

Antony and Cleopatra

3.7

Enter Cleopatra and Enobarbus

CLEOPATRA

I will be even with thee, doubt it not.

ENOBARBUS But why, why, why?

CLEOPATRA

Thou hast forspoke my being in these wars,
And sayst it is not fit.

ENOBARBUS Well, is it, is it?

CLEOPATRA

Is't not denounced against us? Why should not we 5
Be there in person?

ENOBARBUS *[aside]* Well, I could reply
If we should serve with horse and mares together,
The horse were merely lost; the mares would bear
A soldier and his horse.

CLEOPATRA What is't you say?

ENOBARBUS

Your presence needs must puzzle Antony, 10
Take from his heart, take from his brain, from's time
What should not then be spared. He is already
Traduced for levity; and 'tis said in Rome
That Photinus, an eunuch, and your maids
Manage this war.

CLEOPATRA Sink Rome, and their tongues rot 15
That speak against us! A charge we bear i'th' war,
And as the president of my kingdom will
Appear there for a man. Speak not against it.
I will not stay behind.

Enter Antony and Camidius

ENOBARBUS Nay, I have done.
Here comes the Emperor.

ANTONY Is it not strange, Camidius, 20
That from Tarentum and Brundisium
He could so quickly cut the Ionian Sea
And take in Toryne?±±You have heard on't, sweet?

CLEOPATRA

Celerity is never more admired
Than by the negligent.

ANTONY A good rebuke, 25
Which might have well becomeed the best of men
To taunt at slackness. Camidius, we
Will fight with him by sea.

CLEOPATRA By sea±±what else?

CAMIDIUS
Why will my lord do so?

ANTONY For that he dares us to't.

ENOBARBUS
So hath my lord dared him to single fight. 30

CAMIDIUS
Ay, and to wage this battle at Pharsalia,
Where Caesar fought with Pompey. But these offers
Which serve not for his vantage, he shakes off,
And so should you.

ENOBARBUS Your ships are not well manned,
Your mariners are muleters, reapers, people 35
Engrossed by swift impress. In Caesar's fleet
Are those that often have 'gainst Pompey fought.
Their ships are yare, yours heavy. No disgrace
Shall fall you for refusing him at sea,
Being prepared for land.

ANTONY By sea, by sea. 40

ENOBARBUS
Most worthy sir, you therein throw away
The absolute soldiership you have by land;
Distract your army, which doth most consist
Of war-marked footmen; leave unexecuted
Your own renowneÁd knowledge; quite forgo 45
The way which promises assurance, and
Give up yourself merely to chance and hazard
From firm security.

ANTONY I'll fight at sea.

CLEOPATRA
I have sixty sails, Caesar none better.

ANTONY
Our overplus of shipping will we burn, 50
And with the rest full-manned, from th'head of
Actium

Beat th'approaching Caesar. But if we fail,
We then can do't at land.

Enter a Messenger

Thy business?

MESSENGER

The news is true, my lord. He is descried.
Caesar has taken Tornyne.

55

ANTONY

Can he be there in person? 'Tis impossible;
Strange that his power should be. Camidius,
Our nineteen legions thou shalt hold by land,
And our twelve thousand horse. We'll to our ship.
Away, my Thetis!

Enter a Soldier

How now, worthy soldier?

60

SOLDIER

O noble Emperor, do not fight by sea.
Trust not to rotten planks. Do you misdoubt
This sword and these my wounds? Let th'Egyptians
And the Phoenicians go a-ducking; we
Have used to conquer standing on the earth,
And fighting foot to foot.

65

ANTONY

Well, well; away!

Exeunt Antony, Cleopatra, and Enobarbus

SOLDIER

By Hercules, I think I am i'th' right.

CAMIDIUS

Soldier, thou art; but his whole action grows
Not in the power on't. So our leader's led,
And we are women's men.

SOLDIER

You keep by land

70

The legions and the horse whole, do you not?

CAMIDIUS

Marcus Octavius, Marcus Justeius,
Publicola and Caelius are for sea,
But we keep whole by land. This speed of Caesar's
Carries beyond belief.

SOLDIER

While he was yet in Rome

75

His power went out in such distractions
As beguiled all spies.

CAMIDIUS

Who's his lieutenant, hear you?

SOLDIER

They say, one Taurus.

CAMIDIUS Well I know the man.

Enter a Messenger

MESSENGER

The Emperor calls Camidius.

CAMIDIUS

With news the time's in labour, and throws forth
Each minute some.

80

Exeunt