

father. He loves and admires, Caesar for his noble qualities, but he distrusts him, and so he tramples upon gratitude, esteem and loyalty for the phantom honour of free citizenship, which as yet has not been taken from the Romans. He does not fear the Emperor for what he is, but for what he may *become*. Thus he does not live in the present but in the future. Brutus' personal pride and honour will not allow him to acknowledge a sovereign, but will permit an act of treachery.

At first Brutus is inclined to fear the dangers into which Cassius may lead him, but once approached, he soon becomes the tool of the conspirators. He was a patriot ready for the sacrifice of anyone, but—left alone—is little inclined for energetic action and still less for political activity. The death of the Republic is plainly near; nevertheless Brutus allows himself to be so far deluded by Cassius' artifices and well calculated eloquence that he not only ignores, or does not see the evident signs of the times, but determines to commit a deed, in political respects doubtful and morally criminal. Brutus has enough influence over Cassius to cause him to accept his advice against his own judgment for friendship's sake. He condemns his confederate for extorting money from the poor peasants, but demands Cassius' help to pay his soldiers. In this, his conduct is not consistent. The same incongruity is shown in his determination to commit suicide rather than be led a captive to Rome, for just before he expresses this resolve he blames Cato for so far forgetting his Stoic principles as to kill himself after a defeat.

Brutus considers Antony a mere reveller, of no political importance, whereas Antony is intensely ambitious and loyal to Caesar. Another proof of Brutus' lack of penetration is that he will not allow the Conspirators to assassinate Mark Antony with Caesar—for fear of what the people will think. Then, he permits him to deliver the funeral oration over the Emperor's body, and his eloquence inflames the Commoners to such a heat that the faction is obliged to flee from Rome.

Brutus is to be condemned for his weakness in allowing himself to be led, and his ambition to be aroused to the extent he did; for listening to the counsel and flattery of a man whom he knew to be jealous of Caesar; for utterly forgetting gratitude to the Emperor, who had not only saved his life, but made him his friend; for his inconsistencies for rebelling against just authority; for mistrusting Caesar who had given him no cause