

**SHAKESPEARIENCE!**

***Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies***

**JULIUS CAESAR**  
Act II, scene 2: *Caesar to the Capitol*

Caesar, Calpurnia, Metellus

**CAESAR**

Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace to-night:  
Thrice hath Calpurnia in her sleep cried out,  
'Help, ho! they murder Caesar!'      *[Enter CALPURNIA]*

**CALPURNIA**

What mean you, Caesar? think you to walk forth?  
You shall not stir out of your house to-day.

**CAESAR**

Caesar shall forth: the things that threaten'd me  
Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall see  
The face of Caesar, they are vanished.

**CALPURNIA**

Caesar, I never stood on ceremonies, yet now they fright me.  
There is one within, besides the things that we have heard and seen,  
recounts most horrid sights seen by the watch.  
A lioness hath whelped in the streets;  
And graves have yawn'd, and yielded up their dead;  
Fierce fiery warriors fought upon the clouds,  
In ranks and squadrons and right form of war,  
Which drizzled blood upon the Capitol;  
The noise of battle hurtled in the air,  
Horses did neigh, and dying men did groan,  
And ghosts did shriek and squeal about the streets.  
O Caesar! these things are beyond all use,  
And I do fear them.

**CAESAR**

What can be avoided whose end is purposed by the mighty gods?  
Yet Caesar shall go forth.

**CALPURNIA**

When beggars die, there are no comets seen;  
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.

**CAESAR**

Caesar should be a beast without a heart,  
If he should stay at home today for fear.  
No, Caesar shall go forth.

**CALPURNIA**

Alas, my lord,  
Your wisdom is consumed in confidence.  
Do not go forth to-day: call it my fear  
That keeps you in the house, and not your own.  
We'll send Mark Antony to the senate-house:  
And he shall say you are not well today.  
Let me, upon my knee, prevail in this.

**CAESAR**

Mark Antony shall say I am not well,  
And, for thy humour, I will stay at home.

*[Enter METELLUS]*

Here's Metellus, he shall tell them so.

**METELLUS**

Caesar, all hail! good morrow, worthy Caesar:  
I come to fetch you to the senate-house.

**CAESAR**

And you are come in very happy time,  
To bear my greeting to the senators  
And tell them that I will not come to-day.

**CALPURNIA**

Say he is sick.

**METELLUS**

Most mighty Caesar, let me know some cause,  
Lest I be laugh'd at when I tell them so.

**CAESAR**

The cause is in my will: I will not come;  
That is enough to satisfy the senate.  
But for your private satisfaction, because I love you,  
I will let you alone know:  
Calpurnia stays me at home:  
She dreamt to-night she saw my statue,  
Which, like a fountain with an hundred spouts,  
Did run pure blood: and many lusty Romans  
Came smiling, and did bathe their hands in it:  
And these does she apply for warnings, and evils imminent;  
and on her knee hath begg'd that I will stay at home today.

**METELLUS**

Here is what I can say:  
And know it now: the senate have concluded  
To give this day a crown to mighty Caesar.  
If you shall send them *word* you will not come,  
Their minds may change.  
If Caesar hide himself, shall they not whisper  
'Lo, Caesar is afraid'?  
Pardon me, Caesar; for my dear dear love  
To our proceeding bids me tell you this...

**CAESAR**

How foolish do your fears seem now, *Calpurnia!*  
I am ashamed I did yield to them.  
I will go.