Third Servile Revolt: Romans - Position Paper

In these dire times that the great Republic of Rome faces I, Lucius Caecilius Metellus, take up my pen and ink to don this animal skin my thoughts towards the actions that must be taken to ensure our victory.1 The Caecilia originate from plebeians yet we have shown countless times our strength and value through our past members whom have helped pave Rome’s success as praetors, generals, and consuls. These roots in fact provide an advantage as I am clear to see what must be done to quell the social threats to the Republic.

There is a rift among the patricians and plebeians that does not only benefit Spartacus’ recruitment but may also lead to the destruction of our government. Of course, under the great eyes of the Censors, the senate is so far from corruption that even Cato the Censor could not oppose our current morality.2 Yet the public does not see it that way and instead insists that the Concilium Plebis are under manipulation of the Senate only adding to the tension between the two unequal groups.3 Thus to combat this crisis we must introduce more diverse, differing decisions from the Concilium Plebis and the Comitia Centuriata to exhibit the fact that the Concilium Plebis is not a puppet of the patricians and in fact has enough power to have the common peoples’ voices heard. Of course, these “differing” decisions will still be beneficial to us esteemed families but from the perspective of the plebeians the “victory” of the Concilium Plebis with assure them their rights are being protected. It is through these means of misdirection that we build confidence in the plebeians and consequently increase the effectiveness of conscripting urban plebeians to our forces. An increase of military strength vital to maintaining our ever-growing republic with how an increase in urban plebeian conscripts decreases the

number of farmers turning to the military, therefore further securing Rome’s food supply without the need the increase the hundreds of foreign slaves being used.4

It is with careful, sly tactics do we win the hearts of the common people of Rome and increase our military fortitude, however cunning plans also hold a place in the battlefield. Spartacus is a devious enemy, capable of utilizing his small number of men to his advantage by attacking areas of importance swiftly and disappearing before our military can react. These attacks not only damage Rome through the physical sense but also damage our reputation and embolden more slaves to join the rebels.5 To prevent this trend from allowing Spartacus to amass an army of considerable size we must quickly, concisely destroy the rebels with our overwhelming strength. All being required to commit such an action is to play on Spartacus’ hubris. If provided an opportunity too valuable to refuse near our military forces stationed along the fronts, Spartacus will fall to his ego (inflated from his recent victories) and congregate most his army to seize the chance presented. It is then that our military near will collapse onto the meager number of rebels, decimate the slave army, and crucify all enemies as an example of Mars’ wrath towards those who dare challenge the might of Rome.6

As seen, although the slave uprisings may seem to be a potential crisis, all can be handled with careful, meticulous planning and manipulation of others to our favor. These slaves will soon learn that they will either work towards benefiting the greatest civilization to grace the world or soon find themselves upon the gates of Pluto within the Underworld. Under the faithful watch of the gods the Republic of Rome shall forever expand, across the Mediterranean and beyond!

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