

SATURNINUS SIDE ONE (SCENE ONE)

CONTEXT: SATURNINUS, NEWLY CROWNED EMPEROR OF ROME, REPRIMANDS HIS YOUNGER BROTHER BASSIANUS, FOR ATTEMPTING TO "STEAL" HIS BETROTHED (AND TITA'S DAUGHTER) LAVINIA.

SATURNINUS

So, Bassianus, you have played your prize.
God give you joy, sir, of your gallant bride.

BASSIANUS

And you of yours, my lord. I say no more,
Nor wish no less, and so I take my leave.

SATURNINUS

Traitor, if Rome have law or we have power,
Thou and thy faction shall repent this rape.

BASSIANUS

"Rape" call you it, my lord, to seize my own,
My true betrothèd love and now my wife?
But let the laws of Rome determine all.

SATURNINUS

'Tis good, sir, you are very short with us.
But if we live, we'll be as sharp with you.

TAMORA/SATURNINUS SIDE TWO (SCENE ONE)

CONTEXT: TAMORA, NEWLY MARRIED TO THE NEWLY CROWNED EMPEROR OF ROME, SATURNINUS, ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCHE HER HUSBAND TO SHOW MERCY AND RESPECT TO THE TITA AND HER HER FAMILY... AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT.

TAMORA (*to Saturninus*)

My worthy lord, if ever Tamora
Were gracious in those princely eyes of thine,
Then hear me speak indifferently for all,
And at my suit, sweet, pardon what is past.

SATURNINUS

What, madam, be dishonored openly,
And basely put it up without revenge?

TAMORA

Not so, my lord; the gods of Rome forbend
I should be author to dishonor you.
But on mine honor dare I undertake
For Lady Tita's innocence in all,
Whose fury not dissembled speaks her griefs.

(*aside to Saturninus*)

My lord, be ruled by me; be won at last.
Dissemble all your griefs and discontents.
You are but newly planted in your throne.
Yield at entreats, and then let me alone.
I'll find a day to massacre them all
And raze their faction and their family,
The cruel mother and her traitorous brood,
To whom I sued for my dear child's life,
And make them know what 'tis to let a queen
Kneel in the streets and beg for grace in vain.

(*aloud*)

Come, come, sweet emperor.—Come, Andronicus.—
Take up this good lady, and cheer the heart
That dies in tempest of thy angry frown.

SATURNINUS

Rise, Tita, rise. My empress hath prevailed.

SATURNINUS SIDE THREE (SCENE FOUR)

CONTEXT: IN THE WOODS, SATURNINUS ACCUSES TITA'S TWO CHILDREN OF THE MURDER OF SATURNINUS' BROTHER BASSIANUS.

SATURNINUS (*to Tita*)

Two of thy bitches, curs of bloody kind,
Have here bereft my brother of his life.—
Sirs, drag them from the pit unto the prison.
There let them bide until we have devised
Some never-heard-of torturing pain for them.

TITA (*kneeling*)

High Emperor, upon my feeble knee
I beg this boon with tears not lightly shed,
That this fell fault of my accursèd girls—
Accursèd if the faults be proved in them—

SATURNINUS

If it be proved! You see it is apparent.

TITA

My lord, yet let me be their bail,
For by my father's reverend tomb I vow
They shall be ready at your Highness' will
To answer their suspicion with their lives.

SATURNINUS

Thou shalt not bail them. See thou follow me.—
Some bring the murdered body, some the murderers.
Let them not speak a word. The guilt is plain.
For, by my soul, were there worse end than death,
That end upon them should be executed.

TAMORA SIDE FIVE / SATURNINUS SIDE FOUR (SCENE FOURTEEN)

CONTEXT: TAMORA ATTEMPTS TO CALM SATURNINUS WHO PANICS, LEARNING THAT LUCIA/LUCIUS IS LEADING AN ARMY AGAINST ROME.

TAMORA

Is warlike Lucia general of the Goths?

SATURNINUS

Ay, now begins our sorrows to approach.
'Tis she the common people love so much.
Myself hath often heard them say,
When I have walkèd like a private man,
That Lucia's banishment was wrongly done,
And they have wished that Lucia were their emperor.

TAMORA

Why should you fear? Is not your city strong?

SATURNINUS

Ay, but the citizens favor Lucia
And will revolt from me to follow her.

TAMORA

King, be thy thoughts imperious like thy name.
O, cheer thy spirit, for know, thou emperor,
I will enchant the old Andronicus
With words more sweet and yet more dangerous
Than baits to fish or honey-stalks to sheep,
Whenas the one is wounded with the bait,
The other rotted with delicious feed.

SATURNINUS

But she will not entreat her daughter for us.

TAMORA

If Tamora entreat her, then she will,
For I can smooth and fill her aged ears
With golden promises, that were her heart
Almost impregnable, her old ears deaf,
Yet should both ear and heart obey my tongue.