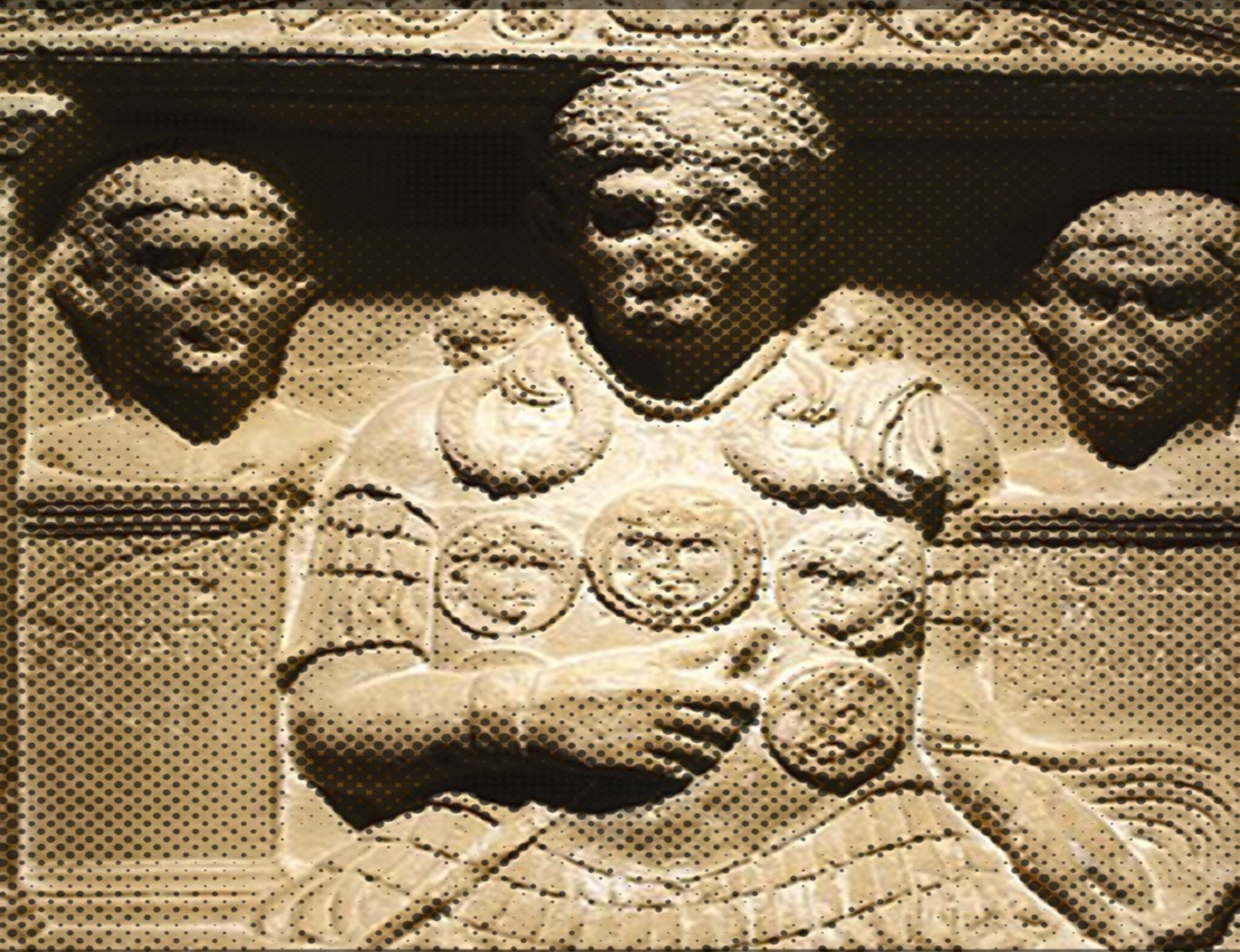


**Marcus Tullius Cicero**



*For Marcus  
Caelius -  
56 BC*

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# **For Marcus Caelius — 56 BC**



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# 1

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If anyone, O judges and jury, should now by chance be present, ignorant of the law, of the courts, of our customs, he would surely be amazed, what is there of such an atrocity in this particular case, because during the holidays and public games, having interrupted all public business this one trial should be administered, nor would he doubt, that a culprit of a great crime is being charged, that if it should be ignored the state would not be able to stand still; when the same man hears that there is a law, which orders daily investigations regarding mutinous and most wicked citizens, who armed besieged the senate, have brought violence to the civil offices, assaulted the republic: he would not reject the law, he would require a charge which would stand in the court; when he would hear that there is no crime, no audacity, no violence being called in court, but that a young man of illustrious natural-talent, industry, and popularity is being accused by the son of that man, whom he himself both may prosecute and has prosecuted in court, moreover that he is being attacked with the help of a prostitute: he would not blame the piety of that Atratinius, he would think to suppress feminine lust, he would value your toils, for whom indeed it may not be permitted to be at universal rest when others are at rest.

# 2

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And indeed, if you will be willing to listen attentively, to form an opinion rightly regarding the entirety of this case, o judges, you will thus decide neither that one, who would wish or would be permitted, would come down to this accusation, nor that, after he had decended, would he have any hope, unless he was very much supported by the insufferable desire and excessibly bitter hatred of someone else. Yet I forgive Atratinus, a most refined and what's more a pleasant young man closely connected by my friendship, who has the excuse of either piety or obligation or even his age. If he has wished to accuse, I attribute it to his piety, if he was ordered, to his obligation, if he hoped for something, I allotted to his childhood. The others must not only in no way be pardoned, but they also must be fiercely resisted.

### 3

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And indeed, gentlemen of the jury, it seems to me the most fitting way to launch the defense of the young Marcus Caelius is first to respond to the things his accusers have said to disgrace him and strip and rob him of his good name. The issue of his father has been raised in a variety of ways, because people said either the father himself did not live in sufficient style or the son did not accord him sufficient respect.

As for his position, to those who know him and are older, Marcus Caelius easily makes answer himself without uttering a word and even without any defense of mine. As for those, however, to whom he is not so well known because, owing to his advanced years, he has for a long