Side 12

Antony turns the Citizens against the Conspirators.

ANTONY \ FIRST CITIZEN \ SECOND CITIZEN

**First Citizen**

Stay, ho! and let us hear Mark Antony.

**Second Citizen**

Let him go up into the public chair;  
We'll hear him. Noble Antony, go up.

**ANTONY**

For Brutus' sake, I am beholding to you.

**First Citizen**

'Twere best you speak no harm of Brutus here.

This Caesar was a tyrant.

**Second Citizen**

Nay, that's certain:  
We are blest that Rome is rid of him.

Let us hear what Antony can say.

**ANTONY**

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;  
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.  
The evil that men do lives after them;  
The good is oft interred with their bones;  
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus  
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:  
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,  
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.  
He was my friend, faithful and just to me:  
He hath brought many captives home to Rome  
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:  
Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?  
When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:  
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:  
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;  
And Brutus is an honourable man.  
I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,  
But here I am to speak what I do know.  
But yesterday the word of Caesar might  
Have stood against the world; now lies he there.  
And none so poor to do him reverence.  
O masters, if I were disposed to stir  
Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,  
I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,  
Who, you all know, are honourable men:  
I will not do them wrong; I rather choose  
To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you,  
Than I will wrong such honourable men.  
I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts:  
I am no orator, as Brutus is;  
But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man,  
That love my friend; and that, they know full well  
That gave me public leave to speak of him:  
For I have not the power of speech,  
To stir men's blood: I only speak right on;  
I tell you that which you yourselves do know;  
Here was a Caesar! when comes such another?

**First Citizen**

Never, never. Come, away, away!  
We'll burn his body in the holy place,  
And with the brands fire the traitors' houses.

**Second Citizen**

We'll mutiny!

We'll burn the house of Brutus.

Go fetch fire.

**First Citizen**

Most noble Caesar! We'll revenge his death.

**Second Citizen**

O royal Caesar!

**ANTONY**

Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot,  
Take thou what course thou wilt!

Octavius is already come to Rome,

And thither will I straight to visit him:  
He comes upon a wish. Fortune is merry,  
And in this mood will give us anything.