ACT IV Sc. 1

This scene reveals the true nature of the newly formed Second Triumvirate — a power sharing agreement between Mark Antony, Octavius Caesar and Lepidus. While they might seem united on the surface, Shakespeare uses this scene to show their hidden ambitions, manipulations and willingness to compromise their morals.

Antony emerges as the most cunning member of the group. He's willing to put aside his rivalry with Octavius to gain power, which shows his practical thinking. Antony readily agrees to create a list of people to be killed, showing a ruthless disregard for human life. The way he subtly insults Lepidus by calling him a "weakling" also hints that Antony might be manipulative.

Although Octavius doesn't take center stage as much as Antony in this scene, he still shows signs of ambition. His agreement to the killings suggests he's willing to use ruthless tactics to serve his position. However, there is also a hint of potential conflict with Antony.

Lepidus appears to be the weakest member of the triumvirate. He initially hesitates about the killings, but Antony easily convinces him to go along with it. This shows that Lepidus

lacks strong beliefs and is easily swayed by others, especially Antony. It seems like the other two characters only see Lepidus as someone they can use for a short time before discarding him.