

Side 2

START >>> 029 JULIAN
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
I know so. Come on. <<< END

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.