

Silence and speech in Coriolanus.

Dept. of English, Aligarh Muslim University) - SCENE I. Rome. A public place.



Description: -

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metrics.learnindialearn.in: Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival's Coriolanus

The tripartite act described by the Gravedigger is precisely what Coriolanus can be said to have done to himself: he drowned himself figuratively, in words or in silence, but also through exile or death both wittingly and *se defendendo*. They crave, paradoxically, the very same relatedness from which they strive to be exempt. Marcius, having a spirit of this noble make, was ambitious always to surpass himself, and did nothing how extraordinary soever, but he thought he was bound to outdo it at the next occasion; and ever desiring to give continual fresh instances of prowess, he added one exploit to another, and heaped up trophies upon trophies, so as to make it matter of contest also among his commanders, the latter still vying with the earlier, which should pay him the greatest honour and speak highest in his commendation.

Volumnia's Silence

We all have fallen victim to this. If he embodies the perfect soldier depicted by Machiavelli, the question is moot: he must mean what he says, or say what he means, if he is to avoid chaos and destruction on the battlefield. He does not sleep in a coffin during the day, like Dracula; he avoids the sun, but only because it makes him glow and sparkle beautifully, in a way that would draw unwanted attention, if he allowed it to happen in public.

Virgilia Character Analysis in Coriolanus

Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001.

Bilal Hamamra

If any such be here—. In the midst of our own devastating pandemic, it remains to be seen whether those who desperately need warehoused supplies will get them in time, and whether the majority of citizens in our own divided republic will reach the point where they too have had enough, and take action.

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