

Students name

Professors Name

Course Name

Date

The Life of Augustus

Augustus was born of an equestrian family whose grandfather and great grandfather found peace and comfort in a small town away from Octavia. Although the family lineage from Gaius Rufus, there was remarkable service in high offices and in government, Augustus great grandfather had chosen to serve the public as a soldier in the great Punic war. It is thus not surprising that he chose in his old age to spend in a small town office. Although various accounts differ, Augustus, own writing confess to his father becoming one of the first in the family to be elected a senator.

From Suetonius account, Augustus family was destined for great things not only on the history of the family's involvement in high office but also from the individual characters of men in the family. Augustus was the leader in Rome that build the city from brick to marble as he records in his work. His great obsession with changing the city's looks and behaviours, made Augustus not only a feared man but also one on a mission to change history (Suetonius, 125).

Although Augustus considered his actions as those responding to the assassination of his maternal uncles, from his work *Res Gestae Divi*, his choice of words is different from Suetonius. Suetonius finds in Augustus a man greatly bent to stamp his authority and demanded the highest honor and service. As a young man he had learnt to deal and cobble an army ready to satisfy his desires and achievements. His greed for power pushed him to even force the consulship to award him the highest level, thirteenth magistracy in a span of less than 5 years which was contrary to the rules and statutes of the republic. This was however different from Augustus' own view of his actions.

Indeed, Augustus considered himself the leader and the man who could unite the provinces and regions that could be formidable and form one great republic. Inspired by this position, Augustus not only found it necessary to force his way to the senate but also to the highest positions in the consulship as well as the triumvirate. In his quest to restore the order of the State, Augustus personal views and feelings never allowed him to afford sparing even his guardians like Gaius Toranius for example against the excess of the day as required. To Augustus the life of an emperor was to dutifully guard the city as well as guard his life in his service to the people.

Characteristically, as Suetonius observes, Augustus raised detestation from many of his compatriots and general the people disliked him as a leader. He had proved himself far too often inclined towards acts that evoked fear and dislike than sympathy and justice as would have been expected. Suetonius, states that Augustus was quick to kill, plot and assassinate

those he felt threatened or behaved in a way to act as spies against his government. As if this was not enough, his choice of words is recorded to have caused a member of the triumvirate to commit suicide. His double character is well revealed however in his work *Res Gestae Divi*, by giving a false account of Quintus Gallius, that he was imprisoned because of treachery yet from public knowledge it is known that Augustus tore the man's eyes after publicly suspecting him of carrying a sword (Suetonius, 130).

Augustus public life was however full of lenient instances in his administration of justice. Although he assumed power to the position of pontifex, his great deal with making the best government in the empire and history allowed him to illustrate humanity and the nature of men. As such he honored many in his family as well as other that had served the empire according to his standards. Wanting not to wallow in his own power alone, Augustus granted, other persons of great ability and to make changes in the city buildings for example in a bid to push forward the general wellness of the empire (Suetonius, 147).

In his public life, Augustus was a defender of State, the great leader of the republic and one greatly concerned with the best the empire could give just as his private life. As a public figure, Augustus was concerned more the public welfare than the fame he would get from his actions. As such he restored and rectified the senate, the army, the consulship, the treasury and other arms of government into the former state of strict discipline and justice for the administration of public good and noble welfare.

Works Cited

Suetonius, Tranquillus, C. The Lives of the Twelve Caesars. Loeb Classical Library. 1913.
Retrieved on 10th September, 2017 from http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/e/roman/texts/suetonius/12caesars/augustus*.html,

MERITESSAYS.COM

MERITESSAYS.COM