

Of late with passions¹⁰ of some difference,¹¹
 Conceptions only proper to myself,¹²
 Which give some soil,¹³ perhaps, to my behaviors;
 But let not therefore my good friends be grieved
 (Among which number, Cassius, be you one)
 Nor construe any further my neglect
 Than that poor Brutus, with himself at war,
 Forgets the shows of love to other men.

CASSIUS. Then, Brutus, I have much mistook your passion;
 By means whereof this breast of mine hath buried¹⁴
 Thoughts of great value, worthy cogitations.¹⁵
 Tell me, good Brutus, can you see your face?

BRUTUS. No, Cassius; for the eye sees not itself
 But by reflection, by some other things.

CASSIUS. 'Tis just.¹⁶
 And it is very much lamented,¹⁷ Brutus,
 That you have no such mirrors as will turn
 Your hidden worthiness into your eye,
 That you might see your shadow.¹⁸ I have heard
 Where many of the best respect¹⁹ in Rome
 (Except immortal Caesar), speaking of Brutus,
 And groaning underneath this age's yoke,²⁰
 Have wished that noble Brutus had his eyes.

BRUTUS. Into what dangers would you lead me, Cassius,
 That you would have me seek into myself
 For that which is not in me?

CASSIUS. Therefore, good Brutus, be prepared to hear;
 And since you know you cannot see yourself
 So well as by reflection, I, your glass
 Will modestly discover to yourself
 That of yourself which you yet know not of.²¹
 And be not jealous on²² me, gentle Brutus:
 Were I a common laughter,²³ or did use
 To stale with ordinary oaths my love
 To every new protester;²⁴ if you know
 That I do fawn on men and hug them hard,
 And after scandal²⁵ them; or if you know
 That I profess myself in banqueting
 To all the rout,²⁶ then hold me dangerous.

[*Flourish of trumpets and shout*]

BRUTUS. What means this shouting? I do fear the people
 Choose Caesar for their king.

CASSIUS. Ay, do you fear it?
 Then must I think you would not have it so.

10. passions feelings; emotions.

11. of some difference in conflict.

12. Conceptions . . . myself thoughts that concern only me.

13. soil blemish.

14. By means . . . buried because of which I have kept to myself.

15. cogitations (kaj ə tā shənz) *n.* thoughts.

16. 'Tis just it is true.

17. lamented (lə men' təd) *v.* regretted.

18. turn . . . shadow reflect your hidden noble qualities so you could see their image.

19. the best respect most respected people.

20. this age's yoke the tyranny of Caesar.

21. Will modestly . . . know not of will without exaggeration make known to you the qualities you have that you are unaware of.

22. be not jealous on do not be suspicious of.

23. common laughter object of ridicule.

24. To stale . . . new protester to make cheap my friendship to anyone who promises to be my friend.

25. scandal slander; gossip about.

26. profess myself . . . rout declare my friendship to the common crowd.

✓ Reading Check

Why does Cassius think that Brutus is unhappy with him?