

Episode 183 - "Epicurus And His Philosophy" Part 35 - Chapter 14 - The New Virtues 06 - Honesty

Post by "Joshua" of July 16, 2023 at 11:24 AM

Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, Act 5, Scene 2, on the difficulty of frank speech:

CLEOPATRA

I dreamt there was an emperor Antony.

O, such another sleep, that I might see

But such another man.

DOLABELLA If it might please you—

CLEOPATRA

His face was as the heavens, and therein stuck

A sun and moon, which kept their course and

lighted

The little O, the Earth.

DOLABELLA Most sovereign creature—

CLEOPATRA

His legs bestrid the ocean, his reared arm

Crested the world. His voice was propertyed

As all the tunèd spheres, and that to friends;

But when he meant to quail and shake the orb,

He was as rattling thunder. For his bounty,

There was no winter in 't; an autumn 'twas

That grew the more by reaping. His delights

Were dolphin-like; they showed his back above

The element they lived in. In his livery
Walked crowns and crownets; realms and islands
were
As plates dropped from his pocket.

DOLABELLA Cleopatra—

CLEOPATRA

Think you there was, or might be, such a man
As this I dreamt of?

DOLABELLA Gentle madam, no.

CLEOPATRA

You lie up to the hearing of the gods!

But if there be nor ever were one such,
It's past the size of dreaming. Nature wants stuff
To vie strange forms with fancy, yet t' imagine
An Antony were nature's piece 'gainst fancy,
Condemning shadows quite.

DOLABELLA Hear me, good madam.

Your loss is as yourself, great; and you bear it
As answering to the weight. Would I might never
O'ertake pursued success but I do feel,
By the rebound of yours, a grief that smites
My very heart at root.

CLEOPATRA I thank you, sir.

Know you what Caesar [Augustus] means to do with me?

DOLABELLA

I am loath to tell you what I would you knew.

CLEOPATRA

Nay, pray you, sir.

DOLABELLA Though he be honorable—

CLEOPATRA He'll lead me, then, in triumph.

DOLABELLA Madam, he will. I know 't.