

To slay, or not to slay, that is the question:  
Whether 'tis fairer for the realm to stab  
Upon the regal hand of land Straight,  
Or become berserk in brazen bollocks  
And aimlessly dawdle. To plot—then clot,  
Departing; and by a clot to say he bleeds,  
The curdling of blood and crowing of tears  
That Caesar shall bear: 'tis an Ambrosia  
Yearns the mighty Senate. To kill, to rule;  
To rule, perchance to die—ay, there's the snag:  
For follow't his death what chaos may come,  
When we have shaved Caesar to shreds.  
Must we pause? And cease reaction  
To Augur Pontifex Maximus,  
the lecherous carrier of power lust,  
Th'treachery bland, the transgression sinful.  
The delusion and dread of Despotism,  
The insolence of immoral, and the scorn  
Of a republic forgotten this very eve.  
When Liberators might regicide commit,  
For restoration? Why wouldn't we maul,  
To Flush wickedness of this state,  
Save the dread of something after end,  
The turning of the people, from whose bourn  
his namesake designated to salads, emperors  
Rendering us hands splaying his legacy onward.  
For Caesar? No, trust harmony be restored!  
Thus, the Senate shall slice Caesar into salad,  
And thus the golden hue of ichor  
Morphs maroon with mutant mortality,  
And debts most inordinate of dictators  
On the Ides of March demand blood  
And by action *Seize her!*

**Comment [sa1]:** Romans were considered Straightforward. Additionally, this also refers to the poker hand of a straight.

**Comment [sa2]:** British slang for nonsense

**Comment [sa3]:** Food or drink of the gods.

**Comment [sa4]:** Caesar was killed by members of Senate who believed that he was amassing too much power

**Comment [sa5]:** Civil war broke out after Caesar's death. His murder did not restore the balance of power; instead, it led to the demise of the Republic and birth of the Empire.

**Comment [sa6]:** A title of Caesar. Supposed to be declared in mocking humor.

**Comment [sa7]:** Brutus believes that the people are deluded and Caesar will eventually take all power from the Senate, effectively becoming a dictator.

**Comment [sa8]:** The title of the group of people who conspired to kill Caesar

**Comment [sa9]:** Refers to flush as in cleanse and as in the poker hand that is higher than the straight.

**Comment [sa10]:** Alludes to modern objects possessing Caesar's name: Caesar salads and Kaisers/Tsars.

**Comment [sa11]:** Golden blood of immortal Greek gods.

**Comment [sa12]:** The day debts were collected in Rome. Also, the day Caesar was murdered.

**Comment [sa13]:** Phonetically identical to Caesar. *Her* refers to Caesar's debt of blood and the state of Rome.

To be, or not to be, that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles  
And by opposing end them. To die—to sleep,  
No more; and by a sleep to say we end  
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks  
That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation  
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;  
To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub:  
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  
Must give us pause—there's the respect  
That makes calamity of so long life.  
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,  
Th'oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,  
The pangs of dispriz'd love, the law's delay,  
The insolence of office, and the spurns  
That patient merit of th'unworthy takes,  
When he himself might his quietus make  
With a bare bodkin? Who would fardels bear,  
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,  
But that the dread of something after death,  
The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn  
No traveller returns, puzzles the will,  
And makes us rather bear those ills we have  
Than fly to others that we know not of?  
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all,  
And thus the native hue of resolution  
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,  
And enterprises of great pitch and moment  
With this regard their currents turn awry  
And lose the name of action.

## An *Idiot's* Ridiculous and Resentful Ruminations

The preceding soliloquy presents my narration of Brutus's (aka *Idiot's*) thoughts before resolving to murder Julius Caesar. I must preface this work with the detail that I have not yet read Shakespeare's play *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* and likely omitted relevant features that should have been addressed. In addition, I took some liberties with Brutus's thoughts and diction that may not be accurate to the history. Anyway, I consider this soliloquy a mostly fictional retelling loosely based on true events.

I shall now provide a brief explanation of language in the soliloquy. First, the word *merc* is internet slang for injure or kill (I assume this verb is derived from mercenary). Given the nature of a parody, I thought that this word choice was appropriate. Such employment of slang insinuates that Brutus is inept and insane. Still, the soliloquy parallels the structure and style of Hamlet's third soliloquy for the most part. Several allusions to Roman and Greek life add local color to the soliloquy. Moreover, Caesar salad among other references bring comical elements to the soliloquy. Alliteration develops a poetic flow to this soliloquy. Syntax speeds and slows the pace of reading, heightening the emotional intensity of certain lines. In total, these elements enhance the reader's comprehension and emotional experience of the soliloquy.

The following sentences will describe the pipeline of Brutus's contemplation. Brutus's thoughts appear somewhat bombastic and capricious. Pondering whether to kill Caesar, Brutus asks whether it is fairer for the kingdom if he stabs Caesar or if goes insane. He poorly answers his own question by stating that killing Caesar would bring the Senate to a state of elation. After this, he turns his thoughts completely and contemplates the consequences of Caesar's death and if he would be killed should he succeed Caesar. Without fully examining these ideas, Brutus transitions to list the crimes of Caesar against the state in a fit of crescendoing range. Finally, Brutus slows to consider how the murder of Caesar will affect Caesar's legacy. Once again, Brutus pushes this thought aside, declaring that harmony in Rome will be restored following Caesar's death. Brutus concludes this soliloquy with the resolution to kill Caesar. Overall, Brutus's arguments against Caesar come across as irrational and personal. He does not weigh his options judiciously and disregards any notion that suggest that he should not kill Caesar. Instead, he convinces himself that he is simply restoring balance.

I enjoyed this task. I was fond of some of the wordplay and alliteration, especially during the last few lines. Additional notes on lines will be attached.