

# 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.