

BRUTUS

No, not an oath: if not the face of men,
The sufferance of our souls, the time's abuse,—
If these be motives weak, break off betimes,
And every man hence to his idle bed;
So let high-sighted tyranny range on,
Till each man drop by lottery. But if these,
As I am sure they do, bear fire enough
To kindle cowards and to steel with valour
The melting spirits of women, then, countrymen,
What need we any spur but our own cause,
To prick us to redress? what other bond
Than secret Romans, that have spoke the word,
And will not palter? and what other oath
Than honesty to honesty engaged,
That this shall be, or we will fall for it?
Swear priests and cowards and men cautelous,
Old feeble carrions and such suffering souls
That welcome wrongs; unto bad causes swear
Such creatures as men doubt; but do not stain
The even virtue of our enterprise,
Nor the insuppressible mettle of our spirits,
To think that or our cause or our performance
Did need an oath; when every drop of blood
That every Roman bears, and nobly bears,
Is guilty of a several bastardy,
If he do break the smallest particle
Of any promise that hath pass'd from him.

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No, no swearing. If the unhappy faces of the men around us, the suffering of our own souls, and the corruption of our current time aren't motivation enough, then we should break it off now and each one of us go back and rest in bed. Then we'll just let the ambitious tyrant rule and kill each one of us when the whim takes him. But if these reasons are powerful enough—and I'm sure they are—to spark cowards to act and to strengthen with courage the failing spirits of our women, then, countrymen, what else do we need other than our cause to spur us to make things right? What bond do we need other than being Romans who have given their word to act and not back down? And what oath do we need other than that we have all said to each other honestly that either we will make this happen or die trying? Swearing is for priests and cowards and cautious men; for people who are old and feeble; and for those weak people who like to be mistreated. Oaths are only necessary for men you wouldn't trust, who are engaged in causes that are bad. Don't stain our justified efforts or the indomitable core of our spirits by thinking that either our cause or performance requires an oath, when every drop of blood in every noble Roman would be nothing more than bastard's blood if he broke the smallest part of any promise he had made.

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