BOOK XLIV

The following is contained in the Forty-fourth of Dio's Rome:

About the decree passed in honour of Caesar (chaps. 1-11).
About the conspiracy formed against him (chaps. 12-18).
How Caesar was murdered (chaps. 19-25).
How a decree was passed that the people should not bear malice against one another (chaps. 26-34).
About the burial of Caesar and the oration delivered over him (chaps. 35-38).

iv. Duration of time, a part of the fifth dictatorship of Julius Caesar, held in company with Aemilius Lepidus as master of the horse, and of his fifth consulship, held with Mark Antony.

All this Caesar did as a preliminary step to his u.c. 44 campaign against the Parthians; but a baseless frenzy which fell upon certain men through jealousy of his advancement and hatred of his preferment to themselves caused his death unlawfully, while it added a new name to the annals of infamy; it scattered the decrees to the winds and brought upon the Romans seditious and civil wars once more after a state of harmony. His slayers, to be sure, declared that they had shown themselves at once destroyers of Caesar and liberators of the people; but in reality they impiously plotted against him, and they threw the city into disorder when at last it
possessed a stable government. Democracy, indeed, has a fair-appearing name and conveys the impression of bringing equal rights to all through equal laws, but its results are seen not to agree at all with its title. Monarchy, on the contrary, has an unpleasant sound, but is a most practical form of government to live under. For it is easier to find a single excellent man than many of them, and if even this seems to some a difficult feat, it is quite inevitable that the other alternative should be acknowledged to be impossible; for it does not belong to the majority of men to acquire virtue. And again, even though a base man should obtain supreme power, yet he is preferable to the masses of like character, as the history of the Greeks and barbarians and of the Romans themselves proves. For successes have always been greater and more frequent in the case both of cities and of individuals under kings than under popular rule, and disasters do (not) happen [so frequently] under monarchies as under mob-rule. Indeed, if ever there has been a prosperous democracy, it has in any case been at its best for only a brief period, so long that it is, as the people had neither the numbers nor the strength sufficient to cause insolence to spring up among them as the result of good fortune or jealousy as the result of ambition. But for a city, not only so large in itself, but also ruling the finest and the greatest part of the known world, holding sway over men of many and diverse natures, possessing many men of great wealth, occupied with every imaginable pursuit, enjoying every imaginable fortune, both
towards peace; and indeed, the result of the discussion, it seems, was to ensure that peace might be established, and that no future disputes would arise. And this was the view of the majority, who were of the opinion that peace was the best course to follow.}

5. And thus it was that the council of the people was formed, and thus it was that peace was established, and thus it was that the Alexander of the nations was considered the best course to follow. And thus it was that the people were reconciled, and thus it was that the Alexander of the nations was considered the best course to follow.

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time. First, then, they voted that he should always ride, even in the city itself, wearing the triumphal dress, and should sit in his chair of state everywhere except at the games; for at those he received the privilege of watching the contests from the tribunes’ benches in company with those who were tribunes at the time. And they gave him the right to offer aedilitia opima, as they are called, at the temple of Jupiter Feretrius, as if he had slain some hostile general with his own hand, and to have lieutenants who always carried laurel, and after the Feriae Latinae to ride from the Alban Mount into the city on horseback. In addition to these remarkable privileges they named him father of his country, stamped this title on the coinage, voted to celebrate his birthday by public sacrifice, ordered that he should have a statue in the cities and in all the temples of Rome, and they set up two also on the rostra, one representing him as the avour of the citizens and the other as the deliverer of the city from siege, and wearing the crowns customary for such achievements. They also resolved to build a temple of Concordia Nova, on the ground that it was through his efforts that they enjoyed peace, and to celebrate an annual festival in her honour. When he had accepted these, they assigned to him the charge of filling the Poutine marshes, cutting a canal through the Peloponnesian isthmus, and constructing a new senate-house, since that of Hostilius, although repaired, had been demolished. The reason assigned for its destruction was that a
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... temple of Felicitas was to be built there, which ...

... Lepidus, indeed, brought to completion while master of ...

... of the horse; but their real purpose was that the ...

... of Sulla should not be preserved on it, and that ...

... the tribes, selected by lot, the Julian. And they ...

... they voted that Caesar should be sole censor for life ...

... should enjoy the immunities granted to the tribunes, ...

... so that if any one insulted him by deed or word, ...

... that man should be an outlaw and scourged, and ...

... further that Caesar’s son, should he beget or even ...

... one, should be appointed high priest. As he ...

... seemed to like all this, a gilded chair was granted ...

... and a gilded chair was granted him, and a garb ...

... he should swear by Caesar’s Fortune, and should ...

... and upbraid him with all his future acts. Next ...

... bestowed upon him a quadrennial festival, as to ...

... a hero, and a third priestly college, which they ...

... in connection with all gladiatorial combats both ...

... and the rest of Italy. When he showed himself ...

... accorded voted that his golden chair and his crown ...

... with precious gems and overlaid with gold would ...

... to those of the gods, and that on the occasion of ...

... the Circus his chariot should be brought in.
And finally they addressed him outright as Jupiter. Julius and ordered a temple to be consecrated to him and to his Clemency, electing Antony as their priest like some flamen Divus.

At the same time with these measures they passed another which most clearly indicated their disposition: it gave him the right to place his tomb within the porticus; and the decree regarding this matter they inscribed in golden letters on silver tablets and deposited beneath the foot of Jupiter Capitolinus, thus pointing out to him very clearly that he was a mortal. When they had begun to honor him, it was with the idea, of course, that he would be reasonable; but as they went on and saw that he was delighted with what they voted,—indeed he accepted all but a very few of their decrees,—different men at different times kept proposing various extravagant honours, some in a spirit of exaggerated flattery and others by way of ridicule. At any rate, some actually ventured to suggest permitting him to have intercourse with as many women as he pleased, because even at this time, though fifty years old, he still had numerous mistresses. Others, and they were the majority, followed this course because they wished to make him envied and hated as quickly as possible, that he might the sooner perish. And this is precisely what happened, though Caesar was encouraged by these very measures to believe that he should never be plotted against by the men who had voted him such honours, nor, through fear of them, by any one else; and consequently he even dispensed henceforth with a body-guard. For nominally he accepted the privilege of being watched over
βουλεύοντο καὶ πρὸς τῶν ἵπτων τηρεῖται προαίρεσις; καὶ τῇ ἐκ τέων πρὸς φονήν προσανέλθον
8σιν. ἐντεύχῃ γὰρ ἐν μιᾷ ποτε ὄρμον τὰ τῇ πλαίσι
καὶ τὰ μείζονα αὐτῶν προφασίζουσιν (πελάρχη 
τοῦ τοῦ Ἐκατόσ. καὶ τοῦ Ἱλαρίου, ὡς ἔχασασθή 
τῇ τῇ πρόοδοι προαίρεσιν καθιστῇ. δὲ καὶ 
πάντες ἄν ἐκδοθήμενοι σφίσα ὑπεντεῦσοντες
2ἐν τῷ πρὶν τοῦ Αφροδίτος προαίρεσιν καθιστῇ. ὡς ἐν 
τῇ τῇ πρόοδοι προαίρεσιν καθιστῇ. δὲ καὶ 
πάντες ἄν ἐκδοθήμενοι σφίσα ὑπεντευσόμενοι
3ἐν τῷ πρὶν τοῦ τοῦτοι τῶν τούτων, τῷ μοι δουλεύ 
ἀνήγασον ἀλλ' ἐθυλούσι κατὰ τοῦτο ἔνθα, ἔχον 
ματίζον, καθιστή μοι δὲ καὶ πρὸς 
τῇ αὐτῶν παρασκεύης, ἔλεγχον μὲν ἆρ πρὸς 
ἀνήγασον ἀλλ' ἐθυλούσι κατὰ τοῦτο ἔνθα, ἔνθα 
δὲ τοῦτο, ἵνα μὴ ἔξερχηται, κατεβάζον 
δὲ τοῦτο, ἵνα μὴ ἔξερχηται, κατεβάζον 
πολλοὶ ἀυτοῦ ἐναντίον ἔσωθεν ἕως ἄδρα 
καὶ τοῖς τοῖς πολλοῖς ἐσύναι διὰ τῆς ἔνθα 
τόπου ἄργοντοι αὐτῶν αὐτούς ἡκατομμύριον 
τόπου ἄργοντοι αὐτῶν αὐτούς ἡκατομμύριον 
καὶ ἕως ἄργοντοι αὐτῶν αὐτούς 
δὲ τοῖς τοῖς πολλοῖς ἐσύναι διὰ τῆς ἔνθα 
τόπου ἄργοντοι αὐτῶν αὐτούς ἡκατομμύριον
4τόποι ἄρ γε τὸν ἑαυτὸν ἀπερεκτήσατο 
τόποι ἄρ γε τὸν ἑαυτὸν ἀπερεκτήσατο 
δὲ τοῖς τοῖς πολλοῖς ἐσύναι διὰ τῆς ἔνθα 
τόποι ἄρ γε τὸν ἑαυτὸν ἀπερεκτήσατο

by the senators and knights, and so dismissed the guard he had previously had. Indeed, when once they had voted to him on a single day an unusually large number of these honours of especial importance,—
which had been granted unanimously by all except Cassius and a few others, who became famous for this action, yet suffered no harm, whereby Caesar's clemency was conspicuously revealed,—they then approached him as he was sitting in the vestibule of the temple of Venus in order to announce to him in a body their decisions; for they transacted such business in his absence, in order to have the appearance of doing it, not under compulsion, but voluntarily. And either by some heaven-sent fault or even through excess of joy he received them sitting, which aroused so great indignation among them all, not only the senators but all the rest, that it afforded his slayers one of their chief excuses for their plot against him. Some who subsequently tried to defend him claimed, it is true, that owing to an attack of diarrhoea he could not control the movement of his bowels and so had remained where he was in order to avoid a flux. They were not able, however, to convince the majority, since not long afterwards he rose up and went home on foot; hence most men suspected him of being inflamed with pride and hated him for his haughtiness, when it was they themselves who had made him disdainful by the exaggerated character of their honours. After this occurrence, striking as it was, he increased the sus-
ception by permitting himself somewhat later to be chosen dictator for life.
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