

Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2.3

Persuasion

Situation: Antony has by now charmed the people in his eulogy to Caesar. The plebeians, not hearing enough from Antony, demand that he remain there in the pulpit and continue to speak.

PLEBEIANS: Revenge! About! Seek! Burn! Fire! Let not a traitor live.

ANTONY: Stay, countrymen.

FIRST PLEBEIAN: Peace there! Hear the noble Antony.

SECOND PLEBEIAN: We'll hear him, we'll follow him, we'll die with him.

Antony to Plebeians, No. 4

Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up
To a flood of revenge o'er this abrupt
Deed. They are wise and honorable men
And I know not their private griefs that led
Them to it. No doubt there'll be a time when
With reasons they'll answer you. As I've said,
I'm a plain blunt man, not an orator,
As Brutus is. I have neither wit nor
Words, nor worth, nor action, nor do I bear
The strength of speech to stir men's blood. But were
I Brutus, and Brutus Antony, there
Be an Antony to ruffle up your
Wills. With his golden tongue, this Antony
Could move the stones of Rome to mutiny.

PLEBEIANS: We'll mutiny.

FIRST PLEBEIAN: We'll burn the house of Brutus.

THIRD PLEBEIAN: Come, seek the conspirators.

ANTONY: You have forgot the will I told you of.

PLEBEIANS: Most true. The will! Let's stay and hear the will.

ANTONY: Here is the will, and under Caesar's seal; to every Roman citizen he gives, to every several man, seventy-five drachmas. Moreover, he hath left you all his walks, his private arbors, and new-planted orchards. Here was a Caesar! When comes such another?