

He were no lion, were not Romans hinds.<sup>38</sup>  
 Those that with haste will make a mighty fire  
 Begin it with weak straws. What trash is Rome,  
 What rubbish and what offal,<sup>39</sup> when it serves  
 110 For the base matter<sup>40</sup> to illuminate  
 So vile a thing as Caesar! But, O grief,  
 Where hast thou led me? I, perhaps, speak this  
 Before a willing bondman; then I know  
 My answer must be made.<sup>41</sup> But I am armed,  
 115 And dangers are to me indifferent.

**CASCA.** You speak to Casca, and to such a man  
 That is no fleering tell-tale.<sup>42</sup> Hold, my hand.  
 Be factious<sup>43</sup> for redress of all these griefs,<sup>44</sup>  
 And I will set this foot of mine as far  
 As who goes farthest.

[*They clasp hands.*]

120 **CASSIUS.** There's a bargain made.  
 Now know you, Casca, I have moved already  
 Some certain of the noblest-minded Romans  
 To undergo<sup>45</sup> with me an enterprise  
 Of honorable dangerous consequence;<sup>46</sup>  
 125 And I do know, by this<sup>47</sup> they stay for me  
 In Pompey's porch;<sup>48</sup> for now, this fearful night,  
 There is no stir or walking in the streets,  
 And the complexion of the element<sup>49</sup>  
 In favor's like<sup>50</sup> the work we have in hand,  
 130 Most bloody, fiery, and most terrible.

[*Enter CINNA.*]

**CASCA.** Stand close<sup>51</sup> awhile, for here comes one in haste.

**CASSIUS.** 'Tis Cinna; I do know him by his gait;<sup>52</sup>  
 He is a friend. Cinna, where haste you so?

**CINNA.** To find out you. Who's that? Metellus Cimber?

135 **CASSIUS.** No, it is Casca, one incorporate<sup>53</sup>  
 To our attempts. Am I not stayed<sup>54</sup> for, Cinna?

**CINNA.** I am glad on't.<sup>55</sup> What a fearful night is this!  
 There's two or three of us have seen strange sights.

**CASSIUS.** Am I not stayed for? Tell me.

**CINNA.** Yes, you are.

140 O Cassius, if you could  
 But win the noble Brutus to our party—

**CASSIUS.** Be you content. Good Cinna, take this paper,

deer; peasants; servants.

39. offal (ôf' əl) *n.* garbage.

40. base matter inferior or low material; foundation materials.

41. speak this . . . answer must be made say this before a willing servant of Caesar's; then I know I will have to answer for my words.

## Literary Analysis

**Exposition and Dialogue**  
 What is clarified between Cassius and Casca in lines 111–120?

42. fleering tell-tale sneering tattletale.

43. factious (fak' shəs) *adj.* active in forming a faction or a political party.

44. redress (ri dres') of all these griefs setting right all these grievances.

45. undergo undertake.

46. consequence (kân' sə kwens') *n.* importance.

47. by this by this time.

48. Pompey's porch portico of Pompey's Theater.

49. complexion of the element condition of the sky; weather.

50. In favor's like in appearance is like.

51. close hidden

52. gait (gāt) *n.* way of moving.

53. incorporate (in kôr' pər it) *adj.* united.

54. stayed waited.

55. on't of it.