ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND SCENE OF ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

This tragedy deals with Antony and Cleopatra’s tormented life story. Antony and Cleopatra is one of the most important and famous Shakespeare’s play. In the first scene, Demetrius and Philo are in Egypt, at Cleopatra’s court. Shakespeare introduces the play making a small summery of it: in this way he attracts the attention of the spectators. Shakespeare’s plays were addressed to all the English social classes and Shakespeare was able to attract the interest of all the social classes. In this summery, the author tells that Antony has lost his military abilities.

In a second time, Antony, Cleopatra and her ladies Charmian and Iras come into the scene.

Antony and Cleopatra interact with each other; the intelligent reader can understand that the love between Antony and Cleopatra is a passionate one: it is an element of the Renaissance’s literature, because during the Renaissance the only love considered, was the spiritual.

Then, a messenger comes into the hall of the palace .Then, Cleopatra tells him Caesar has to be the sender of the message and she describes him as a scarce-bearded. She also tells about Fulvia, that is Antony’s wife. She tells that there isn’t a true love between Antony and Fulvia and she is Caesar’s lover. Antony answers telling about the passionate love that ties him to Cleopatra. Besides, the reader can understand that the purpose of Antony and Cleopatra’s love is connected to the pleasure of the sences. In the ended of the first scene, Cleopatra tells him to listen to the messenger, but Antony replies saying that he doesn’t want to listen to any messenger and the only one who wants to hear is Cleopatra. Thus, we can understand that Cleopatra is able to enchant Antony.

Finally, Demetrius tells Philo way Caesar is prized so slight by Antony and Philo tells that he prizes so slight Caesar when he isn’t Antony because he is enchanted by Cleopatra.

The second scene highlights new aspects and ideas of Antony; it shows the Roman Antony who is the opposite of his person presented in the first scene.

The scene begins with the entrance of Charmian, Iras and Alexas; they are Cleopatra’s attendances and Alexas calles a Soothsayer, who reads Carmian’s hand. The Soothsayer tells Charmian that she will be more loving than loved and she will have a long life. Thus, Charmian is offended by the Soothsayer, because he tells her that she has lots of wishes, but none of them is fertile. Right from the start, we can understand that Charmian is a prostitute and she is also described in this way by Iras.

After that, they stop talking because of Cleopatra’s entrance in the scene and they make silence. She is searching Antony.

Then, all the actors exit and only Antony, the messenger and the attendants remain. The messenger tells that Fulvia, Antony’s wife, is been the first to come into the field.

Another messenger enters into the hall and announces Fulvia’s death; when Antony reads the letter of the messenger he decides he has to go away.

Antony’s departure will be very painful for Cleopatra, but Antony is sure to go away and let her alone.

Antony decides to tell Cleopatra that the reason of his departure isn’t only connected to Fulvia’s death, but also to the letters written by his Roman friends.