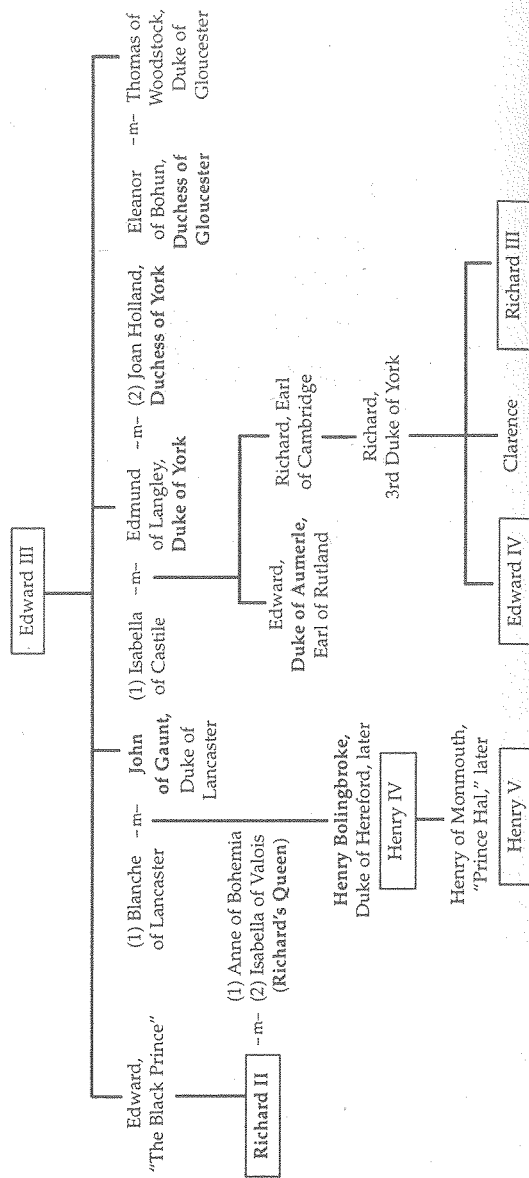


The Tragedy of
RICHARD II

The Line of Edward III

[Characters in *Richard II* appear in bold]



Characters in the Play

KING RICHARD II

Sir John BUSHY

Sir John BAGOT

Sir Henry GREEN

Richard's friends

Richard's QUEEN

Queen's LADIES-IN-WAITING

JOHN OF GAUNT, Duke of Lancaster

HENRY BOLINGBROKE, Duke of HEREFORD, son to John of Gaunt, and later King Henry IV

DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER, widow to Thomas, Duke of Gloucester

Edmund, DUKE OF YORK

DUCHESS OF YORK

DUKE OF AUMERLE, Earl of Rutland, son to Duke and Duchess of York

York's SERVINGMAN

Thomas MOWBRAY, Duke of Norfolk

LORD MARSHAL

FIRST HERALD

SECOND HERALD

officials in trial by combat

EARL OF SALISBURY

BISHOP OF CARLISLE

SIR STEPHEN SCROOP

LORD BERKELEY

ABBOT OF WESTMINSTER

WELSH CAPTAIN

supporters of King Richard

Henry Percy, EARL OF NORTHUM-
BERLAND

LORD ROSS

LORD WILLOUGHBY

HARRY PERCY, son of Northumber-
land, later known as "Hotspur"

*supporters of
Bolingbroke*

LORD FITZWATER

DUKE OF SURREY

ANOTHER LORD

GARDENER

Gardener's Servingmen

GROOM of Richard's stable

KEEPER of prison at Pomfret Castle

SIR PIERCE OF EXTON

Servingman to Exton

Lords, Attendants, Officers, Soldiers, Servingmen,
Exton's Men

The Tragedy of

RICHARD II

ACT 1

1.1 Henry Bolingbroke, King Richard's cousin, publicly accuses Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, of treason. Among Bolingbroke's charges is that Mowbray was responsible for the murder of Henry's and Richard's uncle the duke of Gloucester. When Richard and Gaunt, Bolingbroke's father, are unable to reconcile Bolingbroke and Mowbray, Richard orders them to trial by combat at Coventry.

1. **Lancaster:** i.e., duke of Lancaster
2. **band:** i.e., bond, duty, obligation
3. **Henry Hereford:** Henry Bolingbroke, son to the duke of Lancaster, was duke of Hereford.
4. **boist'rous:** violent, fierce; **late:** recent; **appeal:** charge, accusation
5. **our:** i.e., my (the royal "we," which Richard uses to refer to himself throughout most of this public scene in such words as *ourselves, we, and us*); **leisure:** i.e., convenience
8. **sounded:** i.e., questioned
9. **If:** i.e., whether; **appeal:** accuse; **ancient:** long established, longstanding
12. **As near as I could sift him:** i.e., as far as I could determine by examining him closely; **argument:** subject
13. **apparent:** visible, obvious

「ACT 1」

「Scene 1」

Enter King Richard, John of Gaunt, with other Nobles and Attendants.

KING RICHARD

Old John of Gaunt, time-honored Lancaster,
Hast thou, according to thy oath and band,
Brought hither Henry Hereford, thy bold son,
Here to make good the boist'rous late appeal,
Which then our leisure would not let us hear,
Against the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray?

5

GAUNT I have, my liege.

KING RICHARD

Tell me, moreover, hast thou sounded him
If he appeal the Duke on ancient malice,
Or worthily, as a good subject should,
On some known ground of treachery in him?

10

GAUNT

As near as I could sift him on that argument,
On some apparent danger seen in him
Aimed at your Highness, no inveterate malice.

KING RICHARD

Then call them to our presence.

15

「An Attendant exits.」

Face to face,

And frowning brow to brow, ourselves will hear

19. **High stomached:** haughty
 23. **still better:** i.e., continue to exceed; **other's:** i.e., the previous day's
 24. **hap:** fortune
 26. **but:** merely
 27. **by the cause you come:** i.e., from the nature of the cause for which you come
 28. **appeal:** accuse
 29. **object:** bring as a charge
 33. **Tend'ring:** holding dear, valuing, esteeming
 34. **misbegotten:** illegally conceived, illegitimate (here used figuratively)
 35. **appellant:** i.e., as the accuser
 37. **mark . . . well:** i.e., pay close attention to what I say
 38. **make good:** carry out, perform
 39. **divine:** immortal
 40. **miscreant:** villain (originally, a heretic)
 41. **Too good:** perhaps, too high-born
 44. **aggravate:** intensify, exacerbate; **note:** sign of disgrace (The word **note** comes from the Latin *nota*, one of whose meanings is "mark of ignominy, sign of official censure.")
 46. **ere:** before

The accuser and the accused freely speak.
 High stomached are they both and full of ire,
 In rage deaf as the sea, hasty as fire.

20

Enter Bolingbroke and Mowbray.

BOLINGBROKE

Many years of happy days befall
 My gracious sovereign, my most loving liege.

MOWBRAY

Each day still better other's happiness,
 Until the heavens, envying earth's good hap,
 Add an immortal title to your crown.

25

KING RICHARD

We thank you both. Yet one but flatters us,
 As well appeareth by the cause you come:
 Namely, to appeal each other of high treason.
 Cousin of Hereford, what dost thou object
 Against the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray?

30

BOLINGBROKE

First—heaven be the record to my speech!—
 In the devotion of a subject's love,
 Tend'ring the precious safety of my prince,
 And free from other misbegotten hate,
 Come I appellant to this princely presence.—
 Now, Thomas Mowbray, do I turn to thee;
 And mark my greeting well, for what I speak
 My body shall make good upon this earth
 Or my divine soul answer it in heaven.
 Thou art a traitor and a miscreant,
 Too good to be so, and too bad to live,
 Since the more fair and crystal is the sky,
 The uglier seem the clouds that in it fly.
 Once more, the more to aggravate the note,
 With a foul traitor's name stuff I thy throat,
 And wish, so please my sovereign, ere I move,

35

40

45

What my tongue speaks, my right-drawn sword may prove.

MOWBRAY

Let not my cold words here accuse my zeal.
'Tis not the trial of a woman's war, 50

The bitter clamor of two eager tongues,
Can arbitrate this cause betwixt us twain.
The blood is hot that must be cooled for this.
Yet can I not of such tame patience boast
As to be hushed and naught at all to say. 55

First, the fair reverence of your Highness curbs me
From giving reins and spurs to my free speech,
Which else would post until it had returned
These terms of treason doubled down his throat.
Setting aside his high blood's royalty, 60

And let him be no kinsman to my liege,
I do defy him, and I spit at him,
Call him a slanderous coward and a villain,
Which to maintain I would allow him odds
And meet him, were I tied to run afoot 65

Even to the frozen ridges of the Alps
Or any other ground inhabitable
Wherever Englishman durst set his foot.
Meantime, let this defend my loyalty:
By all my hopes, most falsely doth he lie. 70

BOLINGBROKE, *["throwing down a gage"]*
Pale trembling coward, there I throw my gage,
Disclaiming here the kindred of the King,
And lay aside my high blood's royalty,
Which fear, not reverence, makes thee to except. 75

If guilty dread have left thee so much strength
As to take up mine honor's pawn, then stoop.
By that and all the rites of knighthood else
Will I make good against thee, arm to arm,
What I have spoke or thou canst worse devise.

47. **right-drawn:** i.e., drawn in a just cause

51. **eager:** sharp; acid (from the French *aigre*)

52. **Can:** i.e., that can; **betwixt us twain:** between us two

58. **post:** ride quickly, as in riding post-horses (The words **curbs**, **reins**, and **spurs**, like the word **post**, compare **speech** to horseback riding.)

59. **These terms of treason:** i.e., such **terms** as **traitor** and **miscreant** (line 40)

60. **high:** i.e., noble

61. **let him be:** i.e., acting as if he were

65. **tied:** obliged, bound

67. **inhabitable:** not habitable, unfit for human habitation

68. **durst:** i.e., dares

69. **this:** i.e., the oath that he swears; or, perhaps, his sword (the hilt of which he may clasp)

70. **hopes:** i.e., hopes of salvation

71. **gage:** pledge (By throwing down a glove or hood or some other object, the person pledged himself to meet his adversary in combat. See pages 26 and 154.)

72. **kindred:** kinship

74. **except:** exclude (See line 60.)

76. **pawn:** i.e., gage

77. **all . . . else:** i.e., all the other rites of knighthood

78. **make good:** See line 38.

80–81. **by that sword . . . shoulder:** When a man was knighted, the king touched his shoulder with a sword.

82. **answer thee:** i.e., meet you in combat

84. **light:** alight (from my horse)

85. **unjustly:** i.e., in an unjust cause

87. **inherit us:** i.e., make me possess

88. **ill:** evil, badness

89. **Look what:** whatever

90. **nobles:** gold coins worth about seven shillings

91. **lendings:** money advanced to soldiers when the regular pay cannot be given

92. **lewd employments:** base uses

95. **Or:** i.e., either

98. **Complotted:** conspired, plotted secretly

99. **head:** i.e., fountainhead, source

101–2. **will maintain . . . good:** perhaps, will prove by taking his life

103. **Duke of Gloucester:** brother to John of Gaunt and uncle to Richard and to Bolingbroke, killed in 1397, the year before the action reflected in this scene of the play (See longer note, page 223.)

104. **Suggest:** prompt

105. **consequently:** subsequently

108–10. **blood . . . cries . . . for justice:** In Genesis 4.10–11, “the voice of [the] blood” of Cain’s brother, the murdered Abel, “cryeth unto [the Lord] out of the ground,” and the earth is said to have “opened her mouth to receive [Cain’s] brother’s blood.” **sacrificing Abel:** Cain kills his brother, Abel, because Abel’s sacrificial offering of “the firstlings of his sheep” was pleasing to God while Cain’s offering of “the fruit of the ground” was not.

(continued)

MOWBRAY, ¹*picking up the gage*

I take it up, and by that sword I swear
Which gently laid my knighthood on my shoulder,
I’ll answer thee in any fair degree
Or chivalrous design of knightly trial;
And when I mount, alive may I not light
If I be traitor or unjustly fight. 80 85

KING RICHARD

What doth our cousin lay to Mowbray’s charge?
It must be great that can inherit us
So much as of a thought of ill in him.

BOLINGBROKE

Look what I speak, my life shall prove it true:
That Mowbray hath received eight thousand nobles
In name of lendings for your Highness’ soldiers,
The which he hath detained for lewd employments,
Like a false traitor and injurious villain.
Besides I say, and will in battle prove,
Or here or elsewhere to the furthest verge
That ever was surveyed by English eye,
That all the treasons for these eighteen years
Complotted and contrived in this land
Fetch from false Mowbray their first head and
spring. 90 95 100

Further I say, and further will maintain
Upon his bad life to make all this good,
That he did plot the Duke of Gloucester’s death,
Suggest his soon-believing adversaries,
And consequently, like a traitor coward,
Sluiced out his innocent soul through streams of
blood, 105

Which blood, like sacrificing Abel’s, cries
Even from the tongueless caverns of the earth
To me for justice and rough chastisement.
And, by the glorious worth of my descent,
This arm shall do it, or this life be spent. 110

110. **rough:** harsh

111. **descent:** i.e., hereditary lineage, ancestry

113. **pitch:** i.e., height (The image is from falconry, where the term **pitch** refers to the highest point of the falcon's flight.)

117. **slander of his blood:** i.e., disgrace to his family line (namely, Bolingbroke, King Richard's cousin)

122. **my scepter's awe:** i.e., the power of my scepter to inspire dread or fear

124. **nothing privilege him:** i.e., give him no privilege at all; **partialize:** i.e., make partial, bias

128-29. **as low . . . thou liest:** The seriousness of a lie was measured by the point in the body from which the lie supposedly emanated. One could be accused of lying in one's teeth, in one's throat, or, as here, **as low as to [one's] heart.**

130. **Three parts of that receipt:** i.e., three-quarters of the money I received

132. **by consent:** i.e., according to a prior agreement with the king

133. **For that:** because

134. **Upon . . . account:** i.e., for the balance of a heavy debt

136. **For:** i.e., as for

144. **exactly:** expressly

KING RICHARD

How high a pitch his resolution soars!—

Thomas of Norfolk, what sayst thou to this?

MOWBRAY

O, let my sovereign turn away his face
And bid his ears a little while be deaf,
Till I have told this slander of his blood
How God and good men hate so foul a liar.

115

KING RICHARD

Mowbray, impartial are our eyes and ears.
Were he my brother, nay, my kingdom's heir,
As he is but my father's brother's son,
Now by 'my' scepter's awe I make a vow:
Such neighbor nearness to our sacred blood
Should nothing privilege him nor partialize
The unstooping firmness of my upright soul.
He is our subject, Mowbray; so art thou.
Free speech and fearless I to thee allow.

120

125

MOWBRAY

Then, Bolingbroke, as low as to thy heart,
Through the false passage of thy throat, thou liest.
Three parts of that receipt I had for Calais
Disbursed I duly to his Highness' soldiers;
The other part reserved I by consent,
For that my sovereign liege was in my debt
Upon remainder of a dear account
Since last I went to France to fetch his queen.
Now swallow down that lie. For Gloucester's death,
I slew him not, but to my own disgrace
Neglected my sworn duty in that case.—
For you, my noble Lord of Lancaster,
The honorable father to my foe,
Once did I lay an ambush for your life,
A trespass that doth vex my grievèd soul.
But ere I last received the sacrament,
I did confess it, and exactly begged

130

135

140

146. **my fault:** i.e., what I did wrong; **appealed:** charged against me

149. **Which in myself I:** i.e., the truth of which statement I myself

150. **interchangeably:** in turn, reciprocally

153. **chambered:** enclosed

154. **In . . . whereof:** i.e., in order to hasten my self-justification

157–61. **Let's purge . . . bleed:** i.e., let's cure this anger without bloodshed (Richard's language plays with the idea of bloodletting as a medical cure, or **purge**, for **choler**—biliousness, anger, or other signs of an excess of bile. To **bleed** was to have blood drawn from the body to remove such excess fluid.)

168. **bids:** commands, enjoins; **bid:** request, beg

169. **we bid:** I command; **boot:** remedy

Henry Duke of Hereford accused Thomas Mowbray Duke of Norfolk of certain words by him spoken, as they rode between London and Brinsford, tending unto the King's dishonor. Thomas Duke of Norfolk denied to have spoken any such word, but Henry affirming his accusation, the King granted the Combat to be performed at Coventry the 7. of September 1398. *Anno Rich. 2.*

From [Sir William Segar.] *The booke of honor and armes . . .* (1590).

Your Grace's pardon, and I hope I had it.— 145

This is my fault. As for the rest appealed,
It issues from the rancor of a villain,
A recreant, and most degenerate traitor,
Which in myself I boldly will defend,
And interchangeably hurl down my gage 150
Upon this overweening traitor's foot,

He throws down a gage.

To prove myself a loyal gentleman,
Even in the best blood chambered in his bosom;
In haste whereof most heartily I pray
Your Highness to assign our trial day. 155

Bolingbroke picks up the gage.

KING RICHARD

Wrath-kindled gentlemen, be ruled by me.
Let's purge this choler without letting blood.
This we prescribe, though no physician.
Deep malice makes too deep incision.
Forget, forgive; conclude and be agreed. 160
Our doctors say this is no month to bleed.—
Good uncle, let this end where it begun;
We'll calm the Duke of Norfolk, you your son.

GAUNT

To be a make-peace shall become my age.—
Throw down, my son, the Duke of Norfolk's gage. 165

KING RICHARD

And, Norfolk, throw down his.

GAUNT

When, Harry, when?

Obedience bids I should not bid again.

KING RICHARD

Norfolk, throw down, we bid; there is no boot.

MOWBRAY

Myself I throw, dread sovereign, at thy foot. 170

Mowbray kneels.

My life thou shalt command, but not my shame.

The one my duty owes, but my fair name,

173. **that lives:** i.e., my fair name will live

175. **impeached:** (1) disparaged; (2) accused of treason; **baffled:** subjected to public disgrace

177. **The which:** i.e., the wound caused by **slander's venomous spear**

180. **Lions make leopards tame:** an allusion to the link between the king and the lion, "king of the beasts," as well as to Richard's and Mowbray's heraldic emblems.

181. **not change his spots:** See Jeremiah 13.23: "Can the blacke More change his skin? or the leopard his spottes?" (Geneva Bible, 1560)

183. **mortal times:** i.e., our time on this earth

185. **gilded loam or painted clay:** The reference here is to the idea that humans were made from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2.7, 3.19). Without **spotless reputation**, according to Mowbray, we are nothing but that dust (in the form of **loam** or **clay**) decorated with gold or with paint.

190. **try:** prove

192. **throw up your gage:** i.e., give me Mowbray's gage, which you picked up (The phrasing suggests that Bolingbroke is to throw the gage up to Richard, sitting above him.)

194. **crestfallen:** humbled, abashed

195. **impeach my height:** i.e., disgrace my noble standing

196. **out-dared:** cowed, overcome by daring

197. **such feeble wrong:** perhaps, a wrong that would brand me a weakling

198. **sound so base a parle:** i.e., ask for such an ignominious truce (The metaphor is from the trumpet sound for a parley between opposing armies.)

(continued)

Despite of death that lives upon my grave,
To dark dishonor's use thou shalt not have.
I am disgraced, impeached, and baffled here, 175
Pierced to the soul with slander's venomous spear,
The which no balm can cure but his heart-blood
Which breathed this poison.

KING RICHARD Rage must be withstood.

Give me his gage. Lions make leopards tame. 180

MOWBRAY, ¹standing

Yea, but not change his spots. Take but my shame
And I resign my gage. My dear dear lord,
The purest treasure mortal times afford
Is spotless reputation; that away,
Men are but gilded loam or painted clay. 185
A jewel in a ten-times-barred-up chest
Is a bold spirit in a loyal breast.
Mine honor is my life; both grow in one.
Take honor from me, and my life is done.
Then, dear my liege, mine honor let me try. 190
In that I live, and for that will I die.

KING RICHARD, ¹to Bolingbroke

Cousin, throw up your gage. Do you begin.

BOLINGBROKE

O, God defend my soul from such deep sin!
Shall I seem crestfallen in my father's sight?
Or with pale beggar-fear impeach my height 195
Before this out-dared dastard? Ere my tongue
Shall wound my honor with such feeble wrong,
Or sound so base a ¹parle, my teeth shall tear
The slavish motive of recanting fear
And spit it bleeding in his high disgrace, 200
Where shame doth harbor, even in Mowbray's face.

KING RICHARD

We were not born to sue, but to command,
Which, since we cannot do, to make you friends,
Be ready, as your lives shall answer it,

199. **motive:** instrument, organ (Bolingbroke says that he will bite out his own tongue rather than use it to take back his accusation.)

200. **in his high disgrace:** i.e., in the tongue's terrible disgrace (because it will be made to **harbor** in **Mowbray's face**)

201. **face:** See longer note, pages 223–24.

202. **sue:** woo, beseech

205. **Coventry:** a town northwest of London; **Saint Lambert's day:** i.e., September 17

207. **settled:** fixed, unchanging

208. **atone:** reconcile

209. **Justice . . . chivalry:** It was believed that, in trial by combat, God (or, here, **Justice**) rewards the innocent party with victory. **chivalry:** warlike distinction or glory

211. **home alarms:** i.e., domestic broils (in contrast to foreign wars)

1.2 The widow of the duke of Gloucester begs John of Gaunt to avenge the murder of her husband. Gaunt says that the king was responsible for Gloucester's murder and that, since the king is God's deputy, only God can take vengeance.

1. **the part . . . blood:** i.e., my kinship with Thomas of **Woodstock**, duke of Gloucester

2. **exclaims:** outcries

3. **stir:** i.e., take action

4. **correction:** punishment

4–5. **those hands . . . fault:** i.e., the hands of the person who committed the crime (The implication

(continued)

20

At Coventry upon Saint Lambert's day. 205
There shall your swords and lances arbitrate
The swelling difference of your settled hate.
Since we cannot atone you, we shall see
Justice design the victor's chivalry.—
Lord Marshal, command our officers-at-arms 210
Be ready to direct these home alarms.

「They」 exit.

「Scene 2」

Enter John of Gaunt with the Duchess of Gloucester.

GAUNT

Alas, the part I had in Woodstock's blood
Doth more solicit me than your exclams
To stir against the butchers of his life.
But since correction lieth in those hands
Which made the fault that we cannot correct, 5
Put we our quarrel to the will of heaven,
Who, when they see the hours ripe on earth,
Will rain hot vengeance on offenders' heads.

DUCHESS

Finds brotherhood in thee no sharper spur?
Hath love in thy old blood no living fire? 10
Edward's seven sons, whereof thyself art one,
Were as seven vials of his sacred blood,
Or seven fair branches springing from one root.
Some of those seven are dried by nature's course,
Some of those branches by the Destinies cut. 15
But Thomas, my dear lord, my life, my Gloucester,
One vial full of Edward's sacred blood,
One flourishing branch of his most royal root,
Is cracked, and all the precious liquor spilt,
Is hacked down, and his summer leaves all faded, 20
By envy's hand and murder's bloody ax.

here—made as an accusation in lines 39–41—is that the king was responsible for Gloucester's murder. See longer note to 1.1.103, page 223.)

6. **quarrel**: cause

7. **they**: i.e., the heavens

11. **Edward's**: i.e., King Edward III's

14. **are . . . course**: i.e., died a natural death

15. **by . . . cut**: i.e., were cut off early in life

Destinies: the goddesses who, in Greek mythology, wove one's life and brought about one's death by cutting the thread of one's life (See page 52.)

19. **liquor**: fluid (here, the **sacred blood** he had inherited from Edward III)

21. **envy's**: hatred's; malice's

24. **metal**: substance of which a person is made; **self**: i.e., selfsame, same

27–28. **consent . . . to**: acquiesce . . . in

30. **model**: image, perfect representation

31. **patience**: i.e., the virtue of bearing suffering quietly while waiting for something to happen (as Gaunt had described himself in lines 6–8)

32. **suffring**: allowing, permitting

33. **naked**: plain, obvious, clear

35. **mean men**: men of low social status

39. **quarrel**: cause; **for**: i.e., as for; **God's substitute**: i.e., the king (who was thought to rule on earth as God's deputy)

43. **minister**: agent

44. **complain myself**: utter my lamentations

48. **cousin**: kinsman; **fell**: cruel, fierce

51. **if misfortune miss the first career**: i.e., if the first charge or encounter fails to kill Mowbray
misfortune: i.e., misfortune to Mowbray

Ah, Gaunt, his blood was thine! That bed, that womb,

That metal, that self mold that fashioned thee
Made him a man; and though thou livest and breathest,

25

Yet art thou slain in him. Thou dost consent
In some large measure to thy father's death
In that thou seest thy wretched brother die,
Who was the model of thy father's life.

30

Call it not patience, Gaunt. It is despair.
In suffring thus thy brother to be slaughtered,
Thou showest the naked pathway to thy life,
Teaching stern murder how to butcher thee.
That which in mean men we entitle patience
Is pale, cold cowardice in noble breasts.
What shall I say? To safeguard thine own life,
The best way is to venge my Gloucester's death.

35

GAUNT

God's is the quarrel; for God's substitute,
His deputy anointed in His sight,
Hath caused his death, the which if wrongfully
Let heaven revenge, for I may never lift
An angry arm against His minister.

40

DUCHESS

Where, then, alas, may I complain myself?

GAUNT

To God, the widow's champion and defense.

45

DUCHESS

Why then I will. Farewell, old Gaunt.
Thou goest to Coventry, there to behold
Our cousin Hereford and fell Mowbray fight.
O, 'sit' my husband's wrongs on Hereford's spear,
That it may enter butcher Mowbray's breast!
Or if misfortune miss the first career,
Be Mowbray's sins so heavy in his bosom

50

54. **lists:** arena set up for tournaments
 55. **caitiff recreant:** (1) wretched captive; (2) cowardly wretch; (3) captured apostate
 56. **sometime:** former
 60–61. **Grief . . . weight:** i.e., grief is like a ball that keeps rebounding not because it is hollow but because it is so heavy
 64. **Commend me:** offer my greetings
 68. **Plashy:** Gloucester's estate in Essex
 70. **unfurnished walls:** bare walls from which the tapestries and hangings have been removed
 71. **offices:** domestic areas where servants did their work

1.3 Bolingbroke and Mowbray prepare to fight to the death. King Richard suddenly calls off the fight and banishes Mowbray for life and Bolingbroke for many years.

1. **Lord Aumerle:** Holinshed records that Aumerle was "that day High Constable of England." He and the lord marshal were in charge of the trial by combat.

2. **at all points:** at every point, in every respect

That they may break his foaming courser's back
 And throw the rider headlong in the lists,
 A caitiff recreant to my cousin Hereford!
 Farewell, old Gaunt. Thy sometime brother's wife
 With her companion, grief, must end her life.

55

GAUNT

Sister, farewell. I must to Coventry.
 As much good stay with thee as go with me.

DUCHESS

Yet one word more. Grief boundeth where 'it' falls,
 Not with the empty hollowness, but weight.

60

I take my leave before I have begun,
 For sorrow ends not when it seemeth done.
 Commend me to thy brother, Edmund York.

Lo, this is all. Nay, yet depart not so!
 Though this be all, do not so quickly go;

65

I shall remember more. Bid him—ah, what?—
 With all good speed at Plashy visit me.

Alack, and what shall good old York there see
 But empty lodgings and unfurnished walls,
 Unpeopled offices, untrodden stones?

70

And what hear there for welcome but my groans?
 Therefore commend me; let him not come there
 To seek out sorrow that dwells everywhere.

Desolate, desolate, will I hence and die.

75

The last leave of thee takes my weeping eye.

They exit.

「Scene 3」

Enter Lord Marshal and the Duke 「of」 Aumerle.

MARSHAL

My Lord Aumerle, is Harry Hereford armed?

AUMERLE

Yea, at all points, and longs to enter in.

3. **sprightly:** full of spirit
4. **Stays but:** waits only for
5. **champions:** combatants
7. **demand of:** ask
9. **orderly:** duly, in accordance with the rules
10. **swear him in:** i.e., have him swear to
13. **quarrel:** cause
18. **God defend:** i.e., God forbid
20. **my succeeding issue:** i.e., my offspring
21. **appeals:** accuses



A knight taking up a gage. (1.1.76)
From Olaus Magnus, *Historia de gentibus septentrionalibus* . . . (1555).

MARSHAL

The Duke of Norfolk, sprightly and bold,
Stays but the summons of the appellant's trumpet.

AUMERLE

Why then, the champions are prepared, and stay 5
For nothing but his Majesty's approach.

*The trumpets sound and the King enters with his Nobles
"and Officers;" when they are set, enter "Mowbray," the
Duke of Norfolk in arms, defendant, "with a Herald."*

KING RICHARD

Marshal, demand of yonder champion
The cause of his arrival here in arms,
Ask him his name, and orderly proceed
To swear him in the justice of his cause. 10

MARSHAL, "to Mowbray"

In God's name and the King's, say who thou art
And why thou comest thus knightly clad in arms,
Against what man thou com'st, and what thy quarrel.
Speak truly on thy knighthood and thy oath,
As so defend thee heaven and thy valor. 15

MOWBRAY

My name is Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk,
Who hither come engaged by my oath—
Which God defend a knight should violate!—
Both to defend my loyalty and truth
To God, my king, and my succeeding issue, 20
Against the Duke of Hereford that appeals me,
And by the grace of God and this mine arm
To prove him, in defending of myself,
A traitor to my God, my king, and me;
And as I truly fight, defend me heaven. 25

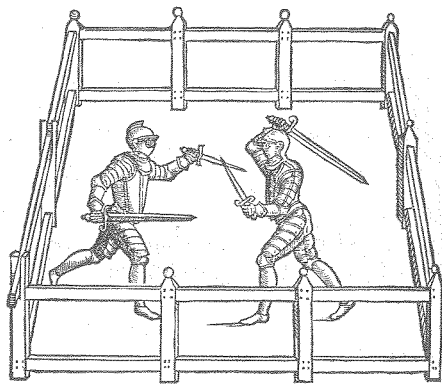
*The trumpets sound. Enter "Bolingbroke," Duke of
Hereford, appellant, in armor, "with a Herald."*

KING RICHARD Marshal, ask yonder knight in arms

28. **plated . . . war:** i.e., dressed in armor
 30. **Depose him in:** examine him on oath about
 32. **lists:** arena set up for trials by combat (Holins-
 hed reports that "the king caused a sumptuous
 scaffold or theater and royal lists . . . to be erected
 and prepared.")

38. **In lists:** in the field of combat
 43. **touch the lists:** Holinsched reports a proclama-
 tion forbidding any man to "attempt to approach or
 touch any part of the lists upon pain of death."

45. **these fair designs:** i.e., the orderly conduct of
 the tournament (See 1.1.82-83.)



Combat in a list. (1.3.38)

From [Sir William Segar,] *The booke of honor and
 armes . . .* (1590).

Both who he is and why he cometh hither
 Thus plated in habiliments of war,
 And formally, according to our law,
 Depose him in the justice of his cause.

30

MARSHAL, *to Bolingbroke*¹

What is thy name? And wherefore com'st thou hither,
 Before King Richard in his royal lists?
 Against whom comest thou? And what's thy quarrel?
 Speak like a true knight, so defend thee heaven.

BOLINGBROKE

Harry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby
 Am I, who ready here do stand in arms
 To prove, by God's grace and my body's valor,
 In lists, on Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk,
 That he is a traitor foul and dangerous
 To God of heaven, King Richard, and to me.
 And as I truly fight, defend me heaven.

35

40

MARSHAL

On pain of death, no person be so bold
 Or daring-hardy as to touch the lists,
 Except the Marshal and such officers
 Appointed to direct these fair designs.

45

BOLINGBROKE

Lord Marshal, let me kiss my sovereign's hand
 And bow my knee before his Majesty;
 For Mowbray and myself are like two men
 That vow a long and weary pilgrimage.
 Then let us take a ceremonious leave
 And loving farewell of our several friends.

50

MARSHAL, *to King Richard*¹

The appellant in all duty greets your Highness
 And craves to kiss your hand and take his leave.

KING RICHARD, *coming down*¹

We will descend and fold him in our arms.

*He embraces Bolingbroke.*¹

Cousin of Hereford, as thy cause is right,

55

57. **my blood . . . shed:** Richard plays with the figurative sense of **my blood** as "my kinsman" and the literal **blood** that Bolingbroke might shed.

58. **not revenge thee:** perhaps because Bolingbroke's death in this trial by combat would signal his guiltiness

59. **profane a tear:** i.e., put even one tear to an unworthy use

65. **have to do with:** have dealings or business with

66. **lusty:** lively, healthy; **cheerly:** heartily

67–68. **at English feasts . . . sweet:** The reference is to the custom, associated at the time with England, of ending a banquet with sweets and fruits. **regreet:** salute, greet **daintiest:** finest, most pleasing to the palate

69. **the earthly author of my blood:** i.e., my father

70. **in me regenerate:** i.e., reborn in me

73. **proof:** impenetrability, invulnerability

75. **waxen coat:** i.e., suit of armor as penetrable as wax

77. **lusty havior:** vigorous bearing or behavior

81. **amazing thunder:** i.e., terrifying, stupefying thunderbolts or thunderstones (thought to be emitted during thunder and lightning storms); **casque:** helmet (See page 32.)

84. **Mine . . . thrive:** i.e., may my innocence and Saint George bring me success (**Saint George** was the patron saint of England. See page xvii.)

So be thy fortune in this royal fight.
Farewell, my blood—which, if today thou shed,
Lament we may, but not revenge thee dead.

BOLINGBROKE

O, let no noble eye profane a tear
For me if I be gored with Mowbray's spear. 60
As confident as is the falcon's flight
Against a bird do I with Mowbray fight.
My loving lord, I take my leave of you.—
Of you, my noble cousin, Lord Aumerle;
Not sick, although I have to do with death, 65
But lusty, young, and cheerly drawing breath.—
Lo, as at English feasts, so I regret
The daintiest last, to make the end most sweet.
O, thou the earthly author of my blood,
Whose youthful spirit in me regenerate 70
Doth with a twofold vigor lift me up
To reach at victory above my head,
Add proof unto mine armor with thy prayers,
And with thy blessings steel my lance's point
That it may enter Mowbray's waxen coat 75
And furbish new the name of John o' Gaunt,
Even in the lusty havior of his son.

GAUNT

God in thy good cause make thee prosperous.
Be swift like lightning in the execution,
And let thy blows, doubly redoubled, 80
Fall like amazing thunder on the casque
Of thy adverse pernicious enemy.
Rouse up thy youthful blood, be valiant, and live.

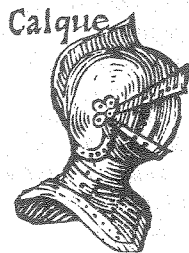
BOLINGBROKE

Mine innocence and Saint George to thrive!

MOWBRAY

However God or fortune cast my lot, 85
There lives or dies, true to King Richard's throne,
A loyal, just, and upright gentleman.

90. **golden . . . enfranchisement:** i.e., freedom
 92. **feast:** i.e., fete, festivity
 94. **Take . . . years:** i.e., accept my wish that you may enjoy many happy years
 95. **to jest:** i.e., to a jest (an entertainment)
 96. **Truth hath a quiet breast:** Proverbial: "Truth fears no trial."
 97. **Securely:** confidently
 98. **couchèd:** lodged; or, expressed
 106. **On . . . recreant:** i.e., the penalty to be suffered, should Bolingbroke fail to **prove the Duke of Norfolk . . . A traitor**, is that he will himself be **found false and recreant**
 112. **approve:** demonstrate, prove



A casque. (1.3.81)
 From Louis de Gaya, *Traité des armes, des machines de guerre . . .* (1678).

Never did captive with a freer heart
 Cast off his chains of bondage and embrace
 His golden uncontrolled enfranchisement 90
 More than my dancing soul doth celebrate
 This feast of battle with mine adversary.
 Most mighty liege, and my companion peers,
 Take from my mouth the wish of happy years.
 As gentle and as jocund as to jest 95
 Go I to fight. Truth hath a quiet breast.

KING RICHARD

Farewell, my lord. Securely I espy
 Virtue with valor couchèd in thine eye.—
 Order the trial, marshal, and begin.

MARSHAL

Harry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby, 100
 Receive thy lance; and God defend the right.
 [He presents a lance to Bolingbroke.]

BOLINGBROKE

Strong as a tower in hope, I cry "Amen!"

MARSHAL, [to an Officer]

Go bear this lance to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.
 [An Officer presents a lance to Mowbray.]

[FIRST] HERALD

Harry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby 105
 Stands here for God, his sovereign, and himself,
 On pain to be found false and recreant,
 To prove the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray,
 A traitor to his God, his king, and him,
 And dares him to set forward to the fight.

SECOND HERALD

Here standeth Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, 110
 On pain to be found false and recreant,
 Both to defend himself and to approve
 Henry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby
 To God, his sovereign, and to him disloyal,

116. **Attending:** awaiting, listening for
 117 SD. **warder:** staff or truncheon carried as a symbol of office and used here to signal the end of the combat

118. **Stay:** stop, wait

119. **lay by:** put aside

123. **While:** until; **we return:** I tell

125. **list:** i.e., listen to, hear

126. **For that:** i.e., in order that

128. **for:** because; **aspect:** pronounced **aspect**

132. **set on you:** i.e., set you on, incited you

135. **Which:** perhaps, which civil disturbance, or which **ambitious thoughts** and **envy** (Grammatically, **Which** refers to the word **peace** as its antecedent, but at the same time it serves as the subject of the clause "**Which . . . Might . . . fright fair peace.**")

142. **upon pain of life:** i.e., your **life** will be the penalty if you disobey

144. **regreet:** salute or greet again

145. **stranger:** foreign

Courageously and with a free desire 115
 Attending but the signal to begin.

MARSHAL

Sound, trumpets, and set forward, combatants.

«Trumpets sound. Richard throws down his warder.»

Stay! The King hath thrown his warder down.

KING RICHARD

Let them lay by their helmets and their spears,

And both return back to their chairs again. 120

«To his council.» Withdraw with us, and let the trumpets sound

While we return these dukes what we decree.

«Trumpets sound while Richard consults with Gaunt and other Nobles.»

«To Bolingbroke and Mowbray.» Draw near,

And list what with our council we have done. 125

For that our kingdom's earth should not be soiled

With that dear blood which it hath fostered;

And for our eyes do hate the dire aspect

Of civil wounds plowed up with neighbor's sword;

And for we think the eagle-winged pride 130

Of sky-aspiring and ambitious thoughts,

With rival-hating envy, set on you

To wake our peace, which in our country's cradle

Draws the sweet infant breath of gentle sleep,

Which, so roused up with boist'rous untuned drums; 135

With harsh resounding trumpets' dreadful bray,

And grating shock of wrathful iron arms,

Might from our quiet confines fright fair peace

And make us wade even in our kindred's blood: 140

Therefore we banish you our territories.

You, cousin Hereford, upon pain of life,

Till twice five summers have enriched our fields,

Shall not regret our fair dominions,

But tread the stranger paths of banishment. 145

150. **heavier doom:** graver sentence
 152. **determinate:** put an end to
 153. **dateless:** limitless; **limit:** prescribed time;
dear: dire
 158. **dearer:** more precious; **merit:** reward;
maim: wound, injury
 165. **cunning:** ingenious, skillfully contrived
 166. **open:** i.e., out of its case
 166-67. **into his hands / That:** i.e., into the hands
 of someone who
 169. **Doubly portcullised:** i.e., as if put behind a
 double portcullis or grate (See page 44.)
 171. **attend on:** wait upon, serve as attendant to
 172. **nurse:** i.e., nursemaid, one of whose tasks
 would have been to help a young child to speak
 177. **boots:** benefits, profits; **compassionate:** self-
 pitying; or, appealing for pity
 178. **plaining:** complaining, lamenting

BOLINGBROKE

Your will be done. This must my comfort be:
 That sun that warms you here shall shine on me,
 And those his golden beams to you here lent
 Shall point on me and gild my banishment.

KING RICHARD

Norfolk, for thee remains a heavier doom, 150
 Which I with some unwillingness pronounce:
 The sly, slow hours shall not determinate
 The dateless limit of thy dear exile.
 The hopeless word of "never to return"
 Breathe I against thee, upon pain of life. 155

MOWBRAY

A heavy sentence, my most sovereign liege,
 And all unlooked-for from your Highness' mouth.
 A dearer merit, not so deep a maim
 As to be cast forth in the common air,
 Have I deserved at your Highness' hands. 160
 The language I have learnt these forty years,
 My native English, now I must forgo;
 And now my tongue's use is to me no more
 Than an unstringed viol or a harp,
 Or like a cunning instrument cased up, 165
 Or, being open, put into his hands
 That knows no touch to tune the harmony.
 Within my mouth you have enjailed my tongue,
 Doubly portcullised with my teeth and lips,
 And dull unfeeling barren ignorance 170
 Is made my jailor to attend on me.
 I am too old to fawn upon a nurse,
 Too far in years to be a pupil now.
 What is thy sentence 'then' but speechless death,
 Which robs my tongue from breathing native 175
 breath?

KING RICHARD

It boots thee not to be compassionate.
 After our sentence plaining comes too late.

179. **me:** i.e., myself
 180. **shades:** darkness
 185. **therein:** i.e., in the duty that you owe
 190. **regreet:** greet, salute
 192. **by advised purpose:** i.e., deliberately
 193. **complot:** plot together, conspire; ill: evil
 197. **so far as to mine enemy:** perhaps an indication that the words to follow, though addressed directly to Mowbray, are not to be mistaken for a friendly overture (See longer note, page 224.)
 198. **permitted us:** i.e., allowed us to fight to the death
 200. **Banished:** i.e., banished from; **sepulcher:** pronounced **sepulcher**
 204. **clogging:** Clogs were weights fastened to the legs of prisoners. (See page 218.)
 206. **My name be:** i.e., may my name be

MOWBRAY

Then thus I turn me from my country's light,
 To dwell in solemn shades of endless night. 180
He begins to exit.

KING RICHARD

Return again, and take an oath with thee.
To Mowbray and Bolingbroke. Lay on our royal
 sword your banished hands.
*They place their right hands on the hilts of
 Richard's sword.*

Swear by the duty that you owe to God—
 Our part therein we banish with yourselves— 185
 To keep the oath that we administer:
 You never shall, so help you truth and God,
 Embrace each other's love in banishment,
 Nor never look upon each other's face,
 Nor never write, regreet, nor reconcile 190
 This luring tempest of your homebred hate,
 Nor never by advised purpose meet
 To plot, contrive, or complot any ill
 'Gainst us, our state, our subjects, or our land. 195

BOLINGBROKE I swear.

MOWBRAY And I, to keep all this.

They step back.

BOLINGBROKE

Norfolk, so far as to mine enemy:
 By this time, had the King permitted us,
 One of our souls had wandered in the air,
 Banished this frail sepulcher of our flesh, 200
 As now our flesh is banished from this land.
 Confess thy treasons ere thou fly the realm.
 Since thou hast far to go, bear not along
 The clogging burden of a guilty soul.

MOWBRAY

No, Bolingbroke; if ever I were traitor, 205
 My name be blotted from the book of life,

210. **stray:** i.e., go the wrong way
 212. **glasses:** looking glasses, mirrors
 213. **aspect:** pronounced **aspèct**
 214. **banished years:** i.e., years of banishment
 219. **wanton:** luxuriant
 221. **in regard of:** i.e., because of your regard for
 227-29. **lamp, light, taper:** Human life is often (as in the Bible) compared to candles and lamps. Gaunt imagines his own death as the extinguishing of these sources of light and heat.
 228. **extinct:** extinguished
 235. **furrow:** Here, old age is imaged in the wrinkled brow, pictured as a field that time has plowed into furrows.
 236. **his pilgrimage:** i.e., its progress (A **pilgrim-age** was a journey to a sacred place, but the term was often used to describe the course of a human life from youth to old age and death.)

And I from heaven banished as from hence.
 But what thou art, God, thou, and I do know,
 And all too soon, I fear, the King shall rue.—
 Farewell, my liege. Now no way can I stray; 210
 Save back to England, all the world's my way.

He exits.

KING RICHARD, ¹*to Gaunt*¹

Uncle, even in the glasses of thine eyes
 I see thy grievèd heart. Thy sad aspect
 Hath from the number of his banished years
 Plucked four away. ¹*To Bolingbroke.*¹ Six frozen 215
 winters spent,
 Return with welcome home from banishment.

BOLINGBROKE

How long a time lies in one little word!
 Four lagging winters and four wanton springs
 End in a word; such is the breath of kings. 220

GAUNT

I thank my liege that in regard of me
 He shortens four years of my son's exile.
 But little vantage shall I reap thereby;
 For, ere the six years that he hath to spend
 Can change their moons and bring their times 225
 about,
 My oil-dried lamp and time-bewasted light
 Shall be extinct with age and endless ¹*night;*¹
 My inch of taper will be burnt and done,
 And blindfold death not let me see my son. 230

KING RICHARD

Why, uncle, thou hast many years to live.

GAUNT

But not a minute, king, that thou canst give.
 Shorten my days thou canst with sullen sorrow,
 And pluck nights from me, but not lend a morrow.
 Thou canst help time to furrow me with age, 235
 But stop no wrinkle in his pilgrimage.

237. **current:** genuine, authentic (a term applied to money that is valid—as opposed to counterfeit—currency); **him:** i.e., time

238. **But dead:** i.e., but once I am dead

240. **a party verdict:** a vote that shared in the joint verdict

242. **Things . . . sour:** proverbial

246. **To smooth:** i.e., in glossing over

247. **A partial slander:** i.e., the accusation of partiality

249. **looked when:** expected that

250. **to make mine own away:** i.e., in making away with, destroying, my own child

251. **gave leave to:** i.e., allowed

255–56. **Cousin . . . show:** It is possible that Aumerle should exit following this couplet; see longer note, page 224. **What . . . know:** i.e., that which I cannot learn from personal contact **remain:** reside, dwell

260. **greeting:** courteous words

262. **office:** function

262–63. **prodigal / To breathe:** i.e., lavish in breathing

Thy word is current with him for my death,
But dead, thy kingdom cannot buy my breath.

KING RICHARD

Thy son is banished upon good advice,
Whereto thy tongue a party verdict gave.
Why at our justice seem'st thou then to lour?

240

GAUNT

Things sweet to taste prove in digestion sour.
You urged me as a judge, but I had rather
You would have bid me argue like a father.
O, had it been a stranger, not my child,
To smooth his fault I should have been more mild.
A partial slander sought I to avoid,
And in the sentence my own life destroyed.
Alas, I looked when some of you should say
I was too strict, to make mine own away.
But you gave leave to my unwilling tongue
Against my will to do myself this wrong.

245

250

KING RICHARD, *to Bolingbroke*¹

Cousin, farewell.—And, uncle, bid him so.
Six years we banish him, and he shall go.

*Flourish. King Richard*¹ *exits* *with his Attendants.*¹

AUMERLE, *to Bolingbroke*¹

Cousin, farewell. What presence must not know,
From where you do remain let paper show.

255

MARSHAL, *to Bolingbroke*¹

My lord, no leave take I, for I will ride,
As far as land will let me, by your side.

GAUNT, *to Bolingbroke*¹

O, to what purpose dost thou hoard thy words,
That thou returnest no greeting to thy friends?

260

BOLINGBROKE

I have too few to take my leave of you,
When the tongue's office should be prodigal
To breathe the abundant dolor of the heart.

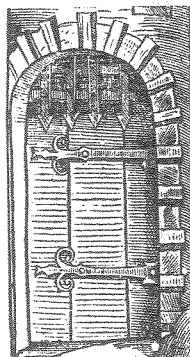
264. **thy absence:** i.e., your being absent
 271. **sullen:** gloomy, dark
 272. **foil:** setting for a jewel
 275. **remember me:** i.e., remind me
 277. **apprenticeship:** i.e., apprenticeship
 278. **passages:** (1) experience; (2) journeys
 279. **freedom:** (1) from his contract as an apprentice; (2) from his sentence of exile

280. **journeyman:** one who has finished his apprenticeship and works for daily hire (with a pun on **journeyman** as "a man who journeys")

281-82. **All . . . havens:** Proverbial: "A wise man makes every country his own." **the eye of heaven:** i.e., the sun

284. **There is no virtue like necessity:** proverbial

287. **faintly:** feebly



Door with a portcullis. (1.3.169)

Print tipped into John Foxe, *Actes and monuments* . . . (1563).

GAUNT

Thy grief is but thy absence for a time.

BOLINGBROKE

Joy absent, grief is present for that time.

265

GAUNT

What is six winters? They are quickly gone.

BOLINGBROKE

To men in joy; but grief makes one hour ten.

GAUNT

Call it a travel that thou tak'st for pleasure.

BOLINGBROKE

My heart will sigh when I miscall it so,

Which finds it an enforced pilgrimage.

270

GAUNT

The sullen passage of thy weary steps

Esteem as foil wherein thou art to set

The precious jewel of thy home return.

BOLINGBROKE

Nay, rather every tedious stride I make

Will but remember me what a deal of world

I wander from the jewels that I love.

Must I not serve a long apprenticeship

To foreign passages, and in the end,

Having my freedom, boast of nothing else

But that I was a journeyman to grief?

275

280

GAUNT

All places that the eye of heaven visits

Are to a wise man ports and happy havens.

Teach thy necessity to reason thus:

There is no virtue like necessity.

Think not the King did banish thee,

But thou the King. Woe doth the heavier sit

Where it perceives it is but faintly borne.

Go, say I sent thee forth to purchase honor,

And not the King exiled thee; or suppose

Devouring pestilence hangs in our air

And thou art flying to a fresher clime.

285

290

292. **Look what:** whatever
 295. **the presence:** i.e., the king's presence chamber
 296. **strewed:** i.e., strewn or spread with rushes or carpet
 298. **measure:** a kind of stately dancing
 299. **gnarling:** snarling
 300. **sets it light:** i.e., makes light of it
 306. **fantastic:** imagined
 307. **apprehension:** imagination, conception
 308. **the worse:** i.e., the bad, that which is worse
 309. **Fell:** cruel, destructive
 310. **when he bites:** The reference here is to Gaunt's statement at lines 299–300 about **gnarling sorrow**.
 314. **nurse:** i.e., one who cares for a young child (a nursemaid or a wet nurse)

1.4 Richard makes plans to fight in person in Ireland. To obtain money for the war against the Irish, he leases out crown lands and revenues in exchange for cash, and he gives his deputies in England power to demand large sums of money from the wealthy. News comes that John of Gaunt is gravely ill. Richard looks forward to using Gaunt's property to help fund the war.

1. **We did observe:** Richard enters in mid-conversation with Green and Bagot.
 2. **high:** (1) noble; (2) haughty, arrogant

Look what thy soul holds dear, imagine it
 To lie that way thou goest, not whence thou com'st.
 Suppose the singing birds musicians,
 The grass whereon thou tread'st the presence 295
 strewed,
 The flowers fair ladies, and thy steps no more
 Than a delightful measure or a dance;
 For gnarling sorrow hath less power to bite
 The man that mocks at it and sets it light. 300

BOLINGBROKE

O, who can hold a fire in his hand
 By thinking on the frosty Caucasus?
 Or cloy the hungry edge of appetite
 By bare imagination of a feast?
 Or wallow naked in December snow 305
 By thinking on fantastic summer's heat?
 O no, the apprehension of the good
 Gives but the greater feeling to the worse.
 Fell sorrow's tooth doth never rankle more
 Than when he bites but lanceth not the sore. 310

GAUNT

Come, come, my son, I'll bring thee on thy way.
 Had I thy youth and cause, I would not stay.

BOLINGBROKE

Then, England's ground, farewell; sweet soil, adieu,
 My mother and my nurse that bears me yet.
 Where'er I wander, boast of this I can, 315
 Though banished, yet a trueborn Englishman.

They exit.

「Scene 4」

*Enter the King with 「Green and Bagot,」 at one door,
 and the Lord Aumerle at another.*

KING RICHARD We did observe.—Cousin Aumerle,
 How far brought you high Hereford on his way?

4. **next highway**: nearest public road
 5. **store**: abundance
 6. **Faith**: a mild oath; **for me**: i.e., from me; **except**: unless
 8. **rheum**: tears
 12. **for**: i.e., because
 14. **To counterfeit . . . grief**: i.e., to pretend to be so oppressed by sorrow
 16. **Marry**: a mild oath (originally an oath "by the Virgin Mary")
 20. **none of**: i.e., none from
 21. **our cousin, cousin**: Richard, Aumerle, and Bolingbroke were first cousins; **'tis doubt**: it is doubtful; or, it is to be doubted
 30. **underbearing**: endurance
 31. **As 'twere to banish their affects with him**: i.e., as if to carry their kind feelings with him into banishment
 32. **bonnet**: hat; **oysterwench**: a girl or woman who sells oysters
 33. **brace**: pair

AUMERLE

I brought high Hereford, if you call him so,
 But to the next highway, and there I left him.

KING RICHARD

And say, what store of parting tears were shed?

5

AUMERLE

Faith, none for me, except the northeast wind,
 Which then blew bitterly against our faces,
 Awaked the sleeping rheum and so by chance
 Did grace our hollow parting with a tear.

KING RICHARD

What said our cousin when you parted with him?

10

AUMERLE "Farewell."

And, for my heart disdained that my tongue
 Should so profane the word, that taught me craft
 To counterfeit oppression of such grief
 That words seemed buried in my sorrow's grave.
 Marry, would the word "farewell" have lengthened
 hours

15

And added years to his short banishment,
 He should have had a volume of farewells.
 But since it would not, he had none of me.

20

KING RICHARD

He is our ¹cousin, ¹cousin, but 'tis doubt,
 When time shall call him home from banishment,
 Whether our kinsman come to see his friends.
 Ourself and Bushy, ¹Bagot here, and Green, ¹
 Observed his courtship to the common people,
 How he did seem to dive into their hearts
 With humble and familiar courtesy,
 What reverence he did throw away on slaves,
 Wooing poor craftsmen with the craft of smiles
 And patient underbearing of his fortune,
 As 'twere to banish their affects with him.
 Off goes his bonnet to an oysterwench;
 A brace of draymen bid God speed him well

25

30

36. **As were our England:** i.e., as if my England were; **in reversion his:** i.e., destined to become his

37. **next degree in hope:** nearest step (perhaps, heir to the throne) in their expectations

38. **with . . . thoughts:** i.e., let these thoughts go with him

39. **stand out:** hold out, resist

40. **Expedient:** expeditious; **manage:** management, direction, control

41. **leisure:** opportunity afforded by unoccupied time

43. **We will ourself in person:** i.e., I will go myself

44. **for:** i.e., because; **too great a court:** i.e., too large a retinue of courtiers (At 4.1.293-94, Richard describes himself as one who "every day under his Household roof / Did keep ten thousand men.")

46. **farm our royal realm:** i.e., lease out all crown lands and expected tax revenues in exchange for large cash payments (See longer note, page 224.)

48. **our affairs in hand:** i.e., my present business in hand: in process

49-51. **substitutes . . . sums of gold:** See longer note, pages 224-25. **Whereto:** i.e., in which **them:** perhaps, the names of the rich men; perhaps, the charters

52. **them:** probably, the large sums of gold; perhaps, the charters as filled out

53. **make for:** proceed toward; **presently:** immediately

56. **taken:** i.e., taken ill

59. **Ely House:** palace of the bishop of Ely (often rented out to noblemen visiting London)

62. **lining:** i.e., contents; **coats:** coats of mail

And had the tribute of his supple knee,
With "Thanks, my countrymen, my loving friends," 35
As were our England in reversion his,
And he our subjects' next degree in hope.

GREEN

Well, he is gone, and with him go these thoughts.
Now for the rebels which stand out in Ireland,
Expedient manage must be made, my liege, 40
Ere further leisure yield them further means
For their advantage and your Highness' loss.

KING RICHARD

We will ourself in person to this war.
And, for our coffers, with too great a court
And liberal largess, are grown somewhat light, 45
We are enforced to farm our royal realm,
The revenue whereof shall furnish us
For our affairs in hand. If that come short,
Our substitutes at home shall have blank charters,
Whereto, when they shall know what men are rich, 50
They shall subscribe them for large sums of gold
And send them after to supply our wants,
For we will make for Ireland presently.

「Enter Bushy.

Bushy, what news?⁷

BUSHY

Old John of Gaunt is grievous sick, my lord, 55
Suddenly taken, and hath sent posthaste
To entreat your Majesty to visit him.

KING RICHARD Where lies he?

BUSHY At Ely House.

KING RICHARD

Now put it, God, in the physician's mind 60
To help him to his grave immediately!
The lining of his coffers shall make coats



The Destinies or Fates. (1.2.15)
From Vincenzo Cartari, *Imagines deorum* . . . (1581).

To deck our soldiers for these Irish wars.

Come, gentlemen, let's all go visit him.

Pray God we may make haste and come too late.

「ALL」

Amen!

65

They exit.

The Tragedy of

RICHARD II

ACT 2

2.1 John of Gaunt, knowing that he is dying, speaks plainly to Richard about his deficiencies as king. Richard expresses his fury. Gaunt is taken offstage and word comes that he has died. Richard declares that all of Gaunt's possessions now belong to the crown and will be used to help fund his war in Ireland. After Richard exits, Northumberland and two other nobles lament the injustice done to Bolingbroke, and Northumberland announces that Bolingbroke is on his way back to England. The three nobles set out to join him.

0 SD. **sick:** Gaunt would probably have been carried onstage in a chair to indicate his illness.

1. **last:** i.e., last breath, or last words
2. **unstaid:** unrestrained, unregulated
9. **they:** i.e., those people
11. **is listened more:** i.e., is more heeded
13. **gloze:** talk smoothly and speciously
14. **marked:** paid attention to
18. **my life's counsel:** i.e., my advice while I lived
19. **My death's . . . tale:** i.e., what I tell him as I am dying

「ACT 2」

「Scene 1」

Enter John of Gaunt sick, with the Duke of York, 「and Attendants.」

GAUNT

Will the King come, that I may breathe my last
In wholesome counsel to his unstaid youth?

YORK

Vex not yourself, nor strive not with your breath,
For all in vain comes counsel to his ear.

GAUNT

O, but they say the tongues of dying men
Enforce attention like deep harmony. 5

Where words are scarce, they are seldom spent in
vain,

For they breathe truth that breathe their words in
pain. 10

He that no more must say is listened more
Than they whom youth and ease have taught to
gloze.

More are men's ends marked than their lives before.

The setting sun, and music at the close, 15
As the last taste of sweets, is sweetest last,
Writ in remembrance more than things long past.
Though Richard my life's counsel would not hear,
My death's sad tale may yet undeaf his ear.

21. **As . . . fond:** i.e., such as praise, which even the wise enjoy (**Fond** also meant "foolishly credulous.")

22. **venom:** venomous, malignant

25. **still:** continually, always

27. **vanity:** idle tale; worthless idea or statement

28. **So:** i.e., as long as; **there's no respect:** i.e., it doesn't matter **respect:** regard, consideration

31. **will:** desire; determination; **wit's regard:** reason's design or purpose

35. **Methinks:** it seems to me

37. **riot:** wasteful living, dissipation, extravagance

39. **Small:** i.e., light (literally, composed of tiny particles)

41. **betimes:** quickly (used later in this line to mean "at an early time"); **spurs:** rides quickly by urging the horse with spurs

43. **Light:** frivolous, unthinking; **vanity:** pride, conceit; idle or unprofitable conduct

44. **means:** resources at its disposal

45. **sceptered isle:** This phrase, like **royal throne of kings** and **earth of majesty**, emphasizes England's status as an island kingdom.

46. **seat:** residence, abode; **Mars:** i.e., military prowess (literally, the Roman god of war)

47. **demi-paradise:** diminutive paradise, or half paradise

50. **happy:** fortunate

52. **office:** function

53. **defensive to:** defending against attack, protective of

YORK

No, it is stopped with other flattering sounds,
As praises, of whose taste the wise are ¹fond;
Lascivious meters, to whose venom sound
The open ear of youth doth always listen;
Report of fashions in proud Italy,
Whose manners still our tardy-apish nation
Limps after in base imitation. 20
Where doth the world thrust forth a vanity—
So it be new, there's no respect how vile—
That is not quickly buzzed into his ears?
Then all too late comes counsel to be heard 25
Where will doth mutiny with wit's regard.
Direct not him whose way himself will choose.
'Tis breath thou lack'st, and that breath wilt thou
lose.

GAUNT

Methinks I am a prophet new inspired,
And thus expiring do foretell of him: 35
His rash fierce blaze of riot cannot last,
For violent fires soon burn out themselves;
Small showers last long, but sudden storms are
short; 40
He tires betimes that spurs too fast betimes;
With eager feeding food doth choke the feeder;
Light vanity, insatiate cormorant,
Consuming means, soon preys upon itself.
This royal throne of kings, this sceptered isle, 45
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war,
This happy breed of men, this little world, 50
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall,
Or as ¹a moat defensive to a house,

54. **envy**: malice; **less happier**: i.e., less happy
 57. **teeming**: fertile
 58. **Feared by**: i.e., causing fear by; **breed**: lineage
 60. **chivalry**: bravery or prowess in war, warlike distinction or glory
 61. **stubborn Jewry**: i.e., the land of the Jews (Judea or Palestine), here called **stubborn** perhaps because it refused Christianity or because it refused to yield to the Crusaders
 62. **the world's ransom**: See 1 Timothy 2.5-6: "the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all."
 66. **tenement**: property leased to a tenant; **pelting**: paltry, worthless
 67. **with**: i.e., by
 68. **envious**: malicious, spiteful
 69. **wat'ry Neptune**: i.e., the sea (literally, the Roman god of the sea)
 70. **inky blots and rotten parchment bonds**: i.e., the "blank charters" referred to at 1.4.49.
 73. **would the scandal vanish**: i.e., if the scandal would vanish
 79. **composition**: condition, state
 82. **meat**: food

Against the envy of less happier lands,
 This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England,
 This nurse, this teeming womb of royal kings,
 Feared by their breed and famous by their birth,
 Renowned for their deeds as far from home
 For Christian service and true chivalry
 As is the sepulcher in stubborn Jewry
 Of the world's ransom, blessed Mary's son,
 This land of such dear souls, this dear dear land,
 Dear for her reputation through the world,
 Is now leased out—I die pronouncing it—
 Like to a tenement or pelting farm.
 England, bound in with the triumphant sea,
 Whose rocky shore beats back the envious siege
 Of wat'ry Neptune, is now bound in with shame,
 With inky blots and rotten parchment bonds.
 That England that was wont to conquer others
 Hath made a shameful conquest of itself.
 Ah, would the scandal vanish with my life,
 How happy then were my ensuing death!

Enter King and Queen, "Aumerle, Bushy, Green, Bagot, Ross, Willoughby," etc.

YORK

The King is come. Deal mildly with his youth,
 For young hot colts being "reined" do rage the more.

QUEEN, "to Gaunt"

How fares our noble uncle Lancaster?

KING RICHARD, "to Gaunt"

What comfort, man? How is 't with aged Gaunt?

GAUNT

O, how that name befits my composition!
 Old Gaunt indeed, and gaunt in being old.
 Within me grief hath kept a tedious fast,
 And who abstains from meat that is not gaunt?

83. **watched:** i.e., acted as a nightwatchman, stayed awake

89. **inherits:** possesses, owns

90. **nicely:** precisely, subtly

91. **makes sport to mock:** entertains itself by mocking

94. **flatter with:** try to please, fawn upon

100. **Ill . . . ill:** Gaunt here plays with the meanings of **ill** as "sick" and as "evil." Both meanings are implied in the following lines about Richard's "sickness."

108. **yet:** i.e., even though they are; **verge:** Gaunt may be playing with two meanings of this word: (1) "compass" and (2) "an area subject to the jurisdiction of the lord high steward defined as extending to a distance of twelve miles around the king's court."

109. **waste:** destruction; devastation; squandering, prodigality; any unauthorized act of a tenant that is destructive of the tenement

For sleeping England long time have I watched;
Watching breeds leanness, leanness is all gaunt.
The pleasure that some fathers feed upon
Is my strict fast—I mean my children's looks—
And, therein fasting, hast thou made me gaunt.
Gaunt am I for the grave, gaunt as a grave,
Whose hollow womb inherits naught but bones.

85

KING RICHARD

Can sick men play so nicely with their names?

90

GAUNT

No, misery makes sport to mock itself.

Since thou dost seek to kill my name in me,

I mock my name, great king, to flatter thee.

KING RICHARD

Should dying men flatter with those that live?

GAUNT

No, no, men living flatter those that die.

95

KING RICHARD

Thou, now a-dying, sayest thou flatterest me.

GAUNT

O, no, thou diest, though I the sicker be.

KING RICHARD

I am in health, I breathe, and see thee ill.

GAUNT

Now He that made me knows I see thee ill,

Ill in myself to see, and in thee, seeing ill.

100

Thy deathbed is no lesser than thy land,

Wherein thou liest in reputation sick;

And thou, too careless-patient as thou art,

Commit'st thy anointed body to the cure

Of those physicians that first wounded thee.

105

A thousand flatterers sit within thy crown,

Whose compass is no bigger than thy head,

And yet ¹encagèd in so small a verge,

The waste is no whit lesser than thy land.

110. **thy grandsire**: i.e., Edward III (See page 92.)
 112. **From forth**: outside, beyond
 113. **possessed**: i.e., in possession of the crown (In the following line, the word carries the sense of demonic possession or of obsession.)
 115. **regent**: ruler
 116. **shame**: matter for severe reproach or reprobation; **let . . . by lease**: rent out . . . on a contract
 117. **for thy world enjoying**: i.e., since the world you have the use of; **but**: is only
 120. **state of law**: status under the law; **bondslave**: slave
 123. **ague's privilege**: immunity usually granted to the ill (Richard represents Gaunt's fatal illness as a mere **ague**, or ordinary chills and fever.)
 126. **his**: its
 127. **seat's . . . majesty**: i.e., kingship (Literally, the **seat** is his throne.)
 129. **runs**: wags freely; **roundly**: bluntly
 130. **run thy head**: cause your head to roll quickly;
unreverent: irreverent
 132. **For that**: i.e., because
 133. **like the pelican**: Pelicans were believed to "tap out" their own blood to feed their young. (See page 72.) Gaunt accuses Richard of having **tapped out** (line 134) the blood of Edward III by killing Edward's son **Gloucester** (line 135).
 134. **caroused**: drained, swilled, quaffed
 136. **Whom fair befall**: i.e., to whom that which is delightful happens
 137. **a precedent**: an instance, an example
 138. **respect'st not**: do not put off or neglect

O, had thy grandsire with a prophet's eye 110
 Seen how his son's son should destroy his sons,
 From forth thy reach he would have laid thy shame,
 Deposing thee before thou wert possessed,
 Which art possessed now to depose thyself.
 Why, cousin, wert thou regent of the world, 115
 It were a shame to let this land by lease;
 But, for thy world enjoying but this land,
 Is it not more than shame to shame it so?
 Landlord of England art thou now, not king.
 Thy state of law is bondslave to the law, 120
 And thou—

KING RICHARD A lunatic lean-witted fool,
 Presuming on an ague's privilege,
 Darest with thy frozen admonition
 Make pale our cheek, chasing the royal blood 125
 With fury from his native residence.
 Now, by my seat's right royal majesty,
 Wert thou not brother to great Edward's son,
 This tongue that runs so roundly in thy head
 Should run thy head from thy unreverent shoulders. 130

GAUNT

O, spare me not, my "brother" Edward's son,
 For that I was his father Edward's son!
 That blood already, like the pelican,
 Hast thou tapped out and drunkenly caroused.
 My brother Gloucester—plain, well-meaning soul, 135
 Whom fair befall in heaven 'mongst happy souls—
 May be a precedent and witness good
 That thou respect'st not spilling Edward's blood.
 Join with the present sickness that I have,
 And thy unkindness be like crooked age 140
 To crop at once a too-long withered flower.
 Live in thy shame, but die not shame with thee!
 These words hereafter thy tormentors be!—

146. **sullens**: ill humor, sulkiness

147. **become**: are suited for

150-51. **He . . . Hereford**: i.e., he loves you as dearly as he loves his son Hereford (Richard responds as if York's words meant "he loves you as much as Hereford loves you.")

154. **commends him**: offers his greetings

160. **poor**: This description of death as poverty-stricken picks up from the earlier words **spent** and **bankrupt**.

162. **pilgrimage**: i.e., life's journey; **must be**: i.e., remains to be finished

164. **supplant**: get rid of, oust; **rugheaded**: shaggy-headed (also, a likely allusion to the Irish mantle, called by the English a "rug," and to the Irish glib, or shaggy forelock) See page xviii. **kern**: foot soldiers (Most editors follow the Folio and print *kerns*. This reading is also found in one extant copy of the First Quarto, but the other three extant copies of the First Quarto print *kern*, which was often used at the time as a collective plural.) See page 86.

165-66. **Which live . . . to live**: an allusion to the fact that there are no snakes in Ireland (The word **venom** seems to mean "poisonous snakes.")

167. **for**: because; **charge**: expense

Convey me to my bed, then to my grave.
Love they to live that love and honor have.

145

He exits, [carried off by Attendants.]

KING RICHARD

And let them die that age and sullens have,
For both hast thou, and both become the grave.

YORK

I do beseech your Majesty, impute his words
To wayward sickliness and age in him.
He loves you, on my life, and holds you dear
As Harry, Duke of Hereford, were he here.

150

KING RICHARD

Right, you say true: as Hereford's love, so his;
As theirs, so mine; and all be as it is.

[Enter Northumberland.]

NORTHUMBERLAND

My liege, old Gaunt commends him to your Majesty.

KING RICHARD

What says he?

155

NORTHUMBERLAND

Nay, nothing; all is said.

His tongue is now a stringless instrument;
Words, life, and all, old Lancaster hath spent.

YORK

Be York the next that must be bankrupt so!
Though death be poor, it ends a mortal woe.

160

KING RICHARD

The ripest fruit first falls, and so doth he;
His time is spent, our pilgrimage must be.
So much for that. Now for our Irish wars:
We must supplant those rough rugheaded kern,
Which live like venom where no venom else
But only they have privilege to live.
And, for these great affairs do ask some charge,
Towards our assistance we do seize to us

165

169. **plate:** utensils and ornaments (perhaps in gold or silver); **movables:** furniture, clothing, jewels

170. **did stand possessed:** i.e., owned

172. **tender:** affectionate; **suffer:** allow, endure

174. **Gaunt's rebukes:** i.e., rebukes to Gaunt

175-76. **prevention . . . marriage:** According to Holinshed's *Chronicles*, Bolingbroke would have married the king of France's cousin had not Richard prevented the marriage.

185. **Accomplished with:** literally, furnished with (The line means "when he was as old as you.")

193. **compare between:** Richard's question in the following line may suggest that York breaks down at this point and leaves the phrase unfinished.

197. **withal:** nevertheless; or, with your refusal to pardon me

199. **royalties:** royal privileges, rights granted a subject by a king

201. **Harry:** i.e., Henry Bolingbroke; **true:** loyal

The plate, coin, revenues, and movables

Whereof our uncle Gaunt did stand possessed.

170

YORK

How long shall I be patient? Ah, how long

Shall tender duty make me suffer wrong?

Not Gloucester's death, nor Hereford's banishment,

Nor Gaunt's rebukes, nor England's private wrongs,

Nor the prevention of poor Bolingbroke

175

About his marriage, nor my own disgrace,

Have ever made me sour my patient cheek

Or bend one wrinkle on my sovereign's face.

I am the last of noble Edward's sons,

Of whom thy father, Prince of Wales, was first.

180

In war was never lion raged more fierce,

In peace was never gentle lamb more mild,

Than was that young and princely gentleman.

His face thou hast, for even so looked he,

Accomplished with ^{the} number of thy hours;

185

But when he frowned, it was against the French

And not against his friends. His noble hand

Did win what he did spend, and spent not that

Which his triumphant father's hand had won.

His hands were guilty of no kindred blood,

190

But bloody with the enemies of his kin.

O, Richard! York is too far gone with grief,

Or else he never would compare between.

KING RICHARD

Why, uncle, what's the matter?

YORK

O, my liege,

195

Pardon me if you please. If not, I, pleased

Not to be pardoned, am content withal.

Seek you to seize and gripe into your hands

The royalties and rights of banished Hereford?

Is not Gaunt dead? And doth not Hereford live?

200

Was not Gaunt just? And is not Harry true?

Did not the one deserve to have an heir?

204. **Take . . . and take:** i.e., if you take . . . you thereby take

205. **His . . . his:** i.e., its . . . its (Such conventions as **customary rights** belong to **time** in that rights of inheritance are passed down through the course of time.)

209. **I say true:** i.e., that what I am about to say should come true

211–13. **Call in . . . livery:** i.e., revoke his right to make a claim (through his representatives) for the delivery of his father's lands **letters patents:** royal grants **attorneys general:** those to whom he has given power of attorney to represent him **livery:** delivery (of his property) (See longer note, page 225.)

213. **deny:** refuse; **homage:** Part of the ceremony of receiving inherited lands was to pay homage to the king.

214. **pluck:** pull down

216. **prick:** incite

220. **by:** nearby

222–23. **by bad courses . . . good:** i.e., the results of bad courses of action are never good **events:** results

224. **straight:** straightway, immediately

225. **repair:** come

226. **see:** i.e., see to

227. **We will:** i.e., I will depart; **throw:** believe

Is not his heir a well-deserving son?

Take Hereford's rights away, and take from time

His charters and his customary rights;

205

Let not tomorrow then ensue today;

Be not thyself; for how art thou a king

But by fair sequence and succession?

Now afore God—God forbid I say true!—

If you do wrongfully seize Hereford's rights,

210

Call in the letters patents that he hath

By his attorneys general to sue

His livery, and deny his offered homage,

You pluck a thousand dangers on your head,

You lose a thousand well-disposed hearts,

215

And prick my tender patience to those thoughts

Which honor and allegiance cannot think.

KING RICHARD

Think what you will, we seize into our hands

His plate, his goods, his money, and his lands.

YORK

I'll not be by the while. My liege, farewell.

220

What will ensue hereof there's none can tell;

But by bad courses may be understood

That their events can never fall out good. *He exits.*

KING RICHARD

Go, Bushy, to the Earl of Wiltshire straight.

Bid him repair to us to Ely House

225

To see this business. Tomorrow next

We will for Ireland, and 'tis time, I trow.

And we create, in absence of ourself,

Our uncle York Lord Governor of England,

For he is just and always loved us well.—

230

Come on, our queen. Tomorrow must we part.

Be merry, for our time of stay is short.

King and Queen exit ¹*with others;*
Northumberland, ¹*Willoughby, and Ross* ¹*remain.*

237. **great:** i.e., big (pregnant) with sorrow
 238. **liberal:** free, unrestrained
 240. **speaks thy words again:** i.e., repeats your words
 241. **Tends . . . to:** i.e., does what you have to say concern
 247. **gelded:** deprived of
 249. **In him:** i.e., in his case
 251. **basely:** treacherously, ignobly
 252. **what:** i.e., whatever
 256. **The commons:** the third estate in the English parliament (The first two estates were the Lords Temporal and the Lords Spiritual.); **pilled:** i.e., stripped bare (literally, peeled)



A pelican tapping out its blood. (2.1.133-34)
 From Conrad Lycosthenes, *Prodigiorum* . . . (1557).

NORTHUMBERLAND

Well, lords, the Duke of Lancaster is dead.

ROSS

And living too, for now his son is duke.

WILLOUGHBY

Barely in title, not in revenues.

235

NORTHUMBERLAND

Richly in both, if justice had her right.

ROSS

My heart is great, but it must break with silence
 Ere 't be disburdened with a liberal tongue.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Nay, speak thy mind, and let him ne'er speak more
 That speaks thy words again to do thee harm!

240

WILLOUGHBY, ¹to Ross

Tends that thou wouldst speak to the Duke of
 Hereford?

If it be so, out with it boldly, man.

Quick is mine ear to hear of good towards him.

ROSS

No good at all that I can do for him,
 Unless you call it good to pity him,
 Bereft and gelded of his patrimony.

245

NORTHUMBERLAND

Now, afore God, 'tis shame such wrongs are borne
 In him, a royal prince, and many more
 Of noble blood in this declining land.
 The King is not himself, but basely led
 By flatterers; and what they will inform
 Merely in hate 'gainst any of us all,
 That will the King severely prosecute
 'Gainst us, our lives, our children, and our heirs.

250

255

ROSS

The commons hath he pilled with grievous taxes,
 And quite lost their hearts. The nobles hath he fined
 For ancient quarrels, and quite lost their hearts.

260. **blanks:** blank charters; **benevolences:** forced loans; **wot:** know

261. **this:** i.e., this money he has collected

262. **Wars hath:** i.e., wars have

263. **basely:** contemptibly, in a cowardly manner

266. **in farm:** on lease (The **Earl of Wiltshire** was one of Richard's great favorites and lord treasurer of England. He is referred to often in the play, but never actually appears.)

267. **King:** Most editions follow the later quartos and the Folio and print "King's"; the quarto reading, followed here, allows the "hath" of the preceding line to govern **grown bankrupt**.

268. **hangeth:** i.e., hang

271. **But by:** i.e., except through

275. **sore:** oppressively

276. **strike not:** (1) do not strike our sails; (2) do not fight back; **securely:** self-confidently, carelessly

277. **wrack:** ruin, destruction

278. **unavoided:** unavoidable

279. **For suffering so:** i.e., because we have thus permitted

282. **is:** i.e., are

WILLOUGHBY

And daily new exactions are devised,
As blanks, benevolences, and I wot not what.
But what i' God's name doth become of this?

260

NORTHUMBERLAND

Wars hath not wasted it, for warred he hath not,
But basely yielded upon compromise
That which his noble ancestors achieved with blows.
More hath he spent in peace than they in wars.

265

ROSS

The Earl of Wiltshire hath the realm in farm.

WILLOUGHBY

The King grown bankrupt like a broken man.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Reproach and dissolution hangeth over him.

ROSS

He hath not money for these Irish wars,
His burdenous taxations notwithstanding,
But by the robbing of the banished duke.

270

NORTHUMBERLAND

His noble kinsman. Most degenerate king!
But, lords, we hear this fearful tempest sing,
Yet seek no shelter to avoid the storm;
We see the wind sit sore upon our sails,
And yet we strike not, but securely perish.

275

ROSS

We see the very wrack that we must suffer,
And unavoided is the danger now
For suffering so the causes of our wrack.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Not so. Even through the hollow eyes of death
I spy life peering; but I dare not say
How near the tidings of our comfort is.

280

WILLOUGHBY

Nay, let us share thy thoughts, as thou dost ours.

285. **speaking so:** i.e., speaking to others who are but thyself

288. **Brittany:** a province on the northwest coast of France; **intelligence:** news

291. **That late broke:** i.e., who recently escaped (In Holinshed's *Chronicles* it was the son of the earl of Arundel, not Rainold Lord Cobham, who had recently escaped from the duke of Exeter. Many editions thus insert a line preceding our line 291 that reads "The son of Richard Earl of Arundel." See longer note, page 226.)

292. **archbishop late:** formerly archbishop (See longer note to 2.1.291.)

298. **expedience:** speed

300. **stay:** await

303. **Imp out:** mend by grafting new feathers on a broken wing (a term from falconry)

304. **Redeem from broking pawn:** i.e., save from the pawnbrokers

305. **gilt:** gilding, i.e., a thin layer of gold (with a pun on *guilt*)

307. **Away with me:** i.e., come away with me; **in post:** i.e., quickly (perhaps riding in relay on post-horses); **Ravenspurgh:** a port city on the Humber River

308. **faint:** lose courage

311. **Hold . . . and:** i.e., if my horse holds out

ROSS

Be confident to speak, Northumberland.

We three are but thyself, and speaking so

Thy words are but as thoughts. Therefore be bold. 285

NORTHUMBERLAND

Then thus: I have from Le Port ¹Blanc,

A bay in Brittany, received intelligence

That Harry Duke of Hereford, Rainold Lord Cobham,

290

That late broke from the Duke of Exeter,

His brother, archbishop late of Canterbury,

Sir Thomas Erpingham, Sir John Ramston,

Sir John Norbery, Sir Robert Waterton, and Francis

Coint—

295

All these well furnished by the Duke of Brittany

With eight tall ships, three thousand men of war,

Are making hither with all due expedience

And shortly mean to touch our northern shore.

Perhaps they had ere this, but that they stay

300

The first departing of the King for Ireland.

If then we shall shake off our slavish yoke,

Imp out our drooping country's broken wing,

Redeem from broking pawn the blemished crown,

Wipe off the dust that hides our scepter's gilt,

305

And make high majesty look like itself,

Away with me in post to Ravenspurgh.

But if you faint, as fearing to do so,

Stay and be secret, and myself will go.

ROSS

To horse, to horse! Urge doubts to them that fear.

310

WILLOUGHBY

Hold out my horse, and I will first be there.

They exit.

2.2 As the Queen grieves for Richard's departure, news comes that Bolingbroke has landed in England with an army. As York attempts to find means to oppose him, Bushy, Bagot, and Green, in fear for their lives, prepare to flee.

3. **heaviness:** sorrow
4. **entertain:** receive (as a guest)
8. **Save bidding:** i.e., except having had to bid
9. **methinks:** it seems to me
10. **ripe:** ready for birth
14. **Each . . . shadows:** i.e., for every real grief there are twenty imaginary ones
15. **shows . . . is:** i.e., show . . . are
17. **Divides . . . to:** i.e., divide one single thing into
18. **perspectives:** i.e., perspective glasses, optical devices that distorted the appearance of whatever one viewed through them (here pronounced **pèr-spectives**)
19. **awry:** askance, at an angle
21. **awry:** amiss, wrongly
22. **shapes:** i.e., images; **himself:** i.e., grief itself
23. **shadows:** illusions

「Scene 2」

Enter the Queen, Bushy, 「and」 Bagot.

BUSHY

Madam, your Majesty is too much sad.
You promised, when you parted with the King,
To lay aside life-harming heaviness
And entertain a cheerful disposition.

QUEEN

To please the King I did; to please myself
I cannot do it. Yet I know no cause
Why I should welcome such a guest as grief,
Save bidding farewell to so sweet a guest
As my sweet Richard. Yet again methinks
Some unborn sorrow ripe in Fortune's womb
Is coming towards me, and my inward soul
With nothing trembles. At some thing it grieves
More than with parting from my lord the King.

BUSHY

Each substance of a grief hath twenty shadows
Which shows like grief itself but is not so;
For sorrow's eyes, glazed with blinding tears,
Divides one thing entire to many objects,
Like perspectives, which rightly gazed upon
Show nothing but confusion, eyed awry
Distinguish form. So your sweet Majesty,
Looking awry upon your lord's departure,
Find shapes of grief more than himself to wail,
Which, looked on as it is, is naught but shadows
Of what it is not. Then, thrice-gracious queen,
More than your lord's departure weep not. More is
not seen,
Or if it be, 'tis with false sorrow's eye,
Which for things true weeps things imaginary.

QUEEN

It may be so, but yet my inward soul
Persuades me it is otherwise. Howe'er it be,

32. **As thought:** Many editions here print the words *As though*, which is what is found in the later quartos and the Folio. We follow the first quarto reading, since the substitution of *though* does not appreciably improve the sense of this difficult passage.

33. **faint:** lose heart or spirit

34. **conceit:** imagination, thought

35. **still:** always

38. **something hath:** i.e., something hath begot

39. **'Tis in reversion that I do possess:** i.e., what I own is (merely) destined to come into my possession in the future

41. **wot:** know

45. **designs crave:** plans require; **his haste:** i.e., his haste requires

46. **wherefore:** why

47. **retired his power:** withdrawn or led back his army

49. **set footing:** entered

50. **repeals himself:** calls himself back (from exile)

51. **uplifted arms:** raised weapons

54. **that is:** i.e., what is, that which is

I cannot but be sad—so heavy sad
As thought, on thinking on no thought I think,
Makes me with heavy nothing faint and shrink.

BUSHY

'Tis nothing but conceit, my gracious lady.

QUEEN

'Tis nothing less. Conceit is still derived
From some forefather grief. Mine is not so,
For nothing hath begot my something grief—
Or something hath the nothing that I grieve.
'Tis in reversion that I do possess,
But what it is that is not yet known what,
I cannot name. 'Tis nameless woe, I wot.

[Enter Green.]

GREEN

God save your Majesty!—And well met, gentlemen.
I hope the King is not yet shipped for Ireland.

QUEEN

Why hopest thou so? 'Tis better hope he is,
For his designs crave haste, his haste good hope.
Then wherefore dost thou hope he is not shipped?

GREEN

That he, our hope, might have retired his power
And driven into despair an enemy's hope,
Who strongly hath set footing in this land.
The banished Bolingbroke repeals himself
And with uplifted arms is safe arrived
At Ravenspurgh.

QUEEN

Now God in heaven forbid!

GREEN

Ah, madam, 'tis too true. And that is worse,
The Lord Northumberland, his son young Harry
Percy,

The Lords of Ross, Beaumont, and Willoughby,
With all their powerful friends, are fled to him.

60. **all the rest revolted faction:** i.e., all the remaining mutinous faction or rebels

61. **Worcester:** Thomas Percy, lord high steward in the royal household and brother of Northumberland

62. **staff:** i.e., staff of office (According to Holins-hed, "Sir Thomas Percy, Earl of Worcester, lord steward of the king's house, . . . brake his white staff, which is the representing figure and token of his office.")

63. **Household servants:** i.e., those, some of them noblemen, who attend the king in the Household (i.e., the royal household)

67. **prodigy:** monstrous birth (the **unborn sorrow** of line 10)

73. **cozening:** deceiving; **He:** i.e., hope

76. **lingers in extremity:** i.e., causes to linger in *extremis* (at the point of death)

78. **signs of war:** i.e., an iron collar called a "gorget," which protected the throat (See page 84.)

79. **careful:** anxious; **business:** distress

80. **comfortable:** comforting

83. **crosses:** obstacles, obstructions

84. **save:** safeguard (his possessions)

BUSHY

Why have you not proclaimed Northumberland
And all the rest revolted faction traitors?

60

GREEN

We have; whereupon the Earl of Worcester
Hath broken his staff, resigned his stewardship,
And all the Household servants fled with him
To Bolingbroke.

QUEEN

So, Green, thou art the midwife to my woe,
And Bolingbroke my sorrow's dismal heir.
Now hath my soul brought forth her prodigy,
And I, a gasping new-delivered mother,
Have woe to woe, sorrow to sorrow joined.

65

BUSHY

Despair not, madam.

70

QUEEN

Who shall hinder me?
I will despair, and be at enmity
With cozening hope. He is a flatterer,
A parasite, a keeper-back of death,
Who gently would dissolve the bands of life
Which false hope lingers in extremity.

75

[Enter York.]

GREEN Here comes the Duke of York.

QUEEN

With signs of war about his aged neck.
O, full of careful business are his looks!—
Uncle, for God's sake speak comfortable words.

80

YORK

Should I do so, I should belie my thoughts.
Comfort's in heaven, and we are on the earth,
Where nothing lives but crosses, cares, and grief.
Your husband, he is gone to save far off
Whilst others come to make him lose at home.
Here am I left to underprop his land,

85

88. **surfeit**: excesses (literally, overindulgence)
 89. **try**: put to the test
 92. **commons**: See note to 2.1.256.
 93. **cold**: indifferent, apathetic
 95. **Sirrah**: a term of address to an inferior (a servant or a boy); **sister Gloucester**: i.e., sister-in-law, duchess of Gloucester
 96. **Bid her**: i.e., tell her (or ask her) to; **presently**: at once
 97. **Hold**: i.e., wait a minute
 103. **God for His mercy**: i.e., God be merciful
 106. **So my untruth . . . it**: i.e., so long as my disloyalty was not the cause
 107. **my brother's**: i.e., the duke of Gloucester's
 108. **posts**: messengers
 109. **How**: i.e., what



Neck armor, a hausse-col or gorget. (2.2.78)
 From Louis de Gaya, *Traité des armes, des machines
 de guerre* . . . (1678).

Who, weak with age, cannot support myself.
 Now comes the sick hour that his surfeit made;
 Now shall he try his friends that flattered him.

「Enter a Servingman.」

SERVINGMAN

My lord, your son was gone before I came.

90

YORK

He was? Why, so go all which way it will.
 The nobles they are fled, the commons they are
 cold,

And will, I fear, revolt on Hereford's side.
 Sirrah, get thee to Plashy, to my sister Gloucester;
 Bid her send me presently a thousand pound. 95
 Hold, take my ring.

SERVINGMAN

My lord, I had forgot to tell your Lordship:
 Today as I came by I callèd there—

But I shall grieve you to report the rest. 100

YORK What is 't, knave?

SERVINGMAN

An hour before I came, the Duchess died.

YORK

God for His mercy, what a tide of woes
 Comes rushing on this woeful land at once!
 I know not what to do. I would to God, 105
 So my untruth had not provoked him to it,
 The King had cut off my head with my brother's!
 What, are there no posts dispatched for Ireland?
 How shall we do for money for these wars?—
 Come, sister—cousin I would say, pray pardon
 me.— 110

Go, fellow, get thee home. Provide some carts
 And bring away the armor that is there.

「Servingman exits.」

Gentlemen, will you go muster men?

116. **Thus disorderly:** in this state of disorder
 121. **kindred:** kinship; **to right:** i.e., to set right
 122. **somewhat:** something
 126. **Berkeley:** a castle northeast of Bristol
 129. **at six and seven:** i.e., in a state of confusion
 130–31. **The wind . . . returns:** i.e., the direction
 of the wind is favorable for sending news to Ireland
 but none can come back to us from there
 135. **those love not:** i.e., those who do not love
 137. **them:** i.e., their purses
 140. **If judgment lie in them:** i.e., if the power to
 condemn lies with the commons; **then so do we:** i.e.,
 we, too, stand condemned



An Irish kern. (2.1.164)
 From John Derricke, *The image of Irelande, with a discouerie
 of woodkarne . . .* (1883 facsimile).

If I know how or which way to order these affairs 115
 Thus disorderly thrust into my hands,
 Never believe me. Both are my kinsmen.
 T' one is my sovereign, whom both my oath
 And duty bids defend; t' other again
 Is my kinsman, whom the King hath wronged, 120
 Whom conscience and my kindred bids to right.
 Well, somewhat we must do. *['To Queen.']* Come,
 cousin,
 I'll dispose of you.—Gentlemen, go muster up your
 men 125
 And meet me presently at Berkeley.
 I should to Plashy too,
 But time will not permit. All is uneven,
 And everything is left at six and seven.

*Duke ['of York and'] Queen exit.
 Bushy, Green, ['and Bagot'] remain.*

BUSHY

The wind sits fair for news to go for Ireland, 130
 But none returns. For us to levy power
 Proportionable to the enemy
 Is all impossible.

GREEN

Besides, our nearness to the King in love
 Is near the hate of those love not the King. 135

BAGOT

And that is the wavering commons, for their love
 Lies in their purses, and whoso empties them
 By so much fills their hearts with deadly hate.

BUSHY

Wherein the King stands generally condemned.

BAGOT

If judgment lie in them, then so do we, 140
 Because we ever have been near the King.

GREEN

Well, I will for refuge straight to Bristow Castle.
 The Earl of Wiltshire is already there.

144. **office:** service

149. **vain:** worthless, idle

153. **numb'ring sands and drinking oceans dry:**
i.e., counting the grains of sand on a beach or
drinking all the water in the ocean (proverbial ex-
pressions for trying to do the impossible)

2.3 Bolingbroke and Northumberland, just outside
Berkeley Castle, meet young Henry Percy, Northum-
berland's son. When the duke of York enters, he
chastises Bolingbroke for coming back to England,
but admits to being powerless to stop him, and finally
offers him hospitality at Berkeley Castle.

5. **Draws . . . makes:** i.e., draw . . . make

6. **fair discourse:** pleasant conversation

7. **delectable:** delightful (pronounced *dělectable*)

9. **Cotshall:** i.e., the Cotswold Hills in Gloucester-
shire

BUSHY

Thither will I with you, for little office
Will the hateful commons perform for us,
Except like curs to tear us all to pieces.—
Will you go along with us?

145

BAGOT

No, I will to Ireland to his Majesty.
Farewell. If heart's presages be not vain,
We three here part that ne'er shall meet again.

150

BUSHY

That's as York thrives to beat back Bolingbroke.

GREEN

Alas, poor duke, the task he undertakes
Is numb'ring sands and drinking oceans dry.
Where one on his side fights, thousands will fly.
Farewell at once, for once, for all, and ever.

155

BUSHY

Well, we may meet again.

BAGOT

I fear me, never.

「They exit.」

「Scene 3」

Enter 「Bolingbroke, Duke of」 Hereford, 「and」
Northumberland.

BOLINGBROKE

How far is it, my lord, to Berkeley now?

NORTHUMBERLAND Believe me, noble lord,

I am a stranger here in Gloucestershire.

These high wild hills and rough uneven ways

Draws out our miles and makes them wearisome.

And yet your fair discourse hath been as sugar,

Making the hard way sweet and delectable.

But I bethink me what a weary way

From Ravenspurgh to Cotshall will be found

5

10. **In:** i.e., by; **wanting:** lacking
 11. **beguiled:** diverted attention from
 12. **tediousness and process:** i.e., tedious process
 15. **to:** i.e., of
 16. **By this:** i.e., through this expectation
 22. **whencesoever:** i.e., from wherever he is
 23. **your uncle:** i.e., the earl of Worcester
 24-25. **of you:** i.e., from you
 36. **power:** troops
 37. **repair:** go, travel



Crows, symbolizing flattery, feed on
 a dead body. (2.2.73-74)
 From Guillaume de La Perrière, *Le théâtre des bons
 engins* . . . (1539?).

In Ross and Willoughby, wanting your company,
 Which, I protest, hath very much beguiled
 The tediousness and process of my travel.
 But theirs is sweetened with the hope to have
 The present benefit which I possess,
 And hope to joy is little less in joy
 Than hope enjoyed. By this the weary lords
 Shall make their way seem short as mine hath done
 By sight of what I have, your noble company.

BOLINGBROKE

Of much less value is my company
 Than your good words. But who comes here?

Enter Harry Percy.

NORTHUMBERLAND It is my son, young Harry Percy,
 Sent from my brother Worcester whencesoever.—
 Harry, how fares your uncle?

PERCY

I had thought, my lord, to have learned his health of
 you.

NORTHUMBERLAND Why, is he not with the Queen?

PERCY

No, my good lord, he hath forsook the court,
 Broken his staff of office, and dispersed
 The Household of the King.

NORTHUMBERLAND

What was his reason? He was not so resolved
 When last we spoke together.

PERCY

Because your Lordship was proclaimed traitor.
 But he, my lord, is gone to Ravenspurgh
 To offer service to the Duke of Hereford,
 And sent me over by Berkeley to discover
 What power the Duke of York had levied there,
 Then with directions to repair to Ravenspurgh.

43. **tender:** offer (Percy probably kneels at this point.)

46. **approved:** tried, tested

51. **It:** i.e., my fortune; **still:** always, constantly

53. **stir:** activity

54. **men of war:** soldiers

59. **name:** title, fame; **estimate:** repute, reputation

61. **Bloody with spurring:** i.e., stained with blood from their spurred horses



King Edward III. (2.1.110)
From John Taylor, *All the workes of . . .* (1630).

NORTHUMBERLAND

Have you forgot the Duke of 'Hereford,' boy?

PERCY

No, my good lord, for that is not forgot
Which ne'er I did remember. To my knowledge
I never in my life did look on him.

40

NORTHUMBERLAND

Then learn to know him now. This is the Duke.

PERCY, 'to Bolingbroke'

My gracious lord, I tender you my service,
Such as it is, being tender, raw, and young,
Which elder days shall ripen and confirm
To more approved service and desert.

45

BOLINGBROKE

I thank thee, gentle Percy, and be sure
I count myself in nothing else so happy
As in a soul rememb'ring my good friends;
And as my fortune ripens with thy love,
It shall be still thy true love's recompense.
My heart this covenant makes, my hand thus seals it.
'Gives Percy his hand.'

50

NORTHUMBERLAND, 'to Percy'

How far is it to Berkeley, and what stir
Keeps good old York there with his men of war?

PERCY

There stands the castle by yon tuft of trees,
Manned with three hundred men, as I have heard,
And in it are the Lords of York, Berkeley, and
Seymour,
None else of name and noble estimate.

55

'Enter Ross and Willoughby.'

NORTHUMBERLAND

Here come the Lords of Ross and Willoughby,
Bloody with spurring, fiery red with haste.

60

64. **unfelt**: intangible
 67. **attain it**: i.e., reach **your presence**
 68. **thank's**: i.e., thank (gratitude) is; **exchequer**:
 treasure, store of funds
 69. **comes to years**: i.e., matures
 70. **Stands for**: i.e., serves as
 73. **to "Lancaster"**: Bolingbroke here insists on
 being addressed by the title he should have inherited
 from his father.
 78. **rase**: erase, slash
 79. **what lord you will**: i.e., whatever title you wish
 to use
 81. **pricks you on**: incites you
 82. **the absent time**: i.e., the time of the king's
 absence
 83. **self-borne arms**: i.e., weapons carried on
 one's own behalf rather than for the protection of the
 kingdom (Some editors prefer "self-born"—i.e., aris-
 ing among ourselves—which emphasizes Boling-
 broke's stirring up of civil war.)
 84. **need transport**: i.e., need to send

BOLINGBROKE

Welcome, my lords. I wot your love pursues
 A banished traitor. All my treasury
 Is yet but unfelt thanks, which, more enriched,
 Shall be your love and labor's recompense.

65

ROSS

Your presence makes us rich, most noble lord.

WILLOUGHBY

And far surmounts our labor to attain it.

BOLINGBROKE

Evermore thank's the exchequer of the poor,
 Which, till my infant fortune comes to years,
 Stands for my bounty. But who comes here?

70

「Enter Berkeley.」

NORTHUMBERLAND

It is my Lord of Berkeley, as I guess.

BERKELEY, 「to Bolingbroke」

My Lord of Hereford, my message is to you.

BOLINGBROKE

My lord, my answer is—to "Lancaster";
 And I am come to seek that name in England.
 And I must find that title in your tongue
 Before I make reply to aught you say.

75

BERKELEY

Mistake me not, my lord, 'tis not my meaning
 To rase one title of your honor out.
 To you, my lord, I come, what lord you will,
 From the most gracious regent of this land,
 The Duke of York, to know what pricks you on
 To take advantage of the absent time,
 And fright our native peace with self-borne arms.

80

「Enter York.」

BOLINGBROKE

I shall not need transport my words by you.

88. **Whose duty:** i.e., whose gesture in thus kneeling; **deceivable:** deceptive

93. **an ungracious:** a wicked

99. **ostentation . . . arms:** display of vile weapons

103. **but:** even

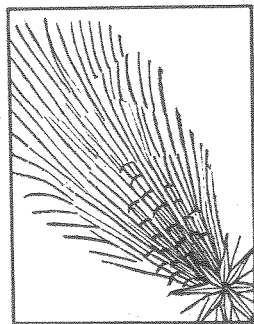
105. **the Black Prince:** i.e., Edward, prince of Wales, father of Richard II; **Mars of men:** i.e., exemplary warrior (**Mars** was the Roman god of war.)

109. **correction:** punishment; **fault:** misdeed

111. **On . . . wherein:** i.e., according to what provision in law is it a misdeed and how is it a misdeed according to that provision **condition:** provision in law

113. **detested:** vile

116. **braving:** defiant



"Like a shooting star." (2.4.19)

From Hartmann Schedel, *Liber chronicorum* (1493).

Here comes his Grace in person. [He kneels.] 85
My noble uncle.

YORK

Show me thy humble heart, and not thy knee,
Whose duty is deceivable and false.

BOLINGBROKE, [standing] My gracious uncle—

YORK Tut, tut! 90

Grace me no grace, nor uncle me no uncle.
I am no traitor's uncle, and that word "grace"
In an ungracious mouth is but profane.
Why have those banished and forbidden legs
Dared once to touch a dust of England's ground? 95
But then, more why: why have they dared to march
So many miles upon her peaceful bosom,
Frighting her pale-faced villages with war
And ostentation of despised arms?
Com'st thou because the anointed king is hence? 100
Why, foolish boy, the King is left behind
And in my loyal bosom lies his power.
Were I but now lord of such hot youth
As when brave Gaunt thy father and myself
Rescued the Black Prince, that young Mars of men, 105
From forth the ranks of many thousand French,
O, then, how quickly should this arm of mine,
Now prisoner to the palsy, chastise thee
And minister correction to thy fault!

BOLINGBROKE

My gracious uncle, let me know my fault. 110
On what condition stands it and wherein?

YORK

Even in condition of the worst degree,
In gross rebellion and detested treason.
Thou art a banished man, and here art come, 115
Before the expiration of thy time,
In braving arms against thy sovereign.

120. **indifferent**: impartial

123-24. **condemned** / **A**: i.e., condemned to be a

126. **unthrifths**: spendthrifths

132. **rouse**: drive from hiding, disclose; **the bay**:
the quarry's last stand

133-36. **I am denied . . . employed**: See note to
2.1.211-13 and longer note, page 225. **leave**: per-
mission **distrained**: seized **and all**: i.e., and every-
thing else

138. **challenge law**: demand my legal rights; **At-
torneys are denied me**: See the reference at 2.1.212
to the attorneys general who had been given power of
attorney to "sue his livery" for him.

140. **of free descent**: perhaps, which comes to me
by direct, legal inheritance

141. **abused**: wronged, injured

142. **stands . . . upon**: is your Grace's duty

143. **Base**: low-born; inferior; **by his endow-
ments**: through enrichment by his properties

147. **kind**: manner, fashion

BOLINGBROKE

As I was banished, I was banished Hereford,
But as I come, I come for Lancaster.

And, noble uncle, I beseech your Grace
Look on my wrongs with an indifferent eye. 120

You are my father, for methinks in you

I see old Gaunt alive. O, then, my father,

Will you permit that I shall stand condemned

A wandering vagabond, my rights and royalties

Plucked from my arms perforce and given away 125

To upstart unthrifths? Wherefore was I born?

If that my cousin king be king in England,

It must be granted I am Duke of Lancaster.

You have a son, Aumerle, my noble cousin.

Had you first died and he been thus trod down, 130

He should have found his uncle Gaunt a father

To rouse his wrongs and chase them to the bay.

I am denied to sue my livery here,

And yet my letters patents give me leave.

My father's goods are all distrained and sold, 135

And these, and all, are all amiss employed.

What would you have me do? I am a subject,

And I challenge law. Attorneys are denied me,

And therefore personally I lay my claim

To my inheritance of free descent. 140

NORTHUMBERLAND, ^{to York}

The noble duke hath been too much abused.

ROSS, ^{to York}

It stands your Grace upon to do him right.

WILLOUGHBY, ^{to York}

Base men by his endowments are made great.

YORK

My lords of England, let me tell you this:

I have had feeling of my cousin's wrongs 145

And labored all I could to do him right.

But in this kind to come, in braving arms,

148. **Be his own carver:** i.e., help himself (as at a dinner table)

149. **find out right with wrong:** i.e., seek rights by doing wrong

156. **issue:** outcome

158. **power:** army; **ill-left:** left in a bad state (without adequate means, or in disarray)

160. **attach:** arrest

163. **as neuter:** neutral

169. **Bagot:** Elsewhere in the play (e.g., in 2.1 and 3.1) Shakespeare follows Holinshed's *Chronicles* in having Bagot flee to Ireland, placing Bushy and Green at Bristow Castle.

170. **caterpillars:** a conventional term of abuse for those seen as feeding off of the commonwealth

174. **Nor:** neither as

175. **Things past . . . care:** Proverbial. See *Macbeth* 3.2.13-14: "Things without all remedy / Should be without regard." **care:** heed, attention

Be his own carver, and cut out his way
To find out right with wrong, it may not be.
And you that do abet him in this kind
Cherish rebellion and are rebels all.

150

NORTHUMBERLAND

The noble duke hath sworn his coming is
But for his own, and for the right of that
We all have strongly sworn to give him aid.
And let him never see joy that breaks that oath.

155

YORK

Well, well. I see the issue of these arms.
I cannot mend it, I must needs confess,
Because my power is weak and all ill-left.
But if I could, by Him that gave me life,
I would attach you all and make you stoop
Unto the sovereign mercy of the King.
But since I cannot, be it known unto you
I do remain as neuter. So fare you well—
Unless you please to enter in the castle
And there repose you for this night.

160

165

BOLINGBROKE

An offer, uncle, that we will accept.
But we must win your Grace to go with us
To Bristow Castle, which they say is held
By Bushy, Bagot, and their complices,
The caterpillars of the commonwealth,
Which I have sworn to weed and pluck away.

170

YORK

It may be I will go with you; but yet I'll pause,
For I am loath to break our country's laws.
Nor friends nor foes, to me welcome you are.
Things past redress are now with me past care.

175

They exit.

2.4 The Welsh troops, having waited ten days for Richard's return, disperse. The earl of Salisbury predicts that Richard stands at the edge of defeat.

1. **stayed**: waited
2. **hardly**: i.e., with great difficulty
3. **yet**: still
9. **fixed stars**: In Ptolemaic astronomy, the stars (in distinction from, e.g., meteors) were **fixed** within a crystalline sphere that circled the earth. (See page xxxvi.)
11. **lean-looking prophets**: lean-looking soothsayers; **fearful**: frightening, terrible
- 13, 14. **enjoy**: possess, delight in
18. **heavy**: sorrowful
21. **Thy sun**: Since the king and the sun were often linked, each being put forward as the topmost link in its part of a "great chain of being," this reference to Richard's setting sun carries special resonance.
23. **wait upon**: serve, follow
24. **crossly**: adversely

[Scene 4]

Enter Earl of Salisbury and a Welsh Captain.

WELSH CAPTAIN

My Lord of Salisbury, we have stayed ten days
And hardly kept our countrymen together,
And yet we hear no tidings from the King.
Therefore we will disperse ourselves. Farewell.

SALISBURY

Stay yet another day, thou trusty Welshman.
The King reposeth all his confidence in thee.

WELSH CAPTAIN

'Tis thought the King is dead. We will not stay.
The bay trees in our country are all withered,
And meteors fright the fixed stars of heaven;
The pale-faced moon looks bloody on the earth, 10
And lean-looking prophets whisper fearful change;
Rich men look sad, and ruffians dance and leap,
The one in fear to lose what they enjoy,
The other to enjoy by rage and war.
These signs forerun the death or fall of kings. 15
Farewell. Our countrymen are gone and fled,
As well assured Richard their king is dead.

[*He exits.*]

SALISBURY

Ah, Richard! With the eyes of heavy mind
I see thy glory like a shooting star
Fall to the base earth from the firmament. 20
Thy sun sets weeping in the lowly west,
Witnessing storms to come, woe, and unrest.
Thy friends are fled to wait upon thy foes,
And crossly to thy good all fortune goes.

[*He exits.*]

The Tragedy of

RICHARD II

ACT 3

3.1 Bolingbroke sentences Bushy and Green to death.

3. **part:** separate from
4. **urging:** emphasizing, calling attention to
7. **unfold:** disclose, reveal; **of:** for
9. **A happy gentleman in:** i.e., a man fortunate in;
blood: inheritance, birth
10. **clean:** entirely
11. **in manner:** as it were
13. **Broke . . . bed:** The play gives no evidence of unhappiness between Richard and his queen, but Holinshed says that in Richard's court "there reigned abundantly the filthy sin of lechery and fornication, with abominable adultery, specially in the king."
20. **in foreign clouds:** perhaps, adding my breath to clouds over foreign lands; or, perhaps, in foreign air

「ACT 3」

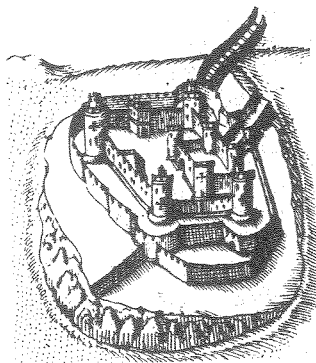
「Scene 1」

Enter 「Bolingbroke,」¹ Duke of Hereford, York, Northumberland, 「with other Lords, and」¹ Bushy and Green prisoners.

BOLINGBROKE Bring forth these men.—

Bushy and Green, I will not vex your souls,
Since presently your souls must part your bodies,
With too much urging your pernicious lives,
For 'twere no charity; yet to wash your blood 5
From off my hands, here in the view of men
I will unfold some causes of your deaths:
You have misled a prince, a royal king,
A happy gentleman in blood and lineaments
By you unhappied and disfigured clean. 10
You have in manner with your sinful hours
Made a divorce betwixt his queen and him,
Broke the possession of a royal bed,
And stained the beauty of a fair queen's cheeks
With tears drawn from her eyes by your foul wrongs. 15
Myself, a prince by fortune of my birth,
Near to the King in blood, and near in love
Till you did make him misinterpret me,
Have stooped my neck under your injuries
And sighed my English breath in foreign clouds, 20
Eating the bitter bread of banishment,

22. **seigniories**: estates, territories
 23. **Disparked**: thrown open
 24. **From . . . coat**: i.e., broken the stained-glass or painted windows in which my coat of arms was displayed
 25. **Rased out**: erased; **imprese**: heraldic device
 37. **dispatched**: put to death
 40. **entreated**: treated
 41. **commends**: greetings
 44. **at large**: in full, at length
 46. **Glendower**: This may or may not be the Owen Glendower who plays a large role in Shakespeare's *1 Henry IV*. According to Holinshed's *Chronicles*, Owen Glendower served Richard as a squire and escaped to Wales. **complices**: accomplices
 47. **after**: afterward



"Barkloughly" (Harlech) Castle. (3.2.1)
 From John Speed, *The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine . . .* (1627 [i.e., 1631]).

Whilst you have fed upon my seigniories,
 Disparked my parks and felled my forest woods,
 From my own windows torn my household coat,
 Rased out my imprese, leaving me no sign, 25
 Save men's opinions and my living blood,
 To show the world I am a gentleman.
 This and much more, much more than twice all
 this,
 Condemns you to the death.—See them delivered 30
 over
 To execution and the hand of death.

BUSHY

More welcome is the stroke of death to me
 Than Bolingbroke to England. Lords, farewell.

GREEN

My comfort is that heaven will take our souls 35
 And plague injustice with the pains of hell.

BOLINGBROKE

My Lord Northumberland, see them dispatched.
 「Northumberland exits with Bushy and Green.」
 「To York.」 Uncle, you say the Queen is at your
 house.

For God's sake, fairly let her be entreated. 40
 Tell her I send to her my kind commends.
 Take special care my greetings be delivered.

YORK

A gentleman of mine I have dispatched
 With letters of your love to her at large.

BOLINGBROKE

Thanks, gentle uncle.—Come, lords, away, 45
 To fight with Glendower and his complices.
 A while to work, and after holiday.

They exit.

3.2 Richard, landing in England, greets his kingdom and expresses certainty that God will protect him against Bolingbroke's threat. He learns that the Welsh troops have dispersed, that his close friends have been executed, and that York and Richard's other supporters have joined with Bolingbroke. Richard orders his army discharged and retreats to Flint Castle.

0 SD. **Flourish and colors:** i.e., a trumpet fanfare and a display of banners; **Carlisle:** i.e., the bishop of Carlisle

1. **Barkloughly:** Shakespeare follows Holinshed here in printing this incorrect form of a name for Harlech, which is on the west coast of Wales. (See page 108.) **at hand:** nearby

2. **brooks:** enjoys

3. **late:** recent

4. **Needs must I:** i.e., I must necessarily

6. **salute:** greet

8. **long-parted mother with:** i.e., mother long-parted from

9. **fondly:** (1) with love; (2) foolishly

13. **sense:** appetite

15. **in their way:** i.e., in the path of the king's enemies

16. **annoyance:** injury

21. **mortal:** fatal

23. **senseless conjuration:** i.e., imploring of inanimate things

25. **Prove:** i.e., show themselves to be; **native:** natural, legitimate

「Scene 2」

「Drums. Flourish and colors.」 Enter the King, Aumerle, Carlisle, 「and Soldiers.」

KING RICHARD

Barkloughly Castle call they this at hand?

AUMERLE

Yea, my lord. How brooks your Grace the air

After your late tossing on the breaking seas?

KING RICHARD

Needs must I like it well. I weep for joy

To stand upon my kingdom once again. 「He kneels.」 5

Dear earth, I do salute thee with my hand,

Though rebels wound thee with their horses' hoofs.

As a long-parted mother with her child

Plays fondly with her tears and smiles in meeting,

So, weeping, smiling, greet I thee, my earth, 10

And do thee favors with my royal hands.

Feed not thy sovereign's foe, my gentle earth,

Nor with thy sweets comfort his ravenous sense,

But let thy spiders, that suck up thy venom,

And heavy-gaited toads lie in their way, 15

Doing annoyance to the treacherous feet

Which with usurping steps do trample thee.

Yield stinging nettles to mine enemies,

And when they from thy bosom pluck a flower,

Guard it, I pray thee, with a lurking adder, 20

Whose double tongue may with a mortal touch

Throw death upon thy sovereign's enemies.

Mock not my senseless conjuration, lords.

This earth shall have a feeling, and these stones

Prove armed soldiers, ere her native king 25

Shall falter under foul rebellion's arms.

CARLISLE

Fear not, my lord. That power that made you king

Hath power to keep you king in spite of all.

29–32. **The . . . redress:** In these difficult lines, the bishop of Carlisle advises Richard to act now and not refuse the help the bishop believes that heaven offers. **heavens yield:** i.e., the heavens yield, or heaven yields

34. **security:** foolish absence of anxiety, overconfidence

35. **in substance and in power:** i.e., in resources and in troops

36. **Discomfortable:** discouraging, disheartening

37. **searching eye of heaven:** i.e., sun (Richard here begins a comparison of the sun's absence at nighttime to his own absence in Ireland. In Ptolemaic astronomy, the sun travels around **the globe**—the earth—departing at night in order to light **the lower world**—i.e., the other side of the world.)

38. **that lights:** i.e., while it is lighting

41. **this terrestrial ball:** i.e., the earth

42. **He:** i.e., it (the sun); **fires:** i.e., shines its light on (literally, sets on fire)

43. **guilty hole:** i.e., place where the guilty are hiding

50. **Antipodes:** i.e., those who live on the opposite side of the globe (See page 114.)

56. **balm:** fragrant oil used for anointing a monarch in the coronation ceremony

57. **worldly:** earthly, mortal

59. **pressed:** impressed, conscripted

60. **shrewd:** keen, harsh

The means that heavens yield must be embraced
And not neglected. Else heaven would, 30
And we will not—heaven's offer we refuse,
The proffered means of succor and redress.

AUMERLE

He means, my lord, that we are too remiss,
Whilst Bolingbroke, through our security,
Grows strong and great in substance and in power. 35

KING RICHARD

Discomfortable cousin, know'st thou not
That when the searching eye of heaven is hid
Behind the globe that lights the lower world,
Then thieves and robbers range abroad unseen
In murders and in outrage boldly here? 40
But when from under this terrestrial ball
He fires the proud tops of the eastern pines
And darts his light through every guilty hole,
Then murders, treasons, and detested sins,
The cloak of night being plucked from off their
backs, 45

Stand bare and naked, trembling at themselves.
So when this thief, this traitor Bolingbroke,
Who all this while hath reveled in the night
Whilst we were wand'ring with the Antipodes, 50
Shall see us rising in our throne, the east,
His treasons will sit blushing in his face,
Not able to endure the sight of day,
But self-affrighted, tremble at his sin.
Not all the water in the rough rude sea 55
Can wash the balm off from an anointed king.
The breath of worldly men cannot depose
The deputy elected by the Lord.
For every man that Bolingbroke hath pressed
To lift shrewd steel against our golden crown, 60
God for His Richard hath in heavenly pay

63. **still:** always
 64. **power:** army
 65. **Nor near:** neither closer
 66. **Discomfort:** disheartenment, discouragement
 73. **state:** royal authority
 76, 83. **Comfort:** take comfort
 77. **But now:** even now
 78. **triumph:** look triumphant, exult



World map with the Antipodes. (3.2.50)
 From Ambrosius Aurelius Theodosius Macrobius, *In somnium*
Scipionis . . . (1492).

A glorious angel. Then, if angels fight,
 Weak men must fall, for heaven still guards the right.

Enter Salisbury.

Welcome, my lord. How far off lies your power?

SALISBURY

Nor near nor farther off, my gracious lord,
 Than this weak arm. Discomfort guides my tongue
 And bids me speak of nothing but despair.
 One day too late, I fear me, noble lord,
 Hath clouded all thy happy days on earth.
 O, call back yesterday, bid time return,
 And thou shalt have twelve thousand fighting men.
 Today, today, unhappy day too late,
 Overthrows thy joys, friends, fortune, and thy state;
 For all the Welshmen, hearing thou wert dead,
 Are gone to Bolingbroke, dispersed, and fled.

AUMERLE

Comfort, my liege. Why looks your Grace so pale?

KING RICHARD

But now the blood of twenty thousand men
 Did triumph in my face, and they are fled;
 And till so much blood thither come again
 Have I not reason to look pale and dead?
 All souls that will be safe, fly from my side,
 For time hath set a blot upon my pride.

AUMERLE

Comfort, my liege. Remember who you are.

KING RICHARD

I had forgot myself. Am I not king?
 Awake, thou coward majesty, thou sleepest!
 Is not the King's name twenty thousand names?
 Arm, arm, my name! A puny subject strikes
 At thy great glory. Look not to the ground,
 You favorites of a king. Are we not high?
 High be our thoughts. I know my Uncle York

96. **unfold**: disclose
 97. **care**: i.e., object of care or concern
 101. **his fellow**: i.e., Bolingbroke's equal
 105. **his day**: i.e., its day (See page 122.)
 111. **his limits**: i.e., its banks
 117. **clap**: i.e., thrust; **female**: i.e., unmanly
 118. **In**: into; **arms**: armor
 119. **beadsmen**: almsmen who offer prayers on behalf of a benefactor
 120. **double-fatal yew**: The yew tree is deadly in two ways: its leaves and berries are poisonous, and its wood is used to make **bows**. (See page 192.)
 121. **distaff women**: spinning women (The **distaff** is a staff used for spinning thread from wool or flax. See below.) **manage rusty bills**: wield pikes or halberds rusty from disuse



Woman with a distaff. (3.2.121)
 From Johann Engel, *Astrolabium* . . . (1488).

Hath power enough to serve our turn.—But who comes here?

Enter Scroop.

SCROOP

More health and happiness betide my liege
 Than can my care-tuned tongue deliver him.

KING RICHARD

Mine ear is open, and my heart prepared.
 The worst is worldly loss thou canst unfold.
 Say, is my kingdom lost? Why, 'twas my care,
 And what loss is it to be rid of care?

95

Strives Bolingbroke to be as great as we?
 Greater he shall not be. If he serve God,
 We'll serve Him too, and be his fellow so.
 Revolt our subjects? That we cannot mend.
 They break their faith to God as well as us.
 Cry woe, destruction, ruin, and decay.

100

The worst is death, and death will have his day.

105

SCROOP

Glad am I that your Highness is so armed
 To bear the tidings of calamity.
 Like an unseasonable stormy day
 Which makes the silver rivers drown their shores
 As if the world were all dissolved to tears,
 So high above his limits swells the rage
 Of Bolingbroke, covering your fearful land
 With hard bright steel and hearts harder than steel.
 Whitebeards have armed their thin and hairless
 scalps

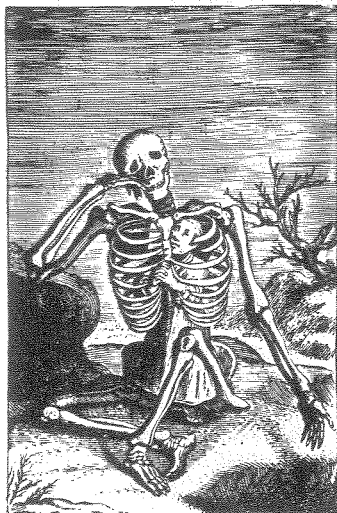
110

115

Against thy Majesty; boys with women's voices
 Strive to speak big, and clap their female joints
 In stiff unwieldy arms against thy crown;
 Thy very beadsmen learn to bend their bows
 Of double-fatal yew against thy state.
 Yea, distaff women manage rusty bills

120

122. **seat:** throne
 128. **Measure our confines:** travel across my land;
with such peaceful steps: i.e., without opposition
 134. **heart blood:** i.e., heart's blood
 136. **Judas:** See note to 4.1.178–79.
 138. **spotted:** corrupt, morally stained
 139. **his property:** i.e., its character or nature
 145. **graved:** buried



"Through the hollow eyes of death I
 spy life peering." (2.1.280–81)
 From Francis Quarles, *Emblemes* . . . (1635).

Against thy seat. Both young and old rebel,
 And all goes worse than I have power to tell.

KING RICHARD

Too well, too well thou tell'st a tale so ill.
 Where is the Earl of Wiltshire? Where is Bagot? 125
 What is become of Bushy? Where is Green,
 That they have let the dangerous enemy
 Measure our confines with such peaceful steps?
 If we prevail, their heads shall pay for it!
 I warrant they have made peace with Bolingbroke. 130

SCROOP

Peace have they made with him indeed, my lord.

KING RICHARD

O villains, vipers, damned without redemption!
 Dogs easily won to fawn on any man!
 Snakes in my heart blood warmed, that sting my
 heart! 135
 Three Judases, each one thrice worse than Judas!
 Would they make peace? Terrible hell
 Make war upon their spotted souls for this!

SCROOP

Sweet love, I see, changing his property,
 Turns to the sourest and most deadly hate. 140
 Again uncure their souls. Their peace is made
 With heads and not with hands. Those whom you
 curse
 Have felt the worst of death's destroying wound
 And lie full low, graved in the hollow ground. 145

AUMERLE

Is Bushy, Green, and the Earl of Wiltshire dead?

SCROOP

Ay, all of them at Bristow lost their heads.

AUMERLE

Where is the Duke my father with his power?

KING RICHARD

No matter where. Of comfort no man speak.

158. **that small . . . earth:** i.e., our body (The comparison of human flesh to dust was common—see Genesis 3.19—as was the image of the human body as a small model, or microcosm, of the earth or the cosmos. See longer note, page 226.)

159. **paste and cover:** i.e., a covering (as in the pastry covering of a pie)

163. **ghosts:** i.e., ghosts of kings

166. **rounds:** encircles

167. **antic:** jester, grotesque (The image of Death here is of the mocking skeleton familiar in pictures of “the dance of Death.” See pages 122 and 172.)

168. **Scoffing his state:** i.e., scoffing at the king’s majestic rule

170. **monarchize:** i.e., play at being a monarch

171. **self and vain conceit:** i.e., foolish and empty notions of himself

173. **humored thus:** i.e., when the king has been thus deluded; or, perhaps, when Death has thus amused himself

174. **Comes:** i.e., Death comes

175. **his castle wall:** i.e., **this flesh which walls about our life**

176. **Cover your heads:** i.e., put on your hats (which would not be worn in the presence of the king, in order to show proper respect)

180. **feel want:** experience needs and deficiencies

181. **Subjected thus:** (1) made to undergo such human experiences; (2) thus turned into (or revealed to be) a subject

184. **presently:** quickly, immediately; **prevent:** block off or counter in advance; **the ways to wail:** perhaps, those things that would cause grief

Let’s talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs, 150
 Make dust our paper, and with rainy eyes
 Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth.
 Let’s choose executors and talk of wills.
 And yet not so, for what can we bequeath
 Save our deposèd bodies to the ground? 155
 Our lands, our lives, and all are Bolingbroke’s,
 And nothing can we call our own but death
 And that small model of the barren earth
 Which serves as paste and cover to our bones.
 For God’s sake, let us sit upon the ground 160
 And tell sad stories of the death of kings—
 How some have been deposèd, some slain in war,
 Some haunted by the ghosts they have deposèd,
 Some poisoned by their wives, some sleeping killed,
 All murdered. For within the hollow crown 165
 That rounds the mortal temples of a king
 Keeps Death his court, and there the antic sits,
 Scoffing his state and grinning at his pomp,
 Allowing him a breath, a little scene,
 To monarchize, be feared, and kill with looks, 170
 Infusing him with self and vain conceit,
 As if this flesh which walls about our life
 Were brass impregnable; and humored thus,
 Comes at the last and with a little pin
 Bores through his castle wall, and farewell, king! 175
 Cover your heads, and mock not flesh and blood
 With solemn reverence. Throw away respect,
 Tradition, form, and ceremonious duty,
 For you have but mistook me all this while.
 I live with bread like you, feel want, 180
 Taste grief, need friends. Subjected thus,
 How can you say to me I am a king?

CARLISLE

My lord, wise men ne’er sit and wail their woes,
 But presently prevent the ways to wail.

188. **Fear, and be slain:** perhaps, if you fear, you are certain to be slain; **to fight:** perhaps, if you fight
 191. **a power:** an army; **of:** about
 194. **change:** exchange; **doom:** judgment
 195. **ague fit:** i.e., period of trembling or shivering;
is overblown: i.e., has blown over
 201. **heavy:** gloomy, sorrowful
 203. **by small and small:** i.e., little by little
 208. **Upon his party:** on his side
 210. **Beshrew thee:** a mild oath



"Death will have his day." (3.2.105)
 From *Todien-Tantz* . . . (1696).

To fear the foe, since fear oppresseth strength,
 Gives in your weakness strength unto your foe,
 And so your follies fight against yourself.
 Fear, and be slain—no worse can come to fight;
 And fight and die is death destroying death,
 Where fearing dying pays death servile breath. 185

AUMERLE

My father hath a power. Inquire of him,
 And learn to make a body of a limb.

KING RICHARD

Thou chid'st me well.—Proud Bolingbroke, I come
 To change blows with thee for our day of doom.—
 This ague fit of fear is overblown. 195
 An easy task it is to win our own.—
 Say, Scroop, where lies our uncle with his power?
 Speak sweetly, man, although thy looks be sour.

SCROOP

Men judge by the complexion of the sky
 The state and inclination of the day;
 So may you by my dull and heavy eye. 200
 My tongue hath but a heavier tale to say.
 I play the torturer by small and small
 To lengthen out the worst that must be spoken.
 Your uncle York is joined with Bolingbroke, 205
 And all your northern castles yielded up,
 And all your southern gentlemen in arms
 Upon his party.

KING RICHARD

Thou hast said enough.
 "To Aumerle." Beshrew thee, cousin, which didst 210
 lead me forth

Of that sweet way I was in to despair.
 What say you now? What comfort have we now?
 By heaven, I'll hate him everlastingly
 That bids me be of comfort anymore. 215
 Go to Flint Castle. There I'll pine away;
 A king, woe's slave, shall kingly woe obey.

218. **power:** army
 219. **ear:** plow, cultivate
 223. **wrong:** injury

3.3 Bolingbroke, approaching Flint Castle, learns that Richard is within. In answer to Bolingbroke's trumpets, Richard and Aumerle appear on the battlements. Northumberland presents Bolingbroke's demand that Richard yield Bolingbroke's "lineal royalties" and lift the sentence of banishment. Richard agrees. Northumberland returns and asks that Richard descend to Bolingbroke, who awaits him in the outer court. The cousins meet and Richard expresses willingness to yield to Bolingbroke and accompany him to London.

1. **intelligence:** information (Bolingbroke may be reading a dispatch or may simply be in midconversation as the scene opens.)

7. **beseem:** become

That power I have, discharge, and let them go
 To ear the land that hath some hope to grow,
 For I have none. Let no man speak again 220
 To alter this, for counsel is but vain.

AUMERLE

My liege, one word.

KING RICHARD

He does me double wrong
 That wounds me with the flatteries of his tongue.
 Discharge my followers. Let them hence away, 225
 From Richard's night to Bolingbroke's fair day.
 "They exit."

"Scene 3"

Enter "with Drum and Colors" Bolingbroke, York,
 Northumberland, "with Soldiers and Attendants."

BOLINGBROKE

So that by this intelligence we learn
 The Welshmen are dispersed, and Salisbury
 Is gone to meet the King, who lately landed
 With some few private friends upon this coast.

NORTHUMBERLAND

The news is very fair and good, my lord: 5
 Richard not far from hence hath hid his head.

YORK

It would beseem the Lord Northumberland
 To say "King Richard." Alack the heavy day
 When such a sacred king should hide his head!

NORTHUMBERLAND

Your Grace mistakes; only to be brief 10
 Left I his title out.

YORK

The time hath been, would you have been so brief
 with him,
 He would have been so brief to shorten you,

15. **taking so the head:** perhaps, thus omitting his title

17. **cousin:** kinsman, nephew

18. **mistake:** In the quarto there is no punctuation after this word. Acknowledged meanings of the word and Bolingbroke's response suggest that a new sentence begins with "The heavens."

27. **the limits of yon lime and stone:** i.e., those castle walls **limits of:** region enclosed by

31. **belike:** probably

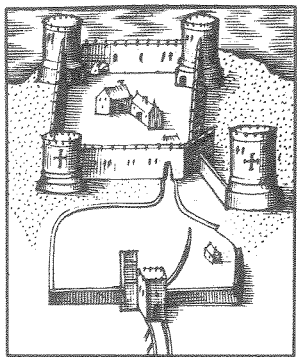
33. **rude:** rough; **ribs:** i.e., walls

34. **breath of parley:** i.e., signal for a conference

35. **his ruined ears:** i.e., the castle ruins (The words may also allude to the king.); **deliver:** say

41. **my banishment repealed:** i.e., the repeal of my banishment

42. **lands restored:** i.e., the restoration of my lands



Flint Castle. (3.2.216; 3.3)

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

For taking so the head, your whole head's length. 15
BOLINGBROKE

Mistake not, uncle, further than you should.

YORK

Take not, good cousin, further than you should,
Lest you mistake. The heavens are over our heads.

BOLINGBROKE

I know it, uncle, and oppose not myself 20
Against their will. But who comes here?

Enter Percy.

Welcome, Harry. What, will not this castle yield?

PERCY

The castle royally is manned, my lord,
Against thy entrance.

BOLINGBROKE

Royally? Why, it contains no king.

PERCY Yes, my good lord, 25

It doth contain a king. King Richard lies
Within the limits of yon lime and stone,
And with him are the Lord Aumerle, Lord Salisbury,
Sir Stephen Scroop, besides a clergyman
Of holy reverence—who, I cannot learn. 30

NORTHUMBERLAND

O, belike it is the Bishop of Carlisle.

BOLINGBROKE, *['to Northumberland']* Noble *['lord,']*
Go to the rude ribs of that ancient castle,
Through brazen trumpet send the breath of parley
Into his ruined ears, and thus deliver: 35
Henry Bolingbroke

On both his knees doth kiss King Richard's hand,
And sends allegiance and true faith of heart
To his most royal person, hither come
Even at his feet to lay my arms and power, 40
Provided that my banishment repealed
And lands restored again be freely granted.

43. **advantage of my power:** superiority of my forces

48. **It is such:** i.e., it is that such a

50. **My stooping duty:** i.e., my obedient humbling of myself; **tenderly:** gently, affectionately

54. **tottered:** i.e., tattered (having pointed projections; or, dilapidated)

55. **appointments:** equipment, outfits (Holinshed reports that Bolingbroke "mustered his army before the king's presence, which undoubtedly made a passing fair show.")

56. **Methinks:** it seems to me

58. **fire and water:** in the form of lightning and rain

61. **rain:** perhaps, weep (but with a probable pun on *rain/reign*)

63. **mark:** observe

63 SD. **Richard appeareth:** Many editions follow the Folio here and have Scroop, Salisbury, and the bishop of Carlisle also appear **on the walls**.

65. **blushing discontented sun:** Proverbial: "A red morning foretells a stormy day."

67. **he:** i.e., it; **envious:** spiteful; **bent:** determined

71. **lightens forth:** i.e., sends forth like lightning

73. **so fair a show:** so beautiful a spectacle or sight

If not, I'll use the advantage of my power
And lay the summer's dust with showers of blood
Rained from the wounds of slaughtered 45

Englishmen—

The which how far off from the mind of Bolingbroke
It is such crimson tempest should bedrench
The fresh green lap of fair King Richard's land,
My stooping duty tenderly shall show. 50
Go signify as much while here we march
Upon the grassy carpet of this plain.

*Northumberland and Trumpets
approach the battlements.*

Let's march without the noise of threat'ning drum,
That from this castle's tottered battlements
Our fair appointments may be well perused. 55
Methinks King Richard and myself should meet
With no less terror than the elements
Of fire and water when their thund'ring shock
At meeting tears the cloudy cheeks of heaven.
Be he the fire, I'll be the yielding water; 60
The rage be his, whilst on the earth I rain
My waters—on the earth, and not on him.
March on, and mark King Richard how he looks.

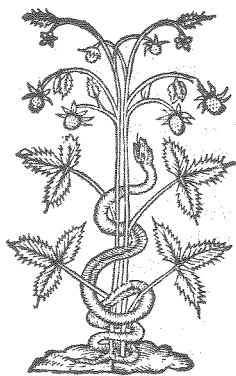
*Boilingbroke's Soldiers march, the trumpets sound.
Richard appeareth on the walls with Aumerle.*

See, see, King Richard doth himself appear
As doth the blushing discontented sun 65
From out the fiery portal of the east
When he perceives the envious clouds are bent
To dim his glory and to stain the track
Of his bright passage to the occident.

YORK

Yet looks he like a king. Behold, his eye,
As bright as is the eagle's, lightens forth
Controlling majesty. Alack, alack for woe
That any harm should stain so fair a show! 70

74. **We are amazed:** I am astounded
 74–75. **stood / To watch:** i.e., stood silent waiting to see
 77. **An if:** i.e., if
 78. **awful:** reverential, profoundly respectful
 79. **hand of God:** God's signature
 82. **gripe:** seize
 83. **Unless . . . usurp:** i.e., without committing sacrilege, theft, or usurpation
 85. **Have torn . . . us:** i.e., have turned away from me, thus tearing their souls asunder
 91. **That lift:** i.e., (the children of you) who lift
 96. **purple testament:** i.e., bloody legacy
 98. **crowns:** heads
 104. **civil:** i.e., used in civil combat; **uncivil:** barbarous



A lurking adder. (3.2.20)
 From Claude Paradin, *The heroicall deuises of . . .* (1591).

KING RICHARD, [to Northumberland, below]

We are amazed, and thus long have we stood
 To watch the fearful bending of thy knee,
 Because we thought ourself thy lawful king. 75
 An if we be, how dare thy joints forget
 To pay their awful duty to our presence?
 If we be not, show us the hand of God
 That hath dismissed us from our stewardship,
 For well we know no hand of blood and bone 80
 Can gripe the sacred handle of our scepter,
 Unless he do profane, steal, or usurp.
 And though you think that all, as you have done,
 Have torn their souls by turning them from us, 85
 And we are barren and bereft of friends,
 Yet know, my master, God omnipotent,
 Is mustering in his clouds on our behalf
 Armies of pestilence, and they shall strike
 Your children yet unborn and unbegot, 90
 That lift your vassal hands against my head
 And threat the glory of my precious crown.
 Tell Bolingbroke—for yon methinks he stands—
 That every stride he makes upon my land
 Is dangerous treason. He is come to open 95
 The purple testament of bleeding war;
 But ere the crown he looks for live in peace,
 Ten thousand bloody crowns of mothers' sons
 Shall ill become the flower of England's face,
 Change the complexion of her maid-pale peace 100
 To scarlet indignation, and bedew
 Her pastures' grass with faithful English blood.

NORTHUMBERLAND

The King of heaven forbid our lord the King
 Should so with civil and uncivil arms
 Be rushed upon! Thy thrice-noble cousin,
 Harry Bolingbroke, doth humbly kiss thy hand, 105
 And by the honorable tomb he swears

109. **royalties:** royal status; **bloods:** families, lineages

110. **head:** fountainhead, spring

114. **scope:** aim, goal

115. **lineal royalties:** hereditary rights due to one of royal blood

116. **Enfranchisement:** i.e., freedom from the sentence of banishment

117. **on thy royal party granted once:** i.e., once you have granted this

118. **commend:** commit

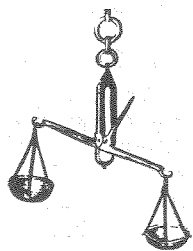
119. **barbèd steeds:** armored horses (A barb was a shield covering the horse's breast and flanks.)

123. **returns:** replies

126. **accomplished:** carried out

128. **commends:** regards

131. **look so poorly:** appear so abject; **fair:** courteously, flatteringly



Scales, or balances. (3.4.91-94)
From Silvestro Pietrasanta, . . . *Symbola heroica* (1682).

That stands upon your royal grandsire's bones,
And by the royalties of both your bloods,
Currents that spring from one most gracious head, 110
And by the buried hand of warlike Gaunt,
And by the worth and honor of himself,
Comprising all that may be sworn or said,
His coming hither hath no further scope
Than for his lineal royalties, and to beg 115
Enfranchisement immediate on his knees;
Which on thy royal party granted once,
His glittering arms he will commend to rust,
His barbèd steeds to stables, and his heart
To faithful service of your Majesty. 120
This swears he, as he is ¹a prince and ¹just,
And as I am a gentleman I credit him.

KING RICHARD

Northumberland, say thus the King returns:
His noble cousin is right welcome hither,
And all the number of his fair demands 125
Shall be accomplished without contradiction.
With all the gracious utterance thou hast,
Speak to his gentle hearing kind commends.

¹Northumberland returns to Bolingbroke. ¹

¹To Aumerle. ¹ We do debase ourselves, cousin, do
we not, 130

To look so poorly and to speak so fair?
Shall we call back Northumberland and send
Defiance to the traitor and so die?

AUMERLE

No, good my lord, let's fight with gentle words,
Till time lend friends, and friends their helpful
swords. 135

KING RICHARD

O God, O God, that e'er this tongue of mine
That laid the sentence of dread banishment
On yon proud man should take it off again

140. **words of sooth:** flattering words
 144. **scope:** space
 146. **scope:** permission; opportunity
 152. **set of beads:** i.e., rosary
 154. **gay:** brilliant, fine
 156. **palmer's:** pilgrim's (See below.)
 159. **obscure:** pronounced *òbscure*
 160. **King's highway:** i.e., rather than in consecrated ground
 161. **trade:** traffic
 164. **buried once:** i.e., once I am buried
 167. **lodge:** beat down; **corn:** wheat
 168. **revolting:** rebelling
 169. **play the wantons:** dally, trifle
 170. **make . . . match:** i.e., devise a clever game
 172. **fretted:** i.e., dug (literally, worn away)



A palmer. (3.3.156)
 From Henry Peacham, *Minerua Britanna* . . . (1612).

With words of sooth! O, that I were as great 140
 As is my grief, or lesser than my name!
 Or that I could forget what I have been,
 Or not remember what I must be now.
 Swell'st thou, proud heart? I'll give thee scope to
 beat, 145
 Since foes have scope to beat both thee and me.

AUMERLE

Northumberland comes back from Bolingbroke.

KING RICHARD

What must the King do now? Must he submit?
 The King shall do it. Must he be deposed?
 The King shall be contented. Must he lose 150
 The name of king? I' God's name, let it go.
 I'll give my jewels for a set of beads,
 My gorgeous palace for a hermitage,
 My gay apparel for an almsman's gown,
 My figured goblets for a dish of wood, 155
 My scepter for a palmer's walking-staff,
 My subjects for a pair of carved saints,
 And my large kingdom for a little grave,
 A little, little grave, an obscure grave;
 Or I'll be buried in the King's highway, 160
 Some way of common trade, where subjects' feet
 May hourly trample on their sovereign's head;
 For on my heart they tread now whilst I live,
 And, buried once, why not upon my head?
 Aumerle, thou weep'st, my tender-hearted cousin. 165
 We'll make foul weather with despised tears;
 Our sighs and they shall lodge the summer corn
 And make a dearth in this revolting land.
 Or shall we play the wantons with our woes
 And make some pretty match with shedding tears? 170
 As thus, to drop them still upon one place
 Till they have fretted us a pair of graves
 Within the earth; and therein laid—there lies

175. **ill:** misfortune (that causes them to weep)

176. **idly:** foolishly

180. **make a leg:** i.e., bow

181. **base court:** outermost courtyard (Holinshed says that Bolingbroke waited for Richard "within the first gate" of the castle.); **attend:** wait

183. **glist'ring:** glittering; **Phaëton:** son of Apollo, the sun god, killed while attempting to drive the chariot of the sun (See below.)

184. **Wanting the manage of:** i.e., unable to control **manage:** i.e., *manège*, horsemanship

187. **do them grace:** i.e., show them favor

194. **fondly:** foolishly; **frantic man:** madman

196. **Stand all apart:** i.e., everyone stand aside

201. **Me rather had:** i.e., I had rather



"Down I come, like glist'ring Phaëton." (3.3.183)
From Ovid, . . . *Metamorphoseos Libri XV* . . . (1527).

Two kinsmen digged their graves with weeping eyes.
Would not this ill do well? Well, well, I see
I talk but idly, and you laugh at me. 175

「Northumberland approaches the battlements.」

Most mighty prince, my Lord Northumberland,
What says King Bolingbroke? Will his Majesty
Give Richard leave to live till Richard die?
You make a leg, and Bolingbroke says ay. 180

NORTHUMBERLAND

My lord, in the base court he doth attend
To speak with you, may it please you to come down.

KING RICHARD

Down, down I come, like glist'ring Phaëton,
Wanting the manage of unruly jades.
In the base court—base court, where kings grow
base, 185
To come at traitors' calls and do them grace.
In the base court come down—down court, down
king,
For nightowls shriek where mounting larks should 190
sing.

「Richard exits above
and Northumberland returns to Bolingbroke.」

BOLINGBROKE What says his Majesty?

NORTHUMBERLAND Sorrow and grief of heart
Makes him speak fondly like a frantic man,
Yet he is come. 195

「Richard enters below.」

BOLINGBROKE Stand all apart,
And show fair duty to his Majesty. *He kneels down.*
My gracious lord.

KING RICHARD

Fair cousin, you debase your princely knee
To make the base earth proud with kissing it. 200
Me rather had my heart might feel your love

208. **redoubted**: feared, revered
 213. **want**: lack
 216. **willing**: willingly

3.4 Richard's queen overhears a gardener describing Richard's downfall and probable deposition.

2. **heavy**: sad, sorrowful

3–5. **bowls, rubs, bias**: In the game of **bowls**, **rubs** are obstructions that hinder or deflect the course of the bowl; the **bias** is the curve that brings the ball to the desired point. (See below.)



"We'll play at bowls." (3.4.3)
 From *Le centre de l'amour* . . . (1650?).

Than my displeased eye see your courtesy.
 Up, cousin, up. Your heart is up, I know,
 Thus high at least ^{indicating his crown,} although
 your knee be low.

205

BOLINGBROKE, ^{standing}

My gracious lord, I come but for mine own.

KING RICHARD

Your own is yours, and I am yours, and all.

BOLINGBROKE

So far be mine, my most redoubted lord,
 As my true service shall deserve your love.

KING RICHARD

Well you deserve. They well deserve to have
 That know the strong'st and surest way to get.—
 Uncle, give me your hands. Nay, dry your eyes.
 Tears show their love but want their remedies.—
 Cousin, I am too young to be your father,
 Though you are old enough to be my heir.
 What you will have I'll give, and willing, too,
 For do we must what force will have us do.
 Set on towards London, cousin, is it so?

210

215

BOLINGBROKE

Yea, my good lord.

KING RICHARD

Then I must not say no.

220

^{They exit.}

^{Scene 4}

Enter the Queen with her Ladies-in-waiting.

QUEEN

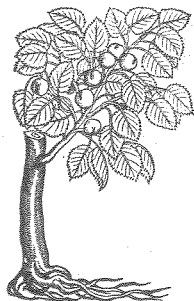
What sport shall we devise here in this garden
 To drive away the heavy thought of care?

LADY Madam, we'll play at bowls.

QUEEN

'Twill make me think the world is full of rubs
 And that my fortune runs against the bias.

7. **can . . . measure:** cannot move rhythmically
 8. **no measure keeps:** knows no limit or bounds
 14. **wanting:** lacking
 15. **remember:** remind
 16. **had:** in my possession, as opposed to **wanting**, or lacking (line 14)
 17, 19. **want:** lack
 19. **boots not:** does no good, does not help
 25. **sing:** i.e., sing for joy
 29. **My wretchedness unto:** i.e., I would bet my wretchedness against
 30. **state:** i.e., matters of state
 31. **Against:** just before; **forerun with:** foreshadowed by
 32. **young:** Some editions print "yon," from the Folio's "yond." **apricokes:** apricots



An apricot tree. (3.4.32)
 From John Gerard, *The herball or generall historie
 of plantes . . .* (1633).

LADY Madam, we'll dance.

QUEEN

My legs can keep no measure in delight
 When my poor heart no measure keeps in grief.
 Therefore no dancing, girl. Some other sport.

LADY Madam, we'll tell tales.

10

QUEEN

Of sorrow or of "joy?"

LADY

Of either, madam.

QUEEN Of neither, girl,

For if of joy, being altogether wanting,
 It doth remember me the more of sorrow;
 Or if of grief, being altogether had,
 It adds more sorrow to my want of joy.
 For what I have I need not to repeat,
 And what I want it boots not to complain.

15

LADY Madam, I'll sing.

20

QUEEN

'Tis well that thou hast cause,
 But thou shouldst please me better wouldst thou
 weep.

LADY

I could weep, madam, would it do you good.

QUEEN

And I could sing, would weeping do me good,
 And never borrow any tear of thee.

25

Enter "a Gardener and two Servingmen."

But stay, here come the gardeners.
 Let's step into the shadow of these trees.
 My wretchedness unto a row of "pins,"
 They will talk of state, for everyone doth so
 Against a change. Woe is forerun with woe.

30

"Queen and Ladies step aside."

GARDENER, "to one Servingman"

Go, bind thou up young dangling apricokes

34. of their prodigal weight: i.e., from their excessive weight (The word **prodigal**, with its associations with wasteful children—as in the “prodigal son” story in Luke 15.11–32—continues the parallel between the fruit of the apricot and **unruly children**.)

37. **sprays**: twigs of trees or shrubs

41. **noisome**: harmful, injurious

43. **pale**: area enclosed by a fence

45. **firm estate**: sound or healthy condition

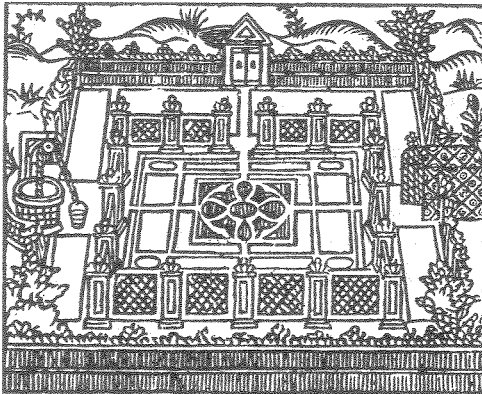
49. **knots**: intricately designed flower beds (See page 202.)

52. **suffered**: allowed

62. **That he**: i.e., that Richard

63. **at time of year**: i.e., at the proper season

66. **it confound**: i.e., the tree destroy



A garden encompassed with pales. (3.4.43)
From Thomas Hill, *The gardeners labyrinth* . . . (1577).

Which, like unruly children, make their sire
Stoop with oppression of their prodigal weight.
Give some supportance to the bending twigs.—
Go thou, and like an executioner
Cut off the heads of ¹too¹-fast-growing sprays
That look too lofty in our commonwealth.
All must be even in our government.
You thus employed, I will go root away
The noisome weeds which without profit suck
The soil's fertility from wholesome flowers.

MAN

Why should we, in the compass of a pale,
Keep law and form and due proportion,
Showing as in a model our firm estate,
When our sea-walled garden, the whole land,
Is full of weeds, her fairest flowers choked up,
Her fruit trees all unpruned, her hedges ruined,
Her knots disordered, and her wholesome herbs
Swarming with caterpillars?

GARDENER

Hold thy peace.

He that hath suffered this disordered spring
Hath now himself met with the fall of leaf.
The weeds which his broad-spreading leaves did
shelter,

That seemed in eating him to hold him up,
Are plucked up, root and all, by Bolingbroke—
I mean the Earl of Wiltshire, Bushy, Green.

MAN What, are they dead?

GARDENER

They are. And Bolingbroke

Hath seized the wasteful king. O, what pity is it
That he had not so trimmed and dressed his land
As we this garden! ¹We¹ at time of year
Do wound the bark, the skin of our fruit trees,
Lest, being overproud in sap and blood,
With too much riches it confound itself.
Had he done so to great and growing men,

70. **bearing boughs:** i.e., boughs that bear fruit

74. **Depressed:** subjugated, overcome

75. **'Tis doubt:** there is fear

78. **pressed to death:** a reference to a method of torture in which the body of an accused person who refused to speak was crushed under a mass of stones; **want:** lack

79. **old Adam's . . . garden:** a reference to Genesis 2.15: "Then the Lord God took the man [Adam] and put him into the garden of Eden, that he might dress it and keep it." (Geneva Bible)

82-83. **Eve . . . man:** See Genesis 3 for the story of the **serpent**, the temptation of Adam and **Eve**, and the **fall of cursèd man**. **suggested:** tempted

87. **ill:** evil

91. **are weighed:** The gardener goes on to describe the **fortunes** of Richard and Bolingbroke as if they were being **weighed** in a balance—a weighing device with pans or scales. (See page 132.) In line 94, the word **balance** is used to refer to one of these pans.

93. **vanities:** worthless things

96. **odds:** advantage

97. **Post you:** go quickly, as if by post-horses

They might have lived to bear and he to taste
Their fruits of duty. Superfluous branches
We lop away, that bearing boughs may live. 70
Had he done so, himself had borne the crown,
Which waste of idle hours hath quite thrown down.

MAN

What, think you the King shall be deposed?

GARDENER

Depressed he is already, and deposed
'Tis doubt he will be. Letters came last night 75
To a dear friend of the good Duke of York's
That tell black tidings.

QUEEN

O, I am pressed to death through want of speaking!
"Stepping forward."

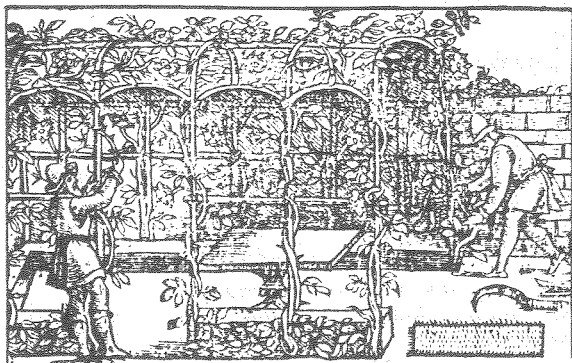
Thou old Adam's likeness, set to dress this garden,
How dares thy harsh rude tongue sound this 80
unpleasing news?

What Eve, what serpent, hath suggested thee
To make a second fall of cursèd man?
Why dost thou say King Richard is deposed?
Dar'st thou, thou little better thing than earth, 85
Divine his downfall? Say where, when, and how
"Cam'st" thou by this ill tidings? Speak, thou wretch!

GARDENER

Pardon me, madam. Little joy have I
To breathe this news, yet what I say is true.
King Richard, he is in the mighty hold 90
Of Bolingbroke. Their fortunes both are weighed.
In your lord's scale is nothing but himself
And some few vanities that make him light,
But in the balance of great Bolingbroke,
Besides himself, are all the English peers, 95
And with that odds he weighs King Richard down.
Post you to London and you will find it so.
I speak no more than everyone doth know.

100. **embassage:** message
 103. **Thy sorrow:** i.e., the sorrow carried by **mis-
 chance**
 106. **triumph:** triumphal procession
 110. **would:** i.e., wish
 111. **fall:** shed
 112. **rue, sour herb of grace:** Garden rue was
 called "herb of grace" because of its association with
 repentance. (See page 204.)
 113. **ruth:** pity



Gardeners pruning an arbor. (3.4.32-72)
 From Thomas Hill, *The gardeners labyrinth* . . . (1577).

QUEEN

Nimble mischance, that art so light of foot,
 Doth not thy embassage belong to me,
 And am I last that knows it? O, thou thinkest 100
 To serve me last that I may longest keep
 Thy sorrow in my breast. Come, ladies, go
 To meet at London London's king in woe.
 What, was I born to this, that my sad look 105
 Should grace the triumph of great Bolingbroke?—
 Gard'ner, for telling me these news of woe,
 Pray God the plants thou graft'st may never grow.
She exits [with Ladies.]

GARDENER

Poor queen, so that thy state might be no worse,
 I would my skill were subject to thy curse. 110
 Here did she fall a tear. Here in this place
 I'll set a bank of rue, sour herb of grace.
 Rue even for ruth here shortly shall be seen
 In the remembrance of a weeping queen.
They exit.

The Tragedy of

RICHARD II

ACT 4

4.1 Bolingbroke seeks information about the duke of Gloucester's death. Bagot implicates Aumerle, and several nobles challenge Aumerle and each other. York brings word that Richard resigns the crown. When Bolingbroke begins to ascend the throne, the bishop of Carlisle accuses him of treachery and predicts bloody civil war. Carlisle is arrested, and Bolingbroke orders Richard brought before him. Richard formally deposes himself and is taken off to the Tower. Aumerle learns from the abbot of Westminster that there is a plot against Bolingbroke.

1. **Bagot:** See note to 2.3.169.
3. **Gloucester's death:** See note to 1.1.103 and longer note, page 223.
5. **timeless:** untimely
9. **delivered:** said
10. **dead:** past, long ago; also, perhaps, fatal, deadly
12. **of length:** long
13. **restful:** quiet

「ACT 4」

「Scene 1」

Enter Bolingbroke with the Lords 「Aumerle, Northumberland, Harry Percy, Fitzwater, Surrey, the Bishop of Carlisle, the Abbot of Westminster, and another Lord, Herald, Officers」 to parliament.

BOLINGBROKE Call forth Bagot.

Enter 「Officers with」 Bagot.

Now, Bagot, freely speak thy mind
What thou dost know of noble Gloucester's death,
Who wrought it with the King, and who performed
The bloody office of his timeless end.

5

BAGOT

Then set before my face the Lord Aumerle.

BOLINGBROKE

Cousin, stand forth, and look upon that man.

「Aumerle steps forward.」

BAGOT

My Lord Aumerle, I know your daring tongue
Scorns to unsay what once it hath delivered.
In that dead time when Gloucester's death was
plotted,
I heard you say "Is not my arm of length,
That reacheth from the restful English court
As far as Calais, to mine uncle's head?"
Amongst much other talk that very time

10

15

18. **Than Bolingbroke's return:** i.e., than have Bolingbroke return (The time scheme is in error here, since Gloucester was killed before Bolingbroke was exiled.)

19. **withal:** in addition

20. **this your cousin's:** i.e., Bolingbroke's

22. **base:** low-born, cowardly

23. **my fair stars:** i.e., my noble birth (Aumerle here credits the influence of the stars for his fortunate lineage.)

24. **On equal terms:** i.e., as if we were equals

26. **attainder:** accusation

26 SD. **gage:** See note to 1.1.71 and page 154.

27. **the manual seal of death:** (1) the signature (*seal manual* or *sign manual*) of Death; (2) a glove from my hand that seals your fate

29-30. **maintain . . . In thy heart-blood:** i.e., uphold even in your heart's blood that what you have said is false

30-31. **though being . . . sword:** i.e., even though your blood is too base (low-born, cowardly) to stain my sword, made of well-tempered steel

33. **one:** i.e., Bolingbroke; **the best:** i.e., highest in rank

34. **presence:** company, assembly; **moved:** provoked

35. **stand on sympathy:** i.e., insists on fighting someone of equal rank

39. **vauntingly:** boastfully

43. **forgèd:** made, fashioned

I heard you say that you had rather refuse
The offer of an hundred thousand crowns
Than Bolingbroke's return to England,
Adding withal how blest this land would be
In this your cousin's death.

20

AUMERLE Princes and noble lords,
What answer shall I make to this base man?
Shall I so much dishonor my fair stars
On equal terms to give 'him' chastisement?
Either I must, or have mine honor soiled
With the attainder of his slanderous lips.

25

He throws down a gage.

There is my gage, the manual seal of death
That marks thee out for hell. I say thou liest,
And will maintain what thou hast said is false
In thy heart-blood, though being all too base
To stain the temper of my knightly sword.

30

BOLINGBROKE

Bagot, forbear. Thou shalt not take it up.

AUMERLE

Excepting one, I would he were the best
In all this presence that hath moved me so.

FITZWATER, *throwing down a gage*

If that thy valor stand on sympathy,
There is my gage, Aumerle, in gage to thine.
By that fair sun which shows me where thou
stand'st,

35

I heard thee say, and vauntingly thou spak'st it,
That thou wert cause of noble Gloucester's death.
If thou deniest it twenty times, thou liest,
And I will turn thy falsehood to thy heart,
Where it was forgèd, with my rapier's point.

40

AUMERLE, *taking up the gage*

Thou dar'st not, coward, live to see that day.

FITZWATER

Now, by my soul, I would it were this hour.

45

48. **appeal:** charge, accusation; **all:** completely
 50-51. **to . . . breathing:** i.e., with my dying
 breath; or, at the cost of my life, if necessary
 52. **An if:** i.e., if
 55. **I task . . . like:** i.e., I give the earth a similar
 burden
 56. **with full as many:** i.e., by accusing you of just
 as many
 59. **Engage it:** perhaps, take it up as a gage
 60. **sets, throw:** terms from dicing; **sets me:** wa-
 gers against me; **throw:** cast
 65. **in presence:** present; or, perhaps, in the king's
 presence chamber



Gantelet

A gauntlet (often used as a gage).
 (1.1.71 SD; 4.1.27)

From Louis de Gaya, *Traité des armes, des machines
 de guerre . . .* (1678).

AUMERLE

Fitzwater, thou art damned to hell for this.

PERCY

Aumerle, thou liest! His honor is as true
 In this appeal as thou art all unjust;
 And that thou art so, there I throw my gage;
 'He throws down a gage.'

To prove it on thee to the extremest point
 Of mortal breathing. Seize it if thou dar'st. 50

AUMERLE, 'taking up the gage'

An if I do not, may my hands rot off
 And never brandish more revengeful steel
 Over the glittering helmet of my foe!

ANOTHER LORD, 'throwing down a gage'

I task the earth to the like, forsworn Aumerle,
 And spur thee on with full as many lies
 As may be holloed in thy treacherous ear
 From 'sun' to 'sun.' There is my honor's pawn.
 Engage it to the trial if thou darest. 55

AUMERLE, 'taking up the gage'

Who sets me else? By heaven, I'll throw at all!
 I have a thousand spirits in one breast
 To answer twenty thousand such as you. 60

SURREY

My Lord Fitzwater, I do remember well
 The very time Aumerle and you did talk.

FITZWATER

'Tis very true. You were in presence then,
 And you can witness with me this is true. 65

SURREY

As false, by heaven, as heaven itself is true.

FITZWATER

Surrey, thou liest.

SURREY

Dishonorable boy,
 That lie shall lie so heavy on my sword
 That it shall render vengeance and revenge 70

76. **fondly**: foolishly; a **forward**: an eager
 81. **correction**: punishment
 83. **appeal**: accusation
 89. **repealed to try his honor**: i.e., called back
 from exile to put his honor on trial
 90. **differences**: quarrels, disagreements; **under**
gage: as challenges
 93. **seigniories**: estates, territories
 95. **his trial**: i.e., trial by combat
 99. **Streaming the ensign**: waving or flying the
 banner

Commonstinging Nettle.



"Yield stinging nettles to mine enemies." (3.2.18)
 From John Gerard, *The herball or generall historie*
of plantes . . . (1597).

Till thou the lie-giver and that lie do lie
 In earth as quiet as thy father's skull.

"He throws down a gage."

In proof whereof, there is my honor's pawn.
 Engage it to the trial if thou dar'st.

75

FITZWATER, *"taking up the gage"*

How fondly dost thou spur a forward horse!
 If I dare eat or drink or breathe or live,
 I dare meet Surrey in a wilderness
 And spit upon him whilst I say he lies,
 And lies, and lies. There is *"my"* bond of faith
 To tie thee to my strong correction.

80

"He throws down a gage."

As I intend to thrive in this new world,
 Aumerle is guilty of my true appeal.—
 Besides, I heard the banished Norfolk say
 That thou, Aumerle, didst send two of thy men
 To execute the noble duke at Calais.

85

AUMERLE

Some honest Christian trust me with a gage.

"A Lord hands him a gage."

Aumerle throws it down."

That Norfolk lies, here do I throw down this,
 If he may be repealed to try his honor.

BOLINGBROKE

These differences shall all rest under gage
 Till Norfolk be repealed. Repealed he shall be,
 And though mine enemy, restored again
 To all his lands and seigniories. When he is
 returned,

90

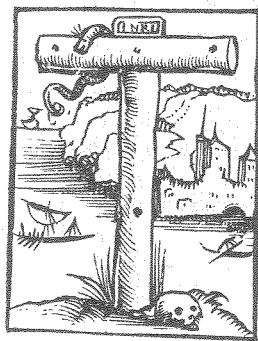
Against Aumerle we will enforce his trial.

95

CARLISLE

That honorable day shall never be seen.
 Many a time hath banished Norfolk fought
 For Jesu Christ in glorious Christian field,
 Streaming the ensign of the Christian cross

101. **toiled**: fatigued, worn out
 105. **colors**: flag, insignia
 108-9. **bosom** . . . **Abraham**: See Luke 16.22:
 "And it came to pass that [the man] died and was
 carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom."
 109. **Lords appellants**: i.e., you lords who have
 made accusations against each other
 117. **descending**: i.e., passing to you
 120. **Marry**: an oath (originally, "by the Virgin
 Mary")
 121. **Worst**: i.e., least worthy, lowest in rank
 122. **best beseeing me**: i.e., it best fits me (as
 bishop)
 125. **noblesse**: nobility
 126. **Learn**: teach
 129. **but**: unless; **by**: i.e., present
 130. **apparent**: obvious



Golgotha. (4.1.150)
 From Martin Luther, *Ein sermon* . . . (1523).

Against black pagans, Turks, and Saracens;
 And, toiled with works of war, retired himself 100
 To Italy, and there at Venice gave
 His body to that pleasant country's earth
 And his pure soul unto his captain, Christ,
 Under whose colors he had fought so long. 105
BOLINGBROKE Why, bishop, is Norfolk dead?
CARLISLE As surely as I live, my lord.
BOLINGBROKE
 Sweet peace conduct his sweet soul to the bosom
 Of good old Abraham! Lords appellants,
 Your differences shall all rest under gage 110
 Till we assign you to your days of trial.

Enter York.

YORK

Great Duke of Lancaster, I come to thee
 From plume-plucked Richard, who with willing
 soul
 Adopts thee heir, and his high scepter yields 115
 To the possession of thy royal hand.
 Ascend his throne, descending now from him,
 And long live Henry, fourth of that name!
BOLINGBROKE
 In God's name, I'll ascend the regal throne.
CARLISLE Marry, God forbid! 120
 Worst in this royal presence may I speak,
 Yet best beseeing me to speak the truth.
 Would God that any in this noble presence
 Were enough noble to be upright judge
 Of noble Richard! Then true noblesse would 125
 Learn him forbearance from so foul a wrong.
 What subject can give sentence on his king?
 And who sits here that is not Richard's subject?
 Thieves are not judged but they are by to hear,
 Although apparent guilt be seen in them; 130
 And shall the figure of God's majesty,

132. **elect**: chosen

133. **planted**: established

135. **forfend it God**: i.e., God forbid

136. **climate**: i.e., region

144. **future ages groan**: Carlisle's prophecy describes what happens to England in the Wars of the Roses, dramatized by Shakespeare in his plays about Henry VI and Richard III.

147. **kin . . . confound**: i.e., destroy (**confound**) kinsman by kinsman

149. **inhabit**: dwell

150. **Golgotha and dead men's skulls**: **Golgotha** (the hill of Calvary), where Jesus was crucified, was known as "the place of dead men's skulls" (Mark 15.22). See page 158.

151-52. **if you raise . . . prove**: See Matthew 12.25: "And Jesus . . . said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself shall be brought to naught, and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." See also Mark 3.25.

157. **Of**: i.e., on a charge of

160-331. **May it please you . . . true king's fall**: These lines (often called "the Deposition Scene") were not in the first three quartos; they appeared first in the quarto printing of 1608. They may have been cut from the text for early performances and printings, or they may have been written later and added to the text.

160-61. **the commons' suit**: i.e., the petition submitted on behalf of the commons (See note to 2.1.256; see also longer note, page 226.)

163. **surrender**: i.e., surrender the crown

165. **conduct**: guide, escort

His captain, steward, deputy elect,
Anointed, crowned, planted many years,
Be judged by subject and inferior breath,
And he himself not present? O, forfend it God 135

That in a Christian climate souls refined
Should show so heinous, black, obscene a deed!
I speak to subjects and a subject speaks,
Stirred up by God thus boldly for his king.
My Lord of Hereford here, whom you call king, 140

Is a foul traitor to proud Hereford's king,
And if you crown him, let me prophesy
The blood of English shall manure the ground
And future ages groan for this foul act,
Peace shall go sleep with Turks and infidels, 145

And in this seat of peace tumultuous wars
Shall kin with kin and kind with kind confound.
Disorder, horror, fear, and mutiny
Shall here inhabit, and this land be called
The field of Golgotha and dead men's skulls. 150

O, if you raise this house against this house,
It will the woofullest division prove
That ever fell upon this cursèd earth!
Prevent it, resist it, let it not be so,
Lest child, child's children, cry against you woe! 155

NORTHUMBERLAND

Well have you argued, sir, and, for your pains
Of capital treason we arrest you here.—
My Lord of Westminster, be it your charge
To keep him safely till his day of trial.
"May it please you, lords, to grant the commons' 160
suit?"

BOLINGBROKE

Fetch hither Richard, that in common view
He may surrender. So we shall proceed
Without suspicion.

YORK

I will be his conduct. *He exits.* 165

167. **sureties** . . . **answer**: persons who will guarantee your appearance at your trials by combat

168. **beholding**: beholden, indebted

169. **looked for at**: i.e., expected from

173. **insinuate**: ingratiate myself

176. **favors**: (1) faces; (2) support, kindnesses

177. **sometime**: in the past, once

178–79. **So Judas . . . all but one**: See Matthew 26.20–21, 48–49: “When the even was come, [Jesus] sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. . . . He that betrayed him [said], whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he. . . . And forthwith [Judas] came to Jesus and said, Hail master, and kissed him.”

182. **clerk**: i.e., responder (The **clerk** serving at the altar answered the priest’s prayers, usually with “amen.”)

186. **do that office**: perform that service

194. **owes**: possesses

BOLINGBROKE

Lords, you that here are under our arrest,
Procure your sureties for your days of answer.
Little are we beholding to your love
And little looked for at your helping hands.

Enter Richard and York.

KING RICHARD

Alack, why am I sent for to a king 170
Before I have shook off the regal thoughts
Wherewith I reigned? I hardly yet have learned
To insinuate, flatter, bow, and bend my knee.
Give sorrow leave awhile to tutor me
To this submission. Yet I well remember 175
The favors of these men. Were they not mine?
Did they not sometime cry “All hail” to me?
So Judas did to Christ, but He in twelve
Found truth in all but one; I, in twelve thousand,
none. 180
God save the King! Will no man say “amen”?
Am I both priest and clerk? Well, then, amen.
God save the King, although I be not he,
And yet amen, if heaven do think him me.
To do what service am I sent for hither? 185

YORK

To do that office of thine own goodwill
Which tired majesty did make thee offer:
The resignation of thy state and crown
To Henry Bolingbroke.

KING RICHARD

Give me the crown.—Here, cousin, seize the crown. 190
Here, cousin.
On this side my hand, on that side thine.
Now is this golden crown like a deep well
That owes two buckets, filling one another,
The emptier ever dancing in the air, 195

204. **Your cares, my cares:** Here and in the next few lines Richard plays with the various meanings of the word **cares**: personal griefs, objects of responsibility, concerns of office, etc. His general point is that Bolingbroke's assuming the cares (responsibilities) of the crown does not lessen Richard's cares (griefs).

205. **by old care done:** perhaps, destroyed by my old (failure of) responsibility

208. **'tend:** i.e., attend, accompany

210-11. **Ay, no . . . to thee:** These lines pun on the words *I* and *ay*, and play with the equivalency of *no* and *nothing*: if "I am nothing," then "Ay is no." It has also been suggested that the first four words of line 210 can be heard as "I know no I."

212. **mark me:** notice, pay attention to; **undo:** (1) release; (2) undress; (3) cancel, annul; (4) destroy

216. **balm:** See note to 3.2.56.

218. **state:** position, status

221. **revenues:** pronounced *revènues*

222. **deny:** disavow, repudiate

223. **broke:** broken

224. **unbroke:** unbroken; **are made:** i.e., which are made

The other down, unseen, and full of water.
That bucket down and full of tears am I,
Drinking my griefs, whilst you mount up on high.

BOLINGBROKE

I thought you had been willing to resign.

KING RICHARD

My crown I am, but still my griefs are mine.

200

You may my glories and my state depose

But not my griefs; still am I king of those.

BOLINGBROKE

Part of your cares you give me with your crown.

KING RICHARD

Your cares set up do not pluck my cares down.

205

My care is loss of care, by old care done;

Your care is gain of care, by new care won.

The cares I give I have, though given away.

They 'tend the crown, yet still with me they stay.

BOLINGBROKE

Are you contented to resign the crown?

KING RICHARD

Ay, no; no, ay; for I must nothing be.

210

Therefore no "no," for I resign to thee.

Now, mark me how I will undo myself.

I give this heavy weight from off my head

And this unwieldy scepter from my hand,

The pride of kingly sway from out my heart.

215

With mine own tears I wash away my balm,

With mine own hands I give away my crown,

With mine own tongue deny my sacred state,

With mine own breath release all duteous oaths.

220

All pomp and majesty I do forswear.

My manors, rents, revenues I forgo;

My acts, decrees, and statutes I deny.

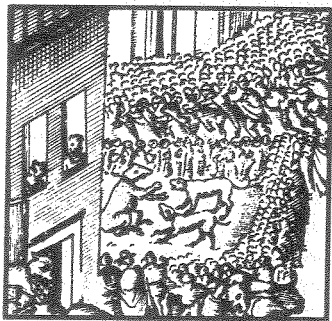
God pardon all oaths that are broke to me.

God keep all vows unbroke are made to thee.

Make me, that nothing have, with nothing grieved,

225

226. **with all pleased:** i.e., pleased with everything
 227. **in Richard's seat:** i.e., on Richard's throne
 235. **state:** government
 240. **record:** pronounced **recòrd**
 242. **a lecture:** a "lesson" read out for moral instruction; **wouldst:** i.e., would read them
 249. **bait:** i.e., torment (The image is from bear-baiting, where the bear is tied to a stake and set upon by dogs. [See below.] Here the spectators watch Richard being attacked by his own **wretchedness**.)
 250. **with . . . hands:** See Matthew 27.24: "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing . . . he took water and washed his hands before the people, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person."
 254. **dispatch:** make haste
 257. **sort:** group, set, band



A bearbaiting. (4.1.249)
 From Giacomo Franco, *Habiti d'huomeni* . . . (1609?).

And thou with all pleased that hast all achieved.
 Long mayst thou live in Richard's seat to sit,
 And soon lie Richard in an earthy pit.
 God save King Henry, unkinged Richard says,
 And send him many years of sunshine days. 230
 What more remains?

NORTHUMBERLAND, (*offering Richard a paper*)

No more, but that you read
 These accusations and these grievous crimes
 Committed by your person and your followers
 Against the state and profit of this land; 235
 That, by confessing them, the souls of men
 May deem that you are worthily deposed.

KING RICHARD

Must I do so? And must I ravel out
 My weaved-up follies? Gentle Northumberland,
 If thy offenses were upon record, 240
 Would it not shame thee in so fair a troop
 To read a lecture of them? If thou wouldst,
 There shouldst thou find one heinous article
 Containing the deposing of a king
 And cracking the strong warrant of an oath, 245
 Marked with a blot, damned in the book of
 heaven. —

Nay, all of you that stand and look upon me
 Whilst that my wretchedness doth bait myself,
 Though some of you, with Pilate, wash your hands, 250
 Showing an outward pity, yet you Pilates
 Have here delivered me to my sour cross,
 And water cannot wash away your sin.

NORTHUMBERLAND

My lord, dispatch. Read o'er these articles.

KING RICHARD

Mine eyes are full of tears; I cannot see. 255
 And yet salt water blinds them not so much
 But they can see a sort of traitors here.

261. **T' undeck:** to strip, unclothe; **pompous:** magnificent, glorious

263. **state:** magnificence

265. **haught:** haughty, arrogant

267. **font:** i.e., baptismal font (See below.)

271. **mockery:** imitation, counterfeit

275. **An if;** i.e., if; **be sterling yet:** i.e., is still worth anything, still passes as valid currency

276. **hither straight:** i.e., brought here immediately

278. **his:** i.e., its



"That name . . . given me at the font." (4.1.267)
From [Richard Day.] *A booke of christian prayers* . . . (1578).

Nay, if I turn mine eyes upon myself,
I find myself a traitor with the rest,
For I have given here my soul's consent
T' undeck the pompous body of a king,
Made glory base (and) sovereignty a slave,
Proud majesty a subject, state a peasant.

260

NORTHUMBERLAND My lord—

KING RICHARD

No lord of thine, thou haught insulting man,
Nor no man's lord. I have no name, no title,
No, not that name was given me at the font,
But 'tis usurped. Alack the heavy day,
That I have worn so many winters out
And know not now what name to call myself.
O, that I were a mockery king of snow
Standing before the sun of Bolingbroke,
To melt myself away in water drops.—
Good king, great king, and yet not greatly good,
An if my word be sterling yet in England,
Let it command a mirror hither straight,
That it may show me what a face I have
Since it is bankrupt of his majesty.

265

270

275

BOLINGBROKE

Go, some of you, and fetch a looking-glass.

(*An Attendant exits.*)

NORTHUMBERLAND

Read o'er this paper while the glass doth come.

280

KING RICHARD

Fiend, thou torments me ere I come to hell!

BOLINGBROKE

Urge it no more, my Lord Northumberland.

NORTHUMBERLAND

The commons will not then be satisfied.

KING RICHARD

They shall be satisfied. I'll read enough

- 286 SD. **glass:** i.e., looking glass, mirror
 291. **in prosperity:** i.e., when I was prospering
 292. **beguile:** deceive
 295. **wink:** close their eyes
 300. **shivers:** fragments, splinters
 301. **Mark:** notice, pay attention to
 303. **shadow of your sorrow:** i.e., the darkness
 cast by your sorrow (See lines 306-9.)
 304. **shadow:** image
 308. **manners of laments:** gestures and utterances
 of lamentation
 309. **shadows to:** i.e., shadows of
 311. **There:** i.e., in the soul

When I do see the very book indeed 285
 Where all my sins are writ, and that's myself.

Enter one with a glass.

Give me that glass, and therein will I read.
(He takes the mirror.)

No deeper wrinkles yet? Hath sorrow struck
 So many blows upon this face of mine
 And made no deeper wounds? O flatt'ring glass, 290
 Like to my followers in prosperity,
 Thou dost beguile me. Was this face the face
 That every day under his Household roof
 Did keep ten thousand men? Was this the face
 That like the sun did make beholders wink? 295
 Is this the face which faced so many follies,
 That was at last outfaced by Bolingbroke?
 A brittle glory shineth in this face.
 As brittle as the glory is the face,

(He breaks the mirror.)

For there it is, cracked in an hundred shivers. 300
 Mark, silent king, the moral of this sport:
 How soon my sorrow hath destroyed my face.

BOLINGBROKE

The shadow of your sorrow hath destroyed
 The shadow of your face.

KING RICHARD Say that again. 305

The shadow of my sorrow? Ha, let's see.
 'Tis very true. My grief lies all within;
 And these external (manners) of laments
 Are merely shadows to the unseen grief
 That swells with silence in the tortured soul. 310
 There lies the substance. And I thank thee, king,
 For thy great bounty, that not only giv'st
 Me cause to wail but teachest me the way
 How to lament the cause. I'll beg one boon,

321. **to my:** i.e., as my
 329. **Tower:** Tower of London, a fortress-prison
 (See page xxxviii.)

330. **Conveyers:** i.e., thieves (The word **convey** was used as a euphemism for *steal*.)

332-33. **On Wednesday next . . . prepare yourselves:** The early quartos print somewhat similar lines. We follow the Folio here in that the lines printed in the early quartos follow directly from the line which precedes them in the quarto (line 159 of our text). For the quarto reading, see the Textual Notes, page 234. **set down:** appoint



"There the antic sits." (3.2.167)
 From Johann Weichard von Valvasor,
Theatrum mortis humanae . . . (1682).

And then be gone and trouble you no more. 315
 Shall I obtain it?

BOLINGBROKE Name it, fair cousin.

KING RICHARD

"Fair cousin"? I am greater than a king,
 For when I was a king, my flatterers
 Were then but subjects. Being now a subject, 320
 I have a king here to my flatterer.

Being so great, I have no need to beg.

BOLINGBROKE Yet ask.

KING RICHARD And shall I have?

BOLINGBROKE You shall. 325

KING RICHARD Then give me leave to go.

BOLINGBROKE Whither?

KING RICHARD

Whither you will, so I were from your sights.

BOLINGBROKE

Go, some of you, convey him to the Tower.

KING RICHARD

O, good! "Convey"? Conveyers are you all, 330
 That rise thus nimbly by a true king's fall.

(Richard exits with Guards.)

BOLINGBROKE

On Wednesday next, we solemnly set down
 Our coronation. Lords, prepare yourselves.]

They exit. [The Abbot of Westminster, [the Bishop of
 Carlisle, Aumerle remain.

ABBOT

A woeful pageant have we here behold.

CARLISLE

The woe's to come. The children yet unborn 335
 Shall feel this day as sharp to them as thorn.

AUMERLE

You holy clergymen, is there no plot
 To rid the realm of this pernicious blot?

341-42. **take the sacrament** / **To:** i.e., receive the Eucharist as a vow to (See below.)

342. **bury my intents:** keep my plans secret and hidden

346. **lay:** devise, contrive



Taking "the sacrament." (4.1.341; 5.2.106)
From [Richard Day,] *A booke of christian prayers* . . . (1578).

ABBOT

My lord,
Before I freely speak my mind herein, 340
You shall not only take the sacrament
To bury mine intents, but also to effect
Whatever I shall happen to devise.
I see your brows are full of discontent,
Your hearts of sorrow, and your eyes of tears. 345
Come home with me to supper. I'll lay
A plot shall show us all a merry day.

They exit.

The Tragedy of

RICHARD II

ACT 5

5.1 Richard and his queen say their farewells, she to be sent to France, he to Pomfret Castle.

2. **Julius Caesar's . . . tower:** The Tower of London was said by many chroniclers to have been built by **Julius Caesar**. The Queen calls it **ill-erected** because of its use as an evil (ill) prison. (See page xxxviii.)

4. **doomed:** sentenced

7. **soft:** an exclamation meaning "wait a minute" (This line and the following three lines are addressed to herself.)

11. **the model . . . stand:** Richard is here compared to the ruins of the city of **Troy**, a desolate reminder of what he once was. (See page 214.) The term **old Troy** may be distinguishing that city from "New Troy," the legendary name for London. **model:** image, likeness

12. **map:** i.e., mere outline

13–15. **Thou most . . . guest:** Richard and Bolingbroke are set in contrast, the first a beautiful **inn** inhabited by **grief**, the second an **alehouse** with **triumph** as its **guest**.

「ACT 5」

「Scene 1」

Enter the Queen with her Attendants.

QUEEN

This way the King will come. This is the way
To Julius Caesar's ill-erected tower,
To whose flint bosom my condemnèd lord
Is doomed a prisoner by proud Bolingbroke.
Here let us rest, if this rebellious earth
Have any resting for her true king's queen.

5

Enter Richard 「and Guard」.

But soft, but see—or rather do not see
My fair rose wither; yet look up, behold,
That you in pity may dissolve to dew
And wash him fresh again with true-love tears.—
Ah, thou, the model where old Troy did stand,
Thou map of honor, thou King Richard's tomb,
And not King Richard! Thou most beauteous inn,
Why should hard-favored grief be lodged in thee
When triumph is become an alehouse guest?

10

15

KING RICHARD

Join not with grief, fair woman, do not so,
To make my end too sudden. Learn, good soul,
To think our former state a happy dream,
From which awaked, the truth of what we are

20. **sworn brother:** i.e., best friend (as if we were knights who had vowed to stand by each other like brothers)

22. **league:** covenant, compact

23. **religious house:** convent

24. **new world's crown:** See 2 Timothy 4.8: "For henceforth is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day. . . ."

25. **profane:** worldly

28. **been in thy heart:** i.e., stolen your courage (The **heart** was considered the seat of courage and hence was synonymous with it.)

31. **To be o'er-powered:** i.e., at being overpowered

32. **correction:** punishment; **kiss the rod:** proverbial for "accept punishment meekly"

33. **rage:** violence; **base:** cowardly

34. **Which art a lion:** See note to 1.1.180 and page 184.

35. **king of beasts:** i.e., ruler over beastly men; **If aught but:** i.e., had they been something other than

37. **sometime:** former; **prepare thee hence:** prepare to depart

43. **long ago betid:** i.e., that happened long ago

44. **quite:** repay, reward; **griefs:** (tales of) suffering

47. **Forwhy:** because (of your sad tale); **senseless:** insensate; **brands:** pieces of burning wood; **sympathize:** answer or correspond to, accord with

48. **heavy:** sorrowful

50. **some:** i.e., some of the brands

Shows us but this: I am sworn brother, sweet, 20
To grim necessity, and he and I
Will keep a league till death. Hie thee to France
And cloister thee in some religious house.
Our holy lives must win a new world's crown,
Which our profane hours here have thrown down. 25

QUEEN

What, is my Richard both in shape and mind
Transformed and weakened? Hath Bolingbroke
Deposed thine intellect? Hath he been in thy heart?
The lion dying thrusteth forth his paw
And wounds the earth, if nothing else, with rage 30
To be o'er-powered; and wilt thou, pupil-like,
Take the correction, mildly kiss the rod,
And fawn on rage with base humility,
Which art a lion and the king of beasts?

KING RICHARD

A king of beasts indeed. If aught but beasts, 35
I had been still a happy king of men.
Good sometime queen, prepare thee hence for
France.
Think I am dead, and that even here thou takest,
As from my deathbed, thy last living leave. 40
In winter's tedious nights sit by the fire
With good old folks, and let them tell thee tales
Of woeful ages long ago betid;
And, ere thou bid good night, to quite their griefs,
Tell thou the lamentable tale of me, 45
And send the hearers weeping to their beds.
Forwhy the senseless brands will sympathize
The heavy accent of thy moving tongue,
And in compassion weep the fire out,
And some will mourn in ashes, some coal black, 50
For the deposing of a rightful king.

Enter Northumberland.

53. **Pomfret:** Pontefract Castle (in the northern county of Yorkshire)

54. **there is order ta'en:** i.e., arrangements have been made

56. **wherewithal:** by means of which

59. **gathering head:** reaching culmination or crisis (The image is from the maturing of a boil or abscess just before it breaks.)

62. **helping him:** i.e., since you helped him

65. **ne'er so little:** i.e., ever so little, even a little bit

67. **love of:** perhaps, love between; or, perhaps, (the king's) love of; **converts:** changes

68. **That fear:** i.e., that fear changes; **one or both:** perhaps, the **unrightful king** or his supporter, or both of them

69. **worthy:** well-deserved

70. **there an end:** a phrase signaling that a topic of conversation is concluded

71. **Take leave:** i.e., say farewell; **and part:** and separate; **must part:** must depart

75. **unkiss:** i.e., undo with a kiss

79. **pinés the clime:** afflicts the region

82. **Hallowmas:** i.e., November 1; **short'st of day:** i.e., the winter solstice (which occurs in December)

NORTHUMBERLAND

My lord, the mind of Bolingbroke is changed.

You must to Pomfret, not unto the Tower.—

And madam, there is order ta'en for you.

With all swift speed you must away to France.

55

KING RICHARD

Northumberland, thou ladder wherewithal

The mounting Bolingbroke ascends my throne,

The time shall not be many hours of age

More than it is ere foul sin, gathering head,

Shall break into corruption. Thou shalt think,

Though he divide the realm and give thee half,

It is too little, helping him to all.

He shall think that thou, which knowest the way

To plant unrightful kings, wilt know again,

Being ne'er so little urged another way,

To pluck him headlong from the usurped throne.

The love of wicked men converts to fear,

That fear to hate, and hate turns one or both

To worthy danger and deserved death.

65

NORTHUMBERLAND

My guilt be on my head, and there an end.

Take leave and part, for you must part forthwith.

70

KING RICHARD

Doubly divorced! Bad men, you violate

A twofold marriage—twixt my crown and me,

And then betwixt me and my married wife.

「To Queen.」 Let me unkiss the oath twixt thee and me;

75

And yet not so, for with a kiss 'twas made.—

Part us, Northumberland, I towards the north,

Where shivering cold and sickness pinés the clime;

My wife to France, from whence set forth in pomp

80

She came adorned hither like sweet May,

Sent back like Hallowmas or short'st of day.

86. **little policy:** i.e., bad politics

90. **Better far off:** i.e., it is better to be far apart; **ne'er the near:** a proverbial expression, "never the nearer," that means "no closer to achieving the good desired"

94. **piece the way out:** i.e., make the journey seem longer

97. **dumbly:** silently

99–100. **'Twere . . . me:** i.e., it would not be a good part for me to play

100. **keep and kill thy heart:** i.e., keep your heart and (through my grief) to kill it

103. **make woe wanton:** perhaps, we luxuriate in woe; **fond:** (1) loving; (2) foolish, pointless



"A lion and the king of beasts." (5.1.34)
From John Speed, *A prospect of the most famous parts
of the world . . .* (1631).

QUEEN

And must we be divided? Must we part?

KING RICHARD

Ay, hand from hand, my love, and heart from heart.

QUEEN, *['to Northumberland']*

Banish us both, and send the King with me.

85

['NORTHUMBERLAND']

That were some love, but little policy.

QUEEN

Then whither he goes, thither let me go.

KING RICHARD

So two together weeping make one woe.

Weep thou for me in France, I for thee here;

Better far off than, near, be ne'er the near.

90

Go, count thy way with sighs, I mine with groans.

QUEEN

So longest way shall have the longest moans.

KING RICHARD

Twice for one step I'll groan, the way being short,

And piece the way out with a heavy heart.

Come, come, in wooing sorrow let's be brief,

95

Since, wedding it, there is such length in grief.

One kiss shall stop our mouths, and dumbly part.

Thus give I mine, and thus take I thy heart.

['They kiss.']

QUEEN

Give me mine own again. 'Twere no good part

To take on me to keep and kill thy heart.

100

['They kiss.']

So, now I have mine own again, begone,

That I may strive to kill it with a groan.

KING RICHARD

We make woe wanton with this fond delay.

Once more, adieu! The rest let sorrow say.

They exit.

5.2 The duke of York expresses his sympathy for Richard but declares his allegiance to King Henry. When York discovers that his son Aumerle is part of a conspiracy to kill Henry, York rides off to inform on his son. Aumerle and his mother also set off for the court to beg Henry's mercy.

3. **cousins:** kinsmen
4. **leave:** i.e., leave off
5. **stop:** pause, breaking off
6. **rude:** rough, violent; **windows' tops:** upper windows
10. **Which . . . know:** i.e., which seemed to know its aspiring rider
18. **painted imagery:** i.e., paintings on tapestries (It has been suggested that walls were sometimes hung with such paintings containing messages of congratulation or praise.); **at once:** all together
21. **Bareheaded, lower than:** i.e., with his hat removed and bowing even lower than
22. **Bespake:** addressed
23. **still:** continually
26. **well-graced:** i.e., popular; charming
27. **idly:** carelessly, indifferently

[Scene 2]

Enter Duke of York and the Duchess.

DUCHESS

My lord, you told me you would tell the rest,
When weeping made you break the story off
Of our two cousins coming into London.

YORK

Where did I leave?

DUCHESS

At that sad stop, my lord,
Where rude misgoverned hands from windows' tops
Threw dust and rubbish on King Richard's head.

YORK

Then, as I said, the Duke, great Bolingbroke,
Mounted upon a hot and fiery steed,
Which his aspiring rider seemed to know,
With slow but stately pace kept on his course,
Whilst all tongues cried "God save thee,
Bolingbroke!"

You would have thought the very windows spake,
So many greedy looks of young and old
Through casements darted their desiring eyes
Upon his visage, and that all the walls
With painted imagery had said at once
"Jesu preserve thee! Welcome, Bolingbroke!"
Whilst he, from the one side to the other turning,
Bareheaded, lower than his proud steed's neck,
Bespake them thus: "I thank you, countrymen."
And thus still doing, thus he passed along.

DUCHESS

Alack, poor Richard! Where rode he the whilst?

YORK

As in a theater the eyes of men,
After a well-graced actor leaves the stage,
Are idly bent on him that enters next,
Thinking his prattle to be tedious,

35. **combating**: pronounced *còmbating*

36. **badges**: insignia (his **tears** signifying his **grief**, his **smiles** signifying his **patience**, his willingness to accept suffering)

38. **perforce**: necessarily

39. **barbarism itself have**: i.e., even savages would have

41. **bound**: made fast, tied

43. **state**: position; greatness; **for aye**: forever; **al-low**: accept; or, approve

45. **Aumerle that was**: According to Holinshed, the duke of York's son was stripped of his title as duke of Aumerle because of his earlier accusations against the duke of Gloucester. He retained his title as earl of Rutland.

48. **truth**: loyalty

50. **violets**: i.e., favorites; or, newly created nobles

51. **new-come spring**: i.e., new king

53. **had as lief be none**: i.e., would just as soon not be one of them

54. **bear you**: i.e., conduct yourself (with a pun on **bear** [bring forth leaves or fruit] that, along with the words **cropped** [cut] and **prime** [full bloom], continues the imagery of growth in the new springtime)

56-57. **jousts and triumphs**: tournaments and pageants (See longer note, page 227.)

Even so, or with much more contempt, men's eyes
Did scowl on gentle Richard. No man cried "God
save him!" 30

No joyful tongue gave him his welcome home,
But dust was thrown upon his sacred head,
Which with such gentle sorrow he shook off,
His face still combating with tears and smiles, 35

The badges of his grief and patience,
That had not God for some strong purpose steeled
The hearts of men, they must perforce have melted,
And barbarism itself have pitied him.

But heaven hath a hand in these events, 40
To whose high will we bound our calm contents.
To Bolingbroke are we sworn subjects now,
Whose state and honor I for aye allow.

「Enter Aumerle.」

DUCHESS

Here comes my son Aumerle.

YORK

Aumerle that was; 45
But that is lost for being Richard's friend,
And, madam, you must call him Rutland now.
I am in parliament pledge for his truth
And lasting fealty to the new-made king.

DUCHESS

Welcome, my son. Who are the violets now 50
That strew the green lap of the new-come spring?

AUMERLE

Madam, I know not, nor I greatly care not.
God knows I had as lief be none as one.

YORK

Well, bear you well in this new spring of time,
Lest you be cropped before you come to prime. 55
What news from Oxford? Do these jousts and
triumphs hold?

AUMERLE For aught I know, my lord, they do.

61. **seal:** i.e., the wax seal attached to a document;
without thy bosom: i.e., hanging from your pocket
(**Bosom** denoted the space between the breast and
the clothing over the breast, considered a receptacle
for money and papers.)

66. **to pardon me:** i.e., to excuse me (from showing it)

67. **a matter:** something

68. **would not have seen:** i.e., wish no one to see

72. **bond that he is entered into:** i.e., document
he has signed promising to pay (a certain amount of
money)

73. **gay apparel:** fine clothes; **'gainst:** in preparation for

74. **Bound to himself:** i.e., why would he have
signed a bond with himself; **What doth he with:** i.e.,
why would he be in possession of

YORK You will be there, I know.

AUMERLE If God prevent not, I purpose so.

YORK

What seal is that that hangs without thy bosom?

Yea, lookst thou pale? Let me see the writing.

AUMERLE

My lord, 'tis nothing.

YORK

No matter, then, who see it.

I will be satisfied. Let me see the writing.

AUMERLE

I do beseech your Grace to pardon me.

It is a matter of small consequence,

Which for some reasons I would not have seen.

YORK

Which for some reasons, sir, I mean to see.

I fear, I fear—

DUCHESS

What should you fear?

'Tis nothing but some bond that he is entered into
For gay apparel 'gainst the triumph day.

YORK

Bound to himself? What doth he with a bond

That he is bound to? Wife, thou art a fool.—

Boy, let me see the writing.

AUMERLE

I do beseech you, pardon me. I may not show it.

YORK

I will be satisfied. Let me see it, I say.

He plucks it out of his bosom and reads it.

YORK

Treason! Foul treason! Villain, traitor, slave!

DUCHESS What is the matter, my lord?

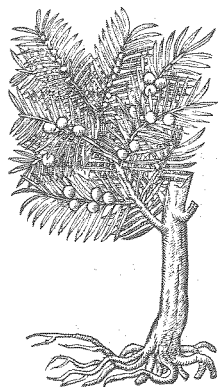
YORK, *calling offstage*

Ho, who is within there? Saddle my horse!—

God for his mercy, what treachery is here!

DUCHESS Why, what is it, my lord?

86. **appeach:** accuse, inform against
 91. **answer:** i.e., answer for
 93. **will:** i.e., will go
 93 SD. **man:** servant
 94. **him:** i.e., the servant; **amazed:** dumbfounded
 99. **like:** likely
 100. **teeming date:** childbearing period; **drunk up with:** i.e., swallowed up completely by, exhausted by
 101. **mine age:** i.e., me in my old age
 104. **fond:** foolish
 106. **ta'en the sacrament:** received the Eucharist
 107. **interchangeably set down their hands:** reciprocally signed their names (legal terminology)
 109. **be none:** i.e., not be one of them



The "double-fatal yew." (3.2.120)
 From John Gerard, *The herball or generall historie
 of plantes* . . . (1597).

YORK, *「calling offstage」*

Give me my boots, I say! Saddle my horse!—
 Now by mine honor, by my life, by my troth,
 I will appeach the villain.

85

DUCHESS What is the matter?

YORK Peace, foolish woman.

DUCHESS

I will not peace!—What is the matter, Aumerle?

AUMERLE

Good mother, be content. It is no more
 Than my poor life must answer.

90

DUCHESS Thy life answer?

YORK, *「calling offstage」*

Bring me my boots!—I will unto the King.

His man enters with his boots.

DUCHESS

Strike him, Aumerle! Poor boy, thou art amazed.—
 Hence, villain, never more come in my sight.

95

YORK Give me my boots, I say.

「His man helps him on with his boots, then exits.」

DUCHESS Why, York, what wilt thou do?

Wilt thou not hide the trespass of thine own?
 Have we more sons? Or are we like to have?
 Is not my teeming date drunk up with time?
 And wilt thou pluck my fair son from mine age
 And rob me of a happy mother's name?
 Is he not like thee? Is he not thine own?

100

YORK Thou fond mad woman,

Wilt thou conceal this dark conspiracy?
 A dozen of them here have ta'en the sacrament
 And interchangeably set down their hands
 To kill the King at Oxford.

105

DUCHESS

He shall be none. We'll keep him here.
 Then what is that to him?

110

114. **pitiful:** compassionate

123. **his horse:** i.e., one of York's horses

124. **Spur post:** ride using relays of post-horses
(According to the various chronicles, it was "riding post" that allowed Aumerle to outride his father and reach the court before him.)

125. **thy pardon:** i.e., pardon for yourself

5.3 Aumerle reaches King Henry and begs a pardon for an unnamed offence. The duke of York arrives and reveals the plot at Oxford and Aumerle's part in it. The duchess arrives, and the three kneel to Henry, York begging for Aumerle's death and the duchess and Aumerle begging the king's mercy. The king pardons Aumerle and sends out forces to capture the other conspirators.

1. **unthrifty:** dissolute; **son:** i.e., Prince Hal, who becomes King Henry V

2. **full:** fully

3. **us:** i.e., me (the royal "we," which King Henry uses off and on throughout this scene)

6. **frequent:** resort, visit

YORK

Away, fond woman! Were he twenty times my son,
I would appeach him.

DUCHESS

Hadst thou groaned for him as I have done,
Thou wouldst be more pitiful.

But now I know thy mind: thou dost suspect

That I have been disloyal to thy bed,

And that he is a bastard, not thy son.

Sweet York, sweet husband, be not of that mind!

He is as like thee as a man may be,

Not like to me or any of my kin,

And yet I love him.

YORK

Make way, unruly woman!

He exits.

DUCHESS

After, Aumerle! Mount thee upon his horse,

Spur post, and get before him to the King,

And beg thy pardon ere he do accuse thee.

I'll not be long behind. Though I be old,

I doubt not but to ride as fast as York.

And never will I rise up from the ground

Till Bolingbroke have pardoned thee. Away, begone!

They exit.

「Scene 3」

Enter the King with his Nobles.

KING HENRY

Can no man tell me of my unthrifty son?

'Tis full three months since I did see him last.

If any plague hang over us, 'tis he.

I would to God, my lords, he might be found.

Inquire at London, 'mongst the taverns there,

For there, they say, he daily doth frequent

7. **loose**: unprincipled, immoral; **companions**: fellows (a term of contempt)

9. **watch**: watchmen, guards; **passengers**: passers-by

10. **wanton**: spoiled, rebellious; **effeminate**: rebellious; self-indulgent

11. **on the point**: i.e., as a point

14. **held**: i.e., to be held

15. **gallant**: fine gentleman

16. **would unto**: i.e., would go into; **stews**: brothels

17. **common'st creature**: i.e., most disreputable whore

18. **favor**: i.e., token of her favor

19. **lustiest**: most vigorous

22. **happily**: i.e., with good fortune

22 SD. **amazed**: i.e., looking panic-stricken

27. **conference**: conversation

32. **Unless a pardon**: i.e., unless you grant a pardon

With unrestrained loose companions,
Even such, they say, as stand in narrow lanes
And beat our watch and rob our passengers,
「While」 he, young wanton and effeminate boy,
Takes on the point of honor to support
So dissolute a crew.

10

PERCY

My lord, some two days since I saw the Prince,
And told him of those triumphs held at Oxford.

KING HENRY And what said the gallant?

15

PERCY

His answer was, he would unto the stews,
And from the common'st creature pluck a glove
And wear it as a favor; and with that
He would unhorse the lustiest challenger.

KING HENRY

As dissolute as desperate. Yet through both
I see some sparks of better hope, which elder years
May happily bring forth. But who comes here?

20

Enter Aumerle amazed.

AUMERLE Where is the King?

KING HENRY

What means our cousin, that he stares and looks so
wildly?

25

AUMERLE

God save your Grace. I do beseech your Majesty
To have some conference with your Grace alone.

KING HENRY, 「to his Nobles」

Withdraw yourselves, and leave us here alone.

「The Nobles exit.」

What is the matter with our cousin now?

AUMERLE, 「kneeling」

Forever may my knees grow to the earth,
My tongue cleave to my roof within my mouth,
Unless a pardon ere I rise or speak.

30

34. **on the first:** i.e., of the first kind (of fault)
 39. **to:** after
 41. **make thee safe:** render you harmless
 42. **Stay:** hold
 43. **secure:** careless, overconfident
 50. **my haste:** i.e., my breathlessness (from riding so fast); **forbids me show:** keeps me from revealing
 51. **thy promise passed:** i.e., the promise of a pardon that you made
 53. **hand:** signature
 55. **bosom:** See note to 5.2.61.



Henry IV.

From John Speed, *A prospect of the most famous parts of the world* (1631).

KING HENRY

Intended or committed was this fault?
 If on the first, how heinous e'er it be,
 To win thy after-love I pardon thee.

35

AUMERLE, *standing*

Then give me leave that *I* may turn the key
 That no man enter till my tale be done.

KING HENRY Have thy desire. *Aumerle locks the door.*

The Duke of York knocks at the door and crieth.

YORK, *within*

My liege, beware! Look to thyself!

Thou hast a traitor in thy presence there.

40

KING HENRY, *to Aumerle* Villain, I'll make thee safe.

He draws his sword.

AUMERLE

Stay thy revengeful hand. Thou hast no cause to fear.

YORK, *within*

Open the door, secure, foolhardy king!

Shall I for love speak treason to thy face?

Open the door, or I will break it open.

45

King Henry unlocks the door.

Enter York.

KING HENRY What is the matter, uncle? Speak.

Recover breath. Tell us how near is danger

That we may arm us to encounter it.

YORK, *giving King Henry a paper*

Peruse this writing here, and thou shalt know

The treason that my haste forbids me show.

50

AUMERLE, *to King Henry*

Remember, as thou read'st, thy promise passed.

I do repent me. Read not my name there.

My heart is not confederate with my hand.

YORK

It was, villain, ere thy hand did set it down.—

I tore it from the traitor's bosom, king.

55

57. **Forget:** i.e., forget your promise
 61. **sheer:** clear, pure
 62. **this stream:** i.e., Aumerle
 64. **overflow:** i.e., excess; **converts:** changes (in Aumerle)
 66. **digressing:** transgressing
 67. **bawd:** procurer, go-between (in serving his wickedness)
 69. **scraping:** frugal
 72. **in his life:** i.e., in allowing him to live
 73. **true:** loyal, honorable
 79. **scene:** performance
 80. **The Beggar . . . King:** probably an allusion to a familiar ballad, "King Cophetua and the Beggar Maid"



A cormorant. (2.1.43)
 From Ulisse Aldrovandi, . . . *Ornithologiae* . . . (1599–1603).

Fear, and not love, begets his penitence.
 Forget to pity him, lest thy pity prove
 A serpent that will sting thee to the heart.

KING HENRY

O heinous, strong, and bold conspiracy!
 O loyal father of a treacherous son,
 Thou sheer, immaculate, and silver fountain
 From whence this stream, through muddy passages,
 Hath held his current and defiled himself,
 Thy overflow of good converts to bad,
 And thy abundant goodness shall excuse
 This deadly blot in thy digressing son.

60

65

YORK

So shall my virtue be his vice's bawd,
 And he shall spend mine honor with his shame,
 As thriftless sons their scraping fathers' gold.
 Mine honor lives when his dishonor dies,
 Or my shamed life in his dishonor lies.
 Thou kill'st me in his life: giving him breath,
 The traitor lives, the true man's put to death.

70

DUCHESS, *["within"]*

What ho, my liege! For God's sake, let me in!

KING HENRY

What *["shrill-voiced"]* suppliant makes this eager cry?

75

DUCHESS, *["within"]*

A woman, and thy aunt, great king. 'Tis I.
 Speak with me, pity me. Open the door!
 A beggar begs that never begged before.

KING HENRY

Our scene is altered from a serious thing,
 And now changed to "The Beggar and the King." —
 My dangerous cousin, let your mother in.
 I know she is come to pray for your foul sin.

80

["Aumerle opens the door."]

["Duchess of York enters and kneels."]

83. **whosoever pray:** i.e., whoever begs you for pardon

84. **for this:** i.e., because of this

85–86. **This festered joint . . . confound:** See Matthew 5.30: "And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off and cast it from thee. For better it is unto thee that one of thy members perish than that all thy body should be cast into hell." **let alone:** left untreated, or left in place **confound:** destroy

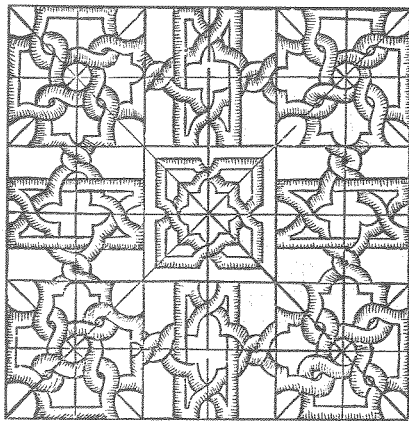
88. **none other can:** i.e., can love no one else

89. **frantic:** mad; **make:** i.e., do

90. **rear:** foster, nourish

105. **faintly:** feebly; **would be:** wishes to be

108. **still:** continue to



A pattern for planting a garden knot. (3.4.49)
From Charles Estienne, *Maison rustique* . . . (1606).

YORK

If thou do pardon whosoever pray,
More sins for this forgiveness prosper may.
This festered joint cut off, the rest rest sound.
This let alone will all the rest confound.

85

DUCHESS

O king, believe not this hard-hearted man.
Love loving not itself, none other can.

YORK

Thou frantic woman, what dost thou make here?
Shall thy old dugs once more a traitor rear?

90

DUCHESS

Sweet York, be patient.—Hear me, gentle liege.

KING HENRY

Rise up, good aunt.

DUCHESS

Not yet, I thee beseech.
Forever will I walk upon my knees
And never see day that the happy sees,
Till thou give joy, until thou bid me joy
By pardoning Rutland, my transgressing boy.

95

AUMERLE, *「kneeling」*

Unto my mother's prayers I bend my knee.

YORK, *「kneeling」*

Against them both my true joints bended be.
Ill mayst thou thrive if thou grant any grace.

100

DUCHESS

Pleads he in earnest? Look upon his face.
His eyes do drop no tears, his prayers are in jest;
His words come from his mouth, ours from our
breast.

He prays but faintly, and would be denied.
We pray with heart and soul and all beside.
His weary joints would gladly rise, I know.
Our knees still kneel till to the ground they grow.
His prayers are full of false hypocrisy,
Ours of true zeal and deep integrity.

110

116. **An if:** i.e., if; **nurse . . . teach:** i.e., nursemaid, teaching you to speak

121. **meet:** fitting, suitable

122. **pardonne moy:** i.e., *pardonnez-moi* (a courteous form of refusal)

128. **chopping:** jerky, broken

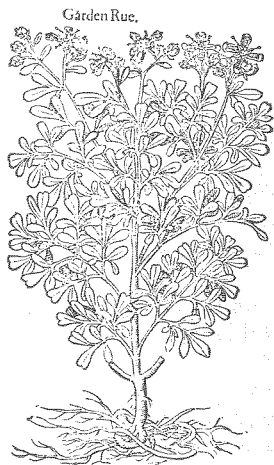
133. **rehearse:** repeat

135. **sue:** petition

138. **happy vantage of:** fortunate advantage from

139. **Yet:** still

140. **pardon twain:** divide a pardon in two



Rue, or herb of grace. (3.4.112)
From John Gerard, *The herball or generall historie
of plantes* . . . (1597).

Our prayers do outpray his. Then let them have
That mercy which true prayer ought to have.

[KING HENRY]

Good aunt, stand up.

DUCHESS

Nay, do not say "stand up."

Say "pardon" first, and afterwards "stand up."

115

Am I were thy nurse, thy tongue to teach,

"Pardon" should be the first word of thy speech.

I never longed to hear a word till now.

Say "pardon," king; let pity teach thee how.

The word is short, but not so short as sweet.

120

No word like "pardon" for kings' mouths so meet.

YORK

Speak it in French, king. Say "pardonne moy."

DUCHESS

Dost thou teach pardon pardon to destroy?

Ah, my sour husband, my hard-hearted lord,

That sets the word itself against the word!

125

[To King Henry.] Speak "pardon" as 'tis current in
our land;

The chopping French we do not understand.

Thine eye begins to speak; set thy tongue there,

Or in thy piteous heart plant thou thine ear,

130

That, hearing how our complaints and prayers do
pierce,

Pity may move thee "pardon" to rehearse.

KING HENRY

Good aunt, stand up.

DUCHESS

I do not sue to stand.

135

Pardon is all the suit I have in hand.

KING HENRY

I pardon him, as God shall pardon me.

DUCHESS

O, happy vantage of a kneeling knee!

Yet am I sick for fear. Speak it again.

Twice saying "pardon" doth not pardon twain,

140

But makes one pardon strong.

144. **But for:** i.e., as for; **brother-in-law:** the duke of Exeter, married to Bolingbroke's sister Elizabeth; **the Abbot:** i.e., abbot of Westminster (See 4.1.334-47.)

145. **consorted crew:** i.e., gang in league together

146. **straight:** straightway, immediately

147. **powers:** forces

152. **true:** loyal

5.4 Sir Pierce Exton, reflecting on King Henry's wish that Richard be removed, decides to carry out that wish.

1. **mark:** hear, note

8. **wishtly:** i.e., wistly, intently

12. **rid:** get rid of, destroy

KING HENRY I pardon him with all my heart.

DUCHESS A god on earth thou art.

「*They all stand.*」

KING HENRY

But for our trusty brother-in-law and the Abbot,

With all the rest of that consorted crew,

Destruction straight shall dog them at the heels.

Good uncle, help to order several powers

To Oxford, or where'er these traitors are.

They shall not live within this world, I swear,

But I will have them, if I once know where.

Uncle, farewell,—and cousin, adieu.

Your mother well hath prayed; and prove you true.

DUCHESS, 「*to Aumerle*」

Come, my old son. I pray God make thee new.

They exit.

「Scene 4」

「*Enter*」 Sir Pierce Exton and 「*Servants.*」

EXTON

Didst thou not mark the King, what words he spake,

“Have I no friend will rid me of this living fear?”

Was it not so?

SERVINGMAN These were his very words.

EXTON

“Have I no friend?” quoth he. He spake it twice

And urged it twice together, did he not?

SERVINGMAN He did.

EXTON

And speaking it, he wistly looked on me,

As who should say “I would thou wert the man

That would divorce this terror from my heart”—

Meaning the king at Pomfret. Come, let's go.

I am the King's friend, and will rid his foe.

「*They exit.*」

145

150

5

10

5.5 Richard, imprisoned at Pontefract Castle, is visited by a former groom of his stable and then by the prison Keeper. Exton and his men enter with weapons. Richard kills several of the men before Exton kills him.

2. **unto:** i.e., to, with
3. **for because:** i.e., because
5. **hammer it out:** work it out
6. **prove:** show to be
8. **still-breeding thoughts:** i.e., thoughts that will continue to breed more thoughts
9. **people this little world:** i.e., will people **this prison where I live**
10. **humors:** dispositions, temperaments; **this world:** i.e., the real world
11. **sort:** i.e., class (of thought)
12. **As:** i.e., for example
13. **scruples:** doubts
14. **Come, little ones:** See Matthew 19.14: "Suffer little children . . . to come unto me. . . ."
- 16-17. **It is . . . eye:** See Matthew 19.24. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for the rich to enter into the kingdom of God."
- postern:** narrow gate
19. **vain:** worthless
20. **flinty ribs:** i.e., stone walls
21. **ragged:** rough
22. **for they:** because the nails; **die:** i.e., the ambitious thoughts die
24. **of fortune's slaves:** i.e., to become slaves to fortune

(continued)

「Scene 5」

Enter Richard alone.

RICHARD

I have been studying how I may compare
 This prison where I live unto the world,
 And for because the world is populous
 And here is not a creature but myself,
 I cannot do it. Yet I'll hammer it out. 5
 My brain I'll prove the female to my soul,
 My soul the father, and these two beget
 A generation of still-breeding thoughts,
 And these same thoughts people this little world,
 In humors like the people of this world, 10
 For no thought is contented. The better sort,
 As thoughts of things divine, are intermixed
 With scruples, and do set the word itself
 Against the word, as thus: "Come, little ones,"
 And then again, 15
 "It is as hard to come as for a camel
 To thread the postern of a small needle's eye."
 Thoughts tending to ambition, they do plot
 Unlikely wonders: how these vain weak nails
 May tear a passage through the flinty ribs 20
 Of this hard world, my ragged prison walls,
 And, for they cannot, die in their own pride.
 Thoughts tending to content flatter themselves
 That they are not the first of fortune's slaves,
 Nor shall not be the last—like silly beggars, 25
 Who, sitting in the stocks, refuge their shame
 That many have and others must 「sit」 there,
 And in this thought they find a kind of ease,
 Bearing their own misfortunes on the back
 Of such as have before endured the like. 30
 Thus play I in one person many people,
 And none contented. Sometimes am I king.

25. **silly**: simpleminded
 26. **stocks**: an instrument of punishment in which the feet of the person being punished were clamped into a heavy timber frame; **refuge their shame**: i.e., find refuge for their shame (in the thought)
 38. **straight**: straightway, immediately
 39. **Nor . . . nor**: neither . . . nor
 41. **With being nothing**: i.e., with death
 44. **time is broke**: i.e., rhythm is faulty
 46. **daintiness**: delicacy, refinement
 47. **check time broke**: i.e., rebuke faulty rhythm;
string: i.e., stringed instrument
 48. **concord**: harmony
 51. **numb'ring clock**: i.e., clock with which time numbers the hours
 52-53. **with . . . watch**: i.e., by means of sighs, which occur at regular intervals, my thoughts are impelled, as units of time (**watches**), to my eyes, which are like the face of a clock **outward watch**: i.e., the face of the clock
 54. **dial's point**: hand of the clock
 55. **still**: continually
 60. **posting**: hurrying
 61. **jack of the clock**: i.e., figure that strikes the bell on the outside of a clock (See page 212.)
 62. **mads**: i.e., maddens
 63. **have help**: i.e., has helped
 65. **gives it me**: i.e., gives it to me
 67. **strange brooch**: rare jewel

Then treasons make me wish myself a beggar,
 And so I am; then crushing penury
 Persuades me I was better when a king. 35
 Then am I kinged again, and by and by
 Think that I am unkinged by Bolingbroke,
 And straight am nothing. But whate'er I be,
 Nor I nor any man that but man is
 With nothing shall be pleased till he be eased 40
 With being nothing. (*The music plays.*) Music do I
 hear?
 Ha, ha, keep time! How sour sweet music is
 When time is broke and no proportion kept.
 So is it in the music of men's lives. 45
 And here have I the daintiness of ear
 To check time broke in a disordered string;
 But for the concord of my state and time
 Had not an ear to hear my true time broke.
 I wasted time, and now doth time waste me; 50
 For now hath time made me his numb'ring clock.
 My thoughts are minutes, and with sighs they jar
 Their watches on unto mine eyes, the outward watch,
 Whereto my finger, like a dial's point,
 Is pointing still in cleansing them from tears. 55
 Now, sir, the sound that tells what hour it is
 Are clamorous groans which strike upon my heart,
 Which is the bell. So sighs and tears and groans
 Show minutes, times, and hours. But my time
 Runs posting on in Bolingbroke's proud joy, 60
 While I stand fooling here, his jack of the clock.
 This music mads me. Let it sound no more,
 For though it have help madmen to their wits,
 In me it seems it will make wise men mad.
 Yet blessing on his heart that gives it me, 65
 For 'tis a sign of love, and love to Richard
 Is a strange brooch in this all-hating world.

Enter a Groom of the stable.

69–70. **noble . . . dear:** Richard responds to being called **royal prince** by claiming the Groom as his equal (**peer**), and by playing with the fact that a **royal** (a coin worth ten shillings) exceeded a **noble** (a coin worth about seven shillings) by about forty pence, or **ten groats**. **dear:** expensive, precious, costly

71. **how . . . hither:** i.e., how did you gain access

76. **ado:** trouble, fuss

78. **earned:** grieved

82. **dressed:** groomed

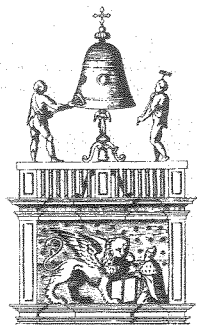
84. **he:** i.e., the horse; **him:** Bolingbroke

88. **clapping:** patting

90. **pride . . . fall:** proverbial

96. **jauncing:** prancing

96 SD. **meat:** food



A "jack of the clock." (5.5.61)

From Angelo Rocca, *De campanis commentarius* . . . (1612).

GROOM Hail, royal prince!

RICHARD Thanks, noble peer.

The cheapest of us is ten groats too dear.

What art thou, and how comest thou hither,

Where no man never comes but that sad dog

That brings me food to make misfortune live?

GROOM

I was a poor groom of thy stable, king,

When thou wert king; who, traveling towards York,

With much ado at length have gotten leave

To look upon my sometime royal master's face.

O, how it earned my heart when I beheld

In London streets, that coronation day,

When Bolingbroke rode on roan Barbary,

That horse that thou so often hast bestrid,

That horse that I so carefully have dressed.

RICHARD

Rode he on Barbary? Tell me, gentle friend,

How went he under him?

GROOM

So proudly as if he disdained the ground.

RICHARD

So proud that Bolingbroke was on his back!

That jade hath eat bread from my royal hand;

This hand hath made him proud with clapping him.

Would he not stumble? Would he not fall down

(Since pride must have a fall) and break the neck

Of that proud man that did usurp his back?

Forgiveness, horse! Why do I rail on thee,

Since thou, created to be awed by man,

Wast born to bear? I was not made a horse,

And yet I bear a burden like an ass,

Spurred, galled, and tired by jauncing Bolingbroke.

Enter one, [the Keeper,] to Richard with meat.

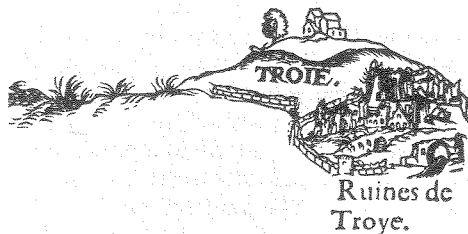
97. **give place:** yield your place (to me)

101. **Taste of it first:** Part of the duty of the person serving food to a king was to taste the food first to make sure it was not poisoned. **wont:** accustomed

110 SD. **kills another:** According to Holinshed, "Sir Piers entered the chamber, well armed, with eight tall men likewise armed, every of them having a bill in his hand. King Richard . . . stepping to the foremost man, wrung the bill out of his hands and so valiantly defended himself that he slew four of those that thus came to assail him." (A bill was a long-handled pointed and bladed weapon.)

112. **staggers thus my person:** i.e., thus knocks me down (literally, causes me to stagger)

115. **seat:** throne



Ruins of Troy. (5.1.11)
From Pierre Belon, *Les observations* . . . (1588).

KEEPER, *to Groom*¹

Fellow, give place. Here is no longer stay.

RICHARD, *to Groom*¹

If thou love me, 'tis time thou wert away.

GROOM

What my tongue dares not, that my heart shall say.

Groom exits.

KEEPER My lord, will 't please you to fall to?

100

RICHARD

Taste of it first as thou art wont to do.

KEEPER

My lord, I dare not. Sir Pierce of Exton,
Who lately came from the King, commands the
contrary.

RICHARD, *attacking the Keeper*¹

The devil take Henry of Lancaster, and thee!

105

Patience is stale, and I am weary of it.

KEEPER Help, help, help!

*The Murderers to Exton and his men*¹ rush in.

RICHARD

How now, what means death in this rude assault?

Villain, thy own hand yields thy death's instrument.

*Richard seizes a weapon from a Murderer
and kills him with it.*¹

Go thou and fill another room in hell.

110

*He kills another Murderer.*¹

Here Exton strikes him down.

That hand shall burn in never-quenching fire

That staggers thus my person. Exton, thy fierce hand

Hath with the King's blood stained the King's own
land.

Mount, mount, my soul. Thy seat is up on high,

115

Whilst my gross flesh sinks downward, here to die.

*He dies.*¹

5.6 News is brought to Henry about the capture and punishment of rebel leaders. Henry pardons the bishop of Carlisle. Exton enters with Richard's body and is banished for the murder. Henry vows to launch a crusade to the Holy Land to wash off his own guilt.

2. **rebels:** See 5.3.144–50.

3. **Ciceter:** i.e., Cirencester

4. **they:** i.e., the rebels

9. **taking:** capture

10. **At large discoursèd:** explained in full

11. **Percy:** The earl of Northumberland was named Henry Percy.

EXTON

As full of valor as of royal blood.

Both have I spilled. O, would the deed were good!

For now the devil that told me I did well

Says that this deed is chronicled in hell.

120

This dead king to the living king I'll bear.

Take hence the rest and give them burial here.

「They exit with the bodies.」

「Scene 6」

Enter 「King Henry,」 with the Duke of York.

KING HENRY

Kind uncle York, the latest news we hear

Is that the rebels have consumed with fire

Our town of Ciceter in Gloucestershire,

But whether they be ta'en or slain we hear not.

Enter Northumberland.

Welcome, my lord. What is the news?

5

NORTHUMBERLAND

First, to thy sacred state wish I all happiness.

The next news is: I have to London sent

The heads of Oxford, Salisbury, Blunt, and Kent.

The manner of their taking may appear

At large discoursèd in this paper here.

10

「He gives King Henry a paper.」

KING HENRY

We thank thee, gentle Percy, for thy pains,

And to thy worth will add right worthy gains.

Enter Lord Fitzwater.

FITZWATER

My lord, I have from Oxford sent to London

The heads of Brocas and Sir Bennet Seely,

15. **consorted:** i.e., conspiring (See 5.3.145.)
 18. **wot:** know
 19. **Abbot of Westminster:** See 4.1.334-47.
 20. **clog:** burden (See below.)
 22. **abide:** submissively await
 23. **doom and sentence of:** judgment and sentence on
 25. **some reverend room:** i.e., a place suitable for the religious life or religious retirement
 35. **deed of slander:** i.e., deed that will bring disgrace
 38. **They love . . . need:** Compare the proverb, "to love the treason but hate the traitor."



Burdened with a clog. (1.3.204; 5.6.20)
 From Geoffrey Whitney, *A choice of emblemes* . . . (1586).

Two of the dangerous consorted traitors
 That sought at Oxford thy dire overthrow.

15

KING HENRY

Thy pains, Fitzwater, shall not be forgot.
 Right noble is thy merit, well I wot.

Enter Harry Percy *with the Bishop of Carlisle.*

PERCY

The grand conspirator, Abbot of Westminster,
 With clog of conscience and sour melancholy
 Hath yielded up his body to the grave.
 But here is Carlisle living, to abide
 Thy kingly doom and sentence of his pride.

20

KING HENRY Carlisle, this is your doom:

Choose out some secret place, some reverend room,
 More than thou hast, and with it joy thy life.
 So, as thou liv'st in peace, die free from strife;
 For, though mine enemy thou hast ever been,
 High sparks of honor in thee have I seen.

25

Enter Exton *and Servingmen with the coffin.*

EXTON

Great king, within this coffin I present
 Thy buried fear. Herein all breathless lies
 The mightiest of thy greatest enemies,
 Richard of Bourdeaux, by me hither brought.

30

KING HENRY

Exton, I thank thee not, for thou hast wrought
 A deed of slander with thy fatal hand
 Upon my head and all this famous land.

35

EXTON

From your own mouth, my lord, did I this deed.

KING HENRY

They love not poison that do poison need,
 Nor do I thee. Though I did wish him dead,
 I hate the murderer, love him murdered.

40

43. **Cain:** See note to 1.1.108–10 for Cain's killing of Abel. For Cain's punishment, see Genesis 4.11–12, where God says to Cain, "And now art thou cursed from the earth. . . . A fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be."

45. **protest:** say to you that

48. **sullen black:** i.e., melancholy black clothing;
incontinent: immediately

49. **make a voyage to the Holy Land:** i.e., launch a crusade (See the opening scene of Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 1*.)

51. **Grace:** do honor to



Map of the Holy Land. (5.6.49)
From the Geneva Bible (1562).

The guilt of conscience take thou for thy labor,
But neither my good word nor princely favor.
With Cain go wander through shades of night,
And never show thy head by day nor light.

「*Exton exits.*」

Lords, I protest my soul is full of woe
That blood should sprinkle me to make me grow.
Come mourn with me for what I do lament,
And put on sullen black incontinent.
I'll make a voyage to the Holy Land
To wash this blood off from my guilty hand.

45

「*Servingmen lift the coffin to carry it out.*」

March sadly after. Grace my mournings here
In weeping after this untimely bier.

50

「*They exit, following the coffin.*」