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Statement:

In Egypt, there have been seven recorded women pharaohs. Of these seven, Cleopatra had the most memorable rule. One thing she was known for was her relationship with Julius Caesar.

Thesis:

The entirety of Cleopatra’s relationship with Julius Caesar was explicitly based on a mutual desire for power.

Outline:

1st paragraph:

Character of Cleopatra

-privileged

-last female pharaoh

-beautiful

1) leads to troublesome opportunities

-go into background from Egypt etc.

2nd Paragraph:

Character of Julius Caesar

-handsome

-arrogant

-gets what he wants in life

-no respect for the law

1) ironic because he’s a leader in Rome

-young and powerful

-doesn’t necessarily care about his reputation

1) doesn’t have secrets about women

2) people know what he does but his charisma makes up for it

3) “As a young man, he indulged in every kind of vice, and so scandalous was his reputation for licentiousness that it was a matter of blank astonishment to his Roman friends when, nevertheless, he proved himself so brave and strenuous a solider.” Page 92 – *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

-doesn’t care about money

1) “In regard to money matters, Caesar was entirely without principle.” Page 93 *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

-passionate

1) “He was one of the most ambitious men who have ever walked the stage of life, his devouring passion for absolute power being at all times abnormal; he cared not one jot in what manner he obtained or expended money so long as his career was advanced by that means.

3rd Paragraph

Confidence of Julius Caesar

-Just won a battle

1) “When Caesar arrived in Alexandria he was come direct from his great victory over Pompey at Pharsalia, and was now absolute master of the Roman world.” Page 100 *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

2) confidence was overflowing but he had no battle to go into…therefore he settled for battling for a woman to keep his ego up

- “highest position in the Republic”

- “he was without any appreciable rival”

-Needed something to do with all his excess passion

1) “The thought of all his many brilliant victories and successful surmounting of all obstacles gave him the liveliest satisfaction.” Page 101 *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

-He was no longer jealous

1) “No longer was his elegant frame shaken with sobs at the envious thought of the exploits of Alexander the Great” Page 101 *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

-Met the beautiful Cleopatra

1) “He was at the moment content to indulge his passion for conquest by attempting to win the affections of the charming, omnipotent, and fabulously wealthy Queen of Egypt” Page 101 *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

4th Paragraph

Importance of Egypt in the time

-Previously, Egypt had been an extremely hard place to conquer, given its geographical location. It’s surrounded by the Sinai Mountain range, the Arabian desert, and the Mediterranean Sea.

-It would take a very powerful man to take over the rule of Egypt, and Julius Caesar wanted to be this man.

- “Egypt, which was the granary of the world, the most important commercial market of the Mediterranean, the most powerful factor in eastern politics, and the gateway of the unconquered kingdoms of the Orient.” Page 103 *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

5th Paragraph

Recognition of Power to Gain

-Long talk through the night between Cleopatra and Caesar

-Caesar realizes that a new factor had introduced itself

1) “He had found the Queen of this desirable and important country was a young woman after his own heart; a dare-devil girl, whose manners and beauty had fired his imagination, whose apparent admiration for him had set him thinking of the uses to which he might put the devotion he confidently expected to arouse.” Page 102 *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

2) “Here was a simple means of bringing Egypt under his control”

3) “Caesar’s dominant idea now was to control the politics of Egypt by means of a skilled play upon the heart of Cleopatra” page 105 *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

6th Paragraph

The Plan

-As Caesar thought about the possibility of power, his plan arose.

1) “…to excite the passionate love of that wild and irresponsible girl, whose personality and political importance made a doubly powerful appeal to him; and ere the light of dawn had entered the room his decision to restore her to the throne, and to place her brother in the far background, had been irrevocably made” page 104 *Life and Times of Cleopatra*

- Caesar called in Cleopatra’s brother and demanded they make peace

-This resulted in an “uproar” and “Caesar hurried out to address the crowd”

7th Paragraph

Conclusion

-How did it end?

-Did the plan work?

-Reiterate that the relationship was for power only

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