

Instructions for Fuscus

As an introduction to conversing and navigating in the VRoma online virtual environment and to "living as a Roman in VRoma," we are going to enact a role-playing scenario. Instead of connecting with your own VRoma character, you are going to connect as a lower-class Roman based on a real person who once lived in the city of Rome, a person known to us now only through one or more inscriptions but once a living, breathing Roman.

The characters have been assigned at random to the members of the class. Your character will be **Fuscus**, a successful charioteer for the Greens. Connect with the special username and password that your teacher will give to you.

You will enter VRoma in your special location (in this case the **Circus Maximus**, which is your character's "home"). Click on the icon for Fuscus and read the description carefully, including all the links, one of which will show you the actual inscription on which your character is based. Below the description, you will see that you are carrying a Scroll for Fuscus. Click this and read your specific instructions for the game. Others will be able to see and read your description, but not this scroll. Before your class acts out the scenario, you should explore the Circus Maximus (including the Bookshop), carefully reading all the links so that you will understand what the life of a charioteer would be like and how races were run. This will prepare you to carry out your tasks (described in your scroll, the text of which is also included below).

Scenario:

The *praefectus annonae* has invited you to be part of a group of Romans who will accompany a young woman from the province of Baetica, Coelia Mascellina, on a tour of various locations in Rome. She has recently taken over her mother's business of exporting olive oil and wine from Baetica, and the prefect wants to make sure she enjoys this tour so that he can negotiate a favorable contract with her to supply olive oil for the troops. He is counting on you to introduce her to the part of Rome you know best.

Your Tasks:

1) Reveal your personality to Coelia and the others in the group as you converse and move about the city. You, Fuscus, are a brash, immature young man, good-natured but a little boastful and swaggering, happy about your looks, athletic body, and success on the racecourse. Like many young people, you think you are indestructible and have no inkling that your young life will soon be snuffed out by a crash during a race. You like to flirt with the women and think that your celebrity and prize money are more significant than your slave status.

2) Take the group to the Circus Maximus, the scene of your greatest victories. Ask everyone to start at Rome by using the Quick Jump bookmark called "Rome" or typing **@go Rome**, then click on **Region 11** in the map, and then click **Circus Maximus**. Activate Antoninus Pius by clicking on him and then the "activate" button. Greet him by typing **/greet emperor** and ask others to do the same. Say to him that you are a charioteer of the Greens. Ask others to converse with him for a minute, then shut him up by clicking on his icon and then the "hush" button. Tell everyone to click on the chariot icon and then ask a specific person to take a ride on the chariot (by typing **/board chariot**) and use this occasion to talk about a thrilling race of your own. Ask everyone to click on the "Charioteers and Racing Factions" link and then explain about the 4 stables and the life of a charioteer. Take the group to the Bookshop by clicking the exit of that name and show them the tombstone of Crescens (ask everybody to click on that icon). You can then contrast your career with his.