Gladiator



0. Gladiator - Story Preface

- 1. MARCUS AURELIUS
- 2. LEGACY OF MARCUS AURELIUS
- 3. COMMODUS IN CHARGE
- 4. THE ROMAN GAMES
- 5. COMMODUS IN THE ARENA
- 6. THUMBS DOWN FOR COMMODUS



A bronze Roman gladiator's helmet from the first century. Maintained at the British Museum, Room 69: Greek and Roman life.

Hail, Caesar, Those about to die Salute thee

(Or, in Latin, the language of the day): Ave Imperator, morituri te salutant

<u>Suetonius</u> Historian of Ancient Rome

Usually "those <u>about</u> to die" in the <u>Roman Colosseum</u> were condemned prisoners, professional gladiators, <u>Christians</u>, or <u>animals</u>. The spectacle of the "games" was often <u>bloody</u>, a tradition started in Rome by its earlier conquerors, the <u>Etruscans</u>.

But not until the reign of <u>Commodus</u> (180-192 AD) did Roman citizens witness wholesale slaughter by a Caesar himself, dressed as a gladiator and acting like a madman. Who was this Emperor, this Caesar, who thought of himself as a god?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Gladiator

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Gladiator

Media Stream



Colosseum - An Ancient Landmark in Modern Rome

Photo by Foeke Noppert. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Gladiators and Their Protective Gear

Image online, courtesy Time-Life Books.

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<u>Ancient Illustration - Gladiators Fighting Animals</u>

Image online, courtesy the <u>romans-latin.net</u> website.

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Fallen Gladiator - After Battle

Image online, courtesy $\underline{\text{Vroma}}$ (a virtual place to study the Roman Classics). PD

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<u>Commodus - Bust of the Roman Emperor</u>

Image, described above, online courtesy MK&G (a German-language museum website). View this asset at:

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Gladiator

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