



## VERGIL IN VROMA: Exploring the Temple of Palatine Apollo

### Goals:

1. Practice methods of navigation and conversation in the MOO
2. Explore some of the educational resources in *VRoma*
3. Use virtual space to come to a better understanding of Roman culture and civilization through group discussion of issues surrounding a selected site.
4. Enhance understanding and appreciation of the *Aeneid* through exploring the epic's connections with the city of Rome.

**Worksheets:** 1. Quick Start Guide to the VRoma Learning Environment  
2. Group Site Assignment

### General Instructions:

Explore your assigned site completely, visiting all its rooms and examining its varied contents, including texts, objects, bots, and links

Read your Site Assignment through carefully to be clear about the topics you are asked to discuss.

When you have completed the assignment, save your HTML Chat Log and email a copy of it to your professor.

**Site Assignment:** Teleport to the site by typing **@go Temple of Palatine Apollo**

1. First read the poem of Propertius (to save time, you may read the English version). Then visit the temple by climbing the steps, moving through the porch, and looking into the Cella. Return to the Temple of Palatine Apollo and read about the statue of Actian Apollo in the courtyard. Stop here and discuss Augustus's relationship to Apollo. Why was the emperor so devoted to this god? How might this temple and the imagery used by Augustus have influenced the *Aeneid*? Read the note of the fictional protester Gaius Maledictus in the Cella. Do you think monuments such as this may have provoked thoughts of this kind among Romans of the time?
2. Then go back to the Temple of Palatine Apollo and explore the Porticus. Why might Augustus have filled this portico with statues of the Danaids? Do you think this imagery might have influenced Vergil's depiction of Pallas's sword belt? Why or why not? Might Vergil in the last part of the *Aeneid* also have been thinking of Augustus's self-portrayal as the just avenger of the assassins of his adoptive father, Julius Caesar? Do you think that learning about Roman sites such as this temple complex can promote better understanding of Roman poetry?
3. Go to the Latin Library through the Bibliotheca Colonnade and click on the librarian, S. Julius Hyginus, to learn about Ovid's poem, *Tristia* 3.1, then click on *Tristia Tresunus* to hear what the poem has to say. Finally, type **@go Atrium Libertatis** and click on *Tristia* there to read the final lines of this poem. Does Ovid's story as told through this poem have any effect on your opinion about Augustus?
4. If time permits, go back to the Temple of Apollo and have a conversation with the bot Gaius Maledictus. Remember to speak to him one at a time, or the conversation will become too confusing.