

Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 3

Disillusionment

Situation: Brutus and Cassius are together in Brutus' tent at Sardis, discussing strategy for the expected battle with Antony. Brutus doesn't make life easier for either of them, accusing Cassius of "having an itching palm" and of having accepted bribes from "undeservers."

CASSIUS: O you gods, must I endure all this?

BRUTUS: Fret till your proud heart break. Must I stand and crouch under your testy humor? For, from this day forth, I'll use you for my mirth, yea, for my laughter, when you are waspish.

CASSIUS: Is it come to this?

BRUTUS: You say you are a better soldier.

CASSIUS: You wrong me every way, you wrong me, Brutus. I said an elder soldier, not a better. Did I say "better?"

BRUTUS: If you did, I care not.

CASSIUS: When Caesar lived he durst not thus have moved me.

BRUTUS: You durst not so have tempted him.

CASSIUS: Do not presume too much upon my love. I may do that I shall be sorry for.

BRUTUS: You have done that you should be sorry for.

Brutus to Cassius, No. 1

**There is no terror, Cassius, in your threat,
For my honesty is such that threats get
In my way as the idle wind, which I
Respect not. You denied me when I asked
For funds, since I can raise no money by
Vile means. I would rather my heart be tasked
To coin drachmas than to wring from the hands
Of peasants their money earned from their lands.
When I asked for help, Cassius, you turned me
Down. Was that you, Cassius? Would I have come
To such action? If ever Brutus be
So callous as to keep a few coins from
His friends, be ready, gods, with all your fits,
Storms and thunderbolts to dash him to bits.**

CASSIUS: I denied you not.

BRUTUS: You did.

CASSIUS: I did not. He was but a fool that brought my answer back.

BRUTUS: I do not like your faults.

CASSIUS: A friendly eye could never see such faults.

BRUTUS: A flatterer's would not, though they do appear as huge as high Olympus.

CASSIUS: Come, Antony, and young Octavius, come! Revenge yourselves alone on Cassius, for Cassius is away of the world. O, I could weep my spirit from mine eyes! There is my dagger.

Cassius offers his dagger to Brutus.

