

## Antony and Cleopatra abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 5

### Love

**Situation:** Missing Antony terribly, Antony having returned to Rome, Cleopatra tries to gain sympathy from Charmian, one of her aides. But rather than sympathizing with her pleas, Charmian teases her about “that brave Caesar; the valiant Caesar,” referring to Julius.

CLEOPATRA: Ha, ha! Give me to drink mandragora.

CHARMIAN: Why, madam?

CLEOPATRA: That I might sleep out this great gap of time my Antony is away.

CHARMIAN: You think of him too much.

### Cleopatra to Charmian

O, Charmian, where stands or sits he now?  
Where think'st he now might be? Thinketh thou  
He on his horse? O happy horse that bears  
The weight of Antony! Do bravely horse.  
Know'st thou whom thou mov'st; he who cares  
For all, the shield and armor of Rome's force.  
Now I find myself with most delicious  
Poison, deeply wrinkled in time, and us,  
Well tanned by the sun. For Caesar, when he  
Was here above the ground, I a morsel  
For a monarch. And great Pompey would be  
In a trance for me. He says now “How's well,  
Serpent of old Nile?” for so he calls me.  
How goes it with my brave Mark Antony?

CLEOPATRA: Who's born that day when I forget to send to Antony shall die a beggar. Ink and paper, Charmian. Did I, Charmian, ever love Caesar so?

CHARMIAN: O, that brave Caesar!

CLEOPATRA: Be choked with such another emphasis! Say “the brave Antony.”

CHARMIAN: The valiant Caesar!

CLEOPATRA: By Isis, I will give thee bloody teeth if thou with Caesar paragon again my man of men.