

# Julius Caesar

## 5.1

*Enter Octavius, Antony, and their army*

**OCTAVIUS**

Now, Antony, our hopes are answered.  
You said the enemy would not come down,  
But keep the hills and upper regions.  
It proves not so; their battles are at hand.  
They mean to warn us at Philippi here, 5  
Answering before we do demand of them.

**ANTONY**

Tut, I am in their bosoms, and I know  
Wherefore they do it. They could be content  
To visit other places; and come down  
With fearful bravery, thinking by this face 10  
To fasten in our thoughts that they have courage;  
But 'tis not so.

*Enter a Messenger*

**MESSENGER**

Prepare you, generals.

The enemy comes on in gallant show.  
Their bloody sign of battle is hung out,  
And something to be done immediately. 15

**ANTONY**

Octavius, lead your battle softly on  
Upon the left hand of the even field.

**OCTAVIUS**

Upon the right hand, I; keep thou the left.

**ANTONY**

Why do you cross me in this exigent?

**OCTAVIUS**

I do not cross you, but I will do so. 20

*[Drum. Antony and Octavius march with their army.]*

*Drum within. Enter, marching, Brutus, Cassius, and their army, amongst them Titinius, Lucillius, and Messala.*

*Octavius' and Antony's army makes a stand*

**BRUTUS**

They stand, and would have parley.

**CASSIUS**

Stand fast, Titinius. We must out and talk.  
*Brutus' and Cassius' army makes a stand*

**OCTAVIUS**

Mark Antony, shall we give sign of battle?

**ANTONY**

No, Caesar, we will answer on their charge.  
Make forth, the generals would have some words.

25

**OCTAVIUS** *(to his army)*

Stir not until the signal.

*Antony and Octavius meet Brutus and Cassius*

**BRUTUS**

Words before blows: is it so, countrymen?

**OCTAVIUS**

Not that we love words better, as you do.

**BRUTUS**

Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius.

**ANTONY**

In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words. 30  
Witness the hole you made in Caesar's heart,  
Crying 'Long live, hail Caesar'.

**CASSIUS**

Antony,

The posture of your blows are yet unknown;  
But for your words, they rob the Hybla bees,  
And leave them honeyless. 35

**ANTONY** Not stingless too.

**BRUTUS** O yes, and soundless too,

For you have stolen their buzzing, Antony,  
And very wisely threat before you sting.

**ANTONY**

Villains, you did not so when your vile daggers 40  
Hacked one another in the sides of Caesar.  
You showed your teeth like apes, and fawned like  
hounds,  
And bowed like bondmen, kissing Caesar's feet,  
Whilst damnèd Casca, like a cur, behind,  
Struck Caesar on the neck. O you flatterers! 45

**CASSIUS**

Flatterers? Now, Brutus, thank yourself.  
This tongue had not offended so today  
If Cassius might have ruled.

**OCTAVIUS**

Come, come, the cause. If arguing make us sweat,  
The proof of it will turn to redder drops. 50

*He draws*

Look, I draw a sword against conspirators.  
When think you that the sword goes up again?  
Never till Caesar's three and thirty wounds  
Be well avenged, or till another Caesar  
Have added slaughter to the swords of traitors. 55

**BRUTUS**

Caesar, thou canst not die by traitors' hands,  
Unless thou bring'st them with thee.

**OCTAVIUS**

So I hope.

I was not born to die on Brutus' sword.

**BRUTUS**

O, if thou wert the noblest of thy strain,  
Young man, thou couldst not die more honourable. 60

**CASSIUS**

A peevish schoolboy, worthless of such honour,  
Joined with a masquer and a reveller!

**ANTONY**

Old Cassius still.

**OCTAVIUS**

Come, Antony, away.

Defiance, traitors, hurl we in your teeth.  
If you dare fight today, come to the field. 65  
If not, when you have stomachs.

*Exeunt Octavius, Antony, and their army*

**CASSIUS**

Why, now blow wind, swell billow, and swim bark.  
The storm is up, and all is on the hazard.

**BRUTUS**

Ho, Lucillius! Hark, a word with you.

**LUCILLIUS**

My lord.

*He stands forth, and speaks with Brutus*

**CASSIUS**

Messala.

**MESSALA** (*standing forth*) What says my general?

**CASSIUS**

Messala, 70

This is my birthday; as this very day  
Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand, Messala.  
Be thou my witness that, against my will,

As Pompey was, am I compelled to set  
Upon one battle all our liberties. 75

You know that I held Epicurus strong,  
And his opinion. Now I change my mind,  
And partly credit things that do presage.  
Coming from Sardis, on our former ensigns 80  
Two mighty eagles fell, and there they perched,  
Gorging and feeding from our soldiers' hands,  
Who to Philippi here consorted us.  
This morning are they fled away and gone,  
And in their steads do ravens, crows, and kites  
Fly o'er our heads and downward look on us, 85  
As we were sickly prey. Their shadows seem  
A canopy most fatal, under which  
Our army lies ready to give the ghost.

**MESSALA**

Believe not so.

**CASSIUS** I but believe it partly,  
For I am fresh of spirit, and resolved 90  
To meet all perils very constantly.

**BRUTUS**

Even so, Lucillius.

**CASSIUS** (*joining Brutus*) Now, most noble Brutus,  
The gods today stand friendly, that we may,  
Lovers in peace, lead on our days to age.  
But since the affairs of men rest still incertain, 95  
Let's reason with the worst that may befall.  
If we do lose this battle, then is this  
The very last time we shall speak together.  
What are you then determineÁd to do?

**BRUTUS**

Even by the rule of that philosophy 100  
By which I did blame Cato for the death  
Which he did give himself±±I know not how,  
But I do find it cowardly and vile  
For fear of what might fall so to prevent  
The time of life±±arming myself with patience 105  
To stay the providence of some high powers  
That govern us below.

**CASSIUS** Then if we lose this battle,

You are contented to be led in triumph  
Thorough the streets of Rome?

**BRUTUS** No, Cassius, no. 110

Think not, thou noble Roman,  
That ever Brutus will go bound to Rome.  
He bears too great a mind. But this same day  
Must end that work the ides of March begun;  
And whether we shall meet again I know not. 115  
Therefore our everlasting farewell take.  
For ever and for ever farewell, Cassius.  
If we do meet again, why, we shall smile.  
If not, why then, this parting was well made.

**CASSIUS**  
For ever and for ever farewell, Brutus. 120  
If we do meet again, we'll smile indeed.  
If not, 'tis true this parting was well made.

**BRUTUS**  
Why then, lead on. O that a man might know  
The end of this day's business ere it come!  
But it sufficeth that the day will end, 125  
And then the end is known.±±Come, ho, away!

*Exeunt*