

Act 4, Scene 3

1) Setting: Brutus's tent at Sardis

- The quarrel that began in the previous scene continues, but now it happens **privately**, away from the soldiers.
- This is important because it shows the conspirators' unity is cracking from within, even before the final battle.

2) The Brutus–Cassius quarrel: honour vs practicality

- **Brutus accuses Cassius** of behaving dishonourably, mainly about **taking bribes** and allowing corruption.
- Brutus is angry because he believes their cause was meant to be noble, and corruption makes their fight look hypocritical.
- **Cassius feels insulted and betrayed**, and he becomes emotional and defensive. He even suggests Brutus is treating him like an enemy.
- Their argument reveals their different natures:
 - Brutus: moral idealism, strict principles
 - Cassius: practical politics, easily hurt, quick temper

3) The Poet's interruption: a warning about unity

- A Poet rushes in and tries to stop the fight, warning them that **internal conflict will ruin their cause**.
- Both Brutus and Cassius reject him and send him away.
- The interruption works like a signal to the audience: the conspiracy is collapsing because the leaders cannot stay united.

4) Reconciliation: friendship restored, but tension remains

- After the anger peaks, the two men calm down.
- They speak more honestly, and the scene shifts from hostility to reconciliation.
- Cassius admits he is prone to anger; Brutus softens, and they **make peace**.
- This matters because it shows:
 - Their friendship is real
 - But the cracks in leadership and judgment are still there

5) Major news from Rome: the cost of civil war

- Messala arrives with updates from Rome:
 - The new rulers have **executed many senators**.
 - **Cicero has been killed**, showing how ruthless the new regime has become.
- Then Brutus reveals a personal tragedy:
 - **Portia is dead**.
 - Brutus controls his grief and speaks with restraint, showing his stoic nature.

- The news adds emotional weight and makes the coming battle feel unavoidable.

6) Strategy debate: whether to march to Philippi

- Brutus and Cassius argue again, but this time it is about military strategy:
 - Cassius prefers to **wait** and let the enemy come, weakening them over distance.
 - Brutus insists they should **march to Philippi**, believing they must seize opportunity and not allow the enemy time to grow stronger.
- Brutus wins the argument, and they decide to move toward Philippi.
- This decision becomes a major turning point, because it leads directly to the final battles in Act 5.

7) Night scene: Brutus's loneliness and Caesar's ghost

- After Cassius leaves, Brutus remains in his tent with his servants.
- He asks Lucius to play music; Lucius becomes sleepy and falls asleep.
- Brutus tries to rest, but then **Caesar's ghost appears**.
- The ghost tells him he will see him again **at Philippi**.
- Brutus wakes his men, but they saw nothing—suggesting the ghost is a symbol of:
 - Brutus's guilt and conscience
 - Fate closing in
 - The consequences of Caesar's murder returning to claim him

Important Questions

1. How does the quarrel between Brutus and Cassius reveal their contrasting personalities and leadership styles?
2. What is the significance of the Poet's interruption? How does it connect to the theme of unity and failure of the conspirators?
3. How does Brutus react to Portia's death, and what does this reveal about his character and values?
4. Explain the debate about marching to Philippi. Why does Brutus insist on marching, and how does this decision shape the later events?
5. What is the dramatic significance of Caesar's ghost appearing to Brutus? What does it symbolize, and why is the message about Philippi important?