

JULIUS CAESAR

Act 3 Scene 2

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, 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 interrèd 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,