

Antony and Cleopatra

2.3

Enter Antony and Caesar; Octavia between them

ANTONY

The world and my great office will sometimes
Divide me from your bosom.

OCTAVIA

All which time,
Before the gods my knee shall bow my prayers
To them for you.

ANTONY

Good night, sir. My Octavia,
Read not my blemishes in the world's report. 5
I have not kept my square, but that to come
Shall all be done by th' rule. Good night, dear lady.
Good night, sir.

CAESAR

Good night.
Exeunt Caesar and Octavia
Enter Soothsayer

ANTONY

Now, sirrah. You do wish yourself in Egypt? 10

SOOTHSAYER

Would I had never come from thence, nor you
Gone thither.

ANTONY If you can, your reason?

SOOTHSAYER

I see it in my motion, have it not in my tongue.
But yet hie you to Egypt again.

ANTONY

Say to me
Whose fortunes shall rise higher: Caesar's or mine? 15

SOOTHSAYER

Caesar's. Therefore, O Antony, stay not by his side.
Thy daemon, that thy spirit which keeps thee, is
Noble, courageous, high, unmatchable,
Where Caesar's is not. But near him thy angel
Becomes afeard, as being o'erpowered. Therefore 20
Make space enough between you.

ANTONY

Speak this no more.

SOOTHSAYER

To none but thee; no more but when to thee.
If thou dost play with him at any game

Thou art sure to lose; and of that natural luck
He beats thee 'gainst the odds. Thy lustre thickens 25
When he shines by. I say again, thy spirit
Is all afraid to govern thee near him;
But he away, 'tis noble.

ANTONY Get thee gone.
Say to Ventidius I would speak with him.

Exit Soothsayer

He shall to Parthia; be it art or hap, 30
He hath spoken true. The very dice obey him,
And in our sports my better cunning faints
Under his chance. If we draw lots, he speeds.
His cocks do win the battle still of mine
When it is all to nought, and his quails ever 35
Beat mine, inhooped, at odds. I will to Egypt;
And though I make this marriage for my peace,
I'th' East my pleasure lies.

Enter Ventidius

O, come,

Ventidius.

You must to Parthia, your commission's ready.
Follow me, and receive't. 40

Exeunt