

Julius Caesar

3.2

Enter Brutus and Cassius, with the Plebeians

ALL THE PLEBEIANS

We will be satisfied! Let us be satisfied!

BRUTUS

Then follow me, and give me audience, friends.

(Aside to Cassius) Cassius, go you into the other street,
And part the numbers.

(To the Plebeians)

Those that will hear me speak, let 'em stay here; 5

Those that will follow Cassius, go with him;

And public reasons shall be rendered

Of Caesar's death.

Brutus ascends to the pulpit

FIRST PLEBEIAN I will hear Brutus speak.

SECOND PLEBEIAN

I will hear Cassius, and compare their reasons

When severally we hear them rendered. 10

Exit Cassius, with some Plebeians

[Enter] Brutus [above] in the pulpit

THIRD PLEBEIAN

The noble Brutus is ascended. Silence.

BRUTUS Be patient till the last.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers, hear me for my
cause, and be silent that you may hear. Believe me for
mine honour, and have respect to mine honour, that 15

you may believe. Censure me in your wisdom, and
awake your senses, that you may the better judge. If
there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of

Caesar's, to him I say that Brutus' love to Caesar was
no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus 20

rose against Caesar, this is my answer: not that I loved
Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you

rather Caesar were living, and die all slaves, than that
Caesar were dead, to live all free men? As Caesar loved

me, I weep for him. As he was fortunate, I rejoice at 25
it. As he was valiant, I honour him. But as he was

ambitious, I slew him. There is tears for his love, joy
for his fortune, honour for his valour, and death for
his ambition. Who is here so base that would be a
bondman? If any, speak, for him have I offended. Who
is here so rude that would not be a Roman? If any,
speak, for him have I offended. Who is here so vile that
will not love his country? If any, speak, for him have
I offended. I pause for a reply.

30

ALL THE PLEBEIANS None, Brutus, none. 35

BRUTUS Then none have I offended. I have done no more
to Caesar than you shall do to Brutus. The question of
his death is enrolled in the Capitol, his glory not
extenuated wherein he was worthy, nor his offences
enforced for which he suffered death. 40

*Enter Mark Antony, with [others bearing] Caesar's
body [in a coffin]*

Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony, who,
though he had no hand in his death, shall receive the
benefit of his dying: a place in the commonwealth±±as
which of you shall not? With this I depart: that as I
slew my best lover for the good of Rome, I have the 45
same dagger for myself when it shall please my country
to need my death.

ALL THE PLEBEIANS Live, Brutus, live, live!

FIRST PLEBEIAN

Bring him with triumph home unto his house.

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN

Give him a statue with his ancestors. 50

THIRD PLEBEIAN

Let him be Caesar.

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN Caesar's better parts

Shall be crowned in Brutus.

FIRST PLEBEIAN

We'll bring him to his house with shouts and
clamours.

BRUTUS

My countrymen.

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN Peace, silence. Brutus speaks.

FIRST PLEBEIAN Peace, ho! 55

BRUTUS

Good countrymen, let me depart alone,

And, for my sake, stay here with Antony.
Do grace to Caesar's corpse, and grace his speech
Tending to Caesar's glories, which Mark Antony,
By our permission, is allowed to make. 60
I do entreat you, not a man depart
Save I alone till Antony have spoke.

Exit

FIRST PLEBEIAN

Stay, ho, and let us hear Mark Antony.

THIRD PLEBEIAN

Let him go up into the public chair.
We'll hear him. Noble Antony, go up. 65

ANTONY

For Brutus' sake I am beholden to you.

Antony ascends to the pulpit

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN

What does he say of Brutus?

THIRD PLEBEIAN He says, for Brutus' sake

He finds himself beholden to us all.

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN

'Twere best he speak no harm of Brutus here!

FIRST PLEBEIAN

This Caesar was a tyrant.

THIRD PLEBEIAN Nay, that's certain. 70

We are blessed that Rome is rid of him.

[Enter] Antony in the pulpit

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN

Peace, let us hear what Antony can say.

ANTONY

You gentle Romans.

ALL THE PLEBEIANS Peace, ho! Let us hear him.

ANTONY

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears.
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. 75

The evil that men do lives after them;

The good is oft interred with their bones.

So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus

Hath told you Caesar was ambitious.

If it were so, it was a grievous fault, 80

And grievously hath Caesar answered it.

Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest±±

For Brutus is an honourable man,
 So are they all, all honourable men±±
 Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral. 85
 He was my friend, faithful and just to me.
 But Brutus says he was ambitious,
 And Brutus is an honourable man.
 He hath brought many captives home to Rome,
 Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill. 90
 Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?
 When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept.
 Ambition should be made of sterner stuff.
 Yet Brutus says he was ambitious,
 And Brutus is an honourable man. 95
 You all did see that on the Lupercal
 I thrice presented him a kingly crown,
 Which he did thrice refuse. Was this ambition?
 Yet Brutus says he was ambitious,
 And sure he is an honourable man. 100
 I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,
 But here I am to speak what I do know.
 You all did love him once, not without cause.
 What cause withholds you then to mourn for him?
 O judgement, thou art fled to brutish beasts, 105
 And men have lost their reason!

He weeps

Bear

with me.

My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
 And I must pause till it come back to me.

FIRST PLEBEIAN

Methinks there is much reason in his sayings.

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN

If thou consider rightly of the matter, 110
 Caesar has had great wrong.

THIRD PLEBEIAN

Has he not, masters?

I fear there will a worse come in his place.

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN

Marked ye his words? He would not take the crown,
 Therefore 'tis certain he was not ambitious.

FIRST PLEBEIAN

If it be found so, some will dear abide it. 115

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN
 Poor soul, his eyes are red as fire with weeping.

THIRD PLEBEIAN
 There's not a nobler man in Rome than Antony.

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN
 Now mark him; he begins again to speak.

ANTONY
 But yesterday the word of Caesar might
 Have stood against the world. Now lies he there, 120
 And none so poor to do him reverence.
 O masters, if I were disposed to stir
 Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,
 I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,
 Who, you all know, are honourable men. 125
 I will not do them wrong. I rather choose
 To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you,
 Than I will wrong such honourable men.
 But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar.
 I found it in his closet. 'Tis his will. 130
 Let but the commons hear this testament±±
 Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read±±
 And they would go and kiss dead Caesar's wounds,
 And dip their napkins in his sacred blood,
 Yea, beg a hair of him for memory, 135
 And, dying, mention it within their wills,
 Bequeathing it as a rich legacy
 Unto their issue.

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN
 We'll hear the will. Read it, Mark Antony.

ALL THE PLEBEIANS
 The will, the will! We will hear Caesar's will. 140

ANTONY
 Have patience, gentle friends, I must not read it.
 It is not meet you know how Caesar loved you.
 You are not wood, you are not stones, but men;
 And, being men, hearing the will of Caesar,
 It will inflame you, it will make you mad. 145
 'Tis good you know not that you are his heirs,
 For if you should, O what would come of it?

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN

Read the will. We'll hear it, Antony.
You shall read us the will, Caesar's will.

ANTONY

Will you be patient? Will you stay a while? 150

I have o'ershot myself to tell you of it.

I fear I wrong the honourable men

Whose daggers have stabbed Caesar; I do fear it.

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN They were traitors. Honourable men?

ALL THE PLEBEIANS The will, the testament! 155

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN They were villains, murderers. The
will, read the will!

ANTONY

You will compel me then to read the will?

Then make a ring about the corpse of Caesar,

And let me show you him that made the will. 160

Shall I descend? And will you give me leave?

ALL THE PLEBEIANS

Come down.

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN Descend.

THIRD PLEBEIAN You shall have leave.

Antony descends from the pulpit

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN

A ring.

Stand round.

FIRST PLEBEIAN Stand from the hearse. Stand from the body.

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN

Room for Antony, most noble Antony!

[Enter Antony below]

ANTONY

Nay, press not so upon me. Stand farre off. 165

ALL THE PLEBEIANS Stand back! Room! Bear back!

ANTONY

If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.

You all do know this mantle. I remember

The first time ever Caesar put it on.

'Twas on a summer's evening in his tent, 170

That day he overcame the Nervii.

Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through.

See what a rent the envious Casca made.

Through this the well-beloveÁd Brutus stabbed;

And as he plucked his curseÁd steel away, 175

Mark how the blood of Caesar followed it,
 As rushing out of doors to be resolved
 If Brutus so unkindly knocked or no±±
 For Brutus, as you know, was Caesar's angel.
 Judge, O you gods, how dearly Caesar loved him! 180
 This was the most unkindest cut of all.
 For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,
 Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms,
 Quite vanquished him. Then burst his mighty heart,
 And in his mantle muffling up his face, 185
 Even at the base of Pompey's statue,
 Which all the while ran blood, great Caesar fell.
 O, what a fall was there, my countrymen!
 Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,
 Whilst bloody treason flourished over us. 190
 O now you weep, and I perceive you feel
 The dint of pity. These are gracious drops.
 Kind souls, what, weep you when you but behold
 Our Caesar's vesture wounded? Look you here.
 Here is himself, marred, as you see, with traitors. 195
He uncovers Caesar's body

FIRST PLEBEIAN

O piteous spectacle!

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN O noble Caesar!

THIRD PLEBEIAN O woeful day!

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN

O traitors, villains!

FIRST PLEBEIAN O most bloody sight!

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN We will be revenged.

[ALL THE PLEBEIANS]

Revenge! About! Seek! Burn! Fire! Kill! Slay! 200

Let not a traitor live!

ANTONY Stay, countrymen.

FIRST PLEBEIAN Peace there, hear the noble Antony.

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN We'll hear him, we'll follow him, we'll
die with him!

ANTONY

Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up 205

To such a sudden flood of mutiny.

They that have done this deed are honourable.

What private griefs they have, alas, I know not,
That made them do it. They are wise and honourable,
And will no doubt with reasons answer you. 210

I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts.

I am no orator as Brutus is,

But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man
That love my friend; and that they know full well
That gave me public leave to speak of him.

For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,
Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech,
To stir men's blood. I only speak right on.

I tell you that which you yourselves do know,
Show you sweet Caesar's wounds, poor poor dumb
 mouths,

220

And bid them speak for me. But were I Brutus,
And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony
Would ruffle up your spirits, and put a tongue
In every wound of Caesar that should move
The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny.

ALL THE PLEBEIANS

We'll mutiny.

FIRST PLEBEIAN We'll burn the house of Brutus.

THIRD PLEBEIAN

Away then! Come, seek the conspirators.

ANTONY

Yet hear me, countrymen, yet hear me speak.

ALL THE PLEBEIANS

Peace, ho! Hear Antony, most noble Antony.

ANTONY

Why, friends, you go to do you know not what. 230

Wherein hath Caesar thus deserved your loves?

Alas, you know not. I must tell you then.

You have forgot the will I told you of.

ALL THE PLEBEIANS

Most true. The will. Let's stay and hear the will.

ANTONY

Here is the will, and under Caesar's seal. 235

To every Roman citizen he gives±±

To every several man±±seventy-five drachmas.

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN

Most noble Caesar! We'll revenge his death.

THIRD PLEBEIAN

O royal Caesar!

ANTONY Hear me with patience.

ALL THE PLEBEIANS

Peace, ho!

ANTONY

Moreover he hath left you all his walks, 240

His private arbours, and new-planted orchards,

On this side Tiber. He hath left them you,

And to your heirs for ever±±common pleasures

To walk abroad and recreate yourselves.

Here was a Caesar. When comes such another?

245

FIRST PLEBEIAN

Never, never! Come, away, away!

We'll burn his body in the holy place,

And with the brands fire the traitors' houses.

Take up the body.

[FOURTH] PLEBEIAN Go, fetch fire! 250

THIRD PLEBEIAN Pluck down benches!

[FIFTH] PLEBEIAN Pluck down forms, windows, anything!

Exeunt Plebeians [with Caesar's body]

ANTONY

Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot.

Take thou what course thou wilt.

Enter [Octavius'] Servant

How

now, fellow?

SERVANT

Sir, Octavius is already come to Rome.

255

ANTONY Where is he?

SERVANT

He and Lepidus are at Caesar's house.

ANTONY

And thither will I straight to visit him.

He comes upon a wish. Fortune is merry,

And in this mood will give us anything.

260

SERVANT

I heard him say Brutus and Cassius

Are rid like madmen through the gates of Rome.

ANTONY

Belike they had some notice of the people,

How I had moved them. Bring me to Octavius.

Exeunt