THE WORLD ACCORDING TO PLINY

A GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF EUROPE (BOOK III)



"An Account of Countries, Nations, Nations, Seas, Towns, Havens, Mountains, Rivers, Distances, and Peoples who now exist or formerly existed."

Based on "The Natural History" by Gaius Plinius Secundus (77 AD)

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A TASK OF INFINITE NATURE

Pliny approaches the description of the universe with caution, noting it is a task "not to be rashly commenced." He relies only on authors "most worthy of credit": Varro, Agrippa, and Augustus.





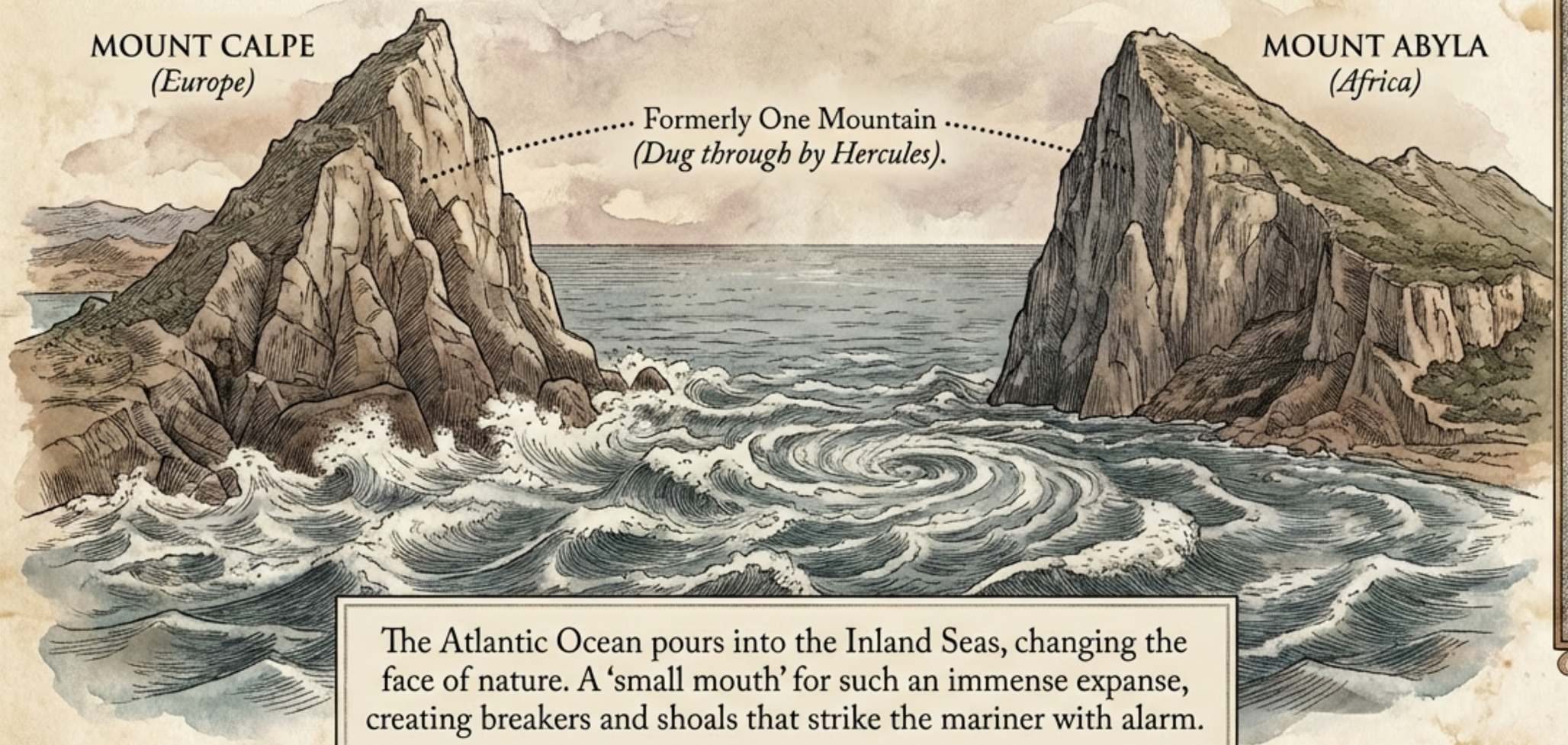
PLINIAN DATA

- **Boundary East:** River Tanais (Don)
- **Boundary West:** Straits of Gades
- **Status:** The most beauteous portion of the earth.

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THE THRESHOLD

The Pillars of Hercules & The Straits



The Atlantic Ocean pours into the Inland Seas, changing the face of nature. A 'small mouth' for such an immense expanse, creating breakers and shoals that strike the mariner with alarm.

SURVEYOR'S NOTES

- **Strait Length:** 15 miles
- **Strait Width:** 5 to 7 miles
- **Narrowest Point:** Between Mellaria and the White Promontory
- **Depth:** Tremendous

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HISPANIA: THE GRANARY OF MINERALS

A land of mixed heritage—Iberians, Persians, Phoenicians, Celts—and immense natural wealth. The River Baetis glides gently past past towns rich in cultivation.



CENSUS: BAETICA

- Total Towns: 175
- Roman Colonies: 9
- Municipal Towns: 8
- Tributary Towns: 120
- Agrippa's Length: 475 miles

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GALLIA NARBONENSIS

Italy Beyond the Alps



A region so civilized, cultivated, and wealthy, it is indistinguishable from Italy itself. Home to the Rhone, the most fertilizing stream.

PROVINCIAL SPECS

- Length: 370 miles
- Breadth: 248 miles
- Status: More Italy than Province

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THE HYMN TO ITALY

"Chosen by the providence of the Gods to render even heaven itself more glorious... to unite the scattered empires of the earth... to become the mother-country of all nations."



Sinewy Bulls



Lakes in Succession



Harbors Eager for Commerce

PLINY'S PRAISE

- Climate: Eternal freshness
- Hills: Sunny
- Thickets: Free from danger
- Fleeces: Noble

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THE ANATOMY OF ITALY

The Augustan Organization: Divided into 11 Regions. Shaped like an Oak Leaf, bending left at the top and terminating in an Amazonian buckler.



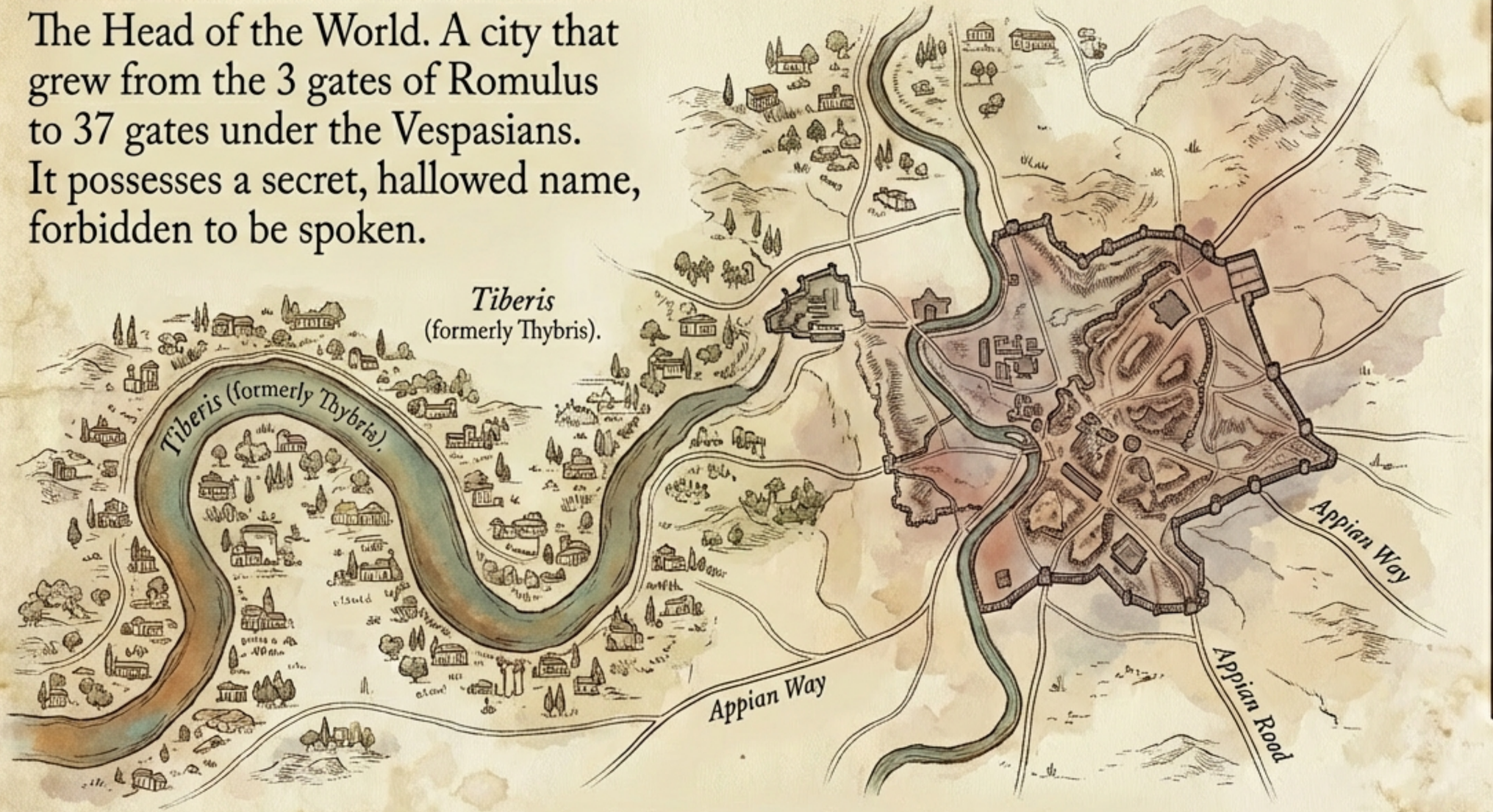
DIMENSIONS

- Total Length: 1,020 miles
- Max Breadth: 410 miles
- Center Breadth: 136 miles
- Coastline Circuit: 3,059 miles

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REGION I: LATIUM & THE ETERNAL CITY

The Head of the World. A city that grew from the 3 gates of Romulus to 37 gates under the Vespasians. It possesses a secret, hallowed name, forbidden to be spoken.



URBAN SPECS

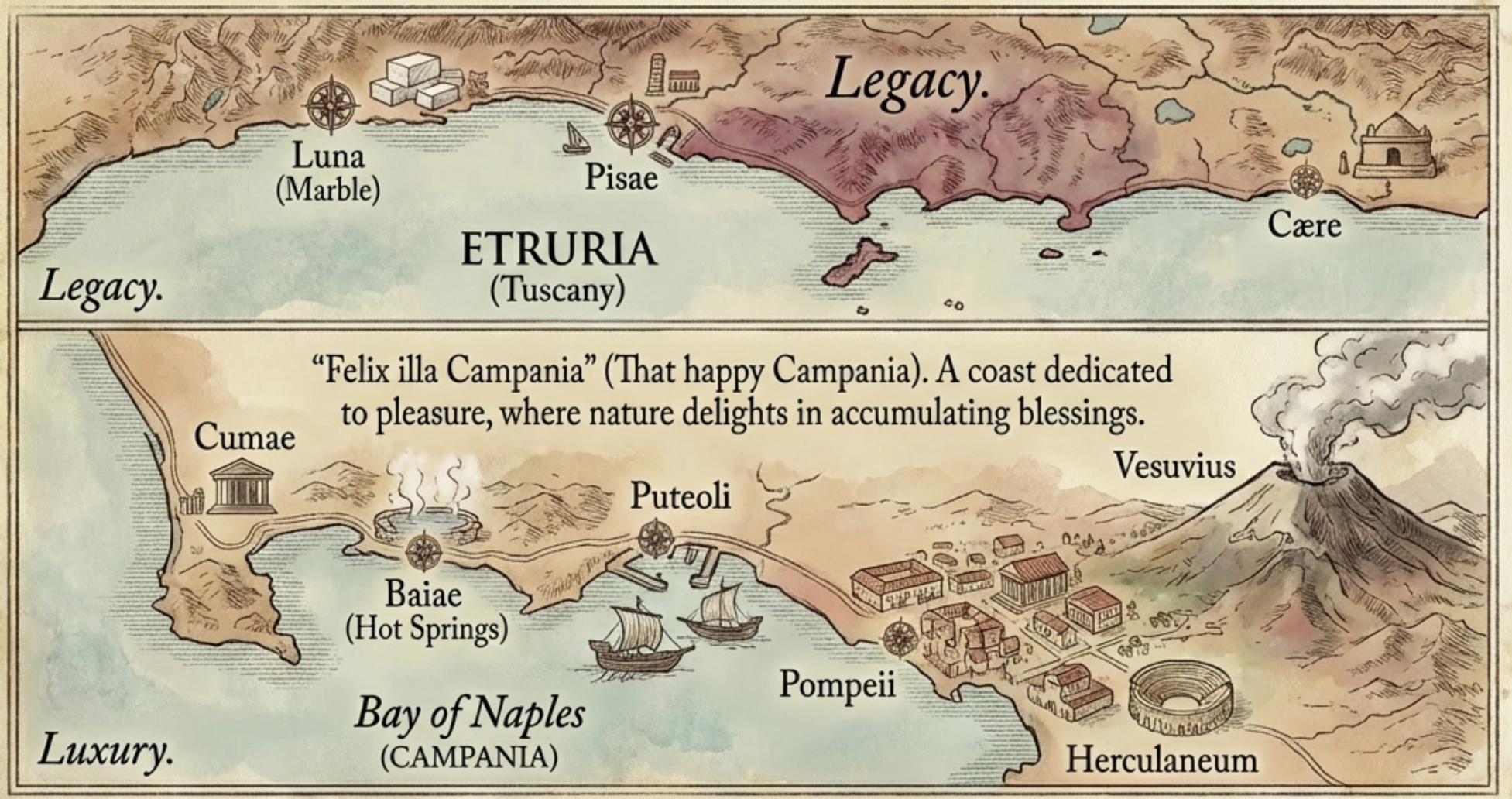
- River: Tranquil dispenser of produce
- Wall Circumference: 13 2/5 miles
- Total Extent: 70 miles (with suburbs)
- Gates: 37

53 peoples of Ancient Latium have passed away without leaving traces.

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THE TYRRHENIAN COAST

Legacy & Luxury



REGIONAL DATA

- Region VII: Etruria
- Region I: Campania
- Produce: Falernian Wine, Spelt
- Distance: Tiber to Macra, 284 miles

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MAGNA GRAECIA

The Greek Shore



MEASURE-MENTS

- Crossing Distance: 225 miles
- Narrowest Point: 20 miles (Scylacium)
- Landmark: Column of Rhegium

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THE ADRIATIC SPINE

The Valiant Nations



The rugged interior. Home to the bravest nations and the "Ombrii" (Umbrians), the oldest race in Italy who survived the deluge.

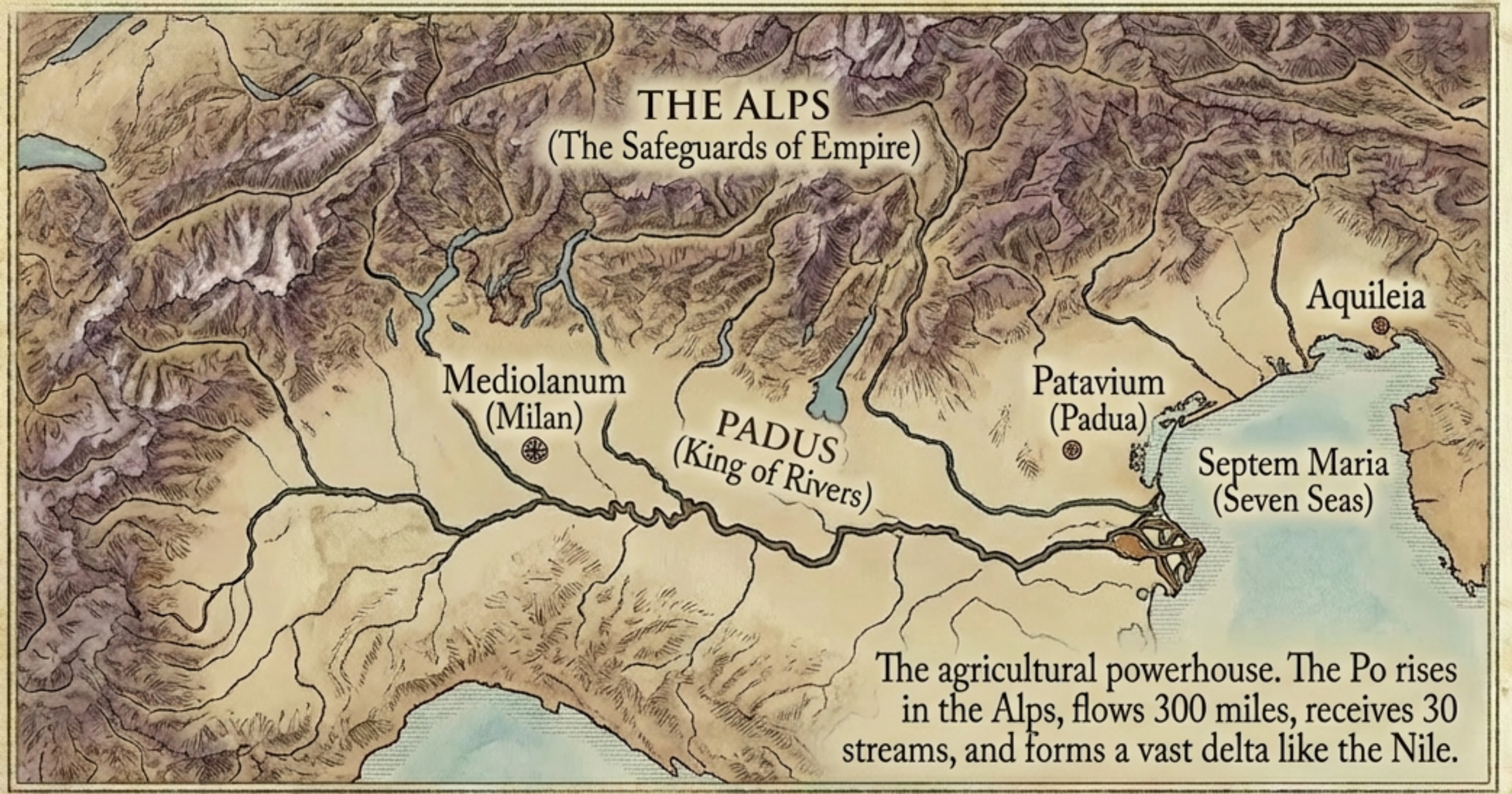
POPULA-TION

- Picentines: 360,000 sworn to Rome
- Region IV: The Brave Nations
- Region V: Picenum
- Region VI: Umbria

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THE NORTH: THE PO & THE ALPS

The Agricultural Powerhouse



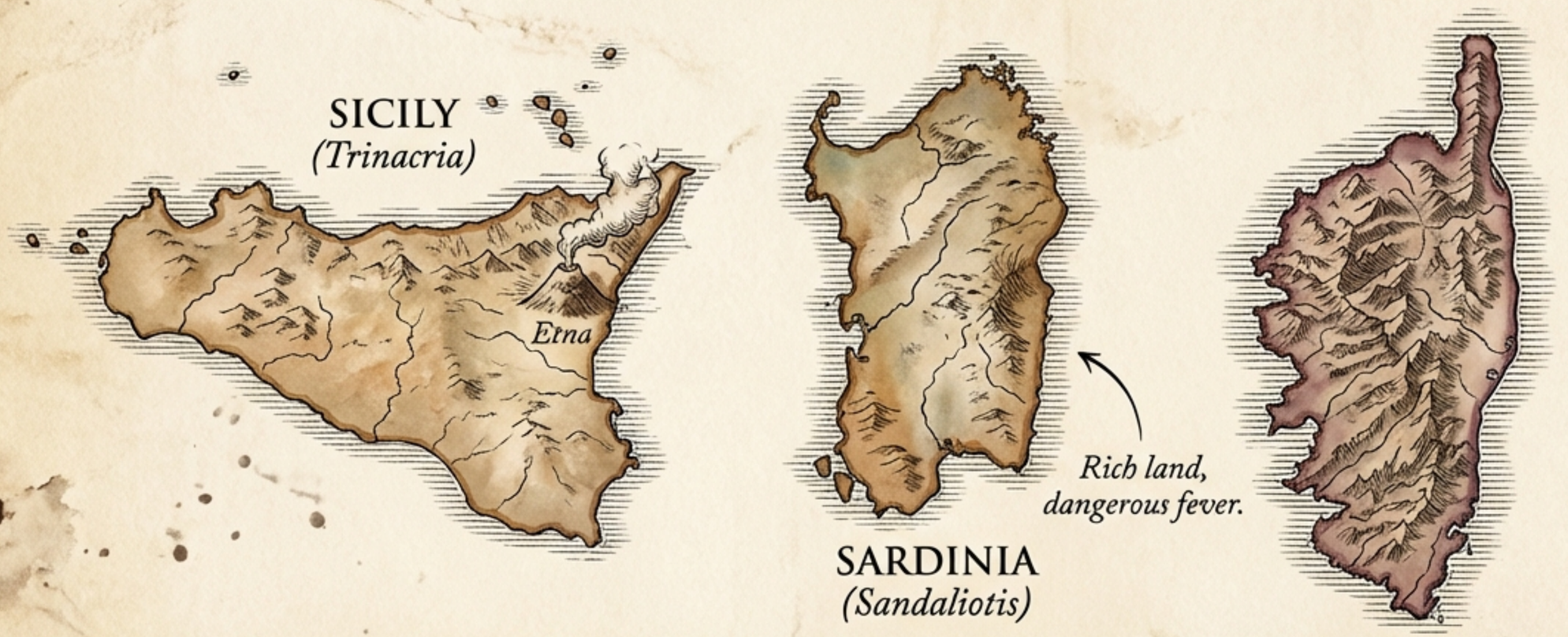
HYDRO-GRAPHY

- River Length: 300 miles
- Tributaries: 30 navigable streams
- Alpine Length: 1,000 miles
- Breadth of Italy (North): 745 miles

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The Great Islands

Fragments of the Mainland



Sicily, severed from the mainland by the sea. Sardinia, shaped like a sandal. The Balearics, famous for slingers and a lack of rabbits.

ISLAND STATS

- Sicily Circumference: 618 miles
- Sardinia Length: 188 miles
- Strait of Messina: 1.5 miles wide

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The Eastern Frontier

Illyricum & The Danube



The rugged coast of a thousand islands and the mighty river barrier that demarcates the civilized world from the unknown.

FRONTIER DATA

- Illyricum Length: 530 miles
- Widest Point: 325 miles
- Key River: The Danube

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A World United



From the Atlantic Gateway to the Danubian Frontier, Pliny records a world connected by Roman law, language, and measurement. A snapshot of Europe at the height of the Pax Romana.

BOOK III SUMMARY

- Total Observations: 326
- Author: Pliny the Elder
- Date: 77 AD
- Status: Complete

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