



All Phone Zombies Lead To Rome
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The Story Thus Far

The world is Earth! The year is 2021! The locale is Japan! People are spending way the fuck too much time on their phones, so the Japanese government has implemented anti-Phone Zombie laws! The only cure for this condition once you've been convicted? Sending you back in time so that you can understand the glory of Rome! How does that work? Why did they decide that? What the heck is going on? Who knows, I certainly don't. But you'll be spending ten years here, so try not to spend too much time on your phone. Otherwise you'll be exiled to Rome along with Turtle-chan!

+1000 Zombie Points

Origins

The Law

When someone is found to be spending too much time on their phone, it's your job to make them see the error of their ways! Whether that makes you a policeman dragging the poor zombie down to the station for sentencing, a judge doing the sentencing, or something else entirely (within limits) you are now a vital part of Japan's new anti-Phone Zombie laws. Make those poor fools understand the error of their ways by showing them the glory of Rome!

Phone Zombie

At first glance, you're nothing but a mild mannered and perfectly average high schooler, but the truth is that you're actually an addict! A victim of a psychological disease that is sweeping the nation! You're spending way too much time with your nose shoved into your phone instead of paying attention to the world around you. I bet you even text while you cross the street! That's a great way to get run over, don't you know? And you won't even get isekai'd! Be more responsible with your life!

Roman Emperor

Japan? What's that? Sounds like a place that could be conquered for the glory of Rome. Cellphone? You've never heard of it. There are an unusual number of turtles falling out of the skies these days, however. Well, nevermind that, you need to get to the Senate, they're expecting you to give a speech! After all, you're a Senator, and likely dream of being more. Perhaps you'll adopt one of those turtles as a good luck charm, since the gods obviously want Rome to have them?

On Discounts

Each origin receives their perks half off, with the exceptions of 100 cp perks and items which become free once discounted.

Perks

The Law

100 zp - GUILTY!

The first step to curing a phone zombie is naturally to find one! Citizens calling in is nice, but involves cell phones. Suboptimal. Going on patrol is also good, but traffic is terrible. So let's cut past all of that - you now possess a mental radar that allows you to home in on people who are in danger of becoming a Phone Zombie, or already ARE a Phone Zombie. This radar covers the better chunk of a mile, allowing you to save those poor fools from their addiction with much more efficiency than ordinary methods would allow for. And if you're not a police officer, don't worry, you always have the right to arrest people for being Phone Zombies.

200 zp - You Should Not Lightly Cross The Line

Being a Phone Zombie is a serious condition, and not one to be taken lightly. Instead of dragging a victim to the hospital to be checked over for their chances of a recovery, or to the station to officially register them as infected, you should just instead drag them before a judge so that they can discover their fate all that much sooner. What's that? Blatantly illegal? Nah, don't worry about it! As long as it's a clear cut case where you've caught them being a Phone Zombie red handed, normal processing doesn't matter. You can just throw them directly into court so that they can understand the error of their ways and rejoice in their imminent cure.

400 zp - The Anti-Phone Zombie Act

Using a cell phone shouldn't be illegal? How unpatriotic! Sounds like the kind of thing someone who was secretly a Phone Zombie would say! For better or for worse, you have the ability to present some utterly absurd laws and have them pass. Now, normally this is a complicated process. You've got to do some schmoozing, some wheeling and dealing, you've got to convince people that making certain aspects - or, timing, rather - of cell phone usage ought to be illegal... And that the appropriate punishment is to yeet them back in time so that they can understand the glory of Rome. But, screw that, ain't nobody got that kind of time. That's why once per jump you can declare a single, silly thing to be quite illegal. Think something along the lines of "Taco Tuesday".

600 zp - JUSTICE BEAM!

The perpetrators have been placed before you! The laws are clear! Their punishment - transformation into a turtle and exile! But, if you kicked them out of Japan, they could just shove their nose into their phone elsewhere, somewhere being a Phone Zombie wasn't illegal... Well, that's where turning people into a turtle comes in. Awfully hard to text when you're a turtle. So, we're gonna turn people into turtles so that they can't text. With our laser eye blasts. Actually, turns out you have a lot of laser eyes. Any punishment you're qualified to render (and you're always qualified to punish people for being Phone Zombies) can now be carried out via laser eye blasts. Ten years in prison? Shoot 'em with your laser eyes and they'll be teleported to prison. Community service? Shoot 'em with your laser eyes and they'll be filled with the urge to pick up trash. Spending too much time on their phone? Shoot 'em with your laser eyes and they'll be transformed into a turtle. Actually, you can turn people into turtles with your eye beams anyways, but if you do it to people who aren't Phone Zombies then the other judges might get mad at you.

Phone Zombie

100 zp - Don't Try This At Home Kids

As a teenager in the middle of the Covid pandemic, is it any wonder that you would turn to technology instead of social interaction to entertain yourself? Maybe you thought of opening up a youtube channel or streaming on twitch, to post videos of yourself playing games or singing songs. Or maybe you got into mobile games, this or that gacha? Well, you ARE a Phone Zombie, so I suspect it was that last one. In any case, you now have an amazing ability to multitask between what you're actually supposed to be doing and faffing about on your phone. Walk around and play on your phone, eat lunch and text people, take a shit and make a dental appointment - also, that's gross - all that jazz. Heck, you even know the forbidden technique of fiddling with your phone while driving and can not get into accidents. Doesn't make it any less illegal, but at least you won't be on the hook for running people over.

200 zp - This Turtle Was Sent By The Gods

So. You spent too much time on your phone, became a Phone Zombie, and were turned into a turtle as punishment. So why do you still have bigass handlebars full of hair on either side of your head? Quite frankly I have no idea, but somehow being turned into a turtle didn't turn you an ugly turtle. Not that turtles are particularly ugly, but... Anyways, should you get turned into an animal against your will there will be a few 'tells' that mark you as a fellow human being to other people, like your hair or the fact that the patterns on your shell happen to resemble the clothes you were wearing before transmogrification. Oh, and people will think this is neat and cool instead of "oh god that turtle is diseased!" Given that you're going to be spending a chunk of time in ancient Rome, that might just get you declared sacred.

400 zp - Get Sent To The Frontlines

Turtles have shells. Shells are hard. Therefore, you are a shield! Truly, the logic of a roman legionnaire is flawless, no? Just, uh, let's hope that whatever soldier ends up strapping you to his shield is at least clever enough to try blocking with your shell and not your head. In any event, you're quite sturdy. Sturdy enough to get hit by a truck and be fine afterwards! No isekai for you, sorry. But, since you're going to be spending more time as a turtle than as a human, your shell is even sturdier than you are. Someone could stab you with a spear or smash you with a sword, and your shell wouldn't even have a crack in it! Woe betide whatever animal thinks of you as prey, their claws will all but bounce off of you! Oh, and don't worry about dying of old age either - turtles might not actually be immortal, but as long as you're stuck in the body of one you're damn close.

600 zp - "Learn"

By now, I imagine that there's a question you must have asked yourself. Why a turtle? Why Rome? What is the lesson you are supposed to learn? ...Fundamentally, today is built on the past. The struggles, the victories, the failures, a thousand and one trials and tribulations that mankind has forged their way through. "We do not have a shell, so we must show someone our backs." This is not the lesson. Instead, the lesson is to pay attention to the world around you and appreciate it more, to embrace it. By embracing Rome, you have come to understand politics, mathematics, perhaps even a dash of engineering. The more you investigate history, the more you witness the past, the more you learn. Going for a walk through the Coliseum is the equivalent of reading about it for a day, and it's certainly more enjoyable. The more cultures, the more points of view you take into yourself, the quicker your own skills will grow. As long as you can actually do those things and not fiddle with your phone all day, that is. Oh, and you can also do something similar to going super saiyan, glowing gold, flying, and shooting lasers included.

Roman Emperor

100 zp - Including Disparity

Rome may be one of the greatest nations on earth, but it is far from a perfect society. It is a great place to be a politician, and a decent place to be a soldier. Unfortunately, it's a terrible place to be a farmer, to the point that a wandering turtle will say that the rich eat gold and the poor eat mud. Well, until certain politicians start handing out free bread at least. Fortunately, you're probably not poor. What you are, however, is extraordinarily insightful. So much so that you can look at a person and instinctively know what they had for their last three meals. Bread, mud, and more bread? Farmer! Peeled grapes with roast duck and a salad? Politician! This also makes getting an idea of how bad for certain people things are... if you're inclined to pay attention to this information, at least.

200 zp - Gone Like Easy Money

Whether you're a corrupt politician in America, Japan, or Rome, money is always important. That's why both of the Roman Triumvirates had very rich men as part of their power structure - they were the one who tended to fund the crazy ideas of the others. As for you, well, if you were to somehow be included in such a group, you'd be the one holding the purse strings. Normally at this point you'd be thinking "oh, I must be really good at manipulating the economy!", and normally you'd be right. But we aren't normal, we're Roman. You're scum. Rather than simply making money, you're very good at finding things that no one wants and buying them cheaply, or forcing people to sell things they do want for copper and selling it yourself for gold. Coincidentally, if the government has confiscated something, you now find yourself with the ability to buy it off them for a fraction of the price.

400 zp - Triumvirates Begin Damply

The Roman Republic officially became the Roman Empire in 31 BC as Octavian, otherwise known as Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus, declared himself Principate and sole ruler of Rome after the fracturing of the second triumvirate. But how did that come about? How was the second Triumvirate formed? In effect, from a political clusterfuck. Well you see, Caesar was assassinated and left the entirety of his money and personal army to his grand nephew, Octavian. Technically speaking they formed to get revenge, and then turned on each other once the assassins were dealt with. And thus, the breaking of the Triumvirate massively benefitted Octavian, twice. Much like our dear emperor to be, whenever politics blows up, you somehow end up thrown clear and end up entirely unscathed unless something is 200% verifiably, can't shove it off onto someone else, your fault. Any other scenario and you benefit, from getting adopted by someone who was just assassinated to fuck his enemies over, to your rivals making complete fools of themselves. Fun times.

600 zp - A Way To Bring Peace To Everyone

Rome is, for the purposes of this jump, one of the greatest nations to have ever existed. Don't at me. It had many issues, and it had many solutions to those problems. Some of them worked, and some of them did not. In the end, all of it is ancient history. Except, you're Roman. Which makes the flaws of the Roman Empire in the 'past' very relevant if you've somehow ended up before they have actually occurred. To that end... I imagine it would be very convenient if you knew anything about politics. While I don't feel I can simply hand such a thing to you, I can arrange for you to have good tutors. That's why you're now haunted by the ghosts of all the various Roman Emperors, and can call upon their spirits for advice. I'm sure this won't cause any problems whatsoever, especially not for the versions of those emperors that are still alive. Just, uh, maybe don't call up more than one at a time, there's almost 100 of these guys and they can have some pretty strong personalities.

The Law

100 zp - Police Badge

Tell me, have you ever considered a career in Law Enforcement? Well, normally you'd need to go to a special academy for a few years, maybe spend a while giving people parking tickets before you get to anything interesting, but - well, we really need people helping with Phone Zombies. So, here. Everything you need to be a street cop. Police car, uniform, handcuffs, gun, other appropriate weaponry, bodycam, radio to call for backup, all that jazz. This may change slightly depending on if you're in Japan or not, they have opinions about the use of guns and would prefer to use Kung Fu to my understanding. Maybe I should throw a gym membership in here? Oh, and don't worry about actually going to that academy, nobody will question you having these things unless you seriously fuck something up.

200 zp - Big Poofy Wig

Or, maybe being a mere peon doesn't appeal to you? Well congratulations, you now have the qualifications to be a judge as well! Or, physically at least. Judges need to go to law school to be able to hold their position, which I assume you haven't. In any event, there's an entire building full of courtrooms that you preside over when acting as a judge. Or maybe you just have an office in a building shared with several other judges? That's probably best if you want to take days off. As before, this comes with whatever you need to act as a judge, though that's a much smaller list than what you need to be a police officer, and nobody will give a fuck that you're not qualified as long as you don't make any blatantly illegal rulings.

400 zp - The Phone Zombie Epidemic

Dread it. Run from it. Cellular communication arrives all the same. And with it comes a series of extremely unfair laws with absurd punishment. Except, didn't I already give you that? Wait. No, you wouldn't. You want to take Phone Zombies with you to future worlds? Isn't it bad enough that this one is infected, you would make it spread? Well, fine. Should you purchase this item then every human being on planet Earth will be given a cellphone of one kind or another. Even if cellphones haven't been invented yet. This is great from a communication standpoint, because these phones don't give a fuck about signal and they just work, but as the infrastructure develops and people start making apps, games, so on and so forth, I have no doubt that humanity will quickly develop an unhealthy addiction to their phone.

600 zp - Judges Gavel

A reminder - the cure for being a Phone Zombie is Exile, and Transformation into a Turtle until they learn their lesson. Now, while we've covered how to go about turning people into turtles - via laser eye beams of justice, naturally - we haven't yet talked about what Exile means. Well, you might have guessed by now, but it means sending them back in time to ancient Rome to let them witness the glory of Rome. But, how do we do that? Well, we don't have any trucks, but we do have this old hammer. It's the kind of hammer a judge smacks around when they want order in the court, and anyone you smack with it will get sent back in time to ancient Rome. At which point they can either shape up and be a productive member of society, or they can be a turtle for two thousand years.

Phone Zombie

100 zp - Turtle Pack

You there, average teenager person! Tell me, what kind of average teenager things do you get up to on a daily basis? School, right? And texting... Well, I can't support excessive phone usage, so school it is! For you I have a stylish backpack. It's big, it's blue, and boy howdy can it fit a whole lot of stuff in it. Like, you can shove in a textbook for every class, a binder for every class, a ton of supplies for each class, maybe even bring your own basketball for gym or an easel for art and still have space left over. The thing is massive, but despite being so huge it barely seems to weigh anything. It's like carrying around this bag on your back just comes entirely naturally to you.

200 zp - Don't Feed Me Money

A growing girl's gotta eat, you know? And metal is terrible for your teeth. And sadly, as a human, you need to eat quite a bit more than a turtle does. That's why I packed you some snacks. ROMAN snacks! Inside that pack of yours - you grabbed your backpack, right? - you'll find an additional compartment that is chock full of various nibblets, such as a wide variety of fruit such as figs, grapes, peaches, plums, cherries, and blackberries, a smaller variety of nuts, and a surprising amount of olives. If you're lucky, you may even find something that vaguely resembles pizza, that being flat bread with tomato paste and a few random toppings tossed onto it. Cheese may or may not be present. Conveniently, everything is presented in turtle sized servings. Why do I keep mentioning turtles? ...If you haven't figured it out yet, you will soon.

400 zp - I Visited Rome And All I Got Was A Lecture

Under normal circumstances, once you learned your lesson to not be a Phone Zombie, you'd mysteriously arrive back in the present, once more a human being, and seemingly having been gone for no time at all. Or maybe the whole thing was a dream. Makes it a bit hard to take souvenirs, you know? Luckily, I care about precisely none of that so you get some anyway! A few coins, some authentic clothing, a golden set of silverware and some golden plates maybe a chair you stole out of one of the emperor's houses - or even the senate if you're feeling daring, perhaps a suit of armor that a roman legionnaire might have worn, and you could always steal a chunk out of the wall of the coliseum. You have some wiggle room here if there's something you really want, I'm sure everything would sell for tons of cash to a historian. Or ebay, if you're a pleb.

600 zp - Cell Phones Get Service In Rome?

No. No, no, no, NO! Go away! You don't need this, you have one already, it's what got you into this mess! En, Oh, spells NO! ...Please? Urg, fine. Next up we have... a phone. Cellular, mobile, whatever you want to call it. A smartphone with a touch screen, top of the line model from the year 2021. It always has a signal, and knows when something funky is up. If you were to be dumped almost 2500 years into the past, it could tell you the exact date and time and the map app would tell you exactly where you were. Satellites? Don't worry about that. Additionally, the phone has an utterly absurd accessibility suite, such that with sufficient training a dog, cat, bird, fish, or indeed, turtle, could use it with only minor issues. Never miss a day on your log in streak ever again.

Roman Emperor

100 zp - Pet Turtle

Consider for a moment, the humble turtle. It lives its life in slow motion, creeping along through life at speeds that even a toddler could surpass with ease. And yet, is it not majestic in its own way? It never falters, it never ceases. The lack of speed in its passage only allows it to ponder its path even more. Truly, a turtle is an excellent symbol of patience and endurance, and perhaps even wisdom. All excellent traits for an Emperor to have, though I admit a lion is more exciting. Sadly, lions aren't in theme with things right now, so... you get a pet turtle. It has very long hair growing out of its head in the form of a pair of braids, which is honestly kind of weird. I showed it to the priests though, and they said it wasn't someone punished by being turned into a turtle, so it's just weird and has hair.

200 zp - Gold Flows Like Water

If you wanna live well in Rome, there's no use in being poor. Even if you're a farmer with a lot of land, wheat only sells for so much and you just know this or that senator is going to try and buy it for cheap after declaring you a criminal. So, let's give you a bit more than just that. Maybe you own a few dozen houses that you rent out, or a couple of mansions, or some shops. Maybe you own a handful of farmers or better yet, a vineyard or three. Or perhaps you maintain a number of lavish bathhouses? You could probably take a bath in all the gold you're likely to be rolling in. This should be more than enough to leave you set for life in Rome.

400 zp - Roman Legions

Ah ha! Finally, we approach something a little more interesting! I'm not entirely sure how you found yourself with one of these, but you're now the commanding officer of a legion of Roman soldiers, some 4000 ordinary soldiers alongside 300 or so cavalymen who are also your various commanding officers for the lesser soldiers. Naturally, these men require quite a bit of food and armor and weapons, which is why all of those things are included. All you have to do is not get them killed in battle via strategic fuckups, and they'll stay loyal to you basically no matter what. If you do get them killed, they'll respawn at the start of the next jump. And no, this will not translate into another military force in other worlds, you'll just have to take the glory of Rome with you wherever you go.

600 zp - The Glory Of Rome Is Eternal!

See, what did I just say? Welcome to Rome my friend, because if you take this option then no matter where you go there will always be a Rome there with you. From the Roman Kingdom founded by Romulus, to the Roman Republic ruled by the senate, to the Roman Empire united by Octavius, the mediterranean sea gave birth to and sustained all of them. And yes, there is a big body of water in the middle of your territory. It wouldn't be Rome without it. In future jumps, this may manifest as Rome simply never having fallen in order for it to still exist in the modern day. Or, perhaps something stranger is going on. Oh, and additionally, you may opt to be king, a senator, or emperor at your discretion, or to step back and down a smidge to let others rule in your stead.

Companions

100 cp - Companions

Ah, you desire... sorry, must have got my notes mixed up here. Reinforcements? Girls to hang with? Competent allies in the fight against Phone Zombies? Well, whatever you're after, look no further than your allies of old, your companions. For 100 cp, you can import two of them into the jump with 600 cp to spend on perks and items. Or, if you'd rather impregnate that cute lil turtle - don't ask me why, but my hype man insists that's a selling point - then for 100 cp you can instead grab a canon character to take with you. Which... Basically boils down to some random members of the Japanese legal system, a turtle, and the Roman Emperors.

100 cp - The Other Cleopatra

One day, while going about your daily life, you walked through a door that was secretly a screen transition and found yourself in a most unusual place - Ancient Egypt! Some things happened from that point, you may have walked in on a woman bathing and gotten yourself declared an assassin, but things eventually settled down and you became friends with this young woman who is none other than Cleopatra VII Thea Philopator. Except, she's kind of not? Cleopatra's relationship to Julius Caesar is relatively well known, as is her alliance with Mark Antony, and this woman hasn't the faintest idea who either of those people are. Despite that, she can absolutely back up every single claim about her competence, from her skills at statesmanship and oration to her education at the Library of Alexandria. Well, just don't let her meet the other her and I'm sure things will be fine.

100 cp - The Other Ceasar

One day while walking down the road in Rome, you were run over by a truck and woke up in... Rome? Man, you just keep getting gypped for isekai adventures, don't you. Still, shortly afterwards you stumbled across a woman that you may or may not recognize - Julius Caesar of the First Triumvirate. ...Yes, I said 'woman'. Wearing an incredibly thin toga, she nonetheless recognized you from your past interactions with 'him' and dragged you into a bit of a scheme about ensuring Rome's food supply stayed topped up just in case there was ever a famine. Afterwards, you were both hit by the truck and woke up back in... Rome, at which point she was naturally very confused about the part where people thought she had been dead for quite some time and also a guy. Still dedicated to ensuring Rome stayed fed though, necessitating you getting dragged into yet another scheme, and also to lend her some capital.

Drawbacks

+0cp - All Roads Lead To Old Age

Let's be honest, as nonsensical as this whole thing is, you're gonna be here a while. Especially if you're a phone zombie, you could potentially spend ten years in Japan, interspaced with several 500+ year long 'exiles' into the various civilizations of the ancient past. Well, this lets you fudge those numbers somewhat. You can start in ancient Rome and live to the modern day, start in the modern day and spend 200 years in Rome - just enough for the highlights - or maybe just spend ten years here, period, no matter how many 'exiles' are involved. It depends on what you have the tolerance for.

+100 cp - Drooling Donkey

As the result of being used as a living shield at one point, you have some ugly as fuck scars. On your back, on your face, on your chest, wherever. It's kind of blatantly obvious and is impossible to get rid of. Attempts to do so only make it worse. I sincerely hope that you either weren't planning on seducing anyone, or have some real talent that forces people to look past your ugly mug, because quite frankly? You're ugly. And yes, this applies whether you're a human or a turtle.

+100 cp - Gold, Dear Boy

During the early days of the Roman Republic, there was a severe issue with the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. It shifted slightly when they became the Roman Empire, but never quite vanished. And you? Well, in all likelihood, you're part of the problem with that, because you're a bit obsessed. What you're obsessed with is up to you. You might be obsessed with having money, or you might hoard food to absurd extents. You could stand next to a burning house with a makeshift fire brigade and refuse to put the fire out unless they sell it to you, or maybe you're trying to buy up enough food to feed all of Rome for your personal use? Or hey, maybe you really want to have a lot of slaves? That's not exactly acceptable in the modern day, you know?

+200 cp - E Tu, Jumper?

Roman politics can get pretty killer at points. I mean, the second triumvirate all but collapsed into infighting, even if it did result in the republic becoming the empire, and that's not to mention what some people will do to become emperor in the years to come. And you... well, you're flighty. Prone to changing your mind. Your word? Such a thing given under duress is worthless, you know? It was only fair that you changed your mind about supporting them once they no longer had a knife to your throat. Expect to be very popular with some crowds and very unpopular with the rest.

+200 cp - Are We Sure This Is Rome?

For some reason, you seem to have a very low tolerance for shenanigans. That turtle is absolutely a sign from the gods... that we're all doomed! Why does Spartacus have more hair than he does soldiers? Why does Octavius have purple hair? Why do all the rich men keep dying? What's a phone and why is it illegal to over use it? Why is Pompey shaped like a potato? And why is that turtle not dead yet, it's been a decade! Suffice to say that this world is very whimsical and nonsensical, and you're very much not. Expect to be easily angered at the sight of anime hair, such things are not Roman in your eyes. Or, if you're a turtle, maybe you simply refuse to 'learn'? Phone usage being illegal is such a scam after all, right?

+300 cp - Truly, You Were Rome All Along

Regardless of all other factors, you are now very Roman and will be starting in the Kingdom of Rome shortly after its founding by Romulus. Your task is simple, but undeniably painful. You must keep the Roman Empire alive and whole until 2021. This will require you to not only prevent the Roman Empire from splitting in half, but maintaining it for almost 1600 years after it would have split, and for roughly 500 years after it would eventually fall to the Ottoman Empire. If Rome falls, you fail the jump and are sent home. If you succeed, then... well. You were Rome.

+300 cp - All Romes Lead To Ruin

Does it not strike you as unusual, that the ability to transform someone into a turtle and to send them backwards in time is common in this world? One might think it's all part of a larger joke, but as of right now it's merely the consequence of something greater. Specifically, something is wrong with history, that's why manipulating it is so easy. During your time in the jump, several histories will converge. Famous people from all over history will arrive to do battle, drawn in by a plot of the Outer God, Nyarlathotep. A group of stargazers will arrive at the same time as several dead emperors return to try and take over once more, alongside a woman who simply seems interested in destroying everything in her path. The Huns will sweep across the country far before they should have arrived, and reappear several times even if slaughtered to a man. An entire second copy of Rome will appear as though from thin air... occupied entirely by Nazis who wish to take over the world. All of these things and more will occur. Strictly speaking, you don't need to solve them, just survive them.

The End

Go Home
Stay Here
Move On