

ACT II

IT MUST BE BY HIS DEATH

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED ALREADY AND THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO FOLLOW. AS WE START ACT TWO, WE FIND BRUTUS IN HIS HOUSE. THE STORM IS OVER AND BRUTUS HAS FOUND ALL THE LETTERS THAT WERE THROWN THROUGH HIS WINDOW IN THE NIGHT.



DO YOU THINK HE'S BEEN CONVINCED THAT CAESAR SHOULD BE DEALT WITH? LET'S TRY TO HEAR WHAT HE'S SAYING....

IT MUST BE BY HIS DEATH. HE WOULD BE CROWNED. HOW THAT MIGHT CHANGE HIS NATURE, THERE'S THE QUESTION. THEREFORE THINK HIM AS THE SERPENT'S EGG WHICH, HATCHED, WOULD GROW MISCHIEVOUS AND KILL HIM IN THE SHELL



IT SOUNDS LIKE BRUTUS HAS ALMOST MADE UP HIS MIND! THIS IS ALL JUST AS CASSIUS PLANNED. MAYBE BRUTUS NEEDS A FINAL PUSH TO GET HIM OVER THE EDGE.....

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR!



GOOD MORROW BRUTUS, DO WE TROUBLE YOU?

THERE STOOD CASSIUS SURROUNDED BY MEN IN HOODS...

BRUTUS WAS A LITTLE SHOCKED...



I HAVE BEEN UP THIS HOUR, AWAKE ALL NIGHT. DO I KNOW THESE MEN?

ONE BY ONE CASSIUS NAMED THE MEN. WE COULD CALL THEM "CONSPIRATORS" NOW. THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE PART OF A "CONSPIRACY" WHICH IS A SECRET PLAN!



CASSIUS
METELLUS CIMBER
TREBONIUS
DECIUS BRUTUS
CINNA

DECIUS SAID...



SHALL NO MAN BE TOUCHED APART FROM CAESAR?

THESE ARE THE MEN THAT CASSIUS HAS BROUGHT WITH HIM, THESE ARE THE MEN THAT ARE PREPARED TO DO HARM TO CAESAR.

THEY HAD TO DECIDE WHETHER ANYONE ELSE WOULD BE "GOT RID OF". THIS WAS A CHANCE FOR CASSIUS TO GET RID OF EVERYONE HE DIDN'T LIKE, HE DIDN'T WASTE A MOMENT....



I THINK MARK ANTONY SHOULD NOT OUTLIVE CAESAR

BUT BRUTUS WASN'T UP FOR THAT...



LET'S BE SACRIFICERS BUT NOT BUTCHERS

"YET I FEAR HIM FOR THE LOVE HE BEARS TO CAESAR" SAID CASSIUS, TRYING TO COVER HIS TRACKS

"LET MARK ANTONY NOT DIE"

IT WAS DECIDED.



ALL OF THEM WERE WORRIED THAT BECAUSE CAESAR WAS SUPERSTITIOUS AND BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN A HUGE STORM THE NIGHT BEFORE, THAT CAESAR WOULDN'T GO TO THE SENATE BECAUSE IT MIGHT HAVE MADE HIM SCARED AND SUSPICIOUS. CAESAR HAD TO GO TO THE SENATE TODAY SO THAT THEY COULD KILL HIM, BEFORE ANYONE FOUND OUT ABOUT THEIR PLAN.

DECIMUS AND METELLUS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST IF THEY WENT TO CAESAR'S HOUSE TO MAKE SURE HE LEFT FOR THE SENATE AS NORMAL.



THE PLAN WAS SET!

AFTER ALL OF THE CONSPIRATORS HAD LEFT HIS HOUSE, BRUTUS WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT, STILL WONDERING IF HE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING...



HE HEARD THE SOUND OF HIS WIFE, PORTIA, ENTERING THE ROOM! HAD SHE HEARD ANYTHING?

PORTIA ASKED HIM WHAT WAS GOING ON? HE'S BEEN UP ALL NIGHT, WANDERING AROUND AND MUTTERING.

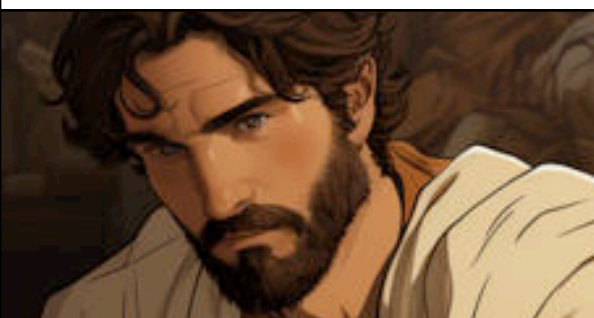


HERE THERE HAVE BEEN SIX OR SEVEN MEN THAT DID HIDE THEIR FACES

BRUTUS TOLD HER THAT WE WASN'T VERY WELL, THAT WAS ALL, BUT SHE KNEW HE WAS HIDING SOMETHING...

SHE THEN REMINDED HIM THAT SHE WAS HIS WIFE AND DESERVED TO KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

BRUTUS WANTED TO TELL HER, BUT SUCH A TERRIBLE SECRET MUST BE KEPT, WELL, SECRET.



HE TOLD HER TO GO BACK TO BED AND HE'D TELL HER LATER..

MEANWHILE, THE TWO FIGURES OF DECIMUS AND METTELUS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO CAESAR'S HOUSE....





JULIUS CAESAR HAD JUST BEEN THROUGH THE WORST NIGHT'S SLEEP EVER. HIS WIFE CALPURNIA HAD BEEN TOSsing AND TURNING AND MUMBLING AND SHOUTING ALL NIGHT LONG - SLEEP TALKING!



HELP! HO!
HE COULD ONLY CATCH THE OCCASIONAL THING SHE WAS SAYING, SOMETHING THAT SOUNDED LIKE "HELP, HO, THEY MURDER CAESAR."

HONESTLY, LAST NIGHT OF ALL NIGHTS - THE NIGHT BEFORE HE MIGHT BE OFFERED THE CROWN ONCE AND FOR ALL



ALTHOUGH HE WAS TIRED, HE WAS EXCITED FOR THE DAY AHEAD OF HIM. HE WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR THE SENATE...

WHEN CALPURNIA BURST INTO THE ROOM



YOU SHALL NOT STIR OUT OF THE HOUSE TODAY

CAESAR SHALL FORTH

CALPURNIA (WHO DIDN'T NORMALLY GET SUPERSTITIOUS) WAS SUDDENLY VERY FRIGHTENED OF THE DREAMS SHE'D BEEN HAVING AND SHE'D DECIDED THAT THEY WERE BAD OMENS, AND THAT HER HUSBAND SHOULD NOT GO OUT TODAY.

CALPURNIA DIDN'T WANT CAESAR TO GO OUT, BUT CAESAR WAS DETERMINED TO GO.

CAESAR SAID THAT BAD DREAMS SHOULD BE AFRAID OF HIM AND THAT HE WAS MORE DANGEROUS THAN DANGER.



THEY ARGUED FOR A WHILE, AND CALPURNIA TOLD HIM ALL ABOUT HER DREAM. SO EVENTUALLY HE SAID HE'D STAY AT HOME WITH HER IF IT MADE HER FEEL BETTER.

SHE RELAXED. THEN DECIUS TURNED UP.



AH HERE'S DECIUS, HE CAN TELL THE SENATE THAT I'M NOT COMING TODAY.

DECIUS ASKED CAESAR...



WHAT REASON WILL I GIVE THEM FOR YOUR ABSENCE?

JUST TELL THEM I'M NOT COMING!

CAESAR FELT A BIT FOOLISH ABOUT HAVING TO SAY THAT HE WAS STAYING AT HOME BECAUSE HIS WIFE HAD A BAD DREAM, BUT HE HAD TO GIVE THE SENATE SOME REASON FOR NOT TURNING UP TODAY..

SO HE SAID..



MY WIFE DREAMT SOMETHING TERRIBLE

IT WAS NO GOOD, HE WASN'T GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THAT. CAESAR FELT HE HAD TO TELL DECIUS ABOUT CALPURNIA'S DREAM. CALPURNIA HAD TOLD HIM ALL ABOUT IT, SO HE DESCRIBED IT AS BEST HE COULD....

SHE HAD DREAMT THAT SHE'D SEEN JULIUS CAESAR'S STATUE, LIKE A FOUNTAIN, FLOWING WITH BLOOD...



AND SHE SAID THAT ROMANS WERE SMILING AND BATHING IN IT! HORRIBLE.

DECIUS HAD TO THINK QUICKLY, HE HAD TO GET CAESAR OUT OF THE HOUSE.



NO, NO... THAT'S A GOOD DREAM, IT MEANS THAT YOU ARE THE LIFE BLOOD OF ROME AND ALL THE CITIZENS TAKE NOURISHMENT FROM YOU.

IF I SAY BREAK UP THE SENATE UNTIL ANOTHER TIME WHEN CAESAR'S WIFE WILL MEET WITH BETTER DREAMS...THEY WILL WHISPER. LO, CAESAR IS AFRAID.



CAESAR DID NOT WANT TO APPEAR AFRAID..



HOW FOOLISH DO YOUR FEARS SEEM NOW CALPURNIA? I WILL GO..

AT THAT MOMENT, MARK ANTONY AND BRUTUS ARRIVE AT THE SAME TIME!



MOST NOBLE CAESAR!

GOOD MORROW ANTONY! AND BRUTUS, ARE YOU STIRRED SO EARLY?

CAESAR, 'TIS STRUCKEN EIGHT



GOOD FRIENDS, GO IN, AND TASTE SOME WINE WITH ME; AND WE, LIKE FRIENDS, WILL STRAIGHTWAY GO TOGETHER.

SHE ASKS HER SERVANT, LUCIUS..



I PRITHEE, BOY, RUN TO THE SENATE-HOUSE



RUN LUCIUS, AND BRING ME WORD WHAT HE DOTHS SAY TO THEE

MEANWHILE, PORTIA KNOWS SOMETHING IS UP. SHE STILL FEARS THAT BRUTUS HAS LIED TO HER...