

Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Persuasion

Situation: With “half their faces buried in their cloaks” the Conspirators have arrived in the middle of the night at Brutus’ home, determined to enlist him in their cause. But he has already decided that he is going to join their cause.

CASSIUS: Good morrow, Brutus. Do we trouble you?

BRUTUS: I have been up this hour, awake all night. Know I these men that come along with you?

CASSIUS: Yes, every man of them; and no man here but honors you.

BRUTUS: They are all welcome. Give me your hands all over, one by one.

CASSIUS: And let us swear our resolution.

BRUTUS: No, not an oath.

Brutus to Conspirators

**If these motives weak, let’s break it off now,
And each man hence to his idle bed vow
To return. But if these strong enough to
Kindle cowards, then countrymen, why need
We any spur more than our cause? What do
We need as a bond other than our creed
As resolute Romans? What other oath
Than that this shall be or we will die? Loath
Souls welcome wrongs and bad causes swear. So
Stain not the virtue of our plan or will
To think our cause needs an oath when would flow
Every drop of noble Roman blood still
If any one of us succumbed to fear
And broke the promise made by being here.**

CASSIUS: But what of Cicero? O think he will stand very strong with us.

CASCA: Let us not leave him out.

DECIUS: Shall no man else be touched, but only Caesar?

CASSIUS: Decius, well urged. Let Antony and Caesar fall together.

BRUTUS: Our course will seem too bloody, Caius Cassius. We all stand up against the spirit of Caesar, and in the spirit of men there is no blood. We shall be called purgers, not murderers. And for Mark Antony, think not of him, for he can do no more than Caesar’s arm when Caesar’s head is off.