

# Antony and Cleopatra

## 5.1

*Enter Caesar with his council of war: Agrippa,  
Dollabella, Maecenas, Gallus, Proculeius*

**CAESAR**

Go to him, Dollabella, bid him yield.  
Being so frustrate, tell him, he but mocks  
The pauses that he makes.

**DOLABELLA**

Caesar, I shall.

*Exit*

*Enter Decretas with the sword of Antony*

**CAESAR**

Wherefore is that? And what art thou that dar'st  
Appear thus to us?

**DECRETAS**

I am called Decretas.

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Mark Antony I served, who best was worthy  
Best to be served. Whilst he stood up and spoke  
He was my master, and I wore my life  
To spend upon his haters. If thou please  
To take me to thee, as I was to him  
I'll be to Caesar; if thou pleasest not,  
I yield thee up my life.

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**CAESAR**

What is't thou sayst?

**DECRETAS**

I say, O Caesar, Antony is dead.

**CAESAR**

The breaking of so great a thing should make  
A greater crack. The riveÁd world  
Should have shook lions into civil streets,  
And citizens to their dens. The death of Antony  
Is not a single doom; in that name lay  
A moiety of the world.

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**DECRETAS**

He is dead, Caesar,

Not by a public minister of justice,  
Nor by a hireÁd knife; but that self hand  
Which writ his honour in the acts it did  
Hath, with the courage which the heart did lend it,  
Splitted the heart. This is his sword;

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I robbed his wound of it. Behold it stained  
With his most noble blood.

**CAESAR** (*weeping*) Look you, sad friends,  
The gods rebuke me; but it is a tidings  
To wash the eyes of kings.

[AGRIPPA] And strange it is  
That nature must compel us to lament  
Our most persisted deeds.

<b>MAECENAS</b>	His taints and honours	30
Waged equal with him.		

[AGRIPPA]                      A rarer spirit never  
Did steer humanity; but you gods will give us  
Some faults to make us men. Caesar is touched.

**MAECENAS**  
When such a spacious mirror's set before him  
He needs must see himself.

CAESAR	O Antony,	35
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I have followed thee to this. But we do lance  
Diseases in our bodies. I must perforce  
Have shown to thee such a declining day,  
Or look on thine. We could not stall together

In the whole world. But yet let me lament, 40

With tears as sovereign as the blood of hearts,

That thou, my brother, my competitor

In top of all design, my mate in empire,

Friend and companion in the front of war,

The arm of mine own body, and the heart

Where mine his thoughts did kindle that our stars,

Unreconcilable, should divide

Our equalness to this. Hear me, good friends++

### Enter an Egyptian

But I will tell you at some meeter season.

The business of this man looks out of him; 50

We'll hear him what he says.±±Whence are you?

## EGYPTIAN

A poor Egyptian, yet the Queen my mistress,

Confined in all she has, her monument,

Of thy intents desires instruction.

That she prepareÁdly may frame herself 55

To th' way she's forced to.

**CAESAR** Bid her have good heart.  
She soon shall know of us, by some of ours,  
How honourable and how kindly we  
Determine for her. For Caesar cannot live  
To be ungentle.

**EGYPTIAN** So; the gods preserve thee! 60  
*Exit*

**CAESAR**  
Come hither, Proculeius. Go, and say  
We purpose her no shame. Give her what comforts  
The quality of her passion shall require,  
Lest in her greatness, by some mortal stroke,  
She do defeat us; for her life in Rome 65  
Would be eternal in our triumph. Go,  
And with your speediest bring us what she says  
And how you find of her.

**PROCULEIUS** Caesar, I shall.  
*Exit*

**CAESAR**  
Gallus, go you along.  
*Exit Gallus*

Where's Dolabella,

To second Proculeius?

**ALL BUT CAESAR** Dolabella! 70

**CAESAR**  
Let him alone; for I remember now  
How he's employed. He shall in time be ready.  
Go with me to my tent, where you shall see  
How hardly I was drawn into this war,  
How calm and gentle I proceeded still 75  
In all my writings. Go with me, and see  
What I can show in this.  
*Exeunt*