

Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

History

Situation: Cassius and Brutus, brothers-in-law (Cassius having married Brutus' sister), are Roman statesmen. They have a political discussion, Cassius being the more outspoken.

BRUTUS: What means this shouting? I do fear the people choose Caesar for their king.

CASSIUS: Ay, do you fear it? Then must I think you would not have it so.

BRUTUS: I would not, Cassius, yet I love him well. But wherefore do you hold me here so long? What is it that you would impart to me? If it be aught toward the general good, set honor in one eye and death i' th' other and I will look on both indifferently; for let the gods so speed me as I love the name of honor more than I fear death.

Cassius to Brutus, No. 1

I for myself think I had as lief not
Be, as live as a free born Roman, caught
In awe of such a thing as I. We can
Endure the winter's cold as well as he.
Once, on a raw and gusty day he ran,
Daring me to leap into the angry
Sea, and soon cried "Help me, or I sink". He
Now has become a revered god, and we,
Wretched men who bend if he carelessly
But nod. In Spain his fevered eyes did glaze
And coward lips shake, as he groaned, "Give me
Some drink," as a sick child. It doth amaze
Me a man of such feeble temper shown
Should lead the world and bear the palm alone.

More Shouts and Flourish