

# Brutus and Cassius Ideologies

## Overview: Same Aim, Different Ideologies

- Both oppose Caesar to stop his rise in power
- Brutus is guided by honour, ethics, and saving the Republic
- Cassius is driven by political calculation, rivalry, and practical strategy
- Their ideological clash shapes the conspiracy and contributes to failure

## Point 1: Fundamental Motive

- Brutus: Patriotism and moral duty; chooses Rome over personal friendship
  - Quote: "Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more."
- Cassius: Jealousy and rivalry; resents Caesar's godlike image and king-like status; feels overshadowed and threatened

## Point 2: Attitude Towards Caesar

- Brutus: Opposes the potential tyrant, not Caesar as a person; acts on what Caesar might become
- Cassius: Personally dislikes Caesar; highlights Caesar's weaknesses to show he is unworthy of absolute power

## Point 3: Principles vs Practical Politics

- Brutus: Idealist; insists on moral purity and a "noble" appearance of the act
  - Quote: "Let us be sacrificers, but not butchers."
- Cassius: Realist; prioritises results, survival, and securing power after Caesar's death

## Point 4: Use of Manipulation

- Brutus: Avoids manipulation; joins only after convincing himself it is ethically justified
- Cassius: Uses manipulation openly; flattery, emotional pressure, and forged letters to win Brutus; knows Brutus's honour gives legitimacy to the plot

## Point 5: Treatment of Antony

- Brutus: Refuses to kill Antony; sees it as immoral and unnecessary; underestimates political danger
- Cassius: Wants Antony killed; understands Antony's influence and the risk of leaving a powerful opponent alive

### **Point 6: Logic vs Mass Psychology**

- Brutus: Trusts reason and noble intentions; believes the public will accept logic; allows Antony to speak
- Cassius: Understands crowd psychology; knows emotions and oratory can flip public opinion; fear proves true when Antony turns the mob

### **Conclusion: Why Their Ideologies Matter**

- Brutus represents moral idealism and republican honour
- Cassius represents political realism shaped by rivalry and strategy
- Brutus's noble intentions weaken due to poor political judgment
- Cassius's practicality weakens due to envy and manipulation
- Their internal clash becomes a key reason the conspiracy collapses