

Father "My son I am proud of you, you have become a man in your own right through your studies and your own development. I respect your decisions and opinions but I ask you, how can you honor Augustus Caesar?"

Student 3: Low Merit
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Son "Father, you are a wise man who will always have my respect from the auctoritas you have earned but how can you not acknowledge Augustus for restoring Rome into this great republic?"

Father "Republic? Son I think you mean Empire, Augustus was an intelligent leader as well as a wise politician but he did not care about Rome or its dying republic as much as he cared about gaining power".

2 Son "How can you say he didn't care about Rome and its people, he restored much of the city including the aqueducts, the theatre of Pompey and many of the lost political posts and monuments during the civil war, all of which he did not sign his name on to honor himself. This showed his auctoritas and his pietas to Rome showing his true Republican. He did the city a momentous favor by repairing and rebuilding lost temples, which have restored Rome's faith and belief in its God's. He showed great Pietas to Rome giving full credibility to his quote, "I found Rome a city of brick and left Rome a city of marble". 1

Father "All the good-will deeds he did are just strategies of the populares much the same as the ones his Father, Julius Caesar used. They were just methods to try and gain political power. Do you believe that a true Republican would manipulate the population to satisfy his own agenda?"

Son "Power. He gave his power back in 27 B.C to the Senate and the People of Rome. He returned the republic to Rome to save it (2) as it says in the Res Gestae, "I took precedence of all influence, but of power I possessed no more than those who were my colleagues in office". 1

2 Father "Ha, maybe he did care about Rome but don't be a fool in thinking that he did these deeds to solely help Rome and its people. Like I said he was a wise politician, he knew that he could not have such high power and position in the Senate, in which he did not gain legally. He had seen in the assassination of Julius Caesar, which taught him to never accept such extravagant honors. So he revoked his 'official' titles by retiring, to say he was powerless however is a joke, Augustus had a large army of veteran soldiers who were loyal to him, colossal wealth and the largest client base in Rome. The name Caesar alone gave him more power and respect than any other man in Rome."

Son "He did have all those things but he returned his power so the Senate were once again the leading body of Rome. This was to show he wanted to maintain the Republican."

2 Father "This was a political gamble that paid off as he was demanded back into the senate by the people and the position of Senior Consul was given to him by the Roman Government. He was then given the largest Proconsulship of Gaul, Spain, Syria and Egypt all of which contained massive Legions of soldiers sworn to Augustus, their commander and this was for 10 years. All of this was some-what legal but we can't forget all of Augustus's clients in the senate.

Son "You're referring to the first settlement in which much of the republic was restored. The magistrates were now elected by the people as usual-"

Father "Yes, except Augustus is automatically elected into one of the consulships"

Son "No the people refused to vote so-"

Father "Even though Augustus was granted commendatio, giving the legal power to tell people who to vote for"

Son "Let me speak! The people really wanted him to be Consul. Around 19 B.C the people refused to vote for a second Consul in an attempt to convince Augustus to accept the position.

Father " Wait! So you're saying he held the power of Consul purely because the people demanded it?"

Son “ No, I’m saying he kept Consular power to restore the Republic. Rome needs two Consuls, the Senate collapses if there is only one man in power. By holding onto the position he kept the Roman people pleased as well as keeping the Senate of Rome balanced by agreeing to the First Settlement keeping himself in the Consulship each year. He wasn’t willing to hold onto the power any longer as he would appear unrepugnant in his own eyes.”

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