
BRUTUS - ACT FIVE

Character Development

RESOLUTE

- Before the battle, Cassius asks Brutus what he will do if they lose. Will he allow himself to be 'led in triumph / Through the streets of Rome?'
 - Brutus answers that he will not. He uses the third party when referring to himself here, perhaps showing a rather high opinion of his own importance.
 - 'Think not, thou noble Roman, / That ever Brutus will go bound to Rome. / He bears too great a mind.'
 - Brutus accepts that he and Cassius may die in battle.
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THINGS FALL APART...

- Cassius has taken his own life (with the help of Titinius) and Brutus sees Caesar's influence in all that is going wrong.
 - 'O Julius Caesar: thou art mighty yet. / Thy spirit walks abroad...'
 - Brutus and the others may have killed Caesar, but they have not achieved the results they hoped for by doing so.
 - Brutus plans to mourn Cassius properly when he has time.
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ALL HOPE HAS GONE

- Brutus realises the war is over and he has lost. He asks his fellow soldiers to kill him, but they cannot bring themselves to do it.
 - Brutus decides to take his own life, claiming that he is dying with more honour than Octavius and Mark Antony have won with their 'vile conquest'.
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FAILURE

- Brutus dies by running on his sword while Strato holds it.
 - He realises now that Caesar has won, in a way, and that Brutus' death is Caesar's revenge.
 - Brutus is more enthusiastic about killing himself than he was about killing Caesar. With his death, Caesar's spirit can rest.
 - 'Caesar, now be still. / I killed not thee with half so good a will.'
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THE NOBLEST ROMAN



- Antony says that Brutus was nobler than the rest of the conspirators and acted out of the best of intentions. The others were simply envious of Caesar.
 - Antony's words show that Brutus deserves to be remembered as an honourable man.
 - Octavius agrees, and says that Brutus must be buried with full honours.
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