



Since its mythic genesis centuries ago, Rome has been a beacon of might and order in chaotic world. Founded in fratricide and forged through conquest and gradual assimilation of neighboring tribes, strength and discipline have been the backbone of ascension for the Senate and People of Rome. But there is another theme that pervades Rome's illustrious history: adaptability. In this chaotic time of war and unrest, we proud Romans must stay true to these critical values—might, order, and ingenuity – if victory is to be seized.

### **Potentia: Crush the Insurrection**

The order and discipline of Rome's legions stands in stark contrast to the disorganized hordes of slaves rising up against the Republic. Our foe is both primarily composed of and led by slaves of Thracian, Gallic, and Germanic descent; in other words, barbarians. While fierce fighters, their military tactics of speed and force would be easily bested by the manipular organization of Roman legions on the field of war. Thus, we can anticipate our enemy to be evasive and fight a guerilla war. Hence, the biggest threat posed by these insurgents is not toppling Rome itself, but rather garnering enough popular support to paint themselves as the lesser of two evils compared to the Republic. The social foundation of Rome itself is thus threatened.

This outcome could be avoided, however, if the rebels were to act in ways so radical and savage that they alienate themselves from any possible supporters. Given their temperament, such an outcome seems likely. But if their leadership shows restraint, a little covert infiltration could easily guide them towards this path.

Ultimately, it is likely we will face the enemy army in the field at some point. As Praetor holding *Imperium*, it is my duty to see that our forces are prepared. Fundamental drilling in formation is a necessity if good Roman discipline is to be instilled in these green levies. We must also utilize Rome's great assets to gather auxiliary forces skilled in fighting lightly armored foes. Missile cavalry, imported from the Cantabri tribes of Hispania, would serve as excellent mobile skirmishers. By training war dogs of the Molossus breed, we shall disrupt and terrify the ranks of the foe. Such creative solutions would not only demonstrate the might of Rome, but cleave the morale of these riotous knaves.

### **Stabilitas: Maintain Order and the *quid pro quo***

Rome is a state of classes. From the oldest patrician families to the lowliest of plebs, all Roman citizens know they have a group to which they belong. Slaves, however, lie below all. While all citizens are protected from punishments such as crucifixion, slaves are not given such generous treatment. Thus, if we are to manage social threats and limit the plebeian support of this "Army of Spartacus," we must play upon the idea of class. Along with the classic tactic of bread and circuses, propaganda campaigns must be initiated offering the people of the Republic a classic Roman *quid pro quo*.

If the country folk in the *socii* regions of Italia inform the Senate of rebel activities or resist the enemy host, they will be gifted with opportunities and protection. We shall rebuild their homes, give them employment, and treat them with the respect a true Roman deserves.

If they are disobedient and turn against the Senate, they forfeit all rights of citizenship they hold. If they work against us, they are lower their status to that of a slave. Their family names will be terminated from the records of the censors, their lands seized, and when this slave revolt falls, they shall be crucified. Mercy may be shown in some instances, but it must be known that Rome does not tolerate betrayal. Similar tactics, too, may be able to infect the enemy leadership with suspicion and distrust.

### **Honorem: Ascension of gens Arria to Senatorial Rank**

In this time of simmering political tension, the future of my family, the Arrii, rests upon my shoulders. Through our history, we have been plebs. Over the years, we have gained wealth and influence, rising to become an newly wealthy family.. Despite this achievement, we have yet to claim Senatorial status.

The route to this goal is clear: I must be elected Consul. While there hasn't been a consular *novus homo* since C. Coelius Caldus 20 years ago, my position as Praetor and connections to powerful and wealthy men such as M. Licinius Crassus make ascension feasible. Not only would the consulship grant my descendents a brighter future, but it would greatly expand my authority and capability to enact the aforementioned plans to defeat the rebels. As Consul, I could guarantee the stability and security of the Republic with greater efficiency and efficacy.

Winning the consular election, however, would likely require affiliation with the *populares* or *optimates* party. Currently, I stand in a middle ground of sorts; my plebeian family lends itself to the *populares* camp, while my connections to men such as Crassus and Gellius give me ties to the *optimates*. For the interest of public service, I will try to stay non-partisan for as long as possible, before ultimately joining the faction that offers me and the Republic the most benefit. Again, it's all about the *quid pro quo*. Ultimately, however, we must set aside political infighting if we are to avoid a fate where divisions lead to our destruction.

As Praetor of the Republic and *pater familias* of my gens, it is my duty to restore order and achieve glory for my kin. By the grace of Jupiter and Mars, I shall perform and succeed in this duty, using whatever means necessary.

After all: *audentes Fortuna iuvat*.