



## **Julius Caesar**

### **Act I, scene 1**

- **On the morning of the triumph, the working-class Romans in holiday clothing throng everywhere to see the procession pass and to follow it to the place where games will be provided for entertainment. Two tribunes, Flavius and Marullus, enter and silence a group of the crowd. Flavius chides them for not being at work on a working day and bids them go home. He singles out a carpenter and questions him why would he be outside in celebrating clothes instead of being at work. Marullus, on the other hand, challenges a cobbler who with puns does cleverly answers the officer. Marullus addresses the throng and reminds them of their ingratitude. Flavius claims that they should weep and then instructs Marullus to remove the diadems Caesar has placed on the images and suggest that Caesar be restrained from enslaving the people of Rome.**
- **This scene shows us the revelation of the enmity towards Caesar's growing power. This will be pounded up with what Cassius will say about Caesar.**
- **This scene will always highlight the fickle nature of the mob. They once were in love with Pompey whom they considered their best leader until Caesar came. They have forgotten all about Pompey, and this, with the help of Shakespeare, who is a Master of psychology, would make us realize that the mob will play an important role in the story hence after.**
- **This scene also sheds light on the human nature. No matter how great one is, this human might fall drastically with ease.**

### **Act I, scene 2**

- **This scene opens when Caesar bids Anthony to hit Calpurnia with his hand as he passes in the race.**
- **Just as the procession is ordered to move again, a shrill voice from the crowd calls "Caesar", "Beware the Ides of March",**

then Caesar dismisses the man saying that he is but a dreamer.

- Stage is emptied, yet Brutus and Cassius for the latter stays exploiting the opportunity to tell the former of his attitude towards Caesar.
- As shouts are heard, Brutus unintentionally remarks that he is afraid that these shouts might signal Caesar's being offered the crown. On the spot, Cassius leads Brutus to acknowledge that although he loves Caesar, he can't accept having him King. This is the starting point for Cassius to sway Brutus into accepting the need to rid of the new King.
- With every shout Brutus becomes vulnerable and Cassius more courageous. Cassius suggests that Brutus be in Caesar's place and plays with family pride and honour to affect Brutus, who reaches a stage where he can't tolerate no more and bids Cassius to say no more as well. He promises to think over what Cassius has said and commits himself to the fact that he would rather be an exile than remain in Rome under a king.
- Anthony marks Caesar's ability to order, for he says has his will done upon the word. After the games are done, we see Caesar's doubt against Cassius; he declares that he fears people that are lean and have hungry faces, for they think too much. Anthony assures him that there is nothing to fear in Cassius, who, on hearing Caesar's remarks, increases his animosity towards Caesar and becomes more intent on fulfilling his purposes.
- By the end of this scene, we have Cassius left alone, and in his soliloquy, he notes his success in rousing Brutus against Caesar and claims that he can't assume leadership of the conspiracy because of Caesar's blatant (obvious) suspicions of him. He makes it clear that to commit Brutus even more, he will forge a number of letters against Caesar's growing ambition, signed by different citizens and will have them thrown in Brutus' house.
- This scene highlights the beginning of the conspiracy and traces its ramifications.

- It shows us Caesar's weaknesses, mainly his arrogance, superstitions and his fears.

### **Act I, scene 3**

**Thunder, lightning, and the strange behaviour of man and beast are used in this scene to foreshadow the forthcoming catastrophe. Casca is terrified by the severity of the storm during which he meets Cicero. He speaks of the storm and of all the frightful things he has witnessed during the night. His superstitions arouse fear which makes him believe that some evil is going to occur. Cicero admits that they are passing through strange times, asks whether Caesar will attend the Senate meeting the next morning, and then leaves the stage.**

**Cassius then appears and exploits Casca's fears and doubts to make him join up in the "honourable, dangerous" deed, and he succeeds with ease. Once Casca is won over, Cassius informs him that several men have already agreed to aid Cassius and that they are waiting for him in Pompey's porch. Cinna's footsteps are then heard, and Cassius prevents him from commenting on the storm by quickly giving him forged letters and telling him where to place them. When Cinna leaves to do so, Cassius asks Casca to accompany him to Brutus's house. This comforts Casca, for he believes that Brutus's involvement in the conspiracy will make it an honourable, patriotic deed instead of mere murder for jealousy.**

**This scene is significant for it sheds light on Cassius's cunning character, and his ability to manipulate and manage in convincing others. Besides, it's another event that helps in the rising of action.**