

## Antony and Cleopatra abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 15

### Death

**Situation:** Failing to convince his aide Eros to kill him, Antony stabs himself. Seriously injured, he is taken to Cleopatra, who then faints when Antony dies in her presence. When she recovers, she coolly lays out her plans with her aides.

IRAS: She's dead, too, our sovereign. Madam!

CHARMIAN: O madam, madam, madam!

Cleopatra stirs.

CHARMIAN: Peace, peace, Iras!

### Cleopatra to her Ladies

I, as only a woman, commanded  
By such poor passion, as the milkmaid, did  
Love him. Till they stole our jewel, I'd throw my  
Scepter at the injurious gods to  
Tell them this world did equal theirs. O, why  
For naught? Patience is but a fool and you  
Become as a mad dog if impatient.  
What! Is it a sin to seek to be sent  
To the secret house of death ere death dare  
Come to us? Ah, our lamp is spent. Good sir,  
Take heart. We'll bury him. Then, my friends fair,  
What's brave, what's noble, let's do it after  
High Roman fashion most expeditious,  
And make life's certain death proud to take us.

CLEOPATRA: Ah women, women! Come, we have no friend but resolution and the briefest end.