

Cymbeline abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 3

Determination

Situation: Upset that he has “not found Death” fighting for Briton, Posthumus decides to change back into his Roman uniform, hoping to somehow “end it for Imogen.” To his good fortune, he is soon arrested, soon to be brought forward to deal with the King.

Posthumus to Himself, No. 3

I am charmed, not finding Death, but hearing
His groan. 'Tis strange how Death is found hiding
In fresh cups, soft beds and sweet words with more
Attendants than we who draw his knives in
Th' war. But I'll find him when I favor
Briton no more; when I resume again
The part I came in. I will fight no more,
Rather yield to the peasant as before.
The slaughter made by the Romans is great;
Great must be the answer the Briton's make.
But for me my ransom's death. Death's come late,
Hoping here is where my last breath I'll take.
Whomever for, but not to take again;
Somehow I will end it for Imogen.

Soldiers and two British Captains enter.

FIRST CAPTAIN: Lucius is taken! 'Tis thought the old man and his sons were angels.

SECOND CAPTAIN: There was a fourth man in peasant's clothes that gave th' attack with them.

FIRST CAPTAIN: So 'tis reported, but none of 'em can be found.

POSTHUMUS: A Roman.

SECOND CAPTAIN: Lay hands on him. A dog. He brags his service as if he were of note. Bring him to th' King.

Cymbeline, Belarius, Guiderius, Arviragus, Pisanio and Roman captives enter. Posthumus is presented to Cymbeline, who turns him over to a jailer.