

**Powerplay
Antony and Cleopatra
Act 3**

Breaking points

Act 2 Scene 7	<p>Pompey and the Triumvirate celebrate their arrival at an agreement. The quiet before the storm? Lines 52 - 83 Powerplay (private but political): Pompey and Menas discuss what could be done with the Triumvirate since they are on Pompey's ship. Pompey reveals a public and private acceptance of Menas' plan. As a consequence of showing his loyalty by speaking, he in fact loses.</p>
Scene 2	<p>Lines 8 – 13 Agrippa and Enobarbus sing the praises of their leaders. Conversations between Agrippa and Enobarbus allow interpretation of their leaders' responses for the audience. A theatre kind of shorthand. Lines 24 – 34 Caesar reinforces the hope that the marriage of Octavia and Antony will seal his relationship with Antony.</p>
Scene 3	<p>Consider this scene with Act II Sc 5 c. line 110 Cleopatra attacked the messenger for bringing her news she didn't want to hear. Lines 11 - 16 Cleopatra unfavorably reinterprets the Messenger's description of Octavia. Lines 18 – 38 The messenger responds to Cleopatra's desire to believe Octavia is no competition. Small example of powerplay (personal) for the sake of self preservation on the part of the messenger.</p>
Scene 4	<p>Lines 1 – 10 Antony outlines his renewed disapproval of Caesar. Becomes a justification for his actions henceforth. Also allows the audience to be brought up to date with the action. Line 22 – 23 "If I lose mine honour/I lose myself ..." foreshadows action. Advises Octavia to leave. Reflects characteristics already in evidence; contrasts with Caesar.</p>
Scene 5	<p>Lines 6 – 11 Caesar's powerplay (political, public). Changes the dynamics between characters; eliminates Pompey and Lepidus.</p>
Scene 6	<p>Lines 1 – 10 Powerplay (political, public): Antony is now in Alexandria with Cleopatra. Public display. (Contrast Act II Sc 2 lines 195 – 222.) Antony is distributing land – land represents power. Lines 25 - 31 Caesar's description of Antony's grievances demeans Antony: "had not rated him ..."; "he frets ..."</p>

	<p>Lines 32 – 38 Caesar concedes some points but insists on other. Lines 80 – 91 Caesar uses Octavia's changed circumstances as an added grievance: "You are abus'd/ Beyond the mark of thought ..."</p>
Scene 7	<p>Lines 10 – 15 Enobarbus foreshadows the impact of Cleopatra's presence on Antony's ability to 'manage this war'. Lines 20 – 53 Powerplay (or loss of power, public): Antony makes a snap decision and will not yield to advice from Enobarbus. Cleopatra reinforces Antony's decision.</p>
Scene 8	<p>Lines 11 - 33 Powerplay (or loss of power, political): Antony's retreat is described to Enobarbus. "I never saw an action of so much shame ...". Consider Act III Sc 4 Line 22 – 23. Powerplay (personal): Lines 44 – 46 Enobarbus expresses his belief in loyalty. Personal power for a character in the audience's eyes?</p>
Scene 9	<p>Powerplay (or loss of power): Lines 7 – 24 Antony's self loathing; contrasting concern for his soldiers. Lines 35 – 74 Powerplay (personal): Antony and Cleopatra discuss fault; shift in their interaction: mutual acceptance of blame; Antony expresses the strength of his devotion; Cleopatra has a deeper understanding?</p>
Scene 10	<p>Powerplay (political): Antony makes requests of Caesar as the defeated and on behalf of Cleopatra. Lines 26 – 36 Powerplay: Caesar wants more.</p>
Scene 11	<p>Lines 20 – 28 Antony is incensed "... answer me ... sword against sword ..." Lines 30 – 37 Powerplay (or loss of power): Enobarbus' reflection on Antony's diminishing judgement. Lines 52 - 85 Powerplay (public, political): Thidias attempts to manipulates Cleopatra in his representation of the situation. Powerplay (or loss of power): Lines 93 – 94 Enobarbus' reflection Lines 105 – 131 Thidias' visit has turned Antony against Cleopatra Powerplay (personal): Lines 153 – 193 Cleopatra's response to Antony's tirade reflects the patience he showed in Act I Sc 3 when he told her he was leaving. Lines 194 – 200 Powerplay (or loss of power): Enobarbus' reflection on Antony's diminishing judgement.</p>