

## A Pillar of Iron (12)

1. He was losing his popularity among the people and they began to question his justice in the executions of Catalina's followers and the war that was waged against Catalina. He had not held trials for the supporters of Catalina, but the war waged was not Cicero's idea. Catalina had started the war and was killed in battle.
2. They did not believe that one man had the right, authority, or mind to rule all of Rome, so they have decided that all three of them should rule together. Caesar would deal with the people and their interests in Rome, Crassus would deal with the financial problems, and Pompey would be in charge of the military.
3. I don't believe they did. They made a law, but the Senate is now corrupt. Cicero should obey the law because he is a citizen of Rome, but the law is neither just nor reasonable in his case. The Senate cannot be trusted, for they only operate under bribes. It is better for him to leave Rome, so people can forget about him and forget about their hatred for him. He should have left Rome when he received that vision so that his family would not have to face the shame and they could have left with them.
4. He believes Rome is moving into new times, where morality is not needed and the Constitution is no longer enough. He believes that Cicero and the Constitution are of "old Roman" values. Julius believes that the Constitution and Cicero were standing in the way of new age progress.
5. Antonius believes that even if he did ask the Senate to allow Marcus back into Rome, that it would be no use. The people were filled with too much hatred for him. Quintus then asked Antonius to admit to the people that he had been lying, but Antonius did not want to be publicly dishonored as he had forced Marcus to be.
6. Whenever Cicero was mourning that he existed, he wrote home to his family, telling even Terentia that he missed her. Everyone thought that he might be going crazy because he was so depressed and so desperate. He was also constantly mentioning in his letters that his friends shouldn't have prevented him from committing suicide long ago.
7. Noe told him news of the Messiah. He said the Messiah would be born from a lowly family, be hated by the people and suffer an excruciating death. This brought hope to Marcus, who repented to God asking for forgiveness for ever doubting and forgetting about Him.
8. "I will lift my eyes to the hills, for where does my help come from? It comes from the Lord, who makes heaven and earth. He will not permit your foot to be moved, He who holds you and does not sleep. Behold! He who cares for Israel will neither rest nor sleep."
9. The triumvirate. All of Rome however is being influenced by Clodius. The Triumvirate is not as powerful as Julius had hoped when he was explaining the idea to Marcus. The men were not getting along well with

- each other, holding different values and goals, but not being able to persuade and come to agreements about some things.
10. "How governments cling to the money they steal from the citizens!"
  11. I can think of some governments who never make sure that the people do not know of other country's forms of government, and keep the people ignorant because they want to remain in power. If you keep the people unaware of better governments and more reformed ways, the people have nothing to compare their current situations too, so they don't want anything better. I'm not sure if I know of governments keeping the people busy so they don't know what's going on though, maybe that only happens in countries with communism and dictators, such as Cuba or China.
  12. They use mobs to their benefit. People are gullible, and if you can get a powerful, motivational speaker, you can convince a mob to do almost anything. People unfortunately are easily moved when they trust their emotions.
  13. The people of Rome who had demanded his return to Rome were the same people who had accused him of disobeying the law almost a year earlier. It just goes to show that you can't trust the mobs.
  14. "Let them remember Rome, lest they forget her fate!"
  15. He felt joy to be back home, but he also felt remorse, for upon his arrival he realized that those grand city gates were only the skeleton of a once glorious empire, that now was heading to ruin.
  16. There was a famine, Clodius had risen to the power formerly held by Catalina, threatening the Senate, taking advantage of his power, and acting as a tyrant.
  17. A war against your neighbor. I think that most of the time, man enjoys picking a fight more than actually fighting a war in defense. Most countries that like to pick the fights have selfish, immoral rulers. Man is so corrupt, but we like to pretend that we are mostly good.
  18. Clodius lied to the people claiming that Cicero was going to ignore the religious laws that kept the temple on the site of his house, and take the land back by force. He also lied to the people, claiming that Cicero was the reason for the famine. Again, we have evidence that man is extremely gullible.
  19. The triumvirate was going to let Catalina or Clodius completely wreak havoc on the city, so that the triumvirate could swoop in and seize all power over Rome, saying that all other political figures were not capable of the job.
  20. To accept the state of Rome. He said that Rome is lost and the Republic is gone forever. He told Cicero to enjoy the remainder of his life and stop trying to interfere and believe that he alone can save Rome. He told Cicero to stop examining life through the lens of a philosopher because this makes men unhappy.
  21. "This is the worst-that good men do nothing or become tired and hopeless."

22. He was praising Cicero's firm stand for justice. Cicero had always stood for justice and nothing less. Without men in the world like Cicero, nations would fall faster, and man could never defeat his natural desire for power.
23. He saw a fiery chariot coming down from the lightning. The chariot was pulled by horses and he could hear thousands of voices. Julius Caesar sat upon the chariot with a laurel wreath on his head. He was laughing maliciously and the thousands of voices changed to shouts of fury. A woman was flowing in front of him, but then climbed into the chariot to join him and they embraced. Ravens with daggers in their mouths flew around his head, but as he tried to take the throne, they slashed him with the daggers. Then he saw a ruler walking on a stream of blood, trampling corpses, and the people were shouting "Woe, woe to Rome", then there was a magnificent fire that destroyed all Rome, and although the city was rebuilt it was not the Rome Cicero knew, and that city was destroyed also. It sounds like the murder of Caesar after he becomes emperor, the great fire of Rome, and the new emperors coming in after, but to no avail can they save the empire. The very last part of his vision where he sees a dome, the cross of execution, and the men in white sounds like Jesus being crucified in Jerusalem and the men in white sound like the angels who appeared to the shepherds on the night Christ was born.