

## Coriolanus abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 10

### Revenge

**Situation:** Cominius has announced for the record that “for what he did at Corioles” Martius is to “wear this war’s garland,” the honorary title of Coriolanus. Meanwhile, a frustrated Aufidius tells his soldiers at the camp of the Volces of his plans to get even with Martius (now Caius Martius Coriolanus), upset as he is that Corioles has been taken by the Romans.

AUFIDIUS: The town is ta’en.

FIRST SOLDIER: ‘Twill be delivered back on good condition.

#### Aufidius to Soldiers

Condition! What part of good condition  
In a treaty is mercy? Too often  
Martius hast beaten me and would do  
So again. Bolder than the devil is  
He, though less subtle. If again we two  
Meet, beard to beard, he’s mine or I am his.  
Rivalry no longer hath that honor  
In it for me; I’ll stab him some way, for  
Where I thought to crush him sword to sword, I’ll  
Use wrath or craft to kill him. Poisoned he  
My valor; the prayers of priests shall fail, while  
Heard, to end my hate. Go to the city;  
Learn how it is held. Through you I must see  
How it doth go and plan accordingly.

MARTIUS: I shall, sir.