Courage and Honor in Combat: Gladiators in Ancient Rome

By Emma Summers
The Flavion Amphitheatre
Finished in 80CE

Gladiators

Died  Lived
Tilman Remme

Colosseum: A Gladiators Story

*Produced in 2003 for British Television*
What We Know About Gladiators
From Ancient Sources to Modern Interpretations

- J.E. Lendon: Gladiators “most perfectly encompassed their national character.”
- Cicero: “it is natural in us to dislike the trembling supplicant who begs to be allowed to live, but we are eager to save the courageous and spirited who hotly fling themselves at death.”
- Cicero, De Amore, 92.
Verus

- "celebrity gladiators would be traded around Italy like soccer players today."

- "Verus, now famous and successful, is a prime attraction in the inaugural Bloodbath."

Public Spectacle

- Carlin Barton: “Willingness to die for the pleasure of the audience was a high honor paid to the audience, and glory was the reward that the spectators could give in return.”


- Facing Death for the Pleasure of Others
Aligning Mentalities

- “‘high moral standards reflecting virtue, honor, patriotism, and subordinate in personal behavior and in performance’”

- U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial a “national symbol of American courage in the face of tyranny.”
Conclusion

- Cinematic Elevation of Gadiators
- Value of Combat
- Connecting the Past to the Present