



SASA Inspire 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.

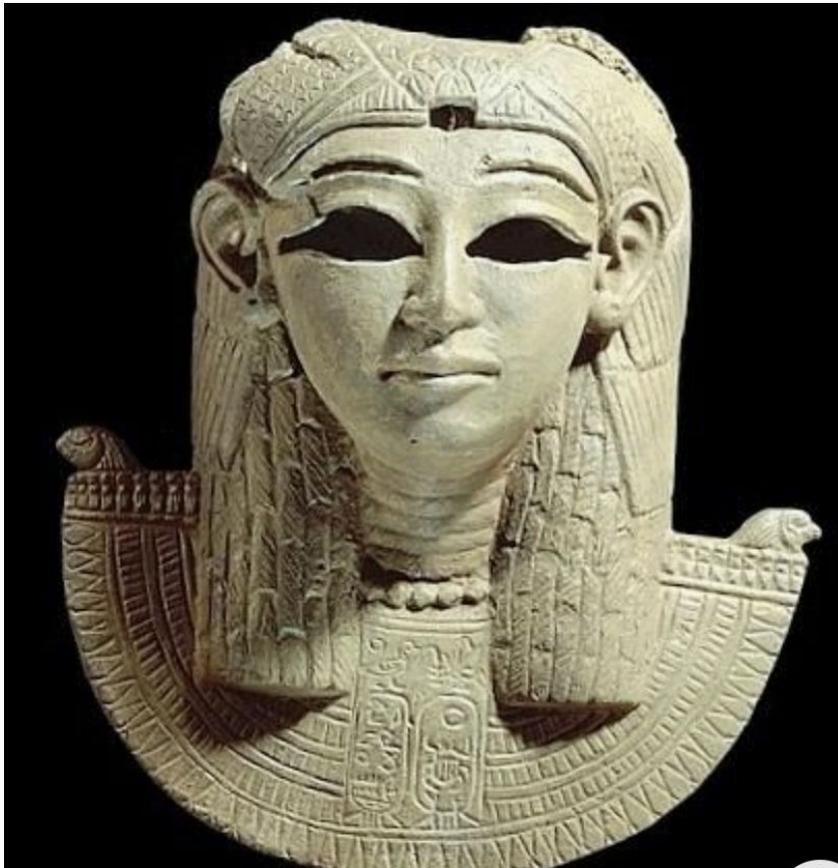
“Pisakar, Amanitore, you're with me tomorrow. The rest of you will make sure the peace is kept here until we return, or I send a messenger giving the order to execute our plans. Understood?”

“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?”

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