

041 JULIAN
I know so. Come on.

042 BASIL
You're the emperor's nephew, after
all... I'll go.

THEY WALK AWAY - SFX TRANSITION FROM BUSY STREET
TO STONE FLOORS:

7 INT. MAXIMUS'S STUDY - LATER

7

KNOCK KNOCK.

START >>>

043 MAXIMUS
Yes? Good afternoon. What is it?
Welcome, Julian.

044 JULIAN
Good afternoon, Maximus, this is
Basil.

045 BASIL
Sorry to interrupt your studies.

046 MAXIMUS
Students are never interruptions.
Is this Basil? From Cappadocia?

047 BASIL
Have we met?

048 MAXIMUS
I was present in the crowd at your
last big debate. I was very
impressed.

049 JULIAN
Your reputation precedes you, eh
Basil?

050 BASIL
Thank you. I am in Athens to
further my studies.

051 MAXIMUS
Hmm, yes, I could see you becoming
a great lawyer, or a rhetorician!
Julian, doesn't your uncle have
rhetoricians working in his own
court?

052 JULIAN
He does.

053 MAXIMUS

There's some ambition for you, Basil. Working for the emperor himself.

054 BASIL

It would be a high honor, sir!

055 MAXIMUS

If your performance in Cappadocia is any indication, I would say that you have a very bright future.

056 JULIAN

Maximus here could mentor you, couldn't you?

Before he can answer:

057 BASIL

Are you a Christian?

Awkward.

058 MAXIMUS

Ha, a Christian? No... I am a platonist.

059 BASIL

A 'platonist'?

060 JULIAN

You will find as many philosophies in Athens as there are philosophers.

061 MAXIMUS

I follow the teachings of Plato. A great believer in an immaterial true good. Not unlike you Christians.

062 BASIL

Yes, but we Christians know the name of the True Good... The Lord Jesus Christ. I'm sorry. I- I am seeking a Christian mentor.

063 JULIAN

Why, Basil? I am a Christian, too. Maximus teaches rhetoric. Not philosophy or religion.

(MORE)

JULIAN (CONT'D)

If all you ever do is read the Gospel with other Christians, how could you ever understand the whole wide world?

064 BASIL

(an excuse)

Well, it's not only that, but a friend of my father is expecting me. Bishop Eustathius? He is supposed to be mentoring me.

065 JULIAN

Maximus is the best speaker in Athens. He is renowned as an orator. He is the obvious choice if you are really looking for a mentor.

066 BASIL

Yes, but it is very important to my family-

067 JULIAN

Your family isn't here, Basil. Branch out, become your own man!

068 MAXIMUS

Let him go, Julian. He knows where to find me if he changes his mind. I hope to see your rhetoric on display again soon, Basil. I'm sure Eustathius will find a debate or something for you.

<<< END

069 BASIL

I would like that. Good day, Maximus. Good day Julian.

BASIL EXITS.

8

EXT. ATHENS STREETS - CONTINUOUS

8

SOFT WALKING ON COBBLESTONES. BIRDS CHIP NEARBY.

070 BASIL

I hope Eustathius is as charming as Maximus! And I've already met the emperor's nephew! Athens will be good for me... Branch out... Become my own man... My reputation precedes me... Eustathius' study must be nearby...

(MORE)