

Antony and Cleopatra abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2

Love

Situation: Being sympathetic to Cleopatra, Dolabella, an aide to Caesar, lets her know of Caesar's plan to deal with her. Caesar's plan is to lead her as a spoil of war through the streets of Rome, as Antony had predicted.

DOLABELLA: Most noble empress, you have heard of me. Assuredly you know me.

CLEOPATRA: No matter, sir, what I have heard or known. You laugh when boys or women tell their dreams; is 't not your trick?

DOLABELLA: I understand not, madam.

Cleopatra to Dolabella

Let there be another dream where I were
To see such a man, as an emperor
Antony. His face a heaven that begs
Attention, where stuck the sun that kept its
Course and lighted this little earth. His legs
Bestride the ocean and his reared arm fits
Across the world. His voice meant to cower
And frighten the orb as rattling thunder,
Except to friends. His autumn bounty grew
The more by reaping. There was no winter.
His delights showed dolphin-like in the blue
Oceans they lived in. Realms and islands were
As plates dropped from his pocket. Think there meant
To be such a great man as this I dreamt?

DOLABELLA: Gentle madam, no. Hear me, good madam. Your loss is as yourself, great; and you bear it an answering to the weight.

CLEOPATRA: I thank you, sir. Know you what Caesar means to do with me?

DOLABELLA: I am loath to tell you what I would you knew.

CLEOPATRA: He'll lead me, then, in triumph.

DOLABELLA: Madam, he will. I know 't.