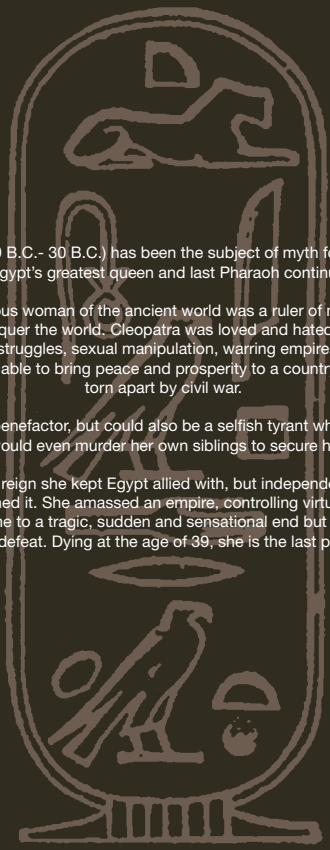


ΚΛΟΠΑΤΡΑ
THE CROWN OF ISIS



KAYAK



Cleopatra VII Philopator (69 B.C.- 30 B.C.) has been the subject of myth for more than two millennia.
The story of Egypt's greatest queen and last Pharaoh continues to dazzle.

The most intriguing and most glamorous woman of the ancient world was a ruler of men's hearts, with a fierce ambition to keep Egypt independent and even conquer the world. Cleopatra was loved and hated by some of the most powerful men of her time. Her life was filled with power struggles, sexual manipulation, warring empires and passionate love. She seized any opportunity that came her way and was able to bring peace and prosperity to a country that had become poverty stricken and torn apart by civil war.

Cleopatra was an admired and public benefactor, but could also be a selfish tyrant who tortured slaves for her entertainment and she would even murder her own siblings to secure her throne.

Throughout her more than twenty year reign she kept Egypt allied with, but independent from Rome. Already a queen at 18, she lost her kingdom once and regained it. She amassed an empire, controlling virtually the entire eastern Mediterranean coast- and lost it all again. She came to a tragic, sudden and sensational end but she played her part extremely well.

She remained victorious, even in defeat. Dying at the age of 39, she is the last page of the glory that was Egypt...

◀LEOPATRA - THE CROWN OF ISIS

-RIS€-

1. THE LIVING ISIS
2. A FAMILY DIVIDED
3. ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria - The Gift - The Plan - The Siege - The Child

4. SHE RULES MY WORLD (!)
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THE LIVING ISIS

Cleopatra

Patiently I'll wait and bide my time
The third in royal line
My father's chosen princess

No rival force can twist the arms of fate
Make this kingdom great
For all the world to see
And only one is strong enough to be
The living Isis
Isis
Isis...

We are the husband and the brother
The human mirror of the Gods
We are the wife, we are the mother
We are the universal soul

We are the sister and the daughter
The living image of the Gods
We are one self, and one another
As above, so below
As above, so below
As above, so below



The ancient Egyptian tradition of associating royalty with divinity reinforced the position of kings and queens. Cleopatra presented herself as the living Isis. Isis was the sister-wife of Osiris and mother of Horus, goddess of motherhood, healing and justice. Legend tells how Osiris, murdered by his brother Seth, was chopped into pieces and scattered all over Egypt. Isis managed to temporarily resurrect her brother-husband and even became pregnant of his son Horus, who eventually avenged his father's death by slaughtering Seth.

Δ FAMILY DIVIDED

The Sicilian

Facing the crowd in the banquet hall
Seated on the golden royal throne
Surrounded by her servants and next of kin
But she was never more alone

My beloved and gracious Majesty
Will soon become her little brother's spouse
Now a fine and stunning bride to be
Ready to exchange the holy vows
No love involved, no sweet marital bliss
To honor her departed father's wish

Still playing with his toys while they think of war
(A liason built on rivalry)
A child, how could he understand
The concept of mercy, of remorse or sin
(Bound to end in treachery)
So by the time the boy becomes a man

Betrayal reigns within these walls
No one is fully trusted at the gate
'Cause he may hide, shedding the serpent's skin
Ready to strike, willing to wait
Masters of a cruel and bloody trade
These rival descendants of the Great

They ruled these parts since Alexander
Raised in homes of fear and anger
Seemingly united
But in truth- a family divided

An ancient line of blood will bind them
Greed for power curse and blind them
Seemingly united
But in truth- a family divided



When Cleopatra is eighteen years old her father dies. Although she is the heir to the throne, tradition requires that a female queen needs a male family member to rule. Before his death the king ordains that Cleopatra should marry the oldest of her brothers Ptolemy (as did Isis and Osiris), and that the two should jointly occupy the throne. The child is only ten years old then. After Cleopatra attempts to make herself the sole sovereign, her brother and co ruler drives her out of the palace at Alexandria. She flees to Syria and returns the following year with a mercenary army to face Ptolemy XIII's forces on Egypt's eastern border.

ALEXANDRIA

Cleopatra, The Sicilian

Alexandria

Alexandria
Alexandria

City of my fathers
Harbour of my dreams
Capitol of fortune
Home of Kings and Queens

Alexandria
Alexandria

Vision in white marble
Threshold to the sea
I will always guard you
You'll be safe with me

Alexandria
Alexandria

The Gift

He sailed down from the
north to Alexandria
The man who lost his army
His honour and his state

He landed on a beach near
Alexandria
And came to seek asylum
Only to find himself
betrayed...

As the legions moved
along to Alexandria
The loser- killed,

beheaded-
Was presented as a gift

*Your enemies tomorrow
Your allies of today*

The sky turned red that
day, dear Alexandria
The victor- grieving badly-
Would have spared him,
had he lived

*Your friends in times of
sorrow
Ferocious birds of prey*

The Plan

I had to see the man before
my brother would
Had to convince the man
before my brother could
That puppet king too
young to realize
The impact of the eunuch's
ill advice

We left the guarded shores
On our way to plead her
cause

Some palms were neatly
greased
And suspicious minds
appeased

The plan was bold, but did
I have a choice?
Cause deep inside all
warriors are boys
A pawn to those who play
the game to win
To meet their match in
emperor and king

Hidden by the night
Our barque sailed in with
the tide

The gates slowly opened,
the plan seemed to hold
We were shown in and the
carpet unrolled
He was taken aback, not
expecting to see
Someone crawling out, and
least of all me

Regaining composure, her
nerves recontrolled
She told him the story that
had to be told
Then she looked at me and
I understood
So I took my leave like a
good servant should

The Siege

The Child

We made a lover's voyage
And let the river run
As far as ships would
take us
To where godly realms had
sprung

We saw the walls of
Memphis
Proudly gleaming in the
sun
And at a sacred rite at
Philae
We became one

Alexandria, Alexandria

On pillows of ambition
Our love rose with the Nile
Awaiting recognition
Through your son and
mine, our Child



Egypt's capitol Alexandria was considered the greatest cultural and commercial center in the eastern Mediterranean. It was famous for its broad main avenue, its gleaming limestone colonnades, its harbour-side palaces and temples overseen by a towering lighthouse on the island of Pharos. Alexandria soon became the largest, most sophisticated city on earth. It was a cosmopolitan mix of Egyptians, Greeks, Jews, Romans and Nubians. The best and brightest of the Mediterranean world came to study at the Mouseion (the world's first academy) and the great Alexandrian library.

While Cleopatra is in exile, the Roman generals Julius Caesar and Pompey are fighting each other for the leadership of Rome. After Caesar defeats Pompey in Greece the loser flees to Alexandria to seek asylum. He is convinced that he will be backed by his allies the Egyptians. But his trust is betrayed and he is murdered on the beach by order of Ptolemy's advisors. Instead of being pleased, Caesar is upset over the execution of his former son in law.

After Pompey's assassination, Cleopatra realizes that she needs Roman support if she wants to regain her throne. She decides it is important to make friends with Caesar for her safety and that of her country. To plead her cause she has to return to the palace in Alexandria, where Caesar is residing.

Ptolemy and his sister Arsinoe start the Alexandrian war against Caesar, who only has a small army with him. He has to wait for reinforcements to arrive from Rome. Cleopatra's treasonous sibling is proclaimed Queen of the Mob and she leads the army of the rebels. During the fighting at least a part of the Great Library of Alexandria burns down. Caesar defeats Ptolemy's army but is nearly killed when one of his ships sinks. Ptolemy flees, but drowns in the Nile due to the weight of his armor. Soon after Ptolemy's death Caesar reinstates Cleopatra upon the throne. She is crowned as queen of Egypt and shares rulership with her youngest brother, Ptolemy XIV.

Cleopatra arranges for her and Caesar to take a trip in a royal barge up the river Nile. During the cruise they visit Dendera, where Cleopatra is worshipped as a Pharaoh. The lover's voyage is the symbolism of the living Isis and her fertility accompanied by the descendant of Venus, Caesar. Cleopatra is already pregnant when she marries the Roman leader at a secret rite at the Isle of Philiae. The marriage however is a spiritual one. It is certainly not considered legal in Rome since Romans are not allowed to marry foreigners. By the time Cleopatra gives birth to Caesar's son, Caesarion (little Caesar), the father is already back in Rome.

SHE RULES MY WORLD

The Sicilian

My true feelings I keep hidden
She's of far too noble birth
There's no way I would dare to tell her that I love her
 She's a queen and you're a servant
I will do as I am bidden
 Just an ordinary merchant
I am only here to serve
 Bitten by the snake of love
Her eyes outshine the brightest stars above her

She will never know, cause I will never show what's deep inside me
Let Tantalus guide me

She rules my world
Her beauty runs like acid through my veins
Poisoning my heart, my blood, my brains
She rules my world

She goes and I will follow
I'm at her beck and call
And as close as I will ever come to being her lover
 She is only an illusion

I can't ease her pain and sorrow
 To a heart that's in confusion
Can't catch her would she fall
 Bitten by the snake of love
And I can't even take away the dream that makes her suffer

She will never know, cause I will never show what's deep inside me
Let Tantalus guide me

She rules my world
Her beauty runs like acid through my veins
Poisoning my heart, my blood, my brains- she rules my world



Apollodorus, also known as "The Sicilian" is a merchant and one of Cleopatra's most loyal servants. In our version of the story, he secretly loves Cleopatra. A love she is not aware of and- had she been- could never have answered, being a queen. The Sicilian tells the story from his point of view. He is willing to do anything for her, such as risking his life while smuggling her inside the palace to meet Caesar.

GOODBYE PHAROS

Cleopatra

You ask what kind of queen would leave her land
On some ambiguous mission
Driven by a vision
Of an empire that is equalled by none

No, a queen like that expects no helping hand
But to boost her endeavour
She'll use her greatest treasure
Let it pave the way to power that she knows will come
So....

Goodbye, Pharos
Your light is getting weaker wave by wave
Goodbye, Pharos
Shining on my cradle and my grave
Goodbye Pharos
My beacon, my guide
In the darkest of nights
Goodbye Pharos

Goodbye, Pharos
Your light is getting weaker wave by wave
Goodbye, Pharos
Watching over cradle, over grave
Goodbye Pharos
My beacon, my guide
In the darkest of nights
Goodbye Pharos



Cleopatra does a superb job ruling Egypt. She improves the administration and there is incredible economic growth. She wants to create a secure future for Egypt, by her and Caesar's only son. There is one problem, however: the supreme dictator though not denying the child is his- hasn't officially accepted him. Therefore Caesarion can not be his legal successor. Cleopatra, determined to change the general's mind, sets out for Rome, taking their child with her. When she leaves the Alexandrian harbour she passes the Pharos island and the impressive lighthouse, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.



STRANGER IN ROME

The Sicilian

If she could be his lawful wife
Her sweetest dream would come alive
The citizens would welcome her in style
But all she sees are hostile eyes
And all she hears are flagrant lies
They're calling her the serpent of the Nile

Though the gods decreed that he's the
father of her son
She is still referred to as 'that foreign one'

She's a stranger in Rome
Kept outside the city walls in a house that's
not her own
Stranger in Rome
Summoned to a distant place
That never feels like home
She'll always be a stranger in Rome

If she could be his legal bride
The east and west would soon unite
Their lives would merge into one royal line
While he's beloved and idolized
She's the thorn stuck in their side
Hoping he can bend the rules in time

Publicly the good and loving father holds
his son
But the journey's long and only just begun

For a stranger in Rome
Kept outside the city walls in house that's
not her own
Stranger in Rome
Where tears are shed and triumphs held
And dreams are carved in stone
She'll always be a stranger in Rome

Evoking spite and anger, she's the subject
of debate
The Senate claim that she's a danger to the
Roman state
But all they want is money in their purse

Cause in their eyes she'll always be
A threat to their authority
What are they afraid of, how could things
ever get worse
With gods so far superior- superior to
hers...?

Stranger in Rome
Kept outside the city walls in a house that's
not her own
Stranger in Rome
Where lovers rule but duty calls
A temptress to the bone
She'll always be a stranger...

Stranger in Rome
Kept outside the citywalls in house that's
not her own
Stranger in Rome
Where tears are shed and triumphs held
And dreams are carved in stone
An outcast and a stranger...



*During her two year
stay in Rome Cleopatra
lives discretely in one of
Caesar's villas outside
the capital. She is
an object of general
displeasure. Many
Romans see her as a
queen from the East who
is interfering in Roman
affairs. They are angered
when Caesar honors
Cleopatra with a statue
of herself as the goddess
Isis, erected in the
Forum next to that of the
goddess Venus.*

HAIL!

Roman crowd

Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!

Hail to our glorious leader
Hail to the ruler of Rome
Hail to the victor, our Caesar
Hail to our noble dictator
For triumph is his alone

Hail to invincible legions
Hail to the heroes of Rome
Hail to the allmighty Ceasar
Hail to the great imperator
A god on a worldly throne

Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!



Caesar holds a triumphal celebration of his victories. They include the parading of the defeated enemies, in this case Cleopatra's younger sister, Arsinoe. She walks before the chariot in which Caesar rides. The woman is locked in chains, like any other captive, though these chains- in honor of her rank- are made of silver. The Roman population pities her, and Caesar decides to spare her life. He sends her to the temple of Artemis at Ephesus (now Turkey) where she has to spend the rest of her life in exile.

SHE CAME, SHE SAW, SHE CONQUERED

Julius Caesar, Cleopatra

She moves like a woman
And laughs like a girl
Everything changed when she ambushed my world
She's fragile like glassware
Yet strong as a rock
She made me her captive when love gently struck

I can't help feeling both lost and intrigued
How easily she laid my heart under siege
Like an army one thousand times stronger
She came, she saw she conquered
She came, she saw she conquered

We're Venus and Mars, we're the east and the west
We're heaven and earth, yet we're perfectly matched
This love
Is what we've been dreaming of
You are my weakness and my pillar of strength

We're holding the fate of the world in our hands
We're one
For many more nights to come
Each day our hearts grow fonder
(repeat:)
This love just won't go under

She can roar like a lion
And purr like a cat
I'm under her sway since the night that we met
She's talking in riddles
But her message is clear
Life is worth living whenever she's near
She changes her moods like the tides of the Nile

But she lights up the room with that breath taking
smile
Like an army one thousand times stronger
She came, she saw she conquered
She came, she saw she conquered

We're Venus and Mars...

She left me speechless like never before
Suddenly I wasn't in charge anymore
My bastion wouldn't hold any longer
To an army one thousand time stronger
I surrendered without a fight
When she invaded my life
She came, she saw, she conquered



In May of 47 B.C. Julius Caesar leaves a pregnant Cleopatra to go to war. The great general captures his enemy Pharnaces near the town of Zela. He claims he did it all in only four hours. To inform the Senate of his victory, Caesar speaks the famous words: "Veni, Vidi, Vici" - "I came, I saw, I conquered". Cleopatra needed less time to conquer his heart- not by the sword, but with her charms.

THE IDES OF MARCH

Cleopatra

On the Ides of March they took away my love
Struck by a great many hands
Slain by his most loyal friends
Who'd promised to protect him
Honor and respect him
Their quest for power killed my better half

On the Ides of March a stone has crushed my heart
The son that is bearing his name
The heir that he failed to acclaim
On whom my trust depended
Is left out empty handed
Their daggers cut and tore my life apart
On the Ides of March

On the field of Mars a city mourns its loss
A leader will go down in flames
And people will cry out his name
I hear their calling for revenge
Their wailing, their laments
But this city is mine no more, if it ever was

If only you'd have seen the signs
Listened to the prophet's plea
If only you'd have read their minds
And spent this wretched day with me
You'd still be safe, alive, unhurt
We could have embraced the world

On the Ides of March he drew his final breath
Those who'd been plotting his fall
Now spreading the guilt among all
My patron and protector
Friend and benefactor
Brutally betrayed and stabbed to death
And I remember Seth...



In 44 B.C. Caesar becomes dictator for life. His enemies in the Roman Senate see him acquiring all powers, even to the point of having himself declared a god. A group of conspirators led by Brutus and Cassius, who want to maintain the Republic, arrange his assassination. Cleopatra and a soothsayer warn him about the Ides of March (the middle of the month) but Caesar ignores them and goes to the Roman Senate anyway. There he is stabbed 23 times, and he dies on the spot. To Cleopatra's disappointment Caesar does not mention their son, Caesarion, in his will. She flees back to Alexandria.

MATTERS OF THE HEART

Octavian

Rulers come and rulers go
No one's here to last
Covered by the dust of ages
Fame is fading fast

Loyalty is overrated
Lies will pave the way
So don't bite the hand that feeds you
If you want to live the day
Simply join the game they play

Kings and queens can't argue fate
That tears their love apart
When they turn matters of the state
Into matters of the heart

She knew the tricks, she knew the trade
She killed her very own
The general who took her bait
Made his bed her throne

But footsteps in the desert
Make an undistinguished print
Her face- a crappy image
On a worn and weathered mint
Eroded by the wind

All kings or queens that challenge fate
Could overplay their part
Confusing matters of the state
With matters of the heart

Kings and queens can't argue fate
That tears their love apart
When they turn matters of the state
Into matters of the heart



The military dictator Octavian (one of the three leaders of the Triumvirate that is formed after Caesar's death) is calm, rational, shrewd, and tenacious. He is a born politician and will become Antony's greatest opponent. He strongly opposes Cleopatra's influence on Rome, mainly because she bore Caesar a son, who therefore remains a potential threat to his power.

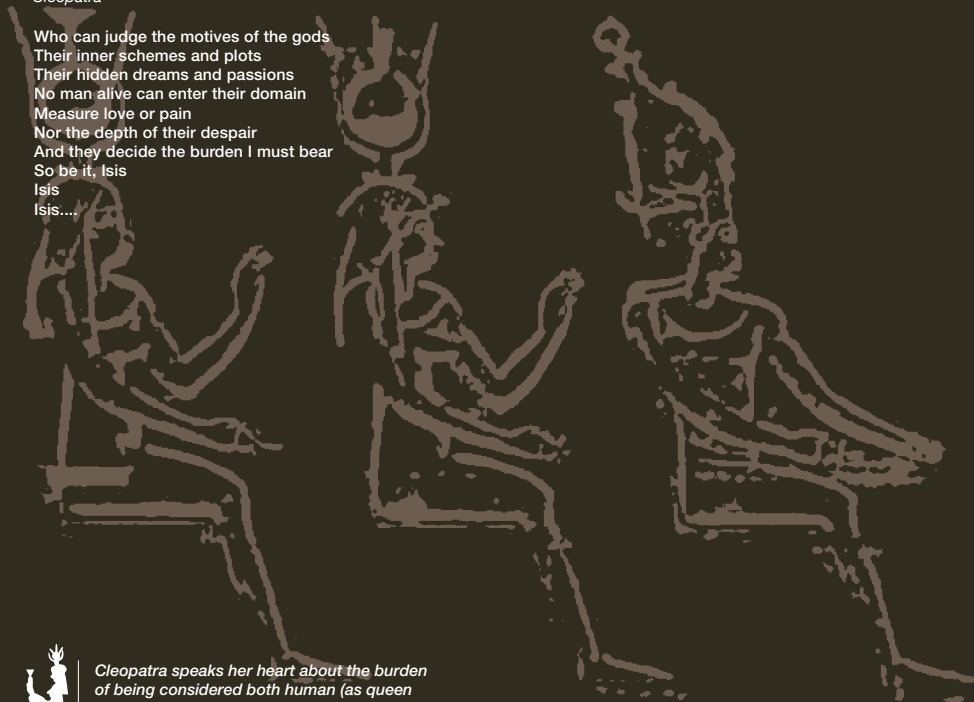
THE CURSE OF ISIS

Cleopatra

Who can judge the motives of the gods
Their inner schemes and plots
Their hidden dreams and passions
No man alive can enter their domain
Measure love or pain
Nor the depth of their despair
And they decide the burden I must bear
So be it, Isis
Isis
Isis....



*Cleopatra speaks her heart about the burden
of being considered both human (as queen
Cleopatra) and divine (as the goddess Isis).*



TARSUS

The Sicilian, Cleopatra, Charmion

Well he sent his invitations, she
was happy to decline
Yet she needed him as well, so all
she really bought was time
Then he tried bossing her around
and she dared to call his bluff
Let him believe she might obey
him but his words weren't good
enough

I don't respond to rude requests
Won't let him put me to the test
He'll be gently persuaded
His defence eliminated

She's been charged of siding with
the enemy
So he summoned her to Tarsus,
but she'll use his vanity

By putting on my greatest show
Yes his resistance will be low
My entrance will be sheer
sensation
Challenge all imagination
In Tarsus (In Tarsus)

Well she may be some catch
But he's meeting his match
In Tarsus (In Tarsus)

Look at all she's got to offer
Think of all that you could do
Love and fortune, wealth and power
That's what she could mean to
to you

Crowds have gathered in the harbour, gasping at her gorgeous ship
They see Venus courting Bacchus on this long expected trip
As the mermaids dance with cupids to the sound of flutes and lyres
A goddess seeks her conquest, offering all that he desires

He's got the courage of a soldier but the weakness of a man
She'll quickly win him over and execute her plan

And he will be my dancing fool
When I decide to let love rule
Goddess, queen, lover, mother
We so complement each other
In Tarsus (In Tarsus)

But there's always a catch
Yes you're meeting your match
In Tarsus

Cleopatra is summoned to Tarsus (in Turkey) by Mark Antony who says he wants to discuss her loyalty to Rome, but the underlying reason for the meeting is that he needs Egyptian aid for an upcoming military campaign. Cleopatra plays hard to get but in the end agrees to come, albeit under her own conditions. Determined to win over Antony, Cleopatra sets sail on the river Cydnus and arrives, impersonating Venus, Goddess of Love, aboard a barge sailed by a crew of female servants, dressed as sea nymphs. Antony begins an affair with the Egyptian queen who soon gives birth to the twins, Alexander Helios (the sun, in Greek) and Cleopatra Selene (the moon). In 37 B.C. he fathers another son, Ptolemy Philadelphus.



WHATSOEVER IT TAKES

Cleopatra

She wants my crown on her head
My sister is causing an imminent threat
She looked pretty harmless parading in chains
She'll do whatever it takes

She has her eye on what's mine
My treasures, my lovers, my grain and my shrine
To put an end to the claim that she makes
I'll do whatever it takes

She's hurt but proud
Her time is running out
One day she'll break free

She is smart and loved
But should be stopped
It's either her or me
That's how it's got to be

At night I'm hearing her voice
There's no other option, she leaves me no choice
As long as she lives our future's at stake
So please do whatever it takes

She's hurt but proud
Her time is running out
One day she will act

She is smart, well loved
But must be stopped
Now do what you do best
And put my mind at rest



Cleopatra uses the power that she has over Mark Antony to protect her crown. At her request he sends orders for the execution of her younger sister, Arsinoe who lives in exile in Ephesus, but is considered a threat by Cleopatra. Her remains have possibly been excavated in 2009.

THE CROWN OF ISIS

Cleopatra

Rome and Egypt's fates are now intertwined
Chai is on my side
Time to bask in glory
No other siblings left to claim their rights
For they lost the fight
And the Gods agree
That the only one to grace our coins will be
Guarded by Isis
Isis
Isis...

Finally I'm spreading out my wings
Hailed as Queen of Kings
And undisputed ruler
No mortal soul can look into my heart
Cause their eyes are barred
From the things I see
Crowds that sing their song of praise to me
Daughter of Isis (Cleopatra)
Isis (Cleopatra)

Cleopatra, Cleopatra

I vowed to be your mistress of two lands
I'll come to your defense
The god's appointed saviour
Egypt's my eternal state of mind
But its eyes are blind
To the weight I bear
For only one was born and raised to wear
The Crown of Isis (Cleopatra)
Isis (Cleopatra)
Isis (Cleopatra)



Cleopatra again presents herself as the reincarnation of Isis - the queen of heaven and earth, the fertility goddess and the Great Mother. Her tears wet the Nile that makes her the source of birth and rebirth. She is the force of the earth, giving grain. She is the moon, the sun, the mirror of the stars and the clarity of the water. Cleopatra often appears in public in her Isis robes, complete with the headdress that presents the solar disk within a pair of cow horns.

PHILAE



Philae is mentioned by many ancient writers like Strabo and Seneca. It was originally located on an island near the first cataract of the Nile River and it was the previous site of an ancient Egyptian temple complex in southern Egypt. The main temple was dedicated to Isis, the wife of Osiris and mother of Horus. These three characters dominate ancient Egyptian culture and their story possesses all the drama of a Shakespearian tragedy.

THE INIMITABLE LIVERS

The Sicilian, Cleopatra, Mark Antony

They thrive on fun and splendid feasts
Their spirits always high
On nocturnal rambles through the streets
While scaring passersby

They're slipping through the palace gates
And fill their jewelled cups
All dressed down like slaves and maids
Members of an elite club

Bring the food, and get more wine
We'll drink and dance till the end of time
Life's a party we don't want to stop
We'll make love till the sun comes up
May the gods forgive us
The inimitable livers

Their lives reduced to revelry
A never ending game
Caught up in debauchery
And lost all sense of shame

Through their lavish masquerade
They are trying to forget
Behind this jubilant parade
Sorrow rears its ugly head

Bring the food, and get more wine
We'll drink and dance till the end of time
Life's a party we don't want to stop
We'll make love till the sun comes up
And hope the gods forgive us
The inimitable livers

Bring the food, let's get more wine
We'll drink and dance till the end of time

Life's a party we don't want to stop
We'll make love till the sun comes up
And accept all carnal offers
Like inimitable lovers

No doubt the gods forgive us
The inimitable livers



Cleopatra and Antony live life to the full. They feast, gamble and fish together, and found their own club, a drinking society called "The Inimitable Livers." Often they amuse themselves by dressing up as servants and painting the town red, in search of adventures. On these excursions Antony takes pleasure in involving himself in all sorts of difficulties and dangers- in street riots, drunken brawls, and desperate quarrels with the locals- all for Cleopatra's amusement and, of course, his own.

THE QUEEN OF KINGS

Cleopatra, The Sicilian, Octavian



The Donations

She's the Queen of Kings
Our Queen of Kings

Royal sons and daughter
Your future is assured
For at my lover's order
The Rule of One will be secured



Passion, wealth and power
Will tame the Roman beast
Living my finest hour
As the Empress of the East



By proclaiming these Donations
We'll unify our lands
On that glorious occasion
The world lies in my hands



The sky is packed with vultures
The desert full of snakes
Our graves besieged by jackals
My spirit bends but never breaks



Love has come to guide me
And though storms are bound to rage
I'll show the fools who still deny me
That the whole world is my stage



His words will rock the nations
But I'll have to hold on fast
To my calling, my vocation
And restore our mighty past
We are here to last

She's the Queen of Kings
Forever!
Our Queen of Kings
And ever!

The Wager

What on earth is she trying to prove?
That there's nothing her money can't buy
Or that the well of her fortune will never run dry
There's no mountain she couldn't move?

By letting the pearl dissolve in her wine
She made it abundantly clear
Dispute her and you'd put your life on the line
And everything you may hold dear

Does she believe that she won't have to pay
She can win every wager in life
Or take any risk cause she'll always survive
And crush anyone in her way?

Just like the pearl dissolving in wine
Her end could be frightfully near
How long before her stars will decline
And the judge of her time will appear

The Traitor

Such scandalous behavior
Her hero is a traitor
He's broken every pledge
By marrying that stranger
The man's become a danger
He's living on the edge

He's casting off his moral ties
Defied the law, divorced his wife
Our principles were sacrificed
All because of her

Tricked by sweet temptation
Lost in adoration
His heart is too engrossed
These lovebirds better fear me
The senate's gonna hear me
And the truth will be exposed

From victor to a lovestruck fool
One look at her will make him drool
He's given up his right to rule
All because of her

I've got written proof the witch is out for more
We're forced to make a move- and that's to declare war
On the queen of kings



Cleopatra gets Antony to marry her under Eastern law, even though he has a Roman wife. He gives her a spectacular wedding present: a large part of the Middle East. Antony's disastrous military campaign against Parthia reduces his prestige, but later he is more successful against Armenia. To celebrate the victory, he stages a triumphal procession through the streets of Alexandria, in which he and Cleopatra are seated on golden thrones. They present themselves as Isis and Osiris, as Dionysus and Aphrodite. Antony declares Cleopatra to be the Queen of Kings and Caesarion the King of Kings, who will both rule over Egypt and Cyprus.

Cleopatra once challenged Marc Antony she could give the world's most expensive dinner party and that she could spend 10 million sesterces on a single meal without leaving the table. To win the bet she crushed one of her pearl earrings and drank its remains in a goblet of wine. The pearl was the largest in the whole world, a unique work of nature worth 10 million sesterces, or the estimated value of 15 countries.

After illegally obtaining Marc Antony's will from the Temple of the Vestal Virgins, Octavian reads it out to the Senate and gets the public support he needs to declare war on Cleopatra. In this will Caesarion is recognized as the heir of Julius Caesar to the Roman West and he divides the Roman East between Cleopatra and their children. Octavian is outraged at Antony for giving away Rome's territories.

ACTIUM (THE TIDES ARE TURNING)

The Sicilian, Cleopatra

Men battle fiercely, firing their flaming darts
Their missiles come raining down like falling stars
The sky is blackened by a tapestry of smoke
I can't help but wonder who's gonna deal the final stroke

Her ships lay at anchor, witnessing the fight
Then the sails are hoisted, she's preparing for a flight
In a bold act of defiance
Betraying their alliance
She's heading for the open sea

The tides are turning
There's only one thing I can do
Cause the waves are burning
I see no other way, I just got to break through

Closed in at every border, there's nowhere left to go
His army trapped and cornered, morality is low
His fleet greatly outnumbered, the commander flees the scene
Impelled by blind devotion he's following his queen

Led into failure and falling in disgrace
Eluding his opponent, and a loss he could not face
He's completely at her guidance
Even suffering in silence
Aboard her ship on the open sea

The tides were turning
Now tell me what else could I do
Cause the waves were burning
There was no other way, I just had to break through

I won't allow my people to know of our retreat
Cause I'll always be victorious, even in defeat
So raise the purple sails, and make them understand
Our glorious arrival will go ahead as planned



On September 2, 31 B.C., Antony's and Octavian's fleets clash at Actium in northern Greece. When Cleopatra sees that Antony's poorly equipped and manned ships are losing to the Romans' superior vessels, Cleopatra breaks from the engagement and sets course for Egypt with 60 of her ships. Antony deserts his troops and follows her. They arrive in the harbor of Alexandria, pretending to be victorious. But the disheartened fleet that remains defects to Octavian. One week later Antony's land forces surrender.

SETTING THINGS STRAIGHT

Octavian

She'll be pouting and sulking
Throwing herself at my feet
Hoping I leave her in peace
And have her children pardoned by me

She'll come begging for mercy
Cloaking her dagger in schemes
Willing to go to extremes
She'll find out that I won't set her free

Her crown is clearly creaking under its own weight
Pretty soon I'll be setting things straight

She will try to outsmart me,
Aiming to better her lot
Offering all that she's got
Her proposals mean nothing to me

Her ship is quickly sinking, and so is her state
Before long, I'll be setting things straight

Can't let her carry out her plans
The stakes are far too high
The boy born from that doomed affair
Must be the one to die

You may call him as you like
Don't get the wrong idea
The master of the Roman world
Yes the emperor to be
Can be no one but me

She will want to upstage me
Betting I'll fall for her charms
But she'd better lay down her arms
We know she will eventually

She'll evoke no pity from this soldier's blade
In a while I'll be setting things straight



Almost a year after the battle at Actium Octavian arrives with his army in Alexandria. Antony's remaining troops quickly surrender to him. Cleopatra attempts to seduce Octavian and bargain with him to save her skin. But he has other plans for her. He wants to parade the queen through the streets of Rome as the centerpiece of his triumph. Octavian also plans to rid himself of his rival, Cleopatra's son, Caesarion.

THE MESSAGE

The Sicilian

Let me be the bearer of bad news
Tell him that she crossed the river Styx
Lead him to believe that she is gone
Dying with his name upon her lips

Let me be the bender of the truth
Knowing she's still very much alive
There's no time to dwell on right or wrong
If wicked lies can help her to survive

Let me be the one to make him see
That life without her is no life at all
A valiant man would proudly let her go
Not drag her with him in his fall

Let me be the keeper of the key
That will unlock the secret house of death
My message is all he needs to know
To enter the abode of the blessed

I'll have be the one to make him see
That life without her is no life at all
A valiant man would proudly let her go
Not drag her with him in his fall

That takes a much more valiant man than me...



The Sicilian concludes that Cleopatra's only chance for survival is to surrender to Octavian and end her doomed alliance with Mark Antony. He falsely informs Antony that Cleopatra has committed suicide. Just like the Sicilian hopes, the totally distraught Antony attempts to kill himself by plunging into his own sword. But the wound is not immediately fatal. When Antony learns that his love is still very much alive, he drags himself to Cleopatra, who is hiding in her mausoleum. Antony is being hoisted into her chamber through an upper story window.

LARGER THAN LIFE

Cleopatra, Mark Antony

I thought I'd never see your face again
I was tricked into believing that you had gone for good
It seemed my life had ended there and then
Yet I could not have been much further from the truth

I don't know just which game your servant played
If not trying to achieve my giving up and letting go
But now I'm here the gods will have to wait
Just a little while- and I wonder, did you know?

And if I did, would it really matter
To a world we shaped and built together

There was a time we had it all
We let it slip right through our fingers
Before the crown would take its toll
The days of glory and distinction were expected to arrive
With love so unconditional and dreams
Larger than life

You gave me the sun, you gave me the moon
You gave me so much to remember
Wherever you're going, I'll be following soon
A farewell that won't last forever

You enchanted the soldier and the feaster in me
Without you there's no reason for living
You showed me a purpose that I failed to see
The life and the love we were given

Our dues have long been paid
Please don't mourn my fate
Our hearts are unafraid...

But if you knew, would it really matter
If we could only leave this world together

There was a time we had it all
We let it slip right through our fingers
Before the crown would take its toll
Days of glory and distinction were expected to arrive
With love so unconditional and dreams
Larger than life



*Cleopatra and the dying Mark Antony
reminisce about the incredible years they
have spent together and that now lay behind
them. Then he dies in her arms.*

THE ARMS OF ISIS /

The Sicilian, Cleopatra

SHE RULES MY WORLD (2)

She rules my world

What to do when all is lost in life

Her beauty runs like acid through my veins

But going down in strife

Poisoning my heart, my blood, my brains

And still emerge as winner

My true feelings I keep hidden

When I can find the peace I've never had

She's of far too noble birth

By joining him in death

There's no way that I could tell her that I love her

She will never know for I will never show

On the other side

What's deep inside me

What better place to rest and reunite

Let Tantalus guide me

Than in the arms of Isis

She rules my world

Isis, Isis....

Now her kingdom swiftly crumbles

One last time my help's required

Though I'd rather take my life than carry out her order

For this greatest of all burdens

Dares my duty to abide

Never hoped to see the day I'd have to cross that border

And give her to the gods to regain the heavens lost

My soul is aching

My lover's heart breaking

Still...

She rules my world

Her beauty runs like acid through my veins

Poisoning my heart, my blood, my brains

She rules my world

When she knows she no longer can save herself nor her kingdom, Cleopatra decides to join Antony in death rather than be a living trophy and object of ridicule to the Romans. She tests several types of poison on her slaves in search for the least painful way to die. She orders the Sicilian to deliver a small poisonous snake, an asp, to her quarters hidden in a basket of figs. Appolodorus is heartbroken when he realizes he has to be the one who must enable his mistress to die by her own hands. He decides to obey her, reluctantly, out of love.



ALEXANDRIA- REPRISÉ

Cleopatra, The Sicilian

City of my fathers
Harbour of my dreams
Capitol of fortune
Home of Kings and Queens

Vision in white marble
Threshold to the sea
I will always guard her
She'll be safe with me



Cleopatra succeeds in making Octavian believe she will go with him to Rome. He even lets her bury her lover Mark Antony with royal splendor and magnificence. Just when he thinks she has given up at last, Cleopatra surprises him once again with her final disappearing act.

THAT SACRED KISS

Cleopatra

Escape has come against all odds
Hidden in a basket full of figs
And eager to perform its deadliest of tricks
Delivered by a servant of the Gods

I'll never beg for clemency
But determine my own destiny

So welcome is the sweet bite of the asp
The lethal taste of triumph on my tongue
Osiris gently guides me to the world where I belong
Life is quickly slipping from my grasp

Securing immortality
Being reborn into divinity

No man can take away my honour
No human hand can bring me down
No one can rob me of my title
No earthly force can steal my crown

I won't be any Roman's trophy
A prisoner, shown off at his parade
To add more luster to his glory
'Cause this time he will be too late.....

But what if this is all there really is
Who of us has never felt that unnamable doubt?
No passage to forever, no honourable way out
Only darkness beyond that sacred kiss



The last Egyptian queen commits suicide on August 12, 30 B.C., wearing her most beautiful garments, her body arrayed on a golden couch and the emblems of royalty in her hands. She takes an asp to her breast and lets the poisonous snake bite her. In doing so Cleopatra escapes to where Octavian can never conquer her. According to Egyptian religion her death by snakebite secures immortality. Though doubt creeps in during her last moments, she achieves her dying wish: not to be forgotten.

CLEOPATRA - THE CROWN OF ISIS



Concept and Lyrics: Irene Linders & Ton Scherpenzeel. Music: Ton Scherpenzeel

Cindy Oudshoorn
Edward Reekers
Rob Vunderink
Ton Scherpenzeel

vocals (Cleopatra)
vocals (The Sicilian), percussio
vocals (Octavian), el. guitar
keyboards, backing vocals,
percussion, bass guitar
el. & ac. guitar
bass guitar, double bass
drums, percussion

Joost Vergoossen
Jan van Offen
Hans Eijkenaer

Guests:

Martin van der Starre
Alexander van Breemen
Tatiana Manolidou
Marjolein Teepen
Irene Linders

vocals (Mark Antony)
vocals (Julius Caesar)
vocals (1, 5, 11, 15, 24)
vocals (7, 12)
vocals (7)

Maria-Paula Majoor
Daniel Torres Menacho
Robert Baba

violin
violin
violin

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Vocal co-production Irene Linders

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