

Antony and Cleopatra abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

Reflection

Situation: While having a wonderful time with Cleopatra in Egypt, Antony learns that his wife Fulvia has died. She was in Greece. We also learn that Pompey and his naval forces are challenging Octavius Caesar there near Rome. Both issues require that Antony return to Rome.

ANTONY: The business she hath broached in the state cannot endure my absence.

ENOBARBUS: And the business you have broached here cannot be without you, especially that of Cleopatra's, which wholly depends on your abode.

ANTONY: No more light answers.

Antony to Enobarbus

Enobarbus, let our officers know
What we purpose. To the queen I shall go
To let her know why we must part. Urgent
Touches strongly speak to us, not only
Fulvia's death, but too the letters sent
From friends asking us to come home. Pompey
Hath challenged Caesar and commands the sea.
Honor, never linked by our slippery
People to the deserver till his sweets
Are passed, is being thrown on Pompey the
Great's son, who, high in name and power, meets
Not the test of courage, stands but for a
Soldier who's a danger to the world; whence
Our efforts must be to remove him hence.

ENOBARBUS: I shall do 't.