

Coriolanus

1.2

Enter Aufidius, with Senators of Corioles

FIRST SENATOR

So, your opinion is, Aufidius,
That they of Rome are entered in our counsels
And know how we proceed.

AUFIDIUS

Is it not yours?

What ever have been thought on in this state
That could be brought to bodily act ere Rome
Had circumvention? 'Tis not four days gone
Since I heard thence. These are the words. I think
I have the letter here±±yes, here it is.

5

[He reads the letter]

`They have pressed a power, but it is not known
Whether for east or west. The dearth is great,
The people mutinous, and it is rumoured
Cominius, Martius your old enemy,
Who is of Rome worse hated than of you,
And Titus Lartius, a most valiant Roman,
These three lead on this preparation
Whither 'tis bent. Most likely 'tis for you.
Consider of it.'

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FIRST SENATOR Our army's in the field.

We never yet made doubt but Rome was ready
To answer us.

AUFIDIUS Nor did you think it folly

To keep your great pretences veiled till when
They needs must show themselves, which in the
hatching,

20

It seemed, appeared to Rome. By the discovery
We shall be shortened in our aim, which was
To take in many towns ere, almost, Rome
Should know we were afoot.

SECOND SENATOR

Noble Aufidius,

25

Take your commission, hie you to your bands.
Let us alone to guard Corioles.
If they set down before's, for the remove

Bring up your army, but I think you'll find
They've not prepared for us.

AUFIDIUS

O, doubt not that.

30

I speak from certainties. Nay, more,
Some parcels of their power are forth already,
And only hitherward. I leave your honours.
If we and Caius Martius chance to meet,
'Tis sworn between us we shall ever strike
Till one can do no more.

35

ALL THE SENATORS The gods assist you!

AUFIDIUS

And keep your honours safe.

FIRST SENATOR

Farewell.

SECOND SENATOR

Farewell.

ALL

Farewell.

*Exeunt, [Aufidius at one door,
Senators at another door]*