

Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 2

Husband to Wife

Situation: With the weather frightful, Caesar and Calphurnia having been up much of the night, Calphurnia uses the moment to plead with her husband to skip the ceremonies at the Senate planned for later in the morning. She fails, he knowing he is about to be crowned king.

CALPHURNIA: What mean you, Caesar? Think you to walk forth? You shall not stir out of your house today.

CAESAR: Caesar shall forth.

CALPHURNIA: Caesar, I never stood on ceremonies, yet now they fright me. O, Caesar, these things are beyond all use, and I do fear them.

Caesar to Calphurnia

How can one avoid the end purposed by
The mighty gods? I shall go. Cowards die
Many times before their death; the valiant
Never taste of death but once. Of all the
Wonders, 'tis most strange that men try to vent
Death, seeing that death, a necessary
End, will come when it will come. Caesar were
A beast would he stay for fear, Danger
Knowing well that I am more dangerous
Than he; I the elder and more fearsome,
But you do fear. The gods do this to us,
Calphurnia, to shame cowardice. Come,
Let not the Senate postpone their plans made
With such whispers that Caesar is afraid.

CALPHURNIA: Alas, my lord, your wisdom is consumed in confidence. Do not go forth today. We'll send Mark Antony to the Senate House, and he shall say you are not well today.

CAESAR: Mark Antony shall say I am not well. And for thy humor I will stay at home.