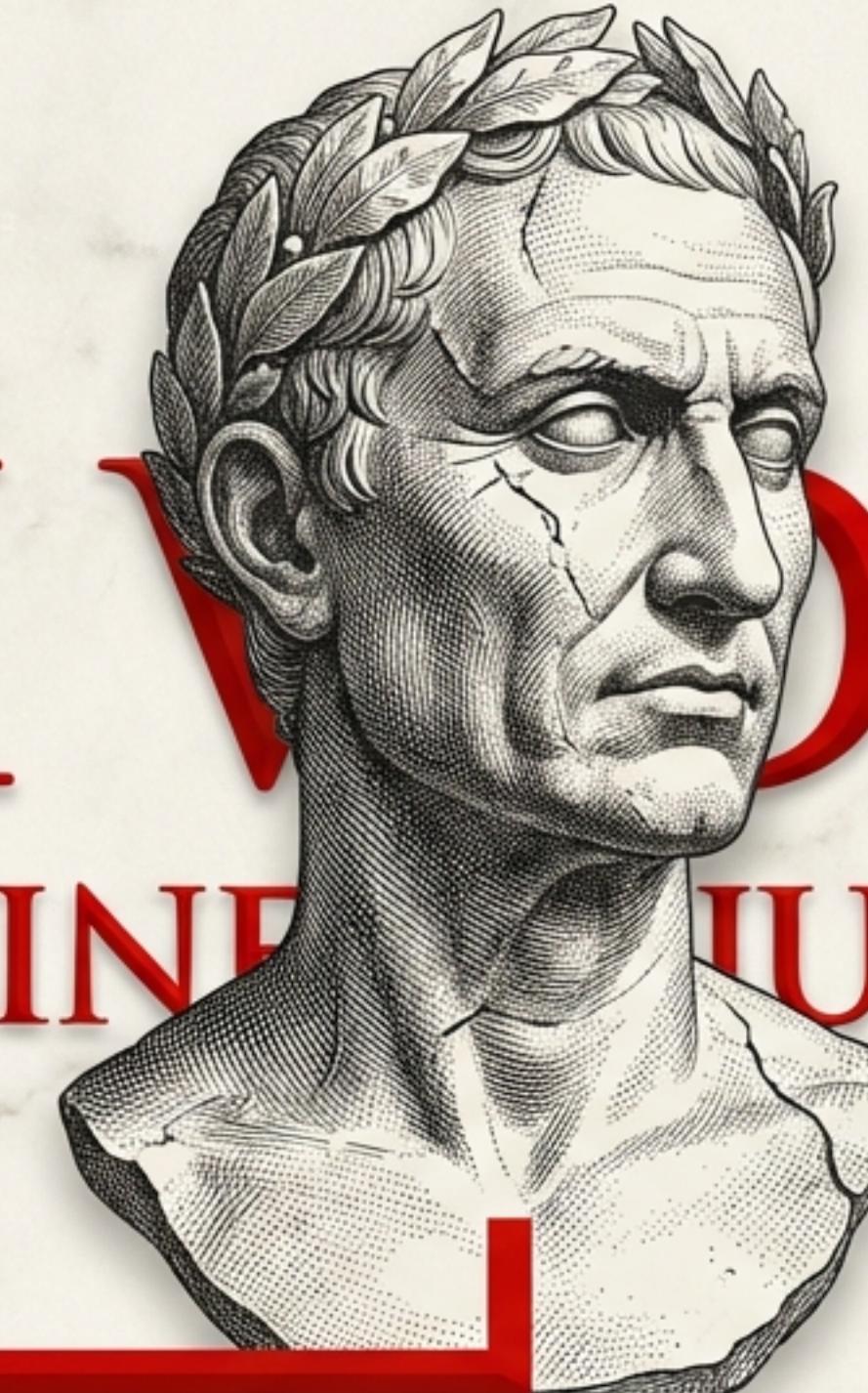


VENI VIDI VICI

THE TIMELINE JULIUS CAESAR



A chronological journey through the rise, apex, and collapse of the man who ended the Roman Republic.
From the historical records of Plutarch to the dramatic lens of William Shakespeare.

A REPUBLIC IN CRISIS

PRE-100 BCE



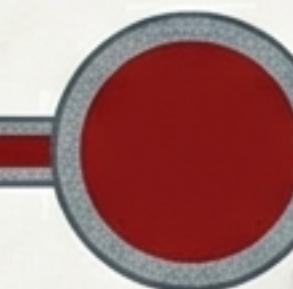
Rome was not a stable democracy when Caesar arrived. It was a system drowning in violence.

- The Republic was a mix of monarchy (consuls), oligarchy (Senate), and democracy.
- By 100 BCE, this balance had shattered into factionalism: The Populare (people) vs. The Optimates (nobility).
- Generals Marius and Sulla had already normalized the use of armies for political slaughter.



THE PATRICIAN OUTSIDER

Born Gaius Julius Caesar into the ancient *Julii* family. Though they claimed descent from the goddess Venus, they were not wealthy.



100 BCE

Growing up in a dangerous Rome defined by street gangs, Caesar learned that survival required alliances.

He broke with his class to align with the *Populare* ideology—favoring the rights of the lower class over the Senate.

THE THREE-HEADED MONSTER

POMPEY (Might)

Military prestige
and veterans.

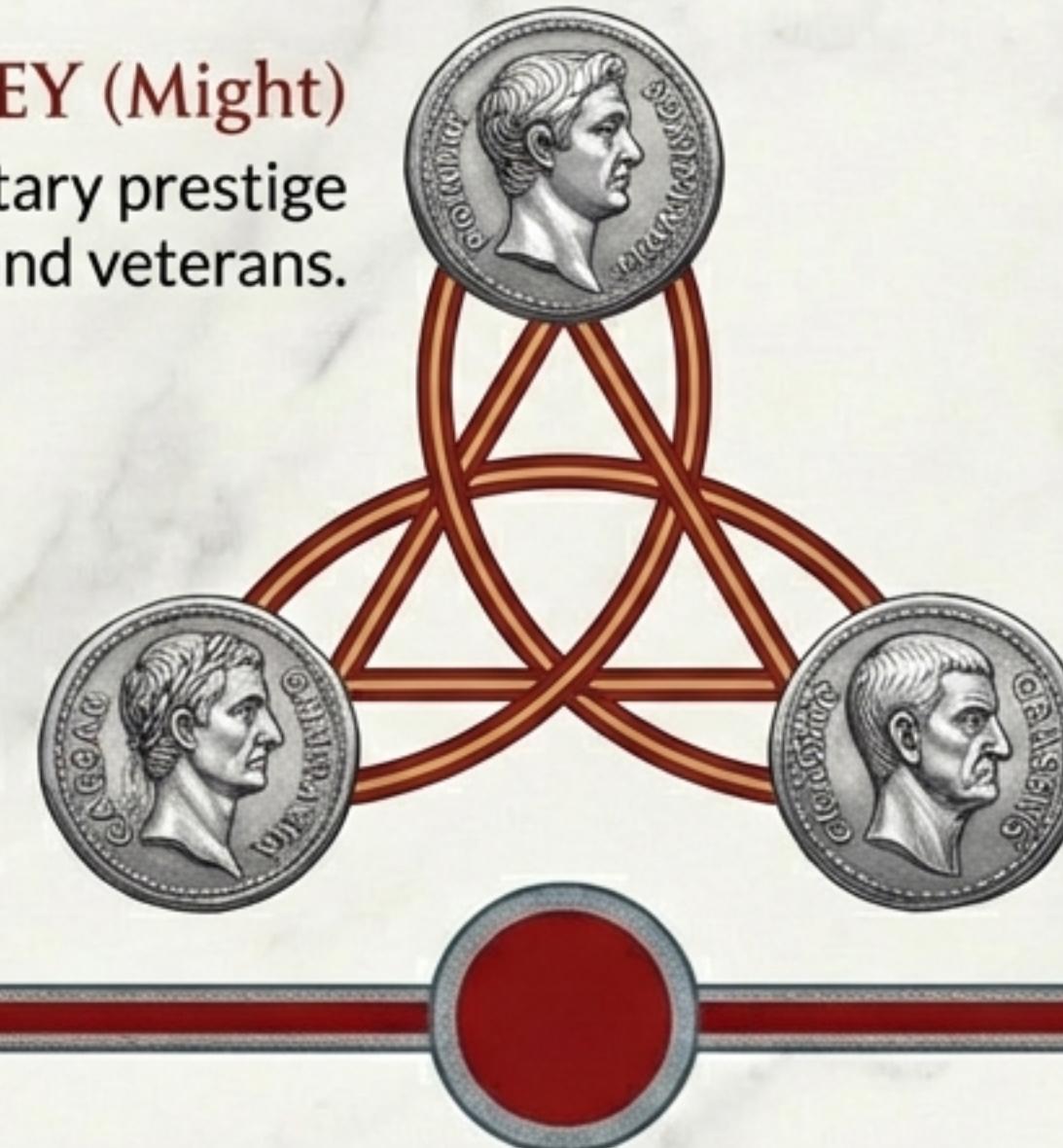
CAESAR (Charisma)

Popularity and
legislative drive.

The First Triumvirate: An unofficial alliance designed to bypass the Senate. This 'Deal' gave Caesar the consulship (59 BCE) and the governorship of Gaul.

CRASSUS (Money)

The richest man in Rome.



THE CONQUEST OF GAUL

Caesar needed money to pay debts and glory to rival Pompey. He found both in Gaul (France).

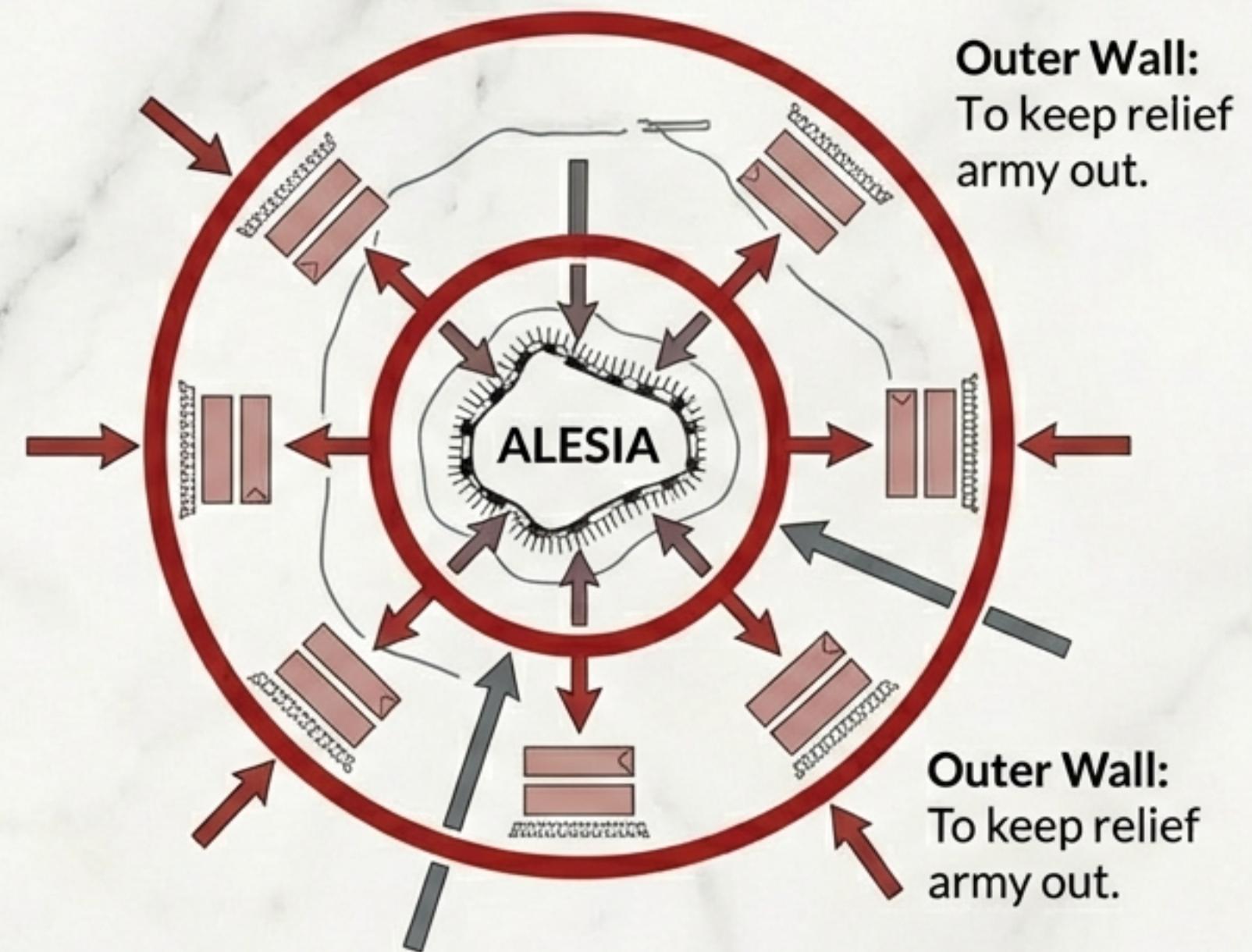
- 58 BCE: Defeat of the Helvetii.
- 55–54 BCE: First Roman expeditions into Britain.
- Strategic Goal: Forging a personal army loyal to him, not the state.



58–50 BCE

THE SIEGE OF ALESIA

Caesar's defining moment of military genius. The defeat of Vercingetorix marked the end of Gallic independence. The Senate, fearing this very success, refused him a triumph.



THE FRACTURE

Pompey aligns with the Senate. They issue an ultimatum: Caesar must disband his army and return to Rome. Returning as a civilian meant prosecution. Caesar had to choose between his career and the law.

- Crassus dies in battle (53 BCE).

- Julia (Caesar's daughter and Pompey's wife) dies.
- The Triumvirate dissolves.



THE RUBICON



JAN 49 BCE

Caesar leads one legion across the Rubicon River, the legal boundary of his province. It is an act of treason and a declaration of Civil War.

BATTLE OF PHARSALUS

The Decisive Clash: Outnumbered and short on supplies in Greece, Caesar's veterans crush Pompey's larger force.

- The Aftermath: Pompey flees to Egypt, where he is assassinated by courtiers of Ptolemy XIII.
- Caesar arrives in Egypt and is presented with his rival's head. He reportedly weeps, finding the act dishonorable.



THE EGYPTIAN INTERLUDE



- Caesar intervenes in the Egyptian civil war, backing Cleopatra VII.
- **The Alliance:** Both political and romantic. It results in the birth of a son, Caesarion.
- **The Fallout:** While securing a wealthy ally, the affair fuels rumors in Rome that Caesar intends to rule as a monarch like the eastern kings.

48-47 BCE

THE REFORMER

- Caesar returns to Rome to govern.
- **The Julian Calendar:** Reformed timekeeping to align with the solar year (46 BCE).
- **Governance:** Expanded the Senate (diluting old power), addressed debt, and settled veterans in colonies.
- **Veni, Vidi, Vici:** Celebrated four triumphs (Gaul, Egypt, Asia, Africa).



46-45 BCE

DICTATOR PERPETUO



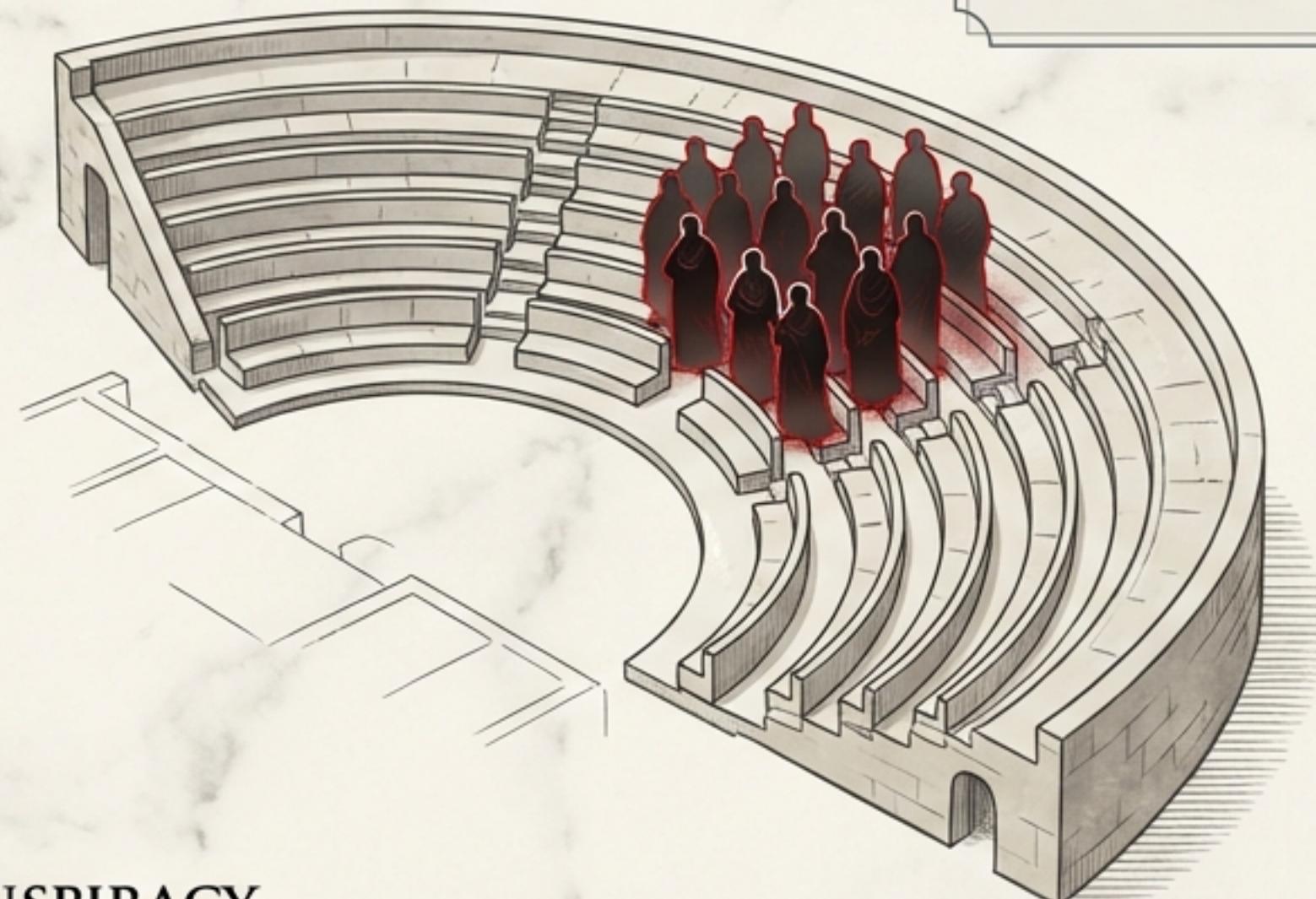
The Senate names Caesar 'dictator for life'.

- **The Symbolism:** He is the first living Roman to appear on coinage. He wears the triumphal robes constantly.
- **The Reaction:** To the old guard, the Republic is dead. Caesar is no longer an emergency leader; he is a King in all but name.

FEB 44 BCE

THE MOTIVE

- Recruits: ~60 Senators, led by Marcus Brutus and Cassius.
- The Fear: Restoration of the Monarchy.
- The Catalysts: Caesar failing to rise for the Senate; The incident at Lupercalia where Antony offered him a crown.



THE CONSPIRACY



Shakespeare Note

In the play, Brutus is the tragic hero, torn between love for Caesar and love for Rome. "Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more."

THE IDES OF MARCH



- Setting: A Senate meeting at the Theatre of Pompey.
- The Omens: A soothsayer warns “Beware the Ides of March”. Calpurnia dreams of Caesar’s murder.
- The Decision: Decimus mocks Caesar for listening to dreams, convincing him to attend.

MARCH 15, 44 BCE



TRAJAN PRO

THE ASSASSINATION

THE ASSASSINATION



- Cimber distracts him. Casca strikes first.
- History: 23 wounds (only one fatal). Caesar likely died in silence, pulling his toga over his face.



Shakespeare Note

Shakespeare dramatizes the betrayal with the famous line: “Et tu, (Even you, Brutus?) transforming the death into a tragedy of friendship.

FRIENDS, ROMANS, COUNTRYMEN



The Turning Point: The conspirators expected to be hailed as liberators.

Mark Antony's Eulogy: He incites the crowd by revealing Caesar's will, which left money to every citizen.

Result: The mob burns the conspirators' houses. Civil war returns.



THE FUNERAL

42 BCE



DEATH OF THE LIBERATORS

- The Second Triumvirate: Octavian (Heir), Antony, and Lepidus hunt down the assassins.
- Battle of Philippi (42 BCE): The forces of Brutus and Cassius are defeated.
- The End: Both conspirators commit suicide. The Republican cause dies with them.

THE EMPIRE RISES



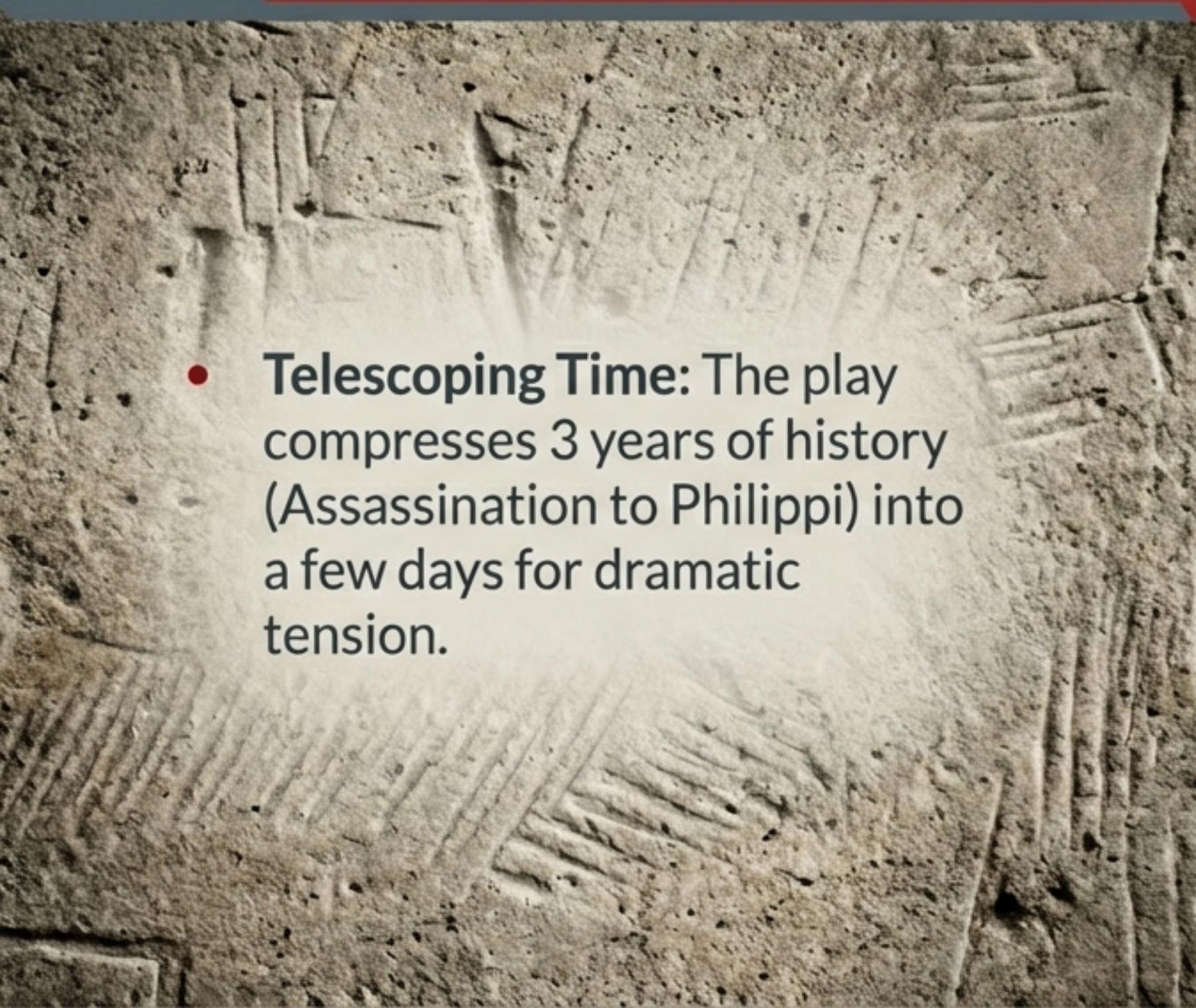
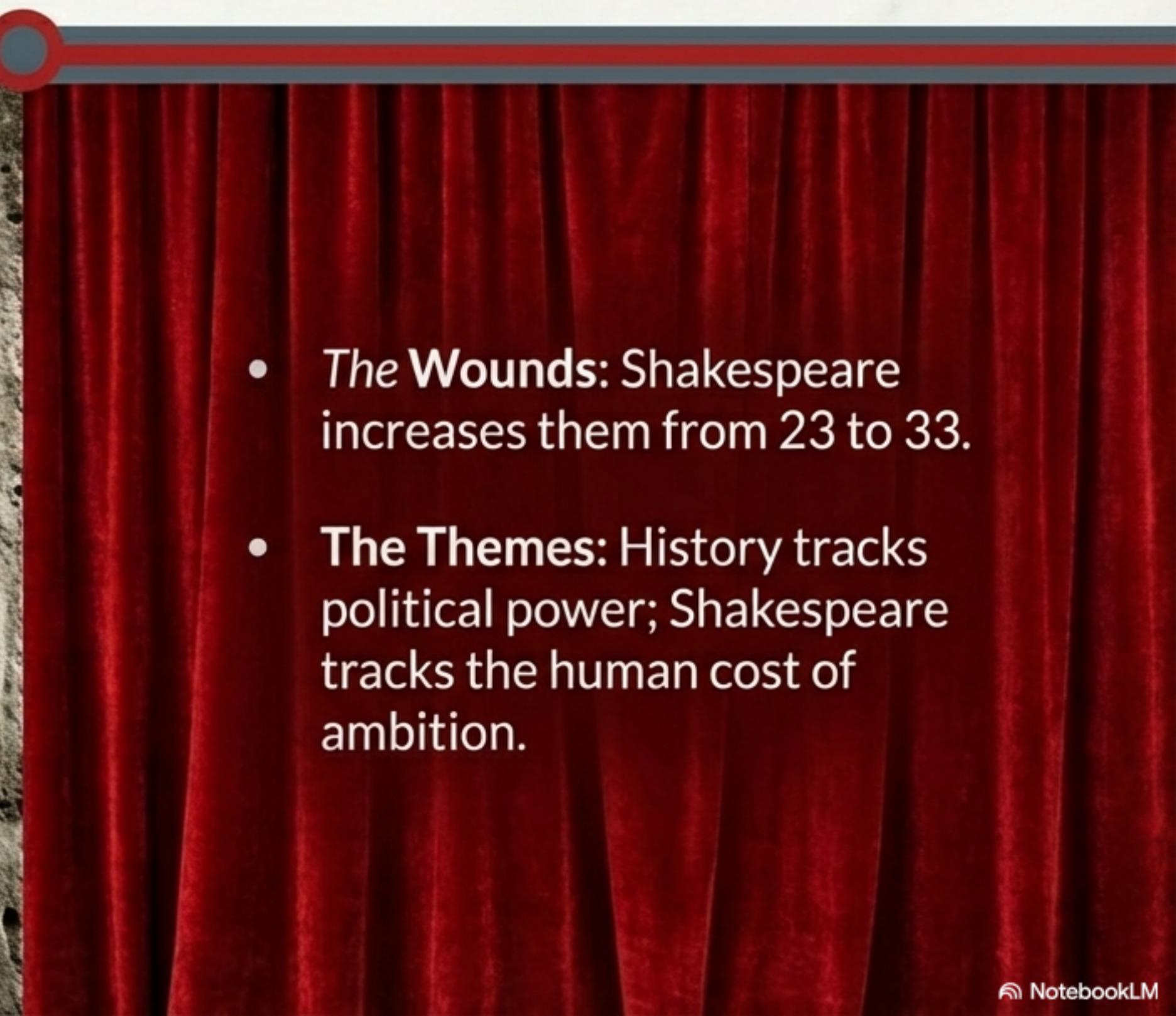
27 BCE



27 BCE

- *The Irony:* The assassination accelerated the very thing it tried to prevent.
- Octavian defeats Antony and Cleopatra at Actium.
- 27 BCE: Octavian becomes AUGUSTUS, the first Emperor.
- The Republic is replaced by the Empire.

SHAKESPEARE'S LENS



- **Telescoping Time:** The play compresses 3 years of history (Assassination to Philippi) into a few days for dramatic tension.
- **The Wounds:** Shakespeare increases them from 23 to 33.
- **The Themes:** History tracks political power; Shakespeare tracks the human cost of ambition.

TIMELINE SUMMARY



- 100 BCE:** Birth of Caesar
- 60 BCE:** First Triumvirate Formed
- 58–50 BCE:** Conquest of Gaul
- 49 BCE:** Crossing the Rubicon
- 48 BCE:** Battle of Pharsalus
- 44 BCE:** Dictator Perpetuo & Assassination
- 42 BCE:** Death of Brutus and Cassius
- 27 BCE:** Rise of Augustus / Roman Empire

SOURCES



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