

- Who glazed⁸ upon me and went surly by
Without annoying me. And there were drawn
Upon a heap⁹ a hundred ghastly¹⁰ women,
Transformèd with their fear, who swore they saw
25 Men, all in fire, walk up and down the streets.
And yesterday the bird of night¹¹ did sit
Even at noonday upon the market place,
Hooting and shrieking. When these prodigies¹²
Do so conjointly meet,¹³ let not men say,
30 "These are their reasons, they are natural,"
For I believe they are portentous things
Unto the climate that they point upon.¹⁴
- CICERO. Indeed, it is a strange-disposèd¹⁵ time:
But men may construe things after their fashion,¹⁶
35 Clean from the purpose¹⁷ of the things themselves.
Comes Caesar to the Capitol tomorrow?
- CASCA. He doth; for he did bid Antonius
Send word to you he would be there tomorrow.
- CICERO. Good night then, Casca; this disturbèd sky
Is not to walk in.
- 40 CASCA. Farewell, Cicero. [Exit CICERO.]
[Enter CASSIUS.]
- CASSIUS. Who's there?
- CASCA. A Roman.
- CASSIUS. Casca, by your voice.
- CASCA. Your ear is good. Cassius, what night is this?
- CASSIUS. A very pleasing night to honest men.
- CASCA. Who ever knew the heavens menace so?
- 45 CASSIUS. Those that have known the earth so full of faults.
For my part, I have walked about the streets,
Submitting me unto the perilous night,
And thus unbracèd,¹⁸ Casca, as you see,
Have bared my bosom to the thunder-stone;¹⁹
50 And when the cross²⁰ blue lightning seemed to open
The breast of heaven, I did present myself
Even in the aim and very flash of it.
- CASCA. But wherefore did you so much tempt the heavens?
It is the part²¹ of men to fear and tremble
55 When the most mighty gods by tokens send
Such dreadful heralds to astonish²² us.
- CASSIUS. You are dull, Casca, and those sparks of life
That should be in a Roman you do want,²³

surly (sur' lē) adv. in a
proud, commanding way

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8. glazed stared.

9. were drawn . . .
heap huddled together.

10. ghastly (gast' lē) adj.
ghostlike; pale.

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11. bird of night owl.

portentous (pôr ten' tēs)
adj. foreboding; full of
unspecified meaning

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12. prodigies (prād' ə jēz) n.
extraordinary happenings.

13. conjointly meet occur
at the same time and place.

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14. portentous (pôr ten' tēs)
. . . upon bad omens for
the country they point to.

15. strange-disposèd
abnormal.

16. construe . . . fashion
explain in their own way.

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17. Clean from the pur-
pose different from the
real meaning.

18. unbracèd with
jacket open.

19. thunder-stone
thunderbolt.

20. cross zigzag.

21. part role.

22. by tokens . . . to aston-
ish by portentous signs
send such awful announce-
ments to frighten and stun.

23. want lack.