

## Coriolanus abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 6

### Chauvinism

**Situation:** Martius somehow escaped his captors, having been trapped inside the walls of the Volces' city of Corioles. Titus Lartius had said "Thou art lost, Martius. Thou wast a soldier." An injured Martius returns to Rome, while Lartius holds "Corioles in the name of Rome." Martius secures permission from Cominius to form a small group of soldiers and to re-attack the Volces.

MARTIUS: I do beseech you that you directly set me against Aufidius and his Antiates.

COMINIUS: Take your choice of those that best can aid your action.

#### Martius to Soldiers

I'll choose those most willing, if any such  
Be here, though it a sin to doubt, who much  
Love this blood you see here smeared; if any  
Think brave death outweighs bad life; fear less for  
His person than an ill report; thinks his country  
Is dearer than himself, let him alone, or  
Others so minded, if more than one sees  
Fit to follow me against the Volces.  
The hard shield of Aufidius is more  
Than any soldier can bear. This is when  
I must select, though my thanks to all. Four  
Shall quickly draw out my command, those men  
Best inclined. The rest shall serve requests made  
By other men, orders to be obeyed.

COMINIUS: March on, my fellows, live up to these appearances, and you shall share in all with us.