

Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 3

Counsel

Situation: Casca, a prospective conspirator, lets Cassius know that he fears the dreadful weather is a warning from the gods. Clever Cassius turns Casca's gods-fears to fears for Rome under Caesar's leadership.

CASCA: Cassius, what night is this!

CASSIUS: A very pleasing night to honest men.

CASCA: Who ever knew the heavens menace so?

CASSIUS: Those that have known the earth so full of faults. For my part, I have walked about the streets, submitting me unto the perilous night. When the cross blue lightning seemed to open the breast of heaven, I did present myself even in the aim and very flash of it.

CASCA: But wherefore did you so much tempt the heavens? It is the part of men to fear and tremble when the most mighty gods by tokens send such dreadful heralds to astonish us.

Cassius to Casca, No. 1

Casca, you lack those Roman sparks of life
Or choose them not. Your eyes are pale and rife
With fear, casting yourself in wonder to
See heaven's strange impatience. The true cause
Of all these fires, these gliding ghosts, leads you
To find these changing acts of nature's laws
As warnings of most fearful quality
Of a coming monstrous state. Who could we
Name as one dreadful as this night, who may
Lighten the night, roar as thunder and be
As this lion in the Capitol. A
Man no mightier than thyself or me
Has grown as prodigious and come as far,
And fearful, as these violent outbursts are.

CASCA: 'Tis Caesar that you mean, is it not, Cassius?