

QUINTUS/MARTIUS SIDE ONE (SCENE FOUR)

CONTEXT: TWO OF TITA'S CHILDREN FALL INTO AARON'S TRAP IN THE WOODS.

QUINTUS

My sight is very dull, whate'er it bodes.

MARTIA

And mine, I promise you.

*He falls into the pit.*

QUINTUS

What, art thou fallen? What subtle hole is this;

A very fatal place it seems to me.

Speak, sister! Hast thou hurt thee with the fall?

MARTIA

Why dost not comfort me and help me out

From this unhallowed and bloodstained hole?

QUINTUS

I am surprisèd with an uncouth fear.

My heart suspects more than mine eye can see.

*Martia screams from below.*

MARTIA

Lord Bassianus lies betrayed in blood,

All on a heap, like to a slaughtered lamb,

In this detested, dark, blood-drinking pit.

QUINTUS

If it be dark, how dost thou know 'tis he?

MARTIA

Upon his bloody finger he doth wear

A precious ring that lightens all this hole,

Which like a taper in some monument

Doth shine upon the dead man's earthy cheeks.

QUINTUS (*reaching into the pit*)

Reach me thy hand, that I may help thee out,

Or, wanting strength to do thee so much good,

I may be plucked into the swallowing womb

Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave.