

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies

JULIUS CAESAR

8

Act II, scene 1: *Conspirators*

Brutus, Cassius, Casca, Cinna, Metellus

BRUTUS

It must be by his death: He would be crown'd:
How that might change his nature, there's the question.
Is not to-morrow the ides of March?
[Enter the conspirators, CASSIUS, CASCA, CINNA, METELLUS]

CASSIUS

Good morrow, Brutus; do we trouble you?

BRUTUS

I have been up this hour, awake all night.

CASSIUS

Every one doth wish you had but that opinion of yourself
Which every noble Roman bears of you.

BRUTUS

Give me your hands all over, one by one.
[shakes with each conspirator]

CASSIUS

And let us swear our resolution.

BRUTUS

No, not an oath: Swear priests and cowards!
but do not stain our enterprise,

To think that or our cause or our performance
Did need an oath.

CASSIUS

But what of Cicero? shall we sound him?
I think he will stand very strong with us.

CASCA

Let us not leave him out.

CINNA

No, by no means.

METELLUS

O, let us have him!
It shall be said, his judgment ruled our hands;

BRUTUS

O, name him not: let us not break with him;
For he will never follow any thing that other men begin.

METELLUS

Then leave him out.

CASCA

Indeed he is not fit.

CINNA

Shall no man else be touch'd but only Caesar?

CASSIUS

Cinna, well urged: Mark Antony, so well beloved of Caesar,
Should outlive Caesar?
Let Antony and Caesar fall together.

BRUTUS

Our course will seem too bloody, Cassius, to cut the head off and then
hack the limbs!

CASCA

For Antony is but a limb of Caesar.

BRUTUS

Let us be sacrificers, but not butchers, Cassius.
Let's kill him boldly, but not wrathfully;
We shall be call'd purgers, not murderers.

CASCA

And for Mark Antony, think not of him;
For he can do no more than Caesar's arm when Caesar's head is off.

CASSIUS

Yet I fear him; for in the ingrafted love he bears to Caesar—

BRUTUS

Alas, good Cassius, do not think of him:

CASSIUS

But it is doubtful yet, whether Caesar will come forth today, or no; For he is superstitious grown of late.

METELLUS

Never fear that, I can o'ersway him; for he loves to hear that unicorns may be betray'd with trees, Lions with toils and men with flatterers; But when I tell him he hates flatterers, he says he does, being then most flattered.

Let me work; I **will** bring him to the Capitol.

[Clock strikes]

CINNA

The clock hath stricken three. 'Tis time to part.

CASSIUS

The morning comes upon 's: we'll leave you, Brutus.
But all remember what you have said, and show yourselves true Romans.