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A Game for the Thrones

After taking over from Julius Caesar, Augustus became the first Roman emperor and in a spun of forty years peace and wealth reined in Rome on his account. The Roman army kept peace with everyone during this particular period which resulted to the great progress that Rome made during this time. There was a remarkable step that was made in terms of infrastructure as well as trade. There was rise in the number of scholars and the level of literature that was written during Augustus’ time and this was because of his good leadership that remained remarkable for over two hundred years. He is widely known as the father of the “Roman peace” or rather “Pax Romana.”

Augustus Caesar began his reign at the age of eighteen after the death of his great uncle Julius Caesar. It was not instant though, he had to take back the city of Rome from Marc Antony. Marc was a part of the assassination of Julius Caesar which gave him power of Rome. He had also married Augustus sister Octavia, but left her side for Cleopatra, the Pharaoh of Egypt. In the midst of all this backstabbing, Augustus went through many trials that not only got him the great city of Rome back; he also triumphed over Egypt and claimed it as his own. The battle of Actium got rid of Marc Antony and his un-Rome like love affair for Cleopatra which disturbed the Roman Senate and the Roman people who fought alongside Augustus Caesar. Augustus Caesar was able to overthrow Marc Antony at the Battle of Actium because of his one thousand warships which outnumbered Antony’s five hundred. Alongside these overpowering numbers, Marc Antony had an embarrassing reputation in war compared to Augustus’ strategic dominance in war, which is why Augustus won the battle.  
 After being seeing defeat in the war, Marc and Cleopatra killed themselves and this led to Augustus taking over the land of Egypt and made it part of Rome. Back in Rome Augustus having been a man who was just in his early thirties was recognized by the people as a hero. This was because despite his young age he was able to wipe out his enemies successfully which made him conquer other lands that were different from Rome and was able to make them part of Rome.  
 Augustus promised his people peace and unity because the war dust had now been settled. The battle field had not been so easy for him but he the driving force in him preferred winning peace instead of losing a battle which would have plunged Rome into jeopardy. Augustus divorced his wife and married his expectant mistress who was known as Livia. The people who opposed him had the feeling that Augustus was formulating a strategy in which he would establish a dynasty which would govern Rome for the rest of the years.  
Augustus had a well laid out strategy that would enable him to establish a dynasty without raising any eye brows from the Rome political fraternity. He pretended to give up power; this was a calculated move that Augustus knew would draw the attention of the senate together with the people. Thereafter his pretense a sequence of disasters engulfed Rome which then led to panic among the people. The only person the people saw as the savior was Augustus, to them he was the only one who able to salvage them from the situation they were in and so they begged the senate to make him the absolute ruler. He agreed to this offer though he did not show his motives, he was able to buy the thoughts of the people by telling them he was a ruler that was aiming at upholding the Roman traditions but in real sense Augustus was using this office to create a dynasty for himself.  
 Augustus saw religion as the only way he could defend his position having fought his way into power. Religion was also instrumental in Augustus’ rule to spearhead his political agenda. This was a move that Augustus was sure would make it hard for his enemies to overthrow him since He could not stand seeing himself as a looser and so he had to use every possible means in order to ensure that His rein was protected from any kind of interference.  
Traditionally Emperors were revered in Rome but this seemed not to be enough for Augustus, He wanted to make the people see him as a supreme being. The Roman Empire was composed of many gods and deities and so the emperor opted to make himself one of the gods so that he would achieve his objectives. To the Romans this was a usual step since they had the culture of turning their leaders into gods whether dead or alive so long as they saw it fit to refer to their leaders as gods.  ​This fact is affirmed by the worshiping of the founder leaders of Rome.  
There were certain supernatural things that happened which claimed to have knowledge of their existence. At the time when ​the Halley’s comet passed over Rome, August told the people that it was Julius Cesar’s spirit thus he referred to his predecessor as a god thus this also made him to declare himself as god since the one who came before him was a god. This he did so as to make sure that the people recognized him as a god and us any other normal ruler.  
 Using religion as a tool Augustus ensured that he portrayed his ‘humility’ to the people by telling them of what he ate during fasting, the types food he ate during fasting and he also ensured that the public heard of how his family was committed to religious matters. Augustus was using this strategy in order to ensure that he remained I power in any way. He had faked humility so that he would gain favor before the eyes of the people and this gave him time to establish his dynasty in a peaceful way which no one would have suspected.  
During this time Augustus was also keen to engage in deeds that gave him good reputation. He restored the old traditions of the Romans thus and he renovated eighty-two temples of the Romans. He did this to showcase his commitment to the religious aspects of the empire. By doing this he gained the favor that he desired from people and thus his biggest security was the people of Rome. He recovered Rome’s lost glory and restored back the pride that Romans enjoyed.  
 In 12AD, Augustus made himself the High Priest of Rome he restored the social religious traditions that had been subverted by other rulers. He re-introduced the sacrificing of animals to the gods. This was not only done by him but it was done by everyone who was within the constraints of the Roman Empire. Through leading by example the Emperor was able to win the heart of many who emulated him thus encrypting his name into their hearts and mind.    
The people believed in whatever Augustus did and they believed that he was a true leader, one who had been given the mantle of restoring the true calling of Rome. The Romans believed that they were superior to any other state and that is why they had conquered Spain and many other states. They were the supreme authority that was in place during this time, they enjoyed all this under the ruler ship of Augustus thus they revered him and respected him.  
By the time Augustus had achieved all these; age was already catching up with him. His daughter became notorious in the Empire and so he had no option other than to banish her from Rome. Augustus had now become weak and it was now impossible for him to foresee the activities of Rome. Augustus died during this time and the people declared him a god thus ensuring that he had achieved his aim even in death.  
 The Romans had been left with strict norms in terms of religion and so they upheld this rules in the administering of operational activities within the empire. Cult worship was one of the components that made up the Roman religion. An individual’s behavior decided whether they had been approved by the gods or not. To those who upheld the religious traditions to the latter were believed to have approval from the gods. The gods were represented by sculptured images, these images reminded the people of the presence of the gods whenever they came to worship or administer their sacrifices or offerings.  
Prayers were handled as a trade in the Rome religion. Whenever a god answered prayers that were offered then the recipient of the answered prayers was to promise to bring something to the god as a token of appreciation. It was believed that by doing this one earned the favor of the gods and this also made the gods to more great things.  
 These policies were upheld because Augustus had made them sink into the people as laws that had no room for amendment. People did this while they remembered Augustus who was well renowned for his policies that made Rome to progress a great deal. It was also believed that the gods took part in the daily routines and thus their sacred meals which were set aside in honor of the gods, this was mostly held during festivals that had been stipulated in the Roman calendar.  
During these festivals they believed that the God’s took part in these meals and so a place for them was set aside when everyone had sat down to have their meal. This was an act that showed that the Romans had their gods at heart and this also included Augustus who had taught them to give animal sacrifice to their gods and also set aside norms that guarded the way they worshiped and also how they prayed. August remains a legend in the roman history because of the various strides that he made while he was a ruler of the Roman people, indeed he established a dynasty just as he had wished.