

Antony and Cleopatra

3.12

*Enter Caesar, [Agrippa,] Thidias, and Dollabella,
with others*

CAESAR

Let him appear that's come from Antony.
Know you him?

DOLABELLA Caesar, 'tis his schoolmaster;
An argument that he is plucked, when hither
He sends so poor a pinion of his wing,
Which had superfluous kings for messengers
Not many moons gone by.

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Enter Ambassador from Antony

CAESAR Approach and speak.

AMBASSADOR

Such as I am, I come from Antony.
I was of late as petty to his ends
As is the morn-dew on the myrtle leaf
To his grand sea.

CAESAR Be't so. Declare thine office. 10

AMBASSADOR

Lord of his fortunes he salutes thee, and
Requires to live in Egypt; which not granted,
He lessens his requests, and to thee sues
To let him breathe between the heavens and earth,
A private man in Athens. This for him. 15
Next, Cleopatra does confess thy greatness,
Submits her to thy might, and of thee craves
The circle of the Ptolemies for her heirs,
Now hazarded to thy grace.

CAESAR For Antony,
I have no ears to his request. The Queen 20
Of audience nor desire shall fail, so she
From Egypt drive her all-disgraceÁd friend,
Or take his life there. This if she perform
She shall not sue unheard. So to them both.

AMBASSADOR

Fortune pursue thee!

CAESAR Bring him through the bands. 25
Exit Ambassador, attended
(To Thidias) To try thy eloquence now 'tis time.
Dispatch.
From Antony win Cleopatra. Promise,
And in our name, what she requires. Add more
As thine invention offers. Women are not
In their best fortunes strong, but want will perjure 30
The ne'er-touched vestal. Try thy cunning, Thidias.
Make thine own edict for thy pains, which we
Will answer as a law.

THIDIAS Caesar, I go.

CAESAR
Observe how Antony becomes his flaw,
And what thou think'st his very action speaks 35
In every power that moves.

THIDIAS Caesar, I shall.
Exeunt Caesar and his train at one door, and
Thidias at another