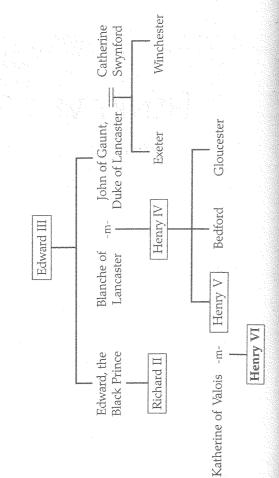
needs explanation. Then, if space allows, we rephrase in our own words the difficult passage, and add at the end synonyms for individual words in the passage. When scholars have been unable to determine the meaning of a word or phrase, we acknowledge the uncertainty. Bible quotations are from the Geneva Bible (1560), modernized.

HENRY VI Part 3

English Ancestry of King Henry VI



Characters in the Play

KING HENRY VI **OUEEN MARGARET** PRINCE EDWARD Lord CLIFFORD Farl of NORTHUMBERLAND Farl of WESTMORLAND Lancastrian supporters nuke of exeter Earl of OXFORD Sir John somerville Earl of WARWICK Supporters first of York, Marquess of MONTAGUE then of Lancaster Duke of SOMERSET Richard Plantagenet, duke of YORK EDWARD, earl of March, later KING EDWARD IV Sons of Richard, GEORGE, later duke of CLARENCE duke of York RICHARD, later duke of Gloucester RUTLAND SIR JOHN Mortimer, York's uncle LADY GREY, later QUEEN ELIZABETH Earl RIVERS, brother to the queen Duke of NORFOLK Earl of PEMBROKE Lord STAFFORD Yorkist supporters Lord HASTINGS Sir William STANLEY Sir John Montgomery KING LEWIS of France LADY BONA, his sister-in-law

Rutland's TUTOR A son that has killed his father A FATHER that has killed his son FIRST GAMEKEEPER SECOND GAMEKEEPER A NOBLEMAN POST FIRST WATCH SECOND WATCH THIRD WATCH HUNTSMAN LIEUTENANT at the Tower of London FIRST MESSENGER SECOND MESSENGER Other MESSENGERS MAYOR of York SOLDIER

Soldiers, Servants, Attendants, Drummers, Trumpeters, Sir Hugh Mortimer, Henry, earl of Richmond, Aldermen of York, Mayor of Coventry, Nurse, the infant prince, and Others

HENRY VI Part 3

ACT:

- 1.1 Richard, Duke of York, aided by the Earl of Warwick, occupies King Henry VI's throne. Faced with Warwick's soldiers, Henry offers to make York his heir to the throne if he himself can remain king. York accepts the offer. Queen Margaret, enraged that Henry's son Edward is thus being disinherited, leaves to gather an army of her own.
- 0 SD. **Alarum:** a call to arms (here indicating ongoing military action); **the white rose:** the insignia of the Yorks and their supporters

5. warlike ears: i.e., ears belonging to a warrior; brook retreat: endure the sound that signals a retreat

8. **Charged:** rushed at, bore down upon; **our main battle's front:** the foremost part of **our main** battalion

11. dangerous: dangerously

12. **beaver:** part of the face guard of a helmet (here perhaps the helmet itself) See picture, page 8. **downright:** straight downward

14. **brother:** Though historically nephew and uncle, York and Montague are treated as brothers in this play.

15. battles joined: armies met in conflict

ACT 1

Scene 1

Alarum. Enter 「Richard Plantagenet, 「Duke of York ? Edward; Richard; Norfolk; Montague; Warwick; and Soldiers, 「all wearing the white rose.]

WARWICK

I wonder how the King escaped our hands.

While we pursued the horsemen of the north, He slyly stole away and left his men; Whereat the great lord of Northumberland, Whose warlike ears could never brook retreat, Cheered up the drooping army; and himself, Lord Clifford, and Lord Stafford, all abreast, Charged our main battle's front and, breaking in, Were by the swords of common soldiers slain.

EDWARD

Lord Stafford's father, Duke of Buckingham, Is either slain or wounded dangerous. I cleft his beaver with a downright blow. That this is true, father, behold his blood.

[He shows his bloody sword.]

10

15

MONTAGUE, 「to York, showing his sword And, brother, here's the Earl of Wiltshire's blood, Whom I encountered as the battles joined.

RICHARD, 「holding up a severed head As Speak thou for me, and tell them what I did.

6

VORK

- 18. is...Somerset: addressed to the severed head
- 19. **line:** descendants; **John of Gaunt:** ancestor of the Lancastrian **line** (See genealogical chart, page 2.)
 - 22. Before: i.e., until
- 23. **usurps:** Because the Lancastrians obtained the crown by forcing the Yorkist king Richard II to abdicate, the Yorkists see Henry IV and his descendants as usurpers. See lines 136–50, below.
 - 25. fearful: frightened, timorous
- 26. **this...seat:** Stage action makes clear that a throne is present onstage on a raised platform.
- 29. hither...in: i.e., we have broken in to this place
 - 30. flies: flees
 - 31. gentle: noble
- 32 SD. **They:** i.e., York and the other **lords** (line 31)
 - 34. **perforce:** forcibly, using physical force
 - 35. parliament: formal assembly of nobles



A helmet with closed visor or "beaver." (1.1.12) From Henry Peacham, *Minerua Britanna*... [1612].

Richard hath best deserved of all my sons. But is your Grace dead, my lord of Somerset? NORFOLK Such hope have all the line of John of Gaunt! RICHARD Thus do I hope to shake King Henry's head. WARWICK And so do I, victorious prince of York. Before I see thee seated in that throne Which now the house of Lancaster usurps, I vow by heaven these eyes shall never close. This is the palace of the fearful king, 25 And this the regal seat. Possess it, York, For this is thine and not King Henry's heirs'. YORK Assist me, then, sweet Warwick, and I will, For hither we have broken in by force. NORFOLK We'll all assist you. He that flies shall die. 30 YORK Thanks, gentle Norfolk. Stay by me. my lords.— And soldiers, stay and lodge by me this night. They go up \[onto a dais or platform. \] WARWICK And when the King comes, offer him no violence Unless he seek to thrust you out perforce. Soldiers exit or retire out of sight. YORK The Queen this day here holds her parliament, 35 But little thinks we shall be of her council. By words or blows, here let us win our right. Armed as we are, let's stay within this house. WARWICK "The Bloody Parliament" shall this be called

40. **Plantagenet:** Historically, this name was attached to the royal family of England, including both Yorks and Lancasters. In this play, it refers to the Yorks—and specifically to the **Duke of York.**

42. bywords: objects of contempt and scorn

- 46. **proudest he:** i.e., **proudest** man or person; **holds up:** supports
- 47. **stir a wing:** i.e., make the slightest movement; **shake his bells:** i.e., threatens an attack (referring to the bells tied to a falcon's legs) See picture, page 24.
- 48. I'll...dares: wordplay on Plantagenet, which originally referred to the broom plant

49. Resolve thee: i.e., come to a resolution

49 SD. **Flourish:** a fanfare to announce the king's entrance; **the red rose:** insignia of the Lancastrians

51. Belike: in all likelihood, apparently

52. false: disloyal, treacherous

58. be not: i.e., be not revenged

59. **thereof:** i.e., of being **revenged; in steel:** i.e., dressed in armor (rather than in a mourning gown)

60. suffer: endure, bear

Unless Plantagenet, Duke of York, be king And bashful Henry deposed, whose cowardice Hath made us bywords to our enemies. VORK Then leave me not, my lords; be resolute. I mean to take possession of my right. WARWICK Neither the King nor he that loves him best, The proudest he that holds up Lancaster, Dares stir a wing if Warwick shake his bells. I'll plant Plantagenet, root him up who dares. Resolve thee, Richard; claim the English crown. Tyork sits in the chair of state. Flourish. Enter King Henry, Clifford, Northumberland, Westmorland, Exeter, and the rest, \(\sigma all \) wearing the red rose. KING HENRY My lords, look where the sturdy rebel sits, 50 Even in the chair of state! Belike he means. Backed by the power of Warwick, that false peer, To aspire unto the crown and reign as king. Earl of Northumberland, he slew thy father, And thine, Lord Clifford, and you both have vowed 55 revenge On him, his sons, his favorites, and his friends. NORTHUMBERLAND If I be not, heavens be revenged on me! CLIFFORD The hope thereof makes Clifford mourn in steel. WESTMORLAND What, shall we suffer this? Let's pluck him down. 60 My heart for anger burns. I cannot brook it. KING HENRY

Be patient, gentle Earl of Westmorland.

70

75

80

85

64. durst not: would not have dared

67. cousin: kinsman

68. **the city:** London

70. the Duke: i.e., York

72. **shambles:** literally, a slaughterhouse; **Parliament House:** Now called Westminster Hall, this building was constructed in 1097–99 and renovated by Richard II, who filled it with Yorkist symbols still extant today. (For a 17th-century image of **Parliament House**, see picture, page xvi.)

75. factious: seditious, rebellious

76. **grace:** goodwill, pardon

79–80. **He...York:** Henry's granting Richard Plantagenet the title of **Duke of York,** in exchange for Richard's pledge of submission and loyalty, is dramatized in *Henry VI, Part 1*, 3.1.167–86.

81. earldom: i.e., of March (See line 109, below.)

82. **Thy...crown:** For the arrest of York's **father**, Richard, Earl of Cambridge, as **a traitor**, see *Henry V*, 2.2. See also *Henry VI*, *Part 1*, 2.4 and 2.5.

CLIFFORD

Patience is for poltroons such as he.

He durst not sit there had your father lived.

My gracious lord, here in the Parliament

Let us assail the family of York.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Well hast thou spoken, cousin. Be it so.

KING HENRY

Ah, know you not the city favors them,
And they have troops of soldiers at their beck?

FEXETER 1

But when the Duke is slain, they'll quickly fly.

Far be the thought of this from Henry's heart,
To make a shambles of the Parliament House!
Cousin of Exeter, frowns, words, and threats
Shall be the war that Henry means to use.—
Thou factious Duke of York, descend my throne
And kneel for grace and mercy at my feet.

YORK I am thine.

I am thy sovereign.

EXETER

For shame, come down. He made thee Duke of York

YORK

It was my inheritance, as the earldom was.

Thy father was a traitor to the crown.

Exeter, thou art a traitor to the crown In following this usurping Henry.

CLIFFORD

Whom should he follow but his natural king? WARWICK

True, Clifford, that's Richard, Duke of York.

12

- ... 110

91. that: i.e., that claim, that fact

93. field: battlefield

94. with colors spread: with flags or standards unfurled

97. his soul: i.e., my father's soul: house: family

101. Urge . . . more: i.e., do not again press upon my attention the killing of my father

105. Will . . . title: i.e., do you wish me to make clear my right (York uses the royal plural.)

106. plead it: i.e., argue on behalf of my title (as if in a court of law)



King Henry V. (1.1.110; 2.2.154; 5.4.52) From John Taylor, All the workes of . . . (1630).

WARWICK NORTHUMBERLAND WESTMORLAND CLIFFORD WARWICK YORK

I am the son of Henry the Fifth,

14

KING HENRY, Tto York And shall I stand, and thou sit in my throne? YORK It must and shall be so. Content thyself. WARWICK, To King Henry Be Duke of Lancaster. Let him be king. WESTMORLAND He is both king and Duke of Lancaster, 90 And that the lord of Westmorland shall maintain. And Warwick shall disprove it. You forget That we are those which chased you from the field And slew your fathers and, with colors spread, Marched through the city to the palace gates. 95 Yes, Warwick, I remember it to my grief; And by his soul, thou and thy house shall rue it. Plantagenet, of thee and these thy sons, Thy kinsmen, and thy friends, I'll have more lives Than drops of blood were in my father's veins. 100 Urge it no more, lest that, instead of words, I send thee, Warwick, such a messenger As shall revenge his death before I stir. Poor Clifford, how I scorn his worthless threats! Will you we show our title to the crown? 105 If not, our swords shall plead it in the field. KING HENRY What title hast thou, traitor, to the crown? Thy father was as thou art, Duke of York; Thy grandfather, Roger Mortimer, Earl of March.

Who made the Dauphin and the French to stoop

111–12. **Who made...provinces:** This action is dramatized in Shakespeare's *Henry V*, Acts 3–5. **Dauphin:** eldest son of the King of France (accent on first syllable)

113. sith: since

114. **Lord Protector:** Henry VI's uncle, the Duke of Gloucester (For his death, see *Henry VI*, *Part 2*, 3.2.)

116–17. **yet, methinks, you lose:** i.e., it seems to me that you continue to **lose**

120. arms: warfare; the military profession

124 SP. **King Henry:** Some editors reassign this speech to Northumberland. See longer note, page 255.

131. **their colors:** i.e., the flag flown by York and his followers

132. our heart's: my heart's

133. faint you: i.e., do you lose heart or courage

134. title's: claim to the crown (line 136) is



King Henry VI.
From John Speed, *The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine* . . . (1627 [i.e., 1631]).

And seized upon their towns and provinces. WARWICK Talk not of France, sith thou hast lost it all. KING HENRY The Lord Protector lost it and not I. When I was crowned. I was but nine months old. 115 RICHARD You are old enough now, and yet, methinks, you lose.-Father, tear the crown from the usurper's head. FDWARD Sweet father, do so. Set it on your head. MONTAGUE, Tto York Good brother, as thou lov'st and honorest arms. 120 Let's fight it out and not stand caviling thus. RICHARD Sound drums and trumpets, and the King will fly. YORK Sons, peace! KING HENRY Peace thou, and give King Henry leave to speak! WARWICK Plantagenet shall speak first. Hear him, lords, 125 And be you silent and attentive too, For he that interrupts him shall not live. KING HENRY Think'st thou that I will leave my kingly throne. Wherein my grandsire and my father sat? No. First shall war unpeople this my realm; 130 Ay, and their colors, often borne in France, And now in England to our heart's great sorrow, Shall be my winding-sheet. Why faint you, lords? My title's good, and better far than his.

Prove it, Henry, and thou shalt be king.

WARWICK

KING HENRY

136–37. **Henry...king:** For this story, see Shakespeare's *Richard II*.

141. An if: i.e., if

142. in the view of: i.e., in the presence of

145. **against him, being:** i.e., against Richard, who was

146. **perforce:** through constraint or compulsion

148. **'twere prejudicial to:** i.e., would invalidate his title to

151-52. Art thou...pardon me: These lines may well be spoken as asides—i.e., as if unheard by the others—between the King and Exeter. York's "Why whisper you" (line 153) supports such stage action. If 151-52 are asides, line 154 is probably an aside as well.

156. lay'st: put forward, allege

Henry the Fourth by conquest got the crown.	
YORK	
Twas by rebellion against his king.	4
KING HENRY, 「aside T	
I know not what to say; my title's weak.—	
Tell me, may not a king adopt an heir?	
YORK What then?	140
KING HENRY	
An if he may, then am I lawful king;	
For Richard, in the view of many lords,	
Resigned the crown to Henry the Fourth,	
Whose heir my father was, and I am his.	
YORK SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SEE SE	
He rose against him, being his sovereign,	145
And made him to resign his crown perforce.	
WARWICK	
Suppose, my lords, he did it unconstrained,	
Think you 'twere prejudicial to his crown?	
EXETER	
No, for he could not so resign his crown	
But that the next heir should succeed and reign.	150
KING HENRY	
Art thou against us, Duke of Exeter?	
EXETER	
His is the right, and therefore pardon me.	
YORK	
Why whisper you, my lords, and answer not?	
EXETER	
My conscience tells me he is lawful king.	1 1
KING HENRY, [aside]	
All will revolt from me and turn to him.	155

NORTHUMBERLAND, To York

Plantagenet, for all the claim thou lay'st,

Think not that Henry shall be so deposed.

158. in despite of: notwithstanding, in spite of

159. deceived: mistaken

162. in despite of: in contemptuous defiance of

173. usurping blood: i.e., his blood, that of a usurper

176. Confirm: i.e., ratify the transfer of



The Great Silver Seal of Henry VI. showing him in his "regal seat." (1.1.26) From Alfred Benjamin Wyon, The great seals of England . . . (1887).

WARWICK Deposed he shall be, in despite of all. NORTHUMBERLAND Thou art deceived. 'Tis not thy southern power Of Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, nor of Kent, 160 Which makes thee thus presumptuous and proud, Can set the Duke up in despite of me. CLIFFORD King Henry, be thy title right or wrong, Lord Clifford vows to fight in thy defense. May that ground gape and swallow me alive 165 Where I shall kneel to him that slew my father. KING HENRY O Clifford, how thy words revive my heart! YORK Henry of Lancaster, resign thy crown.— What mutter you, or what conspire you, lords? WARWICK, To King Henry Do right unto this princely Duke of York, 170 Or I will fill the house with armed men. And over the chair of state, where now he sits, Write up his title with usurping blood. He stamps with his foot. and the Soldiers show themselves. KING HENRY My lord of Warwick, hear but one word: Let me for this my lifetime reign as king. 175 YORK Confirm the crown to me and to mine heirs. And thou shalt reign in quiet while thou liv'st. KING HENRY I am content. Richard Plantagenet, Enjoy the kingdom after my decease. CLIFFORD What wrong is this unto the Prince your son! 180

182. Base: reprehensible, despicable

184. these articles: i.e., this formal agreement (See line 176.)

186. these news: i.e., this news

190. bands: chains, manacles, shackles



King Henry VI. From John Taylor, All the workes of . . . (1630).

WARWICK What good is this to England and himself! WESTMORLAND Base, fearful, and despairing Henry! CLIFFORD How hast thou injured both thyself and us! WESTMORLAND I cannot stay to hear these articles. NORTHUMBERLAND Nor I. 185 CLIFFORD Come, cousin, let us tell the Queen these news. WESTMORLAND Farewell, faint-hearted and degenerate king, In whose cold blood no spark of honor bides. NORTHUMBERLAND Be thou a prev unto the house of York. And die in bands for this unmanly deed. 190 CLIFFORD In dreadful war mayst thou be overcome, Or live in peace abandoned and despised! Westmorland, Northumberland, Clifford, and their Soldiers exit. WARWICK Turn this way, Henry, and regard them not. They seek revenge and therefore will not yield. 195 Ah. Exeter!

EXETER

KING HENRY

Why should you sigh, my lord? WARWICK KING HENRY

Not for myself, Lord Warwick, but my son, Whom I unnaturally shall disinherit. But be it as it may. (To York.) I here entail The crown to thee and to thine heirs forever. Conditionally, that here thou take an oath To cease this civil war and, whilst I live,

208. forward: precocious; ready, eager

210 SD. Sennet: music accompanying a ceremonial exit or entrance

211. I'll to: i.e., I'll go to

212. keep: remain in

216. bewray: disclose, reveal



A falcon with its "bells," (1.1.47) From George Turberville, The booke of faulconrie... (1575).

To honor me as thy king and sovereign, And neither by treason nor hostility To seek to put me down and reign thyself. 205 YORK This oath I willingly take and will perform. WARWICK Long live King Henry! Plantagenet, embrace him. York stands, and King Henry ascends the dais. KING HENRY, Tto York And long live thou and these thy forward sons! They embrace. YORK Now York and Lancaster are reconciled. EXETER Accursed be he that seeks to make them foes. 210 Sennet. Here they come down. YORK, To King Henry Farewell, my gracious lord. I'll to my castle. WARWICK And I'll keep London with my soldiers. NORFOLK And I to Norfolk with my followers. MONTAGUE And I unto the sea, from whence I came. York, Edward, Richard, Warwick, Norfolk, Montague, and their Soldiers exit. KING HENRY And I with grief and sorrow to the court. 215

Enter Queen [Margaret, with Prince Edward.]

EXETER

Here comes the Queen, whose looks bewray her anger.

I'll steal away.

KING HENRY Exeter, so will I.

They begin to exit.

229. **nourished . . . blood:** See longer note, page 255.

235. **succeed:** i.e., follow you as king, become your successor

237. enforced: compelled

240. undone: ruined, destroyed

241. head: i.e., unbridled freedom, free rein

246. Callice: Calais

247. **Falconbridge:** uncle of Warwick and Montague, and admiral of England; **the Narrow Seas:** the channels separating Great Britain from France and Ireland



An hourglass. (1.4.25)
From August Casimir Redel,
Apophtegmata symbolica . . . [n.d.].

OUEEN MARGARET Nay, go not from me. I will follow thee. 220 KING HENRY Be patient, gentle queen, and I will stay. **OUEEN MARGARET** Who can be patient in such extremes? Ah, wretched man, would I had died a maid And never seen thee, never borne thee son. Seeing thou hast proved so unnatural a father. 225 Hath he deserved to lose his birthright thus? Hadst thou but loved him half so well as I. Or felt that pain which I did for him once, Or nourished him as I did with my blood, Thou wouldst have left thy dearest heart-blood 230 there, Rather than have made that savage duke thine heir And disinherited thine only son. PRINCE EDWARD Father, you cannot disinherit me. If you be king, why should not I succeed? 235 KING HENRY Pardon me, Margaret.—Pardon me, sweet son. The Earl of Warwick and the Duke enforced me. OUEEN MARGARET Enforced thee? Art thou king and wilt be forced? I shame to hear thee speak. Ah, timorous wretch, Thou hast undone thyself, thy son, and me, 240 And giv'n unto the house of York such head As thou shalt reign but by their sufferance! To entail him and his heirs unto the crown. What is it but to make thy sepulcher And creep into it far before thy time? 245 Warwick is Chancellor and the lord of Callice; Stern Falconbridge commands the Narrow Seas; The Duke is made Protector of the realm:

And yet shalt thou be safe? Such safety finds

275

- 251. silly: helpless, defenseless
- 253. granted: agreed, consented
- 255. seeing: i.e., seeing that; divorce: remove, separate
 - 259. forsworn: abandoned, renounced
 - 273. into terms of rage: in angry words
 - 276. cost: attack, assail; an empty: a hungry
 - 277. Tire: pull and tear while feeding



The reverse side ("counterseal") of Henry VI's Great Silver Seal. From Alfred Benjamin Wyon, The great seals of England . . . (1887).

The trembling lamb environed with wolves. 250 Had I been there, which am a silly woman. The soldiers should have tossed me on their pikes Before I would have granted to that act. But thou preferr'st thy life before thine honor. And seeing thou dost, I here divorce myself 255 Both from thy table, Henry, and thy bed, Until that act of Parliament be repealed Whereby my son is disinherited. The northern lords that have forsworn thy colors Will follow mine if once they see them spread: 260 And spread they shall be, to thy foul disgrace And utter ruin of the house of York. Thus do I leave thee.—Come, son, let's away. Our army is ready. Come, we'll after them. KING HENRY Stay, gentle Margaret, and hear me speak. 265 OUEEN MARGARET Thou hast spoke too much already. Get thee gone. KING HENRY Gentle son Edward, thou wilt stay [with] me? OUEEN MARGARET Ay, to be murdered by his enemies!

PRINCE EDWARD

When I return with victory from the field, I'll see your Grace. Till then, I'll follow her. **OUEEN MARGARET**

Come, son, away. We may not linger thus. Queen Margaret and Prince Edward exit.

KING HENRY

Poor queen! How love to me and to her son Hath made her break out into terms of rage! Revenged may she be on that hateful duke. Whose haughty spirit, winged with desire. Will cost my crown, and like an empty eagle Tire on the flesh of me and of my son.

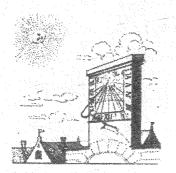
1.2 York is persuaded by his sons Edward and Richard to break his oath to Henry and fight for the crown. Learning that Margaret's army is marching toward his castle, York prepares to meet them in the field (for the battle of Wakefield).

1. give me leave: i.e., allow me (to speak)

3. reasons: arguments

4. at a strife: i.e., disagreeing

6. quarrel: violent confrontation; contention: dispute



A sundial. (1.4.34) From August Casimir Redel, Apophtegmata symbolica . . . [n.d.].

The loss of those three lords torments my heart. I'll write unto them and entreat them fair. Come, cousin, you shall be the messenger.

FXETER

And I, I hope, shall reconcile them all.

Flourish. They exit.

[Scene 2]

Enter Richard, Edward, and Montague, ^{\(\text{all wearing the white rose.}\)\)}

RICHARD

31

Brother, though I be youngest, give me leave. EDWARD

No. I can better play the orator. MONTAGUE

But I have reasons strong and forcible.

Enter the Duke of York.

YORK

Why, how now, sons and brother, at a strife? What is your quarrel? How began it first?

No quarrel, but a slight contention. YORK About what?

RICHARD

About that which concerns your Grace and us: The crown of England, father, which is yours.

Mine, boy? Not till King Henry be dead. RICHARD

Your right depends not on his life or death. **EDWARD**

Now you are heir; therefore enjoy it now.

30

10

13. house: family; breathe: take breath, pause 14. It: i.e., the crown (line 9); outrun: elude

16. for . . . broken: Proverbial: "For a kingdom any law may be broken."

18. **be forsworn:** commit perjury, swear falsely

22. moment: importance, weight

26. depose: promise formally upon oath

28-31. do but think ... joy: an echo of Christopher Marlowe's Tamburlaine, Part 1 (1590) (See longer note, page 255.) circuit: compass, circumference **Elysium**: i.e., a state of perfect happiness feign: relate or represent in fiction

36. Brother: See note to 1.1.14. presently: at once

37. whet on: incite, urge on

39. **privily**: privately



Hercules, (2.1.53) From Vincenzo Cartari, Le vere e noue imagini . . . (1615)

By giving the house of Lancaster leave to breathe, It will outrun you, father, in the end. YORK I took an oath that he should quietly reign. 15 FDWARD But for a kingdom any oath may be broken. I would break a thousand oaths to reign one year. RICHARD No. God forbid your Grace should be forsworn. YORK I shall be, if I claim by open war. RICHARD I'll prove the contrary, if you'll hear me speak. 20 YORK Thou canst not, son; it is impossible. RICHARD An oath is of no moment, being not took Before a true and lawful magistrate That hath authority over him that swears. Henry had none, but did usurp the place. 25 Then, seeing 'twas he that made you to depose, Your oath, my lord, is vain and frivolous. Therefore, to arms! And, father, do but think How sweet a thing it is to wear a crown. Within whose circuit is Elysium 30 And all that poets feign of bliss and joy. Why do we linger thus? I cannot rest Until the white rose that I wear be dyed Even in the lukewarm blood of Henry's heart. YORK Richard, enough. I will be king or die.— 35 Brother, thou shalt to London presently, And whet on Warwick to this enterprise.— Thou, Richard, shalt to the Duke of Norfolk And tell him privily of our intent.— You, Edward, shall unto my Lord Cobham,

55

60

- 41. rise: take up arms, rebel
- 43. Witty: skillful; intelligent; liberal: generous; spirit: courage (See longer note, page 256.)
 - 44. resteth: remains
- 45. **occasion:** opportunity; **rise:** advance in rank and fortune
 - 46. privy to: aware of; drift: aim, intention
 - 48. post: haste
- 50. **besiege . . . castle:** i.e., lay siege to the **castle** in order to capture it
 - 51. hard by: very near, close by
- 52. **fortify your hold:** i.e., protect **your castle** with fortifications **hold:** stronghold, fortress
 - 56. post: ride with haste
- 58. **Protectors of the King:** perhaps, guardians **of the King;** or, perhaps, defenders of the realm during the incapacity of **the King**
 - 59. policy: cunning; political sagacity
 - 60. simple: foolish; half-witted

With whom the Kentishmen will willingly rise; In them I trust, for they are soldiers
Witty, courteous, liberal, full of spirit.
While you are thus employed, what resteth more
But that I seek occasion how to rise,
And yet the King not privy to my drift,
Nor any of the house of Lancaster.

Enter \(a Messenger. \)

But stay, what news? Why com'st thou in such post?

The Queen with all the northern earls and lords
Intend here to besiege you in your castle.
She is hard by with twenty thousand men.
And therefore fortify your hold, my lord.
THE exits.

Ay, with my sword. What, think'st thou that we fear them?—

Edward and Richard, you shall stay with me;
My brother Montague shall post to London.
Let noble Warwick, Cobham, and the rest,
Whom we have left Protectors of the King,
With powerful policy strengthen themselves
And trust not simple Henry nor his oaths.

MONTAGUE

Brother, I go. I'll win them, fear it not.

And thus most humbly I do take my leave.

Montague exits.

Enter \[Sir John \] Mortimer, and his brother, \[Sir Hugh Mortimer. \]

YORK

Sir John and Sir Hugh Mortimer, mine uncles, You are come to Sandal in a happy hour. The army of the Queen mean to besiege us.

75

- 68. for a need: in an emergency, if necessary
- 69. A woman's: i.e., a woman is the
- 69 SD. march afar off: i.e., drum and fife off-stage
 - 71. straight: i.e., straightaway, at once
 - 73. doubt not ... of: do not fear for
 - 75. Whenas: at a time when
- 76. **the like success:** i.e., a similar outcome or result
- **1.3** Rutland, youngest son of York, is killed by Lord Clifford as revenge against York, who killed Clifford's father.
 - 2. bloody: bloodthirsty

SIR JOHN

She shall not need; we'll meet her in the field. YORK What, with five thousand men?

Ay, with five hundred, father, for a need.

A woman's general; what should we fear?

A march afar off.

EDWARD

I hear their drums. Let's set our men in order, And issue forth and bid them battle straight.

YORK

Five men to twenty: though the odds be great, I doubt not, uncle, of our victory.

Many a battle have I won in France
Whenas the enemy hath been to one.

Why should I not now have the like success?

Alarum. They exit.

「Scene 37

Enter Rutland and his Tutor.

RUTLAND

Ah, whither shall I fly to scape their hands?

Enter Clifford [with Soldiers, all wearing the red rose.]

Ah, tutor, look where bloody Clifford comes.

Chaplain, away. Thy priesthood saves thy life. As for the brat of this accursed duke, Whose father slew my father, he shall die.

TUTOR

And I, my lord, will bear him company. CLIFFORD

Soldiers, away with him.

and the second of the second second second 36

Ah, Clifford, murder not this innocent child.

Lest thou be hated both of God and man.

TUTOR

10

25

30

THe raises his rapier. 35

- 10. **How now:** an interjection that means, in effect, "how is it now"
- 12. **pent-up lion:** "that is, **the lion** that hath long been 'confined' without food, and is let out to devour a man condemned" (Samuel Johnson)
 - 13. **his:** its
 - 14. so: thus; insulting: exulting
 - 16. gentle: noble
 - 19. mean: petty, inferior
 - 25. cope with: come to blows with
- 32. **fury:** madness, frenzy (See longer note, page 256.)
 - 33. line: i.e., family, lineage



Phaëton tumbling "from his car." (1.4.33; 2.6.11) From Ovid, . . . Metamorphoseos . . . (1527).

He exits, \(\frac{1}{2} dragged off by Soldiers. \) CLIFFORD, [approaching Rutland] How now? Is he dead already? Or is it fear That makes him close his eyes? I'll open them. RUTLAND So looks the pent-up lion o'er the wretch That trembles under his devouring paws; And so he walks, insulting o'er his prev: And so he comes to rend his limbs asunder. Ah, gentle Clifford, kill me with thy sword And not with such a cruel threat'ning look. Sweet Clifford, hear me speak before I die. I am too mean a subject for thy wrath. Be thou revenged on men, and let me live. CLIFFORD In vain thou speak'st, poor boy. My father's blood Hath stopped the passage where thy words should enter. RUTLAND Then let my father's blood open it again; He is a man and, Clifford, cope with him. CLIFFORD Had I thy brethren here, their lives and thine Were not revenge sufficient for me. No, if I digged up thy forefathers' graves And hung their rotten coffins up in chains, It could not slake mine ire nor ease my heart. The sight of any of the house of York Is as a fury to torment my soul. And till I root out their accursed line

And leave not one alive, I live in hell.

Therefore-

36. let me pray: Rutland may kneel at this line, and may remain kneeling.

43. thereof: i.e., of your killing me; sith: since

46. occasion: reason, ground

49. Di...tuae: "The gods grant this may be the height of thy praise" (Ovid, Heroides 2.66). In Ovid, this line is said in bitter mockery.

52. rust: i.e., form a coating as of rust

1.4 At the battle of Wakefield, York is captured by the victorious Oueen Margaret, Prince Edward, Lord Clifford, and the Earl of Northumberland. They put a paper crown on his head, and after telling him about Rutland's murder, they torment him by giving him a handkerchief dipped in Rutland's blood to dry his tears. York is then stabbed by Clifford and Margaret, who orders that his head be placed over the gates of the city of York.

1. got the field: i.e., won the victory

2. My uncles: the Mortimers (See 1.2.63.)

RUTLAND

O, let me pray before I take my death! To thee I pray: sweet Clifford, pity me! CLIFFORD

Such pity as my rapier's point affords. RUTLAND

I never did thee harm. Why wilt thou slay me? CLIFFORD

Thy father hath.

But 'twas ere I was born.

RUTLAND Thou hast one son; for his sake pity me, Lest in revenge thereof, sith God is just, He be as miserably slain as I.

Ah, let me live in prison all my days, And when I give occasion of offense

Then let me die, for now thou hast no cause. CLIFFORD

No cause? Thy father slew my father; therefore die. THe stabs Rutland.

RUTLAND

Di faciant laudis summa sit ista tuae! THe dies. CLIFFORD

Plantagenet, I come, Plantagenet! And this thy son's blood, cleaving to my blade, Shall rust upon my weapon till thy blood,

Congealed with this, do make me wipe off both. He exits, \(\text{with Soldiers carrying off Rutland's body.} \)

[Scene 4]

Alarum. Enter Richard, Duke of York, wearing the white rose

YORK

The army of the Queen hath got the field. My uncles both are slain in rescuing me;

3. to ... foe: i.e., in the face of, or when confronted by, the eager foe

5. hunger-starvèd: i.e., starving

6. bechancèd: befallen

7. demeaned: conducted

8. borne: carried

9. lane: passageway through the battle

12. purple falchion: crimson sword

14. retire: retreat from the battle

15. Charge: attack

18. out alas: an exclamation of lamentation or reproach

19. budged: i.e., retreated, failed to stand fast

20. **bootless:** futile

21. with: i.e., against 21 SD. within: offstage

23. fly: flee from

24. **shun:** fly from, evade

25. **sands:** i.e., grains of sand in an hourglass (When only a few grains remain, they can be counted or **numbered.**) See picture, page 26.

27. bloody: bloodthirsty; rough: violent, harsh

28. dare ... rage: challenge your unquenchable fury to feel even more rage

29. your butt: i.e., the target of your shot; abide: await

And all my followers to the eager foe Turn back and fly like ships before the wind. Or lambs pursued by hunger-starved wolves. My sons, God knows what hath bechanced them; But this I know: they have demeaned themselves Like men borne to renown by life or death. Three times did Richard make a lane to me And thrice cried "Courage, father, fight it out!" And full as oft came Edward to my side, With purple falchion painted to the hilt In blood of those that had encountered him: And when the hardiest warriors did retire. Richard cried "Charge, and give no foot of ground!" 15 And cried "A crown or else a glorious tomb: A scepter or an earthly sepulcher!" With this we charged again; but, out alas, We budged again, as I have seen a swan With bootless labor swim against the tide 20 And spend her strength with over-matching waves. A short alarum within. Ah, hark, the fatal followers do pursue, And I am faint and cannot fly their fury; And were I strong, I would not shun their fury.

The sands are numbered that makes up my life. Here must I stay, and here my life must end.

Enter Queen [Margaret,] Clifford, Northumberland,

the young Prince [Edward,] and Soldiers,

fall wearing the red rose.]

Come, bloody Clifford, rough Northumberland, I dare your quenchless fury to more rage.
I am your butt, and I abide your shot.
NORTHUMBERLAND

Yield to our mercy, proud Plantagenet. CLIFFORD

Ay, to such mercy as his ruthless arm

With downright payment showed unto my father.

They attack York.

32. **downright payment:** i.e., absolute or thoroughgoing reward (but with wordplay on **payment** as "retribution" and on **downright** as the description of a blow straight downward)

33. **Phaëton...car:** a reference to Phaëton's plunge to the earth when trying to drive the chariot (car) of the sun (See note to 2.6.10–12 and picture, page 38.)

34. noontide prick: mark of noon on a sundial

(See picture, page 30.)

35. **Phoenix':** The Phoenix is the mythical bird that dies by setting itself on fire; from its **ashes** emerges the new (or resurrected) Phoenix. (See picture, page 54.)

36. revenge upon: take revenge on

39. fear: i.e., afraid

40. **So...further:** Proverbial: "Despair makes **cowards** courageous."

42. **hopeless:** despairing (Theft was a capital crime.)

43. **officers:** perhaps, arresting **officers;** or, perhaps, jailers or executioners

44. bethink thee: consider

45. o'errun: review, go over; former time: past

49. bandy: exchange (as in bandying a tennis ball)

50. **buckler:** perhaps, ward off **blows** with a shield (This word may be an error for *buckle*—i.e., engage, grapple.)

56. grin: bare its teeth

58. spurn: strike or kick

59. **prize:** privilege; **all vantages:** i.e., every advantage or opportunity

60. impeach of: detriment to

Now Phaëton hath tumbled from his car And made an evening at the noontide prick. YORK My ashes, as the Phoenix', may bring forth 35 A bird that will revenge upon you all: And in that hope I throw mine eyes to heaven. Scorning whate'er you can afflict me with. Why come you not? What, multitudes, and fear? CLIFFORD So cowards fight when they can fly no further; 40 So doves do peck the falcon's piercing talons: So desperate thieves, all hopeless of their lives, Breathe out invectives 'gainst the officers. YORK O Clifford, but bethink thee once again And in thy thought o'errun my former time: 45 And, if thou canst for blushing, view this face And bite thy tongue that slanders him with cowardice Whose frown hath made thee faint and fly ere this. CLIFFORD I will not bandy with thee word for word. But buckler with thee blows twice two for one. 50 OUEEN MARGARET Hold, valiant Clifford, for a thousand causes I would prolong a while the traitor's life.— Wrath makes him deaf; speak thou, Northumberland. NORTHUMBERLAND Hold, Clifford, do not honor him so much To prick thy finger, though to wound his heart. 55 What valor were it when a cur doth grin For one to thrust his hand between his teeth. When he might spurn him with his foot away? It is war's prize to take all vantages, And ten to one is no impeach of valor. 60

70

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80

85

61–62. **so strives...net:** Both **the woodcock** and **the coney** (rabbit) are figures for the dupe or the gull because they are easily trapped; **gin** and **net** both mean "snare" or "trap." (See picture, below.)

64. true: honest; yield with: i.e., yield to

68. **raught:** reached; **mountains:** Proverbial: "To make a mountain out of a **molehill**" (line 67).

69. parted: divided, broke; shadow: delusive

image; unsubstantial object of pursuit

72. made a preachment: i.e., preached a sermon; high descent: noble lineage

73. mess of: i.e., four

75. crookback: hunchback; prodigy: monster

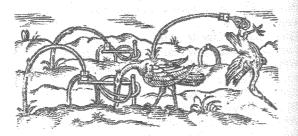
77. **mutinies:** revolts against constituted authority

79. napkin: handkerchief

83. withal: with

84. but that: except for the fact that

86. prithee: pray you



Woodcocks trapped in a "gin." (1.4.61) From Henry Parrot, *Laquei ridiculosi* . . . (1613). CLIFFORD

Ay, ay, so strives the woodcock with the gin.

So doth the coney struggle in the net.

So triumph thieves upon their conquered booty; So true men yield with robbers, so o'ermatched.

「York is overcome. [¬]

NORTHUMBERLAND, to Queen Margaret

What would your Grace have done unto him now?

Brave warriors, Clifford and Northumberland, Come, make him stand upon this molehill here That raught at mountains with outstretched arms, Yet parted but the shadow with his hand.

They place York on a small prominence.

What, was it you that would be England's king?
Was't you that reveled in our parliament
And made a preachment of your high descent?
Where are your mess of sons to back you now,
The wanton Edward and the lusty George?
And where's that valiant crookback prodigy,
Dickie, your boy, that with his grumbling voice
Was wont to cheer his dad in mutinies?
Or, with the rest, where is your darling Rutland?
Look, York, I stained this napkin with the blood
That valiant Clifford with his rapier's point
Made issue from the bosom of the boy;
And if thine eyes can water for his death,
I give thee this to dry thy cheeks withal.

She gives him a bloody cloth.

Alas, poor York, but that I hate thee deadly
I should lament thy miserable state.
I prithee grieve to make me merry, York.
What, hath thy fiery heart so parched thine entrails
That not a tear can fall for Rutland's death?

46

89. patient: long-suffering; mad: insane, furious 92. fee'd: paid; make me sport: entertain me 97. marry: i.e., indeed (originally an oath on the name of the Virgin Mary) 102. bethink me: call to mind, recollect 104. pale: encircle 107. fault: transgression, offense 109. breathe: pause, rest; do him dead: i.e., put him to death 110. office: job, function 114. adder's tooth: i.e., the fang of a venomous serpent 115. ill-beseeming: inappropriate, unfitting 116. triumph: exult; Amazonian trull: strumpet of the tribe of Amazons, who were fierce female warriors (See picture, page 170.) 117. their woes whom: i.e., the woes of those whom; Fortune: the goddess Fortuna, thought to control one's luck (See picture, page l.) captivates: puts in subjection, subjugates 118. vizard-like: i.e., like a mask (See picture, page 124.)
119. with deeds: i.e., through habitual acts
of evil

	Why art thou rations man? Thou shouldes be made	-
	Why art thou patient, man? Thou shouldst be mad;	
	And I, to make thee mad, do mock thee thus.	90
	Stamp, rave, and fret, that I may sing and dance.	
	Thou would'st be fee'd, I see, to make me sport.—	
	York cannot speak unless he wear a crown.	
	A crown for York! She is handed a paper crown.	
	And, lords, bow low to him.	95
	Hold you his hands whilst I do set it on	
	She puts the crown on York's head.	
	Ay, marry, sir, now looks he like a king.	
	Ay, this is he that took King Henry's chair,	
	And this is he was his adopted heir.	
	But how is it that great Plantagenet	100
	Is crowned so soon and broke his solemn oath?—	
	As I bethink me, you should not be king	
	Till our King Henry had shook hands with Death.	
	And will you pale your head in Henry's glory	
	And rob his temples of the diadem	105
	Now, in his life, against your holy oath?	100
	O, 'tis a fault too too unpardonable.	
	Off with the crown and, with the crown, his head;	
	And whilst we breathe, take time to do him dead.	
CI	LIFFORD	
U.	That is my office, for my father's sake.	110
0	UEEN MARGARET	110
Q		
374	Nay, stay, let's hear the orisons he makes.	
11	ORK	
	She-wolf of France, but worse than wolves of France,	
	Whose tongue more poisons than the adder's tooth:	
	How ill-beseeming is it in thy sex	115
	To triumph like an Amazonian trull	
	Upon their woes whom Fortune captivates.	
	But that thy face is vizard-like, unchanging,	
	Made impudent with use of evil deeds,	
	I would assay, proud queen, to make thee blush.	120

To tell thee whence thou cam'st, of whom derived,

4	2	1	derived:	doccon	da	4
ŝ	/	ŧ.	678 67 878 87 67 67 8 °	descen	α_{e}	7

124. **type:** i.e., crown (literally, distinguishing mark or sign)

125. **both the Sicils:** i.e., Sicily and Naples (See longer note, page 256.)

126. **veoman:** commoner, farmer

127. insult: act arrogantly, exult insolently

128. needs not: is not necessary; boots: benefits

135. government: demeanor; discretion

136. want: lack, deficiency

138. **Antipodes:** those who live on the opposite side of the globe (For the region known as the Antipodes, see picture, page 52.)

139. the Septentrion: the north

141. **drain:** i.e., draw off (with a handkerchief) See longer note, page 256.

144. pitiful: compassionate

145. **stern:** harsh; **flinty:** hard-hearted; **rough:** violent

152. **fell:** cruel

154. **Beshrew me:** a mild oath; **passions:** passionate speeches

155. hardly: only with difficulty

	Were shame enough to shame thee, wert thou not shameless.	
	Thy father bears the type of King of Naples,	
	Of both the Sicils, and Jerusalem,	125
	Yet not so wealthy as an English yeoman.	
	Hath that poor monarch taught thee to insult?	
	It needs not, nor it boots thee not, proud queen,	
	Unless the adage must be verified	
	That beggars mounted run their horse to death.	130
	Tis beauty that doth oft make women proud,	
	But God He knows thy share thereof is small.	
	Tis virtue that doth make them most admired;	
	The contrary doth make thee wondered at.	
	Tis government that makes them seem divine;	135
	The want thereof makes thee abominable.	
	Thou art as opposite to every good	
	As the Antipodes are unto us	
	Or as the south to the Septentrion.	
	O, tiger's heart wrapped in a woman's hide,	140
	How couldst thou drain the lifeblood of the child	
	To bid the father wipe his eyes withal,	
	And yet be seen to bear a woman's face?	
	Women are soft, mild, pitiful, and flexible;	
	Thou, stern, obdurate, flinty, rough, remorseless.	145
	Bidd'st thou me rage? Why, now thou hast thy wish.	140
	Wouldst have me weep? Why, now thou hast thy will;	
	For raging wind blows up incessant showers,	
	And when the rage allays, the rain begins.	
		150
	These tears are my sweet Rutland's obsequies,	150
	And every drop cries vengeance for his death	
	'Gainst thee, fell Clifford, and thee, false	
	Frenchwoman!	
N	IORTHUMBERLAND, \(\sigma side \)	
	Beshrew me, but his passions moves me so	
	That hardly can I check my eyes from tears.	155

164. napkin: handkerchief

165. heavy: sorrowful, distressful

166. Upon my soul: a mild oath

172. reap: acquire

176. I...him: i.e., I would weep with him even if it cost my life

177. inly: inward, heartfelt; gripes: lays hold of

178. weeping ripe: ready to weep

180. melting: wordplay on (1) liquid; (2) piteous

181. my oath: See 1.1.55-57.

182. right: redress the injuries of



World map with the Antipodes. (1.4.138) From Ambrosius Aurelius Theodosius Macrobius, In Somnium Scipionis [1492].

YORK That face of his the hungry cannibals Would not have touched, would not have stained with blood: But you are more inhuman, more inexorable, O, ten times more than tigers of Hyrcania. 160 See, ruthless queen, a hapless father's tears. This cloth thou dipped'st in blood of my sweet boy. And I with tears do wash the blood away. THe hands her the cloth. Keep thou the napkin and go boast of this; And if thou tell'st the heavy story right, 165 Upon my soul, the hearers will shed tears. Yea, even my foes will shed fast-falling tears And say "Alas, it was a piteous deed." He hands her the paper crown. There, take the crown and, with the crown, my curse. 170 And in thy need such comfort come to thee As now I reap at thy too cruel hand.— Hard-hearted Clifford, take me from the world, My soul to heaven, my blood upon your heads. NORTHUMBERLAND Had he been slaughterman to all my kin, 175 I should not for my life but weep with him To see how inly sorrow gripes his soul. **OUEEN MARGARET** What, weeping ripe, my Lord Northumberland? Think but upon the wrong he did us all, And that will quickly dry thy melting tears. 180 CLIFFORD, stabbing York twice Here's for my oath; here's for my father's death! QUEEN MARGARET, Stabbing York And here's to right our gentle-hearted king. YORK Open thy gate of mercy, gracious God.



Phoenix. From Conrad Lycosthenes, Prodigiorum . . . [1557].

My soul flies through these wounds to seek out Thee. 「He dies. ¬

QUEEN MARGARET

Off with his head, and set it on York gates, So York may overlook the town of York.

Flourish. They exit, Soldiers carrying York's body.

HENRY VI Part 3

ACT 2

- 2.1 Edward and Richard receive the news of their father's death. Warwick then brings news of the Yorkist defeat at St. Albans following the battle of Wakefield. As the Yorkist leaders prepare once more to meet the Lancastrian forces, Warwick announces that Edward, now Duke of York, will be proclaimed king of England.
- 0 SD. march: drum beat to accompany the march of troops; power: army

4. ta'en: taken, captured

10. right: i.e., truly; is become: i.e., has gone

11. range: move, roam

- 12. **singled...forth:** i.e., separated **Clifford** from the pack (language from hunting)
- 13. **Methought:** it seemed to me; **bore him:** conducted himself

14. neat: cattle

- 15. **a bear...dogs:** In bearbaiting, the **bear** is chained and attacked by **dogs.** (See picture, page 86.)
- 16. **pinched:** bitten, seized with the teeth; **cry:** howl
 - 17. him: i.e., the bear
 - 19. enemies my: i.e., enemies from my

20. prize: privilege

21–22. **morning...sun:** In mythology, Aurora, goddess of the dawn, parts from her brother, the sun god, each morning as he starts his daily journey across the sky. (See pictures, pages 70 and 198.) **opes:** opens

 $\lceil ACT 2 \rceil$

「Scene 17

A march. Enter Edward, Richard, and their power, 「all wearing the white rose.」

EDWARD

I wonder how our princely father scaped,
Or whether he be scaped away or no
From Clifford's and Northumberland's pursuit.
Had he been ta'en, we should have heard the news;
Had he been slain, we should have heard the news;
Or had he scaped, methinks we should have heard
The happy tidings of his good escape.
How fares my brother? Why is he so sad?

10

15

20

RICHARD

I cannot joy until I be resolved
Where our right valiant father is become.
I saw him in the battle range about
And watched him how he singled Clifford forth.
Methought he bore him in the thickest troop
As doth a lion in a herd of neat,
Or as a bear encompassed round with dogs,
Who having pinched a few and made them cry,
The rest stand all aloof and bark at him;
So fared our father with his enemies;
So fled his enemies my warlike father.
Methinks 'tis prize enough to be his son.
See how the morning opes her golden gates

- 24. **Trimmed:** arrayed, dressed; **younker:** fashionable young man; **prancing to:** i.e., swaggering before
 - 25. three suns: See picture, page 76.
 - 27. with: by; racking: wind-driven
 - 28. severed: dispersed
 - 30. league: covenant, compact
 - 32. figures: prefigures, shows in advance
 - 33. yet: until now
 - 34. cites: summons, calls; field: battlefield
 - 36. meeds: merits, excellence
- 37. **lights:** wordplay on (1) beams of light; (2) luminous reputations
- 38. **overshine:** shine on, illuminate; **this:** i.e., **this sun** illuminates
 - 40. target: i.e., shield
- 41. **bear:** wordplay on (1) display on a heraldic shield; (2) give birth to; **by your leave:** an ironic apology
 - 42. breeder: i.e., female, producer of offspring
- 42 SD. **blowing:** perhaps, **blowing** a horn; perhaps, puffing from exertion
 - 43. heavy: sorrowful
 - 46. Whenas: at the time when

And takes her farewell of the glorious sun. How well resembles it the prime of youth, Trimmed like a younker, prancing to his love! EDWARD Dazzle mine eyes, or do I see three suns? 25 RICHARD Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun, Not separated with the racking clouds But severed in a pale clear-shining sky. See, see, they join, embrace, and seem to kiss, As if they vowed some league inviolable. 30 Now are they but one lamp, one light, one sun; In this, the heaven figures some event. FDWARD Tis wondrous strange, the like yet never heard of. I think it cites us, brother, to the field, That we, the sons of brave Plantagenet, 35 Each one already blazing by our meeds, Should notwithstanding join our lights together And overshine the earth, as this the world. Whate'er it bodes, henceforward will I bear Upon my target three fair shining suns. 40 RICHARD Nay, bear three daughters: by your leave I speak it, You love the breeder better than the male. Enter \(a Messenger, \) blowing. But what art thou whose heavy looks foretell Some dreadful story hanging on thy tongue? MESSENGER Ah, one that was a woeful looker-on 45 Whenas the noble Duke of York was slain. Your princely father and my loving lord.

O, speak no more, for I have heard too much!

EDWARD

RICHARD

- 50. Environèd: surrounded
- 51. **stood:** remained steadfast; **against:** in resistance to; **the hope of Troy:** the name given by Virgil to the Trojan warrior Hector (*Aeneid* 2.281) See picture, below.

52. the Greeks...Troy: For ten years, the Greeks attempted to gain entrance into Troy.

- 53. **Hercules:** a mythological hero renowned for his strength (See picture, page 32.) **odds:** superior strength or numbers
 - 59. despite: contempt, scorn
 - 62. napkin: handkerchief
 - 69. stay: support
 - 70. boist'rous: savage
- 71. flower: choicest man; chivalry: prowess in war
 - 74. my . . . palace: i.e., my body (line 75)
 - 75. would she: i.e., I wish my soul would
- 80. Scarce: scarcely; furnace-burning heart: i.e., heart, which burns like a furnace



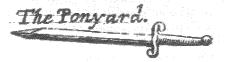
Hector. (2.1.51; 4.8.25)
From [Guillaume Rouillé,]
Promptuarii iconum... (1553).

Say how he died, for I will hear it all. MESSENGER Environed he was with many foes. 50 And stood against them, as the hope of Trov Against the Greeks that would have entered Troy. But Hercules himself must yield to odds; And many strokes, though with a little axe, Hews down and fells the hardest-timbered oak. 55 By many hands your father was subdued, But only slaughtered by the ireful arm Of unrelenting Clifford and the Queen. Who crowned the gracious duke in high despite, Laughed in his face; and when with grief he wept, 60 The ruthless queen gave him to dry his cheeks A napkin steeped in the harmless blood Of sweet young Rutland, by rough Clifford slain. And after many scorns, many foul taunts, They took his head and on the gates of York 65 They set the same, and there it doth remain, The saddest spectacle that e'er I viewed. *He exits.* EDWARD Sweet Duke of York, our prop to lean upon, Now thou art gone, we have no staff, no stay. O Clifford, boist'rous Clifford, thou hast slain 70 The flower of Europe for his chivalry; And treacherously hast thou vanguished him, For hand to hand he would have vanguished thee. Now my soul's palace is become a prison; Ah, would she break from hence, that this my body 75 Might in the ground be closed up in rest, For never henceforth shall I joy again. Never, O never, shall I see more joy! 「He weeps. ¬ RICHARD

I cannot weep, for all my body's moisture

Scarce serves to quench my furnace-burning heart;

- 82. selfsame: the very same; withal: with
- 83. fires: i.e., fire, ignite
- 87. for babes: i.e., are for infants
- 91. **chair:** seat (or situation) of authority
- 92. bird: eaglet, nestling
- 93. descent: lineage, ancestry; gazing 'gainst the sun: The eagle was thought to be able to look directly into the sun. 'gainst: toward
- 96. that: i.e., throne and kingdom; his: begotten of him
- 97. fair: a term of courteous address: What fare: i.e., what is the state of things
 - 100. poniards: daggers (See picture, below.)
- 104. held thee dearly: esteemed or regarded you as **dearly**
 - 105. stern: merciless, cruel
 - 106. these: i.e., this
 - 107. measure: quantity, increase



A poniard. (2.1.100) From Louis de Gaya, A treatise of the arms . . . (1678).

Nor can my tongue unload my heart's great burden. For selfsame wind that I should speak withal Is kindling coals that fires all my breast And burns me up with flames that tears would quench. 85 To weep is to make less the depth of grief: Tears, then, for babes; blows and revenge for me. Richard, I bear thy name. I'll venge thy death Or die renownèd by attempting it. EDWARD His name that valiant duke hath left with thee: His dukedom and his chair with me is left. RICHARD Nay, if thou be that princely eagle's bird, Show thy descent by gazing 'gainst the sun; For "chair" and "dukedom," "throne" and "kingdom" say: 95 Either that is thine or else thou wert not his. March. Enter Warwick, Marquess Montague, and their army, [all wearing the white rose,] WARWICK How now, fair lords? What fare, what news abroad? Great lord of Warwick, if we should recount Our baleful news, and at each word's deliverance Stab poniards in our flesh till all were told. 100

RICHARD

The words would add more anguish than the wounds.

O valiant lord, the Duke of York is slain.

EDWARD

O Warwick, Warwick, that Plantagenet Which held thee dearly as his soul's redemption Is by the stern Lord Clifford done to death. WARWICK

Ten days ago I drowned these news in tears. And now to add more measure to your woes.

108. sith then befall'n: i.e., that have happened
since then
110. latest: last
111. posts: i.e., post-horses, used to carry mail
112. depart: death
117. in my behalf: for my benefit
118. advertisèd: notified
119. intent: will, inclination
120. dash: reject despression that the more distributed
123. battles: armies
124. coldness: indifference, apathy
125. full gently: very mildly or kindly
126. spleen: proud temper, spirit, courage
128. rigor: harshness
131. Their: i.e., the queen's soldiers'
142. Marches: border country (of Wales)
143. Making another head: raising another
body of troops
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i te propriati a su esta esta en esta esta en el esta esta en el esta esta en el esta en el esta en el esta en
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After the bloody fray at Wakefield fought, Where your brave father breathed his latest gasp, I'idings, as swiftly as the posts could run, Were brought me of your loss and his depart. I, then in London, keeper of the King,	110
Mustered my soldiers, gathered flocks of friends,	
Marched toward Saint Albans to intercept the	115
Queen,	
Bearing the King in my behalf along;	
For by my scouts I was advertisèd	
That she was coming with a full intent	
To dash our late decree in Parliament	120
Touching King Henry's oath and your succession.	
Short tale to make, we at Saint Albans met,	
Our battles joined, and both sides fiercely fought.	
But whether 'twas the coldness of the King,	
Who looked full gently on his warlike queen,	125
That robbed my soldiers of their heated spleen,	
Or whether 'twas report of her success	
Or more than common fear of Clifford's rigor, Who thunders to his captives blood and death,	
cannot judge; but to conclude with truth,	130
Their weapons like to lightning came and went;	130
Our soldiers', like the night owl's lazy flight	
Or like an idle thresher with a flail,	
Fell gently down, as if they struck their friends.	
cheered them up with justice of our cause,	135
With promise of high pay and great rewards,	200
But all in vain; they had no heart to fight,	
And we, in them, no hope to win the day,	
So that we fled: the King unto the Queen;	
Lord George your brother, Norfolk, and myself	140
n haste, posthaste, are come to join with you;	
For in the Marches here we heard you were,	
Making another head to fight again.	

160

165

170

147. for: as for

150. 'Twas odds: perhaps, the odds were against us (See longer note, page 257.) belike: perhaps

152. retire: retreat, yielding ground

155. faint: timid, feeble

156. awful: awe-inspiring

160. make: i.e., makes

164. **Numb'ring...beads:** i.e., counting our prayers with the **beads** of our rosary (An "Ave Mary" is a "Hail Mary," a prayer invoking Mary as the mother of Jesus.) See picture, below.

166. Tell: wordplay on (1) count out; (2) pro-

167. to it: i.e., go to it

168. therefore: i.e., for that purpose

170. Attend me: i.e., listen to me

171. haught: haughty

172. **of their...birds:** i.e., **many more** just like them (Proverbial: **Birds of** a **feather...**)

173. wrought...wax: Proverbial: to work (something) like wax wrought: worked



A rosary. (2.1.164)
From Cesare Vecellio,
Habiti antichi et moderni . . . (1598)

FDWARD

Where is the Duke of Norfolk, gentle Warwick?

And when came George from Burgundy to England? 145

WARWICK

Some six miles off the Duke is with the soldiers, And, for your brother, he was lately sent From your kind aunt, Duchess of Burgundy, With aid of soldiers to this needful war.

RICHARD

'Twas odds, belike, when valiant Warwick fled. 150
Oft have I heard his praises in pursuit,
But ne'er till now his scandal of retire.

WARWICK

Nor now my scandal, Richard, dost thou hear? For thou shalt know this strong right hand of mine Can pluck the diadem from faint Henry's head And wring the awful scepter from his fist, Were he as famous and as bold in war As he is famed for mildness, peace, and prayer.

RICHARD

I know it well, Lord Warwick; blame me not. 'Tis love I bear thy glories make me speak. But in this troublous time, what's to be done? Shall we go throw away our coats of steel And wrap our bodies in black mourning gowns, Numb'ring our Ave Marys with our beads? Or shall we on the helmets of our foes Tell our devotion with revengeful arms? If for the last, say "Ay," and to it, lords.

WARWICK

Why, therefore Warwick came to seek you out, And therefore comes my brother Montague. Attend me, lords: the proud insulting queen, With Clifford and the haught Northumberland And of their feather many more proud birds, Have wrought the easy-melting king like wax.

68

177.	frustrate:	render	ineffectual;	what	beside:
i.e., an	vthing else	that			

178. make against: be unfavorable to

179. power: army

181. Earl of March: i.e., Edward

184. via: onward, forward (Italian)

189. he: i.e., any man

190. Retire: retreat

193. forfend: forbid

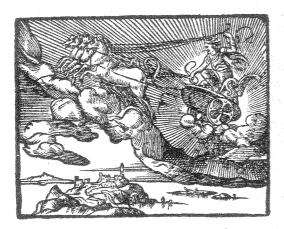
195. degree: rank (literally, a step on a ladder)

199. fault: transgression, offense

202. about: i.e., (let's get) going about

203. were thy heart: i.e., even if your heart

were



The sun god beginning his daily journey. (2.1.21–22; 4.7.80–81)

From Claude François Menestrier, L'art des emblemes... (1684).

70

He swore consent to your succession, His oath enrollèd in the Parliament. 175 And now to London all the crew are gone To frustrate both his oath and what beside May make against the house of Lancaster. Their power, I think, is thirty thousand strong. Now, if the help of Norfolk and myself, 180 With all the friends that thou, brave Earl of March, Amongst the loving Welshmen canst procure. Will but amount to five and twenty thousand. Why, via, to London will we march. And once again bestride our foaming steeds, 185 And once again cry "Charge!" upon our foes, But never once again turn back and flv. RICHARD Ay, now methinks I hear great Warwick speak. Ne'er may he live to see a sunshine day That cries "Retire!" if Warwick bid him stay. 190 **EDWARD** Lord Warwick, on thy shoulder will I lean, And when thou fail'st—as God forbid the hour!— Must Edward fall, which peril heaven forfend. WARWICK No longer Earl of March, but Duke of York; The next degree is England's royal throne: 195 For King of England shalt thou be proclaimed In every borough as we pass along, And he that throws not up his cap for joy Shall for the fault make forfeit of his head. King Edward, valiant Richard, Montague, 200 Stay we no longer dreaming of renown, But sound the trumpets and about our task. RICHARD Then, Clifford, were thy heart as hard as steel. As thou hast shown it flinty by thy deeds, I come to pierce it or to give thee mine. 205

10

206. Saint George: the patron saint of England (See picture, page 78.)

209. puissant host: powerful army

210. craves: i.e., (Norfolk) requests

211. sorts: is fitting, suits

2.2 Warwick and the Yorkists confront King Henry, Margaret, the newly knighted Prince Edward, and the other Lancastrians. Both the Lancastrian Henry and the Yorkist Edward claim the kingship. The forces for each side prepare to engage in battle.

0 SD. Drum: i.e., drummer; Trumpets: i.e., trumpeters

- 1. brave: worthy, excellent
- 3. encompassed: encircled
- 5. their wrack: i.e., the wreck of their ship
- 6. irks: troubles
- 8. **infringed**: broken

EDWARD

Then strike up drums! God and Saint George for us!

Enter a Messenger,

WARWICK How now, what news?

MESSENGER

The Duke of Norfolk sends you word by me, The Queen is coming with a puissant host, And craves your company for speedy counsel.

WARWICK

Why, then it sorts. Brave warriors, let's away! They all exit.

「Scene 27

Flourish. Enter King [Henry,] Queen [Margaret,] Clifford, Northumberland, and young Prince Edward, all wearing the red rose with Drum and Trumpets. Tthe head of York fixed above them.

QUEEN MARGARET, To King Henry

Welcome, my lord, to this brave town of York. Yonder's the head of that arch-enemy That sought to be encompassed with your crown. Doth not the object cheer your heart, my lord? KING HENRY

Av. as the rocks cheer them that fear their wrack! To see this sight, it irks my very soul.

Withhold revenge, dear God! 'Tis not my fault, Nor wittingly have I infringed my vow.

CLIFFORD

My gracious liege, this too much lenity And harmful pity must be laid aside. To whom do lions cast their gentle looks? Not to the beast that would usurp their den. Whose hand is that the forest bear doth lick?

16. her: its

17. **The smallest . . . on:** proverbial **turn:** attack, become defiant

19. level: aim

22. issue: offspring

23. goodly: splendid

26. Unreasonable creatures: i.e., creatures not endowed with reason

27. fearful: frightening

30. **sometime:** formerly; **fearful:** timorous, frightened

38. **fondly:** foolishly (with possible wordplay on *fond* as "idiotic, imbecile, insane")

42. **hold:** keep possession of

44. **Inferring:** bringing forward

46. **things** ... **success**: proverbial **ill got**: wrongfully obtained **bad success**: misfortune, failure

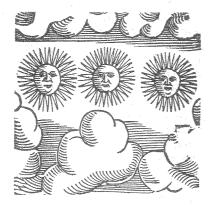
47. happy: fortunate

48. for his: because of his

Not his that spoils her young before her face.	
Who scapes the lurking serpent's mortal sting?	15
Not he that sets his foot upon her back.	
The smallest worm will turn, being trodden on,	
And doves will peck in safeguard of their brood.	
Ambitious York did level at thy crown,	
Thou smiling while he knit his angry brows.	.20
He, but a duke, would have his son a king	
And raise his issue like a loving sire;	
Thou being a king, blest with a goodly son, and a second s	
Didst yield consent to disinherit him, was problemed as	
Which argued thee a most unloving father.	25
Unreasonable creatures feed their young;	
And though man's face be fearful to their eyes,	
Yet in protection of their tender ones,	
Who hath not seen them, even with those wings	
Which sometime they have used with fearful flight,	30
Make war with him that climbed unto their nest,	
Offering their own lives in their young's defense?	
For shame, my liege, make them your precedent.	
Were it not pity that this goodly boy	
Should lose his birthright by his father's fault,	35
And long hereafter say unto his child	
"What my great-grandfather and grandsire got,	
My careless father fondly gave away"?	
Ah, what a shame were this! Look on the boy,	
And let his manly face, which promiseth	40
Successful fortune, steel thy melting heart	
To hold thine own and leave thine own with him.	
ING HENRY	
Full well hath Clifford played the orator,	
Inferring arguments of mighty force.	
But, Clifford, tell me, didst thou never hear	45
That things ill got had ever bad success?	
And happy always was it for that son	

Whose father for his hoarding went to hell?

- 50. would: i.e., I wish
- 51. held: regarded, esteemed; rate: value, worth
- 54. **cousin:** kinsman
- 57. courage: spirit, disposition; faint: lose heart
- 58. forward: eager, spirited
- 59. presently: now; at once
- 62. right: that which is morally just
- 63. by your . . . leave: an apology for the remark that will follow
 - 64. apparent: i.e., heir apparent
- 65. that quarrel: that cause; defense of that claim
 - 66. toward: promising
 - 69. backing: i.e., in support
- 72. Deraign your battle: arrange your troops for battle



... I see three suns ... each ... a perfect sun." (2.1.25-26)

From Conrad Lycosthenes, Prodigiorum . . . [1557].

I'll leave my son my virtuous deeds behind. And would my father had left me no more; 50 For all the rest is held at such a rate As brings a thousandfold more care to keep Than in possession any jot of pleasure. Ah, cousin York, would thy best friends did know How it doth grieve me that thy head is here. 55 OUEEN MARGARET My lord, cheer up your spirits; our foes are nigh, And this soft courage makes your followers faint. You promised knighthood to our forward son. Unsheathe your sword and dub him presently.— Edward, kneel down. [He kneels.] KING HENRY, \(\frac{dubbing}{dubbing} \) him \(knight \) Edward Plantagenet, arise a knight. And learn this lesson: draw thy sword in right. PRINCE EDWARD, [rising] My gracious father, by your kingly leave, I'll draw it as apparent to the crown And in that quarrel use it to the death. CLIFFORD Why, that is spoken like a toward prince.

Royal commanders, be in readiness.

Enter a Messenger.

MESSENGER

For with a band of thirty thousand men Comes Warwick backing of the Duke of York, And in the towns as they do march along Proclaims him king, and many fly to him. Deraign your battle, for they are at hand. [He exits.] CLIFFORD

I would your Highness would depart the field. The Queen hath best success when you are absent.

OUEEN MARGARET

Ay, good my lord, and leave us to our fortune.

90

95

80-81. Saint George: a battle cry (See note to 2.1.206 and picture, below.)

81 SD. March: drum beat to accompany the march of troops

82. grace: pardon, forgiveness

84. bide: encounter, undergo, suffer

85. rate: chide, reprove; minions: favorites, followers

86. Becomes ... terms: i.e., is it appropriate for you to speak so boldly

94, reason: i.e., rightly, with good reason

97. answer: encounter, fight with

98. anv he: i.e., anv man



Saint George. (2.1.206; 2.2.80-81; 4.2.30; 5.1.114) From [Jacobus de Voragine,] Here begynneth . . legenda aurea . . . [1493].

KING HENRY

Why, that's my fortune too; therefore I'll stay. NORTHUMBERLAND

Be it with resolution, then, to fight.

PRINCE EDWARD

My royal father, cheer these noble lords And hearten those that fight in your defense. Unsheathe your sword, good father; cry "Saint George!"

March. Enter Edward, Warwick, Richard. 「George, Norfolk, Montague, and Soldiers, fall wearing the white rose.

EDWARD

Now, perjured Henry, wilt thou kneel for grace And set thy diadem upon my head.

Or bide the mortal fortune of the field?

OUEEN MARGARET

Go rate thy minions, proud insulting boy. Becomes it thee to be thus hold in terms Before thy sovereign and thy lawful king?

EDWARD I am his king, and he should bow his knee.

I was adopted heir by his consent. Since when, his oath is broke; for, as I hear, You that are king, though he do wear the crown.

Have caused him, by new act of Parliament. To blot out me and put his own son in.

CLIFFORD And reason too:

Who should succeed the father but the son? RICHARD

Are you there, butcher? O, I cannot speak! CLIFFORD

Ay, crookback, here I stand to answer thee. Or any he, the proudest of thy sort.

'Twas you that killed young Rutland, was it not?

RICHARD

107. fly: flee

108. so much: i.e., the same thing

110. durst: dares

111. hold thee reverently: regard you with respect

112. refrain: hold back, restrain

113. **The execution** of: i.e., putting into action (the passions of)

117. tender: young, vulnerable



The Destinies or Fates. (2.2.140; 4.3.60) From Vincenzo Cartari, *Imagines deorum* . . . (1581).

CLIFFORD Ay, and old York, and yet not satisfied. 100 RICHARD For God's sake, lords, give signal to the fight! WARWICK What sayst thou, Henry? Wilt thou yield the crown? OUEEN MARGARET Why, how now, long-tongued Warwick, dare you speak? When you and I met at Saint Albans last, 105 Your legs did better service than your hands. WARWICK Then 'twas my turn to fly, and now 'tis thine. CLIFFORD You said so much before, and yet you fled. WARWICK 'Twas not your valor, Clifford, drove me thence. NORTHUMBERLAND No, nor your manhood that durst make you stay. 110 RICHARD Northumberland, I hold thee reverently.— Break off the parley, for scarce I can refrain The execution of my big-swoll'n heart Upon that Clifford, that cruel child-killer. CLIFFORD I slew thy father; call'st thou him a child? 115 RICHARD Ay, like a dastard and a treacherous coward, As thou didst kill our tender brother Rutland. But ere sunset I'll make thee curse the deed. KING HENRY Have done with words, my lords, and hear me speak.

130

135

140

122. prithee: an expression of polite request

126. executioner: i.e., killer, murderer

127. resolved: convinced

128. manhood: courage, valor; upon his tongue: i.e., in words only

130. broke their fasts: eaten their breakfasts

131. dine: eat dinner

132. deny: refuse; upon: i.e., be upon

136. got: begot, fathered

137. wot: know

138. dam: i.e., mother (a term usually applied to animals)

139. stigmatic: i.e., monster, one marked with a deformity

140. Marked: branded: the Destinies: the goddesses that determine the course of one's life, the Fates (See picture, page 80.)

141. venom: venomous

142. Iron ... gilt: The image is of a piece of iron (i.e., Margaret) disguised or beautified with English gold (i.e., her English marriage). gilt: literally, a thin laver of gold

OUEEN MARGARET

Defy them, then, or else hold close thy lips.

KING HENRY

I prithee, give no limits to my tongue.

I am a king and privileged to speak.

CLIFFORD

83

My liege, the wound that bred this meeting here

Cannot be cured by words; therefore, be still.

RICHARD

Then, executioner, unsheathe thy sword.

By Him that made us all, I am resolved

That Clifford's manhood lies upon his tongue.

EDWARD

Say, Henry, shall I have my right or no?

A thousand men have broke their fasts today

That ne'er shall dine unless thou yield the crown.

WARWICK

If thou deny, their blood upon thy head,

For York in justice puts his armor on.

PRINCE EDWARD

If that be right which Warwick says is right, There is no wrong, but everything is right.

[RICHARD]

Whoever got thee, there thy mother stands, For well I wot thou hast thy mother's tongue.

OUEEN MARGARET

But thou art neither like thy sire nor dam,

But like a foul misshapen stigmatic,

Marked by the Destinies to be avoided,

As venom toads or lizards' dreadful stings.

RICHARD

Iron of Naples, hid with English gilt, Whose father bears the title of a king,

As if a channel should be called the sea.

Sham'st thou not, knowing whence thou art

145

175

146.	extraught:	derived,	descended
------	------------	----------	-----------

147. detect: expose, display

148. **A...crowns:** a colorful way of saying "it would be impossible" **were:** i.e., would be

149. callet: strumpet, slut

150–53. **Helen...by thee: Helen** of Troy wronged her husband, Menelaus, the brother of Agamemnon, triggering the Trojan War. (See pictures, pages 118 and 110.) Menelaus: i.e., a cuckold, a man whose wife is **false**, or unfaithful

154. **His father:** i.e., Henry VI's **father,** Henry V (See note to 1.1.111–12 and picture, page 14.)

156. **he matched:** i.e., Henry VI married; **state:** position of wealth; greatness, high rank

159. **graced...day:** i.e., honored your father with this marriage **thy poor sire:** i.e., Reignier, **king of Naples** (lines 142–43) **his:** i.e., Henry VI's

161. forth of: i.e., out of

163. **broached:** i.e., released (literally, pierced in order to liberate or extract)

164. **our...slept:** i.e., my claim to the throne would have continued to lie dormant

166. slipped: neglected to prosecute

168. **increase:** wordplay on (1) fruitful growth; (2) additional prosperity or honor

170. something: i.e., somewhat, to some degree

172. leave: cease

173. **bathed...bloods:** See longer note, page 257. **bathed:** watered

174. **resolution**: conviction, certainty

175. willing: desiring; conference: conversation

176. denied'st: forbade, refused to allow

extraught, To let thy tongue detect thy baseborn heart? **EDWARD** A wisp of straw were worth a thousand crowns To make this shameless callet know herself.— Helen of Greece was fairer far than thou. 150 Although thy husband may be Menelaus; And ne'er was Agamemnon's brother wronged By that false woman as this king by thee. His father reveled in the heart of France. And tamed the King, and made the Dauphin stoop; 155 And had he matched according to his state, He might have kept that glory to this day. But when he took a beggar to his bed And graced thy poor sire with his bridal day, Even then that sunshine brewed a shower for him 160 That washed his father's fortunes forth of France And heaped sedition on his crown at home. For what hath broached this tumult but thy pride? Hadst thou been meek, our title still had slept, And we, in pity of the gentle king, 165 Had slipped our claim until another age. GEORGE But when we saw our sunshine made thy spring, And that thy summer bred us no increase, We set the axe to thy usurping root; And though the edge hath something hit ourselves, 170 Yet know thou, since we have begun to strike, We'll never leave till we have hewn thee down Or bathed thy growing with our heated bloods. **EDWARD** And in this resolution, I defy thee,

Not willing any longer conference,

Since thou denied'st the gentle king to speak.—

2.3 Warwick retires from the battle and meets Edward, Richard, and George. They all fear defeat, but take their farewells and return to the battle.

0 SD. Excursions: attacks and counterattacks

- 1. Forspent: worn out
- 2. breathe: rest
- 5. spite of spite: i.e., despite reproach
- 6. ungentle: discourteous; violent
- 7. **sun:** Edward's badge (See longer note, page 257.)
 - 8. hap: luck, fortune
 - 11. **fly:** flee
 - 13. shun: escape



Bearbaiting. (2.1.15) From William Lily, *Antibossicon* . . . (1521). Sound, trumpets! Let our bloody colors wave; And either victory or else a grave! QUEEN MARGARET Stay, Edward!

No, wrangling woman, we'll no longer stay. 180 These words will cost ten thousand lives this day. They all exit.

「Scene 37

Alarum. Excursions. Enter Warwick, wearing the white rose.

WARWICK, [lying down]

Forspent with toil, as runners with a race, I lay me down a little while to breathe, For strokes received and many blows repaid Have robbed my strong-knit sinews of their strength; And spite of spite, needs must I rest awhile.

Enter Edward, \(\text{wearing the white rose,} \) running.

EDWARD

Smile, gentle heaven, or strike, ungentle death, For this world frowns and Edward's sun is clouded.

Enter George, wearing the white rose.

WARWICK, [standing]

How now, my lord, what hap? What hope of good? GEORGE

Our hap is loss, our hope but sad despair; Our ranks are broke, and ruin follows us. What counsel give you? Whither shall we fly?

Bootless is flight; they follow us with wings, And weak we are and cannot shun pursuit.

10

Enter Richard, \(\square wearing the white rose. \)

15. **Thy brother's blood:** a reference to a brother known as "the Bastard of Salisbury"

16. **Broached . . . lance:** The image is of a pierced cask from which liquid is being drawn off; here, the body is pierced with a lance, releasing the blood.

18. clangor: loud resonant ringing sound

27. look upon: i.e., look on like spectators

28. played in jest: i.e., performed; counterfeiting: i.e., role-playing (See picture, below.)

32. Fortune: the goddess Fortuna, thought to bestow rewards and punishments on humans (See picture, page l.) measure: i.e., my share

40. brazen: brass



"... played in jest by ... actors." (2.3.28) From [William Alabaster,] Roxana tragaedia . . . (1632). RICHARD Ah, Warwick, why hast thou withdrawn thyself? Thy brother's blood the thirsty earth hath drunk, 15 Broached with the steely point of Clifford's lance, And in the very pangs of death he cried, Like to a dismal clangor heard from far, "Warwick, revenge! Brother, revenge my death!" So, underneath the belly of their steeds, 20 That stained their fetlocks in his smoking blood, The noble gentleman gave up the ghost. WARWICK Then let the earth be drunken with our blood! I'll kill my horse because I will not fly. Why stand we like soft-hearted women here, 25 Wailing our losses whiles the foe doth rage, And look upon, as if the tragedy Were played in jest by counterfeiting actors? THe kneels. Here on my knee I vow to God above I'll never pause again, never stand still, 30 Till either death hath closed these eyes of mine Or Fortune given me measure of revenge. **EDWARD** O Warwick, I do bend my knee with thine, And in this vow do chain my soul to thine THe kneels. And, ere my knee rise from the earth's cold face, 35 I throw my hands, mine eyes, my heart to Thee, Thou setter up and plucker down of kings, Beseeching Thee, if with Thy will it stands That to my foes this body must be prey, Yet that Thy brazen gates of heaven may ope And give sweet passage to my sinful soul.

Fedward and Warwick stand.

Now, lords, take leave until we meet again,

- 42. take leave: i.e., say farewell
- 44. gentle: noble
- 49. all together: i.e., all go together
- 50. will not: i.e., do not wish to
- 51. stand to: i.e., support, stand by
- 53. **Olympian Games:** the ancient Greek festival of athletic competitions
 - 54. quailing: fearful, faltering
 - 55. **is hope:** i.e., there **is hope**
- 56. **Forslow:** be slow or dilatory; **amain:** with all our might; without delay
- **2.4** Richard and Clifford fight. When Warwick enters, Clifford flees. Richard prepares to search for Clifford in order to fight to the death.
 - 1. singled thee: separated you out from the herd
 - 3. both: i.e., both arms
 - 9. cheers: animates, incites

Where'er it be, in heaven or in earth.	
CHARD	
Brother, give me thy hand.—And, gentle Warwick,	
Let me embrace thee in my weary arms.	45
I that did never weep now melt with woe	
That winter should cut off our springtime so.	
ARWICK	
Away, away! Once more, sweet lords, farewell.	
EORGE	
Yet let us all together to our troops	
And give them leave to fly that will not stay,	50
And call them pillars that will stand to us;	
And, if we thrive, promise them such rewards	
As victors wear at the Olympian Games.	
This may plant courage in their quailing breasts,	
For yet is hope of life and victory.	55
Forslow no longer; make we hence amain.	
They exit.	
a ·	

「Scene 47

Excursions. Enter, \(\text{at separate doors,} \) Richard \(\text{wearing the white rose,} \) and Clifford, \(\text{wearing the red rose.} \) \)

RICHARD

Now, Clifford, I have singled thee alone. Suppose this arm is for the Duke of York, And this for Rutland, both bound to revenge, Wert thou environed with a brazen wall.

CLIFFORD

Now, Richard, I am with thee here alone.
This is the hand that stabbed thy father York,
And this the hand that slew thy brother Rutland,
And here's the heart that triumphs in their death
And cheers these hands that slew thy sire and brother

- 11. have at thee: a warning that a blow is com-
 - 12. single . . . chase: select a different quarry.
- 2.5 As the battle of Towton proceeds, King Henry contemplates his unhappy life as king and then observes as a young man realizes that the man he has killed is his own father and then as a father learns that the man he killed is his own son. As they grieve, Henry claims to be sadder than either of them because of what is happening to his country. Margaret, Prince Edward, and Exeter enter and urge Henry to flee with them from the victorious Yorkists.
 - 0 SD. Alarum: See note to 1.1.0 SD.
- 1. morning's war: i.e., contest that takes place each morning
- 3. What time: i.e., that time when; blowing of: i.e., blowing on (to warm them)
 - 8. retire: retreat
 - 9. flood: ocean; water
- 13. equal poise: condition of being equally weighted on both sides, equilibrium; fell: savage, cruel
 - 17. **chid me:** driven me (by chiding)
 - 20. grief: hardship, suffering

To execute the like upon thyself. 10 And so, have at thee! They fight; Warwick comes; Clifford flies. RICHARD Nay, Warwick, single out some other chase, For I myself will hunt this wolf to death. They exit. 「Scene 57 Alarum. Enter King Henry alone, wearing the red rose. KING HENRY This battle fares like to the morning's war. When dving clouds contend with growing light, What time the shepherd, blowing of his nails, Can neither call it perfect day nor night. Now sways it this way, like a mighty sea 5 Forced by the tide to combat with the wind; Now sways it that way, like the selfsame sea Forced to retire by fury of the wind. Sometime the flood prevails, and then the wind; Now one the better, then another best. 10 Both tugging to be victors, breast to breast, Yet neither conqueror nor conquerèd. So is the equal poise of this fell war. Here on this molehill will I sit me down. THe sits on a small prominence. To whom God will, there be the victory; 15 For Margaret my queen and Clifford too Have chid me from the battle, swearing both They prosper best of all when I am thence. Would I were dead, if God's good will were so, For what is in this world but grief and woe? 20

O God! Methinks it were a happy life

- 22. **homely swain:** simple shepherd (See picture, page 120.)
- 24. dials: i.e., small sundials; quaintly: ingeniously
 - 27. brings about: completes
 - 34. sport myself: amuse or enjoy myself
 - 35. with young: i.e., pregnant
 - 36. poor fools: a term of pity; ean: give birth
 - 38. So minutes: thus minutes
- 39. Passed over: spent; to the end: for the purpose
- 43. **silly:** pitiful, defenseless (a conventional epithet for **sheep**) See picture, page 120.
 - 47. homely: plain, simple
 - 50. secure: i.e., safely
 - 51. delicates: luxuries, delights
 - 53. couchèd in: reposed on; curious: exquisite
 - 54. waits on: lie in wait for



Shearing the fleece. (2.5.37)
From Pietro de Crescenzi, [Ruralia commoda, 1561].

To be no better than a homely swain, To sit upon a hill as I do now, To carve out dials quaintly, point by point, Thereby to see the minutes how they run: How many makes the hour full complete, How many hours brings about the day, How many days will finish up the year, How many years a mortal man may live. When this is known, then to divide the times: So many hours must I tend my flock. So many hours must I take my rest, So many hours must I contemplate, So many hours must I sport myself, So many days my ewes have been with young, 35 So many weeks ere the poor fools will ean, So many years ere I shall shear the fleece; So minutes, hours, days, months, and years, Passed over to the end they were created, Would bring white hairs unto a quiet grave. Ah, what a life were this! How sweet, how lovely! Gives not the hawthorn bush a sweeter shade To shepherds looking on their silly sheep Than doth a rich embroidered canopy To kings that fear their subjects' treachery? 45 O yes, it doth, a thousandfold it doth. And to conclude, the shepherd's homely curds, His cold thin drink out of his leather bottle. His wonted sleep under a fresh tree's shade, All which secure and sweetly he enjoys, 50 Is far beyond a prince's delicates— His viands sparkling in a golden cup, His body couchèd in a curious bed-When care, mistrust, and treason waits on him.

Alarum. Enter at one door a Son that hath killed his Father, \(\text{carrying the body.} \) \(\text{} \)

80

55. Ill ... nobody: proverbial

57. May be possessed with: may possess; crowns: coins worth 5 shillings

58. haply: by chance or accident

62. unwares: unknowingly, unintentionally

63. **heavy:** oppressive, distressful (The word **begetting** perhaps colors **heavy** with the sense of "pregnant.")

64. **pressed:** compelled to serve, impressed; **forth:** i.e., away **from London**

65. man: servant

68. bereavèd: robbed, deprived

75. abide: suffer, undergo

77-78. let... break: i.e., let our hearts break and our eyes be blinded with tears like civil war: i.e., like a kingdom torn by civil war

78. o'ercharged: oppressed



Priam. (2.5.120)
From [Guillaume Rouillé,]
Promptuarii iconum... (1553).

SON Ill blows the wind that profits nobody. 55 This man, whom hand to hand I slew in fight, May be possessed with some store of crowns. And I, that haply take them from him now. May yet ere night yield both my life and them To some man else, as this dead man doth me. 60 Who's this? O God! It is my father's face. Whom in this conflict I unwares have killed. O heavy times, begetting such events! From London by the King was I pressed forth. My father, being the Earl of Warwick's man, 65 Came on the part of York, pressed by his master. And I, who at his hands received my life, Have by my hands of life bereaved him. Pardon me, God, I knew not what I did; And pardon, father, for I knew not thee. 70 My tears shall wipe away these bloody marks, And no more words till they have flowed their fill. THe weeps.

KING HENRY

O piteous spectacle! O bloody times!
Whiles lions war and battle for their dens,
Poor harmless lambs abide their enmity.
Weep, wretched man. I'll aid thee tear for tear,
And let our hearts and eyes, like civil war,
Be blind with tears and break, o'ercharged with grief.

Enter at another door a Father that hath killed his Son, bearing of his 「Son's body.」

FATHER

Thou that so stoutly hath resisted me, Give me thy gold, if thou hast any gold, For I have bought it with an hundred blows. But let me see: is this our foeman's face? Ah, no, no, no, it is mine only son!

	1 99
85. Throw up: i.e., raise, throw open; showers: i.e., showers of tears 87. kills: i.e., kill 89. stratagems: deeds of blood and violence; fell: cruel 90. Erroneous: criminal; mutinous: turbulent, contentious 92–93. gavelate: While the meaning here is unclear, the rhetorical device of syncrisis (contrast) in gave/bereft and too soon/too late is obvious. Late here means, in part, "recently" and soon may mean "readily." (See longer note, page 257.) 94. grief: suffering 95. stay: stop; ruthful: piteous, lamentable 99. purple: crimson 100. presenteth: exhibit, display 101. Wither one rose: i.e., may one rose wither 104. Take on with: be furious with, rage against; satisfied: sufficiently answered 107. chances: unfortunate events 108. Misthink: think ill of	Ah, boy, if a Throw up to Blown with Upon thy wood, pity Good What strata Erroneous, This deadly O, boy, thy And hath bound to be above O, that my O pity, pity, The red rose The fatal contraction of the one his The other house of the one will be above of the the other house of the theory of the the other house of the theory of the the theory of the t
	SON Was ever so

Ah, boy, if any life be left in thee,	
Throw up thine eye! See, see, what showers arise,	85
Blown with the windy tempest of my heart	
Upon thy wounds, that kills mine eye and heart!	
O, pity God this miserable age!	
What stratagems, how fell, how butcherly,	
Erroneous, mutinous, and unnatural	90
This deadly quarrel daily doth beget!	
O, boy, thy father gave thee life too soon,	
And hath bereft thee of thy life too late!	*
ING HENRY	
Woe above woe, grief more than common grief!	
O, that my death would stay these ruthful deeds!	95
O pity, pity, gentle heaven, pity!	
The red rose and the white are on his face,	
The fatal colors of our striving houses;	
The one his purple blood right well resembles,	
The other his pale cheeks methinks presenteth.	100
Wither one rose and let the other flourish;	
If you contend, a thousand lives must wither.	
SON	
How will my mother for a father's death	
Take on with me and ne'er be satisfied!	
ATHER	
How will my wife for slaughter of my son	105
Shed seas of tears and ne'er be satisfied!	
ANG HENRY	
How will the country for these woeful chances	
Misthink the King and not be satisfied!	
SON	
Was ever son so rued a father's death?	
FATHER	
Was ever father so bemoaned his son?	110
CING HENRY	
Was ever king so grieved for subjects' woe?	
Much is your sorrow, mine ten times so much.	and the second

130

135

SON

118. **obsequious:** dutiful in performing funeral obsequies

119. no more: i.e., no more sons (line 120)

120. **Priam:** king of Troy, reputed to have fifty **valiant sons,** many of whom died in the Trojan War (See picture, page 96.)

123. overgone: overcome, oppressed

126. a chafèd: an angry

127. hold us in pursuit: put us to flight

128. post amain: speed with all your might

129. brace: pair, couple

130. flying: fleeing

135. expostulate: talk, discuss



A greyhound. (2.5.129) From Edward Topsell, *The historie of foure-footed beasts*...(1607).

100

I'll bear thee hence, where I may weep my fill.

The exits, bearing the body.

FATHER

These arms of mine shall be thy winding-sheet;
My heart, sweet boy, shall be thy sepulcher,
For from my heart thine image ne'er shall go.
My sighing breast shall be thy funeral bell;
And so obsequious will thy father be
「E'en for the loss of thee, having no more,
As Priam was for all his valiant sons.

120
I'll bear thee hence, and let them fight that will,
For I have murdered where I should not kill.

He exits, 「bearing the body.]

KING HENRY

Sad-hearted men, much overgone with care, Here sits a king more woeful than you are.

Alarums. Excursions. Enter Queen Margaret, Prince Edward, and Exeter, fall wearing the red rose.

PRINCE EDWARD

Fly, father, fly, for all your friends are fled, And Warwick rages like a chafed bull. Away, for Death doth hold us in pursuit.

OUEEN MARGARET

Mount you, my lord; towards Berwick post amain. Edward and Richard, like a brace of greyhounds Having the fearful flying hare in sight, With fiery eyes sparkling for very wrath And bloody steel grasped in their ireful hands, Are at our backs, and therefore hence amain.

EXETER

Away, for Vengeance comes along with them. Nay, stay not to expostulate, make speed; Or else come after; I'll away before.

10

15

20

2.6 Lord Clifford enters wounded to the death. Warwick, Edward, Richard, and George find Clifford's body and taunt him. They prepare to cut off his head and place it over York's city gate. Before they march to London in triumph, Warwick announces his plan to win Lady Bona as Edward's bride, and Edward makes George the Duke of Clarence and Richard the Duke of Gloucester.

1-2. **Here...light:** For the image of life as a **candle**, see longer note, page 258.

5. My... fear: i.e., love and fear of me; glued: attached, allied

6. **now I:** i.e., **now** that **I; tough...melts:** i.e., strong alliances dissolve **tough:** sticky, glutinous **commixtures:** compounds

7. misproud: arrogant, wickedly proud

8. And...sun: Many editions insert an additional line before this one. See longer note, page 258.

10–12. **O Phoebus...earth:** In classical mythology, **Phaëton** persuaded his father **Phoebus**, the sun god, to let him drive the chariot of the sun, with disastrous results to **the earth.** (For Phaëton's fall, see picture, page 38.) **check:** rein, control

13. swayed: ruled, governed

15. Giving no ground: i.e., refusing to yield

16. sprung: come forth suddenly, issued

18. mourning widows: i.e., widows mourning

19. **chair:** throne

20. cherish: foster

23. hold out: keep up, continue

KING HENRY

Nay, take me with thee, good sweet Exeter; Not that I fear to stay, but love to go Whither the Queen intends. Forward, away! They exit.

「Scene 67

A loud alarum. Enter Clifford, [wearing the red rose,] wounded.

CLIFFORD

Here burns my candle out; ay, here it dies, Which whiles it lasted gave King Henry light. O Lancaster, I fear thy overthrow More than my body's parting with my soul! My love and fear glued many friends to thee; And now I fall, thy tough commixtures melts, Impairing Henry, strength'ning misproud York; And whither fly the gnats but to the sun? And who shines now but Henry's enemies? O Phoebus, hadst thou never given consent That Phaëton should check thy fiery steeds, Thy burning car never had scorched the earth! And Henry, hadst thou swayed as kings should do, Or as thy father and his father did, Giving no ground unto the house of York, They never then had sprung like summer flies; I and ten thousand in this luckless realm Had left no mourning widows for our death, And thou this day hadst kept thy chair in peace. For what doth cherish weeds but gentle air? And what makes robbers bold but too much lenity? Bootless are plaints, and cureless are my wounds; No way to fly, no strength to hold out flight. The foe is merciless and will not pity,

35

40

45

27. effuse: pouring out, effusion

29 SD. retreat: signal to retire from the field

30. breathe we: i.e., let us rest

32. **bloody-minded:** bloodthirsty

33. led: commanded, governed

34. fretting gust: i.e., sudden gust of wind

35. **argosy:** a large merchant vessel (See picture, below.) **stem:** breast, make headway against

38. his: i.e., Richard's

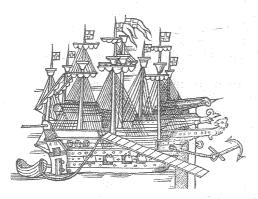
41. takes...leave: i.e., bids its heavy farewell heavy: ponderous; sorrowful

42. departing: separation

44. If: whether; gently used: treated honorably

45. doom: decree

46–50. **Who...York:** In this image, **York** is **the root** of the family tree on which his sons are the branches. **tender spray:** delicate shoot or twig



An argosy. (2.6.35)
From Robert Hitchcock, A politique platt... (1580 [i.e., 1581]).

104

For at their hands I have deserved no pity.

The air hath got into my deadly wounds,
And much effuse of blood doth make me faint.
Come, York and Richard, Warwick and the rest.
I stabbed your fathers' bosoms; split my breast.

The faints.

Alarum and retreat. Enter Edward, Warwick, Richard, and Soldiers, Montague, and 「George, Tall wearing the white rose.]

EDWARD

Now breathe we, lords. Good fortune bids us pause And smooth the frowns of war with peaceful looks. Some troops pursue the bloody-minded queen That led calm Henry, though he were a king, As doth a sail filled with a fretting gust Command an argosy to stem the waves. But think you, lords, that Clifford fled with them?

No, 'tis impossible he should escape,
For, though before his face I speak the words,
Your brother Richard marked him for the grave,
And wheresoe'er he is, he's surely dead.

Clifford groans, fand dies.

RICHARD

Whose soul is that which takes her heavy leave? A deadly groan, like life and death's departing. $\lceil_{\text{EDWARD}} \rceil$

See who it is; and, now the battle's ended, If friend or foe, let him be gently used.

RICHARD

Revoke that doom of mercy, for 'tis Clifford, Who not contented that he lopped the branch In hewing Rutland when his leaves put forth, But set his murd'ring knife unto the root

53. this: i.e., the head of Clifford; supply the room: i.e., take its place

54. Measure ... answered: i.e., our response must exactly match their offense (Measure for measure alludes to several biblical passages. See longer note, page 259.)

55. that fatal . . . house: i.e., that screech owl (a bird of ill omen) fatal to the house of York (Proverbial: "The screeching owl bodes death" [line 56].) See picture, page 246.

59. is bereft: has been taken away

62. beams: light rays (See longer note to 2.6.1-2, page 258, for the image of life as light.)

63. nor sees: neither sees

64. would: i.e., I wish

65. **policy:** cunning

68. vex: harass; eager: biting

72. faults: transgressions

From whence that tender spray did sweetly spring, I mean our princely father, Duke of York.	50
WARWICK	
From off the gates of York fetch down the head, Your father's head, which Clifford placed there;	
Instead whereof let this supply the room. Measure for measure must be answerèd.	
EDWARD	
Bring forth that fatal screech owl to our house	55
That nothing sung but death to us and ours;	i
Now death shall stop his dismal threat'ning sound,	
And his ill-boding tongue no more shall speak.	
WARWICK	
I think his understanding is bereft.—	
Speak, Clifford, dost thou know who speaks to	- 60
thee?—	
Dark cloudy death o'ershades his beams of life,	
And he nor sees nor hears us what we say.	
RICHARD	
O, would he did—and so, perhaps, he doth!	
Tis but his policy to counterfeit,	65
Because he would avoid such bitter taunts	
Which in the time of death he gave our father.	
GEORGE	
If so thou think'st, vex him with eager words.	
RICHARD	
Clifford, ask mercy and obtain no grace.	
EDWARD	
Clifford, repent in bootless penitence.	70
WARWICK	
Clifford, devise excuses for thy faults.	
GEORGE	
While we devise fell tortures for thy faults.	
RICHARD	

Thou didst love York, and I am son to York.

EDWARD

100

75. fence: protect

76. wast wont: were accustomed to doing

77. goes hard: i.e., is in trouble

79. by my soul: a mild oath

81. despite: contempt, disdain

82. issuing: flowing

84. Stifle: choke, suffocate; unstaunchèd: unsquenched

87. rear it: set it up and a sprange all the stage and the

90. cut: pass sharply through

92. sinew: tie together

93. France: perhaps, the King of France

94. **scattered:** thrown down (like seeds in planting); or, perhaps, cast down, defeated

99. effect: bring about

100. thou wilt: i.e., you wish, you determine

101. **in thy shoulder:** i.e., in your strength, with your support **shoulder:** seat of muscular strength employed in carrying; **seat:** royal authority or dignity; foundation

102. the thing: i.e., anything

Thou pitied'st Rutland; I will pity thee. GEORGE Where's Captain Margaret to fence you now? 75 WARWICK They mock thee, Clifford; swear as thou wast wont. RICHARD What, not an oath? Nay, then, the world goes hard When Clifford cannot spare his friends an oath. I know by that he's dead; and, by my soul, If this right hand would buy \[but \] two hours' life 80 That I in all despite might rail at him. This hand should chop it off, and with the issuing Stifle the villain whose unstaunched thirst York and young Rutland could not satisfy. 85 WARWICK Ay, but he's dead. Off with the traitor's head, And rear it in the place your father's stands. And now to London with triumphant march, There to be crowned England's royal king. From whence shall Warwick cut the sea to France 90 And ask the Lady Bona for thy queen; So shalt thou sinew both these lands together. And having France thy friend, thou shalt not dread The scattered foe that hopes to rise again; For though they cannot greatly sting to hurt, 95 Yet look to have them buzz to offend thine ears. First will I see the coronation. And then to Brittany I'll cross the sea To effect this marriage, so it please my lord. EDWARD

Even as thou wilt, sweet Warwick, let it be:

Wherein thy counsel and consent is wanting.—

For in thy shoulder do I build my seat, And never will I undertake the thing self: i.e., as if he were I

106. him pleaseth: i.e., he thinks

108. Gloucester's . . . ominous: English chronicles note that three dukes of Gloucester (before Richard himself) met violent deaths.

105. of Clarence: i.e., Duke of Clarence; as our-

111. see . . . possession: i.e., possess these honors



Agamemnon. (2.2.152) From Geoffrey Whitney, A choice of emblemes . . . (1586).

Richard, I will create thee Duke of Gloucester, And George, of Clarence. Warwick as ourself Shall do and undo as him pleaseth best.

RICHARD

111

Let me be Duke of Clarence, George of Gloucester, For Gloucester's dukedom is too ominous.

WARWICK

Tut, that's a foolish observation. Richard, be Duke of Gloucester. Now to London, To see these honors in possession.

They exit, \(\text{with Clifford's body.} \)

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HENRY VI Part 3

ACT 3

- **3.1** King Henry is captured by two gamekeepers, who now owe allegiance to King Edward.
- 1. brake: clump of bushes; shroud ourselves: take cover
- 2. laund: clearing; anon: soon
- 3. **covert:** place of concealment; thicket; **stand:** position in ambush
- 4. Culling . . . deer: selecting the best of the deer
 - 7. shoot is lost: i.e., shot will be wasted
 - 8. at the best: i.e., in the best possible way
 - 9. for: i.e., so that
 - 10. on a day: i.e., one day
 - 11. self: same
 - 12. stav: stop talking; wait
- 13. am I stol'n: i.e., have I secretly departed; even of: i.e., out of (Even conveys the sense of "precisely, exactly.")
 - 14. wishful: yearning, wistful
 - 16. Thy place: your high position



A crossbow. (3.1.6) From Wilhelm Dilich, . . . Krieges-Schule . . . (1689).

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$\lceil ACT 3 \rceil$

[Scene 1]

Enter [two Gamekeepers,] with crossbows in their hands.

FIRST GAMEKEEPER

Under this thick-grown brake we'll shroud ourselves, For through this laund anon the deer will come; And in this covert will we make our stand.

Culling the principal of all the deer.

SECOND GAMEKEEPER

I'll stay above the hill, so both may shoot.

FIRST GAMEKEEPER
That cannot be. The noise of thy crossbow

Will scare the herd, and so my shoot is lost. Here stand we both, and aim we at the best.

And for the time shall not seem tedious,
I'll tell thee what befell me on a day

In this self place where now we mean to stand.

10

15

SECOND GAMEKEEPER

Here comes a man; let's stay till he be past.

Enter King \(\text{Henry}, \) in disguise, \(\text{with a prayer book}. \)

KING HENRY

From Scotland am I stol'n, even of pure love, To greet mine own land with my wishful sight. No, Harry, Harry, 'tis no land of thine! Thy place is filled, thy scepter wrung from thee,

- 17. balm: fragrant oil used in coronations
- 18. Caesar: monarch, emperor
- 19. **press...right:** push forward to beg for justice
 - 20. redress of: i.e., assistance or aid from
 - 21. an: if
- 22. **whose...fee:** According to William Harrison's *Description of England* (1587), the skin and head of the slain deer were given to the gamekeeper as a **fee**, or perquisite.
- 24. adversaries: accented on the second syllable (Editors usually change to "adversity." See longer note, page 259.)
 - 31. To wife: i.e., as a wife
 - 34. Lewis: i.e., King Lewis of France
 - 37. batt'ry in: i.e., attack on
 - 39. whiles she: i.e., while Margaret
- 40. Nero: i.e., even a vicious tyrant like the Roman emperor Nero; tainted: affected, touched
 - 41. brinish: briny, salty
 - 46. installed: formally instated
 - 47. That: i.e., so that, with the result that

Thy balm washed off wherewith thou wast anointed	d.
No bending knee will call thee Caesar now,	
No humble suitors press to speak for right,	
No, not a man comes for redress of thee;	20
For how can I help them an not myself?	
FIRST GAMEKEEPER, \(\text{faside to Second Gamekeeper} \)	
Ay, here's a deer whose skin's a keeper's fee.	
This is the quondam king. Let's seize upon him.	
KING HENRY	
Let me embrace the sour adversaries,	
For wise men say it is the wisest course.	25
SECOND GAMEKEEPER, \[\textit{ aside to First Gamekeeper} \]	
Why linger we? Let us lay hands upon him.	
FIRST GAMEKEEPER, [aside to Second Gamekeeper]	
Forbear awhile; we'll hear a little more.	
KING HENRY	
My queen and son are gone to France for aid,	
And, as I hear, the great commanding Warwick	
Is thither gone to crave the French king's sister	30
To wife for Edward. If this news be true,	
Poor queen and son, your labor is but lost,	
For Warwick is a subtle orator,	
And Lewis a prince soon won with moving words.	
By this account, then, Margaret may win him,	35
For she's a woman to be pitied much.	
Her sighs will make a batt'ry in his breast,	
Her tears will pierce into a marble heart.	
The tiger will be mild whiles she doth mourn,	
And Nero will be tainted with remorse	40
To hear and see her plaints, her brinish tears.	
Ay, but she's come to beg, Warwick to give;	
She on his left side craving aid for Henry;	
He on his right asking a wife for Edward.	
She weeps and says her Henry is deposed;	45
He smiles and says his Edward is installed;	
That she, poor wretch, for grief can speak no more,	

Whiles Warwick tells his title, smooths the wrong.

Inferreth arguments of mighty strength,

- 48. tells his title: declares Edward's claim to the crown; smooths: glosses over, makes less conspicuous; the wrong: the injustice
 - 49. **Inferreth:** brings forward
- 51. his sister: i.e., the French king's sister (In history, Lady Bona was King Lewis's sister-in-law. In this play, she is always referred to as his sister—a word that at the time could also mean "sister-inlaw.") what else: i.e., anything else, anything and everything
 - 57. should: would
- 63. Indian stones: gems from either the East or West Indies, both famous sources of treasure
- 64. My crown . . . content: Proverbial: "A mind content is as a crown."



Helen. (2.2.150) From [Guillaume Rouillé,] ... Promptuarii iconum ... (1553).

And in conclusion wins the King from her 50 With promise of his sister and what else To strengthen and support King Edward's place. O Margaret, thus 'twill be, and thou, poor soul, Art then forsaken, as thou went'st forlorn. SECOND GAMEKEEPER Say, what art thou [that] talk'st of kings and queens? KING HENRY More than I seem, and less than I was born to: A man at least, for less I should not be: And men may talk of kings, and why not I? SECOND GAMEKEEPER Ay, but thou talk'st as if thou wert a king. KING HENRY Why, so I am in mind, and that's enough. SECOND GAMEKEEPER But if thou be a king, where is thy crown? KING HENRY My crown is in my heart, not on my head: Not decked with diamonds and Indian stones. Nor to be seen. My crown is called content: A crown it is that seldom kings enjoy. 65 SECOND GAMEKEEPER Well, if you be a king crowned with content, Your crown content and you must be contented To go along with us. For, as we think, You are the king King Edward hath deposed; And we his subjects sworn in all allegiance 70 Will apprehend you as his enemy. KING HENRY But did you never swear and break an oath? SECOND GAMEKEEPER

No, never such an oath, nor will not now.

SZENIC ETTAINSZ

- 82. simple: foolish
- 83. Look as: just as
- 85. **Obeying...wind:** acting as compelled by my breath
- 88. **lightness:** wordplay on (1) the fickleness of **common men;** (2) the light weight of a **feather** (line 83)
 - 95. seated: established on the throne
 - 97. officers: i.e., officers of justice; jailers
 - 99. what God will: i.e., whatever God wills



A shepherd tending his flock. (2.5.22, 31, 43) From *Hortus sanitatis*... (1536).

AING HEART	
Where did you dwell when I was King of England?	
SECOND GAMEKEEPER	
Here in this country, where we now remain.	75
KING HENRY	
I was anointed king at nine months old.	
My father and my grandfather were kings,	
And you were sworn true subjects unto me.	
And tell me, then, have you not broke your oaths?	
FIRST GAMEKEEPER	
No, for we were subjects but while you were king.	80
KING HENRY	
Why, am I dead? Do I not breathe a man?	
Ah, simple men, you know not what you swear.	
Look as I blow this feather from my face	
And as the air blows it to me again,	
Obeying with my wind when I do blow	85
And yielding to another when it blows,	
Commanded always by the greater gust,	
Such is the lightness of you common men.	
But do not break your oaths, for of that sin	
My mild entreaty shall not make you guilty.	90
Go where you will, the King shall be commanded,	
And be you kings: command, and I'll obey.	
FIRST GAMEKEEPER	
We are true subjects to the King, King Edward.	
KING HENRY	
So would you be again to Henry	
If he were seated as King Edward is.	95
FIRST GAMEKEEPER	
We charge you in God's name and the King's	
To go with us unto the officers.	
KING HENRY	
In God's name, lead. Your king's name be obeyed,	
And what God will, that let your king perform.	
And what he will, I humbly yield unto.	100
They exit.	

15

20

- 3.2 King Edward, while hearing Lady Grey's petition for her dead husband's land, decides he wants her for his mistress; she refuses. He then asks her to become his queen, to the chagrin of Richard and Clarence. News comes of Henry's capture. Left alone, Richard contemplates his life and decides to obtain the crown for himself despite the number of human obstacles in his way.
- 1-7. at Saint Albans...life: See longer note, page 260. Saint Albans field: i.e., the battle of Saint Albans the conqueror: i.e., the Yorkists, led by Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York suit: petition in quarrel of: i.e., in the cause of, on the side of

12. **thing:** a word with strong sexual associations; **grant:** (1) consent or agree to; or (2) allow (him) to have

14 SP. CLARENCE, formerly GEORGE: See longer note, page 260.

14. **He...game:** i.e., **he knows** how to hunt (with an allusion to **the game** of sexual seduction or activity); **keeps the wind:** stays downwind of the prey (See picture, page 128.)

19. May . . . to: i.e., please; resolve: answer

20. **what your pleasure is:** i.e., whatever you decide (See line 22 for the potential ambiguity of the word **pleasure.**)

21. warrant you: i.e., guarantee that you will recover

22. **An if:** i.e., **if; pleasure you:** (1) please you; (2) gratify you sexually

23. **Fight...blow:** language from dueling, here given sexual meanings **closer:** i.e., nearer to the adversary's body, to avoid his blows **good faith:** a mild oath **catch:** receive

[Scene: 2]

Enter King Edward, 「Richard, Duke of T Gloucester, 「George, Duke of T Clarence, Lady Grey, 「and Attendants.」

KING EDWARD

Brother of Gloucester, at Saint Albans field
This lady's husband, Sir Richard Grey, was slain,
His land then seized on by the conqueror.
Her suit is now to repossess those lands,
Which we in justice cannot well deny,
Because in quarrel of the house of York
The worthy gentleman did lose his life.

RICHARD

Your Highness shall do well to grant her suit; It were dishonor to deny it her.

KING EDWARD

It were no less, but yet I'll make a pause.

RICHARD, 「aside to Clarence Yea, is it so?

I see the lady hath a thing to grant

Before the King will grant her humble suit.

CLARENCE, 「formerly GEORGE, aside to Richard He knows the game; how true he keeps the wind! RICHARD, 「aside to Clarence Silence!

KING EDWARD

Widow, we will consider of your suit,
And come some other time to know our mind.

LADY GREY

Right gracious lord, I cannot brook delay.

May it please your Highness to resolve me now,
And what your pleasure is shall satisfy me.

RICHARD, 「aside to Clarence]

Ay, widow? Then I'll warrant you all your lands, An if what pleases him shall pleasure you. Fight closer, or, good faith, you'll catch a blow.

24. fear her not: i.e., don't worry about her; chance: chances, happens; fall: (1) fall down; (2) surrender (her chastity and honor)

25. take vantages: (1) be in a superior position;

(2) take advantage (of her)

27. beg...of: wordplay on the phrase "to beg a person," which meant "to petition the Court of Wards for custody of a minor"

28. whip me: a mild curse; he'll: he would

32. pitiful: compassionate; dread: revered

33. give us leave: i.e., pardon us, give us privacy; trv: test: wit: understanding, mental quickness

34. good ... you: i.e., you have our obedience; have leave: have permission

35. take leave: says farewell; leave you: abandon you, forsake you; crutch: symbol of old age

37. full as: just as

39. sustain: undergo, submit to

41. Therefore: for that reason



Vizards, or masks, (1.4.118) From Guillaume de la Perrière, Le théâtre des bons engins . . . [1539?].

CLARENCE, [aside to Richard] I fear her not, unless she chance to fall. RICHARD, [aside to Clarence] God forbid that, for he'll take vantages. 25 KING EDWARD How many children hast thou, widow? Tell me. CLARENCE, [aside to Richard] I think he means to beg a child of her. RICHARD, [aside to Clarence] Nay, then, whip me; he'll rather give her two. LADY GREY Three, my most gracious lord. RICHARD, [aside to Clarence] You shall have four if you'll be ruled by him. 30 KING EDWARD Twere pity they should lose their father's lands. LADY GREY Be pitiful, dread lord, and grant it then. KING EDWARD Lords, give us leave. I'll try this widow's wit. Richard and Clarence stand aside. RICHARD, [aside to Clarence] Ay, good leave have you, for you will have leave Till youth take leave and leave you to the crutch. 35 KING EDWARD Now tell me, madam, do you love your children? LADY GREY Ay, full as dearly as I love myself. KING EDWARD And would you not do much to do them good? LADY GREY To do them good I would sustain some harm. KING EDWARD Then get your husband's lands to do them good. 40 LADY GREY

Therefore I came unto your Majesty.

44. What . . . me: i.e., what will you do for me

45. rests in me: lies in my power

46. **take exceptions to:** find fault with, object to; **boon:** request (literally, a command couched in the form of a request)

47. except: unless

50. plies: solicits, urges; attacks; much... marble: proverbial

51. **As red as fire:** proverbial (here, describing Edward's ardent attack) See longer note, page 261.

57. match: agreement, compact ("To make a match" is to bring about a marriage.) seals: ratifies as if by affixing her seal; cursy: curtsy

58. **stay thee:** wait a minute, stop; **fruits:** enjoyment, benefits

KING EDWARD

I'll tell you how these lands are to be got.

LADY GREY

So shall you bind me to your Highness' service.

KING EDWARD
What service wilt thou do me if I give them?

What service wilt thou do me if I give them? LADY GREY

What you command that rests in me to do.

KING EDWARD

But you will take exceptions to my boon.

LADY GREY

No, gracious lord, except I cannot do it.
KING EDWARD

Ay, but thou canst do what I mean to ask.

LADY GREY

Why, then, I will do what your Grace commands. RICHARD, $\lceil aside\ to\ Clarence \rceil$

He plies her hard, and much rain wears the marble.

CLARENCE. 「aside to Richard

As red as fire! Nay, then, her wax must melt.

LADY GREY

Why stops my lord? Shall I not hear my task?

An easy task; 'tis but to love a king.

LADY GREY

That's soon performed because I am a subject.

KING EDWARD

Why, then, thy husband's lands I freely give thee.

I take my leave with many thousand thanks.

She curtsies and begins to exit.

55

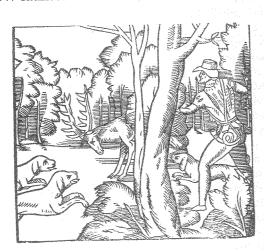
RICHARD, [aside to Clarence]

The match is made; she seals it with a cursy.

But stay thee; 'tis the fruits of love I mean.

LADY GREY

- 59. **fruits of love:** i.e., that which issues or results from **love**
 - 61. sue: i.e., seek
 - 64. by my troth: a mild oath
 - 66. perceive: see into
 - 67. perceive: understand, observe, comprehend
- 68. aims at: seeks to obtain; aim: guess, conjecture
 - 69. plain: plainly; aim: intend
- 72. **honesty:** chastity (during this period, the usual meaning of the word when applied to women)
 - 73. that loss: i.e., the loss of my chastity
 - 77. sadness: seriousness, soberness



"How true he keeps the wind!" (3.2.14)
From [George Turberville,] The noble arte of venerie or
hunting... (1611).

The fruits of love I mean, my loving liege. KING EDWARD Ay, but, I fear me, in another sense. 60 What love, think'st thou, I sue so much to get? LADY GREY My love till death, my humble thanks, my prayers, That love which virtue begs and virtue grants. KING EDWARD No, by my troth, I did not mean such love. LADY GREY Why, then, you mean not as I thought you did. 65 KING EDWARD But now you partly may perceive my mind. LADY GREY My mind will never grant what I perceive Your Highness aims at, if I aim aright. KING EDWARD To tell thee plain, I aim to lie with thee. LADY GREY To tell you plain, I had rather lie in prison. 70 KING EDWARD Why, then, thou shalt not have thy husband's lands. LADY GREY Why, then, mine honesty shall be my dower, For by that loss I will not purchase them. KING EDWARD Therein thou wrong'st thy children mightily. LADY GREY Herein your Highness wrongs both them and me. 75 But, mighty lord, this merry inclination Accords not with the sadness of my suit. Please you dismiss me either with ay or no. KING EDWARD Av. if thou wilt say "ay" to my request; No, if thou dost say "no" to my demand.

LADY GREY

					,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	250000000000000000000000000000000000000	-0.00 /40
86.	challenge:	have a	natural	right	or	claim	to

88. love: mistress, paramour

90. better . . . done: proverbial

91. fit ... withal: i.e., suitable for playing with

93. state: high rank, power

97. mean: inferior in rank

100. grieve: vex, trouble, annoy

104. by God's mother: an oath on the Virgin

105. other some: an indefinite number; happy: fortunate

107. Answer no more: i.e., raise no more objections

Then no, my ford; my sun is at an end.	
RICHARD, [[] aside to Clarence []]	
The widow likes him not; she knits her brows.	
CLARENCE, [aside to Richard]	
He is the bluntest wooer in Christendom.	
KING EDWARD, 「aside T	
Her looks doth argue her replete with modesty;	
Her words doth show her wit incomparable;	85
All her perfections challenge sovereignty.	
One way or other, she is for a king,	
And she shall be my love or else my queen.—	
Say that King Edward take thee for his queen?	
LADY GREY	
Tis better said than done, my gracious lord.	90
I am a subject fit to jest withal,	
But far unfit to be a sovereign.	
KING EDWARD	
Sweet widow, by my state I swear to thee	
I speak no more than what my soul intends,	
And that is, to enjoy thee for my love.	95
LADY GREY	
And that is more than I will yield unto.	
I know I am too mean to be your queen	
And yet too good to be your concubine.	
KING EDWARD	
You cavil, widow; I did mean my queen.	
LADY GREY	
Twill grieve your Grace my sons should call you	100
father.	
KING EDWARD	
No more than when my daughters call thee mother. Thou art a widow and thou hast some children,	
And, by God's mother, I, being but a bachelor,	
Have other some. Why, 'tis a happy thing	105
To be the father unto many sons.	103
Answer no more, for thou shalt be my queen.	
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108. **ghostly father:** priest, confessor; **done his shrift:** imposed his penance and given absolution

109. **shriver:** confessor; **for shift:** as a device or stratagem (with possible wordplay on **shift** as a woman's undergarment)

110. muse: wonder

111. sad: serious, somber

113. who: i.e., whom

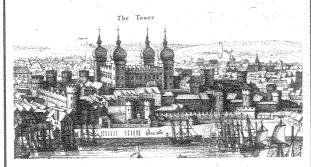
115. **ten days' wonder:** Proverbial: "A wonder lasts but nine days" (line 116).

117. extremes: the utmost imaginable degree

122. **Tower:** i.e., **Tower** of London, a fortress and armory (See picture, below.)

124. **question of:** ask questions about; **his appre-hension:** i.e., Henry's capture

125. **go you along:** i.e., accompany us; **use:** treat (Richard, in line 126, plays on **use** meaning "have sexual intercourse with.")



The Tower of London. (3.2.122; 4.8.57; 5.1.46; 5.5.50)
From Claes Jansz Visscher, Londinum
florentissima...urbs...[c. 1625].

RICHARD, [aside to Clarence] The ghostly father now hath done his shrift. CLARENCE, [aside to Richard] When he was made a shriver, 'twas for shift. KING EDWARD Brothers, you muse what chat we two have had. 1.10 RICHARD The widow likes it not, for she looks very sad. KING EDWARD You'd think it strange if I should marry her. CLARENCE To who, my lord? Why, Clarence, to myself. KING EDWARD RICHARD That would be ten days' wonder at the least. 1:15 CLARENCE That's a day longer than a wonder lasts. RICHARD By so much is the wonder in extremes. KING EDWARD

Well, jest on, brothers. I can tell you both Her suit is granted for her husband's lands.

Enter a Nobleman.

NOBLEMAN

My gracious lord, Henry, your foe, is taken
And brought your prisoner to your palace gate.
KING EDWARD

See that he be conveyed unto the Tower.

And go we, brothers, to the man that took him,

To question of his apprehension.—Widow, go you along.—Lords, use her 「honorably. ¬

They exit.
Richard remains.

120

127. Would: i.e., I wish; wasted: destroyed by decay or disease
128. hopeful branch: i.e., promising child
129. cross: bar, preclude; golden: flourishing, joy-
ous (but also suggesting the royal crown, called by
Lady Macbeth "the golden round" [Macbeth 1.5.31])
131. lustfulburièd: i.e., once Edward has died
133. unlooked-forbodies: their unantici-
pated descendants
134. their rooms: i.e., their fathers' positions or
stations
135. cold premeditation: i.e., depressing or
gloomy thought
137. one that: i.e., someone who
138. spies: i.e., sees; would tread: wishes to walk
139. were equal with: i.e., could travel as easily as
140. sunders: separates
141. lade it dry: i.e., remove all the water, as if
with a ladle; have his way: i.e., obtain a passageway
for his journey
142. So: in the same way
143. means: obstacles
144. cutoff: remove the causes (i.e., the
agents who "cross me from the golden time" [line
129]) See longer note, page 262.
145. Flattering me: beguiling myself
146. o'erweens: presumes
152. 'witch: bewitch, charm
154. accomplish: perhaps, acquire 155. Love: the goddess of love; forswore: rejected
156. for I should: i.e., so that I could; deal in:
have to do with: her: i.e., Love's
8 11(1∀\ \ \L\ \L\\ \Y\ \L\\ \X\\ \X\\ \X\\ \X\

159. make . . . mountain: i.e., spitefully make a

134

hump (transferred epithet)

RICHARD Ay, Edward will use women honorably! Would he were wasted-marrow, bones, and all-That from his loins no hopeful branch may spring To cross me from the golden time I look for. And yet, between my soul's desire and me. 130 The lustful Edward's title buried. Is Clarence, Henry, and his son, young Edward, And all the unlooked-for issue of their bodies To take their rooms ere I can place myself. A cold premeditation for my purpose. 135 Why, then, I do but dream on sovereignty Like one that stands upon a promontory And spies a far-off shore where he would tread, Wishing his foot were equal with his eye. And chides the sea that sunders him from thence. 140 Saying he'll lade it dry to have his way. So do I wish the crown, being so far off, And so I chide the means that keeps me from it. And so, I say, I'll cut the causes off, Flattering me with impossibilities. 145 My eye's too quick, my heart o'erweens too much. Unless my hand and strength could equal them. Well, say there is no kingdom then for Richard, What other pleasure can the world afford? I'll make my heaven in a lady's lap 150 And deck my body in gay ornaments, And 'witch sweet ladies with my words and looks, O miserable thought, and more unlikely. Than to accomplish twenty golden crowns! Why, Love forswore me in my mother's womb, 155 And, for I should not deal in her soft laws. She did corrupt frail Nature with some bribe To shrink mine arm up like a withered shrub; To make an envious mountain on my back,

164. **carries...dam:** i.e., doesn't look at all **like** its mother

166. **monstrous:** enormous (but with wordplay on "deformed"); **fault:** transgression; error

168. check: restrain; rebuke; o'erbear: oppress

169. person: bodily frame or figure

173. round impalèd: i.e., encircled

175. home: i.e., my goal

177. rents: rends, tears in pieces; rent with: torn by

178. way: path, course

181. catch: attain, get possession of

184. **smile...smile:** Proverbial: "To **smile** in one's face and cut one's throat."

185. cry "Content": i.e., exclaim "I am content"

188. **mermaid:** i.e., Siren (See longer note, page 262, and picture, page 146.)

189. basilisk: mythological reptile whose glance

is fatal (See picture, page 148.)

190–92. **Nestor, Ulysses, Sinon:** prominent figures in Homer's *Iliad*, which tells the story of the Trojan War (**Nestor** was famous as an **orator**, **Ulysses** as a schemer, and **Sinon** as a traitor whose deception won **Troy** for the Greeks. See picture, page 158.)

193. add colors to: i.e., be more changeable than

194. Change ... advantages: i.e., change to even more shapes than did Proteus (Proverbial: "As many shapes as Proteus.") Proteus: a sea god in Greek mythology who turned himself into any number of forms

Where sits Deformity to mock my body: 160 To shape my legs of an unequal size: To disproportion me in every part, Like to a chaos, or an unlicked bear-whelp, That carries no impression like the dam. And am I then a man to be beloved? 165 O monstrous fault to harbor such a thought! Then, since this earth affords no joy to me But to command, to check, to o'erbear such As are of better person than myself, I'll make my heaven to dream upon the crown, 170 And, whiles I live, t' account this world but hell Until my misshaped trunk that bears this head Be round impaled with a glorious crown. And yet I know not how to get the crown. For many lives stand between me and home; 175 And I, like one lost in a thorny wood, That rents the thorns and is rent with the thorns. Seeking a way and straying from the way. Not knowing how to find the open air, But toiling desperately to find it out, 180 Torment myself to catch the English crown. And from that torment I will free myself Or hew my way out with a bloody axe. Why, I can smile, and murder whiles I smile. And cry "Content" to that which grieves my heart. 185 And wet my cheeks with artificial tears. And frame my face to all occasions. I'll drown more sailors than the mermaid shall: I'll slay more gazers than the basilisk; I'll play the orator as well as Nestor, 190 Deceive more slyly than Ulysses could, And, like a Sinon, take another Trov. I can add colors to the chameleon. Change shapes with Proteus for advantages.

3.3 As Oueen Margaret persuades the French king Lewis to support her and Prince Edward, Warwick arrives with the offer of marriage from King Edward to Lady Bona. The offer is accepted, and Lewis promises to support King Edward. News then arrives of King Edward's marriage to Lady Grey. Lewis shifts his support once more to Margaret, and Warwick, humiliated, turns against Edward. Preparations are made for Warwick to lead French troops against Edward, with Margaret following later with another large French army.

O SD. Flourish: a fanfare to announce the king's entrance; sister: See note to 3.1.51.

2. Sit ... us: presumably indicating a ceremonial seat prepared for her near his throne, placed, as in 1.1, on a raised platform: us: i.e., me (the royal "we")

2-3. ill ... birth: i.e., is unbecoming to your position and lineage

6. strike her sail: i.e., be humble (The topsail on a ship was struck or lowered as a sign of surrender or salute.)

8. Albion's: England's

11. take . . . unto: i.e., assume a position corresponding to (Margaret may here sink to the floor in a theatrical gesture of **deep despair** [lines 13–14].)

12. to . . . myself: i.e., bring myself into conformity with my humble situation (with wordplay on seat [line 11] and on humble as "not elevated")

And set the murderous Machiavel to school. Can I do this and cannot get a crown? Tut, were it farther off, I'll pluck it down.

He exits.

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「Scene 37

Flourish. Enter Lewis the French king, his sister the Lady Bona, his Admiral called Bourbon. Prince Edward, Queen Margaret, and the Earl of Oxford, Tthe last three wearing the red rose.

Lewis sits, and riseth up again.

KING LEWIS

Fair Queen of England, worthy Margaret. Sit down with us. It ill befits thy state And birth that thou shouldst stand while Lewis doth sit.

OUEEN MARGARET

No, mighty King of France. Now Margaret Must strike her sail and learn awhile to serve Where kings command. I was, I must confess, Great Albion's queen in former golden days, But now mischance hath trod my title down And with dishonor laid me on the ground. Where I must take like seat unto my fortune And to my humble seat conform myself.

KING LEWIS

Why, say, fair queen, whence springs this deep despair?

QUEEN MARGARET

From such a cause as fills mine eyes with tears And stops my tongue, while heart is drowned in cares.

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10

KING LEWIS

17. **be...thyself:** continue to act as becomes your high social rank

19–20. **Yield . . . yoke:** i.e., do not subjugate yourself to Fortune (See note to 2.3.32.)

21. Still: always; continue to

22. plain: i.e., plainspoken

23. **if France**: i.e., **if** I, the King of **France**; **yield**: provide

25. leave: permission

28. Is, of a king: has, from being a king

29. a forlorn: a wretched man

35. crave: request

37. will: inclination, desire

38. people: i.e., commoners; peers: nobles

40. **heavy:** distressing, grievous

41. with...storm: i.e., use patience to calm your tumultuous emotions

42. we bethink: I consider; break it off: i.e., end your storm of distress

43. stay: delay, put off action

44. **stay:** wait (with possible wordplay on the transitive verb, which means "to support [someone]")

45. waiteth on: accompanies, attends as a consequence of

Whote'er it he he than will be it	
Whate'er it be, be thou still like thyself,	. 15
And sit thee by our side. Seats her by him.	
Yield not thy neck	
To Fortune's yoke, but let thy dauntless mind	. 2
Still ride in triumph over all mischance.	
Be plain, Queen Margaret, and tell thy grief.	
It shall be eased if France can yield relief.	
QUEEN MARGARET	
Those gracious words revive my drooping thoughts	
And give my tongue-tied sorrows leave to speak.	25
Now therefore be it known to noble Lewis	
That Henry, sole possessor of my love,	
Is, of a king, become a banished man	
And forced to live in Scotland a forlorn;	
While proud ambitious Edward, Duke of York,	30
Usurps the regal title and the seat	
Of England's true-anointed lawful king.	
This is the cause that I, poor Margaret,	
With this my son, Prince Edward, Henry's heir,	
Am come to crave thy just and lawful aid;	35
And if thou fail us, all our hope is done.	
Scotland hath will to help but cannot help;	
Our people and our peers are both misled,	
Our treasure seized, our soldiers put to flight,	
And, as thou seest, ourselves in heavy plight.	40
KING LEWIS	
Renowned queen, with patience calm the storm	
While we bethink a means to break it off.	
QUEEN MARGARET	
The more we stay, the stronger grows our foe.	
KING LEWIS	
The more I stay, the more I'll succor thee.	
QUEEN MARGARET	
O, but impatience waiteth on true sorrow.	45

60

46. breeder: source, cause

47. our presence: my presence

48. Our: i.e., England's

49. brave: a general epithet of praise

49 SD. descends: i.e., from the platform on which his throne is placed; ariseth: i.e., stands up

50. **second storm:** Lewis called Margaret's earlier emotional outburst a **storm** (line 41).

56. crave: request; league: compact, alliance

57. confirm: strengthen

58. nuptial knot: i.e., a marriage

59. **sister:** See note to 3.1.51.

63. leave and favor: i.e., permission

66. fame: report; late: recently



Venus, or "Love." (3.2.155) From Vincenzo Cartari, Le vere e noue imagini . . . (1615).

1.12

Enter Warwick, wearing the white rose.

And see where comes the breeder of my sorrow. KING LEWIS

What's he approacheth boldly to our presence? QUEEN MARGARET

Our Earl of Warwick, Edward's greatest friend. KING LEWIS, 「standing T

Welcome, brave Warwick. What brings thee to France?

He descends. She ariseth.

QUEEN MARGARET, 「aside Asy, now begins a second storm to rise, 50 For this is he that moves both wind and tide.

WARWICK

From worthy Edward, King of Albion,
My lord and sovereign and thy vowed friend,
I come in kindness and unfeigned love,
First, to do greetings to thy royal person,
And then to crave a league of amity,
And, lastly, to confirm that amity
With nuptial knot, if thou vouchsafe to grant
That virtuous Lady Bona, thy fair sister,
To England's king in lawful marriage.

To England's king in lawful marriage.

QUEEN MARGARET, 「aside The state of that go forward, Henry's hope is done.

WARWICK, speaking to Lady Bona
And, gracious madam, in our king's behalf,
I am commanded, with your leave and favor,
Humbly to kiss your hand, and with my tongue
To tell the passion of my sovereign's heart,
Where fame, late ent'ring at his heedful ears,
Hath placed thy beauty's image and thy virtue.

QUEEN MARGARET

King Lewis and Lady Bona, hear me speak Before you answer Warwick. His demand Springs not from Edward's well-meant honest love,

70	turoute.	usurpers

- 73. purchase: obtain, acquire
- 77. Look: make sure, take care
- 79. draw not on: do not bring about
- 80. sway the rule: i.e., govern as sovereigns
- 81. suppresseth: vanquishes
- 82. Injurious: insulting
- 85. no more art: i.e., are no more a
- 86. disannuls: i.e., invalidates, nullifies; John of Gaunt: See note to 1.1.19.
 - 87. Which: i.e., who
- 88-92. And after . . . descends. See genealogical chart, page 2. mirror: pattern, exemplar
- 93. haps it: does it happen that; smooth: wellspoken, plausible
 - 96. Methinks: it seems to me
- 97. tell: recount, enumerate; pedigree: line of descent, genealogy 98. silly: insufficient, scanty

 - 99. prescription: claim based on long possession
 - 102. bewray: reveal, divulge

But from deceit, bred by necessity;	
For how can tyrants safely govern home	
Unless abroad they purchase great alliance?	
To prove him tyrant, this reason may suffice:	
That Henry liveth still; but were he dead,	75
Yet here Prince Edward stands, King Henry's son.	
Look, therefore, Lewis, that by this league and	
marriage	
Thou draw not on thy danger and dishonor;	
For though usurpers sway the rule awhile,	80
Yet heav'ns are just, and time suppresseth wrongs.	
VARWICK	
Injurious Margaret!	
PRINCE EDWARD And why not "Queen"?	
VARWICK	
Because thy father Henry did usurp,	
And thou no more art prince than she is queen.	85
DXFORD	
Then Warwick disannuls great John of Gaunt,	
Which did subdue the greatest part of Spain;	
And after John of Gaunt, Henry the Fourth,	
Whose wisdom was a mirror to the wisest;	
And after that wise prince, Henry the Fifth,	: 90
Who by his prowess conquered all France.	
From these our Henry lineally descends.	
WARWICK A STATE OF THE STATE OF	
Oxford, how haps it in this smooth discourse	
You told not how Henry the Sixth hath lost	
All that which Henry the Fifth had gotten.	95
Methinks these peers of France should smile at that.	
But, for the rest: you tell a pedigree	
Of threescore and two years, a silly time	
To make prescription for a kingdom's worth.	
DXFORD	
Why, Warwick, canst thou speak against thy liege,	100
Whom thou obeyed'st thirty and six years.	

And not bewray thy treason with a blush?

- 103. fence: protect, fortify
- 104. buckler: shield, defend
- 106. injurious doom: wrongful sentence
- 108. done to death: executed
- 109. downfall: i.e., decline
- 116. use: engage in; conference: conversation
- 116 SD. aloof: apart, at a distance
- 119. even . . . conscience: i.e., upon thy very conscience
 - 120. were: would be
- 121. link: be connected, be joined; were not lawful: i.e., has not been lawfully
 - 123. gracious: acceptable, popular
 - 126. for truth: i.e., truthfully



Mermaids luring sailors to their destruction. (3.2.188) From Geoffrey Whitney, A choice of emblemes . . . (1586).

WARWICK	
Can Oxford, that did ever fence the right,	
Now buckler falsehood with a pedigree?	
For shame, leave Henry, and call Edward king.	105
*	100
OXFORD	
Call him my king, by whose injurious doom	
My elder brother, the Lord Aubrey Vere,	
Was done to death? And more than so, my father,	
Even in the downfall of his mellowed years,	
When nature brought him to the door of death?	110
No, Warwick, no. While life upholds this arm,	
This arm upholds the house of Lancaster.	
WARWICK And I the house of York.	
KING LEWIS	
Queen Margaret, Prince Edward, and Oxford,	
Vouchsafe, at our request, to stand aside	115
While I use further conference with Warwick.	113
They stand aloof.	
QUEEN MARGARET, [aside]	
Heavens grant that Warwick's words bewitch him	
not.	
KING LEWIS	
Now, Warwick, tell me, even upon thy conscience,	
Is Edward your true king? For I were loath	120
To link with him that were not lawful chosen.	
WARWICK	
Thereon I pawn my credit and mine honor.	
KING LEWIS	
But is he gracious in the people's eye?	
WARWICK	
The more that Henry was unfortunate.	
KING LEWIS	
Then further, all dissembling set aside,	125
Tell me for truth the measure of his love	
Unto our sister Bona.	
Unio oui sistei Dolla.	11 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (

120	heseem:	hafit
1/9	19475467671111	1360131

132. Whereof the root: i.e., the root of which:

134. **Exempt . . . disdain:** i.e., unaffected by malice but not by (Lady Bona's) scorn or contempt

135. **quit his pain:** i.e., take away **his pain** by returning his love

137. grant: consent

140. desert: excellence

141. **Mine...desire:** i.e., what I heard has invited my **judgment to desire** him

143. **forthwith:** at once; **articles:** a formal agreement; **drawn:** i.e., **drawn** up, written out

144. Touching: concerning

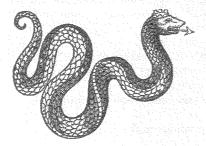
145. with . . . counterpoised: i.e. shall equal her dowry

149. device: scheme, stratagem

150. make void my suit: render my petition worthless

154. good success: achievement

156. late: just now



A basilisk. (3.2.189)

From Edward Topsell, The history of four-footed beasts and serpents . . . (1658).

WARWICK Such it seems As may be eem a monarch like himself. Myself have often heard him say and swear 130 That this his love was an [eternal] plant. Whereof the root was fixed in virtue's ground, The leaves and fruit maintained with beauty's sun, Exempt from envy but not from disdain, Unless the Lady Bona quit his pain. 135 KING LEWIS Now, sister, let us hear your firm resolve. LADY BONA Your grant or your denial shall be mine. (Speaks to Warwick.) Yet I confess that often ere this day. When I have heard your king's desert recounted, 140 Mine ear hath tempted judgment to desire. KING LEWIS Then, Warwick, thus: our sister shall be Edward's. And now forthwith shall articles be drawn Touching the jointure that your king must make, Which with her dowry shall be counterpoised.— 145 Draw near, Queen Margaret, and be a witness That Bona shall be wife to the English king. PRINCE EDWARD To Edward, but not to the English king. **OUEEN MARGARET** Deceitful Warwick, it was thy device By this alliance to make void my suit. 150 Before thy coming, Lewis was Henry's friend. KING LEWIS And still is friend to him and Margaret. But if your title to the crown be weak, As may appear by Edward's good success, Then 'tis but reason that I be released 155

From giving aid which late I promisèd.

KING LEWIS

QUEEN MARGARET

Yet shall you have all kindness at my hand

163. better 'twere: i.e., it would be better that

164. impudent: insolently disrespectful

168. **conveyance:** underhand dealing, cunning contrivance

169. birds . . . feather: proverbial

169 SD. **Post:** one who travels express carrying letters; **within:** offstage

178. mark: observe; as . . . nettled: i.e., as if he were angry

180. what are: Here, news is treated as plural.

181. unhoped: unanticipated

That your estate requires and mine can yield. WARWICK Henry now lives in Scotland at his ease, Where, having nothing, nothing can he lose,— 160 And as for you yourself, our quondam queen, You have a father able to maintain you. And better 'twere you troubled him than France OUEEN MARGARET Peace, impudent and shameless Warwick, Proud setter-up and puller-down of kings! 165 I will not hence till with my talk and tears. Both full of truth, I make King Lewis behold Thy sly conveyance and thy lord's false love, For both of you are birds of selfsame feather. Post blowing a horn within. KING LEWIS Warwick, this is some post to us or thee. 170 Enter the Post. POST speaks to Warwick. My lord ambassador, these letters are for you. Sent from your brother, Marquess Montague. (To Lewis.) These from our king unto your Majesty. (To Margaret.) And, madam, these for you—from whom. I know not. They all read their letters. 175 OXFORD, [aside] I like it well that our fair queen and mistress Smiles at her news, while Warwick frowns at his. PRINCE EDWARD, [aside] Nay, mark how Lewis stamps as he were nettled. I hope all's for the best.

Warwick, what are thy news? And yours, fair queen? 180

Mine, such as fill my heart with unhoped joys.

190

195

200

205

185. persuade: advise, counsel

192. clear from: innocent of

194. most himself: i.e., dishonors himself most of all (line 193)

198. impale him: i.e., encircle his head

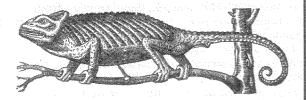
199. **native right:** i.e., **right** belonging to him by virtue of his birth

200. guerdoned: rewarded

201. my desert: what I deserve

205. true servitor: loyal servant

209. faults: offences



A chameleon. (3.2.193)
From Edward Topsell, *The history of . . . serpents . . .* (1658).

152

WARWICK

Mine, full of sorrow and heart's discontent.

KING LEWIS

What, has your king married the Lady Grey, And now, to soothe your forgery and his, Sends me a paper to persuade me patience? Is this th' alliance that he seeks with France?

Dare he presume to scorn us in this manner?
OUEEN MARGARET

I told your Majesty as much before.

This proveth Edward's love and Warwick's honesty.

WARWICK
King Lewis, I here protest in sight of heaven
And by the hope I have of heavenly bliss,
That I am clear from this misdeed of Edward's—
No more my king, for he dishonors me,
But most himself, if he could see his shame.
Did I forget that by the house of York
My father came untimely to his death?

My father came untimely to his death?
Did I let pass th' abuse done to my niece?
Did I impale him with the regal crown?
Did I put Henry from his native right?
And am I guerdoned at the last with shame?

Shame on himself, for my desert is honor!
And to repair my honor lost for him,
I here renounce him and return to Henry.

The removes the white rose.

My noble queen, let former grudges pass, And henceforth I am thy true servitor. I will revenge his wrong to Lady Bona And replant Henry in his former state.

QUEEN MARGARET

Warwick, these words have turned my hate to love, And I forgive and quite forget old faults, And joy that thou becom'st King Henry's friend.

- 213. bands: troops
- 215. tyrant: usurper
- 218. fall from him: i.e., desert Edward
- 219. matching: marrying
- 231. in post: at express speed, in haste
- 233. maskers: participants in a masque or masquerade (See picture, below.)
 - 234. revel it: make merry
- 235. **Thou seest what's passed:** i.e., you have seen what has taken place; **fear:** frighten; **withal:** with it
 - 236. in hope: i.e., hoping; prove: turn out to be
- 237. wear the willow garland: The willow garland symbolized the grief of lost love.



"Maskers." (3.3.233; 4.1.95)
From Giacomo Franco, Habiti d'huomeni...
venetiane... [1609?].

WARWICK So much his friend, ay, his unfeigned friend. That if King Lewis vouchsafe to furnish us With some few bands of chosen soldiers. I'll undertake to land them on our coast And force the tyrant from his seat by war. 215 Tis not his new-made bride shall succor him. And as for Clarence, as my letters tell me He's very likely now to fall from him For matching more for wanton lust than honor, Or than for strength and safety of our country. 220 LADY BONA Dear brother, how shall Bona be revenged But by thy help to this distressed queen? **OUEEN MARGARET** Renownèd prince, how shall poor Henry live Unless thou rescue him from foul despair? LADY BONA My quarrel and this English queen's are one. 225 WARWICK And mine, fair Lady Bona, joins with yours. KING LEWIS And mine with hers and thine and Margaret's. Therefore at last I firmly am resolved You shall have aid **OUEEN MARGARET** Let me give humble thanks for all, at once. 230 KING LEWIS Then, England's messenger, return in post, And tell false Edward, thy supposed king, That Lewis of France is sending over maskers To revel it with him and his new bride. Thou seest what's passed; go fear thy king withal. 235 LADY BONA Tell him, in hope he'll prove a widower shortly,

I wear the willow garland for his sake.

246. b fight 248. a 255. n 256. f 258. f 261. p 262. s 264. w 265. le	veeds: garments pid battle: challenge false Ed fresh supply: i.e., reinforcement notion: proposition, proposal air: beautiful aith: promise bledge: guarantee the performance tay we: do we delay vaft: convey, carry; over: i.e., over ong till: am impatient until; mi	s e of the water
	calamity	STATE OF THE STATE
266. d	ame: woman of rank, lady	
	•	
		iller in the second
		, eli

ΩĮ	JEEN MARGARET	
	Tell him my mourning weeds are laid aside And I am ready to put armor on.	
W.	ARWICK	
	Tell him from me that he hath done me wrong,	240
	And therefore I'll uncrown him ere 't be long.	
	There's thy reward.	
	Be gone. Post exits.	
KI	NG LEWIS But, Warwick,	
	Thou and Oxford with five thousand men	245
	Shall cross the seas and bid false Edward battle:	
	And as occasion serves, this noble queen	
	And prince shall follow with a fresh supply.	
	Yet ere thou go, but answer me one doubt:	
	What pledge have we of thy firm loyalty?	250
127	ARWICK	
VV.	This shall assure my constant loyalty:	
	That if our queen and this young prince agree,	
	I'll join mine eldest daughter, and my joy,	
	To him forthwith in holy wedlock bands.	
_	JEEN MARGARET	
Ų	그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그	255
	Yes, I agree, and thank you for your motion.	255
	Son Edward, she is fair and virtuous.	
	Therefore, delay not; give thy hand to Warwick,	
	And with thy hand, thy faith irrevocable,	
	That only Warwick's daughter shall be thine.	
PΙ	RINCE EDWARD	
	Yes, I accept her, for she well deserves it,	260
	And here, to pledge my vow, I give my hand.	
	He gives his hand to Warwick.	
K	NG LEWIS	4
	Why stay we now? These soldiers shall be levied,	
	And thou, Lord Bourbon, our High Admiral,	
	Shall waft them over with our royal fleet.	
	I long till Edward fall by war's mischance	265
	For mocking marriage with a dame of France.	

270. answer: encounter hostilely; demand: request

271. **none:** no one; **stale:** decoy, cover for (Edward's) sinister designs

273, 274. **chief:** i.e., foremost or most influential person



Sinon overlooking Troy. (3.2.192)
From Geoffrey Whitney, A choice of emblemes... (1586).

All but Warwick exit.

WARWICK

I came from Edward as ambassador,
But I return his sworn and mortal foe.
Matter of marriage was the charge he gave me,
But dreadful war shall answer his demand.
Had he none else to make a stale but me?
Then none but I shall turn his jest to sorrow.
I was the chief that raised him to the crown,
And I'll be chief to bring him down again:
Not that I pity Henry's misery,
But seek revenge on Edward's mockery.

He exits.

270

275

HENRY VI Part 3

ACT 4

- **4.1** King Edward learns of Warwick's defection and orders that troops be levied in preparation for war. Clarence decides to join Warwick in return for the hand of Warwick's younger daughter in marriage.
 - 5. stay: wait, put off (the marriage [line 2])
 - 8. mind: intend, plan
- 8 SD. **Four...other:** Presumably Edward stands (or sits) between the two groups of **four.**
- 10. pensive: melancholy; malcontent: mutinous, rebellious
 - 11. As well as: i.e., as well as do

$\lceil ACT 4 \rceil$

「Scene 17

Enter Richard of Gloucester, Clarence, Somerset, and Montague, all wearing the white rose.

RICHARD

Now tell me, brother Clarence, what think you Of this new marriage with the Lady Grey? Hath not our brother made a worthy choice?

CLARENCE

Alas, you know 'tis far from hence to France. How could he stay till Warwick made return?

Flourish.

10

SOMERSET

My lords, forbear this talk. Here comes the King. RICHARD And his well-chosen bride.

CLARENCE

I mind to tell him plainly what I think.

Enter King Edward, \(\text{with Attendants,} \) Lady Grey, \(\text{now Queen Elizabeth,} \) Pembroke, Stafford, Hastings, \(\text{and others, all wearing the white rose.} \) Four stand on one side, and four on the other.

KING EDWARD

Now, brother of Clarence, how like you our choice, That you stand pensive, as half malcontent?

As well as Lewis of France or the Earl of Warwick.

- 12. Which: i.e., who
- 13. abuse: injury, wrong
- 17. because: i.e., because you are
- 23. yoke: are joined (in marriage), with wordplay on the yoking of draft animals (See picture, below.)
 - 32. gave in charge: ordered, commanded
 - 35. invention: a scheme or plan

Matrimonium:



The yoke of matrimony. (4.1.23)
From Henry Peacham, Minerua Britanna . . . [1612].

Which are so weak of courage and in judgment That they'll take no offense at our abuse.	
KING EDWARD	
Suppose they take offense without a cause,	
They are but Lewis and Warwick; I am Edward,	15
Your king and Warwick's, and must have my will.	
RICHARD	
And shall have your will because our king.	
Yet hasty marriage seldom proveth well.	
KING EDWARD	
Yea, brother Richard, are you offended too?	
RICHARD Not I.	20
No, God forbid that I should wish them severed	
Whom God hath joined together. Ay, and 'twere pity	
To sunder them that yoke so well together.	
KING EDWARD	
Setting your scorns and your mislike aside,	
Tell me some reason why the Lady Grey	25
Should not become my wife and England's queen?	~ J
And you too, Somerset and Montague,	
Speak freely what you think.	
CLARENCE	
Then this is mine opinion: that King Lewis	
Becomes your enemy for mocking him	30
About the marriage of the Lady Bona.	50
RICHARD	
And Warwick, doing what you gave in charge,	
Is now dishonored by this new marriage.	
KING EDWARD	
What if both Lewis and Warwick be appeased	
By such invention as I can devise?	35
MONTAGUE	-
Yet to have joined with France in such alliance	
Would more have strengthened this our	
commonwealth	
'Gainst foreign storms than any home-bred marriage.	

42.	backed	with:	aided	or	supported	by

45. fence: defense, bulwark

46. their helps only: i.e., their aid alone

49. have the heir: i.e., have married the heir

50. grant: promise

51. stand for law: be valid; be of force, hold good

53. give: i.e., give in marriage

59. **speed:** succeed or prosper

63. being shallow: i.e., since it is shallow; give me leave: permit me

64. **play the broker:** i.e., negotiate (literally, act as middleman or agent)

65. mind: plan, intend

HASTINGS	
Why, knows not Montague that of itself	40
England is safe, if true within itself?	
MONTAGUE	
But the safer when 'tis backed with France.	
HASTINGS	
Tis better using France than trusting France.	
Let us be backed with God and with the seas	
Which He hath giv'n for fence impregnable,	45
And with their helps only defend ourselves.	
In them and in ourselves our safety lies.	
CLARENCE	
For this one speech, Lord Hastings well deserves	
To have the heir of the Lord Hungerford.	
KING EDWARD	
Ay, what of that? It was my will and grant,	50
And for this once my will shall stand for law.	
RICHARD	
And yet methinks your Grace hath not done well	
To give the heir and daughter of Lord Scales	
Unto the brother of your loving bride.	
She better would have fitted me or Clarence;	55
But in your bride you bury brotherhood.	
CLARENCE	
Or else you would not have bestowed the heir	
Of the Lord Bonville on your new wife's son,	
And leave your brothers to go speed elsewhere.	
KING EDWARD	
Alas, poor Clarence, is it for a wife	60
That thou art malcontent? I will provide thee.	
CLARENCE	
In choosing for yourself you showed your judgment,	
Which, being shallow, you shall give me leave	
To play the broker in mine own behalf.	

And to that end, I shortly mind to leave you. 65

KING EDWARD

66.	Leave	 . tarry:	i.e.,	whether	you	go	or	stay

69. state: status, condition, rank

70. Do me but right and: i.e., if you do me right

71. ignoble of descent: i.e., of low birth or rank

72. meaner: those of humbler background

74. dislikes: disapproval

75. **Doth:** i.e., do

84 SD. Post: courier, letter carrier

88. But such as: except for those that

90. **Go to:** an expression of impatience; we: the royal plural

91. guess: i.e., conjecturally reconstruct

92. our letters: i.e., my letter

Leave me or tarry, Edward will be king And not be tied unto his brother's will.	
OUEEN ELIZABETH My lords, before it pleased his Majesty To raise my state to title of a queen,	
Do me but right and you must all confess That I was not ignoble of descent, And meaner than myself have had like fortune. But as this title honors me and mine, So your dislikes, to whom I would be pleasing,	70
Doth cloud my joys with danger and with sorrow.	75
KING EDWARD	
My love, forbear to fawn upon their frowns. What danger or what sorrow can befall thee So long as Edward is thy constant friend And their true sovereign, whom they must obey? Nay, whom they shall obey, and love thee too, Unless they seek for hatred at my hands; Which if they do, yet will I keep thee safe, And they shall feel the vengeance of my wrath. RICHARD, 「aside Thear, yet say not much, but think the more.	80
Enter a Post.	
KING EDWARD Now, messenger, what letters or what news from France?	85
My sovereign liege, no letters and few words But such as I without your special pardon Dare not relate.	
Go to, we pardon thee. Therefore, in brief, Tell me their words as near as thou canst guess them.	90

What answer makes King Lewis unto our letters?

At my depart, these were his very words:

"Go tell false Edward, the supposed king,

POST

93. depart: departure

97. Belike: perhaps, no doubt

103. the wrong: injustice

104. in place: present, at hand

106. done: i.e., laid aside (3.3.238)

108. **minds:** plans, intends; **Amazon:** female warrior (See picture, below.)

114. Durst: dared



An Amazon. (1.4.116; 4.1.108)
From Giovanni Battista Cavalleriis, *Antiquarum*statuarum... (1585–94).

That Lewis of France is sending over maskers To revel it with him and his new bride." KING EDWARD Is Lewis so brave? Belike he thinks me Henry. But what said Lady Bona to my marriage? POST These were her words, uttered with mild disdain: "Tell him, in hope he'll prove a widower shortly." 100 I'll wear the willow garland for his sake." KING EDWARD I blame not her; she could say little less; She had the wrong. But what said Henry's queen? For I have heard that she was there in place. "Tell him," quoth she, "my mourning weeds are 105 done. And I am ready to put armor on." KING EDWARD Belike she minds to play the Amazon. But what said Warwick to these injuries? POST He, more incensed against your Majesty 110 Than all the rest, discharged me with these words: "Tell him from me that he hath done me wrong. And therefore I'll uncrown him ere 't be long." KING EDWARD Ha! Durst the traitor breathe out so proud words? Well, I will arm me, being thus forewarned. 115 They shall have wars and pay for their presumption. But say, is Warwick friends with Margaret? POST

Ay, gracious sovereign, they are so linked in

friendship

123. **sit you fast:** i.e., **sit** firmly (on your throne) **fast:** so as not to be moved or shaken

125. That: i.e., so that; want: lack

134. prepare: i.e., preparation

135. They: i.e., the forces from France

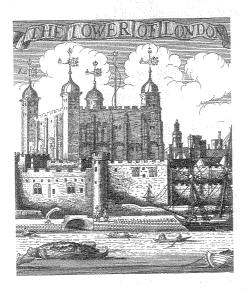
136. straight: straightaway, immediately

138. doubt: perhaps, fear; perhaps, uncertainty

139. blood: kinship

143. hold: observe, abide by

145. suspect: suspicion



Tower of London. (3.2.122; 4.8.57; 5.1.46; 5.5.50) From John Seller, A book of the prospects of the remarkable places in . . . London . . . [c. 1700?].

That young Prince Edward marries Warwick's 120 daughter. CLARENCE, [aside] Belike the elder; Clarence will have the younger.— Now, brother king, farewell, and sit you fast, For I will hence to Warwick's other daughter, That, though I want a kingdom, yet in marriage 125 I may not prove inferior to yourself. You that love me and Warwick, follow me. Clarence exits, and Somerset follows. RICHARD, [aside] Not I. My thoughts aim at a further matter: I stay not for the love of Edward, but the crown. KING EDWARD Clarence and Somerset both gone to Warwick? 130 Yet am I armed against the worst can happen; And haste is needful in this desp'rate case. Pembroke and Stafford, you in our behalf Go levy men and make prepare for war. They are already, or quickly will be, landed. 135 Myself in person will straight follow you. Pembroke and Stafford exit. But ere I go, Hastings and Montague, Resolve my doubt: you twain, of all the rest, Are near to Warwick by blood and by alliance. Tell me if you love Warwick more than me. 140 If it be so, then both depart to him. I rather wish you foes than hollow friends. But if you mind to hold your true obedience, Give me assurance with some friendly vow, That I may never have you in suspect. 145 MONTAGUE So God help Montague as he proves true!

And Hastings as he favors Edward's cause!

HASTINGS

149. despite: defiance

152. power: army, forces

4.2 Warwick and Clarence prepare to surprise King Edward, who awaits the French troops in a lightly guarded camp.

- 1. hitherto: as yet, up to this time
- 2. by numbers: i.e., in great number
- 3. comes: i.e., come
- 4. suddenly: at once
- 5. Fear: doubt
- 6. gentle: a complimentary form of address
- 8. rest: remain; where: in a case in which
- 9. pawned: pledged
- 11. feignèd: insincere, false
- 12. sweet: a complimentary form of address
- 14. rests: remains; in night's coverture: under night's protective covering
 - 16. lurking: idling
- 17. but attended by: i.e., attended only by; simple: small

KING EDWARD

Now, brother Richard, will you stand by us?

Ay, in despite of all that shall withstand you. KING EDWARD

Why, so. Then am I sure of victory.

Now therefore let us hence and lose no hour

Till we meet Warwick with his foreign power.

They exit.

150

10

15

「Scene 27

Enter Warwick and Oxford in England, wearing the red rose, with French Soldiers.

WARWICK

Trust me, my lord, all hitherto goes well. The common people by numbers swarm to us.

Enter Clarence and Somerset.

But see where Somerset and Clarence comes.— Speak suddenly, my lords: are we all friends? CLARENCE Fear not that, my lord.

Then, gentle Clarence, welcome unto Warwick,
And welcome, Somerset. I hold it cowardice
To rest mistrustful where a noble heart
Hath pawned an open hand in sign of love;
Else might I think that Clarence, Edward's brother,
Were but a feigned friend to our proceedings.
But welcome, sweet Clarence; my daughter shall be

thine.
And now, what rests but, in night's coverture
Thy brother being carelessly encamped,
His soldiers lurking in the town about

His soldiers lurking in the town about, And but attended by a simple guard, 19. adventure: venture

20–22. Ulysses ... steeds: In the *Iliad*, Ulysses and Diomedes carried off Rhesus' horses, under cover of night, to prevent the prophecy that if the horses grazed in Troy, Greece's siege would fail. stout: brave sleight: cunning manhood: courage fatal: entwined with fate (the prophecy)

24. At unawares: suddenly, unexpectedly

25. himself: i.e., him

26. but only: i.e., merely; surprise: capture

29. in silent sort: i.e., silently

30. **Saint George:** England's patron saint (See picture, page 78.)

4.3 Warwick, Clarence, and their troops capture King Edward, remove his crown, and send him captive to the Archbishop of York. They then prepare to march to London to free King Henry.

1. my masters: i.e., sirs, gentlemen; stand: position, place

2. by this: i.e., by this time; is set him down: i.e., has seated himself

3. What: an interjection introducing a question

6. suppressed: vanquished

7. belike: probably

We may surprise and take him at our pleasure? Our scouts have found the adventure very easy: That, as Ulysses and stout Diomed 20 With sleight and manhood stole to Rhesus' tents And brought from thence the Thracian fatal steeds, So we, well covered with the night's black mantle. At unawares may beat down Edward's guard And seize himself. I say not "slaughter him." 25 For I intend but only to surprise him. You that will follow me to this attempt. Applaud the name of Henry with your leader. They all cry "Henry!" Why then, let's on our way in silent sort. For Warwick and his friends, God and Saint George! They exit.

「Scene 37

Enter three Watchmen to guard King Edward's tent, fall wearing the white rose.

FIRST WATCH

SECOND WATCH

Come on, my masters, each man take his stand. The King by this is set him down to sleep.

SECOND WATCH What, will he not to bed?

FIRST WATCH

Why, no, for he hath made a solemn vow Never to lie and take his natural rest Till Warwick or himself be quite suppressed.

Tomorrow, then, belike shall be the day, If Warwick be so near as men report.

THIRD WATCH

But say, I pray, what nobleman is that That with the King here resteth in his tent?

16. worship: renown

18. in . . . stands: i.e., King Edward's situation

19. doubted: feared

20. halberds: military weapons that combine the spear and the battle-ax (See picture, below.); or, perhaps, soldiers carrying halberds; did shut up his: barred Warwick's

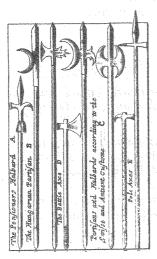
21. wherefore: why

22. his person: i.e., him

24. my masters: See note to line 1, above.

25. But: merely, only

27 SD. gown: dressing gown; flies: i.e., fly, flee



Halberds and similar weapons. (4.3.20) From Louis de Gaya, A treatise of the arms . . . (1678).

FIRST WATCH THIRD WATCH FIRST WATCH SECOND WATCH WARWICK

'Tis the Lord Hastings, the King's chiefest friend.

O, is it so? But why commands the King That his chief followers lodge in towns about him. While he himself keeps in the cold field? SECOND WATCH

Tis the more honor, because more dangerous.

THIRD WATCH

Ay, but give me worship and quietness; I like it better than a dangerous honor. If Warwick knew in what estate he stands. 'Tis to be doubted he would waken him.

Unless our halberds did shut up his passage.

Ay, wherefore else guard we his royal tent But to defend his person from night foes?

Enter Warwick, Clarence, Oxford, Somerset, \(\square\) all wearing the red rose, and French Soldiers, silent all.

This is his tent, and see where stand his guard. Courage, my masters. Honor, now or never! But follow me, and Edward shall be ours.

FIRST WATCH Who goes there? SECOND WATCH Stay, or thou diest!

Warwick and the rest cry all "Warwick, Warwick!" and set upon the guard, who fly, crying "Arm, Arm!" Warwick and the rest following them.

The drum playing and trumpet sounding, enter Warwick, Somerset, and the rest, bringing King [Edward] out in his gown, sitting in a chair. Richard and Hastings flies over the stage.

SOMERSET

- 34. embassade: mission as ambassador
- 38. use: treat
- 41. study for: be concerned about
- 42. shroud: protect
- 44. needs must down: i.e., must of necessity fall
- 46. complices: accomplices
- 48. Fortune's . . . state: See notes to 1.4.117 and
- 2.3.32, above.
- 49. My mind ... wheel: i.e., my mind is not controlled by her (The goddess Fortuna is often pictured as controlling human lives by turning a large wheel to which they are bound. See picture, page 1.) compass: scope, reach
- 50. for his mind: i.e., so far as concerns his mind
 - 52. shadow: delusive semblance or image

	What are they that fly there?	
W	ARWICK Richard and Hastings.	
	Let them go. Here is the Duke.	30
K	ING EDWARD The Duke?	
	Why, Warwick, when we parted, thou call'dst me king.	
W	ARWICK Ay, but the case is altered.	
	When you disgraced me in my embassade,	
	Then I degraded you from being king	35
	And come now to create you Duke of York.	
	Alas, how should you govern any kingdom	
	That know not how to use ambassadors,	
	Nor how to be contented with one wife,	
	Nor how to use your brothers brotherly,	40
	Nor how to study for the people's welfare,	
	Nor how to shroud yourself from enemies?	
K	ING EDWARD	
	Yea, brother of Clarence, art thou here too?	
	Nay, then, I see that Edward needs must down.	
	Yet, Warwick, in despite of all mischance,	45
	Of thee thyself and all thy complices,	
	Edward will always bear himself as king.	
	Though Fortune's malice overthrow my state,	
	My mind exceeds the compass of her wheel.	
W	ARWICK	
	Then for his mind be Edward England's king,	50
	Takes off his crown.	
	But Henry now shall wear the English crown	
	And be true king indeed, thou but the shadow.—	
	My lord of Somerset, at my request,	
	See that forthwith Duke Edward be conveyed	
	Unto my brother, Archbishop of York.	55
	When I have fought with Pembroke and his fellows,	
	I'll follow you and tell what answer Lewis and the Lady Bona send to him —	
	LEWIS AND THE LAGY BODA SCHOOL BITT	

Now for awhile farewell, good Duke of York.

- 60. **Fates:** the personification of the agency that predetermines human destiny (See picture, page 80.)
 - 61. boots not: does no good
- **4.4** King Edward's wife, Queen Elizabeth, hearing of Edward's capture, fears for her life and that of her unborn child. She seeks sanctuary.
- 1. what makes you in: perhaps, what is the cause of (Some editors change "you in" to "in you.")
 - 3. late: recent
- 4. pitched battle: a battle planned by the two sides
 - 8. falsehood: faithlessness
- 9. **surprised at unawares:** captured without warning
- 10. have to understand: am given to understand
- 11. **new committed to:** recently consigned to the custody of
 - 12. Fell: cruel; by that: therefore

They $\lceil begin\ to \rceil$ lead him out forcibly.

KING EDWARD

What Fates impose, that men must needs abide;

It boots not to resist both wind and tide.

「Somerset and Soldiers exit, guarding King Edward.
OXFORD

What now remains, my lords, for us to do But march to London with our soldiers?

WARWICK

Ay, that's the first thing that we have to do,

To free King Henry from imprisonment And see him seated in the regal throne.

 $\lceil They \rceil exit.$

「Scene 47

Enter Rivers and Queen [[]Elizabeth, wearing the white rose. []]

RIVERS

Madam, what makes you in this sudden change?

Why, brother Rivers, are you yet to learn
What late misfortune is befall'n King Edward?
RIVERS

What, loss of some pitched battle against Warwick?

No, but the loss of his own royal person. RIVERS Then is my sovereign slain?

Ay, almost slain, for he is taken prisoner, Either betrayed by falsehood of his guard Or by his foe surprised at unawares; And, as I further have to understand, Is new committed to the Bishop of York, Fell Warwick's brother and by that our foe.

10

RIVERS

They exit.

13. These news: these tidings; this news

16. **fair hope:** perhaps, **hope** of future success; or, perhaps, flattering **hope; hinder:** prevent, slow the progress of

17. the rather: the more readily; wean me:

detach myself

19. bridle passion: control my grief

20. my misfortune's cross: i.e., the burden of my misfortune

21–24. **for this...fruit:** wordplay on **fruit** as offspring and as fruit tree, with **tears** and **sighs** threatening the fetus as rain and wind threaten vegetation **draw in:** restrain **blood-sucking sighs: Sighs** were thought to draw blood from the heart. **blast:** blow on malignantly, blight, wither

25. where . . . become: i.e., what has become of

Warwick

29. down: i.e., fall-

30. prevent: forestall; tyrant's: usurper's

32. **forthwith:** immediately; **the sanctuary:** i.e., the protection offered by law to a fugitive who sought shelter in a church (According to the chronicles, Queen Elizabeth sought **sanctuary** in Whitehall, where she gave birth to a son named Edward.)

33. right: claim to the throne

34. rest: remain; fraud: trickery; faithlessness

35. fly: flee

These news I must confess are full	of grief;	
Yet, gracious madam, bear it as you	u may.	
Warwick may lose that now hath w		5
QUEEN ELIZABETH		
Till then fair hope must hinder life	s decay;	
And I the rather wean me from des	pair	
For love of Edward's offspring in n	ny womb.	
This is it that makes me bridle pass	sion	
And bear with mildness my misfor	tune's cross. 2	0
Ay, ay, for this I draw in many a tea	r salati	
And stop the rising of blood-sucking	ig sighs,	
Lest with my sighs or tears I blast of	or drown	
King Edward's fruit, true heir to th	'English crown.	
RIVERS		
But, madam, where is Warwick the	en become? 2	25
QUEEN ELIZABETH		
I am informèd that he comes towar	rds London	
To set the crown once more on Her	nry's head.	
Guess thou the rest: King Edward's	friends must	
down.		
But to prevent the tyrant's violence	3	0
For trust not him that hath once be	roken faith—	
I'll hence forthwith unto the sanctu		
To save at least the heir of Edward	's right.	
There shall I rest secure from force	and fraud.	
Come, therefore, let us fly while we	e may fly 3	35
If Warwick take us, we are sure to	die.	

- **4.5** Richard rescues King Edward from his captivity. They prepare to sail to Flanders.
- 2. **Leave off to wonder:** i.e., stop asking; or, stop wondering
 - 3. park: private hunting preserve
 - 6. usage: treatment
 - 7. but attended with: i.e., attended only by
- 8. **this way:** i.e., toward this place; **disport:** enjoy, amuse
 - 9. advertised: informed
 - 10. make: proceed
 - 11. color: pretext; game: sport of hunting
 - 12. horse: i.e., horses; men: servants, attendants
 - 14. game: bird or animal being hunted, quarry
 - 18. close: concealed
 - 19 case: circumstance
- 22. Lynn: King's Lynn, a port city in Norfolk; shipped: i.e., take ship
 - 23. Flanders: a province in present-day Belgium

[Scene 5]

Enter Richard Tof Gloucester, Lord Hastings, and Sir William Stanley, Twith Soldiers, all wearing the white rose.

RICHARD

Now, my Lord Hastings and Sir William Stanley,
Leave off to wonder why I drew you hither
Into this chiefest thicket of the park.
Thus 「stands the case: you know our king, my brother,
Is prisoner to the Bishop here, at whose hands

He hath good usage and great liberty,
And, often but attended with weak guard,
「Comes hunting this way to disport himself.
I have advertised him by secret means
That, if about this hour he make this way

Under the color of his usual game,
He shall here find his friends with horse and men
To set him free from his captivity.

Enter King Edward, [「]wearing the white rose, [¬] and a Huntsman with him.

HUNTSMAN

This way, my lord, for this way lies the game.
KING EDWARD

Nay, this way, man. See where the huntsmen stand.— 15 Now, brother of Gloucester, Lord Hastings, and the rest.

Stand you thus close to steal the Bishop's deer?

Brother, the time and case requireth haste.
Your horse stands ready at the park corner.
KING EDWARD But whither shall we then?
HASTINGS To Lynn, my lord, and shipped from thence
to Flanders.

5

- 24. meaning: intention
- 25. forwardness: eagerness, zeal
- 26. wherefore stay we: why do we delay
- 27. go along: i.e., come with us
- 30. thee: yourself
- **4.6** Warwick rescues King Henry from imprisonment in the Tower of London. Henry turns over the government to Warwick and Clarence.
- 5. **our enlargement:** my release from confinement; **due:** proper, merited (A released prisoner paid for his care in prison.)
 - 6. challenge: demand, claim
 - 7. prayer: petitioner, one who prays



Peace holding an olive branch and sword. (4.6.34) From Gilles Corrozet, *Hecatongraphie* . . . (1543).

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RICHARD

Well guessed, believe me, for that was my meaning.

Stanley, I will requite thy forwardness.

RICHARD

But wherefore stay we? 'Tis no time to talk.
KING EDWARD

Huntsman, what sayst thou? Wilt thou go along?

Better do so than tarry and be hanged.

Come then, away! Let's ha' no more ado.

Bishop, farewell; shield thee from Warwick's frown, 30 And pray that I may repossess the crown.

They exit.

[Scene 6]

Flourish. Enter King Henry the Sixth, Clarence, Warwick, Somerset, young Henry Fearl of Richmond, Oxford, Montague, fall wearing the red rose, and Lieutenant fof the Tower.

KING HENRY

Master lieutenant, now that God and friends Have shaken Edward from the regal seat And turned my captive state to liberty, My fear to hope, my sorrows unto joys, At our enlargement what are thy due fees?

LIEUTENANT

Subjects may challenge nothing of their sov'reigns, But, if an humble prayer may prevail, I then crave pardon of your Majesty.

KING HENRY

For what, lieutenant? For well using me?

- 11. For that: because
- 13. **Conceive:** i.e., feel (literally, are affected by or possessed with)
- 14. by ... harmony: i.e., through the harmonic sounds of the household
- 16. **after...free:** i.e., you are next in importance to **God** in freeing me
 - 17. chiefly: i.e., more than any others
- 18. author: originator, cause; instrument: means, agent
- 20. **low:** i.e., at the bottom of **Fortune's** wheel (See note to 4.3.49 and picture, page l.)
- 22. with . . . stars: i.e., by the adverse stars that control my fate
 - 24. government: authority to rule
 - 25. fortunate: favored by Fortune
 - 26. still: always; famed for: renowned as
 - 28. spying: discovering, observing closely
- 29. **rightly:** properly; **temper with the stars:** "conform their 'temper' to their destiny" (Samuel Johnson)
 - 31. in place: i.e., on the spot, in position, available
 - 32. sway: sovereign power
- 33. **the heav'ns in thy nativity:** i.e., the conjunction of stars and planets when you were born (astrological language) See picture, page 192.
- 34. Adjudged: granted; olive branch: symbol of peace; laurel crown: reward for victory in war (line 35) See pictures, pages 188 and 194.
 - 35. As likely: i.e., since you were likely
 - 37. only: alone
- 41. **government:** (proper) exercise of authority over the kingdom

Nay, be thou sure I'll well requite thy kindness,	10
For that it made my imprisonment a pleasure,	
Ay, such a pleasure as encagèd birds	
Conceive when, after many moody thoughts,	
At last by notes of household harmony	
They quite forget their loss of liberty.—	15
But, Warwick, after God thou sett'st me free,	
And chiefly, therefore, I thank God and thee.	
He was the author, thou the instrument.	
Therefore, that I may conquer Fortune's spite	
By living low where Fortune cannot hurt me,	20
And that the people of this blessed land	
May not be punished with my thwarting stars,	
Warwick, although my head still wear the crown,	
I here resign my government to thee,	
For thou art fortunate in all thy deeds.	25
WARWICK	
Your Grace hath still been famed for virtuous	
And now may seem as wise as virtuous	
By spying and avoiding Fortune's malice,	
For few men rightly temper with the stars.	
Yet, in this one thing let me blame your Grace:	30
For choosing me when Clarence is in place.	
CLARENCE	
No, Warwick, thou art worthy of the sway,	
To whom the heav'ns in thy nativity	
Adjudged an olive branch and laurel crown	
As likely to be blest in peace and war;	35
And therefore I yield thee my free consent.	
WARWICK	
And I choose Clarence only for Protector.	
KING HENRY	

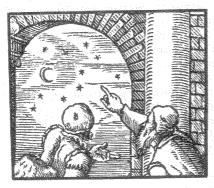
Warwick and Clarence, give me both your hands.

Now join your hands, and with your hands your

That no dissension hinder government.

hearts.

- 45. rebuke: disgrace, reproach
- 48. repose myself: i.e., rely
- 50. voke: join, become linked
- 51. supply: fill
- 56. confiscate: appropriated to the use of the sovereign
- 57. What else: i.e., I agree; succession: i.e., the order by which the kingship will be inherited
- 58. therein: perhaps, in the decision; or, perhaps, in the succession: want: lack
 - 63. doubtful fear: apprehension



Plotting a person's horoscope or "nativity." (4.6.33) From Jakob Rüff, De conceptu et generatione hominis ... (1580).

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THe joins their hands. T make you both Protectors of this land, While I myself will lead a private life And in devotion spend my latter days, To sin's rebuke and my Creator's praise. 45 WARWICK What answers Clarence to his sovereign's will? CLARENCE That he consents, if Warwick yield consent, For on thy fortune I repose myself. WARWICK Why, then, though loath, yet must I be content. We'll yoke together like a double shadow 50 To Henry's body, and supply his place— I mean, in bearing weight of government— While he enjoys the honor and his ease. And, Clarence, now then it is more than needful Forthwith that Edward be pronounced a traitor 55 And all his lands and goods be confiscate. CLARENCE What else? And that succession be determined. WARWICK Ay, therein Clarence shall not want his part. KING HENRY But with the first of all your chief affairs Let me entreat—for I command no more— 60 That Margaret your queen and my son Edward Be sent for, to return from France with speed, For till I see them here, by doubtful fear My joy of liberty is half eclipsed. CLARENCE It shall be done, my sovereign, with all speed. 65 KING HENRY

My lord of Somerset, what youth is that

Of whom you seem to have so tender care?

- 69. **England's hope:** In the near future, **Henry** Tudor, **Earl of Richmond**, will defeat Richard of Gloucester (as Richard III) and become King **Henry** VII, founder of the Tudor dynasty.
- 71. but truth: no more than truth; divining: prophesying, inspired
 - 72. prove: turn out to be
 - 74. framed: formed, shaped
- 81. as he: i.e., as Warwick's brother, the Archbishop of York; Burgundy: the duchy of Burgundy
 - 83. conveyed: stolen away
 - 84. attended: waited for
 - 85. forest side: outskirts of the forest
- 88. **charge:** (1) man for whom he was responsible; (2) responsibility
 - 90. betide: happen
 - 91. like not of: do not like, am displeased by
- 92. **Burgundy:** i.e., the Duke of **Burgundy** (historically, an ally not of Edward but of Henry VI)



A "laurel crown." (4.6.34; 5.3.0 SD)
From Giacomo Lauri, Antiquae vrbis splendor... (1612–15).

-15). 194

SOMERSET	
My liege, it is young Henry, Earl of Richmond.	
KING HENRY, to Richmond	
Come hither, England's hope.	
Lays his hand on \(\text{Richmond's} \) head.	
If secret powers	7
Suggest but truth to my divining thoughts,	
This pretty lad will prove our country's bliss.	
His looks are full of peaceful majesty,	
His head by nature framed to wear a crown,	
His hand to wield a scepter, and himself	7
Likely in time to bless a regal throne.	
Make much of him, my lords, for this is he	
Must help you more than you are hurt by me.	
Enter a Post.	
WARWICK What news, my friend?	٧.
POST	
That Edward is escapèd from your brother	8
And fled, as he hears since, to Burgundy.	
WARWICK	
Unsavory news! But how made he escape?	
POST	
He was conveyed by Richard, Duke of Gloucester,	
And the Lord Hastings, who attended him	
In secret ambush on the forest side	8
And from the Bishop's huntsmen rescued him,	
For hunting was his daily exercise.	
WARWICK	
My brother was too careless of his charge.	
But let us hence, my sovereign, to provide	
A salve for any sore that may betide.	9(
All but Somerset, Richmond, and Oxford exit.	
SOMERSET, \(\text{to Oxford} \)	

My lord, I like not of this flight of Edward's,

For doubtless Burgundy will yield him help.

94. late: recent; presaging: portentous

100. Forthwith: immediately; Brittany: a duchy comprising the northwestern peninsula of France. which tried to remain neutral in the 15th-century wars between England and France

101. civil enmity: hostility between factions within the nation

103. like: likely; down: fall

4.7 Edward, having returned from Flanders with a supporting army, enters the city of York, claiming that he wants only his dukedom. Once inside the gates, and at the urging of his followers, he again asserts his right to the crown.

2. maketh us amends: pays me restitution or compensation (See picture of Fortune, page l.)

4. waned: diminished; state: status, rank

5. passed: i.e., crossed

8. Ravenspurgh Haven: a harbor in northeastern England

9. as into: i.e., as if I were entering (Edward is Duke of York.)

10. made fast: locked

And we shall have more wars before 't be long. As Henry's late presaging prophecy nid glad my heart with hope of this young 95 Richmond. So doth my heart misgive me in these conflicts What may befall him, to his harm and ours. Therefore, Lord Oxford, to prevent the worst. Forthwith we'll send him hence to Brittany 100 Till storms be past of civil enmity. OXFORD Ay, for if Edward repossess the crown, Tis like that Richmond, with the rest, shall down. SOMERSET It shall be so. He shall to Brittany. Come, therefore, let's about it speedily. 105 They exit.

「Scene 77

Flourish. Enter [King] Edward, Richard, Hastings, and Soldiers, [all wearing the white rose,]

KING EDWARD

Now, brother Richard, Lord Hastings, and the rest: Yet thus far Fortune maketh us amends. And says that once more I shall interchange My waned state for Henry's regal crown. Well have we passed, and now re-passed, the seas, And brought desired help from Burgundy. What then remains, we being thus arrived From Ravenspurgh Haven before the gates of York. But that we enter as into our dukedom? THastings knocks at the gate.

RICHARD

The gates made fast? Brother, I like not this.

11. **stumble at the threshold:** an expression that meant "meet with an ominous restraint at the beginning of an enterprise"

13. abodements: omens, forebodings

14. fair: peaceful; legitimate; foul: violent; unfair, treacherous

15. repair to us: i.e., come to meet us

16. liege: lord

23. challenge: claim, demand

24. As being: i.e., since I am

25-26. when . . . follow: proverbial

30. stout captain: brave leader



The sun god in "his car." (4.7.80) From Vincenzo Cartari, *Le vere e noue imagini* . . . (1615).

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For many men that stumble at the threshold Are well foretold that danger lurks within. KING EDWARD Tush, man, abodements must not now affright us. By fair or foul means we must enter in, For hither will our friends repair to us. HASTINGS My liege, I'll knock once more to summon them. THe knocks. Enter on the walls the Mayor of York and his brethren, Tthe Aldermen. MAYOR My lords, we were forewarned of your coming, And shut the gates for safety of ourselves, For now we owe allegiance unto Henry. KING EDWARD But, master mayor, if Henry be your king. 20 Yet Edward, at the least, is Duke of York. MAYOR True, my good lord, I know you for no less. KING EDWARD Why, and I challenge nothing but my dukedom. As being well content with that alone RICHARD, [aside] But when the fox hath once got in his nose, 25 He'll soon find means to make the body follow. HASTINGS Why, master mayor, why stand you in a doubt? Open the gates. We are King Henry's friends. MAYOR Ay, say you so? The gates shall then be opened. He descends with the Aldermon RICHARD

A wise stout captain, and soon persuaded.

40

45

50

31. **would...well:** "is willing that we should enter" (Johnson)

32. So 'twere not long of him: i.e., provided that he is not blamed long of: chargeable or attributable to; being entered: i.e., once we've entered

36. But: except

37. What: an interjection, here expressing indignation

39. deign: think fit

43. storm: violent disturbance

50 SD. **Drum:** i.e., **drummer** (line 50); **march:** strikes up a marching beat

51. debate: discuss



"... the kingly lion." (4.8.49; 5.7.12) From John Speed, *The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine*... (1627 [i.e., 1631]).

HASTINGS

The good old man would fain that all were well, So 'twere not long of him; but being entered, I doubt not, I, but we shall soon persuade Both him and all his brothers unto reason.

Enter the Mayor and two Aldermen.

KING EDWARD

So, master mayor, these gates must not be shut But in the night or in the time of war. What, fear not, man, but yield me up the keys. Takes his keys.

For Edward will defend the town and thee And all those friends that deign to follow me.

March. Enter Montgomery, with Drum and Soldiers.

RICHARD

Brother, this is Sir John Montgomery, Our trusty friend, unless I be deceived.

KING EDWARD

Welcome, Sir John. But why come you in arms?

To help King Edward in his time of storm, As every loyal subject ought to do.

KING EDWARD

Thanks, good Montgomery. But we now forget Our title to the crown, and only claim Our dukedom, till God please to send the rest.

MONTGOMERY

Then fare you well, for I will hence again.
I came to serve a king and not a duke.—
Drummer, strike up, and let us march away.

The Drum begins to march.

KING EDWARD

Nay, stay, Sir John, a while, and we'll debate By what safe means the crown may be recovered.

Throws down his gauntlet.

(of king)

58. wherefore: why; stand...points: do you dwell on trivial details

60. our meaning: my intentions

61. **scrupulous wit:** i.e., thoughts too filled with scruples

63. out of hand: immediately

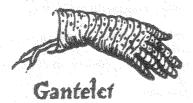
64. bruit: tidings, news

67. like himself: i.e., like his royal self

70–75. **Come . . . fight:** Some editors see "fellow soldier" as addressed to Montgomery and give him lines 71–75, arguing that no common soldier would be asked to read such a proclamation.

75 SD. gauntlet: glove covered with steel plates

(See picture, below.)



A gauntlet. (4.7.75 SD)
From Louis de Gaya, Traité des armes, des machines de guerre . . . (1678).

MONTGOMERY What talk you of debating? In few words, If you'll not here proclaim yourself our king, I'll leave you to your fortune and be gone 55 To keep them back that come to succor you. Why shall we fight if you pretend no title? RICHARD Why, brother, wherefore stand you on nice points? KING EDWARD When we grow stronger, then we'll make our claim. Till then 'tis wisdom to conceal our meaning. Away with scrupulous wit! Now arms must rule. RICHARD And fearless minds climb soonest unto crowns. Brother, we will proclaim you out of hand; The bruit thereof will bring you many friends. KING EDWARD Then be it as you will, for 'tis my right, 65 And Henry but usurps the diadem. MONTGOMERY Ay, now my sovereign speaketh like himself, And now will I be Edward's champion. HASTINGS Sound, trumpet! Edward shall be here proclaimed.— Come, fellow soldier, make thou proclamation. Flourish: Sound. SOLDIER Treads Edward the Fourth, by the Grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, &c. MONTGOMERY

And whosoe'er gainsays King Edward's right,

By this I challenge him to single fight.

ALL Long live Edward the Fourth!

85

10

79. harbor: take shelter, lodge

80–81. when . . . horizon: a figurative way of saying "when the sun rises above the horizon" (In classical mythology, the sun god daily drives his chariot across the sky.) See pictures, pages 70 and 198.

82. forward: i.e., move or go forward

83. wot: know

84. froward: perverse; evil . . . thee: it ill becomes

you

87. doubt not of the day: i.e., don't be anxious about our victory the day: the day's work on the battlefield

- 4.8 King Henry, left at the Bishop's Palace in London while Warwick and other Lancastrian leaders search for additional troops, is captured by King Edward and once again imprisoned. King Edward then marches toward Coventry to combat Warwick.
- 1. **Belgia:** the Low Countries (Belgium was not distinguished from the Netherlands and Low Germany until the 19th century.)

2. hasty: eager, rash; blunt: harsh; unpolished

3. Narrow Seas: channels separating England from the Continent and Ireland (here, the English Channel)

4. amain: at full speed

5. giddy: inconstant

7–8 A little . . . quench: proverbial suffered: allowed to go unchecked

10. mutinous: rebellious

11. **muster up:** assemble for battle; **son:** i.e., sonin-law

12. stir up: incite, urge

KING EDWARD

Thanks, brave Montgomery, and thanks unto you all. If fortune serve me, I'll requite this kindness. Now, for this night let's harbor here in York, And when the morning sun shall raise his car Above the border of this horizon, We'll forward towards Warwick and his mates; For well I wot that Henry is no soldier. Ah, froward Clarence, how evil it beseems thee To flatter Henry and forsake thy brother! Yet, as we may, we'll meet both thee and Warwick. Come on, brave soldiers; doubt not of the day; And that once gotten, doubt not of large pay.

They exit.

「Scene 87

Flourish. Enter King [Henry,] Warwick, Montague, Clarence, Oxford, and [Exeter, all wearing the red rose.]

WARWICK

What counsel, lords? Edward from Belgia,
With hasty Germans and blunt Hollanders,
Hath passed in safety through the Narrow Seas,
And with his troops doth march amain to London,
And many giddy people flock to him.
KING HENRY

Let's levy men and beat him back again.

A little fire is quickly trodden out, Which, being suffered, rivers cannot quench.

In Warwickshire I have true-hearted friends, Not mutinous in peace yet bold in war. Those will I muster up; and thou, son Clarence, Shalt stir up in Suffolk, Norfolk, and in Kent

- 21. Dian: Diana, goddess of the hunt and of chastity; her nymphs: beautiful semidivine maidens who served Diana (See picture, below.)
 - 22. rest: remain

23. take leave: depart; stand: wait, stop

25. Hector: most valiant protector of Troy (See picture, page 62.) Troy's true hope: See note to 2.1.51.

26. truth: lovalty, steadfast allegiance

27. Well-minded: right-minded, loyal; fortunate: favored by Fortune

28. Comfort: i.e., take comfort

29. seal my truth: attest solemnly to my loyalty

31. all at once: everyone simultaneously

34. Cousin: a form of address among nobles

35. Methinks: it seems to me

36. encounter mine: confront mine in battle

37. doubt: fear



"... modest Dian circled with her nymphs." (4.8.21) From Ovid, . . . Le metamorphosi . . . (1538).

The knights and gentlemen to come with thee.— Thou, brother Montague, in Buckingham, Northampton, and in Leicestershire shalt find 15 Men well inclined to hear what thou command'st.-And thou, brave Oxford, wondrous well beloved. In Oxfordshire shalt muster up thy friends.— My sovereign, with the loving citizens, Like to his island girt in with the ocean, 20 Or modest Dian circled with her nymphs, Shall rest in London till we come to him. Fair lords, take leave, and stand not to reply.— Farewell, my sovereign. KING HENRY Farewell, my Hector and my Troy's true hope. 25 CLARENCE In sign of truth, I kiss your Highness' hand. KING HENRY Well-minded Clarence, be thou fortunate. MONTAGUE Comfort, my lord; and so I take my leave. OXFORD And thus I seal my truth, and bid adieu. THe kisses Henry's hand. Sweet Oxford and my loving Montague 30 And all at once, once more a happy farewell. Farewell, sweet lords. Let's meet at Coventry.

KING HENRY

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WARWICK

「All but King Henry and Exeter [¬]exit.

KING HENRY

Here at the palace will I rest awhile. Cousin of Exeter, what thinks your Lordship? Methinks the power that Edward hath in field Should not be able to encounter mine.

EXETER

The doubt is that he will seduce the rest.

55

60

38. meed: merit, excellence, worth

40. **posted off:** postponed, delayed; **suits:** petitions

42. mildness: kindness; griefs: suffering

45. great subsidies: i.e., exorbitant taxes

46. forward of: eager for

48. graces challenge grace: virtues lay claim to goodwill

49. **lion:** most powerful of beasts (often a symbol of the king) See picture, page 200.

50 SD. A York: a rallying cry to King Edward

52. shamefaced: bashful, shy

54. fount: source, spring

55. **stops:** is choked up, blocked; **suck them dry:** extract all the water from the **small brooks**

58. bend: turn

59. peremptory: obstinate, self-willed

60-61. The sun... hay: Proverbial: "Make hay while the sun shines."

62. betimes: immediately

64. amain: with full speed

KING HENRY

That's not my fear. My meed hath got me fame.

I have not stopped mine ears to their demands,
Nor posted off their suits with slow delays.

My pity hath been balm to heal their wounds,
My mildness hath allayed their swelling griefs,
My mercy dried their water-flowing tears.

I have not been desirous of their wealth
Nor much oppressed them with great subsidies,
Nor forward of revenge, though they much erred.

Then why should they love Edward more than me?
No, Exeter, these graces challenge grace;

And when the lion fawns upon the lamb,
The lamb will never cease to follow him.

Shout within A [York] A [York]

EXETER

Hark, hark, my lord, what shouts are these?

Enter 「King Tedward Tand Richard Tand Soldiers, Tall wearing the white rose. T

KING EDWARD

Seize on the shamefaced Henry, bear him hence, And once again proclaim us King of England.— You are the fount that makes small brooks to flow. Now stops thy spring; my sea shall suck them dry And swell so much the higher by their ebb.—

Hence with him to the Tower. Let him not speak. *Soldiers* exit with King Henry and Exeter.

And, lords, towards Coventry bend we our course, Where peremptory Warwick now remains.

The sun shines hot, and if we use delay, Cold biting winter mars our hoped-for hay.

RICHARD

Away betimes, before his forces join, And take the great-grown traitor unawares. Brave warriors, march amain towards Coventry.

They exit.

HENRY VI Part 3

ACT 5

- 5.1 At Coventry, Warwick awaits the arrival of Clarence. Other forces arrive in Warwick's support. King Edward then arrives, and is joined by his own supporting troops. When Clarence finally appears, he turns against Warwick and once more joins his brothers in supporting the Yorkist cause. Warwick and his forces leave Coventry to fight the Yorkists at the battle of Barnet.
- 0 SD. Coventry: an important medieval city famous for the 12-foot-high, 8-foot-thick wall enclosing and protecting it, a wall with twelve gates and twenty towers (Historically, King Henry VI and Queen Margaret based their court in Coventry during some of the years covered in the action of this play.) upon the walls: i.e., in a playing space over the stage at the rear (where Warwick and the other Lancastrians remain throughout this scene)
- 3. By this: i.e., by this time; Dunsmore: like Daintry (i.e., Daventry, line 6) and Southam (line 9), located southeast of Coventry
 - 7. son: i.e., son-in-law, Clarence (line 8)

$\lceil ACT.5 \rceil$

[Scene 1]

Enter Warwick, \(\text{wearing the red rose,} \) the Mayor of Coventry, two Messengers, and others, upon the walls.

WARWICK

Where is the post that came from valiant Oxford?— How far hence is thy lord, mine honest fellow? FIRST MESSENGER

By this at Dunsmore, marching hitherward.

THe exits.

WARWICK

How far off is our brother Montague? Where is the post that came from Montague? SECOND MESSENGER

By this at Daintry, with a puissant troop. The exits.

Enter, \(\text{upon the walls,} \) Somerville wearing the red rose.

WARWICK

Say, Somerville, what says my loving son? And, by thy guess, how nigh is Clarence now? SOMERVILLE

At Southam I did leave him with his forces And do expect him here some two hours hence. 「Drum offstage. [¬]

WARWICK

Then Clarence is at hand: I hear his drum.

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. 20

25

30

- 13. **Warwick:** a town southwest of **Coventry** on the Avon River (See picture of Coventry's Greyfriars Gate, the entrance to the city **from Warwick**, page 254.)
 - 14. Belike: probably, perhaps
- 15 SD. March: i.e., the sound of the drum accompaniment to marching troops; below: on the main stage
- 16. **Trumpet:** trumpeter, **sound a parle:** signal a request for a discussion of terms
- 17. surly: arrogant, imperious; mans: stations men on the wall to defend it
- 18. **unbid:** unbidden, uninvited; **spite:** outrage, injury; **sportful:** wanton, lascivious
 - 19. seduced: persuaded to betray us
 - 20. repair: arrival
 - 26. Confess: admit
 - 27. patron: protector
- 30. Or...will: It has been suggested that Warwick's "Duke of York" (line 28) is a slip of the tongue, as Richard here suggests (Hattaway, New Cambridge Edition [1993]).

SOMERVILLE

It is not his, my lord; here Southam lies.

The drum your Honor hears marcheth from Warwick.

Who should that be? Belike unlooked-for friends. SOMERVILLE

They are at hand, and you shall quickly know.

March. Flourish. Enter 「below, King Tedward, Richard, and Soldiers, 「including a Trumpeter, all wearing the white rose. T

KING EDWARD

Go, Trumpet, to the walls, and sound a parle.

See how the surly Warwick mans the wall.

O unbid spite, is sportful Edward come? Where slept our scouts, or how are they seduced, That we could hear no news of his repair?

KING EDWARD

Now, Warwick, wilt thou ope the city gates, Speak gentle words, and humbly bend thy knee? Call Edward king, and at his hands beg mercy, And he shall pardon thee these outrages.

WARWICK

Nay, rather wilt thou draw thy forces hence, Confess who set thee up and plucked thee down, Call Warwick patron, and be penitent,

And thou shalt still remain the Duke of York.

RICHARD

I thought at least he would have said "the King." Or did he make the jest against his will?

WARWICK

Is not a dukedom, sir, a goodly gift?

RICHARD

33. **do thee service**: i.e., serve you (as my liege lord)—ironic

36. Atlas: mythological giant condemned to bear the heavens on his shoulders (See picture, page 218.)

37. takes . . . again: i.e., takes back his gift

42. forecast: foresight

43–44. **whiles...deck:** a description of the capture of King Henry as a clever move in a card game **single ten:** poor or trivial ten card **the King:** i.e., the king card **fingered:** filched, pilfered

46. Tower: See note to 3.2.122 and pictures,

pages 132 and 172.

47. 'Tis... still: This line has not been satisfactorily explained.

48. **take the time:** i.e., seize the opportunity (Pro-

verbial: "Take time when time comes.")

50. **when:** exclamation of impatience; **Strike:** literally, hit **the iron** with a hammer (a term from metalworking) "To **strike** while **the iron** is hot" means "to act while one has the chance."

53. **low:** humble; **strike:** i.e., surrender (literally, in nautical language, lower the topsail as a sign of surrender)

54. have . . . friend: i.e., even if you have the wind and the tide with you

55. fast: firmly

56. new: newly, freshly

58. **Wind-changing:** inconstant, changing like the wind; **change:** i.e., transfer allegiance

Ay, by my faith, for a poor earl to give. I'll do thee service for so good a gift. WARWICK Twas I that gave the kingdom to thy brother. KING EDWARD Why, then, 'tis mine, if but by Warwick's gift. 35 WARWICK Thou art no Atlas for so great a weight; And, weakling, Warwick takes his gift again, And Henry is my king, Warwick his subject. KING EDWARD But Warwick's king is Edward's prisoner. And, gallant Warwick, do but answer this: What is the body when the head is off? RICHARD Alas, that Warwick had no more forecast. But whiles he thought to steal the single ten, The King was slyly fingered from the deck. You left poor Henry at the Bishop's palace, 45 And ten to one you'll meet him in the Tower. KING EDWARD 'Tis even so; yet you are Warwick still. RICHARD Come, Warwick, take the time; kneel down, kneel down. Nay, when? Strike now, or else the iron cools. 50 WARWICK I had rather chop this hand off at a blow And with the other fling it at thy face Than bear so low a sail to strike to thee. KING EDWARD Sail how thou canst, have wind and tide thy friend, This hand, fast wound about thy coalblack hair, 55 Shall, whiles thy head is warm and new cut off, Write in the dust this sentence with thy blood: "Wind-changing Warwick now can change no more."

- 58 SD. Colors: standard-bearer with Oxford's heraldic banner
 - 59. **colors:** flag
- 62. **So:** then; **set upon:** assail, violently attack; **backs:** forces at the rear
 - 63. good array: proper martial order
 - 64. bid us battle: challenge us to fight
- 65. **but of small defense**: i.e., only poorly defended
- 66. **rouse:** perhaps, move with violence, rush; or, perhaps, force them, like animals, from their lair; **in the same:** i.e., inside **the city**
 - 67. want: need
 - 69. buy: suffer the consequences of
- 71. **The . . . victory:** Proverbial: "The more danger, the more honor." **harder matched:** i.e., the more difficult the adversary
- 72. **presageth:** foretells, predicts; **happy:** fortunate



Atlas bearing the vault of heaven. (5.1.36) From Gabriele Simeoni, *Le sententiose imprese*... (1560).

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Enter Oxford,	fbelow,	wearing	the	red rose,
with \sol				

WARWICK

O, cheerful colors, see where Oxford comes!

OXFORD Oxford, Oxford for Lancaster!

Oxford and his troops exit as through a city gate.

The gates are open; let us enter too.

So other foes may set upon our backs.
Stand we in good array, for they no doubt
Will issue out again and bid us battle.
If not, the city being but of small defense,
We'll quickly rouse the traitors in the same.

「Oxford enters aloft, ¬

WARWICK

O welcome, Oxford, for we want thy help.

Enter Montague, [below, wearing the red rose,] with [Soldiers,] Drum and Colors.

MONTAGUE Montague, Montague for Lancaster!

Thou and thy brother both shall buy this treason Even with the dearest blood your bodies bear!

Montague and his troops exit as through a city gate. KING EDWARD

The harder matched, the greater victory.

My mind presageth happy gain and conquest.

Enter Somerset, \(\text{below}, wearing the red rose, \) with \(\text{Soldiers}, \) Drum and Colors.

SOMERSET Somerset, Somerset for Lancaster!

Two of thy name, both dukes of Somerset,

Have sold their lives unto the house of York,

75

RICHARD

74-75. Two . . . York: Henry VI. Part 3 opens with Richard presenting the head of the then Duke of Somerset to his father: the next Duke of Somerset was also executed by the Yorkists (an action not dramatized by Shakespeare). sold: i.e., lost

78. **force:** military strength

79. upright: honorable; to right: i.e., for justice

80. nature: natural feeling (In the octavo, and in some modern editions, a stage direction indicates that at this point, Richard whispers to Clarence. persuading him to return to his brothers.)

82. Father: i.e., father-in-law

84. ruinate: reduce to ruins

85. lime: cement

86. set up: raise to power (Historically, it was Clarence himself who was accused of "takling" part against the house of York . . . and [setting] up again the house of Lancaster.") trowest thou: do you believe

87. **blunt:** unfeeling

88. bend: aim. direct

90. object: urge as an objection

92. Jephthah . . . daughter: Jephthah's daughter was the unintended victim of Jephthah's keeping a rash holy oath. (See Judges 11,29-40.)

96. **resolution**: determination

97. stir abroad: i.e., leave the walled city

98. plague: torment, harass; foul: foully, shamefully

And thou shalt be the third, if this sword hold. Somerset and his troops exit as through a city gate. Enter Clarence, \(\text{below}, \text{ wearing the red rose.} \) with \[Soldiers.\] Drum and Colors. WARWICK And lo, where George of Clarence sweeps along, Of force enough to bid his brother battle, With whom [an] upright zeal to right prevails More than the nature of a brother's love.— 80 Come, Clarence, come; thou wilt, if Warwick call. CLARENCE Father of Warwick, know you what this means? THe removes the red rose. Look, here I throw my infamy at thee. THe throws the rose at Warwick. I will not ruinate my father's house. Who gave his blood to lime the stones together 85 And set up Lancaster. Why, trowest thou, Warwick, That Clarence is so harsh, so blunt, unnatural, To bend the fatal instruments of war Against his brother and his lawful king? Perhaps thou wilt object my holy oath. 90 To keep that oath were more impiety Than Jephthah when he sacrificed his daughter. I am so sorry for my trespass made That, to deserve well at my brother's hands, I here proclaim myself thy mortal foe, 95 With resolution, wheresoe'er I meet thee-As I will meet thee if thou stir abroad— To plague thee for thy foul misleading me. And so, proud-hearted Warwick, I defy thee And to my brother turn my blushing cheeks.— 100

110

- 102. faults: transgressions, offenses
- 103. unconstant: inconstant
- 107. passing: surpassing, extreme
- 108. What: an interjection introducing a question
- 109. stones: building material for the wall and gates (See picture, page 254.)
 - 110. cooped: enclosed
- 111. Barnet: a site near London (See longer note. page 263.) presently: immediately
- 5.2 At the battle of Barnet, King Edward brings in a wounded Warwick and leaves him to his death Lancastrian lords find Warwick as he dies. and they prepare to join Queen Margaret and the newly arrived French forces.
- 0 SD. Alarum: call to arms; excursions: attacks and counterattacks
- 2. bug: object of terror, bugbear; feared: frightened
 - 3. sit fast: i.e., stay where you are, don't move
 - 4. That: i.e., so that

Pardon me, Edward, I will make amends.— And, Richard, do not frown upon my faults. For I will henceforth be no more unconstant.

KING EDWARD

Now, welcome more, and ten times more beloved, Than if thou never hadst deserved our hate.

RICHARD

Welcome, good Clarence; this is brother-like. WARWICK

O passing traitor, perjured and unjust.

KING EDWARD

What, Warwick, wilt thou leave the town and fight? Or shall we beat the stones about thine ears?

WARWICK

Alas, I am not cooped here for defense. I will away towards Barnet presently And bid thee battle, Edward, if thou dar'st.

KING EDWARD

Yes, Warwick, Edward dares, and leads the way.— Warwick exits from the walls and descends. Lords, to the field! Saint George and victory! They exit. March. Warwick and his company follows.

「Scene 27

Alarum and excursions. Enter [King] Edward, \(\text{wearing the red rose,} \) \(\text{wounded.} \)

KING EDWARD

So, lie thou there. Die thou, and die our fear, For Warwick was a bug that feared us all. Now, Montague, sit fast. I seek for thee, That Warwick's bones may keep thine company.

- 8. want: lack
- 9. yield: surrender
- 10. **the conquest:** i.e., **yield** (i.e., concede) **the** victory
- 11–15. **Thus...wind:** Warwick compares himself to **the** lofty **cedar** tree, protecting the most noble of animals (eagles and lions) and overtopping the royal oak tree. **arms:** i.e., branches **ramping lion:** upreared **lion** (as on the British royal crest) **overpeered:** looked down on **Jove's spreading tree:** In Virgil and Ovid, the oak is **Jove's tree.** (Jove is the king of the gods in Roman mythology.)
 - 19. search: try to find
 - 21. kingly sepulchers: royal burial places
- 23. durst: dared; bent his brow: scowled, frowned
 - 25. walks: tracts of forest land
 - 26. forsake: abandon
 - 30. wert thou: if you were
 - 34. fly: flee

MAKWICI	
Ah, who is nigh? Come to me, friend or foe, And tell me who is victor, York or Warwick?	5
Why ask I that? My mangled body shows,	
My blood, my want of strength, my sick heart sh	iows
That I must yield my body to the earth	
And, by my fall, the conquest to my foe.	10
Thus yields the cedar to the axe's edge,	
Whose arms gave shelter to the princely eagle,	
Under whose shade the ramping lion slept,	
Whose top branch overpeered Jove's spreading t	ree
And kept low shrubs from winter's pow'rful wine	d. 15
These eyes, that now are dimmed with death's b	lack
veil,	
Have been as piercing as the midday sun	
To search the secret treasons of the world.	
The wrinkles in my brows, now filled with blood	1, 20
Were likened oft to kingly sepulchers,	
For who lived king but I could dig his grave?	
And who durst smile when Warwick bent his bro	ow?
Lo, now my glory smeared in dust and blood!	
My parks, my walks, my manors that I had	25
Even now forsake me; and of all my lands	
Is nothing left me but my body's length.	t?
Why, what is pomp, rule, reign, but earth and do	1911
And live we how we can, yet die we must.	
Enter Oxford and Somerset, $\lceil b$ oth wearing the red r	ose. 7
SOMERSET	
Ah, Warwick, Warwick, wert thou as we are,	.30
We might recover all our loss again.	
The Queen from France hath brought a puissan	t
power;	
Even now we heard the news. Ah, could'st thou	fly—
WARWICK	
Why, then, I would not fly. Ah, Montague,	35

45

50

5

37. **keep in my soul:** i.e., block the passage of my soul through my lips

43. latest: final

46. sounded . . . vault: perhaps, was a mere roar of noise

47. mought: might; distinguished: i.e., understood as separate words

48. well might: i.e., could distinctly

52. **power:** army

5.3 King Edward, Richard, and Clarence are triumphant after the battle of Barnet, but they know they must now meet Queen Margaret and her forces at Tewkesbury.

0 SD. in triumph: possibly wearing a wreath of laurel, as did victorious Roman generals (See line 2, below, and picture, page 194.)

3-13. But ... storm: an extended metaphor in which Edward is the sun and Margaret's army the cloud that threatens to darken the bright-shining day of Yorkist victory encounter: do battle our: my sun: See longer note to 2.3.7, page 257. he: i.e., the sun powers: troops, forces Gallia: the Latin name for Gaul or France beams: sunbeams

If thou be there, sweet brother, take my hand And with thy lips keep in my soul awhile. Thou lov'st me not, for, brother, if thou didst. Thy tears would wash this cold congealed blood That glues my lips and will not let me speak. Come quickly, Montague, or I am dead.

SOMERSET

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Ah, Warwick, Montague hath breathed his last, And to the latest gasp cried out for Warwick, And said "Commend me to my valiant brother." And more he would have said, and more he spoke, Which sounded like a cannon in a vault, That mought not be distinguished, but at last I well might hear, delivered with a groan, "O. farewell, Warwick."

WARWICK

Sweet rest his soul! Fly, lords, and save yourselves, For Warwick bids you all farewell to meet in heaven. He dies.

OXFORD

Away, away, to meet the Queen's great power! Here they bear away his body. They exit.

[Scene 3]

Flourish. Enter King Edward in triumph, with Richard, Clarence, and the rest, [all wearing the white rose.]

KING EDWARD

Thus far our fortune keeps an upward course, And we are graced with wreaths of victory. But in the midst of this bright-shining day, I spy a black suspicious threat'ning cloud That will encounter with our glorious sun Ere he attain his easeful western bed. I mean, my lords, those powers that the Queen

5

16. breathe: pause

18. are advertised: have been notified

19. **they...course:** i.e., Margaret's forces march; **Tewkesbury:** located in west central England on the Severn River and famous for the battle fought there (See picture, page 240.)

20. **the best:** i.e., the victory

- 21. **thither straight:** i.e., go there immediately; **rids way:** makes progress
- **5.4** Queen Margaret rallies her forces despite Henry's capture and Warwick's death. King Edward and his forces enter. The battle of Tewkesbury ensues.
- 2. **cheerly:** in a cheerful manner; **harms:** injuries 3–36. **What though...rocks:** An extended metaphor in which the Lancastrian cause is described as a ship in serious trouble, with parts of the ship (**mast, cable, anchor**) lost or broken and the ship itself threatened by **sea, rocks,** and **quicksand.** Margaret urges her followers to let her and Prince Edward take Henry's place as **pilot** and warns that to desert the ship is to be drowned or killed in the **quicksand** or on the **rocks.**

5. flood: ocean

6. pilot: i.e., King Henry; meet: fitting

Hath raised in Gallia have arrived our coast And, as we hear, march on to fight with us. CLARENCE A little gale will soon disperse that cloud 10 And blow it to the source from whence it came; Thy very beams will dry those vapors up, For every cloud engenders not a storm. RICHARD The Oueen is valued thirty thousand strong. And Somerset, with Oxford, fled to her. 15 If she have time to breathe, be well assured Her faction will be full as strong as ours. KING EDWARD We are advertised by our loving friends That they do hold their course toward Tewkesbury. We having now the best at Barnet Field 20 Will thither straight, for willingness rids way, And, as we march, our strength will be augmented In every county as we go along. Strike up the drum, cry "Courage!" and away. They exit.

「Scene 47

Flourish. March. Enter Queen 「Margaret,] young 「Prince] Edward, Somerset, Oxford, and Soldiers, 「all wearing the red rose.]

QUEEN MARGARET

Great lords, wise men ne'er sit and wail their loss But cheerly seek how to redress their harms. What though the mast be now blown overboard, The cable broke, the holding-anchor lost, And half our sailors swallowed in the flood? Yet lives our pilot still. Is 't meet that he Should leave the helm and, like a fearful lad,

in his moan: as h	ne laments
-------------------------------------	------------

11. industry: diligence

18. shrouds and tacklings: ropes

19. Ned: Prince Edward

20. charge: duty

23. shelves: sandbanks; wrack: shipwreck

24. speak them fair: i.e., speak to them courteously

27. ragged: jagged

28. bark: ship

34. If case: if by some chance

39. **Methinks:** it seems to me

41. magnanimity: fortitude

42. naked: unarmed: foil: defeat; man-at-arms: fully armed knight

With tearful eyes add water to the sea And give more strength to that which hath too much, Whiles in his moan the ship splits on the rock, 10 Which industry and courage might have saved? Ah, what a shame, ah, what a fault were this! Say Warwick was our anchor; what of that? And Montague our topmast; what of him? Our slaughtered friends the tackles; what of these? 15 Why, is not Oxford here another anchor? And Somerset another goodly mast? The friends of France our shrouds and tacklings? And, though unskillful, why not Ned and I For once allowed the skillful pilot's charge? 20 We will not from the helm to sit and weep, But keep our course, though the rough wind say no, From shelves and rocks that threaten us with wrack. As good to chide the waves as speak them fair. And what is Edward but a ruthless sea? 25 What Clarence but a quicksand of deceit? And Richard but a ragged fatal rock— All these the enemies to our poor bark? Say you can swim: alas, 'tis but awhile; Tread on the sand: why, there you quickly sink; 30 Bestride the rock: the tide will wash you off Or else you famish; that's a threefold death. This speak I, lords, to let you understand, If case some one of you would fly from us, That there's no hoped-for mercy with the brothers 35 More than with ruthless waves, with sands and rocks. Why, courage then! What cannot be avoided Twere childish weakness to lament or fear. PRINCE EDWARD Methinks a woman of this valiant spirit Should, if a coward heard her speak these words, Infuse his breast with magnanimity And make him, naked, foil a man-at-arms.

47. like spirit to: the same spirit as

52. **thy famous grandfather:** i.e., Henry V (See picture, page 14.)

58. gentle, Sweet: terms of polite address

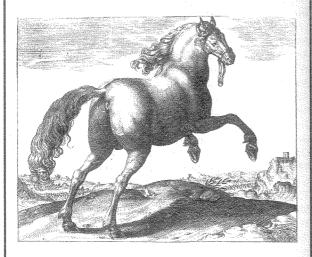
59. that yet: i.e., who yet

60. for: because

62. policy: stratagem, cunning

65. forwardness: eagerness, readiness

66. pitch: arrange, set up; battle: army



A courser. (5.7.9) From Jan van der Straet, *Eqvini generis* . . . [c. 1580?].

speak not this as doubting any here, For did I but suspect a fearful man, He should have leave to go away betimes, 45 Lest in our need he might infect another And make him of like spirit to himself. If any such be here, as God forbid. Let him depart before we need his help. OXFORD Women and children of so high a courage, 50 And warriors faint? Why, 'twere perpetual shame! O, brave young prince, thy famous grandfather Doth live again in thee. Long mayst thou live To bear his image and renew his glories! SOMERSET And he that will not fight for such a hope, Go home to bed and, like the owl by day, If he arise, be mocked and wondered at. **DUEEN MARGARET** Thanks, gentle Somerset.—Sweet Oxford, thanks. PRINCE EDWARD And take his thanks that yet hath nothing else. Enter a Messenger. MESSENGER Prepare you, lords, for Edward is at hand, Ready to fight. Therefore be resolute. [He exits.] OXFORD

I thought no less. It is his policy
To haste thus fast to find us unprovided.

SOMERSET

But he's deceived. We are in readiness.

This cheers my heart to see your forwardness. OXFORD

Here pitch our battle; hence we will not budge.

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Flourish, and march. Enter King Edward, Richard,

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67. wood: woods, forest (i.e., the Lancastrian army)

69. hewn up: felled, cut to pieces

71. wot: know; blaze: burn with excitement or passion

72. to it: i.e., go to it, attack

74. gainsay: hinder

77. state: greatness, power

80. spoil: destruction

82 SD. retreat: signal to retire

5.5 Queen Margaret and other Lancastrian leaders are brought in as captives. King Edward sends out orders to find Prince Edward. When the prince is brought in, he refuses to treat Edward as king and thus enrages Edward, Richard, and Clarence, who each stab him in turn. Queen Margaret begs them to kill her, too, but they refuse. Richard slips away to travel to the Tower of London. Margaret is led into captivity.

1. here a period: we have reached the end

2. straight: straightaway, at once

3. For: as for

Clarence, and Soldiers, \(\text{all wearing the white rose.} \) KING EDWARD, To his army Brave followers, yonder stands the thorny wood Which by the heavens' assistance and your strength Must by the roots be hewn up yet ere night. I need not add more fuel to your fire, 70 For, well I wot, you blaze to burn them out. Give signal to the fight, and to it, lords! OUEEN MARGARET, To her army Lords, knights, and gentlemen, what I should say My tears gainsay, for every word I speak You see I drink the water of my eye. 75 Therefore, no more but this: Henry, your sovereign, Is prisoner to the foe, his state usurped, His realm a slaughterhouse, his subjects slain, His statutes cancelled and his treasure spent, And yonder is the wolf that makes this spoil. 80 You fight in justice. Then, in God's name, lords, Be valiant, and give signal to the fight! Alarum, retreat, excursions. They exit.

Scene 57

Flourish. Enter 「King」 Edward, Richard, 「and」 Clarence, 「all wearing the white rose, with Soldiers guarding 「Queen 「Margaret,」 Oxford, 「and 「Somerset, 「all wearing the red rose, prisoners.」

KING EDWARD

Now here a period of tumultuous broils.

Away with Oxford to Hames Castle straight.

For Somerset, off with his guilty head.

Go bear them hence. I will not hear them speak.

8. sweet Jerusalem: i.e., the heavenly city

9. **Is proclamation made:** i.e., has it been proclaimed; **who:** whoever; **Edward:** i.e., **Prince Edward**

10. he his life: i.e., Edward's life will be spared

11. is: i.e., has been

12. gallant: fine gentleman

13. What: an exclamation of surprise, introducing a question

14. what . . . make: i.e., how can you atone

16. turned: put

18. I am . . . mouth: i.e., I speak for my father

19. chair: throne

20. propose: set forth, state

22. resolved: resolute

23. That: i.e., so that; still...petticoat: i.e., continued to act like a woman

24. **stol'n...Lancaster:** i.e., assumed Henry's authority **breech:** breeches, trousers

25–26. Let ... place: a heated response to Richard's mockery of Henry and Margaret's marriage Aesop: ancient Greek teller of fables fable: tell fictitious tales, talk idly in a winter's night: when fictions are enjoyed currish: mean-spirited, base sorts not: does not fit or agree

For my part, I'll not trouble thee with words.	; 5
SOMERSET	
Nor I, but stoop with patience to my fortune.	
QUEEN MARGARET	
So part we sadly in this troublous world	
To meet with joy in sweet Jerusalem. **Coxford and Somerset** exit, **Funder guard.**	
KING EDWARD	
Is proclamation made that who finds Edward	
Shall have a high reward, and he his life?	10
RICHARD	
It is, and lo where youthful Edward comes.	
Enter Prince 「Edward, wearing the red rose, under guard. 「	
Bring forth the gallant; let us hear him speak.	
What, can so young a thorn begin to prick?	
Edward, what satisfaction canst thou make	
For bearing arms, for stirring up my subjects,	15
And all the trouble thou hast turned me to?	1.0
PRINCE EDWARD	
Speak like a subject, proud ambitious York.	
Suppose that I am now my father's mouth:	
Resign thy chair, and where I stand, kneel thou,	
Whilst I propose the selfsame words to thee	20
Which, traitor, thou wouldst have me answer to.	
QUEEN MARGARET	
Ah, that thy father had been so resolved!	
RICHARD	
That you might still have worn the petticoat	
And ne'er have stol'n the breech from Lancaster.	
PRINCE EDWARD	
Let Aesop fable in a winter's night;	- 25
His currish riddles sorts not with this place.	

35

- 27. plague: harass, torment; word: speech
- 28. plague: pestilence, scourge
- 29. scold: woman who uses abusive language
- 30. scolding crookback: quarreling hunchback
- 31. Peace: be quiet; charm: put a spell on
- 32. Untutored: boorish; malapert: impudent
- 34. periured: oath-breaking
- 38. this railer here: i.e., Queen Margaret
- 39. Sprawl'st thou: i.e., do you struggle convulsively
 - 40. twitting: taunting
- 42. Marry, and shall: proverbial Marry: a mild oath
 - 42 SD. Offers: attempts
 - 43. Hold: stop



Icarus falls into the sea. (5.6.22) From Geoffrey Whitney, A choice of emblemes . . . (1586).

RICHARD

By heaven, brat, I'll plague you for that word. OUEEN MARGARET

Av. thou wast born to be a plague to men. RICHARD

For God's sake, take away this captive scold. PRINCE EDWARD

Nay, take away this scolding crookback, rather.

KING EDWARD Peace, willful boy, or I will charm your tongue.

CLARENCE, Tto Prince Edward

Untutored lad, thou art too malapert. PRINCE EDWARD

I know my duty. You are all undutiful.

Lascivious Edward, and thou perjured George. And thou misshapen Dick, I tell you all

I am your better, traitors as you are,

And thou usurp'st my father's right and mine. KING EDWARD

Take that, the likeness of this railer here! Stabs him. RICHARD

Sprawl'st thou? Take that to end thy agony! Richard stabs him.

CLARENCE

And there's for twitting me with perjury.

Clarence stabs him.

OUEEN MARGARET O. kill me too! RICHARD Marry, and shall.

Offers to kill her.

KING EDWARD

Hold, Richard, hold, for we have done too much. RICHARD

Why should she live to fill the world with words? 「Queen Margaret faints.]

KING EDWARD

What, doth she swoon? Use means for her recovery. They attempt to revive her.

- 46. excuse me: i.e., make my excuses
- 48. be sure: i.e., expect
- 50. **The Tower:** See note to 3.2.122 and pictures, pages 132 and 172.
 - 51. Ned: i.e., Prince Edward
 - 53. Caesar: i.e., Julius Caesar
 - 55. If . . . it: i.e., in comparison to this foul deed
- 56. **He:** i.e., **Caesar; this, in respect:** Prince Edward, in comparison
 - 57. spend: expend
 - 62. cropped: reaped, cut down
 - 66. Look: expect
 - 67. deathsmen: executioners; rid: killed
 - 68. perforce: forcibly
 - 69. Dispatch: kill
 - 70. Here: i.e., in my body
- 72. do...ease: give you so much pleasure or assistance



A depiction of the battle at Tewkesbury. (5.3.19) From John Speed, *The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine* . . . (1627 [i.e., 1631]).

RICHARD, Ttaking Clarence aside Clarence, excuse me to the King my brother I'll hence to London on a serious matter. Ere vou come there, be sure to hear some news. CLARENCE What? What? RICHARD The Tower, the Tower! He exits QUEEN MARGARET, rising from her swoon O Ned, sweet Ned, speak to thy mother, boy Canst thou not speak? O traitors, murderers! They that stabbed Caesar shed no blood at all. Did not offend, nor were not worthy blame, If this foul deed were by to equal it. He was a man; this, in respect, a child, which have And men ne'er spend their fury on a child. What's worse than murderer, that I may name it? No, no, my heart will burst an if I speak. And I will speak, that so my heart may burst. Butchers and villains, bloody cannibals, How sweet a plant have you untimely cropped! You have no children, butchers. If you had, The thought of them would have stirred up remorse. But if you ever chance to have a child, 65 Look in his youth to have him so cut off As, deathsmen, you have rid this sweet young prince. KING EDWARD Away with her. Go bear her hence perforce. **QUEEN MARGARET** Nay, never bear me hence! Dispatch me here. Here sheathe thy sword; I'll pardon thee my death. 70 What, wilt thou not?—Then, Clarence, do it thou, CLARENCE By heaven, I will not do thee so much ease. **OUEEN MARGARET** Good Clarence, do! Sweet Clarence, do thou do it.

Didst thou not hear me swear I would not do it?

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CLARENCE

OUTEEN MARGARET

- 75. **usest...thyself:** are accustomed to perjuring yourself
 - 79. Hard-favored: ugly
 - 80. alms-deed: act of charity
- 81. putt'st back: refuse
- 82. charge: order
- 84. So... prince: i.e., may what happened to this prince happen to you and yours
 - 86. all in post: in extreme haste
- 87. **bloody supper:** possible wordplay on "blood-supper," a bloodthirsty person
 - 89. common sort: ordinary soldiers
 - 92. By this: i.e., by now
- **5.6** Richard kills King Henry in the Tower, and then begins to plot his own way to the crown, now that King Henry and Prince Edward are dead. He decides that his brother Clarence will be the next to go.
- 1. at your book: reading (presumably a prayer book)

Ay, but thou usest to forswear thyself.	75
Twas sin before, but now 'tis charity.	
What, wilt thou not? Where is that devil's butcher,	
Richard,	
Hard-favored Richard? Richard, where art thou?	
Thou art not here. Murder is thy alms-deed;	80
Petitioners for blood thou ne'er putt'st back.	
KING EDWARD	
Away, I say! [(To Soldiers.)] I charge you bear her	
hence.	
OUEEN MARGARET	
So come to you and yours as to this prince!	
Queen [Margaret] exits [under guard.	
Soldiers carry off Prince Edward's body.	

KING EDWARD Where's Richard gone?

To London all in post, and, as I guess, To make a bloody supper in the Tower.

KING EDWARD

He's sudden if a thing comes in his head.

Now march we hence. Discharge the common sort
With pay and thanks, and let's away to London
And see our gentle queen how well she fares.

By this I hope she hath a son for me.

「Thev [¬]exit.

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「Scene 67

Enter 「King Henry the Sixth, 「wearing the red rose, and Richard fof Gloucester, wearing the white rose, with the Lieutenant 「above on the Tower walls.

RICHARD

Good day, my lord. What, at your book so hard?

KING HENRY

25

4. were: would be

6. Sirrah: a term of address to a social inferior

7. **So:** in the same way; **flies:** flees; **reckless:** i.e., uncaring, negligent

8. harmless: innocent; yield: give up

10. **Roscius:** a famous Roman actor, often associated with tragedy

11. Suspicion . . . mind: proverbial

12. doth fear: is afraid that; an officer: i.e., is an

arresting officer

13–14. **The bird...bush:** proverbial **limèd:** trapped by birdlime, a sticky substance smeared on bushes to catch birds **misdoubteth:** is suspicious of mistrusts

15. hapless: unfortunate; male to: i.e., begetter

of 16. the fatal object: i.e., the limed bush

17. young: i.e., fledgling bird

19–21. what...drowned: Richard compares Henry to Daedalus (line 22), whose son, Icarus, was lost when his wax wings, made for him by his father, melted as he flew over the sea (line 25). peevish: silly Crete: the island on which Daedalus was trapped office: function fool: simpleton (For Icarus's fall, see picture, page 238.)

23. Thy father Minos: i.e., Richard, Duke of York, played the role of Minos; course: i.e., escape from Crete (line 19)

24. sun: For King Edward and the sun, see longer note to 2.3.7, page 257.

26. envious: malicious

28. brook: endure

Ay, my good lord—"my lord," I should say rather. 'Tis sin to flatter; "good" was little better: "Good Gloucester" and "good devil" were alike, And both preposterous: therefore, not "good lord." 5 RICHARD, [to Lieutenant] Sirrah, leave us to ourselves; we must confer Lieutenant exits. KING HENRY So flies the reckless shepherd from the wolf; So first the harmless sheep doth yield his fleece And next his throat unto the butcher's knife. What scene of death hath Roscius now to act? 10 RICHARD Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind; The thief doth fear each bush an officer. KING HENRY The bird that hath been limed in a bush. With trembling wings misdoubteth every bush: And I, the hapless male to one sweet bird. 15 Have now the fatal object in my eye Where my poor young was limed, was caught, and killed. RICHARD Why, what a peevish fool was that of Crete That taught his son the office of a fowl! 20 And yet, for all his wings, the fool was drowned. KING HENRY I Daedalus, my poor boy Icarus, Thy father Minos, that denied our course: The sun that seared the wings of my sweet boy

Thy brother Edward, and thyself the sea

Whose envious gulf did swallow up his life. Ah, kill me with thy weapon, not with words!

My breast can better brook thy dagger's point

36. **presume:** take liberties, act presumptuously

39. Which: who: mistrust . . . fear: i.e., suspect nothing of what I fear parcel: particle

41. water-standing: i.e., tearful

43. timeless: untimely

46. cried: crowed loudly; aboding luckless time: i.e., prophesying an ominous future

48. rooked her: i.e., rucked, crouched

49. pies: magpies

50. a mother's pain: i.e., the normal pains of childbirth

52. To wit: namely: indigested: shapeless

58. in thy speech: i.e., in the middle of your discourse



A screech owl. (2.6.55; 5.6.45) From Konrad Gesner, Icones animalium $quadrupedum \dots (1560).$

Than can my ears that tragic history. But wherefore dost thou come? Is 't for my life? RICHARD Think'st thou I am an executioner? KING HENRY A persecutor I am sure thou art. If murdering innocents be executing, Why, then, thou art an executioner. RICHARD Thy son I killed for his presumption. KING HENRY Hadst thou been killed when first thou didst presume, Thou hadst not lived to kill a son of mine. And thus I prophesy: that many a thousand Which now mistrust no parcel of my fear, And many an old man's sigh, and many a widow's And many an orphan's water-standing eye, Men for their sons, wives for their husbands, Orphans for their parents' timeless death, Shall rue the hour that ever thou wast born. The owl shrieked at thy birth, an evil sign: 45 The night-crow cried, aboding luckless time: Dogs howled, and hideous tempest shook down trees; The raven rooked her on the chimney's top: And chatt'ring pies in dismal discords sung: Thy mother felt more than a mother's pain, 50 And yet brought forth less than a mother's hope: To wit, an indigested and deformed lump, Not like the fruit of such a goodly tree. Teeth hadst thou in thy head when thou wast born To signify thou cam'st to bite the world. 55 And if the rest be true which I have heard. Thou cam'st-RICHARD

I'll hear no more. Die, prophet, in thy speech;

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For this amongst the rest was I ordained.

Stahs him

62. **aspiring:** wordplay on (1) ambitious; (2) soaring

65. purple: crimson

70. true that: true what

72. forward: foremost, first

75. wondered: marveled

78. should: i.e., would

80. crook'd: twisted, tortuous; answer it: i.e., correspond to my body

83. Be resident: reside

86. sort: i.e., arrange, contrive; pitchy: pitch-dark

88. fearful of: afraid for

89. purge: get rid of



A bear whelp being licked into shape. (3.2.163) From Otto van Veen, *Amorum emblemata* (1608).

KING HENRY Ay, and for much more slaughter after this. O God, forgive my sins, and pardon thee. Dies. RICHARD What, will the aspiring blood of Lancaster Sink in the ground? I thought it would have mounted. See how my sword weeps for the poor king's death. O, may such purple tears be always shed From those that wish the downfall of our house. If any spark of life be yet remaining, Down, down to hell, and say I sent thee thither-Stabs him again. I that have neither pity, love, nor fear. Indeed, 'tis true that Henry told me of, 70 For I have often heard my mother say I came into the world with my legs forward. Had I not reason, think you, to make haste And seek their ruin that usurped our right? The midwife wondered, and the women cried 75 "O Jesus bless us, he is born with teeth!" And so I was, which plainly signified That I should snarl, and bite, and play the dog. Then, since the heavens have shaped my body so, Let hell make crook'd my mind to answer it. 80 I have no brother, I am like no brother; And this word "love," which graybeards call divine, Be resident in men like one another And not in me. I am myself alone. Clarence, beware; thou keep'st me from the light. But I will sort a pitchy day for thee: For I will buzz abroad such prophecies That Edward shall be fearful of his life: And then to purge his fear, I'll be thy death. King Henry and the Prince his son are gone.

- 92. Counting...bad: regarding myself as worthless
- **5.7** King Edward celebrates the Yorkist triumph by having Richard and Clarence kiss his infant son. Richard, while outwardly loving the new prince, makes clear his intention of destroying him.
 - 1. sit in: i.e., sit on
 - 3. like to autumn's corn: like autumn wheat
 - 4. in tops: i.e., at the peak
 - 6. For: as
 - 7. as: namely
- 9. **coursers:** horses ridden in battle and tournaments (See picture, page 232.)
- 10. **the two brave bears:** In *Henry VI, Part 2* (5.1.147), Richard, Duke of York, calls **Warwick** and his father-in-law, Salisbury, his **two brave bears**, alluding to the Neville family crest of a rampant bear
- 12. **the kingly lion:** i.e., royalty (As king of beasts, **the lion** was associated with kings.) See picture, page 200.
 - 14. suspicion: apprehension of evil; seat: throne
- 15. made . . . security: i.e., made security our footstool (See longer note, page 263.)
 - 17. for thee: i.e., it was for you that
 - 18. watched: stayed awake throughout
- 21. **reap:** obtain, procure (Richard's comment on the infant's **harvest** [line 22] is in response to the primary meaning of **reap**, "to gather a crop by cutting down grain.")

Clarence, thy turn is next, and then the rest,
Counting myself but bad till I be best.
I'll throw thy body in another room,
And triumph, Henry, in thy day of doom.

He exits, \(\subseteq \cap \text{carrying out the body.} \)

「Scene 77

Flourish. Enter King 「Edward, 「Queen 「Elizabeth,」 Clarence, Richard 「of Gloucester, Hastings, Nurse, 「carrying infant Prince Edward, and Attendants.

KING EDWARD

Once more we sit in England's royal throne, Repurchased with the blood of enemies. What valiant foemen, like to autumn's corn, Have we mowed down in tops of all their pride! Three dukes of Somerset, threefold renowned? For hardy and undoubted champions; Two Cliffords, as the father and the son; And two Northumberlands; two braver men Ne'er spurred their coursers at the trumpet's sound. With them the two brave bears, Warwick and

Montague,

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And made the forest tremble when they roared. Thus have we swept suspicion from our seat And made our footstool of security.—
Come hither, Bess, and let me kiss my boy.—
Young Ned, for thee, thine uncles and myself Have in our armors watched the winter's night, Went all afoot in summer's scalding heat, That thou mightst repossess the crown in peace, And of our labors thou shalt reap the gain.

That in their chains fettered the kingly lion

15

5

10

20

22. blast: blight, wither, ruin; if your head were laid: (1) i.e., if you were buried in the ground; (2) if the tops of grain in the potential harvest were beaten down by wind and rain

23. looked on: respected, regarded

24. ordained: devised, made; to heave: i.e., so that it can heave

25. some weight: perhaps the weight of the

26. Work thou the way: contrive the best course of action (addressed to himself); that shalt execute: perhaps, my deformed shoulder will carry it out (But see longer note, page 264.)

27. Gloucester: i.e., Richard

30. seal: confirm as if by affixing a seal

32. sprang'st: grew

34-35. Judas...harm: an allusion to Judas's betrayal of Jesus with a kiss (line 33) whenas: whereas (See Matthew 26.49.)

38. What . . . Grace: i.e., what does your Grace wish to

40. the Sicils: See longer note to 1.4.125, page 256.

41. sent it: i.e., sent the money they got

42. waft: convey, carry

43. rests: remains

44. triumphs: celebrations, pageants; shows: i.e., entertainments

46. sour annoy: bitter trouble or vexation

RICHARD, [aside] I'll blast his harvest, if your head were laid; For yet I am not looked on in the world. This shoulder was ordained so thick to heave, And heave it shall some weight or break my back. 25 Work thou the way and that shalt execute. KING EDWARD Clarence and Gloucester, love my lovely queen, And kiss your princely nephew, brothers both. CLARENCE The duty that I owe unto your Majesty I seal upon the lips of this sweet babe. THe kisses the infant. TKING EDWARD Thanks, noble Clarence; worthy brother, thanks. RICHARD And that I love the tree from whence thou sprang'st, Witness the loving kiss I give the fruit. THe kisses the infant. 「Aside. To say the truth, so Judas kissed his master And cried "All hail!" whenas he meant all harm. KING EDWARD Now am I seated as my soul delights, Having my country's peace and brothers' loves. CLARENCE What will your Grace have done with Margaret? Reignier, her father, to the King of France Hath pawned the Sicils and Jerusalem, And hither have they sent it for her ransom. KING EDWARD Away with her, and waft her hence to France. And now what rests but that we spend the time With stately triumphs, mirthful comic shows, Such as befits the pleasure of the court? 45 Sound drums and trumpets! Farewell, sour annoy, For here I hope begins our lasting joy. 「Flourish. They all exit.