Side 4

Casca describes Caesar’s refusal to take the crown.

CASCA

**CASCA**

I can as well be hanged as tell the manner of it:  
it was mere foolery; I did not mark it. I saw Mark  
Antony offer him a crown; and, as I told  
you, he put it by once: but, for all that, to my  
thinking, he would fain have had it. Then he  
offered it to him again; then he put it by again:  
but, to my thinking, he was very loath to lay his  
fingers off it. And then he offered it the third  
time; he put it the third time by: and still as he  
refused it, the rabblement hooted and clapped their  
chapped hands and threw up their sweaty night-caps  
and uttered such a deal of stinking breath because  
Caesar refused the crown that it had almost choked  
Caesar; for he swounded and fell down at it: and  
for mine own part, I durst not laugh, for fear of  
opening my lips and receiving the bad air.

Marry, before he fell down, when he perceived the  
common herd was glad he refused the crown, he  
plucked me ope his doublet and offered them his  
throat to cut. An I had been a man of any  
occupation, if I would not have taken him at a word,  
I would I might go to hell among the rogues. And so  
he fell. When he came to himself again, he said,  
If he had done or said anything amiss, he desired  
their worships to think it was his infirmity. Three  
or four wenches, where I stood, cried 'Alas, good  
soul!' and forgave him with all their hearts: but  
there's no heed to be taken of them; if Caesar had  
stabbed their mothers, they would have done no less.