

Act 3, Scene 1

1. Caesar's Arrival at the Capitol

- Caesar enters the Capitol with the conspirators and other senators.
- The soothsayer is present, and Caesar reminds him that the Ides of March have come.
- The soothsayer replies that they have come but are not yet gone, hinting that danger still remains.
- Artemidorus attempts to hand Caesar a letter revealing the conspiracy.
- Caesar refuses to read it immediately, stating that matters concerning Rome must be addressed before personal concerns.
- This moment highlights Caesar's pride and overconfidence.

2. The Petition of Metellus Cimber

- Metellus Cimber approaches Caesar and kneels before him.
- He petitions Caesar to revoke the banishment of his brother, Publius Cimber.
- Brutus, Cassius, and other conspirators also kneel, pretending to support the request.
- Caesar refuses firmly and declares that he is as constant as the "Northern Star."
- He asserts that he does not change his decisions easily, reinforcing his image of authority and permanence.

3. The Assassination

- Casca strikes the first blow against Caesar.
- The other conspirators quickly join in, stabbing him repeatedly.
- Brutus stabs Caesar last.
- On seeing Brutus among the attackers, Caesar utters the famous words, "Et tu, Brute? Then fall, Caesar."
- Caesar collapses and dies at the foot of Pompey's statue, symbolizing political irony since Pompey was once his rival.

4. The Conspirators Justify Their Act

- After the murder, the conspirators shout for "Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!"
- Brutus explains that Caesar was killed for the good of Rome.
- He claims that they acted not out of hatred but out of love for the Republic.
- The conspirators smear their hands and swords with Caesar's blood as a symbolic act.
- Brutus suggests that future generations will remember this as a noble deed.

5. Antony's Reaction

- Antony's servant enters and asks whether Antony will be safe if he comes to speak with them.
- Brutus assures the servant that Antony will not be harmed.
- Antony enters, expresses grief for Caesar, and speaks respectfully to the conspirators.
- He shakes hands with them, though inwardly he is disturbed and angry.
- Antony cleverly maintains a calm and diplomatic tone.

6. Antony's Request to Speak

- Antony asks for permission to speak at Caesar's funeral.
- Cassius objects, fearing Antony's influence over the people.
- Brutus overrules Cassius and allows Antony to speak, on the condition that he does not blame the conspirators.
- Brutus insists that he will speak first and explain their reasons to the public.

7. Antony Alone with Caesar's Body

- After the conspirators leave, Antony reveals his true feelings.
- He mourns Caesar sincerely and condemns the conspirators privately.
- He predicts that civil war, chaos, and bloodshed will follow.
- He declares that Caesar's spirit will seek revenge.
- This speech foreshadows the violent unrest that will soon engulf Rome.

Significance of the Scene

- This scene marks the central turning point of the play.
- Caesar's assassination fulfills the conspiracy but initiates political instability.
- Brutus's tragic flaw becomes evident in his idealism and misjudgment of Antony.
- Antony's intelligence and strategic thinking are revealed.
- The scene sets the stage for Antony's powerful funeral speech in Act 3, Scene 2.

Important Questions

1. "Et tu, Brute? Then fall, Caesar."

Explain the significance of this line in the context of the scene.

2. How does Shakespeare portray Caesar's pride and overconfidence in Act 3, Scene 1?

The refusal to read Artemidorus' letter and the "Northern Star" speech are commonly tested to explore Caesar's tragic flaw.

3. Why does Brutus allow Mark Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral? Was this decision wise?

4. How does Mark Antony reveal his true intentions after the conspirators leave?

**5. Why is Act 3, Scene 1 considered the turning point of the play?
Discuss.**

Caesar's death, Brutus's tragic flaw, Antony's rise, and the beginning of chaos in Rome.