Luxuan (Lutetia Camilia)

Pippa Keene

FP English 6 HL: Portia’s Suicide Note

2019 March 27th

***Death note***

Dear Brutus,

A mother and a father holds the decision of giving birth to a child, but there is nothing they can do to a child’s death. However, the good news is we won’t be encountering such desperate moments together. I’m sorry to leave you this way, but it’s all inedible. I never knew a woman could be so lost in despair until her final hours. To this point, you might think that I’m just another emotional and irrational women like you always did. But, in fact, this decision is actually my conclusion to relationships, to this marriage, and to life. So, you see, my death is not all about you. Though, you, as my husband, do reserve the right of knowing the clear reasons and causes of my death.

I figured that I would not see women linked to power nor equal respect. This puts me and other women in hopelessness. The fact that Octavius and Antony are growing in power and you being absent might also provoke some assumptions. One of the assumptions is likely to be that Portia is hopeless in fear and weakness. I would be disappointed if you would think of me as a fragile woman, because that’s something I’ve been proving all my life. But if you did not come to such assumption, which i don’t think is possible in this lifetime, my death is absurd. Sooner or later, we all have to die. May you live in regret to make better hopes in the future. Farewell.

Love,

Portia

***Reflection***

I, Brutus, have never felt so empowered and intimidated by a woman, but that is not something I can simply reveal in front of Cassius and other men (line 147: No man bears sorrow better). I have to admit she is right. She was always right. If I gave her more respect, this would be prevented. But how am I supposed to know that she needed respect, attention and all that when she was alive. Maybe listening to her would help. I don’t think the gods are on my side, therefore traveling back in time is just a fantasy without rhyme. Or maybe this is a curse from Caesar. Is he asking a life for a life? At this point of life, I don’t ask for Portia’s rebirth or more deaths. I simply wish that they could forgive me and let me continue a life with mournings and hopes. Just as Portia said, “May you live in regret to make better hopes in the future”. I have reflected on my wrongs and acknowledge that I have to live with them. My regrets will guide a brighter and better future (line 196: Well, good­bye, Portia. We all must die, Messala. Having already thought about the fact that she would have to die sometime, I can endure her death now).