

**A CRITICAL STUDY: CHARACTER OF MARCUS BRUTUS**

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Abstract:

The paper is about detailed description of Marcus Brutus in William Shakespeare “Julius Caesar”. Brutus is the dramatic hero of “Julius Caesar”. Brutus is a patriot to the back bone. He loves his country more than anything else. He loves Rome, the Romans and their freedom and honour. To Brutus death for the good of his country and countrymen is the highest honour. Cassius, the shrewd conspirator plays upon this patriotic feeling of Brutus. He cannot see Cassius’ jealousy. He misreads Antony and considers him only a limb of Caesar. He commits a blunder when he rejects Cassius’ proposal to kill Antony along with Caesar. His next blunder is that he allows Antony to address the mob. Brutus is all love, tenderness and kindness as a man. But he is quite arrogant, inconsiderate and even unjust as a leader. He always overrides the practical proposals of his followers. . His nobleness is his greatest weakness. He thinks that everyone is as reasonable, honest and patriotic as he himself. I admire Brutus for his nobleness and integrity. I love him for his kindness. It is a pity that he has fallen among wrong men. He takes in hand a job for which he is a pity that he has fallen among wrong men. He takes in hand a job for which he is totally unfit emotionally, intellectually and temperamentally.

Keywords: description, dramatic hero, conspirator, patriotic, blunder etc

Character of Marcus Brutus is far more complex than the characters of Julius Caius Cassius and Mark Antony. According to the editor of Arden Shakespeare, Brutus is the dramatic hero of “Julius Caesar”. The play “Julius Caesar” tells us the story of the revenge and victory of Caesar, but it is a tragedy of the fall of noble Brutus.

His honesty, integrity and respect

Out of all the characters in Julius Caesar, Brutus is a man of the greatest honesty and integrity. He is respected and honoured by all. In Casca's word, he sits high in all the people's hearts. There is no one who has even a word to say against Brutus. This integrity and moral force of his character makes him the leader of the conspiracy which took birth in the mind of Cassius. Though he is impractical and less experienced than Cassius in the practical and political affairs yet he overrules everyone.

His patriotism

Brutus is a patriot to the back bone. He loves his country more than anything else. He loves Rome, To Brutus death for the good of his country and countrymen is the highest honour. Cassius, the shrewd conspirator plays upon this patriotic feeling of Brutus. He knows that Brutus hates tyranny. He some-how convinces Brutus that Caesar is likely to become a tyrant. Brutus loves and admires Caesar. He is right in saying that he killed Caesar not because he loved Caesar less, but because he loved Rome more.

His gentleness and consideration for others who depend on him

Brutus is a stoic who looks on pleasure and pain indifferently. He has infinite capacity to bear personal loss or sorrow. When he quarrels with Cassius for quite some time, he gives no him of the greatest loss he has suffered of his wife Portia. But this stoic's heart is full of the milk of human kindness. He is all tenderness, consideration and love for those who depend on him. He calls his guards to come in and sleep on the cushions, because he knows that they must have been very much tired and sleepy. He gives to Luccillius, his slave, the of a father. The most moving and lovable side of Brutus is revealed in his relationship with his wife. He is a tender, loving and dearly loved husband. He has a great regard and respect for the individuality of his wife.

His nobleness

Noble is one adjective which every one uses for Brutus, for every one he is noble. In his funeral speech, Antony calls him noble only ironically. But even Antony knows that Brutus is a noble man. In his last tribute Antony calls him the noblest Roman of them all. And it is a tribute paid in all sincerity. Brutus' nobleness coupled with tenderness and love of his country makes him a man "with himself at war". Love of his people makes him fear Caesar's power. Love of Caesar

His power of inspiring loyalty

In the whole play, Brutus is one man who has no one disloyal to him. A sick old man, named Ligarius is ready to do the impossible if noble Brutus but older him. In the last scene of the play, one by one, Brutus requests his friends to hold his sword so that he may run on it. But they all shrink back in horror.

His defects: impractical

But Brutus, the noble-minded idealist too, has his weaknesses. Brutus is a thinker, an idealist who is at home only in the world of books and ideas. As a man of action he fails. He has no understanding of human nature and human motives. For him every one is as noble as he himself is. He cannot see Cassius' jealousy. He misreads Antony and considers him only a limb of Caesar. He commits a blunder when he rejects Cassius' proposal to kill Antony along with Caesar. His next blunder is that he allows Antony to address the mob. There also he overrules Cassius' practical proposal. In this matter Brutus is a foil to Cassius who is more practical, and has a better understanding of people with whom he is dealing.

His sense of moral superiority, and his arrogance

Caesar's power and bravery makes him arrogant. Brutus sense of moral superiority makes him blind as well as arrogant. He overrules all practical proposals just because he feels that he alone knows what is morally right. His arrogance is seen in the quarrel scene. In a very haughty and arrogant tone he says to Cassius.

There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats

For I am arm'd so strong in honesty.

It is this moral arrogance of Brutus which makes him unreasonable, inconsiderate and even unjust to his fellow conspirators. He rejects Metellus Cimber's proposal to include Cicero also. He says, O, name him not....

For he will never follow anything

That other men begin.

Ironically, these words apply to Brutus as well. He also does not follow anything suggested by other men.

The Tragic Hero. In spite of all his impracticality and moral arrogance. Brutus is a great character in Julius Caesar. Brutus is honourable, respectable and also lovable. He is really the most lovable character. We feel the horror of Caesar's murder, but we don't feel any pity or love for Caesar. We are not moved to tears by the suicides of Cassius and Titinius.

But we are moved almost to tears near the end of the quarrel scene when we see the deep wound that Portia's tragic end has given him. With this pain in his heart, he naturally became harsh to Cassius. But we cannot help loving him when we see that he forgives Cassius. Reconciled with Cassius, he tries to drown his sorrow in wine, and later, in music. With these shocks and wounds, Brutus is tender and loving to his guards and his slave. We feel pity for his fall and death, because we love him. We feel horror because, for a slight flaw of his character, such a noble and great man meets a tragic end. This pity and horror which Brutus' end fills in our heart make him the tragic hero of the play Julius Caesar.

#### Good points of Brutus

Brutus' nobleness and honesty. Brutus is noble and honest. He hates dishonesty and cruelty. He quarrels with Cassius because he latter exacted bride from the people. Noble Brutus rejects Cassius' proposal to kill Antony along with Caesar, because he does not want unnecessary bloodshed. Only Caesar should be killed, because, according to Brutus, Caesar alone is a danger to Rome.

Brutus is a great Patriot. Brutus loves his country and his countrymen more than anything else. Death, for his country would be an honour for him. He joins the conspirators and kills his beloved friend only for the common good of his people. He has no personal grudge against Caesar.

Brutus is a kind and loving man. Brutus has great power to endure personal loss and pain. But to other he is kind and tender. He loves his wife dearly. He gives to his slave the love of a father. He is kind and considerate even to his guards. When they are tired, he calls them in to sleep on the cushions in his tent.

He is loved and respected by all. Brutus is honoured and loved by all even Antony, his deadliest enemy, calls him "the noblest Roman of them all".

#### His bad points:

Impractical. Brutus is an idealist. Thoughts and theories. But he is an impractical man fated to fail in the field of action. He has no understanding of human nature and character. He is blind to the ill-will which his fellow conspirators bear against Caesar. Shrewd Cassius leads him by the nose, in the beginning at least. He misreads Antony's character. His nobleness makes him the leader of the conspiracy. No one opposes him. But as leader he commits blunders after blunders and along with his followers meets a tragic end.

Arrogant as a leader. Brutus is all love, tenderness and kindness as a man. But he is quite arrogant, inconsiderate and even unjust as a leader. He always overrides the practical proposals

of his followers. As a leader he thinks he alone knows what is right. He knows no defect in Caesar yet he decides to join his killers for the good of Rome. But once involved in a bloody business, he arrogantly rejects the proposal of killing Antony along with Caesar. He gives a pompous moral lecture about killing the spirit and not tearing the body of Caesar to pieces.

But for all his impractically and arrogance and ignorance, Brutus is the noblest Roman of them all. He fails only as a leader of a bloody and lovable. His nobleness is his greatest weakness. He thinks that everyone is as reasonable, honest and patriotic as he himself. I admire Brutus for his nobleness and integrity. I love him for his kindness. It is a pity that he has fallen among wrong men. He takes in hand a job for which he is a pity that he has fallen among wrong men. He takes in hand a job for which he is totally unfit emotionally, intellectually and temperamentally. I feel that Brutus joins the conspirators because a very shrewd and cunning man like Cassius works upon his noble nature, in a very subtle way.

References:

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- The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th ed. Copyright© 2018, The Columbia University Press.