Julius Caesar

By William Shakespeare

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Edited by Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine

ACT 1

Scene 1
Enter Flavius, Marullus, and certain Commoners,
⌜*including a Carpenter and a Cobbler,*⌝ *over the stage.*

FLAVIUS
Hence! Home, you idle creatures, get you home!
Is this a holiday? What, know you not,
Being mechanical, you ought not walk
Upon a laboring day without the sign
Of your profession?—Speak, what trade art thou?   5
CARPENTER Why, sir, a carpenter.
MARULLUS
Where is thy leather apron and thy rule?
What dost thou with thy best apparel on?—
You, sir, what trade are you?
COBBLER Truly, sir, in respect of a fine workman, I am   10
  but, as you would say, a cobbler.
MARULLUS
But what trade art thou? Answer me directly.
COBBLER A trade, sir, that I hope I may use, with a safe
  conscience, which is indeed, sir, a mender of bad
  soles.   15
FLAVIUS
What trade, thou knave? Thou naughty knave, what
  trade?
COBBLER Nay, I beseech you, sir, be not out with me.

19. **out:** worn out (i.e., wearing shoes with worn-out soles)

26. **withal:** nevertheless (pun on "with awl")

28. **recover:** cure; mend; **proper:** fine, respectable

29. **neat's leather:** cowhide

35. **triumph:** triumphal procession (Caesar had overthrown the sons of Pompey, and the procession celebrated this victory.)

36. **Wherefore:** why

37. **tributaries:** those paying tribute, a tax exacted from a subject by a conqueror

48. **but:** only

51. **replication:** echo

Yet if you be out, sir, I can mend you.

MARULLUS

What mean'st thou by that? Mend me, thou saucy   20
fellow?

COBBLER Why, sir, cobble you.

FLAVIUS Thou art a cobbler, art thou?

COBBLER Truly, sir, all that I live by is with the
awl. I meddle with no tradesman's matters nor   25
women's matters, but withal I am indeed, sir, a
surgeon to old shoes: when they are in great danger,
I recover them. As proper men as ever trod upon
neat's leather have gone upon my handiwork.

FLAVIUS

But wherefore art not in thy shop today?   30
Why dost thou lead these men about the streets?

COBBLER Truly, sir, to wear out their shoes, to
get myself into more work. But indeed, sir, we
make holiday to see Caesar and to rejoice in his
triumph.   35

MARULLUS

Wherefore rejoice? What conquest brings he home?
What tributaries follow him to Rome
To grace in captive bonds his chariot wheels?
You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless
things!   40
O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome,
Knew you not Pompey? Many a time and oft
Have you climbed up to walls and battlements,
To towers and windows, yea, to chimney tops,
Your infants in your arms, and there have sat   45
The livelong day, with patient expectation,
To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome.
And when you saw his chariot but appear,
Have you not made an universal shout,
That Tiber trembled underneath her banks   50
To hear the replication of your sounds

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