

Act 5, Scene 4

1) Setting: The battle continues, Brutus's side is under pressure

- The fighting at Philippi is still going on, but Brutus's forces are now struggling.
- This scene shows how the tide is turning against Brutus after earlier shifts in the battle.

2) Lucilius is captured

- Lucilius (Brutus's loyal officer) is captured by Antony's soldiers.
- To protect Brutus, Lucilius pretends that **he is Brutus**, hoping the enemy will stop searching for the real Brutus.

3) Loyalty and sacrifice: Lucilius's noble deception

- Lucilius's lie is not selfish—it is a deliberate act of sacrifice.
- His goal is to buy time and keep Brutus safe, even if it costs Lucilius his own life.
- This highlights the theme of **honour and devotion**, contrasting with the earlier betrayals in Rome.

4) Antony's reaction: respect for true honour

- When Antony arrives, the truth comes out that Lucilius is not Brutus.
- Instead of killing him, Antony admires Lucilius's loyalty and courage.
- Antony orders that Lucilius be treated well, showing Antony can recognise and respect honour even in an enemy.

5) Scene purpose: Brutus's isolation grows

- This episode makes it clear that Brutus is now increasingly alone.
- His supporters are being captured, and his chances of victory are fading.
- The scene builds toward the final moment when Brutus will choose death rather than capture.

Important Questions

1. Why does Lucilius pretend to be Brutus? What does this reveal about his loyalty and character?
2. How does Antony treat Lucilius after discovering the truth, and what does this show about Antony's nature?
3. How does Act 5, Scene 4 highlight the themes of honour and sacrifice in the play?
4. Explain how this scene increases the sense of Brutus's isolation and approaching defeat.
5. "True honour is recognised even by enemies." Discuss this idea with

reference to Antony's response in this scene.