

Dealing With Tyrants

The Spirit of Resistance - by Sgt. Steve

The Founding Fathers, drawing inspiration from ancient Rome and Stoic principles, recognized the importance of opposing oppressive rulers. Cato, a Stoic who was admired by George Washington, fought against the tyrant Julius Caesar.

*These are the Romans who gave us the phrase "**Sic semper tyrannis**" which translates to "Thus always to tyrants" or as we might say in America "**Death to tyrants**". Rome itself cast off abusive kings and embraced the ideals of the Roman Republic.*

Our founding fathers, in their struggle against an oppressive monarchy, identified with figures like Cato who defied tyrants. Their quotes remind us to challenge tyranny at every turn:

"Rebellion to Tyrants Is Obedience to God."

- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

- THOMAS JEFFERSON

"I'll die on my feet before I'll live on my knees!"

- GEORGE WASHINGTON

So, what exactly defines a tyrant?

One definition describes a tyrant as a ruler with absolute power over a nation who acts cruelly and unjustly. Plato, in "The Statesman," portrays the violent tyrant as the antithesis of a virtuous and righteous ruler. Though there may be various interpretations, they all agree that a tyrant must possess power and misuse it.

It is important to note that not every leader we disagree with or who opposes us politically is a tyrant. To be a true tyrant, one must exhibit unfairness, self-interest, and oppression. Even ancient Roman texts reveal that both sides of the political spectrum were quick to label each other as "tyrants."

Furthermore, not all tyrants are equal, and our response should be proportional. As good and honorable individuals, we have a responsibility to resist and challenge leaders who exhibit cruelty, oppression, and unfairness. How can we effectively oppose the tyrants in our own lives? Let us consider a few actionable strategies:

BE THE OPPOSITE

Embody goodness, kindness, and fairness as a counterforce to tyranny.

HAVE COURAGE

Tyrants thrive on fear. Do not give it to them.

DESIRE LESS

Tyrants manipulate with rewards and privileges. Detach yourself from their material enticements.

DON'T BE A TOOL

When ordered to partake in wrongdoing, find ways to resist internally. Take a sick day, perform poorly, delay, obstruct, tip-off, frustrate, or display incompetence.

EXPOSE THEIR DEEDS

Tyrants rely on secrecy and deceit. Advocate for transparency and shed light on their actions.

Be an American hero and a Stoic. Oppose tyrants wherever you find them. Let the spirit of the Stoics and the Founding Fathers guide you in your quest for freedom and justice. Remember, it is through our steadfast resistance that we preserve and honor the principles upon which our nation was built.

Amor Fati,

Sgt. Steve