

Power in Gladiator

(Prononciation en français entre parenthèses)

Good morning/afternoon. Today, I will talk about power in the film Gladiator.

First, Commodus (Commo-dousse) is the bad emperor. He kills his father, Marcus Aurelius (Mar-kous Or-ray-li-ousse) to take power. He controls Rome with fear and lies. He manipulates the Senate and the people. Commodus represents bad power: selfish, cruel, and dangerous.

Then, Maximus (Maxi-mousse) is the hero. He is a general, but he becomes a gladiator. Even as a slave, he fights for justice. Maximus shows good power: brave, honest, and loyal. He doesn't want to rule, but he inspires the people. His power comes from his heart, not violence.

The gladiator games (gladiateure gueïmes) are very important. Commodus uses the games to distract the people: "If they are happy, they will not rebel." But Maximus uses them differently. When he wins, the crowd loves him. Slowly, he becomes a symbol of hope. The games are a tool of power for both characters.

Finally, the people of Rome decide everything. At first, they are scared of Commodus. But when Maximus fights, they shout: "Maximus! Maximus!" This shows that true power is not in the throne, but in the people's hearts. In the end, the people rebel, and Commodus loses.

In conclusion, Gladiator teaches us that power can be good or bad. Commodus uses power to destroy, Maximus uses it to protect. And the people... they have the final word.

Roman emperors used art to impose their authority, with statues, monuments, and grand spectacles. Commodus does the same: he presents himself as a god with his golden clothing and dramatic entrance into the arena.

But art can also challenge power. Maximus, through his fighting style, becomes a legend. He does not fight just to survive; he impresses and inspires the people. His skill in the arena turns a simple gladiator into a symbol of rebellion.

Finally, Gladiator itself is a work of art that criticizes power. The lighting, music, and staging contrast Commodus, the tyrant, with Maximus, the hero. The film shows that art can serve power... or overthrow it.