

Whistleblowing lessons from The Missing Scroll

There are a number of lessons from the Missing Scroll, the latest publication of the cartoon series Asterix and Obelix, which illustrate the ongoing battle between the Roman Empire (representing all governments) and the Gaul's of Armorica (representing all citizens' quest for access to classified information).

Although the Romans reclaim the missing scroll of Julius Caesar during an exchange for Confoundtheirpolitix, the information in the scroll is passed on by word of mouth.

The power of the truth is stronger than any power that tries to obstruct it. Confoundtheirpolitix as Julian Assange, pays the price of restricted freedom that not all of us are willing to pay.

Commitment to the truth and honesty to oneself are more important than what society thinks about a whistleblower. Obviously, one can argue about: What is the truth?

In the context of the Missing Scroll and the Iraq war documents, the truth is locked up in documents that the public are entitled too. If the said information is not accessible, reality will be skewed and misrepresented. In Assange' case, one must also realise that the publishing of sensitive



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documents can cause the death of people. One should be cautious and think about the impact of information and the dangers attached to it before blowing the whistle.

Truth and honesty are universal values that all societies honour including the most ancient and illiterate societies. Caesar's withholding of information is clouding his legacy as one of the most powerful leaders of the Roman Empire. These values inspire whistleblowers such as Confoundtheirpolitix and Assange to pay the price of not being able to reunite with their families.

How are you demonstrating your commitment to the truth? Alternatively, are you like Caesar, economical about the truth? Are you withholding information to boost your own popularity?

• References

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