

De Bello Gallico

Book 1 : 43-45

Thery Badin

43. Caesar Reiterates his demands

- Finally, Caesar and Ariovistus confer
- Caesar salutes Ariovistus as “king” and “friend” and offered presents and honors bestowed upon few
- Caesar restates his demands (see ch. 35) after reminding Ariovistus of the high status of the Aedui which the Romans intend to help maintain (on account of customs)

44. Ariovistus Replies

- “I’m here, because Gauls asked me to be.
- The Gauls gave me this settlement freely
- I can beat all the Gauls, so no need to fight
- If the Gauls wish to tribute, how can I refuse?
- Germans keep coming simply to protect me.
- I’ve been summoned to deter war, not cause it.
- I was here before you Caesar!”

44. (cont.) Ariovistus's reverse psychology?

- Ariovistus Shifts the Focus Of His Speech.
 - *Following his list of reasons for being in Gaul, Ariovistus questions why Caesar is in Gaul.*
- Ariovistus questions Caesar's True Motives.
 - *"The Aedui did not provide any help to the Romans in the last war, yet they are styled "brothers"— "why are you really here Caesar?"*
- Ariovistus Presents Ultimatum
 - *Believing that Caesar hopes to crush him(Lacon), Ariovistus implies that Caesars death could certainly be arranged, or he could resign his quest peacefully with rewards.*

45. Caesar Explains Why Rome Had The Right To Determine Policy In Gaul

Caesar's reasons include...

- The Aedui are formidable allies, Rome's customs would not permit abandonment.
- In 121 B.C. Quintus Fabius Maximus defeated the Avernii and Ruteni, so technically Romans were here first and had sovereignty over Gaul.
- Rome had conquered Gaul in war, therefore gaining supremacy.