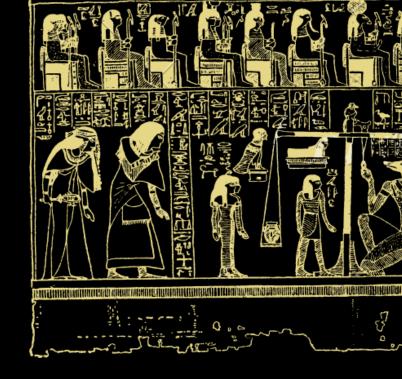
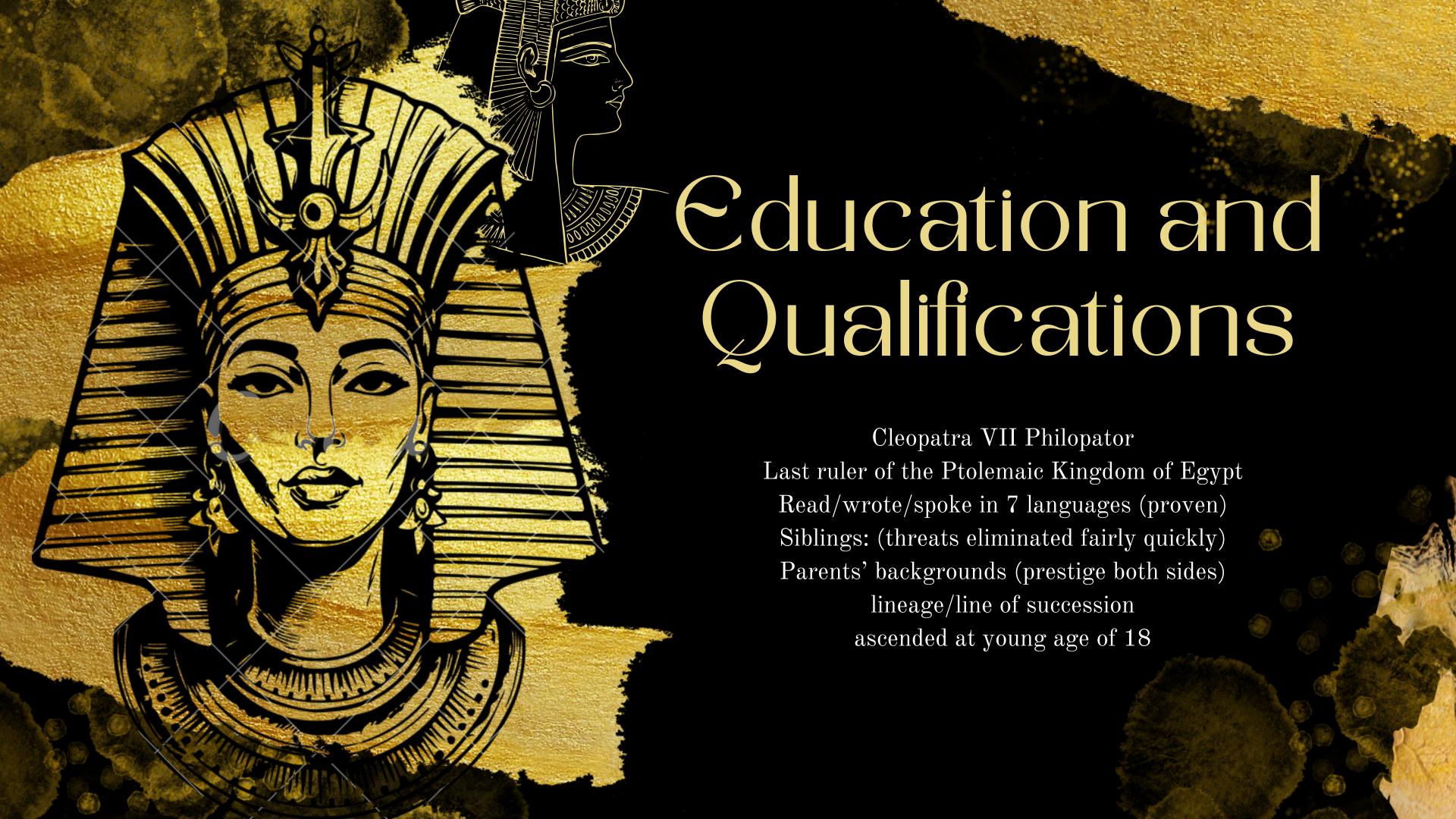


# Ptolemaic Dynasty



- Greek origins -- Ptolemy I related to Alexander the Great, close compatriot gifted Egypt area in Alexander's will, Egypt is old even by 'current' Roman standards.
- Ebb/flow of land areas, economic and political success -- Cleopatra's grandfather and father left some *serious* debts to Roman/Grecian officials, had lost segments of land
- Ended with Cleopatra VII's death in 30 BC

- Father, Ptolemy XII, was married to Cleopatra VI
  - Likely not Cleopatra VII's mother, rather a
     Priestess or other highly regarded woman in
     the Ptah tribe/ethnic grouping.
  - o Affairs common
  - Incest *far* too common to preserve bloodlines/not let power leave the family however possible (a daughter-wife & several brother-husbands mentioned here alone)





# Ascending the Throne

## Ptolemy XIII

Cleopatra's younger brother, who became her co-ruler/spouse in name, civil war for sole power, gained troops in Syria + friendship with Caesar solved war.

### Arsinoe IV

Cleopatra's younger sister, also wanted power, attempted foreign marriages for additional power, 'taken care of' by Antony.

### Ptolemy XIV

Another younger brother,
became her co-ruler/spouse
after the death of Ptolemy
XIII -- then 'removed from
matters' so Cleopatra's son
could be her co-ruler in name.



### Tryphaena

Cleopatra's older sister, was married to Ptolemy XII before Cleopatra became queen, disappeared around 69 BC -- nothing proven, but given that the rest were killed....

#### Diplomatic Ambitions

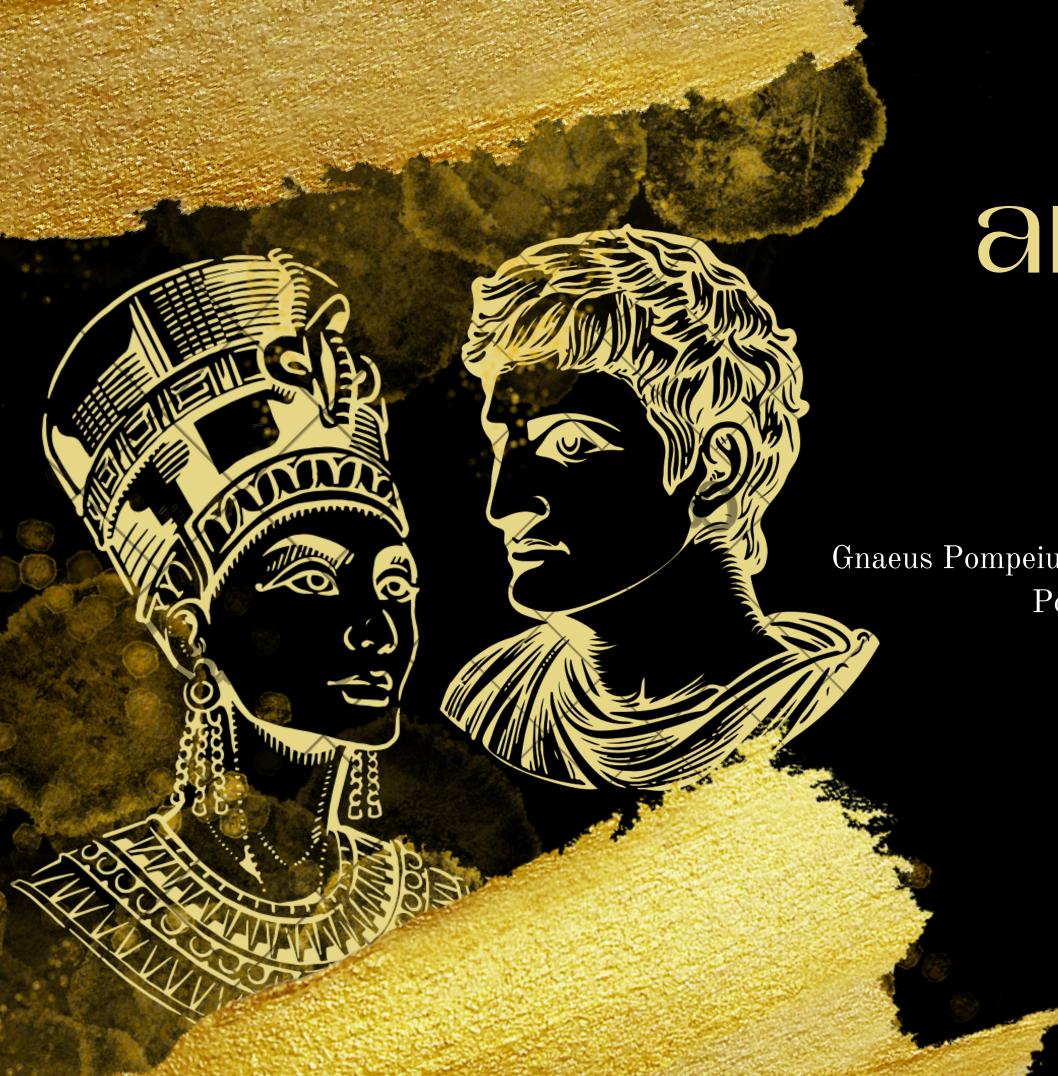
Attempted to maintain good relations with Rome Immediately upon being queen, drafted laws/gave out royally owned grains during famines and low tide (Nile), created coinage depicting her across lands, visited locations and participated in crucial local religious rituals (first in dyanastic line to do so)





## Securing Sole Rule

After too many skirmishes, Greco-Roman alliances, and gaining troops from regions tied to her mother's (presumed) family background, Cleopatra ultimately emerged victorious as (finally) the sole ruler of Egypt. Her attention to diplomacy, alliances, and strategy laid the groundwork for the rest of her reign, which restored lands and prosperity uattainable for previous Ptolemys.



## Civil War and Caesar

#### 51 BC:

Cleopatra co-rules with Ptolemy XIII

#### 49 BC:

Caesar marches on Rome
Gnaeus Pompeius (Pompey's son) asks Egypt to repay debt with supplies
Pompey supports Ptolemy XIII as sole ruler

#### 48 BC:

Cleopatra flees
Pompey seeks refuge in Egypt
Caesar pursues

#### 47 BC:

Ptolemy XIII dies in battle Ptolemy XV Philopator Caesar is born

# Relationship with Caesar

## A Complex Union

Cleopatra's relationship with Caesar was both personal and political. She is reportedly 'in town' when Caesar is killed, but no records connect her to the plot on either side, and she left for Egypt with her son soon after. It also placed her in danger after Caesar's death.

#### Birth of Caesarion

In 47 BCE, Cleopatra gave birth to Ptolemy XV, known as Caesarion, meaning "little Caesar." This solidified her bond with Caesar and enhanced her status. While he never formally claimed him in life or in his will, Cleopatra was adament he was Caesar's son and heir, putting her directly in Octavian's way.

#### Criticisms

The portrayal and reality of Cleopatra and her rule contrasted sharply with the Roman values of proper womanhood, so that added to Roman critics in Italy stirring the pot against her. Her 'seducing' Caesar away from his proper but barren wife is a crime according to Roman citizens.

## Rule After Caesar's Death

Political instability and uncertainty in Rome threatened Egypt's stability and interests

Cleopatra aligned self with a powerful Roman leader (Mark Antony of the Second Triumvirate, with Octavian and Lepidus) for survival of kingdom and self

Recognizing Antony's potential as a strong ally, Cleopatra sought the alliance to protect Egypt amid Rome's struggles and expand Egypt into its former areas.

She consolidated her power, prioritizing the economy and military

She implemented policies aimed at stabilizing and expanding Egypt's economic resources and securing borders, ensuring that her kingdom remained prosperous and capable of defending itself against external threats.

Amidst the political upheavals in Rome, her leadership and strategic acumen were instrumental in maintaining Egypt's sovereignty and reinforcing her position as a influential world leader.



# Civil War and Antony

41 BC

Cleopatra and Antony meet at Tarsus, Cilicia Antony captivated by charm and intelligence Soon begin political alliance and love affair

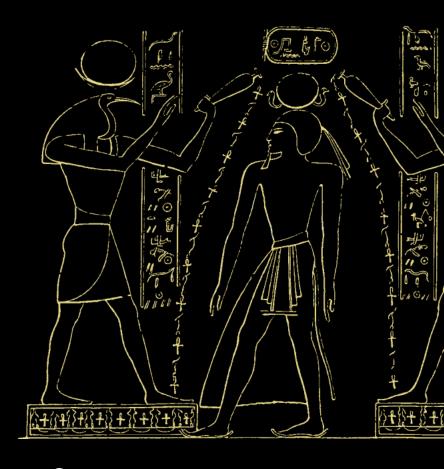
40 BC

Twins Alexander Helios and Cleopatra Selene

36 BC Ptolemy Philadelphus born



# Dispute with Octavian



#### Propaganda

Creating the seductress
Emphasis on the foreigner and
woman
"Why I am better"

### Civil War

The tensions culminated in a civil war between Octavian and Antony, two of the Triumvirate

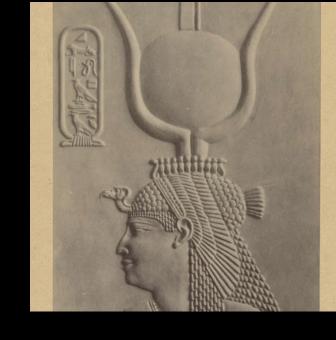
#### Battle of Actium

Weak Octavian uses Marcus
Agrippa
Naval battle in 31 BC
Octavian's victory
Avoidance of triumph



# Depictions of Cleopatra





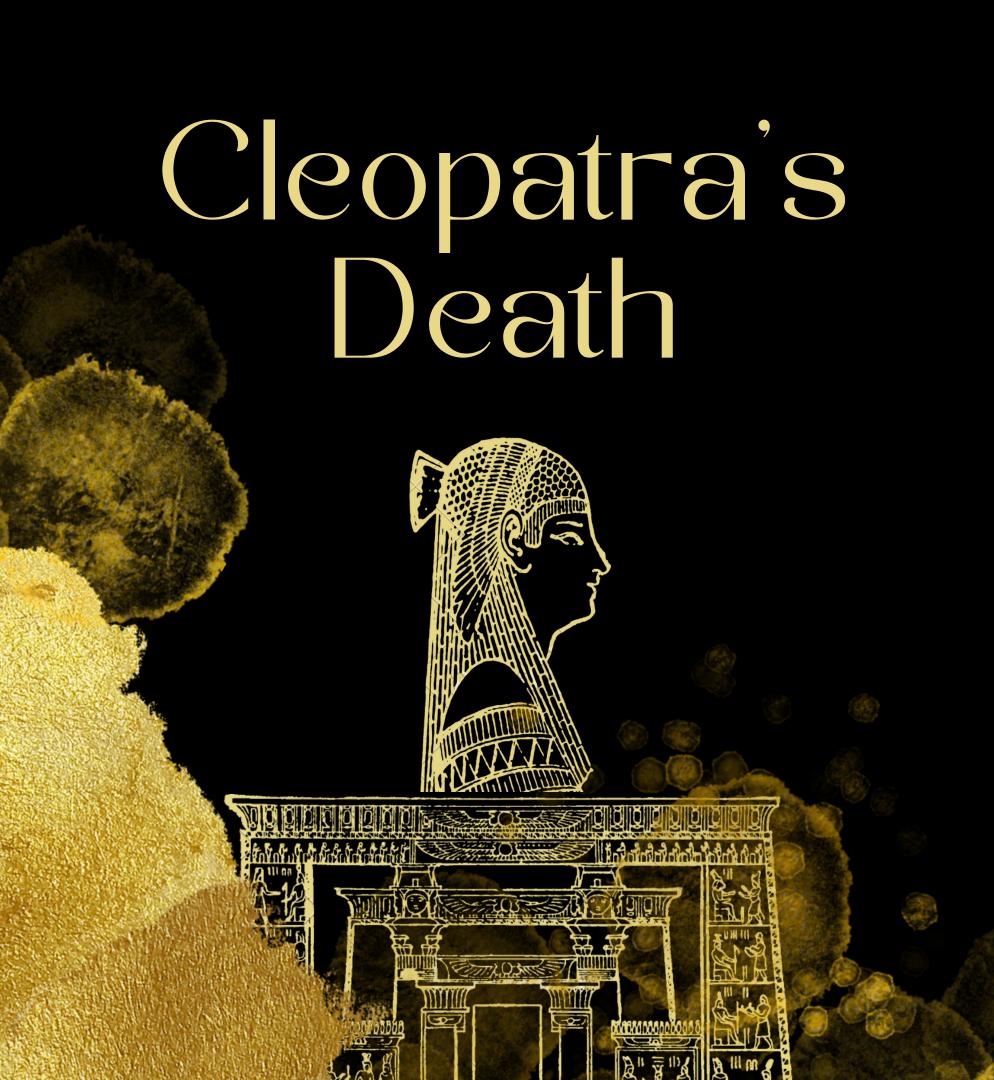












#### Consequences

#### Family

End of the Ptolemaic Dynasty
Caesarion executed 30 BC
Alexander Helios, Cleopatra Selene, and Ptolemy
Philadelphus sent to live with Octavia

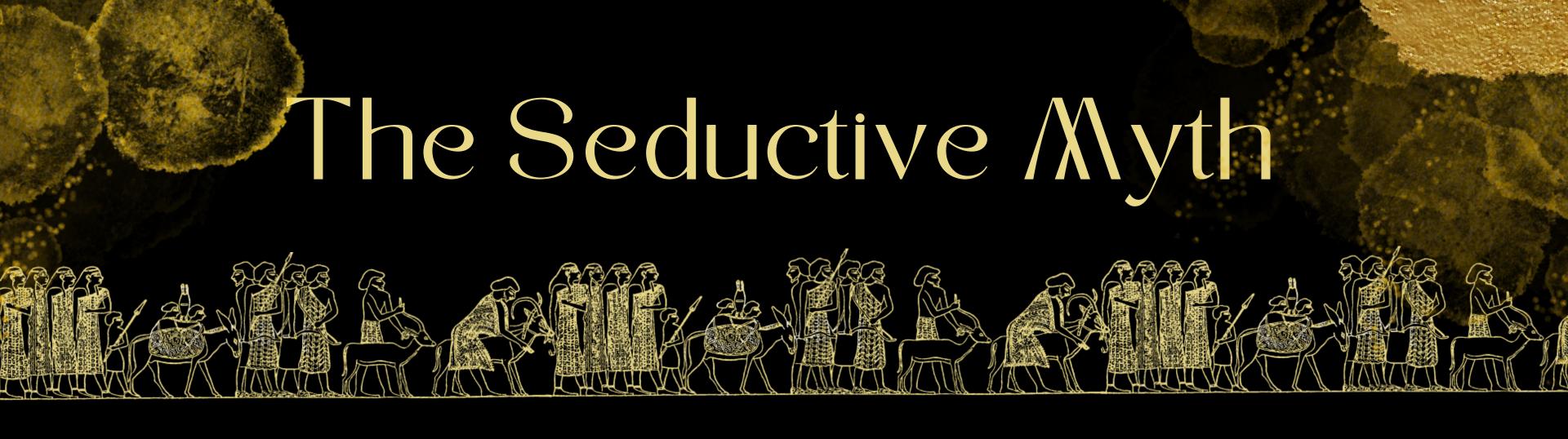
#### **Politics**

Egypt is annexed by Octavian
Octavian to Augustus
Roman Empire is born

#### Conquest

#### An Empire

Show of power, of triumph
Building a great Rome
Horologium and gnomon



Poet Horace

(65-8 BC)

Heroic and patriotic deaths VS.

Dangerous passion

Virgil

(70-19 BC)

The brave Augustus VS.

The failures of Cleopatra

Plutarch

(46-119 CE)

The manipulator VS.

Her victims

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