

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Calpurnia's Warning

In *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare uses omens and dreams to show warnings about the future. One of the most important signs comes from Calpurnia, Caesar's wife. The night before Caesar is assassinated, she has a terrifying dream and begs him to stay home. However, Caesar ignores her warning. This scene not only adds suspense to the play but also highlights gender roles in ancient Rome.

Calpurnia dreams that Caesar's statue is bleeding, and the Roman people are washing their hands in his blood. She believes this is a sign of danger and begs Caesar not to go to the Senate. She tells him, "Do not go forth today!" She believes her role as his wife is to protect him. In this moment, she is one of the few characters who tries to stop the tragedy before it happens.

Caesar, however, does not listen. He believes he is too powerful to be harmed. He tells Calpurnia that brave men should not fear death. He thinks that if he stayed home because of a dream, people would see him as weak. In the world of Rome, men were expected to be strong, fearless, and in control. Listening to a woman's warning might make him look unmanly.

At first, Calpurnia convinces Caesar to stay home. But then another character, Decius, arrives. He tells Caesar that the dream was actually a good sign, meaning he will give new life to Rome. He plays on Caesar's pride, saying that the senators might think he is afraid if he does not come. This makes Caesar change his mind. He ignores Calpurnia and leaves, leading to his death.

This scene shows how women's voices were often ignored in the play. Calpurnia sees the warning clearly, but because she is a woman, Caesar and other men dismiss her fears. Shakespeare uses this moment to show that sometimes ignoring wisdom—no matter where it comes from—can be dangerous. Calpurnia's dream is one of the strongest warnings in the play, but it is overlooked, leading to a great tragedy.