

Stage is lit, BRUTUS sits on a chair, unsure of what the honourable course of action is, stands when he begins to speak

BRUTUS

It must be by his death, and for my part

Stage lights turn off, audience lights turn on, BRUTUS moving very slowly, Inner Voice 1 enters

BRUTUS Inner Voice #1

I know no personal cause to spurn at him

But for the general.

Stage lights turn on, BRUTUS moves at normal speed, pacing

BRUTUS

He would be crowned.

How that might change his nature, there's the question.

Stage lights turn off, audience lights turn on, BRUTUS moving very slowly

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #1

And, to speak truth of Caesar,

I have not known when his affections swayed

More than his reason.

Inner Voice 2 Enters

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #2

But 'tis a common proof

That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,

Whereto the climber upward turns his face.

But when he once attains the upmost round,

He then unto the ladder turns his back,

Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees

By which he did ascend.

Stage Lights turn on as Inner Voice 2 walks behind BRUTUS, who resumes a normal pace

And therefore think him as a serpent's egg—

Inner Voice 2 pushes Inner Voice 1 away, Audience Lights turn off

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #2 and BRUTUS

Which, hatched, would as his kind grow mischievous—

And kill him in the shell

Knocking on door, BRUTUS jumps when Lucius speaks, surprised.

LUCIUS

Sir, 'tis your brother Cassius at the door,

there are more with him who doth desire to

see you.

BRUTUS

They are the faction.

Audience Lights turn on as Inner Voice 1 steps forward

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #1

O conspiracy,

Shamest thou to show thy dangerous brow by night

When evils are most free? O, then by day

Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough

To mask thy monstrous visage?

Inner Voice 2 steps forward to meet Inner Voice 1

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #2

Seek none, conspiracy.

Hide it in smiles and affability.

CASSIUS enters

CASSIUS

Good-morrow Brutus, shall I entreat a word

CASSIUS and BRUTUS walk upstage, while DECIUS walks across stage

DECIUS

Are you not moved, when all the sway of Earth

Shakes like a thing unfirm? Oh Cassius,

I have seen raging tempests, scolding winds,
The ambitious ocean swell and rage and foam.
I believe, they are portentous things, but,
These prodigies shall not curtail our plot
Give me your hands all over, one by one.
And let us swear our resolution

BRUTUS

No, not an oath. But do not stain
The even virtue of our enterprise,
To think that or our cause or our performance
Did need an oath, when every drop of blood
That every Roman bears—and nobly bears—
Is guilty of a several bastardy
If he do break the smallest particle
Of any promise that hath passed from him.

DECIUS

Shall no man else be touched but only Caesar?

CASSIUS

Decius, well urged. I think it is not meet
Mark Antony, so well beloved of Caesar,
Should outlive Caesar.

Let Antony and Caesar fall together.

BRUTUS

Our course will seem too bloody, Caius Cassius,

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #1

Let us be sacrificers but not butchers, Caius.

BRUTUS

We all stand up against the spirit of Caesar,
And in the spirit of men there is no blood.

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #1

Oh, that we then could come by Caesar's spirit
And not dismember Caesar!

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #2

But, alas,
Caesar must bleed for it.

BRUTUS

And, gentle friends,
Let's kill him boldly but not wrathfully.

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #2

Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods,

BRUTUS' Inner Voice #1

Not hew him as a carcass fit for hounds.
We shall be called purgers, not murderers.
And for Mark Antony, think not of him,
For he can do no more than Caesar's arm
When Caesar's head is off.

Clock strikes

CASSIUS

But it is doubtful yet
Whether Caesar will come forth today or no.
For he is superstitious grown of late,
It may be, these apparent prodigies,
May hold him from the Capitol today.

DECIUS

Never fear that.
For he loves to hear
That unicorns may be betrayed with trees,
And bears with glasses, elephants with holes,

Lions with toils, and men with flatterers.

But when I tell him he hates flatterers,

He says he does, being then most flatterèd.

If he be so resolved,

I can o'ersway him. And I will bring him to the Capitol.

CASSIUS

The morning comes upon's. All remember

What you have said, and show yourselves true Romans.

BRUTUS

Good gentlemen, Let not our looks put on our purposes,

But bear it as our Roman actors do,

With untired spirits and formal constancy.

And so good morrow to you every one.

Conspirators leave, Brutus walks back to chair, now more resolute in
killing Caesar, and speaks with conviction.

BRUTUS

It must be by his death