

# Late Roman Card Descriptions- Diamonds

## D-A Late Roman Ridge Helmets and the Labarum of Constantine



The ridge helmet was the most commonly used combat helmet by the late Roman army which composed of a metal bowl made up of 2 or 4 parts united by a longitudinal ridge, hence why it is called a “ridge helmet”. The Roman ridge helmet originated in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century as a helmet design adopted from the kinds of helmets used by the Sassanid Persians and the Sarmatians which were Rome’s enemies at that time. The ridge helmet comes in a variety of designs and construction methods wherein some are made up of 2 skulls with one ridge connecting them while another type is made of 4 skulls with 2 ridges crossing each other connecting them, while some ridge helmets based on archaeological finds have jewels encrusted on them. In this illustration, the first ridge helmet seen here above was based on the 4<sup>th</sup> century ridge helmet known as the Berkasovo type- which was found in the village of Berkasovo in Serbia- and is famous for being made with silver-gilt encrusted with glass gems. The illustration of this helmet type shows a front view of it wherein the gems encrusted on it are highly visible. This type of helmet consists of 4 skulls and 2 ridges crossing each other while it also has a narrow nose guard, large cheek guards encrusted with gems, and a neck guard behind which is however not visible here.

The helmet to the bottom left of it is a much simpler iron ridge helmet, possibly worn by common infantry soldiers, and this helmet consists of 2 skulls this time united by a single ridge in the form of a crescent as seen above the helmet. This helmet too includes cheek guards attached to it on the sides and a neck guard behind. The third helmet seen here to the right of the second one is most possibly a late Roman ridge helmet used by the late Roman cavalry as it offers more protection for the head. The third like the second helmet consists of 2 skulls united again by a single ridge, although the difference here compared to the second is that this one has larger cheek guards as well as a shorter neck guard, while additionally this one also features a narrow nose guard.

Lastly, the illustration seen at the bottom depicts the *Labarum of Constantine* or Emperor Constantine I's military standard which was used during his reign (306-337). The labarum here consists of a red cloth as the flag with 3 medallions on it represented by 3 golden dots while above the standard is the *Chi-rho* or initials of Christ in Greek- being the first two letters of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet (XP)- and after Constantine's time this would be the symbol used in the military standards of the late Roman army to signify that they were a Christian Empire. The origins of the Chi-rho symbol used in the Labarum dates back to 312 when Constantine received his famous vision of the cross before the Battle of Milvian Bridge, and here he saw a message on the cross saying "by this sign, conquer" meaning that he would conquer in the name of Christ, hence he used the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek as his symbol for battle, and true enough he won this battle in 312 against the usurper Maxentius (r. 306-312) thanks to this vision which inspired him to use the said symbol.

## **D-2 Blue Faction Charioteer, 6<sup>th</sup> Century**



Although the sport of chariot racing originated in Ancient Greece, it was a popular form of public entertainment in the Roman Empire which like gladiator fights made the Roman population satisfied. Chariot races in Ancient Greece and later in Ancient Rome were primarily held in large racecourse structures known as Hippodromes which could sit thousands of spectators. In the Roman Empire, charioteers (chariot racers) although coming from the lowest classes of society would be well paid if they were successful at racing, thus if a racer won many races, he would be celebrated regardless of his status to the point that he could even earn more than a Roman senator or aristocrat. Charioteers in Ancient Rome would sometimes compete as individuals during races, though usually they would compete under a team or faction, in which in Ancient Rome there were 4 of them being the Blues, Greens, Reds, and Whites in which spectators chose their own teams.

Eventually the Red and White factions had vanished and thus only the Blues and Greens remained and had evolved into political factions, especially as the Roman Empire moved east to Constantinople and thus became the Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire. True enough, the less bloody chariot races were a more popular means of entertainment in the Roman Empire's eastern provinces whereas the more bloody and savage gladiator fights were more popular in the western provinces. It is mostly due to the Roman Empire becoming a Christian state that chariot races became more popular than gladiator fights due to the violent nature of gladiator fights which Christianity condemned, thus because of this, chariot racing became a more popular form of entertainment which was although not violent but was something that caused many accidents. The Eastern Roman Empire true

enough turned out to be the half of the Roman Empire that remained strong as the west fell into decline, hence chariot racing also survived that way as it was more popular in the richer eastern half of Rome. As the Western Roman Empire fell in 476, chariot racing in the west had died out as well, although in the remaining eastern half of the empire it not only survived but had become a large part of the lives of Eastern Romans especially among the rival Blue and Green factions.

This rivalry over chariot racing had true enough become a rivalry between the ideologies of the Blue and Green factions as the Blues supported the existing system and conservative values while the Green faction supported radical change. The intense rivalry between both factions true enough led to violence especially in the Eastern Roman capital Constantinople that in 532 the emperor Justinian I the Great (r. 527-565) who although supported the Blue faction ordered the execution of the leaders of the rival factions, although the execution failed and thus both factions united against the emperor. This then led to the bloody Nika Riot that ravaged Constantinople for days and ended with brutal suppression by imperial troops who massacred up to 30,000 rioters in the Hippodrome of Constantinople. Due to the violence that resulted from these chariot races but also due to the Eastern Roman Empire's decline of funds by the late 6<sup>th</sup> century, chariot racing started becoming less and less frequent, although it would still go on until the 12<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine Empire.

As chariot racing was a popular means of entertainment in Ancient Rome as well as in its successor state the Eastern Roman Empire, there is a generous amount of art that depict what Roman charioteers look like, specifically mosaics. The illustration here which depicts a Blue faction charioteer was based off on the 3<sup>rd</sup> century mosaic of a Blue faction charioteer- which is a series which shows a charioteer from all 4 factions: Blue, Green, Red, and White- despite the illustration here being supposed to depict a 6<sup>th</sup> century Blue faction charioteer. Just like how the charioteer is depicted in that said 3<sup>rd</sup> century mosaic, the one here wears a similar attire and has a whip for his horse, however unlike the mosaic which depicts the charioteer with a horse, the one here stands alone without a horse. Like in the mosaic of the Blue faction charioteer, the one here in this illustration wears a blue hat and a blue tunic symbolizing his faction while over the blue tunic he wears a series of white leather straps to hold the outfit together, and just like how the charioteer in the mosaic is depicted the one here also appears to have a short beard. The difference between the one in this illustration versus the one in the mosaic is that the one in the mosaic has sleeves protecting his arms whereas here he wears a short-sleeved tunic leaving his arms bare. As for his legs, the charioteer in this illustration just like the one in the mosaic wears long pants with leather protection for both his knees while for his footwear he wears the classic Roman *Caligae* sandals.

### **D-3 Scholae Palatinae Candidatus, 6<sup>th</sup> Century**



In the late Roman era, the *Scholae Palatinae* or “Palatine Schools” were an elite military unit serving as an imperial bodyguard force that would usually accompany the emperor in battle. The unit of the *Scholae Palatinae* had replaced the untrustworthy centuries old Praetorian Guard, and although the date the *Scholae* was created is unknown, the Roman emperor Constantine I the Great (r. 306-337) is ascribed to be the founder of it. Constantine I true enough disbanded the Praetorian Guard for good following his victory over his rival the usurper emperor Maxentius (r. 306-312) at the Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 due to the Praetorians supporting Maxentius. With the Praetorian Guard gone, Constantine therefore replaced it with a more loyal unit being what would be the *Scholae* which were recruited primarily from among the Germanic tribes as due to being foreigners they would have no loyalty to any powerful man in the Roman Empire but rather to the emperor who paid them. The emperor meanwhile was the overall commander of the *Scholae* as a way to ensure they were loyal to him, though each unit of the *Scholae* was still commanded by a military officer known as a *Tribunus* who ranked as a *Comes* of the first class while when it came to administrative purposes, the *Scholae* were under the command of the *Magister Officiorum* (Master of Offices) which was one of the empire’s most senior administrative officers.

When the Roman Empire was permanently divided in 395 between east and west, each half of the empire still retained the *Scholae Palatinae* as imperial bodyguards wherein in the west, these units mostly consisted of Germanic Franks and Alemanni whereas in the east, the *Scholae* consisted mostly of Goths and by the 5<sup>th</sup> century Isaurians from the

mountains of Asia Minor and Armenians. The Scholae Palatinae in the west was disbanded following the Fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476, and although the Scholae continued to exist in the east, during the reign of the eastern emperor Leo I the Thracian (457-474), the Scholae were replaced by a new unit known as the *Excubitors* as the main imperial guard force whereas the Scholae during the reign of Leo I's successor Zeno (474-475/ 476-491) had been degenerated into ceremonial parade troops. Despite the Scholae being reduced to ceremonial troops, they still retained their high pay from the emperor and because of this, a lot of the Eastern Roman Empire's young population joined the Scholae Palatinae. A part of the Scholae during the 6<sup>th</sup> century included 40 men selected to have the purely ceremonial role as the emperor's personal bodyguard which were known as the *Candidati* (singular: *Candidatus*), and these units were known to have been wearing bright colored tunics.

The Scholae Palatinae true enough continued to exist as a ceremonial bodyguard force for the emperor, while at some point the Excubitors too became a ceremonial force the way the Scholae were. In the 8<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of the Eastern Roman emperor Constantine V (741-775), the Scholae- now known in Greek as the *Scholai*- together with the Excubitors were incorporated into the newly formed imperial army known as the *Tagmata* which consisted of troops sworn to protect the emperor especially in battle. As part of the imperial Tagmata, the Scholae still remained as ceremonial palace troops, although they were commanded by a high-ranking military officer known as the *Domestikos ton Scholon* or "Domestic of the Schools" which by the 10<sup>th</sup> century became the most senior rank in the Eastern Roman army. The Scholae as well as the purely ceremonial *Candidati* were still around by the 10<sup>th</sup> century as they were recorded by the 10<sup>th</sup> century emperor Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos (r. 913-959) in his book *De Ceremoniis*. The Scholae meanwhile were last mentioned as an imperial bodyguard force in 1068-69 during the reign of the Eastern Roman emperor Romanos IV Diogenes (1068-1071) where they were said to have been fighting in battle in around Aleppo. Following this, the Scholae were never mentioned again, which thus hints that the unit ceased to exist after the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

The Scholae Palatinae soldier seen in this illustration belongs to the special division of the Scholae known as the *Candidati* which were the emperor's personal bodyguard that were usually stationed in the palace. The illustration of this *Candidatus* imperial guardsman was based off on the appearance of *Candidati* guardsmen from the famous mosaic depicting the emperor Justinian I the Great (r. 527-565) and his court at the Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy. This illustration was specifically based on the *Candidatus* guardsman in the mosaic wearing a bright orange tunic while holding a similar kind of spear and shield to the one seen here in this illustration. Just like the *Candidatus* in the mosaic, the one depicted in this illustration wears a bright orange tunic with ornate embroideries, a golden torc with a green gem around his neck, plain white pants, and leather boots, though the one in the said mosaic shows the *Candidati* guardsmen wearing black shoes with socks tucked into it rather than boots. As for his weapons, the spear the *Candidatus* is seen holding here appears to look ceremonial as it is made of gold with green stripes while the shield he holds is also a ceremonial one due to it being studded with jewels. The shield of the *Candidatus* meanwhile just like in the mosaic is painted green while also having the symbol of Christ- the *Chi-rho*- painted on it. The fact that this soldier

only wears a tunic and pants therefore shows that his job was plainly ceremonial and not someone who fought in the battlefield while the part that he is seen to have no beard either indicates he is a eunuch or a young man in the service of the emperor. The facial appearance of this Candidatus too was based on the facial appearances of the Candidati as seen in the mosaic wherein he has long hair in the shape of a bowl and no beard, however the one thing noticeable in the said mosaic is that all the Candidati seen on the left side have more or less identical facial features, hence the facial appearance and hairstyle of the Candidatus on this illustration was based on the appearances of all the Candidati from the mosaic.

#### D-4 Goth Foederatus, 4<sup>th</sup> Century



In Ancient Rome, *Foederati* (singular: *Foederatus*) meaning “federates” were people or tribes that were bound by a treaty to come to the defense of Rome but were not Roman citizens. During the Roman Republic, they were known as the *Socii* wherein they consisted of other people allied with Rome but not from Roman territory itself, and these included other tribes from Italy, Gaul, and Hispania, though eventually these people were incorporated into the Roman Empire as subjects and later citizens when the Romans conquered these lands. By the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the *Foederati* had mostly consisted of Germanic barbarians- most especially Goths- that were defeated by the Romans and thus bound by a treaty to serve the Roman Empire in times of war. The first known Roman treaty with the

Goths was in 332 when the Romans defeated the Goth king Ariaric, though it remains unclear if Ariaric's Goths became Foederati serving the Roman Empire.

In 358 meanwhile, following the defeat of the Germanic Franks by the Caesar Julian-later the emperor (r. 361-363)- in Gaul, the Franks became Foederati wherein Julian settled them down in the northern parts of Roman Gaul in exchange for assisting the Romans in times of war. In 376 meanwhile, the Goths that had invaded the Roman Empire demanded from the emperor Valens (r. 364-378) land to settle in and in exchange become Foederati troops that would assist the Romans in battle. However, the Goths here ended up rebelling and thus leading to war between the Romans and Goths which ended with a catastrophic defeat for the Romans at the Battle of Adrianople in 378 wherein the emperor Valens himself was killed. Due to this great defeat, the Roman army was severely reduced in number, that the emperors from here on would have to rely more on the barbarian Foederati to fight their wars. True enough, following the defeat at Adrianople, the new emperor Theodosius I (r. 379-395) made a treaty with the invading Goths which put an end to the war with them in exchange for the Goths being given land in the Roman Empire's borders, and due to being given land, the settled Goths would have to return the favor by fighting for the Romans in battle.

By the late 4<sup>th</sup> century, many of the defeated invading barbarian tribes were settled along the empire's borders as Foederati, however they were not given Roman citizenship, thus this led to many rebellions among the Foederati against the empire. The leaders meanwhile of the Foederati groups were true enough the chieftains of these barbarian tribes that settled within Roman borders, and due to these tribal leaders being foreigners they would true enough prove to be unreliable and untrustworthy. One such example of a Foederati leader was Alaric I who ended up proclaiming himself as king of his people- the Visigoths- in 395 in an act of rebellion against Rome, and true enough under Alaric the Visigoths went from a rebellious Foederati tribe to becoming a kingdom within the Roman Empire.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> century meanwhile, the Romans frequently used barbarian Foederati troops in battle due to the shortage of Roman citizen troops as a result of all the previous wars which deprived the Romans of manpower as so many Roman citizen troops died in battle and a shortage of funds to maintain a professional army. In the 5<sup>th</sup> century as well, many of the defeated invading barbarians were turned into Foederati troops meant to fight alongside the reduced Romans in battle, especially in the Western Roman Empire which had a great shortage of manpower as compared to the stronger Eastern Roman Empire. Roman generals in the 5<sup>th</sup> century such as Flavius Stilicho and Flavius Aetius true enough had relied so heavily on Foederati troops to fight their battles; in this case Stilicho in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century usually employed Goth Foederati troops while Aetius decades later employed Huns to fight for him as again this was due to the lack of funds to maintain a professional army the way the Romans did before. By the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, many barbarians such as the Vandals, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Franks, Alemanni, Burgundians, and Suebi that were once of Foederati status had declared independence from Rome and thus formed their own kingdoms; although some barbarian tribes remained as Foederati and would continue to serve Rome, hence by the late 5<sup>th</sup> century the



Roman army- particularly in the west- consisted mostly of barbarian Foederati. It was true enough the rebellious Foederati as well that brought an end to the Western Roman Empire in 476 as here, the barbarian Foederati leader Odoacer had rebelled against the Western Roman Empire and succeeded whereas he deposed the last Western emperor Romulus Augustus (r. 475-476) and thus proclaimed himself as “King of Italy”.

As the Western Roman Empire which fell in 476 had their Foederati barbarians, the Eastern Roman Empire based in Constantinople too had their own Foederati which here were the Ostrogoths by the late 5<sup>th</sup> century. During this time, the Ostrogoth Kingdom in the Balkans ruled by Theodoric the Amal (r. 475-526) was true enough a Foederati leader as well that at times fought in the service of the Eastern Roman Empire, and like most Foederati leaders he too rebelled against the empire and eventually established his own kingdom, which in the case of Theodoric was Italy after he invaded it by the request of the Eastern Roman emperor Zeno (r. 474-475/ 476-491) and killed its king Odoacer in 493. By the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Foederati still continued to exist as allied forces fighting for the Romans as seen with the Eastern Roman generals Belisarius and Narses who relied heavily on barbarian Foederati troops to assist them in battle. In the case of Belisarius, a large part of his army consisted of Hun and Heruli Foederati whereas for Narses during his campaign against the Ostrogoths in Italy in the 550s, his army mostly consisted of Lombard, Gepid, and Bulgar Foederati. Apart from having barbarian tribes as Foederati, the Eastern Romans had their own client kingdoms in the east which also provided them with allied troops to assist them in battle. One such allied state to the Eastern Romans which provided Foederati troops was the Arab Ghassanid kingdom to the southeast of Eastern Roman borders, and as Foederati serving the empire they defended the empire’s eastern border against the Sassanid Persian Empire and the Sassanid’s own Arab client kingdom being the Lakhmids. By the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> century meanwhile, the Eastern Romans may probably have had no more Foederati troops to assist them, although for the next centuries to come, the Eastern Romans still employed several allied troops now known as *Symmachoi* in Greek from foreign lands to assist them in their wars, hence they were still in a way “Foederati” as they were also bound by a treaty except that the allied troops of the Eastern Romans in later centuries were simply paid off as mercenaries.

This illustration here depicts a Goth Foederatus warrior most likely from the late 4<sup>th</sup> century which was when the invading Goths were settled into the Roman Empire as Foederati. As the Foederati were not a Roman citizen army, they did not need to wear the uniform of Roman legionnaires and use Roman weapons, rather being semi-independent people under their leaders, they wore their own native style armor while using their own native weapons. The Goth Foederatus in this illustration thus appears to not be wearing any late Roman style armor but rather the attire worn by Goth warriors which here includes a Germanic style *Spangenhelm* helmet for his head which features red strands sticking out of it from above whereas attached to the helmet below is a piece of chainmail to protect his neck. The armor too that this warrior is seen wearing consists of a chainmail shirt held up by a leather belt while beneath it he wears a green tunic with red trimmings which was a common style of outfits among Germanic tribes during this era. The Goth here is also seen wearing a red cloak over his armor fastened by a brooch on his left shoulder while he too wears brown pants with cloth wrapped around his lower legs for protection,

and leather boots as well for his feet. The Goth's primary weapon here is a Germanic style spear and his secondary weapon being a Gothic style sword which is seen sheathed here- which is meant to show that as a Foederatus he still uses his native weapons- whereas the shield he uses seen on his left is a round wooden shield wherein its pattern being a blue dragon is a design from the late Roman document known as the *Notitia Dignitatum*.

## D-5 John Chrysostom (347-407)



St. John Chrysostom is perhaps the most famous Patriarch (archbishop) of Constantinople and an important Father of the Church well known for his eloquent public speaking and preaching especially against the abuse of authority by both ecclesiastical and political leaders. For his eloquent speaking, he is thereby known by the epithet *Chrysostom* which means “golden mouthed” in Greek, while on the other hand he was also famous for his literary works most notably the *Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* which is the most celebrated divine liturgy in the Byzantine Rite. Now John was born in Antioch in 347 and was raised by his mother as his father who was a military officer died when John was still very young. Nothing much though is known about John's early life except that he was baptized as a Christian in 368 or 373 and that he was educated under the Pagan rhetoric scholar Libanius. It was when studying under Libanius that John acquired his skill as a public speaker as well as a love for the Greek language and literature. John eventually became a lawyer, though as he grew older, he grew more committed to the Christian faith that he went on to study theology under the bishop Diodore of Tarsus. Due to his ever-

growing devotion to Christianity, John decided to live his life as a hermit in 375 wherein he developed a very unhealthy lifestyle of fasting, continuously standing, and scarcely sleeping which thus resulted with him having his stomach and kidneys permanently damaged for life that he eventually returned to Antioch.

In 381, John was ordained as a deacon in Antioch and later in 386 he was ordained as a priest in Antioch as well, and over the years from 386-397, he gained popularity due to his eloquent public speaking especially in interpreting Bible verses in his homilies in a straightforward way thus making it very understandable to the people, while his messages of charity and spirituality too drew the people to him that true enough his speeches converted many Pagans to Christianity. However, during his time as a priest in Antioch, he was also known to have spoken homilies against Jews and homosexuality. Because of his eloquent speaking that attracted many people, John was suddenly nominated as a candidate for Archbishop of Constantinople by the powerful eunuch minister Eutropius who served the emperor Arcadius (r. 395-408) without John knowing about it. John thus left Antioch in secret as due to being a popular figure, people may riot thinking he was fired, and so he headed to Constantinople and accepted the position of archbishop (patriarch).

As the Archbishop of Constantinople now, John continued to be the eloquent speaker he was while he also maintained his ascetic lifestyle he developed as a hermit some years back that when in Constantinople, he adamantly refused to host lavish social gatherings which thus made him popular among the common people there but unpopular among the wealthy citizens and the clergy especially since he spoke against the lavishness of some members of the clergy. In Constantinople, John became famous for his charity due to establishing a number of hospitals in the city, though he also repeatedly spoke against the lavish lifestyle the people of Constantinople had as well as against popular amusements such as theatre, chariot races, and revelry during holidays. At one point, his appointment as Archbishop of Constantinople was challenged by the Patriarch of Alexandria Theophilus who wanted Constantinople to be under Alexandria's control, however this conflict still did not remove John from his position. Additionally, John was most famous in his time in Constantinople for preaching against the luxury of the imperial court and the lavishness of their attires which thus made him an enemy in the empress Aelia Eudoxia, the wife of the emperor Arcadius as she thought his sermons against luxury was directed against her.

In 403, both the empress Eudoxia and the Patriarch of Alexandria Theophilus held a synod in Constantinople against John wherein the empress used it against John for preaching against her while his other enemy Theophilus used the synod to accuse John of his connections to the teachings of the theologian Origen. This synod at the end thus resulted in John being banished from Constantinople, though since he was popular among the masses, they rioted in his favor and even threatened to burn the imperial palace if the emperor Arcadius did not bring him back. Additionally, on the night John was banished, an earthquake in Constantinople happened, and therefore the empress took this as a sign of God's wrath for the banishing of John, therefore Eudoxia asked Arcadius to bring John back and reinstate him as archbishop. Arcadius true enough agreed to it as he was usually oblivious to current affairs which even included the tension between his wife and John.

Although John was reinstated, the empress Eudoxia still had not given up her luxurious ways which John preached against as seen with the erection ceremony of a statue of the empress outside the Hagia Sophia cathedral of Constantinople. This time, John in his homilies spoke against the Pagan elements behind the erection of this said statue and this time he really made it clear that he was speaking against the empress' lavish lifestyle.

The empress was thus very furious again that here in 404 she had John once again banished from Constantinople and fired as its archbishop; though in the same year the empress died as well. This time, John was banished to a much more distant place being the Caucasus Mountains in Abkhazia (today's Georgia), and due to John's banishment, the people of Constantinople severely rioted this time wherein they had gone as far as burning down the Hagia Sophia cathedral. Although John was in exile, he still remained active that in 405, he had lent moral and financial support to Christian monks that were enforcing the emperor's anti-Pagan laws by destroying temples and shrines across Asia Minor. When in exile, John had also written an appeal for help to 3 important churchmen being the Patriarch of Rome (pope) Innocent I, the Bishop of Milan Venerius, and the Bishop of Aquileia Chromatius. The pope true enough protested John's banishment but to no avail as the bishops he sent to Constantinople to persuade the emperor to return John never made it to Constantinople. John however continued writing letters which still held great influence among the people of Constantinople, but as a result of this he was banished again this time to an even farther place being Pitiunt in Georgia, but before reaching his destination, John died in September of 407 in Northern Asia Minor at the monastery belonging to the church of St. Basiliscus of Comana, and before he died his last words were said to have been "Glory be to God for all things". Shortly after his death, John Chrysostom came to be venerated as a saint and today he is still a popular saint venerated not only in the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Churches but in the Anglican, Lutheran, and Oriental Orthodox Churches while he too has several feast days- January 27, January 30, November 13- and he too is also the patron saint of preachers.

As John Chrysostom was a popular saint in the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire even centuries after his death, many religious icons whether they are paintings or mosaics depict him, hence this illustration of John was based on several Byzantine religious icons that depict him. In this illustration, John appears to look similar to how he looks like in the many icons depicting him wherein he is seen wearing Byzantine style liturgical attire; thus here, John is seen wearing a simple white tunic with black trimmings beneath his liturgical vestments and above this tunic is the common liturgical vestment worn by clergymen known as a *Chasuble* which here is a white one decorated with several black crosses intersecting each other- like in the icons depicting him- and over the Chasuble he wears a white scarf known as an *Omophorion* which has black crosses embroidered on it. He too is seen wearing the black shoes worn by clergymen while he as well holds a jeweled cross on his right and a Bible with a jeweled cover on his left. His facial appearance meanwhile which here shows him with short brown hair and a beard was again based on the many icons that depict him which show him with this kind of hairstyle and beard.

## **D-6 Dancer, 6<sup>th</sup> Century**



Dances were a major part of Eastern Roman daily life and culture; thus, they were often performed in public during major days of celebration such as in Constantinople's founding day (May 11) or when the Eastern Roman army returns victorious from battle. There were many types of dances in the Eastern Roman Empire throughout the 11 centuries of its existence, and some included ones where female dancers displayed a lot of movement. However, we do not know much about dances, dancers, and dancers' attire in the Eastern Roman Empire as historical sources written by Eastern Roman authors do not really record anything about everyday life in their empire, thus the limited evidence we have for dancers come from illustrated manuscripts from their time such as the *Paris Psalter* manuscript which shows the Biblical king David of Israel glorified by women dressed as dancers from the era of the Eastern Roman Empire.

In this illustration, the dancer's outfit was slightly based on the loose sleeveless dresses the dancers in the manuscript mentioned earlier are seen wearing, however the outfit she wears in this illustration was based as well on an existing illustration of an Eastern Roman dancer possibly in the 6<sup>th</sup> century wearing a dress very much like this. Unlike the dancers seen in the manuscript mentioned earlier, the one in this illustration and in the existing illustration it was based on wears a dress more revealing than in the manuscript as this one is a strapless dress wrapped around the woman's body like a towel which exposes both shoulders and upper chest as well as the legs as the high slit is to allow the dancer more movement. It is known as well that Eastern Roman dancers wore gold

bands in their arms and ankles, hence the one in the illustration wears them with the addition of more accessories. Additionally, the dancer in this illustration wears several golden bands in the form of a string which serves as an item to hold up the loose dress, whereas one is like a harness which features two bands going above the shoulder and forming an x-pattern which goes beneath both breasts taking the shape of it as a way to also give them support, similar to a bra except this is an external one. Supposedly, this dancer in the illustration is the empress Theodora from the 6<sup>th</sup> century before she became empress and the wife of the emperor Justinian I the Great (r. 527-565). Before marrying Justinian in around 525, Theodora was an actress as well as a dancer who according to the although biased *Secret History* of the historian of this time Procopius performed explicit acts on stage as an actress.

### D-7 Comitatus, 4<sup>th</sup> Century



The famous Roman legionnaires in the late Roman era (3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries) have evolved into a more flexible infantry unit known as the *Comitatenses* (singular: *Comitatus*), and just like the legionnaires they formed the backbone of the Roman army as well as of the Eastern Roman army from the 4<sup>th</sup> century up to the early 7<sup>th</sup> century. The name “Comitatus” comes from the Latin word meaning “company” which also in this sense meant a “field army” as they were true enough the mobile field army of the late Roman era. In the late Roman army, the *Comitatenses* were a heavy infantry unit and a legion of them would consist of up to 6,000 to 7,000 soldiers. In times of war in the late Roman Empire, the more

inferior border guard force known as the *Limitanei* were in charge of guarding the empire's borders in case of an invasion, though if an enemy invaded the empire's borders then the more superior *Comitatenses* would be sent to counter-attack these said invaders. The *Comitatenses* soldiers usually fought more on the defensive than on the offensive in order to conserve manpower, thus rather than attacking the enemy head-on, they would usually form a shield-wall or *Phalanx* formation with their spears and wait for the enemy to charge at them.

*Comitatenses* soldiers too would wear varying types of armor whether a scaled cuirass armor- such as the one seen in this illustration known as a *Lorica Squamata*- or a chainmail shirt known as a *Lorica Hamata*- while they would also wear different types of helmets- mostly being the late Roman ridge helmet- and would sometimes wear gauntlets for the arms and greaves for the lower legs for extra protection. As for weapons, the *comitatus* soldier's primary one was a thrusting spear known as a *Hasta* while the secondary one was a sword which was basically the late Roman longsword known as a *Spatha*, and would always carry a shield for defense which was usually a large oval-shaped one. The *comitatus* soldier in this illustration wears the gold scaled cuirass type armor known as *Lorica Squamata*, a late Roman ridge helmet, and has the addition of leather *Pteruges* or strips as thigh and upper arm guards as well as metal gauntlets and greaves. The *comitatus* soldier here is seen wielding a spear with alternating blue and red stripes in its shaft as his primary weapon, whereas his secondary weapon being the *Spatha* sword is sheathed, and his large oval-shaped shield bears the symbol of Christ's initials in Greek (the *chi-rho*) which was usually painted on the shields of soldiers in the late Roman era. The illustration of the *Comitatus* soldier here was based on various images and artworks of late Roman *Comitatenses* legionnaires as well as photographs of reenactors as *Comitatus* soldiers.

## **D-8 Procopius Anthemius, Western Roman emperor (467-472)**



Procopius Anthemius was one of the last Western Roman emperors, ruling from 467 to his death by execution in 472, and additionally he was perhaps the last Western emperor to make an effort to restore the dying Western Roman Empire. Now, Procopius Anthemius was an Eastern Roman of Greek descent born in Constantinople in around 420. On his father's side he was indirectly related to the previous Constantinian Dynasty that ruled the Roman Empire (293-363) being a descendant of Procopius, the cousin of the emperor Julian (r. 361-363), while on his mother's side Anthemius' grandfather was the Prefect (mayor) of Constantinople Flavius Anthemius who was famous for constructing the city's mighty land walls known as the Theodosian Walls. Anthemius was thus born to nobility in both his father's and mother's side wherein his father Procopius was a general or specifically the *Magister Militum per Orientem* (Master of Soldiers of the East) from 422-424 under the Eastern Roman emperor Theodosius II (r. 408-450). At a young age, Anthemius was sent to study in Alexandria in Egypt in the school of the Neoplatonic philosopher Proclus, and in Alexandria one of Anthemius' fellow classmates would be the future Governor of Illyria Marcellinus.

Following his education in Alexandria, nothing much is known about Anthemius' life until 453 when he married Marcia Euphemia, the daughter of the reigning Eastern Roman emperor Marcian (r. 450-457) from his first marriage thus making Anthemius now have a connection to the ruling Theodosian Dynasty, and thus after marrying the emperor's daughter, the aristocrat Anthemius was assigned as a general to the Eastern Roman Empire's Danube frontier with the task of rebuilding the border defenses that had



previously been devastated by the Huns. In 454, Anthemius returned to Constantinople wherein he received the title of *Patricius* and *Magister Militum per Orientem* which his father previously held, then in 455 Anthemius was the Consul of the year sharing the title with the Western Roman emperor Valentinian III (r. 425-455). Due to all the honors Anthemius received within only 2 years, it is possible that the emperor Marcian gave them to him as he was to be Marcian's designated successor, however Anthemius would end up never succeeding his father-in-law due to Marcian's untimely death in 457 wherein he failed to name a successor. With Marcian's death ended the Theodosian Dynasty, and without naming a successor, the powerful general of Goth and Alan descent Aspar- who happened to be the power behind Marcian- had the job of naming the new emperor as due to his barbarian origins and being an Arian Christian Aspar could not sit on the Eastern Roman throne. Instead of choosing Anthemius as Marcian's successor, Aspar proclaimed the low-ranking officer Leo who however was his chief-of-staff as the new emperor as Aspar felt that Leo due to his old age was someone weak and therefore easy to manipulate whereas Anthemius due to his aristocratic background and ties to the previous Theodosian Dynasty would be far too independent to control.

Although the new emperor Leo I the Thracian (r. 457-474) and Anthemius were rivals over who would succeed Marcian, Anthemius still served under Leo I as *Magister Militum* tasked to defend the Eastern Roman Empire's borders from barbarian invasions, and despite their rivalry for the throne, Leo and Anthemius ended up actually becoming close friends. Under Leo I, Anthemius being a general in 460 defeated the Ostrogoths in Illyria while in the winter of 466/467 he defeated an invading band of Huns that took over the city of Serdica in Thrace wherein Anthemius laid siege to Serdica and succeeded in making the Huns' leader Hormidac surrender. In the meantime, over in the Western Roman Empire, the Germanic descended general Ricimer was the power behind the throne who first elevated the Western Roman general Majorian as his puppet emperor in 457 but later had Majorian executed in 461 and thus replacing him as emperor with the weak senator Libius Severus who Ricimer poisoned and killed in 465. Due to the death of Libius Severus (Severus III), there was a power vacuum in the Western Roman Empire for 2 years (465-467) wherein there was no emperor and thus Ricimer literally ran the show. Since there was no Western Roman emperor in power, the Vandal king of North Africa Genseric (r. 428-477) was in a position to make the Western Roman senator and his close ally Olybrius as his puppet emperor in the west and that way control the Western Roman Empire that Genseric had gone as far as having his ships raid the coastal areas of Eastern Roman Greece to pressure Leo to recognize his puppet Olybrius as the new Western emperor. Leo I however this time was also in a position to place his own puppet emperor in the west, which in this case was Anthemius who he had a number of reasons to place on the Western Roman throne and this included making an old rival claimant to the Eastern Roman throne now have the position of emperor in the west, sending a possible contender to the throne away so long as he becomes an emperor as well, and lastly because Leo needed a capable general to be his Western co-emperor especially since Leo was planning an invasion of Genseric's Vandal Kingdom.

Leo I thus in 467 sent Anthemius together with the latter's old friend Marcellinus- who Anthemius studied with in Alexandria- who was now the Governor of Illyria to Italy by

ship, and when arriving in Italy they proceeded to Rome where Anthemius was proclaimed as the new Western Roman emperor outside the city, thus Leo I had succeeded in naming his own puppet Western Roman emperor before Genseric could. Although Anthemius was now the new Western Roman emperor, the west's puppet master Ricimer was still around, therefore Anthemius ended up having no choice but to be Ricimer's new puppet emperor, and thus to seal an alliance between both of them Anthemius later in 467 married off his daughter Alypia to Ricimer, though this marriage would later turn out to not be a successful one. Additionally, to strengthen ties with the Eastern Roman Empire and with Leo I, Anthemius' son Marcian had also married Leo's daughter Leontia, which thus further increased Anthemius' ties to the ruling dynasty, which now was Leo I's Leonid Dynasty. In 468 meanwhile, both Leo and Anthemius would then launch their ultimate campaign against Genseric's Vandal Kingdom in North Africa wherein Leo constructed a 1000-ship navy with allegedly 100,000 men under the command of his brother-in-law Basiliscus while Anthemius had sent Marcellinus to recapture Sicily from the Vandals before joining forces with Leo's fleet off the coast of Vandal held Carthage. This mission however ended in failure at the Battle of Cape Bon due to treachery as Basiliscus accepted a bribe from Genseric to keep the ships waiting for days which thus allowed Genseric to launch several fire ships against the Roman ships, and thus at the end half of the Roman navy was destroyed with thousands of men dead while the other half retreated back to Constantinople. Due to this defeat, Leo decided to conclude a humiliating peace treaty with Genseric while due to the failure of this mission, the treasuries of both Eastern and Western Roman Empires were almost emptied all while Marcellinus was killed- possibly under Ricimer's orders- following the defeat.

Because of the defeat to the Vandals which led to a shortage of funds, Anthemius had lost his popularity and prestige as the Western Roman emperor wherein he would be criticized by the Western Roman Senate and people because of his Greek origins and because of being chosen as emperor by the Eastern Empire's court. Some have also suspected Anthemius of being a Pagan due to his Greek origins, his more liberal values due to coming from the Eastern Roman Empire, and lastly for reopening a number of Pagan Temples in the west that have been shut down by previous emperors. Due to the failure of the campaign against the Vandals, Anthemius would now focus on the reconquest of what was Roman Gaul from the Visigoths under their king Euric (r. 466-484) who have now expanded their territory as a result of weak Roman control there due to political instability and neglect over it in the past years. Since the Western Romans now lacked a large army to recapture Gaul from the Visigoths, Anthemius in 470 asked for assistance from the rather mysterious Romano-British king Riothamus who then sailed from Britain into Gaul with an army and occupied Visigoth territory. Riothamus and his Britons were at first successful in battling the Visigoths but when entering the core of Visigoth territory, they were outnumbered and defeated by the Visigoths wherein Riothamus was forced to flee to Burgundian territory- an ally of the Western Romans here- never to be heard from again. Following this, Anthemius now took the matter to his own hands and thus chose to attack the Visigoths directly in 471 wherein he sent his teenage son Anthemiolus together with 3 generals to Gaul to attack the Visigoths head-on. This mission at first succeeded, though when crossing the Rhone River, they were intercepted by the Visigoth king Euric who

defeated and killed the generals including Anthemiolus, thus the campaign against the Visigoths was abandoned.

On the other hand, Anthemius and his puppet master Ricimer were not in good terms, and thus the tipping point of their relationship happened when Anthemius had the Western Roman senator Romanus- who was an ally of Ricimer- executed for plotting against Anthemius. For Ricimer, he saw that the execution of Romanus meant that Anthemius who was supposed to be his puppet had become too independent, and thus because of this Ricimer raised an army as an act of declaring war against Anthemius. As Ricimer raised an army mostly consisting of barbarian *Foederati* (allied) troops, Anthemius stayed behind in Rome where he too raised his own army. Eventually, the tensions between Anthemius and Ricimer led to street brawls between supporters of both men that the Bishop of Pavia Epiphanius had to force both Ricimer and Anthemius to sign a one-year truce. This truce however did not last a year as in early 472, the struggle between both men was renewed wherein Ricimer and his troops even laid siege to Rome where Anthemius was, and this siege would go on for 5 months. During this Siege of Rome in 472, Anthemius now tired of all the fighting faked an illness and thus sought refuge at St. Peter's Basilica all while the Eastern Roman emperor Leo I this time being pressured by the Vandal king Genseric sent Olybrius- Genseric's candidate for the Western Roman throne- to Italy to mediate between Ricimer and Anthemius.

Little did Olybrius know however that Leo sent a secret letter to Anthemius giving him orders to kill Olybrius upon his arrival while also ordering Anthemius to kill Ricimer. However, before this letter got to Anthemius, it had been intercepted by Ricimer, and upon reading it Ricimer showed it to Olybrius and thus proclaimed Olybrius as his new puppet emperor against Anthemius. The siege thus continued wherein after 5 months of blockading Rome, Ricimer succeeded in blocking off the port on the Tiber River from the Palatine Hill, thus starving Anthemius and his supporters. In this siege, Ricimer had with him in his army the future barbarian King of Italy Odoacer and Ricimer's nephew the Burgundian Gundobad wherein both barbarian allies commanded their own barbarian troops. Anthemius meanwhile asked for assistance from Bilimer, a Western Roman general in Gaul who made it to Rome right in time to come to Anthemius' rescue, although when trying to prevent Ricimer's men from storming into the center of Rome, Bilimer was killed in battle by Ricimer's men thus depriving Anthemius of more allies. Now that Anthemius lost allies all while Rome now had a scarcity of food due to being blockaded for months, he still made a last-ditch effort wherein he rallied his loyal supporters, though they were still defeated and massacred in great numbers by Ricimer's men. Anthemius this time fled again to a church- either Santa Maria in Trastevere or St. Peter's Basilica- although unsuccessfully as eventually he was found, captured, and thus beheaded by either Gundobad or Ricimer on July 11 of 472. Anthemius was thus dead and Olybrius succeeded him as emperor, and again as Ricimer's puppet, though just a month after Anthemius died Ricimer died as well from a hemorrhage whereas later in 472 Olybrius died as well. In 476, just 4 years after Anthemius' death, the Western Roman Empire had fallen when Odoacer overthrew the last Western Roman emperor Romulus Augustus (r. 475-476) and thus abolished the Western Roman Empire turning it into his Kingdom of Italy.

Due to the lack of contemporary images from his time that depict Anthemius except for the barely detailed coins, his appearance in this illustration was based on recreations of late Roman imperial attire and other illustrations of late Roman emperors in armor. In this illustration, Anthemius is seen with long wavy hair and a short beard, although sources never mention what he looked like; while here he is seen wearing the late Roman imperial *Diadem* crown studded with jewels which also features two strands of pearls sticking out of it known as a *Pendilla*. The attire meanwhile that Anthemius wears here consists of golden scaled armor with an ornamental golden belt at the waist and white leather tassels known as *Pteruges* beneath it protecting the upper arms and legs which feature purple edges as a way to indicate he is an emperor, while under the armor he wears a white tunic with gold trimmings. The kind of armor meanwhile that Anthemius wears here was partially based off on the attire he is seen wearing in one coin depicting him together with his Eastern Roman co-emperor Leo I wherein this coin shows both Leo and Anthemius wearing identical scale armor sets which feature the same *Pteruges* and the ornamental belt as well as the same kind of crown with the *Pendilla* sticking out of it. Over the armor, Anthemius is seen to be wearing a large red cloak fastened at his right shoulder by a jeweled brooch known as a *Fibula*- whereas this said coin also depicts him wearing a cloak over his armor- while for his legs he wears white stocking which go inside his black shoes. Lastly, Anthemius is also seen holding what appears to be a golden imperial scepter with a single-headed Roman eagle above it.

## D-9 Flavius Aetius (390-454)



Flavius Aetius as a general and statesman in the 5<sup>th</sup> century was the most influential man of the Western Roman Empire of his time who was most famous for defeating Attila the Hun and stopping his massive invasion at the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains in 451, while he is also often known as the “Last of the Romans”. Aetius was born in around 390 at the Roman fortress town of Durostorum- today’s Silistra, Bulgaria- along the Danube River border; his father Gaudentius was a Roman general and a native of the Roman province of Scythia while his mother although unnamed was a wealthy aristocratic woman descended from Italy. At a very early age, Aetius was already serving the imperial court of the Western Roman Empire at Ravenna in Italy wherein he served at the imperial bodyguard force. Between 405 and 408, Aetius was kept as a hostage at the court of the rogue Visigoth king Alaric I (r. 395-410), while in 408 the young Aetius was sent to the court of Uldin, the king of the Huns wherein Aetius would stay with the Huns throughout the reign of Uldin’s successor Charaton (412-420). It was during his stay with the Huns that Aetius learned their military tactics and culture which would one day prove useful to him when he would battle the Huns.

In 423 meanwhile, the Western Roman emperor Honorius (r. 395-423) died, and since he had not named a successor, the general Castinus who was the most influential man in the Western Roman Empire at this point proclaimed the high-ranking court official Joannes as the new Western Roman emperor. Since Joannes was not a member of the ruling Theodosian Dynasty, the Eastern Roman emperor Theodosius II (r. 408-450) did not recognize his rule and thus organized a military expedition led by his two barbarian generals Ardabur and his son Aspar to head to Italy, depose Joannes, and place Honorius’ nephew the young Valentinian III on the western throne. At this point, Aetius had been back in the Western Roman Empire and had now entered the service of the usurper emperor Joannes as the *Cura Palatii* (Head of the Palace), and here Joannes who knew of Theodosius II’s planned invasion of Italy sent Aetius to go to the Huns and ask for their assistance since Joannes lacked a strong army to defend himself from an invasion. True enough while Aetius was away, the Eastern Roman army sent by Theodosius II arrived in Italy in 425 wherein they captured and executed Joannes, and thus the young Valentinian III was successfully placed on the Western Roman throne with his mother Galla Placidia as his regent. By the time Aetius arrived back in Italy with an army of Huns, it was too late as Joannes had already been killed while Valentinian III and Galla Placidia had already taken the throne, and so Aetius’ Huns got into a small skirmish with the Eastern Roman forces of Aspar until a truce was concluded wherein Aetius had no choice but to make a deal with Galla Placidia wherein Aetius sent back his army of Huns to their homeland in exchange for him being given the position of *Comes et Magister Militum per Gallias*, the Commander in Chief of the Roman army in Gaul.

In 426, Aetius arrived in Southern Gaul wherein he took command of the field army all while the city of Arles was under siege by the Visigoths led by their king Theodoric I (r. 418-451), though Aetius was able to defeat the Visigoths, lift the siege, and drive Theodoric and his Visigoths back to their holdings in Aquitaine. In 428, Aetius scored another victory this time defeating the Salian Franks led by their king Clodio that had invaded the empire’s Rhine River border, and thus Aetius recovered some territory for the Western Roman

Empire that had been previously occupied by the Franks; while in 430 Aetius once again defeated the Visigoths that were again laying siege to Arles. In the meantime, although Aetius had already been appointed as *Magister Militum* (Master of Soldiers), a Roman patrician being Flavius Felix also held the same rank and was more senior to Aetius in it due to being a close ally and supporter of the empress-regent Galla Placidia. Aetius in 430 thus accused Flavius Felix of plotting against him and thus had Felix together with his wife killed, therefore Aetius was now the most senior ranking of the *Magistri Militae* in the Western empire with the other Magister Militum being the Governor of North Africa Bonifacius. From 430-431, Aetius campaigned in the Roman provinces of Raetia (Southern Germany and Switzerland) and Noricum (Austria) where he defeated the *Bagaudae* insurgents and reestablished Roman rule at the Danube River frontier while later in 431 he returned to Gaul wherein he successfully campaigned against the Franks.

In the meantime, as Aetius was busy campaigning, Galla Placidia now favored the other Magister Militum Bonifacius the Governor of North Africa now that Felix was dead. Bonifacius here was intent to get rid of Aetius, and since he lacked a large army, he asked for assistance from the new Vandal king in Hispania Genseric (r. 428-477) who in 429 by the invitation of Bonifacius led his men by ships from Hispania to North Africa and thus began the Vandal invasion of North Africa which forced Bonifacius to flee. Bonifacius was thus recalled to Italy by Galla Placidia wherein he was given the rank of *Patrician* and made the senior Magister Militum by her all while Aetius was fired from command. Enraged at losing his position, Aetius in 432 marched from Gaul to Italy wherein he would confront Bonifacius and his forces at the Battle of Rimini wherein Aetius lost despite mortally wounding Bonifacius who would die a few months later from his wounds. The defeated Aetius thus fled to Pannonia wherein from there he would return to the land of the Huns and once again ask for their assistance in order to take back his position as Magister Militum. In 433, Aetius once again returned to Italy again with an army of Huns, and true enough with their help he was able to threaten Galla Placidia to give him back his position as Magister Militum, and now having his rank back he bought off all of Bonifacius' properties and even married Bonifacius' widow Pelagia while Bonifacius' successor as Magister Militum Sebastianus was exiled from Italy to the Eastern Roman capital Constantinople.

Now beginning 433, Aetius was practically the one ruling the Western Roman Empire as its most influential man playing the role of "protector" to the empress-regent Galla Placidia and her young son Valentinian III, though at this time Aetius would be mostly away campaigning in Gaul as usual. In 436, Aetius had been campaigning against the expanding Burgundians in Eastern Gaul wherein in the following year (437) Aetius sent his Hun allies to destroy the Burgundians while Aetius was away campaigning against the Bagaudae insurgents in Armorica (Brittany), while here, the Huns sent by Aetius slaughtered up to 20,000 Burgundians in a single battle. In 437 as well, Aetius' subordinate general Litorius had broken the Visigoth siege of Narbonne, while in 438 Aetius once again scored a major victory over the Visigoths, but in 439 the Visigoths under Theodoric I defeated and killed Litorius. Due to this defeat of the Western Roman army to the Visigoths, Aetius had to settle a treaty with the Visigoth king Theodoric I sending his diplomat and

subordinate commander the Gallo-Roman Avitus to settle the treaty all while at this time, the emperor Valentinian III had erected a statue for Aetius.

Now during the 440s, Aetius was occupied with problems in Gaul and Hispania, mainly with the Bagaudae insurgents and in defeating and settling down the invading barbarians. For instance, Aetius in 440 settled the Alans in Southern Gaul while in 442 he settled the Alans along the Loire River in Gaul in exchange for the Alans assisting him against the Bagaudae insurgents in Armorica, then in 443 Aetius after having defeated the Burgundians settled them in the south of Lake Geneva. As Aetius defeated and settled down the Alans and Burgundians, they would in return assist him in battling the Bagaudae, wherein for instance they helped him put down a Bagaudae revolt in Armorica in 447 or 448. In the meantime, in 445 the Salian Franks laid siege to Tours in Gaul wherein their siege was defeated by Aetius' subordinate commander Majorian- the future Western Roman emperor (r. 457-461). Following this, the Salian Franks under the same king Clodio invaded Gaul again in either 447 or 448, and here Majorian once again defeated them as he led a cavalry charge over a bridge, and once defeated the Franks under Clodio were now bound by a treaty with the Western Romans hence becoming *Foederati* (allies) wherein Clodio's son Merovech was sent to Italy by Aetius as a hostage. In 449, the Frankish king Clodio died, and since the Franks here were now allies with the Western Romans, Aetius sent Merovech from Italy back to his homeland in today's Belgium to succeed his father as king, hence the Western Romans had a new allied barbarian king.

Meanwhile, the diplomatic relations between the Western Romans and the Huns under their ruler Attila (r. 434-453) did not last as Attila after failing to capture the Eastern Roman Empire's capital Constantinople now focused his attention west wherein his intention now was to conquer Western Roman Gaul. Attila thus grew his army by subjugating several Germanic tribes such as the Ostrogoths and Franks as he proceeded west from Germania into Gaul, and as he crossed the Rhine into Gaul there was nothing to stop him anymore. Aetius on the other hand could not face Attila alone with his Western Roman legions, thus he had to form a coalition with the Germanic barbarian tribes that had settled in Gaul if he was to face the might of Attila on the battlefield. With the help of the same Gallo-Roman Avitus, Aetius was able to convince his old enemy the Visigoth king Theodoric I to join forces with him against Attila considering that the Huns were out to destroy anyone whether Roman or barbarian, thus making the Western Romans and Visigoths have a common enemy in the Huns. Aside from Theodoric I's Visigoths, the other barbarians that were previously subdued by Aetius such as the Salian Franks under Merovech, the Burgundians settled south of Lake Geneva, and some of the Saxons joined forces with Aetius too as they too had the Huns as a common enemy. All while Aetius raised a large army and gathered allies, Attila and his Huns had already invaded Western Roman Gaul in 451 and thus laid siege to the cities of Orleans and Paris, although Attila eventually lifted his siege of Paris but still continued besieging Orleans. However, as Attila was besieging Orleans, Aetius with his coalition of Romans and barbarians have arrived right in time to break Attila's siege thus forcing Attila to abandon the siege and retreat to the countryside where Aetius and his coalition pursued them to. The forces of Attila and Aetius' coalition of Romans and barbarians would then confront each other at the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains (Chalons) in 451 wherein Aetius' division of Romans stayed on the left,

his subdued barbarian allies in the center, and Theodoric and his Visigoths on the right. This battle was a massive one wherein hundreds of thousands of soldiers on each side were slain, and among those killed in battle was the Visigoth king Theodoric whose death caused his son Thorismund to abandon the battle and return to the Visigoth capital Tolosa (Toulouse) while the Franks under Merovech did the same and retreated leaving Aetius to continue battling the Huns. At the end, the seemingly invincible Attila was defeated for once as he abandoned the battlefield and retreated east, however this would be the last great military victory for the Western Romans while the coalition that Aetius formed with the barbarians in Gaul had disintegrated once the battle was over.

Although defeated, Attila's threat was not yet over as in 452 he suddenly invaded Italy with Aetius unaware of it as he was in Gaul, and due to most of the Western Roman troops away with Aetius in Gaul, Italy was left undefended therefore making it easy for Attila to invade. When invading Italy, Attila ravaged the countryside and sacked a number of cities, most notably Aquileia which he completely razed to the ground while Aetius rushed back to Italy from Gaul to defend Mediolanum (Milan) which was Attila's next target. Although lacking troops since many were slain in the previous year at the massive battle while his barbarian allies abandoned him as well, Aetius was still able to prevent Attila from attacking Milan. Attila then proceeded south with the intention to sack and capture Rome, but when reaching the Po River Attila was halted as an embassy from Rome arrived which was led by the Patriarch of Rome (pope) Leo I. Under some mysterious circumstances- wherein it is said that supernatural forces were involved- Pope Leo I was successfully able to prevent Attila from proceeding south and attacking Rome. However, there were some possible reasons to why Attila at the end just retreated which for one included a shortage of food supply for the Huns if they continue their campaign, Aetius and his forces constantly harassing the Huns, and lastly because the new Eastern Roman emperor Marcian (r. 450-457) had sent an army to invade the Huns' homeland north of the Danube while Attila was in Italy, therefore forcing Attila to retreat back to his homeland. In the following year (453), during the night of Attila's wedding, he suddenly died possibly from poisoning, and with his death his powerful Hunnish Empire had collapsed wherein his Huns had simply dispersed and abandoned Europe, and thus the threat of the Huns was gone.

Aetius on the other hand now returning to business as usual succeeded in betrothing his son Gaudentius to the emperor Valentinian III's daughter Placidia, however the marriage never happened as Valentinian now felt threatened by Aetius since Valentinian felt that by Aetius marrying his son to Valentinian's daughter, then Aetius had his eyes on the throne. Eventually, Valentinian III was persuaded by the senator Petronius Maximus that Aetius was plotting against him, which was something the emperor easily bought. One day in 454 as Aetius was at a meeting with Valentinian in Ravenna, Valentinian suddenly leaped from his seat and declared that he no longer wanted to be Aetius' puppet while also holding Aetius responsible for the empire's troubles and accusing Aetius of wanting to steal the empire from him as seen when Aetius planned to marry his son to the emperor's daughter. Valentinian thus drew his sword and struck the 64-year-old Aetius in the head killing him instantly, though following Aetius' death as Valentinian boasted about it, a man in his court responded "Whether well or not, I do not know. But know that you



have cut off your right hand with your left". True enough, in the following year (455) it was Valentinian III who was assassinated in Rome by Aetius' loyal followers who were persuaded by the same Petronius Maximus to do it to avenge Aetius, however Maximus ordered the emperor's death as he was denied being given the late Aetius' position of Magister Militum. Just 2 months into his reign as the new emperor, Petronius Maximus was killed by an angry mob all while the Vandals under their king Genseric had invaded Italy and sacked Rome. Aetius now is often called the "Last of the Romans" as he was the last great Western Roman general to score the last great Western Roman victory as seen when defeating Attila, while the 18<sup>th</sup> century British historian Edward Gibbon refers to him as "the man universally celebrated as the terror of barbarians" due to his victory, and the Anglo-Irish historian J.B. Bury notes that Aetius was "the one prop and stay of the Western Empire during his life time was the unanimous verdict of his contemporaries".

This illustration of Aetius is not based on any contemporary image from his time that depicts him, but rather on modern day illustrations of late Roman generals in military attire, and this particular one was based on a modern-day illustration of Aetius following his victory over Attila at the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains in 451. In this illustration, Aetius is seen wearing the style of the late Roman ridge helmet reserved for generals and even emperors, as his helmet here has a large crest above it to indicate his rank whereas it is also gilded and studded with jewels. Due to the helmet covering his head, only his face is shown wherein here he is seen to have a gray mustache and short beard which therefore shows that in this illustration he is already in his 60s which was the age he was during this said battle in 451. As for his attire, Aetius here is not seen to be wearing any armor which therefore hints that he removed his armor as this illustration depicts him after the battle, thus instead he is seen to be wearing a standard white late Roman tunic with purple trimmings and embroideries while over his tunic he wears an ochre-colored cloak fastened by a golden brooch on his right shoulder. Aetius here is also seen to be wearing blue pants which go down all the way to his feet as it is tucked into his brown leather shoes while other than that he is also seen to be wearing a red leather belt which holds his *Spatha* longsword which is seen sheathed.

## **D-10 Arcadius, Eastern Roman emperor (395-408)**



Arcadius is sometimes known to be the first Eastern Roman emperor to rule the Eastern Roman Empire alone since its permanent division with the Western Roman Empire in 395, therefore also making Arcadius be known as the first “Byzantine emperor” if you start Eastern Roman (Byzantine) history at 395 with the permanent split of the Roman Empire between east and west. Arcadius now was born in Hispania in 377 as the eldest son of the future Roman emperor Theodosius I (r. 379-395) and his wife Aelia Flaccilla, and while Arcadius was still very young his father Theodosius in 379 was appointed by the Western Roman emperor Gratian (r. 367-383) as the new Eastern Roman emperor due to the eastern half having no emperor since the death of Gratian’s uncle Valens (r. 364-378) at the Battle of Adrianople against the Goths in 378. With his father travelling to Constantinople to become the new eastern emperor, his son Arcadius with his mother followed to Constantinople, and in 383 following the death of the Western Roman emperor Gratian in a civil war, Theodosius proclaimed his son Arcadius as his co-emperor for the Roman Empire’s eastern half. In the following year (384), Arcadius’ younger brother Honorius- the future Western Roman emperor (r. 395-423)- was born, though in 386 their mother the empress Aelia Flaccilla had died. Arcadius thus grew up in Constantinople being educated by the philosopher Themistius and the monk Arsenius Zonaras, and despite being the son of the emperor he was not prepared to succeed his father Theodosius. In 393, Theodosius proclaimed his younger son and Arcadius’ younger brother Honorius as his other co-emperor due to the sudden death of Theodosius’ western co-emperor Valentinian II (r. 375-392)- Gratian’s younger half-brother- in 392, and as Theodosius marched west to campaign in this civil war against the general Arbogast and his puppet emperor Eugenius

who were responsible for Valentinian II's death, the young Arcadius who had no experience in ruling was left behind in Constantinople where he was forced to exercise independent power with the help of his advisors.

Theodosius I won the civil war wherein he defeated Arbogast and Eugenius in 394, but just 4 months later in January of 395, Theodosius fell ill and suddenly died in Milan as the last Roman emperor to rule a united empire as at his death, he permanently split the Roman Empire between east and west wherein his older son Arcadius was to rule the eastern half from Constantinople and his younger son Honorius was to rule the western half from Milan. Since Arcadius was only 17 at his father's death, he would rule under the regency of the Praetorian Prefect of the East Rufinus, who Arcadius already fell under the influence of whereas his younger brother Honorius who would rule the west was under the regency of the powerful general Flavius Stilicho. As the sole Eastern Roman *Augustus* (emperor), Arcadius was known to have been a weak ruler that barely made his own decisions as throughout his reign he would be under the influence of many powerful people who would easily manipulate him; he too was mostly oblivious to important matters around him and more concerned with being a pious Christian ruler than with politics and military matters, and this was a result of Arcadius not receiving proper training in running an empire when he was young. As soon as he began his reign as the sole Eastern emperor, his regent Rufinus arranged for his daughter to marry him as a way to further Rufinus' influence, but as Rufinus was a way, Arcadius was presented by his eunuch minister Eutropius with the portrait of a woman named Aelia Eudoxia who was the daughter of the former *Magister Militum* (Master of Soldiers) Flavius Bauto, and thus Arcadius immediately fell in love with her just by looking at her portrait. Soon enough in the same year (395) Arcadius had met Eudoxia and the two had married, though in the same year as well Arcadius would face the first crisis of his reign being that of the rogue Visigoth Alaric I who had just proclaimed himself king of his people in 395 in an act of rebellion against Roman authority and against the rule of the two young emperors Arcadius and Honorius in which Alaric viewed both as weak.

As Alaric went rogue and began pillaging the Balkans proceeding all the way down to Greece, the Eastern Roman authorities barely did anything about it since most Eastern Roman troops were still in Italy under the command of Stilicho, though eventually Stilicho headed east to Greece where he was able to defeat Alaric despite Alaric escaping. Stilicho however had his own ambitions which was to not only be the regent of Honorius but of Arcadius as well which is primarily why he marched into Eastern Roman territory to battle Alaric, although both Arcadius and his puppet master Rufinus were already aware of Stilicho's ambitions and thus they sent an imperial order to Stilicho to return the Eastern Roman troops under his command back to Constantinople. Stilicho however complied and thus sent the Eastern Roman troops together with Goth mercenaries under the Goth commander Gainas to Constantinople, though Stilicho apparently gave some secret orders for Gainas to murder Rufinus when arriving in Constantinople as part of Stilicho's ambitions. As the troops with Gainas and his Goths arrived in Constantinople, they were greeted by both the emperor Arcadius and Rufinus outside the city walls, however at this moment Rufinus was hacked to death at the spot by Gainas and his men, though despite Stilicho possibly ordering Rufinus' assassination Stilicho still did not end up having control

over Arcadius, rather it was Arcadius' wife Aelia Eudoxia and the eunuch minister Eutropius that would now replace Rufinus as his top advisors. Apparently, Eutropius who now had influence over Arcadius also hated Stilicho and feared his ambitions, hence Eutropius did not do anything to assist Stilicho in his campaigns against Alaric in the Balkans in 397, and instead Arcadius being persuaded by Eutropius declared Stilicho a "public enemy" while in order to appease Alaric, Eutropius granted Alaric the title of *Magister Militum per Illyricum* (Master of Soldiers of Illyria) which was the rank he so wanted.

In 398 meanwhile, Arcadius again under the influence of Eutropius persuaded the Governor of North Africa Gildo whose province was under the Western Roman Empire of Honorius to transfer his allegiance to Arcadius' Eastern Roman Empire, thus causing relations between Eastern and Western Roman empires to deteriorate further especially since North Africa provided the Western half with an abundant grain supply. Although North Africa separated from the west, the rebellion of Gildo was crushed by Stilicho whereas North Africa was returned to the control of the west, though in the east Eutropius would still hold great influence over Arcadius that he would even pass a number of laws under Arcadius' name as well as appoint a number of officials to the imperial court sometimes without Arcadius knowing about it, and such people Eutropius appointed included the Archbishop (patriarch) of Constantinople John Chrysostom who was appointed to this position in 397. All while Eutropius was practically running the empire, Arcadius in the meantime was busy building his image as a pious ruler and by this he was highly focused on continuing his late father Theodosius I's anti-Pagan and Nicene Christian extremist policies that in 399, Arcadius issued an edit that ordered all Pagan temples in the Eastern Roman Empire to be demolished. As for Eutropius, in 398 he led a campaign against the Huns that had invaded Eastern Roman Armenia, and in the following year (399) he convinced Arcadius to grant him the consulship which triggered protests across the Eastern empire especially among traditionalists since Eutropius was first of all a eunuch and a freed slave, and for traditionalists it was an insult to the old Roman system that a eunuch and former slave be offered the consulship.

Other than the traditionalists in the empire, the Goth *Foederati* (allies) that Theodosius I settled in Asia Minor under their leader Tribigild had revolted also demanding the removal of Eutropius. Arcadius thus sent an army to quell the rebellion of Tribigild in Asia Minor, though the first army sent was defeated while the next army sent was led by the same Goth Gainas who was apparently an enemy of Eutropius. Due to Gainas hating Eutropius but also because of being a Goth, Gainas joined forces with Tribigild and his rebellion against Arcadius, and due to this Arcadius in 399 as well was pressured to fire and exile Eutropius, and later that year Eutropius faced trial and was thus executed. Although Eutropius was now gone, it was now Gainas' turn to exert his influence over Arcadius especially since Gainas now had a large army ever since he joined forces with Tribigild's rebels, thus Gainas forced Arcadius to appoint him as *Magister Militum Praesentalis* to which Arcadius agreed to. Arcadius also gave in to Gainas' demands in firing the Prefect (mayor) of Constantinople Aurelianus and in settling Gainas' Goth *Foederati* in Thrace, however Arcadius being a pious Christian and being advised by the archbishop John Chrysostom did not give in to Gainas' demands for an Arian church to be built in

Constantinople for Gainas and his men. Eventually, in 400 the people of Constantinople had grown not only worried but disgusted at the presence and influence of Gainas being the power behind Arcadius especially due to Gainas being a barbarian, thus this led to a large riot breaking out in Constantinople targeted against Gainas. As a result of the rioting, as many as 7,000 Goths under Gainas' command was slaughtered whereas the Goths that fled to churches were stoned and burned to death and neither did the emperor nor the archbishop John Chrysostom condemn the peoples' actions against the Goths. With most of his men dead, Gainas ended up fleeing to Thrace wherein he declared rebellion against Arcadius and thus gathered a new army, but before Gainas could march to Constantinople he was intercepted and defeated by an imperial army led by the Goth general Fravitta who now replaced Gainas as the new Magister Militum Praesentalis. The defeated Gainas thus fled north across the Danube River to seek for assistance from the Huns against the Eastern Romans, however when in Hun territory Gainas was killed by the Hunnish ruler Uldin whereas his head was sent as a gift to Arcadius.

Now with Gainas gone, it was now the turn of the empress Aelia Eudoxia and the archbishop John Chrysostom to be the ones influencing Arcadius, however both the empress and archbishop hated each other as John being an ascetic individual in his sermons spoke against the empress' extreme lavish lifestyle and way of dressing which the empress was therefore insulted by. The empress thus wanted to remove John from his position as archbishop but apparently John was very popular among Constantinople's masses, and thus if he was fired the people would riot. John however had an enemy in the Patriarch of Alexandria Theophilus, and once the empress Eudoxia and Theophilus joined forces by holding a synod in Constantinople targeted against John in 403, it was declared that John would be fired from his position. However due to John being dismissed, riots broke out across the capital wherein the rioters even threatened to burn the imperial palace, and during the night John was banished there was an earthquake in Constantinople. The empress Eudoxia thus saw the earthquake as punishment from God for banishing John, therefore she convinced her husband the emperor to return him, and thus John was reinstated as archbishop. However, when John was reinstated as archbishop, a large silver statue was erected for the empress in the capital and because of this John once again spoke against the lavishness of the empress and against the erection of the statue which he saw as Pagan in practice. The empress Eudoxia was once again insulted at John for speaking against her and so she once again persuaded Arcadius to remove John from his position, and although Arcadius was at first slow to act, he finally had John fired once again in 404 this time sending soldiers to escort John out of the capital. John was thus removed from his position and exiled far away to Abkhazia- in today's Georgia- in the Caucasus; and although the empress Eudoxia was victorious due to successfully banishing John for good, her victory was short-lived as later in 404 she suddenly died due to childbirth.

With his wife dead, Arcadius still did not rule independently, this time he was under the influence of a new man being the Prefect of Constantinople Flavius Anthemius, who was a highly competent minister, and he would thus run Arcadius' government for the next 4 years. As the power behind Arcadius, Anthemius was responsible for expanding Constantinople due to its overpopulation wherein people were now living outside the walls erected by Emperor Constantine I the Great (r. 306-337) that Anthemius here planned to

erect a new set of walls further away, which would later be the mighty Theodosian Land Walls of Constantinople, and construction of it was said to have begun during Arcadius' later reign. Anthemius was also focused on repairing Eastern Rome's relations with the Western Roman Empire under Arcadius' brother Honorius which had deteriorated under Arcadius' rule, and doing this meant making peace with Stilicho who still controlled the west. Stilicho however had lost patience with the Eastern Roman court and rather than making peace, he instead encouraged Alaric and his Visigoths in 407 to seize the region of Illyria from the east and hand it over to the Western empire, though this plan had failed. On May 1 of 408, Arcadius suddenly died at the age of only 31 and was thus succeeded by his 7-year-old son Theodosius II- who had already been proclaimed as his father's co-emperor when still an infant in 402- and due to being still a child, Theodosius II would at first rule under the regency of the prefect Anthemius before he would come of age.

This illustration of Arcadius was based on both the famous bust of Arcadius from the Istanbul Archaeological Museum in Turkey and on his full-body image from the *Missorium of Theodosius* which is a large ceremonial silver dish dating back to 388 which depicts Arcadius' father the emperor Theodosius I at the center while on his left is his son and co-emperor Arcadius and on his right his co-emperor in the west Valentinian II; and due to the date this dish was made, Arcadius was already co-emperor but still a child here. Arcadius in this illustration however is supposed to appear to be 17 or 18 which is the age he was when he came to rule the Eastern Roman Empire alone following his father's death in 395. The pose and attire of Arcadius in this illustration however is exactly the same kind of pose and attire he has in this said *Missorium of Theodosius*, except the one in this illustration is colored whereas the *Missorium* is all silver with no color. The facial features of Arcadius in this illustration meanwhile bears a lot of resemblance to his facial features in his bust which here notably includes his large drooping eyes, whereas the *Diadem* style crown he wears which has a large jewel at the center and his short bowl style hair as well was based on his hairstyle and crown as seen in his bust. Just as he appears in the *Missorium*, Arcadius in this illustration is seen seated with his legs crossed whereas on his right hand he holds a golden imperial scepter with a single-headed Roman eagle above while on his left, he holds a golden orb which is partially painted blue. The attire Arcadius wears here now is very much the same as his attire in his image in the *Missorium* which here consists of a large purple imperial cloak or *Chlamys* which at the bottom has a large golden embroidered square section known as a *Tablion* while the *Chlamys* itself is fastened on his right shoulder by a jeweled brooch known as a *Fibula*. Inside the *Chlamys*, Arcadius here is seen to be wearing an imperial white tunic with golden trimmings and embroideries which is held up by a belt across his waist. As for his shoes, Arcadius here is seen wearing the red shoes usually reserved only for emperors in the late Roman era while behind his feet, the legs of the chair he is sitting on is visible.

## **D-J Julian, Roman emperor (361-363)**



Flavius Claudius Julianus (or simply Julian) is best remembered as the last Pagan Roman emperor as well as being a philosopher that promoted Neoplatonism and rejected the Christian faith; hence he is remembered as “Julian the Apostate”. Julian now was born in Constantinople in 331- just one year since 330 when Constantinople was inaugurated as the new Roman imperial capital- during the reign of his uncle Constantine I the Great (306-337). Julian’s father Julius Constantius was the emperor Constantine I’s half-brother as Julius was the son of Constantine’s father Emperor Constantius I (r. 293-306) with his second wife whereas Julian’s mother Basilina was a Greek noblewoman from Bithynia in Asia Minor. Julian’s mother Basilina however died shortly after giving birth to him, thus Julian was raised by his father and older half-brother Constantius Gallus, and as a child Julian was probably raised with Greek as his first language, and due to being a nephew of the emperor Constantine who was Rome’s first Christian emperor, Julian was brought up under the Christian faith. Julian’s life however would take a complete turn when Constantine I died in 337 as following Constantine’s death, his 3 sons Constantius II (r. 337-361), Constantine II (r. 337-340), and Constans I (r. 337-350) ordered a massacre of every male relative as a way to prevent a power struggle for the throne. Part of the male relatives massacred on the orders of the 3 brothers was Julian’s father Julius Constantius who was murdered in his house in Constantinople by imperial troops. Julian however as well as his older half-brother were spared due to their young age and because they may be needed in the future, although for Julian seeing his father murdered would traumatize him for life and more so make him resent the Christian faith as he believed it is what drove his cousin the

new emperor Constantius II to order the deaths of his male relatives which included Julian's father.

After finishing off their male relatives who were all part of the ruling Constantinian Dynasty, the 3 brothers were proclaimed as joint rulers of the Roman Empire all while the young Julian and Gallus from here on were excluded from public life. The young Julian was thus sent to Bithynia in Asia Minor wherein he would be raised by his maternal grandmother and would later be educated under the Bishop of Nicomedia Eusebius- who previously baptized Constantine I before his death in 337- and the Goth eunuch Mardonius wherein they gave Julian a Christian education. After Eusebius died in 342, both Julian and Gallus were sent to an imperial estate in Cappadocia where they would continue their education, and by the time Julian was 18 his exile was lifted and thus he returned to Constantinople wherein he would spend time either there or in Nicomedia which was nearby. In 351 when Julian reached the age of 20, this was when his conversion from Christianity to Paganism occurred wherein here, Julian claims that he converted to the true way being the "Way of Helios", the sun god; and it was at this point as well when Julian began studying the philosophy of Neoplatonism in Asia Minor under many different philosophers and teachers in order to understand more about the faith he chose to convert to. In the meantime- all while Julian was busy studying philosophy and reading countless books- among the 3 sons of Constantine I that inherited the empire, only the middle child Constantius II survived as in 340 the eldest brother Constantine II invaded his youngest brother Constans' lands in Italy and was killed in battle whereas Constans in 350 was killed by the troops of the usurper general Magnentius who then rebelled and put a claim to the throne.

Constantius II here was thus the only legitimate ruler left and since he was too busy campaigning against the Sassanid Persian Empire in the east, he could not put too much attention to the threat of Magnentius in the west, thus in order to take care of Magnentius' threat, Constantius in 351 had to appoint Julian's half-brother Gallus as his *Caesar* or junior emperor in the east to rule in Antioch due to Gallus being one of his only male relatives left alive. As Constantius II was in the west, he managed to defeat Magnentius in 353 wherein Magnentius after his defeat committed suicide, although over in the east Gallus had proven to be an incompetent, corrupt, and cruel ruler which therefore gave Constantius II a reason to have him executed for treason in 354. With Gallus now dead, Julian was thus the last surviving male relative of Constantius, and so in 354 Julian was summoned by Constantius to Mediolanum (Milan) where Constantius had based himself in, and as Julian was there his cousin Constantius kept him there for about a year to observe if Julian was trustworthy, and at the end true enough Julian proved to be someone trustworthy for Constantius that Julian was even permitted to continue studying philosophy in Athens. Julian's stay in Athens however did not last long as in 355 he was summoned back again to Milan by Constantius as here Constantius decided that Julian was worthy enough to be his Caesar in the west as Constantius here decided to return east to Constantinople now that there were no more internal threats such as civil wars in the west. When in Milan, Julian was thus proclaimed as Caesar by his cousin the emperor Constantius, and to fully seal an alliance, Constantius married off his younger sister Helena to Julian here. Since Julian spent most of his life as a scholar studying philosophy and other scholarly pursuits, Constantius thus sent



Julian from Milan to Gaul in order for Julian to learn the art of politics, running the empire, and leading armies in battle.

In 356, Julian despite having no military experience due to being a scholar led his first campaign, here against the Franks that have been threatening the Roman borders at the Rhine River, and here Julian proved to be a successful commander as he was able to recapture several towns along the Rhine that had been taken by the Franks. However, as Julian distributed his forces across the fortresses in the area to defend them against the invading Franks as Julian based himself in a small town, he did not have enough troops to defend his base when the Franks had laid siege to it, thus Julian was held captive there for some months until his general the *Magister Equitum* (Master of Horses) Marcellus came in to break the siege. Due to Marcellus coming late to save Julian, the emperor Constantius II suspected him of treason and had him replaced. Following this, Julian decided to lead a campaign into enemy territory in Germania wherein he was to invade from the Rhine border while his other general the *Magister Peditum* (Master of Foot) Barbatio was to invade from the south, although due to this, a part of the Rhine border was left undefended therefore allowing a Germanic Alemanni tribe to invade Gaul and attack Lugdunum (Lyon) which thus forced Julian to march there and lift the siege. Julian though would still continue his campaign into Germania while Barbatio simply abandoned it, though while Julian was at his campaign in enemy territory, the Alemanni king Chnodomar assembled a confederation consisting of other Alemanni tribes in order to invade Gaul. In 357, the Alemanni confederation of Chnodomar would thus confront the Caesar Julian and his forces at the Battle of Strasbourg along the Rhine wherein despite being outnumbered, the Romans led by Julian won the battle forcing the Alemanni to retreat back across the river all while their king Chnodomar was captured and sent to Constantius in Milan as a prisoner.

After the battle, Julian's surviving soldiers proclaimed him as *Augustus* or senior emperor due to his success, however Julian rejected the acclamation as he saw it as treason against his cousin, the emperor. Following his victory over the Alemanni, Julian continued campaigning north heading up the Rhine and in 358 he campaigned deep into Germania wherein he defeated the Salian Franks and thus settling them as *Foederati* (allies) within Roman territory. When not battling the invading barbarians, Julian when in Gaul had based himself in Paris wherein he clashed with the Roman Governor of Gaul Florentius over tax policies as here Julian sought to reduce taxes which Florentius was using for his own benefit. It was also during his stay in Paris where Julian had his first experience with civil administration wherein he sought to win over the support of the civil population, which he succeeded at doing. In the meantime, over in the east, in 359 the Sassanid Persians under their emperor (*shah*) Shapur II (r. 309-379) invaded Roman Mesopotamia and captured the city of Amida, therefore Constantius II who was at the east at this time demanded his Caesar Julian to send him half of his army to the east to defend it against the Sassanids. Despite Julian complying to his cousin's orders, his Gallic troops did not want to leave and head east, and thus rather than following Constantius' orders to head east they instead proclaimed Julian as Augustus against Constantius in 360 while they were still in Paris. Although not wanting to use his new title at first, Julian eventually began using it in the coins he minted all while he continued campaigning against the Franks and Alemanni that were still making raids into Gaul. In early 361, Julian once again campaigned into Alemanni

territory and defeated them, though at the same time Constantius had received word of Julian being proclaimed as Augustus while Julian too received word that Constantius was marching west to confront him, thus civil war broke out between Constantius and Julian. Here, Julian with his army proceeded marching east to the Balkans where he would wait in Naissus (today's Nis, Serbia) for Constantius' troops to march west, however the civil war never happened as on his march west Constantius suddenly died in November of 361 in Asia Minor, and apparently before dying Constantius recognized Julian as his rightful successor.

Now that Julian was the sole emperor of the Roman Empire, in December of 361 he entered the capital Constantinople wherein his first act as emperor was to bury his cousin the former emperor Constantius II at the Church of the Holy Apostles next to Constantius' father Constantine I. As soon as Julian arrived in Constantinople, he made a vast series of reforms mostly targeted against the spread of Christianity and to promote the old Pagan faith as well as reforms regarding the role of the emperor and the state administration. For Julian as a philosopher, he sought to return the Roman Empire to its old ways wherein the emperor neither shared power with anyone nor was perceived as a "god" but as the "first among equals" thus in this case Julian appeared more frequently in the Senate sessions and in the city making speeches, while Julian too sought to imitate the ruling styles of old Roman emperors like Hadrian (r. 117-138) and Marcus Aurelius (r. 161-180). The next thing Julian did as part of his reforms was to simplify the state administration by firing several bureaucrats that did not really have an important part to play; while on the other hand to project his image as a simple ascetic ruler that did not care about extravagance the way his predecessors did, he fired a large number of palace servants and eunuchs which he saw as useless to keep, while Julian too had a number of corrupt officials that served Constantius II executed. Additionally, Julian gave provincial governors the autonomy to govern their provinces while in his free time, Julian continued studying philosophy which he would apply to running the empire.

Now in regards to his religious policy, Julian was intent to restore the old Pagan faith as the state religion, and thus the burial of his cousin the former emperor was the last Christian ceremony he would attend to, as following this he would openly flaunt his Pagan beliefs by sacrificing animals at the altar of Pagan temples. Eventually, he fell out with his subjects who have now embraced the Christian faith especially since Julian constantly made philosophical speeches and practiced Pagan rituals which turned off the people who clearly did not understand Julian's austere lifestyle and complex ways of thinking. Julian however despite being a Pagan had no intentions to persecute Christians the way Pagan Roman emperors did in the past as he believed that killing more Christians will just inspire more people to be Christians, therefore in 362 Julian issued a decree that granted religious freedom for all religions which were to be seen as equal before the law. As part of this law he issued, he also appointed a number of Christians to high-ranking positions in order to show that the state did not prefer one religion over the other, however Julian still removed the special privileges bishops received during the reigns of his predecessors Constantine I and Constantius II. The most Julian had done to the Christians was forbidding them to learn Classical Pagan texts which was simply to separate them from the old religion, while aside

from that Julian also allowed the Jews to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem as a way to spite the Christians, though this project never pushed through.

In May of 362, Julian began his preparations for his ultimate campaign against the Sassanid Empire in the east to finish off what Constantius had started, and thus he left Constantinople for Antioch wherein he would spend the next few months in. In Antioch, as Julian was visiting the Temple of Apollo to perform a sacrifice, he was forbidden from doing so by the city's Christian population as in the temple were the bones of a 3<sup>rd</sup> century Christian martyr, and though Julian ordered the bones to be thrown out, the people rioted and burned the temple. In return Julian had the rioting investigated, and thus to punish the Christians he closed down Antioch's largest Christian church. After spending a number of months in Antioch, in March of 363 he was now fully set to march into the Sassanid Empire with an army of about 80,000 men and defeat it once and for all, however due to Julian being highly idealistic he had no solid campaign plan but rather he just assumed that he could simply defeat the mighty Sassanid Empire by marching into their territory with a massive army.

In this campaign, Julian set off from Antioch and divided the army wherein his division would march straight into Sassanid territory through Mesopotamia while the other division led by his maternal cousin Procopius would march into Sassanid territory from the north through Armenia. Julian with his division thus marched from Antioch to the Euphrates River which they crossed and from there headed into the Tigris River which they would use to sail down to the Sassanid capital Ctesiphon. When arriving at the Sassanid capital Ctesiphon, Julian thus laid siege to it but due to the reinforcements from Procopius failing to arrive, Julian was forced to abandon the siege all while the Sassanid shah Shapur II burned his own lands to deprive Julian and his army of food supply. As Julian and his forces retreated, on June 26 of 363 he met his end at the Battle of Samarra wherein the Sassanids ambushed his camp, and here as Julian was in a rush to get out of his tent and lead his forces against the Sassanids, he had no time to put on his armor, and as a result of this, one lucky Sassanid soldier was able to throw his spear right into Julian's stomach. Julian thus died within hours at the age of only 32 after being impaled by this flying spear and allegedly he was said to have said "*Vicisti Galilae*" meaning "You have won, Galilean" which in other words meant that the Christian faith has won. After Julian's death, his army elected the commander of the imperial guard Jovian who was true enough a Christian as their new emperor, and in Jovian's reign peace was concluded with the Sassanids which forced the Romans to retreat back to their empire in exchange for giving a large portion of land to the Sassanids, although in the following year (364), Jovian had died too. Up to this day, Julian is remembered as one of the few philosopher Roman emperors who in his lifetime wrote up to 16 works mostly written in Greek but he overall still failed to achieve his ambitions in restoring Rome to its old religion due to his untimely death when campaigning against the Sassanids.

Due to there being several contemporary images of the emperor Julian from his time such as coins and busts that depict him, this illustration of Julian was based on them. First of all, Julian due to being a Pagan was known to have a beard which is therefore how he appears in the busts and coins depicting him, thus in this illustration the facial features of

Julian which includes his brown beard was based on these said coins and busts that depict him and so is the *Diadem* style crown he is seen wearing here. As for his attire, Julian is not wearing armor but rather the Roman imperial robes of the 4<sup>th</sup> century which here includes a heavily embroidered white tunic which is studded with jewels and over that the standard large purple imperial cloak known as a *Chlamys* which here is fastened on his right shoulder by a jeweled brooch known as a *Fibula*. Julian meanwhile in this illustration is also seen wearing a golden belt and sash studded with jewels over his shoulder as well as the purple stockings reserved for emperors and also the red shoes reserved for emperors. In his right hand, Julian here is seen to be holding a scroll which here is to reflect his character as a writer and philosopher and not so much a warrior despite him being an accomplished warrior too.

### D-Q Empress Galla Placidia (392-450)



The Western Roman empress Galla Placidia who was a daughter of an emperor, half-sister of two emperors, wife of an emperor and a barbarian king, and mother of an emperor was one of the most powerful women in late Roman history. Galla Placidia was born in around 392 as the daughter of the Eastern Roman emperor Theodosius I (r. 379-395) and his second wife Galla who was the daughter of the former Western Roman emperor Valentinian I (r. 364-375) and his second wife the empress Justina, while Placidia was also the younger half-sister of Theodosius I's sons Arcadius the future Eastern Roman emperor (r. 395-408) and Honorius the future Western Roman emperor (r. 395-423). In 394 when

Placidia was still very young, her mother Galla died possibly during childbirth to a stillborn child while in the following year (395) her father the emperor Theodosius I suddenly died – wherein Placidia was present during his death in Mediolanum (Milan)- and thus permanently divided the united Roman Empire between east and west wherein his older son Arcadius took the east and younger son Honorius took the west. Following Theodosius' death, his now orphaned daughter Placidia would spend her childhood in Milan at the household of Flavius Stilicho, her father's most trusted general and *Magister Militum* (Master of Soldiers) who was here put in charge as the young Western Roman emperor Honorius' regent. It was during her childhood at Stilicho's household where the young Placidia was brought up with a classical education as well as where she learned weaving and embroidery.

Meanwhile in 408, Stilicho fell out of favor with the Western Roman government and was thus executed for treason all while the rogue Visigoth king Alaric I (r. 395-410) later headed to Rome and put it under siege in 410 wherein he successfully broke into the city and sacked it. Among the people captured by Alaric and his Visigoths when sacking Rome was the young Placidia, and after Alaric's death later in 410, his men proceeded north into Gaul bringing Placidia with them as their hostage. With Alaric dead, his successor being his brother-in-law Athaulf (r. 411-415) entered into an alliance with the Western Roman emperor Honorius against the usurpers Jovinus and Sebastianus in Gaul, and in 413 Athaulf succeeded in crushing their rebellion and thus had both usurpers executed. Following this as part of furthering Honorius' alliance with Athaulf, Galla Placidia would marry Athaulf in 414 in a lavish ceremony at Narbonne in Southern Gaul. Galla Placidia would then give birth to a son with Athaulf who however died just a few months after birth, while later in 415 Athaulf himself was assassinated in his bath and was thus replaced as King of the Visigoths by Sigeric who only ruled for a few days as he too was assassinated and thus replaced as king with Athaulf's relative Wallia (r. 415-418). At the same time as Wallia came to rule the Visigoths, the Western Roman troops led by the new *Magister Militum* Constantius had blockaded the Visigoths to Southern Gaul and parts of Hispania in order to starve them into submission. Eventually as the Visigoths' food supply began to run out, Wallia surrendered to Constantius in exchange for the Visigoths being given *Foederati* (allied) status, and as part of this treaty between Wallia and Constantius, Galla Placidia was to be returned to the Western Roman capital Ravenna.

Once Placidia was back, her half-brother the emperor Honorius forced her to marry his general Constantius in 417, and as a result of their marriage they had two children being their daughter Justa Grata Honoria who was born in 417 and their son the future emperor Valentinian III (r. 425-455) who was born in 419. In 421, Honorius then proclaimed his general Constantius as his co-Augustus Constantius III and thus by being married to him Placidia was proclaimed as his *Augusta* (empress), however the Eastern Roman emperor Theodosius II (r. 408-450) did not recognize Constantius III as his co-emperor, and after ruling for just a few months as a senior emperor, Constantius died of an illness in September of 421. Following the death of Constantius, Placidia who was not comfortable being around with her half-brother Honorius decided to flee Ravenna for Constantinople with her two young children to seek refuge in the court of her nephew Theodosius II. In 423 however, Honorius died of edema and without having any children,

this created a power vacuum in the Western Roman Empire as the Eastern Roman emperor Theodosius II too was hesitant to put someone on the Western throne which was something he was obliged to do as the Eastern emperor.

In the meantime, as the west had no emperor, Castinus who was the most influential man in the Western Roman Empire acted as the kingmaker and thus proclaimed the high-ranking secretary Joannes as the new Western emperor. The new emperor Joannes was recognized in the Western Roman provinces of Italy, Gaul, and Hispania but not in North Africa as its governor Bonifacius remained loyal to Placidia while Britain was no longer under Roman control. Theodosius II on the other hand did not recognize Joannes as his co-emperor- thus making Joannes a usurper- and instead Theodosius by the urging of Placidia backed the young Valentinian III as his co-emperor in the west, and to seal this deal Valentinian III who was only 4-years-old here was betrothed to Theodosius II's daughter Licinia Eudoxia who was only 2-years-old. Theodosius II then gathered a large army to march to Italy and depose Joannes wherein this army was divided into two with one division led by the veteran general which was the barbarian descended Ardabur who was to invade Italy by sea together with Placidia and the young Valentinian III whereas the other division led by Ardabur's son Aspar was to march into Italy by land. By 425, the army led by Aspar arrived in Italy and took the city of Aquileia with no resistance whereas his father Ardabur when arriving in Italy by ship was captured by Joannes' forces and thus imprisoned in Ravenna. Ardabur however was held as a prisoner in Ravenna long enough for Aspar to come and capture the city, and thus when Ravenna fell to Aspar's forces, Joannes himself was captured and thus paraded in the Hippodrome of Aquileia before being beheaded. Now that Joannes was dead, the child Valentinian III who now arrived in Italy with his mother was officially proclaimed as the new Augustus of the Western Roman Empire, however there was one obstacle to his rule which was the general Flavius Aetius- a loyalist of Joannes- who Joannes before his death sent to gather an army of Huns from across the Danube River to support Joannes against the invasion led by Ardabur and Aspar. Just a few days after Valentinian III was proclaimed as the new Western Roman emperor, Aetius arrived outside Aquileia with a massive army of Huns only to realize that he came in too late to save Joannes, thus Aetius' Huns got into a quick skirmish with Aspar's Eastern Roman forces until a truce was concluded.

Aetius thus concluded peace with the new empress-regent Galla Placidia in order to keep his position as a general while Aetius too sent back his army of Huns to their homeland, and in return Aetius was given the position of *Magister Militum per Gallias* (Master of Soldiers in Gaul). Although Aetius was given a position by the empress-regent, he still did not have her trust as Placidia instead had her own supporters who were powerful men too being the Governor of North Africa Bonifacius and the general Flavius Felix, and as Aetius was making some success in Gaul against the Visigoths, conflict eventually broke out between Placidia and Bonifacius in 429, while in 430 Felix was assassinated under the orders of Aetius. Apparently, it was Aetius that had been playing Bonifacius against Placidia as Aetius here had been convincing Placidia that Bonifacius was a threat to her all while writing to Bonifacius warning him that Placidia wants to recall him for no good reason. Bonifacius though fell for Aetius' warnings and thus he made an alliance with the new Vandal king in Hispania Genseric (r. 428-477) thus allowing Genseric

and his Vandals to board their ships and cross the Mediterranean from Hispania to North Africa, and the moment they arrived in North Africa they betrayed Bonifacius as Genseric after all wanted land in North Africa to settle his people in. Bonifacius was thus besieged by the Vandals in the city of Hippo Regius in Numidia, however the Vandals failed to capture the city and thus they lifted the siege whereas Bonifacius fled to Italy. When back in Ravenna, Galla Placidia rather than punishing Bonifacius for losing parts of North Africa to the Vandals raised Bonifacius to the rank of *Patrician* while also making him “master-general of the Roman armies” all while Aetius was fired from command. Aetius who was in Gaul however due to being enraged at being fired left for Italy wherein he would confront Bonifacius and his forces outside Ravenna in 432. At the end, Bonifacius won the battle but was mortally wounded thus dying a few months after all while the defeated Aetius fled to Pannonia this time to once again gather an army of Huns. Aetius thus arrived in Ravenna again by bringing an army of Huns with him in order to threaten Placidia, and thus Placidia restored him to his position as *Magister Militum* and in return Aetius again sent the Huns back to their homeland.

From 433 onwards, Aetius after being restored as *Magister Militum* and additionally being given the title of *Patrician* was now the most powerful man in the Western Roman Empire and thus practically the one in charge of it. As for Galla Placidia, she would continue to act as her son Valentinian III’s regent until he came of age in 437 which was also when he would marry Licinia Eudoxia, the daughter of his cousin the Eastern emperor Theodosius II. Although despite no longer having the role as “empress-regent”, Placidia would still continue to exercise political influence over her son’s reign while at the same time she was also known to have constructed a series of public works in which most were churches. Being a devout Christian, Galla Placidia restored and expanded the Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls of Rome and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, while other churches she built included the Church of San Giovanni Evangelista in Ravenna and the building that would be known as her mausoleum.

In the meantime, Galla Placidia’s daughter Honoria was forced into an unwanted marriage with a Roman senator, and thus to save herself from this unwanted marriage, she wrote to the King of the Huns Attila (r. 434-453) while sending him her ring as well. Though Honoria probably did not intend to marry Attila, Attila on the other hand interpreted this as such and thus he demanded that half of the Western Roman Empire be given to him as a dowry, which is therefore why Attila began marching into Western Roman territory in 450. As soon as the emperor Valentinian III heard about his sister’s plans, he thought of having her executed only for their mother Placidia to intervene and stop the execution which was successful. Valentinian thus wrote to Attila denying the legitimacy of this said marriage proposal, though Attila was still unconvinced as he still believed that this marriage proposal was legitimate as true enough, he had already been marching into Western Roman territory. To show that this proposal was illegitimate, Honoria was thus forced to marry the senator she did not want to marry, but this still did not stop Attila from marching into Western Roman Gaul which he was out to claim. Later in 450, Galla Placidia died wherein she would ironically not be buried in the mausoleum she built but in the Theodosian Dynasty’s mausoleum in Rome.

This illustration of the Western Roman empress Galla Placidia was based on her image on coins that depict her and on the attire of late Roman, or generally of Roman era women. The head in this illustration is based on her image on coins that depict her as seen with her kind of hairstyle wherein the hair is tied up into a circular formation as well as the style of crown she is seen wearing here which is a late Roman *Diadem* style crown whereas here she is also seen wearing two sets of large pearl earrings. As for her attire, Galla Placidia here is seen to be wearing a loose bright orange tunic-dress for her inner garments while over it is a large blue mantle that Roman women especially from the upper classes wore over their garments known as a *Palla*. Additionally, Galla Placidia's outfit here is seen to be adorned with so much jewelry which first includes a chain of pearls and onyx forming an x-shape which is fastened at her chest while she too appears to be wearing a belt over her inner garment also consisting of pearls and onyx which is also what her series of bracelets are made of here while this pearl and onyx pattern is also seen in her sandals. In terms of appearance, Galla Placidia here is depicted to be in her 30s which was more or less the age she was when she became empress-regent of the Western Roman Empire for her son Valentinian III in 425.

### **D-K Constantine I the Great, Roman emperor (306-337)**





Very few people in history like the Roman emperor Constantine I the Great (r. 306-337) can be considered larger than life figures as he changed the course of world history itself by being famously the first Roman emperor to embrace Christianity and pave the way for it to become a dominant religion. Constantine too has the legacy which no other emperor had by constructing a new capital for the empire being Constantinople which would end up being the new Roman imperial capital for over a thousand years. And lastly, it is Constantine too that is credited for reforming the Roman Empire's monetary system by introducing the standard gold coin known as the *Solidus* which would be the empire's currency for the next 700 years. Constantine was born as Flavius Valerius Constantinus in 272 in Naissus (today's Nis, Serbia)- during the reign of the Roman emperor Aurelian (270-275)- as the son and only child of the military officer Constantius Chlorus and his wife (or concubine) Helena. Due to his father as an officer- who originally was part of Aurelian's bodyguard force- campaigning a lot, the young Constantine barely spent time with him but instead more so with his mother Helena who was a Greek woman of low birth and a Christian, and it was because of his mother being a Christian that would influence Constantine to have a certain devotion to the Christian faith. At the time Constantine was growing up, the Roman emperor Diocletian (r. 284-305) first divided the Roman Empire into two parts in 285 splitting it with Maximian (r. 286-305) who was to rule the western half while Diocletian was to rule the east. In 289, Constantine's father Constantius who was close to Diocletian and Maximian divorced his wife Helena and married Maximian's stepdaughter Theodora in order to become more associated with the empire, and thus in 293, the Roman Empire was further divided into 4 parts into what would be known as the *Tetrarchy*. In this new system, there would be 4 different emperors governing their own quarter of the empire which included the two senior emperors or *Augusti* Diocletian ruling from Nicomedia and Maximian ruling from Milan, and their junior emperors or *Caesars* Galerius (r. 293-311) ruling from Sirmium, and Constantius I (r. 293-306) ruling from Trier.

Due to Constantine's father Constantius being elevated to Maximian's Caesar in Diocletian's tetrarchy system, Constantine was sent to live in Diocletian's court in Nicomedia (today's Izmit, Turkey) in a way as a hostage to ensure his father Constantius' loyalty to Diocletian but also for the young Constantine to receive a first-rate education. True enough when in Nicomedia, Constantine received the best education in both Latin and Greek while it was in Nicomedia too that he would become more acquainted with Christianity due to the large Christian population there. During this time, Constantine had also begun campaigning on the battlefield first against invading barbarians in the Danube River frontier in 296 and in 297 against the Sassanid Persian Empire in Syria assisting Diocletian and again from 298-299 against the Sassanids in Mesopotamia this time assisting Diocletian's Caesar Galerius. After a long campaign against the Sassanids, Constantine returned to Nicomedia in 303 right in time to witness Diocletian's Great Persecution of the Christians which he initiated in that year, though Constantine had no active part in it while it was also at around this time when Constantine married a woman named Minervina and had a son with her named Crispus. In 305 meanwhile, Diocletian announced his resignation as emperor while forcing his co-Augustus Maximian to do the same, and thus when both resigned the Caesars Galerius and Constantius succeeded them as the new Augusti while Valerius Severus II and Galerius' nephew Maximinus Daza became the new Caesars in the west and east respectively whereas Constantine and Maximian's son Maxentius were ignored. As Diocletian was the most senior emperor of the 4-emperor tetrarchy system, now that he had abdicated it was now Galerius who was the most senior ruler now residing in Nicomedia where Constantine was still at as a sort of hostage.

Galerius true enough did not allow Constantine to leave Nicomedia despite the latter's father Constantius sending word to Galerius requesting his son to assist him in his campaign in Britain, thus Constantine during one night escaped Nicomedia riding as fast as he could to get as far away as possible from Galerius. Eventually, Constantine reached Gaul where he joined his father at the port of Bononia (today's Boulogne, France) from where they travelled by ship across the channel to Britain where they made their way north to Eboracum (York). While in Britain, Constantine spent many months together with his father campaigning against the Picts beyond Hadrian's Wall, though Constantius eventually fell severely ill and thus died on July of 306 in Eboracum. As Constantius had wished before his death, his son Constantine was proclaimed as Augustus by their troops in Eboracum all while Britain and Gaul quickly accepted his rule. As word got to the most senior emperor Galerius of Constantius I's death and Constantine's acclamation as Augustus, Galerius did not recognize Constantine as the new Augustus and thus demoted him to Caesar while raising the already existing Caesar in the west Severus II as the new Augustus of the west all while Constantine accepted the decision. In the meantime, all while Constantine as Caesar continued campaigning against the Picts in Britain and later against the Franks and Alemanni in Gaul wherein he would base himself in Trier, Maximian's son Maxentius in Rome who here felt powerless rebelled with the backing of the Roman Senate and thus in late 306 he proclaimed himself as emperor against Constantine. Galerius however as the most senior emperor did not recognize Maxentius as such but still failed to stop Maxentius as Severus II who was sent to Rome by Galerius to lay siege to it failed, and instead Maxentius' father Maximian tired of retirement came out of it and proclaimed himself as his son's co-emperor, and later as Severus II was defeated in battle, he was eventually executed under Maximian's orders in 307.

To seal an alliance with Constantine, Maximian in 307 married off his daughter Fausta to Constantine wherein they were married in Trier- as by this time Constantine's first wife Minervina had already died- and in the following years Constantine spent them campaigning against the Germanic tribes such as the Franks in the Rhine River frontier. In the meantime, Maximian had fallen out with his son Maxentius over power while in 308, Galerius called for a meeting with the surviving original tetrarchs Maximian and Diocletian at the fortress of Carnuntum along the Danube and here the retired Diocletian reassembled the broken system by having Maximian once again retire while their other friend Licinius I would take over from the late Severus II as the new Augustus of the west leaving Constantine as Caesar all while Maxentius was still not recognized as an emperor, and in the east the situation would still be the same wherein Galerius would rule as Augustus and his nephew Maximinus II as Caesar. Constantine however at this time was not satisfied with just being a Caesar as seen in the coins he minted wherein he called himself an "Augustus" while Maximian who still wanted power and not happy with retirement rebelled against Constantine in 310 while Constantine was away campaigning against the Franks. Here, Maximian in Gaul declared himself as Augustus against Constantine announcing that Constantine was dead to legitimize his claim, though when Constantine heard about this, he rushed back from his campaign against the Franks heading to Marseilles where Maximian held himself in. The city garrison of Marseilles who were loyal to Constantine anyway opened the city to him and although Constantine granted Maximian some clemency, Maximian tried to kill Constantine in his sleep only for Fausta to uncover the plot to her husband who then placed a eunuch as a decoy which Maximian killed. For his failed plot to assassinate his son-in-law Constantine, Maximian was thus offered the option to commit suicide by Constantine which Maximian did on July of 310.

Due to Maximian's death, his son Maxentius who was although not in good terms with him- and here unpopular among his subjects in Italy for his oppressive ruling style- this time declared war against Constantine in an act of avenging his father while in the east as Galerius was dying, he proclaimed an end to the persecution of Christians initiated by Diocletian as it led to nothing. In 311, both Galerius and later Diocletian died thus leaving Maximinus II as the sole ruler of the east, while in the west Constantine promised to marry off his half-sister Constantia to the Western Augustus Licinius to seal an alliance with him against Maxentius before Maxentius could ally with Licinius. In early 312, Constantine with an army of 40,000 then crossed the Alps from Gaul into Italy where they would proceed south to Rome where Maxentius was, and along the way Constantine captured a number of cities like Turin, Milan, and Verona from Maxentius' forces whereas a number of cities too surrendered to Constantine before he marched on Rome. In Rome, Maxentius ordered that all bridges leading to the city should be cut off to prevent Constantine's invasion while Maxentius too ordered the construction of a makeshift bridge north of the city, and at the same time Maxentius too received a prophecy that on that same day the "enemy of the Romans" would die which he interpreted as he defeating Constantine as true enough Maxentius had an army twice the size of Constantine's. As for Constantine, on the day before his battle against Maxentius, as he was marching to Rome, he received a vision of a cross floating in the sky bearing the inscription *In Hoc Signo Vinces* meaning "in this sign, conquer" in Latin which Constantine did not know how to interpret at first, but later in a dream Constantine was directed to use the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek- the *chi-rho* (XP)- as it was true enough said that he would conquer under this said sign being that of Christ. In the following day before the battle, Constantine thus had the chi-rho painted on his soldiers' shields believing he would conquer under this sign, and as the battle began, Maxentius' forces were shocked to see Constantine's army bearing unfamiliar symbols. Thus began the short Battle of the Milvian Bridge fought along the Tiber River, and here Constantine despite having fewer men than Maxentius was able to overwhelm Maxentius with his cavalry forcing Maxentius and his men to fall back to the makeshift bridge he made, and due to the weight of the army all combined on this weak bridge, the bridge collapsed killing Maxentius in the process as he drowned in the Tiber. On October 28 of 312, the prophecy true enough referred to Constantine being the one to defeat the enemy of the Romans which was Maxentius, and following his victory at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, Constantine entered Rome where celebrations were held for his victory.

In Rome, Constantine refused to do as his predecessors did after winning a victory by performing a sacrifice at the Temple of Jupiter, but instead he gave a speech to the Senate where he promised to restore its ancestral privileges, and in return the Senate hailed him as "Augustus". Constantine had also issued decrees that returned property lost under Maxentius and released political opponents of Maxentius, and most significantly Constantine here in 312 disbanded the Praetorian Guard for good as they previously had supported Maxentius. In 313, Constantine headed for Milan to meet with his co-emperor Licinius, and here Licinius and Constantine's half-sister Constantia were thus married while it was also here where both Constantine and Licinius issued the Edict of Milan which famously granted Christians across the Roman Empire religious toleration and restoration of all their property seized during the persecutions of Diocletian and Galerius, thus Christianity was now legalized as a religion. The meeting between Constantine and Licinius however did not last long as Licinius was summoned to the east as the Eastern emperor Maximinus II invaded Licinius' territory in the Balkans all while Maximinus continued persecuting Christians violating the Edict of Milan. Eventually, Licinius defeated Maximinus' forces whereas Maximinus later died in 313, though due to Licinius winning and thus taking over the Eastern half of the Roman Empire from Maximinus, he began growing too overconfident with power that relations between Licinius and Constantine would deteriorate.

In the meantime, due to Christianity now legalized, Constantine would spend his reign promoting and supporting the Christian faith by constructing a number of churches, granting privileges to Church leaders, and promoting Christians to high offices in the government; and although Constantine ordered the construction of important Christian churches such as the Old St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and later on in his reign the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, he also still constructed landmarks with Pagan elements such as his own triumphal arch in Rome constructed in 315 in honor of his victory over Maxentius in 312. On the other hand, just shortly after Christianity had been legalized with the Edict of Milan, Constantine had already been resolving disputes among the Christian religion which included the Donatist controversy, which Constantine resolved in 317 by issuing an edict that was to confiscate Donatist property and send Donatist leaders to exile. It was also at around this point in time when tension between Constantine and his co-emperor Licinius I began as here Licinius attempted to have Constantine assassinated but failed. The tension between both rulers eventually led to civil war wherein both their forces confronted each other at the Battle of Cibalae in the Balkans in 316 wherein Constantine as usual was victorious, and then again in the following year (317) both forces clashed in battle again with Constantine victorious at the end. Following the battle, Constantine and Licinius came into an agreement wherein Constantine's son Crispus would be made a Caesar and so would Constantine's second son Constantine II who was his eldest son with Fausta be made a Caesar while Licinius' son with Constantine's half-sister Constantia which was Licinius II was also to be made a Caesar all while Constantine and Licinius would continue being co-Augusti. Constantine at this point would reside in Sirmium and when being based there, he would campaign against the Goths and Sarmatians from 322-323 wherein Constantine managed to defeat and kill the Gothic king.

Licinius however in 320 reneged on the Edict of Milan as he began persecuting Christians once again, although this time not in a bloody manner, but rather by confiscating the properties of Christian officials and firing them from their positions too. Licinius' treatment of the Christians eventually led to civil war to break out once again between him and Constantine in 324, and thus Constantine supported by the Franks he defeated and turned into *Foederati* (allies) clashed with Licinius' forces supported by Goth mercenaries at the Battle of Adrianople wherein Constantine was again victorious. Following this, the imperial navy of Constantine commanded by his son Crispus defeated Licinius' navy at the Marmara Sea at the Battle of the Hellespont and after this Constantine defeated Licinius' land army again at the Battle of Chrysopolis. With Licinius defeated in 324, he and his newly appointed co-emperor Martinian surrendered to Constantine on the promise that their lives would be spared, and thus Licinius and Martinian were sent to Thessaloniki and Cappadocia respectively to live as private citizens. In 325 however, Constantine accused Licinius of plotting against him and thus he had Licinius executed by being hanged, while in the following year (326) it was Licinius' son Licinius II that was killed, and thus from here on Constantine would be the sole ruler of the Roman Empire.

It was also in 325 when Constantine oversaw one of the most important moments in his lifetime, which here was the First Council of Nicaea, the first ever Church Council where bishops across the empire met together to discuss the dispute in the Christian faith with the Arian movement of Christianity founded by the Egyptian theologian Arius who professed a belief that God the Son was inferior to God the Father. At the end, the Council of Nicaea with Constantine's ruling established the Nicene Creed and condemned the movement of Arius as a heresy, however the Arian Christian faith would still continue to spread especially later on among barbarian tribes to the north of the empire. At the same time as well, Constantine had decided that it was time to establish a new permanent capital for the Roman Empire, and among many choices of cities especially in the Balkans and Asia Minor which included Serdica (today's Sofia, Bulgaria), Thessaloniki, Sirmium, and Nicomedia, Constantine chose the port city of Byzantium due to its highly strategic location as it was not only in a position that was easy to defend and situated along the highly critical Bosphorus strait which was the only waterway that connected the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, but it was also a perfect spot as it was close to two highly critical borders of the empire being the Danube and the east, and therefore it would make it easier for the emperor to come to the aid of both borders in case they would be under attack. Now, as soon as Constantine defeated Licinius in 324, he already began making preparations to turn the rather small port city of Byzantium- which began as an Ancient Greek colony- into the new imperial capital, and by doing this he ordered important structures from all over the Roman Empire to be shipped to Byzantium as it would take decades to construct an imperial capital from scratch.

Meanwhile in 326, Constantine suddenly had his son the war hero Crispus executed under mysterious circumstances, and this was possibly due to his wife Fausta convincing him that Crispus tried to rape her, although true enough Fausta had just set him up wherein Constantine easily fell for the rumor that Fausta and Crispus had an affair with each other. Eventually, Constantine learned the whole truth that Fausta had just framed Crispus, and thus being so enraged Constantine later in 326 had Fausta executed in the most unusual way by locking her up in a bathhouse and putting up the heat to such high levels that she died from suffocation, and thus following her death Constantine ordered a *Damnatio Memoriae* or "Damnation of Memory" on her. Once the whole situation with his wife and son was taken care of, Constantine proceeded to constructing his new capital that in only 6 years (324-330), the once small port city of Byzantium had become an imperial capital decorated with monuments everywhere which were of course taken from different parts of the empire. Once construction of the new capital was completed in 330, Constantine erected a large porphyry column in honor of himself which became the Column of Constantine featuring a large statue of himself above it as the sun god while this column stood in the new capital's main square being the Forum of Constantine. Additionally, Constantine- after allegedly being given directions by an archangel- marked the borders of his new capital wherein he built the city's walls while at the same time he also built a number of churches for the new capital, most notably the Church of the Holy Apostles wherein he would be buried in, while at the same time Constantine also constructed a new Senate Hall and thus relocated a part of the Roman Senate to the new capital despite the Senate no longer having much power anymore at this point. At the same time too, Constantine's mother Helena now very old at this time took a pilgrimage trip to Jerusalem where she uncovered the True Cross wherein part of it was sent to the new capital as part of the relics it would hold, though it would also be in the same year (330) when Helena would die in Rome. Now that the new capital had been established, it was thus named *Nova Roma* or "New Rome", however its inhabitants- in which many were settled in by Constantine from different parts of the empire- chose to call the new capital "Constantinople" in honor of Constantine, the man who founded it.



Now that the new capital had been established, Constantine proceeded into finishing the military reforms for the Roman military system initiated by Diocletian decades earlier while he too also continued reforming the imperial currency wherein he introduced the Solidus which would be the empire's new standard gold currency all while Constantine too began minting Christian symbols into coins as a way of showing that he now embraced the Christian faith and that the Christian faith was the new identity of the empire. As part of Constantine's military reforms, he created a new imperial guard unit that would replace the Praetorian Guard known as the *Scholae Palatinae* which mostly consisted of Frankish or other barbarian recruits who had sworn full loyalty to the emperor. With Constantinople now as the new capital, it would thus be easier and nearer for Constantine to launch his campaigns against both the Goths north of the Danube and against the Sassanid Persians in the east, and thus in 332 Constantine began his campaign against the Goths north of the Danube which ended in success as by 334 Constantine had conquered most of lower Dacia- which the Romans had abandoned under Emperor Aurelian in the 270s- from the Goths. After his campaign against the Goths, Constantine then made it his goal to campaign against the Sassanid Empire in the east wherein he even wrote to the Sassanid ruler (*shah*) Shapur II (r. 309-379) that he would be the protector of all Christians in Sassanid territory and that Shapur would have to treat them well otherwise Constantine would invade Sassanid lands. Constantine thus prepared for war against the Sassanids and so in 335 he sent his second son with Fausta Constantius to the eastern frontier in order to guard it, though in 336 the Sassanids invaded Armenia- which since 301 had been a Christian kingdom- and due to this, Constantine was given a valid reason to wage war against the Sassanids in the form of a Christian Crusade.

The campaign however never came to happen as it was cancelled due to Constantine falling severely ill in 337, and instead of marching east to battle the Sassanids he returned to Constantinople to prepare his resting place at the Church of the Holy Apostles. When his illness became more severe, Constantine left Constantinople for the hot springs near Nicomedia and here he asked the Semi-Arian bishop of Nicomedia Eusebius to baptize him, thus it was only shortly before his death that Constantine had been baptized as a Christian as on May 22 of 337, Constantine died at the age of 65. Constantine was thus buried in a porphyry sarcophagus at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople, and although he planned that his 3 sons with Fausta being Constantine II, Constantius II, and Constans I would rule the empire together with Constantine's nephews Dalmatius and Hannibalianus, after his death his 3 sons took the empire for themselves thus having all their male relatives executed to prevent a succession crisis. Constantine thus achieved more than any other Roman emperor could have as he true enough never lost any battle he fought whether against foreign invaders or against Romans in civil wars, unified the Roman Empire after years of chaos and civil wars, did what no other emperor before him did in making Christianity not only become legal but become something that would define the Roman Empire, and lastly it was he that also gave the Roman Empire a new permanent capital in Constantinople which was something no other emperor had achieved too, and because of all this he became known as "Constantine the Great". Because of founding a new capital and turning Christianity into the faith associated with Rome, Constantine therefore kickstarted what would become the Byzantine Empire which would last for over 1,100 years, and true enough for many emperors in this Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire, it would be such a great honor to be known as a "New Constantine" due to his role in founding the empire's new capital Constantinople, and true enough Constantine the Great is also venerated as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Due to there being several surviving images of Constantine the Great from his time whether in the form of busts or coins, his appearance in this illustration was based on these said coins and busts that depict him. First of all, Constantine's facial features such as his long and large nose, thick neck, and hairstyle was based on his famous bust found in Rome- which once belonged to a colossal statue of him- as well as on the other busts that depict him. Additionally, since Constantine was said to have set the trend for emperors and Roman citizens in general to be clean shaven- in which many Roman emperors would be until the 7<sup>th</sup> century- hence for this illustration, Constantine is depicted to have no beard while in terms of appearance, Constantine here is supposed to appear to be in his 40s which was the age he was when winning the civil war against Maxentius in 312. For his attire, Constantine here is first of all wearing the late Roman style *Diadem* crown which was already in use as the imperial crown during his time. He too is depicted wearing the Roman imperial style metal muscle armor wherein underneath it is two layers of the leather tassels or *Ptergues* which protect his upper arms and thighs. Underneath his armor and the tassels is a white tunic with purple trimmings as well as white pants that go all the way down to his feet and thus tucked into his purple imperial shoes. The armor meanwhile has a jeweled belt made of purple cloth while over his armor he wears a purple cloak as purple was the color associated with emperors, and here this cloak is fastened at the center with a brooch bearing the initials of Christ- the *chi-rho*- which was true enough also the symbol associated with Constantine since his victory over Maxentius in 312. As for his weapons, Constantine here is seen using an ornate *Spatha* longsword which here is sheathed in an ornate sheath for the emperor's use only.