

ACT IV

SCENE I. *Rome. A room in ANTONY's house*

ANTONY, OCTAVIUS, and LEPIDUS, seated at a table

ANTONY. These many then shall die; their names are prick'd.

OCTAVIUS. Your brother too must die; consent you, Lepidus?

Rome. A room . . . house | Ff Malone | Enter Antony, Octavius, omit.—ANTONY, OCTAVIUS . . . table and Lepidus. Ff.

SCENE I. The Folios give no indication of place, but that Shakespeare intended the scene to be in Rome is clear from ll. 10, 11, where Lepidus is sent to Cæsar's house and told that he will find his confederates "or here, or at the Capitol." In fact, however, the triumvirs, Octavius, Antonius, and Lepidus, met in November, B.C. 43, some nineteen months after the assassination of Cæsar, on a small island in the river Rhene (now the Reno), near Bononia (Bologna). "All three met together in an island environed round about with a little river, and there remained three days together. Now, as touching all other matters they were easily agreed, and did divide all the empire of Rome between them, as if it had been their own inheritance. But yet they could hardly agree whom they would put to death: for every one of them would kill their enemies, and save their kinsmen and friends. Yet, at length, giving place to their greedy desire to be revenged of their enemies, they spurned all reverence of blood and holiness of friendship at their feet. For Cæsar left Cicero to Antonius's will; Antonius also forsook Lucius Cæsar, who was his uncle by his mother; and both of them together suffered Lepidus to kill his own brother Paulus. Yet some writers affirm that Cæsar and Antonius requested Paulus might be slain, and that Lepidus was contented with it." — Plutarch, *Marcus Antonius*.

1. prick'd. So in III, i, 217. See note, p. 95, l. 217.

LEPIDUS. I do consent —

OCTAVIUS. Prick him down, Antony.

LEPIDUS. Upon condition Publius shall not live,
Who is your sister's son, Mark Antony. 5

ANTONY. He shall not live; look, with a spot I damn him.
But, Lepidus, go you to Cæsar's house;
Fetch the will hither, and we shall determine
How to cut off some charge in legacies.

LEPIDUS. What, shall I find you here? 10

OCTAVIUS. Or here, or at the Capitol. [*Exit LEPIDUS*]

ANTONY. This is a slight unmeritable man,
Meet to be sent on errands: is it fit,
The three-fold world divided, he should stand
One of the three to share it?

OCTAVIUS. So you thought him; 15
And took his voice who should be prick'd to die,
In our black sentence and proscription.

ANTONY. Octavius, I have seen more days than you:
And though we lay these honours on this man,
To ease ourselves of divers slanderous loads, 20
He shall but bear them as the ass bears gold,
To groan and sweat under the business,
Either led or driven, as we point the way;
And having brought our treasure where we will,

10. What, Johnson | What? Ff. 23. point F1 | print F2F3F4.

4-5. According to Plutarch, as quoted above, this was Lucius Cæsar, not Publius; nor was he Antony's nephew, but his uncle by the mother's side. His name in full was Antonius Lucius Cæsar.

6. with a spot I damn him: with a mark I condemn him.

12. slight unmeritable: insignificant, undeserving. In Shakespeare many adjectives, especially those ending in *-ful*, *-less*, *-ble*, and *-ive*, have both an active and a passive meaning. See Abbott, § 3.

Then take we down his load and turn him off, 25
Like to the empty ass, to shake his ears
And graze in commons.

OCTAVIUS. You may do your will;
But he's a tried and valiant soldier.

ANTONY. So is my horse, Octavius; and for that
I do appoint him store of provender: 30
It is a creature that I teach to fight,
To wind, to stop, to run directly on,
His corporal motion govern'd by my spirit.
And, in some taste, is Lepidus but so;
He must be taught, and train'd, and bid go forth: 35
A barren-spirited fellow; one that feeds
On objects, arts, and imitations,
Which, out of use and stal'd by other men,
Begin his fashion: do not talk of him

37. objects, arts | Objects, Arts Ff | subject orts Theobald | abjects, orts
Staunton Camb Globe, — imitations, 38. stal'd F3 | stal'de F1F2 | stall'd F4.

27. commons. This is a thoroughly English allusion to such pasture-lands as are not owned by individuals, but occupied by a given neighborhood in common. In 1614 Shakespeare protested against the inclosure of such 'common fields' at Stratford-on-Avon.

32. wind: wheel, turn. We have 'wind' as an active verb in 1 *Henry IV*, IV, i, 109: "To turn and wind a fiery Pegasus."

34. in some taste: to some small extent. This meaning comes from 'taste' in the sense of 'a small portion given as a sample.'

37-39. As the textual notes show, modern editors have not been content with the reading of the Folios. The serious trouble with the old text is the period at the close of l. 37. If a comma be substituted the meaning becomes obvious: Lepidus is one who is always interested in, and talking about, such things — books, works of art, etc. — as everybody else has got tired of and thrown aside. Cf. Falstaff's account of Shallow, 2 *Henry IV*, III, ii, 340: "a came ever in the

But as a property. And now, Octavius, 40
Listen great things: Brutus and Cassius
Are levying powers: we must straight make head:
Therefore let our alliance be combin'd,
Our best friends made, and our best means stretch'd out;
And let us presently go sit in council, 45
How covert matters may be best disclos'd,
And open perils surest answered.

OCTAVIUS. Let us do so: for we are at the stake,
And bay'd about with many enemies;
And some that smile have in their hearts, I fear, 50
Millions of mischiefs. [Exeunt]

44. and our best means (meanes) stretch't F1 | our best means stretch'd out F2F3F4 | our meanes Johnson.

rearward of the fashion; and sung those tunes to the over-scutch'd huswives that he heard the carmen whistle, and sware they were his fancies or his good-nights." 'Stal'd' is 'outworn,' or 'grown stale'; and the reference is not to objects, etc., generally, but only to those which have lost the interest of freshness. 'Abjects' in the Staunton-Cambridge reading, is 'things thrown away'; 'orts,' 'broken fragments.'

40. a property: a tool, an accessory. The reference is to a 'stage property.' Cf. Fletcher and Massinger, *The False One*, V, iii:

this devil Photinus
Employs me as a property, and, grown useless,
Will shake me off again.

Shakespeare uses 'property' as a verb in this sense in *Twelfth Night*, IV, ii, 99: "They have here propertyed me."

41. Listen. The transitive use is older than the intransitive.

42. make head: raise an armed force. 'Head' has often the meaning of 'armed force' in Shakespeare. So in sixteenth century literature and old ballads. It usually connotes insurrection.

44. The reading adopted is that of the later Folios. It makes a normal blank verse line. Cf. II, i, 158-159.

48-49. The metaphor is from bear-baiting. Cf. *Macbeth*, V, vii, 1.

SCENE II. *Before BRUTUS's tent, in the camp
near Sardis*

Drum. Enter BRUTUS, TITINIUS, LUCIUS, and Soldiers;
LUCILIUS and PINDARUS meet them

BRUTUS. Stand, ho!

LUCILIUS. Give the word, ho! and stand.

BRUTUS. What now, Lucilius! is Cassius near?

LUCILIUS. He is at hand; and Pindarus is come
To do you salutation from his master. 5

[PINDARUS gives a letter to BRUTUS]

BRUTUS. He greets me well. Your master, Pindarus,
In his own change, or by ill officers,
Hath given me some worthy cause to wish
Things done undone: but, if he be at hand,
I shall be satisfied.

PINDARUS. I do not doubt 10
But that my noble master will appear
Such as he is, full of regard and honour.

SCENE II. *Before . . . Sardis* Army. Titinius and Pindarus meet
Rowe | Ff omit. them Ff.
Enter BRUTUS . . . meet them | 5. [PINDARUS gives . . .] | Ff omit.
Enter Brutus, Lucillius, and the 7. change Ff | charge Hanmer.

SCENE II. This scene is separated from the foregoing by about
a year. The remaining events take place in the autumn, B.C. 42.

6. He greets me well. A dignified return of the salutation.

7. If the Folio reading be retained, 'change' will mean 'altered
disposition,' 'change in his own feelings towards me.' Warburton's
suggestion 'charge,' adopted by Hanmer and in previous editions of
Hudson's Shakespeare, would give as the meaning of the line,
Either by his own command, or by officers, subordinates, who have
abused their trust, prostituting it to the ends of private gain.

BRUTUS. He is not doubted. A word, Lucilius,
How he receiv'd you: let me be resolv'd.

LUCILIUS. With courtesy and with respect enough; 15
But not with such familiar instances;
Nor with such free and friendly conference,
As he hath us'd of old.

BRUTUS. Thou hast describ'd
A hot friend cooling: ever note, Lucilius,
When love begins to sicken and decay, 20
It useth an enforced ceremony.

There are no tricks in plain and simple faith:
But hollow men, like horses hot at hand,
Make gallant show and promise of their mettle;
But when they should endure the bloody spur, 25
They fall their crests, and, like deceitful jades,
Sink in the trial. Comes his army on?

LUCILIUS. They mean this night in Sardis to be quar-
ter'd;

The greater part, the horse in general,
Are come with Cassius. [Low march within]

BRUTUS. Hark! he is arriv'd. 30
March gently on to meet him.

13-14. word, Lucilius . . . you: F₃ word, Lucilius, — . . . you, Rowe.
F₄ | word Lucillius . . . you: F₁F₂ | 30. [Low . . .] in Ff after l. 24.

13-14. Mainly the Folio punctuation. A colon after 'Lucilius,'
and a comma after 'you,' would give a characteristic inversion.

14. How: as to how.—resolv'd. See note, p. 90, l. 132.

16. familiar instances: marks of familiarity. In Schmidt is a list
of the various senses in which Shakespeare uses 'instances.'

23. hot at hand: spirited or mettlesome when held back.

26. fall: let fall.—deceitful jades: horses that promise well in
appearance but "sink in the trial." 'Jade' is 'a worthless horse.'

Enter CASSIUS and his Powers

CASSIUS. Stand, ho!

BRUTUS. Stand, ho! Speak the word along.

1 SOLDIER. Stand!

2 SOLDIER. Stand!

35

3 SOLDIER. Stand!

CASSIUS. Most noble brother, you have done me wrong.

BRUTUS. Judge me, you gods! wrong I mine enemies?

And, if not so, how should I wrong a brother?

CASSIUS. Brutus, this sober form of yours hides wrongs;
And when you do them —

BRUTUS. Cassius, be content;

41

Speak your griefs softly: I do know you well.

Before the eyes of both our armies here,

Which should perceive nothing but love from us,

Let us not wrangle: bid them move away;

45

Then in my tent, Cassius, enlarge your griefs,

And I will give you audience.

CASSIUS. Pindarus,

Bid our commanders lead their charges off

A little from this ground.

BRUTUS. Lucilius, do you the like; and let no man 50

Come to our tent till we have done our conference.

Let Lucius and Titinius guard our door. [*Exeunt*]34, 35, 36. SOLDIER | Ff omit.
50. Lucilius Ff | Lucius Craik.52. Let Lucius Ff | Lucilius
Craik.—our Ff | the Rowe.

46. enlarge your griefs: enlarge upon your grievances. This use of 'grief' is not unusual in sixteenth century English.

50, 52. In previous editions of Hudson's Shakespeare was adopted Craik's suggestion that in these lines, as they stand in the Folios, the names Lucius and Lucilius got shuffled each into the other's place;

SCENE III. BRUTUS'S tent

*Enter BRUTUS and CASSIUS*CASSIUS. That you have wrong'd me doth appear in this:
You have condemn'd and noted Lucius PellaSCENE III Pope | Rowe omits.—
BRUTUS'S tent Hanmer | Ff omit.*Enter BRUTUS*... Capell | Manet
Brutus... F1 | Manent... F2F3F4.

and then, to cure the metrical defect in the third line, that line was made to begin with 'Let.' Craik speaks of "the absurdity of such an association as Lucius and Titinius for the guarding of the door." In Porter and Clarke's 'First Folio,' *Julius Cæsar*, the answer to this criticism is: "But a greater absurdity is involved in sending the page with an order to the lieutenant commander of the army, and the extra length of l. 50 pairs with a like extra length in l. 51. Lucilius, having been relieved by Lucius, after giving the order returns and guards the door again."

SCENE III. Dowden points out that this scene was already celebrated in Shakespeare's own day, Leonard Digges recording its popularity, and Beaumont and Fletcher imitating it in *The Maid's Tragedy*. "I know no part of Shakespeare that more impresses on me the belief of his genius being superhuman than this scene between Brutus and Cassius." — Coleridge.

1. "Now as it commonly happened in great affairs between two persons, both of them having many friends and so many captains under them, there ran tales and complaints between them. Therefore, before they fell in hand with any other matter they went into a little chamber together, and bade every man avoid, and did shut the doors to them. Then they began to pour out their complaints one to the other, and grew hot and loud, earnestly accusing one another, and at length both fell a-weeping. Their friends that were without the chamber, hearing them loud within, and angry between themselves, they were both amazed and afraid also, lest it would grow to further matter: but yet they were commanded that no man should come to them." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

2. noted: marked with a stigma. North thus uses the word. See quotation from *Marcus Brutus* on following page, l. 3.

For taking bribes here of the Sardians;
Wherein my letters, praying on his side,
Because I knew the man, was slighted off. 5

BRUTUS. You wrong'd yourself to write in such a case.

CASSIUS. In such a time as this it is not meet
That every nice offence should bear his comment.

BRUTUS. Let me tell you, Cassius, you yourself
Are much condemn'd to have an itching palm, 10
To sell and mart your offices for gold
To undeservers.

CASSIUS. I an itching palm!
You know that you are Brutus that speaks this,
Or, by the gods, this speech were else your last.

BRUTUS. The name of Cassius honours this corruption,
And chastisement doth therefore hide his head. 16

4-5. letters . . . man, was | Let- was, F₂F₃F₄ | letters . . . man, were
ters . . . man was F₁ | letter . . . man, Malone.

3. "The next day after, Brutus, upon complaint of the Sardians, did condemn and note Lucius Pella. . . . This judgment much mis-liked Cassius, because himself had secretly . . . warned two of his friends, attainted and convicted of the like offences, and openly had cleared them." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

5. was. The verb is attracted into the singular by the nearest substantive. — slighted off: contemptuously set aside.

6. to write: by writing. This gerundive use of the infinitive is very common in this play. Cf. 'to have' in l. 10; 'To sell and mart' in l. 11; 'To hedge me in' in l. 30, and so on. See Abbott, §356.

8. nice: foolish, trifling. — his: its. The meaning of the line is, Every petty or trifling offense should not be rigidly scrutinized and censured. Cassius naturally thinks that "the honorable men whose daggers have stabb'd Cæsar" should not peril their cause by moral squeamishness. "He reproved Brutus, for that he should show himself so straight and severe, in such a time as was meeter to bear a little than to take things at the worst." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

CASSIUS. Chastisement!

BRUTUS. Remember March, the Ides of March remember:
Did not great Julius bleed for justice' sake?
What villain touch'd his body, that did stab, 20
And not for justice? What! shall one of us,
That struck the foremost man of all this world
But for supporting robbers, shall we now
Contaminate our fingers with base bribes,
And sell the mighty space of our large honours 25
For so much trash as may be grasped thus?
I had rather be a dog, and bay the moon,
Than such a Roman.

CASSIUS. Brutus, bait not me;
I'll not endure it. You forget yourself,
To hedge me in; I am a soldier, I, 30

27. bay F₁ | baite F₂ | bait F₃F₄. Theobald Delius Staunton.
28. bait F₃F₄ | baite F₁F₂ | bay 30. I, Ff | ay, Steevens.

18. "Brutus in contrary manner answered that he should remember the Ides of March, at which time they slew Julius Cæsar, who neither pilled¹ nor polled² the country, but only was a favourer and suborner of all them that did rob and spoil, by his countenance and authority. And if there were any occasion whereby they might honestly set aside justice and equity, they should have had more reason to have suffered Cæsar's friends to have robbed and done what wrong and injury they had would³ than to bear with their own men." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

20-21. "Who was such a villain of those who touched his body that he stabbed from any other motive than justice?" — Clar.

28-32. "Now Cassius would have done Brutus much honour, as Brutus did unto him, but Brutus most commonly prevented him, and went first unto him, both because he was the elder man as also for that he was sickly of body. And men reputed him commonly to be very skilful in wars, but otherwise marvellous choleric and cruel,

¹ i.e. robbed, pillaged. ² i.e. taxed, spoiled. ³ i.e. wished (to do).

Older in practice, abler than yourself
To make conditions.

BRUTUS. Go to; you are not, Cassius.

CASSIUS. I am.

BRUTUS. I say you are not.

CASSIUS. Urge me no more, I shall forget myself; 35
Have mind upon your health, tempt me no farther.

BRUTUS. Away, slight man!

CASSIUS. Is 't possible?

BRUTUS. Hear me, for I will speak.

Must I give way and room to your rash choler?

Shall I be frightened when a madman stares? 40

CASSIUS. O ye gods, ye gods! must I endure all this?

BRUTUS. All this! ay, more: fret till your proud heart
break;

Go show your slaves how choleric you are,
And make your bondmen tremble. Must I budge?

Must I observe you? must I stand and crouch 45

Under your testy humour? By the gods,

You shall digest the venom of your spleen,

Though it do split you; for, from this day forth,

32. Go to | Go too F₁.—not, F₂F₃.
Cassius Hanmer | not Cassius Ff. 48. Though F₁ | Thought F₂.
44. budge F₄ | bouge F₁ | boudge

who sought to rule men by fear rather than with lenity: and on the other side, he was too familiar with his friends and would jest too broadly with them."—Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

32. 'Go to' is a phrase of varying import, sometimes of reproof, sometimes of encouragement. 'Go till' is its earliest form.

45. observe: treat with ceremonious respect or reverence.

47. The spleen was held to be the special seat of the sudden and explosive emotions and passions, whether of mirth or anger. Cf. *Troilus and Cressida*, I, iii, 178; *Henry IV*, V, ii, 19.

I'll use you for my mirth, yea, for my laughter,
When you are waspish.

CASSIUS. Is it come to this? 50

BRUTUS. You say you are a better soldier:
Let it appear so; make your vaunting true,
And it shall please me well: for mine own part,
I shall be glad to learn of noble men.

CASSIUS. You wrong me every way; you wrong me,
Brutus; 55

I said an elder soldier, not a better:

Did I say 'better'?

BRUTUS. If you did, I care not.

CASSIUS. When Cæsar liv'd, he durst not thus have mov'd
me.

BRUTUS. Peace, peace! you durst not so have tempted
him.

CASSIUS. I durst not! 60

BRUTUS. No.

CASSIUS. What, durst not tempt him!

BRUTUS. For your life you durst not.

CASSIUS. Do not presume too much upon my love;

I may do that I shall be sorry for.

BRUTUS. You have done that you should be sorry for. 65
There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats;

54. noble Ff | abler Collier.

55. Two lines in Ff.

51-54. This mistake of Brutus is well conceived. Cassius was much the abler soldier, and Brutus knew it; and the mistake grew from his consciousness of the truth of what he thought he heard. Cassius had served as quaestor under Marcus Crassus in his expedition against the Parthians; and, when the army was torn all to pieces, both Crassus and his son being killed, Cassius displayed great ability in bringing off a remnant. He showed remarkable military power, too, in Syria.

For I am arm'd so strong in honesty,
 That they pass by me as the idle wind,
 Which I respect not. I did send to you
 For certain sums of gold, which you denied me : 70
 For I can raise no money by vile means :
 By heaven, I had rather coin my heart,
 And drop my blood for drachmas, than to wring
 From the hard hands of peasants their vile trash
 By any indirection. I did send 75
 To you for gold to pay my legions,
 Which you denied me. Was that done like Cassius?
 Should I have answer'd Caius Cassius so?
 When Marcus Brutus grows so covetous,
 To lock such rascal counters from his friends, 80
 Be ready, gods, with all your thunderbolts,
 Dash him to pieces !

75. *indirection*: crookedness, malpractice. In *King John*, III, i, 275-278, is an interesting passage illustrating this use of 'indirection.' Cf. *2 Henry IV*, IV, v, 185.

80. The omission of the conjunction 'as' before expressions denoting result is a common usage in Shakespeare. — *rascal counters*: worthless money. 'Rascal' is properly a technical term for a deer out of condition. So used literally in *As You Like It*, III, iii, 58. 'Counters' were disks of metal, of very small intrinsic value, much used for reckoning. Cf. *As You Like It*, II, vii, 63; *The Winter's Tale*, IV, iii, 38. Professor Dowden comments aptly on what we have here: "Brutus loves virtue and despises gold; but in the logic of facts there is an irony cruel or pathetic. Brutus maintains a lofty position of immaculate honour above Cassius; but ideals, and a heroic contempt for gold, will not fill the military coffer, or pay the legions, and the poetry of noble sentiment suddenly drops down to the prosaic complaint that Cassius had denied the demands made by Brutus for certain sums of money. Nor is Brutus, though he worships an ideal of Justice, quite just in matters of practical detail."

CASSIUS. I denied you not.
 BRUTUS. You did.
 CASSIUS. I did not: he was but a fool that brought
 My answer back. Brutus hath riv'd my heart : 85
 A friend should bear his friend's infirmities,
 But Brutus makes mine greater than they are.
 BRUTUS. I do not, till you practise them on me.
 CASSIUS. You love me not.
 BRUTUS. I do not like your faults.
 CASSIUS. A friendly eye could never see such faults. 90
 BRUTUS. A flatterer's would not, though they do appear
 As huge as high Olympus.
 CASSIUS. Come, Antony, and young Octavius, come,
 Revenge yourselves alone on Cassius,
 For Cassius is a-weary of the world ; 95
 Hated by one he loves; brav'd by his brother;
 Check'd like a bondman; all his faults observ'd,
 Set in a note-book, learn'd, and conn'd by rote,
 To cast into my teeth. O, I could weep
 My spirit from mine eyes! There is my dagger, 100
 And here my naked breast; within, a heart

84. *that brought* | Ff give to l. 85.

82-83. "Whilst Brutus and Cassius were together in the city of Smyrna, Brutus prayed Cassius to let him have part of his money whereof he had great store. . . . Cassius's friends hindered this request, and earnestly dissuaded him from it; persuading him, that it was no reason that Brutus should have the money which Cassius had gotten together by sparing, and levied with great evil will of the people their subjects, for him to bestow liberally upon his soldiers, and by this means to win their good wills, by Cassius's charge. This notwithstanding, Cassius gave him the third part of this total sum." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

96. *brav'd*: defied. The verb connotes bluster and bravado.

Dearer than Plutus' mine, richer than gold :
 If that thou be'st a Roman, take it forth ;
 I, that denied thee gold, will give my heart :
 Strike, as thou didst at Cæsar ; for I know, 105
 When thou didst hate him worst, thou lov'dst him better
 Than ever thou lov'dst Cassius.

BRUTUS. Sheathe your dagger :
 Be angry when you will, it shall have scope ;
 Do what you will, dishonour shall be humour.
 O Cassius, you are yoked with a lamb 110
 That carries anger as the flint bears fire ;
 Who, much enforced, shows a hasty spark,
 And straight is cold again.

CASSIUS. Hath Cassius liv'd
 To be but mirth and laughter to his Brutus,
 When grief and blood ill-temper'd vexeth him? 115

BRUTUS. When I spoke that, I was ill-temper'd too.

CASSIUS. Do you confess so much? Give me your hand.

BRUTUS. And my heart too.

CASSIUS. O Brutus !

BRUTUS. What's the matter?

102. Plutus' Pope | Pluto's Ff.

102. Plutus (for the Folio reading see note on 'Antonio' for Antonio, I, ii, 5) is the old god of riches, who had all the world's gold in his keeping and disposal. Pluto was the lord of Hades.

109. Whatever dishonorable thing you may do, I will set it down to the caprice of the moment. — *humour*. See note, p. 60, l. 250.

111-113. Cf. the words of Cassius, I, ii, 176-177. See also *Troilus and Cressida*, III, iii, 257. It was long a popular notion that fire slept in the flint and was awaked by the stroke of the steel. "It is not sufficient to carry religion in our hearts, as fire is carried in flint-stones, but we are outwardly, visibly, apparently, to serve and honour the living God." — Hooker, *Ecclesiastical Polity*, VII, xxii, 3.

CASSIUS. Have not you love enough to bear with me,
 When that rash humour which my mother gave me 120
 Makes me forgetful?

BRUTUS. Yes, Cassius ; and from henceforth,
 When you are over-earnest with your Brutus,
 He'll think your mother chides, and leave you so.

POET. [*Within*] Let me go in to see the generals ;
 There is some grudge between 'em ; 't is not meet 125
 They be alone.

LUCILIUS. [*Within*] You shall not come to them.

POET. [*Within*] Nothing but death shall stay me.

Enter Poet, followed by LUCILIUS, TITINIUS, and LUCIUS

CASSIUS. How now ! what's the matter?

POET. For shame, you generals ! what do you mean? 130
 Love, and be friends, as two such men should be ;
 For I have seen more years, I'm sure, than ye.

CASSIUS. Ha, ha ! how vilely doth this cynic rhyme !

123. *Enter a Poet* Ff. cilius and Titinius Dyce | *Enter Poet*
 124, 127, 128. [*Within*] Ff omit. Theobald | Ff omit.
 129. *Enter Poet* ... LUCIUS Camb 133. vilely F4 | vildely F1F2 |
 Globe | *Enter Poet, followed by Lu-* vildly F3. — doth Ff | does Capell.

129-133. "One Marcus Phaonius, that . . . took upon him to counterfeit a philosopher, not with wisdom and discretion, but with a certain bedlam and frantic motion ; he would needs come into the chamber, though the men offered to keep him out. But it was no boot to let Phaonius, when a mad mood or toy took him in the head : for he was an hot hasty man, and sudden in all his doings, and cared for never a senator of them all. Now, though he used this bold manner of speech after the profession of the Cynic philosophers, (as who would say, *Dogs*.) yet his boldness did no hurt many times, because they did but laugh at him to see him so mad. This Phaonius at that time, in spite of the door-keepers, came into the chamber, and with a certain scoffing and mocking gesture, which he