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CAIUS CASSIUS: PERFECTIONS WITHIN IMPERFECTIONS

Within the play *Julius Caesar* of William Shakespeare, Caius Cassius is portrayed as a talented general and is also an acquaintance of Julius Caesar. Throughout the play, Cassius showed his jealousy towards Julius Caesar due to the powers that Caesar held, and thus, he tried to manipulate other Romans to help him overthrow Caesar. Under the audiences’ points of view, the question of whether Caius Cassius is a good being or not seems to be ignored, as Shakespeare already explicitly portrayed Cassius as an antagonist. Personally, however, I believe that Cassius is a good person despite his significant imperfections, which negated many readers’ views upon him.

In spite of his false manipulations upon many characters, Cassius does care about the common good of Rome. In Act I, Scene 2, even though Cassius was trying to manipulate Brutus to overthrow Caesar, Cassius also revealed his thoughts towards Roman’s common goods through a soliloquy – “for we will shake him, or worse days endure.” In other words, Cassius expressed that the ruling of Caesar will result in future hardships toward the Roman society. Therefore, Caesar must be eliminated before his power becomes boundless and harmful. Cassius expected that Caesar’s ambitions would bring a tyrannical government, which was abolished five centuries ago for the goods of Rome; and this reveals Cassius’s concern for the general good of Rome

In spite of the unlimited envies that Cassius holds upon anyone who is more advantageous than he is, Cassius does show sympathies towards a friend’s sadness. In Act IV, Scene 3, when Brutus mentioned of his wife’s – Portia’s – suicide, Cassius replied “o insupportable and touching loss!” This expression displays Cassius’ effort to offer his condolences to Brutus’s hardships. Overall, Cassius is similar to any other human being as he has two sides. When it comes to his rivals, Caius Cassius can be a cold-blooded anaconda, but when it comes to his closest friends, he is more than just a harmless kitten that brings happiness to its owner.

In spite of Cassius’ immature outrages towards Brutus when he is infuriated, Cassius does regret his actions and is willing to make up for his mistakes. In Act IV, Scene 3, while Brutus was wretched about his wife’s suicide, Cassius barged inside the tent and vented at Brutus for being a bad friend who couldn’t understand Cassius’s feelings. However, Cassius then twice apologise through the lines: “love enough to bear me” and “how scaped I killing when I crossed you so?” (…) In other words, Cassius apologised and appreciated Brutus for being patient enough to stand Cassius’ anger. Through Cassius’s sincere apologies, we can easily perceive how penitent he feels after committing such mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes, however, a bright individual is one capable of realising his faults and putting in efforts to change his attitudes.

Despite of many Cassius’ faults displayed through the pen of William Shakespeare, Cassius is still a good friend towards those who deserve his benevolent nature. Cassius cares about the common good of the people around him, he regrets for what he has done, and he shows sympathy towards a friend’s sadness. This proved that not everyone is well rounded nor every fault indicates an individual’s atrociousness, as the character himself is still a human; and as human, nobody is perfect.