

EIRAS

He has a Roman gentleman with him.
Titus..

CLEOPATRA

Yes. I will see them..

Eiras leaves. Cleopatra exchanges a brief look with
Apollodorus - then turns to Archesilaus.

CLEOPATRA

I have posed enough for today,
thank you..

ARCHESILAUS

More time is necessary with Your
Majesty if I am to finish -

CLEOPATRA

I understand that, Arch - I'm sorry,
I can't pronounce your name..

ARCHESILAUS

Archesilaus.

CLEOPATRA

In any case, no more today..

SOSIGENES ushers TITUS into the room. He is a venerable old
man; he carries a folder of documents. He is fearful and
nervous..

ARCHESILAUS

Will Her Majesty be in Rome for
some time?

CLEOPATRA

Long enough for you to finish.

ARCHESILAUS

I hope Her Majesty enjoys her
lengthy stay..

He has been putting away his tools. Apollodorus now takes
him out. Cleopatra is alone with Sosigenes and Titus..

The old man places his folder on a table, bursts out
agitatedly:

TITUS

I have done all I can! I can make
no more loans, whatever terms I offer -
some of the Senators are even redeeming
their notes..

Continued

CLEOPATRA

Where do they get the money?

TITUS

(frightened)

Where? Well... that's hardly important - to me, at any rate. The point is, I can no longer serve as your banker here in Rome..

CLEOPATRA

Someone has told you not to. Who?

TITUS

(piteously)

I am over seventy years old. I have only a few more years in any case - but I want them, I want them..

CLEOPATRA

Caesar will punish those who have threatened you..

TITUS

Caesar? Today I sacrificed a sheep to the Gods - I haven't done that for many years - if you could have seen how it bled..

SOSIGENES

Men are also sacrificed - and not always to the Gods. They bleed, too..

TITUS

Tell her, Sosigenes! I served her father well for many years - and her, too! But I cannot any longer - I beg her not to press me - money means nothing any more - I beg her to let me go!

Shaking, the man sits, burying his face in his hands. Cleopatra and Sosigenes exchange sombre looks..

CLEOPATRA

Go then, Titus. And thank you..

Titus looks up, gets to his feet. He bows. He hurries out, leaving behind him his papers..

Cleopatra crosses to the folder. She leafs through it absently..

Continued

SOSIGENES

(quietly)

Today, a group of Senators approached Caesar as he sat in his golden chair. He did not rise, as is the custom. He merely stared at them - with an ivory sceptre in his hand - as if he were king..

CLEOPATRA

(shortly)

If they find such behavior unusual - let them make him truly king. It will then become commonplace..

SOSIGENES

There are those who think Caesar wanted to rise, but could not. That it was - as it has been, increasingly of late - his sickness..

CLEOPATRA

I know the cure for this sickness. It sits upon the head, made of gold and precious stones, shaped - like a crown..

SOSIGENES

Decisions made, decisions unmade - in an instant he will order the Tiber changed in its course, and for hours debate a petty trifle..

CLEOPATRA

Caesar is loved by his people - he can do no wrong!

SOSIGENES

They've begun to fear him..

CLEOPATRA

They worship him as a God - !

SOSIGENES

Like a God. There is a difference.

CLEOPATRA

He is a God!

SOSIGENES

By your decree, only. Forgive me, Caesar is a man..

CLEOPATRA

He has his legions! Overnight he could take Rome!

221 Cont. 4

SOSIGENES

In a matter of hours. Do you think he would?

(Cleopatra is silent)

Caesar has taken so much, conquered so much - for Rome. What he wants in return he will not take - and Rome will not give..

(a pause)

Must we stay - until the statue is done?

CLEOPATRA

You may go when you like..

SOSIGENES

I know that.

CLEOPATRA

It cannot be bought - it will not be given - and he hesitates to take it by force. He hesitates, literally, between having all of the world - and nothing..

SOSIGENES

The world - or nothing. Quite a spread of hesitation..

CAESARION bursts in, followed by CHARMIAN. He bows low to his mother.

CAESARION

Your Majesty. It is time to teach me to swim.

Cleopatra smiles at Sosigenes.

CLEOPATRA

My son believes in keeping open his escape to the sea. He gets that from his father..

She takes Caesarion by the hand, goes out with him. Sosigenes crosses to the statue of Cleopatra. He eyes it sombrely..

DISSOLVE:

222

INT. CLEOPATRA'S VILLA - ATRIUM - NIGHT

About a DOZEN SENATORS are present - their chairs arranged in a semi-circle (senate-like) about that of CAESAR..

ANTONY sits at one end of a row. He is nearest to CLEOPATRA - who sits discreetly apart from the group. She listens impassively..

Continued

J-03

222 Cont.

Caesar paces before the senators:

CAESAR

Believe me. I have lived enough, whether for nature or for fame. I want no more meaningless titles served up to me, one after the other, in the hope of filling - how did you put it, Cicero? - 'Caesar's belly that has no bottom, his one long pipe for digesting the world..'

CICERO

Those are not my words.

CAESAR

The meaning is yours! My insatiable ambition, this bottomless belly - all of me, my life, has been and is Rome! 'Dictator' 'Great Caesar, be our Dictator for Life - beyond Life if you will' - but take care lest you appear to dictate! Do I quote correctly, Cicero, your remark in opposition to my new calendar - 'Caesar, not content with ruling the earth, now wishes to rule the heavens..'?

CICERO

I said you now wish to regulate the stars..

CAESAR

Rule or regulate, stars or heavens, words, words! Caesar must wish what needs commanding! To drain the Pontine Marshes, to free Rome from malaria - to fill my belly? To control the Tiber's floods, to divert its course to improve the harbor of Ostia - to please my ambition? And must I wish roads to be built, libraries for public use, the freemen of Italy to be equal citizens with those of Rome -

CASSIUS

(rising suddenly)

Many of these have merit, Caesar, and merit our approval -

CAESAR

Merit your approval? Is Caesar to come before the Senate each day, like a schoolboy with his lessons - now passing, now failing..?

Continued

CASSIUS

Do you suggest that the Senate no longer deliberate the welfare of Rome? Do you suggest an end to the process of Roman law?

CAESAR

I must be the law! And my word must be the welfare of Rome! Else take from me this meaningless title of Dictator! I have carried a sword for too long. I cannot now pretend with an empty scabbard..

Wearily, he sinks into his chair. Cleopatra and Antony exchange glances. He starts to his feet - but BRUTUS has risen.

BRUTUS

(calmly)

Surely Caesar must recall the symbolic nature of the title 'Dictator' at the time it was conferred upon him. It was to honor Caesar above all men - to indicate the gratitude of Rome for Caesar's triumphs in its name..

CAESAR

(quietly)

Brutus, I recall them well, those triumphs. Do you?

(he rises again)

Pharsalia for one. When you trembled in Antony's hand, when Antony was hot to separate you from your head - with just cause - it was by my command that your life was spared. There was no deliberating body, it was not by my wish but by my command - my dictate, if you will! - that you stand here tonight dribbling virtue out of the corners of your mouth! Sit down!

Brutus, pale with humiliation, sits. There is a pause. Caesar presses at his nose. Antony now rises in his place. Caesar paces - aimlessly, vaguely..

CAESAR

No. I want no more meaningless privileges or considerations - no more honors designed to pacify me. I would far rather have nothing, remain what I am at heart - an humble man, anxious only to serve..

Continued

222 Cont. 2

CAESAR (cont.)

(he pauses at the statue
of Cleopatra)...why are the eyes of a statue
always without life?

(to the group)

Have any of you seen the Nile?

Spare yourselves the journey.

She carries it within her eyes..

The Senators look to Cleopatra. She looks down at her hands.
Antony speaks up:

ANTONY

(quietly)

I suggest, Caesar, that the hour
is late -

CASSIUS

(a murmur)

Very late - for Rome..

But Caesar has heard. He whirls on Cassius..

CAESAR

I was speaking, Cassius! I was -
where was I..?

CICERO

(drily)

Anxious to serve..

CAESAR

(vaguely)

Yes. I have served. I have served
for all of my life.(he makes his way back
to his chair)I have won for Rome more than half
of the world. Most of you here owe
your honors and your fortunes to me.
And now I want you to do as I say.
You will appoint me Emperor of Rome.

He sits. He has made his demand quietly, almost sleepily -
his eyes half closed. Several senators start to rise -
at a glance from Cassius, they sit again..

ANTONY

There is no need to resume your seats..

They rise, prepare to leave. Antony continues, to
Cleopatra:

Continued

ANTONY

May I, on behalf of all, once again
thank you, Gracious Majesty, for
your hospitality?

Cleopatra nods. Caesar does not stir. The senators go. Some
say goodnight to Cleopatra, (Brutus, for one). Some do not..

Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra are alone. For the first time
she rises. Antony crosses to Caesar..

ANTONY

They resent being summoned here -
for meetings more properly held
in the Senate..

CAESAR

Resent it...do they? I cannot
understand - that the eyes of a
statue must be always without life..

He rises, goes once more to Cleopatra's statue..

CLEOPATRA

They resent me. My presence in Rome.
To flaunt me like this - they can
use it to keep from you that which
is already yours -

CAESAR

- by divine right. Isn't that so?

CLEOPATRA

Yes. It is.

CAESAR

(nods)

By divine right. We shall have the
Senate, in its deliberations, deliberate
that..

He turns abruptly, goes out. Antony starts after him, pauses.
He turns back to Cleopatra..

ANTONY

Are you quite sure what it is - you
want so desperately?

CLEOPATRA

I have always been sure. I have
never been as sure of anything else..

ANTONY

And Caesar..?

222 Cont. 4

CLEOPATRA

Does anyone speak for him?

ANTONY

No. Good night..

CLEOPATRA

Good night.

He goes out. Cleopatra is alone. Thoughtfully, she strolls toward her statue - looks absently at it - then exits abruptly. SERVANTS start extinguishing the lights..

223

CLEOPATRA'S BEDROOM - AND TEMPLE - NIGHT

The temple - a replica of the one in her Palace - adjoins her sleeping quarters..

CLEOPATRA enters her bedroom. EIRAS and some HANDMAIDENS wait to disrobe her..

CLEOPATRA

The high Priestess. Have her come at once..

Eiras bows, and hurries out. Cleopatra, herself, removes the ornamentations she wears..

She crosses to open the doors of the temple. She enters, kneels before Isis, and awaits the coming of the High Priestess..

DISSOLVE:

224

EXT. FORUM - TEMPLE OF VENUS GENETRIX - DAY

The Forum, in bright sun, in the b.g. In the foreground, CASSIUS, DECIMUS, CIMBER - and BRUTUS. They stare up at the finished statue of Cleopatra which has been placed among the columns..

Brutus, increasingly distraught, is the target of what the others say..

CIMBER

Tell me, Brutus - is it proper to stand before this new goddess which Caesar has set here in the temple?

DECIMUS

Or should we, as Romans, kneel before his Egyptian whore?

Continued

CASSIUS

Not yet! See there - where room has been left for another deity? When the God Caesar stands beside the Goddess Cleopatra, then Rome will crawl before them both..

BRUTUS

When that day comes - if it comes..

CASSIUS

(sharply)

You heard his demand that we make him Emperor..

BRUTUS

Once - that one night, and it was his sickness..

DECIMUS

His sickness grows worse - and in the end, will kill us all..

CIMBER

Only once has he asked to be made Emperor - but he has since decreed himself a God - !

CASSIUS

Emperor and God - no longer just king, but Emperor and God! Brutus, open your eyes!

BRUTUS

(tortured)

What is it you want? What do you want of me!

CASSIUS

When the people of Rome think upon the honor of Rome - they think upon one man. He is Brutus. By that honor and the responsibility you carry - Brutus, save Rome from Caesar!

BRUTUS

You cannot ask me to destroy him!

CASSIUS

Then let Caesar destroy Rome..

Brutus looks from one to the other. Suddenly, he turns. He runs down the temple steps, out into the Forum..

DISSOLVE:

225

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S VILLA - GARDEN - DAY

CAESAR, in purple toga, seated on a marble bench. Before him, dressed the same, is CAESARION, alert with attention. Both wear laurel wreathes; both carry ivory sceptres. The child follows Caesar's direction..

CAESAR

Now then - walk like a King. Head up - listen to them cheer! You take your throne - they kneel - you bow right and left - now an angry glance at someone who has displeased you - very good, I tremble - see me tremble?

(sternly)

Don't smile. Not when they're trembling. It makes them stop..

From the Villa - /LIBRARY/ - CLEOPATRA watches. Touched by Caesar's adoration for his son; concerned by the nature of the games he plays..

CAESAR

Now the prisoners are dragged before you one by one - this one has no power anywhere and therefore means nothing, and you wish to be known as a noble ruler. What do you say?

CAESARION

I pardon you.

CAESAR

Louder, boy. If you are going to pardon someone, you want it known!

CAESARION

(loudly)

I pardon you!

CAESAR

And now - who comes here? Once your friend. You trusted him, and he turned against you. He has power, wealth, and family. He kneels and looks up at you, his eyes watery like a loving dog. He begs to be your friend again, to have you trust him again - and then? What then, little king?

Caesarion draws his finger down across his neck with an unmistakable slash. Caesar laughs with pleasure, sweeps the boy up in his arms as the school for Kings is adjourned..

226

CLEOPATRA'S P.O.V. - THE GARDEN

ANTONY rides in. His horse is taken by A SLAVE. Antony hurries to Caesar, exchanges a word or two with him. Smiling, Caesar puts down the child who runs to CHARMIAN. Together, the two men come toward Cleopatra..

227

INT. VILLA - LIBRARY - DAY

CLEOPATRA awaits their entrance. CAESAR and ANTONY both in high spirits..

CAESAR

Antony has just come from a meeting of my friends, with good news - tell her. No. Let me...

(with quiet pride)

Tomorrow, at the Senate - Lucius Cotta will move that I be made King. It will pass..

CLEOPATRA

(bewildered)

I don't understand..

CAESAR

King of Rome..

CLEOPATRA

And it will pass..?

CAESAR

(nods)

These past months - these dreary months of pity and scorn for the sick and crumbling Caesar - I have quietly enjoyed one of the few privileges of being Dictator. I have been appointing senators. Slightly more than half the Senate has, of the moment, been appointed by me..

CLEOPATRA

(smiling)

Once more the army of Mithridates - on its way all the time...

She goes into his arms. He smiles proudly..

CAESAR

It will pass. And tomorrow, the Ides of March, a day to be remembered - the senate will declare me King of Rome..

ANTONY

(quietly)

King, yes. But not of Rome..

227 Cont.

Caesar turns slowly..

CAESAR
Not of Rome? What are you saying?

ANTONY
They are prepared to offer you: King
of the Roman Empire - outside of Italy..

The blow hits Caesar hard. He slumps into a chair..

ANTONY
They're afraid, Caesar. Even your
friends. Afraid of the people.
Perhaps in time -

CLEOPATRA
To be afraid of - the people. To
waste time - on the people..

She turns away..

CAESAR
King of all - but Rome? What else
is there? The mud huts of Gaul?
The caves of Britain?

ANTONY
The whole of the empire. Outside
of Italy..

CAESAR
They offer me what I have already
conquered - bribe me with my own
triumphs. I will not accept..

Cleopatra turns back, slowly..

CLEOPATRA
King of the empire - outside of
Italy. They mean it to be an empty
gesture - another title to please
your fancy and flatter your ego..

CAESAR
Nothing more..

CLEOPATRA
(to Antony)
But it will pass..?
(Antony nods)
Then accept it, Caesar!

Continued

227 Cont. 1

CAESAR

I have never before settled for half a victory..

CLEOPATRA

Nor will you now!

(driving at him)

Caesar, mighty Caesar, all I can say to you is what you have taught to me! Take a little, then a little more, until finally you will have it all! Let them declare you King - even if it is only of a tree in Asia Minor - the rest will come to you!

CAESAR

(shakes his head)

To re-do once more everything I have already done - to reconquer once more what I have conquered over and over again - I am too tired for that. I am Caesar! I cannot relive my life to prove my existence..

Cleopatra must make him rise to this one last all-important challenge. It is the only chance for her - and him - and the Great Design..

Most important is Antony's reaction. For the first time, Cleopatra stands unveiled before him. He is hit, by a one-two punch from which he never recovers. First, the vision of power and conquest which her words present to him - and second, the special glow which Cleopatra's ambition lends to her beauty..

CLEOPATRA

It's what you have never done, what you never conquered that waits for you! The great legions of Rome in the outer empire that will become your legions - the gold, the power of Egypt, your Egypt - Caesar, you can conquer and hold the world as your own! Won't you understand - Kings are not elected! Gods are not elected!

Caesar lifts his eyes to hers. But before he can answer:

Continued

227 Cont. 2

ANTONY

(almost hypnotically
caught)

Why - why, then, not only Rome -
but this whole peninsula of Italy
upon which Rome stands must fall
into your hand like a drop of
sweat! Let them make you King
of whatever they choose - wherever
they choose! Let me serve with
you - my legions with yours -
together we'll conquer for Caesar
a world beyond the wildest dreams
of even Alexander! Take however
little they offer you - in the
end, you'll have it all..

And equally important, here, Antony's instinctive understanding
of her ambitious goal - his youth and power - and his
emotional invocation of Alexander - creates within Cleopatra
a new estimation of Antony..

CAESAR

(as if not having heard)

Have they forgotten those many hard
winters in Gaul? Those many hard
marches through Spain? Rome. What
was Rome when Sulla died..? When
Crassus lost the armies in Parthia?
These same men came after me through
the streets, howling like frightened
dogs - 'Caesar, save us'! They
would have made me King, then. But
I would not let them, then..

Suddenly, from the garden - A SCREAM. From Charmian. A dull
THUMP - as from a heavy object falling..

CLEOPATRA

(a cry)

Caesarion!

Antony is first out, sword drawn - followed by Cleopatra and
Caesar..

228

EXT. VILLA - GARDEN - DAY

CHARMIAN is seen hurrying CAESARION away. APOLLODORUS and
some HOUSEHOLD GUARDS stand over a BODY lying near the
garden wall..

ANTONY, CLEOPATRA and CAESAR hurry over..

Continued

APOLLODORUS

It was thrown over the wall. It's not a pretty sight, it might be better if Her Majesty -

But Cleopatra approaches with Antony and Caesar to look down. Antony turns the body over..

It is TITUS. Viciously murdered..

CAESAR

Titus - the money lender. Why would anyone kill him - as savagely as this - and bring him here?

CLEOPATRA

(quietly)

Poor old man, he wanted those few remaining years..

CAESAR

(insistent)

Why would they kill Titus?

CLEOPATRA

Why? He was in my pay. Obviously, I am being warned. Perhaps I am next..

CAESAR

They dare to threaten you..

(to Apollodorus)

Caesarion. Where was my son when this - ?

APOLLODORUS

Not far away. It frightened him..

Caesar purses his lips characteristically...he is at this moment suddenly once more the Caesar who surveyed the market place of Alexandria from his galley. The threat of physical harm to Cleopatra - and particularly his son - has been the catalyst. He turns to Antony:

CAESAR

Lepidus. How many legions has he now?

ANTONY

Fifteen, perhaps more..

CAESAR

Where?

Continued

228 Cont. 1

ANTONY

Scythia..

CAESAR

We shall dine with Lepidus tonight, you and I. We shall talk of armies and battlefields - and lists of men to die. And tomorrow in the Senate - let them offer me so much as the sands of Libya as my kingdom. I shall accept..

He smiles quickly at Cleopatra, and goes. Stunned by the swiftness of his change, she watches him. Then, as Antony starts to follow, she calls out:

CLEOPATRA

Antony!

He pauses. She goes up to him..

CLEOPATRA

Tomorrow. Is there a chance - can any harm be done to Caesar?

ANTONY

(smiles)

In the Senate? Hardly likely..

CLEOPATRA

Stay by him..

ANTONY

I always do..

He goes off after Caesar. Cleopatra is alone in the garden. A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND. Some leaves and twigs scatter across the ground. Cleopatra shivers. She glances at the sky. A DISTANT ROLL OF THUNDER. A few drops of rain. Cleopatra walks into the house. Again the wind. Again thunder. More rain..

DISSOLVE:

229

EXT. THE ROMAN SKIES - NIGHT

A frightening awesome thunderstorm. Sheets of lightning flash across the skies, deafening thunder-claps, a torrent of rain..

230

INT. BRUTUS' HOUSE - NIGHT - STORM

THE CONSPIRATORS listen to METELLUS CIMBER - who reports to them. He is soaked through by the STORM, which continues. CASSIUS pours drink for him..

Continued

J-03

230 Cont.

CIMBER

Cicero is still there - at the house of Lepidus - he can tell you that every word I say is the truth..

CASSIUS

We do not doubt you, Cimber..

CIMBER

Not for a long time have I seen or heard Caesar like this. Cold. Icy cold..

(he swallows)

Whether from the storm or him, I cannot stop shaking..

BRUTUS

Caesar said only that he would be content to be King of all the Provinces outside Rome - is that not so?

CIMBER

'Content'? Did I say 'content'? No, he never said 'content'. He would be King of all but Rome, he said, to begin with! Then he spoke with Antony of Antony's legions - and with Lepidus of his - and then of a great expedition he would make..

CASCA

Against Rome?

CIMBER

To capture Parthia. Then a march around the Black Sea, to take Scythia. Then along the Danube to conquer the tribes of Germany...

DECIMUS

And then..?

CIMBER

And then, with an army such as the world has never known - against Rome! To be crowned Emperor - and to name his successor..

BRUTUS

(savagely)

He said all this, do you swear?

CIMBER

And more - upon my life!

BRUTUS

This vast army, Caesar could not support it! Who would feed and pay his troops?

CIMBER

When Lepidus asked this, Caesar laughed and said -

CASSIUS

(breaking in)

Egypt! He is King of Egypt - have you forgotten, Brutus? And his successor - shall I name for you Caesar's successor!

(to Cimber)

Tomorrow - what did he say of tomorrow?

CIMBER

That he will be whatever king we name - but that then he will demand of the people of Rome - and this they will not deny him - a public coronation...

An instant of silence. All eyes are now on Brutus. Slowly he sinks to a chair, covers his face with his hands..

BRUTUS

(a whisper)

Caesar...Caesar, you leave me no choice..

CASCA

Is Caesar still at Lepidus' house?

(Cimber nods)

One might think the Gods had sent this holocaust for just our purpose. There are enough of us, and more - Caesar could be struck down swiftly in the dark -

BRUTUS

(to his feet)

No! That is the one way in which it must not be done! This is not the haphazard victim of an anonymous assassin! This is Great Caesar, beloved by Rome - and at least one of us - who must die so that Rome may live...

(to them all)

If it must be done, then let us do it - unashamed and unafraid. If the world is to know that it is Rome who will not have a king - then let it be the honorable and open act of free men in the light of day..

230

Cont. 2

CASSIUS

The light of what day, Brutus?
Tomorrow?

(Brutus nods)

In the Curia of the Senate?

(Brutus nods)

And shall we be armed - all of us?

Again Brutus nods. Then he turns abruptly, goes from the room. Satisfied, Cassius turns to Decimus..

CASSIUS

You, Decimus. You will come to
Caesar's villa early tomorrow - to
escort him to the Senate..

(to Cimber)

...and Cimber. Mark Antony must not
enter the Curia with Caesar. On some
pretext, you must lead him aside -
perhaps to speak of what you heard
tonight at Lepidus' house..

CIMBER

I remember something odd. At one
point Caesar suddenly asked, of
each of us, what manner of death we
would choose. And Caesar, when it
came to him, looked straight at me
and said - 'sudden'. Odd - isn't it?

He smiles..

DISSOLVE:

231

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S VILLA - GARDEN - DAY

Early the next morning. The garden rain-soaked. A tree struck
by lightning. Still some wind..

CAESAR'S litter appears. DECIMUS rides alongside. He waits,
as Caesar hurries toward the villa..

232

EXT. CLEOPATRA'S VILLA - DAY

CLEOPATRA - as though she had been waiting for him - comes out
to meet Caesar. They are both deliberately casual..

CAESAR

I was afraid I'd find you still
asleep..

CLEOPATRA

Caesarion is. He was awake most of
the night..

232 Cont.

CAESAR

Did the storm frighten him?

CLEOPATRA

He said not. But it did, I could tell..

There is a pause.

CLEOPATRA

Have you time to come in?

CAESAR

Decimus is waiting. He came by early this morning, expressly to accompany me to the Senate..

CLEOPATRA

Decimus? Has he done this before?

CAESAR

(smiles)

A shrewd politician - he hopes to benefit by arriving with me this day of days..

CLEOPATRA

Keep Antony close by you..

CAESAR

You, too? The ladies of Rome seem to have caught each other's fears this morning -

(off hand)

- like a head cold. Calpurnia... actually pleaded with me, not to go to the Senate at all -

CLEOPATRA

Why? Why would she not want you to go - ?

CAESAR

The bad night, nothing else. She awoke screaming in her sleep - the thunder, the lightning - she had dreamed that she saw me...murdered. That she saw me - or a statue of me - covered with blood..

He pauses. Cleopatra is silent. He continues..

Continued

232 Cont. 1

CAESAR

The servants - as servants will - told her of seeing men of fire in the heavens, of odd happenings in the City, and so forth - strange and solitary birds were seen in the Forum. One flew into the Senate itself - carrying a sprig of laurel which it dropped at the base of Pompey's statue..

CLEOPATRA

Pompey..
 (she breaks suddenly,
 holds him)
 Caesar - I'm afraid..!

CAESAR

(firmly)
 You must not tell me to stay away!
 (more gently)
 Shall I, too, be afraid? Shall it be said of Caesar that he gave up the world because of a thunderstorm? That such divinity as there was in him ran before mortal superstition?

CLEOPATRA

(an attempt to make light
 of her emotion)
 It's just that, over the years, we Ptolemys have developed such a sense of - foreboding. I feel that now you need me. And I cannot help you..

CAESAR

Then help me to live - as I have lived. Always differently from the rest - the others, for whom life is merely an endless fear of dying..

CLEOPATRA

(nods)
 Your Gods - and mine - go with you, Caesar.
 (gently, she kisses
 his lips)
 The world - except for you - is filled with little men..

They smile at each other. Caesar turns to go. He hesitates:

CAESAR

Was there lightning here?

232 Cont. 2

CLEOPATRA

(indicates)

A tree was struck.

CAESAR

(looks)

A pity. It bore good fruit - that tree..

He goes, the slight wind whipping at his toga. Cleopatra watches until he reaches his litter and is raised up in it. He smiles, waves - and is carried OFF..

Sombrely, Cleopatra turns to enter the villa..

233 INT. CLEOPATRA'S VILLA - DAY

As CLEOPATRA enters. Except for APOLLODORUS, who waits, the interior is empty and gloomy on the gray day. She starts for her bedroom, hesitates as she sees:

234 CLEOPATRA'S P.O.V. - DAY

THE HIGH PRIESTESS. She stands in the open entrance to the little Temple of Isis. Behind her, the Fires of Invocation can be seen..

235 CLOSE - CLEOPATRA

She nods, as if in obedience to a summons. She removes her cloak. Apollodorus hurries to take it from her.

Cleopatra starts toward the Priestess and the Temple..

DISSOLVE:

236 INT. CLEOPATRA'S VILLA - TEMPLE OF ISIS

(The purpose and concept of this sequence of SCENES is to utilize the already-established prophetic powers of the HIGH PRIESTESS and the visionary ritual - in order to present the assassination of Caesar in terms not only of its dramatic physical aspects but, at the same time, the emotional participation of both Caesar and Cleopatra. Individually, and collectively - as if, indeed, she had been present..)

(Thus, optically, at times the ensuing SCENES will play as reality - at times they will have the superimposed unreality of prophecy - until, at the end, they have the simple clarity of historical fact.)

Continued

236 Cont.

(A) THE PRIESTESS - HER ASSISTANTS - INT. TEMPLE

The priestess looks into the fire. There is an hypnotic rigidity in her expression - her eyes are narrowed almost cruelly. Her assistants, for the first time, stare up at the Priestess - frightened..

(B) THE FIRE. (OPTICAL DISSOLVE)

The Priestess' face appears in it...then there is only fire ...then Cleopatra's face..

(C) CLEOPATRA - INT. TEMPLE

She stares into the flames. Suddenly, over the crackle of the fire - there is HEARD the sound of RISING WIND. Cleopatra looks from the fire to the Priestess - her eyes searching...

(D) THE PRIESTESS - INT. TEMPLE

Her lips barely move. She speaks with difficulty..

PRIESTESS

The fire burns, the fire burns....
the winds...the winds of dest - of
destruction blow....Rome, mighty
and alone...the winds of destruction
blow down upon thee! Storms and
hail shall cut down wheat....shall
cut down birds and living things....
the heavens - and the Gods themselves..

(E) THE FIRE. (OPTICAL DISSOLVE)

(Note: This optical treatment to be followed throughout the sequence).

The Priestess' face appears in it...then there is only fire...then Cleopatra's eyes, staring...then CAESAR, in the Forum -

(F) CAESAR - EXT. FORUM

arriving at the Senate. The wind whips the togas of the waiting senators. DECIMUS helps CAESAR from his litter. CASSIUS, CASCA and BRUTUS are close at hand. They chat for a moment. As they start up the Senate steps, suddenly ANTONY appears. He wears his sword. He takes his place at Caesar's side..

(G) CLEOPATRA - INT. TEMPLE

staring into the flames, smiles in relief. She stretches her hands to the fire as if in gratitude..

236 Cont. 1

(H) ENTRANCE TO THE SENATE - EXT. FORUM

Mettellus Cimber, who has been waiting, comes up to Antony. He whispers to him urgently, draws him aside. Caesar goes in alone, followed by the conspirators..

(I) CLEOPATRA - INT. TEMPLE

She draws her hands back in alarm..

(J) INT. SENATE

Caesar striding toward the rostrum, followed by the others. A senator throws himself at Caesar's feet, holds his toga to detain him. Behind Caesar - Casca unsheathes his dagger..

(K) CLEOPATRA - INT. TEMPLE

Staring. Her lips moving in prayer..

(L) THE SENATE

Casca stabs Caesar, who half turns to him. Then the others..

(M) CLEOPATRA - INT. TEMPLE

Moaning now, shaking her head as if not wanting to believe..

(N) THE SENATE

Brutus, tortured into indecisiveness, dagger in hand, retreating to Pompey's statue. Caesar, his face streaming blood, shaking loose from the pack around him. Arms outstretched for help, he staggers toward Brutus..

(O) CLEOPATRA - INT. TEMPLE

pleading, as if with Caesar, for help..

(P) THE SENATE

Brutus stands rigidly as Caesar embraces him with bloody arms. Then Brutus strikes home. Caesar piteously mouths the words, "You, too, Brutus - my son.." - and falls..

(Q) CLEOPATRA - INT. TEMPLE

Cries out: "My son!" She throws her arm across her eyes not to see any more..

(R) THE SENATE

The base of Pompey's statue. Caesar's dying hand slides down across Pompey's name, leaving a bloody trail..then Caesar lies still.

236 Cont. 2

(S) CLEOPATRA - INT. TEMPLE

She, too, lies still. Huddled in a heap beside the pit of fire. The CAMERA MOVES into the flames.

LONG DISSOLVE TO:

237

EXT. FORUM - ROME - NIGHT

Caesar's funeral pyre. The flames in CAMERA FOREGROUND. The SOUND of the POPULACE, chanting over and over: "CAE-SAR! CAE-SAR! CAE-SAR!" many hundreds of voices in unison. /Not unlike the well-remembered massed "Sieg-Heil!". /

Just beyond the pyre, CAESAR'S BODY - covered by a robe. Beyond the body, a step above it - is ANTONY. His sword is drawn. He is sweaty, grimy - and has changed from the toga he wore that morning to battle-dress. He stares out at the mob exultantly, panting from the effort of having aroused them to their present pitch.

(In my opinion we simply cannot risk composing a funeral oration for Antony. It would not only make a critic out of every schoolboy in the English-speaking world, but threaten the very climax of the first half of our film. Therefore, we open this scene just after Antony has swayed the crowd over to Caesar.)

For Antony's last words - which we do not hear over the roar of the mob - the following:

ANTONY

- then burst his mighty heart! And even at the base of Pompey's statue (which all the while ran blood), great Caesar fell. O, what a fall was there, my countrymen! Then I, and you, and all of us fell down - whilst bloody treason flourished over us!

Flanking Caesar's body as it lies upon its wooden bier - some of his LEGIONNAIRES and OFFICERS. Among them, RUFIO..

CAMERA STARTS BACK AND UP. With a sudden movement of his sword, Antony snatches the robe from Caesar's body. The crowd GROANS at the sight. CAMERA CONTINUES BACK AND UP..

ANTONY

(shouting)

Here was a Caesar! When comes such another?

The CROWD'S ROAR drowns out his voice..

237 Cont.

Caesar's officers gather around his bier. They stoop, and together lift Caesar's body high above their heads. CAMERA CONTINUES BACK AND UP - PICKING UP in the FOREGROUND, some of the crowd hanging on to the temporary structures being erected in the Forum at the time..

Antony mounts a few steps, turns to face Caesar's body and the crowd. The Officers, holding Caesar's body aloft, keep their eyes on him.

Antony signals with his sword. They consign Caesar's body to his funeral pyre...the flames burn brighter..

CAMERA CONTINUES BACK AND UP. The crowd in the Forum below, runs amok. They break tables, chairs, tear apart booths - anything that can burn - and carry it to the fire..

Hysterical women throw their jewels, tear off clothes and consign them in the flames..

In the foreground, those who were perched high above the Forum now descend to join the crowd below. CAMERA CONTINUES BACK AND UP..

All alone, high above the Forum and the flames that cremate Caesar, sagged against a wooden girder, gazing dully down at the scene - is FLAVIUS.

The lonely little figure sinks to his knees. He sobs as though his heart would break...

LONG DISSOLVE:

238

EXT. REAR OF CLEOPATRA'S VILLA - THE TIBER - DAWN

Stone steps and terraces descend to the river below. There is a landing place, from which small boats are being loaded. One boat, larger than the rest, awaits the Queen..

It is early dawn. Across the river, in the distance, against the sky, can be seen the glow of the fire still burning in the Forum.

On one of the terraces, already dressed for her voyage, stands CLEOPATRA. Soldiers of her ELITE GUARD are posted nearby, for her protection. Unmindful of them, and of the SERVANTS who pass by carrying personal effects and treasures - she stares out impassively over the water towards Rome..

APOLLODORUS runs in quickly, from the garden. He wears armor, and is armed. He draws Cleopatra aside to a more secluded part of the terrace. He whispers to her. She nods. He starts back toward the garden.

Continued

238 Cont.

CHARMIAN and EIRAS come down the steps - followed by SOSIGENES who carries the sleeping CAESARION. He carries the child over to Cleopatra. She looks at him, smooths his brow, kisses him. Sosigenes then continues down with the boy..

Cleopatra looks after them - then up at:

ANTONY. He is begrimed, thoroughly exhausted. He descends the steps to the terrace where Cleopatra waits for him..

ANTONY

I would have come sooner. But there was much to do..

CLEOPATRA

And you seem to have done it extremely well..

She looks OFF in the direction of the fire..

CLEOPATRA

Is that where - ?

Antony nods.

CLEOPATRA

In Egypt we build eternal monuments to our dead heroes - here, you burn them like rubbish..

(she holds out her hand)

Good-bye, Antony..

ANTONY

I've brought some of the Tenth Legion - and Rufio - you've nothing to fear.

CLEOPATRA

Nothing to fear. That's no reason for staying..

ANTONY

(wearily)

So much has happened so quickly - suddenly I have the pieces of a broken world to pick up - Caesar - you, running off at night like this...

CLEOPATRA

(sharply)

Do you suggest that I stay? Why - ?

ANTONY

Don't ask me to be clear about my feelings right now. I'm tired. And with you - even at my best - it is never easy for me to say my meaning..

CLEOPATRA

(bitterly)

But you speak so well, Antony - I've been told how excitingly you read Caesar's will to the sobbing, murdering - free citizens of Rome! Naming as his heir - his greatnephew, Octavian! Was it to prevent this immortal dynasty that Caesar was murdered?

Now Antony is on surer ground. In defense of his actions rather than his emotions..

ANTONY

I knew Caesar's will - and the reasons for it! If Octavian had not been named - how many hours, how many minutes would you and your son have lived, do you think?

(more quietly)

And if Caesar had become truly king - do you believe he would still have named Octavian?

A pause.

CLEOPATRA

In any case - it's over. Caesar - and the dream that was murdered with him. First Alexander's - then Caesar's - now over. Finished.

She holds out her hand again. Antony takes it..

ANTONY

Not necessarily..

Cleopatra winces, smiles..

CLEOPATRA

You're hurting me. That - fist of iron..

He eases his grip, continues to hold her hand..

ANTONY

First, Rome must be put in order..

CLEOPATRA

Rome, again..

ANTONY

Brutus, Cassius - some of the others - have escaped. They must be hunted down and killed..

CLEOPATRA

And then - ?

ANTONY

And then - in death Caesar must be granted the title and power he was denied in life. Deified, even..

CLEOPATRA

A dead king, a dead God. Safe enough - even for Rome..

ANTONY

Caesarion, as Caesar's son could claim both the title of king - and his deification..

CLEOPATRA

And to what court of law would my son and I take our claim - ?

ANTONY

I will present it, myself - to the Roman Senate..

Cleopatra eyes him for a moment.

CLEOPATRA

Yes. I think you would.
(she smiles)

And after the noble Senators have stopped laughing - do my son and I then make war upon Rome? No. For that a Caesar would be needed...but thank you. I shall remember your kindness to us..

Sosigenes comes up from below, pauses:

SOSIGENES

Your boat is ready now..

Cleopatra nods. He goes on.

ANTONY

You give up too easily..

CLEOPATRA

Do I - ?

ANTONY

Let me come to Alexandria - and talk
more with you..

CLEOPATRA

Whenever you like..

ANTONY

Now, tonight, if I could..

CLEOPATRA

(smiles)

In any case - try to remember..

She withdraws her hand now, leaving in his her kerchief.
She turns, and swiftly descends the steps to her waiting
boat. Antony looks after her..

The boat carrying Cleopatra moves off into the river and
away..

Antony. Looking after Cleopatra.

(This silent farewell should recall sharply Caesar's
departure from Alexandria.)

Antony. Slowly he raises the kerchief to his lips..

On the boat. Cleopatra. She looks down at the sleeping
Caesarion. She adjusts the robe which covers him. She
tugs at Pompey's ring till it is in view. Ever so
slightly, she smiles..

The boat fades from view along the river..

FADE OUT

END OF PART ONE

(I N T E R M I S S I O N)

FADE IN:

239

EXT. ENCAMPMENT - PHILLIPI - NIGHT - STOP-FRAME

Once more, the "frieze" treatment. And once more an historical excerpt in Greek - narrated in English:

NARRATOR

"...and for more than two years did Antony strive against the assassins of Caesar. At last, at Phillipi, in Macedonia, he was able to meet them in battle. Cassius was the first to die, by his own hand, then Brutus and the others.."

The stop-frame is a FULL SHOT- ANTONY (a distinctive cloak over his armor) standing proudly as a laurel wreath is placed on his head by RUFIO.

240

The stop-frame moves into action:

We are in the midst of a victorious, carousing army. A skin of wine is passed from man to man - to Antony. He throws his head back and drinks it down, to the cheers of his men..

241

MOVING - ANTONY AND GROUP

Accompanied by RUFIO and some OFFICERS, he makes his way through his army. Here is Antony at his peak as a Roman general - and man. He oozes power and confidence as he walks - free and easy with his adoring men - drinking with one - joking with another - stealing a kiss from still another's whore. He can do no wrong - he is one of them..

His manner changes as they approach an isolated black-draped tent. Antony regards it for a moment. He enters the tent alone..

242

INT. TENT - NIGHT

The body of BRUTUS lies on a crude plank table. A scrawny GUARD leaps to his feet and salutes as ANTONY enters..

Antony crosses to look down at Brutus for an instant. He takes his cloak from his shoulders and drapes it over the body. He glances briefly at the guard. He goes out..

The guard waits an instant. He looks about furtively. Swiftly, he drags Antony's cloak from Brutus's body and stuffs it under his breastplate. He sneaks out the back of the tent..

243

EXT. BACK OF TENT - NIGHT

The guard comes out. MEN move in from the sides; he is grabbed and held by RUFIO. ANTONY walks up, regards him contemptuously:

ANTONY

Did you think you could salute me,
wearing the ring of Brutus - and
not have me notice?

Brutally, he tears Brutus' ring from the guard's finger. The cloak slips into view; Antony yanks it out. He turns to the assembled LEGIONNAIRES:

ANTONY

What punishment for a Roman who
betrays the good name of our
legions - ?

A LEGIONNAIRE

The gauntlet! The gauntlet, Mark
Antony!

The men yell their approval..

ANTONY

Take him..

Rufio shoves the guard over to the legionnaire. Quickly the men form a double lane, about six feet apart, armed with battle-axes, maces, etc..

Antony hands the cloak and ring to an OFFICER.

ANTONY

Have Brutus buried in my cloak.
Give him every honor..

The officer salutes and leaves. Antony turns to Rufio:

ANTONY

Should Brutus, dead, still value
honor so much? He lived so
intimately with it. And in the
end, honor - like an over-possessive
wife - smothered him..

RUFIO

Speaking of over-possessive wives -

ANTONY

(smiles)
I know. Octavian..

They stride off..

243 Cont.

The gauntlet has been formed. The guard is shoved into it. He runs, literally, for his life - both sides striking at him. Then they close in - hiding him from view..

244 EXT. OCTAVIAN'S TENT - NIGHT

In another part of the encampment. Octavian's insignia mounted before the tent. There is no carousing here, no rejoicing. The atmosphere is cold, correct and efficient..

Once more, ANTONY leaves RUFIO and his officers outside. As he enters the tent alone, he is saluted with flourish and precision by Octavian's GUARDS. He returns the salute carelessly..

245 INT. OCTAVIAN'S TENT - NIGHT

The interior is spotless - and as austere as the exterior. Even the amphorae of wine are lined up neatly..

OCTAVIAN, propped up by cushions, lies ill on a cot. AGRIPPA and TWO OFFICERS at his side..

Antony speaks as he enters..

ANTONY

The fighting's over, we've won it all -

(at the bed)

- your health should improve quickly now..

OCTAVIAN

Even if I were to die, my place was with you on the field -

(to Agrippa)

You were wrong in preventing me -

AGRIPPA

(to Antony)

Caesar was too ill to sit his horse -

ANTONY

Caesar? Ah yes, I keep forgetting..

OCTAVIAN

(defensive)

I have inherited the name. I have made it mine..

245 Cont.

ANTONY

Why not? You will never be
confused with - the other one.

(sits on bed)

At any rate, your troops fought
bravely - under my command..

OCTAVIAN

Agrippa kept me fully informed..

ANTONY

(to Agrippa)

What were you doing there? The
battle was fought on land - between
men -

(Agrippa rises angrily)

- not great logs of wood bumping
on water..

(to Octavian)

Why did you bring Agrippa? Were
you expecting rain?

AGRIPPA

Shall we choose a piece of land,
Antony - just you and I?

OCTAVIAN

(softly)

Be quiet..

(to Antony)

There are matters we must talk
about...have you an objection
to Agrippa remaining - ?

ANTONY

I object to Agrippa at all times.

Agrippa's angry reaction is stifled by a look from
Octavian. Followed by the other officers, Agrippa goes
out. Meanwhile, Antony finds himself a suitable wine
among the amphorae - disturbing their neat pattern.
He drinks..

ANTONY

Lying here - indisposed - you
must have had time to consider
the problem..

OCTAVIAN

(nods)

I think it best to continue the
triumvirate. You and I - and
Lepidus..

245 Cont. 1

ANTONY

Lepidus. He pays for your armies, you owe him a great deal - but why must he have so much in return?

OCTAVIAN

So that you and I cannot be accused of dividing the empire. Lepidus is popular - Julius Caesar thought highly of him -

ANTONY

You speak that name as if he never lived...very well. Lepidus shall have Africa and the islands. You, Spain and Gaul. Rome and Italy to be administered by the three of us jointly..

OCTAVIAN

And you - ?

ANTONY

All the rest.

OCTAVIAN

(slowly)

Then, with Lepidus in Africa - and you in the East - bringing order to Italy and Rome will be my problem..

ANTONY

So it seems..

OCTAVIAN

Spain and Gaul are not enough for me - I shall need money - there have been tax riots in Rome already!

ANTONY

So I've heard..

Octavian looks at him speculatively. Then he nods..

OCTAVIAN

Done.

He holds out his hand to seal the bargain. Antony spits into his own hand like a peasant and clasps hands with Octavian.

ANTONY

And done. We two will rule as one..

245 Cont. 2

OCTAVIAN

With Lepidus. We three..

ANTONY

(grins)

We two-and-a-half..

He spills the rest of his wine on the floor..

ANTONY

If nothing else, Gaul should
improve your taste in wines..

He leaves. Instantly, Octavian throws aside his cover - and gets out of bed. He holds the hand which Antony shook as if it ran with blood. He hurries to a water jar, washes the contaminated hand:

OCTAVIAN

Only one. Only one can rule
as one..

Doggedly, he scrubs the hand with sand..

246

INT. ANTONY'S TENT - NIGHT

Lush, lavish and disorderly - like Antony, himself..

ANTONY, in high good humor, followed by RUFIO, comes in. During the ensuing, he removes his armor - dropping it where he stands - and pours wine both for himself and Rufio.

ANTONY

(is saying)

Brave men do not fight their battles
in bed. Military battles, that is..

RUFIO

A clever one would - with an Antony
to fight for him in the field..

ANTONY

Then let him think I won it for him
if he likes - I've taken the meat of
the empire and left him the bone..

RUFIO

(disagreeing)

The heart. Rome..

ANTONY

Scarcely beating. Political chaos,
the treasury bankrupt - now there's
a battle to put Octavian to bed and
keep him there..

246 Cont.

RUFIO

And if he wins it? Rome is his..

Antony, wine in hand, has his mind on other matters. He stands before an enormous campaign map of the countries to the East..

ANTONY

The East, Rufio - we have all of it!

RUFIO

What was it Caesar said once - 'Rome is best not left unwatched for too long - like one of your mistresses..'?

ANTONY

(smiling)

Which Caesar?

RUFIO

The only one.

He drinks. Antony drinks with him..

ANTONY

(indicating)

Greece - beautiful dark women with white teeth - then across the Hellespont and into Asia Minor. More beautiful dark women with white teeth..

RUFIO

And where do we find that beautiful gold metal - called gold..?

ANTONY

Persia is covered with it. We'll take it from the Parthians. And on the way - Galatia, Cappadocia, Cilicia - there's a palace in Tarsus..

RUFIO

There's a palace in Alexandria..

Antony turns, looks at him. Rufio is drinking his wine casually..

RUFIO

Women or gold, gold or women - Alexandria has more and better of both than any place on earth..

ANTONY

So I've heard..

246 Cont. 1

RUFIO

Egypt needs Rome - us - to
guarantee her security. Rome -
we - need Egypt's gold and wheat..

ANTONY

I'm aware of that..

RUFIO

Egypt's queen has a son. His name
is Caesarion..

ANTONY

I haven't forgotten..

RUFIO

I didn't think you had..

Antony pours more wine..

ANTONY

Would she come, do you think - if
I summoned her to me?

Rufio shrugs, finishes his own wine. Antony flares with
sudden anger:

ANTONY

She came when Caesar summoned her!

RUFIO

There was always some doubt about
that..

Antony stares down into his cup..

ANTONY

(thoughtfully)

A lancer came at me today - and
as he drew back, I cut off his arm
at the shoulder. 'Like Caesar!',
I heard someone shout behind me,
'Just like Caesar!' At that
moment I hated him..

RUFIO

Hated whom?

ANTONY

The enemy. Who else?

Then, angry again:

246 Cont. 2

ANTONY

If she has to be dragged in chains, Cleopatra will come when and where I call her!

RUFIO

You speak as if she were that enemy -

ANTONY

The world is full of queens!

RUFIO

(nods)

And some of them beautiful and dark - with white teeth. But only one Cleopatra. Sleep well..

He goes out. Antony, alone, paces moodily. Goblet in hand, he crosses to his campaign trunk, opens it. He takes out the kerchief which Cleopatra left with him in Rome. He fondles it for a moment, then smells it..

ANTONY

Gone. The scent..

He takes a swallow of wine..

ANTONY

And the taste. Gone..

Savagely, he throws the goblet against the tent wall..

DISSOLVE:

247

EXT. TEMPLE OF ISIS - ALEXANDRIA - DAY

A short RELIGIOUS PROCESSION is emerging from it. On the porch of the temple is a golden statue of Caesar, a thin black veil draped across its face. Before the statue, a ceremonial brazier..

As the procession, led by the HIGH PRIEST and HIGH PRIESTESS, passes by the statue, each participant drops an offering into the brazier. It puffs into a colored blaze..

CLEOPATRA follows immediately behind. At her side is CAESARION - now about seven. Then SOSIGENES, APOLLODORUS and RAMOS. Then CHARMIAN and EIRAS - among other court dignitaries..

J-03

Continued

247 Cont.

The religious and military part of the procession continues on toward the Palace in the b.g. Caesarion runs to Charmian and Eiras who take him in tow. Apollodorus escorts them..

Sosigenes joins Cleopatra before the statue of Caesar. She is wearing a gold necklace made of coins with Caesar's head on them. She indicates the statue..

CLEOPATRA

Would he have approved, do you think?

SOSIGENES

Definitely. Perhaps the veil of Isis would have bothered him just a bit -

CLEOPATRA

Three years. And Rome remembers him only by the image on a gold coin..

Sosigenes eyes the necklace. They start toward the Mausoleum..

SOSIGENES

Are they those I brought back with me?

(Cleopatra nods)

After all, when Octavian had them struck off - it was to commemorate Caesar's deification..

CLEOPATRA

So that he could inherit Caesar's divinity together with all the rest. Even a dead God cannot rewrite his will..

SOSIGENES

Antony did present Caesarion's claims to the Senate. He kept that much of his promise..

CLEOPATRA

He will keep the rest of it..

SOSIGENES

(doubtfully)

After almost three years since Caesar's death - more than a year since Phillip - ?

Cleopatra pauses. They have arrived at:

Work in full progress. At the approach of Cleopatra, the WORKMEN prostrate themselves - then manage to efface themselves completely. APOLLODORUS keeps an eye on the Royal Group. CHARMIAN and EIRAS are with CAESARION. CLEOPATRA indicates a spot to SOSIGENES:

CLEOPATRA

Here Caesar will be. With my statue opposite him, looking toward the sea..

SOSIGENES

(smiles)

Waiting, throughout eternity - for Antony to arrive?

Cleopatra whirls on him suddenly, sharply..

CLEOPATRA

For some time now - you have quietly but obviously disapproved of me! All right, you have my permission and my forgiveness - why?

SOSIGENES

Disapproving is too harsh a word. I have been perhaps - made sad - by what seems to be your - dedication to a dead past, and to your future dying..

CLEOPATRA

Dying - ?

SOSIGENES

This mausoleum - to which you come each day and speak of death as if it were a lover on his way to you..

CLEOPATRA

(smiles)

Of all men, you should know better. What I build here is not an end - but a beginning. This tomb shall mark it. The start of a new history - one world, one people - with Alexandria its capital. Ruled by my son - and his sons - and theirs...

SOSIGENES

Cleopatra's dream..

CLEOPATRA

Alexander's. Caesar's..

SOSIGENES

Yours, now, alone..

CLEOPATRA

And - Mark Antony's..

SOSIGENES

It is my belief Antony is not
one for dreams..

CLEOPATRA

You don't consider him capable of
conquering a world - ?

SOSIGENES

(nods)

And incapable of resisting a
pleasure..

CLEOPATRA

He's a man..

SOSIGENES

Too much a man. Too little the
God you wait for..

CLEOPATRA

(smiles)

From all reports, Antony can't
decide which God he is. In
Greece, he had himself worshipped
as Bacchus..

SOSIGENES

And now, in Asia Minor - he claims
descent from Hercules..

CLEOPATRA

Let him pose as any God he chooses.
I know that Antony has worshipped at
one shrine. That there is one God
he dare not play at being - until
I say he may. Caesar..

They are at the low unfinished wall facing the sea. She
looks out at it..

CLEOPATRA

It's an expensive game - playing
at God. More gold is needed than
can be squeezed out of conquered
territories. Gods require many
legions..

(she sits)

Antony will come. He will need Egypt..

SOSIGENES

Egypt is you.

248 Cont. 2

CLEOPATRA

That's what I meant, of course.
Antony will need me..

DISSOLVE:

249

INT. ANTONY'S PALACE BEDROOM - TARSUS

Barbaric, lush trappings. It overlooks the harbor..
ANTONY stands looking out over the water. In the centre
of the room, seated on a large ottoman, an aristocratic
Eastern LADY. She weeps. Without cessation..

Antony turns to stare at her. Curiously, he circles
her as she agonizes..

ANTONY

Have you any idea how long you
have been weeping? Fantastic.
You started this morning, it is
almost sundown - you have not
eaten or drunk, simply squatted
there wailing like a cat. No
one has ever wept like you. Are
you prepared to stop?

(She does not stop)

Then help me to understand. For
someone - even a queen - to
blubber on like this, there must
be a very special reason. Is it
because I don't want you any more?

(She shakes her head)

Because I wanted you in the first
place?

(She shakes her head)

Because I am returning you to your
husband?

(She shakes her head)

He can keep his throne, tell him -
even his horses - rule under Roman
mandate - he should be proud of you,
you've accomplished your mission..

(she doesn't stop)

You feel degraded, is that it?
You can never wash my touch from
your Royal skin, you will always
feel dirtied by it? Or - perhaps
you weep because you will never
forget and always want me - ?

RUFIO comes in, quietly. Antony looks over to him.

249 Cont.

RUFIO

I don't mean to disturb. But
there are matters -

ANTONY

We're just finishing. Finished,
in fact.

The lady stops weeping. She rises. She crosses to a
door. She turns back to Antony..

LADY

Lord Antony, women weep for many
things at once - but mostly for
themselves. Today I have wept
because I could not kill you.
And because when you die, I will
not be there - to laugh..

She goes out. Antony drinks, and smiles..

ANTONY

When I die, the world - from one
end to the other - will echo with
the sound of giggling..

RUFIO

You returned her husband's army -
and the horses?

ANTONY

We don't need them.

RUFIO

We can't feed those we have.
Horses - or men..

ANTONY

If the matters you've come to
discuss are to be more reproaches -

RUFIO

(breaking in)

Last night because you liked the
food, you presented the cook with
a house!

ANTONY

(breaking in)

If I'm to listen to wailing, I'll
bring that woman back in!

RUFIO

(breaking in)

A house you don't even own!

249 Cont. 1

ANTONY

Then buy it!

RUFIO

With what?

ANTONY

Finances. You make my head hurt when you talk of money - change the subject..

RUFIO

(grimly)

All right. News from Rome. Octavian has forced Lepidus out of his command - and into exile..

Antony shakes his head to clear it.

ANTONY

Who has the legions?

RUFIO

Octavian.

Antony puts down his goblet, sits slowly.

ANTONY

I wish I had not drunk so much today..

RUFIO

So do I.

ANTONY

(smiles)

Do I trouble you, Rufio?

RUFIO

Yes, you do.

ANTONY

I'll wager you never found Caesar befuddled by wine. Nothing, no one ever befuddled Caesar..

RUFIO

Antony. The campaign against Parthia will not be an easy one -

ANTONY

How many legions have we left?

249 Cont. 2

RUFIO

It's hard to tell - none of them
up to strength, so many desertions..

ANTONY

Desertions - ?

RUFIO

They haven't been paid in
months -

ANTONY

Do you remember when we started
into Greece? I lived with them,
ate with them - I was one of them -
they seem distant to me, now, as
if they were a memory..

RUFIO

We must find the gold to pay them -
the wheat to feed them - supplies,
ships, armor..

ANTONY

(slowly)

And where do you suggest we look
for all these?

RUFIO

I thought - perhaps - further to
the East..

ANTONY

Syria..?

RUFIO

Perhaps - more to the South..

ANTONY

Ethiopia?

RUFIO

To the North of Ethiopia, I thought..

Antony rises...

ANTONY

I have forbidden you to mention her!

RUFIO

I didn't..

249 Cont. 3

ANTONY

I will not crawl to her, hand
held out like a beggar! Why
has she not offered me assistance - ?

RUFIO

Perhaps she doesn't know -

ANTONY

Of course she knows, she knows
everything! If only out of
gratitude for what I've done -

RUFIO

Perhaps she wishes to express it
in person -

ANTONY

Then let her come to me! Am I
so much less than Caesar?

RUFIO

Nor is she less than Cleopatra,
Queen of Egypt. And you promised -

ANTONY

Queens! Strip them as naked as
any other woman - they're no
longer Queens..

RUFIO

It is also difficult to tell the
rank of a naked general. And
generals without armies - are
naked indeed..

ANTONY

All right, I'll meet her half way!
I'll send you to her. You order
her to come to me..

RUFIO

If I am to "order" her, I need
not make the journey..

ANTONY

Then "summon" her..

RUFIO

Even worse.

ANTONY

Then beg, entreat, cajole, find
the word you like best - pour
perfume, whinny like a stallion
if you choose - but see that she
comes to me!

RUFIO

And if she doesn't?

ANTONY

You've heard your orders, General
Rufio.

RUFIO

(smiles)

I may well spend the rest of my
life neither here - nor there.
I'll do my best..

He salutes Antony. He goes..

DISSOLVE:

250 OUT251 CLEOPATRA'S APARTMENT - HER BATH - NIGHT

CLOSE - CLEOPATRA. She lolls luxuriously in her bath.
CHARMIAN and EIRAS tend her from the side. Flower petals
float on the surface of the water, and sponges with jeweled
handles, and a beautifully constructed crystal boat, set
with gems and tiny flacons of oil and perfume.

As Cleopatra speaks, the CAMERA PULLS BACK. It discloses a
beautiful and large screen set up before the bath. On the
other side of the screen - stands RUFIO, attended by SOSIGENES.

CLEOPATRA

(is saying)

I understand your position, Rufio.
You must also understand mine.
I do not intend to join that long
list of Queens who have quivered
happily at being summoned by
Lord Antony..

RUFIO

(aghast)

Surely I didn't say "summoned" -

CLEOPATRA

(smiles)

You said "invite". He meant "summon"..

RUFIO

Apart from reaffirming the alliance of Rome and Egypt, he has many matters to discuss with you -

CLEOPATRA

Then let him come and discuss them..

RUFIO

His campaigns have been long and strenuous - all of Greece..

CLEOPATRA

That Greek actress - surely she was no long campaign..

RUFIO

Lord Antony is fond of the theatre..

CLEOPATRA

Half the Queens in Asia Minor - one strenuous conquest after another. Even Herod's wife - that was in Judea, of course..

RUFIO

Your intelligence, as always, is better than the best -

He bows to Sosigenes. Sosigenes bows back.

CLEOPATRA

In any case, I am the Queen of Egypt. I choose to remain on Egyptian soil.

RUFIO

Tarsus is not the other end of the world, Your Majesty..

CLEOPATRA

If it were one step from Egypt, that would be too far..

There is a pause..

RUFIO

He does not - bend easily..

CLEOPATRA

Nor do I. I shall meet with Lord Antony only on Egyptian soil..

Rufio sighs, and bows.

RUFIO

Thank you for your attention,
Your Majesty..

He turns to go.

CLEOPATRA

(warmly)

Rufio, old friend - your mission
here may not be welcome, but you
are. Always..

RUFIO

My lady. A way must be found - a
time, a place - to satisfy you both..

CLEOPATRA

(enigmatically)

Must it, Rufio?

Another pause. She leans her head back, closes her eyes.
Sosigenes leads Rufio off..

CAMERA MOVES INTO CLOSE OF CLEOPATRA. Charmian looks after the
departing Rufio, then down at Cleopatra..

CHARMIAN

What do you think, my Lady? Will
Lord Antony come to Egypt?

CLEOPATRA

I think it very likely..

She opens her eyes, reaches out idly to the crystal boat, and
takes a flacon of perfumed oil from it. She rubs her shoulders
and breast, gazing musingly at the crystal boat..

CLEOPATRA

That necklace. The one I had
made of the coins struck in Caesar's
memory. We're going on a voyage -
and I shall want to take it with me...

She puts the oil flacon back onto the crystal boat, stares at
it for an instant, then pushes it away..

HOLD on the crystal boat. It drifts through the petals
aimlessly..

252 ANOTHER ANGLE - BATH

as Cleopatra emerges into towels held by her ATTENDANTS. The
bath is empty..

253 CLOSE - CRYSTAL BOAT

It floats to the end of the bath, where the water cascades over
the sides into the secondary bath below. It is carried over.
It crashes...

254 EXT. - A PROMONTORY - DAY

A SHEPHERD tends his sheep. He sees something out at sea. He runs toward the edge of the Promontory to see better. He stares incredulously, then with fear - and then throws himself prostrate on the ground..

SOUND of distant music..

DISSOLVE:

255 EXT. TINY VILLAGE - WATER'S EDGE - DAY

A GROUP OF WOMEN, at their washing, beating their clothes with flails. They, too, stare out over the water in amazement. A couple of younger girls run away in terror..

THREE OR FOUR KIDS run into the water to stare. They clap their hands with delight. Then - CAMERA PANNING WITH THEM - they dash up to the village, to tell..

But the OLDER MEN AND WOMEN, emerging from little huts, are already on their way to the shore. Followed by the PRIESTS..

SOUND of the music is closer, now..

256 VILLAGERS P.O.V. - CLEOPATRA'S BARGE

resplendent as it sails by, helped by the rhythmic oars. MUSIC is heard across the water, and clouds of incense rise from burners along the decks. The rigging is decked and garlanded with flowers. Only WOMEN are seen as crew..

257 FULL SHOT - VILLAGERS - DAY

At a signal from their priest, they fall face down to the ground, in submission..

DISSOLVE TO:

258 EXT. HARBOR AT TARSUS - DAY

as Cleopatra's barge moves toward the wharf. The sails are being lowered, but the music still plays, the oars flash, and the water between the wharf and the barge is thick with SWIMMERS and tiny boats..

259 CLOSER - PROW OF BARGE

where SOME HANDMAIDENS throw out coins like the sowing of wheat, for the swimmers to dive after. OTHER HANDMAIDENS strew the water with flower petals..

260

THE WHARF - DAY

TOWNSPEOPLE of all types - some in litters - arrive in great excitement. A deputation of LOCAL DIGNITARIES pushes through to the front..

A SWIMMER climbs up, covered with petals, his cheeks bulging with coins which he spits out into his hand. It is a mistake. Someone jostles the hand and the coins fly in all directions, people scrambling for them. The swimmer, undaunted, dives back into the water..

SOMEONE examines a coin, biting into it. "Gold!" is heard, repeated over and over again. Then the name "Cleopatra"....the crowd presses to the very edge of the wharf to get a better look.

261

EXT. BARGE - RAISED DAIS - WHARF P.O.V.

as CHARMIAN and EIRAS draw aside the diaphanous curtains to reveal CLEOPATRA, in all her splendor. She waves to the crowd in regal fashion..

262

EXT. WHARF - DAY

INTERCUT with the approaching magnificence of CLEOPATRA. Some of the crowd stare, some fall to their knees..

263

INT. ANTONY'S QUARTERS - TARSUS PALACE

CLOSE on RUFIO. At a window - or on a small balcony - staring down. He doesn't believe his eyes..

RUFIO

(wonderingly)

Cleopatra..?

(then, loudly, OFF:)

Cleopatra!

FULLER SHOT. ANTONY runs in to stand beside Rufio, looks down:

264

EXT. BARGE - ANTONY'S P.O.V. - DAY

Over the SHOT, Antony's bewildered:

ANTONY'S VOICE

It is. It must be..

265

INT. ANTONY'S QUARTERS - TARSUS - DAY

RUFIO shakes his head. ANTONY grins in growing triumph..

RUFIO

But she said never - except on Egyptian soil..

265 Cont.

ANTONY

'Never'. Something women say to begin with..

(exuberantly)

You will welcome Queen Cleopatra on my behalf, Rufio! You will extend my invitation to a banquet in her honor at the Palace tonight..

RUFIO

Under the circumstances, don't you think that perhaps you -

ANTONY

Still not convinced, Rufio? Hurry back - there's much to be done - have someone send the cooks to me!

He pushes Rufio on his way, then fingers the stubble on his cheeks. In the b.g., a GIRL appears in the doorway.

ANTONY

(bawling out)

Barber!

(then he sees the girl)

Guard!

The BARBER runs in, TWO GUARDS right behind.

ANTONY

(to the barber)

Shave me..

(to the guards)

Her - out! And the others, too!

All of them!

He turns back to stare down at the barge..

DISSOLVE TO:

266

EXT. WHARF AND BARGE - DAY

The barge is alongside the wharf, but with a stretch of open water between them. The boarding stage is drawn up, keeping the separation intact.

On the deck of the Barge, being fanned by SLAVES as he negotiates - SOSIGENES.

Below, on the dock, his litter nearby - RUFIO.

266 Cont.

Both men are under the direct scrutiny of the PEOPLE who crowd the wharf - and who look from one to the other, like spectators at a tennis match. Rufio and Sosigenes are friendly but determined..

SOSIGENES

Forgive me, noble Rufio, it is you who do not understand. Queen Cleopatra, at present below in her chamber, is on Egyptian territory - and intends to remain on it..

RUFIO

Most learned Sosigenes, you must forgive me when I point out that this is Tarsus, not Alexandria..

SOSIGENES

You are on Tarsus, noble Rufio.
I am on Egypt..

RUFIO

(sharply)

Lord Antony bids welcome to the Queen - she is to be his honored guest at the Palace tonight!

SOSIGENES

Her Majesty regrets..

RUFIO

Lord Antony's patience is not inexhaustible - !

SOSIGENES

Nor is my Queen's!

RUFIO

(wheedling)

Sosigenes, I assure you, tomorrow night Lord Antony will come to her Majesty - but just for tonight...

SOSIGENES

Tonight and tomorrow night - if Lord Antony desires to meet her Majesty, he will come to her, to Egypt..

RUFIO

And if - as he undoubtedly will - he refuses?

266 Cont. 1

SOSIGENES

In that case, the Queen has ordered that we set sail at once for Alexandria..

RUFIO

And if Lord Antony chooses simply to seize both your ship and your Queen - ?

Sosigenes looks up. Rufio follows his gaze:

267 THEIR P.O.V. - SHROUDS AND YARDS OF BARGE - DAY

A goodly number of EGYPTIAN BOWMEN. Suitably deployed..

268 SOSIGENES AND RUFIO - DAY

Sosigenes smiles over at Rufio..

SOSIGENES

Nothing compared to your legions, of course - but enough for us to set sail when we choose. And there is no Roman fleet this side of the Aegean..

Rufio stares at him, despairingly..

SOSIGENES

Believe me, her Majesty would be sorry to leave. Apart from the pleasure of greeting Lord Antony after so long -

(he raises his voice considerably)

- we have many ships following us carrying gifts which the Queen of Egypt had hoped to present to the good people of Tarsus! Ships filled with wheat for their bread, and oil for their lamps - !

269 GROUP SHOT - DIGNITARIES AND CITIZENS

Listening anxiously..

SOSIGENES' VOICE

Surely Lord Antony would not want these ships turned back - ?

The crowd groans audibly, in agreement..

270

SOSIGENES AND RUFIO

Rufio sighs dejectedly. Sosigenes continues:

SOSIGENES

And as for the Noble Lords and Princes not only of Tarsus but of all Cilicia - as well as Lord Antony and his staff - Queen Cleopatra has hoped to have them as her honored guests at a banquet tonight! Here - on board her ship - on the soil of Egypt, as it were..

The good people cheer - and look to Rufio. He smiles grimly. He's been outmanoeuvred, and he knows it.

RUFIO

I shall do my best, learned friend, to prevail upon Lord Antony to attend..

He raises a hand in acknowledgment to Sosigenes..

RUFIO

And for my part - I am indebted to you for this lesson in diplomacy. Perhaps some day I may return the courtesy..

SOSIGENES

Perhaps. But not this day, noble Rufio..

He smiles and bows. Rufio returns the bow, enters his litter. Sosigenes waves courteously as Rufio is carried from the wharf..

DISSOLVE:

271

EXT. BARGE AND HARBOR - FROM HILLSIDE - NIGHT

A brilliant sight. The barge is alive with lights and decoration. Important: A luminous opaque curtain has been raised about the entire deck, to shield the guests from the eyes of the onlookers on the wharf. The deck itself is dressed for the banquet. The guests have arrived. The music can be heard faintly..

Into the F.G. OF THE SHOT comes RUFIO - dressed in his best. He looks down at the barge, then OFF. He scratches his head, shakes it dubiously. He leans against a tree and waits..

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272

EXT. WHARF - TARSUS - NIGHT

EGYPTIAN GUARDS keep a wide lane open through the curious SPECTATORS. The guards each carry two torches; the lane itself is bedecked with flower petals. There are litters in evidence; also richly caparisoned horses, with ATTENDANTS.

The gangplank, richly draped, stretches to the wharf. The crowd, of course, can see nothing of the deck - except through the opening of the gangplank - because of the curtain which masks the activity on board. They can hear the music, however - and the many lights shining through the luminous curtain cast a glow over the scene..

After a moment, SOSIGENES comes out to stand on top of the gangplank. He looks searchingly to his right - and to his left. He scratches his chin meditatively. He goes back in..

273

EXT. DECK OF BARGE - NIGHT

As Sosigenes contemplates the SCENE:

The after part of the deck and the steps to the dais are given over to the elaborately dressed banquet table. Ornatly costumed SERVING MAIDS and SLAVES wait patiently..

THE MUSICIANS, perhaps on either side of the lower steps, play on..

Between the banquet area and the top of the gangplank - TWO ODDLY SEPARATED GROUPS. To one side - Cleopatra's HANDMAIDENS, beautifully adorned and dressed. With them, SLAVES carrying enormous trays of drink and tidbits. They stare, confused and bewildered, across the deck at:

The INVITED DIGNITARIES and POTENTATES, richly attired in Eastern panoply. They huddle in little clumps, their backs to the other group. They ignore the passing trays of food and drink..

Between the two groups, APOLLODORUS paces sombrely..

Sosigenes crosses to CHARMIAN and EIRAS.

SOSIGENES

One more try, do you think? To persuade our guests to - ah - mingle?

CHARMIAN

It's no use. They will not mingle - they won't eat or drink until Her Majesty makes an appearance -

273 Cont.

EIRAS

They're behaving so strangely. As if they were under instructions -

SOSIGENES

No doubt they are. Well... I think you'd better go below - to the Queen..

Charmian nods. She and Eiras leave. Apollodorus, in his pacing, comes abreast of Sosigenes..

APOLLODORUS

Perhaps if you were to propose a toast - the health of Lord Antony - they would drink to it..

SOSIGENES

I have. Individually, and in groups. They bow politely - and watch me drink. The health of Lord Antony is ruining my own; I may not last the night..

APOLLODORUS

Then there's nothing left to do but -

SOSIGENES

(nods)

Exactly. I shall let you know..

He moves on, CAMERA WITH HIM. He crosses toward the look-out perch of the Barge, mounts the steps leading up to it..

274

EXT. LOOK-OUT PERCH - NIGHT

A LOOKOUT keeps close watch on the hills around the harbor. As SOSIGENES comes up, the lookout points to a distant light flashing toward the barge.

SOSIGENES

Is he still there?

LOOKOUT

Yes, my Lord. That light flashing on the hill is one of our signal men..

The lookout indicates.

LOOKOUT

And there, on the wharf...is Lord Antony's spy..

274. Cont.

Down below, well apart from the crowd on the wharf, is a FOOD VENDOR with a lighted brazier. He uses a pan over the brazier to signal.

275 CLOSE - FOOD VENDOR

as he busily puts the pan over the brazier, then removes it, then replaces it, etc.

276 LONG SHOT - (FROM HILLSIDE) - BARGE AND HARBOR

In the dark shadows near the ship, the flickering light of the brazier is seen..

RUFIO, still looking down. He sighs and turns away, crosses to ANTONY - huddled in a litter - his head poked out between the curtains. Nearby, his mounted HONOR GUARD..

ANTONY

Not yet?

RUFIO

Not yet. It seems pretty clear she's waiting for you to arrive..

ANTONY

I am not going to appear before she does, if I have to sit here all night!

He pulls back inside the curtains, angrily. Rufio goes back to his vigil.

277 EXT. DECK OF BARGE - NIGHT

As SOSIGENES comes down from the look-out perch. He calls out:

SOSIGENES

(loudly)

Apollodorus - !

APOLLODORUS, standing by the POTENTATES, turns..

SOSIGENES

You may announce Her Majesty..!

APOLLODORUS

Yes, my Lord..

He crosses to a place of vantage from which he can address the gathering. Sosigenes gestures to the MUSICIANS. They are silent..

277 Cont.

THE POTENTATES. They exchange glances of relief and pleasure. A few of them glance across toward the GIRLS - who also react in happy expectation..

APOLLODORUS. Indicating the after companionway - with closed doors - leading below..

APOLLODORUS

(sonorously)

Her Most Gracious Majesty,
Cleopatra - Queen of the Two
Lands of Egypt!

SOSIGENES. He signals the MUSICIANS. The music flares..

THE POTENTATES and MAIDENS. Thoroughly mingled, they flock toward the companionway..

278 EXT. WHARF - FOOD VENDOR

Excitedly, he removes the cover from his brazier - fans the flames to their highest..

279 EXT. HILLSIDE - RUFIO

He reacts with equal excitement. He runs across to Antony's litter..

RUFIO

(shouting)

The Queen has just made her
appearance - !

Antony sticks his head out. He smiles smugly.

ANTONY

Another lesson for you, Rufio,
about women. They're too curious
to play the waiting game..

He signals. Rufio mounts. The honor guard and litter take off..

280 EXT. BARGE - CLOSE AT COMPANIONWAY DOORS

As APOLLODORUS makes his way through the eager guests crowding up to it..

Apollodorus throws open the doors. He bows. So do the Potentates..

EIRAS appears. Thoroughly overcome by her reception..

POTENTATES. Look of consternation, then resentment..

280 Cont.

APOLLODORUS. Beside himself with embarrassment..

APOLLODORUS

A thousand pardons, Gracious Lords - !
A terrible mistake - I was informed,
that is, under the impression - oh,
how could such a thing happen?

FLASH OF SOSIGENES. Smiling smugly..

FROM THE SHORE - A GREAT FLOURISH OF ROMAN TUBII!!

POTENTATES. They turn in reaction:

281 EXT. WHARF - NIGHT

RUFIO and the HONOR GUARD ride in, followed by ANTONY in his litter, the curtains pulled back so that all may see him. The crowd cheers. Antony takes his own sweet time, now that he is assured the Queen waits for him..

He descends from his litter, salutes the crowd in regal manner, then with princely bearing and stately step starts up the gangplank to be met by Cleopatra, he thinks..

282 EXT. DECK OF BARGE - NIGHT

All of the Potentates at the companionway are at the opposite end of the ship from the gangplank. They rush to welcome Antony. They greet him effusively, crowding around him, and he acknowledges their greetings with equal effusiveness - still assuming that Cleopatra is among them. But now:

283 EXT. BARGE - NIGHT

High above the deck, appear EGYPTIAN TRUMPETEERS. They let fly with the loudest and most elaborate fanfare of all!

284 ANTONY AND GROUP

They are startled by it. All eyes turn to the direction of the fanfare - just above the now empty open doors of the companionway at the opposite end of the barge..

285 CLOSE - DAIS

This time CLEOPATRA does appear...and a breath-taking sight. Prominently, she wears the necklace made of the gold coins with Caesar's head upon them. She bows graciously toward her guests..

286 HER P.O.V. - ANTONY AND POTENTATES

ANTONY stares at her - his wounded ego forgotten momentarily as he reacts to her beauty..

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Continued

286 Cont.

Overcome, the POTENTATES move slowly toward her, drawn like flies to honey. Antony is left standing alone, where he was, near the gangplank..

He glares at RUFIO - who shrugs helplessly..

287 ANTONY'S P.O.V. - CLEOPATRA AND POTENTATES

She never hesitates. She carries the fawning group with her as she makes her way graciously toward Antony..

288 CLEOPATRA AND ANTONY

As they meet. The GUESTS (including the OFFICERS escorting Antony) are gradually herded toward the dining area and their seats..

CLEOPATRA does not hold out her hand; ANTONY does not bow. They simply meet..

CLEOPATRA

Mark Antony. How prompt you are..

ANTONY

If I had not been, it would be unforgiveable of me..

CLEOPATRA

I had hoped I would be here to welcome you as you came on board..

ANTONY

If you had been, it would be unforgiveable of me..

CLEOPATRA

(smiles)

Be more tolerant. Forgive yourself now and then..

They are by now quite alone. Cleopatra looks meaningfully at Antony's arm. He gets the message, raises it. She places her hand upon it. They start toward the dining area, CAMERA WITH THEM..

ANTONY

Almost three years...is it possible that you've become even more beautiful?

CLEOPATRA

Almost three? That long? The time has passed so quickly..

288 Cont.

Antony's attention has been caught by the necklace.

ANTONY

Your necklace. It seems to be
made of gold coins -
(he bends closer)
- coins of Caesar..

CLEOPATRA

Do you find it attractive?

ANTONY

Very.

CLEOPATRA

And I find what you're wearing -
most becoming. Greek - isn't it?

ANTONY

I have a fondness for almost all
Greek things..

CLEOPATRA

As an almost all Greek thing -
I'm flattered..

They have reached the banquet area. The GUESTS stand waiting - the females distributed among the outnumbering males. Behind them, SLAVES and SERVANTS..

289

FULL - BANQUET AREA

CLEOPATRA precedes ANTONY to their own places. She and he, sitting on two wide benches, share a table on the raised dais.

Cleopatra sits. They all sit. SLAVES present silver bowls for the washing of hands..

290

CLEOPATRA AND ANTONY

As they wash theirs. His look is once more on the necklace..

ANTONY

An unusual necklace. Nothing
but gold coins of Caesar. How
did you come by it?

CLEOPATRA

(casually)

I had it made. I wear it always..

And just as casually, she turns to look OFF. She nods her head in signal:

291 CLOSE - APOLLODORUS

He's been awaiting it. He looks toward the forward companionway - and strikes a gong..

292 EXT. COMPANIONWAY DOORS - (FORWARD)

The doors fly open. The procession of food commences. There are platters, bowls, trays, planks and carrying devices of all sizes and materials - supporting a staggering array of dishes. Carried by slaves, and - where necessary - by two or more..

Roast meats and fowl of every description; a great variety of beautifully garnished fish; entire suckling pigs, lamb, boar, etc. An overwhelming parade of dishes..

293 FULL - THE BANQUET AREA

Some of the dishes are placed within the greedy reach of the guests. Some are passed so that they can cut off their own helpings. In any case, there is an instantaneous and ferocious attack upon the food..

294 GUESTS - CLOSE PANNING

Along the groaning boards - as the food is devoured. The guests eat only with their hands, of course. From time to time they wash or wipe them..

One POTENTATE has his costume loosened; ANOTHER tears apart a bird, wipes his hands on his plumed hat. ONE bites off an unwanted piece, spits it to the deck. ETCETERA. A sequence of mounting gluttony. No conversation. Just eating..

295 CLEOPATRA AND ANTONY - CLOSE

CHARMIAN sets a small covered dish before her. On it, some chicken cut in small pieces. Antony helps himself liberally from several platters.

Charmian then pours wine for Cleopatra. As she moves to Antony, he inverts his glass. Cleopatra makes no comment..

ANTONY

A fabulous feast..

CLEOPATRA

One is so limited when one travels by ship -

ANTONY

This fabulous ship -

295 Cont.

CLEOPATRA

A little the worse for wear, after our strenuous trip. But, like Egypt, it goes on..

ANTONY

Together with its queen. The fabulous Cleopatra..

CLEOPATRA

The name of Mark Antony is not exactly unknown to the world. In just the year or so since we last met -

ANTONY

Almost three..

CLEOPATRA

By now you've become - one-third the Master of Rome...

She leans forward to drink. The gold necklace tinkles against her crystal goblet..

ANTONY

(bluntly)

You don't permit yourself to forget him, is that it?

CLEOPATRA

Forget whom?

(his look is at the necklace)

That's an odd way of putting it - 'don't permit myself'...

ANTONY

You find it necessary to wear him around your neck -

CLEOPATRA

(candidly)

What else is there for me to remember? You forget, Antony, in these - almost three years - how full your own life has been. When life is full, perhaps forgetfulness is easier..

ANTONY

These can't have been uneventful years for you. To rule Egypt alone -

295 Cont. 1

CLEOPATRA

Oh, they've been busy. But not full. There's a difference. There are not enough hours in the days of a Queen - and her nights have too many..

(she smiles)

And so I fill them with memories..

ANTONY

Of Caesar..

CLEOPATRA

(nods)

And of a dream - which almost came true..

(she takes up her glass once more)

Once you dream that dream, no other can take its place. You may remember..

She drinks. She sets her goblet down.

ANTONY

I remember - that night - saying it could still come true..

CLEOPATRA

You said so much that night - to so many..

CHARMIAN approaches. She refills Cleopatra's glass, then moves to Antony..

CLEOPATRA

My Lord Antony is not taking wine..

Antony turns his goblet right side up.

ANTONY

You have a confused memory of me. I do take wine..

Charmian pours. His eyes on the necklace, Antony drinks..

296

CLOSE - SOSIGENES AND RUFIO

Surrounded by chomping, greasy, greedy GUESTS..

Sosigenes eats only raw vegetables, which he scrubs or peels carefully. Rufio eats not at all. He drinks gloomily..

296 Cont.

RUFIO

(morosely)

Bringing along boat-loads of wheat and oil for the common folk. She learned that from Caesar..

SOSIGENES

True. But you have all come to her - on Egyptian soil. Nobody taught her that..

TWO SLAVES, carrying a spitted lamb, pause by him. Sosigenes waves them on, crunches into a carrot. CAMERA MOVES with slaves, passing some GLUTTONS, to rest on:

297

CLOSE - EIRAS AND FAT POTENTATE

THE FAT POTENTATE, too full of wine, has grown amorous. He has pulled EIRAS from her ottoman on to his own. Terrified, she squirms helplessly on his knee as he nuzzles her..

298

CLEOPATRA'S TABLE

APOLLODORUS stands beside CLEOPATRA. She whispers quickly to him. He nods. CAMERA FOLLOWS HIM as he goes. ANTONY by now has given up eating for drinking..

299

EIRAS AND FAT POTENTATE

As APOLLODORUS approaches. Seemingly by accident, he kicks the ottoman out from under the Potentate. As he hits the deck, Apollodorus helps Eiras up and watches her scamper off. He then bows in deep apology to the Potentate..

300

CLEOPATRA AND ANTONY

He lifts his wine in appreciation..

ANTONY

Well done. Brother to the King of Cappadocia. Ill-mannered. Should have waited until after dinner - when the sweets are passed..

CLEOPATRA

Even then. And even for the brothers of kings - some dishes are out of season..

The wine has emboldened Antony. He finishes his goblet, leans toward her:

300 Cont.

ANTONY

Let me get rid of them all for you..

CLEOPATRA

Why? I have arranged an entertainment - some dancing..

ANTONY

If I make a great show of going - they'll have to go, too. Then I can return..

He crosses to sit beside her, on her bench. She makes room politely - continues to look out over the guests..

ANTONY

And we can talk alone - you and I..

CLEOPATRA

When would you return?

ANTONY

In an hour. No more than two..

CLEOPATRA

And how long would you stay - ?

ANTONY

Until we had nothing more to say..

CLEOPATRA

Are you a strong swimmer? We sail at sunrise..

(As the scene mounts in tension, they speak in increasingly sharp whispers - after the fashion of prominent folk in public squabbles..)

ANTONY

(slowly)

I don't understand..

CLEOPATRA

Home to Alexandria, to Egypt..

ANTONY

Then you've come all this way - for just this one night. All this way - to make a fool of me..

CLEOPATRA

(sudden sharpness)

Make a fool of you? Before whom? These fools - ?

300 Cont. 1

ANTONY

Princes, kings - rulers who respect
the name and authority of Rome!

A glassy-eyed GUEST rises suddenly. He raises one hand
with a glass, the other holding a leg of lamb.

GUEST

Hail, Cleopatra!

Cleopatra lifts her glass in response..

CLEOPATRA

Of anyone who will feed them! A
pack of greedy swine content to
eat themselves into captivity!
Are these the conquests by which
you wish to be remembered? Is
this to be the limit of your
world, Antony?

ANTONY

Then why have you come?

CLEOPATRA

Perhaps you'd feel less a fool if
you stayed the night with me - is
that it?

In despair now, Antony empties Cleopatra's goblet..

ANTONY

I have told you this before. With
you - words do not come easily to
me. There is too much unsaid
within me that I cannot say -

CLEOPATRA

Then I cannot know it..

(Charmian appears suddenly
at her side)

What is it, Charmian?

CHARMIAN

Forgive me, Majesty. One of the
guests has been hiding jeweled
goblets in his sleeve. He's
taken eleven..

Cleopatra gives Charmian the goblet in front of her..

CLEOPATRA

With my compliments - he's to
make it an even dozen..

Charmian leaves with the goblet..

300 Cont. 2

ANTONY

You know as well as I - there is much unsaid within you, too..

CLEOPATRA

That is probably true of everybody..

ANTONY

Stay for a while. I have known you so long - but so little. Give me time..

CLEOPATRA

Not I - not Egypt and Rome together - not even the Gods have time to give you. But, Antony - use what you have. It goes so quickly. Don't waste it playing at God here in Tarsus - while Octavian becomes a God in Rome..

She rises abruptly. She crosses to take Antony's seat. He doesn't look after her. He reaches for a fresh goblet and fresh wine. He drinks..

DISSOLVE:

301

EXT. BARGE DECK - NIGHT

It is much later. The tables have perhaps been either taken away or re-arranged; the guests are sprawled out in a rough semi-circle to provide more room for the entertainment..

The lighting, too, has changed. It is now subdued. There has been, and is, a great deal of drinking. Some amorous activity..

An entertainment is just finishing in the open area before the steps leading to the dais upon which Cleopatra and Antony are seated. It should be male - perhaps a wrestling match, or Egyptian sword-dance. Half-hearted attention from the guests..

302

CLEOPATRA AND ANTONY - DAIS

Seated as before; she on his bench, and he on hers. CLEOPATRA watches the proceedings with an air of apparent enjoyment. ANTONY, half-slumped on his bench, is very drunk - and on the verge of anger. He drinks mechanically - and when his goblet is empty, Cleopatra graciously indicates that it be refilled..

In the b.g., CHARMIAN, SOSIGENES and APOLLODORUS..

303

FULL - PERFORMING AREA

The male performance comes to an end. The participants bow before Cleopatra, then run OFF - into the forward companionway..

As they go OFF - from the forward decks, GIRL DANCERS wearing exotic bird-head costumes burst into the performing area. They begin a slow erotic dance, gradually increasing in tempo, centered about a male dancer costumed as an exotic cock-bird. One of the girl dancers should be particularly alluring and emphasized..

304

CLOSER - CLEOPATRA

She darts a look at the sulking Antony - then makes an almost imperceptible signal to the particular dancing girl..

305

CLOSE - DANCING GIRL

She breaks away from the others, and directs her dance at Antony himself, deliberately provoking him.

306

WIDER ANGLE - GROUP

as the guests and Antony's men become conscious of the girl luring their commander. They enjoy the idea hugely..

307

CLOSE - CLEOPATRA AND ANTONY

He pays no attention. Delicately, Cleopatra reaches over to prod him. He looks at her foggily. She draws his attention to the beautiful dancing-girl. Antony focuses on her..

Then - as much to flaunt Cleopatra as to seek an outlet for his own stifled passions - Antony throws back his chair and gets up. Fortified by one last swig of wine, he joins the girl in her dance - to the astonished delight of the onlookers.

308

ANTONY IN THE DANCE

As he pursues the girl who lured him. She dances away swiftly - and the other dancers whirl and turn Antony continuously as he gives chase to her...

309

CLEOPATRA - CLOSE

Smiling appreciatively, she watches for a bit..

Then she rises quietly from her seat, signals that there is to be no cessation to the festivities, and leaves through the companionway at the rear of the dais..

CHARMIAN follows her, of course..

310

MEDIUM - ANTONY AND DANCERS

as he continues, whirling and being whirled, until at last he catches the girl who taunted him. For a moment they dance together in a frenzied, erotic ad-lib. Then, suddenly - Antony forces the girl to her knees and whips out his dagger. The audience watches with some apprehension. Savagely, with a swift movement, he slashes the throat of the peacock-head. There are a couple of screams from the onlookers. Antony laughs, tears open the slash he has made, pulls back the peacock-head - and reveals the laughing face of the dancer. The spectators now cheer his consummate skill. Triumphantly, he kisses the dancing girl - then whirls to face Cleopatra..

She is not there, of course. She hasn't even seen it. There is some laughter at Antony. The entertainment resumes around him - spinning and turning him..

He stops stock still. Savagely, he struggles to focus..

311

ANTONY'S P.O.V.

Cleopatra's empty chair - and, beyond, the open doors of the companionway leading below. OUT OF FOCUS, to begin with, then becoming crystal-sharp..

312

ANTONY

Dagger still in hand, he rushes up to the dais and through the companionway doors..

313

APOLLODORUS AND SOSIGENES

Apollodorus makes as if to follow at once - but Sosigenes, alongside him, shakes his head..

314

BELOW DECKS - BARGE

A small, dimly-lit, foyer at the bottom of the companionway. Along the walls, some of Cleopatra's animal-Gods stand watch. Opposite the companionway, the doors leading to Cleopatra's quarters. A narrow passage leads off the foyer..

ANTONY, befuddled, stands in the center of the foyer. His eyes on the doors to Cleopatra's quarters - he cannot understand the absence of guards..

CHARMIAN enters sleepily from Cleopatra's quarters. She stops with a frightened start as she sees Antony. He grabs her..

ANTONY

Why are there no guards?

314 Cont.

CHARMIAN

Why should there be? Who would
harm her Majesty - ?

Antony releases her. Charmian exits into the narrow passage.
Antony waits, then enters Cleopatra's quarters..

FOUR EGYPTIAN GUARDS appear - from the narrow passage.
Behind them - Charmian. They take their places. Charmian
smiles. She exits again..

315

INT. CLEOPATRA'S QUARTERS - BARGE - NIGHT

Except for one hanging lamp, the scene is illuminated only
by the moonlight which enters through grilled "ports"..

ANTONY, dagger in hand, approaches Cleopatra's bed.
Barely visible through the sheer hangings, SHE seems to
be soundly asleep..

Antony stares down at her for a moment. He fumbles for
a way to open the draperies, can't find it.

He plunges his dagger into the sheer material, draws it
slowly down. Then he tears the draperies aside...

Cleopatra stirs, then "wakes". She turns sleepily -
regards him calmly..

CLEOPATRA

The dance, I take it, is over..

ANTONY

Sit up. I want to see whether
you sleep with your memories..

Cleopatra sits up. She is wearing the necklace. Not
much else..

With a savage gesture, Antony hurls aside his dagger.
As it lands, the SOUND of things breaking can be heard..

CLEOPATRA

(she lies down again)

With so much left unsaid within
you, it must be a relief to break
and tear things..

ANTONY

I want to say some of it now..

CLEOPATRA

(sleepily)

Perhaps another time..

ANTONY

Now!