



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

# THE TRAGEDIE OF CARIOLANUS

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The Tragedie of Coriolanus

Actus Primus. Scoena Prima.

Enter a Company of Mutinous Citizens, with Staues, Clubs, and  
other  
weapons.

1. Citizen. Before we proceed any further, heare me speake

All. Speake, speake

1.Cit. You are all resolu'd rather to dy then  
to famish?

All. Resolu'd, resolu'd

1.Cit. First you know, Caius Martius is chiefe enemy  
to the people

All. We know't, we know't

1.Cit. Let vs kill him, and wee'l haue Corne at our own  
price. Is't a Verdict?

All. No more talking on't; Let it be done, away, away

2.Cit. One word, good Citizens

1.Cit. We are accounted poore Citizens, the Patricians  
good: what Authority surfets one, would releue  
vs. If they would yeelde vs but the superfluitie while it  
were wholesome, wee might guesse they releued vs humanely:

But they thinke we are too deere, the leannesse  
that afflicts vs, the object of our misery, is as an inuentory  
to particularize their abundance, our sufferance is a  
gaine to them. Let vs reuenge this with our Pikes, ere  
we become Rakes. For the Gods know, I speake this in  
hunger for Bread, not in thirst for Reuenge

2.Cit. Would you proceede especially against Caius  
Martius

All. Against him first: He's a very dog to the Commonalty

2.Cit. Consider you what Services he ha's done for his  
Country?

1.Cit. Very well, and could bee content to giue him  
good report for't, but that hee payes himselfe with beeing  
proud

All. Nay, but speak not maliciously

1.Cit. I say vnto you, what he hath done Famoslie,  
he did it to that end: though soft conscienc'd men can be  
content to say it was for his Countrey, he did it to please  
his Mother, and to be partly proud, which he is, euen to  
the altitude of his vertue

2.Cit. What he cannot helpe in his Nature, you account  
a Vice in him: You must in no way say he is couetous

1.Cit. If I must not, I neede not be barren of Accusations  
he hath faults (with surplus) to tyre in repetition.

Showts within.

What showts are these? The other side a'th City is risen:  
why stay we prating heere? To th' Capitoll

All. Come, come

1 Cit. Soft, who comes heere?  
Enter Menenius Agrippa.

2 Cit. Worthy Menenius Agrippa, one that hath alwayes  
lou'd the people

1 Cit. He's one honest enough, wold al the rest wer so

Men. What work's my Countrimen in hand?  
Where go you with Bats and Clubs? The matter  
Speake I pray you

2 Cit. Our busines is not vnknowne to th' Senat, they  
haue had inkling this fortnight what we intend to do, w  
now wee'l shew em in deeds: they say poore Suters haue  
strong breaths, they shal know we haue strong arms too

Menen. Why Masters, my good Friends, mine honest  
Neighbours, will you vndo your selues?

2 Cit. We cannot Sir, we are vndone already

Men. I tell you Friends, most charitable care  
Haue the Patricians of you for your wants.

Your suffering in this dearth, you may as well  
Strike at the Heauen with your stauers, as lift them  
Against the Roman State, whose course will on  
The way it takes: cracking ten thousand Curbes  
Of more strong linke assunder, then can euer  
Apppeare in your impediment. For the Dearth,  
The Gods, not the Patricians make it, and  
Your knees to them (not armes) must helpe. Alacke,  
You are transported by Calamity  
Thether, where more attends you, and you slander  
The Helmes o'th State; who care for you like Fathers,  
When you curse them, as Enemies

2 Cit. Care for vs? True indeed, they nere car'd for vs  
yet. Suffer vs to famish, and their Store-houses cramm'd  
with Graine: Make Edicts for Vsurie, to support Vsurers;  
repeale daily any wholesome Act established against  
the rich, and prouide more piercing Statutes daily, to  
chaine vp and restraine the poore. If the Warres eate vs  
not vppe, they will; and there's all the loue they beare

vs

Menen. Either you must  
Confesse your selues wondrous Malicious,  
Or be accus'd of Folly. I shall tell you  
A pretty Tale, it may be you haue heard it,  
But since it serues my purpose, I will venture  
To scale't a little more

2 Citizen. Well,  
He heare it Sir: yet you must not thinke  
To fobbe off our disgrace with a tale:  
But and't please you deliuer

Men. There was a time, when all the bodies members  
Rebell'd against the Belly; thus accus'd it:  
That onely like a Gulfe it did remaine  
I'th midd'st a th' body, idle and vnactiue,  
Still cubbording the Viand, neuer bearing  
Like labour with the rest, where th' other Instruments  
Did see, and heare, deuise, instruct, walke, feele,  
And mutually participate, did minister  
Vnto the appetite; and affection common  
Of the whole body, the Belly answer'd

2.Cit. Well sir, what answer made the Belly

Men. Sir, I shall tell you with a kinde of Smile,  
Which ne're came from the Lungs, but euen thus:  
For looke you I may make the belly Smile,

As well as speake, it taintingly replied  
To'th' discontented Members, the mutinous parts  
That enuied his receite: euen so most fitly,  
As you maligne our Senators, for that  
They are not such as you

2.Cit. Your Bellies answer: What  
The Kingly crown'd head, the vigilant eye,  
The Counsailor Heart, the Arme our Souldier,  
Our Steed the Legge, the Tongue our Trumpeter,  
With other Muniments and petty helps  
In this our Fabricke, if that they-  
Men. What then? Fore me, this Fellow speakes.  
What then? What then?

2.Cit. Should by the Cormorant belly be restrain'd,  
Who is the sinke a th' body

Men. Well, what then?

2.Cit. The former Agents, if they did complaine,  
What could the Belly answer?

Men. I will tell you,  
If you'l bestow a small (of what you haue little)  
Patience awhile; you'st heare the Bellies answer

2.Cit. Y'are long about it

Men. Note me this good Friend;  
Your most graue Belly was deliberate,  
Not rash like his Accusers, and thus answered.  
True is it my Incorporate Friends (quoth he)  
That I receiue the generall Food at first  
Which you do liue vpon: and fit it is,  
Because I am the Store-house, and the Shop  
Of the whole Body. But, if you do remember,  
I send it through the Riuers of your blood  
Euen to the Court, the Heart, to th' seate o'th' Braine,  
And through the Crankes and Offices of man,  
The strongest Nerues, and small inferiour Veines  
From me receiue that naturall competencie  
Whereby they liue. And though that all at once  
(You my good Friends, this sayes the Belly) marke me

2.Cit. I sir, well, well

Men. Though all at once, cannot  
See what I do deliuer out to each,  
Yet I can make my Awdit vp, that all  
From me do backe receiue the Flowre of all,  
And leaue me but the Bran. What say you too't?

2.Cit. It was an answer, how apply you this?

Men. The Senators of Rome, are this good Belly,  
And you the mutinous Members: For examine  
Their Counsailes, and their Cares; disgest things rightly,  
Touching the Weale a'th Common, you shall finde  
No publique benefit which you receiue  
But it proceeds, or comes from them to you,  
And no way from your selues. What do you thinke?  
You, the great Toe of this Assembly?  
2.Cit. I the great Toe? Why the great Toe?  
Men. For that being one o'th lowest, basest, poorest  
Of this most wise Rebellion, thou goest foremost:  
Thou Rascall, that art worst in blood to run,  
Lead'st first to win some vantage.  
But make you ready your stiffe bats and clubs,  
Rome, and her Rats, are at the point of battell,  
The one side must haue baile.  
Enter Caius Martius.

Hayle, Noble Martius

Mar. Thanks. What's the matter you dissentious rogues  
That rubbing the poore Itch of your Opinion,  
Make your selues Scabs

2.Cit. We haue euer your good word

Mar. He that will giue good words to thee, wil flatter  
Beneath abhorring. What would you haue, you Curres,  
That like nor Peace, nor Warre? The one affrights you,  
The other makes you proud. He that trusts to you,  
Where he should finde you Lyons, findes you Hares:  
Where Foxes, Geese you are: No surer, no,  
Then is the coale of fire vpon the Ice,  
Or Hailstone in the Sun. Your Vertue is,  
To make him worthy, whose offence subdues him,  
And curse that Iustice did it. Who deserues Greatnes,  
Deserues your Hate: and your Affections are  
A sickmans Appetite; who desires most that  
Which would encrease his euill. He that depends  
Vpon your fauours, swimmes with finnes of Leade,  
And hewes downe Oakes, with rushes. Hang ye: trust ye?  
With euery Minute you do change a Minde,  
And call him Noble, that was now your Hate:  
Him vilde, that was your Garland. What's the matter,  
That in these seuerall places of the Citie,  
You cry against the Noble Senate, who  
(Vnder the Gods) keepe you in awe, which else  
Would feede on one another? What's their seeking?  
Men. For Corne at their owne rates, wherof they say  
The Citie is well stor'd

Mar. Hang 'em: They say?  
They'll sit by th' fire, and presume to know  
What's done i'th Capitoll: Who's like to rise,  
Who thriues, & who declines: Side factions, & giue out  
Coniecturall Marriages, making parties strong,  
And feebling such as stand not in their liking,  
Below their cobled Shooes. They say ther's grain enough?  
Would the Nobility lay aside their ruth,  
And let me vse my Sword, I'de make a Quarrie  
With thousands of these quarter'd slaues, as high  
As I could picke my Lance

Menen. Nay these are almost thoroughly perswaded:  
For though abundantly they lacke discretion  
Yet are they passing Cowardly. But I beseech you,  
What sayes the other Troope?

Mar. They are dissolu'd: Hang em;  
They said they were an hungry, sigh'd forth Prouerbes  
That Hunger-broke stone wals: that dogges must eat  
That meate was made for mouths. That the gods sent not  
Corne for the Richmen onely: With these shreds  
They vented their Complainings, which being answer'd  
And a petition granted them, a strange one,  
To breake the heart of generosity,  
And make bold power looke pale, they threw their caps  
As they would hang them on the hornes a'th Moone,  
Shooting their Emulation

Menen. What is graunted them?

Mar. Fiue Tribunes to defend their vulgar wisdoms  
Of their owne choice. One's Iunius Brutus,  
Sicinius Velutus, and I know not. Sdeath,  
The rabble should haue first vnroo't the City  
Ere so preuayl'd with me; it will in time  
Win vpon power, and throw forth greater Theames  
For Insurrections arguing

Menen. This is strange

Mar. Go get you home you Fragments.  
Enter a Messenger hastily.

Mess. Where's Caius Martius?

Mar. Heere: what's the matter!

Mes. The newes is sir, the Volcies are in Armes

Mar. I am glad on't, then we shall ha meanes to vent  
Our mustie superfluity. See our best Elders.  
Enter Sicinius Velutus, Annius Brutus Cominius, Titus Lartius,

with other  
Senatours.

1.Sen. Martius 'tis true, that you haue lately told vs,  
The Volces are in Armes

Mar. They haue a Leader,  
Tullus Auffidius that will put you too't:  
I sinne in enuying his Nobility:  
And were I any thing but what I am,  
I would wish me onely he

Com. You haue fought together?  
Mar. Were halfe to halfe the world by th' eares, & he  
vpon my partie, I'de reuolt to make  
Onely my warres with him. He is a Lion  
That I am proud to hunt

1.Sen. Then worthy Martius,  
Attend vpon Cominius to these Warres

Com. It is your former promise

Mar. Sir it is,  
And I am constant: Titus Lucius, thou  
Shalt see me once more strike at Tullus face.  
What art thou stiffe? Stand'st out?

Tit. No Caius Martius,  
Ile leane vpon one Crutch, and fight with tother,  
Ere stay behinde this Businesse

Men. Oh true-bred

Sen. Your Company to'th' Capitoll, where I know  
Our greatest Friends attend vs

Tit. Lead you on: Follow Cominius, we must followe  
you, right worthy your Priority

Com. Noble Martius

Sen. Hence to your homes, be gone

Mar. Nay let them follow,  
The Volces haue much Corne: take these Rats thither,  
To gnaw their Garners. Worshipfull Mutiners,  
Your valour puts well forth: Pray follow.

Exeunt.



Citizens steale away. Manet Sicin. & Brutus.

Sicin. Was euer man so proud as is this Martius?

Bru. He has no equall

Sicin. When we were chosen Tribunes for the people

Bru. Mark'd you his lip and eyes

Sicin. Nay, but his taunts

Bru. Being mou'd, he will not spare to gird the Gods

Sicin. Bemocke the modest Moone

Bru. The present Warres deuoure him, he is growne  
Too proud to be so valiant

Sicin. Such a Nature, tickled with good successe, disdaines  
the shadow which he treads on at noone, but I do  
wonder, his insolence can brooke to be commanded vnder  
Cominius?

Bru. Fame, at the which he aymes,  
In whom already he's well grac'd, cannot  
Better be held, nor more attain'd then by  
A place below the first: for what miscarries  
Shall be the Generals fault, though he performe  
To th' vtmost of a man, and giddy censure  
Will then cry out of Martius: Oh, if he  
Had borne the businesse

Sicin. Besides, if things go well,  
Opinion that so stickes on Martius, shall  
Of his demerits rob Cominius

Bru. Come: halfe all Cominius Honors are to Martius  
Though Martius earn'd them not: and all his faults  
To Martius shall be Honors, though indeed  
In ought he merit not

Sicin. Let's hence, and heare  
How the dispatch is made, and in what fashion  
More then his singularity, he goes  
Vpon this present Action

Bru. Let's along.

Exeunt.

Enter Tullus Auffidius with Senators of Coriolus.

1.Sen. So, your opinion is Auffidius,  
That they of Rome are entred in our Counsailes,  
And know how we proceede,

Auf. Is it not yours?

What euer haue bin thought one in this State  
That could be brought to bodily act, ere Rome  
Had circumuention: 'tis not foure dayes gone  
Since I heard thence, these are the words, I thinke

I haue the Letter heere: yes, heere it is;  
They haue prest a Power, but it is not knowne  
Whether for East or West: the Dearth is great,  
The people Mutinous: And it is rumour'd,  
Cominius, Martius your old Enemy  
(Who is of Rome worse hated then of you)  
And Titus Lartius, a most valiant Roman,  
These three leade on this Preparation  
Whether 'tis bent: most likely, 'tis for you:  
Consider of it

1.Sen. Our Armie's in the Field:  
We neuer yet made doubt but Rome was ready  
To answer vs

Auf. Nor did you thinke it folly,  
To keepe your great pretences vayl'd, till when  
They needs must shew themselues, which in the hatching  
It seem'd appear'd to Rome. By the discouery,  
We shalbe shortned in our ayme, which was  
To take in many Townes, ere (almost) Rome  
Should know we were a-foot

2.Sen. Noble Auffidius,  
Take your Commission, hye you to your Bands,  
Let vs alone to guard Corioles  
If they set downe before's: for the remoue  
Bring vp your Army: but (I thinke) you'l finde  
Th'haue not prepar'd for vs

Auf. O doubt not that,  
I speake from Certainties. Nay more,  
Some parcels of their Power are forth already,  
And onely hitherward. I leaue your Honors.  
If we, and Caius Martius chance to meete,  
'Tis sworne betweene vs, we shall euer strike  
Till one can do no more

All. The Gods assist you

Auf. And keepe your Honors safe

1.Sen. Farewell

2.Sen. Farewell

All. Farewell.

Exeunt. omnes.

Enter Volumnia and Virgilia, mother and wife to Martius: They set  
them  
downe on two lowe stooles and sowe.

Volum. I pray you daughter sing, or expresse your selfe  
in a more comfortable sort: If my Sonne were my Husband,  
I should freelier reioyce in that absence wherein  
he wonne Honor, then in the embracements of his Bed,  
where he would shew most loue. When yet hee was but  
tender-bodied, and the onely Sonne of my womb; when  
youth with comelinesse pluck'd all gaze his way; when  
for a day of Kings entreaties, a Mother should not sel him  
an houre from her beholding; I considering how Honour  
would become such a person, that it was no better then  
Picture-like to hang by th' wall, if renowne made it not  
stirre, was pleas'd to let him seeke danger, where he was  
like to finde fame: To a cruell Warre I sent him, from  
whence he return'd, his browes bound with Oake. I tell  
thee Daughter, I sprang not more in ioy at first hearing  
he was a Man-child, then now in first seeing he had proued  
himselſe a man

Virg. But had he died in the Businesse Madame, how  
then?

Volum. Then his good report should haue beene my  
Sonne, I therein would haue found issue. Heare me professe  
sincerely, had I a dozen sons each in my loue alike,  
and none lesse deere then thine, and my good Martius, I  
had rather had eleuen dye Nobly for their Countrey, then  
one voluptuously surfet out of Action.

Enter a Gentlewoman.

Gent. Madam, the lady Valeria is come to visit you

Virg. Beseech you giue me leaue to retire my selfe

Volum. Indeed you shall not:  
Me thinkes, I heare hither your Husbands Drumme:  
See him plucke Auffidius downe by th' haire:  
(As children from a Beare) the Volces shunning him:  
Me thinkes I see him stampe thus, and call thus,

Come on you Cowards, you were got in feare  
Though you were borne in Rome; his bloody brow  
With his mail'd hand, then wiping, forth he goes  
Like to a Haruest man, that task'd to mowe  
Or all, or loose his hyre

Virg. His bloody Brow? Oh Iupiter, no blood

Volum. Away you Foole; it more becomes a man  
Then gilt his Trophe. The brests of Hecuba  
When she did suckle Hector, look'd not louelier  
Then Hectors forehead, when it spit forth blood  
At Grecian sword. Contenning, tell Valeria  
We are fit to bid her welcome.

Exit Gent.

Vir. Heauens blesse my Lord from fell Auffidius

Vol. Hee'l beat Auffidius head below his knee,  
And treade vpon his necke.  
Enter Valeria with an Vsher, and a Gentlewoman.

Val. My Ladies both good day to you

Vol. Sweet Madam

Vir. I am glad to see your Ladyship

Val. How do you both? You are manifest house-keepers.  
What are you sowing heere? A fine spotte in good  
faith. How does your little Sonne?

Vir. I thanke your Lady-ship: Well good Madam

Vol. He had rather see the swords, and heare a Drum,  
then looke vpon his Schoolmaster

Val. A my word the Fathers Sonne: Ile sweare 'tis a  
very pretty boy. A my troth, I look'd vpon him a Wensday  
halfe an houre together: ha's such a confirm'd countenance.  
I saw him run after a gilded Butterfly, & when  
he caught it, he let it go againe, and after it againe, and ouer  
and ouer he comes, and vp againe: catcht it again: or  
whether his fall enrag'd him, or how 'twas, hee did so set  
his teeth, and teare it. Oh, I warrant how he mammoct  
it

Vol. One on's Fathers moods

Val. Indeed la, tis a Noble childe

Virg. A Cracke Madam

Val. Come, lay aside your stitchery, I must haue you  
play the idle Huswife with me this afternoone

Virg. No (good Madam)  
I will not out of doores

Val. Not out of doores?  
Volum. She shall, she shall

Virg. Indeed no, by your patience; Ile not ouer the  
threshold, till my Lord returne from the Warres

Val. Fye, you confine your selfe most vnreasonably:  
Come, you must go visit the good Lady that lies in

Virg. I will wish her speedy strength, and visite her  
with my prayers: but I cannot go thither

Volum. Why I pray you

Vlug. 'Tis not to saue labour, nor that I want loue

Val. You would be another Penelope: yet they say, all  
the yearne she spun in Vlisses absence, did but fill Athica  
full of Mothes. Come, I would your Cambrick were sensible  
as your finger, that you might leaue pricking it for  
pitie. Come you shall go with vs

Vir. No good Madam, pardon me, indeed I will not  
foorth

Val. In truth la go with me, and Ile tell you excellent  
newes of your Husband

Virg. Oh good Madam, there can be none yet

Val. Verily I do not iest with you: there came newes  
from him last night

Vir. Indeed Madam

Val. In earnest it's true; I heard a Senatour speake it.  
Thus it is: the Volcies haue an Army forth, against who[m]  
Cominius the Generall is gone, with one part of our Romane  
power. Your Lord, and Titus Lartius, are set down  
before their Citie Carioles, they nothing doubt preuailing,  
and to make it breefe Warres. This is true on mine

Honor, and so I pray go with vs

Virg. Giue me excuse good Madame, I will obey you  
in euery thing heereafter

Vol. Let her alone Ladie, as she is now:  
She will but disease our better mirth

Valeria. In troth I thinke she would:  
Fare you well then. Come good sweet Ladie.  
Prythee Virgilia turne thy solemnesse out a doore,  
And go along with vs

Virgil. No  
At a word Madam; Indeed I must not,  
I wish you much mirth

Val. Well, then farewell.

Exeunt. Ladies.

Enter Martius, Titus Lartius, with Drumme and Colours, with  
Captaines and  
Souldiers, as before the City Corialus: to them a Messenger.

Martius. Yonder comes Newes:  
A Wager they haue met

Lar. My horse to yours, no

Mar. Tis done

Lart. Agreed

Mar. Say, ha's our Generall met the Enemy?  
Mess. They lye in view, but haue not spoke as yet

Lart. So, the good Horse is mine

Mart. Ile buy him of you

Lart. No, Ile nor sel, nor giue him: Lend you him I will  
For halfe a hundred yeares: Summon the Towne

Mar. How farre off lie these Armies?  
Mess. Within this mile and halfe

Mar. Then shall we heare their Larum, & they Ours.  
Now Mars, I prythee make vs quicke in worke,  
That we with smoaking swords may march from hence

To helpe our fielded Friends. Come, blow thy blast.

They Sound a Parley: Enter two Senators with others on the Walles  
of  
Corialus.

Tullus Auffidious, is he within your Walles?

1.Senat. No, nor a man that feares you lesse then he,  
That's lesser then a little:

Drum a farre off.

Hearke, our Drummes  
Are bringing forth our youth: Wee'l breake our Walles  
Rather then they shall pound vs vp our Gates,  
Which yet seeme shut, we haue but pin'd with Rushes,  
They'le open of themselues. Harke you, farre off

Alarum farre off.

There is Auffidious. List what worke he makes  
Among'st your clouen Army

Mart. Oh they are at it

Lart. Their noise be our instruction. Ladders hoa.  
Enter the Army of the Volces.

Mar. They feare vs not, but issue forth their Citie.  
Now put your Shields before your hearts, and fight  
With hearts more prooffe then Shields.

Aduance braue Titus,

They do disdain vs much beyond our Thoughts,  
which makes me sweat with wrath. Come on my fellows  
He that retires, Ile take him for a Volce,  
And he shall feele mine edge.

Alarum, the Romans are beat back to their Trenches Enter Martius  
Cursing.

Mar. All the contagion of the South, light on you,  
You Shames of Rome: you Heard of Byles and Plagues  
Plaister you o're, that you may be abhorr'd  
Farther then seene, and one infect another  
Against the Winde a mile: you soules of Geese,  
That beare the shapes of men, how haue you run  
From Slaues, that Apes would beate; Pluto and Hell,  
All hurt behinde, backes red, and faces pale  
With flight and agued feare, mend and charge home,  
Or by the fires of heauen, Ile leaue the Foe,

And make my Warres on you: Looke too't: Come on,  
If you'l stand fast, wee'l beate them to their Wiues,  
As they vs to our Trenches followes.

Another Alarum, and Martius follows them to gates, and is shut  
in.

So, now the gates are ope: now proue good Seconds,  
'Tis for the followers Fortune, widens them,  
Not for the flyers: Marke me, and do the like.  
Enter the Gati.

1.Sol. Foole-hardinesse, not I

2.Sol. Nor I

1.Sol. See they haue shut him in.

Alarum continues

All. To th' pot I warrant him.

Enter Titus Lartius

Tit. What is become of Martius?

All. Slaine (Sir) doubtlesse

1.Sol. Following the Flyers at the very heeles,  
With them he enters: who vpon the sodaine  
Clapt to their Gates, he is himselfe alone,  
To answer all the City

Lar. Oh Noble Fellow!

Who sensibly out-dares his sencelesse Sword,  
And when it bowes, stand'st vp: Thou art left Martius,  
A Carbuncle intire: as big as thou art  
Weare not so rich a Iewell. Thou was't a Souldier  
Euen to Calues wish, not fierce and terrible  
Onely in strokes, but with thy grim lookes, and  
The Thunder-like percussion of thy sounds  
Thou mad'st thine enemies shake, as if the World  
Were Feauorous, and did tremble.  
Enter Martius bleeding, assaulted by the Enemy.

1.Sol. Looke Sir

Lar. O 'tis Martius.

Let's fetch him off, or make remaine alike.

They fight, and all enter the City.



Enter certaine Romanes with spoiles.

1.Rom. This will I carry to Rome

2.Rom. And I this

3.Rom. A Murrain on't, I tooke this for Siluer.

Exeunt.

Alarum continues still a-farre off.

Enter Martius, and Titus with a Trumpet.

Mar. See heere these mouers, that do prize their hours  
At a crack'd Drachme: Cushions, Leaden Spoones,  
Irons of a Doit, Dublets that Hangmen would  
Bury with those that wore them. These base slaues,  
Ere yet the fight be done, packe vp, downe with them.  
And harke, what noyse the Generall makes: To him  
There is the man of my soules hate, Auffidious,  
Piercing our Romanes: Then Valiant Titus take  
Conuenient Numbers to make good the City,  
Whil'st I with those that haue the spirit, wil haste  
To helpe Cominius

Lar. Worthy Sir, thou bleed'st,  
Thy exercise hath bin too violent,  
For a second course of Fight

Mar. Sir, praise me not:  
My worke hath yet not warm'd me. Fare you well:  
The blood I drop, is rather Physicall  
Then dangerous to me: To Auffidious thus, I will appear and fight

Lar. Now the faire Goddess Fortune,  
Fall deepe in loue with thee, and her great charmes  
Misguide thy Opposers swords, Bold Gentleman:  
Prosperity be thy Page

Mar. Thy Friend no lesse,  
Then those she placeth highest: So farewell

Lar. Thou worthiest Martius,  
Go sound thy Trumpet in the Market place,  
Call thither all the Officers a'th' Towne,  
Where they shall know our minde. Away.

Exeunt.

Enter Cominius as it were in retire, with soldiers.

Com. Breath you my friends, wel fought, we are come off,  
Like Romans, neither foolish in our stands,  
Nor Cowardly in retyre: Beleeue me Sirs,  
We shall be charg'd againe. Whiles we haue strooke  
By Interims and conueying gusts, we haue heard  
The Charges of our Friends. The Roman Gods,  
Leade their successes, as we wish our owne,  
That both our powers, with smiling Fronts encountering,  
May giue you thankfull Sacrifice. Thy Newes?  
Enter a Messenger.

Mess. The Cittizens of Corioles haue yssued,  
And giuen to Lartius and to Martius Battaile:  
I saw our party to their Trenches driuen,  
And then I came away

Com. Though thou speakest truth,  
Me thinks thou speak'st not well. How long is't since?  
Mes. Aboue an houre, my Lord

Com. 'Tis not a mile: briefly we heard their drummes.  
How could'st thou in a mile confound an houre,  
And bring thy Newes so late?  
Mes. Spies of the Volces  
Held me in chace, that I was forc'd to wheele  
Three or foure miles about, else had I sir  
Halfe an houre since brought my report.  
Enter Martius.

Com. Whose yonder,  
That doe's appeare as he were Flead? O Gods,  
He has the stampe of Martius, and I haue  
Before time seene him thus

Mar. Come I too late?  
Com. The Shepherd knowes not Thunder fro[m] a Taber,  
More then I know the sound of Martius Tongue  
From euery meaner man

Martius. Come I too late?  
Com. I, if you come not in the blood of others,  
But mantled in your owne

Mart. Oh! let me clip ye  
In Armes as sound, as when I woo'd in heart;  
As merry, as when our Nuptiall day was done,  
And Tapers burnt to Bedward

Com. Flower of Warriors, how is't with Titus Lartius?

Mar. As with a man busied about Decrees:  
Condemning some to death, and some to exile,  
Ransoming him, or pittying, threatning th' other;  
Holding Corioles in the name of Rome,  
Euen like a fawning Grey-hound in the Leash,  
To let him slip at will

Com. Where is that Slaue  
Which told me they had beate you to your Trenches?  
Where is he? Call him hither

Mar. Let him alone,  
He did informe the truth: but for our Gentlemen,  
The common file, (a plague-Tribunes for them)  
The Mouse ne're shunn'd the Cat, as they did budge  
From Rascals worse then they

Com. But how preuail'd you?

Mar. Will the time serue to tell, I do not thinke:  
Where is the enemy? Are you Lords a'th Field?  
If not, why cease you till you are so?

Com. Martius, we haue at disaduantage fought,  
And did retyre to win our purpose

Mar. How lies their Battell? Know you on w side  
They haue plac'd their men of trust?

Com. As I guesse Martius,  
Their Bands i'th Vaward are the Antients  
Of their best trust: O're them Auffidious,  
Their very heart of Hope

Mar. I do beseech you,  
By all the Battailes wherein we haue fought,  
By th' Blood we haue shed together,  
By th' Vowes we haue made  
To endure Friends, that you directly set me  
Against Auffidious, and his Antiats,  
And that you not delay the present (but  
Filling the aire with Swords aduanc'd) and Darts,  
We proue this very houre

Com. Though I could wish,  
You were conducted to a gentle Bath,  
And Balmes applyed to you, yet dare I neuer  
Deny your asking, take your choice of those  
That best can ayde your action

Mar. Those are they

That most are willing; if any such be heere,  
(As it were sinne to doubt) that loue this painting  
Wherein you see me smear'd, if any feare  
Lessen his person, then an ill report:  
If any thinke, braue death out-weighes bad life,  
And that his Countries deerer then himselfe,  
Let him alone: Or so many so minded,  
Waue thus to expresse his disposition,  
And follow Martius.

They all shout and waue their swords, take him vp in their Armes,  
and cast  
vp their Caps.

Oh me alone, make you a sword of me:  
If these shewes be not outward, which of you  
But is foure Volces? None of you, but is  
Able to beare against the great Auffidious  
A Shield, as hard as his. A certaine number  
(Though thanks to all) must I select from all:  
The rest shall beare the businesse in some other fight  
(As cause will be obey'd:) please you to March,  
And foure shall quickly draw out my Command,  
Which men are best inclin'd

Com. March on my Fellowes:  
Make good this ostentation, and you shall  
Diuide in all, with vs.

Exeunt.

Titus Lartius, hauing set a guard vpon Carioles, going with Drum  
and  
Trumpet toward Cominius, and Caius Martius, Enters with a  
Lieutenant,  
other Souldiours, and a Scout.

Lar. So, let the Ports be guarded; keepe your Duties  
As I haue set them downe. If I do send, dispatch  
Those Centuries to our ayd, the rest will serue  
For a short holding, if we loose the Field,  
We cannot keepe the Towne

Lieu. Feare not our care Sir

Lart. Hence; and shut your gates vpon's:  
Our Guider come, to th' Roman Campe conduct vs.

Exit

Alarum, as in Battaile.

Enter Martius and Auffidius at seueral doores.

Mar. Ile fight with none but thee, for I do hate thee  
Worse then a Promise-breaker

Auffid. We hate alike:  
Not Affricke ownes a Serpent I abhorre  
More then thy Fame and Enuy: Fix thy foot

Mar. Let the first Budger dye the others Slaue,  
And the Gods doome him after

Auf. If I flye Martius, hollow me like a Hare

Mar. Within these three houres Tullus  
Alone I fought in your Corioles walles,  
And made what worke I pleas'd: 'Tis not my blood,  
Wherein thou seest me maskt, for thy Reuenge  
Wrench vp thy power to th' highest

Auf. Wer't thou the Hector,  
That was the whip of your bragg'd Progeny,  
Thou should'st not scape me heere.

Heere they fight, and certaine Volces come in the ayde of Auffi.  
Martius  
fights til they be driuen in breathles.

Officious and not valiant, you haue sham'd me  
In your condemned Seconds.

Flourish. Alarum. A Retreat is sounded. Enter at one Doore  
Cominius, with  
the Romanes: At another Doore Martius, with his Arme in a  
Scarfe.

Com. If I should tell thee o're this thy dayes Worke,  
Thou't not beleue thy deeds: but Ile report it,  
Where Senators shall mingle teares with smiles,  
Where great Patricians shall attend, and shrug,  
I'th' end admire: where Ladies shall be frighted,  
And gladly quak'd, heare more: where the dull Tribunes,  
That with the fustie Plebeans, hate thine Honors,  
Shall say against their hearts, We thanke the Gods  
Our Rome hath such a Souldier.  
Yet cam'st thou to a Morsell of this Feast,  
Hauing fully din'd before.  
Enter Titus with his Power, from the Pursuit.

Titus Lartius. Oh Generall:  
Here is the Steed, wee the Caparison:  
Hadst thou beheld-  
Martius. Pray now, no more:  
My Mother, who ha's a Charter to extoll her Bloud,  
When she do's prayse me, grieues me:  
I haue done as you haue done, that's what I can,  
Induc'd as you haue beene, that's for my Countrey:  
He that ha's but effected his good will,  
Hath ouerta'ne mine Act

Com. You shall not be the Graue of your deseruing,  
Rome must know the value of her owne:  
'Twere a Concealement worse then a Theft,  
No lesse then a Traducement,  
To hide your doings, and to silence that,  
Which to the spire, and top of prayses vouch'd,  
Would seeme but modest: therefore I beseech you,  
In signe of what you are, not to reward  
What you haue done, before our Armie heare me

Martius. I haue some Wounds vpon me, and they smart  
To heare themselues remembred

Com. Should they not:  
Well might they fester 'gainst Ingratitude,  
And tent themselues with death: of all the Horses,  
Whereof we haue ta'ne good, and good store of all,  
The Treasure in this field atchieued, and Citie,  
We render you the Tenth, to be ta'ne forth,  
Before the common distribution,  
At your onely choyse

Martius. I thanke you Generall:  
But cannot make my heart consent to take  
A Bribe, to pay my Sword: I doe refuse it,  
And stand vpon my common part with those,  
That haue beheld the doing.

A long flourish. They all cry, Martius, Martius, cast vp their Caps  
and  
Launces: Cominius and Lartius stand bare.

Mar. May these same Instruments, which you prophane,  
Neuer sound more: when Drums and Trumpets shall  
I'th' field proue flatterers, let Courts and Cities be  
Made all of false-fac'd soothing:  
When Steele growes soft, as the Parasites Silke,  
Let him be made an Ouerture for th' Warres:

No more I say, for that I haue not wash'd  
My Nose that bled, or foyl'd some debile Wretch,  
Which without note, here's many else haue done,  
You shoot me forth in acclamations hyperbolicall,  
As if I lou'd my little should be dieted  
In praises, sawc'st with Lyes

Com. Too modest are you:  
More cruell to your good report, then gratefull  
To vs, that giue you truly: by your patience,  
If 'gainst your selfe you be incens'd, wee'le put you  
(Like one that meanes his proper harme) in Manacles,  
Then reason safely with you: Therefore be it knowne,  
As to vs, to all the World, That Caius Martius  
Weares this Warres Garland: in token of the which,  
My Noble Steed, knowne to the Campe, I giue him,  
With all his trim belonging; and from this time,  
For what he did before Corioles, call him,  
With all th' applause and Clamor of the Hoast,  
Marcus Caius Coriolanus. Beare th' addition Nobly euer?  
Flourish. Trumpets sound, and Drums.

Omnes. Marcus Caius Coriolanus

Martius. I will goe wash:  
And when my Face is faire, you shall perceiue  
Whether I blush or no: howbeit, I thanke you,  
I meane to stride your Steed, and at all times  
To vnder-crest your good Addition,  
To th' fairenesse of my power

Com. So, to our Tent:  
Where ere we doe repose vs, we will write  
To Rome of our successe: you Titus Lartius  
Must to Corioles backe, send vs to Rome  
The best, with whom we may articulate,  
For their owne good, and ours

Lartius. I shall, my Lord

Martius. The Gods begin to mocke me:  
I that now refus'd most Princely gifts,  
Am bound to begge of my Lord Generall

Com. Tak't, 'tis yours: what is't?  
Martius. I sometime lay here in Corioles,  
At a poore mans house: he vs'd me kindly,  
He cry'd to me: I saw him Prisoner:  
But then Auffidius was within my view,  
And Wrath o're-whelm'd my pittie: I request you

To giue my poore Host freedome

Com. Oh well begg'd:  
Were he the Butcher of my Sonne, he should  
Be free, as is the Winde: deliuer him, Titus

Lartius. Martius, his Name

Martius. By Iupiter forgot:  
I am wearie, yea, my memorie is tyr'd:  
Haue we no Wine here?  
Com. Goe we to our Tent:  
The bloud vpon your Visage dryes, 'tis time  
It should be lookt too: come.

Exeunt.

A flourish. Cornets. Enter Tullus Auffidius bloudie, with two or  
three  
Souldiors.

Auffi. The Towne is ta'ne

Sould. 'Twill be deliuer'd backe on good Condition

Auffid. Condition?  
I would I were a Roman, for I cannot,  
Being a Volce, be that I am. Condition?  
What good Condition can a Treatie finde  
I'th' part that is at mercy? fiue times, Martius,  
I haue fought with thee; so often hast thou beat me:  
And would'st doe so, I thinke, should we encounter  
As often as we eate. By th' Elements,  
If ere againe I meet him beard to beard,  
He's mine, or I am his: Mine Emulation  
Hath not that Honor in't it had: For where  
I thought to crush him in an equall Force,  
True Sword to Sword: Ile potche at him some way,  
Or Wrath, or Craft may get him

Sol. He's the diuell

Auf. Bolder, though not so subtle: my valors poison'd,  
With onely suffring staine by him: for him  
Shall flye out of it selfe, nor sleepe, nor sanctuary,  
Being naked, sicke; nor Phane, nor Capitoll,  
The Prayers of Priests, nor times of Sacrifice:  
Embarquements all of Fury, shall lift vp  
Their rotten Priuiledge, and Custome 'gainst  
My hate to Martius. Where I finde him, were it



At home, vpon my Brothers Guard, euen there  
Against the hospitable Canon, would I  
Wash my fierce hand in's heart. Go you to th' Citie,  
Learne how 'tis held, and what they are that must  
Be Hostages for Rome

Soul. Will not you go?  
Auf. I am attended at the Cyprus groue. I pray you  
('Tis South the City Mills) bring me word thither  
How the world goes: that to the pace of it  
I may spurre on my iourney

Soul. I shall sir.

Actus Secundus.

Enter Menenius with the two Tribunes of the people, Sicinius &  
Brutus.

Men. The Agurer tels me, wee shall haue Newes to  
night

Bru. Good or bad?

Men. Not according to the prayer of the people, for  
they loue not Martius

Sicin. Nature teaches Beasts to know their Friends

Men. Pray you, who does the Wolfe loue?

Sicin. The Lambe

Men. I, to deuour him, as the hungry Plebeians would  
the Noble Martius

Bru. He's a Lambe indeed, that baes like a Beare

Men. Hee's a Beare indeede, that liues like a Lambe.  
You two are old men, tell me one thing that I shall aske  
you

Both. Well sir

Men. In what enormity is Martius poore in, that you  
two haue not in abundance?

Bru. He's poore in no one fault, but stor'd withall

Sicin. Especially in Pride

Bru. And topping all others in boasting

Men. This is strange now: Do you two know, how  
you are censured heere in the City, I mean of vs a'th' right  
hand File, do you?

Both. Why? how are we censur'd?

Men. Because you talke of Pride now, will you not  
be angry

Both. Well, well sir, well

Men. Why 'tis no great matter: for a very little theefe  
of Occasion, will rob you of a great deale of Patience:  
Giue your dispositions the reines, and bee angry at your  
pleasures (at the least) if you take it as a pleasure to you, in  
being so: you blame Martius for being proud

Brut. We do it not alone, sir

Men. I know you can doe very little alone, for your  
helpes are many, or else your actions would growe wondrous  
single: your abilities are to Infant-like, for dooing  
much alone. You talke of Pride: Oh, that you could turn  
your eyes toward the Napes of your neckes, and make  
but an Interiour suruey of your good selues. Oh that you  
could

Both. What then sir?

Men. Why then you should discouer a brace of vnmeriting,  
proud, violent, testie Magistrates (alias Fooles)  
as any in Rome

Sicin. Menenius, you are knowne well enough too

Men. I am knowne to be a humorous Patritian, and  
one that loues a cup of hot Wine, with not a drop of alaying  
Tiber in't: Said, to be something imperfect in fauouring  
the first complaint, hasty and Tinder-like vpon, to  
triuiall motion: One, that conuerses more with the Buttocke  
of the night, then with the forehead of the morning.  
What I think, I vtter, and spend my malice in my breath.  
Meeting two such Weales men as you are (I cannot call  
you Licurgusses,) if the drinke you giue me, touch my Palat  
aduersly, I make a crooked face at it, I can say, your  
Worshippes haue deliuer'd the matter well, when I finde  
the Asse in compound, with the Maior part of your syllables.  
And though I must be content to beare with those,  
that say you are reuerend graue men, yet they lye deadly,  
that tell you haue good faces, if you see this in the Map  
of my Microcosme, followes it that I am knowne well enough  
too? What harme can your beesome Conspectuities

gleane out of this Charracter, if I be knowne well enough  
too

Bru. Come sir come, we know you well enough

Menen. You know neither mee, your selues, nor any  
thing: you are ambitious, for poore knaues cappes and  
legges: you weare out a good wholesome Forenoone, in  
hearing a cause betweene an Orendge wife, and a Forfetseller,  
and then reiourne the Controuersie of three-pence  
to a second day of Audience. When you are hearing a  
matter betweene party and party, if you chaunce to bee  
pinch'd with the Collike, you make faces like Mummers,  
set vp the bloodie Flagge against all Patience, and  
in roaring for a Chamber-pot, dismisse the Controuersie  
bleeding, the more intangled by your hearing: All the  
peace you make in their Cause, is calling both the parties  
Knaues. You are a payre of strange ones

Bru. Come, come, you are well vnderstood to bee a  
perfecter gyber for the Table, then a necessary Bencher in  
the Capitoll

Men. Our very Priests must become Mockers, if they  
shall encounter such ridiculous Subiects as you are, when  
you speake best vnto the purpose. It is not woorth the  
wagging of your Beards, and your Beards deserue not so  
honourable a graue, as to stuffe a Botchers Cushion, or to  
be intomb'd in an Asses Packe-saddle; yet you must bee  
saying, Martius is proud: who in a cheape estimation, is  
worth all your predecessors, since Deucalion, though peradventure  
some of the best of 'em were hereditarie hangmen.  
Godden to your Worships, more of your conuersation  
would infect my Braine, being the Heardsmen of  
the Beastly Plebeans. I will be bold to take my leaue of  
you.

Bru. and Scic. Aside.

Enter Volumnia, Virgilia, and Valeria.

How now (my as faire as Noble) Ladyes, and the Moone  
were shee Earthly, no Nobler; whither doe you follow  
your Eyes so fast?

Volum. Honorable Menenius, my Boy Martius approaches:  
for the loue of Iuno let's goe

Menen. Ha? Martius comming home?

Volum. I, worthy Menenius, and with most prosperous  
approbation

Menen. Take my Cappe Iupiter, and I thanke thee:  
hoo, Martius comming home?  
2.Ladies. Nay, 'tis true

Volum. Looke, here's a Letter from him, the State hath  
another, his Wife another, and (I thinke) there's one at  
home for you

Menen. I will make my very house reele to night:  
A Letter for me?  
Virgil. Yes certaine, there's a Letter for you, I saw't

Menen. A Letter for me? it giues me an Estate of seuen  
yeeres health; in which time, I will make a Lippe at  
the Physician: The most soueraigne Prescription in Galen,  
is but Emperickcutique; and to this Preseruatiue, of no  
better report then a Horse-drench. Is he not wounded?  
he was wont to come home wounded?  
Virgil. Oh no, no, no

Volum. Oh, he is wounded, I thanke the Gods for't

Menen. So doe I too, if it be not too much: brings a  
Victorie in his Pocket? the wounds become him

Volum. On's Browes: Menenius, hee comes the third  
time home with the Oaken Garland

Menen. Ha's he disciplin'd Auffidius soundly?  
Volum. Titus Lartius writes, they fought together, but  
Auffidius got off

Menen. And 'twas time for him too, Ile warrant him  
that: and he had stay'd by him, I would not haue been so  
fiddious'd, for all the Chests in Carioles, and the Gold  
that's in them. Is the Senate possest of this?

Volum. Good Ladies let's goe. Yes, yes, yes: The  
Senate ha's Letters from the Generall, wherein hee giues  
my Sonne the whole Name of the Warre: he hath in this  
action out-done his former deeds doubly

Valer. In troth, there's wondrous things spoke of him

Menen. Wondrous: I, I warrant you, and not without  
his true purchasing

Virgil. The Gods graunt them true

Volum. True? pow waw

Mene. True? Ile be sworne they are true: where is  
hee wounded, God saue your good Worships? Martius  
is comming home: hee ha's more cause to be proud:  
where is he wounded?

Volum. Ith' Shoulder, and ith' left Arme: there will be  
large Cicatrices to shew the People, when hee shall stand  
for his place: he receiued in the repulse of Tarquin seuen  
hurts ith' Body

Mene. One ith' Neck, and two ith' Thigh, there's nine  
that I know

Volum. Hee had, before this last Expedition, twentie  
fiue Wounds vpon him

Mene. Now it's twentie seuen; euery gash was an  
Enemies Graue. Hearke, the Trumpets.

A showt, and flourish.

Volum. These are the Vshers of Martius:  
Before him, hee carryes Noyse;  
And behinde him, hee leaues Teares:  
Death, that darke Spirit, in's neruie Arme doth lye,  
Which being aduanc'd, declines, and then men dye.

A Sennet. Trumpets sound. Enter Cominius the Generall, and Titus  
Latius:  
betweene them Coriolanus, crown'd with an Oaken Garland, with  
Captaines and  
Souldiers, and a Herald.

Herald. Know Rome, that all alone Martius did fight  
Within Corioles Gates: where he hath wonne,  
With Fame, a Name to Martius Caius:  
These in honor followes Martius Caius Coriolanus.  
Welcome to Rome, renowned Coriolanus.

Sound. Flourish.

All. Welcome to Rome, renowned Coriolanus

Coriol. No more of this, it does offend my heart: pray  
now no more

Com. Looke, Sir, your Mother

Coriol. Oh! you haue, I know, petition'd all the Gods  
for my prosperitie.

Kneeles.

Volum. Nay, my good Souldier, vp:  
My gentle Martius, worthy Caius,  
And by deed-atchieuing Honor newly nam'd,  
What is it (Coriolanus) must I call thee?  
But oh, thy Wife

Corio. My gracious silence, hayle:  
Would'st thou haue laugh'd, had I come Coffin'd home,  
That weep'st to see me triumph? Ah my deare,  
Such eyes the Widowes in Carioles were,  
And Mothers that lacke Sonnes

Mene. Now the Gods Crowne thee

Com. And liue you yet? Oh my sweet Lady, pardon

Volum. I know not where to turne.  
Oh welcome home: and welcome Generall,  
And y'are welcome all

Mene. A hundred thousand Welcomes:  
I could weepe, and I could laugh,  
I am light, and heauie; welcome:  
A Curse begin at very root on's heart,  
That is not glad to see thee.  
You are three, that Rome should dote on:  
Yet by the faith of men, we haue  
Some old Crab-trees here at home,  
That will not be grafted to your Rallish.  
Yet welcome Warriors:  
Wee call a Nettle, but a Nettle;  
And the faults of fooles, but folly

Com. Euer right

Cor. Menenius, euer, euer

Herauld. Giue way there, and goe on

Cor. Your Hand, and yours?  
Ere in our owne house I doe shade my Head,  
The good Patricians must be visited,  
From whom I haue receiu'd not onely greetings,  
But with them, change of Honors

Volum. I haue liued,  
To see inherited my very Wishes,

And the Buildings of my Fancie:  
Onely there's one thing wanting,  
Which (I doubt not) but our Rome  
Will cast vpon thee

Cor. Know, good Mother,  
I had rather be their seruant in my way,  
Then sway with them in theirs

Com. On, to the Capitall.  
Flourish. Cornets.

Exeunt. in State, as before.

Enter Brutus and Scicinius

Bru. All tongues speake of him, and the bleared sights  
Are spectacted to see him. Your pratling Nurse  
Into a rapture lets her Baby crie,  
While she chats him: the Kitchin Malkin pinnes  
Her richest Lockram 'bout her reechie necke,  
Clambring the Walls to eye him:  
Stalls, Bulkes, Windowes, are smother'd vp,  
Leades fill'd, and Ridges hors'd  
With variable Complexions; all agreeing  
In earnestnesse to see him: seld-showne Flamins  
Doe presse among the popular Throngs, and puffe  
To winne a vulgar station: our veyl'd Dames  
Commit the Warre of White and Damaske  
In their nicely gawded Cheekes, toth' wanton spoyle  
Of Phoebus burning Kisses: such a poother,  
As if that whatsoeuer God, who leades him,  
Were slyly crept into his humane powers,  
And gaue him gracefull posture

Scicin. On the suddaine, I warrant him Consull

Brutus. Then our Office may, during his power, goe  
sleepe

Scicin. He cannot temp'rately transport his Honors,  
From where he should begin, and end, but will  
Lose those he hath wonne

Brutus. In that there's comfort

Scici. Doubt not,  
The Commoners, for whom we stand, but they  
Vpon their ancient mallice, will forget  
With the least cause, these his new Honors,

Which that he will giue them, make I as little question,  
As he is proud to doo't

Brutus. I heard him sweare,  
Were he to stand for Consull, neuer would he  
Appeare i'th' Market place, nor on him put  
The Naples Vesture of Humilitie,  
Nor shewing (as the manner is) his Wounds  
Toth' People, begge their stinking Breaths

Scicin. 'Tis right

Brutus. It was his word:  
Oh he would misse it, rather then carry it,  
But by the suite of the Gentry to him,  
And the desire of the Nobles

Scicin. I wish no better, then haue him hold that purpose,  
and to put it in execution

Brutus. 'Tis most like he will

Scicin. It shall be to him then, as our good wills; a  
sure destruction

Brutus. So it must fall out  
To him, or our Authorities, for an end.  
We must suggest the People, in what hatred  
He still hath held them: that to's power he would  
Haue made them Mules, silenc'd their Pleaders,  
And dispropertied their Freedomes; holding them,  
In humane Action, and Capacitie,  
Of no more Soule, nor fitnessse for the World,  
Then Cammels in their Warre, who haue their Prouand  
Onely for bearing Burthens, and sore blowes  
For sinking vnder them

Scicin. This (as you say) suggested,  
At some time, when his soaring Insolence  
Shall teach the People, which time shall not want,  
If he be put vpon't, and that's as easie,  
As to set Dogges on Sheepe, will be his fire  
To kindle their dry Stubble: and their Blaze  
Shall darken him for euer.

Enter a Messenger.

Brutus. What's the matter?

Mess. You are sent for to the Capitoll:  
'Tis thought, that Martius shall be Consull:  
I haue seene the dumbe men throng to see him,



And the blind to heare him speak: Matrons flong Gloues,  
Ladies and Maids their Scarffes, and Handkerchers,  
Vpon him as he pass'd: the Nobles bended  
As to Ioues Statue, and the Commons made  
A Shower, and Thunder, with their Caps, and Showts:  
I neuer saw the like

Brutus. Let's to the Capitoll,  
And carry with vs Eares and Eyes for th' time,  
But Hearts for the euent

Scicin. Haue with you.

Exeunt.

Enter two Officers, to lay Cushions, as it were, in the Capitoll.

1.Off. Come, come, they are almost here: how many  
stand for Consulships?

2.Off. Three, they say: but 'tis thought of euery one,  
Coriolanus will carry it

1.Off. That's a braue fellow: but hee's vengeance  
prowd, and loues not the common people

2.Off. 'Faith, there hath beene many great men that  
haue flatter'd the people, who ne're loued them; and there  
be many that they haue loued, they know not wherefore:  
so that if they loue they know not why, they hate vpon  
no better a ground. Therefore, for Coriolanus neyther to  
care whether they loue, or hate him, manifests the true  
knowledge he ha's in their disposition, and out of his Noble  
carelesnesse lets them plainely see't

1.Off. If he did not care whether he had their loue, or  
no, hee waued indifferently, 'twixt doing them neyther  
good, nor harme: but hee seekes their hate with greater  
deuotion, then they can render it him; and leaues nothing  
vndone, that may fully discouer him their opposite. Now  
to seeme to affect the mallice and displeasure of the People,  
is as bad, as that which he dislikes, to flatter them for  
their loue

2.Off. Hee hath deserued worthily of his Countrey,  
and his assent is not by such easie degrees as those, who  
hauing beene supple and courteous to the People, Bonnetted,  
without any further deed, to haue them at all into  
their estimation, and report: but hee hath so planted his  
Honors in their Eyes, and his actions in their Hearts, that  
for their Tongues to be silent, and not confesse so much,

were a kinde of ingratefull Iniurie: to report otherwise,  
were a Mallice, that giuing it selfe the Lye, would plucke  
reprooffe and rebuke from euery Eare that heard it

1.Off. No more of him, hee's a worthy man: make  
way, they are comming.

A Sennet. Enter the Patricians, and the Tribunes of the People,  
Lictors  
before them: Coriolanus, Menenius, Cominius the Consul:  
Scicinius and  
Brutus take their places by themselues: Coriolanus stands.

Menen. Hauing determin'd of the Volces,  
And to send for Titus Lartius: it remaines,  
As the maine Point of this our after-meeting,  
To gratifie his Noble seruice, that hath  
Thus stood for his Country. Therefore please you,  
Most reuerend and graue Elders, to desire  
The present Consull, and last Generall,  
In our well-found Successes, to report  
A little of that worthy Worke, perform'd  
By Martius Caius Coriolanus: whom  
We met here, both to thanke, and to remember,  
With Honors like himselfe

1.Sen. Speake, good Cominius:  
Leaue nothing out for length, and make vs thinke  
Rather our states defectiue for requitall,  
Then we to stretch it out. Masters a'th' People,  
We doe request your kindest eares: and after  
Your louing motion toward the common Body,  
To yeeld what passes here

Scicin. We are conuented vpon a pleasing Treatie, and  
haue hearts inclinable to honor and aduance the Theame  
of our Assembly

Brutus. Which the rather wee shall be blest to doe, if  
he remember a kinder value of the People, then he hath  
hereto priz'd them at

Menen. That's off, that's off: I would you rather had  
been silent: Please you to heare Cominius speake?

Brutus. Most willingly: but yet my Caution was  
more pertinent then the rebuke you giue it

Menen. He loues your People, but tye him not to be  
their Bed-fellow: Worthie Cominius speake.

Coriolanus rises, and offers to goe away.

Nay, keepe your place

Senat. Sit Coriolanus: neuer shame to heare  
What you haue Nobly done

Coriol. Your Honors pardon:  
I had rather haue my Wounds to heale againe,  
Then heare say how I got them

Brutus. Sir, I hope my words dis-bench'd you not?

Coriol. No Sir: yet oft,  
When blowes haue made me stay, I fled from words.  
You sooth'd not, therefore hurt not: but your People,  
I loue them as they weigh-  
Menen. Pray now sit downe

Corio. I had rather haue one scratch my Head i'th' Sun,  
When the Alarum were strucke, then idly sit  
To heare my Nothings monster'd.  
Exit Coriolanus

Menen. Masters of the People,  
Your multiplying Spawne, how can he flatter?  
That's thousand to one good one, when you now see  
He had rather venture all his Limbes for Honor,  
Then on ones Eares to heare it. Proceed Cominius

Com. I shall lacke voyce: the deeds of Coriolanus  
Should not be vtter'd feebly: it is held,  
That Valour is the chiefest Vertue,  
And most dignifies the hauer: if it be,  
The man I speake of, cannot in the World  
Be singly counter-poys'd. At sixteene yeeres,  
When Tarquin made a Head for Rome, he fought  
Beyond the marke of others: our then Dictator,  
Whom with all prayse I point at, saw him fight,  
When with his Amazonian Shinne he droue  
The brizled Lippes before him: he bestrid  
An o're-prest Roman, and i'th' Consuls view  
Slew three Opposers: Tarquins selfe he met,  
And strucke him on his Knee: in that dayes feates,  
When he might act the Woman in the Scene,  
He prou'd best man i'th' field, and for his meed  
Was Brow-bound with the Oake. His Pupill age  
Man-entred thus, he waxed like a Sea,  
And in the brunt of seunteene Battailles since,  
He lurcht all Swords of the Garland: for this last,  
Before, and in Corioles, let me say

I cannot speake him home: he stopt the flyers,  
And by his rare example made the Coward  
Turne terror into sport: as Weeds before  
A Vessell vnder sayle, so men obey'd,  
And fell below his Stem: his Sword, Deaths stampe,  
Where it did marke, it tooke from face to foot:  
He was a thing of Blood, whose euery motion  
Was tim'd with dying Cryes: alone he entred  
The mortall Gate of th' Citie, which he painted  
With shunlesse destinie: aydelesse came off,  
And with a sudden re-inforcement strucke  
Carioles like a Planet: now all's his,  
When by and by the dinne of Warre gan pierce  
His readie sence: then straight his doubled spirit  
Requickned what in flesh was fatigate,  
And to the Battaile came he, where he did  
Runne reeking o're the liues of men, as if 'twere  
A perpetuall spoyle: and till we call'd  
Both Field and Citie ours, he neuer stood  
To ease his Brest with panting

Menen. Worthy man

Senat. He cannot but with measure fit the Honors  
which we deuise him

Com. Our spoyles he kickt at,  
And look'd vpon things precious, as they were  
The common Muck of the World: he couets lesse  
Then Miserie it selfe would giue, rewards his deeds  
With doing them, and is content  
To spend the time, to end it

Menen. Hee's right Noble, let him be call'd for

Senat. Call Coriolanus

Off. He doth appeare.  
Enter Coriolanus.

Menen. The Senate, Coriolanus, are well pleas'd to make  
thee Consull

Corio. I doe owe them still my Life, and Seruices

Menen. It then remaines, that you doe speake to the  
People

Corio. I doe beseech you,  
Let me o're-leape that custome: for I cannot

Put on the Gowne, stand naked, and entreat them  
For my Wounds sake, to giue their sufferage:  
Please you that I may passe this doing

Scicin. Sir, the People must haue their Voyces,  
Neyther will they bate one iot of Ceremonie

Menen. Put them not too't:  
Pray you goe fit you to the Custome,  
And take to you, as your Predecessors haue,  
Your Honor with your forme

Corio. It is a part that I shall blush in acting,  
And might well be taken from the People

Brutus. Marke you that

Corio. To brag vnto them, thus I did, and thus  
Shew them th' vnaking Skarres, which I should hide,  
As if I had receiu'd them for the hyre  
Of their breath onely

Menen. Doe not stand vpon't:  
We recommend to you Tribunes of the People  
Our purpose to them, and to our Noble Consull  
Wish we all Ioy, and Honor

Senat. To Coriolanus come all ioy and Honor.  
Flourish Cornets. Then Exeunt. Manet Sicinius and Brutus.

Bru. You see how he intends to vse the people

Scicin. May they perceiue's intent: he wil require them  
As if he did contemne what he requested,  
Should be in them to giue

Bru. Come, wee'l informe them  
Of our proceedings heere on th' Market place,  
I know they do attend vs.  
Enter seuen or eight Citizens.

1.Cit. Once if he do require our voyces, wee ought  
not to deny him

2.Cit. We may Sir if we will

3.Cit. We haue power in our selues to do it, but it is  
a power that we haue no power to do: For, if hee shew vs  
his wounds, and tell vs his deeds, we are to put our tongues  
into those wounds, and speake for them: So if he tel

vs his Noble deeds, we must also tell him our Noble acceptance  
of them. Ingratitude is monstrous, and for the  
multitude to be ingratefull, were to make a Monster of  
the multitude; of the which, we being members, should  
bring our selues to be monstrous members

1.Cit. And to make vs no better thought of a little  
helpe will serue: for once we stood vp about the Corne,  
he himselfe stucke not to call vs the many-headed Multitude

3.Cit. We haue beene call'd so of many, not that our  
heads are some browne, some blacke, some Abram, some  
bald; but that our wits are so diuersly Coulord; and truly  
I thinke, if all our wittes were to issue out of one Scull,  
they would flye East, West, North, South, and their consent  
of one direct way, should be at once to all the points  
a'th Compasse

2.Cit. Thinke you so? Which way do you iudge my  
wit would flye

3.Cit. Nay your wit will not so soone out as another  
mans will, 'tis strongly wadg'd vp in a blocke-head: but  
if it were at liberty, 'twould sure Southward

2 Cit. Why that way?

3 Cit. To loose it selfe in a Fogge, where being three  
parts melted away with rotten Dewes, the fourth would  
returne for Conscience sake, to helpe to get thee a Wife

2 Cit. You are neuer without your trickes, you may,  
you may

3 Cit. Are you all resolu'd to giue your voyces? But  
that's no matter, the greater part carries it, I say. If hee  
would incline to the people, there was neuer a worthier  
man.

Enter Coriolanus in a gowne of Humility, with Menenius.

Heere he comes, and in the Gowne of humility, marke  
his behaiour: we are not to stay altogether, but to come  
by him where he stands, by ones, by twoes, & by threes.  
He's to make his requests by particulars, wherein euerie  
one of vs ha's a single Honor, in giuing him our own voices  
with our owne tongues, therefore follow me, and Ile  
direct you how you shall go by him

All. Content, content

Men. Oh Sir, you are not right: haue you not knowne

The worthiest men haue done't?  
Corio. What must I say, I pray Sir?  
Plague vpon't, I cannot bring  
My tongue to such a pace. Looke Sir, my wounds,  
I got them in my Countries Seruice, when  
Some certaine of your Brethren roar'd, and ranne  
From th' noise of our owne Drummes

Menen. Oh me the Gods, you must not speak of that,  
You must desire them to thinke vpon you

Coriol. Thinke vpon me? Hang 'em,  
I would they would forget me, like the Vertues  
Which our Diuines lose by em

Men. You'l marre all,  
Ile leaue you: Pray you speake to em, I pray you  
In wholsome manner.

Exit

Enter three of the Citizens.

Corio. Bid them wash their Faces,  
And keepe their teeth cleane: So, heere comes a brace,  
You know the cause (Sir) of my standing heere

3 Cit. We do Sir, tell vs what hath brought you too't

Corio. Mine owne desert

2 Cit. Your owne desert

Corio. I, but mine owne desire

3 Cit. How not your owne desire?  
Corio. No Sir, 'twas neuer my desire yet to trouble the  
poore with begging

3 Cit. You must thinke if we giue you any thing, we  
hope to gaine by you

Corio. Well then I pray, your price a'th' Consulship

1 Cit. The price is, to aske it kindly

Corio. Kindly sir, I pray let me ha't: I haue wounds to  
shew you, which shall bee yours in priuate: your good  
voice sir, what say you?

2 Cit. You shall ha't worthy Sir

Corio. A match Sir, there's in all two worthie voyces  
begg'd: I haue your Almes, Adieu

3 Cit. But this is something odde

2 Cit. And 'twere to giue againe: but 'tis no matter.

Exeunt. Enter two other Citizens.

Coriol. Pray you now, if it may stand with the tune  
of your voices, that I may bee Consull, I haue heere the  
Customarie Gowne

1. You haue deserued Nobly of your Countrey, and  
you haue not deserued Nobly

Coriol. Your aenigma

1. You haue bin a scourge to her enemies, you haue  
bin a Rod to her Friends, you haue not indeede loued the  
Common people

Coriol. You should account mee the more Vertuous,  
that I haue not bin common in my Loue, I will sir flatter  
my sworne Brother the people to earne a deerer estimation  
of them, 'tis a condition they account gentle: & since  
the wisdom of their choice, is rather to haue my Hat,  
then my Heart, I will practice the insinuating nod, and be  
off to them most counterfety, that is sir, I will counterfet  
the bewitchment of some popular man, and giue it  
bountifull to the desirers: Therefore beseech you, I may  
be Consull

2. Wee hope to finde you our friend: and therefore  
giue you our voices heartily

1. You haue receyued many wounds for your Countrey

Coriol. I wil not Seale your knowledge with shewing  
them. I will make much of your voyces, and so trouble  
you no farther

Both. The Gods giue you ioy Sir heartily

Coriol. Most sweet Voyces:  
Better it is to dye, better to sterue,  
Then craue the higher, which first we do deserue.  
Why in this Wooluish tongue should I stand heere,  
To begge of Hob and Dicke, that does appeere



Their needlesse Vouches: Custome calls me too't.  
What Custome wills in all things, should we doo't?  
The Dust on antique Time would lye vnswept,  
And mountainous Error be too highly heapt,  
For Truth to o're-peere. Rather then foole it so,  
Let the high Office and the Honor go  
To one that would doe thus. I am halfe through,  
The one part suffered, the other will I doe.  
Enter three Citizens more.

Here come moe Voyces.  
Your Voyces? for your Voyces I haue sought,  
Watcht for your Voyces: for your Voyces, beare  
Of Wounds, two dozen odde: Battailes thrice six  
I haue seene, and heard of: for your Voyces,  
Haue done many things, some lesse, some more:  
Your Voyces? Indeed I would be Consull

1.Cit. Hee ha's done Nobly, and cannot goe without  
any honest mans Voyce

2.Cit. Therefore let him be Consull: the Gods giue him  
ioy, and make him good friend to the People

All. Amen, Amen. God saue thee, Noble Consull

Corio. Worthy Voyces.  
Enter Menenius, with Brutus and Scicinius.

Mene. You haue stood your Limitation:  
And the Tribunes endue you with the Peoples Voyce,  
Remaines, that in th' Officiall Markes inuested,  
You anon doe meet the Senate

Corio. Is this done?  
Scicin. The Custome of Request you haue discharg'd:  
The People doe admit you, and are summon'd  
To meet anon, vpon your approbation

Corio. Where? at the Senate-house?  
Scicin. There, Coriolanus

Corio. May I change these Garments?  
Scicin. You may, Sir

Cori. That Ile straight do: and knowing my selfe again,  
Repayre toth' Senatehouse

Mene. Ile keepe you company. Will you along?  
Brut. We stay here for the People

Scicin. Fare you well.

Exeunt. Coriol. and Mene.

He ha's it now: and by his Lookes, me thinkes,  
'Tis warme at's heart

Brut. With a prowde heart he wore his humble Weeds:  
Will you dismisse the People?  
Enter the Plebeians.

Scici. How now, my Masters, haue you chose this man?

1.Cit. He ha's our Voyces, Sir

Brut. We pray the Gods, he may deserue your loues

2.Cit. Amen, Sir: to my poore vnworthy notice,  
He mock'd vs, when he begg'd our Voyces

3.Cit. Certainly, he flowted vs downe-right

1.Cit. No, 'tis his kind of speech, he did not mock vs

2.Cit. Not one amongst vs, saue your selfe, but sayes  
He vs'd vs scornefully: he should haue shew'd vs  
His Marks of Merit, Wounds receiu'd for's Countrey

Scicin. Why so he did, I am sure

All. No, no: no man saw 'em

3.Cit. Hee said hee had Wounds,  
Which he could shew in priuate:  
And with his Hat, thus wauing it in scorne,  
I would be Consull, sayes he: aged Custome,  
But by your Voyces, will not so permit me.  
Your Voyces therefore: when we graunted that,  
Here was, I thanke you for your Voyces, thanke you  
Your most sweet Voyces: now you haue left your Voyces,  
I haue no further with you. Was not this mockerie?

Scicin. Why eyther were you ignorant to see't?  
Or seeing it, of such Childish friendlinesse,  
To yeeld your Voyces?

Brut. Could you not haue told him,  
As you were lesson'd: When he had no Power,  
But was a pettie seruant to the State,  
He was your Enemie, euer spake against  
Your Liberties, and the Charters that you beare  
I'th' Body of the Weale: and now arriuing

A place of Potencie, and sway o'th' State,  
If he should still malignantly remaine  
Fast Foe toth' Plebeij, your Voyces might  
Be Curses to your selues. You should haue said,  
That as his worthy deeds did clayme no lesse  
Then what he stood for: so his gracious nature  
Would thinke vpon you, for your Voyces,  
And translate his Mallice towards you, into Loue,  
Standing your friendly Lord

Scicin. Thus to haue said,  
As you were fore-aduis'd, had toucht his Spirit,  
And try'd his Inclination: from him pluckt  
Eyther his gracious Promise, which you might  
As cause had call'd you vp, haue held him to;  
Or else it would haue gall'd his surly nature,  
Which easily endures not Article,  
Tying him to ought, so putting him to Rage,  
You should haue ta'ne th' aduantage of his Choller,  
And pass'd him vnelected

Brut. Did you perceiue,  
He did sollicite you in free Contempt,  
When he did need your Loues: and doe you thinke,  
That his Contempt shall not be brusing to you,  
When he hath power to crush? Why, had your Bodyes  
No Heart among you? Or had you Tongues, to cry  
Against the Rectorship of Iudgement?

Scicin. Haue you, ere now, deny'd the asker:  
And now againe, of him that did not aske, but mock,  
Bestow your su'd-for Tongues?

3.Cit. Hee's not confirm'd, we may deny him yet

2.Cit. And will deny him:

Ile haue fiue hundred Voyces of that sound

1.Cit. I twice fiue hundred, & their friends, to piece 'em

Brut. Get you hence instantly, and tell those friends,  
They haue chose a Consull, that will from them take  
Their Liberties, make them of no more Voyce  
Then Dogges, that are as often beat for barking,  
As therefore kept to doe so

Scici. Let them assemble: and on a safer Iudgement,  
All reuoke your ignorant election: Enforce his Pride,  
And his old Hate vnto you: besides, forget not  
With what Contempt he wore the humble Weed,  
How in his Suit he scorn'd you: but your Loues,  
Thinking vpon his Seruices, tooke from you

Th' apprehension of his present portance,  
Which most gibingly, vngrauely, he did fashion  
After the inueterate Hate he beares you

Brut. Lay a fault on vs, your Tribunes,  
That we labour'd (no impediment betweene)  
But that you must cast your Election on him

Scici. Say you chose him, more after our commandment,  
Then as guided by your owne true affections, and that  
Your Minds pre-occupy'd with what you rather must do,  
Then what you should, made you against the graine  
To Voyce him Consull. Lay the fault on vs

Brut. I, spare vs not: Say, we read Lectures to you,  
How youngly he began to serue his Countrey,  
How long continued, and what stock he springs of,  
The Noble House o'th'Martians: from whence came  
That Ancus Martius, Numaes Daughters Sonne:  
Who after great Hostilius here was King,  
Of the same House Publius and Quintus were,  
That our best Water, brought by Conduits hither,  
And Nobly nam'd, so twice being Censor,  
Was his great Ancestor

Scicin. One thus descended,  
That hath beside well in his person wrought,  
To be set high in place, we did commend  
To your remembrances: but you haue found,  
Skaling his present bearing with his past,  
That hee's your fixedemie; and reuoke  
Your suddaine approbation

Brut. Say you ne're had don't,  
(Harpe on that still) but by our putting on:  
And presently, when you haue drawne your number,  
Repaire toth' Capitoll

All. We will so: almost all repent in their election.

Exeunt. Plebeians.

Brut. Let them goe on:  
This Mutinie were better put in hazard,  
Then stay past doubt, for greater:  
If, as his nature is, he fall in rage  
With their refusall, both obserue and answer  
The vantage of his anger

Scicin. Toth' Capitoll, come:

We will be there before the streame o'th' People:  
And this shall seeme, as partly 'tis, their owne,  
Which we haue goaded on-ward.

Exeunt.

Actus Tertius.

Cornets. Enter Coriolanus, Menenius, all the Gentry, Cominius,  
Titus  
Latius, and other Senators.

Corio. Tullus Auffidius then had made new head

Latius. He had, my Lord, and that it was which caus'd  
Our swifter Composition

Corio. So then the Volces stand but as at first,  
Readie when time shall prompt them, to make roade  
Vpon's againe

Com. They are worne (Lord Consull) so,  
That we shall hardly in our ages see  
Their Banners waue againe

Corio. Saw you Auffidius?

Latius. On safegard he came to me, and did curse  
Against the Volces, for they had so vildly  
Yeelded the Towne: he is retyred to Antium

Corio. Spoke he of me?

Latius. He did, my Lord

Corio. How? what?

Latius. How often he had met you Sword to Sword:  
That of all things vpon the Earth, he hated  
Your person most: That he would pawne his fortunes  
To hopelesse restitution, so he might  
Be call'd your Vanquisher

Corio. At Antium liues he?

Latius. At Antium

Corio. I wish I had a cause to seeke him there,  
To oppose his hatred fully. Welcome home.  
Enter Scicinius and Brutus.

Behold, these are the Tribunes of the People,  
The Tongues o'th' Common Mouth. I do despise them:

For they doe pranke them in Authoritie,  
Against all Noble sufferance

Scicin. Passe no further

Cor. Hah? what is that?

Brut. It will be dangerous to goe on- No further

Corio. What makes this change?

Menen. The matter?

Com. Hath he not pass'd the Noble, and the Common?

Brut. Cominius, no

Corio. Haue I had Childrens Voyces?

Senat. Tribunes giue way, he shall toth' Market place

Brut. The People are incens'd against him

Scicin. Stop, or all will fall in broyle

Corio. Are these your Heard?

Must these haue Voyces, that can yeeld them now,  
And straight disclaim their tongs? what are your Offices?  
You being their Mouthes, why rule you not their Teeth?

Haue you not set them on?

Mene. Be calme, be calme

Corio. It is a purpos'd thing, and growes by Plot,  
To curbe the will of the Nobilitie:  
Suffer't, and liue with such as cannot rule,  
Nor euer will be ruled

Brut. Call't not a Plot:

The People cry you mockt them: and of late,  
When Corne was giuen them gratis, you repin'd,  
Scandal'd the Suppliants: for the People, call'd them  
Time-pleasers, flatterers, foes to Noblenesse

Corio. Why this was knowne before

Brut. Not to them all

Corio. Haue you inform'd them sithence?

Brut. How? I informe them?

Com. You are like to doe such businesse

Brut. Not vnlike each way to better yours

Corio. Why then should I be Consull? by yond Clouds  
Let me deserue so ill as you, and make me

Your fellow Tribune

Scicin. You shew too much of that,  
For which the People stirre: if you will passe  
To where you are bound, you must enquire your way,  
Which you are out of, with a gentler spirit,  
Or neuer be so Noble as a Consull,  
Nor yoake with him for Tribune

Mene. Let's be calme

Com. The People are abus'd: set on, this paltring  
Becomes not Rome: nor ha's Coriolanus  
Deseru'd this so dishonor'd Rub, layd falsely  
I'th' plaine Way of his Merit

Corio. Tell me of Corne: this was my speech,  
And I will speak't againe

Mene. Not now, not now

Senat. Not in this heat, Sir, now

Corio. Now as I liue, I will.  
My Nobler friends, I craue their pardons:  
For the mutable ranke-sented Meynie,  
Let them regard me, as I doe not flatter,  
And therein behold themselues: I say againe,  
In soothing them, we nourish 'gainst our Senate  
The Cockle of Rebellion, Insolence, Sedition,  
Which we our selues haue plowed for, sow'd, & scatter'd,  
By mingling them with vs, the honor'd Number,  
Who lack not Vertue, no, nor Power, but that  
Which they haue giuen to Beggars

Mene. Well, no more

Senat. No more words, we beseech you

Corio. How? no more?  
As for my Country, I haue shed my blood,  
Not fearing outward force: So shall my Lungs  
Coine words till their decay, against those Meazels  
Which we disdain should Tetter vs, yet sought  
The very way to catch them

Bru. You speake a'th' people, as if you were a God,  
To punish; Not a man, of their Infirmity

Sicin. 'Twere well we let the people know't

Mene. What, what? His Choller?  
Cor. Choller? Were I as patient as the midnight sleep,  
By Ioue, 'twould be my minde

Sicin. It is a minde that shall remain a poison  
Where it is: not poyson any further

Corio. Shall remaine?  
Heare you this Triton of the Minnoues? Marke you  
His absolute Shall?  
Com. 'Twas from the Cannon

Cor. Shall? O God! but most vnwise Patricians: why  
You graue, but wreacklesse Senators, haue you thus  
Giuen Hydra heere to choose an Officer,  
That with his peremptory Shall, being but  
The horne, and noise o'th' Monsters, wants not spirit  
To say, hee'l turne your Current in a ditch,  
And make your Channell his? If he haue power,  
Then vale your Ignorance: If none, awake  
Your dangerous Lenity: If you are Learn'd,  
Be not as common Fooles; if you are not,  
Let them haue Cushions by you. You are Plebeians,  
If they be Senators: and they are no lesse,  
When both your voices blended, the great'st taste  
Most pallates theirs. They choose their Magistrate,  
And such a one as he, who puts his Shall,  
His popular Shall, against a grauer Bench  
Then euer frown'd in Greece. By Ioue himselfe,  
It makes the Consuls base; and my Soule akes  
To know, when two Authorities are vp,  
Neither Supream; How soone Confusion  
May enter 'twixt the gap of Both, and take  
The one by th' other

Com. Well, on to'th' Market place

Corio. Who euer gaue that Counsell, to giue forth  
The Corne a'th' Store-house gratis, as 'twas vs'd  
Sometime in Greece

Mene. Well, well, no more of that

Cor. Thogh there the people had more absolute powre  
I say they norisht disobedience: fed, the ruin of the State

Bru. Why shall the people giue  
One that speakes thus, their voyce?  
Corio. Ile giue my Reasons,



More worthier then their Voyces. They know the Corne  
Was not our recompence, resting well assur'd  
They ne're did seruice for't; being prest to'th' Warre,  
Euen when the Nauell of the State was touch'd,  
They would not thred the Gates: This kinde of Seruice  
Did not deserue Corne gratis. Being i'th' Warre,  
There Mutinies and Reuolts, wherein they shew'd  
Most Valour spoke not for them. Th' Accusation  
Which they haue often made against the Senate,  
All cause vnborne, could neuer be the Natiue  
Of our so franke Donation. Well, what then?  
How shall this Bosome-multiplied, digest  
The Senates Courtesie? Let deeds expresse  
What's like to be their words, We did request it,  
We are the greater pole, and in true feare  
They gaue vs our demands. Thus we debase  
The Nature of our Seats, and make the Rabble  
Call our Cares, Feares; which will in time  
Breake ope the Lockes a'th' Senate, and bring in  
The Crowes to pecke the Eagles

Mene. Come enough

Bru. Enough, with ouer measure

Corio. No, take more.

What may be sworne by, both Diuine and Humane,  
Seale what I end withall. This double worship,  
Whereon part do's disdain with cause, the other  
Insult without all reason: where Gentry, Title, wisdom  
Cannot conclude, but by the yea and no  
Of generall Ignorance, it must omit  
Reall Necessities, and giue way the while  
To vnstable Slightnesse. Purpose so barr'd, it followes,  
Nothing is done to purpose. Therefore beseech you,  
You that will be lesse fearefull, then discreet,  
That loue the Fundamentall part of State  
More then you doubt the change on't: That preferre  
A Noble life, before a Long, and Wish,  
To iumpe a Body with a dangerous Physicke,  
That's sure of death without it: at once plucke out  
The Multitudinous Tongue, let them not licke  
The sweet which is their poyson. Your dishonor  
Mangles true iudgement, and bereaues the State  
Of that Integrity which should becom't:  
Not hauing the power to do the good it would  
For th' ill which doth controul't

Bru. Has said enough

Sicin. Ha's spoken like a Traitor, and shall answer  
As Traitors do

Corio. Thou wretch, despight ore-whelme thee:  
What should the people do with these bald Tribunes?  
On whom depending, their obedience failes  
To'th' greater Bench, in a Rebellion:  
When what's not meet, but what must be, was Law,  
Then were they chosen: in a better houre,  
Let what is meet, be saide it must be meet,  
And throw their power i'th' dust

Bru. Manifest Treason

Sicin. This a Consull? No.  
Enter an aedile.

Bru. The Ediles hoe: Let him be apprehended:  
Sicin. Go call the people, in whose name my Selfe  
Attach thee as a Traitorous Innouator:  
A Foe to'th' publike Weale. Obey I charge thee,  
And follow to thine answer

Corio. Hence old Goat

All. Wee'l Surety him

Com. Ag'd sir, hands off

Corio. Hence rotten thing, or I shall shake thy bones  
Out of thy Garments

Sicin. Helpe ye Citizens.  
Enter a rabble of Plebeians with the Aediles.

Mene. On both sides more respect

Sicin. Heere's hee, that would take from you all your  
power

Bru. Seize him Aediles

All. Downe with him, downe with him

2 Sen. Weapons, weapons, weapons:

They all bustle about Coriolanus.

Tribunes, Patricians, Citizens: what ho:  
Sicinius, Brutus, Coriolanus, Citizens

All. Peace, peace, peace, stay, hold, peace

Mene. What is about to be? I am out of Breath,  
Confusions neere, I cannot speake. You, Tribunes  
To'th' people: Coriolanus, patience: Speake good Sicinius

Scici. Heare me, People peace

All. Let's here our Tribune: peace, speake, speake,  
speake

Scici. You are at point to lose your Liberties:  
Martius would haue all from you; Martius,  
Whom late you haue nam'd for Consull

Mene. Fie, fie, fie, this is the way to kindle, not to  
quench

Sena. To vnbuild the Citie, and to lay all flat

Scici. What is the Citie, but the People?

All. True, the People are the Citie

Brut. By the consent of all, we were establish'd the  
Peoples Magistrates

All. You so remaine

Mene. And so are like to doe

Com. That is the way to lay the Citie flat,  
To bring the Roofe to the Foundation,  
And burie all, which yet distinctly raunges  
In heapes, and piles of Ruine

Scici. This deserues Death

Brut. Or let vs stand to our Authoritie,  
Or let vs lose it: we doe here pronounce,  
Vpon the part o'th' People, in whose power  
We were elected theirs, Martius is worthy  
Of present Death

Scici. Therefore lay hold of him:  
Beare him toth' Rock Tarpeian, and from thence  
Into destruction cast him

Brut. aediles seize him

All Ple. Yeeld Martius, yeeld

Mene. Heare me one word, 'beseech you Tribunes,  
heare me but a word

Aediles. Peace, peace

Mene. Be that you seeme, truly your Countries friend,  
And temp'rately proceed to what you would  
Thus violently redresse

Brut. Sir, those cold wayes,  
That seeme like prudent helpes, are very poysonous,  
Where the Disease is violent. Lay hands vpon him,  
And beare him to the Rock.

Corio. drawes his Sword.

Corio. No, Ile die here:  
There's some among you haue beheld me fighting,  
Come trie vpon your selues, what you haue seene me

Mene. Downe with that Sword, Tribunes withdraw  
a while

Brut. Lay hands vpon him

Mene. Helpe Martius, helpe: you that be noble, helpe  
him young and old

All. Downe with him, downe with him.

Exeunt.

In this Mutinie, the Tribunes, the aediles, and the People are beat  
in.

Mene. Goe, get you to our House: be gone, away.  
All will be naught else

2.Sena. Get you gone

Com. Stand fast, we haue as many friends as enemies

Mene. Shall it be put to that?

Sena. The Gods forbid:  
I prythee noble friend, home to thy House,  
Leaue vs to cure this Cause

Mene. For 'tis a Sore vpon vs,

You cannot Tent your selfe: be gone, 'beseech you

Corio. Come Sir, along with vs

Mene. I would they were Barbarians, as they are,  
Though in Rome litter'd: not Romans, as they are not,  
Though calued i'th' Porch o'th' Capitoll:  
Be gone, put not your worthy Rage into your Tongue,  
One time will owe another

Corio. On faire ground, I could beat fortie of them

Mene. I could my selfe take vp a Brace o'th' best of  
them, yea, the two Tribunes

Com. But now 'tis oddes beyond Arithmetick,  
And Manhood is call'd Foolerie, when it stands  
Against a falling Fabrick. Will you hence,  
Before the Tagge returne? whose Rage doth rend  
Like interrupted Waters, and o're-beare  
What they are vs'd to beare

Mene. Pray you be gone:  
Ile trie whether my old Wit be in request  
With those that haue but little: this must be patcht  
With Cloth of any Colour

Com. Nay, come away.

Exeunt. Coriolanus and Cominius.

Patri. This man ha's marr'd his fortune

Mene. His nature is too noble for the World:  
He would not flatter Neptune for his Trident,  
Or Ioue, for's power to Thunder: his Heart's his Mouth:  
What his Brest forges, that his Tongue must vent,  
And being angry, does forget that euer  
He heard the Name of Death.

A Noise within.

Here's goodly worke

Patri. I would they were a bed

Mene. I would they were in Tyber.  
What the vengeance, could he not speake 'em faire?  
Enter Brutus and Sicinius with the rabble againe.

Sicin. Where is this Viper,  
That would depopulate the city, & be euery man himself  
Mene. You worthy Tribunes

Sicin. He shall be throwne downe the Tarpeian rock  
With rigorous hands: he hath resisted Law,  
And therefore Law shall scorne him further Triall  
Then the seuerity of the publike Power,  
Which he so sets at naught

1 Cit. He shall well know the Noble Tribunes are  
The peoples mouths, and we their hands

All. He shall sure ont

Mene. Sir, sir

Sicin. Peace

Me. Do not cry hauocke, where you shold but hunt  
With modest warrant

Sicin. Sir, how com'st that you haue holpe  
To make this rescue?

Mene. Heere me speake? As I do know  
The Consuls worthinesse, so can I name his Faults

Sicin. Consull? what Consull?

Mene. The Consull Coriolanus

Bru. He Consull

All. No, no, no, no, no

Mene. If by the Tribunes leaue,  
And yours good people,  
I may be heard, I would craue a word or two,  
The which shall turne you to no further harme,  
Then so much losse of time

Sic. Speake breiefely then,  
For we are peremptory to dispatch  
This Viporous Traitor: to eiect him hence  
Were but one danger, and to keepe him heere  
Our certaine death: therefore it is decreed,  
He dyes to night

Menen. Now the good Gods forbid,  
That our renowned Rome, whose gratitude  
Towards her deserued Children, is enroll'd

In Ioues owne Booke, like an vnnaturall Dam  
Should now eate vp her owne

Sicin. He's a Disease that must be cut away

Mene. Oh he's a Limbe, that ha's but a Disease  
Mortall, to cut it off: to cure it, easie.  
What ha's he done to Rome, that's worthy death?  
Killing our Enemies, the blood he hath lost  
(Which I dare vouch, is more then that he hath  
By many an Ounce) he dropp'd it for his Country:  
And what is left, to loose it by his Countrey,  
Were to vs all that doo't, and suffer it  
A brand to th' end a'th World

Sicin. This is cleane kamme

Brut. Meerely awry:  
When he did loue his Country, it honour'd him

Menen. The seruice of the foote  
Being once gangren'd, is not then respected  
For what before it was

Bru. Wee'l heare no more:  
Pursue him to his house, and plucke him thence,  
Least his infection being of catching nature,  
Spred further

Menen. One word more, one word:  
This Tiger-footed-rage, when it shall find  
The harme of vnscan'd swiftnesse, will (too late)  
Tye Leaden pounds too's heeles. Proceed by Processe,  
Least parties (as he is belou'd) breake out,  
And sacke great Rome with Romanes

Brut. If it were so?  
Sicin. What do ye talke?  
Haue we not had a taste of his Obedience?  
Our Ediles smot: our selues resisted: come

Mene. Consider this: He ha's bin bred i'th' Warres  
Since a could draw a Sword, and is ill-school'd  
In boulted Language: Meale and Bran together  
He throwes without distinction. Giue me leaue,  
Ile go to him, and vndertake to bring him in peace,  
Where he shall answer by a lawfull Forme  
(In peace) to his vtmost perill

1.Sen. Noble Tribunes,

It is the humane way: the other course  
Will proue to bloody: and the end of it,  
Vnknowne to the Beginning

Sic. Noble Menenius, be you then as the peoples officer:  
Masters, lay downe your Weapons

Bru. Go not home

Sic. Meet on the Market place: wee'l attend you there:  
Where if you bring not Martius, wee'l proceede  
In our first way

Menen. Ile bring him to you.  
Let me desire your company: he must come,  
Or what is worst will follow

Sena. Pray you let's to him.

Exeunt. Omnes.

Enter Coriolanus with Nobles.

Corio. Let them pull all about mine eares, present me  
Death on the Wheele, or at wilde Horses heeles,  
Or pile ten hilles on the Tarpeian Rocke,  
That the precipitation might downe stretch  
Below the beame of sight; yet will I still  
Be thus to them.  
Enter Volumnia.

Noble. You do the Nobler

Corio. I muse my Mother  
Do's not approue me further, who was wont  
To call them Wollen Vassailes, things created  
To buy and sell with Groats, to shew bare heads  
In Congregations, to yawne, be still, and wonder,  
When one but of my ordinance stood vp  
To speake of Peace, or Warre. I talke of you,  
Why did you wish me milder? Would you haue me  
False to my Nature? Rather say, I play  
The man I am

Volum. Oh sir, sir, sir,  
I would haue had you put your power well on  
Before you had worne it out

Corio. Let go



Vol. You might haue beene enough the man you are,  
With striuing lesse to be so: Lesser had bin  
The things of your dispositions, if  
You had not shew'd them how ye were dispos'd  
Ere they lack'd power to crosse you

Corio. Let them hang

Volum. I, and burne too.  
Enter Menenius with the Senators.

Men. Come, come, you haue bin too rough, something  
too rough: you must returne, and mend it

Sen. There's no remedy,  
Vnlesse by not so doing, our good Citie  
Cleau in the midd'st, and perish

Volum. Pray be counsail'd;  
I haue a heart as little apt as yours,  
But yet a braine, that leades my vse of Anger  
To better vantage

Mene. Well said, Noble woman:  
Before he should thus stoope to'th' heart, but that  
The violent fit a'th' time craues it as Physicke  
For the whole State; I would put mine Armour on,  
Which I can scarsely beare

Corio. What must I do?  
Mene. Returne to th' Tribunes

Corio. Well, what then? what then?  
Mene. Repent, what you haue spoke

Corio. For them, I cannot do it to the Gods,  
Must I then doo't to them?

Volum. You are too absolute,  
Though therein you can neuer be too Noble,  
But when extremities speake. I haue heard you say,  
Honor and Policy, like vnseuer'd Friends,  
I'th' Warre do grow together: Grant that, and tell me  
In Peace, what each of them by th' other loose,  
That they combine not there?

Corio. Tush, tush

Mene. A good demand

Volum. If it be Honor in your Warres, to seeme  
The same you are not, which for your best ends

You adopt your policy: How is it lesse or worse  
That it shall hold Companionship in Peace  
With Honour, as in Warre; since that to both  
It stands in like request

Corio. Why force you this?

Volum. Because, that

Now it lyes you on to speake to th' people:  
Not by your owne instruction, nor by'th' matter  
Which your heart prompts you, but with such words  
That are but roated in your Tongue;  
Though but Bastards, and Syllables  
Of no allowance, to your bosomes truth.  
Now, this no more dishonors you at all,  
Then to take in a Towne with gentle words,  
Which else would put you to your fortune, and  
The hazard of much blood.

I would dissemble with my Nature, where  
My Fortunes and my Friends at stake, requir'd  
I should do so in Honor. I am in this  
Your Wife, your Sonne: These Senators, the Nobles,  
And you, will rather shew our generall Lowts,  
How you can frowne, then spend a fawne vpon 'em,  
For the inheritance of their loues, and safegard  
Of what that want might ruine

Menen. Noble Lady,

Come goe with vs, speake faire: you may salue so,  
Not what is dangerous present, but the losse  
Of what is past

Volum. I prythee now, my Sonne,

Goe to them, with this Bonnet in thy hand,  
And thus farre hauing stretcht it (here be with them)  
Thy Knee bussing the stones: for in such businesse  
Action is eloquence, and the eyes of th' ignorant  
More learned then the eares, wauing thy head,  
Which often thus correcting thy stout heart,  
Now humble as the ripest Mulberry,  
That will not hold the handling: or say to them,  
Thou art their Souldier, and being bred in broyles,  
Hast not the soft way, which thou do'st confesse  
Were fit for thee to vse, as they to clayme,  
In asking their good loues, but thou wilt frame  
Thy selfe (forsooth) hereafter theirs so farre,  
As thou hast power and person

Menen. This but done,

Euen as she speakes, why their hearts were yours:  
For they haue Pardons, being ask'd, as free,

As words to little purpose

Volum. Prythee now,  
Goe, and be rul'd: although I know thou hadst rather  
Follow thine Enemie in a fierie Gulfe,  
Then flatter him in a Bower.  
Enter Cominius.

Here is Cominius

Com. I haue beene i'th' Market place: and Sir 'tis fit  
You make strong partie, or defend your selfe  
By calmenesse, or by absence: all's in anger

Menen. Onely faire speech

Com. I thinke 'twill serue, if he can thereto frame his  
spirit

Volum. He must, and will:  
Prythee now say you will, and goe about it

Corio. Must I goe shew them my vnbarb'd Sconce?  
Must I with my base Tongue giue to my Noble Heart  
A Lye, that it must beare well? I will doo't:  
Yet were there but this single Plot, to loose  
This Mould of Martius, they to dust should grinde it,  
And throw't against the Winde. Toth' Market place:  
You haue put me now to such a part, which neuer  
I shall discharge toth' Life

Com. Come, come, wee'le prompt you

Volum. I prythee now sweet Son, as thou hast said  
My praises made thee first a Souldier; so  
To haue my praise for this, performe a part  
Thou hast not done before

Corio. Well, I must doo't:  
Away my disposition, and possesse me  
Some Harlots spirit: My throat of Warre be turn'd,  
Which quier'd with my Drumme into a Pipe,  
Small as an Eunuch, or the Virgin voyce  
That Babies lull a-sleepe: The smiles of Knaues  
Tent in my cheekes, and Schoole-boyes Teares take vp  
The Glasses of my sight: A Beggars Tongue  
Make motion through my Lips, and my Arm'd knees  
Who bow'd but in my Stirrop, bend like his  
That hath receiu'd an Almes. I will not doo't,  
Least I surcease to honor mine owne truth,

And by my Bodies action, teach my Minde  
A most inherent Basenesse

Volum. At thy choice then:  
To begge of thee, it is my more dis-honor,  
Then thou of them. Come all to ruine, let  
Thy Mother rather feele thy Pride, then feare  
Thy dangerous Stoutnesse: for I mocke at death  
With as bigge heart as thou. Do as thou list,  
Thy Valiantnesse was mine, thou suck'st it from me:  
But owe thy Pride thy selfe

Corio. Pray be content:  
Mother, I am going to the Market place:  
Chide me no more. Ile Mountebanke their Loues,  
Cogge their Hearts from them, and come home belou'd  
Of all the Trades in Rome. Looke, I am going:  
Commend me to my Wife, Ile returne Consull,  
Or neuer trust to what my Tongue can do  
I'th way of Flattery further

Volum. Do your will.

Exit Volumnia

Com. Away, the Tribunes do attend you: arm your self  
To answer mildely: for they are prepar'd  
With Accusations, as I heare more strong  
Then are vpon you yet

Corio. The word is, Mildely. Pray you let vs go,  
Let them accuse me by inuention: I  
Will answer in mine Honor

Menen. I, but mildely

Corio. Well mildely be it then, Mildely.

Exeunt.

Enter Sicinius and Brutus.

Bru. In this point charge him home, that he affects  
Tyrannicall power: If he euade vs there,  
Inforce him with his enuy to the people,  
And that the Spoile got on the Antiats  
Was ne're distributed. What, will he come?  
Enter an Edile.

Edile. Hee's comming

Bru. How accompanied?  
Edile. With old Menenius, and those Senators  
That alwayes fauour'd him

Sicin. Haue you a Catalogue  
Of all the Voices that we haue procur'd, set downe by'th Pole?  
Edile. I haue: 'tis ready

Sicin. Haue you collected them by Tribes?  
Edile. I haue

Sicin. Assemble presently the people hither:  
And when they heare me say, it shall be so,  
I'th' right and strength a'th' Commons: be it either  
For death, for fine, or Banishment, then let them  
If I say Fine, cry Fine; if Death, cry Death,  
Insisting on the olde prerogatiue  
And power i'th Truth a'th Cause

Edile. I shall informe them

Bru. And when such time they haue begun to cry,  
Let them not cease, but with a dinne confus'd  
Inforce the present Execution  
Of what we chance to Sentence

Edi. Very well

Sicin. Make them be strong, and ready for this hint  
When we shall hap to giu't them

Bru. Go about it,  
Put him to Choller strait, he hath bene vs'd  
Euer to conquer, and to haue his worth  
Of contradiction. Being once chaft, he cannot  
Be rein'd againe to Temperance, then he speaks  
What's in his heart, and that is there which lookes  
With vs to breake his necke.  
Enter Coriolanus, Menenius, and Cominius, with others.

Sicin. Well, heere he comes

Mene. Calmely, I do beseech you

Corio. I, as an Hostler, that fourth poorest peece  
Will beare the Knaue by'th Volume:  
Th' honor'd Goddes  
Keepe Rome in safety, and the Chaires of Iustice  
Supplied with worthy men, plant loue amongs

Through our large Temples with y shewes of peace  
And not our streets with Warre

I Sen. Amen, Amen

Mene. A Noble wish.  
Enter the Edile with the Plebeians.

Sicin. Draw neere ye people

Edile. List to your Tribunes. Audience:  
Peace I say

Corio. First heare me speake

Both Tri. Well, say: Peace hoe

Corio. Shall I be charg'd no further then this present?  
Must all determine heere?

Sicin. I do demand,  
If you submit you to the peoples voices,  
Allow their Officers, and are content  
To suffer lawfull Censure for such faults  
As shall be prou'd vpon you

Corio. I am Content

Mene. Lo Citizens, he sayes he is Content.  
The warlike Seruice he ha's done, consider: Thinke  
Vpon the wounds his body beares, which shew  
Like Graues i'th holy Church-yard

Corio. Scratches with Briars, scarres to moue  
Laughter onely

Mene. Consider further:  
That when he speakes not like a Citizen,  
You finde him like a Soldier: do not take  
His rougher Actions for malicious sounds:  
But as I say, such as become a Soldier,  
Rather then enuy you

Com. Well, well, no more

Corio. What is the matter,  
That being past for Consull with full voyce:  
I am so dishonour'd, that the very houre  
You take it off againe

Sicin. Answer to vs

Corio. Say then: 'tis true, I ought so  
Sicin. We charge you, that you haue contriu'd to take  
From Rome all season'd Office, and to winde  
Your selfe into a power tyrannicall,  
For which you are a Traitor to the people

Corio. How? Traytor?  
Mene. Nay temperately: your promise

Corio. The fires i'th' lowest hell. Fould in the people:  
Call me their Traitor, thou iniurious Tribune.  
Within thine eyes sate twenty thousand deaths  
In thy hands clutcht: as many Millions in  
Thy lying tongue, both numbers. I would say  
Thou lvest vnto thee, with a voice as free,  
As I do pray the Gods

Sicin. Marke you this people?  
All. To'th' Rocke, to'th' Rocke with him

Sicin. Peace:  
We neede not put new matter to his charge:  
What you haue seene him do, and heard him speake:  
Beating your Officers, cursing your selues,  
Opposing Lawes with stroakes, and heere defying  
Those whose great power must try him.  
Euen this so criminall, and in such capitall kinde  
Deserues th' extreamest death

Bru. But since he hath seru'd well for Rome

Corio. What do you prate of Seruice

Brut. I talke of that, that know it

Corio. You?  
Mene. Is this the promise that you made your mother

Com. Know, I pray you

Corio. Ile know no further:  
Let them pronounce the steepe Tarpeian death,  
Vagabond exile, Fleaing, pent to linger  
But with a graine a day, I would not buy  
Their mercie, at the price of one faire word,  
Nor checke my Courage for what they can giue,  
To haue't with saying, Good morrow

Sicin. For that he ha's

(As much as in him lies) from time to time  
Enui'd against the people; seeking meanes  
To plucke away their power: as now at last,  
Giuen Hostile strokes, and that not in the presence  
Of dreaded Iustice, but on the Ministers  
That doth distribute it. In the name a'th' people,  
And in the power of vs the Tribunes, wee  
(Eu'n from this instant) banish him our Citie  
In perill of precipitation  
From off the Rocke Tarpeian, neuer more  
To enter our Rome gates. I'th' Peoples name,  
I say it shall bee so

All. It shall be so, it shall be so: let him away:  
Hee's banish'd, and it shall be so

Com. Heare me my Masters, and my common friends

Sicin. He's sentenc'd: No more hearing

Com. Let me speake:  
I haue bene Consull, and can shew from Rome  
Her Enemies markes vpon me. I do loue  
My Countries good, with a respect more tender,  
More holy, and profound, then mine owne life,  
My deere Wiues estimate, her wombes encrease,  
And treasure of my Loynes: then if I would  
Speake that

Sicin. We know your drift. Speake what?  
Bru. There's no more to be said, but he is banish'd  
As Enemy to the people, and his Countrey.  
It shall bee so

All. It shall be so, it shall be so

Corio. You common cry of Curs, whose breath I hate,  
As reeke a'th' rotten Fennes: whose Loues I prize,  
As the dead Carkasses of vnburied men,  
That do corrupt my Ayre: I banish you,  
And heere remaine with your vncertaintie.  
Let euery feeble Rumor shake your hearts:  
Your Enemies, with noddng of their Plumes  
Fan you into dispaire: Haue the power still  
To banish your Defenders, till at length  
Your ignorance (which findes not till it feeles,  
Making but reseruatiou of your selues,  
Still your owne Foes) deliuer you  
As most abated Captiues, to some Nation  
That wonne you without blowes, despising



For you the City. Thus I turne my backe;  
There is a world elsewhere.

Exeunt. Coriolanus, Cominius, with Cumalijs. They all shout, and  
throw vp  
their Caps.

Edile. The peoples Enemy is gone, is gone

All. Our enemy is banish'd, he is gone: Hoo, oo

Sicin. Go see him out at Gates, and follow him  
As he hath follow'd you, with all despite  
Giue him deseru'd vexation. Let a guard  
Attend vs through the City

All. Come, come, lets see him out at gates, come:  
The Gods preserue our Noble Tribunes, come.

Exeunt.

Actus Quartus.

Enter Coriolanus, Volumnia, Virgilia, Menenius, Cominius, with  
the yong  
Nobility of Rome.

Corio. Come leaue your teares: a brief farwel: the beast  
With many heads butts me away. Nay Mother,  
Where is your ancient Courage? You were vs'd  
To say, Extremities was the trier of spirits,  
That common chances. Common men could beare,  
That when the Sea was calme, all Boats alike  
Shew'd Mastership in floating. Fortunes blowes,  
When most strooke home, being gentle wounded, craues  
A Noble cunning. You were vs'd to load me  
With Precepts that would make inuincible  
The heart that conn'd them

Virg. Oh heauens! O heauens!

Corio. Nay, I prythee woman

Vol. Now the Red Pestilence strike al Trades in Rome,  
And Occupations perish

Corio. What, what, what:  
I shall be lou'd when I am lack'd. Nay Mother,  
Resume that Spirit, when you were wont to say,  
If you had beene the Wife of Hercules,

Six of his Labours you'd haue done, and sau'd  
Your Husband so much swet. Cominius,  
Droope not, Adieu: Farewell my Wife, my Mother,  
Ile do well yet. Thou old and true Menenius,  
Thy teares are salter then a yonger mans,  
And venomous to thine eyes. My (sometime) Generall,  
I haue seene the Sterne, and thou hast oft beheld  
Heart-hardning spectacles. Tell these sad women,  
Tis fond to waile ineuitable strokes,  
As 'tis to laugh at 'em. My Mother, you wot well  
My hazards still haue beene your solace, and  
Beleeu't not lightly, though I go alone  
Like to a lonely Dragon, that his Fenne  
Makes fear'd, and talk'd of more then seene: your Sonne  
Will or exceed the Common, or be caught  
With cautelous baits and practice

Volum. My first sonne,  
Whether will thou go? Take good Cominius  
With thee awhile: Determine on some course  
More then a wilde exposture, to each chance  
That starts i'th' way before thee

Corio. O the Gods!  
Com. Ile follow thee a Moneth, devise with thee  
Where thou shalt rest, that thou may'st heare of vs,  
And we of thee. So if the time thrust forth  
A cause for thy Repeale, we shall not send  
O're the vast world, to seeke a single man,  
And loose aduantage, which doth euer coole  
Ith' absence of the needer

Corio. Fare ye well:  
Thou hast yeares vpon thee, and thou art too full  
Of the warres surfets, to go roue with one  
That's yet vnbruis'd: bring me but out at gate.  
Come my sweet wife, my deerest Mother, and  
My Friends of Noble touch: when I am forth,  
Bid me farewell, and smile. I pray you come:  
While I remaine aboute the ground, you shall  
Heare from me still, and neuer of me ought  
But what is like me formerly

Menen. That's worthily  
As any eare can heare. Come, let's not weepe,  
If I could shake off but one seuen yeeres  
From these old armes and legges, by the good Gods  
I'd with thee, euery foot

Corio. Giue me thy hand, come.

Exeunt.

Enter the two Tribunes, Sicinius, and Brutus, with the Edile.

Sicin. Bid them all home, he's gone: & wee'l no further,  
The Nobility are vexed, whom we see haue sided  
In his behalfe

Brut. Now we haue shewne our power,  
Let vs seeme humbler after it is done,  
Then when it was a dooing

Sicin. Bid them home: say their great enemy is gone,  
And they, stand in their ancient strength

Brut. Dismiss them home. Here comes his Mother.  
Enter Volumnia, Virgilia, and Menenius.

Sicin. Let's not meet her

Brut. Why?

Sicin. They say she's mad

Brut. They haue tane note of vs: keepe on your way

Volum. Oh y'are well met:  
Th' hoorded plague a'th' Gods requit your loue

Menen. Peace, peace, be not so loud

Volum. If that I could for weeping, you should heare,  
Nay, and you shall heare some. Will you be gone?

Virg. You shall stay too: I would I had the power  
To say so to my Husband

Sicin. Are you mankinde?

Volum. I foole, is that a shame. Note but this Foole,  
Was not a man my Father? Had'st thou Foxship  
To banish him that strooke more blowes for Rome  
Then thou hast spoken words

Sicin. Oh blessed Heauens!

Volum. Moe Noble blowes, then euer y wise words.

And for Romes good, Ile tell thee what: yet goe:

Nay but thou shalt stay too: I would my Sonne

Were in Arabia, and thy Tribe before him,

His good Sword in his hand

Sicin. What then?

Virg. When then? Hee'ld make an end of thy posterity  
Volum. Bastards, and all.  
Good man, the Wounds that he does beare for Rome!  
Menen. Come, come, peace

Sicin. I would he had continued to his Country  
As he began, and not vnknit himselfe  
The Noble knot he made

Bru. I would he had

Volum. I would he had? Twas thou incenst the rable.  
Cats, that can iudge as fitly of his worth,  
As I can of those Mysteries which heauen  
Will not haue earth to know

Brut. Pray let's go

Volum. Now pray sir get you gone.  
You haue done a braue deede: Ere you go, heare this:  
As farre as doth the Capitoll excede  
The meanest house in Rome; so farre my Sonne  
This Ladies Husband heere; this (do you see)  
Whom you haue banish'd, does exceed you all

Bru. Well, well, wee'l leaue you

Sicin. Why stay we to be baited  
With one that wants her Wits.

Exit Tribunes.

Volum. Take my Prayers with you.  
I would the Gods had nothing else to do,  
But to confirme my Cursses. Could I meete 'em  
But once a day, it would vnclogge my heart  
Of what lyes heauy too't

Mene. You haue told them home,  
And by my troth you haue cause: you'l Sup with me

Volum. Angers my Meate: I suppe vpon my selfe,  
And so shall sterue with Feeding: come, let's go,  
Leaue this faint-puling, and lament as I do,  
In Anger, Iuno-like: Come, come, come.

Exeunt.

Mene. Fie, fie, fie.

Enter.

Enter a Roman, and a Volce.

Rom. I know you well sir, and you know mee: your  
name I thinke is Adrian

Volce. It is so sir, truly I haue forgot you

Rom. I am a Roman, and my Seruices are as you are,  
against 'em. Know you me yet

Volce. Nicanor: no

Rom. The same sir

Volce. You had more Beard when I last saw you, but  
your Fauour is well appear'd by your Tongue. What's  
the Newes in Rome: I haue a Note from the Volcean  
state to finde you out there. You haue well saued mee a  
dayes iourney

Rom. There hath beene in Rome straunge Insurrections:  
The people, against the Senatours, Patricians, and  
Nobles

Vol. Hath bin; is it ended then? Our State thinks not  
so, they are in a most warlike preparation, & hope to com  
vpon them, in the heate of their diuision

Rom. The maine blaze of it is past, but a small thing  
would make it flame againe. For the Nobles receyue so  
to heart, the Banishment of that worthy Coriolanus, that  
they are in a ripe aptnesse, to take al power from the people,  
and to plucke from them their Tribunes for euer.  
This lyes glowing I can tell you, and is almost mature for  
the violent breaking out

Vol. Coriolanus Banisht?

Rom. Banish'd sir

Vol. You will be welcome with this intelligence Nicanor

Rom. The day serues well for them now. I haue heard  
it saide, the fittest time to corrupt a mans Wife, is when  
shee's falne out with her Husband. Your Noble Tullus  
Auffidius will appeare well in these Warres, his great  
Opposer Coriolanus being now in no request of his country

Volce. He cannot choose: I am most fortunate, thus  
accidentally to encounter you. You haue ended my Businesse,  
and I will merrily accompany you home

Rom. I shall betwene this and Supper, tell you most strange things from Rome: all tending to the good of their Aduersaries. Haue you an Army ready say you?

Vol. A most Royall one: The Centurions, and their charges distinctly billeted already in th' entertainment, and to be on foot at an houres warning

Rom. I am ioyfull to heare of their readinesse, and am the man I thinke, that shall set them in present Action. So sir, heartily well met, and most glad of your Company

Volce. You take my part from me sir, I haue the most cause to be glad of yours

Rom. Well, let vs go together.

Exeunt.

Enter Coriolanus in meane Apparrell, disguisd, and muffled.

Corio. A goodly City is this Antium. Citty,  
'Tis I that made thy Widdowes: Many an heyre  
Of these faire Edifices fore my Warres  
Haue I heard groane, and drop: Then know me not,  
Least that thy Wiues with Spits, and Boyes with stones  
In puny Battell slay me. Saue you sir.

Enter a Citizen.

Cit. And you

Corio. Direct me, if it be your will, where great Auffidius lies: Is he in Antium?

Cit. He is, and Feasts the Nobles of the State, at his house this night

Corio. Which is his house, beseech you?

Cit. This heere before you

Corio. Thanke you sir, farewell.

Exit Citizen

Oh World, thy slippery turnes! Friends now fast sworn,  
Whose double bosomes seemes to weare one heart,  
Whose Houres, whose Bed, whose Meale and Exercise  
Are still together: who Twin (as 'twere) in Loue,  
Vnseparable, shall within this houre,  
On a dissention of a Doit, breake out  
To bitterest Enmity: So fellest Foes,

Whose Passions, and whose Plots haue broke their sleep  
To take the one the other, by some chance,  
Some tricke not worth an Egge, shall grow deere friends  
And inter-ioyne their yssues. So with me,  
My Birth-place haue I, and my loues vpon  
This Enemie Towne: Ile enter, if he slay me  
He does faire Iustice: if he giue me way,  
Ile do his Country Service.

Enter.

Musicke playes. Enter a Seruingman.

1 Ser. Wine, Wine, Wine: What seruice is heere? I  
thinke our Fellowes are asleepe.

Enter another Seruingman.

2 Ser. Where's Cotus: my M[aster]. cals for him: Cotus.

Exit

Enter Coriolanus.

Corio. A goodly House:  
The Feast smels well: but I appeare not like a Guest.  
Enter the first Seruingman.

1 Ser. What would you haue Friend? whence are you?  
Here's no place for you: pray go to the doore?

Exit

Corio. I haue deseru'd no better entertainment, in being  
Coriolanus.

Enter second Seruant.

2 Ser. Whence are you sir? Ha's the Porter his eyes in  
his head, that he giues entrance to such Companions?  
Pray get you out

Corio. Away

2 Ser. Away? Get you away

Corio. Now th'art troublesome

2 Ser. Are you so braue: Ile haue you talkt with anon  
Enter 3 Seruingman, the 1 meets him.

3 What Fellowes this?

1 A strange one as euer I look'd on: I cannot get him  
out o'thhouse: Prythee call my Master to him

3 What haue you to do here fellow? Pray you auoid  
the house

Corio. Let me but stand, I will not hurt your Harth

3 What are you?

Corio. A Gentleman

3 A maru'llous poore one

Corio. True, so I am

3 Pray you poore Gentleman, take vp some other station:  
Heere's no place for you, pray you auoid: Come

Corio. Follow your Function, go, and batten on colde  
bits.

Pushes him away from him.

3 What you will not? Prythee tell my Maister what  
a strange Guest he ha's heere

2 And I shall.

Exit second Seruingman.

3 Where dwel'st thou?

Corio. Vnder the Canopy

3 Vnder the Canopy?

Corio. I

3 Where's that?

Corio. I'th City of Kites and crows

3 I'th City of Kites and Crows? What an Asse it is,  
then thou dwel'st with Dawes too?

Corio. No, I serue not thy Master

3 How sir? Do you meddle with my Master?

Corio. I, tis an honeste seruice, then to meddle with  
thy Mistris: Thou prat'st, and prat'st, serue with thy trencher:

Hence.

Beats him away



Enter Auffidius with the Seruingman.

Auf. Where is this Fellow?

2 Here sir, I'de haue beaten him like a dogge, but for  
disturbing the Lords within

Auf. Whence com'st thou? What wouldst y? Thy name?

Why speak'st not? Speake man: What's thy name?

Corio. If Tullus not yet thou know'st me, and seeing  
me, dost not thinke me for the man I am, necessitie commands  
me name my selfe

Auf. What is thy name?

Corio. A name vnmusicall to the Volcians eares,  
And harsh in sound to thine

Auf. Say, what's thy name?

Thou hast a Grim apparance, and thy Face  
Bears a Command in't: Though thy Tackles torne,  
Thou shew'st a Noble Vessell: What's thy name?

Corio. Prepare thy brow to frowne: knowst y me yet?

Auf. I know thee not? Thy Name:

Corio. My name is Caius Martius, who hath done  
To thee particularly, and to all the Volces  
Great hurt and Mischiefe: thereto witnesse may  
My Surname Coriolanus. The painfull Seruice,  
The extreme Dangers, and the droppes of Blood  
Shed for my thanklesse Country, are requitted:

But with that Surname, a good memorie

And witnesse of the Malice and Displeasure

Which thou should'st beare me, only that name remains.

The Cruelty and Enuy of the people,

Permitted by our dastard Nobles, who

Haue all forsooke me, hath deuour'd the rest:

And suffer'd me by th' voyce of Slaues to be

Hoop'd out of Rome. Now this extremity,

Hath brought me to thy Harth, not out of Hope

(Mistake me not) to saue my life: for if

I had fear'd death, of all the Men i'th' World

I would haue voided thee. But in meere spight

To be full quit of those my Banishers,

Stand I before thee heere: Then if thou hast

A heart of wreake in thee, that wilt reuenge

Thine owne particular wrongs, and stop those maimes

Of shame seene through thy Country, speed thee straight

And make my misery serue thy turne: So vse it,

That my reuengefull Seruices may proue

As Benefits to thee. For I will fight

Against my Cankred Countrey, with the Spleene

Of all the vnder Fiends. But if so be,  
Thou dar'st not this, and that to proue more Fortunes  
Th'art tyr'd, then in a word, I also am  
Longer to liue most wearie: and present  
My throat to thee, and to thy Ancient Malice:  
Which not to cut, would shew thee but a Foole,  
Since I haue euer followed thee with hate,  
Drawne Tunnes of Blood out of thy Countries brest,  
And cannot liue but to thy shame, vnlesse  
It be to do thee seruice

Auf. Oh Martius, Martius;  
Each word thou hast spoke, hath weeded from my heart  
A roote of Ancient Enuy. If Iupiter  
Should from yond clowd speake diuine things,  
And say 'tis true; I'de not beleue them more  
Then thee all-Noble Martius. Let me twine  
Mine armes about that body, where against  
My grained Ash an hundred times hath broke,  
And scarr'd the Moone with splinters: heere I cleep  
The Anuile of my Sword, and do contest  
As hotly, and as Nobly with thy Loue,  
As euer in Ambitious strength, I did  
Contend against thy Valour. Know thou first,  
I lou'd the Maid I married: neuer man  
Sigh'd truer breath. But that I see thee heere  
Thou Noble thing, more dances my rapt heart,  
Then when I first my wedded Mistris saw  
Bestride my Threshold. Why, thou Mars I tell thee,  
We haue a Power on foote: and I had purpose  
Once more to hew thy Target from thy Brawne,  
Or loose mine Arme for't: Thou hast beate mee out  
Twelue seuerall times, and I haue nightly since  
Dreamt of encounters 'twixt thy selfe and me:  
We haue beene downe together in my sleepe,  
Vnbuckling Helmes, fisting each others Throat,  
And wak'd halfe dead with nothing. Worthy Martius,  
Had we no other quarrell else to Rome, but that  
Thou art thence Banish'd, we would muster all  
From twelue, to seuentie: and powring Warre  
Into the bowels of vngratefull Rome,  
Like a bold Flood o're-beate. Oh come, go in,  
And take our friendly Senators by'th' hands  
Who now are heere, taking their leaues of mee,  
Who am prepar'd against your Territories,  
Though not for Rome it selfe

Corio. You blesse me Gods

Auf. Therefore most absolute Sir, if thou wilt haue

The leading of thine owne Reuenges, take  
Th' one halfe of my Commission, and set downe  
As best thou art experienc'd, since thou know'st  
Thy Countries strength and weaknesse, thine own waies  
Whether to knocke against the Gates of Rome,  
Or rudely visit them in parts remote,  
To fright them, ere destroy. But come in,  
Let me commend thee first, to those that shall  
Say yea to thy desires. A thousand welcomes,  
And more a Friend, then ere an Enemie,  
Yet Martius that was much. Your hand: most welcome.

Exeunt.

Enter two of the Seruingmen.

1 Heere's a strange alteration?

2 By my hand, I had thoght to haue stroken him with  
a Cudgell, and yet my minde gaue me, his cloathes made  
a false report of him

1 What an Arme he has, he turn'd me about with his  
finger and his thumbe, as one would set vp a Top

2 Nay, I knew by his face that there was some-thing  
in him. He had sir, a kinde of face me thought, I cannot  
tell how to tearme it

1 He had so, looking as it were, would I were hang'd  
but I thought there was more in him, then I could think

2 So did I, Ile be sworne: He is simply the rarest man  
i'th' world

1 I thinke he is: but a greater soldier then he,  
You wot one

2 Who my Master?

1 Nay, it's no matter for that

2 Worth six on him

1 Nay not so neither: but I take him to be the greater  
Souldiour

2 Faith looke you, one cannot tell how to say that: for  
the Defence of a Towne, our Generall is excellent

1 I, and for an assault too.  
Enter the third Seruingman.

3 Oh Slaues, I can tell you Newes, News you Rascals  
Both. What, what, what? Let's partake

3 I would not be a Roman of all Nations; I had as  
liue be a condemn'd man

Both. Wherefore? Wherefore?

3 Why here's he that was wont to thwacke our Generall,  
Caius Martius

1 Why do you say, thwacke our Generall?

3 I do not say thwacke our Generall, but he was alwayes  
good enough for him

2 Come we are fellowes and friends: he was euer too  
hard for him, I haue heard him say so himselfe

1 He was too hard for him directly, to say the Troth  
on't before Corioles, he scotcht him, and notcht him like a  
Carbinado

2 And hee had bin Cannibally giuen, hee might haue  
boyld and eaten him too

1 But more of thy Newes

3 Why he is so made on heere within, as if hee were  
Son and Heire to Mars, set at vpper end o'th' Table: No  
question askt him by any of the Senators, but they stand  
bald before him. Our Generall himselfe makes a Mistris  
of him, Sanctifies himselfe with's hand, and turnes vp the  
white o'th' eye to his Discourse. But the bottome of the  
Newes is, our Generall is cut i'th' middle, & but one halfe  
of what he was yesterday. For the other ha's halfe, by  
the intreaty and graunt of the whole Table. Hee'l go he  
sayes, and sole the Porter of Rome Gates by th' eares. He  
will mowe all downe before him, and leaue his passage  
poul'd

2 And he's as like to do't, as any man I can imagine

3 Doo't? he will doo't: for look you sir, he has as many  
Friends as Enemies: which Friends sir as it were, durst  
not (looke you sir) shew themselues (as we terme it) his  
Friends, whilst he's in Directitude

1 Directitude? What's that?

3 But when they shall see sir, his Crest vp againe, and  
the man in blood, they will out of their Burroughes (like  
Conies after Raine) and reuell all with him

1 But when goes this forward:

3 To morrow, to day, presently, you shall haue the  
Drum strooke vp this afternoone: 'Tis as it were a parcel  
of their Feast, and to be executed ere they wipe their lips

2 Why then wee shall haue a stirring World againe:  
This peace is nothing, but to rust Iron, encrease Taylors,  
and breed Ballad-makers

1 Let me haue Warre say I, it exceeds peace as farre  
as day do's night: It's sprightly walking, audible, and full  
of Vent. Peace, is a very Apoplexy, Lethargie, mull'd,  
deafe, sleepe, insensible, a getter of more bastard Children,  
then warres a destroyer of men

2 'Tis so, and as warres in some sort may be saide to  
be a Rauisher, so it cannot be denied, but peace is a great  
maker of Cuckolds

1 I, and it makes men hate one another

3 Reason, because they then lesse neede one another:  
The Warres for my money. I hope to see Romanes as  
cheape as Volcians. They are rising, they are rising

Both. In, in, in, in.

Exeunt.

Enter the two Tribunes, Sicinius, and Brutus.

Sicin. We heare not of him, neither need we fear him,  
His remedies are tame, the present peace,  
And quietnesse of the people, which before  
Were in wilde hurry. Heere do we make his Friends  
Blush, that the world goes well: who rather had,  
Though they themselues did suffer by't, behold  
Dissentious numbers pestring streets, then see  
Our Tradesmen singing in their shops, and going  
About their Functions friendly.

Enter Menenius.

Bru. We stood too't in good time. Is this Menenius?  
Sicin. 'Tis he, 'tis he: O he is grown most kind of late:  
Haile Sir

Mene. Haile to you both

Sicin. Your Coriolanus is not much mist, but with his

Friends: the Commonwealth doth stand, and so would  
do, were he more angry at it

Mene. All's well, and might haue bene much better,  
if he could haue temporiz'd

Sicin. Where is he, heare you?

Mene. Nay I heare nothing:  
His Mother and his wife, heare nothing from him.  
Enter three or foure Citizens.

All. The Gods preserue you both

Sicin. Gooden our Neighbours

Bru. Gooden to you all, gooden to you all

I Our selues, our wiues, and children, on our knees,  
Are bound to pray for you both

Sicin. Liue, and thriue

Bru. Farewell kinde Neighbours:  
We wisht Coriolanus had lou'd you as we did

All. Now the Gods keepe you

Both Tri. Farewell, farewell.

Exeunt. Citizens

Sicin. This is a happier and more comely time,  
Then when these Fellowes ran about the streets,  
Crying Confusion

Bru. Caius Martius was  
A worthy Officer i'th' Warre, but Insolent,  
O'recome with Pride, Ambitious, past all thinking  
Selfe-louing

Sicin. And affecting one sole Throne, without assista[n]ce  
Mene. I thinke not so

Sicin. We should by this, to all our Lamention,  
If he had gone forth Consull, found it so

Bru. The Gods haue well preuented it, and Rome  
Sits safe and still, without him.  
Enter an aedile.

Aedile. Worthy Tribunes,  
There is a Slaue whom we haue put in prison,  
Reports the Volces with two seuerall Powers  
Are entred in the Roman Territories,  
And with the deepest malice of the Warre,  
Destroy, what lies before' em

Mene. 'Tis Auffidius,  
Who hearing of our Martius Banishment,  
Thrusts forth his hornes againe into the world  
Which were In-shell'd, when Martius stood for Rome,  
And durst not once peepe out

Sicin. Come, what talke you of Martius

Bru. Go see this Rumorer whipt, it cannot be,  
The Volces dare breake with vs

Mene. Cannot be?  
We haue Record, that very well it can,  
And three examples of the like, hath beene  
Within my Age. But reason with the fellow  
Before you punish him, where he heard this,  
Least you shall chance to whip your Information,  
And beate the Messenger, who bids beware  
Of what is to be dreaded

Sicin. Tell not me: I know this cannot be

Bru. Not possible.  
Enter a Messenger.

Mes. The Nobles in great earnestnesse are going  
All to the Senate-house: some newes is comming  
That turnes their Countenances

Sicin. 'Tis this Slaue:  
Go whip him fore the peoples eyes: His raising,  
Nothing but his report

Mes. Yes worthy Sir,  
The Slaues report is seconded, and more  
More fearfull is deliuer'd

Sicin. What more fearefull?  
Mes. It is spoke freely out of many mouths,  
How probable I do not know, that Martius  
Ioyn'd with Auffidius, leads a power 'gainst Rome,  
And vowes Reuenge as spacious, as betweene  
The yong'st and oldest thing

Sicin. This is most likely

Bru. Rais'd onely, that the weaker sort may wish  
Good Martius home againe

Sicin. The very tricke on't

Mene. This is vnlikely,  
He, and Auffidius can no more attone  
Then violent'st Contrariety.  
Enter Messenger.

Mes. You are sent for to the Senate:  
A fearefull Army, led by Caius Martius,  
Associated with Auffidius, Rages  
Vpon our Territories, and haue already  
O're-borne their way, consum'd with fire, and tooke  
What lay before them.  
Enter Cominius.

Com. Oh you haue made good worke

Mene. What newes? What newes?  
Com. You haue holp to rauish your owne daughters, &  
To melt the Citty Leades vpon your pates,  
To see your Wiues dishonour'd to your Noses

Mene. What's the newes? What's the newes?  
Com. Your Temples burned in their Ciment, and  
Your Franchises, whereon you stood, confin'd  
Into an Augors boare

Mene. Pray now, your Newes:  
You haue made faire worke I feare me: pray your newes,  
If Martius should be ioyn'd with Volceans

Com. If? He is their God, he leads them like a thing  
Made by some other Deity then Nature,  
That shapes man Better: and they follow him  
Against vs Brats, with no lesse Confidence,  
Then Boyes pursuing Summer Butter-flies,  
Or Butchers killing Flyes

Mene. You haue made good worke,  
You and your Apron men: you, that stood so much  
Vpon the voyce of occupation, and  
The breath of Garlicke-eaters

Com. Hee'l shake your Rome about your eares



Mene. As Hercules did shake downe Mellow Fruite:  
You haue made faire worke

Brut. But is this true sir?

Com. I, and you'l looke pale  
Before you finde it other. All the Regions  
Do smilingly Reuolt, and who resists  
Are mock'd for valiant Ignorance,  
And perish constant Fooles: who is't can blame him?  
Your Enemies and his, finde something in him

Mene. We are all vndone, vnlesse  
The Noble man haue mercy

Com. Who shall aske it?

The Tribunes cannot doo't for shame; the people  
Deserue such pittie of him, as the Wolfe  
Doe's of the Shepheards: For his best Friends, if they  
Should say be good to Rome, they charg'd him, euen  
As those should do that had deseru'd his hate,  
And therein shew'd like Enemies

Me. 'Tis true, if he were putting to my house, the brand  
That should consume it, I haue not the face  
To say, beseech you cease. You haue made faire hands,  
You and your Crafts, you haue crafted faire

Com. You haue brought  
A Trembling vpon Rome, such as was neuer  
S' incapeable of helpe

Tri. Say not, we brought it

Mene. How? Was't we? We lou'd him,  
But like Beasts, and Cowardly Nobles,  
Gauē way vnto your Clusters, who did hoote  
Him out o'th' Citty

Com. But I feare  
They'l roare him in againe. Tullus Affidius,  
The second name of men, obeyes his points  
As if he were his Officer: Desperation,  
Is all the Policy, Strength, and Defence  
That Rome can make against them.  
Enter a Troope of Citizens.

Mene. Heere come the Clusters.  
And is Auffidius with him? You are they  
That made the Ayre vnwholsome, when you cast

Your stinking, greasie Caps, in hooting  
At Coriolanus Exile. Now he's comming,  
And not a haire vpon a Souldiers head  
Which will not proue a whip: As many Coxcombes  
As you threw Caps vp, will he tumble downe,  
And pay you for your voyces. 'Tis no matter,  
If he could burne vs all into one coale,  
We haue deseru'd it

Omnes. Faith, we heare fearfull Newes

1 Cit. For mine owne part,  
When I said banish him, I said 'twas pittie

2 And so did I

3 And so did I: and to say the truth, so did very many  
of vs, that we did we did for the best, and though wee  
willingly consented to his Banishment, yet it was against  
our will

Com. Y'are goodly things, you Voyces

Mene. You haue made good worke  
You and your cry. Shal's to the Capitoll?

Com. Oh I, what else?

Exeunt. both.

Sicin. Go Masters get you home, be not dismaid,  
These are a Side, that would be glad to haue  
This true, which they so seeme to feare. Go home,  
And shew no signe of Feare

1 Cit. The Gods bee good to vs: Come Masters let's  
home, I euer said we were i'th wrong, when we banish'd  
him

2 Cit. So did we all. But come, let's home.

Exit Cit.

Bru. I do not like this Newes

Sicin. Nor I

Bru. Let's to the Capitoll: would halfe my wealth  
Would buy this for a lye

Sicin. Pray let's go.

Exeunt. Tribunes.

Enter Auffidius with his Lieutenant.

Auf. Do they still flye to'th' Roman?  
Lieu. I do not know what Witchcraft's in him: but  
Your Soldiers vse him as the Grace 'fore meate,  
Their talke at Table, and their Thankes at end,  
And you are darkned in this action Sir,  
Euen by your owne

Auf. I cannot helpe it now,  
Vnlesse by vsing meanes I lame the foote  
Of our designe. He beares himselfe more proudlier,  
Euen to my person, then I thought he would  
When first I did embrace him. Yet his Nature  
In that's no Changeling, and I must excuse  
What cannot be amended

Lieu. Yet I wish Sir,  
(I meane for your particular) you had not  
Ioynd in Commission with him: but either haue borne  
The action of your selfe, or else to him, had left it soly

Auf. I vnderstand thee well, and be thou sure  
When he shall come to his account, he knowes not  
What I can vrge against him, although it seemes  
And so he thinkes, and is no lesse apparant  
To th' vulgar eye, that he beares all things fairely:  
And shewes good Husbandry for the Volcian State,  
Fights Dragon-like, and does atcheeue as soone  
As draw his Sword: yet he hath left vndone  
That which shall breake his necke, or hazard mine,  
When ere we come to our account

Lieu. Sir, I beseech you, think you he'l carry Rome?

Auf. All places yeelds to him ere he sits downe,  
And the Nobility of Rome are his:  
The Senators and Patricians loue him too:  
The Tribunes are no Soldiers: and their people  
Will be as rash in the repeale, as hasty  
To expell him thence. I thinke hee'l be to Rome  
As is the Aspray to the Fish, who takes it  
By Soueraignty of Nature. First, he was  
A Noble seruant to them, but he could not  
Carry his Honors euen: whether 'twas Pride  
Which out of dayly Fortune euer taints  
The happy man; whether defect of iudgement,  
To faile in the disposing of those chances

Which he was Lord of: or whether Nature,  
Not to be other then one thing, not moouing  
From th' Caske to th' Cushion: but commanding peace  
Euen with the same austerity and garbe,  
As he controll'd the warre. But one of these  
(As he hath spices of them all) not all,  
For I dare so farre free him, made him fear'd,  
So hated, and so banish'd: but he ha's a Merit  
To choake it in the vtt'rance: So our Vertue,  
Lie in th' interpretation of the time,  
And power vnto it selfe most commendable,  
Hath not a Tombe so eident as a Chaire  
T' extoll what it hath done.  
One fire driues out one fire; one Naile, one Naile;  
Rights by rights fouler, strengths by strengths do faile.  
Come let's away: when Caius Rome is thine,  
Thou art poor'st of all; then shortly art thou mine.

Exeunt.

Actus Quintus.

Enter Menenius, Cominius, Sicinius, Brutus, the two Tribunes,  
with  
others.

Menen. No, ile not go: you heare what he hath said  
Which was sometime his Generall: who loued him  
In a most deere particular. He call'd me Father:  
But what o'that? Go you that banish'd him  
A Mile before his Tent, fall downe, and knee  
The way into his mercy: Nay, if he coy'd  
To heare Cominius speake, Ile keepe at home

Com. He would not seeme to know me

Menen. Do you heare?

Com. Yet one time he did call me by my name:  
I vrg'd our old acquaintance, and the drops  
That we haue bled together. Coriolanus  
He would not answer too: Forbad all Names,  
He was a kinde of Nothing, Titlelesse,  
Till he had forg'd himselfe a name a'th' fire  
Of burning Rome

Menen. Why so: you haue made good worke:  
A paire of Tribunes, that haue wrack'd for Rome,  
To make Coales cheape: A Noble memory

Com. I minded him, how Royall 'twas to pardon

When it was lesse expected. He replied  
It was a bare petition of a State  
To one whom they had punish'd

Menen. Very well, could he say lesse

Com. I offered to awaken his regard  
For's priuate Friends. His answer to me was  
He could not stay to picke them, in a pile  
Of noysome musty Chaffe. He said, 'twas folly  
For one poore graine or two, to leaue vnburnt  
And still to nose th' offence

Menen. For one poore graine or two?  
I am one of those: his Mother, Wife, his Childe,  
And this braue Fellow too: we are the Graines,  
You are the musty Chaffe, and you are smelt  
Aboue the Moone. We must be burnt for you

Sicin. Nay, pray be patient: If you refuse your ayde  
In this so neuer-needed helpe, yet do not  
Vpbraid's with our distresse. But sure if you  
Would be your Countries Pleader, your good tongue  
More then the instant Armie we can make  
Might stop our Countryman

Mene. No: Ile not meddle

Sicin. Pray you go to him

Mene. What should I do?  
Bru. Onely make triall what your Loue can do,  
For Rome, towards Martius

Mene. Well, and say that Martius returne mee,  
As Cominius is return'd, vnheard: what then?  
But as a discontented Friend, greefe-shot  
With his vnkindnesse. Say't be so?

Sicin. Yet your good will  
Must haue that thanks from Rome, after the measure  
As you intended well

Mene. Ile vndertak't:  
I thinke hee'l heare me. Yet to bite his lip,  
And humme at good Cominius, much vnhearts mee.  
He was not taken well, he had not din'd,  
The Veines vnfill'd, our blood is cold, and then  
We powt vpon the Morning, are vnapt  
To giue or to forgiue; but when we haue stufft  
These Pipes, and these Conueyances of our blood

With Wine and Feeding, we haue suppler Soules  
Then in our Priest-like Fasts: therefore Ile watch him  
Till he be dieted to my request,  
And then Ile set vpon him

Bru. You know the very rode into his kindnesse,  
And cannot lose your way

Mene. Good faith Ile proue him,  
Speed how it will. I shall ere long, haue knowledge  
Of my successe.  
Enter.

Com. Hee'l neuer heare him

Sicin. Not

Com. I tell you, he doe's sit in Gold, his eye  
Red as 'twould burne Rome: and his Iniury  
The Gaoler to his pittie. I kneel'd before him,  
'Twas very faintly he said Rise: dismiss me  
Thus with his speechlesse hand. What he would do  
He sent in writing after me: what he would not,  
Bound with an Oath to yeeld to his conditions:  
So that all hope is vaine, vnlesse his Noble Mother,  
And his Wife, who (as I heare) meane to sollicite him  
For mercy to his Countrey: therefore let's hence,  
And with our faire intreaties hast them on.

Exeunt.

Enter Menenius to the Watch or Guard.

1. Wat. Stay: whence are you

2. Wat. Stand, and go backe

Me. You guard like men, 'tis well. But by your leaue,  
I am an Officer of State, & come to speak with Coriolanus

1 From whence?

Mene. From Rome

I You may not passe, you must returne: our Generall  
will no more heare from thence

2 You'l see your Rome embrac'd with fire, before  
You'l speake with Coriolanus

Mene. Good my Friends,  
If you haue heard your Generall talke of Rome,

And of his Friends there, it is Lots to Blankes,  
My name hath touch't your eares: it is Menenius

1 Be it so, go back: the vertue of your name,  
Is not heere passable

Mene. I tell thee Fellow,  
Thy Generall is my Louer: I haue beene  
The booke of his good Acts, whence men haue read  
His Fame vnparalell'd, happely amplified:  
For I haue euer verified my Friends,  
(Of whom hee's cheefe) with all the size that verity  
Would without lapsing suffer: Nay, sometimes,  
Like to a Bowle vpon a subtle ground  
I haue tumbled past the throw: and in his praise  
Haue (almost) stamp't the Leasing. Therefore Fellow,  
I must haue leaue to passe

1 Faith Sir, if you had told as many lies in his behalfe,  
as you haue vttered words in your owne, you should not  
passe heere: no, though it were as vertuous to lye, as to  
liue chastly. Therefore go backe

Men. Prythee fellow, remember my name is Menenius,  
always factionary on the party of your Generall

2 Howsoever you haue bin his Lier, as you say you  
haue, I am one that telling true vnder him, must say you  
cannot passe. Therefore go backe

Mene. Ha's he din'd can'st thou tell? For I would not  
speake with him, till after dinner

1 You are a Roman, are you?  
Mene. I am as thy Generall is

1 Then you should hate Rome, as he do's. Can you,  
when you haue pusht out your gates, the very Defender  
of them, and in a violent popular ignorance, giuen your  
enemy your shield, thinke to front his reuenges with the  
easie groanes of old women, the Virginall Palms of your  
daughters, or with the palsied intercession of such a decay'd  
Dotant as you seeme to be? Can you think to blow  
out the intended fire, your City is ready to flame in, with  
such weake breath as this? No, you are deceiu'd, therefore  
backe to Rome, and prepare for your execution: you are  
condemn'd, our Generall has sworne you out of repreeue  
and pardon

Mene. Sirra, if thy Captaine knew I were heere,

He would vse me with estimation

I Come, my Captaine knowes you not

Mene. I meane thy Generall

I My Generall cares not for you. Back I say, go: least  
I let forth your halfe pinte of blood. Backe, that's the vtmost  
of your hauing, backe

Mene. Nay but Fellow, Fellow.  
Enter Coriolanus with Auffidius.

Corio. What's the matter?

Mene. Now you Companion: Ile say an arrant for you:  
you shall know now that I am in estimation: you shall  
perceiue, that a Iacke gardant cannot office me from my  
Son Coriolanus, guesse but my entertainment with him: if  
thou stand'st not i'th state of hanging, or of some death  
more long in Spectatorship, and crueller in suffering, behold  
now presently, and swoond for what's to come vpon  
thee. The glorious Gods sit in hourelly Synod about thy  
particular prosperity, and loue thee no worse then thy old  
Father Menenius do's. O my Son, my Son! thou art preparing  
fire for vs: looke thee, heere's water to quench it.  
I was hardly moued to come to thee: but beeing assured  
none but my selfe could moue thee, I haue bene blowne  
out of your Gates with sighes: and coniure thee to pardon  
Rome, and thy petitionary Countrimen. The good  
Gods asswage thy wrath, and turne the dregs of it, vpon  
this Varlet heere: This, who like a blocke hath denied  
my accesse to thee

Corio. Away

Mene. How? Away?

Corio. Wife, Mother, Child, I know not. My affaires  
Are Seruanted to others: Though I owe  
My Reuenge properly, my remission lies  
In Volcean brests. That we haue beene familiar,  
Ingrate forgetfulnesse shall poison rather  
Then pittie: Note how much, therefore be gone.  
Mine eares against your suites, are stronger then  
Your gates against my force. Yet for I loued thee,  
Take this along, I writ it for thy sake,  
And would haue sent it. Another word Menenius,  
I will not heare thee speake. This man Auffidius  
Was my belou'd in Rome: yet thou behold'st

Auffid. You keepe a constant temper.



Exeunt.

Manet the Guard and Menenius.

1 Now sir, is your name Menenius?  
2 'Tis a spell you see of much power:  
You know the way home againe

1 Do you heare how wee are shent for keeping your  
greatnesse backe?

2 What cause do you thinke I haue to swoond?  
Menen. I neither care for th' world, nor your General:  
for such things as you. I can scarce thinke ther's any, y'are  
so slight. He that hath a will to die by himselfe, feares it  
not from another: Let your Generall do his worst. For  
you, bee that you are, long; and your misery encrease  
with your age. I say to you, as I was said to, Away.

Exit

1 A Noble Fellow I warrant him

2 The worthy Fellow is our General. He's the Rock,  
The Oake not to be winde-shaken.

Exit Watch.

Enter Coriolanus and Auffidius.

Corio. We will before the walls of Rome to morrow  
Set downe our Hoast. My partner in this Action,  
You must report to th' Volcian Lords, how plainly  
I haue borne this Businesse

Auf. Onely their ends you haue respected,  
Stopt your eares against the generall suite of Rome:  
Neuer admitted a priuat whisper, no not with such friends  
That thought them sure of you

Corio. This last old man,  
Whom with a crack'd heart I haue sent to Rome,  
Lou'd me, aboue the measure of a Father,  
Nay godded me indeed. Their latest refuge  
Was to send him: for whose old Loue I haue  
(Though I shew'd sowrely to him) once more offer'd  
The first Conditions which they did refuse,  
And cannot now accept, to grace him onely,  
That thought he could do more: A very little  
I haue yeelded too. Fresh Embasses, and Suites,

Nor from the State, nor priuate friends heereafter  
Will I lend eare to. Ha? what shout is this?

Shout within

Shall I be tempted to infringe my vow  
In the same time 'tis made? I will not.

Enter Virgilia, Volumnia, Valeria, yong Martius, with Attendants.

My wife comes formost, then the honour'd mould  
Wherein this Trunke was fram'd, and in her hand  
The Grandchilde to her blood. But out affection,  
All bond and priuiledge of Nature breake;  
Let it be Vertuous to be Obstinate.  
What is that Curt'sie worth? Or those Doues eyes,  
Which can make Gods forsworne? I melt, and am not  
Of stronger earth then others: my Mother bowes,  
As if Olympus to a Mole-hill should  
In supplication Nod: and my yong Boy  
Hath an Aspect of intercession, which  
Great Nature cries, Deny not. Let the Volces  
Plough Rome, and harrow Italy, Ile neuer  
Be such a Gosling to obey instinct; but stand  
As if a man were Author of himself, & knew no other kin  
Virgil. My Lord and Husband

Corio. These eyes are not the same I wore in Rome

Virg. The sorrow that deliuers vs thus chang'd,  
Makes you thinke so

Corio. Like a dull Actor now, I haue forgot my part,  
And I am out, euen to a full Disgrace. Best of my Flesh,  
Forgiue my Tyranny: but do not say,  
For that forgiue our Romanes. O a kisse  
Long as my Exile, sweet as my Reuenge!  
Now by the iealous Queene of Heauen, that kisse  
I carried from thee deare; and my true Lippe  
Hath Virgin'd it ere since. You Gods, I pray,  
And the most noble Mother of the world  
Leaue vnsaluted: Sinke my knee i'th' earth,

Kneeles

Of thy deepe duty, more impression shew  
Then that of common Sonnes

Volum. Oh stand vp blest!  
Whil'st with no softer Cushion then the Flint  
I kneele before thee, and vnproperly

Shew duty as mistaken, all this while,  
Betweene the Childe, and Parent

Corio. What's this? your knees to me?  
To your Corrected Sonne?  
Then let the Pibbles on the hungry beach  
Fillop the Starres: Then, let the mutinous windes  
Strike the proud Cedars 'gainst the fiery Sun:  
Murd'ring Impossibility, to make  
What cannot be, slight worke

Volum. Thou art my Warriour, I hope to frame thee  
Do you know this Lady?

Corio. The Noble Sister of Publicola;  
The Moone of Rome: Chaste as the Isicle  
That's curdied by the Frost, from purest Snow,  
And hangs on Dians Temple: Deere Valeria

Volum. This is a poore Epitome of yours,  
Which by th' interpretation of full time,  
May shew like all your selfe

Corio. The God of Souldiers:  
With the consent of supream Ioue, informe  
Thy thoughts with Noblenesse, that thou mayst proue  
To shame vnvulnerable, and sticke i'th Warres  
Like a great Sea-marke standing euery flaw,  
And sauing those that eye thee

Volum. Your knee, Sirrah

Corio. That's my braue Boy

Volum. Euen he, your wife, this Ladie, and my selfe,  
Are Sutors to you

Corio. I beseech you peace:  
Or if you'ld aske, remember this before;  
The thing I haue forsworne to graunt, may neuer  
Be held by you denials. Do not bid me  
Dismiss my Soldiers, or capitulate  
Againe, with Romes Mechanickes. Tell me not  
Wherein I seeme vnnaturall: Desire not t' allay  
My Rages and Reuenges, with your colder reasons

Volum. Oh no more, no more:  
You haue said you will not grant vs any thing:  
For we haue nothing else to aske, but that  
Which you deny already: yet we will aske,  
That if you faile in our request, the blame

May hang vpon your hardnesse, therefore heare vs

Corio. Auffidius, and you Volces marke, for wee'l  
Heare nought from Rome in priuate. Your request?  
Volum. Should we be silent & not speak, our Raiment  
And state of Bodies would bewray what life  
We haue led since thy Exile. Thinke with thy selfe,  
How more vnfortunate then all liuing women  
Are we come hither; since that thy sight, which should  
Make our eies flow with ioy, harts dance with comforts,  
Constraines them weepe, and shake with feare & sorrow,  
Making the Mother, wife, and Childe to see,  
The Sonne, the Husband, and the Father tearing  
His Countries Bowels out; and to poore we  
Thine enmities most capitall: Thou barr'st vs  
Our prayers to the Gods, which is a comfort  
That all but we enioy. For how can we?  
Alas! how can we, for our Country pray?  
Whereto we are bound, together with thy victory:  
Whereto we are bound: Alacke, or we must loose  
The Countrie our deere Nurse, or else thy person  
Our comfort in the Country. We must finde  
An euident Calamity, though we had  
Our wish, which side should win. For either thou  
Must as a Forraine Recreant be led  
With Manacles through our streets, or else  
Triumphantly treade on thy Countries ruine,  
And beare the Palme, for hauing brauely shed  
Thy Wife and Childrens blood: For my selfe, Sonne,  
I purpose not to waite on Fortune, till  
These warres determine: If I cannot perswade thee,  
Rather to shew a Noble grace to both parts,  
Then seeke the end of one; thou shalt no sooner  
March to assault thy Country, then to treade  
(Trust too't, thou shalt not) on thy Mothers wombe  
That brought thee to this world

Virg. I, and mine, that brought you forth this boy,  
To keepe your name liuing to time

Boy. A shall not tread on me: Ile run away  
Till I am bigger, but then Ile fight

Corio. Not of a womans tendernesse to be,  
Requires nor Childe, nor womans face to see:  
I haue sate too long

Volum. Nay, go not from vs thus:  
If it were so, that our request did tend  
To saue the Romanes, thereby to destroy

The Volces whom you serue, you might condemne vs  
 As poysonous of your Honour. No, our suite  
 Is that you reconcile them: While the Volces  
 May say, this mercy we haue shew'd: the Romanes,  
 This we receiu'd, and each in either side  
 Giue the All-haile to thee, and cry be Blest  
 For making vp this peace. Thou know'st (great Sonne)  
 The end of Warres vncertaine: but this certaine,  
 That if thou conquer Rome, the benefit  
 Which thou shalt thereby reape, is such a name  
 Whose repetition will be dogg'd with Curses:  
 Whose Chronicle thus writ, The man was Noble,  
 But with his last Attempt, he wip'd it out:  
 Destroy'd his Country, and his name remaines  
 To th' insuing Age, abhorr'd. Speake to me Son:  
 Thou hast affected the fiue straines of Honor,  
 To imitate the graces of the Gods.  
 To teare with Thunder the wide Cheekes a'th' Ayre,  
 And yet to change thy Sulphure with a Boul  
 That should but riue an Oake. Why do'st not speake?  
 Think'st thou it Honourable for a Nobleman  
 Still to remember wrongs? Daughter, speake you:  
 He cares not for your weeping. Speake thou Boy,  
 Perhaps thy childishnesse will moue him more  
 Then can our Reasons. There's no man in the world  
 More bound to's Mother, yet heere he let's me prate  
 Like one i'th' Stockes. Thou hast neuer in thy life,  
 Shew'd thy deere Mother any curtesie,  
 When she (poor Hen) fond of no second brood,  
 Ha's clock'd thee to the Warres: and safelie home  
 Loden with Honor. Say my Request's vniust,  
 And spurne me backe: But, if it be not so  
 Thou art not honest, and the Gods will plague thee  
 That thou restrain'st from me the Duty, which  
 To a Mothers part belongs. He turnes away:  
 Down Ladies: let vs shame him with him with our knees  
 To his sur-name Coriolanus longs more pride  
 Then pittie to our Prayers. Downe: an end,  
 This is the last. So, we will home to Rome,  
 And dye among our Neighbours: Nay, behold's,  
 This Boy that cannot tell what he would haue,  
 But kneeles, and holds vp hands for fellowship,  
 Doe's reason our Petition with more strength  
 Then thou hast to deny't. Come, let vs go:  
 This Fellow had a Volcean to his Mother:  
 His Wife is in Corioles, and his Childe  
 Like him by chance: yet giue vs our dispatch:  
 I am husht vntill our City be afire, & then Ile speak a litle

Holds her by the hand silent.

Corio. O Mother, Mother!  
What haue you done? Behold, the Heauens do ope,  
The Gods looke downe, and this vnnaturall Scene  
They laugh at. Oh my Mother, Mother: Oh!  
You haue wonne a happy Victory to Rome.  
But for your Sonne, beleeeue it: Oh beleeeue it,  
Most dangerously you haue with him preuail'd,  
If not most mortall to him. But let it come:  
Auffidius, though I cannot make true Warres,  
Ile frame conuenient peace. Now good Auffidius,  
Were you in my steed, would you haue heard  
A Mother lesse? or granted lesse Auffidius?  
Auf. I was mou'd withall

Corio. I dare be sworne you were:  
And sir, it is no little thing to make  
Mine eyes to sweat compassion. But (good sir)  
What peace you'l make, aduise me: For my part,  
Ile not to Rome, Ile backe with you, and pray you  
Stand to me in this cause. Oh Mother! Wife!  
Auf. I am glad thou hast set thy mercy, & thy Honor  
At difference in thee: Out of that Ile worke  
My selfe a former Fortune

Corio. I by and by; But we will drinke together:  
And you shall beare  
A better witness backe then words, which we  
On like conditions, will haue Counter-seal'd.  
Come enter with vs: Ladies you deserue  
To haue a Temple built you: All the Swords  
In Italy, and her Confederate Armes  
Could not haue made this peace.

Exeunt.

Enter Menenius and Sicinius.

Mene. See you yon'd Coin a'th Capitol, yon'd corner stone?

Sicin. Why what of that?

Mene. If it be possible for you to displace it with your  
little finger, there is some hope the Ladies of Rome, especially  
his Mother, may preuaile with him. But I say, there  
is no hope in't, our throats are sentenc'd, and stay vpon  
execution

Sicin. Is't possible, that so short a time can alter the  
condition of a man

Mene. There is differency between a Grub & a Butterfly,

yet your Butterfly was a Grub: this Martius, is  
growne from Man to Dragon: He has wings, hee's more  
then a creeping thing

Sicin. He lou'd his Mother deerely

Mene. So did he mee: and he no more remembers his  
Mother now, then an eight yeare old horse. The tartnesse  
of his face, sowres ripe Grapes. When he walks, he moues  
like an Engine, and the ground shrinkes before his Treading.

He is able to pierce a Corslet with his eye: Talkes  
like a knell, and his hum is a Battery. He sits in his State,  
as a thing made for Alexander. What he bids bee done, is  
finisht with his bidding. He wants nothing of a God but  
Eternity, and a Heauen to Throne in

Sicin. Yes, mercy, if you report him truly

Mene. I paint him in the Character. Mark what mercy  
his Mother shall bring from him: There is no more  
mercy in him, then there is milke in a male-Tyger, that  
shall our poore City finde: and all this is long of you

Sicin. The Gods be good vnto vs

Mene. No, in such a case the Gods will not bee good  
vnto vs. When we banish'd him, we respected not them:  
and he returning to breake our necks, they respect not vs.  
Enter a Messenger.

Mes. Sir, if you'd saue your life, flye to your House,  
The Plebeians haue got your Fellow Tribune,  
And hale him vp and downe; all swearing, if  
The Romane Ladies bring not comfort home  
They'l giue him death by Inches.  
Enter another Messenger.

Sicin. What's the Newes?

Mess. Good Newes, good newes, the Ladies haue preuayl'd.  
The Volcians are dislodg'd, and Martius gone:  
A merrier day did neuer yet greet Rome,  
No, not th' expulsion of the Tarquins

Sicin. Friend, art thou certaine this is true?  
Is't most certaine

Mes. As certaine as I know the Sun is fire:  
Where haue you lurk'd that you make doubt of it:  
Ne're through an Arch so hurried the blowne Tide,  
As the recomforted through th' gates. Why harke you:

Trumpets, Hoboyes, Drums beate, altogether.

The Trumpets, Sack-buts, Psalteries, and Fifes,  
Tabors, and Symboles, and the showting Romans,  
Make the Sunne dance. Hearke you.

A shout within

Mene. This is good Newes:  
I will go meete the Ladies. This Volumnia,  
Is worth of Consuls, Senators, Patricians,  
A City full: Of Tribunes such as you,  
A Sea and Land full: you haue pray'd well to day:  
This Morning, for ten thousand of your throates,  
I'de not haue giuen a doit. Harke, how they ioy.

Sound still with the Shouts.

Sicin. First, the Gods blesse you for your tydings:  
Next, accept my thankfulnessse

Mess. Sir, we haue all great cause to giue great thanks

Sicin. They are neere the City

Mes. Almost at point to enter

Sicin. Wee'l meet them, and helpe the ioy.

Exeunt.

Enter two Senators, with Ladies, passing ouer the Stage, with other  
Lords.

Sena. Behold our Patronnesse, the life of Rome:  
Call all your Tribes together, praise the Gods,  
And make triumphant fires, strew Flowers before them:  
Vnshoot the noise that Banish'd Martius;  
Repeale him, with the welcome of his Mother:  
Cry welcome Ladies, welcome

All. Welcome Ladies, welcome.

A Flourish with Drummes & Trumpets.

Enter Tullus Auffidius, with Attendants.

Auf. Go tell the Lords a'th' City, I am heere:  
Deliuer them this Paper: hauing read it,



Bid them repayre to th' Market place, where I  
Euen in theirs, and in the Commons eares  
Will vouch the truth of it. Him I accuse:  
The City Ports by this hath enter'd, and  
Intends t' appeare before the People, hoping  
To purge himselfe with words. Dispatch.  
Enter 3 or 4 Conspirators of Auffidius Faction.

Most Welcome

1.Con. How is it with our Generall?

Auf. Euen so, as with a man by his owne Almes impoyson'd,  
and with his Charity slaine

2.Con. Most Noble Sir, If you do hold the same intent  
Wherein you wisht vs parties: Wee'l deliuer you  
Of your great danger

Auf. Sir, I cannot tell,  
We must proceed as we do finde the People

3.Con. The People will remaine vncertaine, whil'st  
'Twixt you there's difference: but the fall of either  
Makes the Suruiuor heyre of all

Auf. I know it:  
And my pretext to strike at him, admits  
A good construction. I rais'd him, and I pawn'd  
Mine Honor for his truth: who being so heighten'd,  
He watered his new Plants with dewes of Flattery,  
Seducing so my Friends: and to this end,  
He bow'd his Nature, neuer knowne before,  
But to be rough, vnswayable, and free

3.Consp. Sir, his stoutnesse  
When he did stand for Consull, which he lost  
By lacke of stooping

Auf. That I would haue spoke of:  
Being banish'd for't, he came vnto my Harth,  
Presented to my knife his Throat: I tooke him,  
Made him ioynt-seruant with me: Gaue him way  
In all his owne desires: Nay, let him choose  
Out of my Files, his proiects, to accomplish  
My best and freshest men, seru'd his designements  
In mine owne person: holpe to reape the Fame  
Which he did end all his; and tooke some pride  
To do my selfe this wrong: Till at the last  
I seem'd his Follower, not Partner; and  
He wadg'd me with his Countenance, as if

I had bin Mercenary

1.Con. So he did my Lord:  
The Army marueyl'd at it, and in the last,  
When he had carried Rome, and that we look'd  
For no lesse Spoile, then Glory

Auf. There was it:  
For which my sinewes shall be stretcht vpon him,  
At a few drops of Womens rhowme, which are  
As cheape as Lies; he sold the Blood and Labour  
Of our great Action; therefore shall he dye,  
And Ile renew me in his fall. But hearke.

Drummes and Trumpets sounds, with great showts of the people.

1.Con. Your Natiue Towne you enter'd like a Poste,  
And had no welcomes home, but he returnes  
Splitting the Ayre with noyse

2.Con. And patient Fooles,  
Whose children he hath slaine, their base throats teare  
With giuing him glory

3.Con. Therefore at your vantage,  
Ere he expresse himselfe, or moue the people  
With what he would say, let him feele your Sword:  
Which we will second, when he lies along  
After your way. His Tale pronounc'd, shall bury  
His Reasons, with his Body

Auf. Say no more. Heere come the Lords,  
Enter the Lords of the City.

All Lords. You are most welcome home

Auff. I haue not deseru'd it.  
But worthy Lords, haue you with heede perused  
What I haue written to you?  
All. We haue

1.Lord. And greeue to heare't:  
What faults he made before the last, I thinke  
Might haue found easie Fines: But there to end  
Where he was to begin, and giue away  
The benefit of our Leuies, answering vs  
With our owne charge: making a Treatie, where  
There was a yeelding; this admits no excuse

Auf. He approaches, you shall heare him.

Enter Coriolanus marching with Drumme, and Colours. The  
Commoners being  
with him.

Corio. Haile Lords, I am return'd your Souldier:  
No more infected with my Countries loue  
Then when I parted hence: but still subsisting  
Vnder your great Command. You are to know,  
That prosperously I haue attempted, and  
With bloody passage led your Warres, euen to  
The gates of Rome: Our spoiles we haue brought home  
Doth more then counterpoize a full third part  
The charges of the Action. We haue made peace  
With no lesse Honor to the Antiates  
Then shame to th' Romaines. And we heere deliuer  
Subscrib'd by'th' Consuls, and Patricians,  
Together with the Seale a'th Senat, what  
We haue compounded on

Auf. Read it not Noble Lords,  
But tell the Traitor in the highest degree  
He hath abus'd your Powers

Corio. Traitor? How now?  
Auf. I Traitor, Martius

Corio. Martius?  
Auf. I Martius, Caius Martius: Do'st thou thinke  
Ile grace thee with that Robbery, thy stolne name  
Coriolanus in Corioles?  
You Lords and Heads a'th' State, perfidiously  
He ha's betray'd your businesse, and giuen vp  
For certaine drops of Salt, your City Rome:  
I say your City to his Wife and Mother,  
Breaking his Oath and Resolution, like  
A twist of rotten Silke, neuer admitting  
Counsaile a'th' warre: But at his Nurses teares  
He whin'd and roar'd away your Victory,  
That Pages blush'd at him, and men of heart  
Look'd wond'ring each at others

Corio. Hear'st thou Mars?  
Auf. Name not the God, thou boy of Teares

Corio. Ha?  
Aufid. No more

Corio. Measurelesse Lyar, thou hast made my heart  
Too great for what contains it. Boy? Oh Slaue,  
Pardon me Lords, 'tis the first time that euer

I was forc'd to scoul'd. Your iudgments my graue Lords  
Must giue this Curre the Lye: and his owne Notion,  
Who weares my stripes imprest vpon him, that  
Must beare my beating to his Graue, shall ioyne  
To thrust the Lye vnto him

1 Lord. Peace both, and heare me speake

Corio. Cut me to peeces Volces men and Lads,  
Staine all your edges on me. Boy, false Hound:  
If you haue writ your Annales true, 'tis there,  
That like an Eagle in a Doue-coat, I  
Flatter'd your Volcians in Corioles.  
Alone I did it, Boy

Auf. Why Noble Lords,  
Will you be put in minde of his blinde Fortune,  
Which was your shame, by this vnholy Braggart?  
'Fore your owne eyes, and eares?  
All Consp. Let him dye for't

All People. Teare him to peeces, do it presently:  
He kill'd my Sonne, my daughter, he kill'd my Cosine  
Marcus, he kill'd my Father

2 Lord. Peace hoe: no outrage, peace:  
The man is Noble, and his Fame folds in  
This Orbe o'th' earth: His last offences to vs  
Shall haue Iudicious hearing. Stand Auffidius,  
And trouble not the peace

Corio. O that I had him, with six Auffidiusses, or more:  
His Tribe, to vse my lawfull Sword

Auf. Insolent Villaine

All Consp. Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill him.

Draw both the Conspirators, and kils Martius, who falles,  
Auffidius stands  
on him

Lords. Hold, hold, hold, hold

Auf. My Noble Masters, heare me speake

1.Lord. O Tullus

2.Lord. Thou hast done a deed, whereat  
Valour will weepe

3.Lord. Tread not vpon him Masters, all be quiet,  
Put vp your Swords

Auf. My Lords,  
When you shall know (as in this Rage  
Prouok'd by him, you cannot) the great danger  
Which this mans life did owe you, you'l reioyce  
That he is thus cut off. Please it your Honours  
To call me to your Senate, Ile deliuer  
My selfe your loyall Seruant, or endure  
Your heauiest Censure

1.Lord. Beare from hence his body,  
And mourne you for him. Let him be regarded  
As the most Noble Coarse, that euer Herald  
Did follow to his Vrne

2.Lord. His owne impatience,  
Takes from Auffidius a great part of blame:  
Let's make the Best of it

Auf. My Rage is gone,  
And I am strucke with sorrow. Take him vp:  
Helpe three a'th' cheefest Souldiers, Ile be one.  
Beate thou the Drumme that it speake mournfully:  
Traile your steele Pikes. Though in this City hee  
Hath widdowed and vnchilded many a one,  
Which to this houre bewaile the Iniury,  
Yet he shall haue a Noble Memory. Assist.

Exeunt. bearing the Body of Martius. A dead March Sounded.

FINIS. The Tragedy of Coriolanus.



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