

Food and Status: You Are What You Eat

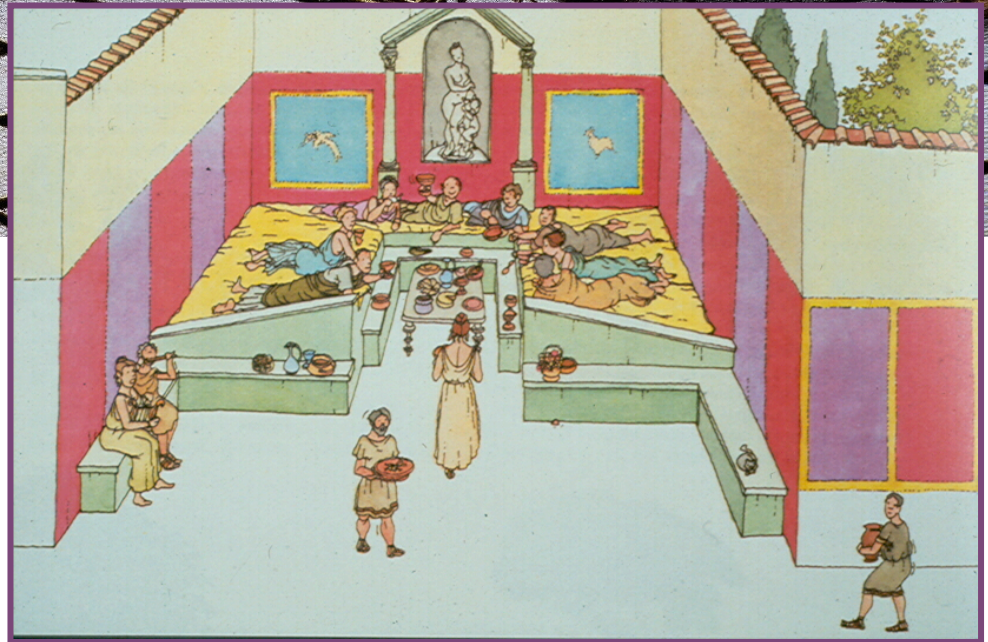
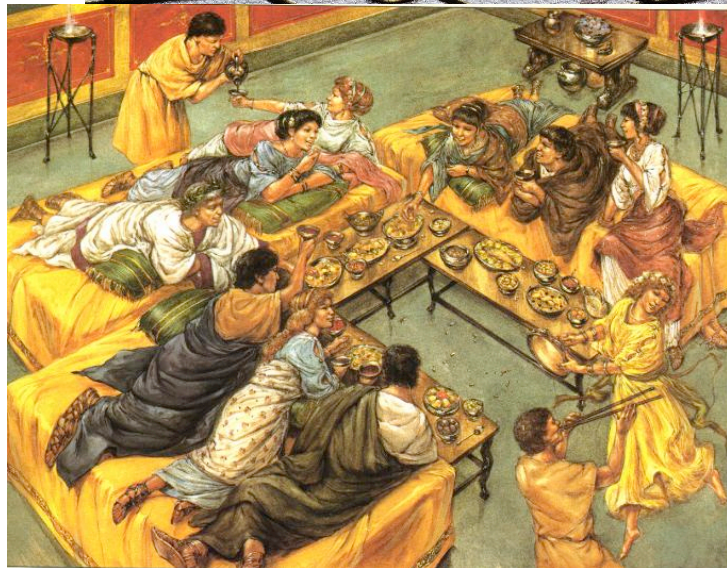
(and how)

And then some gender

Arch0770

Food and Drink, back in the day





Host:

B4

Guest of Honor:

A1

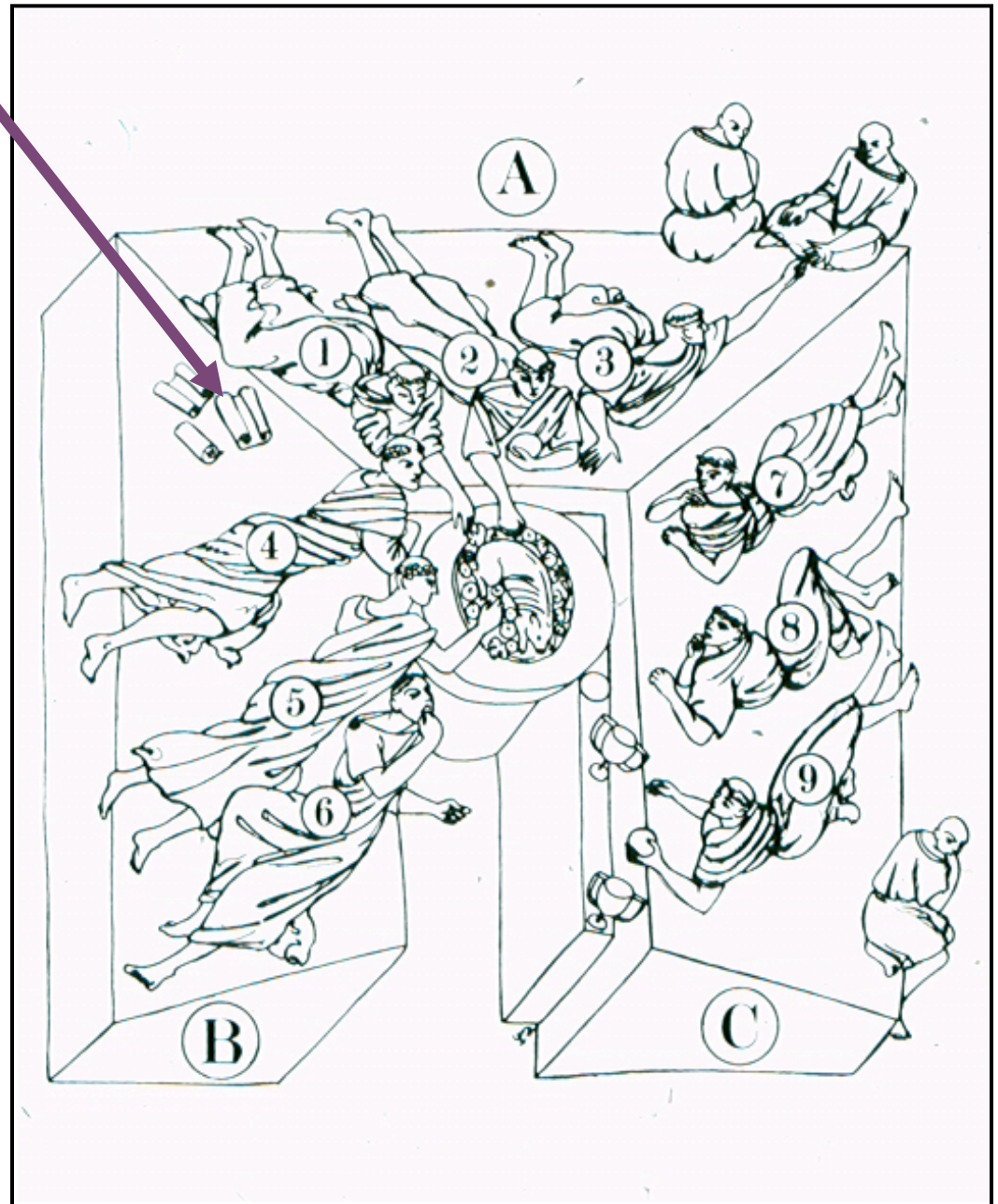
‘power corner’

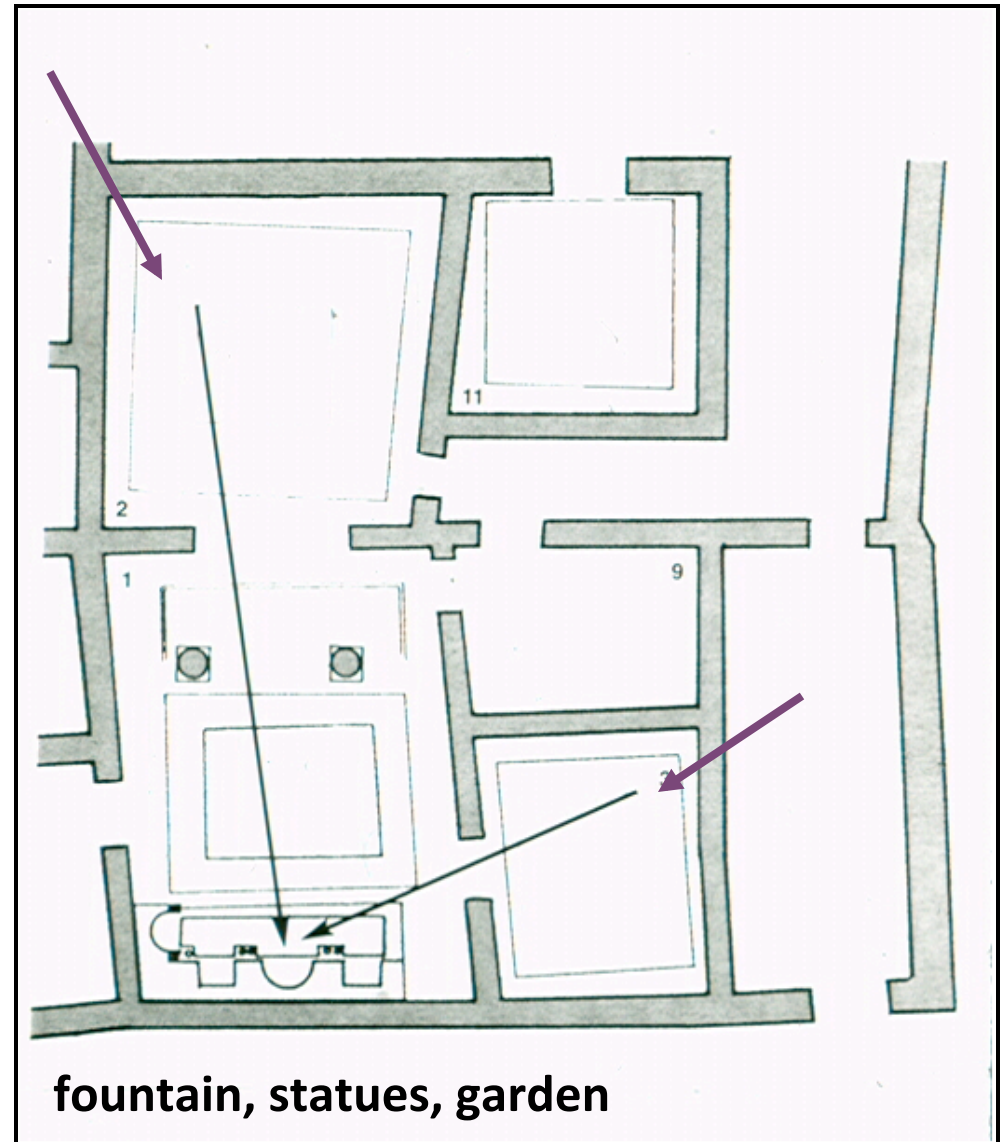
A = lectus medius

B = lectus imus

C = lectus summus

low, middle, high

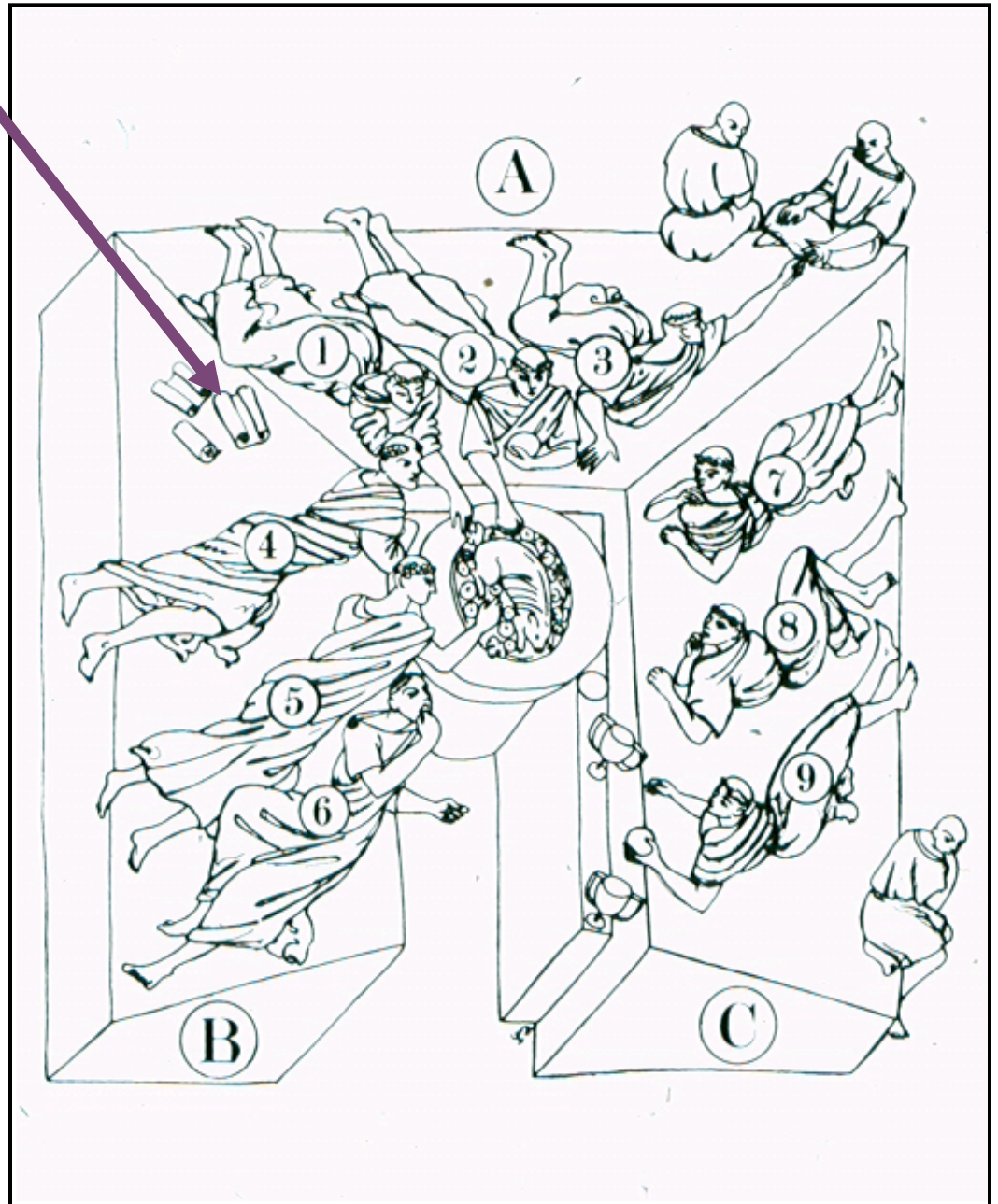




**Good view from
'power corners'
(marked by arrows)**

Seating plan

It is ridiculous for our cooks and waiters to be greatly concerned about what they shall bring in first, or what second or middle or last, if those who are invited to the feast are fed at places randomly determined: that arrangement fails to give to age, or rank, or other distinction, the position that suits it; it does no honor to the outstanding man. (Plutarch, *Table Talk* 616B)



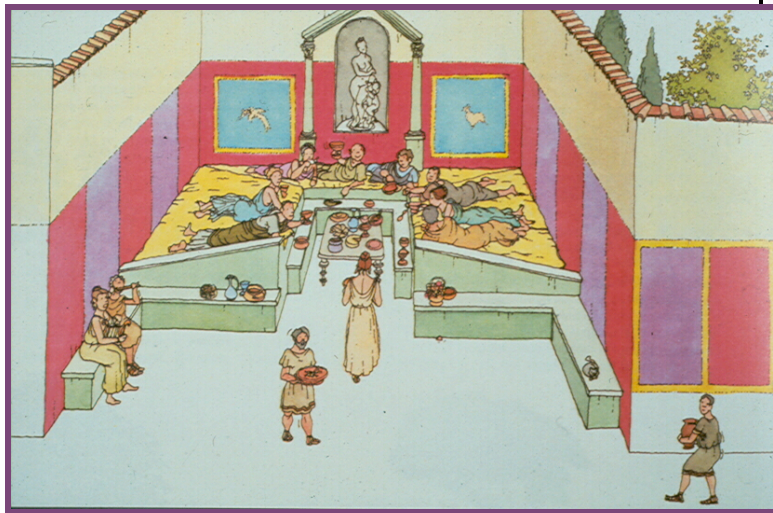


caput cene!



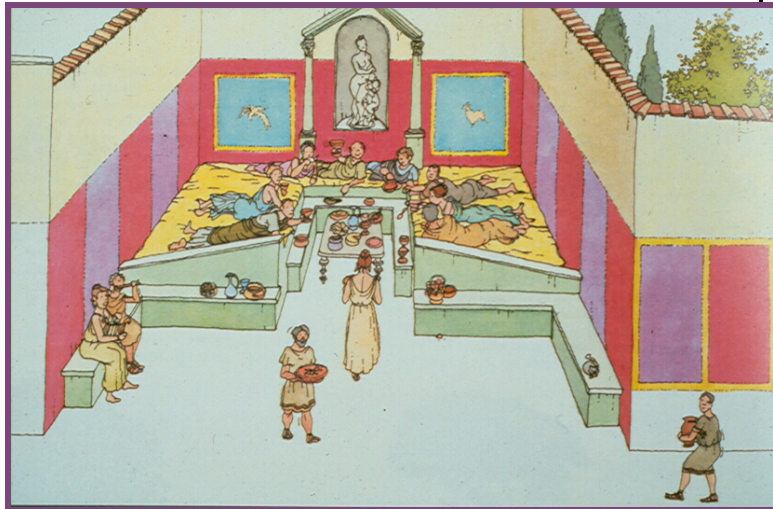
Invited:
guests
'human furniture'

**Not invited,
but brought:**
'umbrae' (shadows)



‘convivia, where anger lies in ambush, to take advantage of the merriment’ (Martial)

‘friendships bought with meals are not the real thing’ (Martial)





Scenes of
the arena,
the 'games'

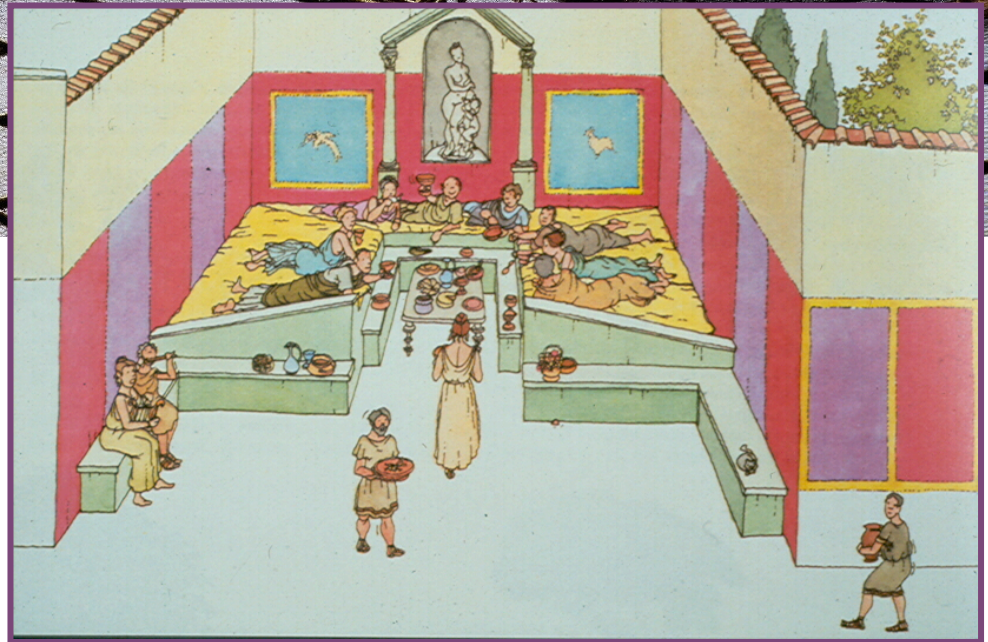
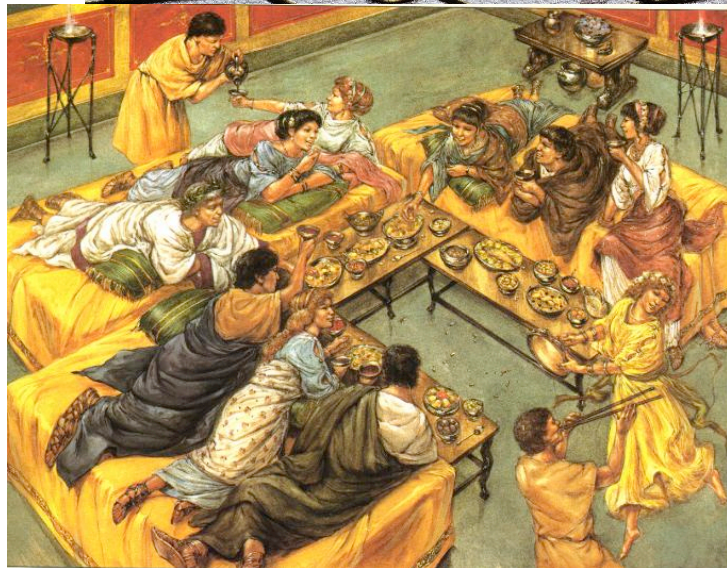
Mosaic,
North Africa





Herakles and Dionysos
Paris, Judging Goddesses

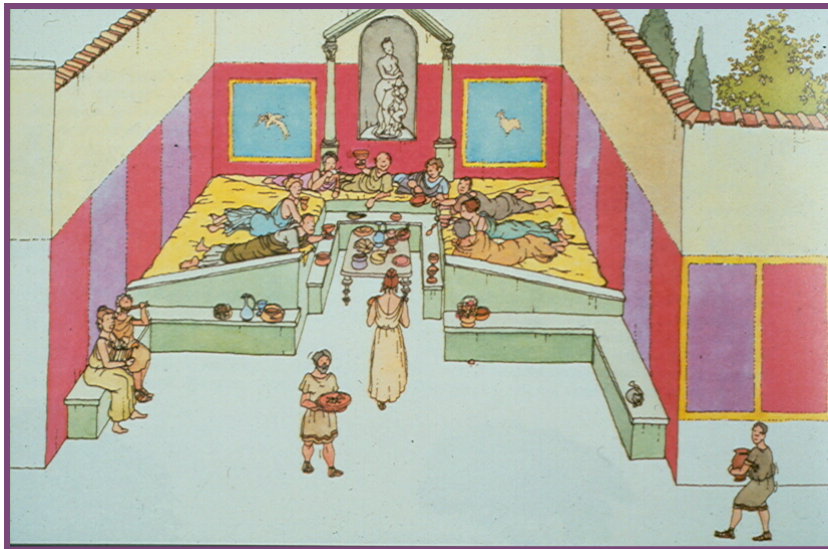








- Cooking
- Food serving
sputa (spit outs)
wine slaves
- Supervisory
vocator: inviter
- Other services
comfort, sex



slave services



...a crowd of standing slaves... their slightest murmur is repressed by the rod; they pay a huge penalty for the slightest breach of silence; all night long they have to stand around, hungry and dumb... (Seneca)



Any upside?



Any upside?

Analecta = leftovers

Observers of humiliation

Surveillance by vocator: conviviarum censura

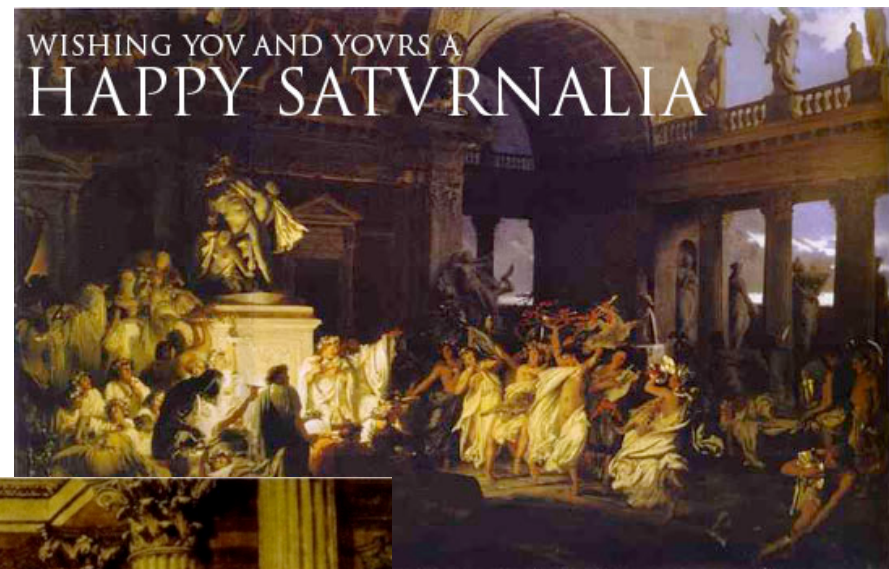
Watch for 'bad behavior' : maiestas

Downside? fear, vulnerability, sexual availability, punishment, death

'the server of wine has to dress like a woman and to wrestle with his advancing years; he can't get away from his boyhood but is continually dragged back to it. His body hair is plucked away, and he is kept beardless; he is forced to keep awake all night, dividing his time between his master's drunkenness and his lust (Seneca)



Saturnalia:
role reversal; social transformation



**Keep Saturn in
Saturnalia**

