

INT. PAVILLION

Ceasar sits next to Claudius. Claudius is an old, fat Roman senator. The party is full of Rome's wealthiest.

CEASAR

Tell me, how is Caecilia?

CLAUDIUS

She's healthy, I thank you.

CEASAR

Good. I recall I forgot her last birthday.

CLAUDIUS

Her birthday?

CEASAR

Remiss of me, I know. Perhaps she would forgive my rudeness were I to send her a gift.

CLAUDIUS

Really, that's not necessary.

CEASAR

Hard to find the right gift for a woman, neh? What one loves, another scorns. Perhaps she would accept some money.

CLAUDIUS

There's an idea.

CEASAR

100,000 sesterce, say?

CLAUDIUS

Oh, that's very kind of you. I'm afraid my wife is a woman of expensive tastes.

CEASAR

The best women often are. 150,000.

CLAUDIUS

She would dress her slaves in silk if I would let her. She eats oysters for breakfast daily.

CEASAR

She should be most careful. People often choke on oysters.

CLAUDIUS

I think 150,000 is a very generous, and I may say, appropriate gift. She would be under great obligation to you.

CEASAR

To think well of me would be her only obligation.

CLAUDIUS

She's always thought well of you. It is not unethical she continues to do so.

CEASAR

We understand each other.