Translation

On the 20th of March, 44 a. C. solemn funeral of Caesar were celebrated. The figure of Mark Antony emerges, Caesar’s lieutenant and right arm in military campaigns: he reads the “dictator’s Old Testament Law” to the crowd, that gives the people the “Janiculum gardens” and three hundred (sesterzi) for each plebeian. With a theatrical gesture he shows the bloody dress of Caesar to the crowd, that causing a popular uprising: houses of Julius Caesar’s murders (Brutus, Cassius and the other conspirators) and their manors ware attacked, forcing them to run away.

The next day, a young man just nineteen, (Octavian) comes to collect the heredity. As a son of Gaius Octavius, and a niece of Caesar (it was adopted by Caesar himself) he bears the name of Gaius Julius Caesar Octavian. Collecting immediately the favor of the army veterans and senators, while Antony, who aspires to turn to the role of successor, judges him a rival and try to hinder it. The two arrive to arms, facing each other in Modena: Octavian wins and march to Rome to be proclaimed consul.

It became consul in 43 b.C. Octavian announced revenge against the Julius Caesar’s assassins and he sided with Antonio. With Lepidus, (commander of the Caesar’s cavalry) he stipulates the second triumvirate. Unlike the first triumvirate, it is a public and official agreement for a period of five years, by which they divide control of the provinces. To further establish their union, Antony married Octavian’s sister, Octavia. While Lepidus settles in Spain, Octavian and Antony marched against the assassins of Julius Caesar, who organize in Greece an extreme resistance. In Macedonia, at Philippi, it takes place the final battle: Brutus and Cassius lose and kill themselves.

Octavian comes back quickly in Italy, where he fights for a long time against Sextus Pompey, son of the great Pompey, who practices piracy in the Mediterranean. The Senate celebrates him as a restorer of peace in the seas. After the victory of Philippi, Antony has appropriated the province of the East, where he had the opportunity to meet Cleopatra. He falls in love with her, repudiates Octavia and marries Cleopatra in a ceremony in Alexandria, sitting on a golden throne with the typical costumes of the eastern monarchs, revered as gods by their subjects. Cleopatra gives him two twins that are called Alexander Helios and Cleopatra Selene.

Cleopatra deeply influences Antony pushing him to take a king pharaoh attitudes and to support Egypt's independence from Rome. All that deeply shocked the Romans, to the benefit of Octavian, who unleashed a smear campaign against his rival:

* Octavian has at heart Rome’s interests while Antony has lost his mind, and he may transfers the capital in Egypt;
* Octavian claims to represent the true values ​​of the *res publica*: honesty, sobriety, austerity, while Antony lives in luxury and softness in the eastern;
* Octavian wants to defend the institutions and the traditional religion, while Antony aspires to be worshiped as a god;
* Octavian is a true Roman man, Antony instead is maneuvered by a woman, Cleopatra, immoral and corrupted, who threw over him a spell to seduce him.

The decisive battle happens in 31 b.C. at Actium, on the western coast of Greece. Antony and Cleopatra have a higher number of men and ships, but Agrippa, admiral of Octavian's fleet manages to capture their supplies. Rather than fall into the hands of Octavian, the couple decides to flee to Egypt, and to commit suicide. According to tradition, Cleopatra, were bitten by an asp in her breast (others think by a cobra, considered as a sacred snake) hidden in a fruit basket. Octavian won. When he comes back to Rome, a new era begins.