

ACT V

SCENE I. *The plains of Philippi*

Enter OCTAVIUS, ANTONY, and their Army

OCTAVIUS. Now, Antony, our hopes are answered :
You said the enemy would not come down,
But keep the hills and upper regions.
It proves not so : their battles are at hand ;
They mean to warn us at Philippi here,
Answering before we do demand of them.

ANTONY. Tut, I am in their bosoms, and I know
Wherefore they do it : they could be content
To visit other places, and come down
With fearful bravery, thinking by this face
To fasten in our thoughts that they have courage ;
But 't is not so.

The plains of Philippi Capell | The Fields of Philippi, with the two
Camps Rowe | Ff omit.

4. **battles**: troops, battalions. 'Battle' was used for an 'army,' especially an army embattled, or ordered in battle array. The plural is here used with historical correctness, as Brutus and Cassius had each an army; the two armies of course cooperating, and acting together as one. Cf. 'battle' in l. 16 and 'battles' in V, iii, 108.

5. **warn**: summon to fight. Cf. *King John*, II, i, 201. In *Richard III*, I, iii, 39, we have "warn them to his royal presence."

7. **am in their bosoms**: am familiar with their intention.

10. **bravery**: bravado, defiance. The epithet 'fearful' probably means that fear is behind the attempt to intimidate by display and brag. Dr. Wright interprets 'bravery' as 'ostentation,' 'display.'

Enter a Messenger

MESSENGER. Prepare you, generals :
The enemy comes on in gallant show ;
Their bloody sign of battle is hung out,
And something to be done immediately.

ANTONY. Octavius, lead your battle softly on,
Upon the left hand of the even field.

OCTAVIUS. Upon the right hand I ; keep thou the left.

ANTONY. Why do you cross me in this exigent ?

OCTAVIUS. I do not cross you ; but I will do so. [*March*]

14. **bloody sign**. "The next morning, by break of day, the signal of battle was set out in Brutus' and Cassius' camp, which was an arming scarlet coat." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

17. Plutarch tells that Cassius, though the more experienced soldier, allowed Brutus to lead the right wing. "Shakespeare made use of this incident, but transferred to the opposite camp, in order to bring out the character of Octavius which made Antony yield. Octavius really commanded the left wing." — Clar.

19. **exigent**: exigency. So in *Antony and Cleopatra*, IV, xiv, 63.

20. **I will do so**: I will do as I have said. Not 'I will cross you.' At this time Octavius was but twenty-one years old, and Antony was old enough to be his father. At the time of Cæsar's death, when Octavius was in his nineteenth year, Antony thought he was going to manage him easily and have it all his own way with him; but he found the youngster as stiff as a crowbar, and could do nothing with him. Cæsar's youngest sister, Julia, was married to Marcus Atius Balbus, and their daughter Atia, again, was married to Caius Octavius, a nobleman of the plebeian order. From this marriage sprang the present Octavius, who afterwards became the Emperor Augustus. He was mainly educated by his great-uncle, was advanced to the patrician order, and was adopted as his son and heir; so that his full and proper designation at this time was Caius Julius Cæsar Octavianus. The text gives a right taste of the man, who always stood firm as a post against Antony, till the latter finally knocked himself to pieces against him.

Drum. Enter BRUTUS, CASSIUS, and their Army; LUCILIUS, TITINIUS, MESSALA, and others

BRUTUS. They stand, and would have parley.

CASSIUS. Stand fast, Titinius: we must out and talk.

OCTAVIUS. Mark Antony, shall we give sign of battle?

ANTONY. No, Cæsar, we will answer on their charge.

Make forth; the generals would have some words. 25

OCTAVIUS. Stir not until the signal.

BRUTUS. Words before blows: is it so, countrymen?

OCTAVIUS. Not that we love words better, as you do. 28

BRUTUS. Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius.

ANTONY. In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words.

Witness the hole you made in Cæsar's heart,

Crying, 'Long live! hail, Cæsar!'

CASSIUS. Antony,

The posture of your blows are yet unknown;

But, for your words, they rob the Hybla bees,

And leave them honeyless.

ANTONY. Not stingless too. 35

BRUTUS. O, yes, and soundless too;

For you have stol'n their buzzing, Antony,

And very wisely threat before you sting.

21. Scene II Pope.—LUCILIUS, TITINIUS . . . | Ff omit.

33. The posture of your blows: where your blows are to fall.—are. The verb is attracted into the plural by the nearest substantive. Cf. 'was,' IV, iii, 5. Abbott calls this idiom 'confusion of proximity.'

34. Hybla, a hill in Sicily, was noted for its thyme and its honey. So Vergil, *Eclogues*, I, 54-55: "the hedge whose willow bloom is quaffed by Hybla's bees." Cf. *Henry IV*, I, ii, 47: "As the honey of Hybla, my old lad of the castle." Antony could not be so 'honey-tongued' unless he had quite exhausted thyme-flavored Hybla.

ANTONY. Villains, you did not so, when your vile daggers Hack'd one another in the sides of Cæsar: 40

You show'd your teeth like apes, and fawn'd like hounds,

And bow'd like bondmen, kissing Cæsar's feet;

Whilst damned Casca, like a cur, behind

Struck Cæsar on the neck. O you flatterers!

CASSIUS. Flatterers! Now, Brutus, thank yourself: 45

This tongue had not offended so to-day,

If Cassius might have rul'd.

OCTAVIUS. Come, come, the cause: if arguing make us sweat,

The proof of it will turn to redder drops.

Look; 50

I draw a sword against conspirators;

When think you that the sword goes up again?

Never, till Cæsar's three and thirty wounds

Be well aveng'd; or till another Cæsar

Have added slaughter to the sword of traitors. 55

41. Two lines in Ff.—teeth F₃
F₄ | teethes F₁F₂.

44. Struck F₃F₄ | Strooke F₁F₂.
50-51. One line in Ff.

39-44. These graphic details are from Plutarch's two accounts (in *Julius Cæsar* and *Marcus Brutus*) of the assassination of Cæsar.

48. Octavius has been a standing puzzle and enigma to the historians, from the seeming contradictions of his character. Merivale declares that the one principle that gave unity to his life and reconciled those contradictions, was a steadfast, inflexible purpose to avenge the murder of his illustrious uncle and adoptive father.

52. goes up: is put into its sheath. Cf. *John*, XVIII, 11.

53. The number of Cæsar's wounds, according to Plutarch, was three and twenty, and to 'three and twenty' Theobald, craving historical accuracy, changed the 'three and thirty' of the text.

55. Till you, traitors as you are, have added the slaughtering of me, another Cæsar, to that of Julius. See note, p. 145, l. 20.

BRUTUS. Cæsar, thou canst not die by traitors' hands,
Unless thou bring'st them with thee.

OCTAVIUS. So I hope ;
I was not born to die on Brutus' sword.

BRUTUS. O, if thou wert the noblest of thy strain,
Young man, thou couldst not die more honourable. 60

CASSIUS. A peevish schoolboy, worthless of such honour,
Join'd with a masker and a reveller !

ANTONY. Old Cassius still !

OCTAVIUS. Come, Antony ; away !
Defiance, traitors, hurl we in your teeth ;
If you dare fight to-day, come to the field ; 65
If not, when you have stomachs.

[*Exeunt OCTAVIUS, ANTONY, and their Army*]

CASSIUS. Why, now, blow wind, swell billow, and swim
bark !

The storm is up, and all is on the hazard.

BRUTUS. Ho, Lucilius ! hark, a word with you.

LUCILIUS. [*Standing forth*] My lord ? 70

[*BRUTUS and LUCILIUS converse apart*]

66. [*Exeunt . . . their Army*] | 70. [*Standing forth*] Camb | Lucilius and Messala stand forth Ff. —
Exit . . . Army Ff. [BRUTUS and . . .] Ff omit.
67. Scene III Pope.

59. *strain*: stock, lineage, race. So in *Henry V*, II, iv, 51:

And he is bred out of that bloody strain
That haunted us in our familiar paths.

61. Shakespeare often uses 'peevish' in the sense of 'silly,' 'foolish.' So in *The Comedy of Errors*, IV, i, 93. A foolish schoolboy, joined with a masker and reveler (for Antony's reputation, see I, ii, 204; II, i, 188, 189; II, ii, 116), and unworthy even of that honor.

66. *stomachs*: appetite, inclination, courage. So in *Henry V*, IV, iii, 35: "He which hath no stomach to this fight."

CASSIUS. Messala !

MESSALA. What says my general ?

CASSIUS. Messala,

This is my birth-day ; as this very day
Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand, Messala :
Be thou my witness that, against my will,
As Pompey was, am I compell'd to set 75
Upon one battle all our liberties.
You know that I held Epicurus strong,
And his opinion : now I change my mind,
And partly credit things that do presage.
Coming from Sardis, on our former ensign 80
Two mighty eagles fell, and there they perch'd,

71. Messala, | Ff add to l. 72.

80. former Ff | foremost Rowe.

72. 'As' is often used redundantly with definitions of time. This is still a provincialism. See Abbott, § 114. "Messala writeth, that Cassius having spoken these last words unto him, he bade him farewell, and willed him to come to supper to him the next night following, because it was his birthday." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

75. Alluding to the battle of Pharsalia, which took place in the year B.C. 48. Pompey was forced into that battle, against his better judgment, by the inexperienced and impatient men about him, who, inasmuch as they had more than twice Cæsar's number of troops, fancied they could easily defeat him if they could but meet him. So they tried it, and he quickly defeated them.

77. I was strongly attached to the doctrines of Epicurus. "Cassius being in opinion an Epicurean, and reasoning thereon with Brutus, spake to him touching the vision thus : 'In our sect, Brutus, we have an opinion, that we do not always feel or see that which we suppose we do both see and feel, but that our senses, being credulous and therefore easily abused . . . imagine they see and conjecture that which in truth they do not.'" — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

80. *former*: first. Cf. "former things passed away." "When they raised their camp there came two eagles, that, flying with a marvellous

Gorging and feeding from our soldiers' hands;
 Who to Philippi here consorted us:
 This morning are they fled away and gone;
 And in their steads do ravens, crows, and kites, 85
 Fly o'er our heads and downward look on us,
 As we were sickly prey: their shadows seem
 A canopy most fatal, under which
 Our army lies, ready to give up the ghost.

MESSALA. Believe not so.

CASSIUS. I but believe it partly; 90
 For I am fresh of spirit, and resolv'd
 To meet all perils very constantly.

BRUTUS. Even so, Lucilius.

CASSIUS. Now, most noble Brutus,
 The gods to-day stand friendly, that we may,
 Lovers in peace, lead on our days to age! 95
 But, since the affairs of men rests still incertain,
 Let's reason with the worst that may befall.
 If we do lose this battle, then is this
 The very last time we shall speak together:
 What are you then determined to do? 100

BRUTUS. Even by the rule of that philosophy
 By which I did blame Cato for the death
 Which he did give himself: I know not how,
 But I do find it cowardly and vile,

85. steads F₃F₄ | steads F₁F₂.
 92. perils F₁ | peril F₂F₃F₄.

96. rests Ff | rest Rowe.
 102. By F₁ | Be F₂.

force, lighted upon two of the foremost ensigns, and always followed the soldiers, which gave them meat and fed them, until they came near to the city of Philippos; and there, one day only before the battle, they both flew away." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

For fear of what might fall, so to prevent 105
 The time of life: arming myself with patience
 To stay the providence of some high powers
 That govern us below.

CASSIUS. Then, if we lose this battle,
 You are contented to be led in triumph
 Thorough the streets of Rome? 110

BRUTUS. No, Cassius, no: think not, thou noble Roman,
 That ever Brutus will go bound to Rome;
 He bears too great a mind. But this same day

110. Thorough | Thorow F₁F₂ | Rome? Theobald | Rome Ff.
 Through F₃F₄ | Along Pope.— 111. Two lines in Ff.

105-106. *prevent* The time: anticipate the full, natural period. To the understanding of this speech, it must be observed that the sense of the words, 'arming myself,' etc., follows next after the words, 'which he did give himself.' In this passage, as Dr. Wright (Clar.) has pointed out, Shakespeare was misled by an error in North's version of Amyot's Plutarch, where we have *feis* (= *fiis*) translated as if it were from *fier*: "Brutus answered him, being yet but a young man, and not over greatly experienced in the world; 'I trust (I know not how) a certain rule of philosophy, by the which I did greatly blame . . . Cato for killing himself, as being no lawful nor godly act, touching the gods; nor, concerning men, valiant: but, being now in the midst of the danger, I am of a contrary mind.'" — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*. Wright, in his note on this passage, shows how the true meaning is obscured by bad printing and punctuation. Brutus's answer begins really with, 'Being yet but a young man'; and 'I trust' is evidently a past tense (Old English 'truste') which must have been read by Shakespeare as the present.

113. "The philosopher indeed renounced all confidence in his own principles. He had adopted them from reading or imitation; they were not the natural growth of instinct or genuine reflection; and, as may easily happen in such a case, his faith in them failed when they were tested by adversity. As long as there seemed a chance that the godlike stroke would be justified by success, Brutus

Must end that work the Ides of March begun ;
 And whether we shall meet again I know not. 115
 Therefore our everlasting farewell take.
 For ever, and for ever, farewell, Cassius !
 If we do meet again, why, we shall smile ;
 If not, why then this parting was well made.

CASSIUS. For ever, and for ever, farewell, Brutus ! 120
 If we do meet again, we'll smile indeed ;
 If not, 't is true this parting was well made.

BRUTUS. Why, then, lead on. O, that a man might know
 The end of this day's business ere it come !
 But it sufficeth that the day will end, 125
 And then the end is known. Come, ho ! away ! [*Exeunt*]

SCENE II. *The field of battle**Alarum. Enter BRUTUS and MESSALA*

BRUTUS. Ride, ride, Messala, ride, and give these bills
 Unto the legions on the other side : [*Loud alarum*]

114. the Ides F₁ | that Ides F₂F₃F₄. SCENE II Capell | Scene IV Pope.
 claimed the glory of maintaining a righteous cause ; but, when all
 hope fled, he could take leave of philosophy and life together, and
 exclaim, 'I once dreamed that virtue was a thing ; I find her only a
 name, and the mere slave of fortune.' He had blamed Cato for flying
 from misery by self-murder ; but he learnt to justify the same desperate
 act when he contemplated committing it himself."—Merivale.

1. bills : written instructions, dispatches. "In the meantime Brutus,
 that led the right wing, sent little bills to the colonels and captains
 of private bands, in the which he wrote the word of the battle."—
 Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

2. 'The legions on the other side' are those commanded by
 Cassius, the left wing of the joint army of Brutus and Cassius.
 Brutus wants Cassius to attack the enemy at the same time that he

Let them set on at once ; for I perceive
 But cold demeanour in Octavius' wing,
 And sudden push gives them the overthrow. 5
 Ride, ride, Messala : let them all come down. [*Exeunt*]

SCENE III. *Another part of the field**Alarums. Enter CASSIUS and TITINIUS*

CASSIUS. O, look, Titinius, look, the villains fly !
 Myself have to mine own turn'd enemy.
 This ensign here of mine was turning back ;
 I slew the coward, and did take it from him.

TITINIUS. O Cassius, Brutus gave the word too early ; 5
 Who, having some advantage on Octavius,
 Took it too eagerly : his soldiers fell to spoil,
 Whilst we by Antony are all enclos'd.

Enter PINDARUS

PINDARUS. Fly further off, my lord, fly further off ;
 Mark Antony is in your tents, my lord : 10
 Fly, therefore, noble Cassius, fly far off.

CASSIUS. This hill is far enough. Look, look, Titinius ;
 Are those my tents where I perceive the fire ?

4. Octavius' Pope | Octavio's Ff. SCENE III Capell | Scene contin-
 ued in Pope.

himself does. In the next scene, Messala and his escort are met by
 Titinius coming from Cassius.

3. 'Ensign' was used in the Elizabethan time, as it is still, either
 for the flag (cf. V, i, 80) or for the bearer of it : here it is used for
 both at once. Cf. the form 'ancient,' *Othello*, I, i, 33. It was in
 killing the cowardly ensign that Cassius "to his own turn'd enemy."

TITINIUS. They are, my lord.

CASSIUS. Titinius, if thou lovest me,
Mount thou my horse, and hide thy spurs in him, 15
Till he have brought thee up to yonder troops,
And here again; that I may rest assur'd
Whether yond troops are friend or enemy.

TITINIUS. I will be here again, even with a thought. [*Exit*]

CASSIUS. Go, Pindarus, get higher on that hill; 20
My sight was ever thick; regard Titinius,
And tell me what thou not'st about the field.

[PINDARUS *ascends the hill*]

'This day I breathed first: time is come round,
And where I did begin, there shall I end;
My life is run his compass. Sirrah, what news? 25

PINDARUS. [*Above*] O my lord!

CASSIUS. What news?

PINDARUS. [*Above*] Titinius is enclosed round about
With horsemen, that make to him on the spur;
Yet he spurs on. Now they are almost on him. 30
Now, Titinius! Now some light. O, he lights too:
He's ta'en. [*Shout*] And, hark! they shout for joy.

CASSIUS. Come down; behold no more.
O, coward that I am, to live so long,
To see my best friend ta'en before my face! 35

20. higher F₁ | thither F₂F₃F₄.

22. [PINDARUS *ascends*...] Camb
| Ff omit.

28. [*Above*] Ff omit.

32. He's ta'en | Ff print as sep-
arate line.

16. yonder troops. Messala and his escort coming from Brutus.

19. with a thought: quick as thought. Cf. *The Tempest*, IV, i, 64.

20-21. "Cassius himself was at length compelled to fly . . . into
a little hill from whence they might see . . . howbeit Cassius saw
nothing, for his sight was very bad."—Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

PINDARUS *descends*

Come hither, sirrah:

In Parthia did I take thee prisoner;
And then I swore thee, saving of thy life,
That whatsoever I did bid thee do,
Thou shouldst attempt it. Come now, keep thine oath; 40
Now be a freeman; and with this good sword,
That ran through Cæsar's bowels, search this bosom.
Stand not to answer: here, take thou the hilts;
And, when my face is cover'd, as 't is now,
Guide thou the sword. [PINDARUS *stabs him*] Cæsar, thou
art reveng'd, 45

Even with the sword that kill'd thee. [*Dies*]

PINDARUS. So, I am free; yet would not so have been,
Durst I have done my will. O Cassius!
Far from this country Pindarus shall run, 49
Where never Roman shall take note of him. [*Exit*]

36. PINDARUS *descends* Dyce | kills him F₂F₃F₄ (after l. 46).
Enter Pindarus Ff.

36-37. One line in Ff.

45. [PINDARUS . . .] | F₁ omits |

46. [*Dies*] Capell | Ff omit.

47. Two lines in Ff.

50. [*Exit*] Rowe | Ff omit.

38. saving of thy life: when I saved thy life. The usual interpretation, but 'saving' may qualify 'Thou' in l. 40, and then the expression would mean, 'Except for endangering thy life.'

43. hilts. Shakespeare uses both the singular and the plural form of this word to describe a single weapon, the plural more often.

46. It was a dagger, not a sword, that Cassius stabbed Cæsar with. But by a common figure of speech the same weapon is put for the same owner. The 'sword' is taken from Plutarch. "For he, being overcome in battle at the journey of Philip, slew himself with the same sword with the which he strake Cæsar."—Plutarch, *Julius Cæsar*.

50. "Cassius, thinking indeed that Titinius was taken of the enemies, he then spake these words: 'Desiring too much to live,

Re-enter TITINIUS, *with* MESSALA

MESSALA. It is but change, Titinius; for Octavius
Is overthrown by noble Brutus' power,
As Cassius' legions are by Antony.

TITINIUS. These tidings will well comfort Cassius.

MESSALA. Where did you leave him?

TITINIUS. All disconsolate, 55
With Pindarus his bondman, on this hill.

MESSALA. Is not that he that lies upon the ground?

TITINIUS. He lies not like the living. O my heart!

MESSALA. Is not that he?

TITINIUS. No, this was he, Messala,
But Cassius is no more. O setting sun, 60
As in thy red rays thou dost sink to night,
So in his red blood Cassius' day is set;
The sun of Rome is set! Our day is gone;
Clouds, dews, and dangers come; our deeds are done!
Mistrust of my success hath done this deed. 65

51. Scene V Pope. — *Re-enter* . . . 62. is set F₁ | it set F₂F₃F₄.
with Capell | Enter . . . and . . . Ff. 63. sun | Sunne F₁ | Sonne F₂ |
61. to night Ff | to-night Knight. Son F₃F₄.

I have lived to see one of my best friends taken, for my sake, before my face.' After that, he got into a tent where nobody was, and took Pindarus with him, one of his bondsmen whom he reserved ever for such a pinch, since the cursed battle of the Parthians, where Crassus was slain, though he notwithstanding scaped from that overthrow: but then, casting his cloak over his head, and holding out his bare neck unto Pindarus, he gave him his head to be stricken off. So the head was found severed from the body; but after that time Pindarus was never seen more." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

51. change: interchange of loss and gain in the fight.

60–62. Cf. *Troilus and Cressida*, V, viii, 5–8.

MESSALA. Mistrust of good success hath done this deed.
O hateful error, melancholy's child,
Why dost thou show to the apt thoughts of men
The things that are not? O error, soon conceiv'd,
Thou never com'st unto a happy birth, 70
But kill'st the mother that engender'd thee!

TITINIUS. What, Pindarus! where art thou, Pindarus?

MESSALA. Seek him, Titinius, whilst I go to meet
The noble Brutus, thrusting this report
Into his ears: I may say, 'thrusting' it; 75
For piercing steel and darts envenomed
Shall be as welcome to the ears of Brutus
As tidings of this sight.

TITINIUS. Hie you, Messala,
And I will seek for Pindarus the while. [*Exit* MESSALA]
Why didst thou send me forth, brave Cassius? 80
Did I not meet thy friends? and did not they
Put on my brows this wreath of victory,
And bid me give it thee? Didst thou not hear their shouts?
Alas, thou hast misconstrued every thing!
But, hold thee, take this garland on thy brow; 85
Thy Brutus bid me give it thee, and I
Will do his bidding. Brutus, come apace,
And see how I regarded Caius Cassius.
By your leave, gods: this is a Roman's part: 89
Come, Cassius' sword, and find Titinius' heart. [*Dies*]

71. engender'd | engendred Ff.

79. [*Exit* MESSALA] | Ff omit.

67–69. Cassius is said to have been of a highly choleric or bilious temperament, and as such, predisposed to melancholy views of life.

90. "By-and-by they knew the horsemen that came towards them, and might see Titinius crowned with a garland of triumph, who came

Alarum. Re-enter MESSALA, with BRUTUS, young CATO,
STRATO, VOLUMNIVS, and LUCILIUS

BRUTUS. Where, where, Messala, doth his body lie?

MESSALA. Lo, yonder, and Titinius mourning it.

BRUTUS. Titinius' face is upward.

CATO. He is slain.

BRUTUS. O Julius Cæsar, thou art mighty yet!

Thy spirit walks abroad, and turns our swords 95

In our own proper entrails. [*Low alarums*]

CATO. Brave Titinius!

Look, where he have not crown'd dead Cassius!

BRUTUS. Are yet two Romans living such as these?

91. Scene VI. Pope. — Re-enter
MESSALA, with BRUTUS . . . Enter
Brutus, Messala . . . Ff. 97. where Ff | if Pope | whether
Camb Globe | wh'er Capell | wh'er
Dyce.

before with great speed unto Cassius. But when he perceived, by the cries and tears of his friends which tormented themselves, the misfortune that had chanced to his captain Cassius by mistaking, he drew out his sword, cursing himself a thousand times that he had tarried so long, and so slew himself presently in the field. Brutus in the meantime came forward still, and understood also that Cassius had been overthrown; but he knew nothing of his death till he came very near to his camp." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

94-96. Brutus here strikes again, full and strong, the proper keynote of the play. The facts involved are well stated by Froude: "The murderers of Cæsar, and those who had either instigated them secretly or applauded them afterwards, were included in a proscription list, drawn by retributive justice on the model of Sulla's. Such of them as were in Italy were immediately killed. Those in the provinces, as if with the curse of Cain upon their heads, came one by one to miserable ends. In three years the tyrannicides of the Ides of March, with their aiders and abettors, were all dead; some killed in battle, some in prison, some dying by their own hand."

97. where: whether. So in V, iv, 30. See note, p. 7, l. 63.

The last of all the Romans, fare thee well!

It is impossible that ever Rome 100

Should breed thy fellow. Friends, I owe moe tears

To this dead man than you shall see me pay.

I shall find time, Cassius, I shall find time.

Come, therefore, and to Thasos send his body:

His funerals shall not be in our camp, 105

Lest it discomfort us. Lucilius, come;

And come, young Cato; let us to the field.

Labeo and Flavius, set our battles on:

'T is three o'clock; and, Romans, yet ere night 109

We shall try fortune in a second fight. [*Exeunt*]

99. The Ff | Thou Rowe. — fare | conj.) | Thassos Theobald | Tharsus
far Ff. 101. moe F3F4 | mo F1F2 | more Ff. 108. Labeo Hammer | Labio Ff. —

Rowe. Flavius, F4 | Flauio F1 | Flavius
104. Thasos Camb Globe (Walker) F2F3.

101. moe: more. See note, p. 48, l. 72. See Skeat under 'more.'

104. Thasos. A large island off the coast of Thrace. "So when he was come thither, after he had lamented the death of Cassius, calling him the last of all the Romans, being impossible that Rome should ever breed again so noble and valiant a man as he, he caused his body to be buried, and sent it to the city of Thassos, fearing lest his funerals within his camp should cause great disorder. Then he called his soldiers together, and did encourage them again." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

108. Labeo and Flavius. These two men are not named among the persons of the drama, because they speak nothing. Labeo was one of the stabbers of Cæsar; and it is related that when he saw that all was lost, having dug his own grave, he enfranchised a slave, and then he thrust a weapon into his hand ordering him to kill him.

109-110. Shakespeare with dramatic effectiveness represents both battles as occurring the same day. They were separated by an interval of twenty days. The 'three o'clock' is from Plutarch. "He suddenly caused his army to march, being past three of the clock in the afternoon." — *Marcus Brutus*.

SCENE IV. *Another part of the field**Alarum. Enter BRUTUS, young CATO, LUCILIUS, and others*

BRUTUS. Yet, countrymen, O, yet hold up your heads!

CATO. What bastard doth not? Who will go with me?

I will proclaim my name about the field.

I am the son of Marcus Cato, ho!

A foe to tyrants, and my country's friend; 5

I am the son of Marcus Cato, ho!

Enter Soldiers, and fight

LUCILIUS. And I am Brutus, Marcus Brutus, I;

Brutus, my country's friend; know me for Brutus!

O young and noble Cato, art thou down?

Why, now thou diest as bravely as Titinius; 10

And mayst be honour'd, being Cato's son.

1 SOLDIER. Yield, or thou diest.

LUCILIUS. Only I yield to die:

SCENE IV Capell | Scene VII Pope.

— *Another part...* Capell | Ff omit.*Enter BRUTUS...* | Enter Brutus, Messala, Cato, Lucilius and

Flavius Ff.

7. LUCILIUS | Bru. Rowe | Ff omit.

9-11. Ff give to Luc. (Lucilius).

2. What bastard doth not: who is so base-born as not to do so?

7-8. The Folios omit the speaker's name. Rowe gave the lines to Brutus, but they are utterly uncharacteristic of him. Plutarch (see quotation below, l. 29) says that Lucilius impersonated Brutus, and Shakespeare follows this, as l. 14 indicates. The Folios have no 'Exit' or stage direction after l. 8. Professor Michael Macmillan says: "It seems probable that the printers of the Folio by mistake put the heading 'Luc.' two lines too low down."

11. "There was the son of Marcus Cato slain... telling aloud his name, and also his father's name." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

There is so much that thou wilt kill me straight;

[Offering money]

Kill Brutus, and be honour'd in his death.

1 SOLDIER. We must not. A noble prisoner! 15

2 SOLDIER. Room, ho! Tell Antony, Brutus is ta'en.

1 SOLDIER. I'll tell the news. Here comes the general.

Enter ANTONY

Brutus is ta'en, Brutus is ta'en, my lord.

ANTONY. Where is he?

LUCILIUS. Safe, Antony; Brutus is safe enough: 20

I dare assure thee that no enemy

Shall ever take alive the noble Brutus:

The gods defend him from so great a shame!

When you do find him, or alive or dead,

He will be found like Brutus, like himself. 25

ANTONY. This is not Brutus, friend; but, I assure you,

A prize no less in worth: keep this man safe,

Give him all kindness: I had rather have

Such men my friends than enemies. Go on,

13. [Offering money] | Ff omit.

15. 1 SOLDIER | Sold. Ff.

17. the news Pope (ed. 1728) | the newes Ff.

18. Enter ANTONY | in Ff after l. 15.

26. Brutus, friend F4 | Brutus friend | F1F2F3.

29. "There was one of Brutus' friends called Lucilius, who seeing a troop of barbarous men making no reckoning of all men else they met in their way, but going all together right against Brutus, he determined to stay them with the hazard of his life; and being left behind, told them that he was Brutus: and because they should believe him, he prayed them to bring him to Antonius, for he said he was afraid of Cæsar, and that he did trust Antonius better. These barbarous men, being very glad of this good hap, and thinking themselves happy men, they carried him in the night, and sent some before unto

And see where Brutus be alive or dead ; 30
 And bring us word unto Octavius' tent
 How every thing is chanc'd. [Exeunt]

SCENE V. *Another part of the field*

Enter BRUTUS, DARDANIUS, CLITUS, STRATO, and VOLUMNIUS

BRUTUS. Come, poor remains of friends, rest on this rock.
 CLITUS. Statilius show'd the torch-light, but, my lord,
 He came not back. He is or ta'en or slain.

30. where Ff | whether Camb SCENE V Capell | Scene VIII
 Globe | wh'er Capell. Pope. — *Another* . . . Ff omit.

Antonijs, to tell him of their coming. He was marvellous glad of it and went out to meet them that brought him. . . . When they came near together, Antonius stayed awhile bethinking himself how he should use Brutus. In the meantime Lucilius was brought to him, who stoutly with a bold countenance said: 'Antonius, I dare assure thee, that no enemy hath taken or shall take Marcus Brutus alive, and I beseech God keep him from that fortune: for wheresoever he be found, alive or dead, he will be found like himself. And now for myself, I am come unto thee, having deceived these men of arms here, bearing them down that I was Brutus, and do not refuse to suffer any torment thou wilt put me to.' . . . Antonius on the other side, looking upon all them that had brought him, said unto them: 'My companions, I think ye are sorry you have failed of your purpose, and that you think this man hath done you great wrong: but I assure you, you have taken a better booty than that you followed. For instead of an enemy you have brought me a friend: and for my part, if you had brought me Brutus alive, truly I cannot tell what I should have done to him. For I had rather have such men my friends, as this man here, than mine enemies.' Then he embraced Lucilius, and at that time delivered him to one of his friends in custody; and Lucilius ever after served him faithfully, even to his death." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

3. "Brutus thought that there was no great number of men slain in battle; and, to know the truth of it, there was one called Statilius

BRUTUS. Sit thee down, Clitus: slaying is the word ; 4
 It is a deed in fashion. Hark thee, Clitus. [Whispering]
 CLITUS. What, I, my lord? No, not for all the world.
 BRUTUS. Peace then! no words.

CLITUS. I'll rather kill myself.

BRUTUS. Hark thee, Dardanius. [Whispering]

DARDANIUS. Shall I do such a deed?

CLITUS. O Dardanius!

DARDANIUS. O Clitus! 10

CLITUS. What ill request did Brutus make to thee?

DARDANIUS. To kill him, Clitus. Look, he meditates.

CLITUS. Now is that noble vessel full of grief,
 That it runs over even at his eyes.

BRUTUS. Come hither, good Volumnius; list a word. 15

5, 8. [Whispering] Ff omit.

8. Shall Ff | Pope omits.

that promised to go through his enemies, for otherwise it was impossible to go see their camp; and from thence, if all were well, that he would lift up a torch-light in the air, and then return again with speed to him. The torch-light was lift up as he had promised, for Statilius went thither. Now, Brutus seeing Statilius tarry long after that, and that he came not again, he said, 'If Statilius be alive, he will come again.' But his evil fortune was such that, as he came back, he lighted in his enemies' hands and was slain. Now the night being far spent, Brutus as he sat bowed towards Clitus, one of his men, and told him somewhat in his ear: the other answered him not, but fell a-weeping. Thereupon he proved¹ Dardanius, and said somewhat also to him: at length he came to Volumnius himself, and speaking to him in Greek, prayed him for the studies' sake which brought them acquainted together, that he would help him to put his hand to his sword, to thrust it in him to kill him. Volumnius denied his request, and so did many others." — Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

13. noble vessel full. Cf. *The Winter's Tale*, III, iii, 21–22.

¹ i.e. tried. Cf. *1 Samuel*, xvii, 39.

VOLUMNIUS. What says my lord?

BRUTUS.

Why, this, Volumnius:

The ghost of Cæsar hath appear'd to me 17

Two several times by night; at Sardis once,

And, this last night, here in Philippi fields:

I know my hour is come.

VOLUMNIUS. Not so, my lord. 20

BRUTUS. Nay, I am sure it is, Volumnius.

Thou seest the world, Volumnius, how it goes;

Our enemies have beat us to the pit: [Low alarums]

It is more worthy to leap in ourselves

Than tarry till they push us. Good Volumnius, 25

Thou know'st that we two went to school together:

Even for that our love of old, I prithee,

Hold thou my sword-hilts, whilst I run on it.

VOLUMNIUS. That's not an office for a friend, my lord.

[Alarum still]

CLITUS. Fly, fly, my lord; there is no tarrying here. 30

BRUTUS. Farewell to you; and you; and you, Volumnius.

Strato, thou hast been all this while asleep;

27. prithee | prethee Ff. F2 | Swords Hilt F3F4. — whilst |
28. sword-hilts | Sword Hilts F1 whilst F1F2 | while F3F4.

17. "The second battle being at hand, this spirit appeared again unto him, but spake never a word. Thereupon Brutus, knowing that he should die, did put himself to all hazard in battle, but yet fighting could not be slain."—Plutarch, *Julius Cæsar*. Merivale has a strong sentence on this: "The legend that when preparing for the encounter with the triumvirs he was visited by the ghost of Cæsar, which summoned him to meet again at Philippi, marks the conviction of the ancients that in the crisis of his fate he was stung by guilty remorse, and haunted by the presentiment of final retribution."

26. See quotation from Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*, p. 163.

Farewell to thee, too, Strato. Countrymen,

My heart doth joy that yet in all my life

I found no man but he was true to me. 35

I shall have glory by this losing day,

More than Octavius and Mark Antony

By this vile conquest shall attain unto.

So, fare you well at once; for Brutus' tongue

Hath almost ended his life's history: 40

Night hangs upon mine eyes; my bones would rest,

That have but labour'd to attain this hour.

[Alarum. Cry within, 'Fly, fly, fly!']

CLITUS. Fly, my lord, fly!

BRUTUS.

Hence! I will follow.

[Exeunt CLITUS, DARDANIUS, and VOLUMNIUS]

I prithee, Strato, stay thou by thy lord:

33. thee, too, Strato. Country-
men, Theobald | thee, to Strato,
Countrymen: Ff.

36. losing Rowe | loosing Ff.

40. life's Rowe | lives Ff.

43. [Exeunt CLITUS . . .] Capell
| Ff omit.

34. in F1 | F2F3F4 omit.

43. "Amongst the rest, one of them said, there was no tarrying for them there, but that they must needs fly. Then Brutus, rising up, 'We must fly indeed,' said he, 'but it must be with our hands, not with our feet.' Then, taking every man by the hand, he said these words unto them with a cheerful countenance: 'It rejoiceth my heart, that not one of my friends hath failed me at my need, and I do not complain of my fortune, but only for my country's sake: for, as for me, I think myself happier than they that have overcome, considering that I leave a perpetual fame of virtue and honesty, the which our enemies the conquerors shall never attain unto by force or money.' Having so said, he prayed every man to shift for himself, and then he went a little aside with two or three only, among the which Strato was one, with whom he came first acquainted by the study of rhetoric. Strato, at his request, held the sword in his hand, and turned his head aside, and Brutus fell down upon it, and so ran himself through . . . and died presently."—Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

Thou art a fellow of a good respect; 45
 Thy life hath had some smatch of honour in it:
 Hold then my sword, and turn away thy face,
 While I do run upon it. Wilt thou, Strato?
 STRATO. Give me your hand first: fare you well, my lord.
 BRUTUS. Farewell, good Strato. [*Runs on his sword*]
 Cæsar, now be still: 50
 I kill'd not thee with half so good a will. [*Dies*]

*Alarum. Retreat. Enter ANTONY, OCTAVIUS, MESSALA,
 LUCILIUS, and the Army*

OCTAVIUS. What man is that?
 MESSALA. My master's man. Strato, where is thy master?
 STRATO. Free from the bondage you are in, Messala:
 The conquerors can but make a fire of him; 55
 For Brutus only overcame himself,
 And no man else hath honour by his death.
 LUCILIUS. So Brutus should be found. I thank thee,
 Brutus,
 That thou hast prov'd Lucilius' saying true. 59

50. [*Runs . . .*] Ff omit.

52. Scene IX Pope.

45. of a good respect: of good reputation, well-esteemed. Cf. I, ii, 59.

46. smatch: smack, taste. "With the forms 'smack' for the verb and 'smatch' for the noun, compare 'ake' and 'ache' as used in the First Folio of Shakespeare."—Clar. Cf. 2 *Henry IV*, I, ii, 111.

47. "Scarcely any of those who were accessory to his murder survived him more than three years, or died a natural death. They were all condemned by the Senate: some were taken off by one accident, some by another. Part of them perished at sea, others fell in battle; and some slew themselves with the same poniard with which they had stabbed Cæsar."—Suetonius, *Julius Cæsar*.

OCTAVIUS. All that serv'd Brutus, I will entertain them.
 Fellow, wilt thou bestow thy time with me?
 STRATO. Ay, if Messala will prefer me to you.
 OCTAVIUS. Do so, good Messala.
 MESSALA. How died my master, Strato?
 STRATO. I held the sword, and he did run on it. 65
 MESSALA. Octavius, then take him to follow thee,
 That did the latest service to my master.
 ANTONY. This was the noblest Roman of them all:
 All the conspirators, save only he,
 Did that they did in envy of great Cæsar; 70
 He only, in a general honest thought
 And common good to all, made one of them.
 His life was gentle, and the elements
 So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up
 And say to all the world, 'This was a man!' 75

64. my master F1 | my Lord F2. 71-72. general . . . And Ff | gen-
 71. He only, in | He, onely in Ff. erous. . . . Of Craik.

60. will entertain them: will take them into my service.

62. prefer: recommend. Cf. *The Merchant of Venice*, II, ii, 155.

68. Cf. Antony's soliloquy on Cæsar, III, i, 257-258.

69-70. "Antonius spake . . . that of all them that had slain Cæsar, there was none but Brutus only that was moved . . . thinking the act commendable of itself; but that all the other conspirators did conspire his death for some private malice or envy that they otherwise did bear unto him."—Plutarch, *Marcus Brutus*.

73-74. This refers to the old doctrine of the four elements, earth, water, air, and fire, a right proportion of which was supposed to be the principle of all excellence in nature. Shakespeare has many allusions to the doctrine, which was a commonplace of the sixteenth century. It is this common property in the idea which invalidates the importance of the argument for the date of *Julius Cæsar* drawn from a similar passage in Drayton's revised version of his *Mortimeriados* (1596-1597) published in 1603 under the title of *The Barons' Wars*.

OCTAVIUS. According to his virtue let us use him,
 With all respect and rites of burial.
 Within my tent his bones to-night shall lie,
 Most like a soldier, ordered honourably.
 So call the field to rest; and let's away 80
 To part the glories of this happy day. [Exeunt]

77. With all F₂F₄ | Withall F₁F₂. 81. [Exeunt] Capell | Exeunt omnes Ff.
 79. ordered Ff | order'd Pope.

79. Most like a soldier. Cf. with these words of Octavius the speech of Fortinbras with which *Hamlet* closes:

Let four captains
 Bear Hamlet, like a soldier, to the stage;
 For he was likely, had he been put on,
 To have prov'd most royally.

80. call the field to rest: give the signal to cease fighting. 'Field,' by metonymy, is occasionally used in sixteenth century literature as synonymous with 'battle' or 'order of battle.' Cf. the expression 'to gather a field,' meaning 'to collect an armed force.' So in Hall's *Chronicles*, 1548: "my lorde of Winchester intended to gather any feld or assemble people." Cf., too, 'field' as a hunting term.

81. part: distribute. A specific meaning of 'part' used to be 'share one with another.' This sense is now obsolete or provincial.

INDEX

I. WORDS AND PHRASES

This Index includes the most important words, phrases, etc., explained in the notes. The figures in heavy-faced type refer to the pages; those in plain type, to the lines containing what is explained.

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