

# Antony and Cleopatra

## 3.11

*Enter Antony with Attendants*

**ANTONY**

Hark, the land bids me tread no more upon't,  
It is ashamed to bear me. Friends, come hither.  
I am so lated in the world that I  
Have lost my way for ever. I have a ship  
Laden with gold. Take that; divide it, fly, 5  
And make your peace with Caesar.

**ATTENDANTS**

Fly? Not we.

**ANTONY**

I have fled myself, and have instructed cowards  
To run and show their shoulders. Friends, be gone.  
I have myself resolved upon a course  
Which has no need of you. Be gone. 10  
My treasure's in the harbour. Take it. O,  
I followed that I blush to look upon.  
My very hairs do mutiny, for the white  
Reprove the brown for rashness, and they them  
For fear and doting. Friends, be gone. You shall 15  
Have letters from me to some friends that will  
Sweep your way for you. Pray you, look not sad,  
Nor make replies of loathness. Take the hint  
Which my despair proclaims. Let that be left  
Which leaves itself. To the seaside straightway! 20  
I will possess you of that ship and treasure.  
Leave me, I pray, a little. Pray you now,  
Nay, do so; for indeed I have lost command.  
Therefore I pray you; I'll see you by and by.

*Exeunt attendants*

*He sits down.*

*Enter Cleopatra led by Charmian, Iras, and Eros*

**EROS**

Nay, gentle madam, to him. Comfort him.

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**IRAS** Do, most dear Queen.

**CHARMIAN** Do. Why, what else?

**CLEOPATRA** Let me sit down. O Juno!

*She sits down*

ANTONY No, no, no, no, no.

EROS (*to Antony*) See you here, sir? 30

ANTONY O fie, fie, fie!

CHARMIAN Madam.

IRAS Madam. O good Empress!

EROS Sir, sir.

ANTONY

Yes, my lord, yes. He at Philippi kept 35

His sword e'en like a dancer, while I struck

The lean and wrinkled Cassius; and 'twas I

That the mad Brutus ended. He alone

Dealt on lieutenantry, and no practice had

In the brave squares of war. Yet now±±no matter. 40

CLEOPATRA (*[rising,] to Charmian and Iras*) Ah, stand by.

EROS The Queen, my lord, the Queen.

IRAS Go to him, madam.

Speak to him. He's unqualitied

With very shame.

CLEOPATRA Well then, sustain me. O! 45

EROS

Most noble sir, arise. The Queen approaches.

Her head's declined, and death will seize her but

Your comfort makes the rescue.

ANTONY

I have offended reputation;

A most unnoble swerving.

EROS Sir, the Queen. 50

ANTONY *[rising]*

O, whither hast thou led me, Egypt? See

How I convey my shame out of thine eyes

By looking back what I have left behind

'Stroyed in dishonour.

CLEOPATRA O, my lord, my lord,

Forgive my fearful sails! I little thought 55

You would have followed.

ANTONY Egypt, thou knew'st too well

My heart was to thy rudder tied by th' strings,

And thou shouldst tow me after. O'er my spirit

Thy full supremacy thou knew'st, and that

Thy beck might from the bidding of the gods  
Command me.

**CLEOPATRA** O, my pardon!

**ANTONY** Now I must

To the young man send humble treaties, dodge  
And palter in the shifts of lowness, who  
With half the bulk o'th' world played as I pleased,  
Making and marring fortunes. You did know 65  
How much you were my conqueror, and that  
My sword, made weak by my affection, would  
Obey it on all cause.

**CLEOPATRA** Pardon, pardon!

## ANTONY

Fall not a tear, I say. One of them rates  
All that is won and lost. Give me a kiss. 70

*He kisses her*

Even this repays me. *(To an Attendant)* We sent our  
schoolmaster;

Is a come back? *(To Cleopatra)* Love, I am full of lead.

(Calling)      Some wine

Within there, and our viands! Fortune knows  
We scorn her most when most she offers blows.

*Exeunt*