

STD VIII

ENGLISH

JULIUS CAESAR

Chapter 16: The Final Throw of the Dice

Summary

Brutus prepares for another battle. Everyone goes out onto the battlefield in a blaze of glory. Young Cato runs around shouting his name as a challenge to anyone who stands for tyranny and against the Roman Republic. Lucilius is running around pretending to be Brutus. Some enemy soldiers kill young Cato. They are ready to kill Lucilius too. But he says he is Brutus, and they should be honoured to kill him. He offers the soldiers money to kill him. The soldiers captured him and are excited to show off their catch to Antony as they really believe he is Brutus.

Mark Antony hears that Brutus has been captured by his soldiers. He asks to see Brutus. Antony is surprised to see Lucilius instead of Brutus. The captive Lucilius tells Antony that no one will ever take Brutus alive. Antony tells his over eager soldiers that this man is not Brutus, but he is no less worth capturing. He admires Lucilius' sacrifice. Antony orders the soldiers to keep Lucilius safe and to be kind to him as he had rather have such men for friends than enemies.

Antony then sends some soldiers to find out whether Brutus is alive or dead. He goes to Octavius' tent to hear news of how things are going.

Reference to the context:

“I am Brutus, Marcus Brutus, I

Who is the speaker?

Ans. Lucilius is the speaker.

2. Whom does the speaker speak to?

Ans. The speaker speaks to the enemy soldiers.

3. Who pretends himself to be Brutus?

Ans. Lucilius pretends himself to be Brutus.

4. When does the speaker speak the above lines?

Ans. The speaker speaks the above lines when he was surrounded by the enemy soldiers.

II. Answer the following questions:

1. How does Lucilius try to confuse the enemy soldiers? What happened then?

Ans. Lucilius tells his enemy soldiers that he is Brutus and they should be honoured to kill him to confuse them.

The soldiers captured him and are excited to show off their catch to Mark Antony as they really believe he is Brutus.

2. What does young Cato proclaim in the battlefield?

Ans. He proclaims his name around the battlefield as a challenge to anyone who stands for tyranny and against the Roman Republic.

3. What does Antony do when he recognise Lucilius?

Ans. When Mark Antony hears that Brutus has been captured . He arrives the scene to meet him but he recognises Lucilius. He tells his soldiers that they have captured the wrong man. Although they didn't get Brutus, they still captured a nobleman.

Chapter17: The Death of a Nobleman

Summary

At the edge of the battlefield, Brutus stops and asks his remaining friends to rest on a rock. He calls Clitus aside and asks him to do something in whisper. Clitus declines to do the mystery deed, saying he would rather kill himself. The process is repeated with Dardanius. The two men Clitus and Dardanius, reveal to each other that Brutus has asked them to kill him. Then Brutus calls Volumnius and tells him that Caesar's ghost has appeared to him twice, once at night at Sardis and once again in the fields of Philippi.

Brutus knows his hour has come and he would rather leap into the pit than loiter around and wait for his enemies to push him in. He asks Volumnius to kill him, since they were old friends. Volumnius points out that this is the very reason he can't do it. Just then Clitus warns that the enemy is closing in. So, he urges everyone to get away before the enemy arrive.

Brutus speaks to his men valiantly. He tells everyone to flee and promise to follow after everyone else has left. The only man left with Brutus now is Strato. Brutus tells Strato to hold his sword and pulls himself onto the sword and dies.

Antony, Octavius and their armies along with the captive Lucilius and Messala now approach the site of Brutus' death. Messala asks Strato what has happened to Brutus. Then Strato says that Brutus is free. Only Brutus overcome Brutus and Brutus himself is the only one who gained honour in his death. Antony declares Brutus 'the noblest Roman of them

all' as he alone among the conspirators killed Caesar not out of envy but out of concern and care for the public good.

Reference to the context:

“ Hold, then, my sword and run away the face, while I do run upon it.”

Who is the speaker?

Ans. Brutus is the speaker.

2. Whom does the speaker speak to?

Ans. The speaker speaks to Strato.

3. What is being referred as 'it' in the above lines?

Ans. In the above lines 'it' refers to Brutus' sword.

4. Who is being referred as 'I' in the above lines?

Ans. In the above lines 'I' refers to Brutus.

II. Answer the following questions:

1. How does Brutus die?

Ans. Brutus, a leading conspirator in the assassination of Julius Caesar dies by suicide after his defeat at the battle of Philippi. He tells one of his attendants Strato to hold his sword and pulls himself onto the sword and dies.

2. How does Antony regard Brutus at the end of the play?

Ans. Antony declares Brutus 'the noblest Roman of them all' as he alone among the conspirators killed Caesar not out of envy but out of concern and care for the people of Rome.

3. Why does Brutus say he wants to commit suicide?

Ans. In ancient Rome, suicide was considered an honourable alternative to being humiliated by the enemy. Brutus did not want to be captured by Antony and Octavius and marched in triumph through Rome where the victor shows off his spoils

and his captives. That would have been the ultimate defeat for Brutus. So, he decides to commit suicide.