

Antony and Cleopatra abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 3

Jealousy

Situation: Knowing that Antony is about to leave Egypt, Cleopatra cries out emotionally when Antony comes to tell her that he has to return to Rome, and why.

ANTONY: I am sorry to give breathing to my purpose-----

CLEOPATRA: Help me away, dear Charmian! I shall fall.

ANTONY: Now, my dearest queen-----

CLEOPATRA: Pray you stand farther from me.

ANTONY: What's the matter?

Cleopatra to Antony

Would the married woman you may go see
Wish she'd ne'er given you leave to see me?
Let her not say 'tis I that keep you here.
O, ne'er was there a queen so mightily
Betrayed. My power o'er you she need not fear.
Yet all the treasons planted I did see.
Why should I think you can be mine and true
When, while swearing to the shaken gods, you
Have been false to Fulvia? Riotous
Madness for me to become entangled
With those mouth-made vows made, which now break us
In two in swearing. Go, as I've been lulled.
There was no going, when your false love lent,
With bliss in your eyes and lips, and brows bent.

ANTONY: Hear me queen: the strong necessity of time commands our services awhile, but my full heart remains in use with you. Our Italy shines o'er with civil swords; Sextus Pompeius makes his approaches to the port of Rome; equality of two domestic powers breed scrupulous faction. The condemned Pompey, rich in his father's honor, creeps apace into the hearts of such as have not thrived upon the present state. My more particular, and that which most with you should safe my going, is Fulvia's death.

CLEOPATRA: Can Fulvia die?

ANTONY: She's dead, my queen.