

## A Pillar of Iron (13)

Antony- He is a power-hungry, inexperienced young man who has a lot of “brilliant” ideas that he thinks can put him into power, he hated Cicero and Cicero hated him.

Brutus- He is a man who Julius Caesar thought was his friend, but later plotted to kill him.

Octavius- He is Julius’ nephew who won the favor of Cicero and later became Emperor of Rome.

1. Himself. He adored himself. He loved himself. He studies himself and could not find how anyone could not like him.
2. “The whole trouble lay in the fact that just men and good, could not be cynical and could not shut their ears to the cries of foolish sheep, who had meekly allowed themselves to be penned and then had uttered cries of anguish when they saw the man with the knife.”
3. Milo did not believe in a dictator ruling Rome or the military. Clodius believed that he and Caesar should be in power and if the people elected them they would give free corn to the needy. He didn’t believe that people should be tried unless the victims pressed charges. But what do you do then in a murder case?
4. He was in despair that Rome was falling into ruin and that all the influential young men kept telling him that Rome was just moving to a greater nation, while keeping up with the times.
5. “Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. When you pass through the waters I will be with you. And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire you shall not be burned. Neither shall the flame kindle upon you. For I the Lord your God hold your right hand.”
6. “Above all things the rabble despises law and order and prefers grandeur in a tyrant. They especially love a mountebank who flatters them, and a malefactor is close to their hearts.”
7. It depends upon the condition of your heart while doing it. Only God can know what your motives were. That is a tricky question. Some people believe that everything on one side of the spectrum is absolutely evil, and everything on the other side is absolutely good. Ultimately though, whatever you do that is questionably bad, in order to judge that person you would need to know why they subconsciously thought it must be done. Man cannot be the final judge that is God’s place.
8. He had a dream of Pompey on a battle field in a strange country. He saw the face of Caesar in his dream, but it was not physically there. Soon he saw a large hand with a serpentine ring reach out from the darkness and plunge the dagger into Pompey’s heart. Then he found himself on the island, where Livia met him and told him that they would be together again, they only had to wait for God. Then she left his arms and he was

plunged into a dark world, where he was stumbling around. He escaped from the dark world when he woke up.

9. I can't decide whether it's because he's insecure, or whether he thinks that his decisions are of such importance. Cicero is an important figure, and at one point was extremely powerful in Rome. I don't think that he wants to see what Rome has become. On the other hand, he longs for home. He still wants to try and pretend that he has control over situations in Rome. He now wishes that he had never been born, and is remorseful at all the bad decisions that have affected his present life. I think he's become a paranoid old man, who doesn't realize that what he really is longing for is for God.
10. The people of Rome and the rulers there. They had no pride in their country any longer. They had no desire for freedom. Caesar promised them what they wished and they thought they would be taken care of so they were satisfied. When Caesar's army killed Pompey that destroyed one of the men that could have spared Rome such an ugly fate. It couldn't have saved Rome, but it would have helped. The people were becoming too accustomed to receiving everything they need. People become weary when their life is wonderful. They had everything they needed, and then they began to want the government to supply all they need and want.
11. I believe it did. He no longer lived day to day for God. He no longer mentions God in his conversations. He is only filled with doubts. His life reminds me a little of Job. God is testing his faith, but he is only growing farther away from God instead of drawing closer.
12. The old slave Eunice had a vision of someone being killed but she thought it was a warning of Cicero's death. Later, Brutus comes to Cicero and asks him to speak against Julius in the Senate. Marcus refused, so Brutus then asked if Cicero would agree not to intervene in the plans of the youth. Cicero agreed not to intervene with Brutus' plans and passed the torch to them. And before Caesar was going to the Senate where he would later be killed, his wife begged him not to go saying she had had a vision of him being assassinated.
13. For as always the people were excited by the thought of change and by prospects of greater public benefits if they conformed.
14. He had a vision in which God held out his hand to him and told him that He was always with him and that he had no reason to fear.
15. It said forty-three years after Cicero died; a young girl in Nazareth was visited by an angel. It was Mary. The Messiah that Cicero had waited so long for and believed in came so long after him.
16. I think that she is a very talented and gifted author. She has a very good way to elaborate and will go into deep descriptions about characters and places. She really makes you connect with each of the characters as if you felt like you had met with them. She is very talented at keeping you interested in the book. The book is very long and it covers Cicero's whole life, but I think she did a very good job of writing an exciting book.

17. I think well of him. I admired him more as a young man, but I admired his always standing up for what he believed. There are few men like him in the world, and you can see why. The world does not like men who have the courage to stand up to injustices and tyranny, no matter how many people say that men are mostly good. I think that he was a naive man, and didn't really know how to operate in this corrupt world; which is good to a point because we are not of this world, and yet we are to glorify God with our every day while on earth. Most of all, I think that he was an extremely wise man, who at one point and perhaps until he died, loved God with all his heart, but putting a man like that into the world causes him much grief because he feels alone and misunderstood. I think that the only thing I wish Cicero had done was rely on God during the latter part of his life instead of rolling in self-pity contemplating suicide, and I found it odd that he was never able to forgive people for what had happened to Livia. He never loved his wife, Terentia, and she sounds like a difficult woman, but I think he could have put more effort into their relationship instead of hating her for not being Livia.