

# Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

## History

**Situation:** The two tribunes, two officials elected to represent the rights of plebeians, let us know that they don't believe Caesar is the hero many believe him to be. We're led to believe that there are some policy makers in Rome (the patricians) who believe that much of the Roman public is misleading itself when it comes to idolizing Caesar.

FLAVIUS: Why dost thou lead these men about the streets.

COBBLER: Truly, sir, to wear out their shoes, to get myself into more work. But, indeed, sir, we make holiday to see Caesar and to rejoice in his triumph.

Marullus to the Cobbler

Why rejoice? What conquest doth he bring home?  
What spoils follow him as he enters Rome?  
You cruel men of Rome, knew you not Pompey?  
How oft have you reached for your infants, then  
Climbed to rooftops to wait the livelong day  
To see Pompey pass the streets of Rome? When  
His chariot appeared your shouts would make  
The trembling edges of the Tiber shake.  
'Tis ingratitude to strew these flowers  
For his triumph o'er Pompey's sons. You ought  
Run to your houses. These growing feathers  
From Caesar's wing should be plucked; we dare not  
Let him soar above the view of man less  
He keep us all in servile fearfulness.

All the commoners exit.

FLAVIUS: They vanish tongue-tied in their guiltiness.

MARULLUS: You know it is the feast of Lupercal.

FLAVIUS: It is no matter. Let no images be hung with Caesar's trophies. I'll about and drive away the vulgar from the streets; and do you too, where you perceive them thick.

They exit in different directions.