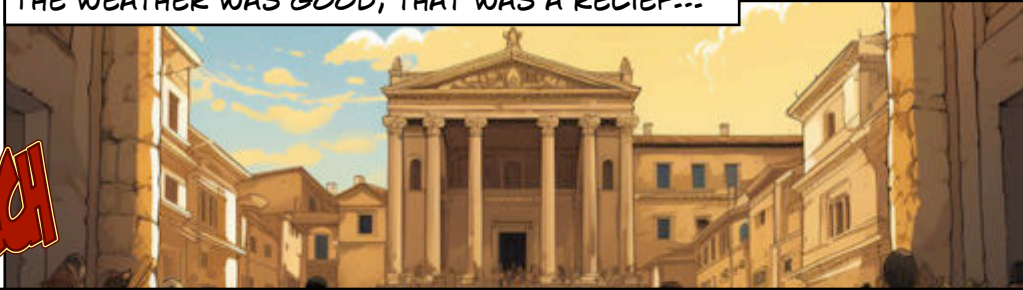


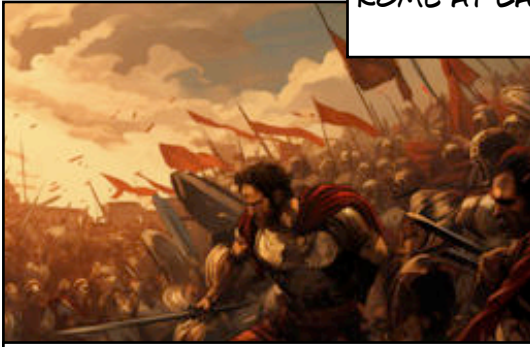
ACT I

BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH

THE WEATHER WAS GOOD, THAT WAS A RELIEF...



IT HAD TAKEN AGES TO PLAN THE FESTIVAL AND IF IT HAD RAINED, THEN THE DAY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN RUINED. IT WAS TWO O'CLOCK ON A MARCH AFTERNOON AND THE SUN WAS SHINING! EVERYONE WAS STARTING TO EMERGE FROM THEIR HOUSES FULL OF EXCITEMENT - IT HAD BEEN A LONG WINTER, BUT FINALLY EVERYONE HAD SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT. WELL ACTUALLY, THEY HAD TWO THINGS TO CHEER ABOUT BECAUSE JULIUS CAESAR HAD RETURNED TO ROME AT LAST.



THE WAR BETWEEN **CAESAR** AND **POMPEY** HAD LASTED FOR FOUR YEARS BUT FINALLY, FINALLY IT WAS OVER. **POMPEY** WAS GONE, **CAESAR** WAS HOME AND THE GOOD TIMES WERE BACK. **PARTYYYYY!**



THE STREETS WERE FILLING QUICKLY NOW, TABLES WERE BEING SET UP LAID HEAVY WITH FOOD AND DRINK - A FEAST! MUSIC COULD BE HEARD AND PEOPLE WERE BEGINNING TO DANCE. THE FESTIVAL OF LUPERCAL HAD BEGUN. LET'S JUST HOPE THE RAIN STAYS AWAY A BIT LONGER.....

SUDDENLY THERE WERE SOLDIERS!



HENCE YOU IDLE CREATURES, GET YOU HOME!!

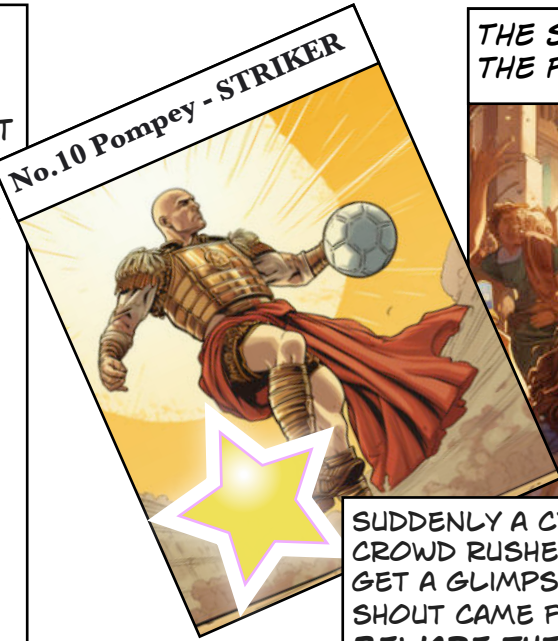
IS THIS A HOLIDAY???



WE MAKE HOLIDAY TO SEE CAESAR AND REJOICE IN HIS RETURN!

THE SOLDIERS **FLAVIUS** AND **MARULLUS** WERE ANGRY AND THE POOR SHOEMAKER WAS SCARED. "YOU BLOCKS YOU STONES, YOU WORSE THAN SENSELESS THINGS. KNEW YOU NOT **POMPEY**?" SAID **MARULLUS** "MANY A TIME HAVE YOU CLIMBED UP TO WALLS AND BATTLEMENTS TO SEE **GREAT POMPEY** PASS THE STREETS OF ROME. AND NOW DO YOU STREW FLOWERS IN HIS WAY THAT COMES IN TRIUMPH OVER **POMPEY'S** BLOOD. **BE GONE!**" THAT'S ONE WAY TO RUIN A PARTY!

IT SEEMS THAT NOT EVERYONE WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE JULIUS CAESAR RETURN. A LOT OF PEOPLE (ESPECIALLY SOLDIERS) WERE VERY FOND OF POMPEY AND WERE SAD TO SEE HIM GO. A BIT LIKE WHEN YOUR FAVOURITE PLAYER GETS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CLUB. EXCEPT THAT POMPEY HADN'T BEEN TRANSFERRED, HE'D BEEN, WELL, KILLED BY CAESAR. SO IT'S NOT LIKE FOOTBALL AT ALL.



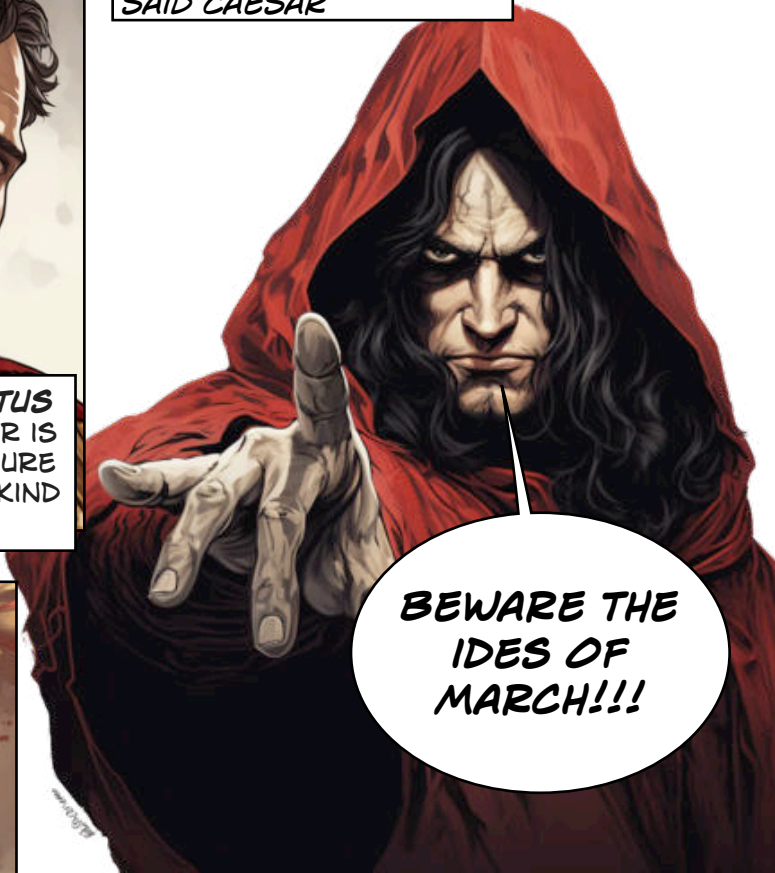
THE SOLDIERS MOVED ON AND THE FESTIVAL STARTED AGAIN...



SUDDENLY A CRY WENT UP CAESAR, CAESAR! AND THE CROWD RUSHED THROUGH THE STREETS, TRYING TO GET A GLIMPSE OF THE MAN HIMSELF - THEN A SHOUT CAME FROM WITHIN THE CROWD - **CAESAR, BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH.** (THE 15TH OF MARCH- THAT'S TOMORROW!!!!) CAESAR HEARD THE SHOUT AND TURNED TO HIS FRIEND **BRUTUS**....



"SPEAK ONCE AGAIN" SAID CAESAR



BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH!!!

"WHAT MAN IS THAT?" SAID CAESAR- HIS FRIEND **BRUTUS** TOLD HIM IT WAS A **SOOTHSAYER**. NOW, A **SOOTHSAYER** IS A PERSON WHO IS REALLY GOOD AT TELLING THE FUTURE OR PREDICTING WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. THEY ARE KIND OF LIKE MAGICAL FORTUNE-TELLERS!



HE IS A DREAMER, LET US LEAVE HIM...

CAESAR DISMISSED THE SOOTH SAYER AS A FOOL, AND MOVED ON, SMILING AND WAVING TO THE CROWD ONCE AGAIN.

BRUTUS WATCHED HIS FRIEND CAESAR DISAPPEAR INTO THE DISTANCE. SUDDENLY HE FELT AN ARM ON HIS SHOULDER AND TURNED TO SEE CASSIUS. CASSIUS WAS ANOTHER IMPORTANT ROMAN, HE WAS CLEVER AND TOLD EVERYONE THAT HE WAS THEIR FRIEND, BUT EVERYONE WAS A BIT UNSURE ABOUT HIM. HE WAS WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL....**CRAFTY**. BRUTUS DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO TALK TO CASSIUS RIGHT NOW, HE HAD THINGS ON HIS MIND....

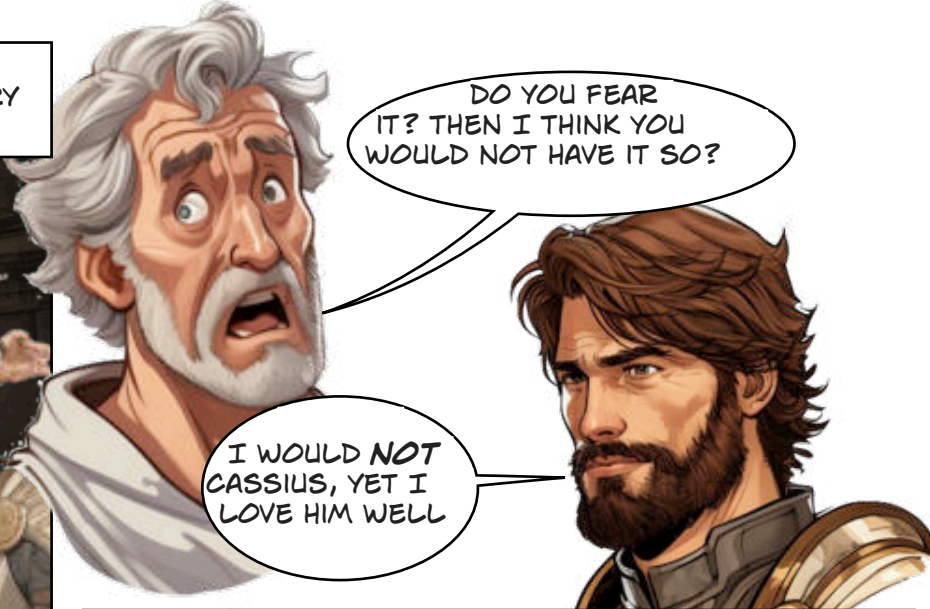
BRUTUS WANTED TO LEAVE, BUT CASSIUS WANTED TO TALK. JUST THEN ANOTHER CRY WENT UP FROM THE CROWD



HOORAY!

CAESAR!!

"WHAT MEANS THIS SHOUTING", SAID BRUTUS, "I DO FEAR THE PEOPLE CHOOSE CAESAR FOR THEIR KING".



DO YOU FEAR IT? THEN I THINK YOU WOULD NOT HAVE IT SO?

I WOULD NOT CASSIUS, YET I LOVE HIM WELL

BRUTUS WAS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS CONVERSATION. BRUTUS KNEW CASSIUS DIDN'T REALLY LIKE CAESAR, AND HE WANTED TO LEAVE, BUT CASSIUS HAD THINGS TO SAY....

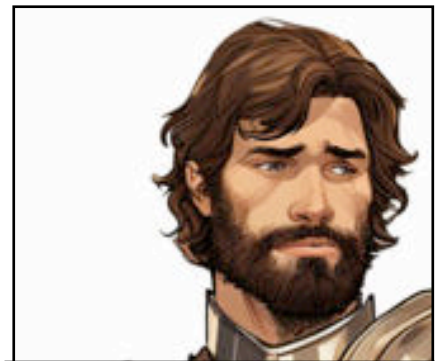
HE TOLD BRUTUS THAT CAESAR WAS GETTING FAR TOO BIG FOR HIS BOOTS, THAT ROME WAS ABOUT THE PEOPLE, NOT JUST ONE MAN.



CASSIUS SAID THAT CAESAR THINKS "HE DOTH BESTRIDE THE NARROW WORLD LIKE A COLOSSUS AND WE PETTY MEN WALK UNDER HIS HUGE LEGS"



CASSIUS HAD TO KEEP PAUSING HIS SPEECH AS MORE SHOUTS WERE HEARD FROM THE CROWD. FINALLY HE STOPPED TALKING AND ASKED BRUTUS WHAT HE THOUGHT....



....AFTER ALL, CASSIUS SAID, BRUTUS ONLY WANTED WHAT WAS BEST FOR ROME, RIGHT????



BRUTUS TOLD HIM HE'D THINK ABOUT WHAT CASSIUS HAD SAID, WHEN SUDDENLY CAESAR WAS PASSING BACK THROUGH THE STREETS.

HE WHISPERED TO HIS BEST FRIEND MARK ANTONY



CASSIUS HAS A LEAN AND HUNGRY LOOK. HE THINKS TOO MUCH. SUCH MEN ARE DANGEROUS

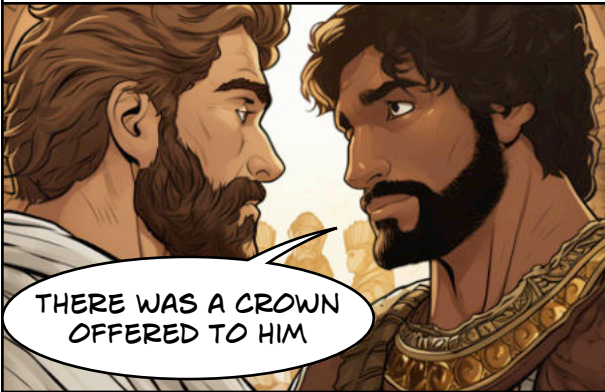
FEAR HIM NOT CAESAR

CAESAR SAW CASSIUS ACROSS THE SQUARE AS HE PASSED BY.....CAESAR DIDN'T LIKE CASSIUS MUCH, BUT THEN, CASSIUS DIDN'T LIKE CAESAR VERY MUCH EITHER..



CAESAR TRUSTED ANTONY, SO HE STOPPED WORRYING AND WENT BACK TO WAVING AND SMILING, OFF INTO THE DISTANCE AGAIN...

BRUTUS GRABBED CASCA - ANOTHER ROMAN - TO ASK WHAT ALL THE SHOUTING HAD BEEN ABOUT. CASCA TOLD HIM THIS....



THERE WAS A CROWN OFFERED TO HIM

THIS IS EXACTLY WAS BRUTUS HAD BEEN FEARING. ALTHOUGH HE LIKED AND RESPECTED CAESAR, HE, LIKE CASSIUS, WAS A BIT SCARED THAT CAESAR WOULD GO TOO FAR - REMEMBER, NOBODY WANTED A KING OR EMPEROR.



DID HE TAKE IT?

NO, IT WAS OFFERED TO HIM AND HE SAID NO.



THEN IT WAS OFFERED AGAIN, THIS TIME HE SEEMED A BIT MORE TEMPTED, BUT STILL SAID NO..

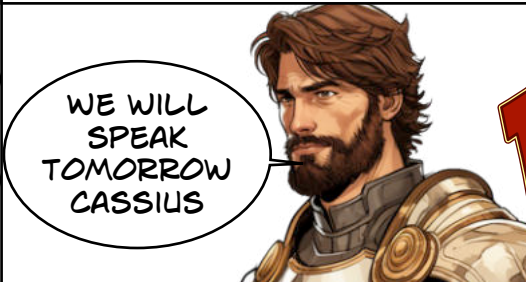


THEN IT WAS OFFERED A THIRD TIME AND IT SEEMED LIKE CAESAR WAS GOING TO TAKE IT, BUT THEN HE SAID NO AGAIN.

CASCA LEFT AND BRUTUS'S BRAIN WAS IN OVERDRIVE...



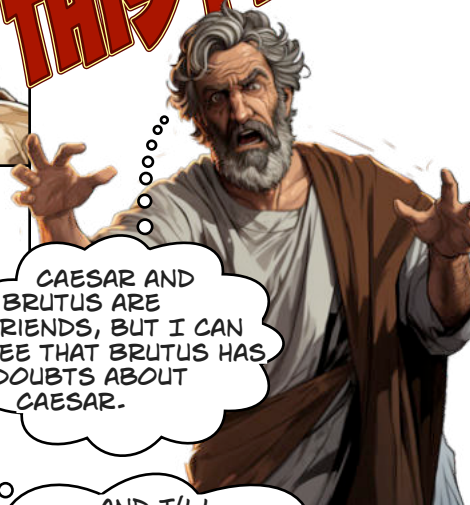
THEN HE FELL DOWN, LOOKING LIKE HE WAS SICK- BUT EVENTUALLY HE GOT UP AND THE CROWD CHEERED ONE LAST TIME.



WE WILL SPEAK TOMORROW CASSIUS

BRUTUS LEFT AND CASSIUS WAS ALONE, BUT.. CASSIUS HAD A PLAN!!

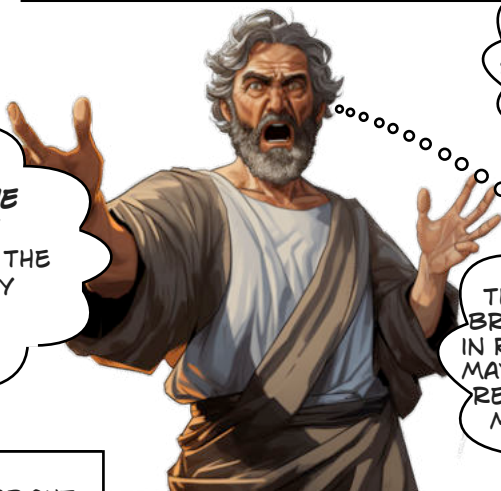
THIS PLAN!



CAESAR AND BRUTUS ARE FRIENDS, BUT I CAN SEE THAT BRUTUS HAS DOUBTS ABOUT CAESAR.

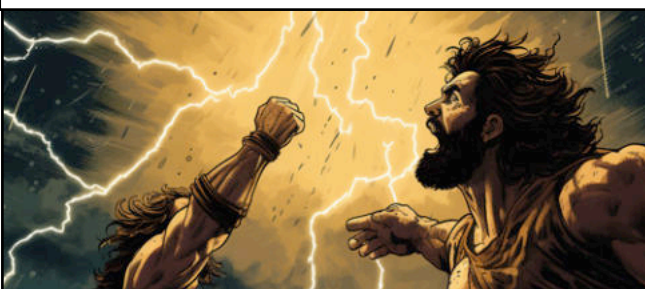


I WILL WRITE SOME LETTERS, SAYING, "WE ARE WORRIED ABOUT CAESAR." I WILL MAKE THE LETTERS LOOK LIKE THEY COME FROM LOTS OF DIFFERENT ROMAN CITIZENS



AND I'LL GET A FEW OF MY FRIENDS TO THROW THEM THROUGH BRUTUS'S WINDOW. BRUTUS WILL THINK EVERYONE IN ROME IS AGAINST CAESAR! MAYBE THAT WILL HELP BRUTUS REALISE THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT THIS JULIUS CAESAR.

THAT NIGHT, THERE WAS A STORM. NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ROMANS. THERE WERE INCREDIBLY SUPERSTITIOUS.



THEY THOUGHT THAT ANY STRANGE WEATHER OR STORMS WERE THE GODS TELLING THEM THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG.

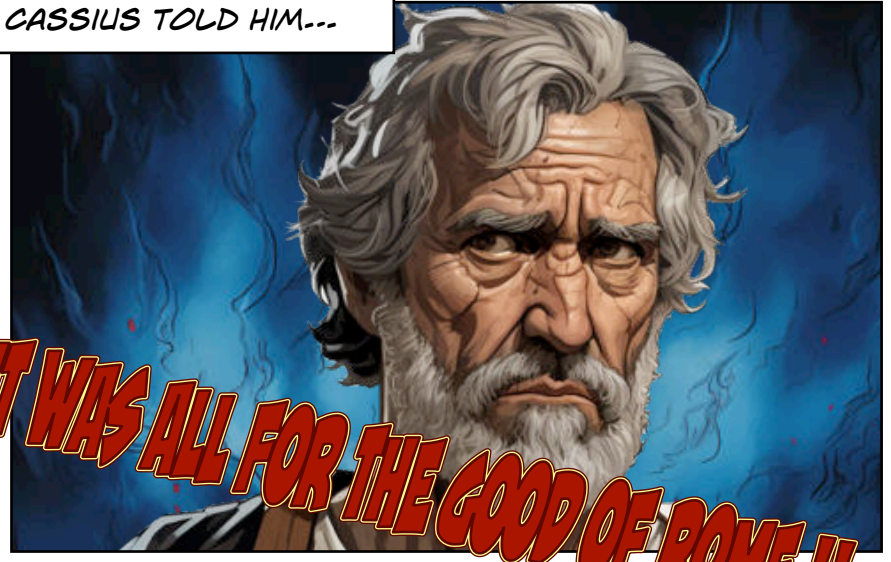


THIS WORKED PERFECTLY FOR CASSIUS, AS HE COULD GET EVEN MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH HIS PLAN BY TELLING THEM THAT THE GODS WERE ANGRY WITH CAESAR.



LATER, CASSIUS MET WITH CASCA AND TOLD HIM TO GIVE THE MANY LETTERS HE HAD WRITTEN TO HIS FRIENDS AND TO THROW THEM THROUGH BRUTUS'S WINDOW.

CASSIUS TOLD HIM...



IT WAS ALL FOR THE GOOD OF ROME!!

WE'VE REACHED THE END OF ACT ONE AND I THINK WE NEED TO CHECK IN ON OUR CAST OF CHARACTERS.....

JULIUS CAESAR



POWERFUL ROMAN GENERAL

AMBITIOUS

SUPERSTITIOUS

BRUTUS



NOBLE ROMAN - CAESAR'S FRIEND

LOYAL TO ROME

CASSIUS



CUNNING & CRAFTY SENATOR

JEALOUS

MARK ANTONY



CAESAR'S BEST FRIEND

LOYAL TO CAESAR

CASCA



ROMAN

PRACTICAL

WILL CASSIUS'S PLAN WORK? WILL JULIUS CAESAR FALL INTO THEIR TRAP? WILL BRUTUS HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART? ALL THESE QUESTIONS AND MORE WILL BE ANSWERED IN ACT TWO!