

Coriolanus abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 5

Disclosure

Situation: Banned from Rome, a disguised Coriolanus enters Antium and boldly enters the home of Aufidius, talking his way through several servingmen. Aufidius enters the waiting room asking “Where is this fellow?”

AUFIDIUS: Where com'st thou? Thy name? Why speak'st not? Speak, man.

CORIOLANUS: Not yet thou know'st me, and seeing me, dost not think me for the man I am, necessity commands me name myself.

AUFIDIUS: Say, what's thy name. Thou hast a grim appearance, and thy face bears a command in't. What's thy name?

CORIOLANUS: Prepare thy brow to frown. Know'st thou me yet?

AUFIDIUS: I know thee not. Thy name?

Coriolanus to Aufidius

My name is Caius Martius, who hath
To thee and the Volsces offered my wrath,
Doing hurt and mischief, witnessed by my
Surname, Coriolanus. Only that
Name remains, having been shouted out by
The cruel people of Rome; forsaken at
The Senate. I'd avoid you if I feared
Death; to spite banishers have I appeared
Before thee. I'll fight against my country,
Yet for all the credit thou doth deserve,
Not slaying me must stand as misery.
So gain thy revenge and make my death serve
Thy turn, since I cannot live but to thy
Shame, unless, for your cause, my help doth lie.