

## Julius Caesar : Act 2, Scene 3

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*Enter ARTEMIDORUS [reading a paper].*

*paper* (A letter that Artemidorus has written.)

**ARTEMIDORUS**

"Caesar, beware of Brutus; take heed of Cassius;  
come not near Casca; have an eye to Cinna, trust not  
Trebonyus: mark well Metellus Cimber: Decius Brutus  
loves thee not: thou hast wronged Caius Ligarius.

2.3.5 There is but one mind in all these men, and it is  
bent against Caesar. If thou beest not immortal,  
look about you: security gives way to conspiracy.  
The mighty gods defend thee!

**security gives way to conspiracy** overconfidence  
opens the door to conspiracy  
**lover friend, follower, well-wisher**

Thy lover,

2.3.10 **ARTEMIDORUS."**

Here will I stand till Caesar pass along,  
And as a suitor will I give him this.  
My heart laments that virtue cannot live  
Out of the teeth of emulation.

**suitor** one who has a favor to ask

2.3.15 If thou read this, O Caesar, thou mayst live;  
If not, the Fates with traitors do contrive.

**Out of the teeth of emulation** out of danger from  
malicious envy  
**contrive** conspire

*Exit*

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## Soliloquy activity

Soliloquy Definition:

**Pg. 906-907 Cassius' Soliloquy: this takes place after Cassius has tried to talk Brutus into joining the dark side.**

**CASSIUS**

I will do so. Till then, think of the world.

Exit BRUTUS

Well, Brutus, thou art noble. Yet I see  
Thy honorable mettle may be wrought  
From that it is disposed. Therefore it is meet  
That noble minds keep ever with their likes,  
For who so firm that cannot be seduced?  
Caesar doth bear me hard, but he loves Brutus.  
If I were Brutus now and he were Cassius,  
He should not humor me. I will this night,  
In several hands, in at his windows throw,  
As if they came from several citizens,  
Writings all tending to the great opinion  
That Rome holds of his name, wherein obscurely  
Caesar's ambition shall be glanced at.  
And after this let Caesar seat him sure,  
For we will shake him, or worse days endure.

What purpose does it serve of Cassius to be on the stage alone talking?

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**Pg. 917, Brutus' soliloquy: this takes place right after Lucius has brought Brutus the letter he found forged by Cassius from the Romans.**

**BRUTUS**

It must be by his death, and for my part  
I know no personal cause to spurn at him  
But for the general. He would be crowned.  
How that might change his nature, there's the question.  
It is the bright day that brings forth the adder  
And that craves wary walking. Crown him that,  
And then I grant we put a sting in him  
That at his will he may do danger with.  
Th' abuse of greatness is when it disjoins  
Remorse from power. And, to speak truth of Caesar,

I have not known when his affections swayed  
More than his reason. But 'tis a common proof  
That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,  
Whereto the climber upward turns his face.  
But when he once attains the upmost round,  
He then unto the ladder turns his back,  
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees  
By which he did ascend. So Caesar may.  
Then, lest he may, prevent. And since the quarrel  
Will bear no color for the thing he is,  
Fashion it thus: that what he is, augmented,  
Would run to these and these extremities.  
And therefore think him as a serpent's egg—  
Which, hatched, would as his kind grow mischievous—  
And kill him in the shell.

What do the last three lines of this soliloquy mean?

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Page 932-933 Artemidorus' Soliloquy: this is Caesar's warning to stay away from the conspirators.  
Will he read it???

#### ARTEMIDORUS

(reads aloud)

"Caesar, beware of Brutus. Take heed of Cassius. Come not near Casca. Have an eye to Cinna. Trust not Trebonius. Mark well Metellus Cimber. Decius Brutus loves thee not. Thou hast wronged Caius Ligarius. There is but one mind in all these men, and it is bent against Caesar. If thou beest not immortal, look about you. Security gives way to conspiracy. The mighty gods defend thee!

Thy lover,  
Artemidorus"

Here will I stand till Caesar pass along,  
And as a suitor will I give him this.  
My heart laments that virtue cannot live  
Out of the teeth of emulation.  
If thou read this, O Caesar, thou mayst live.  
If not, the Fates with traitors do contrive.

What do we learn from Artemidorus' soliloquy?

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1. Write a soliloquy in modern language from the point of view of any other character on a separate sheet of paper. It needs to be at least 10-15 lines. Reveal your thoughts and feelings.