

# **Antony and Cleopatra**

**William Shakespeare**

## Act I

### SCENE I. Alexandria. A room in CLEOPATRA's palace.

*Enter DEMETRIUS and PHILO*

**PHILO**

Nay, but this dotage of our general's  
O'erflows the measure: those his goodly eyes,  
That o'er the files and musters of the war  
Have glow'd like plated Mars, now bend, now turn,  
The office and devotion of their view  
Upon a tawny front: his captain's heart,  
Which in the scuffles of great fights hath burst  
The buckles on his breast, reneges all temper,  
And is become the bellows and the fan  
To cool a gipsy's lust.

*Flourish. Enter ANTONY, CLEOPATRA, her Ladies, the Train, with Eunuchs fanning her*

Look, where they come:  
Take but good note, and you shall see in him.  
The triple pillar of the world transform'd  
Into a strumpet's fool: behold and see.

**CLEOPATRA**

If it be love indeed, tell me how much.

**MARK ANTONY**

There's beggary in the love that can be reckon'd.

**CLEOPATRA**

I'll set a bourn how far to be beloved.

**MARK ANTONY**

Then must thou needs find out new heaven, new earth.

*Enter an Attendant*

**Attendant**

News, my good lord, from Rome.

**MARK ANTONY**

Grates me: the sum.

**CLEOPATRA**

Nay, hear them, Antony:  
Fulvia perchance is angry; or, who knows  
If the scarce-bearded Caesar have not sent  
His powerful mandate to you, 'Do this, or this;  
Take in that kingdom, and enfranchise that;  
Perform 't, or else we damn thee.'

**MARK ANTONY**

How, my love!

**CLEOPATRA**

Perchance! nay, and most like:  
You must not stay here longer, your dismissal  
Is come from Caesar; therefore hear it, Antony.  
Where's Fulvia's process? Caesar's I would say? both?  
Call in the messengers. As I am Egypt's queen,  
Thou blushest, Antony; and that blood of thine  
Is Caesar's homager: else so thy cheek pays shame  
When shrill-tongued Fulvia scolds. The messengers!

**MARK ANTONY**

Let Rome in Tiber melt, and the wide arch  
Of the ranged empire fall! Here is my space.  
Kingdoms are clay: our dungy earth alike  
Feeds beast as man: the nobleness of life  
Is to do thus; when such a mutual pair

*Embracing*

And such a twain can do't, in which I bind,  
On pain of punishment, the world to weet  
We stand up peerless.

**CLEOPATRA**

Excellent falsehood!  
Why did he marry Fulvia, and not love her?  
I'll seem the fool I am not; Antony  
Will be himself.

**MARK ANTONY**

But stirr'd by Cleopatra.  
Now, for the love of Love and her soft hours,  
Let's not confound the time with conference harsh:  
There's not a minute of our lives should stretch  
Without some pleasure now. What sport tonight?

**CLEOPATRA**

Hear the ambassadors.

**MARK ANTONY**

Fie, wrangling queen!  
Whom every thing becomes, to chide, to laugh,  
To weep; whose every passion fully strives  
To make itself, in thee, fair and admired!  
No messenger, but thine; and all alone  
To-night we'll wander through the streets and note  
The qualities of people. Come, my queen;  
Last night you did desire it: speak not to us.

*Exeunt MARK ANTONY and CLEOPATRA with their train*

**DEMETRIUS**

Is Caesar with Antonius prized so slight?

**PHILO**

Sir, sometimes, when he is not Antony,  
He comes too short of that great property  
Which still should go with Antony.

**DEMETRIUS**

I am full sorry  
That he approves the common liar, who  
Thus speaks of him at Rome: but I will hope  
Of better deeds to-morrow. Rest you happy!

*Exeunt*

## SCENE II. The same. Another room.

*Enter CHARMIAN, IRAS, ALEXAS, and a Soothsayer*

**CHARMIAN**

Lord Alexas, sweet Alexas, most any thing Alexas,  
almost most absolute Alexas, where's the soothsayer  
that you praised so to the queen? O, that I knew  
this husband, which, you say, must charge his horns  
with garlands!

**ALEXAS**

Soothsayer!

**Soothsayer**

Your will?

**CHARMIAN**

Is this the man? Is't you, sir, that know things?

**Soothsayer**

In nature's infinite book of secrecy  
A little I can read.

**ALEXAS**

Show him your hand.

*Enter DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Bring in the banquet quickly; wine enough  
Cleopatra's health to drink.

**CHARMIAN**

Good sir, give me good fortune.

**Soothsayer**

I make not, but foresee.

**CHARMIAN**

Pray, then, foresee me one.

**Soothsayer**

You shall be yet far fairer than you are.

**CHARMIAN**

He means in flesh.

**IRAS**

No, you shall paint when you are old.

**CHARMIAN**

Wrinkles forbid!

**ALEXAS**

Vex not his prescience; be attentive.

**CHARMIAN**

Hush!

**Soothsayer**

You shall be more loving than beloved.

**CHARMIAN**

I had rather heat my liver with drinking.

**ALEXAS**

Nay, hear him.

**CHARMIAN**

Good now, some excellent fortune! Let me be married to three kings in a forenoon, and widow them all: let me have a child at fifty, to whom Herod of Jewry may do homage: find me to marry me with Octavius Caesar, and companion me with my mistress.

**Soothsayer**

You shall outlive the lady whom you serve.

**CHARMIAN**

O excellent! I love long life better than figs.

**Soothsayer**

You have seen and proved a fairer former fortune  
Than that which is to approach.

**CHARMIAN**

Then belike my children shall have no names:  
prithee, how many boys and wenches must I have?

**Soothsayer**

If every of your wishes had a womb.  
And fertile every wish, a million.

**CHARMIAN**

Out, fool! I forgive thee for a witch.

**ALEXAS**

You think none but your sheets are privy to your wishes.

**CHARMIAN**

Nay, come, tell Iras hers.

**ALEXAS**

We'll know all our fortunes.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Mine, and most of our fortunes, to-night, shall  
be—drunk to bed.

**IRAS**

There's a palm presages chastity, if nothing else.

**CHARMIAN**

E'en as the o'erflowing Nilus presageth famine.

**IRAS**

Go, you wild bedfellow, you cannot soothsay.

**CHARMIAN**

Nay, if an oily palm be not a fruitful  
prognostication, I cannot scratch mine ear. Prithee,  
tell her but a worky-day fortune.

**Soothsayer**

Your fortunes are alike.

**IRAS**

But how, but how? give me particulars.

**Soothsayer**

I have said.

**IRAS**

Am I not an inch of fortune better than she?

**CHARMIAN**

Well, if you were but an inch of fortune better than  
I, where would you choose it?

**IRAS**

Not in my husband's nose.

**CHARMIAN**

Our worser thoughts heavens mend! Alexas,—come,  
his fortune, his fortune! O, let him marry a woman  
that cannot go, sweet Isis, I beseech thee! and let  
her die too, and give him a worse! and let worst  
follow worse, till the worst of all follow him  
laughing to his grave, fifty-fold a cuckold! Good  
Isis, hear me this prayer, though thou deny me a  
matter of more weight; good Isis, I beseech thee!

**IRAS**

Amen. Dear goddess, hear that prayer of the people!



for, as it is a heartbreaking to see a handsome man loose-wived, so it is a deadly sorrow to behold a foul knave uncuckolded: therefore, dear Isis, keep decorum, and fortune him accordingly!

**CHARMIAN**

Amen.

**ALEXAS**

Lo, now, if it lay in their hands to make me a cuckold, they would make themselves whores, but they'ld do't!

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Hush! here comes Antony.

**CHARMIAN**

Not he; the queen.

*Enter CLEOPATRA*

**CLEOPATRA**

Saw you my lord?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

No, lady.

**CLEOPATRA**

Was he not here?

**CHARMIAN**

No, madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

He was disposed to mirth; but on the sudden  
A Roman thought hath struck him. Enobarbus!

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Madam?

**CLEOPATRA**

Seek him, and bring him hither.  
Where's Alexas?

**ALEXAS**

Here, at your service. My lord approaches.

**CLEOPATRA**

We will not look upon him: go with us.

*Exeunt*

*Enter MARK ANTONY with a Messenger and Attendants*

**Messenger**

Fulvia thy wife first came into the field.

**MARK ANTONY**

Against my brother Lucius?

**Messenger**

Ay:

But soon that war had end, and the time's state  
Made friends of them, joining their force 'gainst Caesar;  
Whose better issue in the war, from Italy,  
Upon the first encounter, drave them.

**MARK ANTONY**

Well, what worst?

**Messenger**

The nature of bad news infects the teller.

**MARK ANTONY**

When it concerns the fool or coward. On:  
Things that are past are done with me. 'Tis thus:  
Who tells me true, though in his tale lie death,  
I hear him as he flatter'd.

**Messenger**

Labienus—  
This is stiff news—hath, with his Parthian force,  
Extended Asia from Euphrates;  
His conquering banner shook from Syria  
To Lydia and to Ionia; Whilst—

**MARK ANTONY**

Antony, thou wouldst say,—

**Messenger**

O, my lord!

**MARK ANTONY**

Speak to me home, mince not the general tongue:  
Name Cleopatra as she is call'd in Rome;  
Rail thou in Fulvia's phrase; and taunt my faults  
With such full licence as both truth and malice  
Have power to utter. O, then we bring forth weeds,  
When our quick minds lie still; and our ills told us  
Is as our earring. Fare thee well awhile.

**Messenger**

At your noble pleasure.

*Exit*

**MARK ANTONY**

From Sicyon, ho, the news! Speak there!

**First Attendant**

The man from Sicyon,—is there such an one?

**Second Attendant**

He stays upon your will.

**MARK ANTONY**

Let him appear.  
These strong Egyptian fetters I must break,  
Or lose myself in dotage.

*Enter another Messenger*

What are you?

**Second Messenger**

Fulvia thy wife is dead.

**MARK ANTONY**

Where died she?

**Second Messenger**

In Sicyon:

Her length of sickness, with what else more serious  
Importeth thee to know, this bears.

*Gives a letter*

**MARK ANTONY**

Forbear me.

*Exit Second Messenger*

There's a great spirit gone! Thus did I desire it:  
What our contempt doth often hurl from us,  
We wish it ours again; the present pleasure,  
By revolution lowering, does become  
The opposite of itself: she's good, being gone;  
The hand could pluck her back that shoved her on.  
I must from this enchanting queen break off:  
Ten thousand harms, more than the ills I know,  
My idleness doth hatch. How now! Enobarbus!

*Re-enter DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

What's your pleasure, sir?

**MARK ANTONY**

I must with haste from hence.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Why, then, we kill all our women:  
we see how mortal an unkindness is to them;  
if they suffer our departure, death's the word.

**MARK ANTONY**

I must be gone.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Under a compelling occasion, let women die; it were pity to cast them away for nothing; though, between them and a great cause, they should be esteemed nothing. Cleopatra, catching but the least noise of this, dies instantly; I have seen her die twenty times upon far poorer moment: I do think there is mettle in death, which commits some loving act upon her, she hath such a celerity in dying.

**MARK ANTONY**

She is cunning past man's thought.

*Exit ALEXAS*

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Alack, sir, no; her passions are made of nothing but the finest part of pure love: we cannot call her winds and waters sighs and tears; they are greater storms and tempests than almanacs can report: this cannot be cunning in her; if it be, she makes a shower of rain as well as Jove.

**MARK ANTONY**

Would I had never seen her.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

O, sir, you had then left unseen a wonderful piece of work; which not to have been blest withal would have discredited your travel.

**MARK ANTONY**

Fulvia is dead.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Sir?

**MARK ANTONY**

Fulvia is dead.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Fulvia!

**MARK ANTONY**

Dead.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Why, sir, give the gods a thankful sacrifice. When it pleaseth their deities to take the wife of a man from him, it shows to man the tailors of the earth; comforting therein, that when old robes are worn out, there are members to make new. If there were no more women but Fulvia, then had you indeed a cut, and the case to be lamented: this grief is crowned with consolation; your old smock brings forth a new petticoat: and indeed the tears live in an onion that should water this sorrow.

**MARK ANTONY**

The business she hath broached in the state  
Cannot endure my absence.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

And the business you have broached here cannot be without you; especially that of Cleopatra's, which wholly depends on your abode.

**MARK ANTONY**

No more light answers. Let our officers  
Have notice what we purpose. I shall break  
The cause of our expedience to the queen,  
And get her leave to part. For not alone  
The death of Fulvia, with more urgent touches,  
Do strongly speak to us; but the letters too  
Of many our contriving friends in Rome  
Petition us at home: Sextus Pompeius  
Hath given the dare to Caesar, and commands  
The empire of the sea: our slippery people,  
Whose love is never link'd to the deserver  
Till his deserts are past, begin to throw

Pompey the Great and all his dignities  
Upon his son; who, high in name and power,  
Higher than both in blood and life, stands up  
For the main soldier: whose quality, going on,  
The sides o' the world may danger: much is breeding,  
Which, like the courser's hair, hath yet but life,  
And not a serpent's poison. Say, our pleasure,  
To such whose place is under us, requires  
Our quick remove from hence.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I shall do't.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE III. The same. Another room.**

*Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and ALEXAS*

**CLEOPATRA**

Where is he?

**CHARMIAN**

I did not see him since.

**CLEOPATRA**

See where he is, who's with him, what he does:  
I did not send you: if you find him sad,  
Say I am dancing; if in mirth, report  
That I am sudden sick: quick, and return.

*Exit ALEXAS*

**CHARMIAN**

Madam, methinks, if you did love him dearly,  
You do not hold the method to enforce  
The like from him.

**CLEOPATRA**

What should I do, I do not?

**CHARMIAN**

In each thing give him way, cross him nothing.

**CLEOPATRA**

Thou teachest like a fool; the way to lose him.

**CHARMIAN**

Tempt him not so too far; I wish, forbear:  
In time we hate that which we often fear.  
But here comes Antony.

*Enter MARK ANTONY*

**CLEOPATRA**



I am sick and sullen.

**MARK ANTONY**

I am sorry to give breathing to my purpose,—

**CLEOPATRA**

Help me away, dear Charmian; I shall fall:  
It cannot be thus long, the sides of nature  
Will not sustain it.

**MARK ANTONY**

Now, my dearest queen,—

**CLEOPATRA**

Pray you, stand further from me.

**MARK ANTONY**

What's the matter?

**CLEOPATRA**

I know, by that same eye, there's some good news.  
What says the married woman? You may go:  
Would she had never given you leave to come!  
Let her not say 'tis I that keep you here:  
I have no power upon you; hers you are.

**MARK ANTONY**

The gods best know,—

**CLEOPATRA**

O, never was there queen  
So mightily betray'd! yet at the first  
I saw the treasons planted.

**MARK ANTONY**

Cleopatra,—

**CLEOPATRA**

Why should I think you can be mine and true,

Though you in swearing shake the throned gods,  
Who have been false to Fulvia? Riotous madness,  
To be entangled with those mouth-made vows,  
Which break themselves in swearing!

**MARK ANTONY**

Most sweet queen,—

**CLEOPATRA**

Nay, pray you, seek no colour for your going,  
But bid farewell, and go: when you sued staying,  
Then was the time for words: no going then;  
Eternity was in our lips and eyes,  
Bliss in our brows' bent; none our parts so poor,  
But was a race of heaven: they are so still,  
Or thou, the greatest soldier of the world,  
Art turn'd the greatest liar.

**MARK ANTONY**

How now, lady!

**CLEOPATRA**

I would I had thy inches; thou shouldst know  
There were a heart in Egypt.

**MARK ANTONY**

Hear me, queen:  
The strong necessity of time commands  
Our services awhile; but my full heart  
Remains in use with you. Our Italy  
Shines o'er with civil swords: Sextus Pompeius  
Makes his approaches to the port of Rome:  
Equality of two domestic powers  
Breed scrupulous faction: the hated, grown to strength,  
Are newly grown to love: the condemn'd Pompey,  
Rich in his father's honour, creeps apace,  
Into the hearts of such as have not thrived  
Upon the present state, whose numbers threaten;  
And quietness, grown sick of rest, would purge  
By any desperate change: my more particular,  
And that which most with you should save my going,  
Is Fulvia's death.

## **CLEOPATRA**

Though age from folly could not give me freedom,  
It does from childishness: can Fulvia die?

## **MARK ANTONY**

She's dead, my queen:  
Look here, and at thy sovereign leisure read  
The garboils she awaked; at the last, best:  
See when and where she died.

## **CLEOPATRA**

O most false love!  
Where be the sacred vials thou shouldst fill  
With sorrowful water? Now I see, I see,  
In Fulvia's death, how mine received shall be.

## **MARK ANTONY**

Quarrel no more, but be prepared to know  
The purposes I bear; which are, or cease,  
As you shall give the advice. By the fire  
That quickens Nilus' slime, I go from hence  
Thy soldier, servant; making peace or war  
As thou affect'st.

## **CLEOPATRA**

Cut my lace, Charmian, come;  
But let it be: I am quickly ill, and well,  
So Antony loves.

## **MARK ANTONY**

My precious queen, forbear;  
And give true evidence to his love, which stands  
An honourable trial.

## **CLEOPATRA**

So Fulvia told me.  
I prithee, turn aside and weep for her,  
Then bid adieu to me, and say the tears  
Belong to Egypt: good now, play one scene  
Of excellent dissembling; and let it look  
Life perfect honour.

**MARK ANTONY**

You'll heat my blood: no more.

**CLEOPATRA**

You can do better yet; but this is meetly.

**MARK ANTONY**

Now, by my sword,—

**CLEOPATRA**

And target. Still he mends;  
But this is not the best. Look, prithee, Charmian,  
How this Herculean Roman does become  
The carriage of his chafe.

**MARK ANTONY**

I'll leave you, lady.

**CLEOPATRA**

Courteous lord, one word.  
Sir, you and I must part, but that's not it:  
Sir, you and I have loved, but there's not it;  
That you know well: something it is I would,  
O, my oblivion is a very Antony,  
And I am all forgotten.

**MARK ANTONY**

But that your royalty  
Holds idleness your subject, I should take you  
For idleness itself.

**CLEOPATRA**

'Tis sweating labour  
To bear such idleness so near the heart  
As Cleopatra this. But, sir, forgive me;  
Since my becomings kill me, when they do not  
Eye well to you: your honour calls you hence;  
Therefore be deaf to my unpitied folly.  
And all the gods go with you! upon your sword  
Sit laurel victory! and smooth success

Be strew'd before your feet!

**MARK ANTONY**

Let us go. Come;  
Our separation so abides, and flies,  
That thou, residing here, go'st yet with me,  
And I, hence fleeting, here remain with thee. Away!

*Exeunt*

## SCENE IV. Rome. OCTAVIUS CAESAR's house.

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, reading a letter, LEPIDUS, and their Train*

### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

You may see, Lepidus, and henceforth know,  
It is not Caesar's natural vice to hate  
Our great competitor: from Alexandria  
This is the news: he fishes, drinks, and wastes  
The lamps of night in revel; is not more man-like  
Than Cleopatra; nor the queen of Ptolemy  
More womanly than he; hardly gave audience, or  
Vouchsafed to think he had partners: you shall find there  
A man who is the abstract of all faults  
That all men follow.

### LEPIDUS

I must not think there are  
Evils enow to darken all his goodness:  
His faults in him seem as the spots of heaven,  
More fiery by night's blackness; hereditary,  
Rather than purchased; what he cannot change,  
Than what he chooses.

### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

You are too indulgent. Let us grant, it is not  
Amis to tumble on the bed of Ptolemy;  
To give a kingdom for a mirth; to sit  
And keep the turn of tippling with a slave;  
To reel the streets at noon, and stand the buffet  
With knaves that smell of sweat: say this  
becomes him,—  
As his composure must be rare indeed  
Whom these things cannot blemish,—yet must Antony  
No way excuse his soils, when we do bear  
So great weight in his lightness. If he fill'd  
His vacancy with his voluptuousness,  
Full surfeits, and the dryness of his bones,  
Call on him for't: but to confound such time,  
That drums him from his sport, and speaks as loud  
As his own state and ours,—'tis to be chid  
As we rate boys, who, being mature in knowledge,  
Pawn their experience to their present pleasure,

And so rebel to judgment.

*Enter a Messenger*

**LEPIDUS**

Here's more news.

**Messenger**

Thy biddings have been done; and every hour,  
Most noble Caesar, shalt thou have report  
How 'tis abroad. Pompey is strong at sea;  
And it appears he is beloved of those  
That only have fear'd Caesar: to the ports  
The discontents repair, and men's reports  
Give him much wrong'd.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

I should have known no less.  
It hath been taught us from the primal state,  
That he which is was wish'd until he were;  
And the ebb'd man, ne'er loved till ne'er worth love,  
Comes dear'd by being lack'd. This common body,  
Like to a vagabond flag upon the stream,  
Goes to and back, lackeying the varying tide,  
To rot itself with motion.

**Messenger**

Caesar, I bring thee word,  
Menecrates and Menas, famous pirates,  
Make the sea serve them, which they ear and wound  
With keels of every kind: many hot inroads  
They make in Italy; the borders maritime  
Lack blood to think on't, and flush youth revolt:  
No vessel can peep forth, but 'tis as soon  
Taken as seen; for Pompey's name strikes more  
Than could his war resisted.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Antony,  
Leave thy lascivious wassails. When thou once  
Wast beaten from Modena, where thou slew'st  
Hirtius and Pansa, consuls, at thy heel  
Did famine follow; whom thou fought'st against,

Though daintily brought up, with patience more  
Than savages could suffer: thou didst drink  
The stale of horses, and the gilded puddle  
Which beasts would cough at: thy palate then did deign  
The roughest berry on the rudest hedge;  
Yea, like the stag, when snow the pasture sheets,  
The barks of trees thou browsed'st; on the Alps  
It is reported thou didst eat strange flesh,  
Which some did die to look on: and all this—  
It wounds thine honour that I speak it now—  
Was borne so like a soldier, that thy cheek  
So much as lank'd not.

**LEPIDUS**

'Tis pity of him.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Let his shames quickly  
Drive him to Rome: 'tis time we twain  
Did show ourselves i' the field; and to that end  
Assemble we immediate council: Pompey  
Thrives in our idleness.

**LEPIDUS**

To-morrow, Caesar,  
I shall be furnish'd to inform you rightly  
Both what by sea and land I can be able  
To front this present time.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Till which encounter,  
It is my business too. Farewell.

**LEPIDUS**

Farewell, my lord: what you shall know meantime  
Of stirs abroad, I shall beseech you, sir,  
To let me be partaker.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Doubt not, sir;  
I knew it for my bond.



*Exeunt*

**SCENE V. Alexandria. CLEOPATRA's palace.**

*Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and MARDIAN*

**CLEOPATRA**

Charmian!

**CHARMIAN**

Madam?

**CLEOPATRA**

Ha, ha!

Give me to drink mandragora.

**CHARMIAN**

Why, madam?

**CLEOPATRA**

That I might sleep out this great gap of time  
My Antony is away.

**CHARMIAN**

You think of him too much.

**CLEOPATRA**

O, 'tis treason!

**CHARMIAN**

Madam, I trust, not so.

**CLEOPATRA**

Thou, eunuch Mardian!

**MARDIAN**

What's your highness' pleasure?

**CLEOPATRA**

Not now to hear thee sing; I take no pleasure  
In aught an eunuch has: 'tis well for thee,  
That, being unseminar'd, thy freer thoughts  
May not fly forth of Egypt. Hast thou affections?

**MARDIAN**

Yes, gracious madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

Indeed!

**MARDIAN**

Not in deed, madam; for I can do nothing  
But what indeed is honest to be done:  
Yet have I fierce affections, and think  
What Venus did with Mars.

**CLEOPATRA**

O Charmian,  
Where think'st thou he is now? Stands he, or sits he?  
Or does he walk? or is he on his horse?  
O happy horse, to bear the weight of Antony!  
Do bravely, horse! for wot'st thou whom thou movest?  
The demi-Atlas of this earth, the arm  
And burgonet of men. He's speaking now,  
Or murmuring 'Where's my serpent of old Nile?'  
For so he calls me: now I feed myself  
With most delicious poison. Think on me,  
That am with Phoebus' amorous pinches black,  
And wrinkled deep in time? Broad-fronted Caesar,  
When thou wast here above the ground, I was  
A morsel for a monarch: and great Pompey  
Would stand and make his eyes grow in my brow;  
There would he anchor his aspect and die  
With looking on his life.

*Enter ALEXAS, from OCTAVIUS CAESAR*

**ALEXAS**

Sovereign of Egypt, hail!

**CLEOPATRA**

How much unlike art thou Mark Antony!  
Yet, coming from him, that great medicine hath  
With his tinct gilded thee.  
How goes it with my brave Mark Antony?

**ALEXAS**

Last thing he did, dear queen,  
He kiss'd,—the last of many doubled kisses,—  
This orient pearl. His speech sticks in my heart.

**CLEOPATRA**

Mine ear must pluck it thence.

**ALEXAS**

'Good friend,' quoth he,  
'Say, the firm Roman to great Egypt sends  
This treasure of an oyster; at whose foot,  
To mend the petty present, I will piece  
Her opulent throne with kingdoms; all the east,  
Say thou, shall call her mistress.' So he nodded,  
And soberly did mount an arm-gaunt steed,  
Who neigh'd so high, that what I would have spoke  
Was beastly dumb'd by him.

**CLEOPATRA**

What, was he sad or merry?

**ALEXAS**

Like to the time o' the year between the extremes  
Of hot and cold, he was nor sad nor merry.

**CLEOPATRA**

O well-divided disposition! Note him,  
Note him good Charmian, 'tis the man; but note him:  
He was not sad, for he would shine on those  
That make their looks by his; he was not merry,  
Which seem'd to tell them his remembrance lay  
In Egypt with his joy; but between both:  
O heavenly mingle! Be'st thou sad or merry,  
The violence of either thee becomes,  
So does it no man else. Met'st thou my posts?

**ALEXAS**

Ay, madam, twenty several messengers:  
Why do you send so thick?

**CLEOPATRA**

Who's born that day  
When I forget to send to Antony,  
Shall die a beggar. Ink and paper, Charmian.  
Welcome, my good Alexas. Did I, Charmian,  
Ever love Caesar so?

**CHARMIAN**

O that brave Caesar!

**CLEOPATRA**

Be choked with such another emphasis!  
Say, the brave Antony.

**CHARMIAN**

The valiant Caesar!

**CLEOPATRA**

By Isis, I will give thee bloody teeth,  
If thou with Caesar paragon again  
My man of men.

**CHARMIAN**

By your most gracious pardon,  
I sing but after you.

**CLEOPATRA**

My salad days,  
When I was green in judgment: cold in blood,  
To say as I said then! But, come, away;  
Get me ink and paper:  
He shall have every day a several greeting,  
Or I'll unpeople Egypt.

*Exeunt*

## Act II

### SCENE I. Messina. POMPEY's house.

*Enter POMPEY, MENECRATES, and MENAS, in warlike manner*

**POMPEY**

If the great gods be just, they shall assist  
The deeds of justest men.

**MENECRATES**

Know, worthy Pompey,  
That what they do delay, they not deny.

**POMPEY**

Whiles we are suitors to their throne, decays  
The thing we sue for.

**MENECRATES**

We, ignorant of ourselves,  
Beg often our own harms, which the wise powers  
Deny us for our good; so find we profit  
By losing of our prayers.

**POMPEY**

I shall do well:  
The people love me, and the sea is mine;  
My powers are crescent, and my auguring hope  
Says it will come to the full. Mark Antony  
In Egypt sits at dinner, and will make  
No wars without doors: Caesar gets money where  
He loses hearts: Lepidus flatters both,  
Of both is flatter'd; but he neither loves,  
Nor either cares for him.

**MENAS**

Caesar and Lepidus  
Are in the field: a mighty strength they carry.

**POMPEY**

Where have you this? 'tis false.

**MENAS**

From Silvius, sir.

**POMPEY**

He dreams: I know they are in Rome together,  
Looking for Antony. But all the charms of love,  
Salt Cleopatra, soften thy waned lip!  
Let witchcraft join with beauty, lust with both!  
Tie up the libertine in a field of feasts,  
Keep his brain fuming; Epicurean cooks  
Sharpen with cloyless sauce his appetite;  
That sleep and feeding may prorogue his honour  
Even till a Lethe'd dulness!

*Enter VARRIUS*

How now, Varrius!

**VARRIUS**

This is most certain that I shall deliver:  
Mark Antony is every hour in Rome  
Expected: since he went from Egypt 'tis  
A space for further travel.

**POMPEY**

I could have given less matter  
A better ear. Menas, I did not think  
This amorous surfeiter would have donn'd his helm  
For such a petty war: his soldiership  
Is twice the other twain: but let us rear  
The higher our opinion, that our stirring  
Can from the lap of Egypt's widow pluck  
The ne'er-lust-wearied Antony.

**MENAS**

I cannot hope  
Caesar and Antony shall well greet together:  
His wife that's dead did trespasses to Caesar;  
His brother warr'd upon him; although, I think,  
Not moved by Antony.

**POMPEY**

I know not, Menas,  
How lesser enmities may give way to greater.  
Were't not that we stand up against them all,  
'Twere pregnant they should square between  
themselves;  
For they have entertained cause enough  
To draw their swords: but how the fear of us  
May cement their divisions and bind up  
The petty difference, we yet not know.  
Be't as our gods will have't! It only stands  
Our lives upon to use our strongest hands.  
Come, Menas.

*Exeunt*



## SCENE II. Rome. The house of LEPIDUS.

*Enter DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS and LEPIDUS*

**LEPIDUS**

Good Enobarbus, 'tis a worthy deed,  
And shall become you well, to entreat your captain  
To soft and gentle speech.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I shall entreat him  
To answer like himself: if Caesar move him,  
Let Antony look over Caesar's head  
And speak as loud as Mars. By Jupiter,  
Were I the wearer of Antonius' beard,  
I would not shave't to-day.

**LEPIDUS**

'Tis not a time  
For private stomaching.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Every time  
Serves for the matter that is then born in't.

**LEPIDUS**

But small to greater matters must give way.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Not if the small come first.

**LEPIDUS**

Your speech is passion:  
But, pray you, stir no embers up. Here comes  
The noble Antony.

*Enter MARK ANTONY and VENTIDIUS*

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

And yonder, Caesar.

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, MECAENAS, and AGRIPPA*

**MARK ANTONY**

If we compose well here, to Parthia:  
Hark, Ventidius.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

I do not know,  
Mecenas; ask Agrippa.

**LEPIDUS**

Noble friends,  
That which combined us was most great, and let not  
A leaner action rend us. What's amiss,  
May it be gently heard: when we debate  
Our trivial difference loud, we do commit  
Murder in healing wounds: then, noble partners,  
The rather, for I earnestly beseech,  
Touch you the sourest points with sweetest terms,  
Nor curstness grow to the matter.

**MARK ANTONY**

'Tis spoken well.  
Were we before our armies, and to fight.  
I should do thus.

*Flourish*

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Welcome to Rome.

**MARK ANTONY**

Thank you.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Sit.

**MARK ANTONY**

Sit, sir.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Nay, then.

**MARK ANTONY**

I learn, you take things ill which are not so,  
Or being, concern you not.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

I must be laugh'd at,  
If, or for nothing or a little, I  
Should say myself offended, and with you  
Chiefly i' the world; more laugh'd at, that I should  
Once name you derogately, when to sound your name  
It not concern'd me.

**MARK ANTONY**

My being in Egypt, Caesar,  
What was't to you?

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

No more than my residing here at Rome  
Might be to you in Egypt: yet, if you there  
Did practise on my state, your being in Egypt  
Might be my question.

**MARK ANTONY**

How intend you, practised?

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

You may be pleased to catch at mine intent  
By what did here befall me. Your wife and brother  
Made wars upon me; and their contestation  
Was theme for you, you were the word of war.

**MARK ANTONY**

You do mistake your business; my brother never  
Did urge me in his act: I did inquire it;  
And have my learning from some true reports,  
That drew their swords with you. Did he not rather  
Discredit my authority with yours;  
And make the wars alike against my stomach,  
Having alike your cause? Of this my letters

Before did satisfy you. If you'll patch a quarrel,  
As matter whole you have not to make it with,  
It must not be with this.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

You praise yourself  
By laying defects of judgment to me; but  
You patch'd up your excuses.

**MARK ANTONY**

Not so, not so;  
I know you could not lack, I am certain on't,  
Very necessity of this thought, that I,  
Your partner in the cause 'gainst which he fought,  
Could not with graceful eyes attend those wars  
Which fronted mine own peace. As for my wife,  
I would you had her spirit in such another:  
The third o' the world is yours; which with a snaffle  
You may pace easy, but not such a wife.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Would we had all such wives, that the men might go  
to wars with the women!

**MARK ANTONY**

So much uncurbable, her garboils, Caesar  
Made out of her impatience, which not wanted  
Shrewdness of policy too, I grieving grant  
Did you too much disquiet: for that you must  
But say, I could not help it.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

I wrote to you  
When rioting in Alexandria; you  
Did pocket up my letters, and with taunts  
Did gibe my missive out of audience.

**MARK ANTONY**

Sir,  
He fell upon me ere admitted: then  
Three kings I had newly feasted, and did want  
Of what I was i' the morning: but next day

I told him of myself; which was as much  
As to have ask'd him pardon. Let this fellow  
Be nothing of our strife; if we contend,  
Out of our question wipe him.

### **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

You have broken  
The article of your oath; which you shall never  
Have tongue to charge me with.

### **LEPIDUS**

Soft, Caesar!

### **MARK ANTONY**

No,  
Lepidus, let him speak:  
The honour is sacred which he talks on now,  
Supposing that I lack'd it. But, on, Caesar;  
The article of my oath.

### **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

To lend me arms and aid when I required them;  
The which you both denied.

### **MARK ANTONY**

Neglected, rather;  
And then when poison'd hours had bound me up  
From mine own knowledge. As nearly as I may,  
I'll play the penitent to you: but mine honesty  
Shall not make poor my greatness, nor my power  
Work without it. Truth is, that Fulvia,  
To have me out of Egypt, made wars here;  
For which myself, the ignorant motive, do  
So far ask pardon as befits mine honour  
To stoop in such a case.

### **LEPIDUS**

'Tis noble spoken.

### **MECAENAS**

If it might please you, to enforce no further

The griefs between ye: to forget them quite  
Were to remember that the present need  
Speaks to atone you.

**LEPIDUS**

Worthily spoken, Mecaenas.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Or, if you borrow one another's love for the  
instant, you may, when you hear no more words of  
Pompey, return it again: you shall have time to  
wrangle in when you have nothing else to do.

**MARK ANTONY**

Thou art a soldier only: speak no more.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

That truth should be silent I had almost forgot.

**MARK ANTONY**

You wrong this presence; therefore speak no more.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Go to, then; your considerate stone.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

I do not much dislike the matter, but  
The manner of his speech; for't cannot be  
We shall remain in friendship, our conditions  
So differing in their acts. Yet if I knew  
What hoop should hold us stanch, from edge to edge  
O' the world I would pursue it.

**AGRIPPA**

Give me leave, Caesar,—

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Speak, Agrippa.

**AGRIPPA**

Thou hast a sister by the mother's side,  
Admired Octavia: great Mark Antony  
Is now a widower.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Say not so, Agrippa:  
If Cleopatra heard you, your reproof  
Were well deserved of rashness.

**MARK ANTONY**

I am not married, Caesar: let me hear  
Agrippa further speak.

**AGRIPPA**

To hold you in perpetual amity,  
To make you brothers, and to knit your hearts  
With an unslipping knot, take Antony  
Octavia to his wife; whose beauty claims  
No worse a husband than the best of men;  
Whose virtue and whose general graces speak  
That which none else can utter. By this marriage,  
All little jealousies, which now seem great,  
And all great fears, which now import their dangers,  
Would then be nothing: truths would be tales,  
Where now half tales be truths: her love to both  
Would, each to other and all loves to both,  
Draw after her. Pardon what I have spoke;  
For 'tis a studied, not a present thought,  
By duty ruminated.

**MARK ANTONY**

Will Caesar speak?

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Not till he hears how Antony is touch'd  
With what is spoke already.

**MARK ANTONY**

What power is in Agrippa,  
If I would say, 'Agrippa, be it so,'  
To make this good?

## **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

The power of Caesar, and  
His power unto Octavia.

## **MARK ANTONY**

May I never  
To this good purpose, that so fairly shows,  
Dream of impediment! Let me have thy hand:  
Further this act of grace: and from this hour  
The heart of brothers govern in our loves  
And sway our great designs!

## **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

There is my hand.  
A sister I bequeath you, whom no brother  
Did ever love so dearly: let her live  
To join our kingdoms and our hearts; and never  
Fly off our loves again!

## **LEPIDUS**

Happily, amen!

## **MARK ANTONY**

I did not think to draw my sword 'gainst Pompey;  
For he hath laid strange courtesies and great  
Of late upon me: I must thank him only,  
Lest my remembrance suffer ill report;  
At heel of that, defy him.

## **LEPIDUS**

Time calls upon's:  
Of us must Pompey presently be sought,  
Or else he seeks out us.

## **MARK ANTONY**

Where lies he?

## **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

About the mount Misenum.



**MARK ANTONY**

What is his strength by land?

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Great and increasing: but by sea  
He is an absolute master.

**MARK ANTONY**

So is the fame.  
Would we had spoke together! Haste we for it:  
Yet, ere we put ourselves in arms, dispatch we  
The business we have talk'd of.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

With most gladness:  
And do invite you to my sister's view,  
Whither straight I'll lead you.

**MARK ANTONY**

Let us, Lepidus,  
Not lack your company.

**LEPIDUS**

Noble Antony,  
Not sickness should detain me.

*Flourish. Exeunt OCTAVIUS CAESAR, MARK ANTONY, and LEPIDUS*

**MECAENAS**

Welcome from Egypt, sir.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Half the heart of Caesar, worthy Mecaenas! My  
honourable friend, Agrippa!

**AGRIPPA**

Good Enobarbus!

**MECAENAS**

We have cause to be glad that matters are so well digested. You stayed well by 't in Egypt.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Ay, sir; we did sleep day out of countenance, and made the night light with drinking.

**MECAENAS**

Eight wild-boars roasted whole at a breakfast, and but twelve persons there; is this true?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

This was but as a fly by an eagle: we had much more monstrous matter of feast, which worthily deserved noting.

**MECAENAS**

She's a most triumphant lady, if report be square to her.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

When she first met Mark Antony, she pursed up his heart, upon the river of Cydnus.

**AGRIPPA**

There she appeared indeed; or my reporter devised well for her.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I will tell you.

The barge she sat in, like a burnish'd throne,  
Burn'd on the water: the poop was beaten gold;  
Purple the sails, and so perfumed that  
The winds were love-sick with them; the oars were silver,  
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and made  
The water which they beat to follow faster,  
As amorous of their strokes. For her own person,  
It beggar'd all description: she did lie  
In her pavilion—cloth-of-gold of tissue—  
O'er-picturing that Venus where we see  
The fancy outwork nature: on each side her  
Stood pretty dimpled boys, like smiling Cupids,

With divers-colour'd fans, whose wind did seem  
To glow the delicate cheeks which they did cool,  
And what they undid did.

**AGRIPPA**

O, rare for Antony!

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Her gentlewomen, like the Nereides,  
So many mermaids, tended her i' the eyes,  
And made their bends adornings: at the helm  
A seeming mermaid steers: the silken tackle  
Swell with the touches of those flower-soft hands,  
That yarely frame the office. From the barge  
A strange invisible perfume hits the sense  
Of the adjacent wharfs. The city cast  
Her people out upon her; and Antony,  
Enthroned i' the market-place, did sit alone,  
Whistling to the air; which, but for vacancy,  
Had gone to gaze on Cleopatra too,  
And made a gap in nature.

**AGRIPPA**

Rare Egyptian!

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Upon her landing, Antony sent to her,  
Invited her to supper: she replied,  
It should be better he became her guest;  
Which she entreated: our courteous Antony,  
Whom ne'er the word of 'No' woman heard speak,  
Being barber'd ten times o'er, goes to the feast,  
And for his ordinary pays his heart  
For what his eyes eat only.

**AGRIPPA**

Royal wench!  
She made great Caesar lay his sword to bed:  
He plough'd her, and she cropp'd.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I saw her once

Hop forty paces through the public street;  
And having lost her breath, she spoke, and panted,  
That she did make defect perfection,  
And, breathless, power breathe forth.

**MECAENAS**

Now Antony must leave her utterly.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Never; he will not:  
Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale  
Her infinite variety: other women cloy  
The appetites they feed: but she makes hungry  
Where most she satisfies; for vilest things  
Become themselves in her: that the holy priests  
Bless her when she is riggish.

**MECAENAS**

If beauty, wisdom, modesty, can settle  
The heart of Antony, Octavia is  
A blessed lottery to him.

**AGRIPPA**

Let us go.  
Good Enobarbus, make yourself my guest  
Whilst you abide here.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Humbly, sir, I thank you.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE III. The same. OCTAVIUS CAESAR's house.**

*Enter MARK ANTONY, OCTAVIUS CAESAR, OCTAVIA between them, and Attendants*

**MARK ANTONY**

The world and my great office will sometimes  
Divide me from your bosom.

**OCTAVIA**

All which time  
Before the gods my knee shall bow my prayers  
To them for you.

**MARK ANTONY**

Good night, sir. My Octavia,  
Read not my blemishes in the world's report:  
I have not kept my square; but that to come  
Shall all be done by the rule. Good night, dear lady.  
Good night, sir.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Good night.

*Exeunt OCTAVIUS CAESAR and OCTAVIA*

*Enter Soothsayer*

**MARK ANTONY**

Now, sirrah; you do wish yourself in Egypt?

**Soothsayer**

Would I had never come from thence, nor you Thither!

**MARK ANTONY**

If you can, your reason?

**Soothsayer**

I see it in  
My motion, have it not in my tongue: but yet

Hie you to Egypt again.

**MARK ANTONY**

Say to me,  
Whose fortunes shall rise higher, Caesar's or mine?

**Soothsayer**

Caesar's.  
Therefore, O Antony, stay not by his side:  
Thy demon, that's thy spirit which keeps thee, is  
Noble, courageous high, unmatchable,  
Where Caesar's is not; but, near him, thy angel  
Becomes a fear, as being o'erpower'd: therefore  
Make space enough between you.

**MARK ANTONY**

Speak this no more.

**Soothsayer**

To none but thee; no more, but when to thee.  
If thou dost play with him at any game,  
Thou art sure to lose; and, of that natural luck,  
He beats thee 'gainst the odds: thy lustre thickens,  
When he shines by: I say again, thy spirit  
Is all afraid to govern thee near him;  
But, he away, 'tis noble.

**MARK ANTONY**

Get thee gone:  
Say to Ventidius I would speak with him:

*Exit Soothsayer*

He shall to Parthia. Be it art or hap,  
He hath spoken true: the very dice obey him;  
And in our sports my better cunning faints  
Under his chance: if we draw lots, he speeds;  
His cocks do win the battle still of mine,  
When it is all to nought; and his quails ever  
Beat mine, in hoop'd, at odds. I will to Egypt:  
And though I make this marriage for my peace,  
I' the east my pleasure lies.

*Enter VENTIDIUS*

O, come, Ventidius,  
You must to Parthia: your commission's ready;  
Follow me, and receive't.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE IV. The same. A street.

*Enter LEPIDUS, MECAENAS, and AGRIPPA*

**LEPIDUS**

Trouble yourselves no further: pray you, hasten  
Your generals after.

**AGRIPPA**

Sir, Mark Antony  
Will e'en but kiss Octavia, and we'll follow.

**LEPIDUS**

Till I shall see you in your soldier's dress,  
Which will become you both, farewell.

**MECAENAS**

We shall,  
As I conceive the journey, be at the Mount  
Before you, Lepidus.

**LEPIDUS**

Your way is shorter;  
My purposes do draw me much about:  
You'll win two days upon me.

**MECAENAS AGRIPPA**

Sir, good success!

**LEPIDUS**

Farewell.

*Exeunt*



## SCENE V. Alexandria. CLEOPATRA's palace.

*Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and ALEXAS*

**CLEOPATRA**

Give me some music; music, moody food  
Of us that trade in love.

**Attendants**

The music, ho!

*Enter MARDIAN*

**CLEOPATRA**

Let it alone; let's to billiards: come, Charmian.

**CHARMIAN**

My arm is sore; best play with Mardian.

**CLEOPATRA**

As well a woman with an eunuch play'd  
As with a woman. Come, you'll play with me, sir?

**MARDIAN**

As well as I can, madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

And when good will is show'd, though't come  
too short,  
The actor may plead pardon. I'll none now:  
Give me mine angle; we'll to the river: there,  
My music playing far off, I will betray  
Tawny-finn'd fishes; my bended hook shall pierce  
Their slimy jaws; and, as I draw them up,  
I'll think them every one an Antony,  
And say 'Ah, ha! you're caught.'

**CHARMIAN**

'Twas merry when  
You wager'd on your angling; when your diver

Did hang a salt-fish on his hook, which he  
With fervency drew up.

**CLEOPATRA**

That time,—O times!—  
I laugh'd him out of patience; and that night  
I laugh'd him into patience; and next morn,  
Ere the ninth hour, I drunk him to his bed;  
Then put my tires and mantles on him, whilst  
I wore his sword Philippan.

*Enter a Messenger*

O, from Italy  
Ram thou thy fruitful tidings in mine ears,  
That long time have been barren.

**Messenger**

Madam, madam,—

**CLEOPATRA**

Antonius dead!—If thou say so, villain,  
Thou kill'st thy mistress: but well and free,  
If thou so yield him, there is gold, and here  
My bluest veins to kiss; a hand that kings  
Have lipp'd, and trembled kissing.

**Messenger**

First, madam, he is well.

**CLEOPATRA**

Why, there's more gold.  
But, sirrah, mark, we use  
To say the dead are well: bring it to that,  
The gold I give thee will I melt and pour  
Down thy ill-uttering throat.

**Messenger**

Good madam, hear me.

**CLEOPATRA**

Well, go to, I will;

But there's no goodness in thy face: if Antony  
Be free and healthful,—so tart a favour  
To trumpet such good tidings! If not well,  
Thou shouldst come like a Fury crown'd with snakes,  
Not like a formal man.

**Messenger**

Will't please you hear me?

**CLEOPATRA**

I have a mind to strike thee ere thou speak'st:  
Yet if thou say Antony lives, is well,  
Or friends with Caesar, or not captive to him,  
I'll set thee in a shower of gold, and hail  
Rich pearls upon thee.

**Messenger**

Madam, he's well.

**CLEOPATRA**

Well said.

**Messenger**

And friends with Caesar.

**CLEOPATRA**

Thou'rt an honest man.

**Messenger**

Caesar and he are greater friends than ever.

**CLEOPATRA**

Make thee a fortune from me.

**Messenger**

But yet, madam,—

**CLEOPATRA**

I do not like 'But yet,' it does allay

The good precedence; fie upon 'But yet'!  
'But yet' is as a gaoler to bring forth  
Some monstrous malefactor. Prithee, friend,  
Pour out the pack of matter to mine ear,  
The good and bad together: he's friends with Caesar:  
In state of health thou say'st; and thou say'st free.

**Messenger**

Free, madam! no; I made no such report:  
He's bound unto Octavia.

**CLEOPATRA**

For what good turn?

**Messenger**

For the best turn i' the bed.

**CLEOPATRA**

I am pale, Charmian.

**Messenger**

Madam, he's married to Octavia.

**CLEOPATRA**

The most infectious pestilence upon thee!

*Strikes him down*

**Messenger**

Good madam, patience.

**CLEOPATRA**

What say you? Hence,

*Strikes him again*

Horrible villain! or I'll spurn thine eyes  
Like balls before me; I'll unhair thy head:

*She hales him up and down*

Thou shalt be whipp'd with wire, and stew'd in brine,  
Smarting in lingering pickle.

**Messenger**

Gracious madam,  
I that do bring the news made not the match.

**CLEOPATRA**

Say 'tis not so, a province I will give thee,  
And make thy fortunes proud: the blow thou hadst  
Shall make thy peace for moving me to rage;  
And I will boot thee with what gift beside  
Thy modesty can beg.

**Messenger**

He's married, madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

Rogue, thou hast lived too long.

*Draws a knife*

**Messenger**

Nay, then I'll run.  
What mean you, madam? I have made no fault.

*Exit*

**CHARMIAN**

Good madam, keep yourself within yourself:  
The man is innocent.

**CLEOPATRA**

Some innocents 'scape not the thunderbolt.  
Melt Egypt into Nile! and kindly creatures  
Turn all to serpents! Call the slave again:  
Though I am mad, I will not bite him: call.

**CHARMIAN**

He is afeard to come.

**CLEOPATRA**

I will not hurt him.

*Exit CHARMIAN*

These hands do lack nobility, that they strike  
A meaner than myself; since I myself  
Have given myself the cause.

*Re-enter CHARMIAN and Messenger*

Come hither, sir.  
Though it be honest, it is never good  
To bring bad news: give to a gracious message.  
An host of tongues; but let ill tidings tell  
Themselves when they be felt.

**Messenger**

I have done my duty.

**CLEOPATRA**

Is he married?  
I cannot hate thee worser than I do,  
If thou again say 'Yes.'

**Messenger**

He's married, madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

The gods confound thee! dost thou hold there still?

**Messenger**

Should I lie, madam?

**CLEOPATRA**

O, I would thou didst,  
So half my Egypt were submerged and made  
A cistern for scaled snakes! Go, get thee hence:  
Hadst thou Narcissus in thy face, to me  
Thou wouldst appear most ugly. He is married?

**Messenger**

I crave your highness' pardon.

**CLEOPATRA**

He is married?

**Messenger**

Take no offence that I would not offend you:  
To punish me for what you make me do.  
Seems much unequal: he's married to Octavia.

**CLEOPATRA**

O, that his fault should make a knave of thee,  
That art not what thou'rt sure of! Get thee hence:  
The merchandise which thou hast brought from Rome  
Are all too dear for me: lie they upon thy hand,  
And be undone by 'em!

*Exit Messenger*

**CHARMIAN**

Good your highness, patience.

**CLEOPATRA**

In praising Antony, I have dispraised Caesar.

**CHARMIAN**

Many times, madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

I am paid for't now.  
Lead me from hence:  
I faint: O Iras, Charmian! 'tis no matter.  
Go to the fellow, good Alexas; bid him  
Report the feature of Octavia, her years,  
Her inclination, let him not leave out  
The colour of her hair: bring me word quickly.

*Exit ALEXAS*

Let him for ever go:—let him not—Charmian,  
Though he be painted one way like a Gorgon,  
The other way's a Mars. Bid you Alexas

*To MARDIAN*

Bring me word how tall she is. Pity me, Charmian,  
But do not speak to me. Lead me to my chamber.

*Exeunt*



## SCENE VI. Near Misenum.

*Flourish. Enter POMPEY and MENAS at one door, with drum and trumpet: at another, OCTAVIUS CAESAR, MARK ANTONY, LEPIDUS, DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS, MECAENAS, with Soldiers marching*

### POMPEY

Your hostages I have, so have you mine;  
And we shall talk before we fight.

### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

Most meet  
That first we come to words; and therefore have we  
Our written purposes before us sent;  
Which, if thou hast consider'd, let us know  
If 'twill tie up thy discontented sword,  
And carry back to Sicily much tall youth  
That else must perish here.

### POMPEY

To you all three,  
The senators alone of this great world,  
Chief factors for the gods, I do not know  
Wherefore my father should revengers want,  
Having a son and friends; since Julius Caesar,  
Who at Philippi the good Brutus ghosted,  
There saw you labouring for him. What was't  
That moved pale Cassius to conspire; and what  
Made the all-honour'd, honest Roman, Brutus,  
With the arm'd rest, courtiers and beauteous freedom,  
To drench the Capitol; but that they would  
Have one man but a man? And that is it  
Hath made me rig my navy; at whose burthen  
The anger'd ocean foams; with which I meant  
To scourge the ingratitude that despiteful Rome  
Cast on my noble father.

### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

Take your time.

### MARK ANTONY

Thou canst not fear us, Pompey, with thy sails;  
We'll speak with thee at sea: at land, thou know'st  
How much we do o'er-count thee.

**POMPEY**

At land, indeed,  
Thou dost o'er-count me of my father's house:  
But, since the cuckoo builds not for himself,  
Remain in't as thou mayst.

**LEPIDUS**

Be pleased to tell us—  
For this is from the present—how you take  
The offers we have sent you.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

There's the point.

**MARK ANTONY**

Which do not be entreated to, but weigh  
What it is worth embraced.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

And what may follow,  
To try a larger fortune.

**POMPEY**

You have made me offer  
Of Sicily, Sardinia; and I must  
Rid all the sea of pirates; then, to send  
Measures of wheat to Rome; this 'greed upon  
To part with unhack'd edges, and bear back  
Our targes undinted.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR MARK ANTONY LEPIDUS**

That's our offer.

**POMPEY**

Know, then,  
I came before you here a man prepared

To take this offer: but Mark Antony  
Put me to some impatience: though I lose  
The praise of it by telling, you must know,  
When Caesar and your brother were at blows,  
Your mother came to Sicily and did find  
Her welcome friendly.

**MARK ANTONY**

I have heard it, Pompey;  
And am well studied for a liberal thanks  
Which I do owe you.

**POMPEY**

Let me have your hand:  
I did not think, sir, to have met you here.

**MARK ANTONY**

The beds i' the east are soft; and thanks to you,  
That call'd me timelier than my purpose hither;  
For I have gain'd by 't.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Since I saw you last,  
There is a change upon you.

**POMPEY**

Well, I know not  
What counts harsh fortune casts upon my face;  
But in my bosom shall she never come,  
To make my heart her vassal.

**LEPIDUS**

Well met here.

**POMPEY**

I hope so, Lepidus. Thus we are agreed:  
I crave our composition may be written,  
And seal'd between us.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

That's the next to do.

**POMPEY**

We'll feast each other ere we part; and let's  
Draw lots who shall begin.

**MARK ANTONY**

That will I, Pompey.

**POMPEY**

No, Antony, take the lot: but, first  
Or last, your fine Egyptian cookery  
Shall have the fame. I have heard that Julius Caesar  
Grew fat with feasting there.

**MARK ANTONY**

You have heard much.

**POMPEY**

I have fair meanings, sir.

**MARK ANTONY**

And fair words to them.

**POMPEY**

Then so much have I heard:  
And I have heard, Apollodorus carried—

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

No more of that: he did so.

**POMPEY**

What, I pray you?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

A certain queen to Caesar in a mattress.

**POMPEY**

I know thee now: how farest thou, soldier?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Well;  
And well am like to do; for, I perceive,  
Four feasts are toward.

**POMPEY**

Let me shake thy hand;  
I never hated thee: I have seen thee fight,  
When I have envied thy behavior.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Sir,  
I never loved you much; but I ha' praised ye,  
When you have well deserved ten times as much  
As I have said you did.

**POMPEY**

Enjoy thy plainness,  
It nothing ill becomes thee.  
Aboard my galley I invite you all:  
Will you lead, lords?

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR MARK ANTONY LEPIDUS**

Show us the way, sir.

**POMPEY**

Come.

*Exeunt all but MENAS and ENOBARBUS*

**MENAS**

[Aside] Thy father, Pompey, would ne'er have  
made this treaty.—You and I have known, sir.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

At sea, I think.

**MENAS**

We have, sir.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

You have done well by water.

**MENAS**

And you by land.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I will praise any man that will praise me; though it cannot be denied what I have done by land.

**MENAS**

Nor what I have done by water.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Yes, something you can deny for your own safety: you have been a great thief by sea.

**MENAS**

And you by land.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

There I deny my land service. But give me your hand, Menas: if our eyes had authority, here they might take two thieves kissing.

**MENAS**

All men's faces are true, whosome'er their hands are.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

But there is never a fair woman has a true face.

**MENAS**

No slander; they steal hearts.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

We came hither to fight with you.

**MENAS**

For my part, I am sorry it is turned to a drinking.  
Pompey doth this day laugh away his fortune.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

If he do, sure, he cannot weep't back again.

**MENAS**

You've said, sir. We looked not for Mark Antony  
here: pray you, is he married to Cleopatra?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Caesar's sister is called Octavia.

**MENAS**

True, sir; she was the wife of Caius Marcellus.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

But she is now the wife of Marcus Antonius.

**MENAS**

Pray ye, sir?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

'Tis true.

**MENAS**

Then is Caesar and he for ever knit together.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

If I were bound to divine of this unity, I would  
not prophesy so.

**MENAS**

I think the policy of that purpose made more in the  
marriage than the love of the parties.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I think so too. But you shall find, the band that seems to tie their friendship together will be the very strangler of their amity: Octavia is of a holy, cold, and still conversation.

**MENAS**

Who would not have his wife so?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Not he that himself is not so; which is Mark Antony. He will to his Egyptian dish again: then shall the sighs of Octavia blow the fire up in Caesar; and, as I said before, that which is the strength of their amity shall prove the immediate author of their variance. Antony will use his affection where it is: he married but his occasion here.

**MENAS**

And thus it may be. Come, sir, will you aboard?  
I have a health for you.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I shall take it, sir: we have used our throats in Egypt.

**MENAS**

Come, let's away.

*Exeunt*



## SCENE VII. On board POMPEY's galley, off Misenum.

*Music plays. Enter two or three Servants with a banquet*

### First Servant

Here they'll be, man. Some o' their plants are ill-rooted already: the least wind i' the world will blow them down.

### Second Servant

Lepidus is high-coloured.

### First Servant

They have made him drink alms-drink.

### Second Servant

As they pinch one another by the disposition, he cries out 'No more;' reconciles them to his entreaty, and himself to the drink.

### First Servant

But it raises the greater war between him and his discretion.

### Second Servant

Why, this is to have a name in great men's fellowship: I had as lief have a reed that will do me no service as a partisan I could not heave.

### First Servant

To be called into a huge sphere, and not to be seen to move in't, are the holes where eyes should be, which pitifully disaster the cheeks.

*A sennet sounded. Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, MARK ANTONY, LEPIDUS, POMPEY, AGRIPPA, MECAENAS, DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS, MENAS, with other captains*

### MARK ANTONY

[To OCTAVIUS CAESAR] Thus do they, sir: they take

the flow o' the Nile  
By certain scales i' the pyramid; they know,  
By the height, the lowness, or the mean, if dearth  
Or foison follow: the higher Nilus swells,  
The more it promises: as it ebbs, the seedsman  
Upon the slime and ooze scatters his grain,  
And shortly comes to harvest.

**LEPIDUS**

You've strange serpents there.

**MARK ANTONY**

Ay, Lepidus.

**LEPIDUS**

Your serpent of Egypt is bred now of your mud by the  
operation of your sun: so is your crocodile.

**MARK ANTONY**

They are so.

**POMPEY**

Sit,—and some wine! A health to Lepidus!

**LEPIDUS**

I am not so well as I should be, but I'll ne'er out.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Not till you have slept; I fear me you'll be in till then.

**LEPIDUS**

Nay, certainly, I have heard the Ptolemies'  
pyramises are very goodly things; without  
contradiction, I have heard that.

**MENAS**

[Aside to POMPEY] Pompey, a word.

**POMPEY**

[Aside to MENAS] Say in mine ear:  
what is't?

**MENAS**

[Aside to POMPEY] Forsake thy seat, I do beseech  
thee, captain,  
And hear me speak a word.

**POMPEY**

[Aside to MENAS] Forbear me till anon.  
This wine for Lepidus!

**LEPIDUS**

What manner o' thing is your crocodile?

**MARK ANTONY**

It is shaped, sir, like itself; and it is as broad  
as it hath breadth: it is just so high as it is,  
and moves with its own organs: it lives by that  
which nourisheth it; and the elements once out of  
it, it transmigrates.

**LEPIDUS**

What colour is it of?

**MARK ANTONY**

Of its own colour too.

**LEPIDUS**

'Tis a strange serpent.

**MARK ANTONY**

'Tis so. And the tears of it are wet.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Will this description satisfy him?

**MARK ANTONY**

With the health that Pompey gives him, else he is a

very epicure.

**POMPEY**

[Aside to MENAS] Go hang, sir, hang! Tell me of that? away!

Do as I bid you. Where's this cup I call'd for?

**MENAS**

[Aside to POMPEY] If for the sake of merit thou wilt hear me,  
Rise from thy stool.

**POMPEY**

[Aside to MENAS] I think thou'rt mad.  
The matter?

*Rises, and walks aside*

**MENAS**

I have ever held my cap off to thy fortunes.

**POMPEY**

Thou hast served me with much faith. What's else to say?  
Be jolly, lords.

**MARK ANTONY**

These quick-sands, Lepidus,  
Keep off them, for you sink.

**MENAS**

Wilt thou be lord of all the world?

**POMPEY**

What say'st thou?

**MENAS**

Wilt thou be lord of the whole world? That's twice.

**POMPEY**

How should that be?

**MENAS**

But entertain it,  
And, though thou think me poor, I am the man  
Will give thee all the world.

**POMPEY**

Hast thou drunk well?

**MENAS**

Now, Pompey, I have kept me from the cup.  
Thou art, if thou darest be, the earthly Jove:  
Whate'er the ocean pales, or sky inclips,  
Is thine, if thou wilt ha't.

**POMPEY**

Show me which way.

**MENAS**

These three world-sharers, these competitors,  
Are in thy vessel: let me cut the cable;  
And, when we are put off, fall to their throats:  
All there is thine.

**POMPEY**

Ah, this thou shouldst have done,  
And not have spoke on't! In me 'tis villany;  
In thee't had been good service. Thou must know,  
'Tis not my profit that does lead mine honour;  
Mine honour, it. Repent that e'er thy tongue  
Hath so betray'd thine act: being done unknown,  
I should have found it afterwards well done;  
But must condemn it now. Desist, and drink.

**MENAS**

[Aside] For this,  
I'll never follow thy pall'd fortunes more.  
Who seeks, and will not take when once 'tis offer'd,  
Shall never find it more.

**POMPEY**

This health to Lepidus!

**MARK ANTONY**

Bear him ashore. I'll pledge it for him, Pompey.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Here's to thee, Menas!

**MENAS**

Enobarbus, welcome!

**POMPEY**

Fill till the cup be hid.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

There's a strong fellow, Menas.

*Pointing to the Attendant who carries off LEPIDUS*

**MENAS**

Why?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

A' bears the third part of the world, man; see'st not?

**MENAS**

The third part, then, is drunk: would it were all,  
That it might go on wheels!

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Drink thou; increase the reels.

**MENAS**

Come.

**POMPEY**

This is not yet an Alexandrian feast.

**MARK ANTONY**

It ripens towards it. Strike the vessels, ho?  
Here is to Caesar!

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

I could well forbear't.  
It's monstrous labour, when I wash my brain,  
And it grows fouler.

**MARK ANTONY**

Be a child o' the time.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Possess it, I'll make answer:  
But I had rather fast from all four days  
Than drink so much in one.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Ha, my brave emperor!

*To MARK ANTONY*

Shall we dance now the Egyptian Bacchanals,  
And celebrate our drink?

**POMPEY**

Let's ha't, good soldier.

**MARK ANTONY**

Come, let's all take hands,  
Till that the conquering wine hath steep'd our sense  
In soft and delicate Lethe.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

All take hands.  
Make battery to our ears with the loud music:  
The while I'll place you: then the boy shall sing;  
The holding every man shall bear as loud  
As his strong sides can volley.

*Music plays. DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS places them hand in hand*

THE SONG.

Come, thou monarch of the vine,  
Plumpy Bacchus with pink eyne!  
In thy fats our cares be drown'd,  
With thy grapes our hairs be crown'd:  
Cup us, till the world go round,  
Cup us, till the world go round!

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

What would you more? Pompey, good night. Good brother,  
Let me request you off: our graver business  
Frowns at this levity. Gentle lords, let's part;  
You see we have burnt our cheeks: strong Enobarb  
Is weaker than the wine; and mine own tongue  
Splits what it speaks: the wild disguise hath almost  
Antick'd us all. What needs more words? Good night.  
Good Antony, your hand.

**POMPEY**

I'll try you on the shore.

**MARK ANTONY**

And shall, sir; give's your hand.

**POMPEY**

O Antony,  
You have my father's house,—But, what? we are friends.  
Come, down into the boat.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Take heed you fall not.

*Exeunt all but DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS and MENAS*

Menas, I'll not on shore.

**MENAS**

No, to my cabin.  
These drums! these trumpets, flutes! what!  
Let Neptune hear we bid a loud farewell  
To these great fellows: sound and be hang'd, sound out!



*Sound a flourish, with drums*

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Ho! says a' There's my cap.

**MENAS**

Ho! Noble captain, come.

*Exeunt*

## Act III

### SCENE I. A plain in Syria.

*Enter VENTIDIUS as it were in triumph, with SILIUS, and other Romans, Officers, and Soldiers; the dead body of PACORUS borne before him*

#### VENTIDIUS

Now, darting Parthia, art thou struck; and now  
Pleased fortune does of Marcus Crassus' death  
Make me revenger. Bear the king's son's body  
Before our army. Thy Pacorus, Orodes,  
Pays this for Marcus Crassus.

#### SILIUS

Noble Ventidius,  
Whilst yet with Parthian blood thy sword is warm,  
The fugitive Parthians follow; spur through Media,  
Mesopotamia, and the shelters whither  
The routed fly: so thy grand captain Antony  
Shall set thee on triumphant chariots and  
Put garlands on thy head.

#### VENTIDIUS

O Silius, Silius,  
I have done enough; a lower place, note well,  
May make too great an act: for learn this, Silius;  
Better to leave undone, than by our deed  
Acquire too high a fame when him we serve's away.  
Caesar and Antony have ever won  
More in their officer than person: Sossius,  
One of my place in Syria, his lieutenant,  
For quick accumulation of renown,  
Which he achieved by the minute, lost his favour.  
Who does it the wars more than his captain can  
Becomes his captain's captain: and ambition,  
The soldier's virtue, rather makes choice of loss,  
Than gain which darkens him.  
I could do more to do Antonius good,  
But 'twould offend him; and in his offence  
Should my performance perish.

#### SILIUS

Thou hast, Ventidius,  
that  
Without the which a soldier, and his sword,  
Grants scarce distinction. Thou wilt write to Antony!

**VENTIDIUS**

I'll humbly signify what in his name,  
That magical word of war, we have effected;  
How, with his banners and his well-paid ranks,  
The ne'er-yet-beaten horse of Parthia  
We have jaded out o' the field.

**SILIUS**

Where is he now?

**VENTIDIUS**

He purposeth to Athens: whither, with what haste  
The weight we must convey with's will permit,  
We shall appear before him. On there; pass along!

*Exeunt*

**SCENE II. Rome. An ante-chamber in OCTAVIUS CAESAR's house.**

*Enter AGRIPPA at one door, DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS at another*

**AGRIPPA**

What, are the brothers parted?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

They have dispatch'd with Pompey, he is gone;  
The other three are sealing. Octavia weeps  
To part from Rome; Caesar is sad; and Lepidus,  
Since Pompey's feast, as Menas says, is troubled  
With the green sickness.

**AGRIPPA**

'Tis a noble Lepidus.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

A very fine one: O, how he loves Caesar!

**AGRIPPA**

Nay, but how dearly he adores Mark Antony!

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Caesar? Why, he's the Jupiter of men.

**AGRIPPA**

What's Antony? The god of Jupiter.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Spake you of Caesar? How! the non-pareil!

**AGRIPPA**

O Antony! O thou Arabian bird!

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Would you praise Caesar, say 'Caesar:' go no further.

## **AGRIPPA**

Indeed, he plied them both with excellent praises.

## **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

But he loves Caesar best; yet he loves Antony:  
Ho! hearts, tongues, figures, scribes, bards,  
poets, cannot  
Think, speak, cast, write, sing, number, ho!  
His love to Antony. But as for Caesar,  
Kneel down, kneel down, and wonder.

## **AGRIPPA**

Both he loves.

## **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

They are his shards, and he their beetle.

*Trumpets within*

So;  
This is to horse. Adieu, noble Agrippa.

## **AGRIPPA**

Good fortune, worthy soldier; and farewell.

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, MARK ANTONY, LEPIDUS, and OCTAVIA*

## **MARK ANTONY**

No further, sir.

## **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

You take from me a great part of myself;  
Use me well in 't. Sister, prove such a wife  
As my thoughts make thee, and as my farthest band  
Shall pass on thy approval. Most noble Antony,  
Let not the piece of virtue, which is set  
Betwixt us as the cement of our love,  
To keep it builded, be the ram to batter  
The fortress of it; for better might we  
Have loved without this mean, if on both parts  
This be not cherish'd.

## **MARK ANTONY**

Make me not offended  
In your distrust.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

I have said.

**MARK ANTONY**

You shall not find,  
Though you be therein curious, the least cause  
For what you seem to fear: so, the gods keep you,  
And make the hearts of Romans serve your ends!  
We will here part.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Farewell, my dearest sister, fare thee well:  
The elements be kind to thee, and make  
Thy spirits all of comfort! fare thee well.

**OCTAVIA**

My noble brother!

**MARK ANTONY**

The April 's in her eyes: it is love's spring,  
And these the showers to bring it on. Be cheerful.

**OCTAVIA**

Sir, look well to my husband's house; and—

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

What, Octavia?

**OCTAVIA**

I'll tell you in your ear.

**MARK ANTONY**

Her tongue will not obey her heart, nor can  
Her heart inform her tongue,—the swan's  
down-feather,  
That stands upon the swell at full of tide,

And neither way inclines.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside to AGRIPPA] Will Caesar weep?

**AGRIPPA**

[Aside to DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS] He has a cloud in 's face.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside to AGRIPPA] He were the worse for that,  
were he a horse;  
So is he, being a man.

**AGRIPPA**

[Aside to DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS] Why, Enobarbus,  
When Antony found Julius Caesar dead,  
He cried almost to roaring; and he wept  
When at Philippi he found Brutus slain.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside to AGRIPPA] That year, indeed, he was  
troubled with a rheum;  
What willingly he did confound he wail'd,  
Believe't, till I wept too.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

No, sweet Octavia,  
You shall hear from me still; the time shall not  
Out-go my thinking on you.

**MARK ANTONY**

Come, sir, come;  
I'll wrestle with you in my strength of love:  
Look, here I have you; thus I let you go,  
And give you to the gods.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Adieu; be happy!

**LEPIDUS**

Let all the number of the stars give light  
To thy fair way!

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Farewell, fa rewell!

*Kisses OCTAVIA*

**MARK ANTONY**

Farewell!

*Trumpets sound. Exeunt*



**SCENE III. Alexandria. CLEOPATRA's palace.**

*Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and ALEXAS*

**CLEOPATRA**

Where is the fellow?

**ALEXAS**

Half afeard to come.

**CLEOPATRA**

Go to, go to.

*Enter the Messenger as before*

Come hither, sir.

**ALEXAS**

Good majesty,  
Herod of Jewry dare not look upon you  
But when you are well pleased.

**CLEOPATRA**

That Herod's head  
I'll have: but how, when Antony is gone  
Through whom I might command it? Come thou near.

**Messenger**

Most gracious majesty,—

**CLEOPATRA**

Didst thou behold Octavia?

**Messenger**

Ay, dread queen.

**CLEOPATRA**

Where?

**Messenger**

Madam, in Rome;  
I look'd her in the face, and saw her led  
Between her brother and Mark Antony.

**CLEOPATRA**

Is she as tall as me?

**Messenger**

She is not, madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

Didst hear her speak? is she shrill-tongued or low?

**Messenger**

Madam, I heard her speak; she is low-voiced.

**CLEOPATRA**

That's not so good: he cannot like her long.

**CHARMIAN**

Like her! O Isis! 'tis impossible.

**CLEOPATRA**

I think so, Charmian: dull of tongue, and dwarfish!  
What majesty is in her gait? Remember,  
If e'er thou look'dst on majesty.

**Messenger**

She creeps:  
Her motion and her station are as one;  
She shows a body rather than a life,  
A statue than a breather.

**CLEOPATRA**

Is this certain?

**Messenger**

Or I have no observance.

**CHARMIAN**

Three in Egypt  
Cannot make better note.

**CLEOPATRA**

He's very knowing;  
I do perceive't: there's nothing in her yet:  
The fellow has good judgment.

**CHARMIAN**

Excellent.

**CLEOPATRA**

Guess at her years, I prithee.

**Messenger**

Madam,  
She was a widow,—

**CLEOPATRA**

Widow! Charmian, hark.

**Messenger**

And I do think she's thirty.

**CLEOPATRA**

Bear'st thou her face in mind? is't long or round?

**Messenger**

Round even to faultiness.

**CLEOPATRA**

For the most part, too, they are foolish that are so.  
Her hair, what colour?

**Messenger**

Brown, madam: and her forehead  
As low as she would wish it.

**CLEOPATRA**

There's gold for thee.  
Thou must not take my former sharpness ill:  
I will employ thee back again; I find thee  
Most fit for business: go make thee ready;  
Our letters are prepared.

*Exit Messenger*

**CHARMIAN**

A proper man.

**CLEOPATRA**

Indeed, he is so: I repent me much  
That so I harried him. Why, methinks, by him,  
This creature's no such thing.

**CHARMIAN**

Nothing, madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

The man hath seen some majesty, and should know.

**CHARMIAN**

Hath he seen majesty? Isis else defend,  
And serving you so long!

**CLEOPATRA**

I have one thing more to ask him yet, good Charmian:  
But 'tis no matter; thou shalt bring him to me  
Where I will write. All may be well enough.

**CHARMIAN**

I warrant you, madam.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE IV. Athens. A room in MARK ANTONY's house.

*Enter MARK ANTONY and OCTAVIA*

### MARK ANTONY

Nay, nay, Octavia, not only that,—  
That were excusable, that, and thousands more  
Of semblable import,—but he hath waged  
New wars 'gainst Pompey; made his will, and read it  
To public ear:  
Spoke scantily of me: when perforce he could not  
But pay me terms of honour, cold and sickly  
He vented them; most narrow measure lent me:  
When the best hint was given him, he not took't,  
Or did it from his teeth.

### OCTAVIA

O my good lord,  
Believe not all; or, if you must believe,  
Stomach not all. A more unhappy lady,  
If this division chance, ne'er stood between,  
Praying for both parts:  
The good gods me presently,  
When I shall pray, 'O bless my lord and husband!'  
Undo that prayer, by crying out as loud,  
'O, bless my brother!' Husband win, win brother,  
Prays, and destroys the prayer; no midway  
'Twixt these extremes at all.

### MARK ANTONY

Gentle Octavia,  
Let your best love draw to that point, which seeks  
Best to preserve it: if I lose mine honour,  
I lose myself: better I were not yours  
Than yours so branchless. But, as you requested,  
Yourself shall go between 's: the mean time, lady,  
I'll raise the preparation of a war  
Shall stain your brother: make your soonest haste;  
So your desires are yours.

### OCTAVIA

Thanks to my lord.

The Jove of power make me most weak, most weak,  
Your reconciler! Wars 'twixt you twain would be  
As if the world should cleave, and that slain men  
Should solder up the rift.

**MARK ANTONY**

When it appears to you where this begins,  
Turn your displeasure that way: for our faults  
Can never be so equal, that your love  
Can equally move with them. Provide your going;  
Choose your own company, and command what cost  
Your heart has mind to.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE V. The same. Another room.

*Enter DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS and EROS, meeting*

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

How now, friend Eros!

**EROS**

There's strange news come, sir.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

What, man?

**EROS**

Caesar and Lepidus have made wars upon Pompey.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

This is old: what is the success?

**EROS**

Caesar, having made use of him in the wars 'gainst Pompey, presently denied him rivalry; would not let him partake in the glory of the action: and not resting here, accuses him of letters he had formerly wrote to Pompey; upon his own appeal, seizes him: so the poor third is up, till death enlarge his confine.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Then, world, thou hast a pair of chaps, no more;  
And throw between them all the food thou hast,  
They'll grind the one the other. Where's Antony?

**EROS**

He's walking in the garden—thus; and spurns  
The rush that lies before him; cries, 'Fool Lepidus!'  
And threats the throat of that his officer  
That murder'd Pompey.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Our great navy's rigg'd.

**EROS**

For Italy and Caesar. More, Domitius;  
My lord desires you presently: my news  
I might have told hereafter.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

'Twill be naught:  
But let it be. Bring me to Antony.

**EROS**

Come, sir.

*Exeunt*



## SCENE VI. Rome. OCTAVIUS CAESAR's house.

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, AGRIPPA, and MECAENAS*

### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

Contemning Rome, he has done all this, and more,  
In Alexandria: here's the manner of 't:  
I' the market-place, on a tribunal silver'd,  
Cleopatra and himself in chairs of gold  
Were publicly enthroned: at the feet sat  
Caesarion, whom they call my father's son,  
And all the unlawful issue that their lust  
Since then hath made between them. Unto her  
He gave the stablishment of Egypt; made her  
Of lower Syria, Cyprus, Lydia,  
Absolute queen.

### MECAENAS

This in the public eye?

### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

I' the common show-place, where they exercise.  
His sons he there proclaim'd the kings of kings:  
Great Media, Parthia, and Armenia.  
He gave to Alexander; to Ptolemy he assign'd  
Syria, Cilicia, and Phoenicia: she  
In the habiliments of the goddess Isis  
That day appear'd; and oft before gave audience,  
As 'tis reported, so.

### MECAENAS

Let Rome be thus Inform'd.

### AGRIPPA

Who, queasy with his insolence  
Already, will their good thoughts call from him.

### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

The people know it; and have now received  
His accusations.

**AGRIPPA**

Who does he accuse?

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Caesar: and that, having in Sicily  
Sextus Pompeius spoil'd, we had not rated him  
His part o' the isle: then does he say, he lent me  
Some shipping unrestored: lastly, he frets  
That Lepidus of the triumvirate  
Should be deposed; and, being, that we detain  
All his revenue.

**AGRIPPA**

Sir, this should be answer'd.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

'Tis done already, and the messenger gone.  
I have told him, Lepidus was grown too cruel;  
That he his high authority abused,  
And did deserve his change: for what I have conquer'd,  
I grant him part; but then, in his Armenia,  
And other of his conquer'd kingdoms, I  
Demand the like.

**MECAENAS**

He'll never yield to that.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Nor must not then be yielded to in this.

*Enter OCTAVIA with her train*

**OCTAVIA**

Hail, Caesar, and my lord! hail, most dear Caesar!

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

That ever I should call thee castaway!

**OCTAVIA**

You have not call'd me so, nor have you cause.

## **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Why have you stol'n upon us thus! You come not  
Like Caesar's sister: the wife of Antony  
Should have an army for an usher, and  
The neighs of horse to tell of her approach  
Long ere she did appear; the trees by the way  
Should have borne men; and expectation fainted,  
Longing for what it had not; nay, the dust  
Should have ascended to the roof of heaven,  
Raised by your populous troops: but you are come  
A market-maid to Rome; and have prevented  
The ostentation of our love, which, left unshown,  
Is often left unloved; we should have met you  
By sea and land; supplying every stage  
With an augmented greeting.

## **OCTAVIA**

Good my lord,  
To come thus was I not constrain'd, but did  
On my free will. My lord, Mark Antony,  
Hearing that you prepared for war, acquainted  
My grieved ear withal; whereon, I begg'd  
His pardon for return.

## **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Which soon he granted,  
Being an obstruct 'tween his lust and him.

## **OCTAVIA**

Do not say so, my lord.

## **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

I have eyes upon him,  
And his affairs come to me on the wind.  
Where is he now?

## **OCTAVIA**

My lord, in Athens.

## **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

No, my most wronged sister; Cleopatra

Hath nodded him to her. He hath given his empire  
Up to a whore; who now are levying  
The kings o' the earth for war; he hath assembled  
Bocchus, the king of Libya; Archelaus,  
Of Cappadocia; Philadelphos, king  
Of Paphlagonia; the Thracian king, Adallas;  
King Malchus of Arabia; King of Pont;  
Herod of Jewry; Mithridates, king  
Of Comagene; Polemon and Amyntas,  
The kings of Mede and Lycaonia,  
With a more larger list of sceptres.

### **OCTAVIA**

Ay me, most wretched,  
That have my heart parted betwixt two friends  
That do afflict each other!

### **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Welcome hither:  
Your letters did withhold our breaking forth;  
Till we perceived, both how you were wrong led,  
And we in negligent danger. Cheer your heart;  
Be you not troubled with the time, which drives  
O'er your content these strong necessities;  
But let determined things to destiny  
Hold unbewail'd their way. Welcome to Rome;  
Nothing more dear to me. You are abused  
Beyond the mark of thought: and the high gods,  
To do you justice, make them ministers  
Of us and those that love you. Best of comfort;  
And ever welcome to us.

### **AGRIPPA**

Welcome, lady.

### **MECAENAS**

Welcome, dear madam.  
Each heart in Rome does love and pity you:  
Only the adulterous Antony, most large  
In his abominations, turns you off;  
And gives his potent regiment to a trull,  
That noises it against us.

**OCTAVIA**

Is it so, sir?

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Most certain. Sister, welcome: pray you,  
Be ever known to patience: my dear'st sister!

*Exeunt*

**SCENE VII. Near Actium. MARK ANTONY's camp.**

*Enter CLEOPATRA and DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

**CLEOPATRA**

I will be even with thee, doubt it not.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

But why, why, why?

**CLEOPATRA**

Thou hast forspoke my being in these wars,  
And say'st it is not fit.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Well, is it, is it?

**CLEOPATRA**

If not denounced against us, why should not we  
Be there in person?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside] Well, I could reply:  
If we should serve with horse and mares together,  
The horse were merely lost; the mares would bear  
A soldier and his horse.

**CLEOPATRA**

What is't you say?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Your presence needs must puzzle Antony;  
Take from his heart, take from his brain,  
from's time,  
What should not then be spared. He is already  
Traded for levity; and 'tis said in Rome  
That Photinus an eunuch and your maids  
Manage this war.

## **CLEOPATRA**

Sink Rome, and their tongues rot  
That speak against us! A charge we bear i' the war,  
And, as the president of my kingdom, will  
Appear there for a man. Speak not against it:  
I will not stay behind.

## **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Nay, I have done.  
Here comes the emperor.

*Enter MARK ANTONY and CANIDIUS*

## **MARK ANTONY**

Is it not strange, Canidius,  
That from Tarentum and Brundisium  
He could so quickly cut the Ionian sea,  
And take in Toryne? You have heard on't, sweet?

## **CLEOPATRA**

Celerity is never more admired  
Than by the negligent.

## **MARK ANTONY**

A good rebuke,  
Which might have well becomed the best of men,  
To taunt at slackness. Canidius, we  
Will fight with him by sea.

## **CLEOPATRA**

By sea! what else?

## **CANIDIUS**

Why will my lord do so?

## **MARK ANTONY**

For that he dares us to't.

## **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

So hath my lord dared him to single fight.

## **CANIDIUS**

Ay, and to wage this battle at Pharsalia.  
Where Caesar fought with Pompey: but these offers,  
Which serve not for his vantage, be shakes off;  
And so should you.

## **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Your ships are not well mann'd;  
Your mariners are muleters, reapers, people  
Ingross'd by swift impress; in Caesar's fleet  
Are those that often have 'gainst Pompey fought:  
Their ships are yare; yours, heavy: no disgrace  
Shall fall you for refusing him at sea,  
Being prepared for land.

## **MARK ANTONY**

By sea, by sea.

## **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Most worthy sir, you therein throw away  
The absolute soldiership you have by land;  
Distract your army, which doth most consist  
Of war-mark'd footmen; leave unexecuted  
Your own renowned knowledge; quite forego  
The way which promises assurance; and  
Give up yourself merely to chance and hazard,  
From firm security.

## **MARK ANTONY**

I'll fight at sea.

## **CLEOPATRA**

I have sixty sails, Caesar none better.

## **MARK ANTONY**

Our overplus of shipping will we burn;  
And, with the rest full-mann'd, from the head of Actium  
Beat the approaching Caesar. But if we fail,  
We then can do't at land.

*Enter a Messenger*



Thy business?

**Messenger**

The news is true, my lord; he is descried;  
Caesar has taken Tornyne.

**MARK ANTONY**

Can he be there in person? 'tis impossible;  
Strange that power should be. Canidius,  
Our nineteen legions thou shalt hold by land,  
And our twelve thousand horse. We'll to our ship:  
Away, my Thetis!

*Enter a Soldier*

How now, worthy soldier?

**Soldier**

O noble emperor, do not fight by sea;  
Trust not to rotten planks: do you misdoubt  
This sword and these my wounds? Let the Egyptians  
And the Phoenicians go a-ducking; we  
Have used to conquer, standing on the earth,  
And fighting foot to foot.

**MARK ANTONY**

Well, well: away!

*Exeunt MARK ANTONY, QUEEN CLEOPATRA, and DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

**Soldier**

By Hercules, I think I am i' the right.

**CANIDIUS**

Soldier, thou art: but his whole action grows  
Not in the power on't: so our leader's led,  
And we are women's men.

**Soldier**

You keep by land  
The legions and the horse whole, do you not?

**CANIDIUS**

Marcus Octavius, Marcus Justeius,  
Publicola, and Caelius, are for sea:  
But we keep whole by land. This speed of Caesar's  
Carries beyond belief.

**Soldier**

While he was yet in Rome,  
His power went out in such distractions as  
Beguiled all spies.

**CANIDIUS**

Who's his lieutenant, hear you?

**Soldier**

They say, one Taurus.

**CANIDIUS**

Well I know the man.

*Enter a Messenger*

**Messenger**

The emperor calls Canidius.

**CANIDIUS**

With news the time's with labour, and throes forth,  
Each minute, some.

*Exeunt*

## **SCENE VIII. A plain near Actium.**

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, and TAURUS, with his army, marching*

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Taurus!

**TAURUS**

My lord?

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Strike not by land; keep whole: provoke not battle,  
Till we have done at sea. Do not exceed  
The prescript of this scroll: our fortune lies  
Upon this jump.

*Exeunt*

## **SCENE IX. Another part of the plain.**

*Enter MARK ANTONY and DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

**MARK ANTONY**

Set we our squadrons on yond side o' the hill,  
In eye of Caesar's battle; from which place  
We may the number of the ships behold,  
And so proceed accordingly.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE X. Another part of the plain.

*CANIDIUS marcheth with his land army one way over the stage; and TAURUS, the lieutenant of OCTAVIUS CAESAR, the other way. After their going in, is heard the noise of a sea-fight*

*Alarum. Enter DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

### DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS

Naught, naught all, naught! I can behold no longer:  
The Antoniad, the Egyptian admiral,  
With all their sixty, fly and turn the rudder:  
To see't mine eyes are blasted.

*Enter SCARUS*

### SCARUS

Gods and goddesses,  
All the whole synod of them!

### DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS

What's thy passion!

### SCARUS

The greater cantle of the world is lost  
With very ignorance; we have kiss'd away  
Kingdoms and provinces.

### DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS

How appears the fight?

### SCARUS

On our side like the token'd pestilence,  
Where death is sure. Yon ribaudred nag of Egypt,—  
Whom leprosy o'ertake!—i' the midst o' the fight,  
When vantage like a pair of twins appear'd,  
Both as the same, or rather ours the elder,  
The breese upon her, like a cow in June,  
Hoists sails and flies.

### DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS

That I beheld:  
Mine eyes did sicken at the sight, and could not  
Endure a further view.

### **SCARUS**

She once being loof'd,  
The noble ruin of her magic, Antony,  
Claps on his sea-wing, and, like a doting mallard,  
Leaving the fight in height, flies after her:  
I never saw an action of such shame;  
Experience, manhood, honour, ne'er before  
Did violate so itself.

### **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Alack, alack!

*Enter CANIDIUS*

### **CANIDIUS**

Our fortune on the sea is out of breath,  
And sinks most lamentably. Had our general  
Been what he knew himself, it had gone well:  
O, he has given example for our flight,  
Most grossly, by his own!

### **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Ay, are you thereabouts?  
Why, then, good night indeed.

### **CANIDIUS**

Toward Peloponnesus are they fled.

### **SCARUS**

'Tis easy to't; and there I will attend  
What further comes.

### **CANIDIUS**

To Caesar will I render  
My legions and my horse: six kings already  
Show me the way of yielding.

### **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I'll yet follow  
The wounded chance of Antony, though my reason  
Sits in the wind against me.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE XI. Alexandria. CLEOPATRA's palace.

*Enter MARK ANTONY with Attendants*

**MARK ANTONY**

Hark! the land bids me tread no more upon't;  
It is ashamed to bear me! Friends, come hither:  
I am so lated in the world, that I  
Have lost my way for ever: I have a ship  
Laden with gold; take that, divide it; fly,  
And make your peace with Caesar.

**All**

Fly! not we.

**MARK ANTONY**

I have fled myself; and have instructed cowards  
To run and show their shoulders. Friends, be gone;  
I have myself resolved upon a course  
Which has no need of you; be gone:  
My treasure's in the harbour, take it. O,  
I follow'd that I blush to look upon:  
My very hairs do mutiny; for the white  
Reprove the brown for rashness, and they them  
For fear and doting. Friends, be gone: you shall  
Have letters from me to some friends that will  
Sweep your way for you. Pray you, look not sad,  
Nor make replies of loathness: take the hint  
Which my despair proclaims; let that be left  
Which leaves itself: to the sea-side straightway:  
I will possess you of that ship and treasure.  
Leave me, I pray, a little: pray you now:  
Nay, do so; for, indeed, I have lost command,  
Therefore I pray you: I'll see you by and by.

*Sits down*

*Enter CLEOPATRA led by CHARMIAN and IRAS; EROS following*

**EROS**

Nay, gentle madam, to him, comfort him.

**IRAS**



Do, most dear queen.

**CHARMIAN**

Do! why: what else?

**CLEOPATRA**

Let me sit down. O Juno!

**MARK ANTONY**

No, no, no, no, no.

**EROS**

See you here, sir?

**MARK ANTONY**

O fie, fie, fie!

**CHARMIAN**

Madam!

**IRAS**

Madam, O good empress!

**EROS**

Sir, sir,—

**MARK ANTONY**

Yes, my lord, yes; he at Philippi kept  
His sword e'en like a dancer; while I struck  
The lean and wrinkled Cassius; and 'twas I  
That the mad Brutus ended: he alone  
Dealt on lieutenantry, and no practise had  
In the brave squares of war: yet now—No matter.

**CLEOPATRA**

Ah, stand by.

**EROS**

The queen, my lord, the queen.

**IRAS**

Go to him, madam, speak to him:  
He is unqualified with very shame.

**CLEOPATRA**

Well then, sustain him: O!

**EROS**

Most noble sir, arise; the queen approaches:  
Her head's declined, and death will seize her, but  
Your comfort makes the rescue.

**MARK ANTONY**

I have offended reputation,  
A most unnooble swerving.

**EROS**

Sir, the queen.

**MARK ANTONY**

O, whither hast thou led me, Egypt? See,  
How I convey my shame out of thine eyes  
By looking back what I have left behind  
'Stroy'd in dishonour.

**CLEOPATRA**

O my lord, my lord,  
Forgive my fearful sails! I little thought  
You would have follow'd.

**MARK ANTONY**

Egypt, thou knew'st too well  
My heart was to thy rudder tied by the strings,  
And thou shouldst tow me after: o'er my spirit  
Thy full supremacy thou knew'st, and that  
Thy beck might from the bidding of the gods  
Command me.

**CLEOPATRA**

O, my pardon!

**MARK ANTONY**

Now I must  
To the young man send humble treaties, dodge  
And palter in the shifts of lowness; who  
With half the bulk o' the world play'd as I pleased,  
Making and marring fortunes. You did know  
How much you were my conqueror; and that  
My sword, made weak by my affection, would  
Obey it on all cause.

**CLEOPATRA**

Pardon, pardon!

**MARK ANTONY**

Fall not a tear, I say; one of them rates  
All that is won and lost: give me a kiss;  
Even this repays me. We sent our schoolmaster;  
Is he come back? Love, I am full of lead.  
Some wine, within there, and our viands! Fortune knows  
We scorn her most when most she offers blows.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE XII. Egypt. OCTAVIUS CAESAR's camp.

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, DOLABELLA, THYREUS, with others*

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Let him appear that's come from Antony.  
Know you him?

**DOLABELLA**

Caesar, 'tis his schoolmaster:  
An argument that he is pluck'd, when hither  
He sends so poor a pinion off his wing,  
Which had superfluous kings for messengers  
Not many moons gone by.

*Enter EUPHRONIUS, ambassador from MARK ANTONY*

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Approach, and speak.

**EUPHRONIUS**

Such as I am, I come from Antony:  
I was of late as petty to his ends  
As is the morn-dew on the myrtle-leaf  
To his grand sea.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Be't so: declare thine office.

**EUPHRONIUS**

Lord of his fortunes he salutes thee, and  
Requires to live in Egypt: which not granted,  
He lessens his requests; and to thee sues  
To let him breathe between the heavens and earth,  
A private man in Athens: this for him.  
Next, Cleopatra does confess thy greatness;  
Submits her to thy might; and of thee craves  
The circle of the Ptolemies for her heirs,  
Now hazarded to thy grace.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

For Antony,  
I have no ears to his request. The queen  
Of audience nor desire shall fail, so she  
From Egypt drive her all-disgraced friend,  
Or take his life there: this if she perform,  
She shall not sue unheard. So to them both.

**EUPHRONIUS**

Fortune pursue thee!

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Bring him through the bands.

*Exit EUPHRONIUS*

*To THYREUS*

From Antony win Cleopatra: promise,  
And in our name, what she requires; add more,  
From thine invention, offers: women are not  
In their best fortunes strong; but want will perjure  
The ne'er touch'd vestal: try thy cunning, Thyreus;  
Make thine own edict for thy pains, which we  
Will answer as a law.

**THYREUS**

Caesar, I go.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Observe how Antony becomes his flaw,  
And what thou think'st his very action speaks  
In every power that moves.

**THYREUS**

Caesar, I shall.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE XIII. Alexandria. CLEOPATRA's palace.**

*Enter CLEOPATRA, DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS, CHARMIAN, and IRAS*

**CLEOPATRA**

What shall we do, Enobarbus?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Think, and die.

**CLEOPATRA**

Is Antony or we in fault for this?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Antony only, that would make his will  
Lord of his reason. What though you fled  
From that great face of war, whose several ranges  
Frighted each other? why should he follow?  
The itch of his affection should not then  
Have nick'd his captainship; at such a point,  
When half to half the world opposed, he being  
The meered question: 'twas a shame no less  
Than was his loss, to course your flying flags,  
And leave his navy gazing.

**CLEOPATRA**

Prithee, peace.

*Enter MARK ANTONY with EUPHRONIUS, the Ambassador*

**MARK ANTONY**

Is that his answer?

**EUPHRONIUS**

Ay, my lord.

**MARK ANTONY**

The queen shall then have courtesy, so she  
Will yield us up.

## **EUPHRONIUS**

He says so.

## **MARK ANTONY**

Let her know't.  
To the boy Caesar send this grizzled head,  
And he will fill thy wishes to the brim  
With principalities.

## **CLEOPATRA**

That head, my lord?

## **MARK ANTONY**

To him again: tell him he wears the rose  
Of youth upon him; from which the world should note  
Something particular: his coin, ships, legions,  
May be a coward's; whose ministers would prevail  
Under the service of a child as soon  
As i' the command of Caesar: I dare him therefore  
To lay his gay comparisons apart,  
And answer me declined, sword against sword,  
Ourselves alone. I'll write it: follow me.

*Exeunt MARK ANTONY and EUPHRONIUS*

## **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside] Yes, like enough, high-battled Caesar will  
Unstate his happiness, and be staged to the show,  
Against a sworder! I see men's judgments are  
A parcel of their fortunes; and things outward  
Do draw the inward quality after them,  
To suffer all alike. That he should dream,  
Knowing all measures, the full Caesar will  
Answer his emptiness! Caesar, thou hast subdued  
His judgment too.

*Enter an Attendant*

## **Attendant**

A messenger from CAESAR.

## **CLEOPATRA**

What, no more ceremony? See, my women!  
Against the blown rose may they stop their nose  
That kneel'd unto the buds. Admit him, sir.

*Exit Attendant*

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside] Mine honesty and I begin to square.  
The loyalty well held to fools does make  
Our faith mere folly: yet he that can endure  
To follow with allegiance a fall'n lord  
Does conquer him that did his master conquer  
And earns a place i' the story.

*Enter THYREUS*

**CLEOPATRA**

Caesar's will?

**THYREUS**

Hear it apart.

**CLEOPATRA**

None but friends: say boldly.

**THYREUS**

So, haply, are they friends to Antony.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

He needs as many, sir, as Caesar has;  
Or needs not us. If Caesar please, our master  
Will leap to be his friend: for us, you know,  
Whose he is we are, and that is, Caesar's.

**THYREUS**

So.  
Thus then, thou most renown'd: Caesar entreats,  
Not to consider in what case thou stand'st,  
Further than he is Caesar.

**CLEOPATRA**



Go on: right royal.

**THYREUS**

He knows that you embrace not Antony  
As you did love, but as you fear'd him.

**CLEOPATRA**

O!

**THYREUS**

The scars upon your honour, therefore, he  
Does pity, as constrained blemishes,  
Not as deserved.

**CLEOPATRA**

He is a god, and knows  
What is most right: mine honour was not yielded,  
But conquer'd merely.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside] To be sure of that,  
I will ask Antony. Sir, sir, thou art so leaky,  
That we must leave thee to thy sinking, for  
Thy dearest quit thee.

*Exit*

**THYREUS**

Shall I say to Caesar  
What you require of him? for he partly begs  
To be desired to give. It much would please him,  
That of his fortunes you should make a staff  
To lean upon: but it would warm his spirits,  
To hear from me you had left Antony,  
And put yourself under his shroud,  
The universal landlord.

**CLEOPATRA**

What's your name?

**THYREUS**

My name is Thyreus.

**CLEOPATRA**

Most kind messenger,  
Say to great Caesar this: in deputation  
I kiss his conquering hand: tell him, I am prompt  
To lay my crown at 's feet, and there to kneel:  
Tell him from his all-obeying breath I hear  
The doom of Egypt.

**THYREUS**

'Tis your noblest course.  
Wisdom and fortune combating together,  
If that the former dare but what it can,  
No chance may shake it. Give me grace to lay  
My duty on your hand.

**CLEOPATRA**

Your Caesar's father oft,  
When he hath mused of taking kingdoms in,  
Bestow'd his lips on that unworthy place,  
As it rain'd kisses.

*Re-enter MARK ANTONY and DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

**MARK ANTONY**

Favours, by Jove that thunders!  
What art thou, fellow?

**THYREUS**

One that but performs  
The bidding of the fullest man, and worthiest  
To have command obey'd.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside] You will be whipp'd.

**MARK ANTONY**

Approach, there! Ah, you kite! Now, gods  
and devils!  
Authority melts from me: of late, when I cried 'Ho!'

Like boys unto a muss, kings would start forth,  
And cry 'Your will?' Have you no ears? I am  
Antony yet.

*Enter Attendants*

Take hence this Jack, and whip him.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside] 'Tis better playing with a lion's whelp  
Than with an old one dying.

**MARK ANTONY**

Moon and stars!  
Whip him. Were't twenty of the greatest tributaries  
That do acknowledge Caesar, should I find them  
So saucy with the hand of she here,—what's her name,  
Since she was Cleopatra? Whip him, fellows,  
Till, like a boy, you see him cringe his face,  
And whine aloud for mercy: take him hence.

**THYREUS**

Mark Antony!

**MARK ANTONY**

Tug him away: being whipp'd,  
Bring him again: this Jack of Caesar's shall  
Bear us an errand to him.

*Exeunt Attendants with THYREUS*

You were half blasted ere I knew you: ha!  
Have I my pillow left unpress'd in Rome,  
Forborne the getting of a lawful race,  
And by a gem of women, to be abused  
By one that looks on feeders?

**CLEOPATRA**

Good my lord,—

**MARK ANTONY**

You have been a boggler ever:  
But when we in our viciousness grow hard—  
O misery on't!—the wise gods seel our eyes;

In our own filth drop our clear judgments; make us  
Adore our errors; laugh at's, while we strut  
To our confusion.

**CLEOPATRA**

O, is't come to this?

**MARK ANTONY**

I found you as a morsel cold upon  
Dead Caesar's trencher; nay, you were a fragment  
Of Cneius Pompey's; besides what hotter hours,  
Unregister'd in vulgar fame, you have  
Luxuriously pick'd out: for, I am sure,  
Though you can guess what temperance should be,  
You know not what it is.

**CLEOPATRA**

Wherefore is this?

**MARK ANTONY**

To let a fellow that will take rewards  
And say 'God quit you!' be familiar with  
My playfellow, your hand; this kingly seal  
And plighter of high hearts! O, that I were  
Upon the hill of Basan, to outroar  
The horned herd! for I have savage cause;  
And to proclaim it civilly, were like  
A halter'd neck which does the hangman thank  
For being yare about him.

*Re-enter Attendants with THYREUS*

Is he whipp'd?

**First Attendant**

Soundly, my lord.

**MARK ANTONY**

Cried he? and begg'd a' pardon?

**First Attendant**

He did ask favour.

**MARK ANTONY**

If that thy father live, let him repent  
Thou wast not made his daughter; and be thou sorry  
To follow Caesar in his triumph, since  
Thou hast been whipp'd for following him: henceforth  
The white hand of a lady fever thee,  
Shake thou to look on 't. Get thee back to Caesar,  
Tell him thy entertainment: look, thou say  
He makes me angry with him; for he seems  
Proud and disdainful, harping on what I am,  
Not what he knew I was: he makes me angry;  
And at this time most easy 'tis to do't,  
When my good stars, that were my former guides,  
Have empty left their orbs, and shot their fires  
Into the abysm of hell. If he mislike  
My speech and what is done, tell him he has  
Hipparchus, my enfranched bondman, whom  
He may at pleasure whip, or hang, or torture,  
As he shall like, to quit me: urge it thou:  
Hence with thy stripes, begone!

*Exit THYREUS*

**CLEOPATRA**

Have you done yet?

**MARK ANTONY**

Alack, our terrene moon  
Is now eclipsed; and it portends alone  
The fall of Antony!

**CLEOPATRA**

I must stay his time.

**MARK ANTONY**

To flatter Caesar, would you mingle eyes  
With one that ties his points?

**CLEOPATRA**

Not know me yet?

**MARK ANTONY**

Cold-hearted toward me?

**CLEOPATRA**

Ah, dear, if I be so,  
From my cold heart let heaven engender hail,  
And poison it in the source; and the first stone  
Drop in my neck: as it determines, so  
Dissolve my life! The next Caesarion smite!  
Till by degrees the memory of my womb,  
Together with my brave Egyptians all,  
By the discandying of this pelleted storm,  
Lie graveless, till the flies and gnats of Nile  
Have buried them for prey!

**MARK ANTONY**

I am satisfied.  
Caesar sits down in Alexandria; where  
I will oppose his fate. Our force by land  
Hath nobly held; our sever'd navy too  
Have knit again, and fleet, threatening most sea-like.  
Where hast thou been, my heart? Dost thou hear, lady?  
If from the field I shall return once more  
To kiss these lips, I will appear in blood;  
I and my sword will earn our chronicle:  
There's hope in't yet.

**CLEOPATRA**

That's my brave lord!

**MARK ANTONY**

I will be treble-sinew'd, hearted, breathed,  
And fight maliciously: for when mine hours  
Were nice and lucky, men did ransom lives  
Of me for jests; but now I'll set my teeth,  
And send to darkness all that stop me. Come,  
Let's have one other gaudy night: call to me  
All my sad captains; fill our bowls once more;  
Let's mock the midnight bell.

**CLEOPATRA**

It is my birth-day:  
I had thought to have held it poor: but, since my lord

Is Antony again, I will be Cleopatra.

**MARK ANTONY**

We will yet do well.

**CLEOPATRA**

Call all his noble captains to my lord.

**MARK ANTONY**

Do so, we'll speak to them; and to-night I'll force  
The wine peep through their scars. Come on, my queen;  
There's sap in't yet. The next time I do fight,  
I'll make death love me; for I will contend  
Even with his pestilent scythe.

*Exeunt all but DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Now he'll outstare the lightning. To be furious,  
Is to be frighted out of fear; and in that mood  
The dove will peck the estridge; and I see still,  
A diminution in our captain's brain  
Restores his heart: when valour preys on reason,  
It eats the sword it fights with. I will seek  
Some way to leave him.

*Exit*

## Act IV

### SCENE I. Before Alexandria. OCTAVIUS CAESAR's camp.

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, AGRIPPA, and MECAENAS, with his Army; OCTAVIUS CAESAR reading a letter*

#### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

He calls me boy; and chides, as he had power  
To beat me out of Egypt; my messenger  
He hath whipp'd with rods; dares me to personal combat,  
Caesar to Antony: let the old ruffian know  
I have many other ways to die; meantime  
Laugh at his challenge.

#### MECAENAS

Caesar must think,  
When one so great begins to rage, he's hunted  
Even to falling. Give him no breath, but now  
Make boot of his distraction: never anger  
Made good guard for itself.

#### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

Let our best heads  
Know, that to-morrow the last of many battles  
We mean to fight: within our files there are,  
Of those that served Mark Antony but late,  
Enough to fetch him in. See it done:  
And feast the army; we have store to do't,  
And they have earn'd the waste. Poor Antony!

*Exeunt*



## SCENE II. Alexandria. CLEOPATRA's palace.

*Enter MARK ANTONY, CLEOPATRA, DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS, CHARMIAN, IRAS, ALEXAS, with others*

**MARK ANTONY**

He will not fight with me, Domitius.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

No.

**MARK ANTONY**

Why should he not?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

He thinks, being twenty times of better fortune,  
He is twenty men to one.

**MARK ANTONY**

To-morrow, soldier,  
By sea and land I'll fight: or I will live,  
Or bathe my dying honour in the blood  
Shall make it live again. Woo't thou fight well?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I'll strike, and cry 'Take all.'

**MARK ANTONY**

Well said; come on.  
Call forth my household servants: let's to-night  
Be bounteous at our meal.

*Enter three or four Servitors*

Give me thy hand,  
Thou hast been rightly honest;—so hast thou;—  
Thou,—and thou,—and thou:—you have served me well,  
And kings have been your fellows.

**CLEOPATRA**

[Aside to DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS] What means this?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside to CLEOPATRA] 'Tis one of those odd  
tricks which sorrow shoots  
Out of the mind.

**MARK ANTONY**

And thou art honest too.  
I wish I could be made so many men,  
And all of you clapp'd up together in  
An Antony, that I might do you service  
So good as you have done.

**All**

The gods forbid!

**MARK ANTONY**

Well, my good fellows, wait on me to-night:  
Scant not my cups; and make as much of me  
As when mine empire was your fellow too,  
And suffer'd my command.

**CLEOPATRA**

[Aside to DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS] What does he mean?

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

[Aside to CLEOPATRA] To make his followers weep.

**MARK ANTONY**

Tend me to-night;  
May be it is the period of your duty:  
Haply you shall not see me more; or if,  
A mangled shadow: perchance to-morrow  
You'll serve another master. I look on you  
As one that takes his leave. Mine honest friends,  
I turn you not away; but, like a master  
Married to your good service, stay till death:  
Tend me to-night two hours, I ask no more,  
And the gods yield you for't!

## **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

What mean you, sir,  
To give them this discomfort? Look, they weep;  
And I, an ass, am onion-eyed: for shame,  
Transform us not to women.

## **MARK ANTONY**

Ho, ho, ho!  
Now the witch take me, if I meant it thus!  
Grace grow where those drops fall!  
My hearty friends,  
You take me in too dolorous a sense;  
For I spake to you for your comfort; did desire you  
To burn this night with torches: know, my hearts,  
I hope well of to-morrow; and will lead you  
Where rather I'll expect victorious life  
Than death and honour. Let's to supper, come,  
And drown consideration.

*Exeunt*

### SCENE III. The same. Before the palace.

*Enter two Soldiers to their guard*

**First Soldier**

Brother, good night: to-morrow is the day.

**Second Soldier**

It will determine one way: fare you well.  
Heard you of nothing strange about the streets?

**First Soldier**

Nothing. What news?

**Second Soldier**

Belike 'tis but a rumour. Good night to you.

**First Soldier**

Well, sir, good night.

*Enter two other Soldiers*

**Second Soldier**

Soldiers, have careful watch.

**Third Soldier**

And you. Good night, good night.

*They place themselves in every corner of the stage*

**Fourth Soldier**

Here we: and if to-morrow  
Our navy thrive, I have an absolute hope  
Our landmen will stand up.

**Third Soldier**

'Tis a brave army,  
And full of purpose.

*Music of the hautboys as under the stage*

**Fourth Soldier**

Peace! what noise?

**First Soldier**

List, list!

**Second Soldier**

Hark!

**First Soldier**

Music i' the air.

**Third Soldier**

Under the earth.

**Fourth Soldier**

It signs well, does it not?

**Third Soldier**

No.

**First Soldier**

Peace, I say!  
What should this mean?

**Second Soldier**

'Tis the god Hercules, whom Antony loved,  
Now leaves him.

**First Soldier**

Walk; let's see if other watchmen  
Do hear what we do?

*They advance to another post*

**Second Soldier**

How now, masters!

**All**

[Speaking together] How now!  
How now! do you hear this?

**First Soldier**

Ay; is't not strange?

**Third Soldier**

Do you hear, masters? do you hear?

**First Soldier**

Follow the noise so far as we have quarter;  
Let's see how it will give off.

**All**

Content. 'Tis strange.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE IV. The same. A room in the palace.**

*Enter MARK ANTONY and CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, and others attending*

**MARK ANTONY**

Eros! mine armour, Eros!

**CLEOPATRA**

Sleep a little.

**MARK ANTONY**

No, my chuck. Eros, come; mine armour, Eros!

*Enter EROS with armour*

Come good fellow, put mine iron on:  
If fortune be not ours to-day, it is  
Because we brave her: come.

**CLEOPATRA**

Nay, I'll help too.  
What's this for?

**MARK ANTONY**

Ah, let be, let be! thou art  
The armourer of my heart: false, false; this, this.

**CLEOPATRA**

Sooth, la, I'll help: thus it must be.

**MARK ANTONY**

Well, well;  
We shall thrive now. Seest thou, my good fellow?  
Go put on thy defences.

**EROS**

Briefly, sir.

**CLEOPATRA**

Is not this buckled well?

**MARK ANTONY**

Rarely, rarely:

He that unbuckles this, till we do please  
To daff't for our repose, shall hear a storm.  
Thou fumblest, Eros; and my queen's a squire  
More tight at this than thou: dispatch. O love,  
That thou couldst see my wars to-day, and knew'st  
The royal occupation! thou shouldst see  
A workman in't.

*Enter an armed Soldier*

Good morrow to thee; welcome:  
Thou look'st like him that knows a warlike charge:  
To business that we love we rise betime,  
And go to't with delight.

**Soldier**

A thousand, sir,  
Early though't be, have on their riveted trim,  
And at the port expect you.

*Shout. Trumpets flourish*

*Enter Captains and Soldiers*

**Captain**

The morn is fair. Good morrow, general.

**All**

Good morrow, general.

**MARK ANTONY**

'Tis well blown, lads:  
This morning, like the spirit of a youth  
That means to be of note, begins betimes.  
So, so; come, give me that: this way; well said.  
Fare thee well, dame, whate'er becomes of me:  
This is a soldier's kiss: rebukeable

*Kisses her*

And worthy shameful cheque it were, to stand  
On more mechanic compliment; I'll leave thee



Now, like a man of steel. You that will fight,  
Follow me close; I'll bring you to't. Adieu.

*Exeunt MARK ANTONY, EROS, Captains, and Soldiers*

**CHARMIAN**

Please you, retire to your chamber.

**CLEOPATRA**

Lead me.

He goes forth gallantly. That he and Caesar might

Determine this great war in single fight!

Then Antony,—but now—Well, on.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE V. Alexandria. MARK ANTONY's camp.

*Trumpets sound. Enter MARK ANTONY and EROS; a Soldier meeting them*

**Soldier**

The gods make this a happy day to Antony!

**MARK ANTONY**

Would thou and those thy scars had once prevail'd  
To make me fight at land!

**Soldier**

Hadst thou done so,  
The kings that have revolted, and the soldier  
That has this morning left thee, would have still  
Follow'd thy heels.

**MARK ANTONY**

Who's gone this morning?

**Soldier**

Who!  
One ever near thee: call for Enobarbus,  
He shall not hear thee; or from Caesar's camp  
Say 'I am none of thine.'

**MARK ANTONY**

What say'st thou?

**Soldier**

Sir,  
He is with Caesar.

**EROS**

Sir, his chests and treasure  
He has not with him.

**MARK ANTONY**

Is he gone?

**Soldier**

Most certain.

**MARK ANTONY**

Go, Eros, send his treasure after; do it;  
Detain no jot, I charge thee: write to him—  
I will subscribe—gentle adieus and greetings;  
Say that I wish he never find more cause  
To change a master. O, my fortunes have  
Corrupted honest men! Dispatch.—Enobarbus!

*Exeunt*

## **SCENE VI. Alexandria. OCTAVIUS CAESAR's camp.**

*Flourish. Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, AGRIPPA, with DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS, and others*

### **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Go forth, Agrippa, and begin the fight:  
Our will is Antony be took alive;  
Make it so known.

### **AGRIPPA**

Caesar, I shall.

*Exit*

### **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

The time of universal peace is near:  
Prove this a prosperous day, the three-nook'd world  
Shall bear the olive freely.

*Enter a Messenger*

### **Messenger**

Antony  
Is come into the field.

### **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Go charge Agrippa  
Plant those that have revolted in the van,  
That Antony may seem to spend his fury  
Upon himself.

*Exeunt all but DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

### **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Alexas did revolt; and went to Jewry on  
Affairs of Antony; there did persuade  
Great Herod to incline himself to Caesar,  
And leave his master Antony: for this pains  
Caesar hath hang'd him. Canidius and the rest  
That fell away have entertainment, but  
No honourable trust. I have done ill;

Of which I do accuse myself so sorely,  
That I will joy no more.

*Enter a Soldier of CAESAR's*

**Soldier**

Enobarbus, Antony  
Hath after thee sent all thy treasure, with  
His bounty overplus: the messenger  
Came on my guard; and at thy tent is now  
Unloading of his mules.

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I give it you.

**Soldier**

Mock not, Enobarbus.  
I tell you true: best you safed the bringer  
Out of the host; I must attend mine office,  
Or would have done't myself. Your emperor  
Continues still a Jove.

*Exit*

**DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

I am alone the villain of the earth,  
And feel I am so most. O Antony,  
Thou mine of bounty, how wouldst thou have paid  
My better service, when my turpitude  
Thou dost so crown with gold! This blows my heart:  
If swift thought break it not, a swifter mean  
Shall outstrike thought: but thought will do't, I feel.  
I fight against thee! No: I will go seek  
Some ditch wherein to die; the foul'st best fits  
My latter part of life.

*Exit*

## SCENE VII. Field of battle between the camps.

*Alarum. Drums and trumpets. Enter AGRIPPA and others*

**AGRIPPA**

Retire, we have engaged ourselves too far:  
Caesar himself has work, and our oppression  
Exceeds what we expected.

*Exeunt*

*Alarums. Enter MARK ANTONY and SCARUS wounded*

**SCARUS**

O my brave emperor, this is fought indeed!  
Had we done so at first, we had droven them home  
With clouts about their heads.

**MARK ANTONY**

Thou bleed'st apace.

**SCARUS**

I had a wound here that was like a T,  
But now 'tis made an H.

**MARK ANTONY**

They do retire.

**SCARUS**

We'll beat 'em into bench-holes: I have yet  
Room for six scotches more.

*Enter EROS*

**EROS**

They are beaten, sir, and our advantage serves  
For a fair victory.

**SCARUS**

Let us score their backs,  
And snatch 'em up, as we take hares, behind:

'Tis sport to maul a runner.

**MARK ANTONY**

I will reward thee  
Once for thy spritely comfort, and ten-fold  
For thy good valour. Come thee on.

**SCARUS**

I'll halt after.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE VIII. Under the walls of Alexandria.

*Alarum. Enter MARK ANTONY, in a march; SCARUS, with others*

### MARK ANTONY

We have beat him to his camp: run one before,  
And let the queen know of our gests. To-morrow,  
Before the sun shall see 's, we'll spill the blood  
That has to-day escaped. I thank you all;  
For doughty-handed are you, and have fought  
Not as you served the cause, but as 't had been  
Each man's like mine; you have shown all Hectors.  
Enter the city, clip your wives, your friends,  
Tell them your feats; whilst they with joyful tears  
Wash the congealment from your wounds, and kiss  
The honour'd gashes whole.

*To SCARUS*

Give me thy hand

*Enter CLEOPATRA, attended*

To this great fairy I'll commend thy acts,  
Make her thanks bless thee.

*To CLEOPATRA*

O thou day o' the world,  
Chain mine arm'd neck; leap thou, attire and all,  
Through proof of harness to my heart, and there  
Ride on the pants triumphing!

### CLEOPATRA

Lord of lords!  
O infinite virtue, comest thou smiling from  
The world's great snare uncaught?

### MARK ANTONY

My nightingale,  
We have beat them to their beds. What, girl!  
though grey  
Do something mingle with our younger brown, yet ha' we  
A brain that nourishes our nerves, and can  
Get goal for goal of youth. Behold this man;  
Commend unto his lips thy favouring hand:



Kiss it, my warrior: he hath fought to-day  
As if a god, in hate of mankind, had  
Destroy'd in such a shape.

### **CLEOPATRA**

I'll give thee, friend,  
An armour all of gold; it was a king's.

### **MARK ANTONY**

He has deserved it, were it carbuncled  
Like holy Phoebus' car. Give me thy hand:  
Through Alexandria make a jolly march;  
Bear our hack'd targets like the men that owe them:  
Had our great palace the capacity  
To camp this host, we all would sup together,  
And drink carouses to the next day's fate,  
Which promises royal peril. Trumpeters,  
With brazen din blast you the city's ear;  
Make mingle with rattling tabourines;  
That heaven and earth may strike their sounds together,  
Applauding our approach.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE IX. OCTAVIUS CAESAR's camp.

*Sentinels at their post*

### **First Soldier**

If we be not relieved within this hour,  
We must return to the court of guard: the night  
Is shiny; and they say we shall embattle  
By the second hour i' the morn.

### **Second Soldier**

This last day was  
A shrewd one to's.

*Enter DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS*

### **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

O, bear me witness, night,—

### **Third Soldier**

What man is this?

### **Second Soldier**

Stand close, and list him.

### **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

Be witness to me, O thou blessed moon,  
When men revolted shall upon record  
Bear hateful memory, poor Enobarbus did  
Before thy face repent!

### **First Soldier**

Enobarbus!

### **Third Soldier**

Peace!  
Hark further.

### **DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS**

O sovereign mistress of true melancholy,  
The poisonous damp of night disponge upon me,  
That life, a very rebel to my will,  
May hang no longer on me: throw my heart  
Against the flint and hardness of my fault:  
Which, being dried with grief, will break to powder,  
And finish all foul thoughts. O Antony,  
Nobler than my revolt is infamous,  
Forgive me in thine own particular;  
But let the world rank me in register  
A master-leaver and a fugitive:  
O Antony! O Antony!

*Dies*

**Second Soldier**

Let's speak To him.

**First Soldier**

Let's hear him, for the things he speaks  
May concern Caesar.

**Third Soldier**

Let's do so. But he sleeps.

**First Soldier**

Swoons rather; for so bad a prayer as his  
Was never yet for sleep.

**Second Soldier**

Go we to him.

**Third Soldier**

Awake, sir, awake; speak to us.

**Second Soldier**

Hear you, sir?

**First Soldier**

The hand of death hath raught him.

*Drums afar off*

Hark! the drums  
Demurely wake the sleepers. Let us bear him  
To the court of guard; he is of note: our hour  
Is fully out.

**Third Soldier**

Come on, then;  
He may recover yet.

*Exeunt with the body*

## **SCENE X. Between the two camps.**

*Enter MARK ANTONY and SCARUS, with their Army*

**MARK ANTONY**

Their preparation is to-day by sea;  
We please them not by land.

**SCARUS**

For both, my lord.

**MARK ANTONY**

I would they'd fight i' the fire or i' the air;  
We'd fight there too. But this it is; our foot  
Upon the hills adjoining to the city  
Shall stay with us: order for sea is given;  
They have put forth the haven  
Where their appointment we may best discover,  
And look on their endeavour.

*Exeunt*

## **SCENE XI. Another part of the same.**

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, and his Army*

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

But being charged, we will be still by land,  
Which, as I take't, we shall; for his best force  
Is forth to man his galleys. To the vales,  
And hold our best advantage.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE XII. Another part of the same.

*Enter MARK ANTONY and SCARUS*

**MARK ANTONY**

Yet they are not join'd: where yond pine  
does stand,  
I shall discover all: I'll bring thee word  
Straight, how 'tis like to go.

*Exit*

**SCARUS**

Swallows have built  
In Cleopatra's sails their nests: the augurers  
Say they know not, they cannot tell; look grimly,  
And dare not speak their knowledge. Antony  
Is valiant, and dejected; and, by starts,  
His fretted fortunes give him hope, and fear,  
Of what he has, and has not.

*Alarum afar off, as at a sea-fight*

*Re-enter MARK ANTONY*

**MARK ANTONY**

All is lost;  
This foul Egyptian hath betrayed me:  
My fleet hath yielded to the foe; and yonder  
They cast their caps up and carouse together  
Like friends long lost. Triple-turn'd whore!  
'tis thou  
Hast sold me to this novice; and my heart  
Makes only wars on thee. Bid them all fly;  
For when I am revenged upon my charm,  
I have done all. Bid them all fly; begone.

*Exit SCARUS*

O sun, thy uprise shall I see no more:  
Fortune and Antony part here; even here  
Do we shake hands. All come to this? The hearts  
That spaniel'd me at heels, to whom I gave  
Their wishes, do discandy, melt their sweets  
On blossoming Caesar; and this pine is bark'd,  
That overtopp'd them all. Betray'd I am:

O this false soul of Egypt! this grave charm,—  
Whose eye beck'd forth my wars, and call'd them home;  
Whose bosom was my crownet, my chief end,—  
Like a right gipsy, hath, at fast and loose,  
Beguiled me to the very heart of loss.  
What, Eros, Eros!

*Enter CLEOPATRA*

Ah, thou spell! Avaunt!

**CLEOPATRA**

Why is my lord enraged against his love?

**MARK ANTONY**

Vanish, or I shall give thee thy deserving,  
And blemish Caesar's triumph. Let him take thee,  
And hoist thee up to the shouting plebeians:  
Follow his chariot, like the greatest spot  
Of all thy sex; most monster-like, be shown  
For poor'st diminutives, for doits; and let  
Patient Octavia plough thy visage up  
With her prepared nails.

*Exit CLEOPATRA*

'Tis well thou'rt gone,  
If it be well to live; but better 'twere  
Thou fell'st into my fury, for one death  
Might have prevented many. Eros, ho!  
The shirt of Nessus is upon me: teach me,  
Alcides, thou mine ancestor, thy rage:  
Let me lodge Lichas on the horns o' the moon;  
And with those hands, that grasp'd the heaviest club,  
Subdue my worthiest self. The witch shall die:  
To the young Roman boy she hath sold me, and I fall  
Under this plot; she dies for't. Eros, ho!

*Exit*



### SCENE XIII. Alexandria. Cleopatra's palace.

*Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, IRAS, and MARDIAN*

**CLEOPATRA**

Help me, my women! O, he is more mad  
Than Telamon for his shield; the boar of Thessaly  
Was never so emboss'd.

**CHARMIAN**

To the monument!  
There lock yourself, and send him word you are dead.  
The soul and body rive not more in parting  
Than greatness going off.

**CLEOPATRA**

To the monument!  
Mardian, go tell him I have slain myself;  
Say, that the last I spoke was 'Antony,'  
And word it, prithee, piteously: hence, Mardian,  
And bring me how he takes my death.  
To the monument!

*Exeunt*

## SCENE XIV. The same. Another room.

*Enter MARK ANTONY and EROS*

**MARK ANTONY**

Eros, thou yet behold'st me?

**EROS**

Ay, noble lord.

**MARK ANTONY**

Sometimes we see a cloud that's dragonish;  
A vapour sometime like a bear or lion,  
A tower'd citadel, a pendent rock,  
A forked mountain, or blue promontory  
With trees upon't, that nod unto the world,  
And mock our eyes with air: thou hast seen  
these signs;  
They are black vesper's pageants.

**EROS**

Ay, my lord,

**MARK ANTONY**

That which is now a horse, even with a thought  
The rack dislimns, and makes it indistinct,  
As water is in water.

**EROS**

It does, my lord.

**MARK ANTONY**

My good knave Eros, now thy captain is  
Even such a body: here I am Antony:  
Yet cannot hold this visible shape, my knave.  
I made these wars for Egypt: and the queen,—  
Whose heart I thought I had, for she had mine;  
Which whilst it was mine had annex'd unto't  
A million more, now lost,—she, Eros, has  
Pack'd cards with Caesar, and false-play'd my glory

Unto an enemy's triumph.  
Nay, weep not, gentle Eros; there is left us  
Ourselves to end ourselves.

*Enter MARDIAN*

O! thy vile lady!  
She has robb'd me of my sword.

**MARDIAN**

No, Antony;  
My mistress loved thee, and her fortunes mingled  
With thine entirely.

**MARK ANTONY**

Hence, saucy eunuch; peace!  
She hath betray'd me and shall die the death.

**MARDIAN**

Death of one person can be paid but once,  
And that she has discharged: what thou wouldst do  
Is done unto thy hand: the last she spake  
Was 'Antony! most noble Antony!'  
Then in the midst a tearing groan did break  
The name of Antony; it was divided  
Between her heart and lips: she render'd life,  
Thy name so buried in her.

**MARK ANTONY**

Dead, then?

**MARDIAN**

Dead.

**MARK ANTONY**

Unarm, Eros; the long day's task is done,  
And we must sleep.

*To MARDIAN*

That thou depart'st hence safe,  
Does pay thy labour richly; go.

*Exit MARDIAN*

Off, pluck off:  
The seven-fold shield of Ajax cannot keep  
The battery from my heart. O, cleave, my sides!  
Heart, once be stronger than thy continent,  
Crack thy frail case! Apace, Eros, apace.  
No more a soldier: bruised pieces, go;  
You have been nobly borne. From me awhile.

*Exit EROS*

I will o'ertake thee, Cleopatra, and  
Weep for my pardon. So it must be, for now  
All length is torture: since the torch is out,  
Lie down, and stray no farther: now all labour  
Mars what it does; yea, very force entangles  
Itself with strength: seal then, and all is done.  
Eros!—I come, my queen:—Eros!—Stay for me:  
Where souls do couch on flowers, we'll hand in hand,  
And with our sprightly port make the ghosts gaze:  
Dido and her Aeneas shall want troops,  
And all the haunt be ours. Come, Eros, Eros!

*Re-enter EROS*

**EROS**

What would my lord?

**MARK ANTONY**

Since Cleopatra died,  
I have lived in such dishonour, that the gods  
Detest my baseness. I, that with my sword  
Quarter'd the world, and o'er green Neptune's back  
With ships made cities, condemn myself to lack  
The courage of a woman; less noble mind  
Than she which by her death our Caesar tells  
'I am conqueror of myself.' Thou art sworn, Eros,  
That, when the exigent should come, which now  
Is come indeed, when I should see behind me  
The inevitable prosecution of  
Disgrace and horror, that, on my command,  
Thou then wouldst kill me: do't; the time is come:  
Thou strikest not me, 'tis Caesar thou defeat'st.  
Put colour in thy cheek.

**EROS**

The gods withhold me!

Shall I do that which all the Parthian darts,  
Though enemy, lost aim, and could not?

**MARK ANTONY**

Eros,  
Wouldst thou be window'd in great Rome and see  
Thy master thus with pleach'd arms, bending down  
His corrigible neck, his face subdued  
To penetrative shame, whilst the wheel'd seat  
Of fortunate Caesar, drawn before him, branded  
His baseness that ensued?

**EROS**

I would not see't.

**MARK ANTONY**

Come, then; for with a wound I must be cured.  
Draw that thy honest sword, which thou hast worn  
Most useful for thy country.

**EROS**

O, sir, pardon me!

**MARK ANTONY**

When I did make thee free, sworest thou not then  
To do this when I bade thee? Do it at once;  
Or thy precedent services are all  
But accidents unpurposed. Draw, and come.

**EROS**

Turn from me, then, that noble countenance,  
Wherein the worship of the whole world lies.

**MARK ANTONY**

Lo thee!

*Turning from him*

**EROS**

My sword is drawn.

**MARK ANTONY**

Then let it do at once  
The thing why thou hast drawn it.

**EROS**

My dear master,  
My captain, and my emperor, let me say,  
Before I strike this bloody stroke, farewell.

**MARK ANTONY**

'Tis said, man; and farewell.

**EROS**

Farewell, great chief. Shall I strike now?

**MARK ANTONY**

Now, Eros.

**EROS**

Why, there then: thus I do escape the sorrow  
Of Antony's death.

*Kills himself*

**MARK ANTONY**

Thrice-nobler than myself!  
Thou teachest me, O valiant Eros, what  
I should, and thou couldst not. My queen and Eros  
Have by their brave instruction got upon me  
A nobleness in record: but I will be  
A bridegroom in my death, and run into't  
As to a lover's bed. Come, then; and, Eros,  
Thy master dies thy scholar: to do thus

*Falling on his sword*

I learn'd of thee. How! not dead? not dead?  
The guard, ho! O, dispatch me!

*Enter DER CETAS and Guard*

**First Guard**

What's the noise?

**MARK ANTONY**

I have done my work in, friends: O, make an end  
Of what I have begun.

**Second Guard**

The star is fall'n.

**First Guard**

And time is at his period.

**All**

Alas, and woe!

**MARK ANTONY**

Let him that loves me strike me dead.

**First Guard**

Not I.

**Second Guard**

Nor I.

**Third Guard**

Nor any one.

*Exeunt Guard*

**DERCETAS**

Thy death and fortunes bid thy followers fly.  
This sword but shown to Caesar, with this tidings,  
Shall enter me with him.

*Enter DIOMEDES*

**DIOMEDES**

Where's Antony?

**DERCETAS**

There, Diomed there.

**DIOMEDES**

Lives he?

Wilt thou not answer, man?

*Exit DERCEITAS*

**MARK ANTONY**

Art thou there, Diomed? Draw thy sword, and give me  
Sufficing strokes for death.

**DIOMEDES**

Most absolute lord,  
My mistress Cleopatra sent me to thee.

**MARK ANTONY**

When did she send thee?

**DIOMEDES**

Now, my lord.

**MARK ANTONY**

Where is she?

**DIOMEDES**

Lock'd in her monument. She had a prophesying fear  
Of what hath come to pass: for when she saw—  
Which never shall be found—you did suspect  
She had disposed with Caesar, and that your rage  
Would not be purged, she sent you word she was dead;  
But, fearing since how it might work, hath sent  
Me to proclaim the truth; and I am come,  
I dread, too late.

**MARK ANTONY**

Too late, good Diomed: call my guard, I prithee.

**DIOMEDES**

What, ho, the emperor's guard! The guard, what, ho!



Come, your lord calls!

*Enter four or five of the Guard of MARK ANTONY*

**MARK ANTONY**

Bear me, good friends, where Cleopatra bides;  
'Tis the last service that I shall command you.

**First Guard**

Woe, woe are we, sir, you may not live to wear  
All your true followers out.

**All**

Most heavy day!

**MARK ANTONY**

Nay, good my fellows, do not please sharp fate  
To grace it with your sorrows: bid that welcome  
Which comes to punish us, and we punish it  
Seeming to bear it lightly. Take me up:  
I have led you oft: carry me now, good friends,  
And have my thanks for all.

*Exeunt, bearing MARK ANTONY*

**SCENE XV. The same. A monument.**

*Enter CLEOPATRA and her maids aloft, with CHARMIAN and IRAS*

**CLEOPATRA**

O Charmian, I will never go from hence.

**CHARMIAN**

Be comforted, dear madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

No, I will not:  
All strange and terrible events are welcome,  
But comforts we despise; our size of sorrow,  
Proportion'd to our cause, must be as great  
As that which makes it.

*Enter, below, DIOMEDES*

How now! is he dead?

**DIOMEDES**

His death's upon him, but not dead.  
Look out o' the other side your monument;  
His guard have brought him thither.

*Enter, below, MARK ANTONY, borne by the Guard*

**CLEOPATRA**

O sun,  
Burn the great sphere thou movest in!  
darkling stand  
The varying shore o' the world. O Antony,  
Antony, Antony! Help, Charmian, help, Iras, help;  
Help, friends below; let's draw him hither.

**MARK ANTONY**

Peace!  
Not Caesar's valour hath o'erthrown Antony,  
But Antony's hath triumph'd on itself.

**CLEOPATRA**

So it should be, that none but Antony  
Should conquer Antony; but woe 'tis so!

**MARK ANTONY**

I am dying, Egypt, dying; only  
I here importune death awhile, until  
Of many thousand kisses the poor last  
I lay up thy lips.

**CLEOPATRA**

I dare not, dear,—  
Dear my lord, pardon,—I dare not,  
Lest I be taken: not the imperious show  
Of the full-fortuned Caesar ever shall  
Be brooch'd with me; if knife, drugs,  
serpents, have  
Edge, sting, or operation, I am safe:  
Your wife Octavia, with her modest eyes  
And still conclusion, shall acquire no honour  
Demuring upon me. But come, come, Antony,—  
Help me, my women,—we must draw thee up:  
Assist, good friends.

**MARK ANTONY**

O, quick, or I am gone.

**CLEOPATRA**

Here's sport indeed! How heavy weighs my lord!  
Our strength is all gone into heaviness,  
That makes the weight: had I great Juno's power,  
The strong-wing'd Mercury should fetch thee up,  
And set thee by Jove's side. Yet come a little,—  
Wishes were ever fools,—O, come, come, come;

*They heave MARK ANTONY aloft to CLEOPATRA*

And welcome, welcome! die where thou hast lived:  
Quicken with kissing: had my lips that power,  
Thus would I wear them out.

**All**

A heavy sight!

**MARK ANTONY**

I am dying, Egypt, dying:  
Give me some wine, and let me speak a little.

**CLEOPATRA**

No, let me speak; and let me rail so high,  
That the false housewife Fortune break her wheel,  
Provoked by my offence.

**MARK ANTONY**

One word, sweet queen:  
Of Caesar seek your honour, with your safety. O!

**CLEOPATRA**

They do not go together.

**MARK ANTONY**

Gentle, hear me:  
None about Caesar trust but Proculeius.

**CLEOPATRA**

My resolution and my hands I'll trust;  
None about Caesar.

**MARK ANTONY**

The miserable change now at my end  
Lament nor sorrow at; but please your thoughts  
In feeding them with those my former fortunes  
Wherein I lived, the greatest prince o' the world,  
The noblest; and do now not basely die,  
Not cowardly put off my helmet to  
My countryman,—a Roman by a Roman  
Valiantly vanquish'd. Now my spirit is going;  
I can no more.

**CLEOPATRA**

Noblest of men, woo't die?  
Hast thou no care of me? shall I abide  
In this dull world, which in thy absence is  
No better than a sty? O, see, my women,

*MARK ANTONY dies*

The crown o' the earth doth melt. My lord!  
O, wither'd is the garland of the war,  
The soldier's pole is fall'n: young boys and girls  
Are level now with men; the odds is gone,  
And there is nothing left remarkable  
Beneath the visiting moon.

*Faints*

**CHARMIAN**

O, quietness, lady!

**IRAS**

She is dead too, our sovereign.

**CHARMIAN**

Lady!

**IRAS**

Madam!

**CHARMIAN**

O madam, madam, madam!

**IRAS**

Royal Egypt, Empress!

**CHARMIAN**

Peace, peace, Iras!

**CLEOPATRA**

No more, but e'en a woman, and commanded  
By such poor passion as the maid that milks  
And does the meanest chares. It were for me  
To throw my sceptre at the injurious gods;  
To tell them that this world did equal theirs  
Till they had stol'n our jewel. All's but naught;  
Patience is scottish, and impatience does  
Become a dog that's mad: then is it sin  
To rush into the secret house of death,  
Ere death dare come to us? How do you, women?

What, what! good cheer! Why, how now, Charmian!  
My noble girls! Ah, women, women, look,  
Our lamp is spent, it's out! Good sirs, take heart:  
We'll bury him; and then, what's brave,  
what's noble,  
Let's do it after the high Roman fashion,  
And make death proud to take us. Come, away:  
This case of that huge spirit now is cold:  
Ah, women, women! come; we have no friend  
But resolution, and the briefest end.

*Exeunt; those above bearing off MARK ANTONY's body*

## Act V

### SCENE I. Alexandria. OCTAVIUS CAESAR's camp.

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, AGRIPPA, DOLABELLA, MECAENAS, GALLUS, PROCULEIUS, and others, his council of war*

#### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

Go to him, Dolabella, bid him yield;  
Being so frustrate, tell him he mocks  
The pauses that he makes.

#### DOLABELLA

Caesar, I shall.

*Exit*

*Enter DERCETAS, with the sword of MARK ANTONY*

#### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

Wherefore is that? and what art thou that darest  
Appear thus to us?

#### DERCETAS

I am call'd Dercetas;  
Mark Antony I served, who best was worthy  
Best to be served: whilst he stood up and spoke,  
He was my master; and I wore my life  
To spend upon his haters. If thou please  
To take me to thee, as I was to him  
I'll be to Caesar; if thou pleasest not,  
I yield thee up my life.

#### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

What is't thou say'st?

#### DERCETAS

I say, O Caesar, Antony is dead.

#### OCTAVIUS CAESAR

The breaking of so great a thing should make

A greater crack: the round world  
Should have shook lions into civil streets,  
And citizens to their dens: the death of Antony  
Is not a single doom; in the name lay  
A moiety of the world.

### **DERCETAS**

He is dead, Caesar:  
Not by a public minister of justice,  
Nor by a hired knife; but that self hand,  
Which writ his honour in the acts it did,  
Hath, with the courage which the heart did lend it,  
Splitted the heart. This is his sword;  
I robb'd his wound of it; behold it stain'd  
With his most noble blood.

### **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Look you sad, friends?  
The gods rebuke me, but it is tidings  
To wash the eyes of kings.

### **AGRIPPA**

And strange it is,  
That nature must compel us to lament  
Our most persisted deeds.

### **MECAENAS**

His taints and honours  
Waged equal with him.

### **AGRIPPA**

A rarer spirit never  
Did steer humanity: but you, gods, will give us  
Some faults to make us men. Caesar is touch'd.

### **MECAENAS**

When such a spacious mirror's set before him,  
He needs must see himself.

### **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

O Antony!



I have follow'd thee to this; but we do lance  
Diseases in our bodies: I must perforce  
Have shown to thee such a declining day,  
Or look on thine; we could not stall together  
In the whole world: but yet let me lament,  
With tears as sovereign as the blood of hearts,  
That thou, my brother, my competitor  
In top of all design, my mate in empire,  
Friend and companion in the front of war,  
The arm of mine own body, and the heart  
Where mine his thoughts did kindle,—that our stars,  
Unreconcilable, should divide  
Our equalness to this. Hear me, good friends—  
But I will tell you at some meeter season:

*Enter an Egyptian*

The business of this man looks out of him;  
We'll hear him what he says. Whence are you?

**Egyptian**

A poor Egyptian yet. The queen my mistress,  
Confined in all she has, her monument,  
Of thy intents desires instruction,  
That she preparedly may frame herself  
To the way she's forced to.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Bid her have good heart:  
She soon shall know of us, by some of ours,  
How honourable and how kindly we  
Determine for her; for Caesar cannot live  
To be ungentle.

**Egyptian**

So the gods preserve thee!

*Exit*

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Come hither, Proculeius. Go and say,  
We purpose her no shame: give her what comforts  
The quality of her passion shall require,  
Lest, in her greatness, by some mortal stroke  
She do defeat us; for her life in Rome

Would be eternal in our triumph: go,  
And with your speediest bring us what she says,  
And how you find of her.

**PROCULEIUS**

Caesar, I shall.

*Exit*

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Gallus, go you along.

*Exit GALLUS*

Where's Dolabella,  
To second Proculeius?

**All**

Dolabella!

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Let him alone, for I remember now  
How he's employ'd: he shall in time be ready.  
Go with me to my tent; where you shall see  
How hardly I was drawn into this war;  
How calm and gentle I proceeded still  
In all my writings: go with me, and see  
What I can show in this.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE II. Alexandria. A room in the monument.

*Enter CLEOPATRA, CHARMIAN, and IRAS*

**CLEOPATRA**

My desolation does begin to make  
A better life. 'Tis paltry to be Caesar;  
Not being Fortune, he's but Fortune's knave,  
A minister of her will: and it is great  
To do that thing that ends all other deeds;  
Which shackles accidents and bolts up change;  
Which sleeps, and never palates more the dug,  
The beggar's nurse and Caesar's.

*Enter, to the gates of the monument, PROCULEIUS, GALLUS and Soldiers*

**PROCULEIUS**

Caesar sends greeting to the Queen of Egypt;  
And bids thee study on what fair demands  
Thou mean'st to have him grant thee.

**CLEOPATRA**

What's thy name?

**PROCULEIUS**

My name is Proculeius.

**CLEOPATRA**

Antony  
Did tell me of you, bade me trust you; but  
I do not greatly care to be deceived,  
That have no use for trusting. If your master  
Would have a queen his beggar, you must tell him,  
That majesty, to keep decorum, must  
No less beg than a kingdom: if he please  
To give me conquer'd Egypt for my son,  
He gives me so much of mine own, as I  
Will kneel to him with thanks.

**PROCULEIUS**

Be of good cheer;

You're fall'n into a princely hand, fear nothing:  
Make your full reference freely to my lord,  
Who is so full of grace, that it flows over  
On all that need: let me report to him  
Your sweet dependency; and you shall find  
A conqueror that will pray in aid for kindness,  
Where he for grace is kneel'd to.

### **CLEOPATRA**

Pray you, tell him  
I am his fortune's vassal, and I send him  
The greatness he has got. I hourly learn  
A doctrine of obedience; and would gladly  
Look him i' the face.

### **PROCULEIUS**

This I'll report, dear lady.  
Have comfort, for I know your plight is pitied  
Of him that caused it.

### **GALLUS**

You see how easily she may be surprised:

*Here PROCULEIUS and two of the Guard ascend the monument by a ladder placed against a window, and, having descended, come behind CLEOPATRA. Some of the Guard unbar and open the gates*

*To PROCULEIUS and the Guard*

Guard her till Caesar come.

*Exit*

### **IRAS**

Royal queen!

### **CHARMIAN**

O Cleopatra! thou art taken, queen:

### **CLEOPATRA**

Quick, quick, good hands.

*Drawing a dagger*

### **PROCULEIUS**

Hold, worthy lady, hold:

*Seizes and disarms her*

Do not yourself such wrong, who are in this  
Relieved, but not betray'd.

### **CLEOPATRA**

What, of death too,  
That rids our dogs of languish?

### **PROCULEIUS**

Cleopatra,  
Do not abuse my master's bounty by  
The undoing of yourself: let the world see  
His nobleness well acted, which your death  
Will never let come forth.

### **CLEOPATRA**

Where art thou, death?  
Come hither, come! come, come, and take a queen  
Worthy many babes and beggars!

### **PROCULEIUS**

O, temperance, lady!

### **CLEOPATRA**

Sir, I will eat no meat, I'll not drink, sir;  
If idle talk will once be necessary,  
I'll not sleep neither: this mortal house I'll ruin,  
Do Caesar what he can. Know, sir, that I  
Will not wait pinion'd at your master's court;  
Nor once be chastised with the sober eye  
Of dull Octavia. Shall they hoist me up  
And show me to the shouting varletry  
Of censuring Rome? Rather a ditch in Egypt  
Be gentle grave unto me! rather on Nilus' mud  
Lay me stark naked, and let the water-flies  
Blow me into abhorring! rather make  
My country's high pyramides my gibbet,  
And hang me up in chains!

### **PROCULEIUS**

You do extend  
These thoughts of horror further than you shall  
Find cause in Caesar.

*Enter DOLABELLA*

**DOLABELLA**

Proculeius,  
What thou hast done thy master Caesar knows,  
And he hath sent for thee: for the queen,  
I'll take her to my guard.

**PROCULEIUS**

So, Dolabella,  
It shall content me best: be gentle to her.

*To CLEOPATRA*

To Caesar I will speak what you shall please,  
If you'll employ me to him.

**CLEOPATRA**

Say, I would die.

*Exeunt PROCULEIUS and Soldiers*

**DOLABELLA**

Most noble empress, you have heard of me?

**CLEOPATRA**

I cannot tell.

**DOLABELLA**

Assuredly you know me.

**CLEOPATRA**

No matter, sir, what I have heard or known.  
You laugh when boys or women tell their dreams;  
Is't not your trick?

**DOLABELLA**

I understand not, madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

I dream'd there was an Emperor Antony:  
O, such another sleep, that I might see  
But such another man!

**DOLABELLA**

If it might please ye,—

**CLEOPATRA**

His face was as the heavens; and therein stuck  
A sun and moon, which kept their course,  
and lighted  
The little O, the earth.

**DOLABELLA**

Most sovereign creature,—

**CLEOPATRA**

His legs bestrid the ocean: his rear'd arm  
Crested the world: his voice was propertied  
As all the tuned spheres, and that to friends;  
But when he meant to quail and shake the orb,  
He was as rattling thunder. For his bounty,  
There was no winter in't; an autumn 'twas  
That grew the more by reaping: his delights  
Were dolphin-like; they show'd his back above  
The element they lived in: in his livery  
Walk'd crowns and crownets; realms and islands were  
As plates dropp'd from his pocket.

**DOLABELLA**

Cleopatra!

**CLEOPATRA**

Think you there was, or might be, such a man  
As this I dream'd of?

**DOLABELLA**

Gentle madam, no.

**CLEOPATRA**

You lie, up to the hearing of the gods.  
But, if there be, or ever were, one such,  
It's past the size of dreaming: nature wants stuff  
To vie strange forms with fancy; yet, to imagine  
And Antony, were nature's piece 'gainst fancy,  
Condemning shadows quite.

**DOLABELLA**

Hear me, good madam.  
Your loss is as yourself, great; and you bear it  
As answering to the weight: would I might never  
O'ertake pursued success, but I do feel,  
By the rebound of yours, a grief that smites  
My very heart at root.

**CLEOPATRA**

I thank you, sir,  
Know you what Caesar means to do with me?

**DOLABELLA**

I am loath to tell you what I would you knew.

**CLEOPATRA**

Nay, pray you, sir,—

**DOLABELLA**

Though he be honourable,—

**CLEOPATRA**

He'll lead me, then, in triumph?

**DOLABELLA**

Madam, he will; I know't.

*Flourish, and shout within, 'Make way there: Octavius Caesar!'*

*Enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR, GALLUS, PROCULEIUS, MECAENAS, SELEUCUS,  
and others of his Train*

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**



Which is the Queen of Egypt?

**DOLABELLA**

It is the emperor, madam.

*CLEOPATRA kneels*

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Arise, you shall not kneel:  
I pray you, rise; rise, Egypt.

**CLEOPATRA**

Sir, the gods  
Will have it thus; my master and my lord  
I must obey.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Take to you no hard thoughts:  
The record of what injuries you did us,  
Though written in our flesh, we shall remember  
As things but done by chance.

**CLEOPATRA**

Sole sir o' the world,  
I cannot project mine own cause so well  
To make it clear; but do confess I have  
Been laden with like frailties which before  
Have often shamed our sex.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Cleopatra, know,  
We will extenuate rather than enforce:  
If you apply yourself to our intents,  
Which towards you are most gentle, you shall find  
A benefit in this change; but if you seek  
To lay on me a cruelty, by taking  
Antony's course, you shall bereave yourself  
Of my good purposes, and put your children  
To that destruction which I'll guard them from,  
If thereon you rely. I'll take my leave.

**CLEOPATRA**

And may, through all the world: 'tis yours; and we,  
Your scutcheons and your signs of conquest, shall  
Hang in what place you please. Here, my good lord.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

You shall advise me in all for Cleopatra.

**CLEOPATRA**

This is the brief of money, plate, and jewels,  
I am possess'd of: 'tis exactly valued;  
Not petty things admitted. Where's Seleucus?

**SELEUCUS**

Here, madam.

**CLEOPATRA**

This is my treasurer: let him speak, my lord,  
Upon his peril, that I have reserved  
To myself nothing. Speak the truth, Seleucus.

**SELEUCUS**

Madam,  
I had rather seal my lips, than, to my peril,  
Speak that which is not.

**CLEOPATRA**

What have I kept back?

**SELEUCUS**

Enough to purchase what you have made known.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Nay, blush not, Cleopatra; I approve  
Your wisdom in the deed.

**CLEOPATRA**

See, Caesar! O, behold,  
How pomp is follow'd! mine will now be yours;  
And, should we shift estates, yours would be mine.

The ingratitude of this Seleucus does  
Even make me wild: O slave, of no more trust  
Than love that's hired! What, goest thou back? thou shalt  
Go back, I warrant thee; but I'll catch thine eyes,  
Though they had wings: slave, soulless villain, dog!  
O rarely base!

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Good queen, let us entreat you.

**CLEOPATRA**

O Caesar, what a wounding shame is this,  
That thou, vouchsafing here to visit me,  
Doing the honour of thy lordliness  
To one so meek, that mine own servant should  
Parcel the sum of my disgraces by  
Addition of his envy! Say, good Caesar,  
That I some lady trifles have reserved,  
Immement toys, things of such dignity  
As we greet modern friends withal; and say,  
Some nobler token I have kept apart  
For Livia and Octavia, to induce  
Their mediation; must I be unfolded  
With one that I have bred? The gods! it smites me  
Beneath the fall I have.

*To SELEUCUS*

Prithee, go hence;  
Or I shall show the cinders of my spirits  
Through the ashes of my chance: wert thou a man,  
Thou wouldst have mercy on me.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Forbear, Seleucus.

*Exit SELEUCUS*

**CLEOPATRA**

Be it known, that we, the greatest, are misthought  
For things that others do; and, when we fall,  
We answer others' merits in our name,  
Are therefore to be pitied.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Cleopatra,  
Not what you have reserved, nor what acknowledged,  
Put we i' the roll of conquest: still be't yours,  
Bestow it at your pleasure; and believe,  
Caesar's no merchant, to make prize with you  
Of things that merchants sold. Therefore be cheer'd;  
Make not your thoughts your prisons: no, dear queen;  
For we intend so to dispose you as  
Yourself shall give us counsel. Feed, and sleep:  
Our care and pity is so much upon you,  
That we remain your friend; and so, adieu.

**CLEOPATRA**

My master, and my lord!

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Not so. Adieu.

*Flourish. Exeunt OCTAVIUS CAESAR and his train*

**CLEOPATRA**

He words me, girls, he words me, that I should not  
Be noble to myself: but, hark thee, Charmian.

*Whispers CHARMIAN*

**IRAS**

Finish, good lady; the bright day is done,  
And we are for the dark.

**CLEOPATRA**

Hie thee again:  
I have spoke already, and it is provided;  
Go put it to the haste.

**CHARMIAN**

Madam, I will.

*Re-enter DOLABELLA*

**DOLABELLA**

Where is the queen?

**CHARMIAN**

Behold, sir.

*Exit*

**CLEOPATRA**

Dolabella!

**DOLABELLA**

Madam, as thereto sworn by your command,  
Which my love makes religion to obey,  
I tell you this: Caesar through Syria  
Intends his journey; and within three days  
You with your children will he send before:  
Make your best use of this: I have perform'd  
Your pleasure and my promise.

**CLEOPATRA**

Dolabella,  
I shall remain your debtor.

**DOLABELLA**

I your servant,  
Adieu, good queen; I must attend on Caesar.

**CLEOPATRA**

Farewell, and thanks.

*Exit DOLABELLA*

Now, Iras, what think'st thou?  
Thou, an Egyptian puppet, shalt be shown  
In Rome, as well as I mechanic slaves  
With greasy aprons, rules, and hammers, shall  
Uplift us to the view; in their thick breaths,  
Rank of gross diet, shall be enclouded,  
And forced to drink their vapour.

**IRAS**

The gods forbid!

**CLEOPATRA**

Nay, 'tis most certain, Iras: saucy lictors  
Will catch at us, like strumpets; and scald rhymers  
Ballad us out o' tune: the quick comedians  
Extemporally will stage us, and present  
Our Alexandrian revels; Antony  
Shall be brought drunken forth, and I shall see  
Some squeaking Cleopatra boy my greatness  
I' the posture of a whore.

**IRAS**

O the good gods!

**CLEOPATRA**

Nay, that's certain.

**IRAS**

I'll never see 't; for, I am sure, my nails  
Are stronger than mine eyes.

**CLEOPATRA**

Why, that's the way  
To fool their preparation, and to conquer  
Their most absurd intents.

*Re-enter CHARMIAN*

Now, Charmian!  
Show me, my women, like a queen: go fetch  
My best attires: I am again for Cydnus,  
To meet Mark Antony: sirrah Iras, go.  
Now, noble Charmian, we'll dispatch indeed;  
And, when thou hast done this chare, I'll give thee leave  
To play till doomsday. Bring our crown and all.  
Wherefore's this noise?

*Exit IRAS. A noise within*

*Enter a Guardsman*

**Guard**

Here is a rural fellow  
That will not be denied your highness presence:  
He brings you figs.

**CLEOPATRA**

Let him come in.

*Exit Guardsman*

What poor an instrument  
May do a noble deed! he brings me liberty.  
My resolution's placed, and I have nothing  
Of woman in me: now from head to foot  
I am marble-constant; now the fleeting moon  
No planet is of mine.

*Re-enter Guardsman, with Clown bringing in a basket*

**Guard**

This is the man.

**CLEOPATRA**

Avoid, and leave him.

*Exit Guardsman*

Hast thou the pretty worm of Nilus there,  
That kills and pains not?

**Clown**

Truly, I have him: but I would not be the party  
that should desire you to touch him, for his biting  
is immortal; those that do die of it do seldom or  
never recover.

**CLEOPATRA**

Rememberest thou any that have died on't?

**Clown**

Very many, men and women too. I heard of one of  
them no longer than yesterday: a very honest woman,  
but something given to lie; as a woman should not  
do, but in the way of honesty: how she died of the  
biting of it, what pain she felt: truly, she makes  
a very good report o' the worm; but he that will  
believe all that they say, shall never be saved by  
half that they do: but this is most fallible, the  
worm's an odd worm.

**CLEOPATRA**

Get thee hence; farewell.

**Clown**

I wish you all joy of the worm.

*Setting down his basket*

**CLEOPATRA**

Farewell.

**Clown**

You must think this, look you, that the worm will do his kind.

**CLEOPATRA**

Ay, ay; farewell.

**Clown**

Look you, the worm is not to be trusted but in the keeping of wise people; for, indeed, there is no goodness in worm.

**CLEOPATRA**

Take thou no care; it shall be heeded.

**Clown**

Very good. Give it nothing, I pray you, for it is not worth the feeding.

**CLEOPATRA**

Will it eat me?

**Clown**

You must not think I am so simple but I know the devil himself will not eat a woman: I know that a woman is a dish for the gods, if the devil dress her not. But, truly, these same whoreson devils do the gods great harm in their women; for in every ten that they make, the devils mar five.



## CLEOPATRA

Well, get thee gone; farewell.

## Clown

Yes, forsooth: I wish you joy o' the worm.

*Exit*

*Re-enter IRAS with a robe, crown, & c*

## CLEOPATRA

Give me my robe, put on my crown; I have  
Immortal longings in me: now no more  
The juice of Egypt's grape shall moist this lip:  
Yare, yare, good Iras; quick. Methinks I hear  
Antony call; I see him rouse himself  
To praise my noble act; I hear him mock  
The luck of Caesar, which the gods give men  
To excuse their after wrath: husband, I come:  
Now to that name my courage prove my title!  
I am fire and air; my other elements  
I give to baser life. So; have you done?  
Come then, and take the last warmth of my lips.  
Farewell, kind Charmian; Iras, long farewell.

*Kisses them. IRAS falls and dies*

Have I the aspic in my lips? Dost fall?  
If thou and nature can so gently part,  
The stroke of death is as a lover's pinch,  
Which hurts, and is desired. Dost thou lie still?  
If thus thou vanishest, thou tell'st the world  
It is not worth leave-taking.

## CHARMIAN

Dissolve, thick cloud, and rain; that I may say,  
The gods themselves do weep!

## CLEOPATRA

This proves me base:  
If she first meet the curled Antony,  
He'll make demand of her, and spend that kiss  
Which is my heaven to have. Come, thou  
mortal wretch,

*To an asp, which she applies to her breast*

With thy sharp teeth this knot intricate  
Of life at once untie: poor venomous fool  
Be angry, and dispatch. O, couldst thou speak,  
That I might hear thee call great Caesar ass  
Unpolicied!

**CHARMIAN**

O eastern star!

**CLEOPATRA**

Peace, peace!  
Dost thou not see my baby at my breast,  
That sucks the nurse asleep?

**CHARMIAN**

O, break! O, break!

**CLEOPATRA**

As sweet as balm, as soft as air, as gentle,—  
O Antony!—Nay, I will take thee too.

*Applying another asp to her arm*

What should I stay—

*Dies*

**CHARMIAN**

In this vile world? So, fare thee well.  
Now boast thee, death, in thy possession lies  
A lass unparallel'd. Downy windows, close;  
And golden Phoebus never be beheld  
Of eyes again so royal! Your crown's awry;  
I'll mend it, and then play.

*Enter the Guard, rushing in*

**First Guard**

Where is the queen?

**CHARMIAN**

Speak softly, wake her not.

**First Guard**

Caesar hath sent—

**CHARMIAN**

Too slow a messenger.

*Applies an asp*

O, come apace, dispatch! I partly feel thee.

**First Guard**

Approach, ho! All's not well: Caesar's beguiled.

**Second Guard**

There's Dolabella sent from Caesar; call him.

**First Guard**

What work is here! Charmian, is this well done?

**CHARMIAN**

It is well done, and fitting for a princess  
Descended of so many royal kings.

Ah, soldier!

*Dies*

*Re-enter DOLABELLA*

**DOLABELLA**

How goes it here?

**Second Guard**

All dead.

**DOLABELLA**

Caesar, thy thoughts  
Touch their effects in this: thyself art coming  
To see perform'd the dreaded act which thou  
So sought'st to hinder.

*Within 'A way there, a way for Caesar!'*

*Re-enter OCTAVIUS CAESAR and all his train marching*

**DOLABELLA**

O sir, you are too sure an augurer;  
That you did fear is done.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Bravest at the last,  
She levell'd at our purposes, and, being royal,  
Took her own way. The manner of their deaths?  
I do not see them bleed.

**DOLABELLA**

Who was last with them?

**First Guard**

A simple countryman, that brought her figs:  
This was his basket.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Poison'd, then.

**First Guard**

O Caesar,  
This Charmian lived but now; she stood and spake:  
I found her trimming up the diadem  
On her dead mistress; tremblingly she stood  
And on the sudden dropp'd.

**OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

O noble weakness!  
If they had swallow'd poison, 'twould appear  
By external swelling: but she looks like sleep,  
As she would catch another Antony  
In her strong toil of grace.

**DOLABELLA**

Here, on her breast,  
There is a vent of blood and something blown:  
The like is on her arm.

**First Guard**

This is an aspic's trail: and these fig-leaves  
Have slime upon them, such as the aspic leaves  
Upon the caves of Nile.

## **OCTAVIUS CAESAR**

Most probable  
That so she died; for her physician tells me  
She hath pursued conclusions infinite  
Of easy ways to die. Take up her bed;  
And bear her women from the monument:  
She shall be buried by her Antony:  
No grave upon the earth shall clip in it  
A pair so famous. High events as these  
Strike those that make them; and their story is  
No less in pity than his glory which  
Brought them to be lamented. Our army shall  
In solemn show attend this funeral;  
And then to Rome. Come, Dolabella, see  
High order in this great solemnity.

*Exeunt*