

Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 3

Persuasion

Situation: Brutus and Cassius have somewhat reconciled and together have shared a bowl of wine. Cassius, wilting under the influence of perhaps the wine and of Brutus' strong personality, agrees to Brutus' suggestion that they march to Philippi to engage Antony and his forces there.

BRUTUS: What do you think of marching to Philippi presently?

CASSIUS: I do not think it good.

BRUTUS: Your reason?

CASSIUS: 'Tis better that the enemy seek us; so shall he waste his means, weary his soldiers, doing himself offense, whilst we, lying still, are full of rest, defense, and nimbleness.

BRUTUS: Good reasons must of force give way to better.

Brutus to Cassius, No. 2

The people 'twixt Philippi and this ground
Do support us grudgingly, but it's found
A forced affection. Marching along by
Them, the enemy will add men they lack
Who are refreshed with their emotions high,
Where we'll have then these people at our back
If we meet him at Philippi. The tide
In the affairs of men taken when wide
Leads on to fortune; omitted, men see
Their life voyages shattered and they tote
Life in the shallows, bound in misery.
On such a full sea we are now afloat,
And act we must as this fortune occurs
And the current serves, or lose our ventures.

CASSIUS: Then, with your will, go on; we'll along ourselves and meet them at Philippi.

BRUTUS: The deep of night is crept upon our talk, and nature must obey necessity.

CASSIUS: Early tomorrow will we rise and hence.