

Who glazed⁸ upon me and went surly by
 Without annoying me. And there were drawn
 Upon a heap⁹ a hundred ghastly¹⁰ women,
 Transformed 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-disposed¹⁵ 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 disturbed 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 unbraced,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

- 60 **surly** (sur' lē) adv. in a proud, commanding way
- 8. glazed** stared.
- 9. were drawn . . . heap** huddled together.
- 65 **10. ghastly** (gast' lē) adj. ghostlike; pale.
- 11. bird of night** owl.
- portentous** (pôr ten' tas) adj. foreboding; full of unspecified meaning
- 70 **12. prodigies** (prăd' ə jēz) n. extraordinary happenings.
- 13. conjointly meet** occur at the same time and place.
- 14. portentous** (pôr ten' tas) . . . upon bad omens for the country they point to.
- 15. strange-disposed** abnormal.
- 80 **16. construe . . . fashion** explain in their own way.
- 17. Clean from the purpose** different from the real meaning.
- 18. unbraced** with jacket open.
- 19. thunder-stone** thunderbolt.
- 20. cross** zigzag.
- 21. part** role.
- 22. by tokens . . . to astonish** by portentous signs send such awful announcements to frighten and stun.
- 23. want** lack.