



Mark Antony's Funeral Oration in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar"

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Monday, Aug. 9 at 7:00 PM EDT

Course Description:

Our lives today would be immeasurably different if a speech delivered in 44 BCE by a Roman general, known to be a reveler, over the assassinated body of his friend, a colossal empire-builder, was not successful in turning the plebian crowds into violent mobs. Mark Antony's funeral oration over Caesar's stabbed body, as brought to life by Shakespeare, is certainly one of the most masterful displays of histrionic rhetoric in the English language. Antony converts a population of citizens, previously disposed to bury Caesar once and for all and support Brutus in his crusade to restore the free Roman republic, into passionate partisans bent on revenge for Caesar's murder and resumption of his kingly beneficence, ending, once and for all, Roman liberties. What lessons can we learn from this decisive moment in history, when people were moved to serve their passions and material ambitions, rather than their noblest spiritual callings? For had those crowds not been won over by Antony's stirring oration, Caesarism might have ended there, and the founders of the American republic should have learned different lessons from the Roman example of how to maintain itself, given our common human lot in nature. Anyone who would assume importance on the stage of history could not ask for better immersion into the springs and issues of human action than Shakespeare's plays, of which "Julius Caesar," with this speech by Mark Antony at its center, stands out boldly apropos.

Guiding Questions:

1. How would you characterize the rhetorical mode of Brutus's speech? Likewise, how would you characterize the rhetorical modes of Antony?
2. How do the characters of the speakers, Brutus and Antony, manifest themselves in their manners of speaking?
3. How does Shakespeare give character to the crowd?
4. If you were present in that crowd, how would you respond to these two speeches?
5. Can a republic be constituted with people of this kind?

Background Reading:

Plutarch, *Life of Antony*

14. This was done as planned, and Caesar fell in the senate-chamber. At once, then, Antony put on the dress of a slave and hid himself. But when he learned that the conspirators were laying hands upon nobody, but were merely assembled together on the Capitol, he persuaded them to come down by giving them his son as hostage; moreover, he himself entertained Cassius, and Lepidus entertained Brutus. [2] Besides, he called the senate together and spoke in favour of amnesty and a distribution of provinces among Brutus and Cassius and their partisans, and the senate ratified this proposal, and voted that no change should be made in what Caesar had done. So Antony went out of the senate the most illustrious of men; for he was thought to have put an end to civil war, and to have handled matters involving great difficulty and extraordinary confusion in a most prudent and statesmanlike manner.

[3] From such considerations as these, however, he was soon shaken by the repute in which he stood with the multitude, and he had hopes that he would surely be first in the state if Brutus were overthrown. Now, it happened that when Caesar's body was carried forth for burial, Antony pronounced the customary eulogy over it in the forum. And when he saw that the people were mightily swayed and charmed by his words, he mingled with his praises sorrow and indignation over the dreadful deed, and at the close of his speech shook on high the garments of the dead, all bloody and tattered by the swords as they were, [4] called those who had wrought such work villains and murderers, and inspired his hearers with such rage that they heaped together benches and tables and burned Caesar's body in the forum, and then, snatching the blazing faggots from the pyre, ran to the houses of the assassins and assaulted them.

From Plutarch. *Plutarch's Lives*, with an English Translation by Bernadotte Perrin. Cambridge, MA. Harvard University Press. London. William Heinemann Ltd. 1920. 9.

Plutarch, "Life of Brutus"

18 1 Caesar thus slain, Brutus went out into the middle of the session-room and tried to speak, and p165 would have detained the senators there with encouraging words; but they fled in terror and confusion, and there was a tumultuous crowding at the door, although no one pressed upon them in pursuit. 2 It had been firmly decided not to kill any one else, but to summon all to the enjoyment of liberty. 3 All the rest of the conspirators, indeed, when they were discussing their enterprise, had been minded to kill Antony as well as Caesar, since he was a lawless man and in favour of a monarchy, and had acquired strength by familiar association with the soldiery; and particularly because to his natural arrogance and ambition he had added the dignity of the consulship, and was at that time a colleague of Caesar. 4 But Brutus opposed the plan, insisting in the first place on a just course, and besides, holding out a hope of a change of heart in Antony. 5 For he would not give up the belief that Antony, who was a man of good parts, ambitious, and a lover of fame, if once Caesar were out of the way, would assist his country in attaining her liberty, when their example had induced him to follow emulously the nobler course. 6 Thus Antony's life was saved by Brutus; but in the fear which then reigned, he put on a plebeian dress and took to flight.

7 And now Brutus and his associates went up to the Capitol, their hands smeared with blood, and displaying their naked daggers they exhorted the citizens to assert their liberty. 8 At first, then, there were cries of terror, and the tumult was increased by wild hurryings to and fro which succeeded the disaster; 9 but since there were no further murders and no plundering of property, the senators and many of the common people took heart and went up to p167 the men on the Capitol. 10 When the multitude was assembled there, Brutus made a speech calculated to win the people and befitting the occasion. 11 The audience applauding his words and crying down to him to come down from the Capitol, the conspirators took heart and went down into the forum. The rest of them followed along in one another's company, but Brutus was surrounded by many eminent citizens, escorted with great honour down from the citadel, and placed on the rostra. 12 At sight of him the multitude, although it was a mixed rabble and prepared to raise a disturbance, was struck with awe, and awaited the issue in decorous silence. 13 Also when he came forward to speak, all paid quiet attention to his words; but that all were not pleased with what had been done was made manifest when Cinna began to speak and to denounce Caesar. The multitude broke into a rage and reviled Cinna so bitterly that the conspirators withdrew again to the Capitol. 14 There Brutus, who feared that they would be besieged, sent away the most eminent of those who had come up with them, not deeming it right that they should incur the danger too, since they had no share in the guilt.

19 1 However, on the following day the senate met in the temple of Tellus, and Antony, Plancus, and Cicero spoke in favour of amnesty and concord. It was then voted not only that the conspirators should have immunity, but also that the consuls should lay before the people a measure to pay them honours. After passing these votes, the senate broke up. 2 Then, when Antony had sent his son to the Capitol as a hostage, Brutus and his associates came down, and there were salutations and greetings for p169 all without discrimination. 3 Cassius was taken home and entertained by Antony, Brutus by Lepidus, and the rest by their several comrades or friends. 4 Early next morning the senate assembled again. In the first place, they gave a vote of thanks to Antony for having stopped an incipient civil war; next, they passed a vote of commendation for the followers of Brutus who were present; and finally, they distributed the provinces. 5 It was voted that Brutus should have Crete, Cassius Africa, Trebonius Asia, Cimber Bithynia, and the other Brutus Cisalpine Gaul.

20 1 After this, the subjects of Caesar's will and of his burial came up for discussion. Antony demanded that the will should be read publicly, and that the body should be carried forth to burial, not secretly, nor without honours, lest this also should exasperate the people. Cassius, indeed, vehemently opposed these measures, but Brutus yielded and agreed to them, thus making a second mistake, as was thought. 2 For by sparing Antony's life as he had done he incurred the charge of raising up against the conspirators a bitter and formidable foe; and now, in allowing Caesar's funeral rites to be conducted as Antony demanded, he committed a fatal error. 3 For, in the first place, when it was found that the will of Caesar gave to every Roman seventy-five drachmas, and left to the people his gardens beyond the Tiber, where now stands a temple of Fortune, an astonishing kindness and yearning for Caesar seized the citizens; 4 and in the second place, after Caesar's body had been brought to the forum, Antony pronounced the customary eulogy, and when he saw that the multitude were moved by his words, changed his tone to one of compassion, p171 and taking the robe of Caesar, all bloody as it was, unfolded it to view, pointing out the many places in which it had been pierced and Caesar wounded. 5 All further orderly procedure was at an end, of course; some cried out to kill the murderers, and others, as formerly in the case of Clodius the demagogue,²² dragged from the shops the benches and tables, piled them upon one another, and thus erected a huge pyre; 6 on this they placed Caesar's body, and in the midst of many sanctuaries, asylums, and holy places, burned

it. 7 Moreover, when the fire blazed up, people rushed up from all sides, snatched up half-burnt brands, and ran round to the houses of Caesar's slayers to set them on fire.

These men, indeed, having previously barricaded themselves well, repelled the danger; 8 but there was a certain Cinna, a poet, who had no share in the crime, but was actually a friend of Caesar's. 9 This man dreamed that he was invited to supper by Caesar and declined to go, but that Caesar besought and constrained him, and finally took him by the hand and led him into a yawning and darksome place, whither he followed unwilling and bewildered. 10 After having this vision, he fell into a fever which lasted all night; but in the morning, nevertheless, when the funeral rites were held over Caesar's body, he was ashamed not to be present, and went out into the crowd when it was already becoming savage. 11 He was seen, however, and being thought to be, not the Cinna that he really was, but the one who had recently reviled Caesar before the assembled people, he was torn in pieces.

From Plutarch, *Parallel Lives*, Loeb classical edition, 1918

“Julius Caesar”

William Shakespeare

(see explanatory endnotes)

1599

ACT III SCENE II *The Forum.*

Enter BRUTUS and CASSIUS, and a throng of Citizens.

Citizens

We will be satisfied; let us be satisfied.

BRUTUS

Then follow me, and give me audience, friends.

Cassius, go you into the other street,

And part the numbers.

Those that will hear me speak, let 'em stay here;

5

Those that will follow Cassius, go with him;

And public reasons shall be rendered

Of Caesar's death.

First Citizen

I will hear Brutus speak.

Second Citizen

I will hear Cassius; and compare their reasons,

When severally we hear them rendered.

10

Exit CASSIUS, with some of the Citizens. BRUTUS goes into the pulpit.

Third Citizen

The noble Brutus is ascended: silence!

BRUTUS

Be patient till the last.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers! hear me for my cause, and be silent, that you may hear: believe me for mine honour, and have respect to mine honour, that you may believe: censure me in your wisdom, and awake your senses, that you may the better judge. If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: --Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men? As Caesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honour him: but, as he was ambitious, I slew him. There is tears for his love; joy for his fortune; honour for his valour; and death for his ambition. Who is here so base that would be a bondman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so rude that would not be a Roman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so vile that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

33

All

None, Brutus, none.

BRUTUS

Then none have I offended. I have done no more to Caesar than you shall do to Brutus. The question of his death is enrolled in the Capitol; his glory not extenuated, wherein he was worthy, nor his offences enforced, for which he suffered death.

39

Enter ANTONY and others, with CAESAR's body.

Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony: who,
though he had no hand in his death, shall receive
the benefit of his dying, a place in the
commonwealth; as which of you shall not? With this
I depart,--that, as I slew my best lover for the
good of Rome, I have the same dagger for myself,
when it shall please my country to need my death. 46

All Live, Brutus! live, live!

First Citizen Bring him with triumph home unto his house.

Second Citizen Give him a statue with his ancestors.

Third Citizen Let him be Caesar.

Fourth Citizen Caesar's better parts 50
Shall be crown'd in Brutus.

First Citizen We'll bring him to his house
With shouts and clamours.

BRUTUS My countrymen,--

Second Citizen Peace, silence! Brutus speaks.

First Citizen Peace, ho!

BRUTUS Good countrymen, let me depart alone, 55
And, for my sake, stay here with Antony:
Do grace to Caesar's corpse, and grace his speech
Tending to Caesar's glories; which Mark Antony,
By our permission, is allow'd to make.
I do entreat you, not a man depart, 60
Save I alone, till Antony have spoke.

Exit

First Citizen Stay, ho! and let us hear Mark Antony.

Third Citizen Let him go up into the public chair;
We'll hear him. Noble Antony, go up.

ANTONY For Brutus' sake, I am beholding to you. 65

Goes into the pulpit

Fourth Citizen What does he say of Brutus?

Third Citizen He says, for Brutus' sake,
He finds himself beholding to us all.

Fourth Citizen 'Twere best he speak no harm of Brutus here.

First Citizen This Caesar was a tyrant.

Third Citizen Nay, that's certain:
We are blest that Rome is rid of him. 70

Second Citizen Peace! let us hear what Antony can say.

ANTONY You gentle Romans,--

Citizens Peace, ho! let us hear him.

ANTONY Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them; 75
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it. 80
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest--
For Brutus is an honourable man;
So are they all, all honourable men--
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.
He was my friend, faithful and just to me: 85
But Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.
He hath brought many captives home to Rome
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:
Did this in Caesar seem ambitious? 90
When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
 And Brutus is an honourable man.
 You all did see that on the Lupercal 95
 I thrice presented him a kingly crown,
 Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?
 Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
 And, sure, he is an honourable man.
 I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke, 100
 But here I am to speak what I do know.
 You all did love him once, not without cause:
 What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him?
 O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts,
 And men have lost their reason. Bear with me; 105
 My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
 And I must pause till it come back to me.
 First Citizen Methinks there is much reason in his sayings.
 Second Citizen If thou consider rightly of the matter,
 Caesar has had great wrong.
 Third Citizen Has he, masters? 110
 I fear there will a worse come in his place.
 Fourth Citizen Mark'd ye his words? He would not take the crown;
 Therefore 'tis certain he was not ambitious.
 First Citizen If it be found so, some will dear abide it.
 Second Citizen Poor soul! his eyes are red as fire with weeping.
 Third Citizen There's not a nobler man in Rome than Antony. 116
 Fourth Citizen Now mark him, he begins again to speak.
 ANTONY But yesterday the word of Caesar might
 Have stood against the world; now lies he there.
 And none so poor to do him reverence. 120
 O masters, if I were disposed to stir
 Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,

I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,
Who, you all know, are honourable men:
I will not do them wrong; I rather choose 125
To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you,
Than I will wrong such honourable men.
But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar;
I found it in his closet, 'tis his will:
Let but the commons hear this testament-- 130
Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read--
And they would go and kiss dead Caesar's wounds
And dip their napkins in his sacred blood,
Yea, beg a hair of him for memory,
And, dying, mention it within their wills, 135
Bequeathing it as a rich legacy
Unto their issue.

Fourth Citizen We'll hear the will: read it, Mark Antony.
All The will, the will! we will hear Caesar's will.

ANTONY Have patience, gentle friends, I must not read it;
It is not meet you know how Caesar loved you. 141
You are not wood, you are not stones, but men;
And, being men, bearing the will of Caesar,
It will inflame you, it will make you mad:
'Tis good you know not that you are his heirs;
For, if you should, O, what would come of it! 145

Fourth Citizen Read the will; we'll hear it, Antony;
You shall read us the will, Caesar's will.

ANTONY Will you be patient? will you stay awhile?
I have o'ershot myself to tell you of it: 150
I fear I wrong the honourable men
Whose daggers have stabb'd Caesar; I do fear it.

Fourth Citizen They were traitors: honourable men!

All	The will! the testament!	
Second Citizen	They were villains, murderers: the will! read the will.	155
ANTONY	You will compel me, then, to read the will? Then make a ring about the corpse of Caesar, And let me show you him that made the will. Shall I descend? and will you give me leave?	160
Several Citizens	Come down.	
Second Citizen	Descend.	
Third Citizen	You shall have leave. <i>ANTONY comes down.</i>	
Fourth Citizen	A ring; stand round.	
First Citizen	Stand from the hearse, stand from the body.	
Second Citizen	Room for Antony, most noble Antony.	166
ANTONY	Nay, press not so upon me; stand far off.	
Several Citizens	Stand back; room; bear back.	
ANTONY	If you have tears, prepare to shed them now. You all do know this mantle: I remember The first time ever Caesar put it on; 'Twas on a summer's evening, in his tent, That day he overcame the Nervii: Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through: See what a rent the envious Casca made: Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd; And as he pluck'd his cursed steel away, Mark how the blood of Caesar follow'd it, As rushing out of doors, to be resolved If Brutus so unkindly knock'd, or no; For Brutus, as you know, was Caesar's angel: Judge, O you gods, how dearly Caesar loved him! This was the most unkindest cut of all; For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,	170 175 180

	Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms,	185
	Quite vanquish'd him: then burst his mighty heart;	
	And, in his mantle muffling up his face,	
	Even at the base of Pompey's statua,	
	Which all the while ran blood, great Caesar fell.	
	O, what a fall was there, my countrymen!	190
	Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,	
	Whilst bloody treason flourish'd over us.	
	O, now you weep; and, I perceive, you feel	
	The dint of pity: these are gracious drops.	
	Kind souls, what, weep you when you but behold	195
	Our Caesar's vesture wounded? Look you here,	
	Here is himself, marr'd, as you see, with traitors.	
First Citizen	O piteous spectacle!	
Second Citizen	O noble Caesar!	
Third Citizen	O woful day!	200
Fourth Citizen	O traitors, villains!	
First Citizen	O most bloody sight!	
Second Citizen	We will be revenged.	
All	Revenge! About! Seek! Burn! Fire! Kill! Slay!	
	Let not a traitor live!	
ANTONY	Stay, countrymen.	205
First Citizen	Peace there! hear the noble Antony.	
Second Citizen	We'll hear him, we'll follow him, we'll die with him.	
ANTONY	Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up	
	To such a sudden flood of mutiny.	
	They that have done this deed are honourable:	210
	What private griefs they have, alas, I know not,	
	That made them do it: they are wise and honourable,	
	And will, no doubt, with reasons answer you.	215
	I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts:	

I am no orator, as Brutus is;
 But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man,
 That love my friend; and that they know full well
 That gave me public leave to speak of him: 220
 For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,
 Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech,
 To stir men's blood: I only speak right on;
 I tell you that which you yourselves do know;
 Show you sweet Caesar's wounds, poor poor dumb mouths,
 And bid them speak for me: but were I Brutus, 226
 And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony
 Would ruffle up your spirits and put a tongue
 In every wound of Caesar that should move
 The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny. 230
 All We'll mutiny.
 First Citizen We'll burn the house of Brutus.
 Third Citizen Away, then! come, seek the conspirators.
 ANTONY Yet hear me, countrymen; yet hear me speak.
 All Peace, ho! Hear Antony. Most noble Antony!
 ANTONY Why, friends, you go to do you know not what:
 Wherein hath Caesar thus deserved your loves?
 Alas, you know not: I must tell you then:
 You have forgot the will I told you of.
 All Most true. The will! Let's stay and hear the will. 240
 ANTONY Here is the will, and under Caesar's seal.
 To every Roman citizen he gives,
 To every several man, seventy-five drachmas.
 Second Citizen Most noble Caesar! We'll revenge his death.
 Third Citizen O royal Caesar!
 ANTONY Hear me with patience.
 All Peace, ho!

ANTONY Moreover, he hath left you all his walks,
His private arbours and new-planted orchards,
On this side Tiber; he hath left them you, 250
And to your heirs for ever, common pleasures,
To walk abroad, and recreate yourselves.
Here was a Caesar! when comes such another?

First Citizen Never, never. Come, away, away!
We'll burn his body in the holy place, 255
And with the brands fire the traitors' houses.
Take up the body.

Second Citizen Go fetch fire.

Third Citizen Pluck down benches.

Fourth Citizen Pluck down forms, windows, any thing.
Exeunt Citizens with the body.

ANTONY Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot, 261
Take thou what course thou wilt!
Enter a Servant
How now, fellow!

Servant Sir, Octavius is already come to Rome.

ANTONY Where is he?

Servant He and Lepidus are at Caesar's house.

ANTONY And thither will I straight to visit him:
He comes upon a wish. Fortune is merry,
And in this mood will give us any thing.

Servant I heard him say, Brutus and Cassius 269
Are rid like madmen through the gates of Rome.

ANTONY Belike they had some notice of the people,
How I had moved them. Bring me to Octavius.
Exeunt

Explanatory Notes for Act 3, Scene 2

From *Julius Caesar*. Ed. Samuel Thurber. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

ACT III

Scene 2

The scene of the famous speeches to the citizens of Rome, -- two of the most widely known passages in all Shakespeare. Notice that Brutus speaks with studied plainness of manner, disdaining oratorical tricks and presenting his case with fewest possible words. He believes that his cause is plainly right and needs no defence. He tries to seem to have brought no passion to his deed as assassin. Antony, on the contrary, uses all the tricks of a mob leader. He is overwhelmed with grief and apologizes for his emotion, which, however, he displays before the people with clever effect. He evidently understands his audience better than does Brutus.

It is still the ides of March, a few hours perhaps after Caesar's death. Up to this point the conspirators have carried everything before them, but in this scene the tide turns and the spirit of Caesar begins to work out its revenge.

4. part the numbers: divide the crowd.

7. And public reasons, etc.: And reasons for Caesar's death shall be publicly set forth.

11. is ascended. We should say "has ascended." The poet frequently uses forms of "be" with verbs that today take "have," as later (V, 3, 25) "my life *is* run his compass."

13. lovers: friends, -- as often in Shakespeare. So in 44 below, "I slew my best *lover*" and "Thy *lover* Artemidorus" (II, 3, 8).

15. have respect to: consider, look to.

16. censure: judge, -- not "find fault with."

26. There is tears. This construction, common enough in Shakespeare's time, has already occurred in the play. Do you remember "Three parts of him *is* ours"? "There's two or three of us"? "*Is* Decius and Trebonius there"?

29. bondman: slave. Where did Casca say,

So every *bondman* in his own hand bears
The power to cancel his captivity?

36, 37. The question of his death, etc. That is, a statement of the reasons why Cassar was put to death is placed in the official records of the Capitol.

38. extenuated: lessened, diminished. **enforced.** Here just the opposite of extenuated, -- that is, enlarged, exaggerated.

42. the commonwealth. According to Cassius, while Caesar lived, all Romans were "bondmen"; now that he is dead, Brutus believes that the commonwealth will be restored.

52. clamors: cheers.

57. Do grace to: honor, pay respect to.

58. Tending to: indicating, touching upon.

61. Save I alone. Shakespeare often uses the nominative case of pronouns after prepositions where modern grammatical usage demands the objective. See "save only he" in V, 5, 69.

65. I am beholding: I am beholden, or under obligations to you. Notice the marked contrast between Antony's style and that of Brutus.

74. to bury Caesar. The Romans burned their dead. Shakespeare is speaking to an English audience and thinks of English manners and customs, as when he speaks of the *coffin* in 106 below.

76. oft interred: often buried.

89. the general coffers: the public treasury. In "The Merchant" Portia speaks of the treasury of Venice as "the privy coffer of the state."

103. withholds you then to mourn: keeps you from mourning.

114. dear abide it: dearly pay for it. Where did Brutus say, "Let no man abide (suffer for) this deed But we the doers"?

120. so poor to do: so poor as to do, etc. Antony says there are now none so poor or humble but that Csesar is too low for their regard.

129. closet: room, private study, -- as in II, i, 35, where Lucius said to Brutus, "The taper burneth in your closed, sir."

130. the commons: the common people.

133. napkins: handkerchiefs.

137. issue: children, descendants.

141. **meet:** fitting, proper.

150. **I have o'ershot myself.** That is, I have gone too far I have spoken more than I should. To overshoot is to shoot beyond, or over, the mark.

165. **hearse:** bier, coffin.

167. **far:** further, -- as often in Shakespeare.

168. **Bear back:** fall back, move further away.

173. **That day he overcame the Nervii.** Caesar tells of his great victory over the Nervii, "the stoutest warriors of all the Belgae," in the second book of his "Gallic War." Perhaps none of his conquests had contributed more to his fame and popularity with the common people of Rome, who looked upon him as their great military hero.

175. **envious:** malicious, spiteful. (Cf. II, i, 178.)

179. **resolved:** informed, assured. Where did Antony send to Brutus to "be resolved How Caesar hath deserved to lie in death"?

181. **angel.** That is, Brutus was one whom Caesar could trust as he would his guardian angel. Possibly angel is equivalent here merely to "best-loved friend," "favorite."

183. **most unkindest cut.** Cassius used a similar double superlative when he spoke of "the most boldest and best hearts of Rome." (See III, i, 122 and note.)

194. **dint:** impression, influence.

197. **marred ... with:** mangled by.

213. **private griefs:** personal grievances.

221. **wit:** understanding.

222. **utterance:** gift of speech. Antony's repeated assertion that he is not eloquent is summed up by his "I only speak right on."

243. **every several:** each separate. **seventy-five drachmas.** This is the sum given by Plutarch. The drachma was a Greek coin, worth approximately twenty cents; but of course the purchasing value of the fifteen dollars left by Caesar to each citizen was far greater than it would be today.

249. **orchards:** gardens, -- as in the stage direction of II, i.

250. On this side Tiber. Caesar's gardens were in reality on the right bank of the river, or *beyond* the Tiber. Shakespeare copied the error from North's incorrect translation of Plutarch, left them you. The "you" is placed out of its natural order, and at the end of the line, for emphasis. Contrast this arrangement of the words with "he hath left you them."

252. To walk abroad, etc.: For walking out and refreshing yourselves.

260. forms: seats, benches.

267. He comes upon a wish. That is, he comes just at the time I most wished or desired. **Fortune is merry.** As we say, "Fortune smiles upon us."

270. Are rid: have ridden. (We still use both *chid* and *chidden* as past participles of "chide.")

271. Belike they had, etc.: Probably they had some information of how I had moved, or stirred up, the people.

272. Bring: escort, accompany.