

Antony & Cleopatra's Loss and Gain For An Immortal Love From Shakespeare's Antony And Cleopatra*

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Abstract

William Shakespeare's magnificent work *Antony & Cleopatra* introduces a divine love of two immortal lovers. In this love struggle, the magnificent heroes sacrifice for the sake of this eternal love. Thus they deserve to become immortal through such a divine love. The aim of this thesis is to investigate the meaning of love, honour and immortality through insight of the two great characters; Antony and Cleopatra. Through these questions this paper is going to scrutinize these issues: What do Antony & Cleopatra gain and lose for this divine love? How can two mortal lovers become immortal through a divine love?

Keywords: *Immortality, Power of Love, Sacrifice, Honour, Divinity*

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Shakespeare'im Antony ve Cleopatra'sında Antony ve Cleoptra'nın Ölümsüz Aşktan Kazançları ve Kayıpları

Öz

William Shakespeare'in muhteşem eseri *Antony & Cleopatra* iki ölümsüz aşğın kutsal aşkını anlatıyor. Bu aşk mücadelesinde muhteşem kahramanlar bu sonsuz aşk uğruna fedakarlık yapıyorlar. Böylece bu ilahi aşk uğruna ölümsüz olmayı hak ediyorlar. Bu tezin amacı aşkın anlamını, onur ve ölümsüzlüğü bu iki harika karakteri; Antony ve Cleopatra'yı inceleyerek araştırmaktır. Bu konuları bu kağıt şu sorular vasıtasıyla yapacaktır: Antony & Cleopatra bu kutsal aşk uğruna ne kazandı ve ne kaybetti? Kutsal bir aşk vasıtasıyla ölümlü iki aşık nasıl ölümsüz olabilir?

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Ölümsüzlük, Aşkın Gücü, Fedakarlık, Onur, Kutsallık*

Introduction

William Shakespeare; a universal and timeless author, one more time has done a marvellous job writing such an excellent love story. In the brilliant writer's *Antony & Cleopatra*, the most splendid way of loving is brought to light. "Some love stories are immortal. The true love story of Antony and Cleopatra is one of the most memorable, intriguing and moving of all times. The true story of these two historical characters had later been dramatized by the maestro William Shakespeare and is still staged all over the world. The relationship of Antony and Cleopatra is a true test of love" (Venture, 2017)

Throughout the centuries the ethos of the play has been fervently the debated. Shakespeare decorates the magnificent love of Antony and Cleopatra and incomparable features of Cleopatra in his best poetic manner so that the beauty of the language he has chosen combines with the attraction and power of Cleopatra perfectly. (Cunningham, 1955)

The love of Cleopatra and Antony is considered a celebration of a glorious passion that transcends the traditional moral laws of romantic moral critics. Throughout history, the basis of political events has been based on the phenomenon of domination, which has been replaced by the phenomenon of love in Cleopatra and Antony. (Baktır,2013) Yet this ironic greatness of love and sensuality will be the cause of her death. Cleopatra is depicted

as mysterious, powerful, beautiful and seductive in all depictions.(Cohen, 1997)

In the play, Cleopatra first appears as a character with opposite qualities. On the one hand, she is charming, beautiful and adorable; on the other hand, she is seductress, tricky, and destructive. (Smith, 2012)

Cleopatra, for instance, is a very complex and difficult character to analyze and evaluate, since she has controversial relation with other characters. Cleopatra combines enjoyment, playfulness, sensuality and passion in her character. She is a queen, but she does not seem to have a control over her passion. She is more like a woman who plays acts (improvises), who is under the influence of her emotions and who enjoys love affairs more than politics (Brown,1981).

In the first scene she seems to be a coquette, on the one hand, who manipulates Antony so skillfully that he does what she wants. On the other hand, she is an insecure, sensual, charming and emotional woman who needs to have someone to support her belief that nothing is so important as much as love. She is a sensual woman who likes compliments and wants to feel that she is beloved. Therefore, she delights in playing with passions and in teasing Antony. She also uses exaggerated language to express her love, which she thinks is greater than any other love in the world.(Dryden, 2011)

For her victory, war and conquering whole kingdoms are no more than a merely daily errand. The very first statement she utters reveals this aspect of her character. Although she knows that love cannot be compared to anything she teases Antony, and asks him ‘If it be love indeed, tell me how much’. (Caldwell, 2001)

In Antony’s and Cleopatra’s love, the most magnificent way to love was made in daylight. The game starts:

Cleopatra asks “If you love it, tell me how much”.

Antony answers: “Measurable love is a poor love ”

“What if I try to measure? “

“Then you will find yourself another world” (Shakespeare, 1996)

In this love story, Cleopatra plays a role in the axis of the phenomenon of love both in terms of logic and sensitivity. Cleopatra and Antony's love comes from the power of magic. The main topic of the game is that even in the simplest form, love and love can afford death. Shakespeare has shown an unprecedented talent with dramatic and poetic aspects in this play. (Carey,1981)

That is a love to "Let Rome in Tiber melt, and the wide arch/ of the ranged empire fall" (1.1.35-36). While Antony utters such strong words, one may wonder; what is the definition of love? Love is dedicating one's self for the other part. It can only be love to change, to resurrect, to give hope. It may only be love to close eras or open eras in the history. It is such a strong emotion to create, and to devastate. Antony and Cleopatra's love is so strong that it raises them to the level of Gods and Goddesses. As Shakespeare wrote in his sonnet 116:

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,
That looks on tempests, and is never shaken,
It is the star to every wandering bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error, and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.
(Shakespeare, 1996)

Here the magnificent writer Shakespeare praises a love in which people should come together freely and live a relationship that is based on truth and understanding. Love should be strong and not change in any situation, even if the lovers see change in each other. Love should be stable and no crisis can shake true love that's why true love lives forever. Love cannot

be measuredfully, its real worth is unseen to understand, and it is very difficult as if it is a mystery of all the times. True love cannot be shaken through time. It is a magic, or sometimes it's an impossible thing to find true love.

Whether Antony and Cleopatra love each other or simply indulge in their fantastical lusts is debatable. Shakespeare deliberately blurs the line between lust and love between the two eponymous characters. There is thrilling dialogue of sensualism between the two, the type of romantic dialogue that makes the heart flutter (Krause, 2019) Antony and Cleopatra are two magnificent, powerful rulers. One is from the west and the other from the east. Two far sides of the world and two totally different cultures. One represents the East, the other represents the West. "The Roman world is an orderly, impermeable, man-made 'arch.' The Egyptian 'earth' is 'dunghy' 'clay'- elemental, life-giving, and allied with another element, water. In general, characters associated with Egypt perceive the world as composed of the four elements" (Crane, 2010). Crane here talks about the differences of two places. Two lovers from two poles of the world meet in such a giant love. "To chide, to laugh,/ To weep; whose every passion fully strives / To make itself (in thee) fair and admir'd!" (1.1.49-51). Antony says these words to Cleopatra. "What Rome sees as irrationality and disorderly conduct Egypt sees as exhilarating passion, spontaneity, and exuberance. What Rome sees as trivial pursuits Egypt sees as activities that make life worth living"(Deats, 2005). As Deats states they are two different characters having different personalities. Antony is a gorgeous man and one of the three triumvirs of Rome; the alliance between Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus that rules the Roman Empire. Antony is a great general, he loves pleasure. He is loved by his men, he is merciful, sincere, and an honest man.

Antony is losing not only his whole unity but also his sense of duty for the sake of this immortal and sacred love that creates the question; is it his luck or disaster to feel such a strong emotion? His love and his duty, neither he could leave his duty nor his love. That is his struggle. Love and duty, the latter is sacrificed for love. Loving someone with one's whole self may be the most honourable thing. Even though Antony neglects his duties, he is swept away with the love of his life in Egypt; authentic, exotic country calling one to feel love. Despite the fact that Antony is called "a

strumpet's fool"(I.i.13), he doesn't care. He forgets the world for the sake of Cleopatra.

Cleopatra is a highly attractive woman who is described by Enobarbus in act 2 scene 2, he says that her throne is like a golden sun shining and burning bright. The blue sails have a perfume which could make the air dizzy with love. Oars made of silver, and the oarsmen rowed to flute music. The oars beating the water made the waves speeding up as if excited by lust. It is not easy to describe Cleopatra; she is much more beautiful than any idealized portrait of the goddess Venus. "Of all Shakespeare's female characters, the figure who seems to offer the most unmanageable resistance to those stereotypes is Cleopatra"(Rackin,2012)

Cleopatra is such a woman that takes every man's mind away at a glance. She is one of the most powerful women in history. "I would I had thy inches; thou shouldst know/There were a heart in Egypt" (1.3.40-41). Here Cleopatra says that if she were as strong as Antony she would be very courageous. She is a brave woman, she is legendary not only for her being highly attractive but also for her great intellect. She spoke nine languages and also a skilled mathematician. She, together with her brother, has become the ruler of Egypt at the age of 18. When her brother has tried to seize sole power by banishing Cleopatra to the desert she has used that time to make a plan. Then she had Caesar as an ally to save herself, and she could achieve her goal. She is such a smart and clever woman that she can save herself from any kind of difficult situations. She is such a smart ruler that Egypt with her help is kept safe and respectful. Soon only Cleopatra's face is on an Egyptian coin. This is the first and the biggest achievement for a woman in the history. Before that female monarchs had to be paired on coins with a male monarch and were considered inferior to many rulers.

Such a strong woman who has wealth and intelligence meets Antony; a powerful general. This great general falls for Cleopatra. Together they have created a military and romantic relationship which makes them much stronger. Cleopatra has wealth, and Antony has the power to protect Cleopatra from an invasion by Rome. Mark Antony gives her land holdings so that Cleopatra could rule nearly the entire eastern Mediterranean coast. She has continued ruling wisely making political alliances and trade agreements. (Bell, 2012)

At first everything is great, they have a great relationship together and life is very joyful for them. Their love is so great to the point that Mark Antony gives his beloved Cleopatra an island. “Cleopatra’s beach is one of the most famous in Turkey for its distinctive white sand, composed largely of ooids. Legend has it that the Roman leader, Mark Antony, had this sand shipped from Alexandria in Egypt to create a beach for his lover Cleopatra, on Sedir Island in Gökova Bay, SE Aegean Sea” (El-SammakandTucker, 2002) Such a beach is famous for its sand and it is composed of white ooids. Mark Antony is the first man to create a first man-made sandy beach in the world. He is such a romantic and he gives such importance to Cleopatra. He is a perfect man that every woman may want to have, but it is Cleopatra to have such luck. They have enjoyed their love in that paradise. This island is a mark that shows the immortality of their love, even if they have gone from the world the soul of their magnificent love continues to live in that island which has their name. Also, Cleopatra has a big love for Antony when Antony tells Enobarbus that Cleopatra is more cunning than anyone can imagine. Enobarbus refuses this by saying that Cleopatra’s feelings come from pure love, not cleverness. Her sighs and tears are like great winds and floods. She has more storm and tempests in her than a weather almanac. Her temper is not a trick or a skill—if it is she can make it rain as well as Jove (1.2.144-150). Both her pure love and her strength are mentioned here. These two powerful and passionate god-like and goddess-like characters have such a big love to destroy the world.

However in this life everything has a price, the bigger your happiness the bigger its price. As their love for each other is at great amount their price or sacrifice is the biggest. However, true love is a rare thing to find, they are lucky and unlucky in some cases. They are unlucky in the sense that the price they pay for this love is really big. For instance, Antony because of his love for Cleopatra, neglects his duty. Antony’s friend Enobarbus sees that this love is not good for Antony; “Your presence needs must puzzle Antony;/Take from his heart, take from his brain, from’s time,/What should not then be spared. He is already/Traded for levity; and ‘tis said in Rome/That Photinus an eunuch and your maids/Manage this war”(3.7.10-15). He utters these words to Cleopatra because Antony is all the time in Egypt; he is so in love with her that he couldn’t leave her even

for a moment. Yet this is what love is. It makes someone blind that he/she cannot see anything but the lover; it blocks someone's mind, rationality that the person in love cannot think rationally. So this love is their bliss or misfortune but what happened has happened; they are already fallen in love and there is no turning back. The magical hands of Cupid have already captured them that they couldn't escape. However, first sacrifice is when the messenger reports Antony that his brother Lucius has mounted an army against Caesar but they have lost their battle and his wife died, maybe it is not because of Antony's being in Alexandria as the messenger states or it is because of them, it is a misfortune. The first prices they have paid for this great love are his brother's loss and his wife's death. Maybe it is a punishment, as he leaves Rome and lives with Cleopatra.

There's a great spirit gone! Thus did I desire it:
What our contempts doth often hurl from us,
We wish it ours again; the present pleasure,
By revolution lowering, does become
The opposite of itself: she's good, being gone;
The hand could pluck her back that shov'd her on.
I must from this enchanting queen break off:
Ten thousand harms, more than the ills I know,
My idleness doth hatch—(1.2.122-131)

Here Antony talks about his regret that he wastes his time with idleness in Egypt. He understands that even though this love enchants, it may bring him much more troubles. That is the first time he starts his loss, but how can such a divine and innocent love have such prices? He, once, has been a harsh and feared soldier; he is now a man neglecting his duty for his desire. Such a reasonable and powerful soldier wholoses his rational thinking, this is the side effect of love. This is a miraculous and admirable love that creates miracles and devastations. Then as Antony returns to Rome, there he meets Caesar Octavius and Lepidus and he sees the anger in the eyes of Octavius, as Octavius is a man of duty and there is no tolerance for such irresponsibility for him as he places the interest of the state before anything else. Contrary to Mark Antony, Octavius Caesar devotes himself to the ruling of Rome; and his only obsession is power and politics. That is why

he doesn't want to lose Antony because Antony is a good and powerful soldier. So they agree on the marriage of Antony and Octavia for the sake of politics and Rome. However Antony cannot love Octavia the way he loves Cleopatra. Thus he leaves her and runs into the arms of his lover Cleopatra where he finds the warmth, love everything a man can need. He loses his sense of living when he is away from Cleopatra.

Even though, he has come together with his lover Cleopatra, he hurts another woman for whom Mecaenas says "If beauty, wisdom, modesty, can settle/ the heart of Antony, Octavia is/ a blessed lottery to him" (2.3.282-284). That is how she is seen, she is a suitable woman for Antony, however how beautiful, wise or perfect she may be, she cannot be replaced with Cleopatra. "And though I make this marriage for my peace,/I' the east my pleasure lies"(2.3.39-40). As Cleopatra is not described with the incapable words; she is not just a few words. To describe Cleopatra, one may need a full dictionary. She is more than love; she is attraction, freedom, joy, luxury, passion etc. That is why Antony's mind is taken away. "Eternity was in our lips and eyes./Bliss in our brows' bent, none our parts so poor,/ But was a race of heaven"(1.3.35-37). Cleopatra's words show their love for each other which has eternity in it. Surely he is not the only one blinded with love but also Cleopatra is in love with him. She is always looking for Antony, she cannot be without him. "Saw you my lord?"(1.2.75). "Seek him, and bring him hither"(1.2.82). "Where is he?"(1.3.1). Those are some examples for her fondness of Antony; Antony is always on her mind. Antony is the power, mercy, faith, wisdom, joy a woman wants to find in a man. So this perfect couple creates a perfect union which has stone walls that no one can interfere. They are like Venus and Mars. They are the immortal Gods and Goddesses that symbolize love and passion. They are the inspirations for poets, for youth to have faith in love.

As empires, states, stars, life, people have their birth, rise and fall; that immortal heroes also have their fall. They are born the moment in their eyes meet, their hands touch, they rise the moments they reach to the top of their love and then the end comes as nothing lives forever. How big Antony's love may be, he has the confusion, the dilemma between his love and duty. As he is back in Alexandria, Octavius Caesar gets angry at Antony's

leaving of Octavia and they wage war against each others. Antony chooses to fight Octavius Caesar at sea and he allows Cleopatra to command a ship despite Enobarbus's objections "Your ships are not well mann'd" (3.7.34). Enobarbus tries to remind him that Caesar's men are better experienced at sea, and Antony might not be disgraced if he refused to fight at sea as he is better at land war. Even other soldiers request him not to fight at sea by saying: "O noble emperor, do not fight by sea" (3.7.61). However, he is defeated. "Naught, naught all, naught! I can behold no longer;/The Antoniad, the Egyptian admiral ,/With all their sixty, fly and turn the rudder:/To see't mine eyes are blasted"(3.10.1-4). Enobarbus expresses his disappointment with those sentences. At the war, Cleopatra is afraid of the war and she leaves, then Antony leaves. She couldn't know that Antony would follow her as she also says: "O my lord, my lord/Forgive my fearful sails!/I little thought/You would have follow'd"(3.11.53-55).

That is the short-cut summary of the war. This love is both bliss and devastation for him, devastation because it blocks his eyes, mind, and capacity. His love incapacitates him as an effective ruler. "I have offended reputation, /A most unnoble swerving" (3.11.48-49). Antony speaking like that realizes that he is no more an effective ruler, and he destroyed his name. He is solely a perfect lover. Although he is a self-aware and self-reproachful man, sometimes he is blinded by his love. He is a self-aware person too because upon learning about Fulvia's death he sees that he is losing himself and immediately he goes to Rome.

However, it is too late now. Mark Antony loses the battle for the second time "I never saw an action of such shame" (3.10.21).cries Scarus, thus the once powerful soldier faces the biggest defeat of his military and political career. Antony has only known victory and according to him the defeat is only for the others. As a Roman and a great Emperor, he would live with his honour or he would die with his honour. In the following lines he complains to his trustworthy friend Eros:

“Sometimes we see a cloud that’s dragonish
A vapour sometime like a bear or lion...
With trees upon’t that nod unto the world
And mock our eyes with air.
Thou hast seen these signs;
They are black vesper’s pageants...
That which is now a horse even with a thought
The rack disdains, and makes it indistinct
As water is in water...
Here I am Antony
Yet cannot hold this visible shape, my knave.
I made these wars for Egypt, and the Queen—
Whose heart I thought I had, for she had mine,
Which whilst it was mine had annexed unto’t
A million more, now lost—she, Eros, has
Packed cards with Caesar, and false-played my glory
Unto an enemy’s triumph.
Nay, weep not, gentle Eros.”(IV.xv.3–22)

In these lines his sorrow for the change of his role as a commander from high to low is seen clearly. He feels helpless; he can’t do anything to undo what has happened. He even “cannot hold his visible shape” when he cannot even rule over his own mind how can he rule his own army? Antony cannot identify himself anymore. Once upon a time he has been a great emperor, ruling his people, having control over his empire. He has had his confidence; he has committed his complete self to the success of his empire. He has given his people the desire to hold the empire together. However, now he is deprived of the quality to hold himself one, he is separated into pieces. He is in such a pathetic situation that he cannot kill himself and asks Eros to do it, seeing Eros killing himself he is once more ashamed of the situation he has turned. He chooses to end his life thinking of his old image, he clings to that; an honourable, strong, powerful emperor. “[t]here is left us / ourselves to end ourselves” (4.14. 25-26). So he explains that there remains nothing for Antony, just for the sake of his immortal and sacred love.

Although Antony is often seen as a failure, loser, or has-been a hero, I would agree the opposite. Certainly, he does not meet the qualifications of a Classical hero, but he is, nevertheless, an exemplary hero—or, rather, an exemplary ‘antihero,’ one who fulfils the role with invincible courage and depth of feeling. This role is by its very definition, a rejection of Classical heroism and an acceptance of an alternative masculine identity inherited from Ovid rather than Virgil, recast in the medieval traditions of courtly love and Mariolatry as well as the Renaissance conventions of Petrarchan love and the cult of Elizabeth. (Deats, 2005)

Mark Antony has been neglecting his duties to Rome because he has become enamored with Cleopatra, the queen of Egypt. Due to his love of Cleopatra and his fascination with Egyptian culture, he has ignored all matters concerning Rome including the fact his wife Fulvia revolted in Rome due to her jealousy of Cleopatra and died.(Dryden, 2001)

That is the hero Mark Antony is not a failure although he loses at politics and battles, he wins the true divine love and through what he becomes immortal. True love cannot be achieved by leaving the lover when coming across with the hard situations so he never leaves his lover Cleopatra. So for these characters nothing is more important than their love when Antony tells “Let Rome in Tiber melt”(1.1.35), and Cleopatra says: “Sink Rome, and their tongues rot”(3.7.16). They don’t care about anything but their love. Their love is much more important than anything in the world. The essence of love is embracing your lover even though one has pain while embracing. As Antony has such a divine, immortal love.

However, for Cleopatra’s side, she feels guilty as she leaves her lover when she sees the savage side of the war, maybe it is normal for her as she is a ruler not a warrior. On the other hand, this behaviour of hers also leads Antony to leave the battlefield. So she leads her lover to devastation (un)intentionally. Through those actions, Antony questions himself; his love and his honour. “Hark! The land bids me tread no more upon’t; / it is ashamed to bear me! Friends, come hither; / I am so lated in the world, that I / Have lost my way for ever”(3.1.4).Unfortunately, Antony loses all for this divine love, however he chooses to kill himself to meet his lover

in the afterlife. Since they cannot be happy in this world, they choose an immortal love; they postpone their love for another realm.

“CLEOPATRA: [to Antony] If it be love indeed, tell me how much.
ANTONY: There’s beggary in the love that can be reckoned.
CLEOPATRA: I’ll set a bourn how far to be loved.
ANTONY: Then must thou needs find out new heaven, new earth.”
(I.I. 14-17)

Those lines show that actually from the beginning they have an immortal love; it is not earthly, so they cannot live it in the world and those two gorgeous characters choose to be immortal by sacrificing themselves for each other.

Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide; “They thereby transcend their tragic fate, apotheosized onto a higher spiritual plane, their tragic errors redeemed. Hence the protagonists, who are both faulty humans, rise above their frail humanity ultimately to partake of an extraordinary divinity” (Alban, 2014).

Two divine and immortal characters choose to die in a most noble way. When Antony learns that Cleopatra has made an agreement with Caesar, Antony as his right, becomes furious. In act 4 scene 14, Cleopatra, in order to be forgiven by Antony she sends a messenger to tell Antony that she is dead because of her love for Antony. Antony is shocked and ruined with this news. He thinks that he cannot live in a world where Cleopatra, his other half, his breath, is absent. So he decides to kill himself. While dying he defines himself as the greatest prince of the world who sacrifices himself for an infinite love. On Cleopatra’s side she puts on her royal robes, lies on a couch of gold, as if she is prepared for her divine, immortal wedding by uttering “—Husband, I come!” (5.2.342). Thus their death is not an end but the beginning and continuation of what they have had in this world for the afterlife. This is also a happy ending for the audience that they know that such great, immortal lovers do not disappear but resuscitate becoming a god and a goddess.

Conclusion

In conclusion, in this divine work a divine love is introduced. A God-like emperor's and a Goddess-like queen's fall for such a unique love is summed up. This is like a magical fairy tale. An emperor once ruling the country, ruling the army, becomes such a man who cannot even rule his own mind, and a queen that is powerful and strong undermines everything for the sake of this love. They cannot silence their hearts. They have a struggle between their political identities and love. These struggles get into the whole play and make this love story very important tragedy. Also Cleopatra and Mark Antony's being so powerful gives the play its immortality. The conflict is mostly seen in Antony who is caught between his role as a triumvir of Rome and his divine love with the Queen of Egypt Cleopatra. He at the end loses his whole sense of duty and self-confidence; he turns into a different man from the earlier times. He loses his sense of honour but it is not important because he has the most valuable thing; immortality. Maybe his eyes are blinded but the only thing he can think of is his lover. He cannot take breath without seeing, touching her. She is his breath. Thus he sacrifices his role in this life for his love in order to have an immortal love in another realm. On the other hand, Cleopatra too sacrifices her everything, her children for the sake of this immortal love that these two lovers run eagerly to meet in the afterlife. Two and more sacrifices are given for the sake of just love, an immortal love.

The characters, especially Cleopatra and Antony, have become monumental, magnificent and exaggerated in their movements. These are similar to the magnificent figures we see in the baroque style. The tragedy of Antony's character stems from his inability to decide where to go. (Cunningham, 1955)

This tragedy differs from others. The main character is not in regret dying. When Hamlet, Othello or Lear went to death, there was no regret for Antonius or Cleopatra when he expressed and regretted the circumstances that led him to death. This can be explained by the greatness of Cleopatra and Antony's love. (Krause, 2019)

Cleopatra often behaves childishly and with relentless self-absorption; nevertheless, her charisma, strength, and indomitable will make her one of Shakespeare's strongest, most awe-inspiring female characters. (Smith,2012)

In Antony and Cleopatra, the most magnificent way to love is brought to light. Some love stories are immortal. The true love story of Antony and Cleopatra is one of the most memorable, intriguing and moving of all times. The relationship of Antony and Cleopatra is a true test of love. The true story of these two historical characters is still staged all over the world. (Chatham,2015)

Cleopatra is the most famous figure of the seductive, ambitious and scheming type of woman in Antiquity. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that perhaps most of what was written about him was prejudiced. (Huse, 2001)

We can call Antony and Cleopatra's love a "game of contrasts". One of the main factors behind this great transcendence of tragedy is that Antony cannot decide where he will be. Antony has a number of responsibilities in Rome and falls in love with Cleopatra in Egypt. Indeed, he cannot abandon his responsibilities in Rome. Although Antony was in Egypt, which he wanted to do, his duties and responsibilities were in Rome. That indecision, that two-in-one creek brought Antony to an end. As a result, a great love story has ended with death. (Cohen, 1997)

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