

## Saturninus

- In his appeal to his “loving followers” among the citizenry, Saturninus encouraged them to shed the blood of fellow Romans (those who did *not* support his claim to the throne).
- Bassianus—stressing the importance of merit/qualifications over entitlement—appealed to the populace’s sense of “justice, continence, and nobility.” In the dismissal of his followers, he paid tribute to Marcus’ wisdom and the exemplary nature of the Andronici. He even referred to himself, humbly, as a “poor competitor.” When it appeared that the populace had favored Titus instead of Bassianus he pledged to respect and honor their will.
- When Marcus urged that both factions dismiss their followers, Saturninus did so without praising either Marcus or Titus. He was incapable of arguing, alone, his fitness “in peace and humbleness.” In his dismissal of his supporters, Saturnine made this fulsome boast: “Rome, be as gracious unto me as I am confident and kind to thee.”
- Later, when he believed that Titus was about to accept the crown he condemned the Andronici to Hell and exhorted his followers to slay Titus’ family and supporters.
- Even though Bassianus had publically expressed his love for Lavinia (“And her to who my thoughts are humbled all, Gracious Lavinia, Rome’s rich ornament”) earlier, Saturninus proposed to wed her.
- In a show of appreciation to Titus, Saturninus made this fulsome boast:
  - ❖ “...when I do forget the least of these unspeakable deserts, Romans, forget your fealty to me.”
- Was he foolish to have given Tamora and her surviving sons their freedom without ransom? Can it reasonably be assumed that the Goths had taken Roman soldiers and civilians hostage and a prisoner exchange could have been arranged?
- Right in front of his prospective bride (Lavinia), Saturninus tried to get-in-on with Tamora.
- After Titus killed Mutius, Saturninus condemned him and his entire family as being vainglorious, haughty, and lawless (nothing better than a bunch of brawling drunks consorting with riff-raff)

- He proclaimed that Tamora was destined by the gods to be his wife (destined to be the instrument of his downfall?)
- His marriage to Tamora was viewed by the Romans as that of a boy being ruled by his mother (he thought and acted like a child, she spoke her mind, chastised him when he did wrong, told him what to do). He was not his own man—he was governed by his wife: much worse, by a foreign woman. Lucius’ invasion was largely approved of because he *was* a man, not a child or eunuch, and restored male virtues to the monarchy
- Tamora was not, as she had pledged, a “handmaid to his desires and a loving nurse, mother to his youth.” He subjugated himself and the empire to Tamora’s will; took her advice to dissemble, lie, and give her *carte blanche* “to massacre” the Andronici
- Whenever he spoke and acted on his own, he generally caused an incident or made existing ones much worse
- Whenever he felt slighted, he considered it a necessity to retaliate with immediate revenge—his response always exceeded the harm done by the premeditating offense
- Commented that he and Tamora had trouble getting up so early, whereas Lavinia and Bassianus had been awake for more than two hours
- \*\*\*Upon the discovery of his brother’s corpse, Saturninus, without investigation, convicted and condemned Titus’ two boys; rather than abiding by the rule of law he promised to devise “some never-heard-of torturing pain” for them. He refused to release them into Titus’ custody.  
*He proclaimed that if he knew of a fate worse than death that he would execute it upon them.*
- Confronted by the scrolls which Titus and his family distributed throughout the capital, Saturninus was incensed. His fury was such that it was of no consequence that Titus must have been driven insane by his grief—he and his kin had to die.
- Indignant of the fool’s letter, Saturninus ordered him to be dragged by his hair to the place of execution (despite knowing full well that he was just the messenger). Again, the man’s age or feeble-mindedness were not to be held in account.

- Confronted with Lucius and the Goths, Saturninus turned into jelly and once again needed Tamora to take the initiative. In setting up the parley, was she foolish to have designated Titus' own house as the meeting place?
- After Titus murdered Tamora, Saturninus should have ordered his arrest and held him for trial rather than having taken it upon himself to kill him
- Did he deserve—in death-- the consideration that Lucius decreed, to be laid to rest in his father's grave?