Side 2

029 JULIAN

START >>> Excuse you! Is that how you speak to Emperor Constantinus's nephew?

030 BASIL

The Emperor's nephew?

031 JULIAN

That's right. And who are you?

032 BASIL

My name is Basil. What is the emperor's nephew doing here of all places?

033 JULIAN

Well, Basil, I study here. Some of the finest men in the Roman Empire teach here.

034 BASIL

Right. I'm looking for one of those men myself. Eustathius. At the school of rhetoric. Can you show me the way?

035 JULIAN

Eustathius? The crusty old bishop will be of no help to your rhetorical ambitions. He spends most of his time in his study reading dusty old books.

036 BASIL

And where is his study?

037 JULIAN

Look, I'll save you some trouble with Bishop Eustathius. Why don't you come with me to see my mentor, Maximus. He teaches rhetoric and debate as well.

038 BASIL

But the bishop is expecting me-

JULIAN GRABS HIS SHOULDERS.

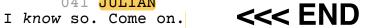
039 JULIAN

Trust me, I'm helping you.

040 BASIL

You really think so?

041 JULIAN



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.

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.