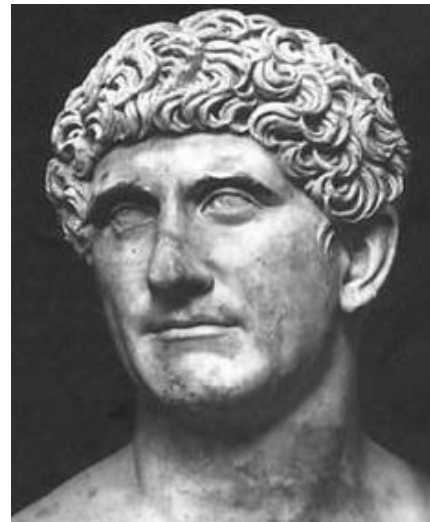


So we continue the story that we left off at the end of Monday, with JULIUS CAESAR (pronounced 'See - zar') lying dead in the Roman Senate, having been stabbed to death by 60 Roman Senators who wanted to stop Caesar making himself King of Rome. Caesar's deputy, MARK ANTONY, had heard the noise and shouting coming from the Senate and, guessing what had happened, left Rome straightaway because he was scared he would be killed as well. But he quickly turned back when he heard that Caesar's killers were pretty scared themselves, and were hiding out for fear that they would be killed by the Roman people, who had loved their great leader Caesar. And others came to Rome as well: LEPIDUS (pronounced 'Lep - ee - doos'), one of the Caesar's generals, took over control of Rome with six thousand Roman soldiers; and OCTAVIAN (pronounced 'Ok - tay - vee - an'), Caesar's nephew and the person Caesar had named in his will as the person who should become leader of Rome after his death. In order to bring Caesar's killers out of hiding, Mark Antony got everyone to agree that Caesar's killers would not be punished for what they had done. It was also agreed that Caesar should get a public funeral, five days after his death. Mark Antony gave a speech at the funeral that made the Roman people so mad at Caesar's killers that they ran away, getting out of Italy as fast as possible. Here is WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE's version of Mark Antony's speech, delivered by the famous actor CHARLTON HESTON:



<https://youtu.be/0bi1PvXCbr8?t=15>

Antony, Octavian and Lepidus then met and decided to rule the ROMAN EMPIRE together. But first they had to deal with Caesar's killers. The three leaders of the killers were DECIMUS (pronounced 'Des - ee - moos'), BRUTUS (pronounced 'Brute - oos') and CASSIUS (pronounced 'Cass - ee - oos'). Antony had hunted Decimus down to where he was hiding out in Gaul, but Decimus had gotten away. Brutus and Cassius were holed up in Greece, in Macedonia, where ALEXANDER THE GREAT had come from. Decimus tried to join up with them but was killed by one of Antony's friends. Antony and Octavian and their armies went into battle against Brutus and Cassius' armies at PHILIPPI (pronounced 'Fill - ip - aye'), which was a city named after ALEXANDER THE GREAT's father, Philip. In the first battle between the armies, Brutus' soldiers did really well, but Cassius killed himself because he thought his side had lost the battle. Brutus did lose the second battle, and he also killed himself.

Caesar was killed on 15 March 44 BC, and the Battle of Philippi was in October 42 BC (remember, the numbers of the years count down until we get to the Birth of Christ - which is year zero - and then we are into the AD years, and they start going up and up and up). So from 42 BC, Antony, Octavian and Lepidus were the undisputed rulers of the Roman Empire. They divided the Empire between them, and Antony got the Eastern areas of the Empire, including EGYPT.

And this is where the main subject of this email comes in - the beautiful Egyptian Queen CLEOPATRA (pronounced 'Clee - oh - pat - rah'). Remember I told you that when ALEXANDER THE GREAT conquered Egypt about 250 years before, he had made his friend and general PTOLEMY (pronounced 'Toll - e - mee') King (or Pharaoh - pronounced 'Fair - oh') of Egypt? Well, Cleopatra was descended from Ptolemy. But by the time

Cleopatra was born, in 69 BC, Egypt was no longer part of the MACEDONIAN EMPIRE, but was instead part of the Roman Empire. And now Antony was in charge of Egypt, Cleopatra had to do what Antony told her to do. But this was not the first time they had met. On Monday I told you that when Julius Caesar invaded Italy in 49 BC, Caesar's big rival and enemy POMPEY (pronounced 'Pomp - ee') and fled Italy with his army, and made his way to Greece, where he was beaten by Julius Caesar in a big battle at PHARSALUS (pronounced 'Far - sar - loos'). But Pompey again escaped and went to Egypt, hoping to be protected there. But as soon as he landed in Egypt and was greeted by the people he thought were his friends, they killed him. Pompey's "friends" knew that Caesar was on his way to hunt him down, and thought that Caesar would be pleased if they killed Pompey for him. But instead Caesar was really upset when he was presented with Pompey's body and ensured that it was given a proper burial back in Italy.



Now that Caesar was in Egypt, he thought he would do a bit of ruling, and sort out arguments between members of the Egyptian royal family as to who should be king (or queen). That was how Caesar - along with his deputy, Antony - met Cleopatra. Caesar instantly fell in love with Cleopatra and they had a baby together. They named the baby CAESARION (pronounced 'See - zer - ee - on') and Caesar told everyone that Cleopatra was the Queen of Egypt. Caesar had Cleopatra come back to Rome with him, and she was actually in Rome when Caesar was killed. But like Antony, once she knew Caesar was dead, Cleopatra escaped out of Rome and back to Egypt, where she felt safe. She felt even safer once she knew that Antony was in charge of Egypt because just like Caesar, Antony couldn't resist falling in love with Cleopatra - and they ended up having three children together! They were as snug as two bugs in a rug - but trouble was coming.

Octavian didn't want to share power with anyone: he wanted to be like Caesar, the undisputed ruler of Rome. But to do this he would have to get rid of Lepidus and Antony. He started with Lepidus, kicking him out of Rome in 36 BC. And then his eyes turned on Antony and Cleopatra. Octavian didn't just want to get rid of Antony - he also wanted to get rid of Caesarion, in case anyone would say 'Caesar's son has a better claim to rule Rome than Caesar's nephew'. In 33 BC, Octavian broke up the deal he had with Antony, and it became clear that there was going to be a winner takes all battle between them. It happened in 31 BC, at sea, just outside the Greek town of ACTIUM (pronounced 'Ak - tee - oom'). Octavian's ships took on Antony and Cleopatra's ships, and Octavian won. When Antony and Cleopatra got the news, they went straight back to Egypt and waited for Octavian.

Octavian invaded Egypt the following year, in 30 BC, and Antony's army quickly surrendered to Octavian. Thinking that Cleopatra had killed herself, Antony tried to kill himself with his own sword - but Cleopatra was very much alive, and Antony died in her arms. Octavian then entered Cleopatra's palace and met her. The third time wasn't a charm for Cleopatra - this time, the most important Roman in the world would not be falling in love with her. Cleopatra feared the worst, which for her meant being dragged to Rome and being shown, degraded and defeated, to the Roman people in a parade. 'I will not be led in a triumph' Cleopatra told Octavian. But Octavian said nothing back. That night, Cleopatra took a snake held it to her breast, and she died from the poison of the snake bite. She was only 39

years old when she died. Caesarion died very soon after his mother: Octavian had him killed. He was 17 years old when he died.

And then there was one. 14 years after Julius Caesar's murder, there was one undisputed ruler of Rome. That was Octavian - though within three years, his name would be changed to AUGUSTUS. We will talk about him on Friday.