

Timon of Athens

3.7

Enter divers of Timon's friends, [amongst them Lucullus, Lucius, Sempronius, and other Lords and Senators,] at several doors

FIRST LORD The good time of day to you, sir.

SECOND LORD I also wish it to you. I think this honourable lord did but try us this other day.

FIRST LORD Upon that were my thoughts tiring when we encountered. I hope it is not so low with him as he 5 made it seem in the trial of his several friends.

SECOND LORD It should not be, by the persuasion of his new feasting.

FIRST LORD I should think so. He hath sent me an earnest inviting, which many my near occasions did urge me 10 to put off, but he hath conjured me beyond them, and I must needs appear.

SECOND LORD In like manner was I in debt to my importunate business, but he would not hear my excuse. I am sorry when he sent to borrow of me that 15 my provision was out.

FIRST LORD I am sick of that grief too, as I understand how all things go.

SECOND LORD Every man hears so. What would he have borrowed of you? 20

FIRST LORD A thousand pieces.

SECOND LORD A thousand pieces?

FIRST LORD What of you?

SECOND LORD He sent to me, sir±±

[Loud music.] Enter Timon and attendants

Here he comes. 25

TIMON With all my heart, gentlemen both; and how fare you?

FIRST LORD Ever at the best, hearing well of your lordship.

SECOND LORD The swallow follows not summer more willing than we your lordship. 30

TIMON *(aside)* Nor more willingly leaves winter, such summer birds are men.±±Gentlemen, our dinner will

not recompense this long stay. Feast your ears with
the music a while, if they will fare so harshly o'th'
trumpets' sound; we shall to't presently. 35

FIRST LORD I hope it remains not unkindly with your
lordship that I returned you an empty messenger.

TIMON O sir, let it not trouble you.

SECOND LORD My noble lord±±

TIMON Ah, my good friend, what cheer? 40

[A table and stools are] brought in

SECOND LORD My most honourable lord, I am e'en sick of
shame that when your lordship this other day sent to
me I was so unfortunate a beggar.

TIMON Think not on't, sir.

SECOND LORD If you had sent but two hours before±± 45

TIMON Let it not cumber your better remembrance.±±

Come, bring in all together.

[Enter Servants with covered dishes]

SECOND LORD All covered dishes.

FIRST LORD Royal cheer, I warrant you.

THIRD LORD Doubt not that, if money and the season can 50
yield it.

FIRST LORD How do you? What's the news?

THIRD LORD Alcibiades is banished. Hear you of it?

FIRST AND SECOND LORDS Alcibiades banished?

THIRD LORD 'Tis so, be sure of it. 55

FIRST LORD How, how?

SECOND LORD I pray you, upon what?

TIMON My worthy friends, will you draw near?

THIRD LORD I'll tell you more anon. Here's a noble feast
toward. 60

SECOND LORD This is the old man still.

THIRD LORD Will't hold, will't hold?

SECOND LORD It does; but time will±±and so±±

THIRD LORD I do conceive.

TIMON Each man to his stool with that spur as he would 65
to the lip of his mistress. Your diet shall be in all places
alike. Make not a city feast of it, to let the meat cool
ere we can agree upon the first place. Sit, sit. The gods
require our thanks.

They sit

You great benefactors, sprinkle our society with 70
thankfulness. For your own gifts make yourselves
praised; but reserve still to give, lest your deities be
despised. Lend to each man enough that one need not
lend to another; for were your godheads to borrow of
men, men would forsake the gods. Make the meat be 75
beloved more than the man that gives it. Let no
assembly of twenty be without a score of villains. If
there sit twelve women at the table, let a dozen of them
be as they are. The rest of your foes, O gods±±the
senators of Athens, together with the common tag of 80
people±±what is amiss in them, you gods, make suitable
for destruction. For these my present friends, as they
are to me nothing, so in nothing bless them; and to
nothing are they welcome.±±Uncover, dogs, and lap.

*The dishes are uncovered, and seen to be full of
steaming water [and stones]*

SOME LORDS What does his lordship mean? 85

OTHER LORDS I know not.

TIMON

May you a better feast never behold,
You knot of mouth-friends. Smoke and lukewarm water
Is your perfection. This is Timon's last,
Who, stuck and spangled with your flattery, 90
Washes it off, and sprinkles in your faces
Your reeking villainy.

[He throws water in their faces]

Live loathed and long,

Most smiling, smooth, detested parasites,
Courteous destroyers, affable wolves, meek bears,
You fools of fortune, trencher-friends, time's flies, 95
Cap-and-knee slaves, vapours, and minute-jacks!
Of man and beast the infinite malady
Crust you quite o'er.

[A Lord is going]

What, dost thou go?

Soft, take thy physic first. Thou too, and thou.

[He beats them]

Stay, I will lend thee money, borrow none. 100

Exeunt Lords, leaving caps and gowns

What, all in motion? Henceforth be no feast
Whereat a villain's not a welcome guest.
Burn house! Sink Athens! Henceforth hated be
Of Timon man and all humanity!

Exit

Enter the Senators and other Lords

FIRST LORD How now, my lords? 105

SECOND LORD
Know you the quality of Lord Timon's fury?

THIRD LORD
Push! Did you see my cap?

FOURTH LORD I have lost my gown.

FIRST LORD He's but a mad lord, and naught but humours
sways him. He gave me a jewel th'other day, and now
he has beat it out of my hat. 110

Did you see my jewel?

[THIRD] LORD Did you see my cap?

[SECOND] LORD
Here 'tis.

FOURTH LORD Here lies my gown.

FIRST LORD Let's make no stay.

SECOND LORD
Lord Timon's mad.

THIRD LORD I feel't upon my bones.

FOURTH LORD
One day he gives us diamonds, next day stones.

Exeunt