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Cicero

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Imagine how powerful ideas are for people to have significant impact for more than centuries. The man who lives and dies before Christ, Marcus Tullius Cicero, the remarkable orator, philosopher, lawyer, politician and writer is one of the people who had great influences to people until nowadays. He brings numerous concepts throughout his speeches; provided mindset for people to value reading and writings along with his memorable quotes. All he wants is to encourage people to live in peace.

As a son of a wealthy landlord, Marcus Tullius Cicero was born on January 3, 106 BC ¹in a city close to Rome; he has been studying about writing in his father's library since he was young. After being noticed by his parents of the interest he had in philosophy and public speaking, Cicero was sent to Rome for learning in higher education. He had participated in a basic duty in Military like other ordinary young Roman people. Although, he had some experiences in military, Cicero hated war. He finally began his career as a lawyer². Being a lawyer made him famous from doing high profile cases, built up political connection and gained experiences in making speech. Even though, he has written many articles after devoting his time for politics, almost all

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Cicero." Wikipedia, The free encyclopedia. 7 Feb. 2012
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicero>>

² Encyclopedia of World Biography, "Marcus Tullius Cicero Biography" World biography. 12 Feb 2012
<<http://www.notablebiographies.com/Ch-Co/Cicero-Marcus-Tullius.html#b>>

of them provided political views and showed his opinions about inequalities in the community because he wants all mankind to live with fairness.

He is a great orator, famous in his persuasive way of speaking. Without fear of the higher authorities, as an honest lawyer, he always speaks out for the right not only for himself but also for others. For example, one of his early cases in the court, Cicero defending Sextus Roscius bravely against a false charge of murder to Sulla's government which was the dictatorship at that time. He also shows concerns for other Roman people when he was in consul³, the highest Roman office, which was one of the successful moments of his career achievements during that time. Yet, he often exaggerates about what he had done for the improvement in politics. Moreover, he established Greek philosophy school in Roman teaching something not quite usual for Roman people. He gives the people opportunities to learn from the Greek's translated books, ideas and his outstanding speeches in term of writings. Leave them logic examples why they should and how to speak up for themselves.

While other rich people are trying to dominate over other citizens of Rome, Cicero tries to create fairness in the society. Since he wants to bring fairness to the society, he became a lawyer. It clearly shows that he doesn't have a bit of interests in getting absolute power over people as other powerful people want to. For instance, when the first Triumvirate, consisting of Caesar, Pompey and Crassus, was formed, Cicero, as a talented person, was offered to join the group by Julius Caesar to be a part of his alliances. However, he refused because he does not like the way Caesar gaining power by

³ Bill Thayer. "The life of Cicero" Penelope, uchicago. 8 Feb 2012
<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Lives/Cicero*.html>

forcing and being violent. As a result, due to this deny, he was exile away from Rome to Macedonia for six months. He did not take much action when he was allowed to come back home after the politic situation in Rome changed. Similarly, after Caesar's assassination, Octavian, Antony and Lepidus set themselves up to be a second Triumvirate. Again, this time, when Cicero sees that Mark Antony would take all the power away from people, he went against him. Fearing that their power might be harmed, the new Triumvirate ⁴ listed all the names to be killed for their absolute power. Definitely, Cicero's name was included. Knowing he was one of the targets, Cicero attacked Mark Antony ⁵peacefully with his speech to the crowd before eventually be killed by Antony's men. These actions of him showed that he would be opposed to any greedy, rich people who start conflict of inequalities. Moreover, he hopes for everyone to live without being dominated by powerful people.

One of the most important ideas in peace that he left to mankind was the way he value readings and writings. He thinks that if people read and write more, they will be able to communicate peacefully. He had been studied in writings with his brother since he was a boy in his father's library, that surely makes a significant impact on him when he grown up. A lot of his valuable letters that were founded were written by him or sent to him. Some of them were composed as the speeches, dialogues or just greeting which show his courage, energy and his humanity. Furthermore, he had translated many Greek

⁴ Edward Clayton.

"Cicero (106-43BCE)", Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy(IEP) a peer-reviewed academic resource. 11 Feb 2012. <<http://www.iep.utm.edu/cicero/#H2>>

⁵ John Simkin. "Marcus Antonius" Spartacus Educational. 11 Feb 2012
<<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/ROMmarkantony.htm>>

philosophy books⁶ to Latin's and also creates several new vocabularies in Latin. About fifty-seven speeches of his have been recorded in Latin. Sharing opinions in his time was not as convenient as nowadays, people who have different ideas from the majority or the powerful people might easily be killed from providing opposed arguments. However, in many of his quotes⁷, he fearlessly talks through giving his opinions about how important books are for human. He mentions that a home without books is like body without soul⁸. This means a lot for people in the following era especially for Europeans were greatly influenced by his ideas of reading and writing habits. By his writings, people tend not to make the same mistakes like the ones that had been made in the past. It opens people's heart to listen, thoughtful and more mature throughout his teaching.

In conclusion, Marcus Tullius Cicero's accomplishments had given so many valuable concepts of life for us as human beings. He is one of the influential people who had created great impacts until nowadays. From his influential speeches, he taught people what lives are about and that problems do not need to be solved by force and violence. Showing others what to give values for and how to not to make the same old mistakes from his wisdom. He should be counted as one of the honorable person who brings harmony throughout the world. Cicero had definitely encouraging everyone to live together in peace.

⁶ Ancient warfare magazine. "Greek philosophers" Ancient greek 11 Feb 2012 <<http://www.livius.org/gi-gr/greeks/philosophers.html>>

⁷ Brainy quote contributors. "Marcus Tullius Cicero Quotes" Brainy Quote. 10 Feb 2012 <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/marcus_tullius_cicero.html>

⁸ Wiki Quotes contributor. "Cicero" wiki quote. 11 Feb 2012<<http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Cicero>>