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Class: FP English6 HL

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Part 1

Portia’s Suicide Note

Dear honorable Brutus:

When you see this note, I have already left you , left this world and is on the way to heaven, where my mind will be free and no longer fear the dangers that lurk around me. I have always loved you, served as your wife , the one who you could totally trust and the one who could heal your pain. But you just love Rome more, more than your beloved wife and your best friend Caesar who you killed by your own hands.

In this day and age, you are not with me anymore, or maybe you have never been with me? You never response me, instead, you hide yourself well and left me alone while setting off on a new journey with the conspirators and not taking me along. I once tried my best to show myself as the reliable person to you by stabbing my thigh, showing you what I could bear more than a woman. I am your wife, Brutus’s wife! How could you marginalize and alienate me!

And yes, you will say you are just doing everything best for Rome, what a noble excuse but ignoring the emotions a normal person should have. Therefore, I will now imitate your behaviors and do what’s best for both you and me. I will swallow the coal with fire and burn all my heart with fire to show my pure heart. I love you, so I choose to kill myself then I will no longer be a burden to you, through this way, not only you could be free and me too, will be free in heaven…

Good luck my husband, Brutus, wish you all the best.

With all my love

Portia

Part 2

Write Brutus's deeper and more intimate reflections on the loss of his wife. （200-300  words ）

（After knowing the message of Portia’s death, he seemed to be aloof. But through his reactions and past interaction with Portia I could still see this man do have love for Portia, maybe he valued not to tell her as the best or he really had no time and energy to worry about her anymore cause of Rome’s place in his heart left only a small part for Portia and other grief emotions.

See page 53-54 line234-236+ line260, line279,line287-290. From these lines “Portia! What mean you? Wherefore rise you now? It is not for your health thus to commit. Your weak condition to the raw cold morning.” I think these sentences were not just a slight over, it must have Brutus’s worries hidden inside. What’s more, for the wording like ”good”, “gentle”, “honourable”,”As dear to me as are the ruddy drops That visit my sad heart.” From here I could see， at least for this point， Portia had half of the place in his heart. But later as time went by and Rome occupying his mind, in order to maintain the morale and to show the determination and strength that he deserved to be followed, Rome became the major thing for Brutus so he tend to put Rome on a higher level while ignoring Portia more. However this didn’t mean he no longer care for Portia, instead I think he did. For instance, on page127-129 line142-162, Brutus was angry because of his sickness of the griefs. Was he really angry? Or sad and mad at himself for not handling everything right in place and time? So then he asked for wine to drink, I think he might hope to use the wine to fall into a trance so he could forget and hide his sorrow for some time and let time to cure his pain. But still, I think he refused to directly tell Portia everything, even if she already knew it. Therefore, from here I think he’s a little of a coward. And that’s why after that March day, he slept bad and always feeling worried, even one night seeing Caesar’s ghost.)

Brutus’s intimate thoughts:

Ah dear Portia, my beloved wife, why did you suicide and left me alone in this world ? You are never my burden, but if I did reply will you still be with me?

From now on, I will have no one worth remembering who is still alive and I could only cherish the memory of the past. I still remember that day you stabbed your thigh to show me your credibility, that really made my heart pain. But I couldn’t tell you, you shouldn’t get trapped by these political emotions, you were still not strong as a man afterall. And Rome, I love Rome and I bet you love Rome too! You once questioned me about the conspirators, and yes I became one of them to kill Caesar. But as I said in my speech, I do respect Caesar as my best friend, I killed him was for the future of Rome due to his ambitious mind! Don’t you think everyone will all be better when Rome is better?

And I never forget you, I love you all the time, but same for Rome! Everything I did is for a better future and a perfect Rome!

Please forgive me for paying more attention to Rome instead of answering your messages. Rome occupied my mind, thus in order to maintain the morale and to show the determination and strength that I deserved to be followed, I tried my best to hide my grief feelings towards you.

And for now, I could only let time to cure me, let wine to make me fall into trance and let Rome be everything to me.

Goodbye Portia, my beloved wife, I wish you all the best in heaven…