

ACT 1

Scene 1

*Enter Flavius, Marullus, and certain Commoners,
[including a Carpenter and a Cobbler,] over the stage.*

FLAVIUS

FTLN 0001 Hence! Home, you idle creatures, get you home!
FTLN 0002 Is this a holiday? What, know you not,
FTLN 0003 Being mechanical, you ought not walk
FTLN 0004 Upon a laboring day without the sign
FTLN 0005 Of your profession?—Speak, what trade art thou? 5
FTLN 0006

CARPENTER Why, sir, a carpenter.

MARULLUS

FTLN 0007 Where is thy leather apron and thy rule?
FTLN 0008 What dost thou with thy best apparel on?—
FTLN 0009 You, sir, what trade are you?
FTLN 0010 COBBLER Truly, sir, in respect of a fine workman, I am 10
FTLN 0011 but, as you would say, a cobbler.

MARULLUS

FTLN 0012 But what trade art thou? Answer me directly.
FTLN 0013 COBBLER A trade, sir, that I hope I may use with a safe
FTLN 0014 conscience, which is indeed, sir, a mender of bad
FTLN 0015 soles. 15

FLAVIUS

FTLN 0016 What trade, thou knave? Thou naughty knave, what
FTLN 0017 trade?

FTLN 0018	COBBLER	Nay, I beseech you, sir, be not out with me.	
FTLN 0019		Yet if you be out, sir, I can mend you.	
	MARULLUS		
FTLN 0020		What mean'st thou by that? Mend me, thou saucy	20
FTLN 0021		fellow?	
FTLN 0022	COBBLER	Why, sir, cobble you.	
FTLN 0023	FLAVIUS	Thou art a cobbler, art thou?	
FTLN 0024	COBBLER	Truly, sir, all that I live by is with the	
FTLN 0025		awl. I meddle with no tradesman's matters nor	25
FTLN 0026		women's matters, but withal I am indeed, sir, a	
FTLN 0027		surgeon to old shoes: when they are in great danger,	
FTLN 0028		I recover them. As proper men as ever trod upon	
FTLN 0029		neat's leather have gone upon my handiwork.	
	FLAVIUS		
FTLN 0030		But wherefore art not in thy shop today?	30
FTLN 0031		Why dost thou lead these men about the streets?	
FTLN 0032	COBBLER	Truly, sir, to wear out their shoes, to	
FTLN 0033		get myself into more work. But indeed, sir, we	
FTLN 0034		make holiday to see Caesar and to rejoice in his	
FTLN 0035		triumph.	35
	MARULLUS		
FTLN 0036		Wherefore rejoice? What conquest brings he home?	
FTLN 0037		What tributaries follow him to Rome	
FTLN 0038		To grace in captive bonds his chariot wheels?	
FTLN 0039		You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless	
FTLN 0040		things!	40
FTLN 0041		O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome,	
FTLN 0042		Knew you not Pompey? Many a time and oft	
FTLN 0043		Have you climbed up to walls and battlements,	
FTLN 0044		To towers and windows, yea, to chimney tops,	
FTLN 0045		Your infants in your arms, and there have sat	45
FTLN 0046		The livelong day, with patient expectation,	
FTLN 0047		To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome.	
FTLN 0048		And when you saw his chariot but appear,	
FTLN 0049		Have you not made an universal shout,	
FTLN 0050		That Tiber trembled underneath her banks	50

FTLN 0051	To hear the replication of your sounds	
FTLN 0052	Made in her concave shores?	
FTLN 0053	And do you now put on your best attire?	
FTLN 0054	And do you now cull out a holiday?	
FTLN 0055	And do you now strew flowers in his way	55
FTLN 0056	That comes in triumph over Pompey's blood?	
FTLN 0057	Be gone!	
FTLN 0058	Run to your houses, fall upon your knees,	
FTLN 0059	Pray to the gods to intermit the plague	
FTLN 0060	That needs must light on this ingratitude.	60
FLAVIUS		
FTLN 0061	Go, go, good countrymen, and for this fault	
FTLN 0062	Assemble all the poor men of your sort,	
FTLN 0063	Draw them to Tiber banks, and weep your tears	
FTLN 0064	Into the channel, till the lowest stream	
FTLN 0065	Do kiss the most exalted shores of all.	65
<i>All the Commoners exit.</i>		
FTLN 0066	See whe'er their basest mettle be not moved.	
FTLN 0067	They vanish tongue-tied in their guiltiness.	
FTLN 0068	Go you down that way towards the Capitol.	
FTLN 0069	This way will I. Disrobe the images	
FTLN 0070	If you do find them decked with ceremonies.	70
FTLN 0071	MARULLUS May we do so?	
FTLN 0072	You know it is the feast of Lupercal.	
FLAVIUS		
FTLN 0073	It is no matter. Let no images	
FTLN 0074	Be hung with Caesar's trophies. I'll about	
FTLN 0075	And drive away the vulgar from the streets;	75
FTLN 0076	So do you too, where you perceive them thick.	
FTLN 0077	These growing feathers plucked from Caesar's wing	
FTLN 0078	Will make him fly an ordinary pitch,	
FTLN 0079	Who else would soar above the view of men	
FTLN 0080	And keep us all in servile fearfulness.	80
<i>They exit ʃin different directions.ʃ</i>		

「Scene 2」

*Enter Caesar, Antony for the course, Calphurnia, Portia,
Decius, Cicero, Brutus, Cassius, Casca, a Soothsayer;
after them Marullus and Flavius 「and Commoners.」*

CAESAR

FTLN 0081 Calphurnia.

FTLN 0082 CASCA Peace, ho! Caesar speaks.

FTLN 0083 CAESAR Calphurnia.

FTLN 0084 CALPHURNIA Here, my lord.

CAESAR

FTLN 0085 Stand you directly in Antonius' way 5

FTLN 0086 When he doth run his course.—Antonius.

FTLN 0087 ANTONY Caesar, my lord.

CAESAR

FTLN 0088 Forget not in your speed, Antonius,

FTLN 0089 To touch Calphurnia, for our elders say

FTLN 0090 The barren, touchèd in this holy chase, 10

FTLN 0091 Shake off their sterile curse.

FTLN 0092 ANTONY I shall remember.

FTLN 0093 When Caesar says “Do this,” it is performed.

CAESAR

FTLN 0094 Set on and leave no ceremony out. 「Sennet.」

FTLN 0095 SOOTHSAYER Caesar. 15

FTLN 0096 CAESAR Ha! Who calls?

CASCA

FTLN 0097 Bid every noise be still. Peace, yet again!

CAESAR

FTLN 0098 Who is it in the press that calls on me?

FTLN 0099 I hear a tongue shriller than all the music

FTLN 0100 Cry “Caesar.” Speak. Caesar is turned to hear. 20

SOOTHSAYER

FTLN 0101 Beware the ides of March.

FTLN 0102 CAESAR What man is that?

BRUTUS

FTLN 0103 A soothsayer bids you beware the ides of March.

	CAESAR	
FTLN 0104	Set him before me. Let me see his face.	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0105	Fellow, come from the throng.	25
	<i>「The Soothsayer comes forward.」</i>	
FTLN 0106	Look upon Caesar.	
	CAESAR	
FTLN 0107	What sayst thou to me now? Speak once again.	
FTLN 0108	SOOTHSAYER Beware the ides of March.	
	CAESAR	
FTLN 0109	He is a dreamer. Let us leave him. Pass.	
	<i>Sennet. All but Brutus and Cassius exit.</i>	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0110	Will you go see the order of the course?	30
FTLN 0111	BRUTUS Not I.	
FTLN 0112	CASSIUS I pray you, do.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 0113	I am not gamesome. I do lack some part	
FTLN 0114	Of that quick spirit that is in Antony.	
FTLN 0115	Let me not hinder, Cassius, your desires.	35
FTLN 0116	I'll leave you.	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0117	Brutus, I do observe you now of late.	
FTLN 0118	I have not from your eyes that gentleness	
FTLN 0119	And show of love as I was wont to have.	
FTLN 0120	You bear too stubborn and too strange a hand	40
FTLN 0121	Over your friend that loves you.	
FTLN 0122	BRUTUS Cassius,	
FTLN 0123	Be not deceived. If I have veiled my look,	
FTLN 0124	I turn the trouble of my countenance	
FTLN 0125	Merely upon myself. Vexèd I am	45
FTLN 0126	Of late with passions of some difference,	
FTLN 0127	Conceptions only proper to myself,	
FTLN 0128	Which give some soil, perhaps, to my behaviors.	
FTLN 0129	But let not therefore my good friends be grieved	
FTLN 0130	(Among which number, Cassius, be you one)	50

FTLN 0131	Nor construe any further my neglect	
FTLN 0132	Than that poor Brutus, with himself at war,	
FTLN 0133	Forgets the shows of love to other men.	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0134	Then, Brutus, I have much mistook your passion,	
FTLN 0135	By means whereof this breast of mine hath buried	55
FTLN 0136	Thoughts of great value, worthy cogitations.	
FTLN 0137	Tell me, good Brutus, can you see your face?	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 0138	No, Cassius, for the eye sees not itself	
FTLN 0139	But by reflection, by some other things.	
FTLN 0140	CASSIUS 'Tis just.	60
FTLN 0141	And it is very much lamented, Brutus,	
FTLN 0142	That you have no such mirrors as will turn	
FTLN 0143	Your hidden worthiness into your eye,	
FTLN 0144	That you might see your shadow. I have heard	
FTLN 0145	Where many of the best respect in Rome,	65
FTLN 0146	Except immortal Caesar, speaking of Brutus	
FTLN 0147	And groaning underneath this age's yoke,	
FTLN 0148	Have wished that noble Brutus had his eyes.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 0149	Into what dangers would you lead me, Cassius,	
FTLN 0150	That you would have me seek into myself	70
FTLN 0151	For that which is not in me?	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0152	Therefore, good Brutus, be prepared to hear.	
FTLN 0153	And since you know you cannot see yourself	
FTLN 0154	So well as by reflection, I, your glass,	
FTLN 0155	Will modestly discover to yourself	75
FTLN 0156	That of yourself which you yet know not of.	
FTLN 0157	And be not jealous on me, gentle Brutus.	
FTLN 0158	Were I a common laughter, or did use	
FTLN 0159	To stale with ordinary oaths my love	
FTLN 0160	To every new protester; if you know	80
FTLN 0161	That I do fawn on men and hug them hard	
FTLN 0162	And after scandal them, or if you know	

FTLN 0163

That I profess myself in banqueting

FTLN 0164

To all the rout, then hold me dangerous.

Flourish and shout.

BRUTUS

FTLN 0165

What means this shouting? I do fear the people

85

FTLN 0166

Choose Caesar for their king.

FTLN 0167

CASSIUS

Ay, do you fear it?

FTLN 0168

Then must I think you would not have it so.

BRUTUS

FTLN 0169

I would not, Cassius, yet I love him well.

FTLN 0170

But wherefore do you hold me here so long?

90

FTLN 0171

What is it that you would impart to me?

FTLN 0172

If it be aught toward the general good,

FTLN 0173

Set honor in one eye and death i' th' other

FTLN 0174

And I will look on both indifferently;

FTLN 0175

For let the gods so speed me as I love

95

FTLN 0176

The name of honor more than I fear death.

CASSIUS

FTLN 0177

I know that virtue to be in you, Brutus,

FTLN 0178

As well as I do know your outward favor.

FTLN 0179

Well, honor is the subject of my story.

FTLN 0180

I cannot tell what you and other men

100

FTLN 0181

Think of this life; but, for my single self,

FTLN 0182

I had as lief not be as live to be

FTLN 0183

In awe of such a thing as I myself.

FTLN 0184

I was born free as Caesar; so were you;

FTLN 0185

We both have fed as well, and we can both

105

FTLN 0186

Endure the winter's cold as well as he.

FTLN 0187

For once, upon a raw and gusty day,

FTLN 0188

The troubled Tiber chafing with her shores,

FTLN 0189

Caesar said to me "Dar'st thou, Cassius, now

FTLN 0190

Leap in with me into this angry flood

110

FTLN 0191

And swim to yonder point?" Upon the word,

FTLN 0192

Accoutered as I was, I plungèd in

FTLN 0193

And bade him follow; so indeed he did.

FTLN 0194

The torrent roared, and we did buffet it

FTLN 0195	With lusty sinews, throwing it aside	115
FTLN 0196	And stemming it with hearts of controversy.	
FTLN 0197	But ere we could arrive the point proposed,	
FTLN 0198	Caesar cried "Help me, Cassius, or I sink!"	
FTLN 0199	I, as Aeneas, our great ancestor,	
FTLN 0200	Did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder	120
FTLN 0201	The old Anchises bear, so from the waves of Tiber	
FTLN 0202	Did I the tired Caesar. And this man	
FTLN 0203	Is now become a god, and Cassius is	
FTLN 0204	A wretched creature and must bend his body	
FTLN 0205	If Caesar carelessly but nod on him.	125
FTLN 0206	He had a fever when he was in Spain,	
FTLN 0207	And when the fit was on him, I did mark	
FTLN 0208	How he did shake. 'Tis true, this god did shake.	
FTLN 0209	His coward lips did from their color fly,	
FTLN 0210	And that same eye whose bend doth awe the world	130
FTLN 0211	Did lose his luster. I did hear him groan.	
FTLN 0212	Ay, and that tongue of his that bade the Romans	
FTLN 0213	Mark him and write his speeches in their books,	
FTLN 0214	"Alas," it cried "Give me some drink, Titinius"	
FTLN 0215	As a sick girl. You gods, it doth amaze me	135
FTLN 0216	A man of such a feeble temper should	
FTLN 0217	So get the start of the majestic world	
FTLN 0218	And bear the palm alone.	
	<i>Shout. Flourish.</i>	
FTLN 0219	BRUTUS Another general shout!	
FTLN 0220	I do believe that these applauses are	140
FTLN 0221	For some new honors that are heaped on Caesar.	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0222	Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world	
FTLN 0223	Like a Colossus, and we petty men	
FTLN 0224	Walk under his huge legs and peep about	
FTLN 0225	To find ourselves dishonorable graves.	145
FTLN 0226	Men at some time are masters of their fates.	
FTLN 0227	The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,	
FTLN 0228	But in ourselves, that we are underlings.	

FTLN 0229	"Brutus" and "Caesar"—what should be in that	
FTLN 0230	"Caesar"?	150
FTLN 0231	Why should that name be sounded more than	
FTLN 0232	yours?	
FTLN 0233	Write them together, yours is as fair a name;	
FTLN 0234	Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;	
FTLN 0235	Weigh them, it is as heavy; conjure with 'em,	155
FTLN 0236	"Brutus" will start a spirit as soon as "Caesar."	
FTLN 0237	Now, in the names of all the gods at once,	
FTLN 0238	Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed	
FTLN 0239	That he is grown so great? Age, thou art shamed!	
FTLN 0240	Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!	160
FTLN 0241	When went there by an age, since the great flood,	
FTLN 0242	But it was famed with more than with one man?	
FTLN 0243	When could they say, till now, that talked of Rome,	
FTLN 0244	That her wide walks encompassed but one man?	
FTLN 0245	Now is it Rome indeed, and room enough	165
FTLN 0246	When there is in it but one only man.	
FTLN 0247	O, you and I have heard our fathers say	
FTLN 0248	There was a Brutus once that would have brooked	
FTLN 0249	Th' eternal devil to keep his state in Rome	
FTLN 0250	As easily as a king.	170
BRUTUS		
FTLN 0251	That you do love me, I am nothing jealous.	
FTLN 0252	What you would work me to, I have some aim.	
FTLN 0253	How I have thought of this, and of these times,	
FTLN 0254	I shall recount hereafter. For this present,	
FTLN 0255	I would not, so with love I might entreat you,	175
FTLN 0256	Be any further moved. What you have said	
FTLN 0257	I will consider; what you have to say	
FTLN 0258	I will with patience hear, and find a time	
FTLN 0259	Both meet to hear and answer such high things.	
FTLN 0260	Till then, my noble friend, chew upon this:	180
FTLN 0261	Brutus had rather be a villager	
FTLN 0262	Than to repute himself a son of Rome	

FTLN 0263	Under these hard conditions as this time	
FTLN 0264	Is like to lay upon us.	
FTLN 0265	CASSIUS I am glad that my weak words	185
FTLN 0266	Have struck but thus much show of fire from	
FTLN 0267	Brutus.	
<i>Enter Caesar and his train.</i>		
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 0268	The games are done, and Caesar is returning.	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0269	As they pass by, pluck Casca by the sleeve,	
FTLN 0270	And he will, after his sour fashion, tell you	190
FTLN 0271	What hath proceeded worthy note today.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 0272	I will do so. But look you, Cassius,	
FTLN 0273	The angry spot doth glow on Caesar's brow,	
FTLN 0274	And all the rest look like a chidden train.	
FTLN 0275	Calphurnia's cheek is pale, and Cicero	195
FTLN 0276	Looks with such ferret and such fiery eyes	
FTLN 0277	As we have seen him in the Capitol,	
FTLN 0278	Being crossed in conference by some senators.	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0279	Casca will tell us what the matter is.	
FTLN 0280	CAESAR Antonius.	200
FTLN 0281	ANTONY Caesar.	
	CAESAR	
FTLN 0282	Let me have men about me that are fat,	
FTLN 0283	Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep a-nights.	
FTLN 0284	Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look.	
FTLN 0285	He thinks too much. Such men are dangerous.	205
	ANTONY	
FTLN 0286	Fear him not, Caesar; he's not dangerous.	
FTLN 0287	He is a noble Roman, and well given.	
	CAESAR	
FTLN 0288	Would he were fatter! But I fear him not.	
FTLN 0289	Yet if my name were liable to fear,	

FTLN 0290	I do not know the man I should avoid	210
FTLN 0291	So soon as that spare Cassius. He reads much,	
FTLN 0292	He is a great observer, and he looks	
FTLN 0293	Quite through the deeds of men. He loves no plays,	
FTLN 0294	As thou dost, Antony; he hears no music;	
FTLN 0295	Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort	215
FTLN 0296	As if he mocked himself and scorned his spirit	
FTLN 0297	That could be moved to smile at anything.	
FTLN 0298	Such men as he be never at heart's ease	
FTLN 0299	Whiles they behold a greater than themselves,	
FTLN 0300	And therefore are they very dangerous.	220
FTLN 0301	I rather tell thee what is to be feared	
FTLN 0302	Than what I fear; for always I am Caesar.	
FTLN 0303	Come on my right hand, for this ear is deaf,	
FTLN 0304	And tell me truly what thou think'st of him.	
	<i>Sennet. Caesar and his train exit</i>	
	<i>['but Casca remains behind.']</i>	
FTLN 0305	CASCA You pulled me by the cloak. Would you speak	225
FTLN 0306	with me?	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 0307	Ay, Casca. Tell us what hath chanced today	
FTLN 0308	That Caesar looks so sad.	
FTLN 0309	CASCA Why, you were with him, were you not?	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 0310	I should not then ask Casca what had chanced.	230
FTLN 0311	CASCA Why, there was a crown offered him; and, being	
FTLN 0312	offered him, he put it by with the back of his hand,	
FTLN 0313	thus, and then the people fell a-shouting.	
FTLN 0314	BRUTUS What was the second noise for?	
FTLN 0315	CASCA Why, for that too.	235
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 0316	They shouted thrice. What was the last cry for?	
FTLN 0317	CASCA Why, for that too.	
FTLN 0318	BRUTUS Was the crown offered him thrice?	
FTLN 0319	CASCA Ay, marry, was 't, and he put it by thrice, every	
FTLN 0320	time gentler than other; and at every putting-by,	240
FTLN 0321	mine honest neighbors shouted.	

FTLN 0322	CASSIUS	Who offered him the crown?	
FTLN 0323	CASCA	Why, Antony.	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 0324		Tell us the manner of it, gentle Casca.	
FTLN 0325	CASCA	I can as well be hanged as tell the manner of it.	245
FTLN 0326		It was mere foolery; I did not mark it. I saw Mark	
FTLN 0327		Antony offer him a crown (yet 'twas not a crown	
FTLN 0328		neither; 'twas one of these coronets), and, as I told	
FTLN 0329		you, he put it by once; but for all that, to my	
FTLN 0330		thinking, he would fain have had it. Then he offered	250
FTLN 0331		it to him again; then he put it by again; but to my	
FTLN 0332		thinking, he was very loath to lay his fingers off it.	
FTLN 0333		And then he offered it the third time. He put it the	
FTLN 0334		third time by, and still as he refused it the rabblement	
FTLN 0335		hooted and clapped their chopped hands and	255
FTLN 0336		threw up their sweaty nightcaps and uttered such a	
FTLN 0337		deal of stinking breath because Caesar refused the	
FTLN 0338		crown that it had almost choked Caesar, for he	
FTLN 0339		swooned and fell down at it. And for mine own part,	
FTLN 0340		I durst not laugh for fear of opening my lips and	260
FTLN 0341		receiving the bad air.	
	CASSIUS		
FTLN 0342		But soft, I pray you. What, did Caesar swoon?	
FTLN 0343	CASCA	He fell down in the marketplace and foamed at	
FTLN 0344		mouth and was speechless.	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 0345		'Tis very like; he hath the falling sickness.	265
	CASSIUS		
FTLN 0346		No, Caesar hath it not; but you and I	
FTLN 0347		And honest Casca, we have the falling sickness.	
FTLN 0348	CASCA	I know not what you mean by that, but I am	
FTLN 0349		sure Caesar fell down. If the tag-rag people did not	
FTLN 0350		clap him and hiss him, according as he pleased and	270
FTLN 0351		displeased them, as they use to do the players in the	
FTLN 0352		theater, I am no true man.	

BRUTUS

What said he when he came unto himself?

CASCA Marry, before he fell down, when he perceived
the common herd was glad he refused the crown, 275
he plucked me ope his doublet and offered them his
throat to cut. An I had been a man of any occupation,
if I would not have taken him at a word, I
would I might go to hell among the rogues. And so
he fell. When he came to himself again, he said if he 280
had done or said anything amiss, he desired their
Worships to think it was his infirmity. Three or four
wenches where I stood cried "Alas, good soul!" and
forgave him with all their hearts. But there's no
heed to be taken of them; if Caesar had stabbed 285
their mothers, they would have done no less.

BRUTUS

And, after that, he came thus sad away?

CASCA Ay.

CASSIUS Did Cicero say anything?

CASCA Ay, he spoke Greek. 290

CASSIUS To what effect?

CASCA Nay, an I tell you that, I'll ne'er look you i' th'
face again. But those that understood him smiled at
one another and shook their heads. But for mine
own part, it was Greek to me. I could tell you more 295
news too: Marullus and Flavius, for pulling scarves
off Caesar's images, are put to silence. Fare you
well. There was more foolery yet, if I could remember
it.

CASSIUS Will you sup with me tonight, Casca? 300

CASCA No, I am promised forth.

CASSIUS Will you dine with me tomorrow?

CASCA Ay, if I be alive, and your mind hold, and your
dinner worth the eating.

CASSIUS Good. I will expect you. 305

CASCA Do so. Farewell both. *He exits.*

He exits.

[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.