

Julius Caesar abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Wife to Husband

Situation: The clandestine meeting among Brutus, Cassius, Casca and the other Conspirators has by now broken up; all but Brutus have left. This historic moment provides Portia with the opportunity to confront her husband with her fears.

BRUTUS: Portia! Wherefore rise you now? It is not for your health thus to commit your weak condition to the raw cold morning.

PORTIA: Nor for yours neither.

Portia to Brutus

**You've ungently, Brutus, stole from your bed;
So, to honor that vow when we did wed,
Which did incorporate and make us one,
Unfold to me by virtue of my place
What I ought know. A sick offense doth run
Within your mind; the secrets in your face
Should not be within our marriage bond. Shun
Me as I yourself in limitation?
Dwell I but in the suburbs of your life?
I grant I am a woman, but referred
As Cato's daughter and Brutus' wife.
Think I am not strong being so fathered
And so husbanded? Your heavy mind foretells
Your fears; fear not I'll disclose your counsels.**

PORTIA: What men tonight have had resort to you; for here have been some six or seven who did hide their faces even from darkness.

BRUTUS: You are my true and honorable wife, as dear to me as are the ruddy drops that visit my sad heart.

PORTIA: If this were true, then should I know this secret. I grant I am a woman, but withal a woman that Lord Brutus took to wife.

BRUTUS: O you gods, render me worthy of this noble wife! Portia, go in awhile, and by and by all my engagements I will construe to thee, all the charactery of my sad brows.