

TENDER HEART HIGH SCHOOL, SEC. 33 B, CHD.

CLASS : IX

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE

Julius Caesar Act II, Sc - II

Teacher: Kashama Sharma

Synopsis of the Scene

As we have already experienced the charm of Brutus' domestic bliss in the previous scene. Shakespeare now takes us to Caesar's house. Caesar is awakened by the storm. He finds Calpurnia crying out in her sleep that Caesar has been murdered. Caesar orders a servant to tell the priests to present sacrifices and let him know what they portend for the future.

Calpurnia, by now awake, pleads with Caesar not to leave home. She has just heard from someone on watch about the happenings on the streets of Rome, as well as in the sky. It is her basic habit not to be scared, but she is now frightened for her husband. Caesar tells Calpurnia not to be unduly worried because no one can avoid what the Gods propose.

Caesar tells Calpurnia that he will go because these predictions are as much valid for the world as for him.

The servant enters and informs Caesar that the omens are not favourable as per the priests. A sacrificed beast does not have a heart; therefore, Caesar must not step out of the house. Caesar dismisses these omens as well. He tells the servant that the Gods do this to put cowardice to shame. A man who is afraid is as terrible as the beast.

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without the heart who has been recently sacrificed. A desperate Calpurnia kneels in front of Caesar. She tells her husband to let Mark Antony go and inform the senate that Caesar is not well. A visibly moved Caesar lifts Calpurnia and agrees to heed her advice.

Just as Caesar makes up his decision, the beautiful couple is joined by Decius. Caesar tells him to give a message to the senators that he will not be able to attend the proceedings of the court. Decius wants a reason why Caesar does not wish to go. Caesar tells him that it is sufficient that it is his will which makes him decide not to go. However, he tells Decius about Calpurnia's dream and her ardent appeal to her husband not to leave home. Calpurnia had seen a hundred spurts of blood gushing out of Caesar's statue. Many Romans were gleefully bathing in his blood. The clever Decius tells Caesar that the dream has been wrongly interpreted. The dream does not portend something evil. In fact, it means that Caesar shall revive the commonwealth.

The bathing of Romans in Caesar's blood indicates that Rome shall renew its strength from him and that great men shall get their nourishment and inspiration from him. Caesar is convinced that it is an excellent interpretation of Calpurnia's dream. Decius is successful in his endeavour.

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of persuading Caesar to interpret it according to him. While leaving he tells him that the senate has decided to give him the crown today. Their minds may change if Caesar refuses to go. He will become a source of ridicule to all the senators. They may not wait till Caesar's wife has a better dream about the prosperity of her husband. Caesar chastises Calpurnia for her foolish fears. He is himself ashamed for succumbing to them. Caesar decides to leave for the senate.

- Publius is admitted inside along with some of the other conspirators. Caesar welcomes the conspirators graciously for showing their courtesy of accompanying him to the senate.

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