

Timon of Athens

3.4

*Enter Varro's two Servants, meeting others, all
Servants of Timon's creditors, to wait for his coming
out. Then enter [Servants of] Lucius, Titus, and
Hortensius*

VARRO'S [FIRST] SERVANT

Well met; good morrow, Titus and Hortensius.

TITUS' SERVANT The like to you, kind Varro.

HORTENSIUS' SERVANT

Lucius, what, do we meet together?

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Ay, and I think one business does command us all,
For mine is money.

TITUS' SERVANT So is theirs and ours.

5

Enter [a Servant of] Philotus

LUCIUS' SERVANT

And Sir Philotus too!

PHILOTUS' SERVANT Good day at once.

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Welcome, good brother. What do you think the hour?

PHILOTUS' SERVANT Labouring for nine.

LUCIUS' SERVANT So much?

PHILOTUS' SERVANT Is not my lord seen yet?

10

LUCIUS' SERVANT Not yet.

PHILOTUS' SERVANT

I wonder on't; he was wont to shine at seven.

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Ay, but the days are waxed shorter with him.

You must consider that a prodigal course

Is like the sun's,

15

But not, like his, recoverable. I fear

'Tis deepest winter in Lord Timon's purse; that is,

One may reach deep enough, and yet find little.

PHILOTUS' SERVANT I am of your fear for that.

TITUS' SERVANT

I'll show you how t'observe a strange event.

20

Your lord sends now for money?

HORTENSIUS' SERVANT

Most true, he does.

TITUS' SERVANT

And he wears jewels now of Timon's gift,
For which I wait for money.

HORTENSIUS' SERVANT It is against my heart.

LUCIUS' SERVANT Mark how strange it shows. 25

Timon in this should pay more than he owes,
And e'en as if your lord should wear rich jewels
And send for money for 'em.

HORTENSIUS' SERVANT

I'm weary of this charge, the gods can witness.
I know my lord hath spent of Timon's wealth, 30
And now ingratitude makes it worse than stealth.

VARRO'S FIRST SERVANT

Yes; mine's three thousand crowns. What's yours?

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Five thousand, mine.

VARRO'S FIRST SERVANT

'Tis much deep, and it should seem by th' sum
Your master's confidence was above mine,
Else surely his had equalled.

Enter Flaminius

TITUS' SERVANT One of Lord Timon's men. 35

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Flaminius! Sir, a word. Pray, is my lord
Ready to come forth?

FLAMINIUS No, indeed he is not.

TITUS' SERVANT We attend his lordship.

Pray signify so much.

FLAMINIUS I need not tell 40

Him that; he knows you are too diligent.

Enter Flavius, muffled in a cloak

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Ha, is not that his steward muffled so?
He goes away in a cloud. Call him, call him.

TITUS' SERVANT (to Flavius) Do you hear, sir?

VARRO'S SECOND SERVANT (to Flavius) By your leave, sir. 45

FLAVIUS What do ye ask of me, my friend?

TITUS' SERVANT

We wait for certain money here, sir.

FLAVIUS Ay,

If money were as certain as your waiting,

'Twere sure enough.

Why then preferred you not your sums and bills
When your false masters ate of my lord's meat?
Then they could smile and fawn upon his debts,
And take down th'int'rest into their glutt'nous maws.
You do yourselves but wrong to stir me up.

50

Let me pass quietly.

55

Believe't, my lord and I have made an end.

I have no more to reckon, he to spend.

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Ay, but this answer will not serve.

FLAVIUS

If 'twill not serve 'tis not so base as you,
For you serve knaves.

60

Exit

VARRO'S FIRST SERVANT How? What does his cashiered
worship mutter?

VARRO'S SECOND SERVANT No matter what; he's poor, and
that's revenge enough. Who can speak broader than
he that has no house to put his head in? Such may
rail against great buildings.

65

Enter Servilius

TITUS' SERVANT O, here's Servilius. Now we shall know
some answer.

SERVILIUS If I might beseech you, gentlemen, to repair
some other hour, I should derive much from't; for,
take't of my soul, my lord leans wondrously to
discontent. His comfortable temper has forsook him.
He's much out of health, and keeps his chamber.

70

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Many do keep their chambers are not sick,
And if it be so far beyond his health
Methinks he should the sooner pay his debts
And make a clear way to the gods.

75

SERVILIUS

Good gods!

TITUS' SERVANT

We cannot take this for an answer, sir.

FLAMINIUS (*within*)

Servilius, help! My lord, my lord!

Enter Timon in a rage

TIMON

What, are my doors opposed against my passage? 80
Have I been ever free, and must my house
Be my retentive enemy, my jail?
The place which I have feasted, does it now,
Like all mankind, show me an iron heart?

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Put in now, Titus.

TITUS' SERVANT My lord, here is my bill. 85

LUCIUS' SERVANT

Here's mine.

[HORTENSIUS' SERVANT] And mine, my lord.

VARRO'S [FIRST AND] SECOND SERVANTS And ours, my lord.

PHILOTUS' SERVANT All our bills.

TIMON

Knock me down with 'em, cleave me to the girdle.

LUCIUS' SERVANT Alas, my lord.

TIMON Cut my heart in sums. 90

TITUS' SERVANT Mine fifty talents.

TIMON

Tell out my blood.

LUCIUS' SERVANT Five thousand crowns, my lord.

TIMON

Five thousand drops pays that. What yours? And
yours?

VARRO'S FIRST SERVANT My lord±±

VARRO'S SECOND SERVANT My lord±± 95

TIMON

Tear me, take me, and the gods fall upon you.

Exit

HORTENSIUS' SERVANT Faith, I perceive our masters may
throw their caps at their money. These debts may well
be called desperate ones, for a madman owes 'em.

Exeunt