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At the conclusion of Act I, Scene I of William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Flavius and Marullus, two tribunes or officials of Rome, devise a plan to address the growing public adulation of Julius Caesar. Their concern stems from their disapproval of the masses' fickle loyalty and their own fears about Caesar's rise to power. Their plan reflects their desire to curb the celebration of Caesar and to remind the people of Rome about their past allegiances and the importance of maintaining the republican ideals. This moment sets the stage for the political tensions and themes of loyalty, power, and betrayal that permeate the play.

Context Leading Up to Flavius and Marullus's Plan

The Political Climate in Rome

Rome, during the time of Julius Caesar, was a republic struggling with internal divisions. Caesar's recent successes and growing influence threaten the traditional republican order, which valued the power of the Senate and the collective authority of the Roman people. The celebration of Caesar's triumph and his rising popularity create unease among those who fear the erosion of republican values.

The Roles of Flavius and Marullus

Flavius and Marullus are tribunes, officials who represent the interests of the common people and uphold the laws of Rome. They are depicted as patriotic individuals concerned about the potential tyranny that Caesar's dominance might bring. Their role is to act as guardians of the republic and to oppose any signs of tyranny or undue favor towards Caesar.

The Public's Fawning Over Caesar

In the opening scenes, the streets are filled with citizens celebrating Caesar's triumph over Pompey's allies. The tribunes observe this enthusiasm with suspicion and disapproval, perceiving it as a dangerous shift away from traditional Roman values and a sign of impending tyranny.

Flavius and Marullus's Plan: The Details

Their Intent to Remove Caesar's Decorations

Flavius and Marullus plan to confront the celebrating citizens and remove the decorations and symbols that exalt Caesar. Their goal is to diminish Caesar's public adulation and to remind the populace of their past loyalty to the republic rather than to any individual.

- They intend to tear down Caesar's statues and banners.
- They want to discourage the crowd from worshiping Caesar as a hero or divine figure.
- This act symbolizes their attempt to restore the republican order by reducing Caesar's growing influence.

Their Strategy for Public Intervention

The tribunes plan to physically remove the symbols of Caesar's triumph to halt the celebration and to challenge the crowd's allegiance.

1. They seek to approach the crowd during the festival or celebration.
2. They will remove or deface Caesar's symbols to undermine his authority and popularity.
3. Their actions are meant as a warning to the citizens about the dangers of excessive adulation and the potential rise of tyranny.

The Underlying Motivation

Their plan is driven by a sense of patriotism and concern for Rome's republican principles. They perceive Caesar's rising power as a threat to the stability and freedom of Rome.

- They fear that Caesar's ambition may lead to dictatorship.
- They believe that by removing Caesar's symbols, they can curb his influence and preserve the republic.
- Their actions serve as a political statement against the growing imperialism embodied by Caesar.

The Significance of Their Plan in the Play

Foreshadowing Political Conflict

The tribunes' plan foreshadows the larger conflict between republican ideals and autocratic rule that unfolds throughout Julius Caesar. Their concern about Caesar's power reflects the fears shared by many characters in the play.

Illustrating the Themes of Loyalty and Power

Their attempt to remove Caesar's symbols highlights the tension between loyalty to the state and personal allegiance. It also emphasizes how symbols and public perception can influence political stability.

Setting Up the Play's Central Conflict

By planning to deflate Caesar's celebratory image, Flavius and Marullus embody the opposition to Caesar's rise. Their actions symbolize the resistance to tyranny that will become central as the play progresses and as characters like Brutus and Cassius plot against Caesar.

Broader Implications of Their Actions

Risks and Consequences

Their plan is not without risks. Removing Caesar's symbols could provoke anger from Caesar's supporters or even lead to punishment from authorities loyal to Caesar.

- They risk incurring the wrath of Caesar himself.
- Their act could escalate tensions and contribute to the brewing civil unrest.
- Their political stance places them in opposition to the ruling powers.

Historical and Cultural Significance

In ancient Rome, symbols and public displays held significant power. The tribunes' attempt to deface Caesar's triumph symbolizes a broader struggle over authority, legitimacy, and the control of public narratives.

Modern Parallels

This scene and the tribunes' plan resonate with contemporary themes about the importance of

symbols, protest, and the dangers of unchecked power. Their actions reflect the timeless tension between authority and resistance.

Conclusion

Near the end of Scene I, Flavius and Marullus's plan to remove Caesar's symbols highlights their concern over the dangerous adulation that Caesar receives. They seek to undermine his rising influence by defacing his triumphal decorations, aiming to restore the republican ideals of Rome. Their actions serve as a symbolic gesture of resistance against tyranny and foreshadow the larger conflicts that will unfold in the play. Their plan underscores the themes of loyalty, power, and the fragile nature of political stability, making their motives and actions a crucial element in understanding the play's exploration of leadership and betrayal. Ultimately, their decision to intervene reflects the timeless struggle to balance authority with the preservation of democratic principles.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main reason Flavius and Marullus decide to remove the decorations from Caesar's statues at the end of Scene I?

They want to diminish Caesar's growing popularity among the common people and prevent him from gaining excessive power.

How do Flavius and Marullus plan to execute their protest against Caesar's rising influence?

They plan to remove the decorations and tributes from Caesar's statues to symbolize their disapproval and to diminish his prestige among the citizens.

Why are Flavius and Marullus concerned about Caesar's power at the end of Scene I?

They fear Caesar's increasing influence threatens the republic's stability and the traditional Roman values of democracy and shared power.

What does their plan reveal about the political climate in Rome during the play's setting?

It highlights tensions and unrest among some Romans who are wary of Caesar's growing dominance and are willing to take action to oppose it.

Are Flavius and Marullus successful in their plan to remove Caesar's decorations?

In the play, they do attempt to remove the decorations, but their efforts are ultimately unsuccessful as the crowd and Caesar's supporters intervene.

What is the significance of Flavius and Marullus's plan in the broader context of the play?

Their plan underscores themes of political dissent and the clash between individual loyalty and loyalty to the state, setting the stage for the ensuing conflict.

Additional Resources

Near The End Of Scene I, What Do Flavius And Marullus Plan To Do?

The opening act of William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* introduces the audience to a political and social landscape rife with tension, loyalty, and impending upheaval. Among the earliest and most significant characters introduced are Flavius and Marullus, two tribunes of Rome who serve as early commentators on the societal shifts occurring around them. As the scene unfolds toward its conclusion, their intentions crystallize into a plan aimed at addressing what they perceive as the dangerous rise of Caesar's popularity and the neglect of traditional Roman values. This article explores in detail what Flavius and Marullus plan to do at the end of Scene I, analyzing their motivations, specific actions, and the broader implications of their intended course.

Contextual Background: Who Are Flavius and Marullus?

Before delving into their plan, it's essential to understand who Flavius and Marullus are within the play's political landscape. Both are tribunes, officials elected to protect the interests of the common people and uphold the traditional Roman Republic's ideals. Their role historically includes serving as watchdogs against corruption and tyranny, making their concern about Caesar's growing power a natural extension of their duties.

In Scene I, they are depicted as figures of civic virtue, disapproving of the crowds celebrating Caesar's triumph and the newfound popularity that threatens the republic's balance. Their initial dialogue reveals their disdain for the masses' fickleness and their own suspicion of Caesar's ambitions. Their dialogue sets the tone for their subsequent actions—an attempt to restore what they see as the moral and political order of Rome.

Their Motivations: Why Do Flavius and Marullus Plan to Act?

Understanding their motivations is key to grasping the scope and nature of their plan. Several factors motivate Flavius and Marullus:

Preservation of Republican Values

- They view Caesar's ascent as a threat to the Roman Republic's foundations.
- Their disdain for the crowd's adulation stems from a desire to uphold traditional Roman virtues like humility, moderation, and respect for the Senate's authority.

Concern Over Popularity and Power

- Caesar's increasing popularity, symbolized by the decorations adorning his statues, symbolizes a shift toward autocratic rule.
- Flavius and Marullus see this as dangerous, risking the erosion of Roman democratic principles.

Personal and Civic Duty

- As tribunes, they feel a civic obligation to intervene against what they perceive as a populist frenzy that could lead to tyranny.
- Their actions are motivated both by personal conviction and a sense of duty to protect the republic.

The Plan: What Do Flavius and Marullus Intend To Do?

As the scene reaches its conclusion, Flavius and Marullus articulate a clear plan designed to counteract the celebration of Caesar. Their plan involves the following specific actions:

Removing Caesar's Decorations

- They intend to go to the statues of Caesar and remove the crowns and other adornments placed there by the crowd.
- Their goal is to diminish Caesar's perceived divine status and to remind the populace of the true nature of leadership—one rooted in virtue rather than spectacle.

Dispersing the Crowd

- By removing symbols of Caesar's power, they aim to destabilize the celebratory atmosphere.
- Their actions are also meant to discourage the masses from continuing to venerate Caesar excessively.

Publicly Confronting or Reprimanding the Celebrants

- While not explicitly detailed in the text, their intentions include confronting the crowd or the individuals involved in the festivities.
- This would serve as a warning to others about the dangers of idolizing leaders and abandoning traditional Roman virtues.

Preventative Censorship of Caesar's Honors

- Implicit in their plan is an attempt to halt any further displays of loyalty or honors bestowed upon Caesar that could consolidate his power further.
- Their efforts are aimed at curbing the spread of Caesar's influence in the public domain.

The Significance of Their Actions

The plan of Flavius and Marullus is not merely about removing decorations; it is a symbolic act representing resistance to the rise of tyranny. Analyzing their intentions reveals several layers of significance:

Defense of the Roman Republic

- Their actions symbolize a stand against the perceived encroachment of autocratic rule.
- They seek to reinforce republican ideals that emphasize shared power and respect for traditional institutions.

Warning to Future Generations

- By actively removing Caesar's symbols, they serve as cautionary figures warning against the dangers of unchecked ambition and popular adulation.

Foreshadowing of Political Conflict

- Their plan foreshadows the larger conflict that will unfold throughout the play—between the forces of republicanism and tyranny.

Personal Courage and Moral Integrity

- Their willingness to confront the crowd and challenge popular sentiment demonstrates personal bravery rooted in moral conviction.
- Their actions highlight the recurring theme of individual responsibility in the face of societal change.

Potential Risks and Limitations of Their Plan

While Flavius and Marullus's intentions are rooted in civic virtue, their plan is fraught with potential risks:

Retaliation from Caesar's Supporters

- Removing Caesar's decorations could be seen as an act of rebellion, provoking hostility or violence from his followers.

Legal and Political Repercussions

- As tribunes, their actions could be interpreted as insubordination or disruption of public order, risking punishment or censure.

Effectiveness and Practicality

- Their plan relies on immediate, symbolic acts that may not have a lasting impact on Caesar's rising power.
- The political tide might be too strong to be countered by such acts alone.

Public Perception

- Their actions could be viewed as meddlesome or overly radical, alienating other citizens or officials.

Despite these risks, their resolve underscores a fundamental tension in the play: the struggle between individual moral action and the larger currents of political change.

Conclusion: The Endgame of Flavius and Marullus

Near the end of Scene I, Flavius and Marullus's plan to remove Caesar's decorations and challenge the celebratory crowd encapsulates their core motivation: to preserve the republic's virtues and prevent Caesar's autocratic ambitions from taking hold. Their intent to act reflects a deep civic responsibility, a desire to uphold traditional Roman values, and a recognition of the peril posed by unchecked popular support for a single leader.

Although their actions may seem symbolic and ultimately limited in scope, they serve as an early moral statement within the play—a reminder of the importance of individual conscience and civic duty in times of political upheaval. Their plan foreshadows the larger conflicts that will unfold, emphasizing that resistance to tyranny often begins with small, courageous acts rooted in principle.

In the context of Julius Caesar, Flavius and Marullus stand as emblematic figures representing the

enduring struggle between liberty and authority, tradition and change. Their plan, formed at the end of Scene I, is a testament to their commitment to the republic and a prelude to the tragic events that will unfold as the play progresses.

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