

## A Pillar of Iron (11)

1. When the author described hundreds of people staring blankly at Catalina, I could picture it in my head. The description of the soldiers staring at Catalina with empty looks was also a good portrayal.
2. He blames the government. The senators, the consuls and Julius, Crassus and Pompey. He thinks that the government should have had Catalina killed before he had gained so much popularity among the lower classes.
3. No, he doesn't believe that Rome can be saved. He believes that getting rid of Catalina will only temporarily eliminate Rome's problems.
4. Tullius told Marcus to flee Rome in the vision. He said that Rome has long been falling and unless he flees his enemies will kill him.
5. "I tell you that freedom does not mean the freedom to exploit law in order to destroy it!"
6. He came at first to tell Caesar he was grateful for supporting him and not doubting him, but when Julius warned him to flee Rome because Cicero might have him arrested and executed the next day, Catalina warned Julius that if he died, he would make sure that Julius died also. He threatened Caesar and told him to be his advocate, swearing that he would not die alone.
7. That's hard to see right now. Cicero is burning with a passion of hatred and malice against Catalina, and Catalina's death has been his goal in life for years. But yet, he loves Rome, although he knows it cannot be saved. I honestly cannot tell at this point. The hatred of Catalina has brought him thus far, but the Consulship was his hope he could recover Rome. I think that Cicero has allowed anger to take too much of a foothold within him, and his drive is not an innocent passion, but a fiery anger.
8. If someone has committed murder, then sentencing someone to death is a worthy punishment. I don't believe that any other crime is worthy of death though. Any crimes committed other than any form of intentional murder, deserve a punishment of imprisonment. However, when someone or a group of people certainly appear a danger to people, but have yet to be proven murderers, it is difficult to say whether they should be sentenced to death or not. I know that God is a god of justice, but he vows that vengeance is his. He does order death to certain crimes though.
9. He addresses the Senate as though they are as appalled and shocked at these accusations as he is. He spoke of how he has served Rome, alongside many other soldiers. He spoke of the honor to serve, and that we share the same blood. He points out that no one of honor has accused him but Cicero, not Crassus, not Julius, not Pompey nor Clodius. He also attacks Cicero's bringing up, telling everyone that he was not born in Rome, not from a noble family, but just a poor man, from the middle class, not a soldier, he has not fought for his country.

10. After Julius and Catalina had made their speeches, it appeared that the Senators were unsure whether or not Catalina deserved to die now. Cato rose and took Cicero's hand, and spoke again against Catalina. He spoke with power, but with bluntness. He spoke with a passion, which grabbed the attention of all, so much that they did not see Catalina escape.
11. I believe treason is worse. Not every man is patriotic, but those who fall low enough that they desire to murder anyone and any country in their way to power are sick. Men naturally crave power, but allowing it to control them to the point of treason is worse than the punishment for the crime, the punishment though should not be revenge, but rather recognizing the danger of these men, punishing the traitors with death so that you can protect the future generations.
12. Men are born evil, but allowing that evil to take over you creates the madness. You can control the evil inside you only until you have allowed it to fester and well up inside you to the point of madness. Once you have reached that point, I believe it would take a miracle to bring you back.
13. He didn't want to be the one to have to kill Catalina. He knew that Catalina was an enemy of Rome, but he had saved his life before, and he was a fellow soldier.
14. Yes. It was as if a movie was playing right in front of me and I could see vividly everything the author described. She described the battle poetically, and with drama and excitement. There was nothing dull about her description and portrayal of the battle.
15. I'm not sure. I know that Cicero would have had trials for them in his early career, but now he, in my opinion, is going crazy. He is constantly scared of secret plots, conspiracies, and is seeing himself as the savior of Rome, instead of God. I believe that Cicero is a wise man, but his relationship with God doesn't seem in a good place. We don't see him worshipping, studying, and searching out God's wisdom. I can't tell if his insistence on the executions of Catalina's supporters is good, or if it will just turn into him murdering innocent people because he wants to be the savior of Rome, and is paranoid. I loved Cicero's character at the beginning of the book, and now he is traveling the path he warned others about in his speeches. He always said that man is naturally corrupt and that man desires to eliminate God, but that only causes trouble. Well now he is trying to push God out of the picture to make room for his ego and I fear that he's going to either get himself killed, or steer Rome in the wrong direction while trying to save it.
16. Yes I have tried. Most of the time it doesn't work. When the people around you have a sense of humor and if the gravity of the situation is not that great then it can work, but it all depends on your surroundings. I think some situations need humor, but others need to remain as solemn as they were.
17. He believed that the Messiah would come to a small village or hamlet, like his island instead of going to a nasty crowded city. He believed that out of

small villages came great men, but out of cities came perverted, immoral men.

18. "The more depraved a people the more public their indignation against immorality."
19. Cicero wrote to Noe telling of his despair. He was fearful and trusted no one. Antonius could no longer be trusted for he had gone mad, he did not trust Crassus, Clodius, or Julius, but somehow he liked Pompey. I too have found some affection for Pompey's character. Cicero too was contemplating suicide. He wrote that if it weren't for his children he would have killed himself long ago, and then he remembered what he and Noe had discussed about suicide before and how that insults the character and the love of God.
20. "Suicide is man's ultimate hatred of God."