

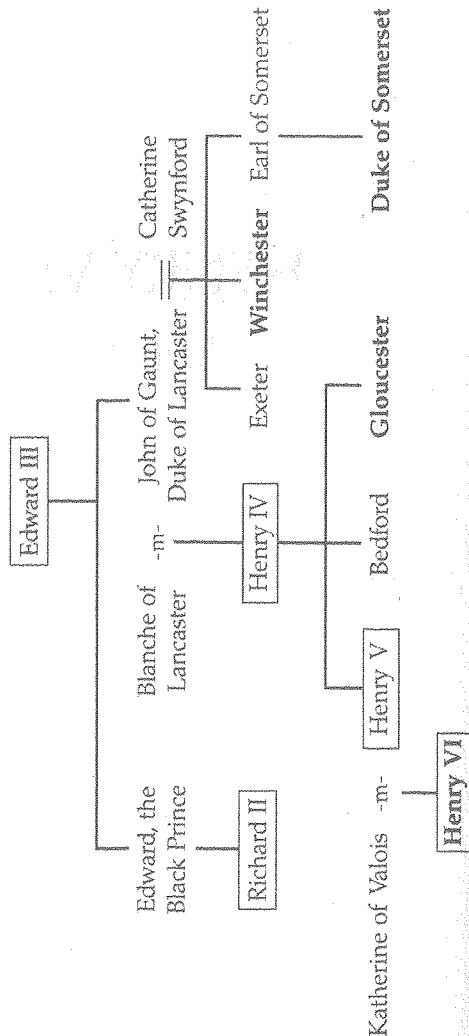
word in the text is not readily accessible in a good contemporary dictionary, we offer the meaning in a note. Sometimes we provide a note even when the relevant meaning is to be found in the dictionary but when the word has acquired since Shakespeare's time other potentially confusing meanings. In our notes, we try to offer modern synonyms for Shakespeare's words. We also try to indicate to the reader the connection between the word in the play and the modern synonym. For example, Shakespeare sometimes uses the word *head* to mean *source*, but, for modern readers, there may be no connection evident between these two words. We provide the connection by explaining Shakespeare's usage as follows: "**head:** fountainhead, source." On some occasions, a whole phrase or clause needs explanation. Then, when 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 2

English Ancestry of King Henry VI

[Characters in this play appear in bold]



Characters in the Play

KING HENRY VI
QUEEN MARGARET

Humphrey, Duke of GLOUCESTER, the king's uncle,
and Lord Protector

DUCHESS of Gloucester, Dame Eleanor Cobham

CARDINAL Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, the king's
great-uncle

Duke of SOMERSET

Duke of SUFFOLK, William de la Pole, earlier Marquess
of SUFFOLK

BUCKINGHAM

Lord CLIFFORD

YOUNG CLIFFORD, his son

Duke of YORK, Richard Plantagenet

Earl of SALISBURY

Earl of WARWICK, Salisbury's son

EDWARD, Earl of March } *sons of the Duke of York*
RICHARD

Jack CADE, leader of the Kentish rebellion

BEVIS

John HOLLAND

DICK the butcher

SMITH the weaver

MICHAEL

GEORGE

} *followers of Jack Cade*

Lord SCALES

Lord SAYE

Sir Humphrey STAFFORD

His BROTHER,

William Stafford

} *King Henry's
supporters against Cade*

Sir John HUME, a priest
 John SOUTHWELL, a priest
 Margery JOURDAIN, a witch
 Roger BOLINGBROKE, a conjurer
 SPIRIT

Sir John STANLEY } *custodians of the Duchess*
 SHERIFF } *of Gloucester*

Thomas HORNER, the Duke of York's armorer
 Peter THUMP, Horner the armorer's man or prentice
 Two or Three PETITIONERS
 Three NEIGHBORS of Horner's
 Three PRENTICES, friends of Thump

A MAN of Saint Albans
 Sander SIMPCOX, supposed recipient of a miracle
 His WIFE
 MAYOR of Saint Albans
 A BEADLE of Saint Albans

LIEUTENANT, captain of a ship
 Ship's MASTER
 Master's MATE
 Walter WHITMORE, a ship's officer
 Two GENTLEMEN, prisoners

MESSENGERS
 SERVANTS
 A HERALD
 POST, or messenger
 Two or three MURDERERS of Gloucester
 VAUX
 CLERK of Chartham
 Two or Three CITIZENS
 Alexander IDEN, a gentleman of Kent

Servants, Guards, Falconers, Attendants, Townsmen
 of Saint Albans, Bearers, Drummers, Commoners,
 Rebels, a Sawyer, Soldiers, Officers, Matthew Gough,
 and Others

HENRY VI

Part 2

ACT 1

1.1 King Henry meets his consort Queen Margaret, brought by Suffolk from France. The nobles fall into dissension, with the Cardinal, Buckingham, and Somerset opposing Gloucester, and with Salisbury and Warwick supporting him. Alone, York discloses his secret ambition for the crown.

0 SD. **Flourish:** fanfare to announce the approach of royalty; **hautboys:** powerful woodwinds used in outdoor ceremonials (an early form of the oboe) See picture, page 212.

1-2. **As . . . charge:** i.e., **as** I was commanded by your Majesty **imperial:** See longer note, page 251.

2. **depart:** departure

3. **procurator:** agent, deputy, proxy

4. **To marry . . . Grace:** For the background on this marriage in *Henry VI, Part 1*, see longer note, page 251.

6. **Sicil:** Sicily (See line 51.)

7-8. **Orleance:** Orléans; **Calaber:** Calabria; **Britaigne:** Brittany; **Alanson:** Alençon (For these Folio spellings, see longer note, page 252.)

11. **espoused:** married (by proxy)

13. **peers:** nobles

14. **title in:** right to possession of

15. **that are the substance:** i.e., you who **are** the solid or real thing, as proverbially opposed to image or semblance called the **shadow** (line 16)

17. **happiest:** most fortunate

18. **fairest:** most beautiful

ACT 1

Scene 1

Flourish of trumpets, then hautboys.

Enter King Henry, Duke Humphrey of Gloucester, Salisbury, Warwick, and Cardinal Beaufort, on the one side; Queen Margaret, Suffolk, York, Somerset, and Buckingham, on the other.

SUFFOLK

As by your high imperial Majesty
I had in charge at my depart for France,
As procurator to your Excellence,
To marry Princess Margaret for your Grace,
So, in the famous ancient city Tours,
In presence of the Kings of France and Sicil,
The Dukes of Orleance, Calaber, Britaigne, and
Alanson,

Seven earls, twelve barons, and twenty reverend
bishops,

I have performed my task and was espoused;

He kneels.

And humbly now upon my bended knee,
In sight of England and her lordly peers,
Deliver up my title in the Queen

To your most gracious hands, that are the substance
Of that great shadow I did represent:

The happiest gift that ever marquess gave,
The fairest queen that ever king received.

20. **kinder**: more natural
 21. **kind**: affectionate
 22. **that**: i.e., who
 23. **Lend**: grant, give (In line 22, **lends me** means "grants me temporary possession.")
 25. **A world**: a vast quantity or infinity
 26. **sympathy**: harmony, correspondence
 28. **mutual conference**: intimate conversation
 30. **courtly company**: i.e., the **company** of courtiers; **at my beads**: i.e., alone at prayer **beads**: rosary (See picture, page 40.)
 31. **alderliest**: very dear
 32. **salute**: greet, address
 33. **ruder**: less polished; **wit**: mind, intelligence; **affords**: supplies
 34. **overjoy**: too great joy; **minister**: impart
 35. **Her sight**: i.e., the **sight of her**; **ravish**: overpower with delight
 36. **yclad**: clad, clothed
 37. **wond'ring**: admiration
 39. **cheerful**: joyous (but with likely wordplay on *cheer*, meaning "encourage by shouts and cries")
 40. **happiness**: good fortune
 41. **We**: the royal "we," which Henry has not yet used
 42. **so it . . . Grace**: a polite formula requesting agreement
 43. **are . . . peace**: is the peace treaty
 45. **concluded**: agreed, settled

KING HENRY

Suffolk, arise.—Welcome, Queen Margaret.

[*Suffolk rises.*]

I can express no kinder sign of love
 Than this kind kiss.

[*He kisses her.*]

O Lord, that lends me life,
 Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness!
 For Thou hast given me in this beauteous face
 A world of earthly blessings to my soul,
 If sympathy of love unite our thoughts.

QUEEN MARGARET

Great king of England and my gracious lord,
 The mutual conference that my mind hath had
 By day, by night, waking and in my dreams,
 In courtly company or at my beads,
 With you, mine alderliest sovereign,
 Makes me the bolder to salute my king
 With ruder terms, such as my wit affords
 And overjoy of heart doth minister.

KING HENRY

Her sight did ravish, but her grace in speech,
 Her words yclad with wisdom's majesty,
 Makes me from wond'ring fall to weeping joys,
 Such is the fullness of my heart's content.
 Lords, with one cheerful voice welcome my love.

ALL kneel.

Long live Queen Margaret, England's happiness!

QUEEN MARGARET We thank you all.

[*Flourish.* All rise.]SUFFOLK, [*to Gloucester*]

My Lord Protector, so it please your Grace,
 Here are the articles of contracted peace
 Between our sovereign and the French king Charles,
 For eighteen months concluded by consent.

[*He hands Gloucester a paper.*]

46. **Imprimis**: in the first place (used to introduce the first of a number of items)

49. **espouse**: marry

52. **ere**: before; **Item**: also (used to introduce each article after the first in a document)

54. **released**: surrendered, made over

56. **Uncle**: See genealogical chart, page 2. **how now**: i.e., **how** is it **now**

58. **qualm**: fit of sickness or faintness

59. **that**: i.e., so **that**

60. **Uncle**: i.e., great-uncle (See chart, page 2.) **read on**: See longer note, page 252.

64. **sent over**: i.e., transported from France to England

64-65. **of the . . . charges**: i.e., at the expense of **the King of England** **own proper**: personal

67. **They**: i.e., the clauses of the treaty

69. **girt**: gird; **Cousin**: a term of address used among nobles and aristocrats

71. **regent**: At 4.1.163-64 of *Henry VI, Part 1*, the king had created York **regent of France**; the king now leaves the office open for **eighteen months**.

72. **th' parts of France**: i.e., the **parts of France** under English control

73. **full**: i.e., fully

77. **entertainment to**: i.e., treatment or reception of; **princely**: royal

GLOUCESTER (*reads*) *Imprimis, it is agreed between the French king Charles and William de la Pole, Marquess of Suffolk, ambassador for Henry, King of England, that the said Henry shall espouse the Lady Margaret, daughter unto Reignier, King of Naples, Sicilia, and Jerusalem, and crown her Queen of England ere the thirtieth of May next ensuing. Item, that the duchy of Anjou and the county of Maine shall be released and delivered to the King her father—* 50
「He drops the paper.」 55

KING HENRY

Uncle, how now?

GLOUCESTER Pardon me, gracious lord.
 Some sudden qualm hath struck me at the heart
 And dimmed mine eyes, that I can read no further.

KING HENRY

Uncle of Winchester, I pray read on. 60

CARDINAL *「picks up the paper and reads」* *Item, it is further agreed between them that the 「duchies」 of Anjou and Maine shall be released and delivered to the King her father, and she sent over of the King of England's own proper cost and charges, without having any dowry.* 65

KING HENRY

They please us well.—Lord Marquess, kneel down.
「Suffolk kneels.」

We here create thee the first Duke of Suffolk
 And girt thee with the sword. *「Suffolk rises.」* Cousin
 of York, 70

We here discharge your Grace from being regent
 I' th' parts of France till term of eighteen months
 Be full expired.—Thanks, Uncle Winchester;
 Gloucester, York, Buckingham, Somerset,
 Salisbury, and Warwick; 75
 We thank you all for this great favor done
 In entertainment to my princely queen.

78. **in:** i.e., go in; **provide:** prepare
 80. **peers:** nobles (with wordplay on *piers* or **pil-lars**); **state:** government
 83. **What:** interjection to introduce a question;
brother Henry: Henry V (See picture, page 20.)
 85. **lodge:** encamp
 87. **true inheritance:** rightful possession (See longer note, page 253.)
 88. **Bedford:** Duke of **Bedford**, whose brother, Henry V, when dying, made him regent of France;
toil: tire; **wits:** mental faculties
 89. **policy:** statecraft, political skill
 92. **France and Normandy:** For the military service of some of these figures in **France**, not all of it glorious, see *Henry VI, Part 1*, 4.3, 4.4, 5.3.
 93. **uncle Beaufort:** the Cardinal
 94. **council of the realm:** Privy Council
 95. **Studied:** deliberated
 96. **to and fro:** i.e., for and against
 99. **despite:** contemptuous defiance
 103. **league:** agreement
 104. **Fatal:** fateful, ominous
 105. **Blotting:** obliterating, effacing
 106. **Razing:** erasing; **characters:** graphic symbols, printed or written letters
 107. **monuments:** (1) written documents; (2) commemorative structures
 108. **as:** i.e., as if
 109. **passionate:** hot-tempered, angry

Come, let us in, and with all speed provide
 To see her coronation be performed.

*King, Queen, and Suffolk exit.
 The rest remain.*

GLOUCESTER

Brave peers of England, pillars of the state,
 To you Duke Humphrey must unload his grief,
 Your grief, the common grief of all the land.
 What, did my brother Henry spend his youth,
 His valor, coin, and people in the wars?
 Did he so often lodge in open field,
 In winter's cold and summer's parching heat,
 To conquer France, his true inheritance?
 And did my brother Bedford toil his wits
 To keep by policy what Henry got?
 Have you yourselves, Somerset, Buckingham,
 Brave York, Salisbury, and victorious Warwick,
 Received deep scars in France and Normandy?
 Or hath mine uncle Beaufort and myself,
 With all the learnèd council of the realm,
 Studied so long, sat in the Council House,
 Early and late, debating to and fro
 How France and Frenchmen might be kept in awe,
 And 'had' his Highness in his infancy
 Crowned in Paris in despite of foes?
 And shall these labors and these honors die?
 Shall Henry's conquest, Bedford's vigilance,
 Your deeds of war, and all our counsel die?
 O peers of England, shameful is this league,
 Fatal this marriage, cancelling your fame,
 Blotting your names from books of memory,
 Razing the characters of your renown,
 Defacing monuments of conquered France,
 Undoing all, as all had never been!

CARDINAL

Nephew, what means this passionate discourse,

110. **peroration:** eloquent speech; **circumstance:** detail

111. **For:** i.e., as **for**; **still:** always

114. **rules the roast:** i.e., presides over the dinner table, has full authority

116. **large:** i.e., grand; **style:** title (See lines 50–51 above.)

117. **Agrees not:** does not correspond

118. **by . . . all:** See 2 Corinthians 5.15: "And he died for all."

120. **wherefore:** why

126. **arms:** (1) weapons; (2) limbs

129. **Mort Dieu:** God's death (French)

130. **For:** i.e., as **for**; **suffocate:** suffocated

134. **I . . . but:** i.e., I always read that

136. **his own:** i.e., **his own sums** (line 135)

137. **match with:** marry; **vantages:** profits

138. **proper jest:** fine joke (sarcastic)

139. **fifteenth:** tax amounting to one-fifteenth of everyone's annual profit or income (or, perhaps, property) In *Henry VI, Part 1*, Henry authorizes Suffolk to "gather up a tenth" (5.5.93).

140. **charges:** expenses

This peroration with such circumstance?

For France, 'tis ours, and we will keep it still.

110

GLOUCESTER

Ay, uncle, we will keep it if we can,

But now it is impossible we should.

Suffolk, the new-made duke that rules the roast,

Hath given the duchy of Anjou and Maine

Unto the poor King Reignier, whose large style

Agrees not with the leanness of his purse.

115

SALISBURY

Now, by the death of Him that died for all,

These counties were the keys of Normandy.

But wherefore weeps Warwick, my valiant son?

120

WARWICK

For grief that they are past recovery;

For, were there hope to conquer them again,

My sword should shed hot blood, mine eyes no tears.

Anjou and Maine? Myself did win them both!

125

Those provinces these arms of mine did conquer.

And are the cities that I got with wounds

Delivered up again with peaceful words?

Mort Dieu!

YORK

For Suffolk's duke, may he be suffocate

130

That dims the honor of this warlike isle!

France should have torn and rent my very heart

Before I would have yielded to this league.

I never read but England's kings have had

Large sums of gold and dowries with their wives;

135

And our King Henry gives away his own

To match with her that brings no vantages.

GLOUCESTER

A proper jest, and never heard before,

That Suffolk should demand a whole fifteenth

For costs and charges in transporting her!

140

141. **starved:** died

149. **out:** i.e., come out

151. **ancient bickerings:** long-standing wrangling or altercations (Such altercations are shown in *Henry VI, Part 1*, 1.3, 3.1.)

152. **Lordings:** lords, sirs (possibly contemptuous)

158. **next of blood:** i.e., as the only surviving brother of Henry V, the nearest blood relation to the king

159. **heir apparent:** actually, *heir presumptive*, who would become monarch only if Henry VI died without issue

163. **Look to it:** beware; **smoothing:** plausible

164. **wise and circumspect:** See Ephesians 5.15: "Take heed therefore that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as **wise**."

169. **maintain:** keep vigorous

171. **fear me:** i.e., **fear;** **for:** in spite of; **gloss:** deceptive appearance

172. **found:** discovered on inspection to be

She should have stayed in France and starved in France

Before—

CARDINAL

My lord of Gloucester, now you grow too hot.
It was the pleasure of my lord the King.

145

GLOUCESTER

My lord of Winchester, I know your mind.
'Tis not my speeches that you do mislike,
But 'tis my presence that doth trouble you.
Rancor will out. Proud prelate, in thy face
I see thy fury. If I longer stay,
We shall begin our ancient bickerings.—
Lordings, farewell; and say, when I am gone,
I prophesied France will be lost ere long.

150

Gloucester exits.

CARDINAL

So, there goes our Protector in a rage.
'Tis known to you he is mine enemy,
Nay, more, an enemy unto you all,
And no great friend, I fear me, to the King.
Consider, lords, he is the next of blood
And heir apparent to the English crown.
Had Henry got an empire by his marriage,
And all the wealthy kingdoms of the West,
There's reason he should be displeased at it.
Look to it, lords. Let not his smoothing words
Bewitch your hearts; be wise and circumspect.
What though the common people favor him,
Calling him "Humphrey, the good Duke of
Gloucester,"
Clapping their hands and crying with loud voice
"Jesu maintain your royal Excellency!"
With "God preserve the good Duke Humphrey!"
I fear me, lords, for all this flattering gloss,
He will be found a dangerous Protector.

155

160

165

170

174. **He:** Henry VI; **of himself:** i.e., by himself
 177. **hoise:** remove; **seat:** office (i.e., as Protector)
 178. **brook:** endure, tolerate
 179. **presently:** immediately, instantly
 181. **greatness:** eminence; **place:** position; **grief:** trouble
 183. **insolence:** arrogance
 184. **Than all:** i.e., than that of all
 185. **displaced:** removed from office
 186. **Or thou:** i.e., either you
 188. **before:** ahead (**Pride** refers to the Cardinal, **Ambition** to Somerset and Buckingham.)
 189. **preferment:** advancement
 191. **never saw but:** i.e., always saw that
 192. **bear him:** conduct himself
 195. **stout:** fierce; **as:** i.e., as if
 196. **demean:** conduct
 199. **plainness:** honesty, directness of language;
housekeeping: hospitality
 201. **Excepting none but:** i.e., except for
 202. **brother:** i.e., brother-in-law



Henry VI.

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

BUCKINGHAM

Why should he, then, protect our sovereign,
 He being of age to govern of himself?—
 Cousin of Somerset, join you with me, 175
 And all together, with the Duke of Suffolk,
 We'll quickly hoise Duke Humphrey from his seat.

CARDINAL

This weighty business will not brook delay.
 I'll to the Duke of Suffolk presently. *Cardinal exits.*

SOMERSET

Cousin of Buckingham, though Humphrey's pride 180
 And greatness of his place be grief to us,
 Yet let us watch the haughty cardinal.
 His insolence is more intolerable
 Than all the princes' in the land besides.
 If Gloucester be displaced, he'll be Protector. 185

BUCKINGHAM

Or thou or I, Somerset, will be 'Protector,'¹
 Despite Duke Humphrey or the Cardinal.
Buckingham and Somerset exit.

SALISBURY

Pride went before; Ambition follows him.
 While these do labor for their own preferment,
 Behooves it us to labor for the realm. 190
 I never saw but Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester,
 Did bear him like a noble gentleman.
 Oft have I seen the haughty cardinal,
 More like a soldier than a man o' th' Church,
 As stout and proud as he were lord of all, 195
 Swear like a ruffian and demean himself
 Unlike the ruler of a commonweal.—
 Warwick, my son, the comfort of my age,
 Thy deeds, thy plainness, and thy housekeeping
 Hath won the greatest favor of the Commons, 200
 Excepting none but good Duke Humphrey.—
 And, brother York, thy acts in Ireland,

203. **civil discipline:** civilized orderliness
 204. **late:** recent
 206. **honored of:** i.e., honored by
 211. **cherish:** hold dear; make much of
 212. **tend:** foster
 214. **common profit:** i.e., general or public good
 216. **cause:** reason
 217. **the main:** the chief matter in hand, the most important eventuality (called, at the time, "the main chance") See line 221, below.
 225. **Stands on a tickle point:** is in a precarious position
 226. **concluded on:** determined (In *Henry VI, Part 1*, the king gave Suffolk the authority freely to "agree to any covenants" [5.5.88].) **articles:** treaty
 227. **peers:** nobles
 228. **change:** exchange; **fair:** beautiful
 231-32. **make . . . pillage:** i.e., sell their plunder for pennies



Henry V.
 From John Taylor, *All the workes of* . . . (1630).

In bringing them to civil discipline,
 Thy late exploits done in the heart of France,
 When thou wert regent for our sovereign, 205
 Have made thee feared and honored of the people.
 Join we together for the public good
 In what we can to bridle and suppress
 The pride of Suffolk and the Cardinal,
 With Somerset's and Buckingham's ambition; 210
 And, as we may, cherish Duke Humphrey's deeds
 While they do tend the profit of the land.

WARWICK

So God help Warwick, as he loves the land
 And common profit of his country!

YORK

And so says York—"aside" for he hath greatest 215
 cause.

SALISBURY

Then let's make haste away and look unto the main.

WARWICK

Unto the main? O father, Maine is lost!
 That Maine which by main force Warwick did win
 And would have kept so long as breath did last! 220
 Main chance, father, you meant; but I meant Maine,
 Which I will win from France or else be slain.

*Warwick and Salisbury exit.
 York remains.*

YORK

Anjou and Maine are given to the French;
 Paris is lost; the state of Normandy
 Stands on a tickle point now they are gone. 225
 Suffolk concluded on the articles,
 The peers agreed, and Henry was well pleased
 To change two dukedoms for a duke's fair daughter.
 I cannot blame them all. What is 't to them?
 'Tis thine they give away, and not their own. 230
 Pirates may make cheap pennyworths of their
 pillage,

234. **Still:** continually; **reveling:** making merry
 235. **Whileas:** while; **silly:** helpless, pitiable
 236. **wrings . . . hands:** i.e., he, being **hapless**
 (unlucky, unfortunate), **wrings his hands**
 237. **stands aloof:** holds back, keeps clear
 239. **Ready to starve:** likely to die
 240. **bite his tongue:** keep silent (proverbial)
 242. **Methinks:** it seems to me
 244. **proportion:** relation
 245-46. **As . . . Calydon:** See longer note, page
 253.
 248. **Cold:** gloomy, dispiriting; **hope of:** i.e.,
hope of ruling
 251. **take the Nevilles' parts:** support Warwick
 and his father, Salisbury
 253. **advantage:** an occasion or opportunity
 254. **mark . . . hit:** i.e., target I am aiming at (a
 metaphor from archery)
 255. **Lancaster:** Henry VI; **right:** i.e., **right** to the
 throne
 256. **childish:** perhaps, immature, puerile (How-
 ever, because Henry became king while yet an
 infant, York may mean this word literally.)
 258. **churchlike:** i.e., churchman's, priest's; **hu-
 mors:** disposition; **fits not:** i.e., are not appropriate
 259. **be still:** i.e., take no action for; **time do
 serve:** an occasion presents itself
 260. **wake:** be on guard
 261. **state:** government
 262. **Till:** while; **surfeiting:** indulging to excess
 263. **dear-bought:** expensively purchased
 265. **be fall'n at jars:** quarrels

(continued)

And purchase friends, and give to courtesans,
 Still reveling like lords till all be gone;
 Whileas the silly owner of the goods 235
 Weeps over them, and wrings his hapless hands,
 And shakes his head, and trembling stands aloof,
 While all is shared and all is borne away,
 Ready to starve, and dare not touch his own.
 So York must sit and fret and bite his tongue 240
 While his own lands are bargained for and sold.
 Methinks the realms of England, France, and
 Ireland
 Bear that proportion to my flesh and blood
 As did the fatal brand Althaea burnt 245
 Unto the Prince's heart of Calydon.
 Anjou and Maine both given unto the French!
 Cold news for me, for I had hope of France,
 Even as I have of fertile England's soil.
 A day will come when York shall claim his own; 250
 And therefore I will take the Nevilles' parts
 And make a show of love to proud Duke Humphrey,
 And, when I spy advantage, claim the crown,
 For that's the golden mark I seek to hit.
 Nor shall proud Lancaster usurp my right, 255
 Nor hold the scepter in his childish fist,
 Nor wear the diadem upon his head,
 Whose churchlike humors fits not for a crown.
 Then, York, be still awhile till time do serve.
 Watch thou and wake, when others be asleep, 260
 To pry into the secrets of the state
 Till Henry, surfeiting in joys of love
 With his new bride and England's dear-bought
 queen,
 And Humphrey with the peers be fall'n at jars. 265
 Then will I raise aloft the milk-white rose,
 With whose sweet smell the air shall be perfumed,
 And in my standard bear the arms of York,
 To grapple with the house of Lancaster;

266. **milk-white rose**: badge of the House of York (For *Henry VI, Part 1*'s fictional account of how the **milk-white rose** became the badge of the House of York, see its 2.4.)

268. **standard**: military flag, a rallying point in battle; **arms of York**: i.e., the **York** coat-of-arms

269. **grapple**: struggle; battle or encounter hand-to-hand (suggesting wordplay on **arms** [line 268] as limbs)

270. **force perforce**: by violent means

271. **bookish rule**: i.e., **rule** or government based in reading or theory

1.2 The Duchess of Gloucester's dream of becoming queen is rebuked by her husband but encouraged by the treacherous priest John Hume.

1. **corn**: grain (See picture, page 30.)

2. **Ceres'**: In mythology, Ceres was the goddess of grain. (See picture, page 94.)

4. **As**: i.e., as if

5. **sullen**: dull, gloomy

8. **Enchased**: adorned

11. **reach**: grasp, clutch

12. **is 't**: i.e., is it (referring to the reach of Gloucester's **hand** [line 11])

13. **heaved**: lifted (without any sense of great exertion)

15. **abase**: cast down

16. **vouchsafe**: bestow in a condescending manner; **unto**: i.e., to

(continued)

And force perforce I'll make him yield the crown,
Whose bookish rule hath pulled fair England down.
York exits.

270

['Scenie 2']

*Enter Duke Humphrey 'of Gloucester' and his wife
'the Duchess' Eleanor.*

DUCHESS

Why droops my lord like over-ripened corn
Hanging the head at Ceres' plenteous load?
Why doth the great Duke Humphrey knit his brows,
As frowning at the favors of the world?
Why are thine eyes fixed to the sullen earth,
Gazing on that which seems to dim thy sight?
What seest thou there? King Henry's diadem,
Enchased with all the honors of the world?
If so, gaze on and grovel on thy face
Until thy head be circled with the same.
Put forth thy hand; reach at the glorious gold.
What, is 't too short? I'll lengthen it with mine;
And, having both together heaved it up,
We'll both together lift our heads to heaven
And never more abase our sight so low
As to vouchsafe one glance unto the ground.

5

10

15

GLOUCESTER

O Nell, sweet Nell, if thou dost love thy lord,
Banish the canker of ambitious thoughts!
And may that 'hour' when I imagine ill
Against my king and nephew, virtuous Henry,
Be my last breathing in this mortal world!
My troublous dreams this night doth make me sad.

20

DUCHESS

What dreamed my lord? Tell me, and I'll requite it
With sweet rehearsal of my morning's dream.

17. **Nell**: diminutive form of Eleanor
 18. **canker**: ulcer, spreading sore
 19. **imagine ill**: devise harm
 22. **troublous**: troublesome; **this night**: last night
 24. **rehearsal**: recounting; **morning's dream**:
 Such dreams were reputed to be true.
 25. **Methought**: it seemed to me; **staff**: rod borne
 as the Protector's **badge of office**
 26. **broke**: i.e., broken
 28. **wand**: i.e., **staff**
 32. **bode**: portend, presage
 33. **argument**: manifestation
 36. **list**: listen
 37. **seat of majesty**: the royal throne
 39. **chair**: throne
 43. **chide**: scold
 44. **dame**: lady; **ill-nurtured**: badly trained or
 educated
 48. **compass**: scope
 49. **hammering**: devising, contriving
 53. **choleric**: enraged
 56. **checked**: reproached, reprimanded

GLOUCESTER

Methought this staff, mine office badge in court, 25
 Was broke in twain—by whom I have forgot,
 But, as I think, it was by th' Cardinal—
 And on the pieces of the broken wand
 Were placed the heads of Edmund, Duke of
 Somerset, 30
 And William de la Pole, first Duke of Suffolk.
 This was my dream. What it doth bode God knows.

DUCHESS

Tut, this was nothing but an argument
 That he that breaks a stick of Gloucester's grove
 Shall lose his head for his presumption. 35
 But list to me, my Humphrey, my sweet duke:
 Methought I sat in seat of majesty,
 In the cathedral church of Westminster
 And in that chair where kings and queens were
 crowned, 40
 Where Henry and Dame Margaret kneeled to me
 And on my head did set the diadem.

GLOUCESTER

Nay, Eleanor, then must I chide outright.
 Presumptuous dame, ill-nurtured Eleanor,
 Art thou not second woman in the realm 45
 And the Protector's wife, beloved of him?
 Hast thou not worldly pleasure at command,
 Above the reach or compass of thy thought?
 And wilt thou still be hammering treachery
 To tumble down thy husband and thyself 50
 From top of honor to disgrace's feet?
 Away from me, and let me hear no more!

DUCHESS

What, what, my lord? Are you so choleric
 With Eleanor for telling but her dream?
 Next time I'll keep my dreams unto myself 55
 And not be checked.

57. **pleased:** in good humor
59. **Saint Albans:** town in Hertfordshire, twenty miles north of London (See picture, page 68.)
60. **Whereas:** where; **hawk:** hunt game with trained hawks or falcons (See picture, page 78.)
62. **presently:** immediately
63. **Follow:** wordplay on such meanings as "act as an attendant or servant" and "go behind"; **go before:** take precedence (i.e., over the queen) Proverbial: "They that cannot **go before** must come behind."
65. **next of blood:** See note to 1.1.158.
66. **tedious:** annoying; **stumbling blocks:** obstacles (with implied wordplay on **blocks** as *block-heads* or *heads* in line 67)
69. **Fortune's:** The goddess Fortuna or Fortune was thought to control individuals' rise to and fall from power in the world. (See picture, page 38.)
70. **Sir:** conventional title for a priest
73. **Grace:** "Your **Grace**" was the courtesy title of a duchess.
75. **Your . . . multiplied:** See 1 Peter 1.2: "Grace and peace **be multiplied** unto you." **multiplied:** i.e., made greater
77. **cunning witch:** See longer note, page 254.
78. **conjurer:** sorcerer
79. **undertake:** pledge; **do me good:** be beneficial to me

GLOUCESTER

Nay, be not angry. I am pleased again.

Enter Messenger.

MESSENGER

My Lord Protector, 'tis his Highness' pleasure
You do prepare to ride unto Saint Albans,
Whereas the King and Queen do mean to hawk.

GLOUCESTER

I go.—Come, Nell, thou wilt ride with us?

DUCHESS

Yes, my good lord. I'll follow presently.

Gloucester exits, [with Messenger.]

Follow I must; I cannot go before
While Gloucester bears this base and humble mind.

Were I a man, a duke, and next of blood,
I would remove these tedious stumbling blocks

And smooth my way upon their headless necks;
And, being a woman, I will not be slack

To play my part in Fortune's pageant.—

Where are you there? Sir John! Nay, fear not, man.
We are alone; here's none but thee and I.

Enter [Sir John] Hume.

HUME

Jesus preserve your royal Majesty!

DUCHESS

What sayst thou? "Majesty"? I am but "Grace."

HUME

But by the grace of God and Hume's advice,
Your Grace's title shall be multiplied.

DUCHESS

What sayst thou, man? Hast thou as yet conferred
With Margery Jourdain, the cunning witch,
With Roger Bolingbroke, the conjurer?
And will they undertake to do me good?

81. **underground:** the underworld
 83. **propounded him:** offered to him for consideration
 91. **Marry:** i.e., indeed (originally an oath on the name of the Virgin Mary) Proverbial: "**Marry, and shall.**" **how now:** i.e., how is it now
 92. **mum:** a command to be silent (Proverbial: "**No word but mum.**")
 93. **asketh:** requires
 96. **flies:** that flies; **coast:** direction
 100. **aspiring humor:** ambitious disposition
 102. **buzz:** privately communicate; **conjurations:** spells, charms, incantations; **in:** i.e., into
 103. **a crafty . . . broker:** proverbial **crafty:** underhanded, scheming **knave:** unprincipled, devious man **broker:** agent, middleman
 105-6. **go . . . call:** be on the point of calling
 107. **at last:** ultimately
 108. **wrack:** wreck, destruction
 109. **her attainture:** the stain of her dishonor;
fall: i.e., fall from power
 110. **Sort how it will:** i.e., however it turns out



"Over-ripened corn." (1.2.1)
 From Geoffrey Whitney, *A choice of emblemes* . . . (1586).

HUME

This they have promised: to show your Highness
 A spirit raised from depth of underground
 That shall make answer to such questions
 As by your Grace shall be propounded him. 80

DUCHESS

It is enough. I'll think upon the questions.
 When from Saint Albans we do make return,
 We'll see these things effected to the full. 85
 Here, Hume, take this reward.

['She gives him money.]

Make merry, man,

With thy confederates in this weighty cause.

Duchess exits.

HUME

Hume must make merry with the Duchess' gold.
 Marry, and shall! But, how now, Sir John Hume?
 Seal up your lips, and give no words but "mum";
 The business asketh silent secrecy.
 Dame Eleanor gives gold to bring the witch;
 Gold cannot come amiss, were she a devil. 90
 Yet have I gold flies from another coast—
 I dare not say, from the rich cardinal
 And from the great and new-made Duke of Suffolk,
 Yet I do find it so. For, to be plain,
 They, knowing Dame Eleanor's aspiring humor,
 Have hired me to undermine the Duchess
 And buzz these conjurations in her brain. 100
 They say a crafty knave does need no broker;
 Yet am I Suffolk and the Cardinal's broker.
 Hume, if you take not heed, you shall go near
 To call them both a pair of crafty knaves. 105
 Well, so it stands; and thus I fear at last
 Hume's knavery will be the Duchess' wrack,
 And her attainture will be Humphrey's fall.
 Sort how it will, I shall have gold for all. 110

He exits.

1.3 Queen Margaret and Suffolk dismiss petitioners seeking Gloucester's aid and then conspire against Gloucester. Somerset and York then clash, as do Gloucester and Suffolk. The accusation that York's armorer has declared York the rightful king puts York under suspicion of treason.

0 SD. **man**: servant

1. **My masters**: sirs, gentlemen; **close**: i.e., close together; or, perhaps, quiet and unobserved

2. **by and by**: immediately; soon

3. **supplications**: formal petitions; **in the quill**: in a body, in concert

5 SD. **red rose**: badge of the house of Lancaster, to which Henry VI belongs (For the fictional account of how the **red rose** became the badge of the House of Lancaster, see *Henry VI, Part 1*, 2.4; for Henry VI's personal adoption of the **red rose**, see *Henry VI, Part 1*, 4.1.)

6. **methinks**: it seems to me

7. **sure**: i.e., surely

10. **fellow**: term of address to a lower-class person

17. **an 't please your Grace**: a formula of politeness

18. **man**: follower

23. **enclosing**: fencing in as private property

24. **commons**: undivided land belonging to the community as a whole; **Melford**: Long Melford in Suffolk

25-26. **petitioner of**: i.e., **petitioner** on behalf of

['Scene 3']

Enter three or four Petitioners, 'Peter,' the Armorer's man, being one.

FIRST PETITIONER My masters, let's stand close. My Lord Protector will come this way by and by, and then we may deliver our supplications in the quill.

SECOND PETITIONER Marry, the Lord protect him, for he's a good man! Jesu bless him!

Enter Suffolk, 'wearing the red rose,' and Queen 'Margaret.'

['FIRST PETITIONER'] Here he comes, methinks, and the Queen with him. I'll be the first, sure.

'He steps forward.'

SECOND PETITIONER Come back, fool! This is the Duke of Suffolk, and not my Lord Protector.

SUFFOLK How now, fellow? Wouldst anything with me?

FIRST PETITIONER I pray, my lord, pardon me. I took you for my Lord Protector.

QUEEN MARGARET *'takes a petition and reads.'* To my Lord Protector. Are your supplications to his lordship? Let me see them.—What is thine?

FIRST PETITIONER Mine is, an 't please your Grace, against John Goodman, my Lord Cardinal's man, for keeping my house, and lands, and wife and all, from me.

SUFFOLK Thy wife too? That's some wrong indeed.—What's yours? *'Taking a petition.'* What's here? *'(Reads.)'* Against the Duke of Suffolk for enclosing the commons of Melford. How now, sir knave?

SECOND PETITIONER Alas, sir, I am but a poor petitioner of our whole township.

PETER, *'showing his petition'* Against my master,

32. **forsooth**: truly
 33. **he**: i.e., **the Duke of York** (lines 30–31)
 36. **Take . . . in**: i.e., arrest **this fellow**
 36–37. **send . . . pursuivant**: i.e., have **his master** sent for by an officer
 37. **presently**: immediately
 38. **matter**: business, affair; **before**: in the presence of
 40. **grace**: favor
 41. **suits**: petitions; **sue to**: petition
 42. **base**: menial, unworthy; **cullions**: rascals (literally, testicles)
 44. **guise**: style
 45. **Is this**: i.e., are these
 47. **Albion's**: England's
 48. **still**: always
 49. **governance**: control, mastery
 50. **style**: ceremonial designation
 52. **Pole**: i.e., de la **Pole**, Suffolk's family name
 53. **rann'st atilt**: engaged in mounted combat with lances
 55. **had**: i.e., would have
 56. **courtship**: courtliness of manners; **proportion**: figure, shape

Thomas Horner, for saying that the Duke of York was rightful heir to the crown.

QUEEN MARGARET What sayst thou? Did the Duke of York say he was rightful heir to the crown? 30

PETER That my 'master' was? No, forsooth. My master said that he was and that the King was an usurper.

SUFFOLK, 'calling' Who is there? 35

Enter Servant.

Take this fellow in, and send for his master with a pursuivant presently.—We'll hear more of your matter before the King.

'Peter' exits 'with Servant.'

QUEEN MARGARET

And as for you that love to be protected
 Under the wings of our Protector's grace,
 Begin your suits anew, and sue to him. 40

Tear the supplication.

Away, base cullions.—Suffolk, let them go.

ALL Come, let's be gone.

'They' exit.

QUEEN MARGARET

My lord of Suffolk, say, is this the guise,
 Is this the fashions in the court of England?
 Is this the government of Britain's isle
 And this the royalty of Albion's king?
 What, shall King Henry be a pupil still
 Under the surly Gloucester's governance?
 Am I a queen in title and in style,
 And must be made a subject to a duke?
 I tell thee, Pole, when in the city Tours
 Thou rann'st atilt in honor of my love
 And stol'st away the ladies' hearts of France,
 I thought King Henry had resembled thee
 In courage, courtship, and proportion. 50
 But all his mind is bent to holiness, 55

58. **Ave Marys:** Hail Marys (prayers to the Virgin Mary); **beads:** rosary (See picture, page 40.)

59. **champions:** men of valor

60. **saws:** sayings, proverbs; **sacred writ:** the Bible

61. **tiltyard:** enclosed space for combat

62. **brazen images:** brass statues; **canonized:** accent on second syllable

63. **I would:** i.e., I wish

65. **triple crown:** papal tiara

66. **state:** high position, office; **his holiness:**

(1) **his piety;** (2) **his Holiness,** the pope's title

67. **patient:** calm

69. **work:** effect, bring about; **full:** complete;

content: pleasure, satisfaction

70. **Beaufort:** i.e., the Cardinal

71. **imperious:** overbearing, domineering

74. **he . . . all:** i.e., the most powerful of those you named

76. **simple:** ordinary; **peers:** nobles

78. **dame:** lady

79. **sweeps it:** moves majestically

82. **Strangers:** foreigners; **take her for:** i.e., assume she is

83. **She . . . back:** proverbial for wearing very expensive clothes: "He wears a whole lordship on his back." **revenues:** accent on second syllable

86. **Contemptuous:** perhaps, disdainful; or, perhaps, contemptible; **callet:** strumpet

87. **vaunted:** boasted; **minions:** favorites

88. **very train:** i.e., train alone; **her . . . gown:** i.e., the worst gown she wears

To number Ave Marys on his beads;
His champions are the prophets and apostles,
His weapons holy saws of sacred writ,
His study is his tiltyard, and his loves
Are brazen images of canonized saints.
I would the College of the Cardinals
Would choose him pope and carry him to Rome
And set the triple crown upon his head!
That were a state fit for his holiness.

60

65

SUFFOLK

Madam, be patient. As I was cause
Your Highness came to England, so will I
In England work your Grace's full content.

QUEEN MARGARET

Besides the haughty Protector, have we Beaufort
The imperious churchman, Somerset, Buckingham,
And grumbling York; and not the least of these
But can do more in England than the King.

70

SUFFOLK

And he of these that can do most of all
Cannot do more in England than the Nevilles;
Salisbury and Warwick are no simple peers.

75

QUEEN MARGARET

Not all these lords do vex me half so much
As that proud dame, the Lord Protector's wife.
She sweeps it through the court with troops of
ladies,

80

More like an empress than Duke Humphrey's wife.
Strangers in court do take her for the Queen.
She bears a duke's revenues on her back,
And in her heart she scorns our poverty.
Shall I not live to be avenged on her?
Contemptuous baseborn callet as she is,
She vaunted 'mongst her minions t' other day
The very train of her worst wearing gown

85

89. **better worth:** of greater worth
 90. **gave:** i.e., gave Reignier, the queen's father
 91. **limed a bush:** i.e., smeared a bush with birdlime, to which birds' feet stick
 93. **light:** descend and settle; **lays:** songs
 95. **let her rest:** i.e., think no more about her
 96. **am bold:** i.e., will presume
 97. **fancy not:** do not like
 99. **in disgrace:** i.e., into disgrace
 100. **late:** recent
 101. **make . . . benefit:** i.e., do little to further his good
 103. **happy:** fortunate
 103 SD. **Sennet:** trumpet fanfare to signal a ceremonial entrance or exit
 105. **Or:** either; **all's one:** i.e., it's all the same
 106. **ill . . . himself:** conducted himself badly
 107. **regentship:** rule (i.e., of France)
 108. **place:** position, office



"Fortune's pageant" (1.2.69)
 From Giovanni Boccaccio, *A treatise . . . shewing . . .
 the falles of . . . princes . . .* (1554).

Was better worth than all my father's lands
 Till Suffolk gave two dukedoms for his daughter.

90

SUFFOLK

Madam, myself have limed a bush for her
 And placed a choir of such enticing birds
 That she will light to listen to the lays
 And never mount to trouble you again.
 So let her rest. And, madam, list to me,
 For I am bold to counsel you in this:
 Although we fancy not the Cardinal,
 Yet must we join with him and with the lords
 Till we have brought Duke Humphrey in disgrace.
 As for the Duke of York, this late complaint
 Will make but little for his benefit.
 So, one by one, we'll weed them all at last,
 And you yourself shall steer the happy helm.

95

100

*Sound a sennet. Enter King Henry,¹ Duke Humphrey
 of Gloucester,¹ Cardinal,¹ Somerset, wearing the red
 rose,¹ Buckingham, Salisbury; York and Warwick,¹ both
 wearing the white rose;¹ and the Duchess of
 Gloucester.¹*

KING HENRY

For my part, noble lords, I care not which;
 Or Somerset or York, all's one to me.

105

YORK

If York have ill demeaned himself in France,
 Then let him be denied the regentship.

SOMERSET

If Somerset be unworthy of the place,
 Let York be regent; I will yield to him.

WARWICK

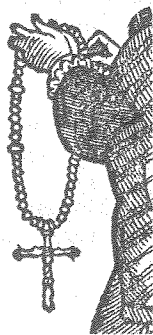
Whether your Grace be worthy, yea or no,
 Dispute not that. York is the worthier.

110

CARDINAL

Ambitious Warwick, let thy betters speak.

113. **field:** battlefield
 114. **in this presence:** i.e., here attending on the king; or, perhaps, **in this** presence-chamber, the room in which the king receives guests
 116. **Peace:** quiet
 117. **preferred:** advanced; or, more favored
 120. **censure:** opinion
 125. **leave:** lay aside; **insolence:** arrogance
 127. **wrack:** wreck, ruin
 128. **Dauphin:** heir to the French throne (accent on first syllable)
 130. **bondmen:** slaves
 131. **racked:** oppressed (i.e., with excessive taxes); **bags:** i.e., money bags
 132. **lank and lean:** loose from emptiness
 135. **execution:** infliction of punishment (including capital punishment) specified by judicial sentence



A rosary. (1.1.30; 1.3.58)
 From Cesare Vecellio, *Habiti antichi et moderni* . . . [1598].

WARWICK

The Cardinal's not my better in the field.

BUCKINGHAM

All in this presence are thy betters, Warwick.

WARWICK

Warwick may live to be the best of all.

115

SALISBURY

Peace, son.—And show some reason, Buckingham,
 Why Somerset should be preferred in this.

QUEEN MARGARET

Because the King, forsooth, will have it so.

GLOUCESTER

Madam, the King is old enough himself
 To give his censure. These are no women's matters.

120

QUEEN MARGARET

If he be old enough, what needs your Grace
 To be Protector of his Excellence?

GLOUCESTER

Madam, I am Protector of the realm,
 And at his pleasure will resign my place.

SUFFOLK

Resign it, then, and leave thine insolence.
 Since thou wert king—as who is king but thou?—
 The commonwealth hath daily run to wrack,
 The Dauphin hath prevailed beyond the seas,
 And all the peers and nobles of the realm
 Have been as bondmen to thy sovereignty.

125

130

CARDINAL, [to Gloucester]

The Commons hast thou racked; the clergy's bags
 Are lank and lean with thy extortions.

SOMERSET, [to Gloucester]

Thy sumptuous buildings and thy wife's attire
 Have cost a mass of public treasury.

BUCKINGHAM, [to Gloucester]

Thy cruelty in execution
 Upon offenders hath exceeded law
 And left thee to the mercy of the law.

135

139. **suspect:** suspicion
 140. **hop . . . head:** i.e., be beheaded (proverbial)
 141. **minion:** a term of contempt like "creature"
 143. **cry you mercy:** beg your pardon
 146. **set . . . face:** proverbial **commandments:** i.e., fingernails
 147. **against her will:** unintentional
 148. **Look to 't:** beware; **in time:** i.e., before it is too late
 149. **hamper:** entangle, bind; **dandle:** toy with
 150. **most . . . breeches:** proverbial, meaning "the one who is in control (the greatest **master**) is a woman"
 153. **listen after:** endeavor to hear; **how he proceeds:** i.e., what he goes on to say
 154. **tickled:** provoked; **fume:** angry mood
 156. **choler:** anger; **overblown:** blown over or away
 157. **about:** around
 158. **affairs:** matters, business
 159. **objections:** charges, accusations

QUEEN MARGARET, *['to Gloucester']*

Thy sale of offices and towns in France,
 If they were known, as the suspect is great,
 Would make thee quickly hop without thy head. 140

Gloucester exits.

['Queen Margaret drops her fan.']

['To Duchess.'] Give me my fan. What, minion, can
 you not? *She gives the Duchess a box on the ear.*
 I cry you mercy, madam. Was it you?

DUCHESS

Was 't I? Yea, I it was, proud Frenchwoman.
 Could I come near your beauty with my nails, 145
['I'd'] set my ten commandments in your face.

KING HENRY

Sweet aunt, be quiet. 'Twas against her will.

DUCHESS

Against her will, good king? Look to 't in time.
 She'll hamper thee and dandle thee like a baby.
 Though in this place most master wear no breeches, 150
 She shall not strike Dame Eleanor unrevenged.

Eleanor, ['the Duchess,'] exits.

BUCKINGHAM, *['aside to Cardinal']*

Lord Cardinal, I will follow Eleanor
 And listen after Humphrey how he proceeds.
 She's tickled now; her fume needs no spurs;
 She'll gallop far enough to her destruction. 155

Buckingham exits.

Enter Humphrey, ['Duke of Gloucester.']

GLOUCESTER

Now, lords, my choler being overblown
 With walking once about the quadrangle,
 I come to talk of commonwealth affairs.
 As for your spiteful false objections,
 Prove them, and I lie open to the law;
 But God in mercy so deal with my soul 160

162. **duty**: homage, reverence
 164. **meetest**: most appropriate
 166. **election**: choice; **leave**: permission
 168. **unmeet**: inappropriate
 170. **for**: because; **in pride**: i.e., without losing my self-respect
 171. **place**: position, office
 172. **keep me**: hold me back
 173. **discharge**: payment; **furniture**: armor
 175. **Last time**: perhaps alluding to *Henry VI, Part 1*, 4.3 (but see longer note, page 254); **danced** ... **will**: i.e., was forced to wait for him to act
 177. **fact**: crime, deed
 182. **excuse himself**: i.e., can clear himself of blame
 183. **for**: i.e., as
 184. **what are**: i.e., who are



An armorer at work. (2.3.52)

From Hartmann Schopper, *PANOPLIA omnium illiberalium mechanicarum aut sedentariarum* (1568).

As I in duty love my king and country!
 But, to the matter that we have in hand:
 I say, my sovereign, York is meetest man
 To be your regent in the realm of France.

165

SUFFOLK

Before we make election, give me leave
 To show some reason, of no little force,
 That York is most unmeet of any man.

YORK

I'll tell thee, Suffolk, why I am unmeet:
 First, for I cannot flatter thee in pride;
 Next, if I be appointed for the place,
 My lord of Somerset will keep me here
 Without discharge, money, or furniture
 Till France be won into the Dauphin's hands.
 Last time I danced attendance on his will
 Till Paris was besieged, famished, and lost.

170

175

WARWICK

That can I witness, and a fouler fact
 Did never traitor in the land commit.

SUFFOLK Peace, headstrong Warwick!

WARWICK

Image of pride, why should I hold my peace?

180

Enter ¹Horner, the ¹Armorer, and his Man
¹Peter, under guard.

SUFFOLK

Because here is a man accused of treason.
 Pray God the Duke of York excuse himself!

YORK

Doth anyone accuse York for a traitor?

KING HENRY

What mean'st thou, Suffolk? Tell me, what are
 these?

185

186. **Please . . . Majesty:** a formula of politeness;
this: referring to Peter
 188. **His:** i.e., his master Horner's
 192. **An 't . . . Majesty:** a formula of politeness
 195. **ten bones:** i.e., fingers
 196. **garret:** watchtower
 198. **Base:** unworthy; **dunghill:** fit for a heap
 of dung; **villain:** scoundrel; **mechanical:** manual
 laborer
 203. **prentice:** apprentice
 204. **correct:** chastise; **his fault:** i.e., a mistake he
 made
 205. **be even:** get even
 206. **good witness of:** i.e., reliable witness(es) to
 207. **cast away:** ruin; **for:** because of
 210. **doom:** decree
 212. **this breeds:** i.e., **this** accusation of treason
breeds
 215. **he:** i.e., Horner



Men in doublet and hose. (2.1.164; 4.7.51)
 From [Robert Greene,] *A quip for an vpstart courtier* . . . (1620).

SUFFOLK

Please it your Majesty, this is the man
 That doth accuse his master of high treason.
 His words were these: that Richard, Duke of York,
 Was rightful heir unto the English crown,
 And that your Majesty was an usurper.

190

KING HENRY Say, man, were these thy words?

HORNER An 't shall please your Majesty, I never said
 nor thought any such matter: God is my witness, I
 am falsely accused by the villain.

PETER By these ten bones, my lords, he did speak 195
 them to me in the garret one night as we were
 scouring my lord of York's armor.

YORK, [to Horner]

Base dunghill villain and mechanical,
 I'll have thy head for this thy traitor's speech!—

200

I do beseech your royal Majesty,
 Let him have all the rigor of the law.

HORNER Alas, my lord, hang me if ever I spake the
 words. My accuser is my prentice; and when I did
 correct him for his fault the other day, he did vow
 upon his knees he would be even with me. I have 205
 good witness of this. Therefore I beseech your
 Majesty, do not cast away an honest man for a
 villain's accusation!

KING HENRY

Uncle, what shall we say to this in law?

GLOUCESTER

This doom, my lord, if I may judge:
 Let Somerset be regent o'er the French,
 Because in York this breeds suspicion;
 And let these have a day appointed them
 For single combat in convenient place,
 For he hath witness of his servant's malice.

210

215

This is the law, and this Duke Humphrey's doom.

223. **Sirrah:** term of address to a social inferior;
or **you:** i.e., either you

226. **sent away:** i.e., embarked (to France)

1.4 The Duchess of Gloucester watches while a spirit is conjured up to prophesy the fates of her rivals, but she is caught in the act by Buckingham and York.

1. **my masters:** sirs, gentlemen

3-4. **provided:** prepared

4-5. **exorcisms:** conjurations, calling up of spirits

6. **Fear:** doubt

8-9. **convenient:** appropriate

14. **read you:** i.e., read from the conjuring book;
us to: i.e., us get to



A conjuror in a circle. (1.4.24 SD)
From Christopher Marlowe, *The tragicall historie
of . . . Doctor Faustus . . .* (1631).

SOMERSET

I humbly thank your royal Majesty.

HORNER

And I accept the combat willingly.

PETER Alas, my lord, I cannot fight; for God's sake pity
my case! The spite of man prevaileth against me. O 220
Lord, have mercy upon me! I shall never be able to
fight a blow. O Lord, my heart!

GLOUCESTER

Sirrah, or you must fight or else be hanged.

KING HENRY Away with them to prison; and the day of
combat shall be the last of the next month.— 225
Come, Somerset, we'll see thee sent away.

Flourish. They exit.

「Scene 4」

*Enter the Witch 「Margery Jourdain,」 the two Priests
「Hume and Southwell,」 and Bolingbroke, 「a conjurer.」*

HUME Come, my masters. The Duchess, I tell you,
expects performance of your promises.

BOLINGBROKE Master Hume, we are therefore pro-
vided. Will her Ladyship behold and hear our exor-
cisms?

HUME Ay, what else? Fear you not her courage.

BOLINGBROKE I have heard her reported to be a
woman of an invincible spirit. But it shall be con-
venient, Master Hume, that you be by her aloft
while we be busy below; and so, I pray you, go, in
God's name, and leave us. 10

Hume exits.
Mother Jourdain, be you prostrate and grovel on
the earth. 「*She lies face downward.*」 John South-
well, read you; and let us to our work.

15. **Well said:** i.e., well done
 16. **gear:** business
 17. **their times:** i.e., when to act
 18. **silent:** time of silence
 19. **Troy:** city that, in legend, was burned by the Greeks the **night** they penetrated its walls (See picture, page 54.)
 20. **bandogs:** ferocious chained guard dogs
 21. **break up:** burst open
 23. **Whom we raise:** i.e., the spirit that we conjure up
 24. **make fast:** bind; **hallowed verge:** sanctified boundary (i.e., **the circle** in 24 SD)
 24 SD. **ceremonies belonging:** appropriate ceremonies; **the circle:** See picture, page 48, and see longer note, page 255. **Conjuro te:** I conjure you (Latin); **riseth:** i.e., as if from under the ground
 25. **Adsum:** I am here (Latin)
 26. **Asmath:** a near anagram of *Sathan* or *Satan* (Editors often spell this name "Asnath" in order to make the anagram perfect.)
 28. **tremblest:** See James 2.19: "the devils also believe and tremble." **that: that** which
 30. **That:** i.e., I wish that
 32-33. **The duke . . . death:** The words constitute a riddle, since who shall **depose** whom and who shall **outlive** whom is ambiguous.

*Enter Eleanor, 'Duchess of Gloucester,
 with Hume, aloft.*

DUCHESS Well said, my masters, and welcome all. To 15
 this gear, the sooner the better.

BOLINGBROKE

Patience, good lady. Wizards know their times.
 Deep night, dark night, the silent of the night,
 The time of night when Troy was set on fire,
 The time when screech owls cry and bandogs howl, 20
 And spirits walk, and ghosts break up their graves—
 That time best fits the work we have in hand.
 Madam, sit you, and fear not. Whom we raise
 We will make fast within a hallowed verge.

*Here 'they' do the ceremonies belonging, and
 make the circle. Bolingbroke or Southwell reads
 "Conjuro te, etc." It thunders and lightens terribly;
 then the Spirit riseth.*

SPIRIT Adsum. 25

JOURDAIN Asmath,
 By the eternal God, whose name and power
 Thou tremblest at, answer that I shall ask,
 For till thou speak, thou shalt not pass from hence.

SPIRIT

Ask what thou wilt. That I had said and done! 30
 BOLINGBROKE, 'reading from a paper, while Southwell
 writes'

First of the King: What shall of him become?

SPIRIT

The duke yet lives that Henry shall depose,
 But him outlive and die a violent death.

BOLINGBROKE, 'reads'

What fates await the Duke of Suffolk?

SPIRIT

By water shall he die and take his end. 35

BOLINGBROKE 'reads'

What shall befall the Duke of Somerset?

39. **castles mounted:** perhaps, towering **castles;** or, perhaps, **castles** elevated in situation
 40. **Have done:** get finished
 41. **burning lake:** In Revelation 20.10, Satan is flung into a **lake** of fire.
 42. **False:** lying, treacherous; **avoid:** depart
 43. **Lay hands upon:** seize; **trash:** worthless writing
 44. **Beldam:** hag, witch
 44-45. **at an inch:** close at hand
 46. **What:** an interjection to introduce a question
 47. **commonweal:** state
 48. **piece of pains:** bit of trouble
 50. **guerdoned:** rewarded; **good deserts:** meritorious actions
 52. **Injurious:** insulting
 54. **clapped up close:** strictly confined in prison
 55. **asunder:** apart; **shall:** i.e., **shall go**
 56. **take her to thee:** apprehend her
 57. **trinkets:** tools, implements; **forthcoming:** made available to a court of law



Iris, goddess of the rainbow. (3.2.422)
 From Natale Conti, . . . *Mythologiae* . . . (1616).

SPIRIT Let him shun castles.

Safer shall he be upon the sandy plains
 Than where castles mounted stand.
 Have done, for more I hardly can endure.

40

BOLINGBROKE

Descend to darkness and the burning lake!
 False fiend, avoid!

Thunder and lightning. Spirit exits, 'descending.'

*Enter the Duke of York and the Duke of Buckingham
 with their Guard 'and Sir Humphrey Stafford,' and
 break in.*

YORK

Lay hands upon these traitors and their trash.

*'The Guard arrest Margery Jourdain and her
 accomplices and seize their papers.'*

'To Jourdain.' Beldam, I think we watched you at an
 inch.

45

'To the Duchess, aloft.' What, madam, are you
 there? The King and commonweal

Are deeply indebted for this piece of pains.

My Lord Protector will, I doubt it not,

See you well guerdoned for these good deserts.

50

DUCHESS

Not half so bad as thine to England's king,

Injurious duke, that threatest where's no cause.

BUCKINGHAM

True, madam, none at all. What call you this?

'He holds up the papers seized.'

Away with them! Let them be clapped up close

And kept asunder.—You, madam, shall with us.—

55

Stafford, take her to thee.

'Stafford exits.'

We'll see your trinkets here all forthcoming.

All away! *'Jourdain, Southwell, and Bolingbroke'*

*exit 'under guard, below; Duchess and Hume
 exit, under guard, aloft.'*

59. **methinks**: it seems to me
 60. **plot**: scheme (with wordplay on "piece of ground")
 61. **devil's writ**: i.e., **devil's** writing (as opposed to *Holy Writ*)
 65. **just**: exactly
 65–66. **Aio . . . posse**: York quotes the ambiguous Latin oracle provided by Apollo when Pyrrhus asked if he could conquer Rome; the oracle can mean both "I proclaim that you, the descendant of Aeacus, can conquer the Romans," and "I proclaim that the Romans can conquer you, the descendant of Aeacus."
 75. **hardly attained**: acquired with difficulty;
hardly understood: scarcely understood
 76. **in progress**: proceeding
 78. **news**: regarded as a plural
 80. **sorry**: painful, dismal
 81. **leave**: permission
 82. **post**: messenger; **his**: i.e., the king's



Burning Troy. (1.4.19)
 From Thomas Heywood, *The Iron Age* . . . (1632).

YORK

Lord Buckingham, methinks you watched her well.
 A pretty plot, well chosen to build upon!

Now, pray, my lord, let's see the devil's writ.

["Buckingham hands him the papers."]

What have we here?

["(Reads.)"] The duke yet lives that Henry shall depose,
 But him outlive and die a violent death.

Why, this is just Aio *["te,"* Aeacida,
Romanos vincere posse. Well, to the rest:

["(Reads.)"] Tell me what fate awaits the Duke of
 Suffolk?

By water shall he die and take his end.

What shall betide the Duke of Somerset?

Let him shun castles;

Safer shall he be upon the sandy plains

Than where castles mounted stand.

Come, come, my *["lord,"* these oracles

Are hardly attained and hardly understood.

The King is now in progress towards Saint Albans;

With him the husband of this lovely lady.

Thither goes these news as fast as horse can carry
 them—

A sorry breakfast for my Lord Protector.

BUCKINGHAM

Your Grace shall give me leave, my lord of York,

To be the post, in hope of his reward.

YORK At your pleasure, my good lord.

["Buckingham exits."]

Who's within there, ho!

Enter a Servingman.

Invite my lords of Salisbury and Warwick

To sup with me tomorrow night. Away!

They exit.



HENRY VI

Part 2

ACT 2



2.1 King Henry and his court are hunting when they are interrupted by an announcement of a miracle in nearby Saint Albans. Gloucester exposes the miracle as a sham. Buckingham then brings news of the Duchess's arrest.

0 SD. **hallowing:** shouting to urge on the dogs to drive the water fowl up into the air

1. **flying at the brook:** i.e., hawking for fowl driven from the shelter of the banks of **the brook**

2. **sport:** recreation, diversion; **these seven years' day:** in the past **seven** years

3. **by your leave:** a polite formula asking pardon for taking a liberty

4. **ten . . . gone out:** i.e., I would have bet **ten** to **one** the old falcon **Joan** would **not** have hawked (Literally, *go out* means "march as a soldier, take the battlefield.")

5. **point:** position (to attack the prey); **made:** i.e., took (See picture, page 64.)

6. **pitch:** height (See picture, page 78.)

8. **fain of climbing:** i.e., eager to climb

9. **an it like:** if it please

10. **tower:** mount up

13. **base:** poor

15. **would:** wishes to

17. **Were it not good:** i.e., would it **not** be good if

「ACT 2」

「Scene 1」

Enter King 「Henry,」 Queen 「Margaret, Gloucester the Lord」 Protector, Cardinal, and Suffolk, 「and Attendants,」 with Falconers hallowing.

QUEEN MARGARET

Believe me, lords, for flying at the brook
I saw not better sport these seven years' day.
Yet, by your leave, the wind was very high,
And, ten to one, old Joan had not gone out.

KING HENRY, 「to Gloucester」

But what a point, my lord, your falcon made,
And what a pitch she flew above the rest!
To see how God in all his creatures works!
Yea, man and birds are fain of climbing high.

SUFFOLK

No marvel, an it like your Majesty,
My Lord Protector's hawks do tower so well;
They know their master loves to be aloft
And bears his thoughts above his falcon's pitch.

GLOUCESTER

My lord, 'tis but a base ignoble mind
That mounts no higher than a bird can soar.

CARDINAL

I thought as much. He would be above the clouds.

GLOUCESTER

Ay, my Lord Cardinal, how think you by that?
Were it not good your Grace could fly to heaven?

18-20. **treasury . . . heart:** See Matthew 6.19-21: "Lay not up treasures for yourselves upon **earth**. . . But lay up treasures for yourselves in **heaven**. . . For where your **treasure** is, there will your **heart** be also." **Beat:** hammer, insist

21. **Pernicious:** wicked, evil

22. **smooth'st it:** i.e., adopts such a flattering manner

23. **is your priesthood:** i.e., have you as a priest

24. **peremptory:** intolerant of debate or contradiction

25. **Tantaene . . . irae:** Is there such anger in the minds of heavenly creatures? (Latin; Virgil, *Aeneid* 1.11)

26. **hot:** angry

28. **well becomes:** is fully appropriate to

29. **good:** just

32. **lordly:** haughty, disdainful

35. **peace:** quiet

36. **whet not on:** do not urge on; **furious:** menacingly violent

37. **blessèd . . . peacemakers:** Matthew 5.9.

38-39. **peace . . . sword:** Matthew 10.34: "I came not to send **peace**, but the **sword**."

40. **Faith:** a mild oath

43. **Make . . . matter:** i.e., do not gather up others of your faction for the occasion

44. **In thine own person:** alone; **answer:** provide satisfaction for; **thy abuse:** i.e., your injurious words

KING HENRY

The treasury of everlasting joy.

CARDINAL, *to Gloucester*¹

Thy heaven is on earth; thine eyes and thoughts

Beat on a crown, the treasure of thy heart.

Pernicious Protector, dangerous peer,

That smooth'st it so with king and commonweal!

GLOUCESTER

What, cardinal, is your priesthood grown
peremptory?

Tantaene animis caelestibus irae?

Churchmen so hot? Good uncle, hide such malice.

With such holiness, can you do it?

SUFFOLK

No malice, sir; no more than well becomes

So good a quarrel and so bad a peer.

GLOUCESTER

As who, my lord?

SUFFOLK

Why, as you, my lord,

An 't like your lordly *Lord*¹ Protectorship.

GLOUCESTER

Why, Suffolk, England knows thine insolence.

QUEEN MARGARET

And thy ambition, Gloucester.

KING HENRY

I prithee peace,

Good queen, and whet not on these furious peers,

For blessèd are the peacemakers on earth.

CARDINAL

Let me be blessèd for the peace I make

Against this proud Protector with my sword!

GLOUCESTER, *aside to Cardinal*¹

Faith, holy uncle, would 't were come to that!

CARDINAL, *aside to Gloucester*¹ Marry, when thou dar'st!

GLOUCESTER, *aside to Cardinal*¹

Make up no factious numbers for the matter.

In thine own person answer thy abuse.

45. **peep**: show yourself; **An if**: i.e., if
 49. **your man**: i.e., your falconer; **put up**: caused to rise from cover
 51. **two-hand sword**: long sword (See picture, below.)
 52. **Are you advised**: i.e., are you agreed (literally, have you considered); or, perhaps, do you understand
 58. **shave your crown**: shave your tonsure (with wordplay on "cut off your head")
 59. **fence**: use of the sword
 60. **Medice, teipsum**: Physician, heal yourself (Latin)
 61. **see to 't well**: take good care
 62. **stomachs**: tempers
 65. **compound**: settle
 70. **Saint Alban's shrine**: St. Alban was martyred at Verulamium (now St. Albans) for sheltering Christians. (For a view of St. Albans, see picture, page 68.)



Early modern weapons, including the two-hand sword. (2.1.51)

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

CARDINAL, *Aside to Gloucester*¹

Ay, where thou dar'st not peep. An if thou dar'st,
 This evening, on the east side of the grove.

45

KING HENRY

How now, my lords?

CARDINAL

Believe me, cousin Gloucester,
 Had not your man put up the fowl so suddenly,
 We had had more sport. *Aside to Gloucester.*¹

50

Come with thy two-hand sword.

GLOUCESTER

True, uncle. *Aside to Cardinal.*¹ Are you advised?
 The east side of the grove.

CARDINAL, *Aside to Gloucester*¹

I am with you.

KING HENRY

Why, how now, uncle Gloucester?

55

GLOUCESTER

Talking of hawking; nothing else, my lord.
*Aside to Cardinal.*¹ Now, by God's mother, priest,
 I'll shave your crown for this,
 Or all my fence shall fail.

CARDINAL, *Aside to Gloucester*¹ *Medice, teipsum;*
 Protector, see to 't well; protect yourself.

60

KING HENRY

The winds grow high; so do your stomachs, lords.
 How irksome is this music to my heart!
 When such strings jar, what hope of harmony?
 I pray, my lords, let me compound this strife.

65

Enter *a man from St. Albans*¹ crying "A miracle!"

GLOUCESTER What means this noise?—

Fellow, what miracle dost thou proclaim?

MAN A miracle, a miracle!

SUFFOLK

Come to the King, and tell him what miracle.

MAN

Forsooth, a blind man at Saint Alban's shrine

70

74. **light in darkness:** See Psalm 112.4: "Unto the righteous ariseth **light in darkness.**"

74 SD. **brethren:** fellow citizens

75. **comes:** i.e., come; **on:** i.e., in

77-78. **Great . . . multiplied:** John 9.41: "If you were blind, you should not have **sin**; but now you say 'We see': therefore your **sin** remaineth." **earthly vale:** "This wretched earth and **vale** of all misery" (*Homily against Willful Rebellion*, a text read annually in English churches)

79. **Stand by:** i.e., **stand** aside

81. **circumstance:** details

82. **glorify the Lord:** Matthew 5.16: "**Glorify** your Father which is in heaven."

83. **restored:** recovered, returned to health

84. **an 't:** i.e., if it

88-89. **couldst . . . told:** i.e., would have been able to state more knowledgeably

91. **Berwick:** a town near the Scottish border

93. **unhallowed:** i.e., without saying a prayer (literally, without keeping it holy)

94. **still:** always



A falcon in flight. (2.1.5-6).

From George Turberville, *The booke of faulconrie* . . . (1575).

Within this half hour hath received his sight,
A man that ne'er saw in his life before.

KING HENRY

Now, God be praised, that to believing souls
Gives light in darkness, comfort in despair:

*Enter the Mayor of Saint Albans, and his brethren,
bearing the man 'Simpcox' between two in a chair,
followed by Simpcox's Wife and Others.*

CARDINAL

Here comes the townsmen on procession
To present your Highness with the man.

75

KING HENRY

Great is his comfort in this earthly vale,
Although by his sight his sin be multiplied.

GLOUCESTER

Stand by, my masters.—Bring him near the King.
His Highness' pleasure is to talk with him.

80

'The two bearers bring the chair forward.'

KING HENRY

Good fellow, tell us here the circumstance,
That we for thee may glorify the Lord.

What, hast thou been long blind and now restored?

SIMPCOX Born blind, an 't please your Grace.

WIFE Ay, indeed, was he.

85

SUFFOLK What woman is this?

WIFE His wife, an 't like your Worship.

GLOUCESTER Hadst thou been his mother, thou couldst
have better told.

KING HENRY Where wert thou born?

90

SIMPCOX

At Berwick in the North, an 't like your Grace.

KING HENRY

Poor soul, God's goodness hath been great to thee.
Let never day nor night unhallowed pass,
But still remember what the Lord hath done.

99. **Simon:** i.e., Simpcox (a name derived from **Simon**)

100. **offer:** make an offering (i.e., of money)

103. **lame:** See longer note, page 255.

111. **But that:** i.e., only the once

112. **bought . . . dear:** Proverbial: "**Dear bought** and far fetched are dainties for ladies."

113. **Mass:** i.e., by the **Mass** (a strong oath)

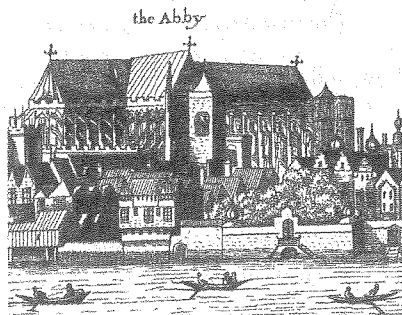
116. **damsons:** small plums

118. **subtle:** crafty, cunning; **serve:** be accepted, be valid

119. **Wink:** close your eyes

121. **clear as day:** proverbial

124. **red as blood:** proverbial



Westminster Abbey. (1.2.38)

From John Seller, *A book of the prospects of the remarkable places in . . . London . . .* [c. 1700?].

QUEEN MARGARET

Tell me, good fellow, cam'st thou here by chance, 95
Or of devotion to this holy shrine?

SIMPCOX

God knows, of pure devotion, being called
A hundred times and oftener in my sleep
By good Saint Alban, who said "Simon, come,
Come, offer at my shrine, and I will help thee." 100

WIFE

Most true, forsooth, and many time and oft
Myself have heard a voice to call him so.

CARDINAL What, art thou lame?

SIMPCOX Ay, God Almighty help me!

SUFFOLK How cam'st thou so? 105

SIMPCOX A fall off of a tree.

WIFE A plum tree, master.

GLOUCESTER How long hast thou been blind?

SIMPCOX O, born so, master.

GLOUCESTER What, and wouldst climb a tree? 110

SIMPCOX But that in all my life, when I was a youth.

WIFE Too true, and bought his climbing very dear.

GLOUCESTER Mass, thou lov'dst plums well, that
wouldst venture so.

SIMPCOX Alas, good master, my wife desired some 115
damsons, and made me climb, with danger of my
life.

GLOUCESTER

A subtle knave, but yet it shall not serve.—

Let me see thine eyes. Wink now. Now open them.

In my opinion, yet thou seest not well. 120

SIMPCOX Yes, master, clear as day, I thank God and
Saint 'Alban.¹

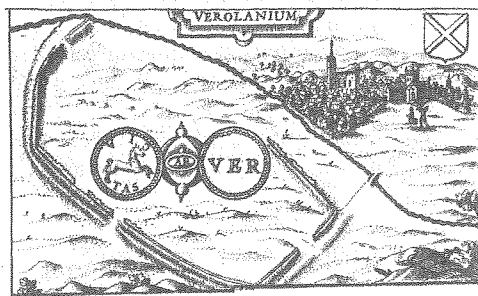
GLOUCESTER

Sayst thou me so? What color is this cloak of?

SIMPCOX Red, master, red as blood.

126. **coal black as jet**: proverbial
 129. **a many**: i.e., many
 140–44. **If . . . impossible**: Proverbial: “Blind men can judge no colors.” **several**: different **suddenly**: on the spur of the moment, promptly **nominate**: name

146. **cunning**: learning, skill
 148. **that**: i.e., if only
 150. **beadles**: parish officers who punish minor offenders
 152. **presently**: immediately
 153. **straight**: straightaway, right now



St. Albans. (1.2.59, 85; 1.4.76; 2.1.149; 5.2.69; 5.3.31)
 From John Speed, *The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine . . .* (1627 [i.e., 1631]).

GLOUCESTER

Why, that's well said. What color is my gown of? 125

SIMPCOX Black, forsooth, coal black as jet.

KING HENRY

Why, then, thou know'st what color jet is of.

SUFFOLK

And yet, I think, jet did he never see.

GLOUCESTER

But cloaks and gowns, before this day, a many.

WIFE

Never, before this day, in all his life. 130

GLOUCESTER Tell me, sirrah, what's my name?

SIMPCOX Alas, master, I know not.

GLOUCESTER, [pointing¹] What's his name?

SIMPCOX I know not.

GLOUCESTER, [pointing to someone else¹] Nor his? 135

SIMPCOX No, indeed, master.

GLOUCESTER What's thine own name?

SIMPCOX Sander Simpcox, an if it please you, master.

GLOUCESTER Then, Sander, sit there, the lying'st knave
 in Christendom. If thou hadst been born blind, 140
 thou mightst as well have known all our names as
 thus to name the several colors we do wear. Sight
 may distinguish of colors; but suddenly to nomi-
 nate them all, it is impossible.—My lords, Saint
 Alban here hath done a miracle; and would you 145
 not think [his¹] cunning to be great that could
 restore this cripple to his legs again?

SIMPCOX O master, that you could!

GLOUCESTER My masters of Saint Albans, have you not
 beadles in your town and things called whips? 150

MAYOR Yes, my lord, if it please your Grace.

GLOUCESTER Then send for one presently.

MAYOR Sirrah, go fetch the beadle hither straight.

[A man¹ exits.]

154. **by and by**: immediately
 156. **leap me**: i.e., **leap** (the ethical dative)
 158. **alone**: i.e., without help
 159. **go about**: contrive, endeavor
 160-61. **find your legs**: i.e., recover the use of
 your legs
 164. **doublet**: tight-fitting jacket (See page 46.)
 167. **bearest**: i.e., puts up with **this**
 168. **villain**: scoundrel
 169. **knave**: rascal; **drab**: slut
 170. **for pure need**: out of utter necessity
 174. **fly away**: flee
 176. **whole towns to fly**: a reference to Suffolk's
 giving away Anjou and Maine



"God's mother." (2.1.57)

From Richard Day, *A booke of Christian prayers* . . . (1590).

GLOUCESTER Now fetch me a stool hither by and by.
 「One brings a stool.」 Now, sirrah, if you mean to 155
 save yourself from whipping, leap me over this
 stool, and run away.

SIMPCOX Alas, master, I am not able to stand alone.
 You go about to torture me in vain.

Enter a Beadle with whips.

GLOUCESTER Well, sir, we must have you find your 160
 legs.—Sirrah beadle, whip him till he leap over
 that same stool.

BEADLE I will, my lord.—Come on, sirrah, off with
 your doublet quickly.

SIMPCOX Alas, master, what shall I do? I am not able to 165
 stand.

*After the Beadle hath hit him once, he leaps
 over the stool and runs away; and they follow
 and cry "A miracle!"*

KING HENRY

O God, seest Thou this, and bearest so long?

QUEEN MARGARET

It made me laugh to see the villain run.

GLOUCESTER, 「to the Beadle」

Follow the knave, and take this drab away.

WIFE Alas, sir, we did it for pure need. 170

GLOUCESTER

Let them be whipped through every market town
 Till they come to Berwick, from whence they came.

*「The Beadle, Mayor, Wife, and the others from
 Saint Albans」 exit.*

CARDINAL

Duke Humphrey has done a miracle today.

SUFFOLK

True, made the lame to leap and fly away.

GLOUCESTER

But you have done more miracles than I.

You made in a day, my lord, whole towns to fly. 175

177. **tidings:** news
 178. **unfold:** disclose, reveal
 179. **sort:** band, group; **naughty;** wicked; **lewdly:** evilly; **bent:** inclined
 180. **countenance:** patronage; **confederacy:** conspiracy, collusion
 182. **head:** leader; **rout:** disreputable crowd
 183. **practiced:** plotted; **dangerously:** injuriously; **state:** government
 185. **fact:** act (i.e., of committing the crime)
 187. **Demanding of:** asking about
 189. **at large:** fully
 190. **by this means:** thus, in this way
 191. **forthcoming:** apprehended, awaiting trial
 192. **turned:** blunted
 194. **like:** i.e., likely; **hour:** appointed time (i.e., to fight)
 195. **leave to afflict:** stop afflicting
 198. **meanest groom:** lowliest male servant
 199. **mischiefs:** evils; **work . . . ones:** i.e., do the wicked ones bring about
 200. **confusion:** destruction
 201. **tainture:** defilement
 202. **look thyself:** make sure you
 203. **for:** i.e., as for
 203-4. **to heaven . . . How:** i.e., I call on heaven to corroborate how fully

Enter Buckingham.

KING HENRY

What tidings with our cousin Buckingham?

BUCKINGHAM

Such as my heart doth tremble to unfold:

A sort of naughty persons, lewdly bent,

Under the countenance and confederacy

Of Lady Eleanor, the Protector's wife,

The ringleader and head of all this rout,

Have practiced dangerously against your state,

Dealing with witches and with conjurers,

Whom we have apprehended in the fact,

Raising up wicked spirits from under ground,

Demanding of King Henry's life and death

And other of your Highness' Privy Council,

As more at large your Grace shall understand.

CARDINAL

And so, my Lord Protector, by this means

Your lady is forthcoming yet at London.

'*Aside to Gloucester.*' This news, I think, hath turned

your weapon's edge;

'Tis like, my lord, you will not keep your hour.

GLOUCESTER

Ambitious churchman, leave to afflict my heart.

Sorrow and grief have vanquished all my powers,

And, vanquished as I am, I yield to thee,

Or to the meanest groom.

KING HENRY

O God, what mischiefs work the wicked ones,

Heaping confusion on their own heads thereby!

QUEEN MARGARET

Gloucester; see here the tainture of thy nest,

And look thyself be faultless, thou wert best.

GLOUCESTER

Madam, for myself, to heaven I do appeal

204. **commonweal:** state
 207. **have forgot:** i.e., has forgotten
 208. **conversed:** consorted
 209. **pitch, defile:** Proverbial: "He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled with it."
 213. **for this night:** i.e., tonight; **repose us:** i.e., rest
 216. **answers:** defenses
 217. **poise:** weigh; **equal:** impartial; **scales:** a weighing instrument consisting of a bar with a pan suspended from each end (See picture, page 96.)
 218. **Whose beam:** the transverse bar of which; **sure:** i.e., level (literally, firm, steady)

2.2 York persuades Salisbury and Warwick of the validity of his claim to the throne.

2. **leave:** permission
 3. **close:** private, secluded; **walk:** footwalk, path
 4. **craving:** asking; **title:** right, entitlement
 5. **is infallible:** unfailingly holds good

How I have loved my king and commonweal;
 And, for my wife, I know not how it stands. 205
 Sorry I am to hear what I have heard.
 Noble she is; but if she have forgot
 Honor and virtue, and conversed with such
 As, like to pitch, defile nobility,
 I banish her my bed and company 210
 And give her as a prey to law and shame
 That hath dishonored Gloucester's honest name.

KING HENRY

Well, for this night we will repose us here.
 Tomorrow toward London back again,
 To look into this business thoroughly, 215
 And call these foul offenders to their answers,
 And poise the cause in Justice' equal scales,
 Whose beam stands sure, whose rightful cause
 prevails.

Flourish. They exit.

[Scene 2]

Enter York, Salisbury, and Warwick.

YORK

Now, my good lords of Salisbury and Warwick,
 Our simple supper ended, give me leave,
 In this close walk, to satisfy myself
 In craving your opinion of my title,
 Which is infallible, to England's crown. 5

SALISBURY

My lord, I long to hear it at full.

WARWICK

Sweet York, begin; and if thy claim be good,
 The Nevilles are thy subjects to command.

YORK Then thus:

Edward the Third, my lords, had seven sons: 10

21–30. **Who . . . traitorously:** This story is shown in Shakespeare's *Richard II*. **all you:** i.e., you two

33. **by force . . . right:** proverbial

35. **issue:** offspring

37. **line:** i.e., **line** of descent (See genealogical charts, page xvi and page 2.)

42–45. **This Edmund . . . died:** See longer note, page 255.



Henry IV. (2.2.25)

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

The first, Edward the Black Prince, Prince of Wales;

The second, William of Hatfield; and the third,

Lionel, Duke of Clarence; next to whom

Was John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster;

The fifth was Edmund Langley, Duke of York;

The sixth was Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of

Gloucester;

William of Windsor was the seventh and last.

Edward the Black Prince died before his father

And left behind him Richard, his only son,

Who, after Edward the Third's death, reigned as king

Till Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Lancaster,

The eldest son and heir of John of Gaunt,

Crowned by the name of Henry the Fourth,

Seized on the realm, deposed the rightful king,

Sent his poor queen to France, from whence she came,

And him to Pomfret; where, as all you know,

Harmless Richard was murdered traitorously.

WARWICK Father; the Duke hath told the truth.

Thus got the house of Lancaster the crown.

YORK

Which now they hold by force and not by right;

For Richard, the first son's heir; being dead,

The issue of the next son should have reigned.

SALISBURY

But William of Hatfield died without an heir.

YORK

The third son, Duke of Clarence, from whose line

I claim the crown, had issue, Philippa, a daughter,

Who married Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March.

Edmund had issue, Roger, Earl of March;

Roger had issue: Edmund, Anne, and Eleanor.

SALISBURY

This Edmund, in the reign of Bolingbroke,

15

20

25

30

35

40

57. **proceedings:** i.e., line of descent, pedigree

60. **fails:** dies out, becomes extinct; **his:** John of Gaunt's

61. **flourishes:** grows vigorously and luxuriantly (With **flourishes** begins an extended metaphor in which **Lionel's issue** [line 60] is conventionally compared to a tree; the metaphor continues with **slips** [shoots] and **stock** [trunk] in line 62.)

64. **plot:** piece of ground

68. **We:** the royal "we"

70. **that:** i.e., until such time **that**

72. **suddenly:** without preparation

73. **advice:** consultation

75. **Wink at:** i.e., ignore; **insolence:** arrogance



Hawking. (1.2.60)

From Erasmo di Valvasone, *La caccia* . . . [1602].

As I have read, laid claim unto the crown
And, but for Owen Glendower, had been king,
Who kept him in captivity till he died.
But to the rest.

45

YORK

His eldest sister, Anne,
My mother, being heir unto the crown,
Married Richard, Earl of Cambridge, who was 'son'
To Edmund Langley, Edward the Third's fifth son.
By her I claim the kingdom. She was heir
To Roger, Earl of March, who was the son
Of Edmund Mortimer, who married Philippa,
Sole daughter unto Lionel, Duke of Clarence.
So, if the issue of the elder son
Succeed before the younger, I am king.

50

55

WARWICK

What plain proceedings is more plain than this?
Henry doth claim the crown from John of Gaunt,
The fourth son; York claims it from the third.
Till Lionel's issue fails, his should not reign.
It fails not yet, but flourishes in thee
And in thy sons, fair slips of such a stock.
Then, father Salisbury, kneel we together,
And in this private plot be we the first
That shall salute our rightful sovereign
With honor of his birthright to the crown.

60

65

SALISBURY, WARWICK, *'kneeling'*

Long live our sovereign Richard, England's king!

YORK

We thank you, lords. *'They rise.'* But I am not your
king

Till I be crowned, and that my sword be stained
With heart-blood of the house of Lancaster;
And that's not suddenly to be performed,
But with advice and silent secrecy.

70

Do you as I do in these dangerous days:
Wink at the Duke of Suffolk's insolence,

75

76. **Beaufort's:** i.e., the Cardinal's
 77. **crew:** gang, mob
 80. **'Tis that:** i.e., it is **that** which

2.3 King Henry sentences the Duchess to public penance and exile, and removes Gloucester from his office as Lord Protector. Then York's armorer is effectively convicted by being killed in a trial by combat with his accuser.

0 SD. **State:** persons of rank who form the government

5. **adjudged to:** i.e., determined to require (See Exodus 22.18: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.")

8. **Smithfield:** place of execution of heretics in London (See picture, page 82.)

9. **strangled:** hanged (See picture, below.)



"The gallows." (2.3.9)
 From *Warhafftige vnnnd eygentliche Beschreibung
 der ... Verrätherey ...* (1606).

At Beaufort's pride, at Somerset's ambition,
 At Buckingham, and all the crew of them,
 Till they have snared the shepherd of the flock,
 That virtuous prince, the good Duke Humphrey.
 'Tis that they seek; and they, in seeking that,
 Shall find their deaths, if York can prophesy.

80

SALISBURY

My lord, break we off. We know your mind at full.

WARWICK

My heart assures me that the Earl of Warwick
 Shall one day make the Duke of York a king.

YORK

And, Neville, this I do assure myself:
 Richard shall live to make the Earl of Warwick
 The greatest man in England but the King.

85

They exit.

「Scene 3」

*Sound trumpets. Enter King 「Henry」 and State
 「(Queen Margaret, Gloucester, York, Salisbury, Suffolk,
 and Others)」 with Guard, to banish the Duchess 「of
 Gloucester, who is accompanied by Margery Jourdain,
 Southwell, Hume, and Bolingbroke, all guarded.」*

KING HENRY

Stand forth, Dame Eleanor Cobham, Gloucester's
 wife.

In sight of God and us, your guilt is great.
 Receive the sentence of the law for 「sins」
 Such as by God's book are adjudged to death.
 「To Jourdain, Southwell, Hume, and Bolingbroke.」
 You four, from hence to prison back again;
 From thence unto the place of execution:
 The witch in Smithfield shall be burnt to ashes,
 And you three shall be strangled on the gallows.

5

10. **for:** because
 12. **Despoiled:** stripped; **honor:** title
 13. **open:** public
 15. **With:** i.e., in the custody of
 16. **were:** would be
 18. **justify:** acquit

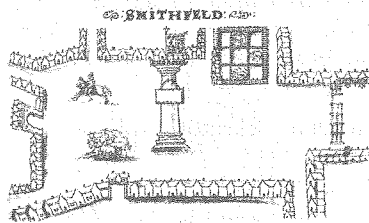
20–21. **this dishonor . . . ground:** See Genesis 42:38: "You shall bring my gray head **with sorrow** unto the grave."

23. **Sorrow would:** i.e., **sorrow** requires; **ease:** comfort, freedom from annoyance

25. **staff:** rod borne as the Protector's badge of office

26–27. **God . . . feet:** See Psalm 71.5: "for thou art **my hope**, O Lord **God**"; Psalm 49.9: "**my guide** and **stay**"; Psalm 119.105: "Thy word is a **lantern** unto **my feet**."

30. **of years:** i.e., who is of age
 32. **govern:** steer
 33. **King his:** king's
 35. **willingly:** voluntarily



Smithfield. (2.3.8)

From Hugh Alley, *A caveat for the city of London . . .* (1598).

[*To Duchess*] You, madam, for you are more nobly
 born,
 Despoiled of your honor in your life,
 Shall, after three days' open penance done,
 Live in your country here in banishment
 With Sir John Stanley in the Isle of Man. 15

DUCHESS

Welcome is banishment. Welcome were my death.

GLOUCESTER

Eleanor, the law, thou seest, hath judged thee.
 I cannot justify whom the law condemns.

[*Duchess and the other prisoners exit under guard.*]

Mine eyes are full of tears, my heart of grief.
 Ah, Humphrey, this dishonor in thine age 20
 Will bring thy head with sorrow to the ground.—
 I beseech your Majesty give me leave to go;
 Sorrow would solace, and mine age would ease.

KING HENRY

Stay, Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. Ere thou go,
 Give up thy staff. Henry will to himself 25
 Protector be; and God shall be my hope,
 My stay, my guide, and lantern to my feet.
 And go in peace, Humphrey, no less beloved
 Than when thou wert Protector to thy king.

QUEEN MARGARET

I see no reason why a king of years 30
 Should be to be protected like a child.
 God and King Henry govern England's realm!—
 Give up your staff, sir, and the King his realm.

GLOUCESTER

My staff?—Here, noble Henry, is my staff.
 [*He puts down his staff before Henry.*]
 As willingly do I the same resign 35
 As e'er thy father Henry made it mine;
 And even as willingly at thy feet I leave it
 As others would ambitiously receive it.

39. **dead and gone:** proverbial
 40. **attend:** watch over
 42. **scarce:** hardly
 43. **shrewd:** severe; **maim:** injury; **pulls:** wrenches
 45. **raught:** laid hold of
 46. **best fits:** is most appropriate
 47. **sprays:** shoots, branches
 48. **pride:** glory; **her:** i.e., its
 49. **let him go:** stop talking about him
 51. **appellant and defendant:** challenger and defender
 52. **lists:** place where they will fight their trial by combat
 54. **therefor:** for that reason
 55. **quarrel:** charge, accusation
 56. **fit:** suitable
 58. **worse bestead:** harder pressed
 60 SD. **drinking to him so much:** giving him so much to drink; or, inviting him to drink by **drinking** to his good luck; **Drum:** drummer; **staff . . . to it:** combat flail, a **staff with** a long thin leather bag of sand attached to the end of it; **Prentices:** apprentices

Farewell, good king. When I am dead and gone,
 May honorable peace attend thy throne.

40

Gloucester exits.

Henry picks up the staff.

QUEEN MARGARET

Why, now is Henry king and Margaret queen,
 And Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, scarce himself,
 That bears so shrewd a maim. Two pulls at once:
 His lady banished and a limb lopped off.
 This staff of honor raught, there let it stand
 Where it best fits to be, in Henry's hand.

45

SUFFOLK

Thus droops this lofty pine and hangs his sprays;
 Thus Eleanor's pride dies in her youngest days.

YORK

Lords, let him go.—Please it your Majesty,
 This is the day appointed for the combat,
 And ready are the appellant and defendant—
 The armorer and his man—to enter the lists,
 So please your Highness to behold the fight.

50

QUEEN MARGARET

Ay, good my lord, for purposely therefor
 Left I the court to see this quarrel tried.

55

KING HENRY

I' God's name, see the lists and all things fit.
 Here let them end it, and God defend the right!

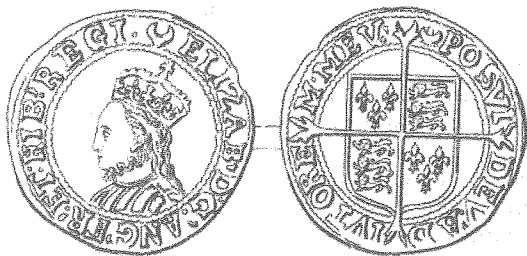
YORK

I never saw a fellow worse bestead
 Or more afraid to fight than is the appellant,
 The servant of this armorer, my lords.

60

Enter at one door the Armorer *Horner* *and his*
Neighbors, drinking to him so much that he is drunk;
and he enters with a Drum before him and his staff with
a sandbag fastened to it; and at the other door his man
Peter, with a Drum and sandbag, and Prentices
drinking to him.

62. **sack:** Spanish or Canary wine
 65. **charneco:** another kind of wine (perhaps Portuguese)
 66. **double beer:** extra strong ale
 68. **Let it come:** i.e., let the bowl of drink go around; **pledge:** drink to the health of
 69. **fig for:** exclamation of contempt, often expressed by the gesture of thrusting the thumb between two fingers or into the mouth
 73. **credit:** the good name, reputation
 75. **draft:** swallow of drink
 81. **fence:** fencing
 91. **touching:** regarding
 92. **take my death:** i.e., stake my life
 93. **ill:** harm
 94. **have at thee:** an expression signaling an attack; **downright blow:** i.e., a blow directed straight downward
 95. **Dispatch:** make haste; **double:** i.e., slur, thicken (literally, repeat itself)
 96. **Alarum:** call to arms



The obverse and reverse of a shilling. (4.7.22)
 From Edward Hawkins, *The silver coins of England* . . . (1841).

FIRST NEIGHBOR Here, neighbor Horner, I drink to you in a cup of sack; and fear not, neighbor, you shall do well enough.

SECOND NEIGHBOR And here, neighbor, here's a cup of charneco.

THIRD NEIGHBOR And here's a pot of good double beer, neighbor. Drink, and fear not your man.

HORNER Let it come, i' faith, and I'll pledge you all. And a fig for Peter! *They drink.*

FIRST PRENTICE Here, Peter, I drink to thee, and be not afraid.

SECOND PRENTICE Be merry, Peter, and fear not thy master. Fight for credit of the prentices.

PETER I thank you all. Drink, and pray for me, I pray you, for I think I have taken my last draft in this world. Here, Robin, an if I die, I give thee my apron.—And, Will, thou shalt have my hammer.—And here, Tom, take all the money that I have. *He distributes his possessions.* O Lord, bless me, I pray God, for I am never able to deal with my master. He hath learnt so much fence already.

SALISBURY Come, leave your drinking, and fall to blows. Sirrah, what's thy name?

PETER Peter, forsooth.

SALISBURY Peter? What more?

PETER Thump.

SALISBURY Thump? Then see thou thump thy master well.

HORNER Masters, I am come hither, as it were, upon my man's instigation, to prove him a knave and myself an honest man; and touching the Duke of York, I will take my death I never meant him any ill, nor the King, nor the Queen.—And therefore, Peter, have at thee with a downright blow!

YORK Dispatch. This knave's tongue begins to double. Sound, trumpets. Alarum to the combatants!

96 SD. **They . . . down:** See longer note, page 256.

97. **Hold:** stop

99. **in thy master's way:** i.e., that impeded your master

100-101. **in this presence:** i.e., **in the presence** of the king

106. **Which he:** whom Horner

2.4 Gloucester watches his Duchess's public humiliation as she goes into exile. He is summoned to Parliament.

0 SD. **mourning cloaks:** black hooded cloaks worn in funeral processions

1. **Thus . . . cloud:** proverbial

2. **evermore:** always; **succeeds:** follows

3. **his:** its

4. **fleet:** pass rapidly

9. **Uneath:** scarcely; **flinty:** hard, stony

11. **ill:** badly, poorly; **abrook:** endure

Trumpet sounds.

They fight, and Peter strikes him down.

HORNER Hold, Peter, hold! I confess, I confess treason.

He dies.

YORK Take away his weapon.—Fellow, thank God and the good wine in thy master's way.

PETER O God, have I overcome mine enemies in this presence? O Peter, thou hast prevailed in right! 100

KING HENRY

Go, take hence that traitor from our sight;

For by his death we do perceive his guilt.

And God in justice hath revealed to us

The truth and innocence of this poor fellow, 105

Which he had thought to have murdered wrongfully.—

Come, fellow, follow us for thy reward.

Sound a flourish. They exit, bearing Horner's body.

Scene 4

Enter Duke Humphrey of Gloucester and his Men, in mourning cloaks.

GLOUCESTER

Thus sometimes hath the brightest day a cloud,

And after summer evermore succeeds

Barren winter, with his wrathful nipping cold;

So cares and joys abound, as seasons fleet.

Sirs, what's o'clock? 5

SERVANT Ten, my lord.

GLOUCESTER

Ten is the hour that was appointed me

To watch the coming of my punished duchess.

Uneath may she endure the flinty streets,

To tread them with her tender-feeling feet. 10

Sweet Nell, ill can thy noble mind abrook

12. **abject**: despicable, mean-spirited, low-class
 13. **envious**: spiteful, malicious
 14. **erst**: formerly
 14–15. **thy proud . . . streets**: The metaphor is of a Roman victor in war riding his **chariot**, his captives bound to its wheels, through the city's streets in a triumphal procession.
 16. **soft**: wait
 17 SD. **white sheet**: the traditional garment of the person doing public penance; **taper**: wax candle
 18. **take**: i.e., rescue
 19. **for**: i.e., upon pain of losing
 21. **they**: i.e., **the people** (line 12), imagined off-stage
 22. **giddy**: (1) furious; (2) dizzy; (3) inconstant
 23. **throw**: turn
 24. **hateful**: (1) hate-filled; (2) hated, repulsive
 25. **closet**: private chamber; **pent up**: shut in, closely confined; **rue**: pity
 26. **ban**: curse
 31. **Methinks**: it seems to me
 32. **Mailed up**: wrapped (i.e., as if I were a hunting hawk wrapped in a handkerchief to keep it quiet)
 33. **with a rabble**: by a mob
 34. **deep-fet groans**: i.e., **groans** fetched from **deep** within myself
 36. **start**: flinch; **envious**: malicious

The abject people gazing on thy face
 With envious looks laughing at thy shame,
 That erst did follow thy proud chariot wheels
 When thou didst ride in triumph through the streets. 15
 But, soft! I think she comes, and I'll prepare
 My tearstained eyes to see her miseries.

Enter the Duchess 'of Gloucester, barefoot, and' in a white sheet, 'with papers pinned to her back' and a taper burning in her hand, with 'Sir John Stanley,' the Sheriff, and Officers.

SERVANT

So please your Grace, we'll take her from the Sheriff.

GLOUCESTER

No, stir not for your lives. Let her pass by.

DUCHESS

Come you, my lord, to see my open shame? 20
 Now thou dost penance too. Look how they gaze!
 See how the giddy multitude do point,
 And nod their heads, and throw their eyes on thee.
 Ah, Gloucester, hide thee from their hateful looks,
 And, in thy closet pent up, rue my shame, 25
 And ban thine enemies, both mine and thine.

GLOUCESTER

Be patient, gentle Nell. Forget this grief.

DUCHESS

Ah, Gloucester, teach me to forget myself!
 For whilst I think I am thy married wife
 And thou a prince, Protector of this land, 30
 Methinks I should not thus be led along,
 Mailed up in shame, with papers on my back,
 And followed with a rabble that rejoice
 To see my tears and hear my deep-fet groans.
 The ruthless flint doth cut my tender feet, 35
 And when I start, the envious people laugh

37. **advised:** cautious, wary
 39. **Trowest thou:** do you believe
 42. **pomp:** (former) ostentatious display, magnificence
 46. **As:** i.e., that; **forlorn:** desolate, abandoned
 47. **wonder:** spectacle; **pointing-stock:** object of derision
 48. **rascal:** lowborn; **follower:** pursuer
 49. **mild:** unprovoked
 50. **nothing:** anything
 51. **sure:** surely
 53. **her:** i.e., Queen Margaret
 54. **Beaufort:** Cardinal **Beaufort;** **false:** treacherous
 55. **limed . . . wings:** See note to 1.3.91.
 56. **how thou canst:** i.e., however you can; **tangle:** entangle
 58. **seek prevention of:** i.e., attempt to anticipate or forestall
 59. **forbear:** refrain; **all awry:** completely wide (i.e., of the target)
 60. **attainted:** accused, condemned
 63. **procure:** cause; **scathe:** harm
 65. **reproach:** disgrace
 66. **were not:** would not be
 67. **in danger:** i.e., would be in danger
 68. **quiet:** calm, peace of mind
 69. **sort:** adapt
 70. **These few . . . worn:** Proverbial: "A wonder lasts but nine days." **worn:** worn out, exhausted

And bid me be advised how I tread.
 Ah, Humphrey, can I bear this shameful yoke?
 Trowest thou that e'er I'll look upon the world
 Or count them happy that enjoys the sun? 40
 No, dark shall be my light, and night my day.
 To think upon my pomp shall be my hell.
 Sometimes I'll say I am Duke Humphrey's wife
 And he a prince and ruler of the land;
 Yet so he ruled and such a prince he was 45
 As he stood by whilst I, his forlorn duchess,
 Was made a wonder and a pointing-stock
 To every idle rascal follower.
 But be thou mild, and blush not at my shame,
 Nor stir at nothing till the ax of death 50
 Hang over thee, as, sure, it shortly will.
 For Suffolk, he that can do all in all
 With her that hateth thee and hates us all,
 And York and impious Beaufort, that false priest,
 Have all limed bushes to betray thy wings; 55
 And fly thou how thou canst, they'll tangle thee.
 But fear not thou until thy foot be snared,
 Nor never seek prevention of thy foes.

GLOUCESTER

Ah, Nell, forbear. Thou aimest all awry.
 I must offend before I be attainted; 60
 And had I twenty times so many foes,
 And each of them had twenty times their power,
 All these could not procure me any scathe
 So long as I am loyal, true, and crimeless.
 Wouldst have me rescue thee from this reproach? 65
 Why, yet thy scandal were not wiped away,
 But I in danger for the breach of law.
 Thy greatest help is quiet, gentle Nell.
 I pray thee, sort thy heart to patience;
 These few days' wonder will be quickly worn. 70

72. **Holden:** i.e., to be held; **Bury:** i.e., Bury St. Edmunds, in Suffolk

73. **before:** in advance

74. **close dealing:** a secret way of acting

76. **commission:** command

77. **stays:** stops

81. **given in charge:** ordered

82. **Entreat:** treat; **in that:** because

83. **laugh:** perhaps, smile on (me), favor (me)

90. **afeard:** afraid

91. **this world's eternity:** i.e., that I would live forever



"Ceres' plenteous load." (1.2.2)
From Cesare Ripa, *Iconologia* ... (1613).

Enter a Herald.

HERALD

I summon your Grace to his Majesty's Parliament
Holden at Bury the first of this next month.

GLOUCESTER

And my consent ne'er asked herein before?
This is close dealing. Well, I will be there.

「Herald exits.」

My Nell, I take my leave.—And, master sheriff,
Let not her penance exceed the King's commission.

75

SHERIFF

An 't please your Grace, here my commission stays,
And Sir John Stanley is appointed now
To take her with him to the Isle of Man.

GLOUCESTER

Must you, Sir John, protect my lady here?

80

STANLEY

So am I given in charge, may 't please your Grace.

GLOUCESTER

Entreat her not the worse in that I pray
You use her well. The world may laugh again,
And I may live to do you kindness, if
You do it her. And so, Sir John, farewell.

85

DUCHESS

What, gone, my lord, and bid me not farewell?

GLOUCESTER

Witness my tears. I cannot stay to speak.

Gloucester exits 「with his Men.」

DUCHESS

Art thou gone too? All comfort go with thee,
For none abides with me. My joy is death—
Death, at whose name I oft have been afeard,
Because I wished this world's eternity.—
Stanley, I prithee, go, and take me hence.
I care not whither, for I beg no favor;
Only convey me where thou art commanded.

90

96. **used:** treated; **state:** rank
 97. **I am but reproach:** i.e., my rank is only disgrace
 98. **reproachfully:** disgracefully, shamefully
 101. **better than I fare:** i.e., fare better than I do
 102. **conduct:** escort, guide
 103. **office:** duty
 104. **is discharged:** has been performed
 108. **shifted:** removed (with wordplay on *shift* as "change clothing")
 110. **show:** display; **attire me how I can:** however I dress



Justice with her balance scales. (2.1.217)
 From Thomas Peyton, *The glasse of time* . . . (1620).

STANLEY

Why, madam, that is to the Isle of Man,
 There to be used according to your state.

95

DUCHESS

That's bad enough, for I am but reproach.
 And shall I, then, be used reproachfully?

STANLEY

Like to a duchess and Duke Humphrey's lady;
 According to that state you shall be used.

100

DUCHESS

Sheriff, farewell, and better than I fare,
 Although thou hast been conduct of my shame.

SHERIFF

It is my office; and, madam, pardon me.

DUCHESS

Ay, ay, farewell. Thy office is discharged.

['The Sheriff and Officers exit.']

Come, Stanley, shall we go?

105

STANLEY

Madam, your penance done, throw off this sheet,
 And go we to attire you for our journey.

DUCHESS

My shame will not be shifted with my sheet.
 No, it will hang upon my richest robes
 And show itself, attire me how I can.
 Go, lead the way. I long to see my prison.

110

They exit.

HENRY VI

Part 2

ACT 3

3.1 In Parliament Queen Margaret and the nobles level charges against Gloucester; but King Henry remains convinced of his uncle's innocence. Nonetheless, the King allows Suffolk and the Cardinal to hold him for trial. Fearing that Gloucester will not be convicted, the Queen, the Cardinal, Suffolk, and York conspire to murder him, and Suffolk and the Cardinal promise to carry out the killing. Word comes of an Irish uprising, and York, delighted to be provided with an army, agrees to quell it.

0 SD. **sennet**: trumpet fanfare to signal a ceremonial entrance or exit

1. **muse**: marvel that
2. **hindmost man**: last man to come
3. **occasion**: cause, reason
5. **strangeness**: coldness, aloofness
7. **insolent**: proud, haughty
9. **We**: the royal "we"; **since**: when
10. **glance**: cast, flash
12. **That**: i.e., so **that**; **submission**: deference, submissiveness
14. **give . . . day**: i.e., say "good morning"
17. **duty**: respect, reverence; **to us belongs**: pertains to me
18. **regarded**: i.e., paid any attention; **grin**: bare their teeth

「ACT 3」

「Scene 1」

Sound a sennet. Enter King 「Henry,」 Queen 「Margaret,」 Cardinal, Suffolk, York, Buckingham, Salisbury, and Warwick, 「and Others」 to the Parliament.

KING HENRY

I muse my lord of Gloucester is not come.
'Tis not his wont to be the hindmost man,
Whate'er occasion keeps him from us now.

QUEEN MARGARET

Can you not see, or will you not observe,
The strangeness of his altered countenance?
With what a majesty he bears himself,
How insolent of late he is become,
How proud, how peremptory, and unlike himself?
We know the time since he was mild and affable;
And if we did but glance a far-off look,
Immediately he was upon his knee,
That all the court admired him for submission.
But meet him now, and, be it in the morn
When everyone will give the time of day,
He knits his brow and shows an angry eye
And passeth by with stiff unbowed knee,
Disdaining duty that to us belongs.
Small curs are not regarded when they grin,
But great men tremble when the lion roars—
And Humphrey is no little man in England.

5

10

15

20

23. **Meseemeth**: it seems to me; **policy**: prudent course of action
24. **Respecting**: considering; **rancorous**: spiteful
25. **his advantage** . . . **decease**: i.e., the **advantage** (namely, the crown) that he would enjoy if you were to die.
29. **make commotion**: cause insurrection or rebellion
32. **Suffer**: tolerate
33. **herbs**: plants; **want**: lack; **husbandry**: good gardening
35. **collect**: infer; deduce
36. **fond**: foolish
37. **supplant**: (1) remove; (2) uproot
38. **subscribe**: confess myself mistaken
40. **Reprove**: disprove; **allegation**: charge
41. **effectual**: pertinent; valid
43. **put**: appointed
45. **by his subornation**: i.e., through his corruption or instigation
46. **practices**: plots, conspiracies
47. **privy to**: intimately acquainted with
48. **by reputing of**: i.e., esteeming, thinking highly of
49. **successive heir**: i.e., **heir** next in order of succession
50. **vaunts**: boasts
51. **bedlam**: mad (**Bedlam** alludes to St. Mary of Bethlehem Hospital for the insane in London.)
52. **frame**: devise
53. **Smooth** . . . **deep**: proverbial
54. **show**: appearance
55. **The fox** . . . **lamb**: proverbial **he**: it **would**: wishes to

First, note that he is near you in descent,
And, should you fall, he is the next will mount.
Meseemeth then it is no policy,
Respecting what a rancorous mind he bears
And his advantage following your decease, 25
That he should come about your royal person
Or be admitted to your Highness' Council.
By flattery hath he won the Commons' hearts;
And when he please to make commotion,
'Tis to be feared they all will follow him. 30
Now 'tis the spring, and weeds are shallow-rooted;
Suffer them now, and they'll o'ergrow the garden
And choke the herbs for want of husbandry.
The reverent care I bear unto my lord
Made me collect these dangers in the Duke. 35
If it be fond, call it a woman's fear,
Which fear, if better reasons can supplant,
I will subscribe and say I wronged the Duke.
My 'lords' of Suffolk, Buckingham, and York,
Reprove my allegation if you can, 40
Or else conclude my words effectual.

SUFFOLK

Well hath your Highness seen into this duke,
And, had I first been put to speak my mind,
I think I should have told your Grace's tale.
The Duchess by his subornation, 45
Upon my life, began her devilish practices;
Or if he were not privy to those faults,
Yet, by reputing of his high descent—
As next the King he was successive heir,
And such high vaunts of his nobility— 50
Did instigate the bedlam brainsick duchess
By wicked means to frame our sovereign's fall.
Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep,
And in his simple show he harbors treason.
The fox barks not when he would steal the lamb. 55

57. **Unsounded:** unfathomed

58-59. **Did ... done:** The same charge is made against him at 1.3.135-37. **Devise:** order

61. **Levy:** collect as taxes

63. **By means whereof:** i.e., because of which

64. **to:** compared to

67. **at once:** (1) perhaps, once and for all; (2) without any more discussion; (3) to answer all of you together

68. **annoy:** hurt

69. **shall I:** i.e., if I were to; **conscience:** inward knowledge or conviction

72. **sucking lamb:** Proverbial: "As innocent as a lamb." **harmless dove:** proverbial

73. **given:** disposed

74. **work:** plot, contrive

75. **fond:** foolish; **affiance:** trust

76. **borrowed:** an allusion to the Aesop fable in which a crow dresses in the plumage of another bird

77. **he's disposèd as:** i.e., he has the disposition of

78-79. **His skin ... wolves:** See Matthew 7.15: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (See picture, page 106.)

80. **Who ... deceit:** i.e., who that intends **deceit** cannot adopt a disguise

82. **Hangs:** depends; **cutting short:** Proverbial: "Shorten by the head." **fraudful:** treacherous

No, no, my sovereign, Gloucester is a man
Unsounded yet and full of deep deceit.

CARDINAL

Did he not, contrary to form of law,
Devise strange deaths for small offenses done?

YORK

And did he not, in his protectorship,
Levy great sums of money through the realm
For soldiers' pay in France, and never sent it,
By means whereof the towns each day revolted?

60

BUCKINGHAM

Tut, these are petty faults to faults unknown,
Which time will bring to light in smooth Duke
Humphrey.

65

KING HENRY

My lords, at once: the care you have of us
To mow down thorns that would annoy our foot
Is worthy praise; but, shall I speak my conscience,
Our kinsman Gloucester is as innocent
From meaning treason to our royal person
As is the sucking lamb or harmless dove.
The Duke is virtuous, mild, and too well given
To dream on evil or to work my downfall.

70

QUEEN MARGARET

Ah, what's more dangerous than this fond affianced
Seems he a dove? His feathers are but borrowed,
For he's disposèd as the hateful raven.
Is he a lamb? His skin is surely lent him,
For he's inclined as is the ravenous wolves.
Who cannot steal a shape that means deceit?
Take heed, my lord; the welfare of us all
Hangs on the cutting short that fraudulent man.

75

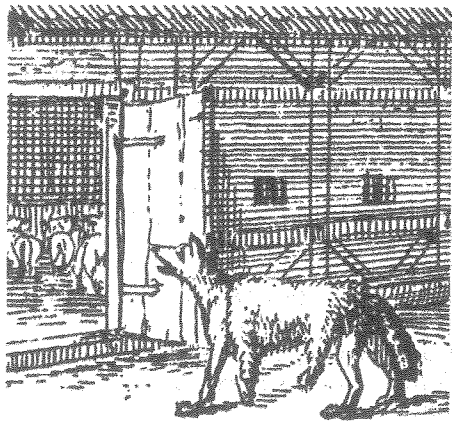
80

Enter Somerset.

SOMERSET

All health unto my gracious sovereign!

85. **interest in:** right or title to
 86. **bereft:** robbed from
 87. **Cold:** gloomy, dispiriting
 90. **blossoms . . . bud:** proverbial **blasted:** withered, blighted
 92. **gear:** business
 93. **sell:** i.e., exchange
 95. **stayed:** tarried, delayed
 100. **for:** because of
 101. **unspotted:** pure, unblemished
 105. **of France:** i.e., from the French king
 106. **stayed:** held back
 107. **By means whereof:** i.e., as a result of which
 108. **What:** i.e., who



A wolf dressed as a sheep. (3.1.78-79)
 From August Casimir Redel, *Annus symbolicus* . . . (c. 1695).

KING HENRY

Welcome, Lord Somerset. What news from France?

SOMERSET

That all your interest in those territories
 Is utterly bereft you. All is lost.

85

KING HENRY

Cold news, Lord Somerset; but God's will be done.

YORK, *aside*

Cold news for me, for I had hope of France
 As firmly as I hope for fertile England.

90

Thus are my blossoms blasted in the bud,

And caterpillars eat my leaves away.

But I will remedy this gear ere long,

Or sell my title for a glorious grave.

Enter Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER

All happiness unto my lord the King!

Pardon, my liege, that I have stayed so long.

95

SUFFOLK

Nay, Gloucester, know that thou art come too soon,

Unless thou wert more loyal than thou art.

I do arrest thee of high treason here.

GLOUCESTER

Well, Suffolk, thou shalt not see me blush

Nor change my countenance for this arrest.

100

A heart unspotted is not easily daunted.

The purest spring is not so free from mud

As I am clear from treason to my sovereign.

Who can accuse me? Wherein am I guilty?

YORK

'Tis thought, my lord, that you took bribes of France

105

And, being Protector, stayed the soldiers' pay,

By means whereof his Highness hath lost France.

GLOUCESTER

Is it but thought so? What are they that think it?

111. **watched:** i.e., kept awake through
 112. **studying:** applying my mind to acquiring
 113. **That:** i.e., may **that**; **doit:** coin of little value;
wrested: extorted, wrung
 114. **groat:** coin worth four pennies (See picture,
 page 112.)
 115. **brought:** i.e., produced as evidence
 116. **proper:** private; **store:** supply, stock
 117. **needy:** poor
 118. **dispursed:** paid out
 119. **restitution:** i.e., reimbursement
 120. **serves you well:** i.e., suits your interest
 123. **Strange:** extreme
 124. **That . . . tyranny:** i.e., as a result of which,
England was disgraced as tyrannical
 128. **lowly:** humble; **ransom:** means of freeing
 themselves from the penalty; **fault:** misdeed,
 offense
 129. **bloody:** bloodthirsty
 130. **felonious:** wicked; **fleeced:** plundered;
poor: hapless; **passengers:** travelers
 131. **condign:** merited, fitting
 133. **Above:** more than; **felon:** felony; **what tres-**
pass else: i.e., any other violation
 134. **easy:** slight; **answered:** justified, defended
 against
 135. **unto your charge:** to your responsibility
 136. **purge:** clear, exculpate
 138. **commit you to:** consign **you** officially to the
 custody of
 139. **further:** later

- I never robbed the soldiers of their pay
 Nor ever had one penny bribe from France. 110
 So help me God as I have watched the night—
 Ay, night by night—in studying good for England!
 That doit that e'er I wrested from the King,
 Or any groat I hoarded to my use,
 Be brought against me at my trial day! 115
 No, many a pound of mine own proper store,
 Because I would not tax the needy Commons,
 Have I dispursed to the garrisons
 And never asked for restitution.
 CARDINAL
 It serves you well, my lord, to say so much. 120
 GLOUCESTER
 I say no more than truth, so help me God.
 YORK
 In your protectorship, you did devise
 Strange tortures for offenders, never heard of,
 That England was defamed by tyranny.
 GLOUCESTER
 Why, 'tis well known that whiles I was Protector, 125
 Pity was all the fault that was in me;
 For I should melt at an offender's tears,
 And lowly words were ransom for their fault.
 Unless it were a bloody murderer
 Or foul felonious thief that fleeced poor passengers, 130
 I never gave them condign punishment.
 Murder indeed, that bloody sin, I tortured
 Above the felon or what trespass else.
 SUFFOLK
 My lord, these faults are easy, quickly answered;
 But mightier crimes are laid unto your charge 135
 Whereof you cannot easily purge yourself.
 I do arrest you in his Highness' name,
 And here commit you to my Lord Cardinal
 To keep until your further time of trial.

141. **suspense:** doubt as to your character and conduct

144. **with:** i.e., by

145. **rancor's:** malignant hatred's

146. **subornation:** corruption; **predominant:** prevalent, prevailing

147. **equity:** fairness; **exiled:** i.e., **exiled** from

148. **their complot:** the design of their conspiracy

149. **happy:** fortunate

150. **prove:** establish; **period:** end; **tyranny:** oppressive exercise of power

151. **expend:** spend; employ

152. **mine:** i.e., **my death** (line 149)

153. **For thousands:** i.e., for the deaths of thousands

154. **their plotted tragedy:** (1) the plot of **their tragedy;** (2) the **tragedy** that they have devised

155. **blab:** betray

156. **cloudy:** sullen, frowning

157. **Sharp:** harsh

158. **envious:** malicious

159. **dogged:** malicious, cruel, surly; **the moon:** what is impossible to get

160. **overweening:** presumptuous

161. **accuse:** accusation; **level:** aim

163. **Causeless:** without cause or reason

165. **liefest:** dearest

167. **conventicles:** secret meetings for sinister purposes

169. **want:** lack

170. **store:** abundance

171. **effected:** fulfilled

KING HENRY

My lord of Gloucester, 'tis my special hope
That you will clear yourself from all suspense.
My conscience tells me you are innocent.

140

GLOUCESTER

Ah, gracious lord, these days are dangerous.
Virtue is choked with foul ambition,
And charity chased hence by rancor's hand;
Foul subornation is predominant,
And equity exiled your Highness' land.
I know their complot is to have my life;
And if my death might make this island happy
And prove the period of their tyranny,
I would expend it with all willingness.

145

But mine is made the prologue to their play;
For thousands more, that yet suspect no peril,
Will not conclude their plotted tragedy.
Beaufort's red sparkling eyes blab his heart's malice,
And Suffolk's cloudy brow his stormy hate;
Sharp Buckingham unburdens with his tongue
The envious load that lies upon his heart;
And dogged York, that reaches at the moon,
Whose overweening arm I have plucked back,
By false accuse doth level at my life.—

160

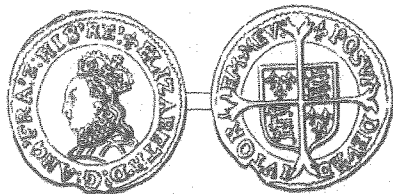
And you, my sovereign lady, with the rest,
Causeless have laid disgraces on my head
And with your best endeavor have stirred up
My liefest liege to be mine enemy.

165

Ay, all of you have laid your heads together—
Myself had notice of your conventicles—
And all to make away my guiltless life.
I shall not want false witness to condemn me
Nor store of treasons to augment my guilt.
The ancient proverb will be well effected:
"A staff is quickly found to beat a dog."

170

173. **railing**: abusiveness
 176. **rated at**: angrily reproved
 177. **scope**: complete freedom
 179. **twit**: i.e., twitted, disparaged
 180. **clerkly**: learnedly; **couched**: expressed
 182. **state**: high rank, greatness, power
 183. **give . . . chide**: Proverbial: "Give losers leave to speak."
 184. **spoke**: i.e., spoken
 185. **Beshrew**: curse; **played me false**: betrayed me
 187. **wrest the sense**: twist the meaning
 189. **sure**: securely
 191. **firm**: robust
 192-93. **Thus . . . first**: See Matthew 26.31: "I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered." **gnarling**: snarling
 194. **false**: erroneous
 195. **decay**: destruction, ruin
 197. **ourself**: i.e., I (royal plural)



The obverse and reverse of a groat. (3.1.114)
 From Edward Hawkins, *The silver coins of England . . .* (1841).

CARDINAL

My liege, his railing is intolerable.
 If those that care to keep your royal person
 From treason's secret knife and traitor's rage
 Be thus upbraided, chid, and rated at,
 And the offender granted scope of speech,
 'Twill make them cool in zeal unto your Grace.

175

SUFFOLK

Hath he not twit our sovereign lady here
 With ignominious words, though clerkly couched,
 As if she had subornèd some to swear
 False allegations to o'erthrow his state?

180

QUEEN MARGARET

But I can give the loser leave to chide.

GLOUCESTER

Far truer spoke than meant. I lose, indeed;
 Beshrew the winners, for they played me false!
 And well such losers may have leave to speak.

185

BUCKINGHAM

He'll wrest the sense and hold us here all day.
 Lord Cardinal, he is your prisoner.

CARDINAL, ¹to his Men¹

Sirs, take away the Duke, and guard him sure.

GLOUCESTER

Ah, thus King Henry throws away his crutch
 Before his legs be firm to bear his body.—
 Thus is the shepherd beaten from thy side,
 And wolves are gnarling who shall gnaw thee first.
 Ah, that my fear were false; ah, that it were!
 For, good King Henry, thy decay I fear.

190

195

Gloucester exits, ¹guarded by Cardinal's Men.¹

KING HENRY

My lords, what to your wisdoms seemeth best
 Do, or undo, as if ourself were here.

QUEEN MARGARET

What, will your Highness leave the Parliament?

201. **engirt**: encircled
 203. **uncle Humphrey**: addressed to the now-absent Gloucester
 204. **map**: very picture, image
 205. **yet . . . come**: i.e., **the hour . . . is yet to come**
 206. **proved**: experienced; **feared**: doubted;
faith: loyalty
 207. **louring**: threatening; **estate**: exalted rank
 209. **subversion**: ruin; **harmless**: innocent
 215. **dam**: mother
 218. **myself bewails**: I lament loudly; **case**:
 plight
 220. **do him good**: be beneficial to him
 223. **Who's**: i.e., whoever is
 224. **Free**: noble
 224-25. **cold . . . beams**: proverbial
 226. **cold in**: indifferent to, apathetic in
 227. **show**: feigned appearance
 228-29. **mournful . . . passengers**: See Hakluyt:
 "[The crocodile's] nature is ever when he would
 have his prey, to cry and sob like a Christian body, to
 provoke them to come to him, and then he snatch-
 eth at them." (See picture, page 146.) **relenting**:
 soft-tempered, pitying **passengers**: travelers
 230. **rolled in**: curled up on

KING HENRY

Ay, Margaret. My heart is drowned with grief,
 Whose flood begins to flow within mine eyes, 200
 My body round engirt with misery;
 For what's more miserable than discontent?
 Ah, uncle Humphrey, in thy face I see
 The map of honor, truth, and loyalty;
 And yet, good Humphrey, is the hour to come 205
 That e'er I proved thee false or feared thy faith.
 What louring star now envies thy estate
 That these great lords and Margaret our queen
 Do seek subversion of thy harmless life?
 Thou never didst them wrong nor no man wrong. 210
 And as the butcher takes away the calf
 And binds the wretch and beats it when it 'strains,¹
 Bearing it to the bloody slaughterhouse,
 Even so remorseless have they borne him hence;
 And as the dam runs lowing up and down, 215
 Looking the way her harmless young one went,
 And can do naught but wail her darling's loss,
 Even so myself bewails good Gloucester's case
 With sad unhelpful tears, and with dimmed eyes
 Look after him and cannot do him good, 220
 So mighty are his vowed enemies.
 His fortunes I will weep and, 'twixt each groan,
 Say "Who's a traitor, Gloucester he is none."

*He exits, 'with Buckingham, Salisbury, Warwick,
 and Others. Somerset steps aside.'*¹

QUEEN MARGARET, 'to Cardinal, Suffolk, and York'¹

Free lords, cold snow melts with the sun's hot
 beams. 225
 Henry my lord is cold in great affairs,
 Too full of foolish pity; and Gloucester's show
 Beguiles him, as the mournful crocodile
 With sorrow snares relenting passengers,
 Or as the snake, rolled in a flow'ring bank, 230

231. **checkered**: multicolored; **slough**: skin;
sting: wound

234. **wit**: intelligence

235. **rid**: removed from

236. **rid us**: free us

237. **worthy**: excellent; **policy**: political cunning

238. **want**: lack; **color**: pretext

239. **meet**: i.e., suitable, fitting that; **course**: due
process

240. **mind**: opinion; **were**: i.e., would be

241. **still**: without ceasing

242. **haply rise**: perhaps rebel

243. **yet**: thus far; **trivial argument**: slight reason
or evidence

245. **by this**: i.e., according to **this** way of think-
ing; **would not have him**: i.e., do **not** want **him** to

246. **fain**: i.e., willing, eager

247. **'Tis . . . death**: See lines 387-88 below.

250. **Were 't . . . one**: i.e., would it not be just the
same as if; **empty**: hungry

251. **kite**: vulture (See picture, page 140.)

255. **surveyor**: supervisor; **fold**: i.e., sheepfold

256. **a crafty**: i.e., of being a cunning, wily

257. **guilt**: criminality; **idly**: carelessly; **posted
over**: passed off

258. **purpose**: intention (i.e., to kill); **is not exe-
cuted**: i.e., has not been carried out

259. **in that**: because

With shining checkered slough, doth sting a child
That for the beauty thinks it excellent.

Believe me, lords, were none more wise than I—

And yet herein I judge mine own wit good—

This Gloucester should be quickly rid the world,

235

To rid us from the fear we have of him.

CARDINAL

That he should die is worthy policy,

But yet we want a color for his death.

'Tis meet he be condemned by course of law.

SUFFOLK

But, in my mind, that were no policy.

240

The King will labor still to save his life,

The Commons haply rise to save his life,

And yet we have but trivial argument,

More than mistrust, that shows him worthy death.

YORK

So that, by this, you would not have him die.

245

SUFFOLK

Ah, York, no man alive so fain as I!

YORK

'Tis York that hath more reason for his death.

But, my Lord Cardinal, and you, my lord of Suffolk,

Say as you think, and speak it from your souls:

Were 't not all one an empty eagle were set

250

To guard the chicken from a hungry kite

As place Duke Humphrey for the King's Protector?

QUEEN MARGARET

So the poor chicken should be sure of death.

SUFFOLK

Madam, 'tis true; and were 't not madness then

To make the fox surveyor of the fold—

255

Who, being accused a crafty murderer,

His guilt should be but idly posted over

Because his purpose is not executed?

No, let him die in that he is a fox,

260. **By . . . flock:** See picture, page 224.
 261. **chaps:** jaws
 262. **As . . . liege:** i.e., just as Gloucester is **by nature** (line 260) the murderer threatening the king
proved by reasons: i.e., demonstrated by the **reasons** just given (lines 254–61)
 263. **stand on:** insist on; **quilllets:** i.e., subtle distinctions about
 264. **gins:** traps
 267. **mates:** checkmates, defeats
 268. **resolutely spoke:** i.e., boldly spoken
 269. **resolute:** characterized by firmness of purpose; **except . . . done:** unless the words spoken are acted on
 271. **But that:** i.e., **but** to prove **that;** **accordeth:** agrees
 272. **Seeing:** since, because
 274. **I will . . . priest:** proverbial for “I will kill him”
 275. **would have:** wish to have
 276. **due orders for:** i.e., Holy Orders to become
 277. **censure well the deed:** i.e., judge **the deed** to be good
 279. **I tender so:** i.e., I have such care for
 283. **It skills not greatly:** i.e., **it** does **not** matter much; **impugns:** opposes, finds fault with; **doom:** decision; sentence
 283 SD. **Post:** special messenger with dispatches
 284. **amain:** in haste
 285. **signify:** make known; **up:** risen in rebellion
 287. **succors:** military assistance; **rage:** violence;
betime: early

By nature proved an enemy to the flock,
 Before his chaps be stained with crimson blood,
 As Humphrey, proved by reasons, to my liege.
 And do not stand on quilllets how to slay him—
 Be it by gins, by snares, by subtlety,
 Sleeping or waking. 'Tis no matter how,
 So he be dead; for that is good deceit
 Which mates him first that first intends deceit.

QUEEN MARGARET

Thrice noble Suffolk, 'tis resolutely spoke.

SUFFOLK

Not resolute, except so much were done,
 For things are often spoke and seldom meant;
 But that my heart accordeth with my tongue,
 Seeing the deed is meritorious,
 And to preserve my sovereign from his foe,
 Say but the word and I will be his priest.

CARDINAL

But I would have him dead, my lord of Suffolk,
 Ere you can take due orders for a priest.
 Say you consent and censure well the deed,
 And I'll provide his executioner.
 I tender so the safety of my liege.

SUFFOLK

Here is my hand. The deed is worthy doing.

QUEEN MARGARET And so say I.

YORK

And I. And now we three have spoke it,
 It skills not greatly who impugns our doom.

Enter a Post.

POST

Great lords, from Ireland am I come amain
 To signify that rebels there are up
 And put the Englishmen unto the sword.
 Send succors, lords, and stop the rage betime,

288. **uncurable**: incurable
 289. **being green**: i.e., (the wound [line 288])
being recent
 290. **breach**: injury; **craves**: requires, demands;
expedient: expeditious, speedy; **stop**: closing up
 293. **meet**: appropriate
 295. **far-fet**: far-fetched; **policy**: political cunning
 299. **betimes**: speedily, forthwith
 301. **staying**: delaying
 302. **charactered**: inscribed
 303. **Men's flesh**: i.e., men whose **flesh** is
 304-5. **this spark . . . it with**: Proverbial: "Of a
 little **spark** a great fire."
 306. **still**: quiet
 308. **happily**: perhaps
 309. **naught**: nothing
 311. **the . . . shame**: perhaps alluding to the
 motto of the Knights of the Garter: *Honi soit qui
 mal y pense* (French for "Shame be to him who
 thinks evil.")
 312. **try . . . is**: i.e., see what luck you have
 313. **uncivil**: barbarous; **kerns**: lightly armed
 foot soldiers (See picture, page 122.)
 314. **temper**: moisten (so as to form a paste)

Before the wound do grow uncurable;
 For, being green, there is great hope of help.

¹*He exits.*

CARDINAL

A breach that craves a quick expedient stop! 290
 What counsel give you in this weighty cause?

YORK

That Somerset be sent as regent thither.
 'Tis meet that lucky ruler be employed—
 Witness the fortune he hath had in France.

SOMERSET, ¹*advancing*

If York, with all his far-fet policy, 295
 Had been the regent there instead of me,
 He never would have stayed in France so long.

YORK

No, not to lose it all, as thou hast done.
 I rather would have lost my life betimes
 Than bring a burden of dishonor home 300
 By staying there so long till all were lost.
 Show me one scar charactered on thy skin.
 Men's flesh preserved so whole do seldom win.

QUEEN MARGARET

Nay, then, this spark will prove a raging fire
 If wind and fuel be brought to feed it with.— 305
 No more, good York.—Sweet Somerset, be still.—
 Thy fortune, York, hadst thou been regent there,
 Might happily have proved far worse than his.

YORK

What, worse than naught? Nay, then, a shame take
 all!

310

SOMERSET

And, in the number, thee that wishest shame!

CARDINAL

My lord of York, try what your fortune is.
 Th' uncivil kerns of Ireland are in arms
 And temper clay with blood of Englishmen.

316. **choicely**: carefully
 317. **hap**: fortune, luck
 318. **so . . . Majesty**: i.e., if the king agrees
 320. **establish**: ratify
 323. **Whiles**: i.e., while; **take order**: make arrangements
 324. **charge**: duty
 328. **break off**: i.e., (let's) stop talking
 329. **that event**: i.e., what we contemplate happening
 333. **truly**: properly
 334. **steel**: harden, strengthen; **fearful**: apprehensive
 335. **misdoubt**: mistrust
 336. **that**: i.e., that which
 337. **Resign**: surrender; consign
 338. **keep**: live, reside; **mean-born**: lowborn



An Irish kern. (3.1.313, 365–66; 4.9.26–27)
 From John Derricke, *The image of Irelande, with a discouerie
 of woodkarne* . . . (1581; 1883 facsimile).

To Ireland will you lead a band of men,
 Collected choicely, from each county some,
 And try your hap against the Irishmen?

315

YORK

I will, my lord, so please his Majesty.

SUFFOLK

Why, our authority is his consent,
 And what we do establish he confirms.
 Then, noble York, take thou this task in hand.

320

YORK

I am content. Provide me soldiers, lords,
 Whiles I take order for mine own affairs.

SUFFOLK

A charge, Lord York, that I will see performed.
 But now return we to the false Duke Humphrey.

325

CARDINAL

No more of him, for I will deal with him,
 That henceforth he shall trouble us no more.
 And so break off; the day is almost spent.
 Lord Suffolk, you and I must talk of that event.

YORK

My lord of Suffolk, within fourteen days
 At Bristow I expect my soldiers,
 For there I'll ship them all for Ireland.

330

SUFFOLK

I'll see it truly done, my lord of York.

All but York exit.

YORK

Now, York, or never, steel thy fearful thoughts
 And change misdoubt to resolution.
 Be that thou hop'st to be, or what thou art:
 Resign to death; it is not worth th' enjoying.
 Let pale-faced fear keep with the mean-born man
 And find no harbor in a royal heart.
 Faster than springtime showers comes thought on
 thought,

335

340

342. **dignity**: high rank (i.e., kingship)
 344. **Weaves tedious snares**: i.e., tiresomely and laboriously **weaves** snare after snare (a transferred epithet)
 345. **politically**: shrewdly, craftily (ironic)
 346. **send me packing**: dismiss me
 347. **fear me**: i.e., **fear** (ethical dative); **starved**: (nearly) frozen
 348. **cherished**: given warmth; **sting**: i.e., bite (Proverbial: "To nourish a **snake** in one's bosom.")
 351. **take it kindly**: i.e., accept (your gift) with pleasure
 352. **You . . . hands**: Proverbial: "**Put** not a naked sword **in a madman's** hand."
 353. **nourish**: maintain
 354. **storm**: i.e., **storm** that
 356. **fell**: deadly
 357. **circuit**: i.e., circle
 358. **transparent**: penetrating
 359. **Do**: i.e., does; **mad-bred**: stirred up by a madman (See line 352 above.) **flaw**: short spell of rough weather; tumult, uproar
 360. **minister of**: i.e., agent for
 361. **seduced**: enticed
 362. **Ashford**: a town in central Kent
 363. **commotion**: insurrection; **full**: very
 364. **title**: name (For the Mortimer claim to the English throne, see 2.2.37-56, above, and *Henry VI, Part 1*, 2.5.0 SD, where **John** and **Edmund** are merged.)
 365. **stubborn**: ruthless, fierce
 367. **till that**: until; **darts**: arrows
 368. **porpentine**: porcupine (See picture, page 188.)

(continued)

And not a thought but thinks on dignity.
 My brain, more busy than the laboring spider,
 Weaves tedious snares to trap mine enemies.
 Well, nobles, well, 'tis politicly done 345
 To send me packing with an host of men.
 I fear me you but warm the starved snake,
 Who, cherished in your breasts, will sting your
 hearts.
 'Twas men I lacked, and you will give them me; 350
 I take it kindly. Yet be well assured
 You put sharp weapons in a madman's hands.
 Whiles I in Ireland nourish a mighty band,
 I will stir up in England some black storm
 Shall blow ten thousand souls to heaven or hell; 355
 And this fell tempest shall not cease to rage
 Until the golden circuit on my head,
 Like to the glorious sun's transparent beams,
 Do calm the fury of this mad-bred flaw.
 And for a minister of my intent, 360
 I have seduced a headstrong Kentishman,
 John Cade of Ashford,
 To make commotion, as full well he can,
 Under the title of John Mortimer.
 In Ireland have I seen this stubborn Cade 365
 Oppose himself against a troop of kerns,
 And fought so long till that his thighs with darts
 Were almost like a sharp-quilled porpentine;
 And in the end being rescued, I have seen
 Him caper upright like a wild Morisco, 370
 Shaking the bloody darts as he his bells.
 Full often, like a shag-haired crafty kern,
 Hath he conversed with the enemy,
 And undiscovered come to me again
 And given me notice of their villainies. 375
 This devil here shall be my substitute;
 For that John Mortimer, which now is dead,

369. **in the end:** finally
 370. **caper:** dance, leap; **Morisco:** morris dancer (Morris dancers performed in costume and wore bells on their legs.)
 371. **as he:** i.e., as the morris dancer shakes
 372. **shag-haired crafty kern:** wily Irish soldier with rough matted hair
 374. **undiscovered:** undetected, unobserved
 375. **notice:** information, intelligence
 376. **This devil here:** i.e., **this** diabolical creature I just described; **substitute:** deputy
 377. **For that:** because
 379. **By this:** i.e., by means of Cade's rebellion
 380. **affect:** like, favor
 381. **taken:** captured; **racked:** torn apart on the rack, an instrument of torture (See picture, page 158.)
 383. **moved:** persuaded
 384. **great like:** very likely
 385. **strength:** military power, army
 386. **reap . . . sowed:** Proverbial: "One sows, another reaps." **rascal:** scoundrel
 388. **put apart:** perhaps, killed; or, perhaps, deposed (euphemism); **the next for me:** Interpreted in relation to 2.2, the phrase suggests, "I will be **next** on the throne."

3.2 The news of Gloucester's murder makes King Henry faint and the Commons rise to demand Suffolk's exile. The King obliges them. News arrives of the Cardinal's imminent death.

(continued)

In face, in gait, in speech he doth resemble.
 By this, I shall perceive the Commons' mind,
 How they affect the house and claim of York. 380
 Say he be taken, racked, and tortured,
 I know no pain they can inflict upon him
 Will make him say I moved him to those arms.
 Say that he thrive, as 'tis great like he will,
 Why then from Ireland come I with my strength 385
 And reap the harvest which that rascal sowed.
 For, Humphrey being dead, as he shall be,
 And Henry put apart, the next for me.

He exits.

[Scene 2]

Enter two or three running over the stage, from the murder of Duke Humphrey.

FIRST MURDERER

Run to my lord of Suffolk. Let him know
 We have dispatched the Duke as he commanded.

SECOND MURDERER

O, that it were to do! What have we done?
 Didst ever hear a man so penitent?

Enter Suffolk.

FIRST MURDERER Here comes my lord.

SUFFOLK Now, sirs, have you dispatched this thing?

FIRST MURDERER Ay, my good lord, he's dead.

SUFFOLK

Why, that's well said. Go, get you to my house;
 I will reward you for this venturous deed.
 The King and all the peers are here at hand. 10
 Have you laid fair the bed? Is all things well,
 According as I gave directions?

FIRST MURDERER 'Tis, my good lord.

SUFFOLK Away, be gone. *[The Murderers] exit.*

*Sound trumpets. Enter King 'Henry,' Queen
'Margaret,' Cardinal, Somerset, with Attendants.*

KING HENRY

Go, call our uncle to our presence straight.
Say we intend to try his Grace today
If he be guilty, as 'tis publishèd.

15

SUFFOLK

I'll call him presently, my noble lord. *He exits.*

KING HENRY

Lords, take your places; and, I pray you all,
Proceed no straiter 'gainst our uncle Gloucester
Than from true evidence of good esteem
He be approved in practice culpable.

20

QUEEN MARGARET

God forbid any malice should prevail
That faultless may condemn a nobleman!
Pray God he may acquit him of suspicion!

25

KING HENRY

I thank thee, 'Meg.' These words content me much.

Enter Suffolk.

How now? Why look'st thou pale? Why tremblest
thou?

Where is our uncle? What's the matter, Suffolk?

SUFFOLK

Dead in his bed, my lord. Gloucester is dead.

30

QUEEN MARGARET Marry, God forfend!

CARDINAL

God's secret judgment. I did dream tonight
The Duke was dumb and could not speak a word.

King 'Henry' swoons.

QUEEN MARGARET

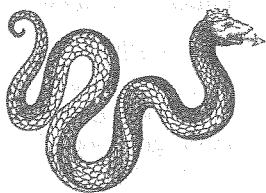
How fares my lord? Help, lords, the King is dead!

SOMERSET

Rear up his body. Wring him by the nose.

35

2. **dispatched:** killed
3. **to do:** i.e., still to be done (and therefore to be avoided)
6. **dispatched:** got done, finished off
8. **well said:** well done
9. **venturous:** daring; risky
10. **peers:** nobles
11. **laid fair:** i.e., straightened, smoothed; **Is:** i.e., are
17. **If:** whether; **publishèd:** reported publicly
18. **presently:** immediately
20. **straiter:** more strictly or severely
21. **true evidence:** honest witnesses; **esteem:** reputation
22. **approved . . . culpable:** i.e., proved guilty of treason **practice:** treachery
25. **acquit him:** i.e., **acquit** or clear himself
31. **forfend:** forbid
32. **tonight:** last night
35. **Rear up:** lift into a vertical position; **Wring . . . nose:** See Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*, where Adonis, trying to revive the unconscious Venus, "wrings her nose" (line 475).



A basilisk. (3.2.54, 336)

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

36. **ope**: open

40. **Comfort**: i.e., take comfort

41. **comfort**: cheer up; console

42. **right now**: just now; **raven's note**: For the association of the croaking of the raven with death, see Shakespeare's *Macbeth* 1.5.45-47, "The raven himself is hoarse / That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan / Under my battlements."

43. **dismal**: cheerless; fatal; **bereft**: i.e., deprived me of; **vital powers**: faculties of mind and body necessary to life

44. **chirping of a wren**: In *Macbeth*, the wren is described as "The most diminutive of birds" (4.2.12).

45. **hollow**: insincere

46. **first-conceived sound**: sound first heard

47. **poison . . . words**: Proverbial: "poison under sugar" and "sugared words."

49. **as**: i.e., as if it were

50. **baleful**: malignant, deadly

51. **Tyranny**: violence, outrage

52. **fright**: frighten

54. **basilisk**: mythological reptile whose glance is fatal (See picture, page 128.)

56. **shade**: shadow (Proverbial: "shadow of death.")

58. **rate**: berate

61. **for**: i.e., as for

62. **liquid**: watery

63. **blood-consuming sighs**: Sighs were believed to draw blood from the heart.

QUEEN MARGARET

Run, go, help, help! O Henry, ope thine eyes!

[*King Henry stirs.*]

SUFFOLK

He doth revive again. Madam, be patient.

KING HENRY

O heavenly God!

QUEEN MARGARET How fares my gracious lord?

SUFFOLK

Comfort, my sovereign! Gracious Henry, comfort!

40

KING HENRY

What, doth my lord of Suffolk comfort me?

Came he right now to sing a raven's note,

Whose dismal tune bereft my vital powers,

And thinks he that the chirping of a wren,

By crying comfort from a hollow breast,

Can chase away the first-conceived sound?

Hide not thy poison with such sugared words.

Lay not thy hands on me. Forbear, I say!

Their touch affrights me as a serpent's sting.

Thou baleful messenger, out of my sight!

Upon thy eyeballs, murderous Tyranny

Sits in grim majesty to fright the world.

Look not upon me, for thine eyes are wounding.

Yet do not go away. Come, basilisk,

And kill the innocent gazer with thy sight;

For in the shade of death I shall find joy,

In life but double death, now Gloucester's dead.

45

50

55

QUEEN MARGARET

Why do you rate my lord of Suffolk thus?

Although the Duke was enemy to him,

Yet he most Christian-like laments his death.

And for myself, foe as he was to me,

Might liquid tears or heart-offending groans

Or blood-consuming sighs recall his life,

I would be blind with weeping, sick with groans,

60

67. **deem of**: judge
 69. **made . . . away**: i.e., killed **the Duke**
 71. **princes'**: rulers'; **my reproach**: disgrace or blame of me
 74. **woe is me**: (1) alas; (2) I am grieved
 75. **woe**: sorry
 77. **leper**: See picture, page 136.
 78. **adder . . . deaf**: See Psalm 58.4-5: "like the deaf adder that stoppeth his ear. Which heareth not the voice of the enchanter [snake charmer]."
waxen: grown
 79. **forlorn**: abandoned, desolate
 83. **an alehouse sign**: therefore paltry, worthless, or despicable: "**an alehouse'** paltry **sign**" (5.2.68)
 84. **nigh-wracked**: almost shipwrecked
 85. **awkward**: unfavorable, adverse; **bank**: coast
 86. **Drove**: i.e., driven; **clime**: region
 87. **boded**: foretold; **but well forewarning**: i.e., but that accurately prophesying
 91. **he**: **Aeolus** (line 94), mythological god of the winds; **brazen caves**: i.e., **caves** strong as brass
 92. **bid them**: i.e., bade the winds
 93. **turn our stern**: i.e., cast the ship
 95. **office**: task
 96. **pretty-vaulting sea**: i.e., attractively arching waves of the **sea**

Look pale as primrose with blood-drinking sighs, 65
 And all to have the noble duke alive.
 What know I how the world may deem of me?
 For it is known we were but hollow friends.
 It may be judged I made the Duke away;
 So shall my name with slander's tongue be wounded 70
 And princes' courts be filled with my reproach.
 This get I by his death. Ay me, unhappy,
 To be a queen and crowned with infamy!

KING HENRY

Ah, woe is me for Gloucester, wretched man!

QUEEN MARGARET

Be woe for me, more wretched than he is. 75
 What, dost thou turn away and hide thy face?
 I am no loathsome leper. Look on me.
 What, art thou, like the adder, waxen deaf?
 Be poisonous too, and kill thy forlorn queen.
 Is all thy comfort shut in Gloucester's tomb? 80
 Why, then, Dame Margaret¹ was ne'er thy joy.
 Erect his statue and worship it,
 And make my image but an alehouse sign.
 Was I for this nigh-wracked upon the sea
 And twice by awkward wind from England's bank 85
 Drove back again unto my native clime?
 What boded this, but well forewarning wind
 Did seem to say "Seek not a scorpion's nest,
 Nor set no footing on this unkind shore?"
 What did I then but cursed the gentle gusts 90
 And he that loosed them forth their brazen caves
 And bid them blow towards England's blessed shore
 Or turn our stern upon a dreadful rock?
 Yet Aeolus would not be a murderer;
 But left that hateful office unto thee. 95
 The pretty-vaulting sea refused to drown me,
 Knowing that thou wouldst have me drowned on
 shore

99. **salt as sea:** i.e., salty as the sea (proverbial)
 100. **splitting rocks:** i.e., **rocks** that can split ships; **sinking sands:** i.e., sandbars or shoals, which wreck and sink ships
 101. **ragged:** jagged
 102. **Because:** in order that; **flinty heart:** proverbial
 103. **perish:** kill
 104. **ken:** see, descry; **chalky cliffs:** white cliffs of Dover
 106. **hatches:** deck
 107. **dusky:** dark
 108. **earnest-gaping:** ardently staring
 109. **jewel:** ornament made of gold or silver and precious stones
 110. **bound in with:** surrounded by
 114. **packing:** gone; **heart:** i.e., the **jewel**
 115. **dusky spectacles:** dim instruments of seeing
 116. **ken:** sight; **Albion's:** England's; **wishèd:** desired
 117. **tempted:** enticed
 118. **agent:** proxy (because of his role in arranging the marriage of Margaret and Henry)
 119. **Ascanius:** son of Aeneas in Virgil's Latin epic poem the *Aeneid*
 120. **madding:** frenzied (in this case, with love); **Dido:** queen of Carthage, where Aeneas lands at the beginning of the epic (See longer note, page 257, and picture, page 138.) **unfold:** disclose, i.e., tell
 121. **burning Troy:** See note to 1.4.19, above.

(continued)

134

- With tears as salt as sea, through thy unkindness.
 The splitting rocks cower'd in the sinking sands 100
 And would not dash me with their ragged sides
 Because thy flinty heart, more hard than they,
 Might in thy palace perish 'Margaret.'
 As far as I could ken thy chalky cliffs,
 When from thy shore the tempest beat us back, 105
 I stood upon the hatches in the storm,
 And when the dusky sky began to rob
 My earnest-gaping sight of thy land's view,
 I took a costly jewel from my neck—
 A heart it was, bound in with diamonds— 110
 And threw it towards thy land. The sea received it,
 And so I wished thy body might my heart.
 And even with this I lost fair England's view,
 And bid mine eyes be packing with my heart,
 And called them blind and dusky spectacles 115
 For losing ken of Albion's wishèd coast.
 How often have I tempted Suffolk's tongue,
 The agent of thy foul inconstancy,
 To sit and watch me, as Ascanius did
 When he to madding Dido would unfold 120
 His father's acts commenced in burning Troy!
 Am I not witch'd like her, or thou not false like
 him?
 Ay me, I can no more. Die, 'Margaret,'
 For Henry weeps that thou dost live so long. 125

*Noise within. Enter Warwick 'and Salisbury,
 and many Commons.*

WARWICK

- It is reported, mighty sovereign,
 That good Duke Humphrey traitorously is murdered
 By Suffolk and the Cardinal Beaufort's means.
 The Commons, like an angry hive of bees
 That want their leader, scatter up and down 130

122. **witched like her:** charmed as Dido was by love

122-23. **false like him:** inconstant as Aeneas was when he sailed away from Dido to fulfill his destiny

124. **I . . . more:** i.e., my strength fails me

130. **want:** lack

131. **his revenge:** i.e., **revenge** of his death

132. **spleenful:** angry; **mutiny:** rebellion

133. **order:** i.e., circumstances

139. **rude:** ignorant, barbarous; **multitude:** crowd

140. **O Thou . . . things:** See Genesis 18.25: "the judge of all the world." **stay:** check, restrain

143. **suspect:** suspicion

145. **Fain:** gladly; **chafe:** warm; **paly:** pale

146. **drain:** let fall

148. **trunk:** corpse

150. **mean:** i.e., unworthy, insignificant

151. **his . . . image:** **his dead** body, now earth or dust



A leper. (3.2.77)

From Guillaume Guérault, *Figures de la Bible . . .* (1565-70).

136

And care not who they sting in his revenge.
Myself have calmed their spleenful mutiny,
Until they hear the order of his death.

KING HENRY

That he is dead, good Warwick, 'tis too true;
But how he died God knows, not Henry.
Enter his chamber, view his breathless corpse,
And comment then upon his sudden death.

135

WARWICK

That shall I do, my liege.—Stay, Salisbury,
With the rude multitude till I return.

*Warwick exits through one door; Salisbury and
Commons exit through another.*

KING HENRY

O Thou that judgest all things, stay my thoughts,
My thoughts that labor to persuade my soul
Some violent hands were laid on Humphrey's life.
If my suspect be false, forgive me, God,
For judgment only doth belong to Thee.
Fain would I go to chafe his paly lips
With twenty thousand kisses, and to drain
Upon his face an ocean of salt tears,
To tell my love unto his dumb deaf trunk
And with my fingers feel his hand unfeeling;
But all in vain are these mean obsequies.
And to survey his dead and earthy image,
What were it but to make my sorrow greater?

140

145

150

*Bed put forth, bearing Gloucester's body.
Enter Warwick.*

WARWICK

Come hither, gracious sovereign. View this body.

KING HENRY

That is to see how deep my grave is made,
For with his soul fled all my worldly solace;
For seeing him, I see my life in death.

155

158. **King:** i.e., Christ
 159. **curse:** See Genesis 3.17: "Accursed shall be the ground on your account."
 161. **thrice-famed:** very famous
 163. **instance:** proof, evidence
 164. **settled:** come to rest
 165. **timely-parted ghost:** corpse of someone who died (**parted**) in a natural or **timely** manner
 166. **semblance:** appearance; **meager:** thin, emaciated
 167. **Being:** i.e., the blood **being**
 168. **Who:** i.e., which
 169. **the same:** i.e., the blood (line 164); **aidance:** assistance
 170. **Which:** i.e., the blood
 175. **full:** very
 176. **upreared:** on end
 178. **abroad displayed:** spread out
 181. **well-proportioned:** well-shaped
 181-82. **rough and rugged:** shaggy
 183. **corn:** wheat; **lodged:** beaten down
 185. **were probable:** i.e., would be sufficient proof (literally, would be worthy of belief)



Dido. (3.2.120)

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

WARWICK

As surely as my soul intends to live
 With that dread King that took our state upon Him
 To free us from His Father's wrathful curse,
 I do believe that violent hands were laid
 Upon the life of this thrice-famed duke. 160

SUFFOLK

A dreadful oath, sworn with a solemn tongue!
 What instance gives Lord Warwick for his vow?

WARWICK

See how the blood is settled in his face.
 Oft have I seen a timely-parted ghost, 165
 Of ashy semblance, meager, pale, and bloodless,
 Being all descended to the laboring heart,
 Who, in the conflict that it holds with death,
 Attracts the same for aidance 'gainst the enemy,
 Which with the heart there cools and ne'er 170
 returneth
 To blush and beautify the cheek again.
 But see, his face is black and full of blood;
 His eyeballs further out than when he lived,
 Staring full ghastly, like a strangled man; 175
 His hair upreared, his nostrils stretched with
 struggling;
 His hands abroad displayed, as one that grasped
 And tugged for life and was by strength subdued.
 Look, on the sheets his hair, you see, is sticking; 180
 His well-proportioned beard made rough and
 rugged,
 Like to the summer's corn by tempest lodged.
 It cannot be but he was murdered here.
 The least of all these signs were probable. 185

['The bed is removed.']

SUFFOLK

Why, Warwick, who should do the Duke to death?

191. **keep**: hold in custody
 192. **like**: likely
 194. **belike**: perhaps, possibly
 195. **timeless**: untimely
 197. **fast**: close
 199. **puttock's**: kite's, vulture's (See line 201, and picture, below.)
 202. **tragedy**: fatal event
 203. **Are . . . knife**: See picture, page 184.
 206. **ease**: i.e., lack of use
 207. **scoured**: cleansed
 208. **badge**: distinctive sign
 210. **faulty**: to blame
 212. **contumelious**: insolent, overbearing
 213. **controller**: one who reproves or censures



A kite. (3.1.251; 3.2.204; 5.2.11)
 From Konrad Gesner, . . . *Historiae animalium* . . . (1585–1604).

Myself and Beaufort had him in protection,
 And we, I hope, sir, are no murderers.

WARWICK

But both of you were vowed Duke Humphrey's foes,
 'To Cardinal.' And you, forsooth, had the good duke 190
 to keep.

'Tis like you would not feast him like a friend,
 And 'tis well seen he found an enemy.

QUEEN MARGARET

Then you, belike, suspect these noblemen
 As guilty of Duke Humphrey's timeless death. 195

WARWICK

Who finds the heifer dead and bleeding fresh,
 And sees fast by a butcher with an ax,
 But will suspect 'twas he that made the slaughter?
 Who finds the partridge in the puttock's nest
 But may imagine how the bird was dead, 200
 Although the kite soar with unbloodied beak?
 Even so suspicious is this tragedy.

QUEEN MARGARET

Are you the butcher, Suffolk? Where's your knife?
 Is Beaufort termed a kite? Where are his talons?

SUFFOLK

I wear no knife to slaughter sleeping men, 205
 But here's a vengeful sword, rusted with ease,
 That shall be scoured in his rancorous heart
 That slanders me with murder's crimson badge.—
 Say, if thou dar'st, proud lord of Warwickshire,
 That I am faulty in Duke Humphrey's death. 210

WARWICK

What dares not Warwick, if false Suffolk dare him?

QUEEN MARGARET

He dares not calm his contumelious spirit
 Nor cease to be an arrogant controller,
 Though Suffolk dare him twenty thousand times.

215. **still**: quiet
 220. **blameful**: guilty
 221. **stern**: grim, merciless; **untutored**: uneducated, boorish; **churl**: peasant; **stock**: i.e., family tree
 222. **graft with**: i.e., grafted to (See picture, page 144.) **crab-tree**: wild-apple tree; **slip**: shoot
 223. **race**: family
 224. **bucklers**: shields
 225. **deathsmen**: executioner
 226. **Quitting**: freeing, clearing
 227. **mild**: not easily provoked
 229. **thy passèd speech**: what you just said
 232. **fearful homage**: timorous reverence (the kneeling to apologize)
 233. **Give thee thy hire**: give you your reward; i.e., kill you (proverbial)
 234. **Pernicious**: dangerous
 236. **this presence**: i.e., the **presence** of the king
 238. **cope**: fight
 240. **What . . . untainted**: See Ephesians 6.14: "the breastplate of righteousness."
 242. **locked up in steel**: i.e., enclosed in armor

WARWICK

Madam, be still—with reverence may I say—
 For every word you speak in his behalf
 Is slander to your royal dignity. 215

SUFFOLK

Blunt-witted lord, ignoble in demeanor!
 If ever lady wronged her lord so much,
 Thy mother took into her blameful bed 220
 Some stern untutored churl, and noble stock
 Was graft with crab-tree slip, whose fruit thou art
 And never of the Nevilles' noble race.

WARWICK

But that the guilt of murder bucklers thee
 And I should rob the deathsmen of his fee, 225
 Quitting thee thereby of ten thousand shames,
 And that my sovereign's presence makes me mild,
 I would, false murd'rous coward, on thy knee
 Make thee beg pardon for thy passèd speech
 And say it was thy mother that thou meant'st, 230
 That thou thyself wast born in bastardy;
 And after all this fearful homage done,
 Give thee thy hire and send thy soul to hell,
 Pernicious bloodsucker of sleeping men!

SUFFOLK

Thou shalt be waking while I shed thy blood,
 If from this presence thou dar'st go with me. 235

WARWICK

Away even now, or I will drag thee hence!
 Unworthy though thou art, I'll cope with thee
 And do some service to Duke Humphrey's ghost.
 [Warwick and Suffolk] *exit.*

KING HENRY

What stronger breastplate than a heart untainted? 240
 Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just,
 And he but naked, though locked up in steel,
 Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted.

243 SD. **within:** offstage

247. **in our presence:** It was treason to have a weapon **drawn in the presence** of the monarch.

249. **men of Bury:** townsmen of **Bury St. Edmunds**

250. **Set all upon me:** all attacked me

253. **straight:** straightaway, immediately

259. **mere:** pure

260. **opposite:** hostile, antagonistic

261. **As being:** i.e., which might be

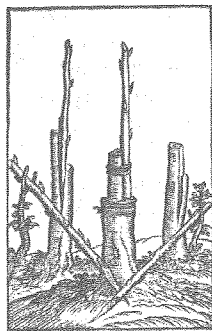
262. **forward in:** i.e., eager for

265. **charge:** order

266. **In pain:** on penalty; **dislike:** displeasure

267. **strait:** strict

271. **being suffered:** i.e., you **being** allowed to remain; **harmful:** a transferred epithet (because it is the snake and not the **slumber** that is **harmful**)



Grafting. (3.2.222)

From Marco Bussato, *Giardino di agricoltura* . . . (1599).

A noise within.

QUEEN MARGARET What noise is this?

Enter Suffolk and Warwick, with their weapons drawn.

KING HENRY

Why, how now, lords? Your wrathful weapons
drawn

245

Here in our presence? Dare you be so bold?
Why, what tumultuous clamor have we here?

SUFFOLK

The trait'rous Warwick, with the men of Bury,
Set all upon me, mighty sovereign.

250

Enter Salisbury.

SALISBURY, [to the offstage Commons]

Sirs, stand apart. The King shall know your mind.—

Dread lord, the Commons send you word by me,

Unless Lord Suffolk straight be done to death
Or banishèd fair England's territories,

255

They will by violence tear him from your palace
And torture him with grievous ling'ring death.

They say, by him the good duke Humphrey died;
They say, in him they fear your Highness' death;

And mere instinct of love and loyalty,

260

Free from a stubborn opposite intent,

As being thought to contradict your liking,

Makes them thus forward in his banishment.

They say, in care of your most royal person,

That if your Highness should intend to sleep,

And charge that no man should disturb your rest;

265

In pain of your dislike or pain of death,

Yet, notwithstanding such a strait edict,

Were there a serpent seen with forkèd tongue

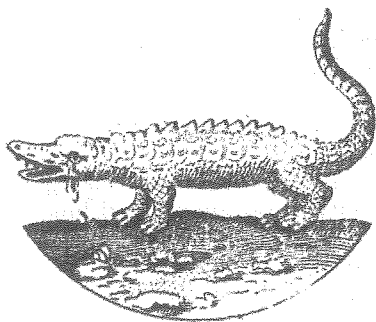
That slyly glided towards your Majesty,

It were but necessary you were waked,

270

Lest, being suffered in that harmful slumber,

272. **mortal**: deadly; **worm**: snake
 274. **whē'er**: whether
 275. **fell**: deadly
 276. **sting**: i.e., bite
 278. **bereft**: deprived
 280. **like**: i.e., likely that; **rude**: uneducated;
unpolished: unrefined; **hinds**: boors
 284. **quaint**: clever; affected
 287. **sort**: band; **tinkers**: menders of metal
 household utensils, but also a term for vagrants and
 suspected thieves
 291. **cited**: summoned, aroused
 292. **did I purpose**: I resolved (to act)
 293. **sure**: surely, certainly
 294. **Mischance**: calamity; **state**: government
 296. **far**: very
 297. **infection in**: i.e., **infection** into
 299. **gentle**: noble
 300. **Ungentle**: discourteous, unmannerly



A weeping crocodile. (3.1.228–29)
 From Jacob Typot, *Symbola diuina* . . . (1652).

The mortal worm might make the sleep eternal.
 And therefore do they cry, though you forbid,
 That they will guard you, whē'er you will or no,
 From such fell serpents as false Suffolk is,
 With whose envenomed and fatal sting
 Your loving uncle, twenty times his worth,
 They say, is shamefully bereft of life.

275

COMMONS, *within*

An answer from the King, my lord of Salisbury!

SUFFOLK

'Tis like the Commons, rude unpolished hinds,
 Could send such message to their sovereign!
 'To Salisbury.' But you, my lord, were glad to be
 employed,

280

To show how quaint an orator you are.
 But all the honor Salisbury hath won
 Is that he was the lord ambassador
 Sent from a sort of tinkers to the King.

285

COMMONS, *within*

An answer from the King, or we will all break in.

KING HENRY

Go, Salisbury, and tell them all from me,
 I thank them for their tender loving care;
 And, had I not been cited so by them,
 Yet did I purpose as they do entreat.
 For, sure, my thoughts do hourly prophesy
 Mischance unto my state by Suffolk's means.
 And therefore, by His Majesty I swear,
 Whose far unworthy deputy I am,
 He shall not breathe infection in this air
 But three days longer, on the pain of death.

290

295

'Salisbury exits.'

QUEEN MARGARET

O Henry, let me plead for gentle Suffolk!

KING HENRY

Ungentle queen to call him gentle Suffolk!

300

313. **playfellows**: companions in amusement
 314. **the devil . . . third**: let the devil make a third (Proverbial: "There cannot lightly come a worse except the devil come himself.")
 315. **tend upon**: accompany
 317. **heavy**: sorrowful
 320. **Wherefore**: why
 322. **mandrake's groan**: According to superstition, the mandragora plant, when uprooted, gave a shriek that caused its hearers to run mad or die. See *Romeo and Juliet* 4.3.48–49.
 323. **invent**: find; **searching**: probing, piercing
 324. **curst**: malignant
 325. **fixèd**: perhaps, clenched or gritted
 326. **full**: entirely
 327. **lean-faced Envy**: In Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Envy's home is a hideous, filthy cave. She is **lean-faced** because "she pines away" at "the sight of men's successes, she gnaws and is gnawed, herself her own punishment" (book 2, lines 760–805, esp. lines 779–82). See picture, page 152.
 329. **flint**: stone from which sparks are struck
 330. **distract**: distracted, driven mad

No more, I say. If thou dost plead for him,
 Thou wilt but add increase unto my wrath.
 Had I but said, I would have kept my word;
 But when I swear, it is irrevocable.
 'To Suffolk.' If, after three days' space, thou here
 be'st found 305

On any ground that I am ruler of,
 The world shall not be ransom for thy life.—
 Come, Warwick, come, good Warwick, go with me.
 I have great matters to impart to thee. 310

'All but the Queen and Suffolk' exit.

QUEEN MARGARET, 'calling after King Henry and
 Warwick'

Mischance and sorrow go along with you!
 Heart's discontent and sour affliction
 Be playfellows to keep you company!
 There's two of you; the devil make a third,
 And threefold vengeance tend upon your steps! 315

SUFFOLK

Cease, gentle queen, these execrations,
 And let thy Suffolk take his heavy leave.

QUEEN MARGARET

Fie, coward woman and soft-hearted wretch!
 Hast thou not spirit to curse thine 'enemies'?

SUFFOLK

A plague upon them! Wherefore should I curse
 them? 320

'Could' curses kill, as doth the mandrake's groan,
 I would invent as bitter searching terms,
 As curst, as harsh, and horrible to hear,
 Delivered strongly through my fixèd teeth, 325

With full as many signs of deadly hate,
 As lean-faced Envy in her loathsome cave.
 My tongue should stumble in mine earnest words;
 Mine eyes should sparkle like the beaten flint;
 Mine hair be fixed on end, as one distract; 330

331. **ban**: call down damnation
 334. **Gall**: bile; **daintiest**: most delicate thing
 335. **grove . . . trees**: associated with graveyards
 336. **prospect**: view; **basilisks**: legendary reptiles whose glance can kill (see line 54 above); or, large cannons
 337. **smart**: painful; **lizards' stings**: Lizards were thought to have **stings** and, according to Pliny's *Natural History* (c. 80 C.E.), they were poisonous.
 339. **boding**: foreboding, ominous; **consort**: company of musicians
 340. **dark-seated**: situated in darkness
 342. **sun 'gainst glass**: i.e., sun's rays dazzlingly reflected by a mirror (**glass**)
 343. **over-chargèd**: overloaded
 345. **leave**: stop
 350. **sport**: diversion
 352. **dew . . . tears**: proverbial
 354. **woeful monuments**: commemorations of grief (i.e., **tears**)
 355. **printed**: i.e., imprinted as if in wax
 356. **these**: i.e., her lips; **seal**: device (e.g., heraldic design) imprinted in wax on a document (here the imprint of her lips on his **hand**)
 357. **whom**: i.e., which (her lips)
 359. **know**: be familiar with by experience
 360. **surmised**: imagined
 361. **surfeits**: overeats; **want**: lack (i.e., of food)
 362. **repeal thee**: recall you from exile; **be well assured**: assure yourself; trust me

Ay, every joint should seem to curse and ban;
 And even now my burdened heart would break
 Should I not curse them. Poison be their drink!
 Gall, worse than gall, the daintiest that they taste;
 Their sweetest shade, a grove of cypress trees;
 Their chiefest prospect, murd'ring basilisks;
 Their softest touch, as smart as lizards' stings!
 Their music, frightful as the serpent's hiss,
 And boding screech owls make the consort full!
 All the foul terrors in dark-seated hell—

335

340

QUEEN MARGARET

Enough, sweet Suffolk, thou torment'st thyself,
 And these dread curses, like the sun 'gainst glass,
 Or like an over-chargèd gun, recoil
 And 'turn' the force of them upon thyself.

SUFFOLK

You bade me ban, and will you bid me leave?
 Now, by the ground that I am banished from,
 Well could I curse away a winter's night,
 Though standing naked on a mountain top
 Where biting cold would never let grass grow,
 And think it but a minute spent in sport.

345

350

QUEEN MARGARET

O, let me entreat thee cease! Give me thy hand,
 That I may dew it with my mournful tears;
 Nor let the rain of heaven wet this place
 To wash away my woeful monuments.

[*She kisses his hand.*]

O, could this kiss be printed in thy hand,
 That thou might'st think upon these by the seal,
 Through whom a thousand sighs are breathed for
 thee!

355

So, get thee gone, that I may know my grief;
 'Tis but surmised whiles thou art standing by,
 As one that surfeits thinking on a want.

360

I will repeal thee, or, be well assured,

363. **Adventure:** venture, dare
 373. **wilderness:** uninhabited region
 374. **So:** provided that
 376. **several:** particular, individual
 378. **I . . . more:** i.e., my strength fails; **joy:** enjoy
 379. **no . . . naught:** i.e., will **joy in** nothing (double negative for emphasis)
 381. **signify:** announce
 384. **catch:** grasp, seize
 388. **as to him:** i.e., as if to the King (line 387)
 389. **overchargèd:** overburdened
 392. **heavy:** sorrowful, grievous



" . . . lean-faced Envy in her loathsome cave." (3.2.327)
 From Gabriele Simeoni, *La vita* . . . (1559).

Adventure to be banishèd myself;
 And banishèd I am, if but from thee.
 Go, speak not to me. Even now be gone!
 O, go not yet! Even thus two friends condemned
 Embrace and kiss and take ten thousand leaves,
 Loather a hundred times to part than die.

365

They embrace.

Yet now farewell, and farewell life with thee.

SUFFOLK

Thus is poor Suffolk ten times banishèd,
 Once by the King, and three times thrice by thee.
 'Tis not the land I care for, wert thou thence.
 A wilderness is populous enough,
 So Suffolk had thy heavenly company;
 For where thou art, there is the world itself,
 With every several pleasure in the world;
 And where thou art not, desolation.
 I can no more. Live thou to joy thy life;
 Myself no joy in naught but that thou liv'st.

370

375

Enter Vaux.

QUEEN MARGARET

Whither goes Vaux so fast? What news, I prithee?

380

VAUX To signify unto his Majesty,

That Cardinal Beaufort is at point of death;
 For suddenly a grievous sickness took him
 That makes him gasp and stare and catch the air,
 Blaspheming God and cursing men on earth.
 Sometimes he talks as if Duke Humphrey's ghost
 Were by his side; sometimes he calls the King
 And whispers to his pillow, as to him,
 The secrets of his overchargèd soul.
 And I am sent to tell his Majesty
 That even now he cries aloud for him.

385

390

QUEEN MARGARET

Go, tell this heavy message to the King. *Vaux* exits.

393. **What is this world:** Proverbial: "What a world is this!"

394. **an hour's poor loss:** i.e., the (Cardinal's) loss of an hour (of his aged life)

395. **Omitting:** leaving disregarded

397. **southern clouds:** i.e., the source of much rain; **contend:** compete

398. **increase:** crops

402. **by me:** i.e., in my company; **thou art but dead:** i.e., you are sure to die

408. **dug:** nipple

409. **Where:** whereas; **from:** i.e., out of

411. **stop:** block up

412. **turn:** send back

414. **Elysium:** classical paradise for those favored by the gods

415. **by thee:** in your company

416. **From:** away from

417. **befall . . . befall:** i.e., whatever happens (proverbial)

418. **a fretful corrosive:** a caustic (a substance used medicinally to burn away flesh)

419. **deathful:** mortal

422. **Iris:** i.e., messenger (In mythology, **Iris**, the rainbow, is Juno's messenger. See picture, page 52.)

425. **cask:** casket, small box for jewels

Ay me! What is this world? What news are these!

But wherefore grieve I at an hour's poor loss,

Omitting Suffolk's exile, my soul's treasure?

Why only, Suffolk, mourn I not for thee,

And with the southern clouds contend in tears—

Theirs for the earth's increase, mine for my sorrows?

Now get thee hence. The King, thou know'st, is coming;

If thou be found by me, thou art but dead.

SUFFOLK

If I depart from thee, I cannot live;

And in thy sight to die, what were it else

But like a pleasant slumber in thy lap?

Here could I breathe my soul into the air,

As mild and gentle as the cradle babe

Dying with mother's dug between its lips;

Where, from thy sight, I should be raging mad

And cry out for thee to close up mine eyes,

To have thee with thy lips to stop my mouth.

So shouldst thou either turn my flying soul,

Or I should breathe it so into thy body,

And then it lived in sweet Elysium.

To die by thee were but to die in jest;

From thee to die were torture more than death.

O, let me stay, befall what may befall!

QUEEN MARGARET

Away! Though parting be a fretful corrosive,

It is applièd to a deathful wound.

To France, sweet Suffolk. Let me hear from thee,

For wheresoe'er thou art in this world's globe,

I'll have an Iris that shall find thee out.

SUFFOLK I go.

QUEEN MARGARET And take my heart with thee.

SUFFOLK

A jewel locked into the woeful'st cask

427. **splitted bark:** ship split in two; **sunder we:** are we torn apart

3.3 The Cardinal dies.

4. **So:** provided that

9. **he:** i.e., Gloucester; **Where should he die:** i.e., where else would you think he would die

10. **wh'e'er:** whether

14. **dust:** i.e., that to which all things are reduced in death

16. **lime-twigs:** i.e., twigs smeared with birdlime to trap birds

18. **of him:** i.e., from him



An apothecary. (3.3.17)

From Ambroise Paré, *The workes of...* (1634).

That ever did contain a thing of worth!
Even as a splitted bark, so sunder we.
This way fall I to death.

QUEEN MARGARET

This way for me.
They exit *through different doors.*

Scene 3

Enter King Henry, Salisbury and Warwick, to the Cardinal in bed, raving and staring.

KING HENRY

How fares my lord? Speak, Beaufort, to thy sovereign.

CARDINAL

If thou be'st Death, I'll give thee England's treasure,
Enough to purchase such another island,
So thou wilt let me live and feel no pain.

KING HENRY

Ah, what a sign it is of evil life,
Where Death's approach is seen so terrible!

WARWICK

Beaufort, it is thy sovereign speaks to thee.

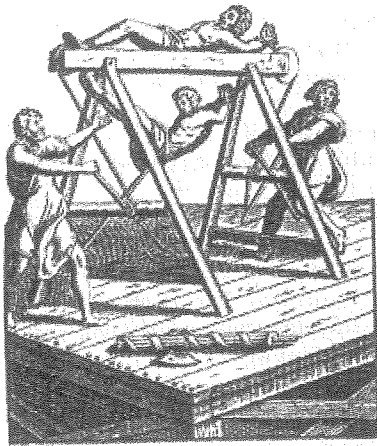
CARDINAL

Bring me unto my trial when you will.
Died he not in his bed? Where should he die?
Can I make men live, wh'e'er they will or no?
O, torture me no more! I will confess.
Alive again? Then show me where he is.
I'll give a thousand pound to look upon him.
He hath no eyes! The dust hath blinded them.
Comb down his hair. Look, look. It stands upright,
Like lime-twigs set to catch my winged soul,
Give me some drink, and bid the apothecary
Bring the strong poison that I bought of him.

KING HENRY

O, Thou eternal mover of the heavens,

24. **grin:** bare his teeth
 25. **pass:** die
 26. **if . . . be:** i.e., if God so pleases
 30. **argues:** indicates
 31. **Forbear to judge:** See Matthew 7.1: "Judge not, that you be not judged." **we . . . all:** See Matthew 3.23: "all have sinned."
 32. **curtain:** bed curtain; **close:** shut



Being tortured on the rack. (3.1.381)
 From Girolamo Maggi, . . . *De tintinnabulis liber postumus* . . . *Accedit . . . De equuleo liber* . . . (1689).

Look with a gentle eye upon this wretch!
 O, beat away the busy meddling fiend
 That lays strong siege unto this wretch's soul,
 And from his bosom purge this black despair!

20

WARWICK

See how the pangs of death do make him grin!

SALISBURY

Disturb him not. Let him pass peaceably.

25

KING HENRY

Peace to his soul, if God's good pleasure be!—
 Lord Card'nal, if thou think'st on heaven's bliss,
 Hold up thy hand; make signal of thy hope.

「The Cardinal dies.」

He dies and makes no sign. O, God forgive him!

WARWICK

So bad a death argues a monstrous life.

30

KING HENRY

Forbear to judge, for we are sinners all.
 Close up his eyes, and draw the curtain close,
 And let us all to meditation.

「After the curtains are closed around
 the bed,」 they exit. 「The bed is removed.」



HENRY VI

Part 2

ACT 4



4.1 Attempting to sail to France, Suffolk is captured by shipmen and brutally assassinated.

0 SD. **Ordnance:** cannon; **Master:** officer, ranking just below the lieutenant, responsible for navigation on a warship; **Master's Mate:** officer subordinate to but working with the **Master**

1. **gaudy:** showy; **blabbing:** secret-revealing; **remorseful:** compassionate

3. **jades:** worn-out horses (imagined to drag Night's wagon across the sky) See longer note, page 257.

5. **flagging:** drooping, failing

6. **Clip:** embrace

8. **of our prize:** i.e., from the ship we have captured

9. **pinnacle:** small, light vessel; **the Downs:** the sea just off the east coast of Kent

10. **make their ransom:** pay a sum to procure their freedom

11. **discolored:** stained (i.e., with **their blood** after they are slain—an example of prolepsis)

13. **boot:** profit; **this:** i.e., **this second prisoner** (line 12)

「ACT 4」

「Scene 1」

Alarum. 「Offstage」 fight at sea. Ordnance goes off. Enter Lieutenant, Suffolk, 「captive and in disguise,」 and Others, 「including a Master, a Master's Mate, Walter Whitmore, and Prisoners.」

LIEUTENANT

The gaudy, blabbing, and remorseful day
Is crept into the bosom of the sea,
And now loud-howling wolves arouse the jades
That drag the tragic melancholy night,
Who, with their drowsy, slow, and flagging wings
Clip dead men's graves, and from their misty jaws
Breathe foul contagious darkness in the air.
Therefore bring forth the soldiers of our prize;
For, whilst our pinnacle anchors in the Downs,
Here shall they make their ransom on the sand,
Or with their blood stain this discolored shore.—
Master, this prisoner freely give I thee.—
And, thou that art his mate, make boot of this.—
The other, Walter Whitmore, is thy share.
「Three gentlemen prisoners, including Suffolk,
are handed over.」

FIRST GENTLEMAN

What is my ransom, master? Let me know.

16. **crowns:** coins worth five shillings
 18. **think you much:** i.e., do you think it too much
 19. **port:** social position
 22. **counterpoised:** counterbalanced
 24. **straight:** straightaway, immediately
 25. **laying the prize aboard:** running our pinnace (line 9) alongside the prize in order to board it
 29. **George:** jewel that forms part of the insignia of the Order of the Knights of the Garter (See picture, page 206.)
 30. **Rate . . . wilt:** i.e., estimate my value however you wish
 31. **Walter:** Suffolk's response to this name indicates its Elizabethan pronunciation, in which the *l* is not sounded, making **Walter** sound like **water**. (See 1.4.35 and lines 35–36 below.)
 35. **cunning man:** fortune-teller; **birth:** fortune as influenced by the aspect of the planets at the moment of birth
 36. **by water:** See note to line 31, above.
 37. **bloody-minded:** cruel, bloodthirsty
 38. **Gualtier:** the French equivalent of *Walter*; **sounded:** pronounced

MASTER

A thousand crowns, or else lay down your head.

MATE, *['to the Second Gentleman']*

And so much shall you give, or off goes yours.

LIEUTENANT

What, think you much to pay two thousand crowns,

And bear the name and port of gentlemen?—

Cut both the villains' throats—for die you shall;

The lives of those which we have lost in fight

Be counterpoised with such a petty sum!

20

FIRST GENTLEMAN

I'll give it, sir, and therefore spare my life.

SECOND GENTLEMAN

And so will I, and write home for it straight.

WHITMORE, *['to Suffolk']*

I lost mine eye in laying the prize aboard,

And therefore to revenge it shalt thou die;

And so should these, if I might have my will.

25

LIEUTENANT

Be not so rash. Take ransom; let him live.

SUFFOLK

Look on my George; I am a gentleman.

Rate me at what thou wilt, thou shalt be paid.

30

WHITMORE

And so am I. My name is Walter Whitmore.

*['Suffolk starts.']*How now, why starts thou? What, doth death
affright?

SUFFOLK

Thy name affrights me, in whose sound is death.

A cunning man did calculate my birth

And told me that by water I should die.

Yet let not this make thee be bloody-minded;

Thy name is Gualtier, being rightly sounded.

35

WHITMORE

Gualtier or Walter, which it is, I care not.

40. **blur**: defile, blot
 42. **sell revenge**: i.e., accept ransom rather than take revenge
 43. **Broke**: i.e., broken; **arms**: coat of arms; **defaced**: obliterated
 45. **Stay**: stop, pause
 49. **Jove . . . disguised**: For a catalogue of the god Jove's disguises in the pursuit of women, see Ovid's *Metamorphoses* 6.103-14.
 51. **lousy**: vile; **swain**: man of low social status; **King Henry's blood**: i.e., Suffolk's blood (an exaggerated claim of consanguinity)
 52. **blood of Lancaster**: descendants of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster (See genealogical chart, page 2.)
 53. **jaded groom**: i.e., contemptible fellow
 54. **kissed thy hand**: paid your respects (See longer note, page 257.) **held my stirrup**: helped me to mount, as a sign of reverence to me
 55. **Bareheaded**: with head uncovered as a sign of respect; **footcloth mule**: mule bearing or covered in a **footcloth**, a large ornamented cloth
 56. **happy**: fortunate; **shook my head**: i.e., nodded to you
 57. **waited at my cup**: i.e., kept my goblet full
 58. **Fed from my trencher**: i.e., eaten my food
trencher: platter; **kneeled . . . board**: perhaps, served at table **board**: table for serving food
 60. **crestfall'n**: humbled
 61. **abortive pride**: i.e., pride that can come to nothing

(continued)

Never yet did base dishonor blur our name
 But with our sword we wiped away the blot.
 Therefore, when merchantlike I sell revenge,
 Broke be my sword, my arms torn and defaced,
 And I proclaimed a coward through the world!

SUFFOLK

Stay, Whitmore, for thy prisoner is a prince,
 The Duke of Suffolk, William de la Pole.

WHITMORE

The Duke of Suffolk muffled up in rags?

SUFFOLK

Ay, but these rags are no part of the Duke.
 'Jove sometimes went disguised, and why not I?

LIEUTENANT

But Jove was never slain, as thou shalt be.

[SUFFOLK]

Obscure and lousy swain, King Henry's blood,
 The honorable blood of Lancaster,
 Must not be shed by such a jaded groom.
 Hast thou not kissed thy hand and held my stirrup?
 Bareheaded plodded by my footcloth mule,
 And thought thee happy when I shook my head?
 How often hast thou waited at my cup,
 Fed from my trencher, kneeled down at the board,
 When I have feasted with Queen Margaret?
 Remember it, and let it make thee crestfall'n,
 Ay, and allay this thy abortive pride.
 How in our voiding lobby hast thou stood
 And duly waited for my coming forth?
 This hand of mine hath writ in thy behalf,
 And therefore shall it charm thy riotous tongue.

WHITMORE

Speak, captain, shall I stab the forlorn swain?

LIEUTENANT

First let my words stab him as he hath me.

62. **our voiding lobby**: corridor or passageway by which we departed

64. **writ in thy behalf**: i.e., written in defense of or in favor of you

65. **charm**: silence; **riotous**: noisy, unrestrained

66. **forlorn swain**: trite poetic term for an unrequited lover (literally, forsaken sweetheart)

68. **slave**: rascal (term of contempt); **blunt**: without point or edge

69. **our longboat's side**: the **side** of the largest boat belonging to our ship

71. **for thy own**: i.e., for fear of losing your own

72. **Pole**: i.e., de la **Pole**, Suffolk's surname (with possible wordplay on *poll* or head, on the *pole* on which heads were fixed after beheading, on *Sir Pol* or parrot in line 74, and on *pool* in lines 75-76)

75. **kennel**: gutter; **sink**: cesspool

76. **Troubles**: muddies

77. **yawning**: gaping, eager to devour

78. **For**: i.e., to prevent its

83. **Against**: exposed to; **senseless**: unfeeling; **grin**: bare the teeth (in a death grimace)

84. **Who**: i.e., which (the **winds** [line 83]); **again**: in response

85. **hags of hell**: i.e., Furies, mythological semi-divine avengers

86. **affy**: marry (as a proxy); **lord**: i.e., Henry VI

87. **worthless king**: i.e., Reignier

88. **Having**: i.e., who has; **diadem**: crown

89. **policy**: political cunning

90. **Sylla**: Lucius Cornelius Sulla, Roman general whose time as dictator (82-80 B.C.E.), was notorious for the butchery of citizens; **overgorged**: crammed

(continued)

168

SUFFOLK

Base slave, thy words are blunt, and so art thou.

LIEUTENANT

Convey him hence, and on our longboat's side,
Strike off his head.

70

SUFFOLK

Thou dar'st not for thy own.

LIEUTENANT

Yes, Pole.

SUFFOLK Pole!

LIEUTENANT

Pole! Sir Pole! Lord!

Ay, kennel, puddle, sink, whose filth and dirt
Troubles the silver spring where England drinks!
Now will I dam up this thy yawning mouth
For swallowing the treasure of the realm.
Thy lips that kissed the Queen shall sweep the
ground,

75

And thou that smiledst at good Duke Humphrey's
death

80

Against the senseless winds shall grin in vain,
Who in contempt shall hiss at thee again.

And wedded be thou to the hags of hell
For daring to affy a mighty lord

85

Unto the daughter of a worthless king,
Having neither subject, wealth, nor diadem.

By devilish policy art thou grown great,
And, like ambitious Sylla, overgorged
With gobbets of thy 'mother's' bleeding heart.
By thee Anjou and Maine were sold to France.
The false revolting Normans thorough thee
Disdain to call us lord, and Picardy

90

Hath slain their governors, surprised our forts,
And sent the ragged soldiers wounded home.

95

The princely Warwick, and the Nevilles all,
Whose dreadful swords were never drawn in vain,
As hating thee, 'are' rising up in arms.

And now the house of York, thrust from the crown

100

91. **gobbets**: pieces of raw flesh; **thy mother's**: i.e., England's (The implication is that **Sylla** gorged on his **mother's** [Rome's] **bleeding heart**.)

93. **false**: treacherous; **revolting**: rebelling; **thorough**: on account of

95. **surprised**: captured without warning

98. **dreadful**: dreaded, terrible

99. **As hating thee**: i.e., because they hate you

101. **a guiltless king**: i.e., Richard II (See 2.2.19–30, above.)

102. **lofty**: haughty

103. **hopeful colors**: i.e., battle standards raised in the hope of winning the crown

104. **Advance**: raise; **half-faced sun**: presumably alluding to the sunburst device associated with King Edward III and Richard II

105. **writ**: i.e., written; **Invitis nubibus**: despite the clouds (Latin)

107. **reproach**: disgrace; **beggary**: poverty

109. **by thee**: i.e., because of you

110. **god**: probably Jupiter, the Roman **god** called the **thunder-darter**, or wielder of thunderbolts

111. **servile**: slavish

115. **Bargulus . . . pirate**: In *De officiis* (44 B.C.E.), a work widely read in Elizabethan schools, Cicero mentions this **pirate** from the Adriatic seacoast.

116. **Drones . . . beehives**: According to folklore, drone beetles creep under the wings of eagles and suck their veins dry, and drone bees eat up the honey from hives.

118. **By**: i.e., by the hand of; **vassal**: slave

(continued)

170

By shameful murder of a guiltless king
And lofty, proud, encroaching tyranny,
Burns with revenging fire, whose hopeful colors
Advance our half-faced sun, striving to shine,
Under the which is writ "*Invitis nubibus*."
The commons here in Kent are up in arms,
And, to conclude, reproach and beggary
Is crept into the palace of our king,
And all by thee.—Away! Convey him hence.

105

SUFFOLK

O, that I were a god, to shoot forth thunder
Upon these paltry, servile, abject drudges!
Small things make base men proud. This villain
here,

110

Being captain of a pinnacle, threatens more
Than Bargulus, the strong Illyrian pirate.
Drones suck not eagles' blood, but rob beehives.
It is impossible that I should die
By such a lowly vassal as thyself.
Thy words move rage and not remorse in me.
I go of message from the Queen to France.
I charge thee waft me safely cross the Channel.

115

120

LIEUTENANT "Walter."

WHITMORE

Come, Suffolk, I must waft thee to thy death.

SUFFOLK

Paene gelidus timor occupat artus.

It is thee I fear.

125

WHITMORE

Thou shalt have cause to fear before I leave thee.
What, are you daunted now? Now will you stoop?

FIRST GENTLEMAN

My gracious lord, entreat him; speak him fair.

SUFFOLK

Suffolk's imperial tongue is stern and rough,
Used to command, untaught to plead for favor.

130

119. **remorse**: repentance
 120. **go of message**: i.e., carry communication
 121. **charge**: order; **waft**: convey
 124. **Paene . . . artus**: "Cold fear almost entirely seizes my limbs" (Latin; an echo of Lucan, *Civil War* 1.246).
 127. **stoop**: bow to superior power
 128. **entreat**: implore; **speak him fair**: address him courteously
 129. **imperial**: commanding, majestic
 131. **Far be it**: i.e., God forbid; **we**: the royal "we"
 132. **suit**: petition
 133. **Stoop**: bend; **block**: executioner's block
 135. **pole**: See note to line 72 above.
 136. **uncovered**: See note to line 55 above. **vulgar**: common
 139. **Hale**: haul
 142. **bezonians**: knaves, beggars (from the Italian *bisogno*, meaning "need, want")
 143. **sworder**: gladiator; **banditto**: outlaw
 144. **sweet**: gracious; **Tully**: Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43 B.C.E.), famous Roman orator, politician, and philosopher, actually killed by a centurion and a tribune
 144–45. **Brutus' . . . Caesar**: See Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* 3.1. (Brutus's mother became Caesar's mistress after the death of her husband.)
 145–46. **savage . . . Great**: i.e., **savage islanders** killed **Pompey the Great**, Pompeius Magnus (106–48 B.C.E.), Roman general and rival to Caesar (actually killed by his own former centurions)

Far be it we should honor such as these
 With humble suit. No, rather let my head
 Stoop to the block than these knees bow to any
 Save to the God of heaven and to my king;
 And sooner dance upon a bloody pole
 Than stand uncovered to the vulgar groom.
 True nobility is exempt from fear.—
 More can I bear than you dare execute.

135

LIEUTENANT

Hale him away, and let him talk no more.

[SUFFOLK]

Come, soldiers, show what cruelty you can,
 That this my death may never be forgot!
 Great men oft die by vile bezonians:
 A Roman sworder and banditto slave
 Murdered sweet Tully; Brutus' bastard hand
 Stabbed Julius Caesar; savage islanders
 Pompey the Great, and Suffolk dies by pirates.

140

145

[Walter Whitmore] exits with
 Suffolk and Others.]

LIEUTENANT

And as for these whose ransom we have set,
 It is our pleasure one of them depart.

[To Second Gentleman.] Therefore come you with us,
 and let him go. Lieutenant and the rest exit. 150
 The First Gentleman remains.

Enter Walter [Whitmore] with the body
 and severed head of Suffolk.]

WHITMORE

There let his head and lifeless body lie,
 Until the Queen his mistress bury it.

Walter [Whitmore] exits.

FIRST GENTLEMAN

O, barbarous and bloody spectacle!
 His body will I bear unto the King.

4.2 In a plot instigated by York, Jack Cade leads a rebellion against King Henry. The Staffords seek to put it down.

0 SD. **Bevis:** See longer note, page 257. **John Holland:** The text in the First Folio gives this character the name of a known Elizabethan actor.

2. **lath:** thin wood (Swords of lath were used by the Vice character in medieval morality plays.) **up:** in rebellion (Line 3 plays on **up** as "awake.")

4. **clothier:** maker of woolen cloth

4-6. **dress . . . upon it:** Cade is described as treating the **commonwealth** as if it were a piece of cloth, which he will finish, **turn** inside out, and give a new surface or **nap**.

9. **came up:** came into fashion; rose in rank

11. **handicraftsmen:** artisans

12-13. **think . . . aprons:** i.e., scorn to work as artisans or laborers

16-17. **Labor . . . vocation:** proverbial (See also *Homily against Idleness* and 1 Corinthians 7.20.)

17-18. **magistrates:** rulers

20. **hit it:** i.e., hit the mark, correctly conjectured

21. **brave:** fine; **hard:** hardened, calloused

22-23. **Best's son . . . tanner:** i.e., the son of Best, the tanner

23. **Wingham:** village east of Canterbury

25. **dog's leather:** dogskin, used in making gloves

If he revenge it not, yet will his friends.
So will the Queen, that living held him dear.

155

[*He exits with the head and body.*]

[Scene 2]

Enter Bevis and John Holland [with staves.]

BEVIS Come, and get thee a sword, though made of a lath. They have been up these two days.

HOLLAND They have the more need to sleep now, then.

BEVIS I tell thee, Jack Cade the clothier means to dress the commonwealth, and turn it, and set a new nap upon it. 5

HOLLAND So he had need, for 'tis threadbare. Well, I say, it was never merry world in England since gentlemen came up.

BEVIS O miserable age! Virtue is not regarded in handicraftsmen. 10

HOLLAND The nobility think scorn to go in leather aprons.

BEVIS Nay, more, the King's Council are no good workmen. 15

HOLLAND True, and yet it is said "Labor in thy vocation," which is as much to say as "Let the magistrates be laboring men." And therefore should we be magistrates.

BEVIS Thou hast hit it, for there's no better sign of a brave mind than a hard hand. 20

HOLLAND I see them, I see them! There's Best's son, the tanner of Wingham—

BEVIS He shall have the skins of our enemies to make dog's leather of. 25

HOLLAND And Dick the butcher—

BEVIS Then is sin struck down like an ox, and iniquity's throat cut like a calf.

30. **Argo:** i.e., ergo (therefore); **thread . . . spun:** wordplay on weaving and on one's **thread of life**, **spun**, measured, and cut by the Fates (See picture, page 240.)

31. **fall in with:** join

31 SD. **Sawyer:** one who saws lumber; **infinite numbers:** i.e., a large number of nonspeaking actors dressed as artisans

32. **We:** the royal "we"; **termed of our:** named after my

34. **of:** as a consequence of; **cade:** barrel

35. **enemies . . . us:** See Leviticus 26.8: "and your **enemies shall fall before** you upon the sword"

36. **putting down:** crushing, overcoming

39. **Mortimer:** See 3.1.364.

42. **Plantagenet:** name attached to the royal family of England since the time of King Henry II and revived by Richard, Duke of York as his family name (See *Henry VI, Part 1*, 2.4.)

44. **Lacys:** family name of the earls of Lincoln

47. **of late:** recently

48. **furred pack:** animal-skin knapsack; **bucks:** loads of washing (There may be obscene wordplay here on **furred pack** as female genitalia and **bucks** as young men.)

52. **cage:** prison for petty criminals

54. **must needs:** i.e., **must** be (valiant); **beggary is valiant:** "Valiant beggar" referred to one denied alms because he was strong enough to work.

57. **whipped:** the usual punishment for vagabonds (See 2.1.171.) **market-days:** fixed days for holding markets; **together:** without intermission

(continued)

176

HOLLAND And Smith the weaver.

BEVIS Argo, their thread of life is spun.

HOLLAND Come, come, let's fall in with them.

Drum. Enter Cade, Dick [the] butcher, Smith the weaver, and a Sawyer, with infinite numbers, [all with staves.]

CADE We, John Cade, so termed of our supposed father—

DICK, [aside] Or rather of stealing a cade of herrings.

CADE For our enemies shall [fall] before us, inspired with the spirit of putting down kings and princes— 35
command silence.

DICK Silence!

CADE My father was a Mortimer—

DICK, [aside] He was an honest man and a good brick- 40
layer.

CADE My mother a Plantagenet—

DICK, [aside] I knew her well; she was a midwife.

CADE My wife descended of the Lacys.

DICK, [aside] She was indeed a peddler's daughter, and 45
sold many laces.

SMITH, [aside] But now of late, not able to travel with her furred pack, she washes bucks here at home.

CADE Therefore am I of an honorable house.

DICK, [aside] Ay, by my faith, the field is honorable; 50
and there was he born, under a hedge, for his father had never a house but the cage.

CADE Valiant I am—

SMITH, [aside] He must needs, for beggary is valiant.

CADE I am able to endure much— 55

DICK, [aside] No question of that; for I have seen him whipped three market-days together.

CADE I fear neither sword nor fire.

SMITH, [aside] He need not fear the sword, for his coat 60
is of proof.

60. **of proof**: impenetrable (perhaps because caked with mud, or covered with pitch)

62. **burnt**: branded

65-66. **three-hooped pot**: the wooden quart pot for the sale of beer (The number of hoops, or equidistant bands, around the pot indicated the quantity of liquor the pot contained.)

67. **felony**: serious crime; **small beer**: weak beer

67-68. **in common**: possessed equally by all

68. **Cheapside**: chief commercial district in London (which Cade imagines as transformed into a pasture on which he will graze his horse)

72. **score**: account

74. **worship**: honor, treat with respect

78. **parchment**: used for legal documents

79. **undo**: destroy

80. **beeswax**: used for the seals on legal documents

80-81. **seal . . . thing**: i.e., become surety for someone

81. **mine own man**: i.e., a free man

83. **Chartham**: village in Kent

84. **cast account**: cipher, use arithmetic

86. **setting of boys' copies**: writing specimens of handwriting to be copied by pupils

88. **red letters**: used to indicate saints' days and church festivals, and in school primers for capital letters

90. **obligations**: written contracts

90-91. **court hand**: style of handwriting used in law courts

92. **proper**: respectable, worthy; **of**: i.e., on

DICK, [*aside*]. But methinks he should stand in fear of fire, being burnt i' th' hand for stealing of sheep.

CADE Be brave, then, for your captain is brave and vows reformation. There shall be in England seven halfpenny loaves sold for a penny. The three-hooped pot shall have ten hoops, and I will make it felony to drink small beer. All the realm shall be in common, and in Cheapside shall my palfrey go to grass. And when I am king, as king I will be—

ALL God save your Majesty!

CADE I thank you, good people.—There shall be no money; all shall eat and drink on my score; and I will apparel them all in one livery, that they may agree like brothers and worship me their lord.

DICK The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers.

CADE Nay, that I mean to do. Is not this a lamentable thing, that of the skin of an innocent lamb should be made parchment? That parchment, being scribbled o'er, should undo a man? Some say the bee stings, but I say, 'tis the beeswax; for I did but seal once to a thing, and I was never mine own man since. How now? Who's there?

Enter a Clerk of Chartham, under guard.

SMITH The clerk of Chartham. He can write and read and cast account.

CADE O, monstrous!

SMITH We took him setting of boys' copies.

CADE Here's a villain!

SMITH H'as a book in his pocket with red letters in 't.

CADE Nay, then, he is a conjurer.

DICK Nay, he can make obligations and write court hand.

CADE I am sorry for 't. The man is a proper man, of mine honor. Unless I find him guilty, he shall not

94. **sirrah**: term of address to male social inferior
 97. **it**: the word **Emmanuel** (Hebrew), which may be translated as "God with us" (a pious formula)

98. **go hard**: fare badly

99. **Let me alone**: i.e., don't interfere

100. **mark**: a character, made with a pen, used by the illiterate in place of a signature

107. **inkhorn**: a small portable vessel for holding ink

109. **particular**: individual, special (playing on **general** [line 108] as communal, common)

111. **hard by**: nearby

112. **Stand**: stop

115. **No**: i.e., no more

117. **presently**: immediately; **Sir John Mortimer**: See note to 3.1.364, above.

118. **have at him**: i.e., let me at him

119. **hinds**: boors

120. **Marked**: destined

121. **groom**: fellow (contemptuous)

122. **revolt**: return to your allegiance

die.—Come hither, sirrah; I must examine thee.
 What is thy name?

CLERK Emmanuel.

DICK They use to write it on the top of letters.—'Twill go hard with you.

CADE Let me alone.—Dost thou use to write thy name? Or hast thou a mark to thyself, like 'an' honest, plain-dealing man?

CLERK Sir, I thank God, I have been so well brought up that I can write my name.

ALL He hath confessed. Away with him! He's a villain and a traitor.

CADE Away with him, I say! Hang him with his pen and inkhorn about his neck.

One exits with the Clerk.

Enter Michael.

MICHAEL Where's our general?

CADE Here I am, thou particular fellow.

MICHAEL Fly, fly, fly! Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brother are hard by, with the King's forces.

CADE Stand, villain, stand, or I'll fell thee down. He shall be encountered with a man as good as himself. He is but a knight, is he?

MICHAEL No.

CADE To equal him I will make myself a knight presently. *He kneels.* Rise up Sir John Mortimer. *He rises.* Now have at him!

*Enter Sir Humphrey Stafford and his Brother, with
 'a Herald,' Drum, and Soldiers.*

STAFFORD

Rebellious hinds, the filth and scum of Kent,
 Marked for the gallows, lay your weapons down!
 Home to your cottages; forsake this groom.
 The King is merciful, if you revolt.

123. **blood:** bloodshed

125. **silken-coated:** By law only those of the rank of gentleman and above could wear silk. **slaves:** a term of contempt; **pass:** care

130. **shearman:** one who shears the superfluous nap from woolen cloth

131. **Adam . . . gardener:** Proverbial: "When Adam delved and Eve span, / Who was then the gentleman?"

133. **Marry:** indeed

138. **question:** problem, uncertainty

139. **put to nurse:** committed to the care of a wet nurse

146. **testify:** i.e., testify to

148. **credit:** believe



A bricklayer. (3.2.203; 4.2.26; 4.3.3-5)
From Jan Luiken, *Spiegel* . . . (1704).

BROTHER

But angry, wrathful, and inclined to blood,
If you go forward. Therefore yield, or die.

CADE

As for these silken-coated slaves, I pass not.
It is to you, good people, that I speak,
Over whom, in time to come, I hope to reign,
For I am rightful heir unto the crown.

125

STAFFORD

Villain, thy father was a plasterer,
And thou thyself a shearman, art thou not?

130

CADE

And Adam was a gardener.

BROTHER

And what of that?

CADE

Marry, this: Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March,
Married the Duke of Clarence' daughter, did he not?

STAFFORD Ay, sir.

135

CADE

By her he had two children at one birth.

BROTHER That's false.

CADE

Ay, there's the question. But I say 'tis true.
The elder of them, being put to nurse,
Was by a beggar-woman stol'n away,
And, ignorant of his birth and parentage,
Became a bricklayer when he came to age.
His son am I. Deny it if you can.

140

DICK

Nay, 'tis too true. Therefore he shall be king.

SMITH Sir, he made a chimney in my father's house, 145
and the bricks are alive at this day to testify it.
Therefore deny it not.

STAFFORD

And will you credit this base drudge's words,
That speaks he knows not what?

152. **Go to**: an expression of remonstrance

154–55. **boys . . . crowns**: i.e., boys won French kingdoms playing such games as **span-counter** (the goal of which is to throw one's counters so close to one's opponent's that the distance between them is a mere handspan) **French crowns**: diadems of French rulers, with wordplay on (1) French coins; (2) bald heads of those suffering from the French disease, syphilis

159. **mained**: maimed

160. **fain to go**: obliged to walk; **puissance**: power

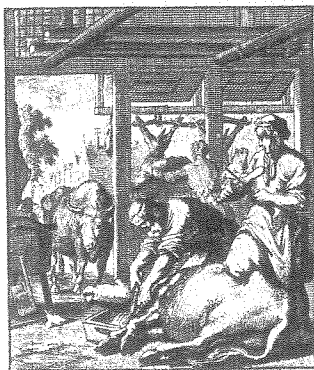
162. **gelded**: castrated

165. **miserable**: despicable

166. **answer**: rebut this

168. **tongue**: (1) language; (2) organ of speech

174. **up**: risen in rebellion



A butcher. (3.2.203; 4.2.26; 4.3.3–5)
From Jan Luiken, *Spiegel* . . . (1704).

ALL

Ay, marry, will we. Therefore get you gone.

150

BROTHER

Jack Cade, the Duke of York hath taught you this.

CADE He lies, 'aside' for I invented it myself.—Go to, sirrah. Tell the King from me that, for his father's sake, Henry the Fifth, in whose time boys went to span-counter for French crowns, I am content he shall reign, but I'll be Protector over him.

155

DICK And, furthermore, we'll have the Lord Saye's head for selling the dukedom of Maine.

CADE And good reason: for thereby is England maimed and fain to go with a staff, but that my puissance holds it up. Fellow kings, I tell you that that Lord Saye hath gelded the commonwealth and made it an eunuch; and, more than that, he can speak French, and therefore he is a traitor.

160

STAFFORD

O, gross and miserable ignorance!

165

CADE Nay, answer if you can. The Frenchmen are our enemies. Go to, then, I ask but this: can he that speaks with the tongue of an enemy be a good counselor; or no?

ALL No, no, and therefore we'll have his head!

170

BROTHER, 'to Stafford'

Well, seeing gentle words will not prevail,
Assail them with the army of the King.

STAFFORD

Herald, away, and throughout every town
Proclaim them traitors that are up with Cade,
That those which fly before the battle ends
May, even in their wives' and children's sight
Be hanged up for example at their doors.—
And you that be the King's friends, follow me.

175

'The Staffords, Soldiers, and Herald' exit.

182. **clouted shoon:** hobnailed boots, or patched shoes

183. **thrifty:** respectable, worthy

184. **take our parts:** join us

185. **They . . . order:** i.e., the king's forces are drawn up in battle order

186. **in order:** in normal condition

186-87. **out of order:** in disorder, in violation of recognized order

4.3 Cade defeats and kills the Staffords and marches on London.

0 SD. **Alarums:** calls to arms

6. **as long again:** i.e., twice as long

7. **license to kill:** Slaughter and sale of **sheep and oxen** (line 3) was forbidden in **Lent** except by special **license**

7-8. **for a hundred lacking one:** The usual lease was for 99 years. Here, the number may refer to years or to the number of animals or customers.

11. **monument:** token

18. **Fear:** doubt

CADE

And you that love the Commons, follow me.

Now show yourselves men. 'Tis for liberty!

We will not leave one lord, one gentleman;

Spare none but such as go in clouted shoon,

For they are thrifty, honest men and such

As would, but that they dare not, take our parts.

DICK They are all in order and march toward us.

CADE But then are we in order when we are most out of order. Come, march forward.

They exit.

Scene 3

Alarums to the fight, wherein both the Staffords are slain. Enter Cade and the rest.

CADE Where's Dick, the butcher of Ashford?

DICK Here, sir.

CADE They fell before thee like sheep and oxen, and thou behaved'st thyself as if thou hadst been in thine own slaughterhouse. Therefore, thus will I reward thee: the Lent shall be as long again as it is, and thou shalt have a license to kill for a hundred lacking one.

DICK I desire no more.

CADE And to speak truth, thou deserv'st no less. This monument of the victory will I bear. *He puts on Sir Humphrey Stafford's armor and helmet, or sallet.* And the bodies shall be dragged at my horse heels till I do come to London, where we will have the Mayor's sword borne before us.

DICK If we mean to thrive and do good, break open the jails and let out the prisoners.

CADE Fear not that, I warrant thee. Come, let's march towards London.

They exit with the bodies of the Staffords.

4.4 King Henry flees London and Queen Margaret mourns Suffolk's death. Lord Saye, whom the rebels hate, decides to hide in London.

0 SD. **supplication**: written petition

2. **fearful**: full of fears, apprehensive

9. **entreat**: enter into negotiations; or, persuade by pleading

10. **simple**: innocent

11. **perish by the sword**: See Matthew 26.52: "All that take the sword shall **perish** with the sword."

12. **cut them short**: See 3.1.82 and note.

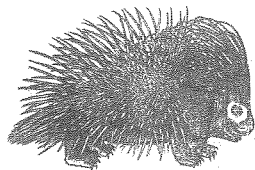
13. **parley**: speak

14. **stay**: wait

16. **Ruled . . . me**: In astrology, the **planet** under which one is born can exercise a fateful influence over one. **wandering**: orbiting in an irregular manner, as in Ptolemaic astronomy the planets were thought to do in circling the earth (See picture, page xxxviii.)

18. **That**: i.e., who

23. **fear me**: i.e., **fear** (the ethical dative)



A porcupine. (3.1.368)

From Edward Topsell, *The historie of foure-footed beastes* . . . (1607).

['Scene 4']

Enter King 'Henry,' with a supplication, and Queen 'Margaret' with Suffolk's head, the Duke of Buckingham, and the Lord Saye.

QUEEN MARGARET, 'aside'

Oft have I heard that grief softens the mind
And makes it fearful and degenerate.
Think therefore on revenge, and cease to weep.
But who can cease to weep and look on this?
Here may his head lie on my throbbing breast,
But where's the body that I should embrace?

BUCKINGHAM, 'to King Henry'

What answer makes your Grace to the rebels'
supplication?

KING HENRY

I'll send some holy bishop to entreat,
For God forbid so many simple souls
Should perish by the sword! And I myself,
Rather than bloody war shall cut them short,
Will parley with Jack Cade, their general.
But stay, I'll read it over once again. 'He reads.'

QUEEN MARGARET, 'aside'

Ah, barbarous villains! Hath this lovely face
Ruled, like a wandering planet, over me,
And could it not enforce them to relent
That were unworthy to behold the same?

KING HENRY

Lord Saye, Jack Cade hath sworn to have thy head.

SAYE

Ay, but I hope your Highness shall have his.

KING HENRY How now, madam?

Still lamenting and mourning for Suffolk's death?
I fear me, love, if that I had been dead,
Thou wouldst not have mourned so much for me.

28. **Southwark**: district just south of the Thames, with access to London across London Bridge

34. **hinds**: rustics, servants; **rude**: uncivilized, violent

38. **false**: treacherous; **caterpillars**: extortionists, those who prey on society (Proverbial: "The caterpillars of the commonwealth.")

39. **graceless men**: i.e., men lacking divine grace; **they . . . do**: See Luke 23.34: "Father, forgive them, for **they know not what they do**."

40. **Killingworth**: Kenilworth, near Warwick

41. **power**: army

43. **appeased**: pacified, quieted

44. **hateth**: i.e., hate

46. **So**: then

49. **secret**: hidden



A scholar, or "learnèd" clerk. (4.4.37; 4.7.71)
From Geoffrey Whitney, *A choice of emblemes* . . . (1586).

QUEEN MARGARET

No, my love, I should not mourn, but die for thee. 25

Enter a Messenger.

KING HENRY

How now, what news? Why com'st thou in such haste?

MESSENGER

The rebels are in Southwark. Fly, my lord!
Jack Cade proclaims himself Lord Mortimer;
Descended from the Duke of Clarence' house, 30
And calls your Grace usurper, openly,
And vows to crown himself in Westminster.
His army is a ragged multitude
Of hinds and peasants, rude and merciless.
Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brother's death 35
Hath given them heart and courage to proceed.
All scholars, lawyers, courtiers, gentlemen
They call false caterpillars and intend their death.

KING HENRY

O, graceless men, they know not what they do!

BUCKINGHAM

My gracious lord, retire to Killingworth 40
Until a power be raised to put them down.

QUEEN MARGARET

Ah, were the Duke of Suffolk now alive,
These Kentish rebels would be soon appeased!

KING HENRY Lord Saye, the traitors hateth thee; 45
Therefore away with us to Killingworth.

SAYE

So might your Grace's person be in danger.
The sight of me is odious in their eyes;
And therefore in this city will I stay
And live alone as secret as I may.

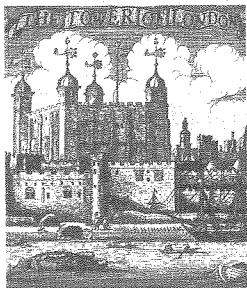
Enter another Messenger.

52. **rascal people:** rabble
 54. **spoil:** sack, pillage
 56. **succor:** help
 60–61. **The trust . . . resolute:** Proverbial: "**Innocence is bold.**"

4.5 Citizens of London plead for military aid from Lord Scales, who commands forces at the Tower. He sends Matthew Gough, a famous warrior.

0 SD. **Tower:** the Tower of London, a fortress and armory (See picture, below.)

1. **How now:** i.e., **how** is it **now**
 3. **they:** i.e., the rebels; **the Bridge:** i.e., London Bridge (See picture, page 204.)
 4. **craves aid of:** begs aid from
 9. **essayed:** tried



The Tower of London. (4.5.0 SD; 4.6.15)
 From John Seller, *A book of the prospects of the remarkable places in . . . London . . .* [c. 1700?].

「SECOND」 MESSENGER

Jack Cade hath gotten London Bridge.
 The citizens fly and forsake their houses.
 The rascal people, thirsting after prey,
 Join with the traitor, and they jointly swear
 To spoil the city and your royal court.

50

BUCKINGHAM

Then linger not, my lord. Away! Take horse!

55

KING HENRY

Come, Margaret. God, our hope, will succor us.

QUEEN MARGARET

My hope is gone, now Suffolk is deceased.

KING HENRY, 「to Saye」

Farewell, my lord. Trust not the Kentish rebels.

BUCKINGHAM

Trust nobody, for fear you 「be」 betrayed.

SAYE

The trust I have is in mine innocence;
 And therefore am I bold and resolute.

60

They exit.

「Scene 5」

*Enter Lord Scales upon the Tower, walking. Then enters
 two or three Citizens below.*

SCALES How now? Is Jack Cade slain?

FIRST CITIZEN No, my lord, nor likely to be slain; for
 they have won the Bridge, killing all those that
 withstand them. The Lord Mayor craves aid of
 your Honor from the Tower to defend the city
 from the rebels.

5

SCALES

Such aid as I can spare you shall command;
 But I am troubled here with them myself:
 The rebels have essayed to win the Tower.

10. **Smithfield:** open space beyond London's walls; **gather head:** raise an army

11. **Matthew Gough:** a renowned English military leader, who fought in Normandy

4.6 Cade enters London.

0 SD. **London Stone:** the central milestone of Roman London (See picture, below.)

2. **charge:** order

3. **of:** i.e., at; **Pissing Conduit:** popular name for a Cheapside water supply in a channel that ran with a small stream **Pissing:** paltry

4. **claret wine:** wine of yellowish or light red color (The day a newly crowned monarch entered London, the Cheapside conduit would run with wine.)

6. **other:** i.e., anything other

9. **If . . . wise:** Proverbial: "He is wise that is ware in time."



LONDON STONE
— AND A PART OF THE CITY —

"London Stone." (4.6.0 SD)
An anonymous eighteenth-century rendering.
From the Folger Library Collection.

But get you to Smithfield and gather head,
And thither I will send you Matthew Gough.
Fight for your king, your country, and your lives.
And so farewell, for I must hence again.

They exit.

「Scene 6」

Enter Jack Cade and the rest, and strikes his staff on London Stone.

CADE Now is Mortimer lord of this city. And here, sitting upon London Stone, I charge and command that, of the city's cost, the Pissing Conduit run nothing but claret wine this first year of our reign. And now henceforward it shall be treason for any that calls me other than Lord Mortimer.

Enter a Soldier running.

SOLDIER Jack Cade, Jack Cade!

CADE Knock him down there. *They kill him.*

DICK If this fellow be wise, he'll never call you Jack Cade more. I think he hath a very fair warning.

「Takes a paper from the dead Soldier and reads the message,」

My lord, there's an army gathered together in Smithfield.

CADE Come, then, let's go fight with them. But first, go and set London Bridge on fire, and, if you can, burn down the Tower too. Come, let's away.

All exit.

4.7 Cade defeats and kills Gough. Lord Saye is captured and killed.

1. **the Savoy:** the London home of the duke of Lancaster (actually destroyed the previous century)

2. **Inns of Court:** the London law schools and property of the legal societies

3. **suit:** petition

4. **lordship:** title and land of a lord

7. **Mass:** i.e., by the Roman Catholic **Mass** (a strong oath); **sore:** severe (with the obvious pun)

9. **whole:** healed

15. **biting:** bitter, painful (with the obvious pun)

17-18. **be in common:** possessed equally by all

19. **prize:** captive of war

21. **one-and-twenty fifteens:** a tax of 140% (See note to 1.1.139.)

21-22. **one shilling to the pound:** a tax of 5%

22. **the last subsidy:** i.e., the last time Parliament granted the king financial aid for special needs

24. **thou say, . . . serge, . . . buckram lord:** Cade plays with the fact that Lord Saye's name sounds the same as **say**, a fine-textured, partly silk fabric; he then reduces him to a **serge** (woolen) **lord**, and then to a **lord** made of **buckram** (cloth stiffened with gum or paste).

25. **point-blank:** direct aim

27. **Basimecu:** vulgarization of the French *baise mon cul* (kiss my ass)

(continued)

196

「Scene 7」

*Alarums. Matthew Gough is slain, and all the rest.
Then enter Jack Cade with his company.*

CADE So, sirs. Now go some and pull down the Savoy; others to th' Inns of Court. Down with them all!

DICK I have a suit unto your Lordship.

CADE Be it a lordship, thou shalt have it for that word.

DICK Only that the laws of England may come out of your mouth.

HOLLAND, 「aside」 Mass, 'twill be sore law, then, for he was thrust in the mouth with a spear, and 'tis not whole yet.

SMITH, 「aside」 Nay, John, it will be stinking law, for his breath stinks with eating toasted cheese.

CADE I have thought upon it; it shall be so. Away! Burn all the records of the realm. My mouth shall be the Parliament of England.

HOLLAND, 「aside」 Then we are like to have biting statutes—unless his teeth be pulled out.

CADE And henceforward all things shall be in common.

Enter a Messenger.

MESSENGER My lord, a prize, a prize! Here's the Lord Saye, which sold the towns in France, he that made us pay one-and-twenty fifteens, and one shilling to the pound, the last subsidy.

Enter George with the Lord Saye.

CADE Well, he shall be beheaded for it ten times.—Ah, thou say, thou serge, nay, thou buckram lord, now art thou within point-blank of our jurisdiction regal. What canst thou answer to my Majesty for giving up of Normandy unto Monsieur Basimecu, the Dauphin of France? Be it known unto thee by

28–30. **by these . . . Mortimer:** a blending of (1) the Latin legal formula “by these present documents” (*per has literas presentes*) and (2) “in this presence,” i.e., in the **presence** of a person of superior rank, **Lord Mortimer**

30. **besom:** broom

33. **grammar school:** the kind of **school** established by sixteenth-century Humanists for the study of rhetoric (an anachronism in this play set in the fifteenth century, as is the mention of **printing** [line 35] and the **paper mill** [line 37], both of which post-date the events dramatized here)

35. **score:** notch cut in a stick of wood called the **tally** in order to keep accounts without writing

36–37. **contrary to . . . dignity:** a legal formula **King his:** i.e., king’s

38–39. **usually:** ordinarily

39. **abominable:** offensive

43. **answer:** make defense against

44. **could not read:** i.e., **could not** claim benefit of clergy to escape capital punishment

45. **that cause:** i.e., their illiteracy

47. **a footcloth:** i.e., a horse wearing a **footcloth**, large richly ornamented cloth

51. **hose and doublets:** breeches and tight-fitting jackets (See picture, page 46.)

56. **bona terra, mala gens:** good land, bad people (Latin, proverbial)

60. **the . . . writ:** Julius Caesar’s *De bello gallico* (*Concerning the Gallic War*)

61. **civil’st:** most civilized

63. **liberal:** generous

these presence, even the presence of Lord Mortimer, that I am the besom that must sweep the court clean of such filth as thou art. Thou hast most traitorously corrupted the youth of the realm in erecting a grammar school; and whereas, before, our forefathers had no other books but the score and the tally, thou hast caused printing to be used, and, contrary to the King his crown and dignity, thou hast built a paper mill. It will be proved to thy face that thou hast men about thee that usually talk of a noun and a verb and such abominable words as no Christian ear can endure to hear. Thou hast appointed justices of peace to call poor men before them about matters they were not able to answer. Moreover, thou hast put them in prison; and, because they could not read, thou hast hanged them, when indeed only for that cause they have been most worthy to live. Thou dost ride ‘on’ a footcloth, dost thou not?

SAYE What of that?

CADE Marry, thou oughtst not to let thy horse wear a cloak when honest men than thou go in their hose and doublets.

DICK And work in their shirt too—as myself, for example, that am a butcher.

SAYE You men of Kent—

DICK What say you of Kent?

SAYE Nothing but this: ‘tis *bona terra, mala gens*.

CADE Away with him, away with him! He speaks Latin.

SAYE

Hear me but speak, and bear me where you will. Kent, in the commentaries Caesar writ, Is termed the civil’st place of all this isle. Sweet is the country, because full of riches; The people liberal, valiant, active, wealthy;

64. **void of:** lacking
 67. **favor:** goodwill, mitigation of punishment
 69. **ought:** anything; **exacted:** required (but also "required by force" or "extorted")
 71. **learnèd clerks:** scholars (See picture, page 190.)
 72. **book:** learning; **preferred me:** won me preferment or advancement to the king's service
 76. **cannot but:** i.e., must; **forbear to murder:** refrain from murdering
 78. **behoof:** benefit, advantage
 79. **field:** battlefield
 80. **reaching hands:** hands able to reach far (Proverbial: "Kings have long arms.")
 84. **watching:** staying awake at night
 87. **sitting:** i.e., as a judge; **determine:** settle; **causes:** suits, subjects of litigation
 89. **hempen caudle:** i.e., hangman's rope **caudle:** a drink given to the sick (a thin warm gruel, mixed with wine or ale, sweetened or spiced)
 90. **help:** remedy, cure; **hatchet:** i.e., executioner's ax
 92. **palsy:** tremulous paralysis in the aged
 93. **as who should:** i.e., as one who would

- Which makes me hope you are not void of pity.
 I sold not Maine; I lost not Normandy;
 Yet to recover them would lose my life. 65
 Justice with favor have I always done;
 Prayers and tears have moved me; gifts could never.
 When have I aught exacted at your hands
 Kent to maintain, the King, the realm, and you? 70
 Large gifts have I bestowed on learnèd clerks,
 Because my book preferred me to the King.
 And seeing ignorance is the curse of God,
 Knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven,
 Unless you be possessed with devilish spirits, 75
 You cannot but forbear to murder me.
 This tongue hath parleyed unto foreign kings
 For your behoof—
 CADE Tut, when struck'st thou one blow in the field?
 SAYE
 Great men have reaching hands. Oft have I struck 80
 Those that I never saw, and struck them dead.
 GEORGE O monstrous coward! What, to come behind
 folks?
 SAYE
 These cheeks are pale for watching for your good.
 CADE Give him a box o' th' ear, and that will make 'em 85
 red again.
 SAYE
 Long sitting to determine poor men's causes
 Hath made me full of sickness and diseases.
 CADE You shall have a hempen 'caudle,' then, and
 the help of hatchet. 90
 DICK Why dost thou quiver, man?
 SAYE The palsy, and not fear, provokes me.
 CADE Nay, he nods at us, as who should say "I'll be
 even with you." I'll see if his head will stand stead-
 ier on a pole, or no. Take him away, and behead 95
 him.

SAYE

Tell me, wherein have I offended most?
 Have I affected wealth or honor? Speak.
 Are my chests filled up with extorted gold?
 Is my apparel sumptuous to behold?
 Whom have I injured, that you seek my death?
 These hands are free from guiltless blood-shedding,
 This breast from harboring foul deceitful thoughts.
 O, let me live!

100

CADE I feel remorse in myself with his words, but I'll
 bridle it. He shall die, an it be but for pleading so
 well for his life. Away with him! He has a familiar
 under his tongue; he speaks not i' God's name. Go,
 take him away, I say, and strike off his head
 presently; and then break into his son-in-law's
 house, Sir James Cromer, and strike off his head;
 and bring them both upon two poles hither.

110

ALL It shall be done.

SAYE

Ah, countrymen, if when you make your prayers,
 God should be so obdurate as yourselves,
 How would it fare with your departed souls?
 And therefore yet relent, and save my life.

115

CADE Away with him, and do as I command you.

[Some exit with Lord Saye.]

The proudest peer in the realm shall not wear a
 head on his shoulders unless he pay me tribute.
 There shall not a maid be married but she shall
 pay to me her maidenhead ere they have it. Men
 shall hold of me *in capite*; and we charge and com-
 mand that their wives be as free as heart can wish
 or tongue can tell.

125

DICK My lord, when shall we go to Cheapside and take
 up commodities upon our bills?

CADE Marry, presently.

ALL O, brave!

98. **affected**: sought to obtain102. **guiltless blood-shedding**: shedding the
 blood of the guiltless105. **remorse**: compassion106. **an it be but**: i.e., if only107. **familiar**: demon who serves him110. **presently**: immediately119. **peer**: noble121-22. **There . . . it**: a reference to the *droit de
 seigneur*, a feudal lord's right to the first night with
 his vassal's bride123. **hold of me**: possess land from me; **in
 capite**: directly (This Latin legal phrase applied to
 land held directly from the Crown.) **charge**: order124. **free**: unrestrained124-25. **as heart can wish . . . tell**: proverbial126-27. **take up . . . bills**: wordplay on "pick up
 goods with our weapons" and "buy goods on credit"
bills: (1) long-handled bladed weapons; (2) notes of
 charges for goods129. **brave**: splendid

134. **spoil:** sack, pillage

136. **maces:** staffs of office borne before, or carried by, certain officials

4.8 Lord Clifford and Buckingham persuade Cade's followers to return to King Henry. Cade flees.

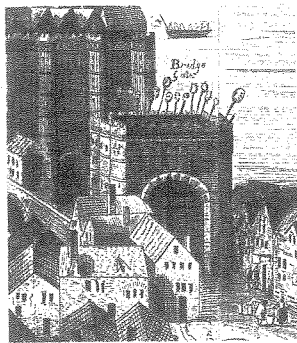
0 SD. **retreat:** a trumpet signal to withdraw;
rabblement: rabble, mob

1. **Fish Street:** a street near London Bridge;
Saint Magnus' Corner: the location of Saint Magnus' church at the lower end of Fish Street

2 SD. **parley:** trumpet signal calling for negotiations between the contending forces

9. **pronounce:** proclaim officially

11. **relent:** give way



London Bridge. (4.5.3, 50; 4.6.14)

From Claes Jansz Visscher, *Londinum florentissima*
Britanniae urbs... [c. 1625].

Enter one with the heads ¹*of Lord Saye and Sir James Cromer on poles.*

CADE But is not this braver? Let them kiss one another, for they loved well when they were alive. *The heads are brought together.*¹ Now part them again, lest they consult about the giving up of some more towns in France. Soldiers, defer the spoil of the city until night, for, with these borne before us instead of maces, will we ride through the streets and at every corner have them kiss. Away!

He exits ¹*with his company.*

¹Scene 8

Alarum, and retreat. Enter again Cade and all his rabblement.

CADE Up Fish Street! Down Saint Magnus' Corner! Kill and knock down! Throw them into Thames!

Sound a parley.

What noise is this I hear? Dare any be so bold to sound retreat or parley when I command them kill?

Enter Buckingham and old Clifford ¹*with Attendants.*

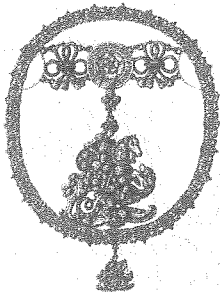
BUCKINGHAM

Ay, here they be that dare and will disturb thee. Know, Cade, we come ambassadors from the King Unto the Commons, whom thou hast misled, And here pronounce free pardon to them all That will forsake thee and go home in peace.

CLIFFORD

What say you, countrymen? Will you relent And yield to mercy whil'st 'tis offered you, Or let a rabble lead you to your deaths?

14. **Who:** i.e., whoever; **embrace:** accept
 21. **brave:** daring
 22. **Will you needs:** must you
 25. **the White Hart:** an inn, Cade's headquarters
 26. **given out:** i.e., surrendered
 28. **recreants:** deserters; **dastards:** despicable cowards
 30. **over:** from over
 32. **I will...one:** i.e., **I will** secure myself (Proverbial: "I'll shift for myself.")
 33. **light:** descend
 38. **meanest:** lowliest born
 40. **the spoil:** pillage
 42. **at jar:** in discord
 43. **fearful:** frightened; terrible
 44. **start:** sudden invasion
 45. **Methinks:** it seems to me; **broil:** turmoil
 47. **Villiago:** coward (Italian)
 48. **miscarry:** be destroyed



A George. (4.1.29)

From Elias Ashmole, *The institution, laws & ceremonies of the . . . Order of the Garter . . .* (1672).

Who loves the King and will embrace his pardon,
 Fling up his cap and say "God save his Majesty!" 15
 Who hateth him and honors not his father,
 Henry the Fifth, that made all France to quake,
 Shake he his weapon at us and pass by.

ALL God save the King! God save the King!

They fling their caps in the air.

CADE What, Buckingham and Clifford, are you so 20
 brave?—And, you base peasants, do you believe
 him? Will you needs be hanged with your pardons
 about your necks? Hath my sword therefore broke
 through London gates, that you should leave me at
 the White Hart in Southwark? I thought you 25
 would never have given out these arms till you had
 recovered your ancient freedom. But you are all
 recreants and dastards, and delight to live in slav-
 ery to the nobility. Let them break your backs with
 burdens, take your houses over your heads, ravish 30
 your wives and daughters before your faces. For
 me, I will make shift for one, and so God's curse
 light upon you all!

ALL We'll follow Cade! We'll follow Cade!

CLIFFORD Is Cade the son of Henry the Fifth, 35
 That thus you do exclaim you'll go with him?
 Will he conduct you through the heart of France
 And make the meanest of you earls and dukes?
 Alas, he hath no home, no place to fly to,
 Nor knows he how to live but by the spoil, 40
 Unless by robbing of your friends and us.
 Were 't not a shame that, whilst you live at jar,
 The fearful French, whom you late vanquished,
 Should make a start o'er seas and vanquish you?
 Methinks already in this civil broil 45
 I see them lording it in London streets,
 Crying "*Villiago!*" unto all they meet.
 Better ten thousand baseborn Cades miscarry

51. **coast:** country

53. **God:** i.e., with God

54. **A Clifford:** a rallying cry "to Clifford" **A:** to (French)

56-57. **Was . . . fro:** Proverbial: "As light as a feather" and "As wavering as a feather in the wind."

58. **hales:** draws; **mischiefs:** evils, calamities

59. **desolate:** alone

59-60. **lay . . . together:** conspire (proverbial)

60. **surprise:** capture

61. **despite:** spite

62. **have through:** a threat to attack

63. **want:** lack

65. **betake me:** take

69. **crowns:** gold coins worth five shillings or a quarter of a pound

4.9 As King Henry rejoices at Cade's defeat, a messenger announces York's approach with an Irish army ostensibly seeking Somerset's arrest for treason. Buckingham is sent to tell York that Somerset has been imprisoned in the Tower.

0 SD. **on the terrace, aloft:** i.e., in the gallery above and behind the stage

1. **Was ever:** i.e., was there ever a; **joyed:** enjoyed

2. **content:** satisfaction, pleasure

Than you should stoop unto a Frenchman's mercy.

To France, to France, and get what you have lost!

Spare England, for it is your native coast.

Henry hath money; you are strong and manly.

God on our side, doubt not of victory.

ALL

A Clifford! A Clifford! We'll follow the King and Clifford!

CADE, *['aside']* Was ever feather so lightly blown to and fro as this multitude? The name of Henry the Fifth hales them to an hundred mischiefs and makes them leave me desolate. I see them lay their heads together to surprise me. My sword make way for me, for here is no staying!—In despite of the devils and hell, have through the very midst of you! And heavens and honor be witness that no want of resolution in me, but only my followers' base and ignominious treasons, makes me betake me to my heels.

He exits, ['running.']

BUCKINGHAM

What, is he fled? Go, some, and follow him;

And he that brings his head unto the King

Shall have a thousand crowns for his reward.

Some of them exit.

Follow me, soldiers. We'll devise a means

To reconcile you all unto the King.

All exit.

[Scene 9]

Sound trumpets. Enter King ['Henry,'] Queen ['Margaret,'] and Somerset on the terrace, ['aloft.']

KING HENRY

Was ever king that joyed an earthly throne

And could command no more content than I?

7. **tidings:** news
 8. **surprised:** captured
 9. **is he but retired:** i.e., has he only retreated;
him: i.e., himself
 10. **powers:** forces
 12. **Expect:** wait for; **doom:** judgment
 14. **entertain:** receive, accept
 15. **Soldiers:** i.e., Cade's soldiers
 18. **still:** always
 19. **infortunate:** unlucky
 20. **unkind:** cruel
 22. **several countries:** various regions
 24. **advertised:** informed, warned
 25. **newly:** recently
 26. **puissant:** potent, strong; **power:** army



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

No sooner was I crept out of my cradle
 But I was made a king at nine months old.
 Was never subject longed to be a king
 As I do long and wish to be a subject!

5

Enter Buckingham and 'old' Clifford.

BUCKINGHAM

Health and glad tidings to your Majesty!

KING HENRY

Why, Buckingham, is the traitor Cade surprised,
 Or is he but retired to make him strong?

Enter 'below' multitudes with halters about their necks.

CLIFFORD

He is fled, my lord, and all his powers do yield
 And, humbly thus, with halters on their necks,
 Expect your Highness' doom of life or death.

10

KING HENRY

Then, heaven, set ope thy everlasting gates
 To entertain my vows of thanks and praise!
 Soldiers, this day have you redeemed your lives
 And showed how well you love your prince and
 country.

15

Continue still in this so good a mind,
 And Henry, though he be unfortunate,
 Assure yourselves, will never be unkind.
 And so with thanks and pardon to you all,
 I do dismiss you to your several countries.

20

ALL God save the King! God save the King!

'The multitudes exit.'

Enter a Messenger.

MESSENGER

Please it your Grace to be advertised
 The Duke of York is newly come from Ireland
 And, with a puissant and a mighty power

25

27. **gallowglasses**: heavily armed and well-trained Irish soldiers; **stout**: fierce; brave; **kerns**: lightly armed Irish foot soldiers (See picture, page 122.)

28. **proud**: valiant; **array**: martial order

29. **still**: i.e., repeatedly

32. **state**: government; condition; **'twixt**: between

35. **straightway**: immediately; **calmed**: becalmed, delayed by absence of wind; **with**: i.e., by

36. **But**: just

37. **second him**: take his place, succeed him

39. **of**: i.e., for

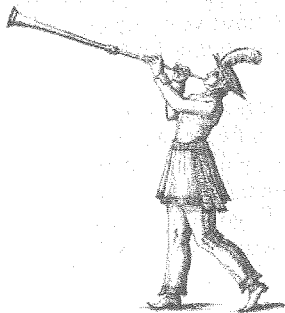
40. **Duke Edmund**: Edmund Beaufort, duke of Somerset

46. **rough**: harsh; **terms**: i.e., the conditions or stipulations you propose

47. **brook**: endure; **hard**: severe

48. **deal**: negotiate

51. **yet**: i.e., as yet, till now



An hautboy. (1.1.0 SD)

From Balthasar Küchler, *Repraesentatio der fürstlichen Auffzug* ... [1611].

Of gallowglasses and stout kerns,
Is marching hitherward in proud array,
And still proclaimeth, as he comes along,
His arms are only to remove from thee
The Duke of Somerset, whom he terms a traitor.

30

KING HENRY

Thus stands my state, 'twixt Cade and York
distressed,

Like to a ship that, having scaped a tempest,
Is straightway 'calmed' and boarded with a pirate.
But now is Cade driven back, his men dispersed,
And now is York in arms to second him.

35

I pray thee, Buckingham, go and meet him,
And ask him what's the reason of these arms.

Tell him I'll send Duke Edmund to the Tower.—
And, Somerset, we will commit thee thither
Until his army be dismissed from him.

40

SOMERSET My lord,

I'll yield myself to prison willingly,
Or unto death, to do my country good.

45

KING HENRY, 'to Buckingham'

In any case, be not too rough in terms,
For he is fierce and cannot brook hard language.

BUCKINGHAM

I will, my lord, and doubt not so to deal
As all things shall redound unto your good.

KING HENRY

Come, wife, let's in, and learn to govern better,
For yet may England curse my wretched reign.

50

Flourish. They exit.

4.10 A starving Cade is killed in a fight with the Kentish gentleman Alexander Iden, in whose garden Cade looked for food.

1. **Fie**: an exclamation of reproach
3. **hid me**: i.e., **hid**; **durst**: dared
4. **laid**: i.e., on the watch
- 5-6. **if . . . years**: i.e., even if I were guaranteed I would live a **thousand years** (Proverbial: "No man has a **lease** of his life.")
6. **stay**: wait
7. **Wherefore**: for which reason
8. **sallet**: salad (In line 12, the word means "helmet.")
9. **another while**: yet again
12. **brainpan**: skull
13. **brown bill**: long-handled axe used by both soldiers and constables **brown**: varnished or painted; **dry**: thirsty
17. **turmoiled**: in agitation or commotion
18. **And may**: i.e., when he might
21. **wax**: grow
22. **I care not with what**: i.e., without regard for; **envy**: malice
23. **Sufficeth that I**: i.e., it suffices **that** what I **state**: condition
24. **well pleasèd**: i.e., with alms
26. **stray**: i.e., stray animal; **fee-simple**: land belonging to the owner and heirs forever
- 27-28. **get . . . of**: receive a **thousand crowns** from
29. **eat iron . . . ostrich**: See picture, page 218.

「Scene 10」

Enter Cade.

CADE Fie on ambitions! Fie on myself, that have a sword and yet am ready to famish! These five days have I hid me in these woods and durst not peep out, for all the country is laid for me. But now am I so hungry that, if I might have a lease of my life 5
for a thousand years, I could stay no longer. Wherefore, 「o'er」 a brick wall have I climbed into this garden, to see if I can eat grass, or pick a sallet another while, which is not amiss to cool a man's stomach this hot weather. And I think this word 10
sallet was born to do me good; for many a time, but for a sallet, my brainpan had been cleft with a brown bill; and many a time, when I have been dry and bravely marching, it hath served me instead of a quart pot to drink in; and now the word *sallet* 15
must serve me to feed on.

Enter Iden 「and his Men.」

IDEN

Lord, who would live turmoiled in the court And may enjoy such quiet walks as these? This small inheritance my father left me Contenteth me, and worth a monarchy. 20
I seek not to wax great by others' 「waning,」 Or gather wealth, I care not with what envy. Sufficeth that I have maintains my state And sends the poor well pleasèd from my gate.
CADE, 「*aside*」 Here's the lord of the soil come to seize 25
me for a stray, for entering his fee-simple without leave.—Ah, villain, thou wilt betray me and get a thousand crowns of the King by carrying my head to him; but I'll make thee eat iron like an ostrich

32. **rude**: violent, harsh; uncivilized; **companion**: fellow

37. **brave**: challenge, defy; **saucy**: insolent

38-39. **by . . . broached**: an oath on Jesus' **blood broached**: set running, as if it were liquor from a cask that has been pierced

39. **beard**: openly oppose, affront

40. **eat**: i.e., eaten; **meat**: food

42. **dead as a doornail**: proverbial

45. **esquire**: the higher order of the gentry, just below a knight

46. **odds**: advantage (i.e., the help of his **five men**)

48. **outface me**: stare or face me down

49. **Set**: compare

50. **a finger to**: i.e., a finger's width in comparison to

51. **truncheon**: short thick staff (i.e., Iden's **leg**)

53. **heavèd**: raised

55. **answers**: i.e., can do no more than merely answer

56. **report**: account for; **forbears**: refrains from

57. **complete**: accomplished; **champion**: fighting man

58. **turn**: blunt

59. **burly-boned**: corpulent; **clown**: country boor; **chines**: joints

and swallow my sword like a great pin, ere thou
and I part. 30
[He draws his sword.]

IDEN

Why, rude companion, whatsoe'er thou be,
I know thee not. Why, then, should I betray thee?
Is 't not enough to break into my garden
And, like a thief, to come to rob my grounds, 35
Climbing my walls in spite of me the owner,
But thou wilt brave me with these saucy terms?

CADE Brave thee? Ay, by the best blood that ever was
broached, and beard thee too. Look on me well: I
have eat no meat these five days, yet come thou 40
and thy five men, and if I do not leave you all as
dead as a doornail, I pray God I may never eat
grass more.

IDEN

Nay, it shall ne'er be said, while England stands,
That Alexander Iden, an esquire of Kent, 45
Took odds to combat a poor famished man.
Oppose thy steadfast gazing eyes to mine;
See if thou canst outface me with thy looks.
Set limb to limb, and thou art far the lesser;
Thy hand is but a finger to my fist, 50
Thy leg a stick comparèd with this truncheon.
My foot shall fight with all the strength thou hast;
And if mine arm be heavèd in the air,
Thy grave is digged already in the earth.
As for words, whose greatness answers words, 55
Let this my sword report what speech forbears.

[He draws his sword.]

CADE By my valor, the most complete champion that
ever I heard! Steel, if thou turn the edge or cut not
out the burly-boned clown in chines of beef ere
thou sleep in thy sheath, I beseech [God] on my 60
knees thou mayst be turned to hobnails.

(Here they fight, [and Cade falls.]

62. **Famine:** starvation (here personified); **no other:** no one else

68. **monstrous:** unnatural

69. **hallow thee:** treat you with reverence

72. **herald's coat:** Herald's wore red coats.

73. **emblaze:** make resplendent; set forth by means of heraldic devices

80. **as:** i.e., just **as**, in the same way that; **thrust . . . sword:** i.e., **thrust my sword** into your body

82. **headlong:** head downmost

84. **ungracious:** graceless, wicked



An ostrich eating a nail. (4.10.29)

From Gabriele Simeoni, *Le sententiose imprese* . . . (1560).

O, I am slain! Famine, and no other, hath slain me.
Let ten thousand devils come against me, and give
me but the ten meals I have lost, and I'd defy them
all. Wither, garden, and be henceforth a burying
place to all that do dwell in this house, because the
unconquered soul of Cade is fled. 65

IDEN


Is 't Cade that I have slain, that monstrous traitor?
Sword, I will hallow thee for this thy deed,
And hang thee o'er my tomb when I am dead. 70
Ne'er shall this blood be wiped from thy point,
But thou shalt wear it as a herald's coat
To emblaze the honor that thy master got.

CADE Iden, farewell, and be proud of thy victory. Tell 75
Kent from me she hath lost her best man, and
exhort all the world to be cowards; for I, that never
feared any, am vanquished by famine, not by valor.
Dies.

IDEN

How much thou wrong'st me, heaven be my judge!
Die, damnèd wretch, the curse of her that bare thee!
And as I thrust thy body in with my sword, 80
So wish I, I might thrust thy soul to hell.
Hence will I drag thee headlong by the heels
Unto a dunghill, which shall be thy grave,
And there cut off thy most ungracious head,
Which I will bear in triumph to the King, 85
Leaving thy trunk for crows to feed upon.

He exits with his Men, dragging Cade's body.



HENRY VI

Part 2

ACT 5



5.1 Buckingham seemingly placates York, and King Henry rewards Iden. York, seeing Somerset at liberty, announces his claim to the throne, and his supporters openly oppose those of King Henry.

0 SD. **Colors:** battle standards or flags

1. **right:** i.e., **right** to the throne

4. **entertain:** hospitably receive

5. **sancta maiestas:** holy majesty (Latin); **dear:** at great cost

6. **Let . . . knows:** i.e., **let** those **obey** who know

7. **naught:** nothing; **gold:** i.e., regalia, the emblems and symbols of monarchy

8. **due:** rightful, proper, fitting

9. **Except:** unless; **sword:** sword of state; **balance it:** counterpoise my action

10. **have I:** i.e., as **I have**

11. **fleur-de-luce:** France's royal insignia is the heraldic lily called the fleur-de-lis or **fleur-de-luce**.

14. **sure:** surely

17. **of pleasure:** i.e., because you wish to



A screech owl. (3.2.339)

From Konrad Gesner, *Icones animalium quadrupedum* . . . (1560).

「ACT 5」

「Scene 1」

Enter York, 「wearing the white rose,」 and his army of Irish, with 「Attendants,」 Drum and Colors.

YORK

From Ireland thus comes York to claim his right
And pluck the crown from feeble Henry's head.
Ring, bells, aloud! Burn, bonfires, clear and bright
To entertain great England's lawful king!
Ah, *sancta maiestas*, who would not buy thee dear? 5
Let them obey that knows not how to rule.
This hand was made to handle naught but gold.
I cannot give due action to my words
Except a sword or scepter balance it.
A scepter shall it have, have I a soul, 10
On which I'll toss the fleur-de-luce of France.

Enter Buckingham, 「wearing the red rose.」

「*Aside.*」 Whom have we here? Buckingham, to disturb me?

The King hath sent him, sure. I must dissemble.

BUCKINGHAM

York, if thou meanest well, I greet thee well. 15

YORK

Humphrey of Buckingham, I accept thy greeting.
Art thou a messenger, or come of pleasure?

18. **dread liege:** revered superior, to whom we owe allegiance and service

19. **reason of:** i.e., reason for

22. **power:** army

24. **Scarce:** i.e., scarcely; **choler:** anger

26. **abject:** despicable

27. **Ajax Telamonius:** son of Telamon and hero of the Trojan War, who, when he lost the contest for possession of the dead Achilles' armor, went insane and killed a flock of **sheep** (under the delusion that they were his enemies) before committing suicide

28. **spend:** expend

29. **am far better born:** i.e., by birth have a **better** claim to the throne

31. **make fair weather:** i.e., be conciliatory

40. **to . . . end:** i.e., for no other purpose



Foxes preying on sheep. (3.1.259-60)
From *Le microcosme* (n.d.).

BUCKINGHAM

A messenger from Henry, our dread liege,
To know the reason of these arms in peace;
Or why thou, being a subject as I am,
Against thy oath and true allegiance sworn,
Should raise so great a power without his leave,
Or dare to bring thy force so near the court.

YORK, *aside*¹

Scarce can I speak, my choler is so great.
O, I could hew up rocks and fight with flint,
I am so angry at these abject terms!
And now, like Ajax Telamonius,
On sheep or oxen could I spend my fury.
I am far better born than is the King,
More like a king, more kingly in my thoughts.
But I must make fair weather yet awhile,
Till Henry be more weak and I more strong.—
Buckingham, I prithee, pardon me,
That I have given no answer all this while.
My mind was troubled with deep melancholy.
The cause why I have brought this army hither
Is to remove proud Somerset from the King,
Seditious to his Grace and to the state.

BUCKINGHAM

That is too much presumption on thy part.
But if thy arms be to no other end,
The King hath yielded unto thy demand:
The Duke of Somerset is in the Tower.

YORK

Upon thine honor, is he prisoner?

BUCKINGHAM

Upon mine honor, he is prisoner.

YORK

Then, Buckingham, I do dismiss my powers.—
Soldiers, I thank you all. Disperse yourselves.

47. **Saint George's field:** an open space between Southwark and Lambeth, across the Thames from London

50. **Command:** order (that I give)

51. **pledges:** guarantees; **fealty:** fidelity

52. **willing:** i.e., willingly

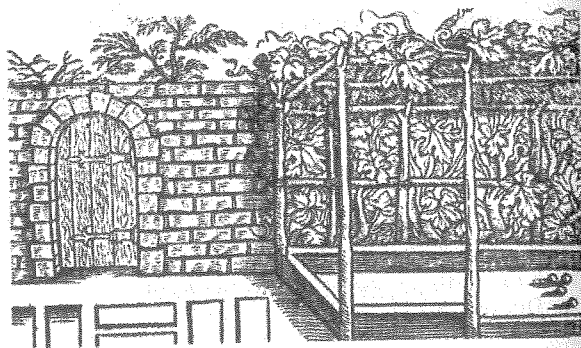
54. **so:** provided that

61. **intends:** i.e., signify, mean

63. **monstrous:** unnatural

64. **since:** subsequently; **to be discomfited:** was defeated

65. **rude:** unrefined; **mean condition:** low rank



A garden with a brick wall. (4.10.7-8)
From [Thomas Hill,] *The gardeners labyrinth* ... (1577).

Meet me tomorrow in Saint George's field;
You shall have pay and everything you wish.

「Soldiers exit.」

And let my sovereign, virtuous Henry,
Command my eldest son, nay, all my sons,
As pledges of my fealty and love;
I'll send them all as willing as I live.
Lands, goods, horse, armor, anything I have
Is his to use, so Somerset may die.

50

BUCKINGHAM

York, I commend this kind submission.
We twain will go into his Highness' tent.

55

「They walk arm in arm.」

Enter King 「Henry」 and Attendants.

KING HENRY

Buckingham, doth York intend no harm to us
That thus he marcheth with thee arm in arm?

YORK

In all submission and humility
York doth present himself unto your Highness.

60

KING HENRY

Then what intends these forces thou dost bring?

YORK

To heave the traitor Somerset from hence
And fight against that monstrous rebel Cade,
Who since I heard to be discomfited.

Enter Iden, with Cade's head.

IDEN

If one so rude and of so mean condition
May pass into the presence of a king,
Lo, I present your Grace a traitor's head,
The head of Cade, whom I in combat slew.

65

KING HENRY

The head of Cade? Great God, how just art Thou!

73. **an 't like:** if it please

74. **degree:** rank

80. **marks:** coins worth two-thirds of a pound (far more than the **thousand crowns** of 4.8.69 and 4.10.28)

81. **will:** order; **attend on us:** serve me (as an attendant)

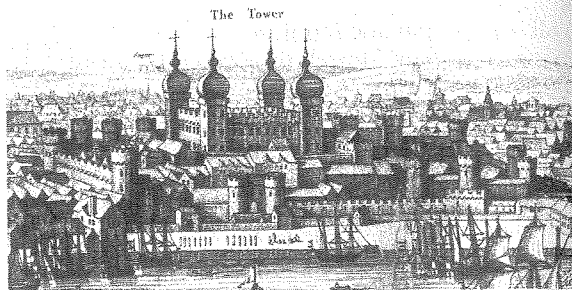
83. **true:** faithful

86. **For thousand:** i.e., were it for a thousand

87. **front:** oppose

88. **How now:** i.e., how is it now

90. **be equal with:** be of the same (royal) rank as; or, be as courageous as



The Tower of London.

From Claes Jansz Visscher, *Londinum florentissima Britanniae urbs* . . . [c. 1625].

O, let me view his visage, being dead,
That living wrought me such exceeding trouble.
Tell me, my friend, art thou the man that slew him?

70

IDEN I was, an 't like your Majesty.

KING HENRY

How art thou called? And what is thy degree?

IDEN

Alexander Iden, that's my name,
A poor esquire of Kent that loves his king.

75

BUCKINGHAM

So please it you, my lord, 'twere not amiss
He were created knight for his good service.

KING HENRY

Iden, kneel down. *He kneels.* Rise up a knight. *He rises.*

We give thee for reward a thousand marks,
And will that thou henceforth attend on us.

80

IDEN

May Iden live to merit such a bounty,
And never live but true unto his liege!

*Enter Queen Margaret and Somerset,
wearing the red rose.*

KING HENRY, *aside to Buckingham*

See, Buckingham, Somerset comes with th' Queen.
Go bid her hide him quickly from the Duke.
Buckingham whispers to the Queen.

85

QUEEN MARGARET

For thousand Yorks he shall not hide his head,
But boldly stand and front him to his face.

YORK, *aside*

How now? Is Somerset at liberty?
Then, York, unloose thy long-imprisoned thoughts,
And let thy tongue be equal with thy heart.
Shall I endure the sight of Somerset?—
False king, why hast thou broken faith with me,

90

93. **how hardly**: i.e., with what difficulty; **brook**: tolerate; **abuse**: deceit
96. **Which**: i.e., who
97. **doth not become**: i.e., is not suitable for; is not congruous with
98. **palmer's**: pilgrim's (See picture, page 236.)
99. **awful**: awe-inspiring
100. **gold**: i.e., crown; **round engirt**: encircle
101. **Achilles' spear**: in mythology, this spear could both wound and heal (See longer note, page 258.)
102. **the change**: i.e., from frown to smile
104. **act**: make; **controlling**: powerful
108. **Of capital treason**: i.e., for treason punishable by death
110. **these**: i.e., York's attendants
111. **brook**: i.e., tolerate that; **bow**: bend; **man**: anyone
113. **bail**: persons who procure the release of a prisoner from custody (here, not by offering themselves up as pledges, but rather by offering to fight for his release)
114. **ward**: prison
115. **pawn their swords**: i.e., fight **pawn**: pledge; **enfranchisement**: release from prison
116. **amain**: at once
119. **Neapolitan**: as daughter to Reignier, king of Naples (line 120)
120. **Outcast**: homeless vagabond (with reference to her failure to provide a dowry); **England's bloody scourge**: bloodthirsty and blood-covered instrument of divine punishment of England
122. **bane**: destruction

Knowing how hardly I can brook abuse?
 "King" did I call thee? No, thou art not king,
 Not fit to govern and rule multitudes,
 Which dar'st not—no, nor canst not—rule a traitor. 95
 That head of thine doth not become a crown;
 Thy hand is made to grasp a palmer's staff,
 And not to grace an awful princely scepter.
 That gold must round engirt these brows of mine,
 Whose smile and frown, like to Achilles' spear, 100
 Is able with the change to kill and cure.
 Here is a hand to hold a scepter up
 And with the same to act controlling laws.
 Give place. By heaven, thou shalt rule no more
 O'er him whom heaven created for thy ruler. 105

SOMERSET

O monstrous traitor! I arrest thee, York,
 Of capital treason 'gainst the King and crown.
 Obey, audacious traitor. Kneel for grace.

YORK

Wouldst have me kneel? First let me ask of 'these'
 If they can brook I bow a knee to man. 110
 'To an Attendant.' Sirrah, call in my 'sons' to be my
 bail. 'Attendant exits.'

I know, ere they will have me go to ward,
 They'll pawn their swords 'for' my enfranchisement. 115
 QUEEN MARGARET, 'to Buckingham'
 Call hither Clifford; bid him come amain,
 To say if that the bastard boys of York
 Shall be the surety for their traitor father.
 'Buckingham exits.'

YORK, 'to Queen Margaret'

O, blood-bespotted Neapolitan,
 Outcast of Naples, England's bloody scourge! 120
 The sons of York, thy betters in their birth,
 Shall be their father's bail, and bane to those
 That for my surety will refuse the boys.

124. **warrant:** predict as certain
 124-25. **make it good:** i.e., (1) pay my **bail**, or (2) succeed in being your **bane** (line 122)

129. **us:** the royal plural

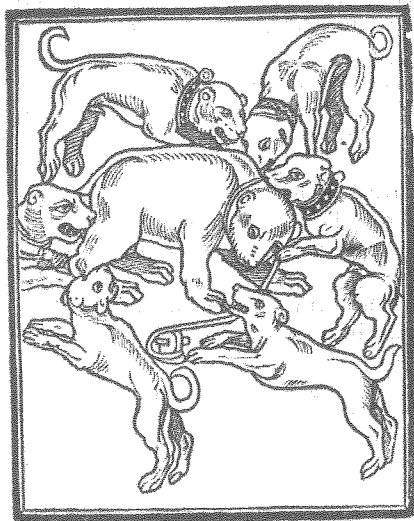
133. **mistakes me:** have the wrong view of me

134. **Bedlam:** St. Mary of Bethlehem Hospital for the insane in London

135. **bedlam:** mad, insane; **humor:** inclination; mood; whim

137. **Let him:** i.e., let him be sent; **Tower:** See picture, page 228.

138. **factionous:** seditious; **pate:** head



Bearbaiting. (5.1.147-54)
 From William Lily, *Antibossicon* . . . (1521).

*Enter 'York's sons' Edward and Richard,
 'wearing the white rose.'*

See where they come; I'll warrant they'll make it good.

125

Enter 'old' Clifford 'and his Son, wearing the red rose.'

QUEEN MARGARET

And here comes Clifford to deny their bail.

CLIFFORD, *'kneeling before King Henry'*

Health and all happiness to my lord the King.

'He rises.'

YORK

I thank thee, Clifford. Say, what news with thee?

Nay, do not fright us with an angry look.

We are thy sovereign, Clifford; kneel again.

For thy mistaking so, we pardon thee.

130

CLIFFORD

This is my king, York; I do not mistake,

But thou mistakes me much to think I do.—

To Bedlam with him! Is the man grown mad?

KING HENRY

Ay, Clifford, a bedlam and ambitious humor

Makes him oppose himself against his king.

135

CLIFFORD

He is a traitor. Let him to the Tower,

And chop away that factionous pate of his.

QUEEN MARGARET

He is arrested, but will not obey.

His sons, he says, shall give their words for him.

140

YORK Will you not, sons?

EDWARD

Ay, noble father, if our words will serve.

RICHARD

And if words will not, then our weapons shall.

CLIFFORD

Why, what a brood of traitors have we here!

145. **glass**: looking glass, mirror; **image**: reflection

146. **false-heart**: false-hearted, treacherous

147. **stake**: the first of a number of allusions to the blood sport of bearbaiting, in which a bear or **bears** were chained to a **stake** and attacked by dogs; **bears**: See lines 206–7, below, for Warwick's allusion to the crest of the rampant bear; and see pictures, pages 232 and 238.

149. **astonish**: terrify; **fell-lurking curs**: savage dogs waiting to attack

152. **bait**: set on the dogs to attack

153. **bearherd**: bearward, bear keeper (i.e., York)

155. **hot**: eager, angry; **o'erweening**: presumptuous

156. **Run . . . withheld**: i.e., turn around and (1) **bite** at the leash that restrains it; or, (2) **bite** the master who restrains him (Proverbial: A man may cause his own dog to **bite** him.)

157. **Who**: i.e., which; **suffered with**: injured by; **fell**: deadly

158. **cried**: yelped

160. **match**: fight

161. **heap**: alluding to the hump on Richard's back (the first of many references to Richard as a hunchback, the deformity attributed to him in Shakespeare's historical sources); **indigested**: shapeless

163. **anon**: soon

165. **bow**: bend (in submission to King Henry)

169. **spectacles**: eyeglasses (associated with old age)

YORK

Look in a glass, and call thy image so.

I am thy king and thou a false-heart traitor.

Call hither to the stake my two brave bears,

That, with the very shaking of their chains,

They may astonish these fell-lurking curs.

['To an Attendant.' Bid Salisbury and Warwick come to me.

Attendant exits.]

Enter the Earls of Warwick and Salisbury, wearing the white rose.]

CLIFFORD

Are these thy bears? We'll bait thy bears to death

And manacle the bearherd in their chains,

If thou dar'st bring them to the baiting place.

RICHARD

Oft have I seen a hot o'erweening cur

Run back and bite because he was withheld,

Who, being suffered with the bear's fell paw,

Hath clapped his tail between his legs and cried;

And such a piece of service will you do

If you oppose yourselves to match Lord Warwick.

CLIFFORD

Hence, heap of wrath, foul indigested lump,

As crooked in thy manners as thy shape!

YORK

Nay, we shall heat you thoroughly anon.

CLIFFORD

Take heed, lest by your heat you burn yourselves.

KING HENRY

Why, Warwick, hath thy knee forgot to bow?—

Old Salisbury, shame to thy silver hair;

Thou mad misleader of thy brainsick son!

What, wilt thou on thy deathbed play the ruffian

And seek for sorrow with thy spectacles?

O, where is faith? O, where is loyalty?

171. **frosty:** i.e., white-haired
 172. **harbor:** refuge
 173. **Wilt . . . war:** The meaning of this line is uncertain.
 175. **want'st:** lack; **experience:** i.e., judgment
 176. **wherefore:** why; **abuse:** misuse
 178. **That:** i.e., you who stoop; **mickle:** much
 181. **repute:** consider
 185. **dispense with heaven for:** get a dispensation from God to break
 190. **force:** violate
 191. **reave:** rob
 192. **customed:** customary
 195. **sophister:** specious reasoner
 198. **resolved for:** determined on; **dignity:** high rank (i.e., monarchy)



A palmer with his staff. (5.1.98)
 From Henry Peacham, *Minerua Britannia* . . . [1612].

If it be banished from the frosty head,
 Where shall it find a harbor in the earth?
 Wilt thou go dig a grave to find out war,
 And shame thine honorable age with blood?
 Why art thou old and want'st experience?
 Or wherefore dost abuse it, if thou hast it?
 For shame! In duty bend thy knee to me
 That bows unto the grave with mickle age.

175

SALISBURY

My lord, I have considered with myself
 The title of this most renownèd duke,
 And in my conscience do repute his Grace
 The rightful heir to England's royal seat.

180

KING HENRY

Hast thou not sworn allegiance unto me?

SALISBURY I have.

KING HENRY

Canst thou dispense with heaven for such an oath?

185

SALISBURY

It is great sin to swear unto a sin,
 But greater sin to keep a sinful oath.
 Who can be bound by any solemn vow
 To do a murd'rous deed, to rob a man,
 To force a spotless virgin's chastity,
 To reave the orphan of his patrimony,
 To wring the widow from her customed right,
 And have no other reason for this wrong
 But that he was bound by a solemn oath?

190

QUEEN MARGARET

A subtle traitor needs no sophister.

195

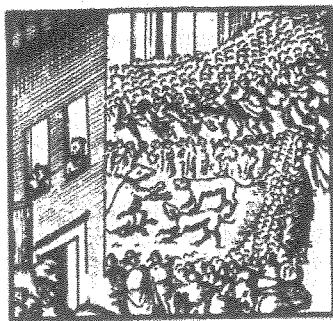
KING HENRY, *['to an Attendant']*

Call Buckingham, and bid him arm himself.

*['Attendant exits.']*YORK, *['to King Henry']*

Call Buckingham and all the friends thou hast,
 I am resolved for death *['or']* dignity.

201. **field:** battlefield
 202. **bear:** endure
 204. **burgonet:** helmet with a visor
 205. **badge:** distinctive emblem
 206. **father's:** i.e., father-in-law's; **crest:** ornament borne above a knight's helmet
 207. **rampant:** rearing, standing with forepaws in the air (See picture, below.) **ragged:** with protruding lumps or knobs
 209. **cedar:** associated with royalty; **shows:** is seen
 211. **affright:** terrify; **view:** sight
 216. **complices:** associates
 219. **stigmatic:** physically deformed person (accent on first syllable)



A rampant bear, being baited.
 From Giacomo Franco, *Habiti* . . . [1609?].

CLIFFORD

The first, I warrant thee, if dreams prove true.

WARWICK

You were best to go to bed and dream again,
 To keep thee from the tempest of the field.

200

CLIFFORD

I am resolved to bear a greater storm
 Than any thou canst conjure up today;
 And that I'll write upon thy burgonet,
 Might I but know thee by thy 'house's' badge.

205

WARWICK

Now, by my father's badge, old Neville's crest,
 The rampant bear chained to the ragged staff,
 This day I'll wear aloft my burgonet—
 As on a mountaintop the cedar shows
 That keeps his leaves in spite of any storm—
 Even to affright thee with the view thereof.

210

CLIFFORD

And from thy burgonet I'll rend thy bear
 And tread it under foot with all contempt,
 Despite the bearherd that protects the bear.

YOUNG CLIFFORD

And so to arms, victorious father,
 To quell the rebels and their complices.

215

RICHARD

Fie! Charity, for shame! Speak not in spite,
 For you shall sup with Jesu Christ tonight.

YOUNG CLIFFORD

Foul stigmatic, that's more than thou canst tell!

RICHARD

If not in heaven, you'll surely sup in hell.

220

They exit separately.

5.2 York kills Lord Clifford, and York's son Richard kills the Duke of Somerset. Defeated in battle, King Henry flees to London.

2. **An if:** i.e., if; **bear:** See 5.1.206–14.
3. **alarum:** the call to arms
4. **dead:** i.e., dying
8. **afoot:** on foot (rather than on horseback)
9. **deadly-handed:** murderous
10. **match to match:** enemy to enemy
11. **carrion:** i.e., carrion-eating (See picture, page 140.)
12. **bonny:** fine
13. **Of . . . come:** Proverbial: "One dies when his hour comes."
14. **Hold:** stop; **some other chase:** something else to hunt
21. **fast:** firmly, fixedly



The Fates and the thread of life. (4.2.30)
From Vincenzo Cartari, *Imagines deorum* . . . (1581).

240

「Scene 2」

「The sign of the Castle Inn is displayed. Alarms.」
Enter Warwick, 「wearing the white rose.」

WARWICK

Clifford of Cumberland, 'tis Warwick calls!
An if thou dost not hide thee from the bear,
Now, when the angry trumpet sounds alarum
And dead men's cries do fill the empty air,
Clifford, I say, come forth and fight with me;
Proud northern lord, Clifford of Cumberland,
Warwick is hoarse with calling thee to arms.

5

Enter York, 「wearing the white rose.」

How now, my noble lord? What, all afoot?

YORK

The deadly-handed Clifford slew my steed,
But match to match I have encountered him
And made a prey for carrion kites and crows
Even of the bonny beast he loved so well.

10

Enter 「old」 Clifford, 「wearing the red rose.」

WARWICK

Of one or both of us the time is come.

YORK

Hold, Warwick! Seek thee out some other chase,
For I myself must hunt this deer to death.

15

WARWICK

Then, nobly, York! 'Tis for a crown thou fight'st.—
As I intend, Clifford, to thrive today,
It grieves my soul to leave thee unassailed.

Warwick exits.

CLIFFORD

What seest thou in me, York? Why dost thou pause?

YORK

With thy brave bearing should I be in love,
But that thou art so fast mine enemy.

20

22. **want:** lack
 23. **But that:** but for the fact that
 25. **true right:** legitimate claim (i.e., to the throne)
 26. **My soul:** i.e., I bet my soul
 27. **dreadful lay:** formidable wager; **Address thee:** prepare yourself
 28. **La fin . . . oeuvres:** The end crowns the works (French proverb).
 29. **still:** quiet; motionless
 31. **confusion:** overthrow, destruction; **All . . . rout:** i.e., the whole army is in disorderly retreat
 32. **frames:** causes, produces
 34. **minister:** agent (in punishing evil humanity)
 35. **part:** party, side
 36. **fly:** flee
 37. **that:** i.e., who; **dedicate:** dedicated
 39. **essentially:** in his essential nature; **by circumstance:** only in external conditions
 42. **premised . . . day:** i.e., preordained flames of Doomsday **premised:** literally, "sent before the time," but here used proleptically to mean "preordained" (See longer note, page 258.)
 44. **general trumpet:** i.e., trumpet proclaiming Doomsday to all; **his:** its
 45. **Particularities:** individual matters
 46. **ordained:** destined

CLIFFORD

Nor should thy prowess want praise and esteem,
 But that 'tis shown ignobly and in treason.

YORK

So let it help me now against thy sword
 As I in justice and true right express it!

25

CLIFFORD

My soul and body on the action both!

YORK

A dreadful lay! Address thee instantly.

They fight and Clifford falls.

CLIFFORD

La fin couronne les oeuvres.

He dies.

YORK

Thus war hath given thee peace, for thou art still.
 Peace with his soul, heaven, if it be thy will!

30

He exits.

Enter young Clifford, wearing the red rose.

YOUNG CLIFFORD

Shame and confusion! All is on the rout.
 Fear frames disorder, and disorder wounds
 Where it should guard. O war, thou son of hell,
 Whom angry heavens do make their minister,
 Throw in the frozen bosoms of our part
 Hot coals of vengeance! Let no soldier fly.
 He that is truly dedicate to war
 Hath no self-love; nor he that loves himself
 Hath not essentially, but by circumstance,
 The name of valor. *He sees his father, lying dead.* O,
 let the vile world end

35

40

And the premised flames of the last day
 Knit earth and heaven together!
 Now let the general trumpet blow his blast,
 Particularities and petty sounds
 To cease! Wast thou ordained, dear father,

45

47. **lose**: waste
 48. **silver livery**: i.e., gray hair; **advised**: wary, cautious
 49. **thy reverence . . . chair-days**: i.e., your revered old age
 52. **stony**: unfeeling
 55. **the tyrant oft reclaims**: often restrains the tyrant
 56. **oil and flax**: Proverbial: "Put not fire to flax" and "To add oil to the fire."
 59. **gobbets**: pieces of raw flesh
 60. **Medea . . . Absyrtis**: In mythology, **Medea**, fleeing by boat with her lover Jason, killed her brother **Absyrtis** and strewed pieces of his body in the ocean to slow her father's pursuit of her.
 63. **Aeneas . . . bear**: In Virgil's *Aeneid*, book 2, the Trojan **Aeneas** carries his father **Anchises** on his back out of burning Troy, thereby becoming a figure of filial piety. (See picture, page 248.)
 65. **bare**: bore
 68. **For underneath**: i.e., for by dying underneath
 70. **the wizard**: Roger Bolingbroke (See 1.4.36-40.)
 71. **hold**: maintain; **temper**: hardness and resiliency (with possible wordplay on "mental balance, composure") **still**: always
 72 SD. **Excursions**: sorties, sallies

To lose thy youth in peace, and to achieve
 The silver livery of advised age,
 And, in thy reverence and thy chair-days, thus
 To die in ruffian battle? Even at this sight 50
 My heart is turned to stone, and while 'tis mine,
 It shall be stony. York not our old men spares;
 No more will I their babes. Tears virginal
 Shall be to me even as the dew to fire;
 And beauty, that the tyrant oft reclaims, 55
 Shall to my flaming wrath be oil and flax.
 Henceforth I will not have to do with pity.
 Meet I an infant of the house of York,
 Into as many gobbets will I cut it
 As wild Medea young Absyrtis did. 60
 In cruelty will I seek out my fame.

He takes his father's body onto his back.

Come, thou new ruin of old Clifford's house;
 As did Aeneas old Anchises bear,
 So bear I thee upon my manly shoulders.
 But then Aeneas bare a living load, 65
 Nothing so heavy as these woes of mine. *He exits.*

Enter Richard, wearing the white rose, and Somerset, wearing the red rose, to fight.

Richard kills Somerset under the sign of Castle Inn.

RICHARD So lie thou there.
 For underneath an alehouse' paltry sign,
 The Castle in Saint Albans, Somerset
 Hath made the wizard famous in his death. 70
 Sword, hold thy temper! Heart, be wrathful still!
 Priests pray for enemies, but princes kill. *He exits.*

Fight. Excursions. Enter King Henry, Queen Margaret, both wearing the red rose, and Others.

QUEEN MARGARET

Away, my lord! You are slow. For shame, away!

KING HENRY

Can we outrun the heavens? Good Margaret, stay!

QUEEN MARGARET

What are you made of? You'll nor fight nor fly.
Now is it manhood, wisdom, and defense
To give the enemy way, and to secure us
By what we can, which can no more but fly.

75

Alarum afar off.

If you be ta'en, we then should see the bottom
Of all our fortunes; but if we haply scape,
As well we may—if not through your neglect—
We shall to London get, where you are loved
And where this breach now in our fortunes made
May readily be stopped.

80

Enter 'Young' Clifford, 'wearing the red rose.'

YOUNG CLIFFORD

But that my heart's on future mischief set,
I would speak blasphemy ere bid you fly;
But fly you must. Uncurable discomfit
Reigns in the hearts of all our present parts.
Away, for your relief! And we will live
To see their day and them our fortune give.
Away, my lord, away!

85

90

They exit.

[Scene 3]

*Alarum. Retreat. Enter York, 'Edward,' Richard,
Warwick, and Soldiers, 'all wearing the white rose,'
with Drum and Colors.*

YORK

Of Salisbury, who can report of him,
That winter lion, who in rage forgets
Aged contusions and all brush of time,
And, like a gallant in the brow of youth,

74. **the heavens:** i.e., divine wrath; **stay:** stop
75. **nor fight:** i.e., neither fight
77. **give the enemy way:** retreat from the
enemy; us: ourselves
78. **By what:** i.e., in whatever way; **which:** who
79. **ta'en:** taken, captured; **bottom:** lowest point
80. **haply:** by chance; **scape:** escape
81. **if . . . neglect:** i.e., unless your indifference
prevents it
85. **But:** except; **mischief:** trouble
87. **Uncurable discomfit:** irreversible defeat
88. **present parts:** perhaps, remaining forces
89. **relief:** deliverance
90. **see their day:** i.e., experience victory; **them**
our fortune give: i.e., give them our misfortune

5.3 Victorious, York and his followers set out for London.

2. **winter:** i.e., aged
3. **brush of:** i.e., hostile encounter with
4. **gallant:** fine fellow; **in the brow of youth:** i.e.,
with an unwrinkled forehead

5. **Repairs him:** restores himself; **occasion:** opportunity (i.e., to fight); **happy:** fortunate

9. **help:** helped

10. **bestrid him:** i.e., stood over him to protect him when he was down

12. **But still:** but continuously; **still there:** always there

13. **hangings:** wall tapestries; **homely:** humble

21. **have not got:** i.e., do not (securely) possess; **that which we have:** i.e., what we have obtained

23. **opposites:** enemies; **repairing nature:** i.e., ability to flee; ability to restore themselves

24. **safety:** means of safety

26. **present:** immediate

27. **writs:** summonses (to attend Parliament)

32. **eternized:** made eternal; immortalized; **age:** i.e., ages

34. **befall:** belong



Aeneas carrying his father, "old Anchises." (5.2.63)
From Geoffrey Whitney, *A choice of emblemes* . . . (1586).

Repairs him with occasion? This happy day
Is not itself, nor have we won one foot,
If Salisbury be lost.

RICHARD

My noble father,

Three times today I help him to his horse,
Three times bestrid him. Thrice I led him off,
Persuaded him from any further act;

But still, where danger was, still there I met him,
And, like rich hangings in a homely house,
So was his will in his old feeble body.

But, noble as he is, look where he comes.

Enter Salisbury, "wearing the white rose."

Now, by my sword, well hast thou fought today!

SALISBURY

By th' Mass, so did we all. I thank you, Richard.

God knows how long it is I have to live,

And it hath pleased Him that three times today

You have defended me from imminent death.

Well, lords, we have not got that which we have;

'Tis not enough our foes are this time fled,

Being opposites of such repairing nature.

YORK

I know our safety is to follow them;

For, as I hear, the King is fled to London

To call a present court of Parliament.

Let us pursue him ere the writs go forth.—

What says Lord Warwick? Shall we after them?

WARWICK

After them? Nay, before them, if we can.

Now, by my hand, lords, 'twas a glorious day.

Saint Albans battle won by famous York

Shall be eternized in all age to come.—

Sound drum and trumpets, and to London all;

And more such days as these to us befall!

"Flourish." They exit.