

Antony and Cleopatra abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 11

Capitulation

Situation: Having secured the support of Cleopatra's sixty ship navy, Antony, against all odds and advice from others, decides to take on Caesar at sea. Antony loses quickly, causing him, depressed as he was over the defeat, to flee to Cleopatra.

Antony to his Men

I have lost my way forever; the land
Bids me to tread no more upon it and
Is ashamed to bear me. Friends, laden with
Gold is my ship, there in the harbor. Take
That, divide it, make peace with Caesar, if
You will. Through my instructions I did make
Cowards, having fled myself. I blush to
Look upon what I followed. My hairs do
Mutiny; the white rebuke the brown for
Rashness and they them for doting and fear.
Friends, begone. Take the hint seen in this sore
Heart; let that be left which leaves itself. Hear
Me, I pray. Leave me now, for indeed I
Have lost command. I'll see you by and by.

His aides step aside. Antony sits down. Cleopatra, Charmian and Iras enter. Antony rises.

ANTONY: O, whither hast thou led me, Egypt?

CLEOPATRA: O, my lord, my lord, forgive my fearful sails! I little thought you would have followed.

ANTONY: Egypt, thou knew'st too well my heart was to thy rudder tied by th' strings, and thou should'st tow me after.

CLEOPATRA: O, my pardon!

ANTONY: You did know how much you were my conqueror, and that my sword, made weak by my affection, would obey it on all cause.

CLEOPATRA: Pardon, pardon!

ANTONY: Give me a kiss.