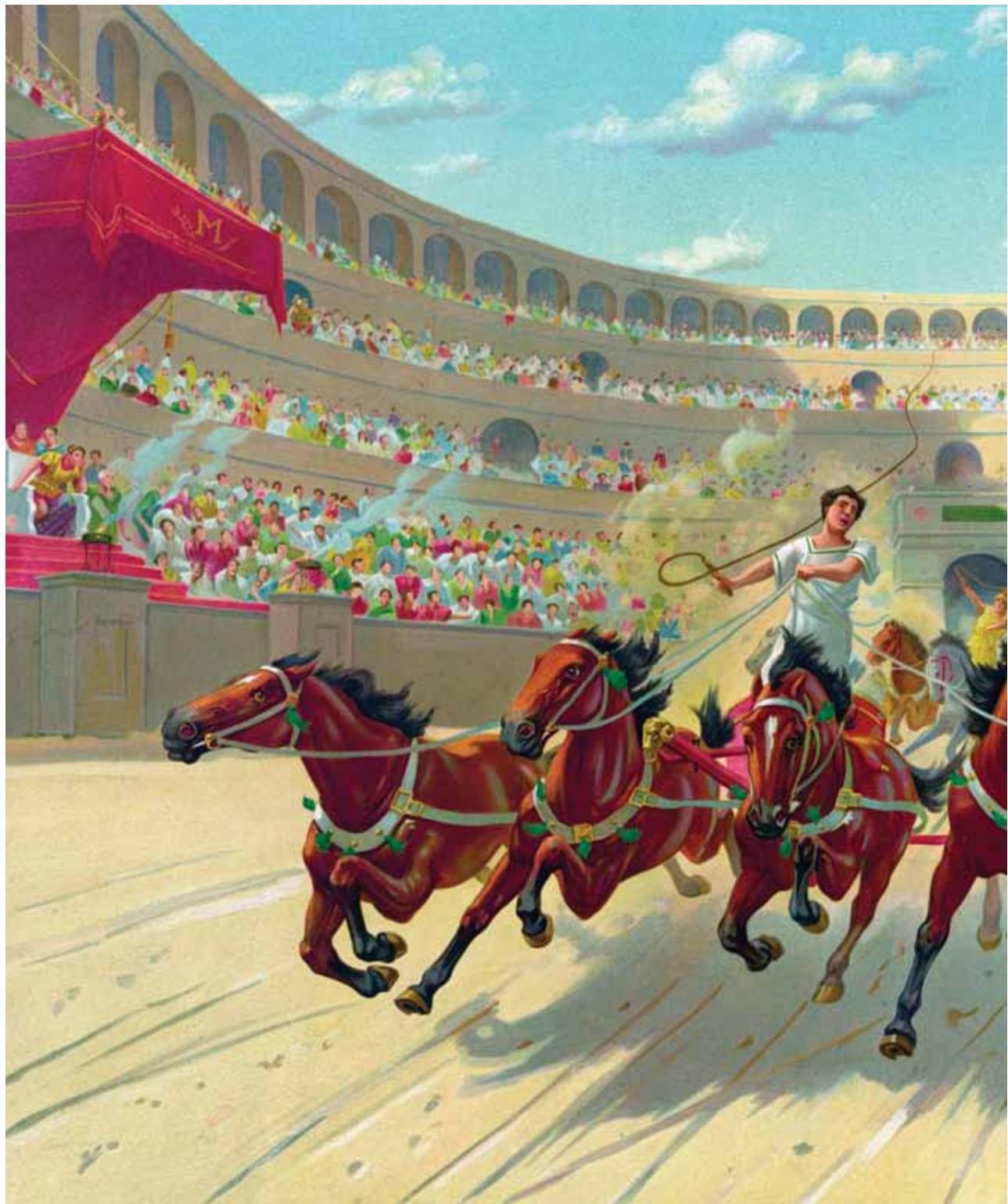
The Pantheon as it appears in Rome today

The **Pantheon** is only one of many examples of great Roman **architecture**. Another one is the **Colosseum**. The **Colosseum**, built not long after the **reign of Augustus**, is a huge, oval stadium. The Romans went to the **Colosseum** to see people and animals fight. The **Colosseum** would hold fifty thousand people. Today the **Colosseum** is in **ruins**, but some of it is left to give us a good idea of what it would have looked like.



*The ruins of the **Colosseum** as it appears today. In ancient times, the Romans came to the **Colosseum** to see battles between people and animals.*

The Romans also enjoyed watching **chariot** races. These were held in an even larger stadium, called the **Circus Maximus**. For the Romans, a **chariot** race or a fight was good entertainment, the way a football game or a movie is for us today.



*The Romans enjoyed watching **chariot** races at the **Circus Maximus**.*

The Romans also built roads and **aqueducts**. The roads brought people from all around the Empire. The **aqueducts** were used to bring water from the country into the city. Some of the **aqueducts** are also very beautiful.



An example of a Roman aqueduct as it appears today

Chapter 13

Androcles and the Lion



Charlie
Chatter's
Report

The ancient Romans liked to watch **gladiator** fights. They liked to watch a **gladiator** fight against other **gladiators** or against wild animals. As mentioned in the previous chapter, the Romans even built the Colosseum for these fights. The Colosseum was so big it could hold fifty thousand people!

This is a **gladiator** story and it ends in the Colosseum. You may be surprised by the ending!



Gladiators fighting

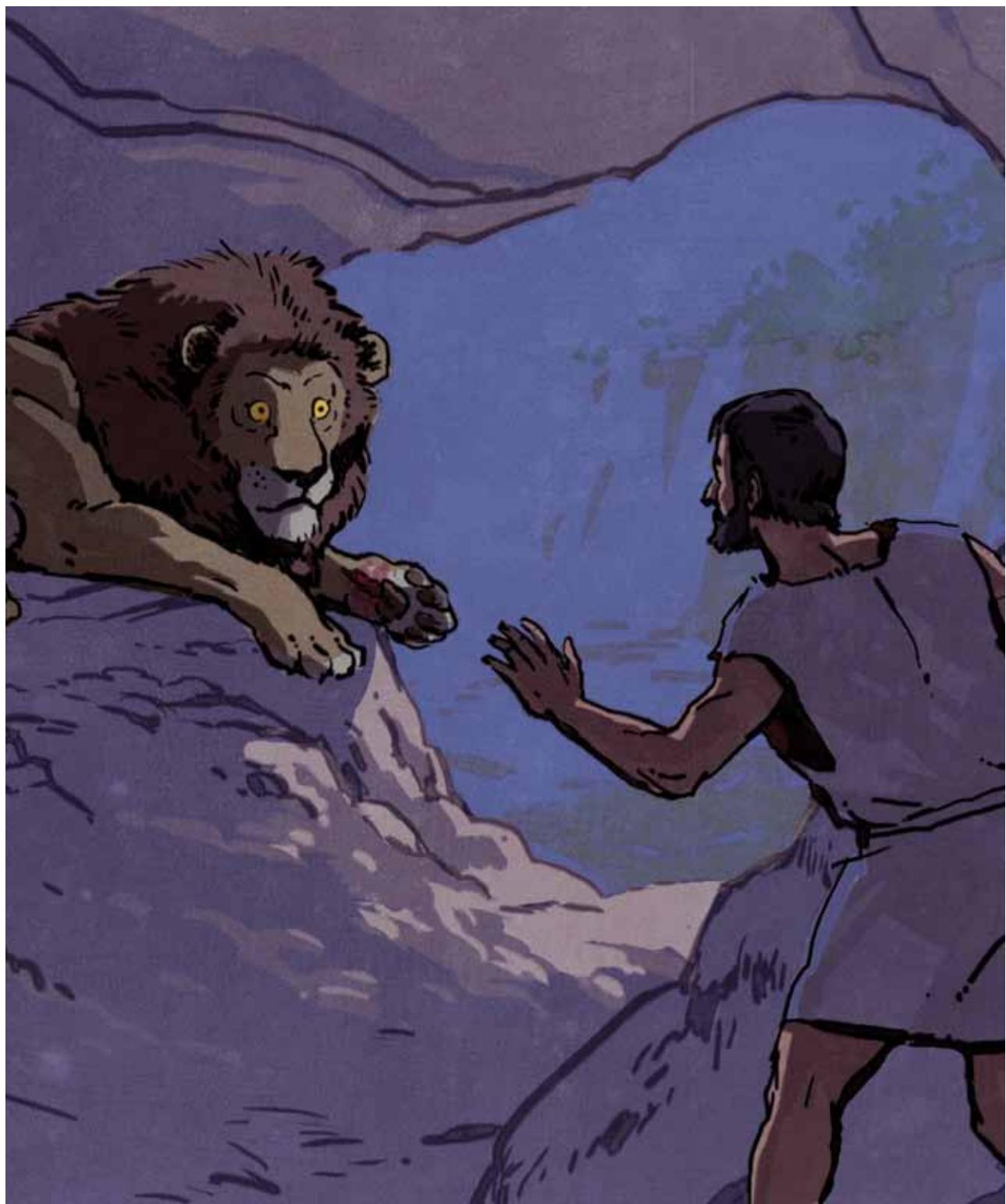
Once there was a Roman slave named Androcles [AN-droe-cleez]. Androcles escaped from his master and ran away. One night he hid in a cave. He crept into the cool darkness, lay down, and fell asleep.

In the middle of the night, Androcles was awakened by a loud roaring noise. He got up and squinted in the darkness. What he saw scared him half to death. It was a lion returning to his den!

Androcles shrank back, fearful for his life.

Then, he saw that the lion was suffering. It was roaring in pain. The great beast limped into the cave and flopped down. It lifted its right front paw and licked it.

Androcles took a step toward the lion. The big cat spotted him, but he did not seem angry. Instead, he gave Androcles a sad look, as if asking for help. Androcles **crouched** next to the lion. He looked and saw a thorn stuck in the lion's paw. He put out his hand. The lion did not try to bite him. He touched the lion on the paw. The lion sat still. Then, very gently, Androcles took hold of the thorn and pulled it out.



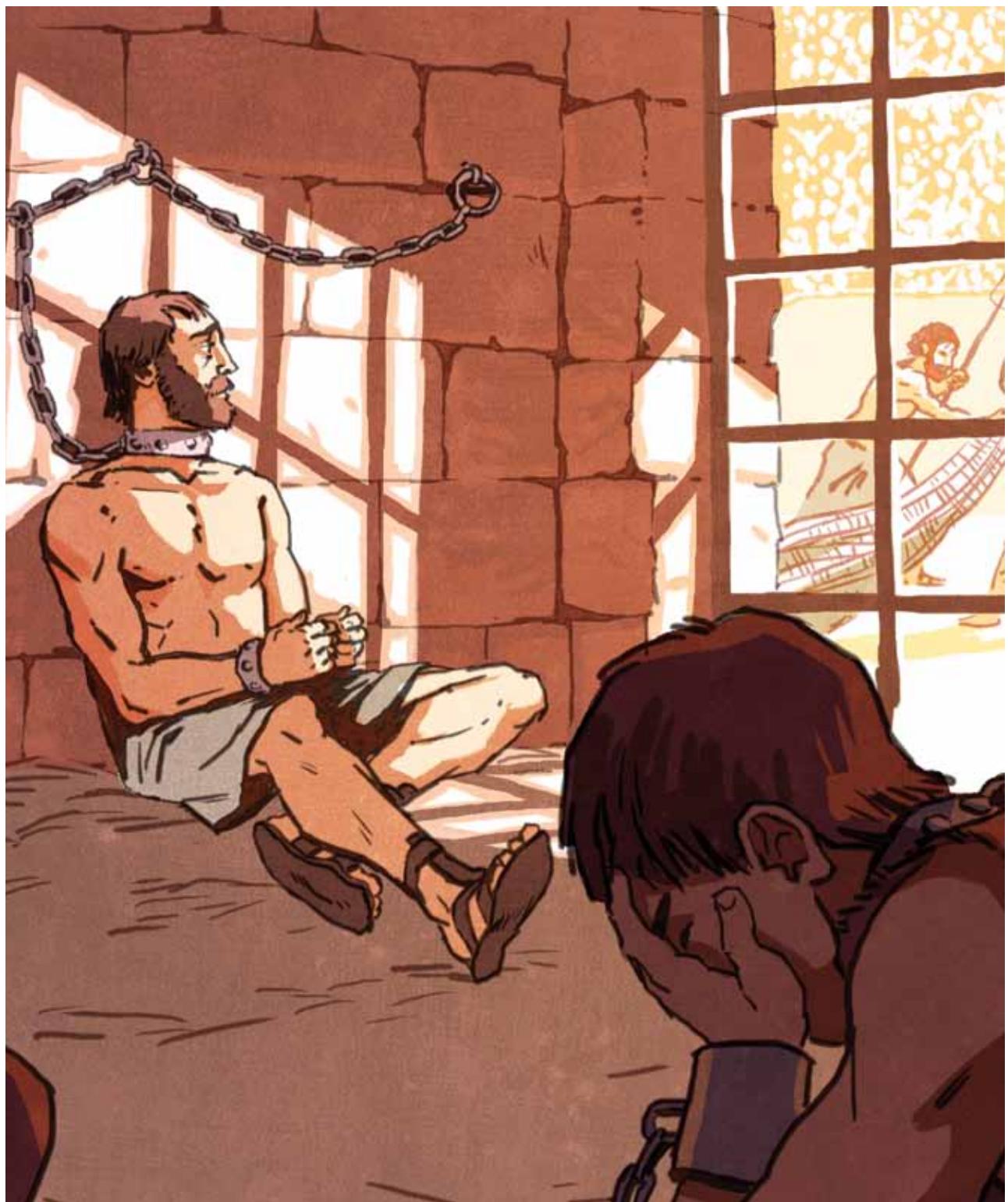
The lion gave Androcles a sad look, as if asking for help.

The lion looked Androcles in the eye and purred. That was the beginning of a warm friendship between Androcles and the lion. They lived together in the cave. They slept side by side, keeping each other warm.

Then, one day Roman soldiers discovered Androcles. The law of Rome said that runaway slaves must be punished. So, Androcles was captured and taken to the city of Rome.

For ten days, Androcles sat alone in a jail cell. The jailors fed him nothing but water and crusts of stale bread. Then, one of them told him he was to meet his death in the Colosseum.

Androcles knew what that meant. Runaway slaves were often forced to fight in the Colosseum. Androcles knew he would be forced to fight against **gladiators**, or perhaps against **vicious**, hungry wild animals.



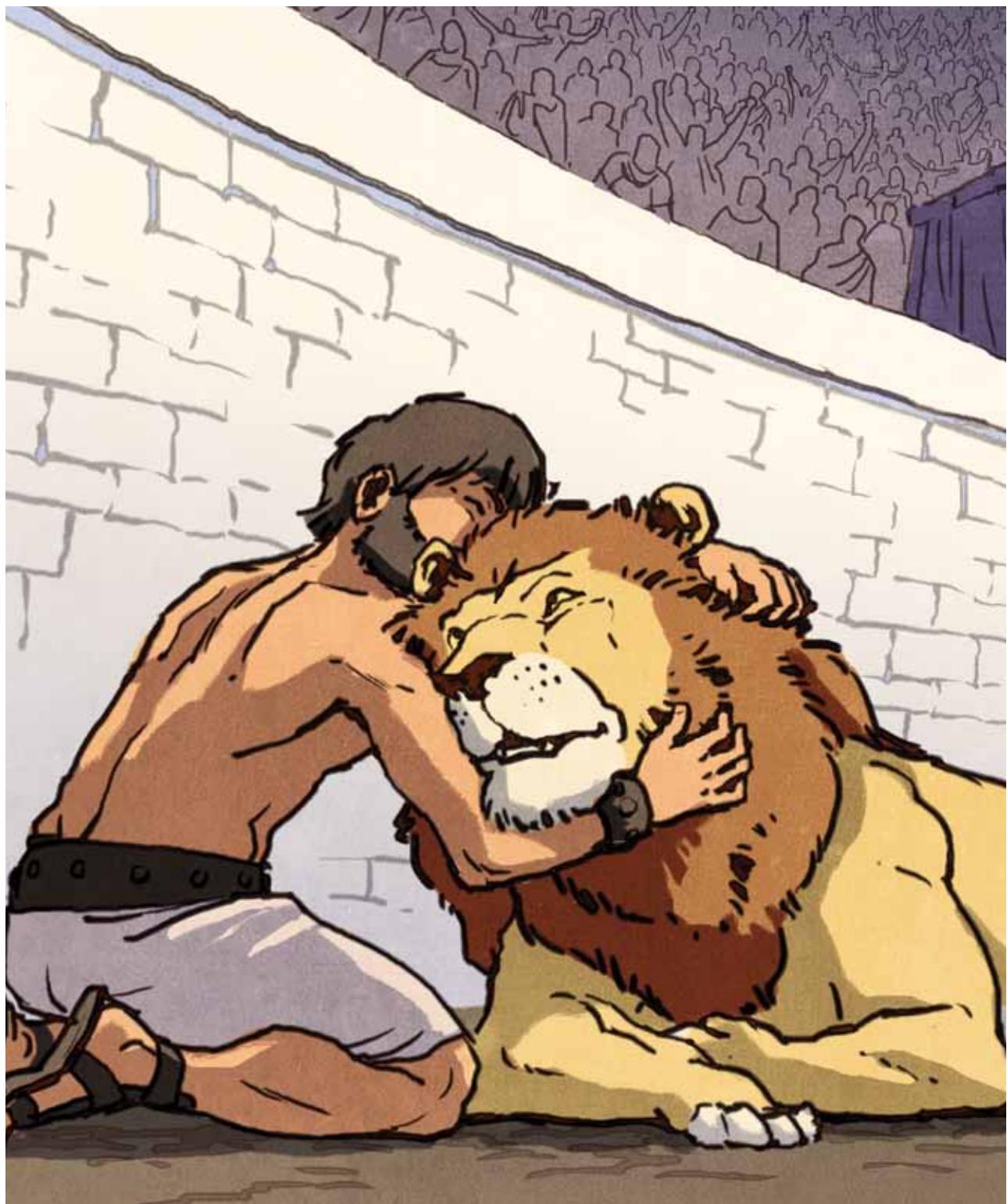
Androcles waiting in the cell to enter the Colosseum

Androcles was led out of his cell. As he walked into the Colosseum, he knew that he would soon die. Androcles was brave. He stepped into the **arena** and prepared himself for the fight, and for death.

The crowd cheered as Androcles stepped into the **arena**. They cheered even more loudly when a lion appeared on the other side of the **arena**.

Then, something strange took place. This was not just any lion. It was the lion Androcles had **befriended**. The lion recognized his friend. Instead of attacking, the beast ran up to Androcles and began licking his face. Androcles stroked the lion and rubbed his belly.

The crowd was amazed. They had never seen anything like this. They cheered loudly.



Androcles and the lion

“Free the slave!” one of the men in the crowd shouted.

“Free the lion!” another shouted.

Soon, the whole crowd was yelling and shouting.

The **emperor** was the one who made the decision. He held out his hand, with his thumb to the side. Then, he tilted it so that his thumb pointed up. Thumbs up! That was the sign! It meant that Androcles and the lion had pleased the **emperor**. They would be saved!

So Androcles and the lion were set free. They lived a long life and their friendship never faltered.



The emperor signaled “Thumbs up!” Androcles and the lion were set free.

Chapter 14

Androcles and the Lion: Reader's Theater

Cast



Narrator 1



Narrator 2



Androcles



Lion



Crowd



Man (in the Crowd)



Woman (in the Crowd)



Emperor



Scene 1—In a cave in the forest

Narrator 1

Thousands of years ago, there was a slave named Androcles who lived in ancient Rome. Every day, Androcles was sent by his master out to the fields with the other slaves. There they spent the entire day in the blistering hot sun, tending the master's crops. Only when dusk fell at the very end of the day did they return to the slave quarters where they lived. Each night, after a meal of stale bread and water, they fell exhausted on the hard floor and went to sleep.

Narrator 2

One day when it was time to return from the fields, Androcles did not follow the other slaves. As the others went back to their quarters, Androcles hid at the edge of the field. When it was dark, he ran as fast as he could, far into the forest. When he could run no more, he happened upon a small cave. He crept inside into the cool darkness and fell asleep.



Lion (*roaring several times, but then whimpering in pain*)

Rrrrrroarrrr..... Rrrrrroarrrr..... Rrrrrroarrrr ...
owowowowow....

Androcles (*voice shaking*)

Who's there? Where are you?

Lion (*roars two more times in pain*)

Help me! Help me—here!

Androcles (*voice still shaking*)

Whoa! How can I help you?

Lion (*limps towards Androcles and lifts his front paw*)

Just help me. My paw, my paw—please help me.



Androcles (*crouches carefully next to the lion, lifting its paw*)

Well, let me take a look. Aha! I see what the problem is. There is a very large thorn stuck in your paw. Hold very still and I will pull it out.

(*Androcles gently pulls the thorn out of the lion's paw.*)

Lion

Ooooowww...ahhhhhh—that's much better. Thank you.

(*Lion rubs up against Androcles and purrs.*)

Narrator 1

That was the beginning of a warm friendship between Androcles and the lion. They lived together in the cave. They slept side by side, keeping each other warm.



Narrator 2

Then one day, a group of Roman soldiers on patrol stumbled upon the cave where they discovered Androcles. Roman law said that runaway slaves must be punished. So the soldiers dragged Androcles out of the cave and back to the city of Rome.

Narrator 1

Androcles was taken to jail. He was left alone in a cell for ten days with little to eat or drink. On the tenth day, the jailer came to tell him that he would be taken to the Colosseum that afternoon. Androcles knew that could mean only one thing. He would be forced to fight to death against gladiators or vicious, wild animals.



Scene 2—The Colosseum

(The emperor and crowd stand in a circle as if seated at the Colosseum. Androcles enters the center of the circle from one side.)

Crowd (*chanting Androcles' name as he enters the circle*)

Androcles! Androcles! Androcles!

Lion (*shakes mane and roars loudly as he enters the circle from the other side*)

Rrrrrroarrrr..... Rrrrrroarrrr..... Rrrrrroarrrr

Crowd (*turns and looks at the lion and cheers loudly*)

Emperor

Let the games begin!

(Androcles and the lion approach each other with heads down, ready to fight. Then, both look up and stare into each other's eyes.)



Lion (*purrs loudly and rubs up against Androcles' leg*)

Purrrrr...rrrrrr....rrrrr

Androcles (*bends forward to hug the lion*)

My friend, my friend—it's you!

Crowd (*cheers loudly*)

Man in the crowd

Free Androcles! Free Androcles!

Woman in the crowd

Free the lion! Free the lion!

Crowd (*all chanting*)

Free Androcles! Free the lion! Free Androcles! Free the lion!



Emperor (*waves both arms to quiet the crowd; holds out his right hand with his thumb to the side and then tilts his thumb up*)

Crowd (*all chanting*)

They're saved! They're both saved! Hooray!

Narrator 1

So Androcles and the lion were both set free. They lived a long life and their friendship never faltered.

Chapter 15

The Rise of Christianity

During the reign of Emperor Augustus, something important happened—but at the time, almost nobody noticed.

Long ago, a man named Jesus of Nazareth was born. Jesus was a Jewish man who later became an important teacher. He walked among crowds of people teaching. People said that he worked **miracles**. They said he changed water into wine and walked on the water. They said he cured the sick, and even brought dead people back to life.

Jesus attracted followers. But he also attracted the attention of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate [PON-CHUS PIE-let]. Pilate had heard that Jesus called himself “the king of the Jews.” He did not like the sound of that. The Jews of Palestine were **subjects** of the Roman Emperor. There was no room for a “king” and a governor in Rome.



Jesus

Pilate had Jesus arrested. He put Jesus on **trial** and sentenced him to death.

Even though Jesus died, a group of his followers believed Jesus was a **divine** being—the son of God. They believed he had been sent to Earth by God. They believed that after his death, he was taken up to heaven by God.

The followers of Jesus were called **Christians**. They believed Jesus was sent by God to save people. They began sharing the story of Jesus with anyone who would listen. Lots of people thought they were crazy. But some people listened. The **Christian religion** began to grow.

One man did more than anyone else to spread the **Christian religion**. His name was Paul and he was a Roman citizen. He traveled all around, spreading the **religion** of Jesus. Eventually Paul was put to death, like Jesus, but not before he had set up **Christian** churches all around the Roman Empire.



Paul

At first, the Roman emperors paid no attention to this new **religion**. Later, they started to pay attention, but only because they did not approve of the **Christians**.

Remember: the Romans worshipped many gods. Everyone in the Roman Empire was expected to worship gods like Jupiter, Juno, and Mars. The Romans believed that these gods protected the state. They believed people should honor them.

That was a problem for the **Christians**. They believed that there was only one God. They believed it was wrong to worship the Roman gods.

So, for many years, the Roman emperors treated **Christians** as enemies of Rome. They did what they could to get rid of the **Christians**. They threw some of them in jail. They had others put to death. But the **Christians** did not give up their **faith**. They kept on believing and they kept on preaching.



Christians were treated as enemies of Rome.

The man who ended the long war between Rome and **Christianity** was the Emperor **Constantine**. He became Emperor about three hundred years after the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. By that time, there were a lot of **Christians**. In fact, **Constantine's** own mother became a **Christian**. **Constantine** became a **Christian** as well.

When **Constantine** became a **Christian**, everything changed. For hundreds of years, the Roman emperors had punished the **Christians**. Now with **Constantine**, **Christianity** became the official **religion** of the Roman Empire.



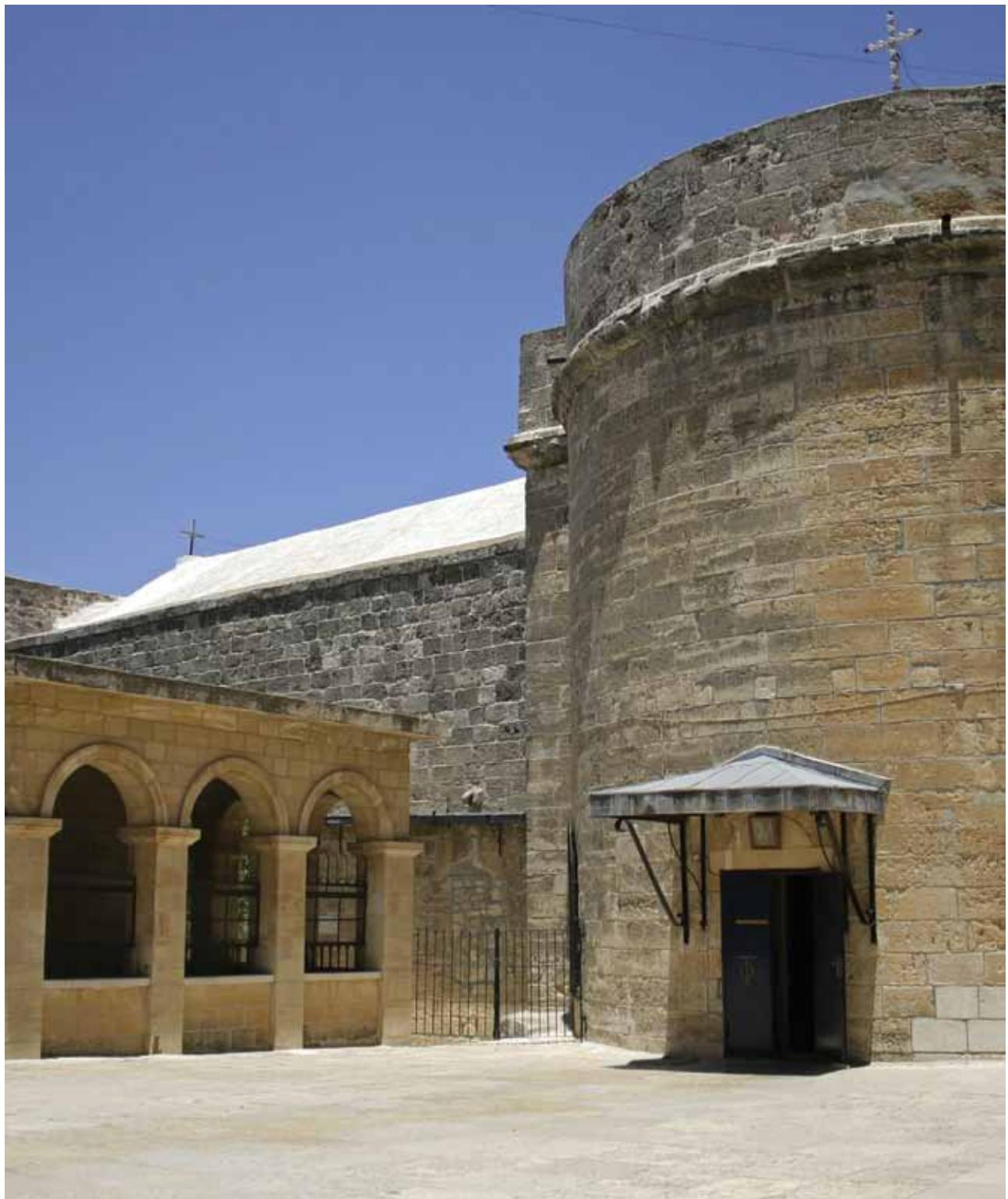
A marble statue of Constantine

Chapter 16

The Second Rome: From Constantine to Justinian

Constantine was the first Roman Emperor to support Christianity. He issued an order that made it **illegal** to put Christians to death, or even throw them in jail.

Constantine built churches all over the empire. He built one in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. He built another in Jerusalem, where Jesus died. He built churches in Rome and in the ancient city of **Byzantium**, in present-day Turkey. **Byzantium** was Constantine's favorite city. He adopted it and renamed it **Constantinople**. His goal was to turn the city into a "new Rome," a sort of Rome away from Rome.



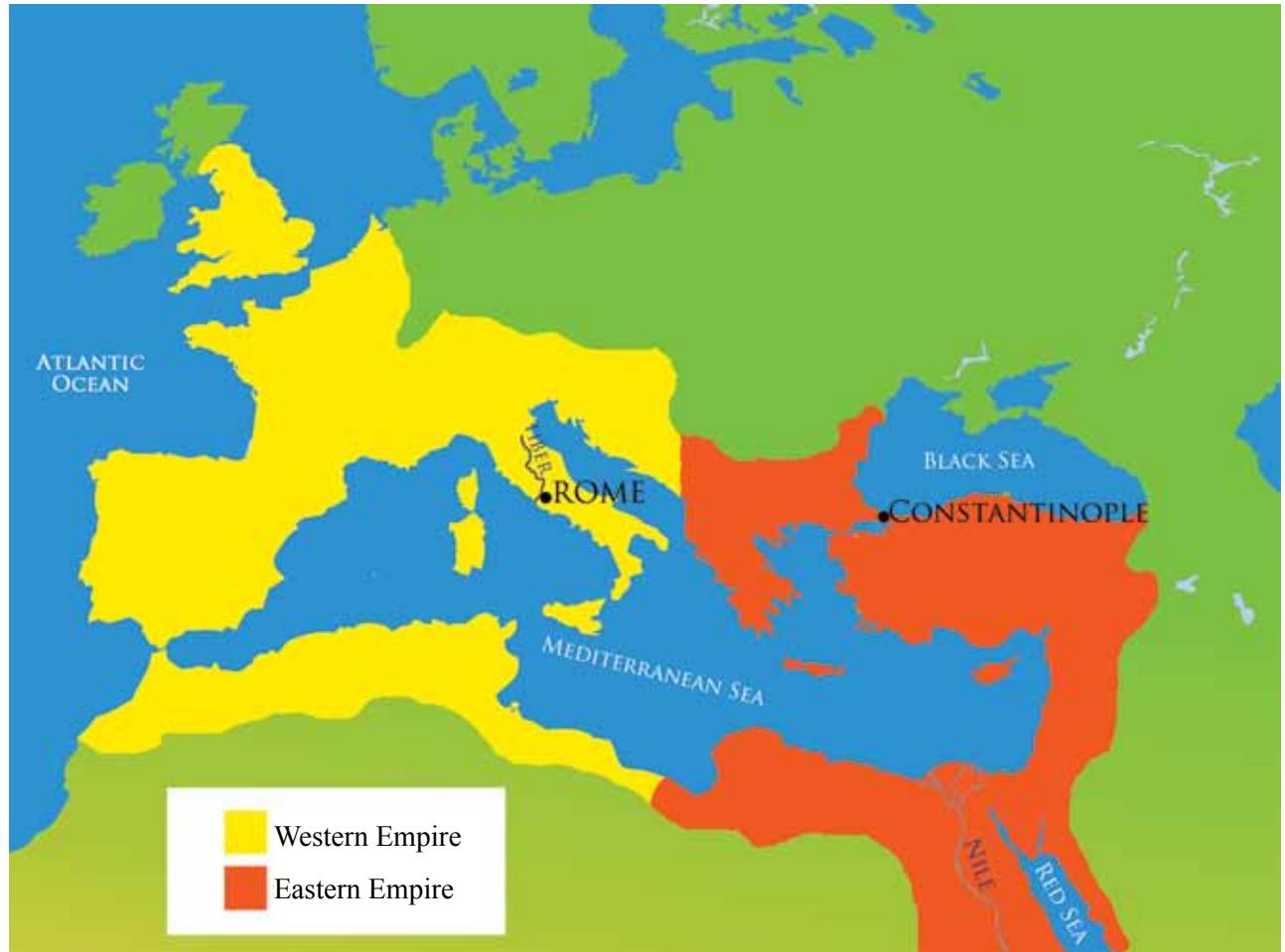
This church in Bethlehem is built where Jesus is said to have been born.

Constantine did not want **Constantinople** to replace Rome. He hoped that **Constantinople** would take its place beside Rome and that the two cities would survive, side by side, for many years. He wanted Rome and **Constantinople** to be like two mighty **pillars** supporting the Roman Empire. But, in the end, one of those **pillars collapsed**.

One of the emperors who came after Constantine decided his job was just too big. He felt that the Roman Empire was too large to be ruled by any one man. So he split the empire into two parts. He declared that the western half of the Empire would be ruled by one emperor, based in Rome; the eastern half would be ruled by a second emperor, based in **Constantinople**.

Not long after the empire was divided, invaders from the North began attacking the **Western Empire**. Things got worse and worse. The invaders even attacked Rome itself. Finally, the western part of the Roman Empire **collapsed**.

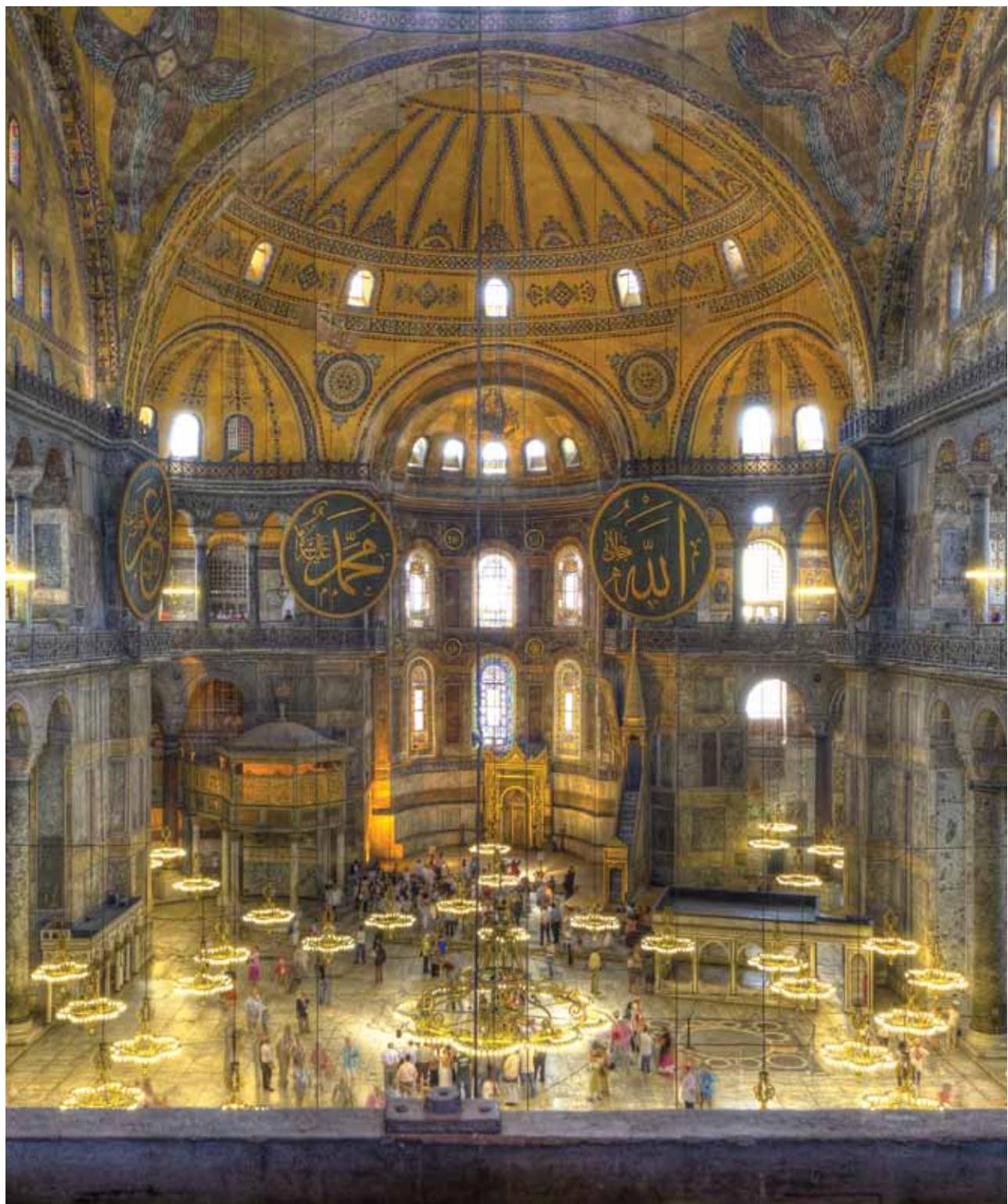
The **Eastern Empire**, based in **Constantinople**, had better luck. It lived on, and for a while, even got stronger.



A map showing the divided empire

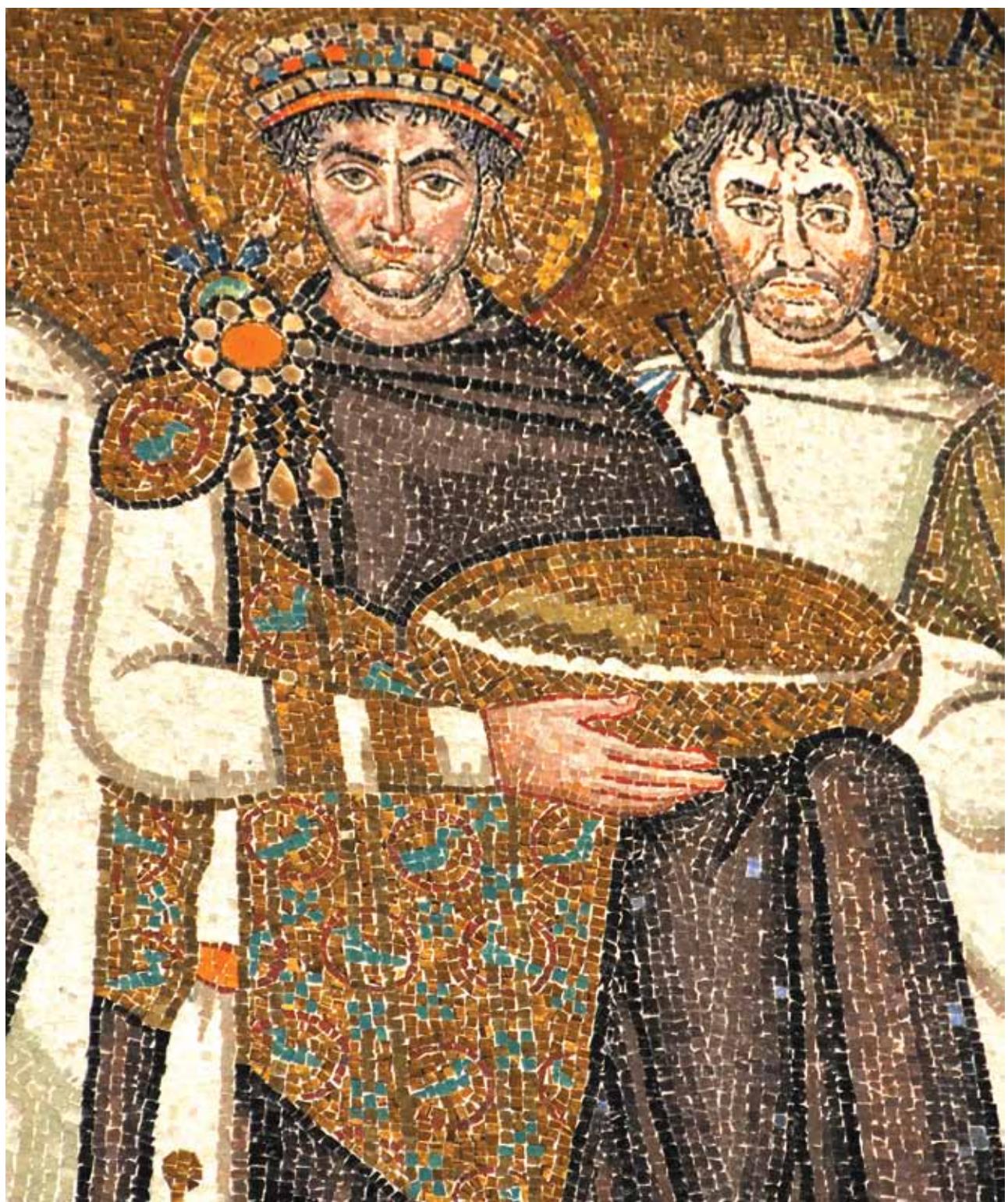
Most historians agree that the **Eastern Empire** was at its best during the reign of **Justinian**. **Justinian** came into power in the year AD 527. That is, he became emperor 527 years after the birth of Jesus and about two hundred years after Constantine decided to support Christianity.

Like Constantine before him, **Justinian** was a Christian. He spent lots of money building churches. In **Constantinople**, he built the church of **Hagia Sophia** [ho-GEE-ə Soe-FEE-yə], with its magnificent, soaring dome.



*The inside of the **Hagia Sophia** in **Constantinople***

Justinian also completed an important book project. He had **scholars** gather up all of the laws that had been passed in the Roman Empire over the years. What the **scholars** found was a big mess. There were so many laws, nobody could possibly keep track of them all. There were old laws that no longer made sense. There were even laws that seemed to be the opposite of one another. One law might say “it is **illegal** to do X.” Then another law might say “it’s perfectly fine to do X.” **Justinian** had his **scholars** gather up all the laws, sort them out, and organize them. When they were done, they published the laws. The new, organized laws filled several books. The new organized laws were known as **Justinian’s Code**.



A mosaic of Justinian from the Hagia Sophia

Chapter 17

Pompeii

August 24th in the year AD 79 began like any other day. The people of **Pompeii** [pom-PAE] woke up and went to work. **Pompeii** was a busy market town. The market was soon filled with people buying and selling things.

In the distance, the people of **Pompeii** could see the top of **Mount Vesuvius**. Everyone knew the mountain. It looked down on **Pompeii** every day. The mountain was like an old friend. But this friend had a terrible secret.

The people of **Pompeii** did not know that **Mount Vesuvius** was actually a **volcano**. It was full of melted rock and hot gas. Inside **Mount Vesuvius**, the pressure had been building up for hundreds and hundreds of years.



Vesuvius is the mountain that you can see in the distance. The people of Pompeii did not know that **Mount Vesuvius** was a **volcano**.

Around midday, the ground began to tremble and shake. Then, there was a tremendous cracking noise. Boom! Flames and smoke burst from the top of **Mount Vesuvius**. The people looked up and saw a great **plume** of black smoke rising into the sky. Then, things began to fall from the sky. Flakes of ash and bits of rock called **pumice** showered down. The people of **Pompeii** put pillows over their heads to keep the little rocks from hurting them. Many tried to run away.

Ash and **pumice** fell for a while. Then, a great cloud of hot rock mixed with hot gas spilled out of the mountain and came sizzling down the mountainside. The rocks and gas that came down the mountain were heated to 400 degrees, traveling at 60 miles an hour. The people of **Pompeii** could not outrun it. It swept over them and wiped out the city.

The **volcano** erupted for 19 hours. The city of **Pompeii** was buried. The buildings were covered with ash. In some places, the ash was more than 80 inches deep!



Mount Vesuvius starting to erupt in the background

The city of **Pompeii** disappeared and most people forgot that it had ever existed. For more than 1,500 years, it lay beneath the ash. Then, some men set out to dig a well. As they dug down, they hit a stone wall. They had discovered the lost city of **Pompeii**.

Today, much of **Pompeii** has been excavated, or dug up. You can go to **Pompeii** and see a Roman town **preserved** exactly as it looked the day it was destroyed in AD 79.

You can walk down an old stone street and imagine what it looked like 2,000 years ago.

You can peek into houses and courtyards.

You can even see some of the paintings and mosaics the people of **Pompeii** had on their walls.

The eruption of **Mount Vesuvius** was a disaster for the people who lived in **Pompeii**. But it was a marvelous thing for historians who study the past. By visiting **Pompeii** and studying the city, historians have learned a great deal about life in ancient Rome.



Top: A courtyard among the ruins of Pompeii

Bottom: Beautiful paintings that still remain on the walls of the ruins in Pompeii

Chapter 18

How Horatius Held the Bridge

In the early days of the Roman Republic, Rome was in danger. The kings had been driven out, but they wanted to force their way back in. King Tarquin's son, Sextus, went into an area north of Rome. He helped an Etruscan king raise a huge army. Then, the two of them set off to attack Rome. They led the army all the way to the Tiber River right outside of Rome.

The men of Rome had a meeting. They decided there was only one way to save the city: tear down the bridge over the Tiber River. If the Etruscan army crossed the bridge, Rome would be lost. But if the Romans could tear the bridge down, the Etruscans would not be able to cross the river and enter the city.

The consul spoke to the people. "Which of you," he asked, "will stand forth against the Etruscans while we tear down the bridge?"



The Romans decided that the only way to save the city was to tear down the bridge over the Tiber River.

A man named **Horatius** [hə-RAE-shus] stepped forward. “To every man upon this earth,” **Horatius** said,

Death cometh soon or late.

And how can man die better

Than facing fearful odds,

For the ashes of his fathers,

And the temples of his gods,

And for the tender mother

Who dandled him to rest,

And for the wife who nurses

His baby at her breast.

Hew down the bridge, Sir Consul,

With all the speed ye may;

I, with two more to help me,

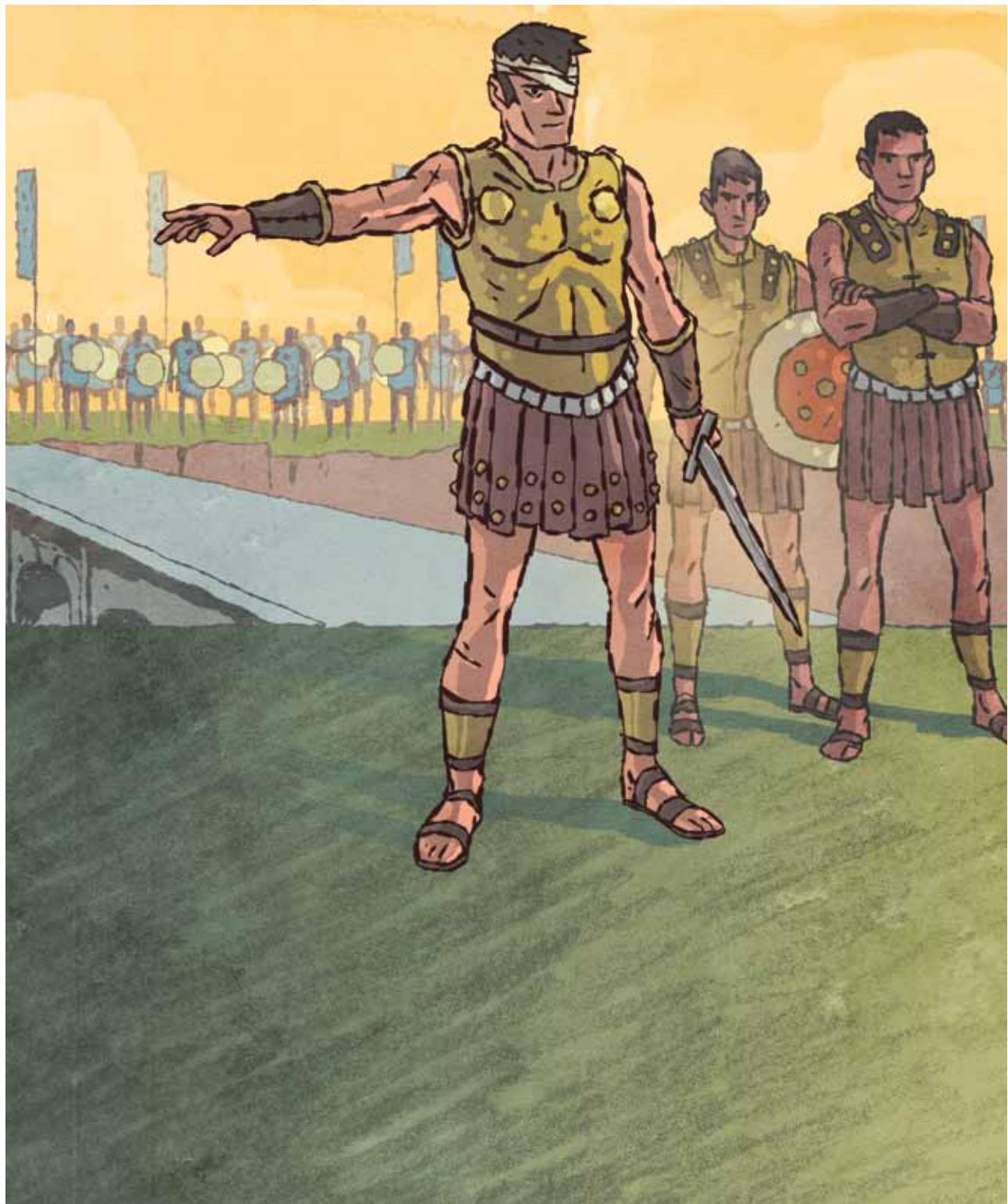
Will hold the foe in play.

In yon strait path a thousand

May well be stopped by three.

Now who will stand on either hand,

And keep the bridge with me?



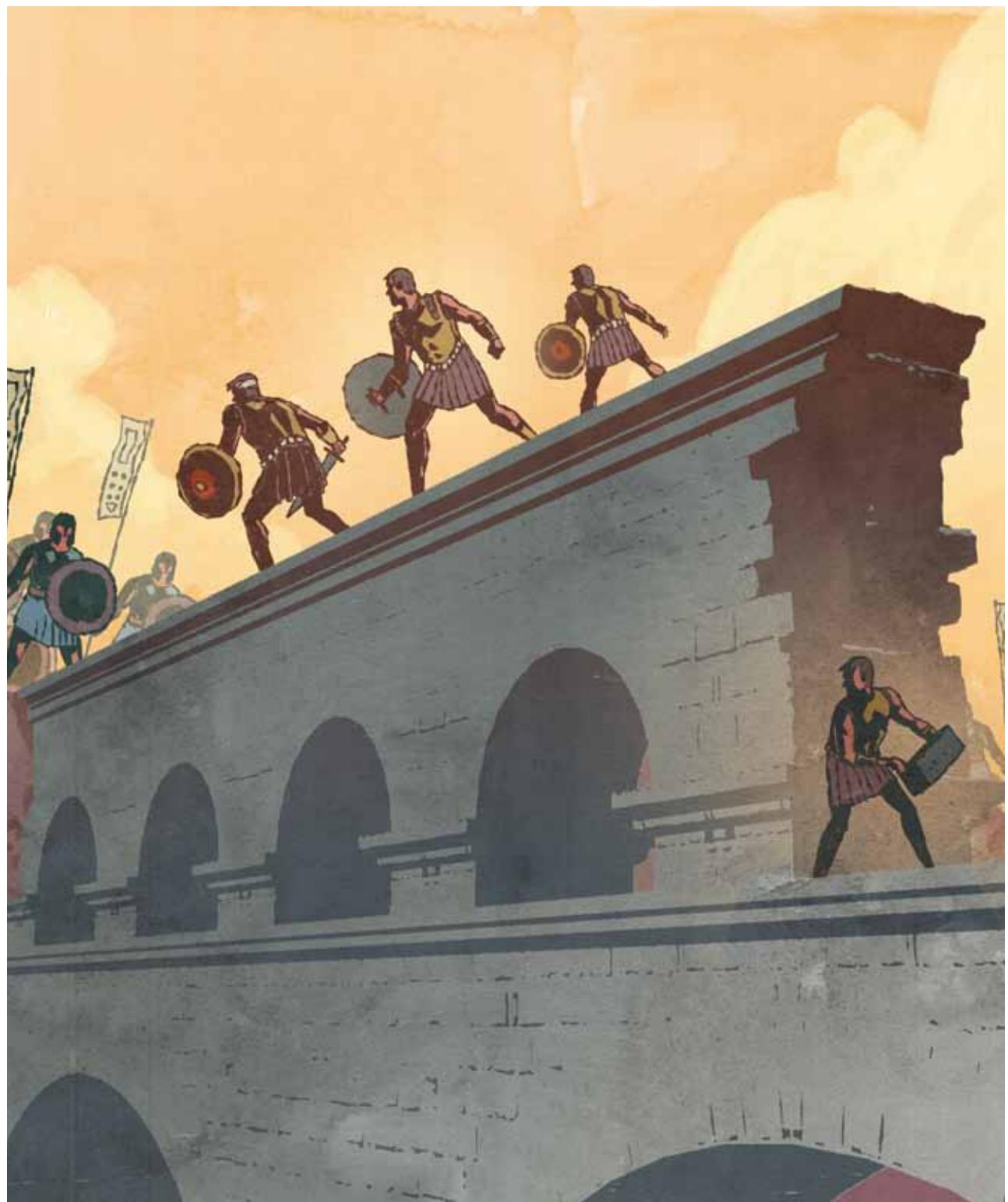
Horatius and two other Romans block the Etruscans from crossing the bridge.

Two more men came forward to join **Horatius**. While the other Romans began tearing down the bridge, these three men went forth to face the Etruscan army.

The Etruscans laughed when they saw the three Romans blocking the way. They thought they would defeat them easily. They sent three of their best warriors into battle. The Romans tossed one of the Etruscans off the bridge and killed the other two.

The Etruscans sent three more men into battle. Again, the Romans defeated them.

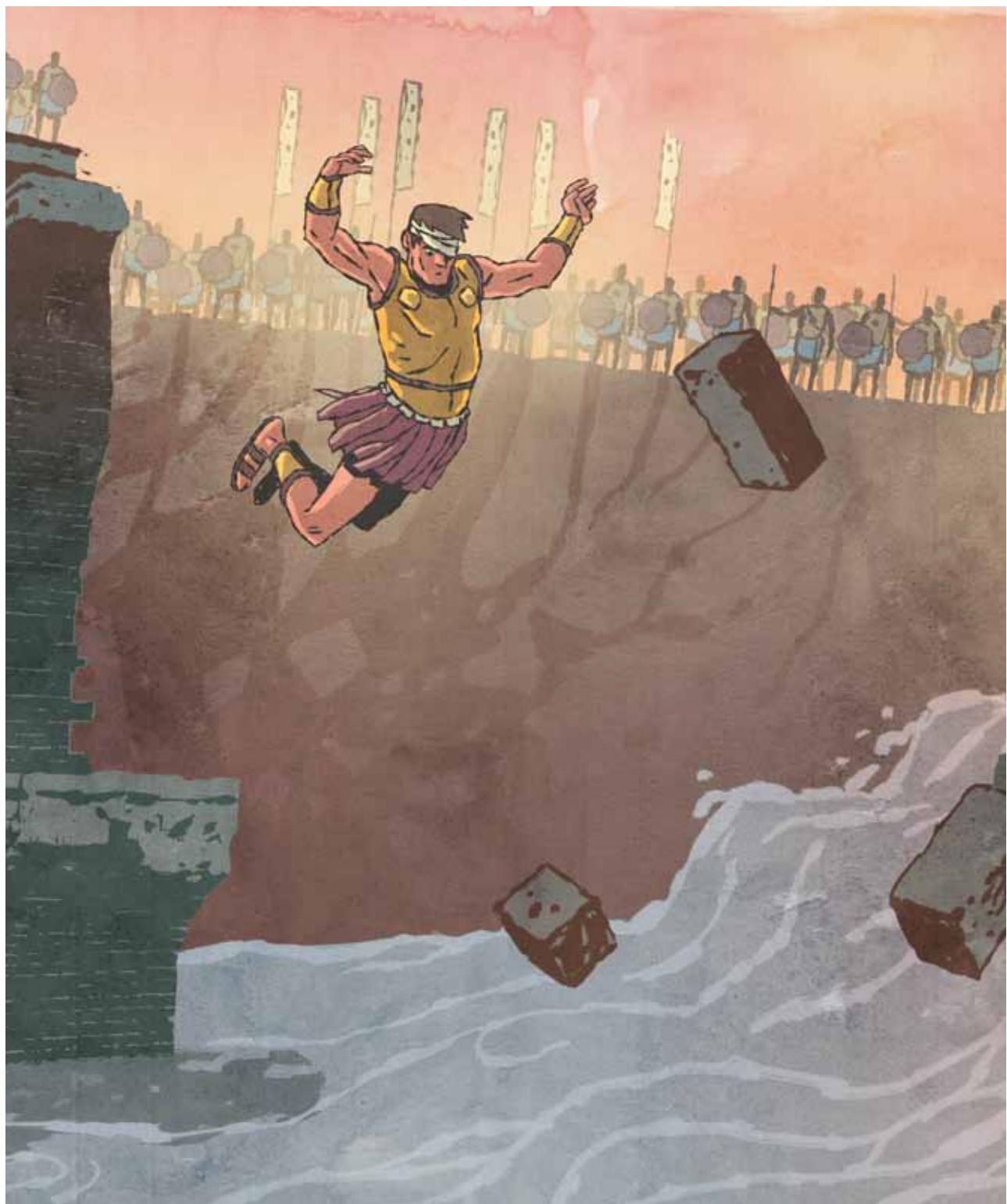
Finally, the Tuscans sent their bravest fighter into battle. His name was Astur. He swung his sword and wounded **Horatius** in the thigh. **Horatius** fell back on one knee, but only for a moment. Then, he charged forward. He pounced on Astur like a wild cat and drove his sword right through the Etruscan's helmet. Astur fell to the ground with a crash, like a tree struck by one of Jupiter's thunderbolts!



Horatius and the two other Romans battle the Etruscans.

Just then, the bridge began to totter. The two Romans helping **Horatius** ran back across it. **Horatius** tried to cross, but the bridge fell before he could get across. He was left alone to face the entire Etruscan army!

Horatius prayed to the river god, “Oh, Tiber! Father Tiber! A Roman’s life take **thou** in charge this day!” Then, he jumped into the river. He struggled to stay afloat in his **armor**. He nearly drowned. But, in the end, he made it across the roaring river, back to Rome, where he was welcomed as a hero.



Horatius leaping into the Tiber River

The people of Rome gave **Horatius** a farm. They also set up a statue of him:

. . . they made a molten image,

And set it up on high,

And there it stands unto this day

To witness if I lie.

It stands in the Comitium,

Plain for all folk to see;

Horatius in his harness,

halting upon one knee:

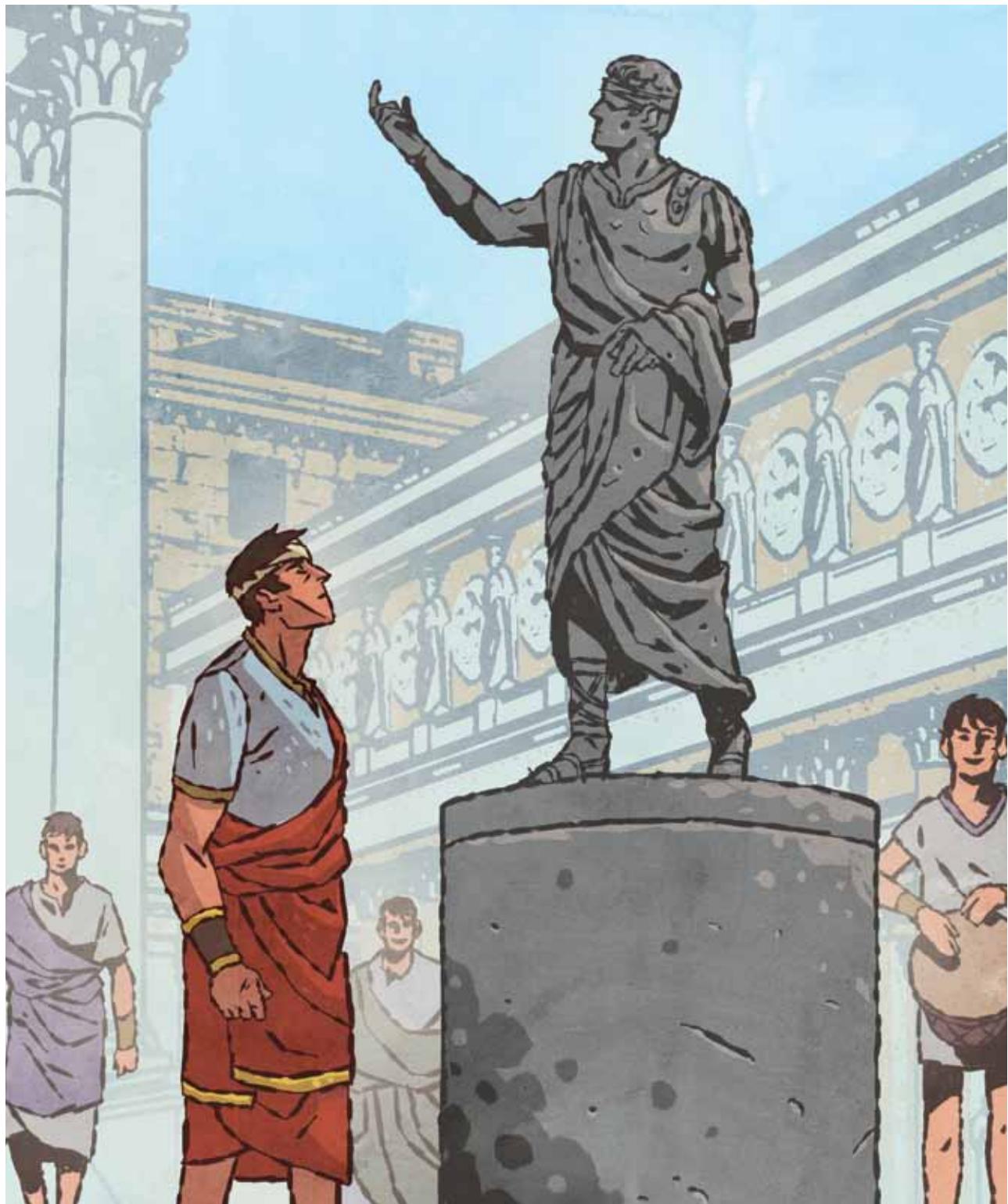
And underneath is written,

In letters all of gold,

*How **valiantly** he kept the bridge*

In the brave days of old.

This chapter was based on real events in history and of Macaulay's poem, "**Horatius**." This poem tells the story of **Horatius** in stirring detail. Some passages from this poem have been quoted in our version of the story.



*The people of Rome made a statue of **Horatius** to honor him.*

Glossary for *Stories of Ancient Rome*

A

advisor—a person who offers advice and help

aid—to offer help

ambrosia—the drink of the gods; Those who drank it became immortal.

aqueduct—a stone structure built to carry water from the country into the city (**aqueducts**)

architecture—design or style of buildings

arena—the area of a stadium where the events actually take place

armor—a protective covering, usually made of metal, worn by soldiers in battle

Augustus—Julius Caesar's adopted son who changed ancient Rome from a republic to an empire by becoming the emperor

avalanche—snow, ice, and rocks that suddenly fall down the side of a mountain (**avalanches**)

B

BC/BCE—Before Christ (Jesus); Before the Christian Era or Before the Common Era

banquet—a large feast to celebrate something

barbarian—a person who is wild, sometimes violent, and does not behave the right way (**barbarians**)

beautiful—very pretty, lovely

beauty—being pretty

befriend—to become friends with (**befriended**)

blacksmith—a person who molds hot iron into metal objects

Byzantium—ancient city in the eastern part of the Roman Empire, later called Constantinople

C

Carthage—city on the coast of Africa that Romans saw as a rival city (**Carthaginians**, **Carthaginian**)

chariot—a cart with two wheels and no seats that is pulled by horses; The driver stands up in the cart to hold the horses' reins.

Christianity—a religion based on the teachings of Jesus (**Christian**)

Circus Maximus—a large stadium where chariot races were held

civil war—a war between groups within the same country

civilization—a group of people living together, often in cities, with the same laws, leaders and form of government, language and writing system
(civilizations)

Cleopatra—the Queen of Egypt; She became queen with help from Julius Caesar.

collapse—to suddenly fail (**collapsed**)

Colosseum—a huge arena in Rome where people would go to watch events, mainly gladiator fights, that is one of the most recognizable buildings from the Roman Empire

conduct—to carry out, such as an activity

confident—sure, certain

confront—to meet face-to-face (**confronted**)

conquer—to take control of something by force
(conquered)

conspirator—a person who has secretly planned to do something harmful (**conspirators**)

Constantine—the Emperor who ended the war between the Romans and Christianity; the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity

Constantinople—new name for the city of Byzantium and Constantine’s favorite city, which he wanted to turn into a “new Rome”

consul—one of two top officials elected to govern the Roman republic (**consuls**)

counter-attack—a military response to an attack

crouch—to stoop or squat (**crouched**)

cruel—mean, causing pain on purpose

curious—wanting to know more

D

Damocles—a friend of Dionysius who wanted to be king and have Dionysius’s life

dangle—to hang loosely (**dangling**)

defeat—to win a victory over (**defeated**)

democracy—a kind of government in which people are elected as representatives freely and equally by all people of voting age

depart—to leave

dictator—a person who rules a country with total control, often in a cruel way; A dictator is not elected.
(dictators)

Dionysius—the king of Syracuse, a part of the Roman Empire, and friend of Damocles

divine—relating to God

do his mother's bidding—follow orders from his mother

downfall—a sudden fall from power

E

eager—showing great interest in something

Eastern Empire—the eastern half of the Roman Empire

elect—to choose through votes (**elected**)

emperor—the male ruler/head of an empire

empire—a group of nations or territories ruled by the same leader, an emperor or empress; like a kingdom

envy—to want what someone else has (**envied**)

establish—to gain recognition for doing something well (**established**)

Etruscan—a person who was part of a civilization to the north of Rome who the Romans defeated (**Etruscans**)

F

faith—strong religious beliefs

foe—an enemy

Founding Fathers of the United States—men who played important roles in creating the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington

G

gladiator—a man trained to fight people and animals for entertainment, often resulting in death (**gladiators**)

govern—to rule or control (**governed**, **government**)

H

Hagia Sophia—a large Christian church with a magnificent dome built by Justinian in Constantinople

Hannibal—general from Carthage who led the fight against Rome during the Second Punic War; He won many battles but lost the war.

hew—to cut something with a sharp tool

historian—a person who writes about history
(historians)

honor—a privilege or special opportunity to do something

Horatius—a Roman soldier who became a hero by fighting the Etruscan army with two other men so that the other Romans could escape; He jumped in the river during the fight and drifted downstream to Rome.

I

illegal—against the law

immortal—able to live forever

invade—to attack or enter a place in order to take control of it

J

jealousy—wanting what someone else has, wanting complete attention (**jealous**)

Jesus—a religious teacher born in the Palestine region of the Roman Empire, also called Jesus Christ; Christianity is based on his teachings.

Julius Caesar—a Roman general who conquered many lands and expanded the Roman republic; After serving as a consul, he decided he did not like the way the republic was run. He became a dictator, was then seen as a threat, and was killed.

Justinian—great emperor of the Eastern Empire who built the Hagia Sophia and organized laws into Justinian's Code

Justinian's Code—the laws organized and published by Justinian

L

Latin—the language of ancient Rome

laugh—to giggle or chuckle at something that is funny

legendary—well-known or stemming from an old story passed down from long ago that is usually not true

M

magnificent—impressive and beautiful

marriage—the committed partnership between two people to make a home and raise a family

Mediterranean—the sea around which the Romans created their empire; an important body of water for trade, war, and transportation

messenger—someone who delivers messages back and forth

miracle—an amazing event with no explanation, believed to be an act of God (**miracles**)

mission—a very important job

monarchy—a kind of government in which a king or queen rules and selects who will rule after his/her death, usually the oldest son

mosaic—art made by putting small pieces of glass or tile together to form a picture (**mosaics**)

Mount Olympus—the home of the Roman gods and goddesses

Mount Vesuvius—a volcano that erupted in AD 79 and wiped out the city of Pompeii

O

official—a person who holds an office and has authority (**officials**)

P

Pantheon—a temple built to honor all of the Roman gods

patrician—a person from an old, wealthy, powerful family in the Roman republic who held government positions (**patricians**)

pillar—a column that supports a building or a supporting part of something (**pillars**)

pity—to feel sorry or unhappy for someone

plebeian—an ordinary person who was poor and had little education or power in the Roman republic (**plebeians**)

plume—a cloud of smoke that rises into the air in a tall, thin shape

Pompeii—a city in the Roman Empire that was wiped out when Mount Vesuvius erupted

preserve—to save in its original form so that it remains the same (**preserved**)

prick—to make a small hole with something sharp (**pricked**)

priestess—a woman who performs special duties to honor and communicate with the gods

pumice—gray volcanic rock

Punic War—one of the three wars fought between the Romans and the Carthaginians over control of the Mediterranean (**Punic Wars**)

R

ransom—money paid to free someone who has been captured or kidnapped

reform—to change the way things are done to make them better (**reformed**)

reign—period of time during which a ruler is in charge

religion—the belief in a god or many gods

Remus—one of the brothers who started Rome according to legend; He was killed by his brother Romulus in a fight over where to build the city.

republic—a kind of government in which people are elected as representatives to rule

revolt—riot or revolution against a ruler or government

rival—an enemy

Romulus—one of the brothers who started Rome according to legend; He killed his brother Remus in a fight over where to build the city and then built Rome and named it after himself.

rough—not calm

Rubicon—the river Julius Caesar crossed even though the Roman senators warned him not to, leading to a civil war

ruins—the remains of something that has fallen or been destroyed

S

satyr—a creature who was half man, half goat and was often found with Bacchus (**satyrs**)

scholar—a person with a lot of knowledge about a certain subject (**scholars**)

Senate—a group of men (senators) who were elected to represent the people who voted for them and met to make decisions and pass laws for the Roman republic; American government today also has a Senate (and senators). (**senators**)

she-wolf—a female wolf

shrine—a place where people pray to or worship gods and goddesses

subjects—people who are ruled by a king or emperor

T

talent—a unit of measurement in ancient Rome, equal to about 71 pounds, used to measure gold and silver (**talents**)

taunt—to tease or make someone upset by making fun of or being mean to the person

thou—old fashioned way of saying “you”

threat—someone or something that is or may be dangerous

tradition—custom (**traditions**)

traitor—someone who is not loyal

trial—a meeting in court to determine if someone has broken the law

trident—Neptune's magical, three-pronged spear that was shaped like a fork

tyrant—a ruler who is mean, harsh, and acts without regard for laws or rules

U

underworld—underground place where dead people's spirits go

unusual—rare

V

valiantly—in a brave and courageous manner

Veni, vidi, vici [wae-NEE, wee-DEE, wee-KEE]—I came, I saw, I conquered, Julius Caesar's report about his efforts in Asia

vicious—dangerous, violent, mean

victorious—having won a battle, war, or contest

volcano—a mountain with openings through which melted rock, ash, and hot gases explode

W

Western Empire—the western half of the Roman Empire

wisdom—knowledge and good judgment gained over time

Y

ye—old fashioned way of saying “you”

yon—distant

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