[Julius Caesar, Act I, Scene II [I know that virtue to be in you, Brutus]](https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/julius-caesar-act-i-scene-ii-i-know-virtue-be-you-brutus" \t "_parent)

William Shakespeare, 1564 - 1616

*Cassius speaks to Brutus*

I know that virtue to be in you, Brutus,  
As well as I do know your outward favor.  
Well, honor is the subject of my story.  
I cannot tell what you and other men  
Think of this life; but, for my single self,  
I had as lief not be as live to be  
In awe of such a thing as I myself.  
I was born free as Caesar; so were you;  
We both have fed as well, and we can both  
Endure the winter’s cold as well as he.  
For once, upon a raw and gusty day,  
The troubled Tiber chafing with her shores,  
Caesar said to me “Dar’st thou, Cassius, now  
Leap in with me into this angry flood  
And swim to yonder point?” Upon the word,  
Accoutered as I was, I plungèd in  
And bade him follow; so indeed he did.  
The torrent roared, and we did buffet it  
With lusty sinews, throwing it aside  
And stemming it with hearts of controversy.  
But ere we could arrive at the point proposed,  
Caesar cried “Help me, Cassius, or I sink!”  
I, as Aeneas, our great ancestor,  
Did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder  
The old Anchises bear, so from the waves of Tiber  
Did I the tired Caesar. And this man  
Is now become a god, and Cassius is  
A wretched creature and must bend his body  
If Caesar carelessly but nod on him.  
He had a fever when he was in Spain,  
And when the fit was on him, I did mark  
How he did shake. ’Tis true, this god did shake.  
His coward lips did from their color fly,  
And that same eye whose bend doth awe the world  
Did lose his luster. I did hear him groan.  
Ay, and that tongue of his that bade the Romans  
Mark him and write his speeches in their books,  
“Alas,” it cried “Give me some drink, Titinius”  
As a sick girl. You gods, it doth amaze me  
A man of such feeble temper should  
So get the start of the majestic world  
And bear the palm alone.