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The Great Roman Museum
/Terra Incognita and The
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The Great Roman Museum

Apocrypha

This document keeps the secret of the Great Roman museum, and is one of a kind from the time of the Roman Empire. This secret should be kept; otherwise this museum can fall into the clutches of people who might wipe the things made by the hands of many famous engravers and artists.

As you read this text, you, man of God, should know that this secret is kept thanks to God's will and God's curse will let no one escape from it, especially one who takes the treasures. God witnesses and will punish those who greedily go against his will.

But you, man of God who reads this text, keep the secret and do not share God's secrets with anyone. Only God's people, and only trustworthy and proven people, can keep it for eternal times.

The one who enters in the underground palace should enter it with the knowledge of God and without evil thoughts in their souls. May the one who doesn't obey God's law be punished with suffering and pain... i.e. this writ.

The entrance of the Great Museum in Rome is in a mountain, near the fortress of Serds. South-east from the fortress in a high place is the great Rock...it will help you when you search. Ten strides away from the waterfall, the place where the water falls precisely, on the north-west of the current there is an enormous crack. It is three strides wide in its base and two strides wide at its top. The end of the crack will show you the entrance of the museum. It is very narrow and it is difficult to pass through. It is covered with many stones and soil, but it is only the beginning,

but if one is motivated enough and works hard, they will get to the marble doors. When you climb down in the hole you will get to them.

The hole is narrow for ten strides, then it becomes wide and will take you to a big hallway with a wide marble door.

You can easily find your way to the outside of the entrance of the museum when you see the images of demon heads in the rock's side. From the river's side, as high as the wedged rock, you can see two demon heads. It is all designed in a triangular shape.

These two heads are engraved in the wall and are located one next to the other. From the other side of the crack, by the river, you can see as high at the base other demon head in the triangular shape. Its image is much smaller than the other two.

The great museum dates back in time, when in its base was Savel's tomb. It is covered in color marble brought from the ore mines of Vratitsa.

When you enter the red marble door you will find a staircase with 700 steps, made of pure white marble. One can see that there is a stage on every fifty steps, and there are huge marble statues that hold the sunlight.

The arch of the staircase is higher than twenty strides. On the first stage, where the steps end with twenty huge statues, you will see a huge bluish Bogins, protected from its two sides by huge Dinoids.

You will then come across an enormous metal door. Once you enter, you will be astounded by the beauty in the color hall of the museum. Every possible kind of marble that was discovered at that time was used on the walls of the hall.

This is the hall of the marble gods, because as I said before, it

was made with lots of color marble.

The columns that are spread all over the hall are made of marble in different colors and at each one of them you will see the heads of many gods and examples of Hornis celebrations.

The mosaic consists of arranged marble pieces in different colours and among them there is multicolored Purtinov dust.

A grand stalactite tells us about the time before the cave turned into a museum.

In the hall, in the end heading east, there are two enormous loops which will lead you to hall II once you pull them.

This hall is narrower. One can see the history of the Romans ore mines that existed at that time.

The big map was made of golden admixture and can be seen at the beginning of the hall. It is five by five and a half strides. On it one can see all the roman settlements from that time. The gold mines are shown as yellow dots.

This hall shows you all the different ores which were obtained at the time the museum was made. Big chunks of gold show us how rich the mines were when Romans exploited them. In the east side of the hall there is a natural holomsk with a big chunk of gold in it.

A countless number of chests can be seen with their labels on them, made ready to be taken to the museum in Rome, but were left behind after Romans unexpectedly left the lands of Serds. The torches on the walls of the hall are made of bone that illuminates greenish blue light in the dark. Once you enter in it you will feel really scared because the figures on the walls arch and floor will cast light on you but you, will get used to that.

The human figures that glow in the west wall are really horrible

and scary to look at. You need to know they do not move, although it feels like they do. It is only your fright and the metal system combined with the two dead human bodies in equal coloring which makes them seem animated, and the corpses emanation made of red and green balm makes them look as if they are movabled.

You need to know that if you speak in the hall, you will hear sounds for hours. If so you will feel that the images on the walls and the ceiling move and utter. All that can make everyone crazy once he or she enters here.

There are holes of different depth shaped like funnels in this hall. When a sound is emitted it goes in and out of these holes. That mixes sounds. One should be silent when he enters the hall. This hall is fearful although you know the writ. What is necessary is that shoes should be silent.

There is a marble throne with loops on the arms, at the south side of the hall. There is a loop between the legs as well.

When you sit in the throne push with your two hands the loops and pull the middle one so that it attach. As you do that you will find yourself in the middle of five galleries in the biggest hall of the museum –III.

The Animals' hall. It is 120 strides wide and 7 strides high. You can see countless small and large marble squares in order. On each square there is an animal made of solid gold. There are more than 260 golden animals and birds, but on the northern side there is the scariest bird of them all, it is made of bones.

The eyes of the animals are made of diamonds brought from Rome. A huge lizard is in the middle of the room. It was made of many metals. It is three strides big. To enter the secret entrance of the other hall you need to move a tooth, this way you open a staircase to another hall which has gold objects.

In the end of every marble square there is a paraffin cube. Its

content was written on leather and states the origin of the animal; its weight and size, the place where it was killed, who killed it and who made it of gold the way it is today.

Be careful, every fourth square on the floor is on axis and will drop you to an underground river from which no one has returned.

Golden ornaments hall-IV. It resembles the one with the animals. 4750 golden objects lie in stone chests.

You will find it surprising that these chests are welded to the floor. I will reveal this secret as well.

The huge balls are rivets and the metal rope is welded in a ball and leads to another hall, the one with golden coins and church items. At the end of every rope there is a ring that doesn't allow the chests to be lifted, moved or opened.

When you enter hall V you can open the chests. There are weapons and gold arrows-Venvora. They were all coated in gold after they were made. Only priests and kings had them.

Among the golden jewelry you can see 70 chests with golden statues from Emperors celebrations. To look at them and place them in the correct order, you need to put them in cross like order as it is written in the description. The jewelleries by the walls are like those in the chests but, in contrast to them, they are one of a kind, there is nothing else like them in other museum in Rome.

Everything that you see near the marble walls is made in the underground ore-mine, Nolenas in Greece, near Athens. In the red marble chests are made in the underground goldsmith's yard by the Serds' fortress and in the green ones are from the ore-mine Suhaso near Rome.

Each chest goes along with documents with the number of objects, their origin and the name of the person who made them.

Pay attention that the floor in that hall had been arranged as X. Every second square is on an axis and if you step on one you will lose your life down in the abyss. Be careful!

The enormous white marble chest with a snake head on it is a depository of a very strong poison. It is eternal. If you reach to open that chest, the whole hall will be filled with reddish dust and every living creature will find its death.

Remember that in the west hall there is a plate with a cross on it as big as a stride. Once you press it, it will slide. If you move the plate while the chest is open, very quickly, all the halls will be filled with reddish smoke and it will be impossible for you to exit the museum. Be careful.

Do that only if evil people want to steal from the museum. You can save yourself if you enter column IV. It opens in a secret way, but when you open the door you will find yourself in a staircase which will help you exit the museum.

Hall V of horrors, mummies and herbarea. It is with two colors of marble, green and blue. The hall is about 150 strides wide, and the arch is about 8 strides high. Once you enter this hall you need not to panic but be calm. Thousands of human heads and bodies in different sizes are looking at you from every direction.

You will be watched by the mummies of thousands of people in extremely tiny size. They will reveal to you the terrible methods which the Romans perfected in shrinking the human body to the size of a hand but still not disfiguring facial expressions or normal bodily shapes.

In the north side of the hall you will see human corpses placed on marble bases. Liquid hetavarast was poured over alive corpses and they immediately froze. They are crystals, and if you do not touch them you will not know that there is frost as thick as a human palm around them.

That translucent liquid was discovered by Pomaris-the water priest. The corpses can be reanimated, but only with writ that was left by the priests in a paraffin cube near them.

In the south side of the hall many corpses are arranged on bases. They were used in experiments by the great priest of the wood-nymph garden, Bonivas.

You will feel coldness by the view you are about to see. Human bodies with implanted animal heads.

The most horrible thing to see is a human corpse with implanted frog head that belongs to the underground giant frog family.

Pay attention that all corpse eyes and heads move and glow. Wherever you go they will follow, because they are reacted by your steps on the marble floor. All this shows the frightening mystery of that hall in the famous but rarely seen Roman museum.

You will see many bodies of men, women and children. The experiments with them are terrible and upsetting, you will see bodies with animals' limbs, women's head with dragon's mouth. The thing you will see in the middle of the hall will disgust you- it is corpses that have been altered so that the result is Dosex- it is a human with two heads. You will feel depressed, but this is what truth is, presented to you this way you will see it when you enter into that hall.

Every fourth day the walls in that hall illuminate a bluish glow. It cannot burn or set fire to anything. These walls can kept what is within for thousands of years.

While the walls glow it is a bad idea for a person to be inside, because he will go into a trance and it can affect his brain.

Those who had trance in the hall become fortune tellers and predict things that happen hundreds and thousands of miles away from them. But others become to live very badly and it is best that

they don't be alive.

The augurs can predict calamity only one moon cycle ahead, all of this is difficult to describe, but I need to tell you that only when you drink ... in front of the huge marble... glass... you would be able to continue.

You need to know that anyone who enters through the marble door in hall cannot return back and exit. He should carry on, and in case of danger, exit via column IV in hall IV.

Hall VI has golden coins and gems in it. This is the smallest hall and will not impress you a lot at the very beginning. But take note that its walls are not like the walls in the other halls.

Enormous stone paintings are the temple of the God Healer and the temple of the Sun. Every single coin, big or small, gold or silver is arranged in chests.

On the walls you will see every kind of big gems.

The chests in the north side of the hall are filled with coins. The engraved seven chests located in the middle of the hall are filled with priceless gems from all over the world.

To exit that hall, you need to step on the two tiles in the left side of the hall. One of the tiles is white and the other one is red.

That way, you will get to the hall VII, which is the last hall in the museum.

It is called Mixed. This is because all who enter it will see everything from the previous halls, but in much greater numbers. This is the biggest hall.

Once you enter, the first thing you will see is the combination of many colors of marble that looks like a radiance. That magnificent combination of marbles will astound and amaze you.

In the middle of the hall you will see marble columns in different colors and in the middle of them there is a sarcophagus. The founder of the museum is placed there, in a throne; he is a well-known ruler from the Roman clan of Stelnovolistkonteven, who had found the golden mountain by the Latin sea. He was embalmed in his natural size and shape.

It is not necessary to tell you more of what you will see in the hall, I only need to tell you the thing you need to know. All the objects are arranged in a pleasant order all over the hall. The things you had not seen in the halls before you will see here and you will be amazed.

Pure white marble fills the southern side of the hall. A few human figures and many figures of animals are arranged one next to the other. On the ceiling the figures constantly change their colors, each one individually and not in precise time. The view of that is unbelievable.

The east part of the hall is interesting and scary at the same time. There is a five stride long bird, made of pure gold. The west side of the hall consists of gold-smith objects.

There is the life water hod. It is unique, makes miracles as you will read in its description.

You will definitely need the west side of the hall. This is where the exit is. On its wall there is a painting three by two and a half strides big. Press the bottom left corner of the painting and it will open. Once you exit, it will self close.

The precise description of the entries of the Great Roman Museum from the side of the mountain is as we described it at the beginning of the text and it is located at the white stone.

You need to know that it all is made in a way that there is a great danger when this entrance is being opened to provoke a

great collapse, because the entry was covered in stones. They should first be removed, so that the hole can be reached.

When the hole is opened, when the first stones are removed other stones will collapse and that will lead to the death of the ones who work there.

Good people, when you decide to open the entry to the great Roman Museum don't stop thinking and Pray to God for his protection when you decide to open the entrance of the Great Roman Museum.

God protect you!

(The apocrypha had not been edited so to keep its authentic wording.)

Brief Historical Reference

We could trace the origin of apocrypha back to inheritors of Haiduts. There are two theories how it ends up there.

The first theory is that Haiduts got apocrypha from a dying priest, whose monastery, somewhere in the region of Sofia, was burned down by the Turks.

The second theory says that Haiduts took it from a captured group of Latin priests in the Stara Planana region. They carried with them some Roman documents about the treasures of the Roman Empire in our territories and were looking for them in the mountains.

It is important to clarify for the foreign readers that Haiduts are national resistance against the Ottoman Empire during the century long slavery in Bulgaria and on the Balkans.

Serds are ancient Thracian tribe that inhabited the territory of nowadays capital of Bulgaria-Sofia.

Serds' Mountain is Vitosha. In the foot of the mountain is located the ancient fortress Serdica.

The Great rock is the ancient sacred place Kopitoto. The beautiful Boyana waterfall is located very near it.

Although the above mentioned apocrypha sounds like a magic fairytale, the landmarks in it are precisely accurate and real...

Only time will show if in the galleries of the ancient ore-mines in the mountain Vitosha had ever been built a Great roman Museum...

Serdica (Sofia) is one of the oldest European capitals. Its history can be followed by Neolith time. Traces of a few neolith settlements are found in its territory (near nowadays Dvorets, and in the area of Slatina) they have been dated 5000 years B.C.

In the 7th century B.C. at the north side of the hot mineral spring, near the river of Eleshnitsa (now known as Vladaiska) there was a Thracian town, it became famous with the name Serdonpolis or Serdica. For a short period of time in the 4th century B.C. it was ruled By Phillip II and after that by his son Alexandar Makedonski.

A big city (its successor the Bulgarian capital Sofia), was settled in the area in the 1st century; it was located near a Roman military post. It became bigger in time and developed into a centre of the province.

On the crossroad between central Europe and the East, the cold north and the warm Aegean Sea, the town changed its names and its rulers, but life never stopped in it.

Magnificent monuments of the ancient past are located among contemporary buildings in Sofia - St George Church, St. Sofia church, the amphitheatre etc, but the main proofs of the ancient period, when Sofia was Serdica and emperors were staying in it, gladiators' fights and Ecumenical councils were held in it, are still located under contemporary boulevards and squares. The map of a big city, hidden under the new city, reveals its secrets step by step.

First researches of Serdika dated back in the end of the 19th century, but serious excavations and researches started before the Second World War. After 1944 the researches were widescale and most bigger. Most of them were made in 1950s when the bombarded centre was rebuilt. The excavations could only save a little things, because the researchers didn't have enough time for detailed excavations, because the building process of some of the very important government buildings (MS, NS, TSUM, hotel Balkan) could not wait.

The things they discovered and the conclusions based on them mark the main cornerstones in Serdika research. The researches that started in the end of the 1980s are not so large scaled, but are more precise and scientific.

The building process of Sofia's underground metropolitan system almost in the centre of the ancient city brought a new archaeological peak. They started in 2010 and opened new pages of the history of Serdika and edited some of the already popular ones.

In the 1st century the Roman province of Inner Dacia was not yet fully taken in control. Local people's riots and the attacks of the coming tribes made the military presence absolutely necessary. Serds lived in the area, but very few details are known about them.

After conquering the province, the military post expanded to civil settlement. In 106 emperor Marcus Ulpius Traianus (98-117) gave it a status of municipium- a settlement with autonomus

regime. Serdica, located in the way of the roman road Via Militaris flourished as an important settlement in the Thracian province. By the end of the 3rd century it started to look like a big town. Roman houses made of stone and brick started to appear, they were usually built around an inner yard. Probably the streets back then were broader, because they were not limited within the range of fortress walls. Back then the citizens were relying on strong empire borderline garnisons, although they were not always capable to protect it.

Thick layer of burnt materials shows that when Barbarian tribes attacked Serdika in 170, it was captured, robbed and burnt down. But the settlement was brought back to life very quickly. High fortress walls started to surround the place; they were equipped with powerful towers and protective gates. The building process took place between 176 and 180 and in the following centuries they were rebuilt and reinforced a few times.

Serdica started to make its own coins when emperor Mark Aurelius (161-180) and his son Comod (176-192) ruled it. The place was as important as any other in the Roman Civilisation. Water coming from Vitosha was caught and entered through underground channels. Very well built sewerage took dirty water out of town. In the 2nd century healing waters from hot mineral springs were caught as well. They provided water to private and public bathrooms, some of them are the famous Serdic thermaes, visited by Roman emperors.

From the second half of the 3rd century the city's importance increased greatly. Although it was attacked by Goths in 271 it was preferred to Nish and it became a capital city of the vast Roman province Dacia Avreliana, placed in Moesia Superior by emperor Aurelius. When Dioclecian performed an administrative reform in 285 Serdica became the capital of the newly created province Mediterranean (Inner) Dacia. When dioecesis Moesia was divided in two, it became the capital of Dacia, the northern dioecesis.

In the period of the 3rd and 4th century the city reached its

best, it became bigger and was benefitted better; magnificent cultural and public buildings were built in it, including a bigger amphitheatre. It was built on an already existing Roman amphitheatre from the 2nd century. Its oval arena, 60,5m long and 43 m broad it is only about ten meters smaller than the one in the Coliseum in Rome. The amphitheater was located outside the city walls because of its large size. It is believed it could sit about 25 000 people. Circus performances and gladiators fights took place on its arena. That was shown on a unique stone poster plate, found by archaeologists. Fights between animals and people are depicted on it.

The things discovered in the amphitheater show that its building process was started when Diocletian (284-305) ruled and was completed by Constantine the Great. Later, when the empire lost its strength the building lost its importance.

Still under the buildings of Sofia is placed the agora- antique Serdica main square. It most probably is under St Nedelya square. Up until now its dimensions are not known. There are multiple hypotheses about the buildings' plans around the square and how the city's main streets were supposed to connect it. Constantine the Great' residence in Serdica is still not found as well.

What were the people of ancient Serdica? On the Balkans, from Traian's time, in the towns along with Thracians kings ancestors one could meet Syrian, Egyptian, Greek and Jews. They worshipped Heros, Mithras, Isis, Zeus, Yahweh etc. in the epigraphic monuments here are found Thracian, Greek, Latin, Anatolian and Semite tribes. The ethnic versatility of the people populating Serdica is proved by the great number of gods found there (starting with roman Greek pantheon and Anatolian Cybele to Egyptian Serapis and Iranian Mithras).

Many of the Roman emperors have non italic origin. Traian, who added to the city's name the name of his father (it became Ulpia Serdica) was born on the territory on nowadays Spain. Diocletian and Constantine the Great both was Illyrian in their origin. Constantine's predecessor emperor Galerius was born and

died on the territory of Serdica.

Emperor Aurelianus was probably born in Serdica, although there is not a certain proof of this.

This is a period in history when Rome gradually loses its position of “world’s centre” and Byzantium slowly turned itself into Constantinople – new Rome. It was the time that a rule appeared; the capital is where the emperor is.

To call Serdica one of empire’s capitals is too much, but it is a fact that many Roman emperors stayed in it for long periods of time.

Galerius Valerius Maximianus (293-311) loved spending time here. He was convinced that Christianity is the reason for the decline of Roman Empire; he was very passionate about the antichristian chasing, started by his father in law Diocletian. After a sequence of difficult battles in very bad health condition he withdrew in his favorite Serdica. According to the annals his body was covered in cankers. As an act of repentance some time before he died in May 311 Galerius published Edictum Tolerationis Galerii, and with it he abolished chasing the Christians.

Serdica got the historical moment of honor to be the place where Christianity was announced to be a legal religion in Roman Empire.

The 4th century was a new era for Roman Empire and for the lands that belonged to it. At the beginning Christianity was accepted as equal to other religions, but seven decades later it was the only official religion in the Empire.

Serdica was the favorite town of Emperor Constantine the Great (born in the nearby located Nish). The emperor loved to stay in Serdica, where many of his decrees were published, saved in Corpus Iuris Civilis. He lived and ruled the Roman Empire for a long time from his palace here, called on condition by scientists “urban residence”. In the 4th century it was located in a whole neighborhood of the town, called Constantine’s neighborhood.

Serdica was affected by the great political and economic changes during the regime of Constantine the Great (306-337). The city confirmed its position of a place of Christianity study. An ancient chronicle man left for us the fact that originally Constantine wanted to place the empire government in the city. He deeply loved it; he would often say "Serdica is my Rome". It was probably because of political or strategy reasons why he preferred Byzantion and gave up his idea to do so, but the precise reason is not clear.

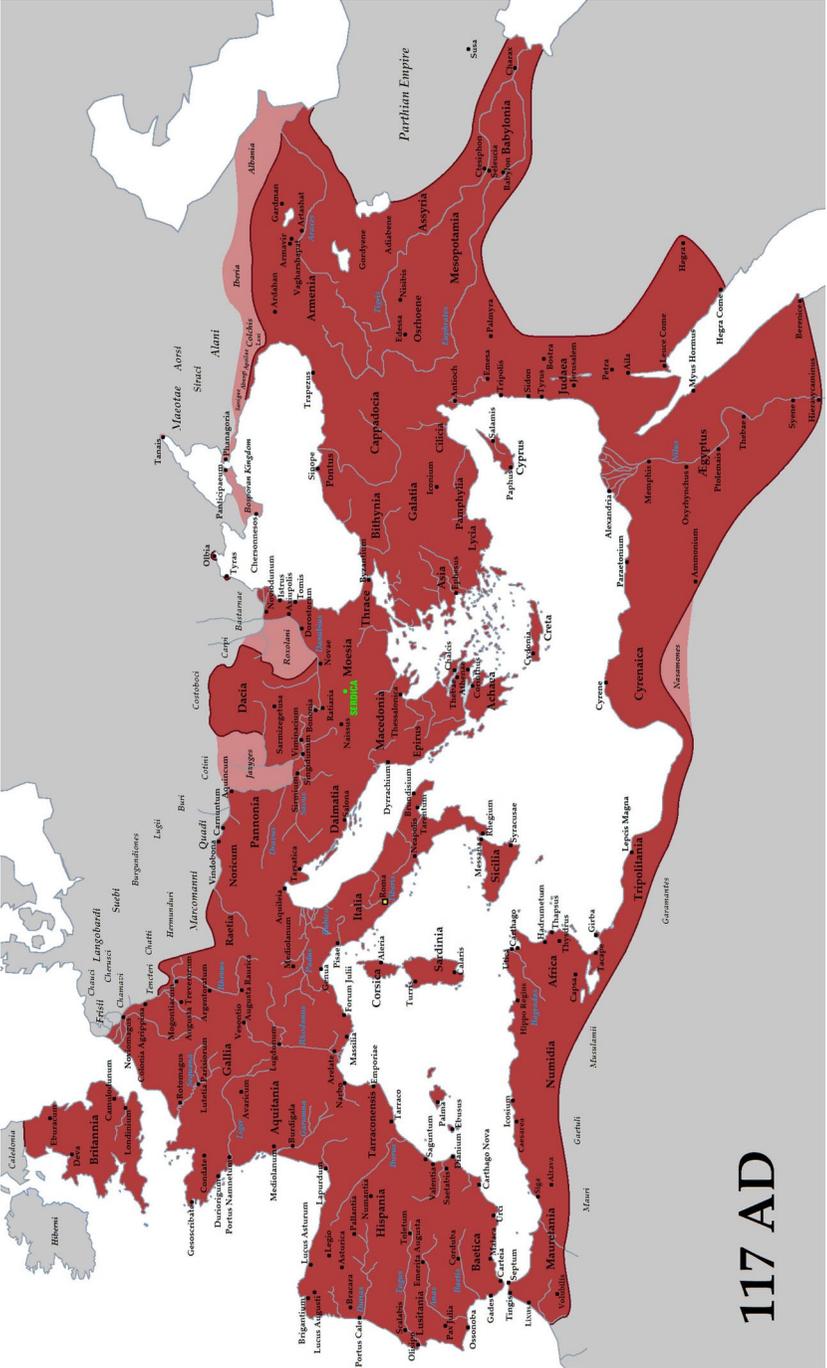
Constantine's sons, who were ruling the separated in East and West Roman Empire, found Council of Serdica in the year of 343. It continued the First church Council in 325 of Nicaea and aimed to attain consensus between Arians and Nicaeans about God's son.

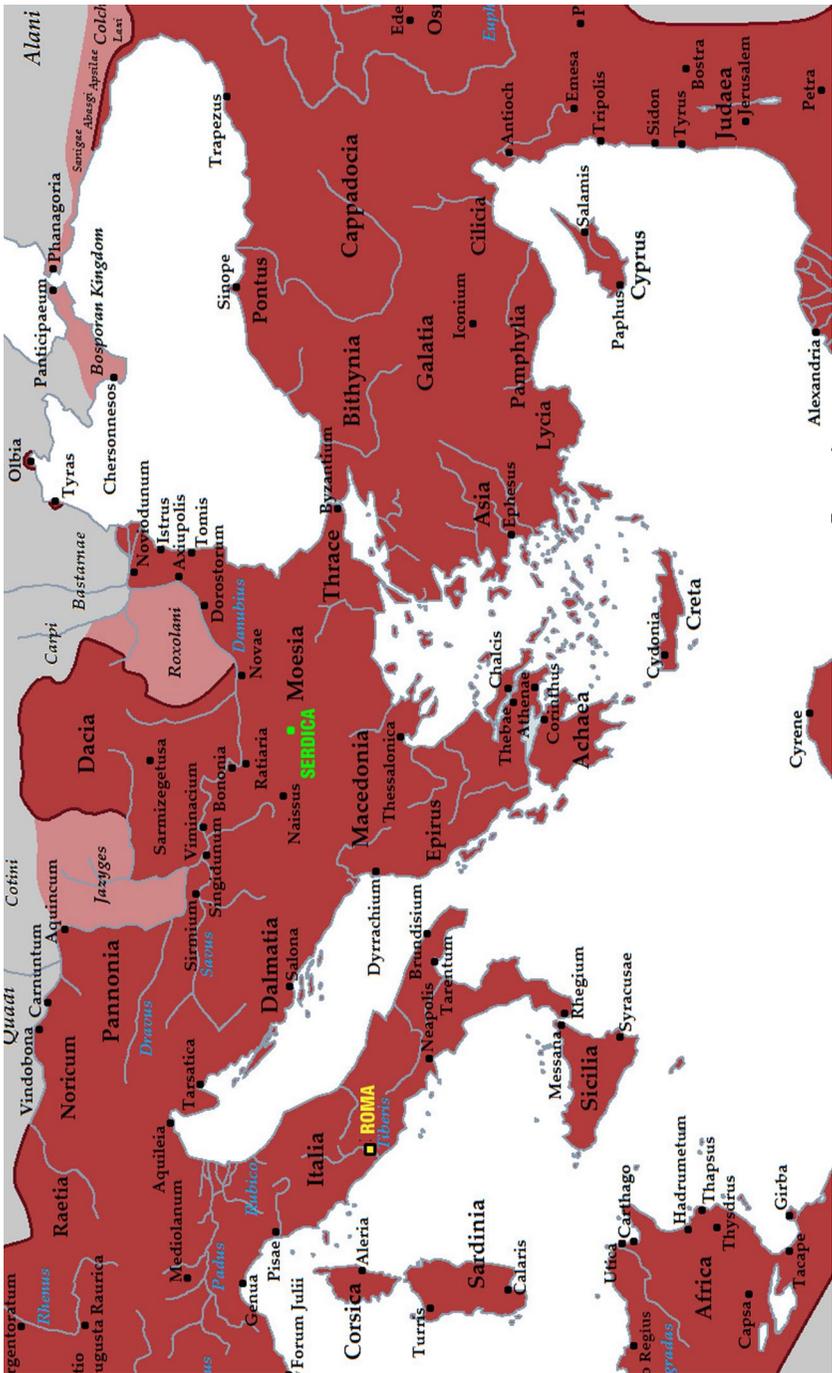
It started as a second Ecumenical council. 341 bishops (practically all of them) were in it, including St Athanasius, Saint Hosius of Cordova and the famous archbishop Protogen of Serdica. Arians were banned as misbelievers, inner church government rules were set and the church relationship with authorities were also set. The Council of Serdica had long-lasting and important results on Christianity.

In the 5-6th century in the time of so called Migration period the city was attacked by Huns (343-347), Goths (376-382), Avars and Slavs (in 617) and other, the so called barbarian tribes. Emperor Iustinianus I (527-565) looked after Serdica very well. It was reinforced with new walls and it revives as important administrative and trade centre of eastern Roman Empire. Back then the impressive church St. Sofia was built and later it gave the name of the modern town.

Governance of Iustinianus was the latest period of the best period of late ancient Serdica.

A probable severe earthquake combined with more frequent Barbarian attacks helped the town to lose its powers. It didn't die, but was not longer on the political scene, so that chronicle men mention it some centuries later in the early period of middle ages with the name Sredets.





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There is also a brief historical reference for the area of ancient Serdika.

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