

The other face of Anti-Egyptian Inclination of Augustus

By

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Introduction

Since the reign of Cleopatra, Octavian has a hostile's attitude towards Egypt and the Egyptian religion; he considered Cleopatra as his enemy and her exaggerated ambition is the first danger on Rome and the Romans. Caesar and Antony were her Roman victims, she used their admire and love for achieve their goals and intentions.

The Battle of Actium was not only considered as a fighting and political battle between Egypt and Rome, but it was a religious battle between the East and its gods and the west with the supports of its gods. Octavian 's negative publicity in Rome against Cleopatra and the Egyptian religion to confirm his anti-Egyptian anticipation attitude towards Cleopatra, Egypt and its gods.

Octavian denied the constant attempts of Caesar and Antony, with the assistance of Cleopatra, for a kind of divination, represent them as Egyptian gods, and establish cult-center's for their cults in Egypt. He mocked and refused the homage for the cattle- god Apis at Memphis, he also prohibited Isis and the Egyptian religion in Rome; he banned her cult and persecutes her followers there.

Problem

The research tries to answer the question: Why this excessive anti-Egyptian attitude by Octavian against Egypt, her ruler and its Egyptian gods?. And also why later this strange transformation of the policy of Augustus in Egypt?.

Conclusion

The ant-Egyptian attitude by Octavian, related to his selfish hate and hostile towards Cleopatra and the Ptolemies in general, who refused to visit their tombs in Alexandria. This hostile against Egypt and its ruler was not only political, but also religious; against the Egyptian gods, who were described by the Roman poets as the supporters of Cleopatra in her battle against Rome, especially the relation between Cleopatra and Isis has its negative impact on the cult of Isis in Rome and her persecution by Octavian and the Senators.

Augustus realized that religion was an essential tool for gaining Egyptian support in ruling the area; he has to respect the Egyptian cults and to represent himself as the inheritor of the Ptolemies and the Pharaohs in Egypt; who were not only rulers, but also gods for the Egyptians. So Augustus establishes his imperial cult- center in Egypt, and also paid homage for Apis, the

animal god, who was not acceptable by the Romans. Augustus became supporter and beloved of Isis in Egypt and Rome.