

Antony and Cleopatra

4.9

Alarum. Enter Antony again in a march; drummers and trumpeters; Scarus, with others

ANTONY

We have beat him to his camp. Run one before,
And let the Queen know of our gests.
[Exit a soldier]

Tomorrow,

Before the sun shall see's, we'll spill the blood
That has today escaped. I thank you all,
For doughty-handed are you, and have fought 5
Not as you served the cause, but as't had been
Each man's like mine. You have shown all Hectors.
Enter the city, clip your wives, your friends,
Tell them your feats whilst they with joyful tears
Wash the congealment from your wounds, and kiss 10
The honoured gashes whole.

Enter Cleopatra

(To Scarus) Give me thy hand.

To this great fairy I'll commend thy acts,
Make her thanks bless thee.

(To Cleopatra, embracing her) O thou day o'th' world,
Chain mine armed neck; leap thou, attire and all,
Through proof of harness to my heart, and there 15
Ride on the pants triumphing.

CLEOPATRA

Lord of lords!

O infinite virtue, com'st thou smiling from
The world's great snare uncaught?

ANTONY

My nightingale,

We have beat them to their beds. What, girl, though
grey

Do something mingle with our younger brown, yet
ha' we 20

A brain that nourishes our nerves, and can
Get goal for goal of youth. Behold this man.
Commend unto his lips thy favouring hand;

Kiss it, my warrior.

Scarus kisses Cleopatra's hand

He hath fought today

As if a god, in hate of mankind, had
Destroyed in such a shape.

25

CLEOPATRA

I'll give thee, friend,

An armour all of gold. It was a king's.

ANTONY

He has deserved it, were it carbuncled
Like holy Phoebus' car. Give me thy hand.

Through Alexandria make a jolly march.

30

Bear our hacked targets like the men that owe them.

Had our great palace the capacity

To camp this host, we all would sup together

And drink carouses to the next day's fate,

Which promises royal peril. Trumpeters,

35

With brazen din blast you the city's ear;

Make mingle with our rattling taborins,

That heaven and earth may strike their sounds

together,

Applauding our approach.

Trumpets sound. Exeunt