

Coriolanus abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 2

Pride

Situation: Speaking of Coriolanus at the Capitol, one officer says “he loves not the common people” while another says “he hath deserved worthily of his country.” A senator says to Cominius: “Speak good Cominius. Leave nothing out for length.” Coriolanus soon exits the Senate chambers.

MENENIUS: He’d rather venture all his limbs for honor than venture one of his ears to hear about it. Proceed, Cominius.

COMINIUS: I shall lack voice. The deeds of Coriolanus should not be uttered feebly.

Cominius to Senators

If valor is the most revered virtue
And most dignifies and honors he who
Has it, then this person I speak of, when
The world loves its heroes, has no equal.
As a young man he proved the best of men;
In Corioles, I cannot extol
Him justly. By example he caused those
Who fled to turn and follow. There he rose
To the challenge, trapped within the city,
When those that he’d made turn terror into
Sport struck Corioles with a force; we
Calling then the city ours. Our men do
Fight the fight when well led. He, as he left,
The battle o’er, ne’er stopped to take a breath.

MENENIUS: Worthy man!

FIRST SENATOR: He cannot but with measure fit the honors which we devise him.

COMINIUS: He rewards his deeds with doing them.

MENENIUS: He’s right noble.

FIRST SENATOR: Call Coriolanus.