

Son: "look at the amazing things that Augustus has done father, he has restored the republic to a glory that it has never reached before, he is a true hero of the republic."

Father: "I disagree with that statement son. Augustus did not restore of the republic. In fact, he was the one who destroyed it with his political dominance over Rome."

Son: "Father how can you say such a thing. It is widely known by both the people and the senate that he restored the republic."

Father: "My deluded son. How is the republic restored when Augustus holds supreme power. Tacitus tells us that Augustus seduced the army with bonuses, the citizens with cheap food and all with the gift of peace, Tacitus also tells us that none had ever seen truly republican government because "*war and judicial murder had disposed of all men of spirit*". Tell me son, what true republican remains alive today to challenge the power of Caesar? After Augustus' first sett none left, great men such as Cicero and Brutus had been killed or prescribed by Augustus, this coupled with the three revisions of the senate allowed Augustus to further cull any future opposition. The so called republic that he restored is now corrupt with bribery as all the senators are bleating for Augustus' good g to absolute rule then partake in another civil war, so tell me how Augustus can rightfully claim to have restored the republic when the monopoly of power is obviously in his hands?"

Son: "I disagree father, Augustus was not the one responsible for the prescriptions of those republicans, was it not Antony who held a hatred for Cicero and his Philippics because it caused him to be hated by the Roman people, I say it was him and the disgraceful Lepidus that were the culprits with Augustus unable to stop them. Velleius even states that Antony deprive the life of both Decimus Brutus and Sextus Pompey. On the topic of supreme power, Augustus even states in Res Gestae that in his sixth and seventh consulship (27/26 BC) he returned the power of the republic from his own hands to the people of Rome, can't you see that this is a direct step away from the powers which Caesar held in 44 BC, it was the people and senate of Rome who chose to give the power back to Augustus, how can this been seen as un-republican."

Father: "My son you must look past the false propaganda that supports Caesar and look into what happened behind the scenes. Cassius Dio tells us that Augustus prepared his most reliable senators before he gave away his power back to the people of Rome. Don't you see himself so well that there was almost no chance of him losing his power, of course the senate and people gave back his power with all the propaganda that supports him? His head and great deeds are depicted on the coins that we use every day to buy and trade goods, he is hailed as son of the mighty Caesar who was raised as a god (in 43 BC). We have constantly heard about how he rid the sea of pirates and protected Rome from the tyranny of Antony, of which both were disgraceful civil wars with our own people. Although I admit most great men have had some propaganda to further their careers, the extent of Augustus' propoganda literature to further his political ambitions. Look at the Aeneid. Virgil writes In book 6 that Augustus will extend the dominion or Rome beyond the Garamantians and the Indians and how even Herakles did not traverse as much earth, he also likens himself to the past heros of Rome on the Ara

Pacis. How can this be seen as anything but a way to guarantee that the senate will give him back the power he held and more? Also, look at the statues that portray his youth, such as the Prima Porta Augustus, but fail to show how he has aged over the years; they

- ① seem to almost raise Augustus as an immortal. But even with all this propaganda on his side he still does not allow any noble person to hold a Triumph, he even stopped Marcus
- ③ Licinius Crassus the Younger from holding a triumph when he was awarded the Spolia Opima in order to downplay the great general's success so that there could be no competition for his rule over Rome. You take too much from the words of Augustus himself, do you not see how his Res Gestae is biased towards his own glory. Have you not also noticed that he fails to tell us how he abused the Cursus Honorum by illegally
- ② raising an army and giving himself powers which are unheard of, such as those over the provinces and the Proconsular Imperium Maius. These powers that he held are un-republican in themselves."