

## JULIUS CAESAR

[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 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 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 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.

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 same dagger for myself when it shall please my country to need my death. 47

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, hol

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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