Reaching out and Pushing Away: Caesar and Cato as Antisocial and Prosocial Figures in Lucan’s *Pharsalia*

1. **Aristotle on the Antisocial Man**

*“ὁ δὲ μὴ δυνάμενος κοινωνεῖν ἢ μηδὲν δεόμενος δι᾽ αὐτάρκειαν οὐθὲν μέρος πόλεως, ὥστε ἢ θηρίον ἢ θεός.”*

“He who is unable to be part of a community or, through self-sufficiency, needs nothing nor any share of the polis, is just like a beast or a god.” (Arist. Pol. 1253a 25-30)

1. **Lamenting the Death of Julia**

*“Morte tua discussa* ***fides****, bellumque movere  
Permissum ducibus.”*

“At your death **faith** was shattered, and it was permitted for the chiefs to wage war.” (Luc. 1.114-120)

1. **The Massilians Define Themselves**

*“Inlustrat quos sola fides”*

“those who only loyalty distinguishes” (Luc. 3.342)

1. **Caesar Addresses his Troops**

*“Ultima Pompeio dabitur provincia* ***Caesar****,  
Quod non, victrices aquilas deponere iussus,****Paruerim****?”*

“Will **Caesar** be given to Pompey as his final conquest, because **I** did not appear to throw down my victorious eagles when commanded?”

(Luc. 1.338-340)

1. **Caesar’s Men Decide to Follow Caesar**

“*sed diro ferri revocantur amore* ***ductorisque metu***”

“But they were convinced by fierce love of the sword and **fear of their leader**” (Luc. 1.355-6)

1. **Laelius Pledges Himself to Caesar**

“*pectore si fratris gladium iuguloque parentis  
condere me iubeas plenaeque in uiscera partu  
coniugis, inuita peragam tamen omnia dextra*”

“if you should order me to plant my sword in my brother’s or my parent’s throat, in the pregnant belly of my wife, I will do all these things although my sword-hand is unwilling (Luc. 1.376-78)

1. **The Narrator Chides Scaeva**

“*qui nesciret in armis quam magnum uirtus crimen ciuilibus esset*”

“who does not know how great a crime is virtue in Civil War” (Luc. 6.147-8)

1. **Caesar Sends Orders to Antony**

*“Illum saepe minis Caesar precibusque morantem evocat…*

*‘ignave, venire te Caesar, non ire, iubet*.’*”*

“Often does Caesar call him (Antony) with threats and entreaties while he delays…‘Caesar commands you to come, not to go, you coward!’”

(Luc. 5.480-488)

1. **Caesar Rejoices at the Thought of Battle with Massilia**

“*Sic hostes* ***mihi*** *desse nocet: damnumque putamus  
Armorum, nisi, qui vinci potuere, rebellent.  
Sed* ***si solus eam****, dimissis degener armis,  
Tunc* ***mihi*** *tecta patent.”*

“thus the lack of an enemy is harmful to **me**: and we think it is harmful to arms if those who were able to be enslaved do not rebel. But if **I** should go **alone**, tamed by the absence of weapons, then the doors would lie open to **me**.” (Luc. 3.365-368)

1. **Description of Caesar’s Attempt to Cross the Adriatic**

“*Vix famulis audenda parat*”

“what is scarcely dared by slaves.” (Luc. 5.509)

1. **Caesar Reflects on His Life as He Faces a Storm in the Adriatic**

*“Licet ingentes abruperit actus*

*Festinata dies fatis; sat magna peregi.”*

“It is permitted that the day hastened on by the fates shall have snatched away great deeds; I have completed enough greatness.” (Luc. 5.659-660)

1. **Brutus Pledges Himself to Cato**

“*Dux Bruto Cato solus erit*”

“only Cato will be general for Brutus” (Luc. 2.247)

1. **Cato Justifies Entering the War**

“*Summum, Brute, nefas civilia bella* ***fatemur****... Plena ferant: nullo* ***fraudemus*** *sanguine bellum… Quin publica signa ducemque Pompeium* ***sequimur?*”**

“Brutus, **we** acknowledge that civil war is the highest crime… Let **us** cheat not cheat war of any blood... Why do **we** not follow the public standards and General Pompey?” (2.301-320)

1. **Seneca on Cosmic Dissolution**

*“Omnia ista ingentibus intervallis diducta et in custodiam universi disposita stationes suas deserant ;"*

“all these things, split up by huge gaps and arrayed in the ordering of the universe, abandon their positions”

(Sen. Ben. 6.22.1)

1. **Lucan on Cosmic Dissolution**

“*Sic, cum, compage soluta,  
Saecula tot mundi suprema coegerit hora,  
Antiquum repetent iterum chaos omnia;*”

“Thus, when, with the structure dissolved, then the final hour shall have pressed on the ages of the universe, all things will again seek the ancient chaos.” (Luc. 1.72-74)

Bibliography

Ahl, Frederick. *Lucan: An Introduction*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1976.

Behr, D'Alessandro Francesca. *Feeling History: Lucan, Stoicism, and the Poetics of Passion*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2007.

Lapidge, Michael. “Lucan’s Imagery of Cosmic Dissolution.” *Hermes* 107, no. 3 (1979): 344-370.