

## **Julius Caesar : Answer the following questions briefly.**

### **(a) How do the heavens 'blaze forth' the death of Julius Caesar?**

Ans. Calpurnia sees ill-omens that predict the death of Caesar beforehand. The heavens predict the death princes and great kings. She saw a lioness giving birth on the streets, fierce warriors fighting a bloody fight and blood falling on the Capitol, ghosts shrieking and squealing in the streets, the dead coming out of the grave. All these were unnatural happenings and indicated bad omen. Thus heavens "blaze forth" the death of Julius Caesar. All this signalled that someone as powerful as Caesar was bound to suffer.

### **(b) What does Calpurnia convince Caesar of?**

She convinces Caesar to avoid going to the senate. She describes her frightening dreams to Caesar and tells him that they indicate bad omen. She believed that Caesar would be safe if he stays at home.

### **(c) Why does Calpurnia say Caesar 's wisdom is consumed in confidence ? What does it mean?**

Ans. When Caesar is adamant about going to the senate, Calpurnia dissuades him. But Caesar believes that omens are for the weak and not for the mighty like him. Calpurnia says that Caesar's over confidence has clouded his wisdom. He was so confident that he neither refused to see reason nor understood the indication behind the ill-omens.

### **(d) What was Calpurnia's dream? How was it interpreted by Decius Brutus?**

Ans. Calpurnia sees a terrifying dream in which Caesar is murdered, his statue is gushing blood and many smiling Romans are bathing their hands in his blood. Calpurnia was not superstitious but earlier in the night she had a nightmare comprising the dead man walking about. She felt that the dream was a premonition of the evil that was going to befall Caesar. So she forbids Caesar to go to the Senate. But Decius cleverly interprets it positively. He says that the vision of Romans bathing in Caesar's blood signifies that Caesar's spirit or influence will touch many lives; staining their handkerchiefs in Caesar's blood indicates reverence, dedication and a token of memory on part of the Romans.

### **(e) What arguments did Brutus and other conspirators give to justify the killing of Caesar?**

Ans. Julius Caesar is an able general and a mighty conqueror who has brought great glory to Rome. It is believed by many that Caesar is too ambitious and would one day be the Roman emperor and a dictator. Jealous of Caesar's growing power, Cassius instigates a conspiracy to murder Caesar. The conspirators were unhappy with Caesar's obstinacy and egoistic behaviour. Cassius was jealous of Caesar's soaring power and popularity. According to Cassius, Caesar was a tyrant who wanted to treat the Romans as slaves and that Roman liberty and democracy were under threat from Caesar. Brutus stabbed Caesar because he was an idealist and believed that ambition and tyranny should be nipped in the bud but Cassius killed Caesar because he wanted to be a part of the Roman triumvirate.

### **(f) Why is Decius more successful than Calpurnia in persuading Caesar?**

Ans. Decius interprets Calpurnia's dream as a fair and fortunate vision. Decius Brutus is a great flatterer. He is more successful in persuading Caesar than Calpurnia because his argument appeals to Caesar's pride. He says that the vision of Romans bathing in Caesar's blood signifies Caesar's spirit or influence will increase manifold. Basically he boosts Caesar's ego, flatters his greatness and might and makes him feel more powerful. So Caesar is happier with his version.

**(g) What is the petition put before Caesar by the conspirators? How does Caesar respond to it?**

Ans. The conspirators want Caesar to pardon Publius Cimber and recall the order of his banishment. They request him to review his earlier decision. However, Caesar is no mood to relent. He tells the conspirators that he is firm like a Pole Star. His heart will not be softened by bowing and stooping activities and if Mettellus Cimber continues such activities, he would turn him away like a street dog.

**(h) Who says 'Et tu Brute ' ? When and why?**

Ans. Caesar utters these words which mean, "You too, Brutus". These are uttered when Brutus stabs Caesar and Caesar is too hurt to see that even his dear friend Brutus could resort to such treachery.

**(i) In the moments following Caesar's death how do the conspirators proclaim to justify Caesar's death? .**

Ans. The conspirators wish to justify by Caesar's death by announcing their love and loyalty to Rome. They say that Caesar was very ambitious and Romans would have become slaves under his autocratic rule. According to Brutus, Caesar was a tyrant and Roman liberty and democracy was under threat and Caesar wished to become an Emperor.

**(j) What does Antony say after Caesar's death when he sees the body of Caesar?**

Ans. Antony apologizes to Caesar's body for being meek and gentle with his murderers. He curses the hands that killed such a noble man. He also requests them to kill him for he cannot tolerate Caesar's death.

**(k) Whom does Antony call 'the choice and master spirits of this age'. Why?**

Ans. Antony calls Brutus and powerful people after Caesar's death, power. Moreover he wants to flatter their ego, to pretend that he is not against them.

**(l) How do Brutus and Cassius respond to Antony 's speech?**

Ans. Both Brutus and Cassius request Antony not to plead for his own death. They offer him authority and good position and ask for his support in the murder of Caesar.

**(m) Why does Cassius object to allowing Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral? How does Brutus overcome this objection?**

Cassius does not think it would be proper Antony should speak at Caesar's funeral as his speech may change the mind of the audience. But Brutus tells that Antony would only speak with their consent and he will speak first and his speech will enumerate reasons for Caesar's death.

**(n) How do Brutus and Cassius respond to Antony's request for giving a speech? What are the conditions imposed by them?**

Ans. Cassius is very much against Antony's idea of speech but Brutus feels that no harm can befall him and others with just a speech. Brutus says that he will give a speech first and justify Caesar's death so there will not be a problem, if Antony delivers his speech later. Moreover Antony asked to deliver the speech from the same platform and not talk against them.

**(o) When he is left alone with the body of Caesar what does Antony call Brutus and others?**

Ans. Antony curses the murderers and he seeks forgiveness for being polite to them. He calls them 'butchers' who killed the noblest of men.

**(p) What prediction does Antony make regarding the future events in Rome?**

Ans. Antony prophesies that Italy will be ravaged with civil war, violence and extreme blood shed will leave the earth full of dead bodies. Goddess of revenge will descend on earth with Caesar's spirit and the stench of dead bodies will fill the earth.

**(q) What reasons does Brutus give for murdering Caesar?**

Brutus tells that he killed Caesar because he had become ambitious and wanted to be the king of Rome. He killed Caesar for the betterment of Rome. He was also ready to lay down his life for his country. He honoured Caesar as long as he was heroic but when he became ambitious he killed him.

**(r) Who says "let him be Caesar"? What light does this throw on the speaker?**

Ans. The 3rd citizen says this. This statement reflects on the vulnerability of the mob who believe, whatever is told to them. They say that Brutus should be put in place of Caesar, after being impressed by his speech. Later they turn towards Mark Antony and kill Brutus and others.

**(s) Why is Antony's speech more effective?**

Antony speech is more effective because it is genuine and full of emotions and feelings for Caesar. He very cleverly tells the crowd that Caesar was not ambitious rather he had refused the crown thrice. He enhanced the glory of Rome with his victories. He left 75 drachmas in his will to be given to every Roman. He left his gardens and property for the common use of the people. He tries to gain the sympathy of the people by showing Caesar's wounded body. The mob is filled with anger after Antony's speech and they rush to kill the conspirators.

**(t) At the end of the scene what is the fate of Brutus and Cassius?**

After Antony's speech, the mob is filled with anger. They rush to kill the conspirators. They burn their houses. Cassius and Brutus plan to face the enemy and discuss their strategy inside a tent. However, both start to quarrel violently but soon become friends. Cassius cannot handle defeat and commits suicide. The ghost of Caesar haunts Brutus. Brutus knows his end is near. He asks Starto to hold his sword, runs on it and dies.