

Antony and Cleopatra abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 12

Anger

Situation: Antony becomes infuriated when he sees the sailors of the two navies “cast their caps up and carouse together.” He is convinced Cleopatra has left him for Octavius Caesar, verbally attacking her when she enters. He prophetically suggests she’ll be paraded through the streets of Rome.

ANTONY: Ah, thou spell! Begone.

CLEOPATRA: Why is my lord enraged against his love?

Antony to Cleopatra

Vanish, or I'll by killing you blemish
Caesar's great triumph. Let him, if thou wish,
Hoist thee up to the shouting commoners!
Like a fault on all women, be shown most
Monster-like, following his messengers
For the dolts to see. The city as host
May cut thy face with prepared nails. 'Tis well
Thou now go; but better 'twere if thou fell
Into my family's fury; one death might
Have prevented many. Teach me thy wrath,
Thou ancestor. Let my hand with the right
Club subdue my worthiest self. Thou hath
Sold me to the young Roman boy, this bit
Of a soul, downing me. You die for 't.

Cleopatra and Antony exit, separately.

CLEOPATRA: Help me, my women! O, He's mad.

CHARMIAN: To your tomb! There lock yourself and send him word you are dead.

CLEOPATRA: To th' tomb! Mardian, go tell him I have slain myself. And bring me how he takes my death. To the tomb!