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## Instructions to my Roman Guide

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# Instructions to my Roman Guide

Wilda Morris

Show me the Via Salaria  
where Gauls marched south,  
the valley which glowed  
with campfires the night  
before they crossed the Tiber  
into Rome. Lead me to the boundaries  
set by the earthen rampart  
of Servius Tullius circling the city  
the Gauls sacked and burned.

Take me to the place  
where Roman magistrates  
sat on ivory chairs awaiting martyrdom  
while their people fled. Show me  
where the Capitol stood - saved  
by the cackle of sacred geese -  
and the Sublician Bridge where Albinus  
left his wife and children behind,  
taking the Vestal Virgins  
and their sacred fire to safety  
in his ox-drawn cart.

Show me the Pyre  
where the Gauls piled  
and burned corpses  
of fallen comrades  
before Rome paid them off  
and they returned north  
to fight another foe.

Tell me - where are these Gauls  
who humbled Rome,  
eternal city on the Tiber?