

**Julius Caesar: Act I, Scene ii - Brutus and
Cassius (part 1)
Lesson 1 of 5**

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CASSIUS

Listen to me, dear Brutus. Sometimes it is hard for people to understand themselves, so let me show you who you are. Imagine I am your mirror and I will show you your true reflection.

Trumpets play offstage, and then a shout is heard.

BRUTUS

Why do the people shout? I'm worried that they want to make Caesar the **king**.

Cassius is saying to Brutus that they can talk through Brutus' worries.

Stage direction. The crowds are excited because Caesar is returning from war.

Brutus is concerned that Caesar is becoming too powerful.



CASSIUS

You are afraid of that? Then you must not want him to be king?

BRUTUS

I don't, Cassius, even though I do love Caesar very much. But why do you keep me here so long? What is it that you want to tell me? If it's for the good of all Romans, I'd do it even if it meant my death. **I love honour more than I fear death.**

IMPORTANT. Honour is very important to Brutus.



CASSIUS

I know this quality of honour in you, Brutus—it's as familiar to me as your face. In fact, honour is what I want to talk to you about.

A shout offstage. Trumpets play.

BRUTUS

Oh no! More shouting! I think all this applause is for some new titles awarded to Caesar.

Cassius compliments Brutus.

Brutus is worried Caesar is being given more power.



CASSIUS

Why, Caesar strides over the narrow world like a giant, and we small men walk under his huge legs and look forward only to dying dishonourably, as his servants.

Men can be masters of their fate. It is not destiny's fault, but our own faults, that we are servants.

“Brutus” and “Caesar”. **Why is Caesar so special?**

Why should that name be honoured more than yours? Write them together—your name is just as good. Say them—yours is just as nice to say. Now, in the name of all the gods, I ask you what food does Caesar eat that has made him grow so great?

Metaphor: They are not really servants, but they have less power than Caesar.

Cassius is jealous of Caesar.



BRUTUS

I have no doubt that you love me. **I think I understand what you want me to do.** What I think about this, and about what's happening here in Rome, I'll tell you later. For now, don't try to persuade me anymore—I ask you as a friend. I'll think over what you've said.

What does Cassius want Brutus to do?

