

Res Gestae Divi Augusti

First entry. In my nineteenth year, on my own initiative and at my own expense, I raised an army with which I set free the state, which was oppressed by the domination of a faction. For that reason, the senate enrolled me in its order by laudatory resolutions, when Gaius Pansa and Aulus Hirtius were consuls (43 B.C.), assigning me the place of a consul in the giving of opinions, and gave me the imperium. With me as proprietor, it ordered me, together with the consuls, to take care lest any detriment befall the state. But the people made me consul in the same year, when the consuls each perished in battle, and they made me a triumvir for the settling of the state.

Now, where ends it? Shall it be here, at the place of my father's death at Nola—as father once did, now son shall follow. I'd been bold, prideful even, but have I not saved a land?

Second entry. I drove the men who slaughtered my father into exile with a legal order, punishing their crime, and afterwards, when they waged war on the state, I conquered them in two battles.

"Tiberius." The young man appeared above me. "I name thee heir. After my death, lay beside my will Res Gestae Divi Augusti - the book of my deeds."

Another tremor did stop me, along with heavy pain in my head - the hand of darkness grows e'er near. My last public words were to be, "Behold, I found Rome of clay, and leave her to you of marble." I, merely born Gaius Octavius into an Equestrian family, had become Triumvir - Emperor of Rome. I have put on the act, the act of regal authority as emperor. Have I done well? One life becomes small when put in comparison to the lives of the people.

I am Augustus - only, now, this pretense has almost gone, one fraud to be supplanted by another. And another, and yet another, no doubt - still, I digress. I see life as such: to be replayed and changed, of conquering and surrendering.

Third entry. I often waged war, civil and foreign, on the earth and sea, in the whole wide world, and as victor I spared all the citizens who sought pardon. As for foreign nations, those which I was able to safely forgive, I preferred to preserve than to destroy. About five hundred thousand Roman citizens were sworn to me. I led something more than three hundred thousand of them into

colonies, and I returned them to their cities, after their stipend had been earned, and I assigned all of them fields or gave them money for their military service. I captured six hundred ships in addition to those smaller than triremes.

Many entries later - Entry twenty eight. I founded colonies of soldiers in Africa, Sicily, Macedonia, each Spain, Greece, Asia, Syria, Narbonian Gaul, and Pisidia, and furthermore had twenty-eight colonies founded in Italy under my authority, which were very populous and crowded while I lived.

Alas, now I am dying; here at Nola. With shaking hands, with aged hands, I set aside the book - my life.

"Have I played the part well? Then applaud as I exit." Life flees, heart halts, breath now does stop.

Last entry. Entry thirty-five. When I administered my thirteenth consulate (2 B.C.), the senate and Equestrian order and Roman people all called me Father of the Country, and voted that the same be inscribed in the vestibule of my temple, in the Julian senate-house, and in the forum of Augustus under the Chario which had been placed there for me by a decision of the senate. When I wrote this I was seventy-six years old.

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'"

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Titus 3:5 "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit..."

Daniel 2:44 "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be [a]left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."

