

Ancient Fanfiction: Amanirenas

By Celine Baumbach

I silently poured over the map laid out before me again, a sinking feeling in my stomach. We could – no, we *would* retake our land and send these Roman invaders back to Egypt, but that didn't mean I had to like it. Our plans had a high chance of victory, I knew that, but I wished they had already been put in action and we could now enjoy peace that would follow.

I couldn't hide the relief on my face when the tent flapped open, admitting a young attendant.

“Kandake Amanirenas,” she bowed. “Generals. Kanditede has returned from Samos.”

“Bring her in immediately,” I ordered.

The attendant bowed again and left.

“My queen-,” general Pisakar, standing on my left, started. I cut him off with a gesture. I knew what he would want to say, and I didn't want to hear it. He was the youngest of my generals, and the most battle hungry. But I didn't want to fight the Romans at all costs. I wanted the Romans out of Kush at all cost – and if we could achieve that in a peaceful manner, then I would prefer that.

It didn't take Kanditede long to arrive at our tent. She bowed and greeted us, then held out a scroll of papyri. “Augustus has agreed to negotiate a peace with us.”

I took the scroll, but didn't open it, instead gesturing for Kanditede to continue. I noted with satisfaction, that most of my generals seemed to feel as relieved as I did by the news.

“He has noted our terms of peace and has set some of his own. The diplomatic mission stayed behind to start negotiations, but the emperor has asked you to join them.”

“Of course. We’ll leave tomorrow at dawn.”

Kanditede nodded, then bowed and left.

Finally, I opened the papyri – and scoffed. We would have to negotiate well, because I was not doing half of the things Augustus asked for. Did he think he was winning the war? What lies his Prefect must have fed him. This might be more difficult than an outright battle would be. But we could do it.

“Kandake?” one of the generals asked.

“Pisakar, Amanitore, you’re with me tomorrow. The rest of you will make sure the peace is kept here until we return, or I send a messenger giving the order to execute our plans. Understood?”

“Of course, your majesty,” they echoed in unison.

I dismissed them. When only Pisakar and Amanitore were left with me, I laid down the papyri for them to see. Then I sank into the nearest chair. “Let’s discuss this, shall we?”

Post:

Amanirenas, known as the queen with one eye, was the queen of Kush (Nubia, modern day Sudan) from 40 BCE to her death in 10 BCE. After Augustus took Egypt and became Rome’s first emperor, the Roman Empire aimed to expand further south, taking the Kushite Kingdom. To prevent that from happening, the Kushites attacked the Romans in Egypt first; the attack was soon retaliated by the Romans. The war that followed lasted half a decade and ended with a peace treaty which was very favorable for Kush, showing that despite the small size of their

army in comparison to Rome, the Kushites and their queen were a force to be reckoned with.

Learn more about Queen Amanirenas here:

<https://face2faceafrica.com/article/amanirenas-the-brave-one-eyed-african-queen-who-led-an-army-against-the-romans-in-24bc>

Read the story here:

<https://www.rejectedprincesses.com/princesses/amanirenas>

Twitter/Instagram

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Amanirenas was queen of Kush (Nubia, modern day Sudan), known as the queen with one eye, since her fierce military determination led her to lose it in battle. She negotiated a treaty with the most powerful male ruler at the time, Augustus Caesar.

Image if needed:

<https://beyondthesinglestory.wordpress.com/2019/04/06/queen-amanirenas/>

