Committee: Third Servile Revolt

Character: Gannicus

School: GCPS

Delegate: Luca Fontes

I, Gannicus, am a Gallic slave and gladiator. I was once an advisor for the Roman Republic, but I joined the Revolt and now fight for those that, like me, are oppressed. I, one of the initial revolt’s leaders, aided Spartacus and the small group of rebel slaves in its initial decision to leave Italy. However, the Romans had so many slaves, that as they joined the revolt, it grew immensely, making it each time harder for the army to beat us. Our guerilla warfare was highly effective, using the unexpected to our advantage by, for example, jumping from tree branches or making ropes out of vines. Our versatility guaranteed that we could keep making and stealing weapons, since our large numbers gave us all sorts of slaves with all sorts of skills. But the Romans have been increasing their forces, sending larger and more skillful armies to try to kill us, while the slaves have been growing so much in number, that a certain divide grew in our army. Yet, we become weaker when we are divided, so we need to stay united and form a plan.

As the naval strategist and a former advisor, I believe that the revolt should partly be taken to the sea. By using a portion of the army to attract the Romans to the Ionian Sea bay near the city of Thurri, we can create a trap and get the Romans by surprise. Meanwhile, around 10% of the army, (circa 12,000 men) should be separated, where I can train them for marine warfare like I did in the days where I worked for the Roman Republic in the small fleet I have acquired. We will attack a Roman naval warehouse where we can obtain some weapons and proceed quickly to the Ionian Sea, while the rest of the army continues to fight and distract them in mountainous terrain, which is advantageous for whoever is on top -- in this case, us. The army will then begin to retreat to the south, until they reach the bay. At this point, the Romans will be under the impression that they trapped us, but in fact, we will have trapped them with the naval fleet. A battle will ensue in the beach and, due to our strategic advantages, we have high odds of winning. I also think that, in terms of strategies, we should stay clear of large cities, entering them only for sacking and promptly leaving. The cities’ dangers lie in the fact that they are hubs for police and military force, meaning that our chances of being attacked are higher if there are people around to report us to the authorities. This belief that we should avoid cities is also rooted in the fact that diseases are cultivated in such cities and, were one of us to contract a deadly virus, it could quickly spread and weaken our forces. It is imperative that we stay together, fighting as one and planning our moves, because the Romans are coming each time stronger and we need to be able to keep winning the battles.