

Act 3, Scene 2

1. Setting and Purpose

- The scene takes place in the **Forum of Rome**, soon after Caesar's assassination in Act 3, Scene 1.
- A large crowd of Roman citizens gather to hear **Brutus** speak first.
- Brutus and Mark Antony both want to justify their actions and gain the support of the people.

2. Brutus's Speech

- Brutus begins by addressing the Roman crowd with calm logic.
- He explains that although he loved Caesar, he loved **Rome more**.
- Brutus claims Caesar was ambitious and that ambition would have enslaved Rome.
- He argues that killing Caesar was necessary to preserve freedom.
- He uses reason and appeals to Roman patriotism rather than emotion.
- The crowd responds positively and begins to support him.
- They shout that Brutus should be the next ruler.

3. Antony's Entrance and Strategy

- Mark Antony enters timidly, stating he has come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
- He asks permission from Brutus and the conspirators to speak after Brutus.
- Brutus agrees, believing that Antony will not harm their cause if he speaks last.
- Antony asks the crowd to listen with respect.

4. Antony's Funeral Oration

- Antony begins with the famous opening: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears."
- Unlike Brutus, Antony appeals to **emotion**, not logic.
- He repeatedly refers to Brutus as "an honourable man," but uses it ironically to cast doubt on Brutus's motives.
- Antony presents Caesar's will to the people, revealing Caesar left money and public parks to the citizens.
- He shows Caesar's bloodied cloak and points out the stab wounds.
- Each time Antony mentions the conspirators' names, the crowd reacts with horror.

5. Change in Crowd Mood

- The mood of the crowd shifts from calm acceptance to grief and fury.
- Antony's speech turns the citizens against the conspirators.
- The crowd becomes hostile and calls for vengeance.

- They shout that they want to see Caesar's body and honor him with funeral rites.

6. Conclusion of the Scene

- The crowd becomes unruly and violent.
- The Roman citizens vow to hunt down the conspirators.
- This speech marks the beginning of public outrage and civil conflict.
- The scene ends with the crowd's growing anger and a clear turning point in the play.

Important Questions

1. Explain how Antony's speech in Act 3, Scene 2 turns the crowd against Brutus and the conspirators.

2. Compare and contrast the speeches of Brutus and Antony in Act 3, Scene 2.

3. How does Antony use Caesar's will to influence the Roman crowd?

4. Explain the significance of the opening line of Antony's speech, "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears."

5. Why can Act 3, Scene 2 be considered a turning point in *Julius Caesar*?

-the shift in public support, and the dramatic consequences that follow.