

A Moment With The Triumvirate

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"Are you aware of the fact, gentlemen, that we three hold practically the whole world in our hands? What we say is law; all obey us. You, Pompey, have a great army at your command, your triumphs are still in the minds of the citizens, and your fame is to be envied. You, Crassus, own almost the entire city, your wealth exceeds that of an Eastern prince, and your influence is felt far from here. I hate bragging, but I must say that I, myself, have done a little to bring honour to Rome. My conquests in the East, I believe, are well known and were brought about by the finest collection of fighting men that has ever been assembled.

"We are just beginning, fellow triumvirs. Our future looks very promising. The immortal gods are behind us, and shall see to it that we do not fail. But, first, there are a few obstacles which must be removed from our path. That loud-mouthed Cicero is causing no little amount of trouble. I intend to offer him a chance to remain in the city. If he refuses, he must be sent into exile. I positively will not bear his wagging tongue any longer. As to this other trouble-maker Cato — he will not be so difficult a proposition. Soon, very soon, the people of Cyprus will honour him as governor.

"Do you agree with me in all this, gentlemen? Yes? That is good. There is just one more matter that I should like to speak to you about. But, first, let us dine. For I see my trusty Kapidus approaching with refreshments. We cannot expect to go far without attending to our stomachs, no matter how large they may be, eh Crassus?"

The servant laid the steaming food on the table, listened a moment to the conversation, then went out with a huge grin covering his homely features.

A few moments later found him in conversation with the cook.

"Well, Pierre," he was saying, "we have a new customer here now. He's in ward five. It seems that he delved too deeply into Ancient History. Now he imagines himself to be Julius Caesar. That's a good one. Oh, well, what can you expect in an insane asylum anyway!"