

MARC ANTONY

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest—
For Brutus is an honourable man;
So are they all, all honourable men—
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.
He was my friend, faithful and just to me:
But Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.
He hath brought many captives home to Rome
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:
Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?
When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.
You all did see that on the Lupercal
I thrice presented him a kingly crown,
Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
And, sure, he is an honourable man.
I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,
But here I am to speak what I do know.
You all did love him once, not without cause:
What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him?
O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
And I must pause till it come back to me.

MARC ANTONY

Friends, Romans, countrymen: give me a moment
of your attention. I've come here to bury Caesar,
not to praise him. The evil that men do is
remembered after they die, but the good is often
buried with their bones. May it be that way with
Caesar. The noble Brutus told you that Caesar was
ambitious. If that's true, it's a terrible fault—and
Caesar has paid terribly for it. Now, with the
permission of Brutus and the others—because
Brutus is an honorable man, as all the others are
honorable men—I have come to speak at Caesar's
funeral. He was my friend. He was loyal and fair to
me. But Brutus says he was ambitious, and Brutus
is an honorable man. He brought many captives
home to Rome whose filled the public treasury. Did
Caesar seem ambitious when he did this? When
the poor cried, Caesar cried. Ambition shouldn't be
so tender-hearted. Yet Brutus says he was
ambitious, and Brutus is an honorable man. You all
saw that on the feast day of Lupercal, I offered
Caesar a king's crown three times. And all three
times he refused it. Was that ambition? Yet Brutus
says he was ambitious. And, of course, Brutus is
an honorable man. I do not say this to disprove
what Brutus has said, but to speak about what I
know. You all loved Caesar once, and not without
reason. So what reason stops you from mourning
him? Oh, gods! You have become brutish beasts,
and men have lost their reason! Apologies for that
outburst. My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
and I must pause until it returns to me.