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Julius Caesar Essay

Being a hero means that you are a representation of being an honorable and virtuous person. Always thinking about people around you and always trying to help the poor who are most misfortunate. In the story, *Julius Caesar*, written by William Shakespeare, the character Brutus is an honorable and noble character. He is a man always thinking of Rome and believing in the benefit of Rome. However, in the story, Brutus made three critical errors in his judgment. He did not suspect that character Cassius to manipulate his judgment of Caesar. He thought that Antony was powerless without Caesar. Lastly, he made a terrible decision of going to Philippi instead of staying where he is.

Brutus' first error was that he was easily manipulated into changing his judgment of Caesar by Cassius. Due to the fear that Brutus had felt when Caesar was able to be crowned king, Cassius was able to jump on this fact and manipulate him. He flatters Brutus saying that Caesar is weak and does not deserve the crown.

He further lies by saying that he had to save Caesar when he was drowning by a lake. Cassius states that Caesar does not deserve the crown any more than him or Brutus. He was even able to make Brutus believe that he is actually better than Caesar saying,

“Brutus” and “Caesar”—what should be in that/ “Caesar”?/ Why should that name be sounded more than yours?/ Write them together, yours is as fair a name;/ Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;/ Weigh them, it is as heavy; conjure with ’em, / “Brutus” will start a spirit as soon as “Caesar.” (Julius Caesar 1.2.149-156)

Cassius was able to manipulate Brutus into joining the conspiracy against Caesar.

This goes to show how cunning Cassius is to Brutus and how he easily manipulated Brutus into joining the conspiracy against Caesar. Caesar even stated that Cassius is a dangerous man. He believes that Cassius is a man who is never happy as long as he beholds ‘a greater than [himself].’ It shows how dangerous Cassius is to Brutus. He was being known as a cunning and manipulative man. Had Brutus known what Caesar had thought of Cassius, he would have at least been suspicious of the words in which Cassius had said.

Brutus’ next error was that he believed that Antony’s ability to be very low. He thought that if Antony did not have Caesar he would be powerless, even saying, " For Antony is but a limb of Caesar. Let’s be sacrificers, but not butchers, Caius" (*Julius Caesar* 2.1.178-179) If Brutus had known the reason why Antony was able

to stand by the side of Caesar, then he too would agree in killing Antony. However, due to the fact that Brutus' way of thinking was pretty much the opposite way in which Antony thinks, Brutus was not able to see Antony as a threat. His way of thinking focuses on only his point of view. He is honest and honorable, being able to sway people by letting them see how he thinks and feels. However, Antony focuses on the other party's point of view. He is cunning and manipulative of the other person by saying things that can change the perspective of certain words. He is able to deceive them with this and move them in the way he wants them. These two ways of thinking even showed when they both spoke at Caesar's funeral. His overconfidence in believing that the people would only listen to him was thrown away once Antony had done his speech. Antony was able to sway the people, changing the perspective of Brutus' words saying that they killed him because he was ambitious. Not the words that Brutus actually meant by saying he was ambitious enough to make Romans his slaves. Antony was able to convince the Romans that the conspirators were in the wrong by telling them that Caesar wept when the poor wept, or his riches are Rome's riches. He was able to anger the Romans and cause them to riot. This went exactly how he wanted, only thinking that people are just to be used. Even showing his true nature when he was discussing with Octavius and Lepidus. Due to the fact that Antony and Brutus are

opposite of each other, one was honest while the other was manipulative, Brutus was unable to see the fact that Antony was more of a major threat than Caesar was.

Lastly, one of the most crucial mistakes that Brutus had made was the fact that he insisted that they go to Philippi and meet his enemy's army. He even asks Cassius, "Well, to our work alive. What do you think/ Of marching to Philippi presently?" (*Julius Caesar* 4.3. 224-225) which is asking for his opinion on marching to Philippi. Cassius gave a good answer, believing that they should stay where they are, gather their strength and when the enemy comes to them, they would strike them. However, Brutus overruled that decision believing that it is better to strike them at Philippi as the soldiers have nothing to do. This was one of Brutus's or if not one of his most crucial mistakes as that was where he lost his life and battle due to the fact of misunderstandings and bad omens. Had Brutus made the sound decision of undergoing Cassius' plan, then his fate might have changed. If he had stayed, he would have been able to build his army strength up, keep his army full of rest, build defenses, and better know the terrain more than his enemies. It would also make a large impact on the battle as his enemies would be exhausted or tired from the long march while his army was well-rested. This will allow him to have further success in battle, even having a larger chance of victory had Brutus stayed instead of marching to Philippi.

Brutus, the character from *Julius Caesar*, was a very honorable and noble man. If he didn't make three fatal mistakes which were not suspecting Cassius of manipulating him, believing Antony is powerless without Caesar, and crucially making the fatal mistake of going to Philippi instead of staying where he. If he didn't make these three mistakes he would have ended up very differently than how he is now. Brutus had made many errors. This however was not his fault as he was easily influenced by the people surrounding him and taking advantage of his ideas and personality. This is exactly how some good people can behave badly or misjudge others. They are easily influenced by the people surrounding them and can behave badly or misjudge others if guided by these people. Had there been at least one person who had the good intentions of helping him out, then the problem would have easily been solved. This, however, was not the case for Brutus as he had nobody there to help him with that. He was easily manipulated and was shoved in a way to behave badly. This goes to show that Brutus was a tragic hero, one that was manipulated, overconfident, and made a bad judgment call, which all lead to his downfall.

Works Cited citation:

Shakespeare, William. *Julius Caesar* from The Folger Shakespeare. Ed. Barbara Mowat, Paul Werstine, Michael Poston, and Rebecca Niles. Folger Shakespeare Library, November 6, 2020.

<https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/julius-caesar>