

Recounts most horrid sights seen by the watch.<sup>3</sup>  
 A lioness hath whelpèd<sup>4</sup> in the streets,  
 And graves have yawned, and yielded up their dead;  
 Fierce fiery warriors fought upon the clouds  
 20 In ranks and squadrons and right form of war,<sup>5</sup>  
 Which drizzled blood upon the Capitol;  
 The noise of battle hurtled<sup>6</sup> in the air,  
 Horses did neigh and dying men did groan,  
 And ghosts did shriek and squeal about the street.  
 25 O Caesar, these things are beyond all use,<sup>7</sup>  
 And I do fear them.

**CAESAR.** What can be avoided  
 Whose end is purposed<sup>8</sup> by the mighty gods?  
 Yet Caesar shall go forth; for these predictions  
 Are to the world in general as to Caesar.<sup>9</sup>

30 **CALPURNIA.** When beggars die, there are no comets seen;  
 The heavens themselves blaze forth<sup>10</sup> the death of princes.

**CAESAR.** Cowards die many times before their deaths;  
 The valiant never taste of death but once.  
 Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,  
 35 It seems to me most strange that men should fear,  
 Seeing that death, a necessary end,  
 Will come when it will come.

[Enter a SERVANT.]

What say the augurers?

**SERVANT.** They would not have you to stir forth today.  
 Plucking the entrails of an offering forth,<sup>11</sup>  
 40 They could not find a heart within the beast.

**CAESAR.** The gods do this in shame of<sup>12</sup> cowardice:  
 Caesar should be a beast without a heart  
 If he should stay at home today for fear.  
 No, Caesar shall not; Danger knows full well  
 45 That Caesar is more dangerous than he.  
 We are two lions littered<sup>13</sup> in one day,  
 And I the elder and more terrible,  
 And Caesar shall go forth.

**CALPURNIA.** Alas, my lord,  
 Your wisdom is consumed in confidence.<sup>14</sup>  
 50 Do not go forth today. Call it my fear  
 That keeps you in the house and not your own.  
 We'll send Mark Antony to the Senate House,  
 And he shall say you are not well today.  
 Let me, upon my knee, prevail in this.

What  
 are all  
 the  
 omens  
 indicating

3. **Recounts . . . watch** tells about the awful sights seen by the watchman.
4. **whelpèd** given birth.
5. **right form of war** proper military formation of war.
6. **hurtled** (hurt' eld) v. clashed together.
7. **beyond all use** contrary to all experience.
8. **is purposed** is intended.
9. **for these . . . as to Caesar** because these predictions apply to the rest of the world as much as they apply to Caesar.
10. **blaze forth** proclaim with meteors and comets.
11. **Plucking . . . forth** pulling out the insides of a sacrificed animal.
12. **in shame of** in order to shame.
13. **littered** born.
14. **confidence** overconfidence.

55 **CAESAR**  
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