

Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2.1

Honor

Situation: Antony and Brutus having met, Caesar having been assassinated and the plebeians having fled, Antony having returned to the Senate steps, Antony requests that he be permitted to address those assembled at the memorial service. Brutus agrees to Antony's request, but a more suspect Cassius says "I like it not." Brutus is the first to speak.

THIRD PLEBEIAN: The noble Brutus is ascended. Silence.

BRUTUS: Be patient till the last.

Brutus to Plebeians

Romans, hear me for my cause. Silent be
That you hear. For my honour, believe me;
Respect mine honour that you may believe.
Wake your senses that you be a better
Judge. As for my dear friend, Brutus doth grieve
For Caesar, as you would, if this death were
Of any in this assembly's best friend.
Not that I loved Caesar less; in the end
I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar
Alive and die slaves? As he ambitious,
I slew him. As he valiant, I honour
Him. Who here offended; who among us
Is not a Roman? With this I depart.
When needed, this dagger goes through my heart.

BRUTUS: If any, speak, for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

PLEBEIANS: None, Brutus, none.

BRUTUS: Then none have I offended.