



## 'Antony and Cleopatra' in Context

### The Politics of Passion

Keith Linley

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Shakespeare

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**RIGHTS**

**Exclusive:** WORLD

### Bringing to life the historical, social, moral and political background of Shakespeare's dark Roman love story

*'Those wishing to develop an insight into the contextual background from which the themes in the play developed need look no further. Although scholarly in approach, the guide avoids dry and confusing language, using an easy and informative style that will easily engage a range of readers. This guide will help students of Shakespeare manipulate themes and take a contextual overview, and will quickly become a resource for revision and essay practice. Whetting the appetite for further reading, it uses cross reference to other plays to develop an appreciation of Shakespeare's other works and mind-set. This dynamic, contextual guide will surely become an essential study companion for students and teachers alike.'* —Jill Leese, secondary English teacher and team leader with leading UK examinations board

This engaging book provides in-depth discussion of the various influences that an audience in 1607 would have brought to interpreting 'Antony and Cleopatra'. How did people think about the world, about God, about sin, about kings, about civilized conduct? Learn about the social hierarchy, gender relationships, court corruption, class tensions, the literary profile of the time, the concept of tragedy – and all the subversions, transgressions, and oppositions that made the play an unsettling picture of a disintegrating world lost through passion and machination.

### Readership

Targeted at high-achieving A-level, International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement pupils, first-year undergraduates and an intellectually curious audience.

### Contents

Introduction; Prologue; 1. The Historical Context; 2. The Elizabethan World Order: From Divinity to Dust; 3. Sin, Death and the Prince of Darkness; 4. The Seven Cardinal Virtues; 5. Kingship; 6. Patriarchy, Family and Gender Relationships; 7. Man in His Place; 8. Images of Disorder: The Religious Context; 9. The Context of Tragedy; 10. 'O'erflowing the Measure': Restraint and Excess; 11. Infinite Variety: Isis or Strumpet?; 12. Rome versus Egypt: Gendering the State; 13. Literary Context; 14. Political Context; Notes; Bibliography; Index

### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dr Keith Linley is an academic, educator and experienced A-level examiner. He has taught English at both secondary and post-secondary levels.

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