**Background:**

I am Varinia, the wife of the rebel leader Spartacus. Currently a slave, I was taken from the region of Thrace. It is the topical area referred to as the southwestern Balkans, to the east of the Roman Empire. Thrace was entirely taken over by the Romans by the first century BCE, and is currently under their control. I am known to have predicted Spartacus’s early victories, and am adamant about my ability to predict the outcome of this revolt. The Gods, particularly Bacchus, also known as Dionysius, the god of wine, have often possessed me, and I have become one of the spiritual leaders of the revolt. I am greatly respected by the rebels, and often called upon slaves and gladiators alike for my godly wisdom.

**Position**:

The year is 73 BCE. The time of year, summer. In Rome, slavery has been a constant burden on all people in bondage. There are approximately 5 million slaves in the Roman Empire, out of a total population of 50 million. Each of us has been affected in one way or another. Slaves are burdened by the knowledge that under the current government system, our lives have the sole purpose of producing for our masters, the patriots, wealth, entertainment, or other resources. However, under the unethical command of our owners, we have grown restless and itch to revolt for our freedom. Through the Gods, I prophesized that Spartacus would lead us to our freedom. And finally the day has come. For some slaves, gladiators waiting for their eventual demise in the battle-ring, the tension grew too strong. My husband Spartacus led a group of 78 gladiators, previously training under Vatia in the city of Capua, to revolt. They defeated the people in their city with kitchen utensils, and then defeated Glaber’s inexperienced troupes. They were successful in these first battles, but the war is not over yet. We must leave Mount Vesuvius, and escape to the North over the Alps. Ignore any thoughts of revenge, through plunder or otherwise. Our greatest concern is escaping our past situation. Plundering cities only distracts from our ultimate goal of liberty for slaves. This would be the biggest revenge of all on the Roman Empire.

We must use all the resources at our disposal to win this war and have a successful revolt. Although the Roman’s greatly outnumber our forces, their troupes are currently fragmented and depleted after the Sulla wars. Most are fighting at the borders of the empire against unknown enemies. Only small numbers of them remain in Rome, and those that remain are untrained and inexperienced. Therefore this is the time to lead a successful rebellion. We must remain wary however, because if this rebellion becomes too disruptive the Senate will send Roman troops to defeat us. We must travel by night and stay fit for battle; ready for the possibility that the larger Roman forces return from the outer provinces to defeat us. Efficient communication is also key to our success in the near future. Our forces must be better organised as compared to the Romans so that we may take advantage of our superior knowledge of the terrain. We must head North to leave

Secondly, this is not a moment but a movement, where all the hungriest slaves are uniting to form a better future. We must plan for our success, and establish systems to govern our future society. Let us set a framework for our future, for the education, welfare, and growth of our people, where slavery is eradicated and any person can live under only their own rule. I propose to work with the other rebel leaders to work on this system as the rebellion progresses, so that we may be ready to lead with a solid societal model, strong in its value of education. Many of the rebel slaves are more educated than Romans, particularly in the field of psychology, as they are

**Conclusion**:

Finally, this rebellion will lead to victory so long as we all we work as a united front for the common cause of freedom of slaves. The question is not to abolish slavery in the Roman Empire, but restore the personal freedoms of all those that join us in our revolt. We must be homogenous in our values and thoughts, so that we may always stay in accord in our acts against the Empire. With our leader Spartacus behind us, and the Gods looking favourably upon our cause to regain freedom, this revolt will surely lead to the most favourable outcome.

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