It is late spring, and everything is peaceful in the little Gaulish village. We know so well, Obelix and his apprentice, Dogmatix, are out delivering mail. Asterix is sunbathing outside his hut. People have about enjoying a siesta. Yes, by Toutatis, the little Gaulish village is very peaceful...

Whereas the Roman camp of Aquarim seems to be in a state of great excitement... by Jupiter! by Mercury! Good old Caesar! Good old Gluteus! You’ll never run alone!

Gluteus Maximus? Who’s he? You’re pretty green, aren’t you, Gillius? Gluteus Maximus is our champion! He’s one of our garrison and a credit to us all.

What’s all the noise about? A messenger has just come from Rome with the good news. Gluteus Maximus has been selected to represent Rome at the Olympic Games!

O Gluteus Maximus, how right I was to send you to Rome for the trials! You’ve been selected, along with the best athletes of the whole Roman world!

Well, that’s not surprising, o Centurion Gaul Veruarius. I’m the greatest!
I was near aquarium
picking mushrooms - they're
good over there - when I
heard cheering. The Romans
seem to be in a very
good mood!

Hm... that's odd,
Geriatry. I don't know
what to make of them...

Soup?!

Soup, mushroom soup is
very nice

But, chief,
Wotstatistix...

Not another word -
I do the offering round
here! We'll have an
omelette!

I was
thinking...
Perhaps on toast...

Sometimes I get the
impression our friends
don't take things seriously
enough... it may be a bad
sign for us if the Romans
are in a good mood

So what do
you suggest,
O Druid?

Let them stew in
their own juice!

It brings
out the
flavour
At Aquarium, while the duty buccinator is blowing come to the cook-house door, boys'...

A more sophisticated blow-out has been provided for legionary glutelus maximus.

Here's your supper. I hope it will do.

Not bad, o centurion Gaio verambiitus. Army rations are improving! What are these little black things?

They're sturgeon's eggs, sent from Persia to our commanding officer—carrack to the general, so to speak!

If you win the gold palm at the Olympic Games there'll be extra passes for the circus and promotion all round.

Sporting prestige is a matter of such national importance that if you win I could even become prefect of Gaul! Don't let me down.

Stop worrying—I won't fail you, verambiitus.

It'll be a pushover. I'm the greatest! Now I'm off to the forest to do some training.

His morale is marvellous. With confidence like that, he can't lose!

First a bit of sprinting—I'm the fastest man in the world!

Meanwhile, in another part of the forest...

I feel on top form for a spot of boar-hunting. Getafix gave me some of the magic potion which makes us invincible!

I know, I know, and I didn't get any seeing as.

One! Two! One! Two!...
What's the matter with that Roman?
I haven't a clue, perhaps someone's after him.
I'll go and ask him.
One! Two! I'm the fastest! One!...
Excuse me...

Is someone...

...after you?

Oberlix!

Leave that Roman alone...

...and let's go and find some boars
All right!

They overtook me! Both of them!

Anyway, when it comes to throwing the javelin...

I'm the greatest!

Paaaaaf!
DON'T TAKE ANY NOTICE OF MY FRIEND, ROMAN.

OBEUX! WHY DID YOU DO THAT? HE WASN'T BOTHERING US.

WHAT D'YOU MEAN? HE THREW THAT BIT OF WOOD AT MY HEAD, SO I THREW ONE BACK AT HIM. WE'RE QUITE NOW.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THIS, BY JUPITER!

YOU, FATTY! I'LL TAKE YOU ON AT ORDINARY WRESTLING, ALL-IN WRESTLING, BOXING! I'LL WALLOP YOU AT THOSE! I'M THE GREATEST! I'M NOT FAT!

TELL ME STRAIGHT, ASTERIX. ONCE AND FOR ALL: DO YOU THINK I'M FAT?

OF COURSE NOT, OBEUX. YOUR CHEST HAS GAPPED A BIT, THAT'S ALL. COME ON, ARE WE GOING TO GET THOSE BOARS?

I'M HOPELESS!

WHAT D'YOU MEAN, HOPELESS?!

I SAID I WAS HOPELESS. EVERYONE IS BETTER THAN ME. I'VE BEEN BEATEN BY ALL THE GAULS I MET. A LITTLE TITCH AND A FAT ONE WITH A PALUNCH. EVERYONE

THE GAULS, BY JUPITER! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE HAD ANY TROUBLE WITH THEM!
BACK TO YOUR TENT, CHAMP. HAVE A REST.
I'M NOT A CHAMP. I'M HOPELESS.
I'M GOING ON FATIGUES. I WANT A BROOM - NOT TOO HEAVY.
AND I'M GOING TO SEE THESE GALLS.

THE ENTRY OF CENTURION GALLUS VERSANBITUS INTO THE GALLISH VILLAGE DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED.
FANLY THAT! A ROMAN.

TELL HIM IT'S URGENT! OFFICIAL BUSINESS!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, KEEP YOUR HAIR ON. THE SKY ISN'T FALLING ON ANYONE'S HEAD.

IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME! SOMEONE COMES AND DISTURBS ME WHEN I'M IN MY BATH. LAST YEAR, AND THE YEAR BEFORE THAT, IT NEVER FAILS!

VERY WELL. SINCE IT'S AN OFFICIAL VISIT, LET'S OBSERVE THE CORRECT PROTOCOL.

!!!
I'M LISTENING, O ROMAN!

IT'S LIKE THIS: ONE OF MY MEN HAS BEEN SELECTED TO REPRESENT MY GARRISON AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES!

...AND SOME OF YOUR GAULS, ENTIRELY UNPROVOKED, HAVE GONE AND PUT HIM OFF HIS STRIDE!

ALL I ASK IS THAT HE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO TRAIN IN PEACE

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT, ROMAN, AND I'LL LET YOU HAVE MY ANSWER

CHEERIO!

AYE!

THIS IS IMPORTANT!

IMPEDEMENTA! MY CLOTHES!

I'LL FINISH MY BATH NEXT YEAR. PUT ME DOWN, YOU TWO, AND DON'T SPILL ANYTHING!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

WHAT EXACTLY ARE THE OLYMPIC GAMES?

THE SACRED GAMES, INCLUDING TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS, ARE HELD UNDER THE AEGIS OF ZEUS. THEY TAKE PLACE EVERY FOUR YEARS AT OLYMPIA IN GREECE, WHERE THE HELLENES LIVE, IN THE MONTH OF HECATOMBOEON.

* JULY - AUGUST

THESE GAMES CONSTITUTE A SACRED TRUCE AND LAST FOR FIVE DAYS. GREAT IS THE GLORY OF THE VICTOR AND HIS PEOPLE!

CHEF, WE'LL HAVE TO COOK SOMETHING UP!

I KNOW WHAT!

MUSHROOM SOUP!

?
I'm telling you, they won't worry you any more. Come on, be a good chap, put that broom down!

No, even this broom is too good for me!

All right, just suppose they are better than you, it's only because they've got a magic potion which gives them superhuman strength - that's all!

Your opponents at the games won't have any potion! Ho! Ho! Ho!

That's true! I hadn't thought of that!

Centurion, a Gaulish chief would like to see you.

Splendid! I'll show them I'm friendly by observing their own customs. That will flatter them, my helmet! Where is my helmet?

Soon afterwards...

O Gaul, the Centurion will see you outside his tent?

I've been thinking about what you said...

And?

We've decided to enter for the Olympic Games as well!

What?

Yes, we'll send a champion to Olympia! And may the best man win! Cheers!
WAIT A MINUTE, GAUL! WAIT!

HANG ON, BOYS!

YOU CAN'T ENTER FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES! THEY'RE RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR GREEKS - FREE HELLENIC CITIZENS. THE ONLY OUTSIDERS ALLOWED ARE ROMANS, YOU GAULS CAN'T GO!

YOU'RE NOT HAVING ME ON?

YOU FIND OUT, GAUL, AND YOU'LL SEE I'M ON THE LEVEL.

THERE YOU ARE, GLUTUS MAXIMUS! FEELING BETTER NOW?

FEELING BETTER?...

I'LL GET STRAIGHT BACK INTO TRAINING, BY JUPITER!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

THAT ROMAN'S QUITE RIGHT. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF IT. ONLY GREEKS AND ROMANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENTER THE SACRED GAMES.

BUT, BY TOUTATIS....

... WE ARE ROMANS!
US ROMANS? SINCE WHEN? SINCE OLD JULIUS CONQUERED GALL! HE'S COMMENTED ON THE SUBJECT AT LENGTH, HASN'T HE?

AM I A ROMAN? OF COURSE! ASTERIX IS RIGHT. WE'RE PART OF THE ROMAN WORLD!

LET'S ORGANIZE A FEAST TO CELEBRATE. SOME PEOPLE ARE GOING TO GET A SURPRISE!

IN THE CAMP OF AQUARIUS...

I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THOSE GAULS WERE UP TO SOMETHING...

... I DON'T TRUST THEM AN INCH...

I THINK I'LL GO AND SCOUT ROUND NEAR THEIR VILLAGE

CARRY ON TRAINING, GLUTEUS MAXIMUS. I'LL BE BACK SOON

JOIN THE ARMY, THEY SAID. AN ATMOSPHERE OF HEALTHY COMRADESHP, THEY SAID...

SOON AFTERWARDS... I'LL TAKE A DEEP THOUGH THAT CRACK OVER THERE...

WE'RE ROMANS! WE'RE ROMANS!

UP WITH US ROMANS!

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!

I ASK YOU! YOU RIGHT PEOPLE, YOU MASSACRE THEM, YOU INVADE AND OCCUPY THEIR TERRITORY, AND THEN THEY TURN AGAINST YOU FOR NO REASON AT ALL!
ET NUNC, REGES, INTELLIGITE...

...ERUDIMINI, QUI JUDICATIS TERRAM...

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL, CENTURION?

IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE, MORALE IS HIGH...

WITH THE MAGIC POTION, TO MAKE US INVINCIBLE, WE'RE SURE TO WIN! THAT'S WHAT I CALL SPORT -- NOTHING LEFT TO CHANCE!

THAT REMINDS ME, WE MUST SELECT THE CHAMPIONS TO REPRESENT OUR VILLAGE

COME ALONG! EVERYONE TAKE HIS MAGIC POTION BEFORE THE RACES!

ON YOUR MARKS! THE FINISHING LINE IS OVER THERE BY CACORONIX

HE SAID EVERYONE

NOT YOU, OBERIX. YOU FELL IN IT WHEN YOU WERE A BABY!

WANT A POKE UP YOUR HOOTER?

GRANDPA!

SELECTION PROVES DIFFICULT SINCE ALL THE COMPETITORS HAVE MAGIC POTION COMING OUT OF THEIR EARS. THEY ALL SHOW THE SAME TEMPO OF SPEED.

MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU'D SAY THAT!

SHUT UP, AND RUN!

BRATS! LET YOUR ELDER'S AND BETTER'S PASS!

YOUTH MUST HAVE ITS HONOR!

BADA BUM BADA BUM!
EXACTLY! I FELL IN WHEN I WAS A BABY!

ASTERIX, BECAUSE HE'S THE MOST INTELLIGENT AND BECAUSE WITHOUT HIM WE WOULDN'T BE COMPETING IN THE GAMES AT ALL, AND OBELEX, BECAUSE THE POISON HAD A PERMANENT EFFECT ON HIM.

AND NOW, I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU! WE SHALL ALL ACCOMPANY OUR TEAM TO OLYMPIA TO CHEER THEM ON!

GOOD OLD VITALSTATISTIX!
GOOD OLD ASTERIX!
GOOD OLD OBELEX!
WHEREAS IN THE GALLIC VILLAGE EVERY-ONE IS IN THE BEST OF SPIRITS, CHIEF VITALSTUPUS IS PLANNING THE JOURNEY...

WE'VE HIRED A BOAT. WE'RE GOING TO BE VERY COMFORTABLE: ONE CLASS ONLY, DECK GAMES, OPEN AIR SPORTS AND MARVELLOUS ATMOSPHERE!

THE DRUID JETAFIX HAS TAKEN CHARGE OF ALL THE ATHLETES' TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

WE MUST PLAN THEIR TRAINING CAREFULLY: FOREIGN FOOD COULD RUIN OUR CHAMPIONS' FITNESS.

WE MUST HAVE A WELL-BALANCED DIET

WHAT IS A WELL-BALANCED DIET, O DRUID?

THAT IS!

THE RARE CADIFONIX IS PREPARING FOR THE POMP OF THE CEREMONIES.

I WILL NOW COMPOSE AN OLYMPIC HYMN

NO, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SING!

CLONK!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIS HYMN?

I THINK HE'S SINGING FLAT.

AND THE DAY BEFORE SETTING OFF, THE ATHLETES DO THEIR PACKING.
UP GAUL!
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

THAT'S STRANGE!
I SUDDENLY FEEL THERE AREN'T MANY MEN AROUND HERE...

COME ALONG, LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF IT! WE CAN GET THE PLACE TIDIED UP A BIT BEFORE THOSE LOUDMOUTHS COME BACK!

ALL ABOARD! DON'T FORGET THE BOATS!

GOOD MORNING, CAPTAIN. DOES YOUR BOAT GO AT A GOOD RATE OF KNOTS?

THAT'S A KNotty QUESTION. IT'S UP TO YOU...

THERE ARE YOUR SEATS!
WHAT ARE YOU MOANING ABOUT? ONE CLASS ONLY AS AGREED. AS FOR DECK GAMES AND SPORT, YOU'RE GOING TO GET PLENTY OF THAT.

AND I ADVISE YOU TO GET ROWING FOR A START. WE MUST SAIL WITH THE TIDE.

WHAT ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE?
YOU HAVE A POINT THERE... LET THE MUSIC BEGIN!

AND DON'T MAKE ANY FUSS, YOU'RE GETTING LUXURY CLASS. ON THE USUAL CRUISES, THE PASSENGERS ARE CHAINED UP AND WHIPPED. THERE'S A LONG WAITING LIST. EVERYONE WANTS TO GET TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES!

THE GALLEY SETS OFF FOR ITS DISTANT DESTINATION, THE FASCINATING LAND OF GREECE, WITH ITS PASSENGERS IN THAT DELIGHTFUL SHIPBOARD MOOD WHICH MAKES YOU FORGET ALL YOUR WORRIES.

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A SEA VOYAGE TO RELAX YOU IS THERE, ASTERIX?

NO. IT'S THE STOPS THAT ARE SO TIRESOME.

NOW AND THEN SOME INCIDENT OR CHANCE MEETING MAKES A PLEASANT CHANGE.

A PIRATE GALLEY!
WHERE?
GALLEY RIGHT AHEAD!

THERE AREN'T ONE OR TWO GALLOWS ABOARD THAT GALLEY, BY ANY CHANCE?

IT'S SWARMING WITH FEROCIOUS GALLISH WARRIORS!

Now let's keep calm, me hearties. We're out of our depth here. Stand by to abandon ship! Scuttle her!

They're ours, aren't they, Asterix?

Don't push!

Old people first!

Wooof!

Just a minute!

Boarding pirate vessels is not included in the fare. It's an extra.

What d'you mean, an extra?

I'd just like to point out that boarding is an optional extra...

Apply to the purser. It's two sestertii.

We'll complain to the company! It's an absolute disgrace! You can keep your blessed pirate!

What about us, then? They really are getting rather tiresome!

Who's for dinner? Shall we draw lots, boys?

You've managed to keep your place in the sun, I see!
THE VOYAGE PROCEEDS CALMLY...

THAT'S FUNNY, I'D HAVE THOUGHT SOMEONE WOULD SAY SOMETHING, BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S ALL GREEK TO THEM.

WILL BE THERE TOMORROW, BOYS! PIRAEUS AWAITS US!

GETAFIX...

YES?

PIRÆUS, AS EVERYONE KNOWS NOWADAYS, IS THE HARBOUR OF ATHENS. THE NIGHT BEFORE ARRIVING, AS USUAL, THERE IS A FAREWELL PARTY ON BOARD SHIP.

WHEN FATHER PAPERED...

THE PARTHENON...

AND AT LAST...

BONG...
RIGHT, BOYS! WE REPRESENT GAUL; LET US BE WORTHY OF HER! WE SHOULDN'T DRAW ATTENTION TO OURSELVES, OR MAKE FUN OF THE NATIVES, EVEN IF THEY DON'T HAVE ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF OUR GLORIOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE!

OFF WE GO! AND DON'T FORGET THE BOARS

HEY, ASTERIX!

HAVE YOU SEEN THEIR PROFILES?

SSH, ORELIUS. YOU'LL PUT THEIR NOSES OUT OF JOINT!

WHAT IS IT?

WE'VE GOT A LITTLE TIME TO SPARE BEFORE WE LEAVE FOR OLYMPIA. IT WOULD BE A PITY NOT TO VISIT ATHENS

SHALL WE GO BOYS?

YERRSS!

YOU CAN EXCHANGE YOUR SESTERTIUS FOR OBOloi, DRACMAoi AND MINGs AT MACALOS'S PLACE. YOU'RE QUITE SAFE; HE'S A COUSIN OF MINE

GERIATRIX!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH THESE ORGANIZED TRIPS, YOU'RE NEVER FREE TO DO YOUR OWN THING!

YOU CAN FEEL QUITE SAFE WITH THE CHARIOT DRIVER TOO. HE'S KIDUS, ANOTHER COUSIN OF MINE

JUST A MINUTE, SOMEONE'S MISSING

TEEHEEHEE!
UP G A U L!  WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

GALLO-ROMAN TEAM

DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD ASK THEM TO BE A LITTLE QUIETER?

HUH! WE'RE GOING TO WIN THE GAMES, SO WE MAY AS WELL MAKE A SPLASH!

I'LL DRIVE YOU TO A GOOD HOTEL IN ATHENS. MY COUSIN PHAEOINTOPHELUS IS THE MANAGER.

THESE HORSES ARE GOOD.

YES, THEY'RE AN EXCELLENT TEAM... THEY'RE ALL COUSINS.

I'LL SHOW YOU THE ACROPOLIS!

NO, OBELUX, NOT ANOTHER COUSIN!

I DIDN'T SAY A WORD! WHO IS THIS THEA CRPOLUS?

THERE SHE IS!
N A CHEAP ROOM AT A SMALL
ATHENS HOTEL...

FOR JUPITER'S
SAKE! STOP CARRYING
ON LIKE THAT!

YOU'RE RIGHT!
I MUST TRY AND
CALM DOWN.

THAT'S IT!
FORGET ABOUT
THOSE GAULS!

Hooray!
We're here,
Boys!

Hello?
What's that
noise?

WHAT IS IT?

Mind your own business!
And don't forget to
Sweep out the corners!

YOU'LL BE VERY
COMFORTABLE HERE,
BY JUPITER. THE HOTEL
IS VERY CROWDED,
SO YOU'LL HAVE
to share
ROOMS.

WHAT ABOUT
THE BOARDS?

You can keep
pets in your rooms,
we have to pick it
a bit when the place
is so full.

Oink!
EXCEPT FOR THE BOARS, WHO ARE VERY FUSSY ANIMALS, EVERYONE IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE ACCOMMODATION.

I'M WARNING YOU! I SLEEP WITH THE WINDOW CLOSED!


IT REMINDS ME OF BURDIGALA...

NO THERE'S A LITTLE SQUARE IN MARSILLA...

WHAT, NO DOLMEN?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NOT BAD. IF YOU LIKE COLUMNS

LOOK AT THAT!
LOOK AT THAT, MY FRIENDS!

SMASHING!

HOLD IT THERE!

WELL WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

MAGNIFICENT!

YES, IT'S QUITE GOOD FOR FOREIGNERS!

SPEAKING OF FOREIGNERS, HERE COME OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN!
I AM NOT YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMAN! IF I HAD MY WAY I'D GIVE YOU BACK GAUL AND REPATRIATE EVERYBODY!

SERIOUSLY NOW. YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO TAKE PART IN THE GAMES?

WITH THE MAGIC POTION THAT MAKES US INVINCIBLE. YOU MUST ADMIT WE'D BE STUPID NOT TO!

BUT IT'S NOT FAIR! WHAT'S GOING TO BECOME OF US?

WERE NOT STopping YOU ENTERING... IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE GOING TO WIN...

... THAT'S THE POINT!

I'M TAKING YOU TO HAVE LUNCH AT MY COUSIN'S RESTAURANT. HIS NAME'S THERMO'S

THERE'S NO DEPOSIT ON THE AMPHORA. WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

KEEP IT. IT'LL MAKE A NICE SOUVENIR.

OINK!

SO OUR TOURIST FRIENDS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE JOYS OF STUFFED VINE LEAVES, KEBABS, OLIVES, WATER MELON AND RESINATED WINE.

I HAD ONE WITH ME, BUT I LEFT HIM OUTSIDE. YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BRING YOUR OWN FOOD.

WHAT ON EARTH DO THEY PUT IN THEIR WINE?

OH, FOR A DROP OF AQUITAINE WINE!

D'YOU REMEMBER THAT LITTLE RESTAURANT NEAR LUCNUNULUM WHERE WE HAD THAT DELICIOUS MEAL?

IT'S NOT A PATCH ON SOAR!

OINK!
This is our last night in Athens. Diabobes told me about a good place to eat. One of his cousins is the manager...

They seem to be having a good time in there!

They're fond of dancing... I hear Greek dances are very interesting...

Come on, boys! I'm giving them a demonstration of Gaulish dancing!

As the night goes on, our friends are introduced to the art of Greek dancing...

Lala... Lala... Lala...

Clop! Clop!

I feel ten years younger!

Well, that makes you eighty-three, and it's time you were in bed!

Up with the Greeks!

What's that?

I'll go and see

It's our opponents, training!
OLYMPIA! OLYMPIA, with its temples of Zeus and Phidias' statue of the god, one of the Seven Wonders of the World...

In the Altis, the sacred enclosure, stands the Hellanodikion, where the Helioi, the ten judges elected by the magistrates of Elis, sit...

...and the Prytaneion, which houses the magistrates or Prytanes...

...the Bouleuterion, where the Olympic Senate sits...

...and finally, the Stadium! The track is 192.27 metres long, that is to say 600 times the length of the foot of Heracles...

Which allows us to calculate that the demigod took about size 11 in shoes.

Passing through the narrow, vaulted passage leading from the stadium, we come to the Gymnasiums, where the athletes are training, and where we find members of the Roman team...

Don't bother, boys. We've had it!

They'll make a clean sweep of us!
ARE THOSE YOUR PROVISIONS?

NO, IT'S MY LUGGAGE

UP GAULS AND AT 'EM!

WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

UP GAUL!

IT'S THEM!
IT'S THEM!

JUST A MOMENT! LET ME BY!

I'M PUSERATUS!
I REPRESENT ROME IN ALL THE WRESTLING EVENTS...

I HEAR YOU'RE VERY STRONG, GAUL. I DON'T BELIEVE IT! COME ON, PROVE IT BY MINERVA!

COMING?

COMING!

CRACK!

CAN I PROVE IT TOO, ASTERIX?

I DON'T KNOW. ASK HIM!

CAESAR... CAESAR REALLY IS NOT GOING TO BE PLEASED, IS HE?
While the Greek athletes are training energetically, under the vigilant eye of their trainers, the Alipes...

...the Gauls are having a nap between meals...

...and the Romans have given up trying as well as hope.

There is a taberna in the town...

Which surprises the Olympic magistrates more than somewhat.

A-roming, a-roming, since Roming's been my ru-1-in...

Raw meat and water!

But the Greeks get wind of something...

Sniff! Sniff!

...which leads to regrettable incidents in the Olympic village.

I'm not eating this!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE NOT EATING THAT?

IT'S NASTY

NASTY? BUT YOU'RE A SPARTAN! SPARTANS DON'T MIND HARDSHIP!

ALL RIGHT, SO BACK HOME IN SPARTA WE DO LIVE ON OLIVE STONES AND GRISEL.

BUT BACK HOME IN SPARTA WE DON'T HAVE SAVAGES NEXT DOOR, STUFFING THEMSELVES WITH DELICIOUS THINGS ALL DAY LONG!

BUT THEY'RE DECLINING!

AND SUPPOSE I WANT TO DECLINE TOO, BY ARTEMIS!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE DECLINE!

WE DECLINE TO EAT THIS MUCK!

IF YOU WANT GAMES YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE US BREAD!

AND KEBABS!

AND WINE!

HOW ABOUT A MAMMOTH STEAK?

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR MY LAST WORD?

OUR SUMTON OLYMPIC GAMES ARE VERRING ON THE RUGIOUS, ALL BECAUSE OF THESE ROMANS, DECLINING AND FALLING ABOUT.

ALL WE SHALL SEE IN THE STADIUM IS A SAG OF FAT, DRUNKEN ATHLETES?

I SUGGEST SENDING SAINTPANKRAS TO THE BARBARIANS TO REASON WITH THEM.

BY ZEUS! I MUST GO AND WARN THE AUTHORITIES!
This is where the Romans are training...

I am Saintporkas, one of the Olympic magistrates...

I say, a visitor, take a couch! Old man! Thirty-one can feast as cheaply as thirty!

Aren't you ashamed of yourselves, Romans? What would Julius Caesar say if he could see you?

He wouldn't be pleased, eh?

You may think wine will increase your powers...

Tee heeehee hee!

But don't forget the rules! All artificial stimulants are forbidden on penalty of disqualification!

That's right, that's right! Cheers!

Hey, you! Wait for me, by Jupiter!

Soon afterwards...

There they are!
THAT'S THEM!

YES, THAT'S RIGHT

SUCH PROCEDURES ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!

STRICTLY?

STRICTLY!

ER... IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D LIKE TO APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SACRED ENCLOSURE AND CONSULT OUR FRIENDS!

HO, HO, HO! I'M OFF TO GIVE THE OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS!

GRANTED!

BUT THIS IS ONLY THE EIGHTH COURSE...

GET UP, EVERYONE! STAND TO ATTENTION! TO WORK! YOU BARBARIC LOT! GLUTEUS MAXIMUS! PULL YOUR SOCCI UP! AND JUMP TO IT!

SO MUCH FOR THE EIGHTH COURSE!

AH, THE DISCOBOLI HAVE STARTED TRAINING AGAIN AT LAST!
WE'LL HAVE TO CONSULT CHIEF VITALSTATIS.

OUR FRIENDS MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE.

WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON ASTERIX?

NO, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SING!

MNH! IF I HADN'T SUNK THOSE FIFTEEN VISKOThS WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THE ROOM WE GOT IN OLYMPIA ONCE HOTEL.

HEY, IT'S OUR CHAMPIONS! WHAT'S IN THE WIND, BOYS?

IT TURNS OUT THAT THERE IS SOMETHING VERY NASTY IN THE WIND, WHICH QUITE LURES EVERYONE'S APPETITE AWAY...

IF THAT'S SO...

ALL WE CAN DO IS WITHDRAW!

NO!

WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO GIVE UP. BY TOUTATIS! WE'LL MANAGE WITHOUT THE MAGIC POTION!

SPOKEN LIKE A VETERAN! THE BOYS' RIGHT! IT'S JUST LIKE SO* ALL OVER AGAIN, LADS!

MAKE HIM SHUT UP SOMEONE!

* THE BATTLE OF GERIGOVA 52 BC
JUST A MINUTE!

YOU MEAN I'M NOT ALLOWED TO COMPETE IN THE GAMES BECAUSE I FELL INTO A CAULDRON WHEN I WAS A BABY?

RIGHT! THAT WAS ALL I WANTED TO KNOW!

WELL THEN THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO. WE KEEP ASTERIX ENTERED FOR THE GAMES. GETAFIX AND OBEIX WILL ACT AS HIS TRAINERS... AND WE MUST TRUST IN THE GODS!

ONE PALM OR VICTORY WOULD DO... YOU'LL COMPETE ONLY IN THE TRACK EVENTS, LETS GET BACK TO THE ENCLOSURE, FAST. I'M IN A HURRY TO START TRAINING.

RUNNY, ALL THE SAME, THIS DISCRIMINATORY ANTI-POT RULE!
I'LL SPRINT ROUND THE TRACK, SIND ME, WILL YOU?

HMM... NOT BAD, BUT IS IT GOOD ENOUGH TO BEAT THOSE HIGHLY TRAINED ATHLETES?

HOW ABOUT USING FINGER SAND?

LET'S GO TO BED. THE GAMES BEGIN TOMORROW... I FEEL FULL OF CONFIDENCE!

AND HOW ABOUT TELLING THEM I FELL INTO AN ANTHORA INSTEAD OF A CAULDRON?

THAT NIGHT, IN THE SACRED ENCLOSURE, ALL THE ATHLETES DREAM OF HONOUR AND VICTORY...

THE GREAT DAY DAWNS! SPECTATORS ARRIVE FROM ALL OVER THE CIVILIZED WORLD... MEN ONLY, FOR WOMEN ARE FORBIDDEN TO WATCH THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'LL SEE WOMEN WILL TAKE PART IN THE GAMES! NOT JUST AS SPECTATORS, EITHER!

YES, AND I SUPPOSE THEY'LL BE DRIVING CHARIOTS TOO!
AH, HERE ARE OUR SEATS!

RIGHT: IT'S ALL SETTLED, THEN—WE ACT IN A CALM AND DIGNIFIED WAY AND RESPECT OUR OPPONENTS; WE'LL BE GOOD SPORTS AND NOT MAKE OURSELVES CONSPICUOUS AS IF WE WOULD!

AFTER TAKING THE OLYMPIC OATH ON THE ALTAR OF ZEUS HERKIOS...

WE ARE FREE MEN OF PURE HELLENIC BLOOD WHO HAVE NEVER COMMITTED ANY CRIMINAL OR SACRILEGIOUS ACTS. WE SWEAR TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE GAMES...

AND THERE IS A SPARTAN ASSORTMENT WHO ARE BAREFOOT, BUT A FEW OF THE ATHLETES ARE NUDISTS; THE MARATHON TEAM HAS HAD TO COME A LONG DISTANCE AND SOME OF THE COMPETITORS FROM AITION ARE MISTERSKELY

... AND IF THE ROMAN TEAM AS A WHOLE IS RESERVED WITH GENERAL INDIFFERENCE, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR ONE OF ITS MEMBERS.

RHODES HAS SENT ONLY ONE REPRESENTATIVE, A COLOSSUS...

YO-HO-HO! BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU!

OH! LET'S BE GOOD SPORTS!

GAUL! GAUL! GAUL!

AS-TER-IX! AS-TER-IX!

HURRAH!
The athletes, both Greek and Roman, get into position for the first race. 20 laps up and down the stadium. They are all, at the present, tense...

...and the starter's mood is imperative...

Get set! Go!

Gaul! Gaul! Gaul!

As-ter-ix!

As-ter-ix!

Gau...

Sparta!

Not bad, Asterix.

Those Spartans are strong. The Romans are very fit too.

If you hadn't made your potion in a cauldron, I could have entered for that race! If only you'd used an ordinary pot... just my luck!

This is not a question of taking pot luck, Obelix.

If we see here the origin of an expression which has come down to us from ancient Olympic times.
While the winners mount the podium to receive their palms...

Hold it there!

...and the fans make their own comments

The track's soft

There's the climate too... it's a hard climate!

And don't forget the boars!

Or the boars' food. The poor creatures aren't used to...

And the attitude of the crowd! In my day they showed a bit more restraint!

One event follows another: ordinary wrestling, all-in wrestling, boxing...

In these events neroroses, the Colossus of Rhodes is unbeatable

Aha!

Aha!

Aha!

Flatten him, our kid!

Aha!

Aha!

Aha!

Clap! Clap!

Are all your family like that?

Oh no! Our eldest brother is much stronger...

But he couldn't come. Mummy had to smack him, and he hasn't got over it yet. Ha, ha, ha!

Sport keeps you fit, they said...

Men's Savia, in Corporate Sando, they said...
At the end of the day, the athletes return to the sacred enclosure to take stock...

Well, in view of your brilliant results, do you think Julius Caesar is going to be pleased?

In the Bouleuteron, the Olympic Senate, the magistrates, hellanodikai, priests and officials have assembled. Philolistus, the great orator, is in the chair.

Noble and valiant friends! Our own athletes are going to win all the palms, as usual!

That's right!

By Athene!

By Apollo!

-up with us!

But we can't ask our athletes to cheat, just to let these decadent barbarians win!

Gureka! I think I have it!

All Romans are summoned to the gymnasium!

That's us! I'll never get used to it!

None the less, if we don't give these Roman barbarians the chance of winning one palm, tourists will take no more interest in our games...

And as my cousin Diogenes puts it: no more tourists! No more money, no more business! Our beautiful monuments will fall into ruin! No one will ever want to look at them then!
ROMANS: THE OLYMPIC SENATE HAS DECIDED TO HOLD AN EXTRA EVENT TOMORROW! A RACE OF 200 BC STADIUM, FOR ROMANS ONLY!

WHAT A PITY YOU CAN'T TAKE A FEW DROPS OF MAGIC POTION BEFORE THE RACE!

MAGIC POTION? YOU MEAN THE POTION IN THE CAuldRON IN THE SHED OVER THERE...?

YES OF COURSE... I MEAN THE MAGIC POTION!

YES, THE CAuldRON IN THE SHED OVER THERE WITH THE DOOR THAT DOESN'T SHUT PROPERLY, THE ONE THAT ISN'T GUARDED BY NIGHT... WOULD THAT BE THE ONE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, OBEIX?

BEH... YES!

OH, BUT WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DRINK THE MAGIC POTION IN THE CAuldRON IN THE SHED OVER THERE...

... WITH THE DOOR THAT DOESN'T SHUT PROPERLY, THE ONE THAT ISN'T GUARDED BY NIGHT

WHERE'S GOING ON?

WHAT A HEED, HEED, HEED!

OBEIX, YOU'RE BRIGHTER THAN ANY OF US!

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DOGMATIX? Since ASTERIX AND GETAPIX TURNED ROMAN, THEY'VE BEEN CRAZY TOO!

TAP! TAP! TAP! WOOF!
HERE, GLUTEUS MAXIMUS...

IF WE ARE TO BE PROMOTED, JULIUS CAESAR HAS TO BE PLEASED, AND IF JULIUS CAESAR IS TO BE PLEASED, YOU HAVE TO WIN THE RACE AND THE PRAISE OF VICTORY...

NOW I HAVE AN IDEA. THERE MAY BE A SHED OVER THERE, WITH A DOOR WHICH DOESN'T SHUT PROPERLY, ONE THAT ISN'T GUARDED BY NIGHT, CONTAINING...

A CAULDRON OF MAGIC POTION!

SSSH!

QUO VADIS, VERAMBITUS? IT WILL SOON BE DARK. WE MUST GO TO BED EARLY, WITH THE RACE TOMORROW...

OH, WE WERE JUST OFF FOR A LITTLE WALK...

JULIUS CAESAR WOULDN'T BE VERY PLEASED TO KNOW THAT WE ROMANS WEREN'T STICKING TOGETHER...

WOULD HE?

AND THAT NIGHT...

GRRRRRRRR!
HEY! DOGMAFIX HAS JUST WOKEN ME UP! THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE PROWLING OVER THERE, BY THE SHED WITH THE DOOR WHICH DOESN'T SHUT PROPERLY, THE ONE THAT ISN'T GUARDED BY NIGHT, CONTAINING THE CALDRON OF MAGIC POTION...!

DOGMAFIX IS A GREAT WATCHDOG! WELL, YOU TELL YOUR GREAT WATCHDOG TO GO BACK TO SLEEP, AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

BUT THEY MIGHT STEAL THE CALDRON! THEFT OF CALDRONS IS NOT A CRIME AMONG THE HELLINES?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT THE CALDRON LAWS IN THESE PARTS? DOGMAFIX?

THESE HELLINES ARE CRAZY!

IT IS THE DAY OF THE 24 STADIUM RACE, I.E. 4614 METRES, 4614 CENTIMETRES, OR AS WE MIGHT PUT IT MORE SIMPLY TODAY, 14,400 SIZE 11 SHOES LAY END TO END.

ALL COMPETITORS ON THE STARTING GROUNDS!
O DRUID! I SUDDENLY HAD THE IDEA OF TAKING A LOOK AT THE SHED OVER THERE, THE ONE WITH THE...

YES, YES, I KNOW!

YES, BUT THE CAULDRON IS EMPTY!

OBELIX! THIS IS NO TIME TO BOTHER US! GO AND SIT IN THE STANDS WITH THE OTHERS!

OH, ALL RIGHT, I SEE! COME ON, DOGMATIX, ALL THE SAME, THEY COULD REALLY DO WITH SOMEONE BRIGHT HERE!

NO, YOU CAN'T SIT THERE; I'M KEEPING IT FOR MY BROTHER!

THESE BARBARIANS LOOK VERY SURE OF THEMSELVES!

I DARE SAY, WELL SEE WHAT'S LEFT OF THEIR CIVILIZATION IN A FEW YEARS TIME!

THIS SEAT IS NOT TAKEN AND I'M IN NO MOOD FOR FOOLING ABOUT!

YOU'RE NOT HAVING THIS SEAT!

HAVE YOU SEEN MY BROTHER?

YOU'RE A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, AREN'T YOU?

CLONK!
IN THE STANDS, THE ENTHUSIASM...

UP GAUL!

AS-TER-IX! AS-TER-IX! COME ON, TITCH!

IF THEY ONLY KNEW... BUT NO ONE EVER LISTENS TO ME!

BRRROOM!

THE TRACK REALLY IS SOFT!

ASTERIX MUST HAVE EATEN A BOAR WHICH MUST HAVE EATEN SOMETHING...

BUT THE RACE SOON TAKES A STRANGE TURN...

... FOR ONE OF THE COMPETITORS IS ABOUT TO BE LAPPED BY ALL THE OTHERS, AN UNHEARD-OF EVENT!
CAESAR WILL BE PLEASED WON'T HE?

ONE MOMENT! I WISH TO RAISE AN OBJECTION

ONE MOMENT! I WISH TO RAISE AN OBJECTION

YES! THE TRACK WAS TOO SOFT!
AND THE BOARS AREN'T WELL EITHER: THEY MUST HAVE BEEN MAKING PIGS OF THEMSELVES!

I ACCUSE ALL WHO FINISHED FIRST OF BEING FULL OF MAGIC POTION UP TO THE BARS!
THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS ACCUSATION! CAN YOU PROVE IT?

QUID? QUOMODO? THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!
I REFUSE TO SUBMIT TO...

CHEATS!
YAAAH!

YAAAH YOURSELF!

LOOK! I ADDED SOME PERMITTED COLOURING MATER TO THE CAULDRON OF MAGIC POTION... THOSE WHO DRANK IT HAVE ALL GOT BLUE TONGUES!
BY HERAKES, YOU'RE RIGHT!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...

ALL COMPETITORS WHO DRANK THE MAGIC POTION ARE DISQUALIFIED! THE PALM OF VICTORY IS THEREFORE AWARDED TO... ASTERIX!

ASTERIX!
HURRAH FOR ASTERIX!
I ALWAYS KNEW THE LITTLE FELLOW HAD IT IN HIM!

YOU MEAN... ASTERIX HAS WON?

IN A WAY, OBERIX — IN A WAY!

I SHOULD NOW LIKE...

...TO THEIR LITTLE VILLAGE WHERE UNDER A STARRY SKY THEY CELEBRATE THEIR OLYMPIC VICTORY — SOMETHING THAT DOES A LOT FOR ANY NATION'S PRESTIGE.

WHAT PUZZLES ME IS THE WAY THEY DISCRIMINATE AGAINST CAULDRONS...

...THAT WE LEAVE THE LAND OF THE HELLENES, OUR FRIENDS! HAVE A QUIET CRUISE HOME...

...AND FOR ONCE... FOR ONCE CAESAR IS PLEASED!

LEGIONARY GLUTEUS MAXILLIS, I MAKE YOU A CENTURION! CENTURION CAELUS VERAMIPTUS! I PROMOTE YOU TO TRIBUNE!

THE END