

Timon of Athens

3.1

Enter Flaminius, with a box under his cloak, waiting to speak with Lucullus. From his master, enters a Servant to him

LUCULLUS' SERVANT I have told my lord of you. He is coming down to you.

FLAMINIUS I thank you, sir.

Enter Lucullus

LUCULLUS' SERVANT Here's my lord.

LUCULLUS *(aside)* One of Lord Timon's men? A gift, I warrant. Why, this hits right; I dreamt of a silver basin and ewer tonight. $\pm\pm$ Flaminius, honest Flaminius, you are very respectfully welcome, sir. *(To his Servant)* Fill me some wine.

Exit Servant

And how does that honourable, complete, free-hearted gentleman of Athens, thy very bountiful good lord and master? 10

FLAMINIUS His health is well, sir.

LUCULLUS I am right glad that his health is well, sir. And what hast thou there under thy cloak, pretty Flaminius? 15

FLAMINIUS Faith, nothing but an empty box, sir, which in my lord's behalf I come to entreat your honour to supply, who, having great and instant occasion to use fifty talents, hath sent to your lordship to furnish him, nothing doubting your present assistance therein. 20

LUCULLUS La, la, la, la, 'nothing doubting' says he? Alas, good lord! A noble gentleman 'tis, if he would not keep so good a house. Many a time and often I ha' dined with him and told him on't, and come again to supper to him of purpose to have him spend less; and yet he would embrace no counsel, take no warning by my coming. Every man has his fault, and honesty is his. I ha' told him on't, but I could ne'er get him from't. 25

Enter Servant, with wine

SERVANT Please your lordship, here is the wine.

LUCULLUS Flaminius, I have noted thee always wise. 30

(Drinking) Here's to thee!

FLAMINIUS Your lordship speaks your pleasure.

LUCULLUS I have observed thee always for a towardly
prompt spirit, give thee thy due, and one that knows
what belongs to reason; and canst use the time well if 35
the time use thee well. *(Drinking)* Good parts in thee!
(To his Servant) Get you gone, sirrah.

Exit Servant

Draw nearer, honest Flaminus. Thy lord's a bountiful
gentleman; but thou art wise, and thou know'st well
enough, although thou com'st to me, that this is no 40
time to lend money, especially upon bare friendship
without security. *(Giving coins)* Here's three solidares
for thee. Good boy, wink at me, and say thou saw'st
me not. Fare thee well.

FLAMINIUS

Is't possible the world should so much differ, 45
And we alive that lived?

He throws the coins at Lucullus

Fly, damneÁd

baseness,

To him that worships thee.

LUCULLUS Ha! Now I see thou art a fool, and fit for thy
master.

Exit

FLAMINIUS

May these add to the number that may scald thee. 50
Let molten coin be thy damnation,
Thou disease of a friend, and not himself.
Has friendship such a faint and milky heart
It turns in less than two nights? O you gods,
I feel my master's passion! This slave 55
Unto this hour has my lord's meat in him.
Why should it thrive and turn to nutriment,
When he is turned to poison?
O, may diseases only work upon't;
And when he's sick to death, let not that part of nature 60
Which my lord paid for be of any power
To expel sickness, but prolong his hour.

Exit