

260 fell down. If the tag-rag people⁷⁷ did not clap him and hiss him, according as he pleased and displeased them, as they use⁷⁸ to do the players in the theater, I am no true man.

BRUTUS. What said he when he came unto himself?

265 CASCA. Marry, before he fell down, when he perceived the common herd was glad he refused the crown, he plucked me ope his doublet⁷⁹ and offered them his throat to cut. An I had been a man of any occupation,⁸⁰ if I would not have taken him at a word, I would I might go to hell among the rogues. And so he fell. When he came to himself again, he said, if he had done or
270 said anything amiss, he desired their worships to think it was his infirmity.⁸¹ Three or four wenches,⁸² where I stood, cried "Alas, good soul!" and forgave him with all their hearts; but there's no heed to be taken of them; if Caesar had stabbed
275 their mothers, they would have done no less.

BRUTUS. And after that, he came thus sad away?

CASCA. Ay.

CASSIUS. Did Cicero say anything?

CASCA. Ay, he spoke Greek.

280 CASSIUS. To what effect?

CASCA. Nay, an I tell you that, I'll ne'er look you i' th' face again. But those that understood him smiled at one another and shook their heads; but for mine own part, it was Greek to me. I
285 could tell you more news too: Marullus and Flavius, for pulling scarfs off Caesar's images, are put to silence.⁸³ Fare you well. There was more foolery yet, if I could remember it.

CASSIUS. Will you sup with me tonight, Casca?

CASCA. No, I am promised forth.⁸⁴

290 CASSIUS. Will you dine with me tomorrow?

CASCA. Ay, if I be alive, and your mind hold,⁸⁵ and your dinner worth the eating.

CASSIUS. Good; I will expect you.

CASCA. Do so. Farewell, both.

[Exit]

295 BRUTUS. What a blunt⁸⁶ fellow is this grown to be! He was quick mettle⁸⁷ when he went to school.

CASSIUS. So is he now in execution⁸⁸

Of any bold or noble enterprise,

However he puts on this tardy form.⁸⁹

300 This rudeness is a sauce to his good wit,⁹⁰

Which gives men stomach to digest⁹¹ his words

With better appetite.

77. tag-rag people the rabble.

78. use are accustomed.

79. doublet (dub' lit) *n.* close-fitting jacket.

80. An I . . . occupation if I had been a working-man (or a man of action).

infirmity (in fer' mē tē) *n.* illness; physical defect

81. infirmity *n.* Caesar's illness is epilepsy.

82. wenches (wench' ez) *n.* young women.

83. for pulling . . . silence for taking decorations off statues of Caesar, they have been silenced (by being forbidden to take part in public affairs, exiled, or perhaps even executed).

Literary Analysis

Exposition in Drama

How did the exposition set the stage for this kind of action against Marullus and Flavius?

84. am promised forth have a previous engagement.

85. hold does not change.

86. blunt dull; not sharp.

87. quick mettle of a lively disposition.

88. execution (ek' sə kyōō' shən) *n.* carrying out; doing.

89. tardy form sluggish appearance.

90. wit intelligence.

91. digest digest.