ACT 5

Scene 17 Enter Octavius, Antony, and their army.

	OCTAVIUS	
FTLN 2273	Now, Antony, our hopes are answerèd.	
FTLN 2274	You said the enemy would not come down	
FTLN 2275	But keep the hills and upper regions.	
FTLN 2276	It proves not so; their battles are at hand.	
FTLN 2277	They mean to warn us at Philippi here,	5
FTLN 2278	Answering before we do demand of them.	
	ANTONY	
FTLN 2279	Tut, I am in their bosoms, and I know	
FTLN 2280	Wherefore they do it. They could be content	
FTLN 2281	To visit other places, and come down	
FTLN 2282	With fearful bravery, thinking by this face	10
FTLN 2283	To fasten in our thoughts that they have courage.	
FTLN 2284	But 'tis not so.	
	Enter a Messenger.	
FTLN 2285	MESSENGER Prepare you, generals.	
FTLN 2286	The enemy comes on in gallant show.	
FTLN 2287	Their bloody sign of battle is hung out,	15
FTLN 2288	And something to be done immediately.	
	ANTONY	
FTLN 2289	Octavius, lead your battle softly on	
FTLN 2290	Upon the left hand of the even field.	
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	OCTAVIUS	
FTLN 2291	Upon the right hand, I; keep thou the left.	
	ANTONY	
FTLN 2292	Why do you cross me in this exigent?	20
	OCTAVIUS	
FTLN 2293	I do not cross you, but I will do so. <i>March</i> .	
	Drum. Enter Brutus, Cassius, and their army ^f including Lucilius, Titinius, and Messala. ⁷	
FTLN 2294	BRUTUS They stand and would have parley. CASSIUS	
FTLN 2295	Stand fast, Titinius. We must out and talk.	
	OCTAVIUS	
FTLN 2296	Mark Antony, shall we give sign of battle?	
	ANTONY	
FTLN 2297	No, Caesar, we will answer on their charge.	25
FTLN 2298	Make forth. The Generals would have some words.	
FTLN 2299	OCTAVIUS, <i>to his Officers</i> Stir not until the signal.	
	The Generals step forward.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2300	Words before blows; is it so, countrymen?	
	OCTAVIUS	
FTLN 2301	Not that we love words better, as you do.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2302	Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius.	30
	ANTONY	
FTLN 2303	In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words.	
FTLN 2304	Witness the hole you made in Caesar's heart,	
FTLN 2305	Crying "Long live, hail, Caesar!"	
FTLN 2306	CASSIUS Antony,	
FTLN 2307	The posture of your blows are yet unknown,	35
FTLN 2308	But, for your words, they rob the Hybla bees	
FTLN 2309	And leave them honeyless.	
FTLN 2310	ANTONY Not stingless too.	
FTLN 2311	BRUTUS O yes, and soundless too,	

FTLN 2312	For you have stolen their buzzing, Antony,	40
FTLN 2313	And very wisely threat before you sting.	
	ANTONY	
FTLN 2314	Villains, you did not so when your vile daggers	
FTLN 2315	Hacked one another in the sides of Caesar.	
FTLN 2316	You showed your \(\text{teeth} \) like apes and fawned like	
FTLN 2317	hounds	45
FTLN 2318	And bowed like bondmen, kissing Caesar's feet,	
FTLN 2319	Whilst damnèd Casca, like a cur, behind	
FTLN 2320	Struck Caesar on the neck. O you flatterers!	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 2321	Flatterers?—Now, Brutus, thank yourself!	
FTLN 2322	This tongue had not offended so today	50
FTLN 2323	If Cassius might have ruled.	
	OCTAVIUS	
FTLN 2324	Come, come, the cause. If arguing make us sweat,	
FTLN 2325	The proof of it will turn to redder drops.	
FTLN 2326	Look, I draw a sword against conspirators;	
	$ ho_{He\ draws.}$	
FTLN 2327	When think you that the sword goes up again?	55
FTLN 2328	Never, till Caesar's three and thirty wounds	
FTLN 2329	Be well avenged, or till another Caesar	
FTLN 2330	Have added slaughter to the sword of traitors.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2331	Caesar, thou canst not die by traitors' hands	
FTLN 2332	Unless thou bring'st them with thee.	60
FTLN 2333	OCTAVIUS So I hope.	
FTLN 2334	I was not born to die on Brutus' sword.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2335	O, if thou wert the noblest of thy strain,	
FTLN 2336	Young man, thou couldst not die more honorable.	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 2337	A peevish schoolboy, worthless of such honor,	65
FTLN 2338	Joined with a masker and a reveler!	
	ANTONY	
FTLN 2339	Old Cassius still.	
FTLN 2340	OCTAVIUS Come, Antony, away!—	

FTLN 2341	Defiance, traitors, hurl we in your teeth.	
FTLN 2342	If you dare fight today, come to the field;	70
FTLN 2343	If not, when you have stomachs.	
	Octavius, Antony, and ^[their] army exit.	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 2344	Why now, blow wind, swell billow, and swim bark!	
FTLN 2345	The storm is up, and all is on the hazard.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2346	Ho, Lucilius, hark, a word with you.	
	Lucilius and Messala stand forth.	
FTLN 2347	LUCILIUS My lord?	75
	「Brutus and Lucilius step aside together.	
	CASSIUS	
FTLN 2348	Messala.	
FTLN 2349	MESSALA What says my general?	
FTLN 2350	CASSIUS Messala,	
FTLN 2351	This is my birthday, as this very day	
FTLN 2352	Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand, Messala.	80
FTLN 2353	Be thou my witness that against my will	
FTLN 2354	(As Pompey was) am I compelled to set	
FTLN 2355	Upon one battle all our liberties.	
FTLN 2356	You know that I held Epicurus strong	
FTLN 2357	And his opinion. Now I change my mind	85
FTLN 2358	And partly credit things that do presage.	
FTLN 2359	Coming from Sardis, on our former ensign	
FTLN 2360	Two mighty eagles fell, and there they perched,	
FTLN 2361	Gorging and feeding from our soldiers' hands,	
FTLN 2362	Who to Philippi here consorted us.	90
FTLN 2363	This morning are they fled away and gone,	
FTLN 2364	And in their steads do ravens, crows, and kites	
FTLN 2365	Fly o'er our heads and downward look on us	
FTLN 2366	As we were sickly prey. Their shadows seem	
FTLN 2367	A canopy most fatal, under which	95
FTLN 2368	Our army lies, ready to give up the ghost.	
	MESSALA	
FTLN 2369	Believe not so.	

FTLN 2370	CASSIUS I but believe it partly,	
FTLN 2371	For I am fresh of spirit and resolved	
FTLN 2372	To meet all perils very constantly.	100
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2373	Even so, Lucilius.	
FTLN 2374	CASSIUS Now, most noble Brutus,	
FTLN 2375	The gods today stand friendly that we may,	
FTLN 2376	Lovers in peace, lead on our days to age.	
FTLN 2377	But since the affairs of men rests still incertain,	105
FTLN 2378	Let's reason with the worst that may befall.	
FTLN 2379	If we do lose this battle, then is this	
FTLN 2380	The very last time we shall speak together.	
FTLN 2381	What are you then determined to do?	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2382	Even by the rule of that philosophy	110
FTLN 2383	By which I did blame Cato for the death	
FTLN 2384	Which he did give himself (I know not how,	
FTLN 2385	But I do find it cowardly and vile,	
FTLN 2386	For fear of what might fall, so to prevent	
FTLN 2387	The time of life), arming myself with patience	115
FTLN 2388	To stay the providence of some high powers	
FTLN 2389	That govern us below.	
FTLN 2390	CASSIUS Then, if we lose this battle,	
FTLN 2391	You are contented to be led in triumph	
FTLN 2392	Thorough the streets of Rome?	120
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2393	No, Cassius, no. Think not, thou noble Roman,	
FTLN 2394	That ever Brutus will go bound to Rome.	
FTLN 2395	He bears too great a mind. But this same day	
FTLN 2396	Must end that work the ides of March begun.	
FTLN 2397	And whether we shall meet again, I know not.	125
FTLN 2398	Therefore our everlasting farewell take.	
FTLN 2399	Forever and forever farewell, Cassius.	
FTLN 2400	If we do meet again, why we shall smile;	
FTLN 2401	If not, why then this parting was well made.	

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FTLN 2402 FTLN 2403	CASSIUS Forever and forever farewell, Brutus. If we do meet again, we'll smile indeed;	130
FTLN 2404	If not, 'tis true this parting was well made. BRUTUS Why then, lead on.—O, that a man might know	
FTLN 2406 FTLN 2407	The end of this day's business ere it come! But it sufficeth that the day will end,	135
FTLN 2408	And then the end is known.—Come ho, away! They ex	it.