

0. MARCUS AURELIUS - Story Preface

1. MARCUS AURELIUS

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Commodus, the ruthless slayer of men and animals, was the son of Emperor <u>Marcus Aurelius</u> and his wife, <u>Faustina the Younger</u>. Adopted by Emperor <u>Antoninus Pius</u> (Faustina's father and his own uncle by marriage), Marcus Aurelius was groomed for ruling Rome at an early age. A prolific writer, his <u>Meditations</u> are still studied and quoted - today:

• The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts

• The first rule is to keep an untroubled spirit. The second is to look things in the face and know them for what they are.

• Very little is needed to make a happy life. It is all within yourself, in your way of thinking.

By the time Marcus Aurelius became <u>Emperor</u> in 161, <u>trade routes</u> between Rome and her provinces had been established. But when Marcus Aurelius assumed sole power, the Empire's <u>northern and eastern borders</u> were not secure. (Follow this link to an animated map of Rome's expanding and shrinking territory throughout the centuries.)

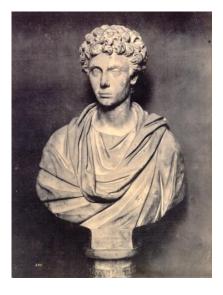
In 167, Rome's Emperor and his <u>legions</u> were fighting Germanic tribes along the Rhine-Danube frontier. At the time, Rome's army was mostly loyal to the Emperor.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/MARCUS-AURELIUS-Gladiator

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/MARCUS-AURELIUS-Gladiator

Media Stream



Bust of Marcus Aurelius Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bust-of-Marcus-Aurelius



Bust of Faustina the Younger Image online, courtesy the LordBest website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bust-of-Faustina-the-Younger



Bronze Statue of Marcus Aurelius

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Trade Routes of 1st Century Map

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Interactive 1st Century Map

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