

## Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

### Acceptance

**Situation:** Cassius and Brutus and their army have arrived on the Plains of Philippi and are ready for battle. They have met with Antony and Octavius and have accepted their challenge, Octavius having said “If you dare fight today, come to the field.”

CASSIUS: This is my birthday, as this very day was Cassius born. This morning do ravens, crows, and kites fly o’er our heads and downward look on us as we were sickly prey. Their shadows seem a canopy most fatal, under which our army lies, ready to give up the ghost.

MESSALA: Believe it not.

CASSIUS: I but believe it partly, for I am fresh of spirit and resolved to meet all perils very constantly.  
Brutus returns.

CASSIUS: Now, most noble Brutus, the gods today stand friendly that we may, lovers in peace, lead on our days to age.

### Cassius to Brutus, No. 3

Since the affairs of men vest uncertain,  
Let’s pause, for if we lose this battle, then  
This is the last time we two speak. What do  
You now plan, Brutus? Through providence I  
Find it vile to fear what might fall and to  
Prevent the time of life; rather led by  
Some high powers that govern us below.  
If we lose, are you willing to be so  
Led through Rome as a prisoner in tow?  
This same day must end that work to defeat  
What we began. If we not to be, so  
Our forever farewells take. If we meet  
Again, we shall smile; if not, we’ll have bade  
Our final farewells, this parting well made.

BRUTUS: Why then, lead on. Sufficeth that the day will end, and then the end is known. Come on, away!