When the Athenians wanted to commemorate the 194 survivors of the battle of marathon they immortalised them in marble on the panathenaic frieze on the side of the Parthenon

where they were more or less invisible until someone had the brilliant idea of taking them to the British Museum

and so to all you heroic 102 survivors of the recent leadership contest

you faithful few who have made it tonight

I apologise that all we can offer is some crisps and some wine here in the tower of non power

 I want to offer my heartfelt thanks and to reassure you about one crucial thing

 we gave it a massive go on that Sunday

we gave it phenomenal welly on those phones

  and I believed we could do it

and of course people said the party in parliament would be unmanageable and that they would spit their dummies out and throw their toys out of the pram

and I said I don’t mind I have just spent 11 hours flying from the Dominican republic overnight in BA world traveller class with two babies on my lap

and they spat out their dummies out all night and time after time I would wrench my neck by reaching down into the biscuit and yoghurt strewn hell of the footwell

and time after time I would put that dummy back

and if you can keep two under threes relatively calm in world traveller plus then you can definitely calm the Tory party

but it was no use

we had the 102 – even 103- but it was clear that this was not the moment and it is clear that we all need to unite

the pseudopodia of the great Tory amoeba need now to come together and I will be supporting rishi and the government

and I will be championing 3 campaigns from the backbenches

 the sovereignty and integrity of Ukraine

the UK can be very proud of what we have done to help and I will keep going

protecting the legacy of brexit

 we have to show people that it has worked and what it is delivering

  the fastest vaccine roll-out in Europe

75 free trade deals

  the chance to change our regulation and make the UK the most competitive and attractive place to invest

controlling our borders

Aukus – and there will be more squawkus from the anti aukus caucus

levelling up – never forget what you did in 2019 – a total realignment of UK politics

 millions of people turning to us because they knew we believed in them and their communities and the future of this country in a way that Labour never has

 we created that vast coalition for Conservatism and I will do everything I can to help the government and help all of you to keep that coalition together

and even though we seem to be 28 points behind in the polls today when we were only 5 behind when I involuntarily left office

I do believe we can do it

  and I don’t believe that the British people are ready to switch to Starmer

  who voted 48 times to overturn brexit

who used to want to abolish the monarchy

and who combines a bollard-like dullness with such aching political correctness that he still refuses to level with the British public and say whether Eddie Izzard should be on Labour’s all-women shortlists

a question he should be asked every day between now and the election

and I am proud of many things in the record of the government but the proudest legacy I can have is to help get you all re elected in 2024

thank you for all your wonderful support and good luck