

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies

JULIUS CAESAR

Act V, scene 1: *Parley*

Octavius, Antony – Cassius, Brutus (+messenger)

OCTAVIUS

Now, Antony, our hopes are answered:

You said the enemy would not come down...It proves not so:
their battles are at hand;

They mean to warn us at Philippi here, answering before we do demand of them.

ANTONY

I know wherefore they do it: they could be content
To come down with fearful bravery, thinking by this face
To fasten in our thoughts that they have courage;
But 'tis not so.

[Enter a Messenger]

Messenger

Prepare you, generals: The enemy comes on in gallant show;
Their bloody sign of battle is hung out, *[Exit]*

[Enter BRUTUS, CASSIUS]

BRUTUS

They stand, and would have parley.

CASSIUS

Stand fast, Brutus: we must out and talk.

OCTAVIUS

Mark Antony, shall we give sign of battle?

ANTONY

No, Caesar, we will answer on their charge.
Make forth; the generals would have some words.

OCTAVIUS

Stir not until the signal.

BRUTUS

Words before blows: is it so, countrymen?

OCTAVIUS

Not that we love words better, as YOU do.

BRUTUS

Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius.

ANTONY

In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words:
Witness the hole you made in Caesar's heart,
Crying 'Long live! hail, Caesar!'

OCTAVIUS

Come, come, the cause. I draw a sword against conspirators;
When think you that the sword goes up again?
Never, till Caesar's three and thirty wounds be well avenged.

BRUTUS

Octavius Caesar, thou canst not die by traitors' hands,
Unless thou bring'st them with thee.

OCTAVIUS

So I hope; I was not born to die on Brutus' sword.

BRUTUS

O, if thou wert the noblest of thy strain,
Young man, thou couldst not die more honourable.

CASSIUS

A peevish schoolboy, worthless of such honour, Join'd with a masker and a reveller!

ANTONY

OLD CASSIUS STILL!

OCTAVIUS

Come, Antony, away! Defiance, traitors, hurl we in your teeth:
If you dare fight to-day, come to the field;

If not, when you have stomachs!