

CLASS – VIII

JULIUS CAESAR

CHAPTER 11 – UNEASY ALLIES

SUMMARY

Several months later after death of Julius Caesar, Brutus has gathered his force in Sardis and was ready to face the armies of Octavius and Mark Antony. Since leaving Rome, Brutus and Cassius have grown cautious of each other.

A soldier brings the news to Brutus that Cassius will arrive soon. Cassius arrives with his army and accuses Brutus of having wronged him. Brutus replies that he would not wrong him, as he considers him his brother. He insists that they will continue discussion privately as he did not want to argue in front of his troops. So, he orders the troops to move away. Cassius charges Brutus for prosecuting his friend, the governor of Sardis, for taking bribes, even though Cassius sent letters asking him not to do. Brutus responds by accusing Cassius of having bribes himself. Brutus brings up an old problem and accuses Cassius of not sending money he needed for the army. The two men insult each other. Brutus is disappointed because of the dishonesty of Cassius. Cassius on the other side accuses Brutus of having ceased to love him. He hopes that Antony and Octavius will kill him soon. He no longer desires to live. Ashamed by the criticism of his brother-in-law (Brutus), he pulls out his dagger to kill himself. Brutus tells Cassius to put his dagger away and he grabs Cassius' hand to stop him harming himself. The argument is over and they forgive each other.

Brutus explains his mental condition to Cassius. He says that he has been under many emotional burdens lately. The foremost of which has been the death of his wife Portia. He has recently received news from his messenger Messala that she killed herself in a house fire. Messala enters with news from Rome. He says Mark Antony and Octavius have put a hundred senators to death including Cicero.

REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT

'Let us not wrangle. Bid them move away.'

1. Who is the speaker?

Ans. Brutus is the speaker.

2. Whom does the speaker speak to ?

Ans. The speaker speaks to Cassius.

3. In the above lines 'them' refers to whom?

Ans. In the above lines 'them' refers to the troops of Brutus.

4. What advice does the speaker give?

Ans. The speaker advises not to argue before his troops.

II. Answer the following questions.

1. Why was Cassius angry with Brutus?

Ans. Cassius was angry with Brutus because he disregarded letters Cassius wrote in defense of his friend, the governor of Sardis, who was accused of taking bribes.

2. Why was Brutus angry with Cassius?

Ans. Brutus was angry with Cassius because according to him once he had asked Cassius to

send money but his request was denied.

3. Who brought news from Rome? What was the news?

Ans. Messala brought news from Rome. He said a hundred of senators have been killed by Antony and Octavius and Portia killed herself in a house fire.

CHAPTER 12 – THE GHOST OF CAESAR

SUMMARY

Messala brought the information that Octavius and Mark Antony have marched to nearby Philippi. Cassius tells to Brutus it is better for them to wait for their enemy to come to them until Antony and Octavius wear out their own armies with travel. That way Brutus and Cassius' army will still be fresh to fight. But Brutus points out, though that the enemy army might gather strength as it goes. Because more and more men between Rome and Philippi don't support Brutus and Cassius. They might be willing to join Antony and Octavius' forces. Brutus thinks his and Cassius' army is at its peak right now. They will only get weaker. Ultimately they agree to go to Philippi and meet Antony and Octavius' army. Everyone decides to get a little sleep. Cassius leaves the place and goes for taking rest. Brutus calls his some trusted soldiers in his tent for company. Brutus asks Lucius to play a tune on his instrument, even though he is feeling sleepy. Lucius plays tune, but falls asleep with everyone else asleep. Brutus is still awake and he opens a scroll to read, but interrupted by the entry of Julius Caesar's ghost. He is terrified and asks the ghost if it is 'some god, some angel, or some devil'. The ghost replies that it is 'thy evil spirit.' It has only appeared to say that they will meet again at Philippi. The ghost then disappears. Brutus calls Lucius, Varro and Claudius and asks whether they have seen or heard something. But they all swear that they have seen and heard nothing. Brutus is terrified and orders the soldiers to go to Cassius and tell him to be ready to march.

I. Reference to the context:

“ Art thou some god, some angel, or some devil that makest my blood cold
and my hair to stare.”

1. Who is the speaker?

Ans. Brutus is the speaker.

2. Who is being referred as 'some god, some angel, or some devil' in the above lines?

Ans. The ghost of Julius Caesar is being referred as 'some god, some angel, or some devil' in the above lines.

3. What is the condition of the speaker when he speaks the above lines?

Ans. The speaker is terrified while speaking the above lines.

4. Why is the speaker terrified?

Ans. The speaker is terrified as he has seen ghost of Julius Caesar whom they killed.

II. Answer the following questions:

1. What is Brutus' plan?

Ans 1. He plans on meeting Octavius and Mark Antony at Philippi so they don't meet anymore men along the way to gather strength.

2. What was Cassius' suggestion when he heard Antony and Octavius' have marched to

nearby Philippi?

Ans 2. Cassius suggested that it would be better for them to sit and take rest until Antony and Octavius wear out their own armies with travel.

3. What happened with Brutus when he opened a scroll to read?

Ans3. As Brutus opened a scroll to read, he saw a shadow and was terrified. The shadow was Julius Caesar's ghost. It told him that it was 'thy evil spirit' and they would meet again at Philippi.