SUMMARY

THE FEUD BETWEEN MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO
AND PUBLIUS CLODIUS PULCHER

The purpose of this thesis was to investigate the cause and nature of the feud between Cicero and Clodius. As introduction a historical outline was given with special reference to factors which had an influence on the feud such as violence, bribery and change-over of forces. Then a character analysis of both Cicero and Clodius was done to show their distinct differences in this regard.

Research showed that the essence of the feud between Cicero and Clodius centred on the Clodius' revenge. Three prominent events constituted the stages of the feud i.e. the Bona Dea matter, Clodius' tribunate and Cicero's exile. The feud ended with events surrounding the death of Clodius and Cicero's defence of Milo i.e. his "pro Milone" in which more light was shed on his attitude towards Clodius.

The conclusion we reached was that the nature of the feud was a personal one which developed in time to a political conflict in which the members of the Triumvirate, especially Caesar and Pompey, played an important role. The fundamental cause of the feud was that Clodius' too violent and antipatriotic behavior often clashed with Cicero's patriotism, because for him everything concerned his "res publica". Whereas Cicero fought for "concordia ordinum", Clodius' battle was for his own benefit after he had initially been used by the Triumvirate to further their case.
The feud between Cicero and Clodius was typical of those times i.e. a conflict between the maintenance of the old order and violence and dispotic power. It was aggravated by the absolute differences in character between Cicero and Clodius and their ambitions. Cicero, a patron of the arts, a man of peace, an advocate of the old order, an upholder of tradition and religion, came into conflict with Clodius, a man of violence, violator of the law, a supporter of "ambitus", an abuser of tradition and religion and an exploiter of the class differences.
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