

[Scene 3]

Thunder and lightning. Enter Casca and Cicero.

CICERO

FTLN 0415 Good even, Casca. Brought you Caesar home?
FTLN 0416 Why are you breathless? And why stare you so?

CASCA

FTLN 0417 Are not you moved, when all the sway of earth
FTLN 0418 Shakes like a thing unfirm? O Cicero,
FTLN 0419 I have seen tempests when the scolding winds 5
FTLN 0420 Have rived the knotty oaks, and I have seen
FTLN 0421 Th' ambitious ocean swell and rage and foam
FTLN 0422 To be exalted with the threat'ning clouds;
FTLN 0423 But never till tonight, never till now,
FTLN 0424 Did I go through a tempest dropping fire. 10
FTLN 0425 Either there is a civil strife in heaven,
FTLN 0426 Or else the world, too saucy with the gods,
FTLN 0427 Incenses them to send destruction.

CICERO

FTLN 0428 Why, saw you anything more wonderful?

CASCA

FTLN 0429 A common slave (you know him well by sight) 15
FTLN 0430 Held up his left hand, which did flame and burn
FTLN 0431 Like twenty torches joined; and yet his hand,
FTLN 0432 Not sensible of fire, remained unscorched.
FTLN 0433 Besides (I ha' not since put up my sword),
FTLN 0434 Against the Capitol I met a lion, 20
FTLN 0435 Who glazed upon me and went surly by
FTLN 0436 Without annoying me. And there were drawn
FTLN 0437 Upon a heap a hundred ghastly women,
FTLN 0438 Transformed with their fear, who swore they saw
FTLN 0439 Men all in fire walk up and down the streets. 25
FTLN 0440 And yesterday the bird of night did sit
FTLN 0441 Even at noonday upon the marketplace,
FTLN 0442 Hooting and shrieking. When these prodigies
FTLN 0443 Do so conjointly meet, let not men say

FTLN 0444	“These are their reasons, they are natural,”	30
FTLN 0445	For I believe they are portentous things	
FTLN 0446	Unto the climate that they point upon.	
	CICERO	
FTLN 0447	Indeed, it is a strange-disposèd time.	
FTLN 0448	But men may construe things after their fashion,	
FTLN 0449	Clean from the purpose of the things themselves.	35
FTLN 0450	Comes Caesar to the Capitol tomorrow?	
	CASCA	
FTLN 0451	He doth, for he did bid Antonius	
FTLN 0452	Send word to you he would be there tomorrow.	
	CICERO	
FTLN 0453	Good night then, Casca. This disturbèd sky	
FTLN 0454	Is not to walk in.	40
FTLN 0455	CASCA Farewell, Cicero <i>Cicero exits.</i>	
	<i>Enter Cassius.</i>	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0456	Who’s there?	
FTLN 0457	CASCA A Roman.	
FTLN 0458	CASSIUS Casca, by your voice.	
	CASCA	
FTLN 0459	Your ear is good. Cassius, what night is this!	45
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0460	A very pleasing night to honest men.	
	CASCA	
FTLN 0461	Who ever knew the heavens menace so?	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0462	Those that have known the Earth so full of faults.	
FTLN 0463	For my part, I have walked about the streets,	
FTLN 0464	Submitting me unto the perilous night,	50
FTLN 0465	And thus unbracèd, Casca, as you see,	
FTLN 0466	Have bared my bosom to the thunder-stone;	
FTLN 0467	And when the cross blue lightning seemed to open	
FTLN 0468	The breast of heaven, I did present myself	
FTLN 0469	Even in the aim and very flash of it.	55

CASCA

FTLN 0470 But wherefore did you so much tempt the heavens?
 FTLN 0471 It is the part of men to fear and tremble
 FTLN 0472 When the most mighty gods by tokens send
 FTLN 0473 Such dreadful heralds to astonish us.

CASSIUS

FTLN 0474 You are dull, Casca, and those sparks of life 60
 FTLN 0475 That should be in a Roman you do want,
 FTLN 0476 Or else you use not. You look pale, and gaze,
 FTLN 0477 And put on fear, and cast yourself in wonder,
 FTLN 0478 To see the strange impatience of the heavens.
 FTLN 0479 But if you would consider the true cause 65
 FTLN 0480 Why all these fires, why all these gliding ghosts,
 FTLN 0481 Why birds and beasts from quality and kind,
 FTLN 0482 Why old men, fools, and children calculate,
 FTLN 0483 Why all these things change from their ordinance,
 FTLN 0484 Their natures, and preformèd faculties, 70
 FTLN 0485 To monstrous quality—why, you shall find
 FTLN 0486 That heaven hath infused them with these spirits
 FTLN 0487 To make them instruments of fear and warning
 FTLN 0488 Unto some monstrous state.
 FTLN 0489 Now could I, Casca, name to thee a man 75
 FTLN 0490 Most like this dreadful night,
 FTLN 0491 That thunders, lightens, opens graves, and roars
 FTLN 0492 As doth the lion in the Capitol;
 FTLN 0493 A man no mightier than thyself or me
 FTLN 0494 In personal action, yet prodigious grown, 80
 FTLN 0495 And fearful, as these strange eruptions are.

CASCA

FTLN 0496 'Tis Caesar that you mean, is it not, Cassius?

CASSIUS

FTLN 0497 Let it be who it is. For Romans now
 FTLN 0498 Have thews and limbs like to their ancestors.
 FTLN 0499 But, woe the while, our fathers' minds are dead, 85
 FTLN 0500 And we are governed with our mothers' spirits.
 FTLN 0501 Our yoke and sufferance show us womanish.

CASCA

FTLN 0502 Indeed, they say the Senators tomorrow
 FTLN 0503 Mean to establish Caesar as a king,
 FTLN 0504 And he shall wear his crown by sea and land 90
 FTLN 0505 In every place save here in Italy.

CASSIUS

FTLN 0506 I know where I will wear this dagger then;
 FTLN 0507 Cassius from bondage will deliver Cassius.
 FTLN 0508 Therein, you gods, you make the weak most strong;
 FTLN 0509 Therein, you gods, you tyrants do defeat. 95
 FTLN 0510 Nor stony tower, nor walls of beaten brass,
 FTLN 0511 Nor airless dungeon, nor strong links of iron,
 FTLN 0512 Can be retentive to the strength of spirit;
 FTLN 0513 But life, being weary of these worldly bars,
 FTLN 0514 Never lacks power to dismiss itself. 100
 FTLN 0515 If I know this, know all the world besides,
 FTLN 0516 That part of tyranny that I do bear
 FTLN 0517 I can shake off at pleasure. *Thunder still.*

CASCA So can I.

FTLN 0518 So every bondman in his own hand bears 105
 FTLN 0519 The power to cancel his captivity.
 FTLN 0520

CASSIUS

FTLN 0521 And why should Caesar be a tyrant, then?
 FTLN 0522 Poor man, I know he would not be a wolf
 FTLN 0523 But that he sees the Romans are but sheep;
 FTLN 0524 He were no lion, were not Romans hinds. 110
 FTLN 0525 Those that with haste will make a mighty fire
 FTLN 0526 Begin it with weak straws. What trash is Rome,
 FTLN 0527 What rubbish, and what offal when it serves
 FTLN 0528 For the base matter to illuminate
 FTLN 0529 So vile a thing as Caesar! But, O grief, 115
 FTLN 0530 Where hast thou led me? I perhaps speak this
 FTLN 0531 Before a willing bondman; then, I know
 FTLN 0532 My answer must be made. But I am armed,
 FTLN 0533 And dangers are to me indifferent.

CASCA

FTLN 0534 You speak to Casca, and to such a man 120
 FTLN 0535 That is no fleering telltale. Hold. My hand.

「*They shake hands.*」

FTLN 0536 Be factious for redress of all these griefs,
 FTLN 0537 And I will set this foot of mine as far
 FTLN 0538 As who goes farthest.

FTLN 0539 CASSIUS There's a bargain made. 125

FTLN 0540 Now know you, Casca, I have moved already
 FTLN 0541 Some certain of the noblest-minded Romans
 FTLN 0542 To undergo with me an enterprise
 FTLN 0543 Of honorable-dangerous consequence.

FTLN 0544 And I do know by this they stay for me 130
 FTLN 0545 In Pompey's Porch. For now, this fearful night,
 FTLN 0546 There is no stir or walking in the streets;
 FTLN 0547 And the complexion of the element
 FTLN 0548 「In」 favor 's like the work we have in hand,
 FTLN 0549 Most bloody, fiery, and most terrible. 135

Enter Cinna.

CASCA

FTLN 0550 Stand close awhile, for here comes one in haste.

CASSIUS

FTLN 0551 'Tis Cinna; I do know him by his gait.
 FTLN 0552 He is a friend.—Cinna, where haste you so?

CINNA

FTLN 0553 To find out you. Who's that? Metellus Cimber?

CASSIUS

FTLN 0554 No, it is Casca, one incorporate 140
 FTLN 0555 To our attempts. Am I not stayed for, Cinna?

CINNA

FTLN 0556 I am glad on 't. What a fearful night is this!
 FTLN 0557 There's two or three of us have seen strange sights.

FTLN 0558 CASSIUS Am I not stayed for? Tell me.

CINNA

FTLN 0559 Yes, you are. O Cassius, if you could 145
 FTLN 0560 But win the noble Brutus to our party—

CASSIUS, *handing him papers*¹

FTLN 0561 Be you content. Good Cinna, take this paper,
 FTLN 0562 And look you lay it in the Praetor's chair,
 FTLN 0563 Where Brutus may but find it; and throw this
 FTLN 0564 In at his window; set this up with wax 150
 FTLN 0565 Upon old Brutus' statue. All this done,
 FTLN 0566 Repair to Pompey's Porch, where you shall find us.
 FTLN 0567 Is Decius Brutus and Trebonius there?

CINNA

FTLN 0568 All but Metellus Cimber, and he's gone
 FTLN 0569 To seek you at your house. Well, I will hie 155
 FTLN 0570 And so bestow these papers as you bade me.

CASSIUS

FTLN 0571 That done, repair to Pompey's Theater.

Cinna exits.

FTLN 0572 Come, Casca, you and I will yet ere day
 FTLN 0573 See Brutus at his house. Three parts of him
 FTLN 0574 Is ours already, and the man entire 160
 FTLN 0575 Upon the next encounter yields him ours.

CASCA

FTLN 0576 O, he sits high in all the people's hearts,
 FTLN 0577 And that which would appear offense in us
 FTLN 0578 His countenance, like richest alchemy,
 FTLN 0579 Will change to virtue and to worthiness. 165

CASSIUS

FTLN 0580 Him and his worth and our great need of him
 FTLN 0581 You have right well conceited. Let us go,
 FTLN 0582 For it is after midnight, and ere day
 FTLN 0583 We will awake him and be sure of him.

They exit.