

A Pillar of Iron (10)

1. "When a nation becomes as demoralized and corrupt and anger less as Rome, then the nation is lost forever.
2. There is no hope because man is man. Man does not learn from history, and repeats the same cycle of destruction over and over. There is no hope for man "unless God gives us a new way and a new path for the future and reveals Himself."
3. "What a mob loves today it can easily hate tomorrow."
4. Catalina wanted to murder Cicero, but Pompey and Julius wouldn't allow it. Pompey told him that Marcus has many powerful friends in Rome and the people love him, if he were to be murdered, all would be lost. Catalina was filled with fury, but Julius kept replying with a calm tone. Crassus also would not allow Catalina to kill Cicero, saying that he was the triumvir, making him the most powerful man in Rome, so he would give the word.
5. They were shocked that he could be scared of Catalina's power over the underworld of Rome. They thought him almost weak for being scared at Catalina's raging and temper.
6. Marcus had a mistress. He liked his mistress because she was wise and more interested in philosophy and thinking than his wife was. He loved her as a friend and as a desire met for his flesh.
7. "Wisdom is based on knowledge, but knowledge is not always wisdom." This is a very true statement. You can only be wise through knowledge (experience, and what you have learned through your life), but just because you have lived, therefore learned some things, that does not necessarily make you wise.
8. He received an anonymous letter that warned him of a rumor, but not to count on it, seeing it was only a rumor. However, when Marcus received the letter, he sent slaves to guard each bedroom door of the house and he sent some slaves to guard in the atrium too.
9. They were plotting to kill all the Consuls in Rome and replace them with all of their friends so that they could have power in Rome.
10. He appealed to the lower classes. Since the population of that class was greater than the population of the rich, more of Rome liked him. He told the poor that Rome would be a nation of social equality. I saw during the elections that Obama really spoke to the middle class, and he wanted something very socialist. He believed in equally sharing everyone's wealth, making us all equal. He really doesn't care for the people; he just wants to be in power.
11. Dictators are always followed by low men. If you are low enough to sink to dictatorship, your followers will only be lower.
12. He always disliked the fact that his father never really accepted reality. Tullius never acknowledged the changes in Rome and the decline in society. But yet he feels guilty that he doesn't love his father and doesn't want to be around him. He never admired his father's weakness. He

- believed that a father should be the symbol of strength in the house, but that was his mother's position.
13. Never forget that it was the people who elected him. And he told him of news of the Messias. He said the Pharisees look for the Holy mother and the child daily, while the rich Pharisees scoff and laugh, believing them foolish. I am amazed at Noe's sweet nature and attitude towards Marcus throughout Marcus' bad moods and doubts of God.
 14. He believed that the gods created some men above others and that he was part of the higher created men. That the majority of mankind, if given an opportunity, would rise to great and selfless heights, that man was naturally good and preferred virtue to evil, that man's heart was inclined to the noble, and that only circumstance and environment distorted that heart.
 15. He thought Rome could become solvent again and strong only by self-denial and spending as little as possible until the debts were paid and the treasury filled.
 16. He gave Antonius a long and dramatic speech about the evils that Cicero was doing, not paying attention to the veterans, not keeping up with the times, and finally Catalina proposed to Antonius the idea of both of them being the Consuls of Rome, Antonius the first, and Catalina his colleague. Antonius doesn't like the idea, but is playing along with him. I am shocked that such an unrealistic like Antonius could know that Catalina is up to no good.
 17. He was angry. I don't understand how he could be angry at these men who have saved his life more than once. They come to tell him of a plot against Rome, which Marcus cares for, and ask him for help knowing that he is wise and will be able to. I don't know what to think of Marcus now, he doesn't trust anyone, and it's sad. These men have tried to gain full power of Rome before, but they never wanted to kill him, the only person that wanted to kill Marcus was Cataline. I can't tell whether Julius, Pompey, Crassus genuinely care for Rome, and can now see their evils of the past, and are fearful for the future if this continues; or if they are still lying and only hunger for power.
 18. He expected his followers in the Senate to laugh at Cicero, scoff at him, and banish him from Rome at last. He had not expected Antonius to rat him out. He thought he would enter pridefully; acting ignorant of any conspiracies or faults of his, and merely laugh as Cicero presented his argument.