**Third Servile Revolt (Rebel)**

**Celadeus**

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Throughout my life, the main feeling I have become acquainted with is the great, joyous fame that accompanies the gruelling, arduous combat in the arena. The *muneras,* however, tell little of the inequality that plagues the hearths of Roman society. It must be dismantled, shattered, and crushed as one would any other foe. But I have only known false foes put before me by patricians, who now themselves become the foes. We, the slaves and gladiators beleaguered by years of servitude, need to rally our forces, working together towards the goal of breaking the bonds unjustly imposed on us.

The quest to overcome our masters will be difficult, as they have hordes of legionaries at their disposal. Each legionary is dangerous—they wield a scutum, pilum, and gladius, all of which I have encountered in the arena—but the weaknesses of their armament can be exploited. Though their shields provide them great cover and their javelins great reach, they come at a great disadvantage: they are heavy and unwieldy. Thus, we must outfit our rebel army to have the most maneuverability possible. We must equip them with daggers and design their armour to be light. The legionaries may try to disassemble our defence with a formidable offence, but we will prove too quick for them, avoiding any decisive blows they may try to impart. A battle stratagem must, however, be more thorough; the Roman army employs a trained army of thousands. Bands of rebels should slowly pick away at Roman forces and morale; should we confront every resource at their disposal simultaneously, we will be subject to a decisive defeat. A feasible approach to attacking the Roman army is challenging single centuries—comparably manageable with 80 men. Therefore, our strategy should be one of mobile, patient, and calculated offence.

Our oppressive Roman enemies are not the sole problem we face. Widespread disease and Jupiter’s wrath threaten our cause. The viruses are most popular in the close-quarters of populous Rome, therefore we must quarter elsewhere in the countryside. This will minimize the threat, and it can be further mitigated by spreading the rebel forces throughout the countryside so that an isolated outbreak will not affect every fighter—this will work to increase mobility, furthering rebel forces’ ability to respond to isolated Roman forces, and reduce the spread of disease. As for the gods’ wrath, Vulcan’s the most fearsome, we must pray and prepare for attrition; slaves serving in households and businesses should raid their masters’ supplies, searching closely for any resources that may help in treating those wounded by nature’s inclemency. The masters which we war against are equally at Jupiter’s mercy. Additionally, we may create fire to wreak havoc on their society, diverting their attention away from attacks we may direct on them—in the midst of these, we must be tactical, using knowledge of terrain and Rome’s passages against them.

The task laid before us to achieve our freedom—toppling the patrician regime—may seem insurmountable, but, with the implementation of the proper tactics, a decisive slave victory is within our grasp. To overturn our abusive masters would greatly improve all servants’ lives. After years of tireless, futile servitude, I have realized that I am not the victor the patricians have championed me to be. The greatest victory lies beyond the arena.