

D. BHATTACHARJEE'S SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON JULIUS CAESAR

Q Second Citizen

Truly, sir, all that I live by is which the awl : I meddle with no tradesman's matters, nor women's matters; but withal I am, indeed, sir surgeon to old shoes; when they are in great danger, I recover them. As proper men as ever trod upon neat's leather have gone upon my handiwork

Flavius

But wherefore art not in thy shop today?
Why dost thou lead these men about the streets?

- (i) To which question does the Second Citizen give his reply in the first sentence in the extract? Give one example to show that the Second Citizen has earlier confused the officer by his strange replies.
- (ii) Give the meaning of: "All that I live by is with the awl." What subtle humour is hinted at in this sentence?
- (iii) Why does the speaker call himself a surgeon? Explain clearly the implied comparison.
- (iv) Give the meaning of the following: "As proper men as ever trod upon neat's leather, have gone upon my handiwork".
- (v) What light does the sentence in question above throw on the speaker's craftsmanship?
- (vi) What answer does the Second Citizen give to the following question of Flavius: "Why dost thou lead these men about the streets?" Why is his reply humorous?

Q Cassius

Bruits, I do observe you now of late;
I have not from your eyes that gentleness
And show of love as I was wont to have.
You bear too stubborn and too strange a hand
Over your friend that loves you.

Brutus

Be not deceiv'd : if I have veil'd my look,
I turn the trouble of my countenance
Merely upon myself. Vexed I am
Of late with passions of some difference,
Conceptions only proper to myself,
Which give some soil, perhaps, to my behaviors

- (i) Where are Brutus and Cassius at this point of time?
- (ii) Why does Brutus not go along with Caesar to the games? With whom does Brutus contrast himself? How?
- (iii) What does Cassius accuse Brutus of?
- (iv) What, do you think, is the motive of Cassius in professing friendship to Brutus? What type of a person was Cassius?
- (v) Give the meaning of: "vexed I am / Of late with passions of some difference"

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Q Casca

Are not you mov'd when all the sway of earth
Shakes like a thing unfirm? O Cicero!
I have seen tempests, when the scolding winds
Have riv'd the knotty oaks; and I have seen
Th' ambitious ocean swell and rage and foam,
To be exalted with the threat'ning clouds;
But never till tonight, never till now,
Did I go through a tempest dropping fire.

- (i) Where is Casca at this time? In what state has he come there? To whom is he speaking?
- (ii) Give the meaning of the following:
 - (a) all the sway of earth / Shakes like a thing unfirm?
 - (b) Explain: The ambitious ocean swell and rage and foam,
To be exalted with the threat'ning clouds.
 - (c) All the creatures on earth tremble like on unfirm thing.
 - (d) The rising ocean swell with waves and on a tempest and are raised up to the sky.
- (iii) What are the "scolding winds"? What did they do?
- (iv) What did Casca see which he had never seen in his life earlier?
- (v) What does he conclude immediately after the extract about the Calamities?
- (vi) What is the next day supposed to be? What will be a fatal day? Who had warned about that day?

Q Brutus

Then, lest he may, prevent. And, since the quarrel
Will bear no colour 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, hatch'd, would, as his kind, grow mischievous,
And kill him in the shell.

- (i) "So Caesar may". What may Caesar do? Your answer must refer to the metaphor of the ladder, used by Brutus in his speech. How do Brutus intend to prevent Caesar from doing so?
- (ii) Give the meaning: "And, since the quarrel/ Will bear no colour for the thing he is / Fashion it thus."
- (iii) What is meant by augmented? How can Caesar be augmented? How had there already been an attempt to augment him?