

130 So get the start of<sup>43</sup> the majestic world,  
And bear the palm<sup>44</sup> alone.

[Shout. Flourish of trumpets]

**BRUTUS.** Another general shout?

I do believe that these applauses are  
For some new honors that are heaped on Caesar.

135 **CASSIUS.** Why, man, he doth bstride the narrow world  
Like a Colossus,<sup>45</sup> and we petty men  
Walk under his huge legs and peep about  
To find ourselves dishonorable<sup>46</sup> graves.  
Men at some time are masters of their fates:  
140 The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,<sup>47</sup>  
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.<sup>48</sup>  
Brutus and Caesar: what should be in that "Caesar"?  
Why should that name be sounded<sup>49</sup> more than yours?  
Write them together, yours is as fair a name;  
145 Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;  
Weigh them, it is as heavy; conjure<sup>50</sup> with 'em,  
"Brutus" will start<sup>51</sup> a spirit as soon as "Caesar."  
Now, in the names of all the gods at once,  
Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed,  
150 That he is grown so great? Age, thou art shamed!  
Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!  
When went there by an age, since the great flood,<sup>52</sup>  
But it was famed with<sup>53</sup> more than with one man?  
When could they say (till now) that talked of Rome,  
155 That her wide walks encompassed but one man?  
Now is it Rome indeed, and room enough,  
When there is in it but one only man.  
O, you and I have heard our fathers say,  
There was a Brutus<sup>54</sup> once that would have brooked<sup>55</sup>  
160 Th' eternal devil to keep his state in Rome  
As easily as a king.

**BRUTUS.** That you do love me, I am nothing jealous;<sup>56</sup>  
What you would work me to,<sup>57</sup> I have some aim;<sup>58</sup>  
How I have thought of this, and of these times,  
165 I shall recount hereafter. For this present,  
I would not so (with love I might entreat you)  
Be any further moved. What you have said  
I will consider; what you have to say  
I will with patience hear, and find a time  
170 Both meet to hear and answer such high things.  
Till then, my noble friend, chew upon<sup>59</sup> this:  
Brutus had rather be a villager  
Than to repute himself a son of Rome  
Under these hard conditions as this time

43. get the start of become the leader of.

44. palm symbol of victory; victor's prize.

45. Colossus (kə lās' əs) *n.* gigantic statue of Apollo, a god of Greek and Roman mythology, which was set at the entrance to the harbor of Rhodes about 280 B.C. and was included among the seven wonders of the ancient world.

46. dishonorable (dis ən' ə bəl) *adj.* shameful (because they will not be of free men).

47. stars destinies. The stars were thought to control people's lives.

48. underlings inferior people.

49. sounded spoken or announced by trumpets.

50. conjure (kən' jər) *v.* summon a spirit by a magic spell.

51. start raise.

52. great flood in Greek mythology, a flood that drowned everyone except Deucalion and his wife Pyrrha, who were saved by the god Zeus because of their virtue.

53. But it was famed with without the age being made famous by.

54. Brutus Lucius Junius Brutus had helped expel the last king of Rome and had helped found the Republic in 509 B.C.

55. brooked put up with:

56. nothing jealous not at all doubting.

57. work me to persuade me of.

58. aim idea.

59. chew upon think about.

### ✓ Reading Check

What happened when Caesar and Cassius held a swimming race in the river Tiber?