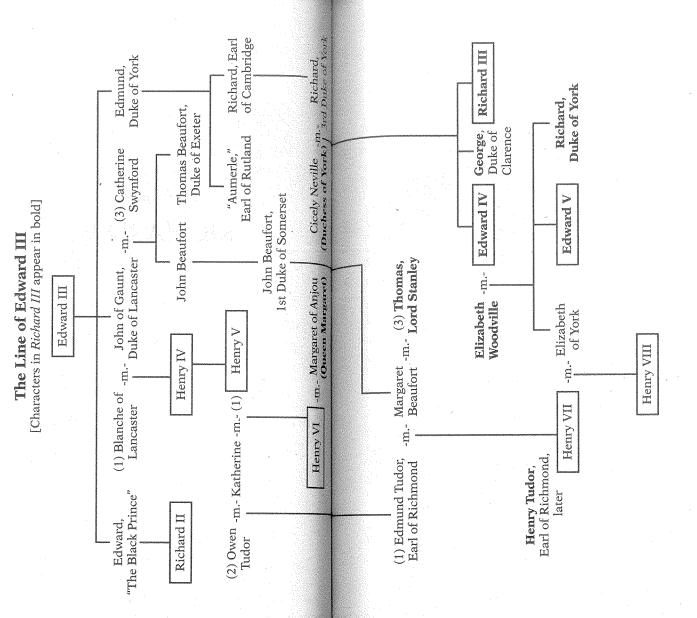
The Tragedy of RICHARD III



Characters in the Play

RICHARD, Duke of Gloucester, later King Richard III LADY ANNE, widow of Edward, son to the late King Henry VI; later wife to Richard

KING EDWARD IV, brother to Richard

QUEEN ELIZABETH, Edward's wife, formerly the Lady

Grey

PRINCE EDWARD

their sons

RICHARD, DUKE OF YORK

GEORGE, DUKE OF CLARENCE, brother to Edward and Richard

Clarence's BOY Clarence's DAUGHTER

DUCHESS OF YORK, mother of Richard, Edward, and Clarence

QUEEN MARGARET, widow of King Henry VI

DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

WILLIAM, LORD HASTINGS, Lord Chamberlain

LORD STANLEY, Earl of Derby

EARL RIVERS, brother to Queen Elizabeth LORD GREY | sons of Queen Elizabeth by her

MARQUESS OF DORSET | former marriage

SIR THOMAS VAUGHAN

SIR WILLIAM CATESBY SIR RICHARD RATCLIFFE LORD LOVELL

DUKE OF NORFOLK EARL OF SURREY Richard's supporters

EARL OF RICHMOND, Henry Tudor, later King Henry VII

EARL OF OXFORD
SIR JAMES BLUNT
SIR WALTER HERBERT
SIR WILLIAM BRANDON
SIR CHRISTOPHER, a priest

Richmond's supporters

ARCHBISHOP CARDINAL

JOHN MORTON, BISHOP OF ELY

SIR ROBERT BRAKENBURY, Lieutenant of the Tower of London

JAMES TYRREL, gentleman GENTLEMAN, attending Lady Anne

Two murderers

KEEPER in the Tower

Three CITIZENS

LORD MAYOR of London

PURSUIVANT

SIR JOHN, a priest

SCRIVENER

PAGE

SHERIFF

Seven MESSENGERS

GHOSTS of King Henry VI, his son Prince Edward, Clarence, Rivers, Grey, Vaughan, the two Princes, Hastings, Lady Anne, and Buckingham

Guards, Tressel, Berkeley, Halberds, Gentlemen, Anthony Woodeville and Lord Scales (brothers to Queen Elizabeth), Two Bishops, Sir William Brandon, Lords, Attendants, Citizens, Aldermen, Councillors, Soldiers

The Tragedy of

RICHARD III

ACT 1

- 1.1 Richard, alone onstage, reveals his intention to play the villain. He then pretends to console Clarence, the first victim of this villainy. After Clarence is led off toward prison, Richard greets Hastings, who tells him that King Edward is very ill. Richard, once again alone onstage, outlines his plan to have Clarence killed and to marry Lady Anne.
- 2. **son:** Spelled "Son" in the Folio and "sonne" in the quarto, this pun could be properly modernized as either "son" or "sun." The **son of York** is Richard's brother, King Edward IV, whose emblem, according to Shakespeare's play *Henry VI*, *Part 3*, was "three...shining suns" (2.1.40).

3. **loured:** frowned, looked dark and threatening; **house:** the family of York

6. bruisèd arms: i.e., battered armor; monuments: memorials

7. alarums: calls to arms

8. **dreadful:** terrible, formidable; **measures:** dances

9. front: forehead

10. **barbèd steeds:** horses armed with a protective covering over breast and flanks

11. fright: frighten; fearful: (1) frightening; (2) frightened

13. **pleasing:** pleasingness

14. sportive: amorous

16. **rudely stamped:** i.e., clumsily fashioned **rudely:** roughly, irregularly **stamped:** formed by impressing a figure upon a substance, as a coin is fashioned from metal; **want:** lack (continued)

ACT 1

Scene 1 Enter Richard, Duke of Gloucester, alone.

RICHARD

Now is the winter of our discontent Made glorious summer by this son of York, And all the clouds that loured upon our house In the deep bosom of the ocean buried. Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths. Our bruisèd arms hung up for monuments. Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings, Our dreadful marches to delightful measures. Grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front: And now, instead of mounting barbed steeds 10 To fright the souls of fearful adversaries. He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber To the lascivious pleasing of a lute. But I, that am not shaped for sportive tricks, Nor made to court an amorous looking glass; 15 I, that am rudely stamped and want love's majesty To strut before a wanton ambling nymph: I, that am curtailed of this fair proportion, Cheated of feature by dissembling nature, Deformed, unfinished, sent before my time 20 Into this breathing world scarce half made up. And that so lamely and unfashionable That dogs bark at me as I halt by them—

17. wanton ambling: i.e., provocatively dancing or walking 18. fair proportion: attractive shape 19. feature: handsome form	Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace, Have no delight to pass away the time, Unless to see my shadow in the sun And descant on mine own deformity
The state of the s	The Control of the Co
22. unfashionable: badly shaped	To entertain these fair well-spoken days,
23. halt: limp	I am determinèd to prove a villain
24. piping time: i.e., time marked by the music	
of pipes rather than martial fifes and drums (Pipes	
are associated with shepherds and with the dance.)	By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,
27. descant on: (1) comment on; (2) warble, or	
sing harmoniously about	In deadly hate, the one against the other;
28, 30. prove: i.e., prove to be; turn out to be	And if King Edward be as true and just
32. inductions: initial steps	As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,
33. By: i.e., by means of	This day should Clarence closely be mewed up
38. mewed up: caged	About a prophecy which says that "G"
39. About: i.e., because of	Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.
40. Of Edward's shall be: i.e., shall be the	
murderer of Edward IV's heirs (namely, Prince Edward and Richard, Duke of York)	comes.
	Enter Clarence, guarded, and Brakenbury.
44. waits upon: attends, accompanies 46. Tend'ring: holding dear, caring for	Brother, good day. What means this armed guard
47. conduct: escort; the Tower: the Tower of	
London (See page 130.)	TT: 35
52. godfathers: i.e., those who sponsored you	1111,000,
when you were named at your christening	This conduct to convey me to the Tower.
53. belike: perhaps	RICHARD Upon what cause?
54. new: i.e., newly	CLARENCE Because my name is
55. matter: cause, reason	George.
	RICHARD
	Alack, my lord, that fault is none of yours.
	He should, for that, commit your godfathers.
	O, belike his Majesty hath some intent
	That you should be new christened in the Tower.
	But what's the matter, Clarence? May I know? 55

- 59. **crossrow**: alphabet (Children learned the alphabet from a hornbook—a leaf of paper mounted on a small board and covered with translucent horn—where the letters of the alphabet were preceded by a cross. Hence the name **crossrow**. See page 250.)
 - 61. issue: offspring, progeny
 - 62. for: because
 - 64. These: i.e., these considerations; toys: trifles
 - 65. commit me: send me to prison
- 68. My Lady Grey: Richard's demeaning name for King Edward's queen, Elizabeth Grey, who had previously been married to Sir John Grey (Richard consistently refers to her in denigrating terms.)
 - 69. tempers: guides, directs
 - 70. worship: honor
- 77. Mistress Shore: Edward IV's mistress (Mistress, as in Mistress Shore, was equivalent to the modern "Ms.")
 - 79. her: Mistress Shore
 - 80. her Deity: a mock title for Mistress Shore
 - 81. Lord Chamberlain: Hastings
 - 84. men: servants
- 85. **jealous o'erworn widow:** i.e., Queen Elizabeth, who was a widow when she married Edward IV; **herself:** Mistress Shore (whom Richard also consistently demeans)
- 86. **dubbed:** a parodic use of the word, since only knights were dubbed; **gentlewomen:** Richard again slurs both women by suggesting that they are no more than gentry. While Mistress Shore was not perhaps by birth even a gentlewoman, she became, as Edward's mistress, the most powerful woman (continued)

CLARENCE

Yea, Richard, when I know, ⟨for⟩ I protest As yet I do not. But, as I can learn, He hearkens after prophecies and dreams, And from the crossrow plucks the letter *G*, And says a wizard told him that by "G" His issue disinherited should be. And for my name of George begins with *G*, It follows in his thought that I am he.

These, as I learn, and such like toys as these Hath moved his Highness to commit me now.

Why, this it is when men are ruled by women. 'Tis not the King that sends you to the Tower. My Lady Grey his wife, Clarence, 'tis she That \(\text{tempers}\)\) him to this extremity. Was it not she and that good man of worship, Anthony Woodeville, her brother there, That made him send Lord Hastings to the Tower,

From whence this present day he is delivered? We are not safe, Clarence; we are not safe.

CLARENCE

By heaven, I think there is no man secure
But the Queen's kindred and night-walking heralds
That trudge betwixt the King and Mistress Shore.
Heard you not what an humble suppliant
Lord Hastings was (to her) for (his) delivery?
RICHARD

Humbly complaining to her Deity
Got my Lord Chamberlain his liberty.
I'll tell you what: I think it is our way,
If we will keep in favor with the King,
To be her men and wear her livery.
The jealous o'erworn widow and herself,
Since that our brother dubbed them gentlewomen,
Are mighty gossips in our monarchy.

70

BRAKENBURY

in England and had great wealth; in history Queen Elizabeth was born a gentlewoman, the daughter of a knight and a duchess, and had a claim to the higher rank of noblewoman when her father was created a baron before she ever met Edward IV.

87. gossips: busybodies, or women friends (For Richard's claim that the women act in concert, see 3.4.71-73.

89. straitly ... charge: strictly commanded

90-91. no man...soever: no man, no matter what his rank, may have private conversation

92. An ... Worship: i.e., if it please your Honor

96. Well...vears: i.e., well advanced in age: fair: attractive

98. passing: surpassingly

101. naught: nothing

104. naught: wickedness

105. alone: In the Second Ouarto, a text that seems, in all other respects, simply a reprint of the First Quarto, there appear at this point the following lines: "Bro. What one my Lord? | Glo. Her husband knaue, wouldst thou betray me?" (See longer note, page 305.)

106. withal: at the same time

107. Forbear vour conference: cease your conversation

108. thy charge: i.e., the command you have been given

109. abjects: degraded people (with wordplay on subjects)

112. widow: i.e., the widow whom Edward married. Richard's sister-in-law

I beseech your Graces both to pardon me.	
His Majesty hath straitly given in charge	\$ P
That no man shall have private conference,	90
Of what degree soever, with your brother.	
RICHARD	
Even so. An please your Worship, Brakenbury,	
You may partake of anything we say.	
We speak no treason, man. We say the King	
Is wise and virtuous, and his noble queen	95
Well struck in years, fair, and not jealous.	
We say that Shore's wife hath a pretty foot,	
A cherry lip, a bonny eye, a passing pleasing tongue,	
And that the Queen's kindred are made gentlefolks.	
How say you, sir? Can you deny all this?	100
BRAKENBURY	100
With this, my lord, myself have naught to do.	
RICHARD	
Naught to do with Mistress Shore? I tell thee, fellow,	
He that doth naught with her, excepting one,	
Were best to do it secretly, alone.	105
BRAKENBURY	
I do beseech your Grace to pardon me, and withal	
Forbear your conference with the noble duke.	
CLARENCE	
We know thy charge, Brakenbury, and will obey.	
RICHARD	
We are the Queen's abjects and must obey.—	
Brother, farewell. I will unto the King,	110
And whatsoe'er you will employ me in,	
Were it to call King Edward's widow "sister,"	
I will perform it to enfranchise you.	
Meantime, this deep disgrace in brotherhood	
Touches me deeper than you can imagine.	115

CLARENCE

130

135

118. **lie for you:** i.e., lie in prison in your place

(with a possible second meaning, "tell lies for you") 120. **perforce:** of necessity ("Patience perforce" was a proverbial phrase.)

137. **kites:** Like **buzzards, kites** are vicious predatory birds. (See picture, page 18.)

I know it pleaseth neither of us well.

Well, your imprisonment shall not be long.
I will deliver you or else lie for you.
Meantime, have patience.

CLARENCE I must, perforce. Farewell. 120

Exit Clarence, Brakenbury, and guard.

RICHARD

Go tread the path that thou shalt ne'er return.
Simple, plain Clarence, I do love thee so
That I will shortly send thy soul to heaven,
If heaven will take the present at our hands.
But who comes here? The new-delivered Hastings?

Enter Lord Hastings.

HASTINGS

Good time of day unto my gracious lord.

As much unto my good Lord Chamberlain. Well are you welcome to (the) open air. How hath your Lordship brooked imprisonment?

HASTINGS

With patience, noble lord, as prisoners must. But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks That were the cause of my imprisonment.

RICHARD

No doubt, no doubt; and so shall Clarence too, For they that were your enemies are his And have prevailed as much on him as you.

More pity that the eagles should be mewed, Whiles kites and buzzards (prey) at liberty. RICHARD What news abroad?

HASTINGS

No news so bad abroad as this at home:

regales and all compared temperatures and 16

The King is sickly, weak, and melancholy.

140

143. diet: way of living

150. **with post-horse:** i.e., in the fastest way possible (Post-horses were ridden by express messengers.)

157. Warwick's youngest daughter: Anne, daughter of the earl of Warwick, known as "Warwick the Kingmaker" for his often decisive intervention in the fifteenth-century Wars of the Roses to put first Edward IV and then his opponent Henry VI on the throne

158. **husband:** i.e., Prince Edward, son of Henry VI, to whom, in history, Anne was engaged but perhaps not married; **father:** i.e., father-in-law, Henry VI

162. close: private

164. **run...market:** i.e., am getting ahead of myself (proverbial)



A kite. (1.1.137)

From Konrad Gesner, ... Historiae animalium ... (1585-1604).

And his physicians fear him mightily. RICHARD Now, by Saint John, that news is bad indeed. O, he hath kept an evil diet long. And overmuch consumed his royal person. Tis very grievous to be thought upon. Where is he, in his bed? HASTINGS He is. RICHARD Go you before, and I will follow you. Exit Hastings. He cannot live, I hope, and must not die Till George be packed with post-horse up to heaven. 150 I'll in to urge his hatred more to Clarence With lies well steeled with weighty arguments, And, if I fail not in my deep intent. Clarence hath not another day to live: Which done, God take King Edward to His mercy. 155 And leave the world for me to bustle in. For then I'll marry Warwick's youngest daughter. What though I killed her husband and her father? The readiest way to make the wench amends Is to become her husband and her father: 160 The which will I, not all so much for love As for another secret close intent By marrying her which I must reach unto. But yet I run before my horse to market. Clarence still breathes; Edward still lives and reigns. 165 When they are gone, then must I count my gains. He exits.

15

20

25

- **1.2** Richard woos Lady Anne over the corpse of King Henry VI, Anne's father-in-law, whom Richard murdered.
- 0 SD. **corse:** corpse; **Halberds:** i.e., halberdiers, guards armed with weapons that combined features of the spear and the ax (See page 284.)

2. **shrouded:** (1) wrapped in a shroud; (2) hidden, given refuge; **hearse:** (1) funeral pall or cloth; (2) wooden frame supporting the pall over the body

3. obsequiously: in the manner of a mourner

- 4. **Lancaster:** i.e., Henry VI, of the house of Lancaster, the enemies of the house of York in the Wars of the Roses
 - 5. key-cold: i.e., as cold as the metal of a key

8. invocate: conjure

14. helpless: unavailing, unprofitable

- 18. direful: dire or terrible; hap: fortune or chance
- 21. **venomed thing:** i.e., insect or reptile endowed with venom

22. abortive: born prematurely

23. Prodigious: abnormal, monstrous

24. aspect: look, appearance

26. **that:** i.e., the newly born child; **unhappiness:** misfortune; evil

Scene 2

Enter the corse of Henry the Sixth on a bier, with Halberds to guard it, Lady Anne being the mourner, accompanied by Gentlemen.

ANNE

Set down, set down your honorable load, If honor may be shrouded in a hearse, Whilst I awhile obsequiously lament Th' untimely fall of virtuous Lancaster.

They set down the bier.

Poor key-cold figure of a holy king,
Pale ashes of the house of Lancaster,
Thou bloodless remnant of that royal blood,
Be it lawful that I invocate thy ghost
To hear the lamentations of poor Anne,
Wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughtered son,
Stabbed by the selfsame hand that made these
wounds.

Lo, in these windows that let forth thy life I pour the helpless balm of my poor eyes.

O, cursèd be the hand that made these holes;

Cursèd the heart that had the heart to do it; Cursèd the blood that let this blood from hence.

More direful hap betide that hated wretch That makes us wretched by the death of thee Than I can wish to wolves, to spiders, toads,

Or any creeping venomed thing that lives. If ever he have child, abortive be it, Prodigious, and untimely brought to light, Whose ugly and unnatural aspect

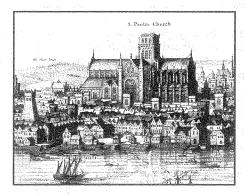
May fright the hopeful mother at the view, And that be heir to his unhappiness. If ever he have wife, let her be made More miserable by the death of him

Than I am made by my young lord and thee.—

- 30. **Chertsey:** site of a famous abbey on the Thames River west of London
- 31. Paul's: St. Paul's Cathedral in London (See page 24.)
- 35. **black magician:** i.e., evil conjurer who can summon fiends from hell
 - 36. devoted: consecrated
 - 37. Villains: baseborn men (French villeins)
 - 40. stand: halt
- 41. **Advance...breast:** i.e., hold your halberd upright
 - 43. spurn: trample
 - 44. What: an interjection introducing a question
- 47. **Avaunt:** begone (used to send away witches and devils)
- 48–49. **Thou hadst...canst not have:** See Matthew 10.28: "And fear ye not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." **his:** i.e., Henry VI's
 - 50. curst: angry, bad-tempered

Taken from Paul's to be interred there.	30
They take up the bier.	
And still, as you are weary of this weight, Rest you, whiles I lament King Henry's corse.	
Enter Richard, Duke of Gloucester.	
RICHARD	
Stay, you that bear the corse, and set it down.	
ANNE CONTROL OF THE C	
What black magician conjures up this fiend	35
To stop devoted charitable deeds?	
RICHARD	
Villains, set down the corse or, by Saint Paul,	
I'll make a corse of him that disobeys.	
GENTLEMAN	
My lord, stand back and let the coffin pass.	
RICHARD	
Unmannered dog, (stand) thou when I command!—	40
Advance thy halberd higher than my breast,	
Or by Saint Paul I'll strike thee to my foot	
And spurn upon thee, beggar, for thy boldness.	
They set down the bier.	
anne, ^f to the Gentlemen and Halberds ⁷	
What, do you tremble? Are you all afraid?	
Alas, I blame you not, for you are mortal,	45
And mortal eyes cannot endure the devil.—	
Avaunt, thou dreadful minister of hell.	
Thou hadst but power over his mortal body;	
His soul thou canst not have. Therefore begone.	
RICHARD	
Sweet saint, for charity, be not so curst.	50
ANNE	
Foul devil, for God's sake, hence, and trouble us not,	
For thou hast made the happy Earth thy hell,	

- 54. exclaims: exclamations
- 56. pattern: notable example
- 60. exhales: draws forth
- 63. Provokes: i.e., provoke
- 69. quick: alive
- 73. for...for: i.e., in return for
- 74. nor...nor: neither...nor
- 75. **No...knows:** i.e., no animal is so fierce as to be without
- 77. **devils...truth:** Proverbial: "The devil sometimes speaks the truth."
 - 79. Vouchsafe: grant
- 80–81. **Of...myself:** i.e., the opportunity to acquit myself of these alleged crimes **By circumstance:** i.e., in full detail
 - 82. defused: widely dispersed; disordered



St. Paul's Cathedral. (1.2.31)
From Claes Jansz Visscher, Londinum florentissima
Britanniae urbs . . . [c. 1625].

Filled it with cursing cries and deep exclaims. if thou delight to view thy heinous deeds, 55 Behold this pattern of thy butcheries. She points to the corpse. O. gentlemen, see, see dead Henry's wounds Open their congealed mouths and bleed afresh! Blush, blush, thou lump of foul deformity, For 'tis thy presence that exhales this blood From cold and empty veins where no blood dwells. Thy deeds, inhuman and unnatural. Provokes this deluge most unnatural. O God, which this blood mad'st, revenge his death! O Earth, which this blood drink'st, revenge his 65 death! Either heaven with lightning strike the murderer dead, Or Earth gape open wide and eat him quick, As thou dost swallow up this good king's blood, 70 Which his hell-governed arm hath butcherèd. RICHARD Lady, you know no rules of charity, Which renders good for bad, blessings for curses. ANNE Villain, thou know'st nor law of God nor man. No beast so fierce but knows some touch of pity. 75 RICHARD But I know none, and therefore am no beast. ANNE O. wonderful, when devils tell the truth! RICHARD More wonderful, when angels are so angry. Vouchsafe, divine perfection of a woman, Of these supposèd crimes to give me leave 80 By circumstance but to acquit myself.

Vouchsafe, defused infection of (a) man,

86. patient: calm 88. current: genuine, authentic (like currency) 91. worthy: deserved 99. Inliest: "To lie in one's throat" was proverbial. 100. falchion: sword; smoking in: i.e., steaming with 101. The which: i.e., the same sword; bend: turn 104. their: i.e., my brothers' 106. aught: anything 109. hedgehog: perhaps a mocking reference to Richard's emblem, the boar (See page 56.)
Richards emblem, the boar (See page 50.)
The state of the s

	506
Of these known evils but to give me leave	
By circumstance to curse thy cursed self.	
RICHARD	
Fairer than tongue can name thee, let me have	85
Some patient leisure to excuse myself.	
NNE DE LA	
Fouler than heart can think thee, thou canst make	
No excuse current but to hang thyself.	
RICHARD	
By such despair I should accuse myself.	
ANNE	
And by despairing shalt thou stand excused	90
For doing worthy vengeance on thyself	. 20
That didst unworthy slaughter upon others.	
RICHARD Say that I slew them not.	
ANNE Then say they were not slain.	
But dead they are, and, devilish slave, by thee.	95
RICHARD I did not kill your husband.))
ANNE Why then, he is alive.	
RICHARD	
Nay, he is dead, and slain by Edward's hands.	
ANNE	
In thy foul throat thou liest. Queen Margaret saw	
Thy murd'rous falchion smoking in his blood,	100
The which thou once didst bend against her breast,	100
But that thy brothers beat aside the point.	
RICHARD	
I was provokèd by her sland'rous tongue,	
That laid their guilt upon my guiltless shoulders.	
ANNE	
Thou wast provoked by thy bloody mind,	105
That never dream'st on aught but butcheries.	103
Didst thou not kill this king?	
RICHARD I grant you.	
ANNE	
Dost grant me, hedgehog? Then, God grant me too	
5. mon, mongonog. Thom, ood grain me too	

Richard III

2	1	4	ha	1	hal	ped
1	1 4	す。	HU	HD.	110	peu

115. fitter: better fitted

117. one place else: one other place

120. Ill: miserable; betide: befall

125. something: somewhat

126. timeless: untimely, premature

129. **Thou . . . effect:** i.e., all the responsibility was yours

130. effect: result, consequence

133. **So:** i.e., so that



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

Thou mayst be damned for that wicked deed.	11
0, he was gentle, mild, and virtuous.	
NCHARD	
The better for the King of heaven that hath him.	
ANNE	
He is in heaven, where thou shalt never come.	
RICHARD A SECOND	
Let him thank me, that holp to send him thither,	
For he was fitter for that place than Earth,	115
ANNERS OF THE RESIDENCE OF THE STATE OF THE	
And thou unfit for any place but hell.	
RICHARD II I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	
Yes, one place else, if you will hear me name it.	
ANNE Some dungeon.	
RICHARD Your bedchamber.	
ANNE	
Ill rest betide the chamber where thou liest!	120
RICHARD	
So will it, madam, till I lie with you.	
ANNE	
I hope so.	
RICHARD I know so. But, gentle Lady Anne,	
To leave this keen encounter of our wits	
And fall something into a slower method:	125
Is not the causer of the timeless deaths	
Of these Plantagenets, Henry and Edward,	
As blameful as the executioner?	
ANNE	
Thou wast the cause and most accursed effect.	
RICHARD	
Your beauty was the cause of that effect—	130
Your beauty, that did haunt me in my sleep	
To undertake the death of all the world,	
So I might live one hour in your sweet bosom.	
ANNE	
If I thought that, I tell thee, homicide	

137. wrack: destruction

143. would: wish

146. **quarrel:** cause, reason (Richard, [line 144], used **quarrel** in the sense of "dispute, argument.")

151. **He lives that:** i.e., there is one man alive who; **he:** Edward, Anne's late husband

153. **Plantagenet:** the (French) name of the royal family in England from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries, including the members of the families of Lancaster and York (**Plantagenet** was the family name of Geoffrey, count of Anjou, ancestor of Edward III, from whom both the Lancasters and Yorks descended. See "The Line of Edward III," pages 2–3, above.)

These nails should rend that beauty from my cheeks.	135
RICHARD	
These eyes could not endure that beauty's wrack. You should not blemish it, if I stood by.	
As all the world is cheered by the sun, So I by that. It is my day, my life.	140
ANNE	
Black night o'ershade thy day, and death thy life.	
RICHARD	
Curse not thyself, fair creature; thou art both.	
ANNE	
I would I were, to be revenged on thee.	
RICHARD	
It is a quarrel most unnatural	
To be revenged on him that loveth thee.	145
ANNE	
It is a quarrel just and reasonable	
To be revenged on him that killed my husband.	
RICHARD	
He that bereft thee, lady, of thy husband	
Did it to help thee to a better husband.	
ANNE	
His better doth not breathe upon the earth.	150
RICHARD	150
He lives that loves thee better than he could.	
ANNE	
Name him.	
RICHARD Plantagenet.	
ANNE Why, that was he.	
RICHARD	1
The selfsame name, but one of better nature.	155
ANNE	
Where is he?	
RICHARD Here ((She) snits at him) Why dost	

thou spit at me?

queen	59	mortal	: deadly

161. **poison...toad:** In popular belief, toads were poisonous.

164. **basilisks':** i.e., the **eyes** of basilisks, mythical creatures whose glances were deadly, often identified with the cockatrice (See pages 34 and 200.)

169. **aspects:** appearance, looks; **store:** plenty, an abundance

170. remorseful: compassionate, pitying

171. **Edward:** Richard's brother, now Edward IV (See picture, page 50.)

172. **Rutland:** Richard's brother, whose murder by the Lancastrian supporter **Clifford** is presented in Shakespeare's *Henry VI*, *Part 3*

174. thy . . . father: the earl of Warwick

177. That: i.e., so that

180. thence exhale: i.e., draw forth from my eyes

183. sued to: petitioned, appealed to

184. smoothing: flattering

185. **now:** i.e., now that; **my fee:** i.e., the reward I desire (The image is of a lawyer arguing in return for a **fee,** an image continued with **sues** in line 186.)

186. **sues:** petitions

ANNE	
Would it were mortal poison for thy sake.	
RICHARD	
Never came poison from so sweet a place.	16
ANNE	
Never hung poison on a fouler toad.	
Out of my sight! Thou dost infect mine eyes.	
RICHARD	4 5
Thine eyes, sweet lady, have infected mine.	
ANNE	
Would they were basilisks' to strike thee dead.	
RICHARD	
I would they were, that I might die at once,	16
For now they kill me with a living death.	
Those eyes of thine from mine have drawn salt	
tears,	
Shamed their aspects with store of childish drops.	
These eyes, which never shed remorseful tear-	171
No, when my father York and Edward wept	
To hear the piteous moan that Rutland made	
When black-faced Clifford shook his sword at him;	
Nor when thy warlike father, like a child,	
Told the sad story of my father's death	175
And twenty times made pause to sob and weep,	
That all the standers-by had wet their cheeks	
Like trees bedashed with rain—in that sad time,	
My manly eyes did scorn an humble tear;	
And what these sorrows could not thence exhale	180
Thy beauty hath, and made them blind with	
weeping.	
I never sued to friend nor enemy;	
My tongue could never learn sweet smoothing word.	
But now thy beauty is proposed my fee,	185
My proud heart sues and prompts my tongue to	
speak. She looks scornfully at him.	
Teach not thy lip such scorn, for it was made	

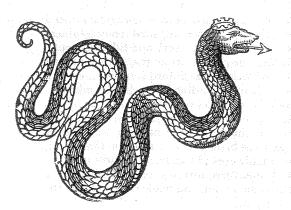
195 SD. open: i.e., bare; offers: makes an attempt

198. dispatch: make haste 200 SD. falls: i.e., lets fall

212. figured: exhibited, displayed

213. fear me: i.e., fear

215. put up: i.e., sheathe



A basilisk. (1.2.164; 4.1.58) From Edward Topsell, The history of four-footed beasts and serpents . . . (1658).

For kissing, lady, not for such contempt. If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive, Lo, here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword, Which if thou please to hide in this true breast And let the soul forth that adoreth thee, I lay it naked to the deadly stroke	
And humbly beg the death upon my knee. He [kneels and] lays his breast open; she offers at [it] with his sword.	195
Nay, do not pause, for I did kill King Henry—	
But 'twas thy beauty that provoked me.	142 m 154 m
Nay, now dispatch; 'twas I that stabbed young Edward—	i i
But 'twas thy heavenly face that set me on.	200
She falls the sword,	y
Take up the sword again, or take up me.	
ANNE	
Arise, dissembler. Though I wish thy death,	
I will not be thy executioner.	
RICHARD, rising	
Then bid me kill myself, and I will do it.	
ANNE I have already.	205
RICHARD That was in thy rage.	205
Speak it again and, even with the word,	
This hand, which for thy love did kill thy love,	
Shall for thy love kill a far truer love.	
To both their deaths shalt thou be accessory.	210
ANNE I would I knew thy heart.	
RICHARD 'Tis figured in my tongue.	
ANNE I fear me both are false.	
RICHARD Then never (was man) true.	ě
ANNE Well, well, put up your sword.	215
RICHARD Say then my peace is made.	
ANNE That shalt thou know hereafter.	
RICHARD But shall I live in hope?	17

A 11 T 1. 11

219. All...so: Proverbial: "Hope leaves not a man" (i.e., everyone has hope).

225. **poor...servant:** i.e., suitor, who wishes to serve her as lover

226. But ... at: i.e., beg just one favor from

229. you leave: i.e., you to leave

231. **presently:** at once; **Crosby House:** a London residence of Richard's, sometimes called "Crosby Place"

235. expedient: speedy

237. boon: request

242. 'Tis...deserve: Anne takes literally the meaning of the word farewell—i.e., "may you go well."

246. Whitefriars: a monastery in London; attend: await

ANNE All men I nope live so.	
(RICHARD) Vouchsafe to wear this ring.	220
(ANNE To take is not to give.)	
THe places the ring on her hand.	
RICHARD SAME SEEDS OF THE SAME SAME SAME SAME SAME SAME SAME SAM	
Look how my ring encompasseth thy finger;	
Even so thy breast encloseth my poor heart.	
Wear both of them, for both of them are thine.	
And if thy poor devoted servant may	225
But beg one favor at thy gracious hand,	
Thou dost confirm his happiness forever.	
ANNE What is it?	
RICHARD	
That it may please you leave these sad designs	
To him that hath most cause to be a mourner,	230
And presently repair to Crosby House,	
Where, after I have solemnly interred	
At Chertsey monast'ry this noble king	
And wet his grave with my repentant tears,	
I will with all expedient duty see you.	235
For divers unknown reasons, I beseech you,	
Grant me this boon.	
NNE	
With all my heart, and much it joys me too	
To see you are become so penitent.—	
Tressel and Berkeley, go along with me.	240
NCHARD	
Bid me farewell.	
NNE 'Tis more than you deserve;	
But since you teach me how to flatter you,	
Imagine I have said "farewell" already.	
Two exit with Anne, The bier is taken up.	
SENTLEMAN Towards Chertsey, noble lord?	245
MCHARD	
No. to Whitefriars. There attend my coming	

[Halberds and gentlemen] exit [with] corse.

247. humor: state of mind, mood
253. by: i.e., nearby
254. bars: barriers, obstacles
256. back my suit: support my wooing
258. all nothing: i.e., against huge odds (pro-
verbial)
262. Tewkesbury: site of the battle in which
Edward IV decisively defeated Henry VI
264. Framed nature: i.e., fashioned by na-
ture at her most lavish
265. right: very
266. afford: provide, yield
270. moiety: half
271. halts: limps
272. My dukedomdenier: i.e., I would bet
my dukedom against a coin worth the twelfth part
of a sou 273. my person: my physical appearance
275. marv'lous proper: marvelously handsome
276. I'll for: i.e., I'll bear the expense of buy-
ing
277. entertain: i.e., take into my service
281. in: i.e., into
Hatel of the control
and the state of t

Was ever woman in this humor wooed? Was ever woman in this humor won? I'll have her, but I will not keep her long. What, I that killed her husband and his father, To take her in her heart's extremest hate, With curses in her mouth, tears in her eyes, The bleeding witness of my hatred by, Having God, her conscience, and these bars against me, And I no friends to back my suit (at all) But the plain devil and dissembling looks? And yet to win her, all the world to nothing! Ha! Hath she forgot already that brave prince,	25(255 260
Edward, her lord, whom I some three months since	200
Stabbed in my angry mood at Tewkesbury?	
A sweeter and a lovelier gentleman,	
Framed in the prodigality of nature,	
Young, valiant, wise, and, no doubt, right royal, The spacious world cannot again afford.	265
And will she yet abase her eyes on me,	
That cropped the golden prime of this sweet prince	
And made her widow to a woeful bed?	
On me, whose all not equals Edward's moiety?	270
On me, that halts and am misshapen thus?	
My dukedom to a beggarly denier,	
I do mistake my person all this while!	
Upon my life, she finds, although I cannot, Myself to be a marv'lous proper man.	
I'll be at charges for a looking glass	275
And entertain a score or two of tailors	
To study fashions to adorn my body.	
Since I am crept in favor with myself,	
I will maintain it with some little cost.	280
But first I'll turn yon fellow in his grave	

1.3 Queen Elizabeth bemoans her situation in the face of her husband's serious illness; Richard quarrels with Queen Elizabeth, her brother, and Grey, her son by her first marriage. Queen Margaret, King Henry VI's widow, curses them all. After the others have departed, Richard dispatches his agents to kill Clarence.

4. brook it ill: i.e., take it badly brook: tolerate

5. entertain good comfort: accept consolation

6. auick: lively

7. betide on: befall

10. goodly: fine, splendid

12. **his minority:** the period during which he is too young to govern

16. **determined:** decided; **concluded:** finally arranged

17. miscarry: perish

And then return lamenting to my love. Shine out, fair sun, till I have bought a glass, That I may see my shadow as I pass.

He exits.

Scene 3
Enter Queen Elizabeth, the Lord Marquess of Dorset,
Lord Rivers, and Lord Grev.

RIVERS

Have patience, madam. There's no doubt his Majesty

Will soon recover his accustomed health.

In that you brook it ill, it makes him worse.
Therefore, for God's sake, entertain good comfort
And cheer his Grace with quick and merry eyes.
OUEEN ELIZABETH

If he were dead, what would betide on me?

No other harm but loss of such a lord.
QUEEN ELIZABETH

The loss of such a lord includes all harms.

The heavens have blessed you with a goodly son To be your comforter when he is gone.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Ah, he is young, and his minority
Is put unto the trust of Richard Gloucester,
A man that loves not me nor none of you.

RIVERS

Is it concluded he shall be Protector? QUEEN ELIZABETH

It is determined, not concluded yet;
But so it must be if the King miscarry.

41

5

10

15

27. envious: malicious

30. wayward sickness: illness that does not respond to treatment; grounded: firmly established

34. amendment: recovery from illness

37. atonement: harmony

38. **brothers:** Only one of Queen Elizabeth's historical brothers, Lord Rivers, is given a speaking role in the play. In history this brother was known by his proper name, Anthony Woodeville, and by his two titles, the earl of Rivers and Lord Scales. However, in the play, these three titles are transformed into three separate characters, each of whom Richard calls by name in 2.1.68, 70. (Sir Thomas More's biography of Richard mentions "Sir Anthony Woodville, Lord Rivers, and brother to the queen." This list refers to a single person, but it could easily be read as naming three different men.)

40. warn: summon

Enter Buckingham and \(\text{Lord Stanley, Earl of } \) Derby. **GREY** Here comes the lord of Buckingham, and Derby. BUCKINGHAM, To Queen Elizabeth Good time of day unto your royal Grace. STANLEY God make your Majesty joyful, as you have been. 20 QUEEN ELIZABETH The Countess Richmond, good my lord of Derby, To your good prayer will scarcely say amen. Yet, Derby, notwithstanding she's your wife And loves not me, be you, good lord, assured I hate not you for her proud arrogance. 25 STANLEY I do beseech vou either not believe The envious slanders of her false accusers. Or if she be accused on true report, Bear with her weakness, which I think proceeds From wayward sickness and no grounded malice. 30 QUEEN ELIZABETH Saw you the King today, my lord of Derby? STANLEY But now the Duke of Buckingham and I Are come from visiting his Majesty. QUEEN ELIZABETH What likelihood of his amendment, lords? BUCKINGHAM Madam, good hope. His Grace speaks cheerfully. 35 QUEEN ELIZABETH God grant him health. Did you confer with him? BUCKINGHAM Ay, madam. He desires to make atonement

Between the Duke of Gloucester and your brothers, And between them and my Lord Chamberlain,

And sent to warn them to his royal presence.

OHEEN ELIZABETTI

46. holy Paul: i.e., St. Paul; lightly: i.e., litt	46	holy	Paul:	i.e.,	St.	Paul:	lightly:	i.e.,	littl
--	----	------	-------	-------	-----	-------	----------	-------	-------

48. look fair: appear agreeable or kindly

49. smooth: flatter; cog: use fraud or deceit

50. Duck ... nods: i.e., bow in an affected way

51. held: considered, regarded

54. With: by; silken: ingratiating, flattering; Jacks: fellows of low breeding

55. presence: company

56. nor...nor: neither...nor

62. scarce ... while: i.e., scarcely for the time it takes to draw a breath

63. lewd: ill-mannered

64. Brother: i.e., brother-in-law; matter: cause, reason (for the King's having summoned you to him)

65. on ... disposition: i.e., of his own inclination

66. suitor else: other suitor

67. Aiming belike at: i.e., probably conjecturing about

70. Makes: causes; ground: i.e., the grounds "of your ill will," as the quarto goes on to say, perhaps superfluously, in a phrase adopted by many editors

Would all were well—but that will never be. I fear our happiness is at the height.	
Enter Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and Hastings.	
RICHARD	
They do me wrong, and I will not endure it!	
who is it that complains unto the King	
That I, forsooth, am stern and love them not? By holy Paul, they love his Grace but lightly	4
That fill his ears with such dissentious rumors	
Because I cannot flatter and look fair	i
Smile in men's faces, smooth, deceive, and con	
Duck with French nods and apish courtesy	5
I must be held a rancorous enemy. Cannot a plain man live and think no harm,	
But that plain than tive and think no harm, But this his simple truth must be abused	
With silken, sly, insinuating Jacks?	
GREY	į
To who in all this presence speaks your Grace?	55
RICHARD	
To thee, that hast nor honesty nor grace. When have I injured thee? When done thee	
wrong?—	
Or thee?—Or thee? Or any of your faction?	
A plague upon you all! His royal Grace	60
Whom God preserve better than you would wish	
cannot be quiet scarce a breathing while	
But you must trouble him with lewd complaints. QUEEN ELIZABETH	
Brother of Gloucester, you mistake the matter.	
The King, on his own royal disposition,	/=
And not provoked by any suitor else.	65
Aiming belike at your interior hatred	
That in your outward action shows itself	
Against my children, brothers, and myself,	
Makes him to send, that he may learn the ground.	70

OU

72. make prey: i.e., behave like birds of prey 73. Jack became a gentleman: Proverbial: "Jack would be a gentleman." 74. gentle: noble, honorable 77. friends': kinsmen's 79. we: i.e., my family and I 85. scarce: i.e., scarcely 86. noble: a coin worth, according to some contemporary reporters, about a third of a pound 87. careful height: i.e., eminent position that is full of cares or worries 88. hap: fortune 93. draw: ensnare; suspects: suspicions 94. mean: cause, agent 99. fair: desirable
and the state of t
and the street of the contraction of the street of the str
and the state of t
and the second of the contract of the second

RICHARD		
I cannot tell. The world is gro	own so bad	
That wrens make prey where		
Since every Jack became a ge		
There's many a gentle person		
QUEEN ELIZABETH		
Come, come, we know your n	neaning, brother	7
Gloucester.	egy, skyllig dag at a filosof	
You envy my advancement, a	nd my friends'.	
God grant we never may have	e need of you.	
RICHARD	nakan digelang palah dis	
Meantime God grants that (w	e have need of	
you.	orani orani ya waka 18 a waka 18	8
Our brother is imprisoned by		
Myself disgraced, and the not		
Held in contempt, while great	t promotions	
Are daily given to ennoble the	ose	
That scarce some two days sin	nce were worth a	8
noble.		
QUEEN ELIZABETH		
By Him that raised me to this		
From that contented hap whi		
I never did incense his Majest		
Against the Duke of Clarence,		9
An earnest advocate to plead		
My lord, you do me shameful		
Falsely to draw me in these vi	le suspects.	
RICHARD		
You may deny that you were i		
Of my Lord Hastings' late imp		9.
RIVERS She may, my lord, for-	-	
CICHARD		
She may, Lord Rivers. Why, w		
She may do more, sir, than de		
She may help you to many fai	ir preferments	

101. layon: credit those honors to; desert:
deserts, merits
102. marry: indeed (originally an oath on the
102. marry: muceu (originally an oath on the
name of the Virgin Mary)
106. Iwis: certainly; worser: i.e., worse
110. gross: flagrant
116. state: greatness; seat: throne; is: i.e., are;
due to me: i.e., properly mine
117. threat: i.e., threaten
119. avouch: acknowledge
120. adventure to be: risk being
121. pains: trouble taken (on King Edward's be-
half)
122. Out: an exclamation of abhorrence
126. packhorse: drudge
to the state of the control of the state of
lings as with product of a result of the
e de la companya della companya dell
Specification of the second specification
a Nasar ya kalendar di arang salah di garak da ya 148.

And then deny her aiding hand therein,	100
And lay those honors on your high desert.	100
What may she not? She may, ay, marry, may she	
RIVERS What, marry, may she?	
RICHARD	
What, marry, may she? Marry with a king	
A bachelor, and a handsome stripling too.	105
IWIS, your grandam had a worser match.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
My lord of Gloucester, I have too long borne	
four blunt upbraidings and your bitter scoffs.	
By heaven, I will acquaint his Majesty	Ĭ
Of those gross taunts that oft I have endured.	110
I had rather be a country servant-maid	3
Than a great queen with this condition,	
To be so baited, scorned, and stormed at.	
Enter old Queen Margaret, 「apart from the others. 「	
Small joy have I in being England's queen.	
QUEEN MARGARET, aside	
And lessened be that small, God I beseech Him!	115
Thy honor, state, and seat is due to me	
RICHARD, to Queen Elizabeth	,
What, threat you me with telling of the King?	
(Tell him and spare not. Look, what I have said,)	
I will avouch 't in presence of the King;	
I dare adventure to be sent to th' Tower.	120
Tis time to speak. My pains are quite forgot. QUEEN MARGARET, [aside]	
Out, devil! I do remember them too well:	
Thou killed'st my husband Henry in the Tower,	
And Edward, my poor son, at Tewkesbury.	
RICHARD, sto Queen Elizabeth	
Ere you were queen, ay, or your husband king,	1
I was a packhorse in his great affairs,	125
A weeder-out of his proud adversaries,	
and the second s	

132. for: on behalf of

133. your husband: i.e., Sir John Grey

134. battle: army

137. Withal: at the same time

139. **father:** i.e., father-in-law (See longer note, page 305.)

140. forswore: perjured.

143. **meed:** reward; **mewed up:** i.e., imprisoned (literally, caged up)

148. cacodemon: evil spirit



Edward IV. From John Taylor, All the workes of . . . (1630).

A liberal rewarder of his friends. To royalize his blood, I spent mine own. QUEEN MARGARET, [aside] Ay, and much better blood than his or thine. RICHARD, [「]to Oueen Elizabeth] In all which time, you and your husband Grey Were factious for the House of Lancaster.— And, Rivers, so were you.—Was not your husband In Margaret's battle at Saint Albans slain? Let me put in your minds, if you forget, What you have been ere this, and what you are; Withal, what I have been, and what I am. QUEEN MARGARET. [aside] A murd'rous villain, and so still thou art. RICHARD, Tto Queen Elizabeth Poor Clarence did forsake his father Warwick, Ay, and forswore himself—which Jesu pardon!— QUEEN MARGARET, [aside] Which God revenge! 140 RICHARD To fight on Edward's party for the crown; And for his meed, poor lord, he is mewed up. I would to God my heart were flint, like Edward's, Or Edward's soft and pitiful, like mine. I am too childish-foolish for this world. 145 QUEEN MARGARET, [aside] Hie thee to hell for shame, and leave this world, Thou cacodemon! There thy kingdom is. RIVERS My lord of Gloucester, in those busy days Which here you urge to prove us enemies, We followed then our lord, our sovereign king. 150 So should we you, if you should be our king. RICHARD If I should be? I had rather be a peddler. Far be it from my heart, the thought thereof.

155-58. As...thereof: i.e., you may judge how little joy I have in being queen by equating it to the little joy you suppose you would have if you were king

162. fall out: quarrel

163. pilled: pillaged, plundered

165-66. If not ... rebels: i.e., if you do not bow down to me as your queen, you still tremble before me because you are the rebels that deposed me

167. gentle: well-born

168-69. what mak'st thou in my sight: i.e., what are you doing here (Queen Margaret answers as if the question had its literal meaning.)

170. But repetition: merely recital, narration; marred: Proverbial: "To make and/or mar."

172. banishèd: The historical Queen Margaret was, at the time of Clarence's death (ordered at the end of this scene), in exile in France.

174. here by my abode: i.e., because of my abiding (staying) here

QUEEN ELIZABETH	WARRING
As little joy, my lord, as you suppose	
200 offound CHIOV Were Volt this co	155
- Villy, oulle life (lifeen thereof	
As little joy enjoys the groom the	
* * * * MILL OHE. AHLI MITOGOTHOM invit-	
I can no longer hold me patient.	160
	7
The following the start of the first of the	
THE CHARLES WHICH WOLLD BOTTO WILL I C	
The state of you definite not that last a	
** *** Light I all (lileen von born lil 1)	1.00
We will be started by you denoted the life of the life	165
TO THE VILLE III WOULD THEN STUDY	
RICHARD	100
Foul, wrinkled witch, what mak'st thou in my	
sight? QUEEN MARGARET	
But repetition of the	
But repetition of what thou hast marred.	170
That will I make before I let thee go.	
Wert thou not banished on pain of death? QUEEN MARGARET	
I was, but I do find more pain in banishment	
Than death can yield me here by my abode.	
To Queen Elizabeth. And thou a kingdom;—all	175
This sorrow that I have by right is your	
and the pleasures voll listing are mine	
MCHARD	
The curse my noble father laid on thee	
when thou didst crown his warlike brows with	180
paper,	

unavienenenenen automateranen	
185. 190. 193. 198. Richar 202. 204. 206. 207.	clout: cloth, rag Rutland: See note to 1.2.172. that babe: i.e., Rutland No man but: i.e., everyone York's dread curse: the curse described by d in lines 180–88 but: only, merely; peevish: foolish, silly quick: caustic, sharp surfeit: sickness caused by overindulgence As ours by: i.e., just as our king died through like: similar

And with thy scorns drew'st rivers from his eyes, And then, to dry them, gav'st the Duke a clout	
Steeped in the faultless blood of pretty Rutland—	18
His curses then, from bitterness of soul	
Denounced against thee, are all fall'n upon thee	
And God, not we, hath plagued thy bloody deed.	
UEEN ELIZABETH	
So just is God to right the innocent.	
O, twas the foulest deed to slay that babe.	190
And the most merciless that e'er was heard of!	
IVERS	
Tyrants themselves wept when it was reported.	
ORSET	
No man but prophesied revenge for it.	
UCKINGHAM	
Northumberland, then present, wept to see it.	
UEEN MARGARET	
What, were you snarling all before I came,	195
Ready to catch each other by the throat.	1,0
And turn you all your hatred now on me?	
Did York's dread curse prevail so much with	
heaven	
That Henry's death, my lovely Edward's death,	200
Their kingdom's loss, my woeful banishment	
Should all but answer for that peevish brat?	
Can curses pierce the clouds and enter heaven?	
Why then, give way, dull clouds, to my quick	
curses!	205
Though not by war, by surfeit die your king,	
As ours by murder to make him a king	
To Queen Elizabeth. Edward thy son, that now is	
Prince of Wales,	
For Edward our son, that was Prince of Wales,	210
Die in his youth by like untimely violence.	
Thyself a queen, for me that was a queen,	

Outlive thy glory, like my wretched self,

216. stalled: installed, enthroned

222. God I pray Him: i.e., I pray to God

224. **But ... accident:** i.e., but be by some unforeseen disaster or mishap

225. charm: curse

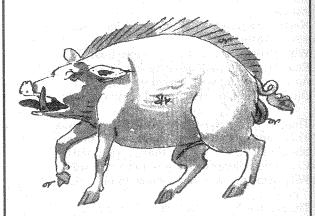
230, them: i.e., heaven

233. still: always, continually

239. **elvish-marked:** marked at birth by elves, often thought of as malignant, spiteful supernatural creatures; **abortive:** prematurely born; **hog:** Richard's heraldic emblem was the boar.

240. sealed: permanently stamped

242. **heavy:** sad, grieved (Or, perhaps, **heavy** is a transferred epithet that modifies **womb.**)



The boar, the heraldic emblem of Richard III. (1.2.109; 1.3.239; 3.2.11, 29–34; 5.2.7)
From Thomas Willement, Armorial bearings . . . (1833).

Long mayst thou live to wail thy children's death And see another, as I see thee now. 215 Decked in thy rights, as thou art stalled in mine. Long die thy happy days before thy death, And, after many lengthened hours of grief, Die neither mother, wife, nor England's queen.-Rivers and Dorset, you were standers-by, 220 And so wast thou. Lord Hastings, when my son Was stabbed with bloody daggers. God I pray Him That none of you may live his natural age. But by some unlooked accident cut off. RICHARD Have done thy charm, thou hateful, withered hag. 225 OUEEN MARGARET And leave out thee? Stay, dog, for thou shalt hear If heaven have any grievous plague in store Exceeding those that I can wish upon thee. O, let them keep it till thy sins be ripe 230 And then hurl down their indignation On thee, the troubler of the poor world's peace. The worm of conscience still begnaw thy soul. Thy friends suspect for traitors while thou liv'st. And take deep traitors for thy dearest friends. 235 No sleep close up that deadly eye of thine. Unless it be while some tormenting dream Affrights thee with a hell of ugly devils. Thou elvish-marked, abortive, rooting hog, Thou that wast sealed in thy nativity 240 The slave of nature and the son of hell. Thou slander of thy heavy mother's womb. Thou loathed issue of thy father's loins. Thou rag of honor, thou detested-RICHARD Margaret. 245

252. make the period to: i.e., conclude, complete

255. **painted:** imitation; **vain flourish:** worthless or foolish decoration; **my fortune:** i.e., the throne

256. **sugar:** i.e., sweet words; **bottled:** i.e., shaped like a leather bottle, swollen, hunchbacked

258. **thou...thyself:** Proverbial: "To cut one's throat with one's own knife."

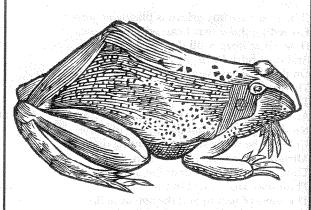
260. bunch-backed: i.e., humpbacked

262. False-boding: falsely prophesying

263. move: i.e., disturb

265. well served: treated as you deserve

266. do me duty: show me homage, reverence



A "bunch-backed toad." (1.3.260–61)
From Edward Topsell, *The historie of serpents* ... (1608).

QUEEN MARGARET Richard! RICHARD Ha? QUEEN MARGARET I call thee not. RICHARD I cry thee mercy, then, for I did think That thou hadst called me all these bitter names. QUEEN MARGARET Why, so I did, but looked for no reply. O, let me make the period to my curse! RICHARD 'Tis done by me and ends in "Margaret." QUEEN ELIZABETH, To Queen Margaret Thus have you breathed your curse against yourself. QUEEN MARGARET Poor painted queen, vain flourish of my fortune, 255 Why strew'st thou sugar on that bottled spider, Whose deadly web ensnareth thee about? Fool, fool, thou whet'st a knife to kill thyself. The day will come that thou shalt wish for me To help thee curse this poisonous bunch-backed 260 toad. HASTINGS False-boding woman, end thy frantic curse, Lest to thy harm thou move our patience. QUEEN MARGARET Foul shame upon you, you have all moved mine. RIVERS Were you well served, you would be taught your 265 duty. QUEEN MARGARET To serve me well, you all should do me duty: Teach me to be your queen, and you my subjects. O, serve me well, and teach yourselves that duty! DORSET, to Rivers Dispute not with her; she is lunatic. 270

271. malapert: saucy, impudent

272. Your ... current: i.e., your noble title has been stamped on you so recently that it can hardly be accepted as genuine currency (The figure of speech is drawn from the minting of coins.)

279. touches: applies to

281. Our...top: Compare Ezekial 17.3: "...the great eagle . . . came . . . and took the highest branch of the cedar." aerie: eagle's brood (The word can also mean the nest of the eagle. See page 62.)

282. dallies ... sun: Proverbial: "The highest trees abide the sharpest winds" and "Only the eagle

can gaze at the sun."

288. suffer: allow

289. is won: i.e., was won

295. My charity...shame: perhaps, "My only charitable feeling is fury, and to continue living is shame to me"; or, perhaps, "the only charity extended to me is terrible violence, and a life of shame is all that is granted me"

296. still ... rage: may my sorrows' rage live on

QUEEN MARGARET	
Peace, Master Marquess, you are malanert	
Your fire-new stamp of honor is scarce current	
O, that your young nobility could judge	. 1
What 'twere to lose it and be miserable!	
They that stand high have many blasts to shake	275
them,	1
And if they fall, they dash themselves to pieces.	4.3
RICHARD	
Good counsel, marry.—Learn it, learn it, marquess.	
DORSET TO THE THE PROPERTY OF	
It touches you, my lord, as much as me.	
RICHARD	
Ay, and much more; but I was born so high.	280
Our aerie buildeth in the cedar's top.	200
And dallies with the wind and scorns the sun.	
QUEEN MARGARET	
And turns the sun to shade. Alas, alas,	
Witness my son, now in the shade of death.	
Whose bright out-shining beams thy cloudy wrath	285
Hath in eternal darkness folded up.	200
Your aerie buildeth in our aerie's nest.	
O God, that seest it, do not suffer it!	
As it is won with blood, lost be it so.	
BUCKINGHAM	
Peace, peace, for shame, if not for charity.	290
QUEEN MARGARET	7
Urge neither charity nor shame to me.	
Addressing the others. Uncharitably with me have	
you dealt,	
And shamefully my hopes by you are butchered.	
My charity is outrage, life my shame.	295
And in that shame still live my sorrows' rage	
BUCKINGHAM Have done, have done.	
QUEEN MARGARET	

O princely Buckingham, I'll kiss thy hand

299. In sign: i.e., as a sign; league: alliance

300. fair: i.e., good fortune; house: family

305. think but: i.e., think otherwise but that

308. vonder dog: i.e., Richard

309. **Look when:** whenever (Proverbial: "These fawning curs will not bark till they bite.")

310. **venom:** venomous; **rankle to the death:** i.e., cause a deadly festering wound

313. attend on: wait upon, serve

315. respect: heed

316. gentle: courteous

317. soothe: humor, flatter

323. an end: i.e., on end

324. muse: wonder, marvel



An aerie. (1.3.281, 287)
From Joachim Camerarius, Symbolorum et emblematum... (1605).

In sign of league and amity with thee. Now fair befall thee and thy noble house! 300 Thy garments are not spotted with our blood, Nor thou within the compass of my curse. BUCKINGHAM Nor no one here, for curses never pass The lips of those that breathe them in the air. OUEEN MARGARET I will not think but they ascend the sky, 305 And there awake God's gentle sleeping peace. [Aside to Buckingham.] O Buckingham, take heed of vonder dog! Look when he fawns, he bites; and when he bites, His venom tooth will rankle to the death. 310 Have not to do with him. Beware of him. Sin. death, and hell have set their marks on him, And all their ministers attend on him. RICHARD What doth she say, my lord of Buckingham? BUCKINGHAM Nothing that I respect, my gracious lord. 315 OUEEN MARGARET What, dost thou scorn me for my gentle counsel, And soothe the devil that I warn thee from? O, but remember this another day. When he shall split thy very heart with sorrow, And say poor Margaret was a prophetess.— 320 Live each of you the subjects to his hate, And he to yours, and all of you to God's. She exits. BUCKINGHAM My hair doth stand an end to hear her curses. RIVERS And so doth mine. I muse why she's at liberty. RICHARD I cannot blame her. By God's holy mother, 325

345

350

329. vantage: benefit; her wrong: i.e., the wrong done to her

330. somebody: i.e., King Edward IV

333. franked up to fatting: penned up like a beast in a sty that is being fatted for slaughter. pains: trouble taken (on Edward's behalf)

336. scathe: harm

337. ever: always; well advised: judicious, wary

344. brawl: wrangle, squabble

345. mischiefs: evils: set abroach: set afoot

346. I... others: i.e., I blame on others

347. who: i.e., whom; cast in darkness: Compare Matthew 8.12: "... the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into utter darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

348. beweep: i.e., weep about; gulls: i.e., gullible people

She hath had too much wrong, and I repent My part thereof that I have done to her, OUEEN ELIZABETH I never did her any, to my knowledge. RICHARD Yet you have all the vantage of her wrong. I was too hot to do somebody good 330 That is too cold in thinking of it now. Marry, as for Clarence, he is well repaid: He is franked up to fatting for his pains. God pardon them that are the cause thereof. RIVERS A virtuous and a Christian-like conclusion 335 To pray for them that have done scathe to us. RICHARD So do I ever—(speaks to himself) being well advised, For had I cursed now, I had cursed myself.

Enter Catesby.

CATESBY

Madam, his Majesty doth call for you,— And for your Grace,—and yours, my gracious · (lords.)

OUEEN ELIZABETH

Catesby, I come.—Lords, will you go with me? RIVERS We wait upon your Grace. All but \[Richard, Duke of \] Gloucester exit.

RICHARD

I do the wrong and first begin to brawl. The secret mischiefs that I set abroach I lay unto the grievous charge of others. Clarence, who I indeed have cast in darkness, I do beweep to many simple gulls, Namely, to Derby, Hastings, Buckingham,

And tell them 'tis the Queen and her allies That stir the King against the Duke my brother.

365

370

375

352. withal: in addition; whet: urge

355. **do...evil:** a biblical commonplace: Matthew 5.44, Luke 6.27, etc. **for:** in return for

356–58. **And...devil:** Proverbial: "The devil can cite scripture for his own purpose." **odd old ends:** (1) random old commonplaces; (2) scraps of old clothes, rags **forth of:** i.e., from

360. mates: fellows

365. Crosby Place: See note to 1.2.231.

367. Withal: moreover

369. mark: listen to, pay attention to

370. stand to prate: i.e., stop to chat

371. **Talkers...doers:** Proverbial: "The greatest talkers are the least doers."

373. Your...millstones: proverbial description of an utter lack of compassion; fall: shed

375. **straight:** straightway, immediately

Now they believe it and withal whet me To be revenged on Rivers, Dorset, Grey; But then I sigh and, with a piece of scripture, Tell them that God bids us do good for evil; And thus I clothe my naked villainy With odd old ends stol'n forth of Holy Writ, And seem a saint when most I play the devil.

Enter two Murderers.

But soft, here come my executioners.— How now, my hardy, stout, resolved mates? Are you now going to dispatch this thing?

[MURDERER]

We are, my lord, and come to have the warrant That we may be admitted where he is.

Well thought upon. I have it here about me.

When you have done, repair to Crosby Place. But, sirs, be sudden in the execution, Withal obdurate; do not hear him plead, For Clarence is well-spoken and perhaps May move your hearts to pity if you mark him.

[MURDERER]

Tut, tut, my lord, we will not stand to prate.
Talkers are no good doers. Be assured
We go to use our hands and not our tongues.
RICHARD

Your eyes drop millstones when fools' eyes fall tears.

I like you lads. About your business straight. Go, go, dispatch.

Murderers We will, my noble lord.

 $\langle They\ exit. \rangle$

15

20

25

1.4 Richard's agents murder the imprisoned Clarence.

0 SD. Keeper: jailer

1. heavily: sorrowful

9. Methoughts: i.e., it seemed to me

11. Gloucester: i.e., Richard

12. tempted: persuaded, invited

13. hatches: i.e., deck

15. cited up: recalled; heavy: sad

18. **giddy:** dizzying

20. that ... stay: who intended to stop him (from falling)

21. main: open ocean

25. fearful: dreadful; wracks: wrecked ships

28. Inestimable, unvalued: i.e., precious beyond one's ability to evaluate

Scene 4 Enter Clarence and Keeper.

KEEPER

Why looks your Grace so heavily today? CLARENCE

O, I have passed a miserable night, So full of fearful dreams, of ugly sights. That, as I am a Christian faithful man, I would not spend another such a night Though 'twere to buy a world of happy days,

So full of dismal terror was the time.

KEEPER

What was your dream, my lord? I pray you tell me.

CLARENCE

Methoughts that I had broken from the Tower And was embarked to cross to Burgundy, And in my company my brother Gloucester.

Who from my cabin tempted me to walk Upon the hatches. (Thence) we looked toward

England

And cited up a thousand heavy times, During the wars of York and Lancaster, That had befall'n us. As we paced along Upon the giddy footing of the hatches,

Methought that Gloucester stumbled, and in falling Struck me, that thought to stay him, overboard Into the tumbling billows of the main.

O Lord, methought what pain it was to drown, What dreadful noise of (waters) in (my) ears, What sights of ugly death within (my) eyes.

Methoughts I saw a thousand fearful wracks. A thousand men that fishes gnawed upon, Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearl,

Inestimable stones, unvalued jewels. All scattered in the bottom of the sea. 39. Stopped in: i.e., closed in, as in a stoppered

vessel

42. Who: i.e., which

43. sore: oppressively severe

46. **melancholy flood:** i.e., the river Styx in the underworld of classical mythology (The underworld of Clarence's dream is a blend of the classical Hades, the abode of the shades of the dead visited by Aeneas in Virgil's *Aeneid*—i.e., **this dark monarchy**—and the Hell of Christian theology, visited by Dante in the *Inferno*—i.e., the **legion of foul fiends.**)

47. sour ferryman: i.e., Charon, who ferried

souls to Hades (See page 78.)

52. **false:** treacherous, faithless (See longer note to 1.3.139, page 305.)

54. **shadow:** shade, ghost (who turns out to be Prince Edward, son to Henry VI)

55. Dabbled in: splattered with

56. fleeting: unstable, fickle

59. **furies:** avenging, tormenting infernal spirits (See page 74.)

Some lay in dead men's skulls, and in the holes	30
Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crent—	
As twere in scorn of eyes—reflecting gems	s i
That wooed the slimy bottom of the deen	
And mocked the dead bones that lay scattered by.	
EEPER	
Had you such leisure in the time of death	35
To gaze upon these secrets of the deep?	55
LARENCE	
Methought I had, and often did I strive	
To yield the ghost, but still the envious flood	
Stopped in my soul and would not let it forth	
To find the empty, vast, and wand ring air.	40
But smothered it within my panting bulk.	-10
Who almost burst to belch it in the sea.	
EEPER	
Awaked you not in this sore agony?	
LARENCE	
No, no, my dream was lengthened after life.	
O, then began the tempest to my soul.	45
I passed, methought, the melancholy flood.	
With that sour ferryman which poets write of	
Unto the kingdom of perpetual night.	
The first that there did greet my stranger-soul	
Was my great father-in-law, renowned Warwick	50
Who spake aloud "What scourge for perjury	
Can this dark monarchy afford false Clarence?"	
And so he vanished. Then came wand'ring by	
A shadow like an angel, with bright hair	
Dabbled in blood, and he shrieked out aloud	55
"Clarence is come—false, fleeting, perjured	
Clarence,	
That stabbed me in the field by Tewkesbury.	
Seize on him, furies. Take him unto torment."	
With that, (methoughts,) a legion of foul fiends	60

65

70

75

80

85

61.	Environed:	surrounded
-----	------------	------------

63. season: while

66. affrighted: frightened

70. Edward's: i.e., King Edward IV's

71. **deep:** solemn; or, profoundly felt 76. **heavy:** (1) sad; (2) sleepy; **fain:** gladly

78–79. **breaks...noontide night:** Compare Job 17.11–12: "My days are past, my enterprises are broken, and the thoughts of mine heart have changed the night for the day, and the light that approached, for darkness." **breaks:** interrupts **seasons:** Compare Ecclesiastes 3.1: "To every thing there is a season." **reposing hours:** i.e., proper time for sleep **noontide:** noontime

80. but: only

81. toil: strife, turmoil

82. **for unfelt imaginations:** i.e., in return for pleasures that are merely imagined

84. low name: the status of the commoner

Therefore I II IN IN IN
Environed me and howled in mine ears
Such hideous cries that with the very noise
I trembling waked, and for a season after
Could not believe but that I was in hell,
Such terrible impression made my dream.
EEPER
No marvel land though it officials a

No marvel, lord, though it affrighted you. I am afraid, methinks, to hear you tell it.

Ah keeper, keeper, I have done these things, That now give evidence against my soul, For Edward's sake, and see how he requites me.— O God, if my deep prayers cannot appease thee, But thou wilt be avenged on my misdeeds, Yet execute thy wrath in me alone!

O, spare my guiltless wife and my poor children!— Keeper, I prithee sit by me awhile.

My soul is heavy, and I fain would sleep.

KEEPER

I will, my lord. God give your Grace good rest. *Clarence sleeps*.

Enter Brakenbury the Lieutenant.

BRAKENBURY

Sorrow breaks seasons and reposing hours, Makes the night morning, and the noontide night. Princes have but their titles for their glories, An outward honor for an inward toil, And, for unfelt imaginations, They often feel a world of restless cares, So that between their titles and low name There's nothing differs but the outward fame.

Enter two Murderers.

FIRST MURDERER Ho, who's here?

BRAKENBURY

97. will not: i.e., wish not to

112. remorse: pity, compassion



The Furies. (1.4.59)
From Vincenzo Cartari, Le vere e noue imagini de gli delli antichi ... (1615).

What wouldst thou, fellow? And how cam'st thou hither? SECOND MURDERER I would speak with Clarence, and I came hither on my legs. BRAKENBURY What, so brief? FIRST MURDERER 'Tis better, sir, than to be tedious.— Let him see our commission, and talk no more. [Brakenbury] reads [the commission.] BRAKENBURY I am in this commanded to deliver The noble Duke of Clarence to your hands. I will not reason what is meant hereby Because I will be guiltless from the meaning. There lies the Duke asleep, and there the keys. THe hands them keys. I'll to the King and signify to him That thus I have resigned to you my charge. FIRST MURDERER You may, sir. 'Tis a point of wisdom. Fare you well. Brakenbury and the Keeper exit. SECOND MURDERER What, shall (I) stab him as he sleeps? FIRST MURDERER No. He'll say 'twas done cowardly, 105 when he wakes. SECOND MURDERER Why, he shall never wake until the great Judgment Day. FIRST MURDERER Why, then he'll say we stabbed him sleeping. 110 SECOND MURDERER The urging of that word "judgment" hath bred a kind of remorse in me. FIRST MURDERER What, art thou afraid? SECOND MURDERER Not to kill him, having a warrant, but to be damned for killing him, from the which 115 no warrant can defend me.

FIRST MURDERER I thought thou hadst been resolute.

SECOND MURDERER So I am—to let him live.

123. **wont:** accustomed; **but...twenty:** i.e., only for the count of twenty

129. Zounds: i.e., God's wounds (a strong oath)

137. **entertain it:** i.e., receive my conscience as a guest, or accept it as a servant

141. checks: stops, restrains

147. turned out of ... for: evicted from ... as

152. **Take...mind:** perhaps, seize upon or arrest your conscience (i.e., **the devil**); or perhaps, accept **the devil** (instead of your conscience) into your mind



"A legion of foul fiends." (1.4.60) From Olaus Magnus, *Historia de gentibus* septentrionalibus... (1555).

FIRST MURDERER I'll back to the Duke of Gloucester and tell him so. 120 SECOND MURDERER Nay, I prithee stay a little. I hope this passionate humor of mine will change. It was wont to hold me but while one tells twenty. FIRST MURDERER How dost thou feel thyself now? SECOND MURDERER (Faith,) some certain dregs of con- 125 science are yet within me. FIRST MURDERER Remember our reward when the deed's done. SECOND MURDERER (Zounds,) he dies! I had forgot the reward. 130 FIRST MURDERER Where's thy conscience now? SECOND MURDERER O, in the Duke of Gloucester's purse. FIRST MURDERER When he opens his purse to give us our reward, thy conscience flies out. 135 SECOND MURDERER 'Tis no matter. Let it go. There's few or none will entertain it. FIRST MURDERER What if it come to thee again? SECOND MURDERER I'll not meddle with it. It makes a man a coward: a man cannot steal but it accuseth 140 him; a man cannot swear but it checks him; a man cannot lie with his neighbor's wife but it detects him. Tis a blushing, shamefaced spirit that mutinies in a man's bosom. It fills a man full of obstacles. It made me once restore a purse of gold 145 that by chance I found. It beggars any man that keeps it. It is turned out of towns and cities for a dangerous thing, and every man that means to live well endeavors to trust to himself and live without it. FIRST MURDERER (Zounds,) 'tis even now at my elbow, 150 persuading me not to kill the Duke.

SECOND MURDERER Take the devil in thy mind, and

153. insinuate: ingratiate himself

157. tall: brave

159. Take: attack; costard: head (slang)

160. hilts: i.e., hilt

161. malmsey butt: barrel of sweet wine

162. device: scheme

163. sop: cake broken up and soaked in wine

164. Soft: i.e., wait a moment

166. reason: talk

168. anon: soon

173. **thy...humble:** i.e., you look like someone of low social status

175. darkly: ominously; deadly: implacably

177. Wherefore: why



Charon, "that sour ferryman." (1.4.47) From Vincenzo Cartari, Le vere e noue imagini de gli delli antichi . . . (1615).

believe him not. He would insinuate with thee but to make thee sigh.	t
FIRST MURDERER I am strong-framed. He cannot prevail with me.	- 155
SECOND MURDERER Spoke like a tall man that respects thy reputation. Come, shall we fall to work?	
FIRST MURDERER Take him on the costard with the hilts of thy sword, and then throw him into the	160
SECOND MURDERER O, excellent device—and make a	
sop of him! FIRST MURDERER Soft, he wakes.	
second murderer Strike! FIRST MURDERER No, we'll reason with him.	165
CLARENCE CLARENCE	
Where art thou, keeper? Give me a cup of wine. second murderer	
You shall have wine enough, my lord, anon.	
In God's name, what art thou?	
TRST MURDERER A man, as you are. CLARENCE But not, as I am, royal.	170
TRST MURDERER Nor you, as we are, loyal.	
Thy voice is thunder, but thy looks are humble.	1
My voice is now the King's, my looks mine own.	
How darkly and how deadly dost thou speak! Your eyes do menace me. Why look you pale?	175

Who sent you hither? Wherefore do you come?

SECOND MURDERER To, to, to-

CLARENCE To murder me?

вотн Ау, ау.

CLARENCE

205

187. **drawn forth...men:** i.e., selected from among the whole of humanity

190. quest: inquest, or body of persons appointed to conduct a judicial inquiry

193. convict: i.e., pronounced guilty

195. charge: command

195–96. **to have redemption...sins:** We, like other editors, adopt the quarto reading here because we suspect that the Folio reading ("for any goodness") may have been produced by censorship of the explicit reference to Christ.

201. Erroneous: misguided

202. **the table of His law:** i.e., the Ten Commandments (For the commandments themselves, see Exodus 20.3–17. For the narrative of Moses writing God's commandments on tables of stone, see Exodus 32.15 and 34.1–29.)

204. Spurn at: reject with contempt

You scarcely have the hearts to tell me so	
And therefore cannot have the hearts to do it.	
Wherein, my friends, have I offended you?	
FIRST MURDERER	
Offended us you have not, but the King.	
CLARENCE	
I shall be reconciled to him again.	18
SECOND MURDERER	
Never, my lord. Therefore prepare to die.	
CLARENCE	
Are you drawn forth among a world of men	
To slay the innocent? What is my offense?	
Where is the evidence that doth accuse me?	
What lawful quest have given their verdict up	190
Unto the frowning judge? Or who pronounced	
The bitter sentence of poor Clarence' death	
Before I be convict by course of law?	
To threaten me with death is most unlawful.	
I charge you, as you hope (to have redemption,	195
By Christ's dear blood shed for our grievous sins,	
That you depart, and lay no hands on me.	
The deed you undertake is damnable.	
FIRST MURDERER	
What we will do, we do upon command.	
SECOND MURDERER	
And he that hath commanded is our king.	200
CLARENCE	
Erroneous vassals, the great King of kings	
Hath in the table of His law commanded	

That thou shalt do no murder. Will you then Spurn at His edict and fulfill a man's?

To hurl upon their heads that break His law.

SECOND MURDERER

Take heed, for He holds vengeance in His hand

And that same vengeance doth He hurl on thee

208. false forswearing: oath breaking 209–10. ThouLancaster: i.e., you took an oath upon the Eucharist to fight on behalf of Henry VI
214. Unrippedst: laid open; thy sovereign's son:
Prince Edward, son of Henry VI
217. in degree: i.e., to such a grievous extent
218. ill: evil
221. deep: i.e., involved in guilt
227. minister: agent
228. gallant-springing, brave Plantagenet: i.e.,
splendid and lively Prince Edward
229. novice: i.e., youth (literally, beginner)
235. meed: reward

For false forswearing and for murder too.	andle .
Thou didst receive the sacrament to fight	
In quarrel of the House of Lancaster.	
FIRST MURDERER	2:
And, like a traitor to the name of God,	
Didst break that vow, and with thy treacherous	
blade	
「Unrippedst the bowels of thy sovereign's son.	
SECOND MURDERER	
Whom thou wast sworn to cherish and defend.	21
FIRST MURDERER	۵1
How canst thou urge God's dreadful law to us	
When thou hast broke it in such dear degree?	* . *
CLARENCE	
Alas! For whose sake did I that ill deed?	
For Edward, for my brother, for his sake.	
He sends you not to murder me for this,	22
For in that sin he is as deep as I.	
If God will be avenged for the deed,	
O, know you yet He doth it publicly!	
Take not the quarrel from His powerful arm;	
He needs no indirect or lawless course	22
To cut off those that have offended Him.	
FIRST MURDERER	
Who made thee then a bloody minister	- :
When gallant-springing, brave Plantagenet,	
That princely novice, was struck dead by thee?	
My brother's love, the devil, and my rage.	230
Thy brother's love, our duty, and thy faults Provoke us hither now to slaughter thee.	
ZARENCE	
If you do love my brother, hate not me.	
I am his brother, and I love him well.	
If you are hired for meed, go back again,	22-
moon, 50 vaca agaill,	235

245. arm: Here the quarto provides the line "And
charged us from his soul to love each other."
248. millstones: See note to 1.3.373. lessoned:
instructed
249. kind: i.e., good-hearted (The First Murderer's
reply plays on the meaning of kind as natural.)
253. bewept: wept for; fortune: i.e., misfortune
(of imprisonment)
255. labor: exert his influence in urging
257. Earth's thralldom: i.e., enslavement of life
on Earth
그는 그는 그리면 어린 글라는 회사 내는 그리고 그 이번 일을 가져

County of payer with the effective gray with

And I will send you to my brother Gloucester,	
Who shall reward you better for my life	
Than Edward will for tidings of my death.	
SECOND MURDERER	4.1
You are deceived. Your brother Gloucester hates	- 1
you.	240
CLARENCE	
O no, he loves me, and he holds me dear.	
Go you to him from me.	
FIRST MURDERER Ay, so we will.	
CLARENCE	
Tell him, when that our princely father York	
Blessed his three sons with his victorious arm,	245
He little thought of this divided friendship.	
Bid Gloucester think (of) this, and he will weep.	
FIRST MURDERER	
Ay, millstones, as he lessoned us to weep.	
CLARENCE	
O, do not slander him, for he is kind.	
FIRST MURDERER	
Right, as snow in harvest. Come, you deceive	250
yourself.	
Tis he that sends us to destroy you here.	. *
CLARENCE	
It cannot be, for he bewept my fortune,	
And hugged me in his arms, and swore with sobs	
That he would labor my delivery.	255
FIRST MURDERER	
Why, so he doth, when he delivers you	
From this Earth's thralldom to the joys of heaven.	
SECOND MURDERER	
Make peace with God, for you must die, my lord.	
CLARENCE	
Have you that holy feeling in your souls	
To counsel me to make my peace with God,	260
And are you yet to your own souls so blind	

Richard III

	11011.00.1	,
268. pent from liberty: i.e., imprisoned, closely confined 284. fain: gladly; like Pilate: See Matthew 27.24.	That you will war with God by murd'ring me? O sirs, consider: they that set you on To do this deed will hate you for the deed. SECOND MURDERER, \(\textit{to First Murderer} \) What shall we do? CLARENCE Relent, and save your souls. Which of you—if you were a prince's son Being pent from liberty, as I am now— If two such murderers as yourselves came to you, Would not entreat for life? \(\textit{Ay}, \) you would beg, Were you in my distress. FIRST MURDERER Relent? No. 'Tis cowardly and womanish. CLARENCE Not to relent is beastly, savage, devilish. \(\textit{To Second Murderer}. \) My friend, I spy some pity in thy looks. O, if thine eye be not a flatterer, Come thou on my side and entreat for me. A begging prince what beggar pities not? SECOND MURDERER Look behind you, my lord. FIRST MURDERER Take that, and that. (Stabs him.) If all this will not do, I'll drown you in the malmsey butt within.	26
	He exits \(\text{with the body.} \) SECOND MURDERER A bloody deed, and desperately dispatched. How fain, like Pilate, would I wash my hands	
	Of this most grievous murder. Enter First Murderer.	285
	FIRST MURDERER	

How now? What mean'st thou that thou help'st me not?

290

295

290.	would: wish
2000	SA CAPETORS ALTON

292. **repent me:** i.e., repent

297. this will out: Proverbial: "Murder will out" (i.e., cannot be hidden).

By (heavens,) the Duke shall know how slack you have been.

SECOND MURDERER

I would be knew that I had saved his brother. Take thou the fee, and tell him what I say,

For I repent me that the Duke is slain. He exits.

FIRST MURDERER

So do not I. Go, coward as thou art. Well, I'll go hide the body in some hole Till that the Duke give order for his burial.

And when I have my meed, I will away, For this will out, and then I must not stay.

He exits.

The Tragedy of RICHARD III

ACT 2

- 2.1 The dying King Edward IV attempts to reconcile the quarreling factions in his royal court. Queen Elizabeth and her kindred, on the one side, and Hastings, Buckingham, and Richard, on the other, vow to make and keep peace among themselves. Rejoicing about this "united league" is interrupted by news of Clarence's murder, which King Edward blames on himself and Richard blames on the Oueen's kindred.
- 0 SD. Flourish: trumpets to announce the approach of a dignitary, here the monarch himself

3. embassage: ambassador; message

4. redeem: deliver; hence: from this world

8. **Dissemble not:** i.e., do not merely cover up or conceal

10. seal: ratify

14–15. award...end: appoint or sentence you to be each other's downfall

ACT 2

Scene 1
Flourish. Enter King 「Edward, ¬ sick, Queen 「Elizabeth, ¬
Lord Marquess Dorset, Rivers, Hastings, Buckingham,
Woodeville, 「Grey, and Scales. ¬

KING EDWARD

Why, so. Now have I done a good day's work. You peers, continue this united league. I every day expect an embassage From my Redeemer to redeem me hence.

And more (in) peace my soul shall part to heaven Since I have made my friends at peace on earth

Since I have made my friends at peace on earth. (Rivers and Hastings,) take each other's hand.

Dissemble not your hatred. Swear your love. RIVERS, \(\text{Taking Hastings' hand} \)

By heaven, my soul is purged from grudging hate,

10

15

And with my hand I seal my true heart's love. HASTINGS

So thrive I as I truly swear the like.

KING EDWARD

Take heed you dally not before your king, Lest He that is the supreme King of kings Confound your hidden falsehood and award Either of you to be the other's end.

HASTINGS

So prosper I as I swear perfect love.

92

RIVERS

19	son:	ie	stepsor
えン・	347224	2.0000	SILPSUI.

- 20. been factious: i.e., formed factions

25-26. Lord Marquess: i.e., Dorset

31. embracements to: i.e., embraces of

34-35. but...Doth: i.e., and ... does not

38. And most: i.e., and am most

39. Deep: very cunning or crafty

42. **cordial:** medicine, food, or drink that invigorates the heart

And I as I love Hastings with my heart. KING EDWARD, 「to Queen Elizabeth Madam, yourself is not exempt from this,— Nor you, son Dorset,—Buckingham, nor you. You have been factious one against the other.— Wife, love Lord Hastings. Let him kiss your hand, And what you do, do it unfeignedly. QUEEN ELIZABETH There, Hastings, I will never more remember Our former hatred, so thrive I and mine. 「Hastings kisses her hand.]	20
KING EDWARD	
Dorset, embrace him.—Hastings, love Lord	25
Marquess.	
This interchange of love, I here protest,	
Upon my part shall be inviolable.	
HASTINGS And so swear I. They embrace.	
KING EDWARD	
Now, princely Buckingham, seal thou this league	30
With thy embracements to my wife's allies	
And make me happy in your unity.	
BUCKINGHAM, ^f to Queen Elizabeth ⁷	
Whenever Buckingham doth turn his hate	
Upon your Grace, but with all duteous love	
Doth cherish you and yours, God punish me	-35
With hate in those where I expect most love.	
When I have most need to employ a friend,	
And most assured that he is a friend,	
Deep, hollow, treacherous, and full of guile	
Be he unto me: this do I beg of (God,)	40
When I am cold in love to you or yours.	
「Queen Elizabeth and Buckingham [¬] embrace.	
KING EDWARD	
A pleasing cordial, princely Buckingham,	

44. wanteth: lacks 45. period: conclusion 48. morrow: morning 51. charity: Christian love of one's form of the second of the sec	censèd: i.e.
70. Lord Woodeville and Lord Sca	les: See not
to 1.3.38.	
73. any jot: i.e., the least bit	
n de la frança de l La frança de la frança d	
A company of the first transfer	
 A transfer of the second of the	

Is this thy vow unto my sickly heart. There wanteth now our brother Gloucester here To make the blessed period of this peace. BUCKINGHAM And in good time Here comes Sir Richard Ratcliffe and the Duke.	. 45
Enter Ratcliffe, and Richard, Duke of Gloucester.	
RICHARD	
Good morrow to my sovereign king and queen,	
And, princely peers, a happy time of day.	
KING EDWARD	
Happy indeed, as we have spent the day.	50
Gloucester, we have done deeds of charity,	
Made peace of enmity, fair love of hate,	
Between these swelling, wrong-incensed peers.	
A blessèd labor, my most sovereign lord. Among this princely heap, if any here	
By false intelligence or wrong surmise	55
Hold me a foe,	
If I (unwittingly,) or in my rage,	
Have aught committed that is hardly borne	
(By) any in this presence, I desire	
To reconcile me to his friendly peace.	60
Tis death to me to be at enmity;	
I hate it, and desire all good men's love.	
First, madam, I entreat true peace of you.	
Which I will purchase with my duteous service—	65
Of you, my noble cousin Buckingham.	05
If ever any grudge were lodged between us:—	
Of you and you, Lord Rivers and of Dorset.	
That all without desert have frowned on me;—	
Of you, Lord Woodeville and Lord Scales:—of you	70
Dukes, earls, lords, gentlemen; indeed, of all	
I do not know that Englishman alive	
With whom my soul is any jot at odds	

79. to your grace: i.e., into your favor

83. corse: corpse

85. what a world is this: proverbial

87. **in the presence:** i.e., in attendance here upon the king

88. forsook: i.e., forsaken, left

91. wingèd Mercury: the messenger of the gods, often depicted with wings at his heels (See below.)

93. lag: late

94–97. **some...suspicion:** a veiled reference to the Queen and her relatives **blood:** i.e., blood relation **go current:** are taken to be genuine (as if legal currency) **from:** i.e., free from



"Wingèd Mercury." (2.1.91; 4.3.59) From Innocenzio Ringhieri, *Cento giuochi liberali*... (1580).

More than the infant that is born tonight. I thank my God for my humility. 75 **OUEEN ELIZABETH** A holy day shall this be kept hereafter. I would to God all strifes were well compounded. My sovereign lord, I do beseech your Highness To take our brother Clarence to your grace. RICHARD Why, madam, have I offered love for this. To be so flouted in this royal presence? Who knows not that the gentle duke is dead? They all start. You do him injury to scorn his corse. KING EDWARD Who knows not he is dead! Who knows he is? QUEEN ELIZABETH All-seeing heaven, what a world is this! BUCKINGHAM Look I so pale, Lord Dorset, as the rest? DORSET Ay, my good lord, and no man in the presence But his red color hath forsook his cheeks. KING EDWARD Is Clarence dead? The order was reversed. RICHARD But he, poor man, by your first order died, And that a winged Mercury did bear. Some tardy cripple bare the countermand, That came too lag to see him burièd. God grant that some, less noble and less loyal, Nearer in bloody thoughts, and not in blood, 95 Deserve not worse than wretched Clarence did. And yet go current from suspicion.

98. boon: favor 102. forfeit...life: i.e., release of my servant from the death penalty 103. riotous: belligerent 104. Lately attendant on: i.e., who was recently in the service of 105. doom...death: condemn my brother to death 106. slave: wretch 107. his...thought: Proverbial: "Thought is free"-i.e., one cannot be punished for only thinking something. 109. sued to me for him: i.e., begged my favor

toward him

110. advised: judicious, prudent 112. poor soul: i.e., Clarence

117. lay: i.e., were resting

120. thin: i.e., thinly clothed; numb-cold: i.e.. numbingly cold

123. grace: i.e., graciousness 124. waiting vassals: servants

125-26. defaced ... Redeemer: i.e., destroyed another human being

STANLEY, [kneeling] A boon, my sovereign, for my service done. KING EDWARD I prithee, peace. My soul is full of sorrow. CTANLEY I will not rise unless your Highness hear me. 100 KING EDWARD Then say at once what is it thou requests. STANLEY The forfeit, sovereign, of my servant's life, Who slew today a riotous gentleman Lately attendant on the Duke of Norfolk. KING EDWARD Have I a tongue to doom my brother's death, 105 And shall that tongue give pardon to a slave? My brother killed no man; his fault was thought, And yet his punishment was bitter death. Who sued to me for him? Who, in my wrath, Kneeled (at) my feet, and (bade) me be advised? 110 Who spoke of brotherhood? Who spoke of love? Who told me how the poor soul did forsake The mighty Warwick and did fight for me? Who told me, in the field at Tewkesbury, When Oxford had me down, he rescued me, 115 And said "Dear brother, live, and be a king"? Who told me, when we both lay in the field Frozen almost to death, how he did lap me Even in his garments and did give himself, All thin and naked, to the numb-cold night? 120 All this from my remembrance brutish wrath Sinfully plucked, and not a man of you Had so much grace to put it in my mind. But when your carters or your waiting vassals Have done a drunken slaughter and defaced 125 The precious image of our dear Redeemer,

130. Nor I: i.e., nor did I

132. beholding: beholden, indebted

136. closet: private chamber

138. Marked: noticed

141. they...King: i.e., they were always trying to persuade the King to do it

2.2 As the Duchess of York mourns Clarence's death. Oueen Elizabeth enters grieving for the death of King Edward IV. Richard and Buckingham make plans to escort King Edward's heir, Prince Edward, to London.

4. unhappy: unfortunate

You straight are on your knees for pardon, pardon. And I, unjustly too, must grant it you.

Stanley rises.

But for my brother, not a man would speak, Nor I, ungracious, speak unto myself 130 For him, poor soul. The proudest of you all Have been beholding to him in his life, Yet none of you would once beg for his life. O God, I fear Thy justice will take hold On me and you, and mine and yours for this!-135 Come, Hastings, help me to my closet,-Ah, poor Clarence.

Some exit with King and Queen.

RICHARD

This is the fruits of rashness. Marked you not How that the guilty kindred of the Queen Looked pale when they did hear of Clarence' death? O, they did urge it still unto the King. God will revenge it. Come, lords, will you go To comfort Edward with our company? BUCKINGHAM We wait upon your Grace.

They exit.

Scene 2 Enter the old Duchess of York with the two children of Clarence.

ROY

Good grandam, tell us, is our father dead? DUCHESS No, boy. DAUGHTER

Why do (you) weep so oft, and beat your breast, And cry "O Clarence, my unhappy son"?

BOY

Why do you look on us and shake your head,

8. cousins: kin (a term for any relatives)

11. It were ... lost: Proverbial: "For a lost thing care not."

15. all: entirely

19. Incapable: i.e., not capable of understanding

23. impeachments: charges

27. And he: i.e., and said he

28. shape: appearance (also, theatrical role)

29. visor: mask, disguise (See below.)



Men and women in visors. (2.2.29) From Giacomo Franco, *Habiti d'huomeni* . . . (1609).

And call us orphans, wretches, castaways, If that our noble father were alive? nriCHESS My pretty cousins, you mistake me both. I do lament the sickness of the King, As loath to lose him, not your father's death. It were lost sorrow to wail one that's lost Then, you conclude, my grandam, he is dead. The King mine uncle is to blame for it. God will revenge it, whom I will importune With earnest prayers, all to that effect. DAUGHTER And so will I. DUCHESS Peace, children, peace. The King doth love you well. Incapable and shallow innocents. You cannot guess who caused your father's death. 20 BOY Grandam, we can, for my good uncle Gloucester Told me the King, provoked to it by the Queen, Devised impeachments to imprison him; And when my uncle told me so, he wept, And pitied me, and kindly kissed my cheek, 25 Bade me rely on him as on my father, And he would love me dearly as a child. DUCHESS Ah, that deceit should steal such gentle shape, And with a virtuous visor hide deep vice. He is my son, ay, and therein my shame, 30 Yet from my dugs he drew not this deceit. BOY Think you my uncle did dissemble, grandam?

DUCHESS Ay, boy.

I cannot think it. Hark, what noise is this?

34 SD.	her hair	about he	er ears:	a	stage	signal to
	of and lan					

39. **rude:** violent; **impatience:** failure to endure suffering with equanimity

40. **make...violence:** perform the violent emotion that is appropriate to tragedy

43. want: lack

44. brief: hasty

48. interest: legal right or share

49. title: ownership (as his mother)

50. bewept: wept for

51. **lived with:** i.e., preserved my life by; **images:**

i.e., sons
52. **semblance**: appearance

53. malignant: malicious

54. glass: mirror

62. moiety: portion

63. overgo . . . woes: surpass you in grieving

Enter	Queen [Elizabeth] with her hair about her ear	S,
	Rivers and Dorset after her.	

OUEEN ELIZABETH Ah, who shall hinder me to wail and weep, 35 To chide my fortune and torment myself? I'll join with black despair against my soul And to myself become an enemy. DITCHESS What means this scene of rude impatience? OUEEN ELIZABETH To make an act of tragic violence. 40 Edward, my lord, thy son, our king, is dead. Why grow the branches when the root is gone? Why wither not the leaves that want their sap? If you will live, lament. If die, be brief, That our swift-winged souls may catch the King's, 45 Or, like obedient subjects, follow him To his new kingdom of ne'er-changing night. DUCHESS Ah, so much interest have (I) in thy sorrow As I had title in thy noble husband. Thave bewept a worthy husband's death 50 And lived with looking on his images; But now two mirrors of his princely semblance Are cracked in pieces by malignant death. And I, for comfort, have but one false glass That grieves me when I see my shame in him. 55 Thou art a widow, yet thou art a mother. And hast the comfort of thy children left. But death hath snatched my husband from mine arms And plucked two crutches from my feeble hands, Clarence and Edward. O. what cause have I. Thine being but a moiety of my moan,

To overgo thy woes and drown thy cries!

- 65. kindred tears: (1) tears of relatives; (2) simi-
- lar tears 67. widow-dolor: i.e., sorrow as a widow
 - 69. barren . . . forth: unable to give birth to
- 70. All springs reduce: i.e., let all springs bring or lead
- 71. watery moon: Because the moon controls the oceans' tides, it is called "watery" or "moist."
 - 76. stay: support
- 79. Was never widow: i.e., there was never before a widow who; dear: severe, grievous
- 83. Their . . . general: i.e., they each suffer a particular loss, while I suffer the loss of all parceled: divided into smaller portions

BOY, [「] to Queen Elizabeth [¬]	
Ah, aunt, you wept not for our father's death.	
How can we aid you with our kindred tears?	65
DAUGHTER, To Queen Elizabeth	
Our fatherless distress was left unmoaned.	
Your widow-dolor likewise be unwept!	
OUEEN ELIZABETH	
Give me no help in lamentation.	
I am not barren to bring forth complaints.	
All springs reduce their currents to mine eyes,	70
That I, being governed by the watery moon,	
May send forth plenteous tears to drown the world.	
Ah, for my husband, for my dear lord Edward!	
CHILDREN	
Ah, for our father, for our dear lord Clarence!	
DUCHESS	
Alas for both, both mine, Edward and Clarence!	75
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
What stay had I but Edward? And he's gone.	
CHILDREN	
What stay had we but Clarence? And he's gone.	
DUCHESS	
What stays had I but they? And they are gone.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
Was never widow had so dear a loss.	
CHILDREN	
Were never orphans had so dear a loss.	80
DUCHESS	
Was never mother had so dear a loss.	
Alas, I am the mother of these griefs.	
Their woes are parceled; mine is general.	
She for an Edward weeps, and so do I;	
I for a Clarence (weep;) so doth not she.	85
These babes for Clarence weep, (and so do I;	
I for an Edward weep;) so do not they.	

Alas, you three, on me, threefold distressed,

90	nurse:	ie	wet	nurse
37	nuisc:	1.0	WCL	nuise

96. opposite with: opposed to

97. For: because

98. bethink you: i.e., think

106. none...them: Proverbial: "Sorrow helps not."

107. I...mercy: i.e., I beg your pardon

113. butt end: last part

115. **cloudy:** darkened by grief (Buckingham's speeches in this scene are sometimes obscure; their obscurity has been read as signaling his political skill.)

Pour all your tears. I am your sorrow's nurse,	
And I will pamper it with lamentation.	90
DORSET, \[\tag{to Queen Elizabeth} \]	
Comfort, dear mother. God is much displeased	
That you take with unthankfulness His doing.	
In common worldly things, 'tis called ungrateful	
With dull unwillingness to repay a debt	
Which with a bounteous hand was kindly lent;	95
Much more to be thus opposite with heaven,	, ,
For it requires the royal debt it lent you.	
RIVERS	
Madam, bethink you, like a careful mother,	
Of the young prince your son. Send straight for	
him.	100
Let him be crowned. In him your comfort lives.	
Drown desperate sorrow in dead Edward's grave	
And plant your joys in living Edward's throne.	
Enter Richard, [†] Duke of Gloucester, [†] Buckingham, [†] Lord Stanley, Earl of [†] Derby, Hastings, and Ratcliffe.	
Startley, Eart of Derby, Hastings, and Ratchife.	
richard, [†] to Queen Elizabeth [†]	
Sister, have comfort. All of us have cause	
To wail the dimming of our shining star,	105
But none can help our harms by wailing them.—	
Madam my mother, I do cry you mercy;	
I did not see your Grace. Humbly on my knee	
I crave your blessing. The kneels.	
DUCHESS	
God bless thee, and put meekness in thy breast,	110
Love, charity, obedience, and true duty.	
RICHARD, [「] standing [¬]	
Amen. 「Aside. That make me die a good old man!	
That is the butt end of a mother's blessing;	
I marvel that her Grace did leave it out.	
BUCKINGHAM	
You cloudy princes and heart-sorrowing peers	115

116. moan: grief

120–22. **broken...kept:** Buckingham seems to compare the hatred between court factions to fractures of bones that have festered (**high-swoll'n**) and have only recently been treated; although they have begun to heal, the bones are fragile. **splintered:** splinted

123. Meseemeth: it seems to me; some little

train: a small entourage

124. **Ludlow:** in Shropshire, near Wales; **fet:** fetched

128. Marry: indeed

131. By how much: i.e., to the extent that; the estate: i.e., the state, England under Edward V; green: not fully developed or matured

133. his commanding rein: i.e., the rein by

which it should be commanded

134. as please himself: i.e., as the horse pleases

137. with: i.e., among

140. green: young, i.e., recent

140–42. **it should...urged:** The fear shared by Buckingham and Rivers, which is expressed for the first time with some directness in these lines, is that one faction may amass so large a company of armed men to fetch the Prince that this faction will not be able to resist taking control of England before the Prince can establish himself. **haply:** perhaps

That bear this heavy mutual load of moan, Now cheer each other in each other's love. Though we have spent our harvest of this king, We are to reap the harvest of his son. The broken rancor of your high-swoll'n hates, But lately splintered, knit, and joined together, Must gently be preserved, cherished, and kept. Meseemeth good that with some little train Forthwith from Ludlow the young prince be fet	120
Hitner to London, to be crowned our king.	125
RIVERS Why "with some little train" and I to 5	
Why "with some little train," my lord of Buckingham?	
BUCKINGHAM	
Marry, my lord, lest by a multitude	
The new-healed wound of malice should break out,	
Which would be so much the more dangerous	130
By how much the estate is green and yet ungoverned.	
Where every horse bears his commanding rein	
And may direct his course as please himself	
As well the tear of harm as harm apparent.	135
In my opinion, ought to be prevented.	
RICHARD	
I hope the King made peace with all of us;	
And the compact is firm and true in me.	
And so in me, and so, I think, in all.	
Yet since it is but green, it should be put	
To no apparent likelihood of breach,	140
Which haply by much company might be urged.	
Inerefore I say with noble Buckingham	
That it is meet so few should fetch the Prince.	
HASTINGS And so say I.	145
RICHARD	
Then be it so, and go we to determine	

(Ludlow.)—

Who they shall be that straight shall post to

Madam, and you, my sister, will you go

They exit.

147. **straight:** straightway, immediately; **post:** travel with great speed (as if on post-horses)

149. **Madam...sister:** addressed to the duchess of York and Queen Elizabeth

150. censures: judgments, opinions

153. **by:** i.e., along; **sort occasion:** choose an opportunity

154. index: preface; late: recently

156. **My other self:** Proverbial: "A friend is one's second self." **council's consistory:** council's meeting place

157. **cousin:** Like the Yorks and the Lancastrians, Buckingham was a descendant of Edward III. (He was the great-great-grandson of Thomas of Woodstock, one of the sons of Edward III.)

158. **by thy direction:** according to your instructions

- **2.3** Three citizens discuss the possibly tumultuous succession of Prince Edward.
- 5. **Ill:** unfavorable, disastrous; **by 'r Lady:** i.e., by Our Lady (an oath on a title of the Virgin Mary); **Seldom...better:** proverbial

6. giddy: mad, insane

7. speed: i.e., make you prosper

To give your censures in this business?

All but Buckingham and Richard exit.

BUCKINGHAM

My lord, whoever journeys to the Prince,
For (God's) sake let not us two stay at home.
For by the way I'll sort occasion,
As index to the story we late talked of,
To part the Queen's proud kindred from the Prince.

RICHARD

My other self, my council's consistory,
My oracle, my prophet, my dear cousin,
I, as a child, will go by thy direction.
Toward (Ludlow) then, for we'll not stay behind.

Scene 3

Enter one Citizen at one door, and another at the other,

FIRST CITIZEN

Good morrow, neighbor, whither away so fast?

I promise you I scarcely know myself.

Hear you the news abroad?

FIRST CITIZEN Yes, that the King is dead.

Ill news, by 'r Lady. Seldom comes the better. I fear, I fear, 'twill prove a giddy world.

Enter another Citizen.

THIRD CITIZEN

Neighbors, God speed.

FIRST CITIZEN

Give you good morrow, sir.

THIRD CITIZEN

9. **Doth...hold:** i.e., is the news confirmed

10. God help the while: May God help us in this time.

11. troublous: unsettled, disturbed

13. **Woe...child:** See Ecclesiastes 10.16: "Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child."

14–17. **there is a hope...well:** i.e., the state willbe governed well while he is a minor by his councillors and then, when he grows up, by himself (as king) **nonage:** minority

20. wot: knows

22. politic: wise, prudent

24. **by...mother:** i.e., from his father's family and his mother's

27. emulation: rivalry; nearest: i.e., to the Prince

28. touch...near: i.e., concern us all too closely

30. haught: i.e., haughty

33. solace: take comfort

Doth the news hold of good King Edward's death?	
SECOND CITIZEN	
Ay, sir, it is too true, God help the while.	10
THIRD CITIZEN	
Then, masters, look to see a troublous world.	
FIRST CITIZEN	
No, no, by God's good grace, his son shall reign.	
THIRD CITIZEN	
Woe to that land that's governed by a child.	
SECOND CITIZEN	
In him there is a hope of government,	
Which, in his nonage, council under him,	15
And, in his full and ripened years, himself,	
No doubt shall then, and till then, govern well.	
FIRST CITIZEN	
So stood the state when Henry the Sixth	
Was crowned in Paris but at nine months old.	
THIRD CITIZEN	
Stood the state so? No, no, good friends, God wot,	20
For then this land was famously enriched	
With politic grave counsel; then the King	
Had virtuous uncles to protect his Grace.	
FIRST CITIZEN	
Why, so hath this, both by his father and mother.	
THIRD CITIZEN	
Better it were they all came by his father,	25
Or by his father there were none at all,	
For emulation who shall now be nearest	
Will touch us all too near if God prevent not.	
O, full of danger is the Duke of Gloucester,	
And the Queen's sons and brothers haught and	30
proud,	
And were they to be ruled, and not to rule,	
This sickly land might solace as before.	

They exit.

40. sort: ordain, order

- 43. You...man: i.e., there is hardly a man to talk to
 - 44. heavily: sad
 - 45. still: always
- 46-48. By ... storm: These lines argue a parallel between men's instinctive fear of coming danger and the phenomenon of the ocean's pre-storm swelling. Siemon notes the same parallel in More's biography of Richard III. proof: experience
- 2.4 As Queen Elizabeth awaits the coming of Prince Edward, news arrives that Richard has imprisoned her brother Rivers, her son Grey, and Sir Thomas Vaughan. She rushes to sanctuary with her son the Duke of York.
- 1, 2. Stony Stratford, Northampton: See longer note, page 306.

FIRST CITIZEN	
Come, come, we fear the worst. All will be well.	
THIRD CITIZEN	
When clouds are seen, wise men put on their cloaks;	35
When great leaves fall, then winter is at hand; When the sun sets, who doth not look for night?	
Untimely storms makes men expect a dearth. All may be well; but if God sort it so,	40
Tis more than we deserve or I expect.	₩.
SECOND CITIZEN	
Truly, the hearts of men are full of fear.	
You cannot reason almost with a man	
That looks not heavily and full of dread.	
THIRD CITIZEN	
Before the days of change, still is it so.	45
By a divine instinct, men's minds mistrust	
Ensuing danger, as by proof we see	
The water swell before a boist'rous storm.	
But leave it all to God. Whither away?	
SECOND CITIZEN	
Marry, we were sent for to the Justices.	50
THIRD CITIZEN	
And so was I I'll bear you company	

Scene 4 Enter Archbishop, \(\text{the} \) young \(\text{Duke of} \) York, Queen [Elizabeth,] and the Duchess [of York.]

ARCHBISHOP

Last night, I (hear,) they lay at Stony Stratford, And at Northampton they do rest tonight. Tomorrow or next day they will be here.

9. cousin: kinsman

14. grace: virtue

14-15. great...apace: Proverbial: "An ill weed grows apace.":

16. since: ever since; methinks I would not grow: i.e., I would prefer not to grow

17. slow: i.e., in growing

19. hold: remain true

20. object...thee: bring the same saying forward against you

23. rule: maxim, adage; gracious: filled with the grace promised to "small herbs" (See line 14.)

26. by my troth: a mild oath; had been remembered: i.e., had remembered

27. my uncle's Grace: his Grace, my uncle

28. To ... mine: i.e., more directly related to his growth than his saying was to my growth

DUCHESS I long with all my heart to see the Prince. I hope he is much grown since last I saw him. QUEEN ELIZABETH But I hear no; they say my son of York Has almost overta'en him in his growth. YORK Ay, mother, but I would not have it so. DUCHESS Why, my good cousin? It is good to grow. YORK Grandam, one night as we did sit at supper. 10 My uncle Rivers talked how I did grow More than my brother. "Ay," quoth my uncle Gloucester. "Small herbs have grace; great weeds do grow apace." 15 And since, methinks I would not grow so fast Because sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste DUCHESS Good faith, good faith, the saying did not hold In him that did object the same to thee! 20 He was the wretched'st thing when he was young, So long a-growing and so leisurely, That if his rule were true, he should be gracious. YORK And so no doubt he is, my gracious madam. DUCHESS I hope he is, but yet let mothers doubt. 25 YORK Now, by my troth, if I had been remembered.

I could have given my uncle's Grace a flout To touch his growth nearer than he touched mine.

How, my young York? I prithee let me hear it.

DUCHESS

38.	parlous: per	ilously cunnin	ıg, mischie	evous; Go
to: an	expression	of impatience	shrewd:	naughty;
- 1	in outfully CI	innino		

abusive; artfully cunning
40. **Pitchers have ears:** Proverbial: "Little pitchers have wide ears."

ers have wide ears."
46. **Pomfret:** Pontefract, a castle in the north of England

48. committed them: i.e., sent them to prison

51. can: know

53. all: entirely

YORK	
Marry, they say my uncle grew so fast	30
That he could gnaw a crust at two hours old.	50
Twas full two years ere I could get a tooth.	
Grandam, this would have been a biting jest.	
DUCHESS	
I prithee, pretty York, who told thee this?	
YORK Grandam, his nurse.	35
DUCHESS	33
His nurse? Why, she was dead ere thou wast born.	
YORK	
If 'twere not she, I cannot tell who told me.	
OUEEN ELIZABETH	
A parlous boy! Go to, you are too shrewd.	
DUCHESS	
Good madam, be not angry with the child.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH Pitchers have ears.	40
	40
Enter a Messenger.	
ARCHBISHOP Here comes a messenger.—What news?	
MESSENGER	
Such news, my lord, as grieves me to report.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH How doth the Prince?	
MESSENGER Well, madam, and in health.	
DUCHESS What is thy news?	45
MESSENGER .	. 15
Lord Rivers and Lord Grey are sent to Pomfret,	
And, with them, Sir Thomas Vaughan, prisoners.	
DUCHESS Who hath committed them?	
MESSENGER	
The mighty dukes, Gloucester and Buckingham.	
RCHBISHOP For what offense?	50
MESSENGER	50
The sum of all I can, I have disclosed.	
Why, or for what, the nobles were committed	

Is all unknown to me, my gracious lord.

EE	Line.	female	deer
2	2212222	ICHIGA	しまいい

56. Insulting: triumphant; jut: strike

57. aweless: weak, inspiring no awe

59. map: image or picture; end: destruction

62. to get: attempting to get

65. seated: i.e., on the English throne

66. **Clean overblown:** i.e., completely blown over or away

67-68. Make . . . self: See longer note to 1.3.139, page 305. to: i.e., against

68. preposterous: monstrous

69. spleen: violent ill-nature

71. **to sanctuary:** i.e., go or flee to sanctuary, a place (often a church or other sacred place) where a fugitive could find protection from capture or punishment

78. seal: the Great Seal of England

78–79. **so betide...yours:** i.e., may my fate be determined by how well I care for you and yours **tender:** care for

QUEEN ELIZABETH	
Ay me! I see the ruin of my house.	
The tiger now hath seized the gentle hind.	5.
Insulting tyranny begins to jut	
Upon the innocent and aweless throne.	
Welcome, destruction, blood, and massacre.	
I see, as in a map, the end of all.	
DUCHESS	
Accursèd and unquiet wrangling days,	6(
How many of you have mine eyes beheld?	
My husband lost his life to get the crown,	
And often up and down my sons were tossed	
For me to joy, and weep, their gain and loss.	
And being seated, and domestic broils	65
Clean overblown, themselves the conquerors	
Make war upon themselves, brother to brother,	
Blood to blood, self against self. O, preposterous	
And frantic outrage, end thy damned spleen,	
Or let me die, to look on Earth no more.	70
QUEEN ELIZABETH, To York	
Come, come, my boy. We will to sanctuary.—	
Madam, farewell.	
DUCHESS Stay, I will go with you.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
You have no cause.	
archbishop, ^f to Queen Elizabeth ⁷	
My gracious lady, go,	75
And thither bear your treasure and your goods.	
For my part, I'll resign unto your Grace	
The seal I keep; and so betide to me	
As well I tender you and all of yours.	•
Go. I'll conduct you to the sanctuary.	80

The Tragedy of RICHARD III

ACT 3

- **3.1** Richard and Buckingham arrive in London with Prince Edward and order that Edward's brother, the Duke of York, be taken from sanctuary. Richard and Buckingham put both boys in the Tower and send Catesby to sound out Hastings about supporting Richard's intention to take the throne for himself.
- 1. **chamber:** capital (According to More's biography as it appears in Holinshed's *Chronicles*, the primary source of this play, "London [is] the King's especial chamber.")
 - 4. crosses: vexations
 - 5. heavy: oppressive, distressful
- 9–11. **Nor...heart:** Compare 1 Samuel 16.7: "[M]an beholdeth the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." **God He knows:** i.e., God knows **jumpeth:** accords
 - 12. want: (1) lack; (2) desire



"Young Prince Edward." (3.1.0 SD) From John Speed, *The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine* . . . (1627 [i.e., 1631]).

[ACT 3]

[Scene 1]

The trumpets sound. Enter young Prince 「Edward, TRichard Duke of TGloucester, Buckingham, Tthe Cardinal, Catesby, and others.

BUCKINGHAM

Welcome, sweet prince, to London, to your chamber. RICHARD, $\lceil to \ Prince^{\rceil} \rceil$

Welcome, dear cousin, my thoughts' sovereign. The weary way hath made you melancholy.

No, uncle, but our crosses on the way Have made it tedious, wearisome, and heavy. I want more uncles here to welcome me.

5

10

15

Sweet prince, the untainted virtue of your years Hath not yet dived into the world's deceit; Nor more can you distinguish of a man Than of his outward show, which, God He knows, Seldom or never jumpeth with the heart. Those uncles which you want were dangerous. Your Grace attended to their sugared words But looked not on the poison of their hearts. God keep you from them, and from such false friends.

128

23. slug: sluggard, lazy fellow

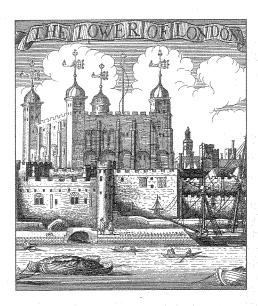
26. **What:** an interjection introducing a question or exclamation

29. tender: young

31. perforce: i.e., against his will

32. **indirect:** devious; **peevish:** spiteful, perverse; **course:** proceeding, way of behaving

37. jealous: suspicious, fearful; perforce: forcibly



The Tower of London. (1.1.47; 3.1.66) From John Seller, A book of the prospects of ... London . . . (c. 1700?).

PRINCE God keep me from false friends, but they were none. RICHARD My lord, the Mayor of London comes to greet you. Enter Lord Mayor \with others. MAYOR God bless your Grace with health and happy days. PRINCE I thank you, good my lord, and thank you all. 20 I thought my mother and my brother York Would long ere this have met us on the way. Fie, what a slug is Hastings that he comes not To tell us whether they will come or no! Enter Lord Hastings. BUCKINGHAM And in good time here comes the sweating lord. 25 PRINCE Welcome, my lord. What, will our mother come? HASTINGS On what occasion God He knows, not I, The Queen your mother and your brother York Have taken sanctuary. The tender prince Would fain have come with me to meet your Grace. 30 But by his mother was perforce withheld. BUCKINGHAM Fie, what an indirect and peevish course Is this of hers!-Lord Cardinal, will your Grace Persuade the Queen to send the Duke of York Unto his princely brother presently?— 35 If she deny, Lord Hastings, go with him, And from her jealous arms pluck him perforce.

My lord of Buckingham, if my weak oratory

CARDINAL.

	_	
40	Anon:	SOOT

44. deep: serious, heinous

45. senseless: unreasonably

46. **ceremonious:** scrupulous about observing formalities

47. grossness: i.e., lack of refinement

51. wit: intelligence

55. charter: immunity

62. our: i.e., my (the royal "we")

66. **the Tower:** Primarily a fortress and prison, the Tower of London was also sometimes used as a royal residence. (See page 130.)

Can from his mother win the Duke of York,	
Anon expect him here; but if she be obdurate	40
To mild entreaties, God in heaven forbid	1
We should infringe the holy privilege	
Of blessed sanctuary! Not for all this land	
Would I be guilty of so deep a sin.	
BUCKINGHAM	
You are too senseless obstinate, my lord,	45
Too ceremonious and traditional.	
Weigh it but with the grossness of this age,	
You break not sanctuary in seizing him.	
The benefit thereof is always granted	
To those whose dealings have deserved the place	50
And those who have the wit to claim the place.	
This prince hath neither claimed it nor deserved it	
And therefore, in mine opinion, cannot have it.	
Then taking him from thence that is not there,	
You break no privilege nor charter there.	55
Oft have I heard of sanctuary men,	
But sanctuary children, never till now.	
CARDINAL	
My lord, you shall o'errule my mind for once.—	
Come on, Lord Hastings, will you go with me?	
HASTINGS I go, my lord.	60
PRINCE	
Good lords, make all the speedy haste you may.	
[The Cardinal and Hastings exit.]	
Say, uncle Gloucester, if our brother come,	
Where shall we sojourn till our coronation?	
RICHARD	
Where it seems best unto your royal self.	
If I may counsel you, some day or two	65
Your Highness shall repose you at the Tower;	
Then where you please and shall be thought most fit	
For your best health and recreation.	_

I do not like the Tower, of any place.—

PRINCE

69. of any place: i.e., of all places

70. **Julius Caesar:** Roman conqueror of Britain (See page 136.)

72. re-edified: rebuilt

73. 75. record: pronounced record

76. registered: recorded

77. Methinks: i.e., it seems to me that

78. retailed: recounted, told

79. the ... day: doomsday

80. **So...long:** Proverbial: "Too soon wise to live long."

82. characters: i.e., written records (literally,

graphic symbols)

83. **formal Vice, Iniquity:** i.e., conventional stage figure of the Vice named Iniquity in a morality play (The Vice often equivocated. **Iniquity** is the name of the Vice in two plays that survive from this period, *Darius* and *Nice Wanton*.)

84. **moralize:** interpret; **two...word:** i.e., perhaps, of the word *live*, which Richard uses first literally (line 80) and then figuratively in line 82

86. what: i.e., that with which

92. An if: i.e., if

93. ancient...France: Between 1337 and 1453, during the Hundred Years War, the English (led most notably by King Edward III and King Henry V) had invaded France in efforts to enforce hereditary claims to the French throne. By 1453, thirty years before the setting of this scene, King Henry VI had lost what his father, Henry V, had won in France. in: i.e., to

95. **lightly:** commonly; **a forward:** an early (with wordplay on **forward** as presumptuous, bold)

Did Julius Caesar build that place, my lord? 70 RUCKINGHAM He did, my gracious lord, begin that place. Which, since, succeeding ages have re-edified. PRINCE Is it upon record, or else reported Successively from age to age, he built it? RUCKINGHAM Upon record, my gracious lord. 75 PRINCE But say, my lord, it were not registered. Methinks the truth should live from age to age, As 'twere retailed to all posterity, Even to the general all-ending day. RICHARD, [aside] So wise so young, they say, do never live long. 80 PRINCE What say you, uncle? RICHARD I say, without characters fame lives long. [Aside.] Thus, like the formal Vice, Iniquity, I moralize two meanings in one word. PRINCE That Julius Caesar was a famous man. 85 With what his valor did enrich his wit, His wit set down to make his [valor] live. Death makes no conquest of this conqueror, For now he lives in fame, though not in life. I'll tell you what, my cousin Buckingham-90 BUCKINGHAM What, my gracious lord? PRINCE An if I live until I be a man. Ill win our ancient right in France again Or die a soldier, as I lived a king. RICHARD, [aside] Short summers lightly have a forward spring.

115

100. late: recently; he: a reference to their father, Edward IV

102. cousin: kinsman

103. gentle: noble

104. idle: worthless

109. beholding: beholden, obligated

115. that: i.e., who

116. toy: trifle; is no grief: i.e., it is no hardship



Julius Caesar. (3.1.70)
From Thomas Treterus, Romanorum imperatorum effigies . . . (1590).

Enter young \[Duke of \] York, Hastings, \[\] and the \[\] Cardinal. BUCKINGHAM Now in good time here comes the Duke of York. Richard of York, how fares our loving brother? YORK Well, my dread lord—so must I call you now. PRINCE Ay, brother, to our grief, as it is yours. Too late he died that might have kept that title, Which by his death hath lost much majesty. RICHARD How fares our cousin, noble lord of York? YORK I thank you, gentle uncle. O my lord, You said that idle weeds are fast in growth. The Prince my brother hath outgrown me far. 105 RICHARD He hath, my lord. YORK And therefore is he idle? RICHARD O my fair cousin, I must not say so. YORK Then he is more beholding to you than I. RICHARD He may command me as my sovereign, 110 But you have power in me as in a kinsman. YORK I pray you, uncle, give me this dagger. RICHARD My dagger, little cousin? With all my heart. PRINCE A beggar, brother?

YORK

Of my kind uncle, that I know will give,

And being but a toy, which is no grief to give.

120. light: inconsequential (wordplay on "light" in line 119)

121. say...nay: i.e., refuse one who begs

123. I... heavier: i.e., I would not think much of it even if it were heavier

128. cross: contrary, perverse

132. ape: At fairs, an ape was set on the shoulders of a bear; some professional jesters, or Fools. also carried apes on their shoulders. (The word scorn [lines 136 and 156] suggests that the duke of York here mocks Richard as a hunchback, the hump on whose back would provide an excellent place for

an ape to ride.) 135. sharp-provided: clever and ready

139. pass along: i.e., continue on your way

RICHARD A greater gift than that I'll give my cousin. YORK A greater gift? O, that's the sword to it. RICHARD Ay, gentle cousin, were it light enough. YORK O, then I see you will part but with light gifts. In weightier things you'll say a beggar nay. RICHARD It is too heavy for your Grace to wear. YORK I weigh it lightly, were it heavier. RICHARD What, would you have my weapon, little lord? YORK I would, that I might thank you as you call me. 125 RICHARD How? YORK Little PRINCE My lord of York will still be cross in talk. Uncle, your Grace knows how to bear with him. YORK You mean, to bear me, not to bear with me.— 130 Uncle, my brother mocks both you and me. Because that I am little, like an ape, He thinks that you should bear me on your shoulders BUCKINGHAM, [aside] With what a sharp-provided wit he reasons! To mitigate the scorn he gives his uncle, 135 He prettily and aptly taunts himself. So cunning and so young is wonderful. RICHARD, Tto Prince

My lord, will 't please you pass along?

141. Will to: will go to, will visit; of her: i.e., her

144. needs will: is determined to

151. **they:** The words "With a heavy heart, / Thinking on them" (lines 152–53) suggest that **they** refers to the uncle and stepbrother arrested by Richard. It may also refer to Woodeville and Scales, also his maternal uncles. (See note to 1.3.38.)

153 SD. **sennet:** trumpet sound to signal the arrival or departure of royalty

154. prating: chattering

155. incensed: incited, instigated

157. parlous: perilously cunning

158. quick: lively; forward: presumptuous, pert; capable: intelligent

160. let them rest: i.e., let them be

161. deeply: thoroughly

163. **urged...way:** i.e., advanced in the course of our journey

Mysell allu llly good cousin Buckingham	140
Will to your mother, to entreat of her	24
To meet you at the Tower and welcome you.	
YORK, 'to Prince'	
What, will you go unto the Tower, my lord?	
PRINCE	
My Lord Protector needs will have it so.	
YORK	
I shall not sleep in quiet at the Tower.	145
RICHARD Why, what should you fear?	1,40
YORK	
Marry, my uncle Clarence' angry ghost.	
My grandam told me he was murdered there.	
PRINCE I tear no uncles dead.	
RICHARD Nor none that live, I hope.	150
PRINCE	150
An if they live, I hope I need not fear.	
To York. But come, my lord. With a heavy heart	
Industry on them, go I unto the Tower.	
[A sennet. Prince [Edward, the Duke of] York	
「and Hastings exit. Richard, Buckingham,	
and Cateshy remain 1	
BUCKINGHAM, to Richard	
Think you, my lord, this little prating York	
Was not incensed by his subtle mother	155
To taunt and scorn you thus opprobriously?	
RICHARD	
No doubt, no doubt. O, 'tis a parlous boy,	
Bold, quick, ingenious, forward, capable.	
He is all the mother's, from the top to toe.	
BUCKINGHAM	
Well, let them rest.—Come hither, Catesby.	160
Thou art sworn as deeply to effect what we intend	
As closely to conceal what we impart.	
Thou knowest our reasons surged upon the way	

Richard as 168. his namely, the 173. as out, questing 174. dot 176. sit: 182. div 183. hig 184. Louis 186. let a barber-si	king of England father's: i.e., the former king, Ed. off: i.e., most on i.e., meet in coulded councils: ithly: extensively rd William: i.e., cient advers blood: i.e., execurgeon as a med undly: properly,	seat roya he father or dward IV t tactfully; se., is dispos incil .e., two sepa Hastings aries: i.e., o uted (literal ical treatme	ound: soused arate courtly are ble	nce, und ncils
	i di salah dari Salah dari di salah			

	SSMANING VIEW
What thinkest thou? Is it not an easy matter To make William Lord Hastings of our mind	165
For the installment of this noble duke In the seat royal of this famous isle?	
CATESBY	
He, for his father's sake, so loves the Prince That he will not be won to aught against him. BUCKINGHAM	
What think'st thou then of Stanley? Will not he?	170
CATESBY	170
He will do all in all as Hastings doth.	
BUCKINGHAM	
Well then, no more but this: go, gentle Catesby,	
And, as it were far off, sound thou Lord Hastings	
How he doth stand affected to our purpose	
And summon him tomorrow to the Tower To sit about the coronation.	175
If thou dost find him tractable to us,	
Encourage him and tell him all our reasons.	
If he be leaden, icy, cold, unwilling,	
Be thou so too, and so break off the talk,	180
And give us notice of his inclination;	100
For we tomorrow hold divided councils,	
Wherein thyself shalt highly be employed.	
RICHARD	
Commend me to Lord William. Tell him, Catesby,	
His ancient knot of dangerous adversaries Tomorrow are let blood at Pomfret Castle,	185
And bid my lord, for joy of this good news,	
Give Mistress Shore one gentle kiss the more.	
BUCKINGHAM	
Good Catesby, go effect this business soundly.	
CATESBY	
My good lords both, with all the heed I can.	190
RICHARD	
Shall we hear from you, Catesby, ere we sleep?	

195. **yield...complots:** i.e., consent to our conspiracies

197. look when: i.e., as soon as

198. **movables:** portable possessions (attached to the earldom of Hereford and in the possession of the monarch)

202. betimes: early

203. digest: arrange; some form: good order

3.2 Responding to Catesby, Hastings flatly refuses to support Richard's bid for the throne, and takes great satisfaction in the news that the Queen's son and brother are to be beheaded that very day.

2 SP. within: offstage

4. What is 't o'clock?: i.e., what time is it?

7. **that:** what

CATESBY You shall, my lord.
RICHARD

At Crosby House, there shall you find us both.

Catesby exits.

195

200

BUCKINGHAM

Now, my lord, what shall we do if we perceive Lord Hastings will not yield to our complots?

RICHARD

Chop off his head. Something we will determine. And look when I am king, claim thou of me The earldom of Hereford, and all the movables Whereof the King my brother was possessed.

BUCKINGHAM

I'll claim that promise at your Grace's hand.

And look to have it yielded with all kindness. Come, let us sup betimes, that afterwards

We may digest our complots in some form.

They exit.

Scene 2 *Enter a Messenger to the door of Hastings.*

MESSENGER, \(\frac{knocking}{\text{Nocking}} \) My lord, my lord. HASTINGS, \(\frac{within}{\text{Within}} \) Who knocks? MESSENGER One from the Lord Stanley. HASTINGS, \(\frac{within}{\text{Within}} \) What is 't o'clock? MESSENGER Upon the stroke of four.

Enter Lord Hastings.

HASTINGS

Cannot my Lord Stanley sleep these tedious nights?
MESSENGER

So it appears by that I have to say. First, he commends him to your noble self.

HASTINGS What then?

10. certifies: informs

11. **boar:** Richard's heraldic emblem (See page 56.); **razèd...helm:** (1) cut off his helmet (and, by implication, head); (2) obliterated the heraldic crest on his helmet (symbolic of destroying his family line)

13. that: i.e., something

16. pleasure: choice, preference

17. presently: at once

18. **post:** ride with haste

24. toucheth: concerns, affects

25. intelligence: information

26. instance: cause

27. for: i.e., as for; simple: foolish

28. **mock'ry:** unreal appearances, dream images (with wordplay on *mockery* as derision)

29. fly: flee

31. mean: intend

34. **kindly:** i.e., with courtesy (A second, ironic meaning of this word, "according to his nature," would be heard by the audience.)

36. morrows: mornings

mornio villat tileli.	
MESSENGER	
Then certifies your Lordship that thi	s night 10
He dreamt the boar had razed off his	s helm.
Besides, he says there are two counc	
And that may be determined at the o	ne
Which may make you and him to rue	e at th' other.
Therefore he sends to know your Lor	rdship's
pleasure,	
If you will presently take horse with	him
And with all speed post with him tov	vard the north
To shun the danger that his soul divi	nes.
IASTINGS	
Go, fellow, go. Return unto thy lord.	20
Bid him not fear the separated council	cil.
His Honor and myself are at the one,	
And at the other is my good friend Ca	atesby,
Where nothing can proceed that touc	
Whereof I shall not have intelligence	. 25
Tell him his fears are shallow, withou	it instance.
And for his dreams, I wonder he's so	simple
To trust the mock'ry of unquiet slum	
To fly the boar before the boar pursu	es
Were to incense the boar to follow us	
And make pursuit where he did mean	
Go, bid thy master rise and come to	
And we will both together to the Tow	er,
Where he shall see the boar will use t	ıs kindly.
ESSENGER	
I'll go, my lord, and tell him what you	1 say. He exits. 35
Enter Cateshy.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

CATESBY

Many good morrows to my noble lord.

HASTINGS

45	crown:	ie	crown	of the	head
64.).	CHEPWHIL	1.0	CLOWII	OI LHC	Heau

46. foul: i.e., foully

47. canst thou guess: i.e., do you think

48. forward: zealous

49. Upon his party: i.e., on his side

54. still: always with the same and the same still are

56. **To...descent:** i.e., to bar from the crown the heirs truly descended from Edward IV

60-61. **That...tragedy:** i.e., that I have lived to see the tragedy (downfall and death) of those who incited King Edward IV to hate me (See 1.1.67-73.)

The company of the company of

Good morrow, Catesby. You are early stirring. What news, what news in this our tott'ring state?	
CATESBY	
It is a reeling world indeed, my lord,	
And I believe will never stand upright	40
Till Richard wear the garland of the realm,	
HASTINGS.	
How "wear the garland"? Dost thou mean the	
crown?	
CATESBY Ay, my good lord.	
HASTINGS CALL THE FACE OF THE	
I'll have this crown of mine cut from my shoulders	45
Before I'll see the crown so foul misplaced.	
But canst thou guess that he doth aim at it?	
CATESBY	
Ay, on my life, and hopes to find you forward	
Upon his party for the gain thereof;	
And thereupon he sends you this good news,	50
That this same very day your enemies,	
The kindred of the Queen, must die at Pomfret.	
ASTINGS	
Indeed, I am no mourner for that news,	
Because they have been still my adversaries.	
But that I'll give my voice on Richard's side	55
To bar my master's heirs in true descent,	
God knows I will not do it, to the death.	
ATESBY	
God keep your Lordship in that gracious mind.	
IASTINGS	
But I shall laugh at this a twelve-month hence,	
That they which brought me in my master's hate,	50
I live to look upon their tragedy.	
Well, Catesby, ere a fortnight make me older	
I'll send some packing that yet think not on 't.	

CATECRY

71. make...of: i.e., have high regard for

72. account: consider; reckon on; head... Bridge: The heads of those executed for treason were displayed on poles on London Bridge. (See page 156.)

77. Holy Rood: the cross of Christ

78. several: separate

82. but that I know: i.e., if I did not know; state: condition

83. triumphant: exultant

87. o'ercast: became overcast

88. **stab of rancor:** probably, Richard's recent hateful thrust against the Queen's faction

89. a needless coward: i.e., needlessly afraid

90. spent: well under way

JIXI DOD I	
Tis a vile thing to die, my gracious lord,	
When men are unprepared and look not for it.	65
O monstrous, monstrous! And so falls it out With Rivers, Vaughan, Grey; and so 'twill do With some men else that think themselves as safe As thou and I, who, as thou know'st, are dear	
To princely Richard and to Buckingham.	70
CATESBY	
The Princes both make high account of you <i>Aside</i> . For they account his head upon the Bridge.	
HASTINGS I know they do, and I have well deserved it.	
Enter Lord Stanley.	
Come on, come on. Where is your boar-spear, man? Fear you the boar and go so unprovided?	75
TANLEY	
My lord, good morrow.—Good morrow, Catesby.—You may jest on, but, by the Holy Rood, I do not like these several councils, I.	
IASTINGS	
My lord, I hold my life as dear as (you do) yours, And never in my days, I do protest, Was it so precious to me as 'tis now.	80
Think you but that I know our state secure, I would be so triumphant as I am?	
TANLEY	
And they indeed had no cause to mistrust;	85
But yet you see how soon the day o'ercast. This sudden stab of rancor I misdoubt. Pray God, I say, I prove a needless coward!	
What, shall we toward the Tower? The day is spent.	90

93. truth: loyalty

94. wear their hats: i.e., keep their offices

95 SD. **Pursuivant:** a royal or state messenger or warrant officer; or, a junior officer serving under a herald (In the quarto, this character is also called Hastings, and many editors include this proper name.)

97. sirrah: a form of address to a man of lesser status

98. **that...ask:** i.e., that it pleases you to ask (Proverbial: "The better for your asking.")

102. By the suggestion: because of the false charges; allies: relatives

105. state: condition

106. hold: preserve

107. **Gramercy:** many thanks

110. Sir: a title of courtesy for a priest

HASTINGS

Come, come. Have with you. Wot you what, my lord? Today the lords you (talked) of are beheaded.

STANLEY

They, for their truth, might better wear their heads Than some that have accused them wear their hats. But come, my lord, let's away.

95

Enter a Pursuivant.

HASTINGS

Go on before. I'll talk with this good fellow.

Lord Stanley and Catesby exit.

How now, sirrah? How goes the world with thee?

PURSUIVANT

The better that your Lordship please to ask.

HASTINGS

I tell thee, man, 'tis better with me now Than when thou met'st me last where now we meet.

Then was I going prisoner to the Tower

By the suggestion of the Queen's allies.

But now, I tell thee—keep it to thyself—

This day those enemies are put to death,

And I in better state than e'er I was.

105

PURSUIVANT

God hold it, to your Honor's good content! HASTINGS

Gramercy, fellow. There, drink that for me.

Throws him his purse.

PURSUIVANT I thank your Honor. Pursuivant exits.

Enter a Priest.

PRIEST

Well met, my lord. I am glad to see your Honor.

I thank thee, good Sir John, with all my heart.

I am in your debt for your last exercise.

112. content: compensate

113. wait upon: attend upon

116. shriving work: making a confession and receiving absolution
121. thence: from there

122. like: i.e., likely; stay: i.e., stay for

3.3 The Queen's brother Rivers, her son Grey, and Sir Thomas Vaughan are led to execution. They recall Margaret's curse, and pray that it will fall as well on Hastings, Buckingham, and Richard, whom she also cursed.

0 SD. Halberds: halberdiers; carrying: i.e., leading

Come the next sabbath, and I will content you. PRIEST I'll wait upon your Lordship, Priest exits. Enter Buckingham. BUCKINGHAM What, talking with a priest, Lord Chamberlain? Your friends at Pomfret, they do need the priest; 115 Your Honor hath no shriving work in hand. HASTINGS Good faith, and when I met this holy man, The men you talk of came into my mind. What, go you toward the Tower? BUCKINGHAM I do, my lord, but long I cannot stay there. 120 I shall return before your Lordship thence. HASTINGS Nay, like enough, for I stay dinner there. BUCKINGHAM, [aside]

Scene 3

I'll wait upon your Lordship.

Enter Sir Richard Ratcliffe, with Halberds, carrying the nobles (Rivers, Grey, and Vaughan) to death at Pomfret.

And supper too, although thou know'st it not.—

RIVERS

Come, will you go? HASTINGS

Sir Richard Ratcliffe, let me tell thee this: Today shalt thou behold a subject die For truth, for duty, and for loyalty. GREY, To Ratcliffe

God bless the Prince from all the pack of you! A knot you are of damnèd bloodsuckers.

125

They exit.

VAUGHAN, To Ratcliffe

They exit.

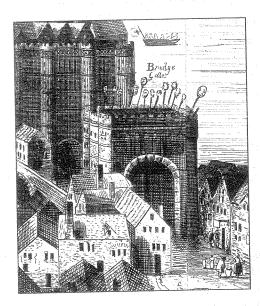
10. closure: bounds

12. **slander:** discredit, disgrace; **dismal:** sinister, boding disaster; **seat:** site

15. exclaimed on: accused, blamed

21. my sister: i.e., Queen Elizabeth

24. expiate: fully come



Heads "upon the Bridge." (3.2.72) From Claes Jansz Visscher, Londinum florentissima Britanniae urbs...[c. 1625].

You live that shall cry woe for this hereafter. RATCLIFFE Dispatch. The limit of your lives is out. **RIVERS** O Pomfret, Pomfret! O thou bloody prison, Fatal and ominous to noble peers! Within the guilty closure of thy walls, 10 Richard the Second here was hacked to death, And, for more slander to thy dismal seat, We give to thee our guiltless blood to drink. GREY Now Margaret's curse is fall'n upon our heads. When she exclaimed on Hastings, you, and I. 15 For standing by when Richard stabbed her son. RIVERS Then cursed she Richard. Then cursed she Buckingham. Then cursed she Hastings. O, remember, God, To hear her prayer for them as now for us! 20 And for my sister and her princely sons, Be satisfied, dear God, with our true blood. Which, as thou know'st, unjustly must be spilt. RATCLIFFE Make haste. The hour of death is expiate. RIVERS Come, Grey. Come, Vaughan. Let us here embrace. 25 [↑]They embrace. [↑] Farewell until we meet again in heaven.

5

10

15

20

- 2. determine of: make a decision about
- 4. **Is:** i.e., are
- 5. **It...nomination:** i.e., all things are ready; all that is lacking is the naming of the day (for the coronation of Prince Edward as Edward V)
 - 6. happy: favorable
 - 8. inward: intimate
 - 11. for: i.e., as for
 - 16. purpose in: intention concerning
 - 17. sounded: questioned; delivered: pronounced
 - 18. pleasure: choice, preference
 - 20. in: i.e., on: voice: vote
 - 21. in gentle part: in good part, without offense

	Occine 4		
Er	ter Buckingham, 「Lord Stanley, Earl	of Derk	21/
Hast	ings, Bishop of Ely, Norfolk, Ratcliffe,	Lovell.	with
	others at a table		

HASTINGS

Now, noble peers, the cause why we are met Is to determine of the coronation. In God's name, speak. When is the royal day?

BUCKINGHAM

Is all things ready for the royal time?

It is, and wants but nomination.

ELY

Tomorrow, then, I judge a happy day.

Who knows the Lord Protector's mind herein? Who is most inward with the noble duke?

Your Grace, we think, should soonest know his mind.

BUCKINGHAM

HASTINGS

We know each other's faces; for our hearts, He knows no more of mine than I of yours, Or I of his, my lord, than you of mine.— Lord Hastings, you and he are near in love.

I thank his Grace, I know he loves me well. But for his purpose in the coronation,

I have not sounded him, nor he delivered His gracious pleasure any way therein.

But you, my honorable lords, may name the time, And in the Duke's behalf I'll give my voice, Which I presume he'll take in gentle part.

Enter \(Richard, Duke of \) Gloucester.

E

45

22. happy: fortunate

23. **cousins:** The term *cousin* was used by a sovereign in addressing his noblemen. Richard may be speaking as if he were already the sovereign. Or he may be addressing both his kinsman Buckingham and possibly other kinsmen.

25. neglect: cause to be neglected

32. Holborn: site of the Bishop of Ely's palace

33. **strawberries:** This fruit was associated in contemporary emblems with adders and other snakes, which in turn are identified with hypocrisy and treachery. (Paradin's *Heroicall Devises* [1591] reads: "In gathering of flowers, and strawberries that grow low upon the ground, we must be verie carefull for the adder and snake that lieth lurking in the grass." See page 162.)

35. Marry and: i.e., indeed I

40. worshipfully . . . it: i.e., respectfully he puts it

43. triumph: public festivity

44. too sudden: i.e., too early a date

45. provided: prepared

46. else: otherwise; prolonged: postponed

In happy time here comes the Duke himself.	
ICHARD	
My noble lords and cousins all, good morrow.	
I have been long a sleeper; but I trust	
My absence doth neglect no great design	2
Which by my presence might have been concluded.	
UCKINGHAM	
Had you not come upon your cue, my lord,	
William Lord Hastings had pronounced your part—	
I mean your voice for crowning of the King.	
ICHARD LANGUE LA	
Than my Lord Hastings no man might be bolder.	3
His Lordship knows me well and loves me well.—	
My lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn	
I saw good strawberries in your garden there;	
I do beseech you, send for some of them.	
Marry and will, my lord, with all my heart.	35
Exit Bishop of Ely.	
CHARD	
Cousin of Buckingham, a word with you.	
They move aside.	
Catesby hath sounded Hastings in our business	
And finds the testy gentleman so hot	
That he will lose his head ere give consent	
His master's child, as worshipfully he terms it,	40
Shall lose the royalty of England's throne.	
JCKINGHAM	
Withdraw yourself awhile. I'll go with you.	
Richard and Buckingham exit.	
ANLEY	
We have not yet set down this day of triumph.	

Tomorrow, in my judgment, is too sudden.

As else I would be, were the day prolonged.

For I myself am not so well provided

Enter the Bishop of Elv.

70

49. cheerfully and smooth: i.e., cheerful and affable

51. conceit: conception, idea; likes: pleases

55. straight: straightway, immediately

57. livelihood: liveliness

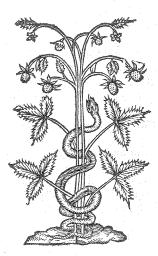
59. looks: Here the quarto gives a metrically deficient line to Stanley, "I pray God he be not, I say," which is included by many modern editors.

61. conspire: i.e., conspire to bring about

63. **charms**: spells

65. forward: ready, prompt; presence: company

66. doom: condemn



Strawberries with a lurking adder. (3.4.33) Claude Paradin, The heroicall deuises of . . . (1591)

FLY Where is my lord the Duke of Gloucester? I have sent for these strawberries. HASTINGS His Grace looks cheerfully and smooth this morning. There's some conceit or other likes him well When that he bids good morrow with such spirit. I think there's never a man in Christendom Can lesser hide his love or hate than he. For by his face straight shall you know his heart. 55 STANLEY What of his heart perceive you in his face By any livelihood he showed today? HASTINGS Marry, that with no man here he is offended, For were he, he had shown it in his looks. Enter Richard and Buckingham. RICHARD I pray you all, tell me what they deserve 60 That do conspire my death with devilish plots Of damned witchcraft, and that have prevailed Upon my body with their hellish charms? HASTINGS The tender love I bear your Grace, my lord, Makes me most forward in this princely presence 65 To doom th' offenders, whosoe'er they be. I say, my lord, they have deserved death. RICHARD Then be your eyes the witness of their evil. THe shows his arm Look how I am bewitched! Behold mine arm

Is like a blasted sapling withered up;

82. fond: foolish

84. **fly:** flee

85. **foot-cloth horse:** a horse adorned with a large ornamental cloth as a sign of the rider's dignity

86. started: i.e., moved as if startled or frightened

90. too triumphing: i.e., exulting too much

95. dispatch: make haste; would: wishes to

97. short shrift: brief confession

98-99. O...God: Compare Jeremiah 17.5: "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man... and whose heart departeth from the Lord." grace of mortal men: human favor



A council meeting. (3.4) From Raphael Holinshed, *Chronicles of England* . . . (1577).

164

And this is Edward's wife, that monstrous witch, Consorted with that harlot, strumpet Shore, That by their witchcraft thus have marked me. HASTINGS If they have done this deed, my noble lord— RICHARD If? Thou protector of this damned strumpet. 75 Talk'st thou to me of "ifs"? Thou art a traitor.— Off with his head. Now by Saint Paul I swear I will not dine until I see the same.— Lovell and Ratcliffe, look that it be done.-The rest that love me, rise and follow me. They exit. Lovell and Ratcliffe remain. with the Lord Hastings. HASTINGS Woe, woe for England! Not a whit for me, For I, too fond, might have prevented this. Stanley did dream the boar did (raze his helm.) And I did scorn it and disdain to fly. Three times today my foot-cloth horse did stumble, And started when he looked upon the Tower, As loath to bear me to the slaughterhouse. O, now I need the priest that spake to me! I now repent I told the pursuivant, As too triumphing, how mine enemies 90 Today at Pomfret bloodily were butchered, And I myself secure in grace and favor. O Margaret, Margaret, now thy heavy curse Is lighted on poor Hastings' wretched head. RATCLIFFE Come, come, dispatch. The Duke would be at 95 dinner. Make a short shrift. He longs to see your head. HASTINGS

O momentary grace of mortal men,

Which we more hunt for than the grace of God!

5

10

101–3. **Lives...deep:** Compare Proverbs 23.31–34: "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red.... And thou shalt be as one that sleepeth in the middle of the sea, and as he that sleepeth in the top of the mast."

105. **bloody:** bloodthirsty

108. him: i.e., Richard

3.5 Richard and Buckingham excuse the summary execution of Hastings to the Mayor of London by staging an "uprising" that they blame on Hastings' treachery. Richard then sends Buckingham to persuade Londoners that the crown should be taken from the heirs of Edward IV and given to Richard. Buckingham is to claim that Edward IV himself was illegitimate, and that therefore Richard is the legitimate heir.

0 SD. rotten: rusted; or, crumbling to pieces; marvelous ill-favored: i.e., marvelously ugly

1-2. change thy color: grow pale or flushed

6. **counterfeit:** imitate; **deep:** profoundly crafty; **tragedian:** tragic actor

7. pry...side: peer all over the place

8. **wagging of a straw:** the movement of only a piece of straw

9. Intending: signifying

11. **offices:** functions

Who builds his hope in air of your good looks
Lives like a drunken sailor on a mast,
Ready with every nod to tumble down
Into the fatal bowels of the deep.

LOVELL
Come, come, dispatch. 'Tis bootless to exclaim.

HASTINGS
O bloody Richard! Miserable England,
I prophesy the fearfull'st time to thee
That ever wretched age hath looked upon.—
Come, lead me to the block. Bear him my head.
They smile at me who shortly shall be dead.

They exit.

Scene 57
Enter Richard and Buckingham, in rotten armor,
marvelous ill-favored.

RICHARD

Come, cousin, canst thou quake and change thy color,

Murder thy breath in middle of a word, And then again begin, and stop again,

As if thou were distraught and mad with terror?

BUCKINGHAM

Tut, I can counterfeit the deep tragedian, Speak, and look back, and pry on every side, Tremble and start at wagging of a straw, Intending deep suspicion. Ghastly looks Are at my service, like enforced smiles, And both are ready, in their offices, At any time to grace my stratagems. But what, is Catesby gone?

RICHARD

He is; and see he brings the Mayor along.

Enter the Mayor and Catesby.

16	Look .	there:	Here R	ichard	and Bu	.cking	3-
ham	hegin to	pretend	that they	are un	ıder atta	ick.	
110111	DCSIII 10	Dr. C. C.		r			

18. o'erlook: look over the top of

20. back: i.e., behind you

22. patient: calm
26. harmless: i.e., most harmless

28. book: i.e., commonplace book

31. apparent: evident, obvious

32. **conversation:** sexual intimacy

33. from ... suspects: i.e., free from the dishonor of any suspicion

34. covert'st: most secretive and deceitful; shel-

tered: protected

37. by great preservation: through being protected (by God or providence)

BUCKINGHAM Lord Mayor—	15
RICHARD Look to the drawbridge there!	
BUCKINGHAM Hark, a drum!	
RICHARD Catesby, o'erlook the walls.	
Catesby exits.	
BUCKINGHAM Lord Mayor, the reason we have sent—	
RICHARD PAGE 1985 STATE OF THE	
Look back! Defend thee! Here are enemies.	20
BUCKINGHAM	
God and our (innocence) defend and guard us!	
Enter Lovell and Ratcliffe, with Hastings' head.	
RICHARD Po potiont There are first 1 Position 1 Positi	
Be patient. They are friends, Ratcliffe and Lovell.	
Here is the head of that ignoble traitor, The dangerous and unsuspected Hastings.	
RICHARD	
So dear I loved the man that I must weep.	2 ~
I took him for the plainest harmless creature	25
That breathed upon the Earth a Christian;	
Made him my book, wherein my soul recorded	
The history of all her secret thoughts.	
So smooth he daubed his vice with show of virtue	30
That, his apparent open guilt omitted—	
I mean his conversation with Shore's wife—	
He lived from all attainder of suspects.	
UCKINGHAM	
Well, well, he was the covert'st sheltered traitor	
That ever lived.—	35
Would you imagine, or almost believe,	
Were 't not that by great preservation	
We live to tell it, that the subtle traitor	

15	Danto	except
6-6 T	2.98882	EXECUTE

48. fair befall you: i.e., may good fortune be yours

49. well proceeded: acted properly

50. the like: similar

51. at his hands: i.e., from him

55. these our friends: Lovell and Ratcliffe

56. **Something:** somewhat; **meanings:** intentions;

prevented: forestalled

60. **signified:** indicated 61. **haply:** perhaps

62. **Misconster . . . him:** i.e., misunderstand our treatment of him

64. as I: i.e., as if I

65. **right:** truly; **noble princes both:** See note to line 2.2.157.

66. But: i.e., but that

69. T' avoid: i.e., so that we can avoid

This day had plotted, in the council house, To murder me and my good lord of Gloucester? MAYOR Had he done so? RICHARD What, think you we are Turks or infidels? Or that we would, against the form of law, Proceed thus rashly in the villain's death, But that the extreme peril of the case, 45 The peace of England, and our persons' safety Enforced us to this execution? MAYOR Now fair befall you! He deserved his death, And your good Graces both have well proceeded To warn false traitors from the like attempts. 50 BUCKINGHAM I never looked for better at his hands After he once fell in with Mistress Shore. Yet had we not determined he should die Until your Lordship came to see his end (Which now the loving haste of these our friends, 55 Something against our meanings, have prevented), Because, my lord, I would have had you heard The traitor speak and timorously confess The manner and the purpose of his treasons, That you might well have signified the same 60 Unto the citizens, who haply may Misconster us in him, and wail his death. MAYOR But, my good lord, your Graces' words shall serve As well as I had seen and heard him speak; And do not doubt, right noble princes both, 65 But I'll acquaint our duteous citizens With all your just proceedings in this case. RICHARD And to that end we wished your Lordship here, T' avoid the censures of the carping world.

BUCKINGHAM

70. Which...intent: i.e., although you have come too late to fulfill our original intention for you

71. witness: i.e., bear witness to

73. Go after: i.e., follow (the Mayor)

74. **Guildhall:** the hall of the Corporation of the City of London, used for meetings, etc. (See page 190.) **in all post:** i.e., with all speed

75. at...time: i.e., at the most appropriate moment for you to do so

76. **Infer:** imply

77. them: i.e., the citizens of London

79. house: perhaps, alehouse

80. Which ... so: i.e., which was called the Crown because of the sign it bore

81. luxury: lechery

82. **change of lust:** i.e., always changing the object of his desire

85. raging: roving, wanton

87. for a need: i.e., if need be a selection in the second

88-89. went... Edward: i.e., was carrying in her womb the child who became this insatiable Edward

92. **the issue...begot:** i.e., the child (Edward) could not have been fathered by him

95. **touch:** i.e., touch on, mention; **as...off:** i.e., most tactfully

97. Doubt: fear

98. **golden fee:** i.e., the crown (which Buckingham will secure for Richard if he is successful in pleading, or persuading citizens of the illegitimacy of Edward IV and his heirs)

100. **Baynard's Castle:** Richard's residence on the north bank of the Thames River in London between Blackfriars and London Bridge (See page 180.)

Which since you come too late of our intent, Yet witness what you hear we did intend. And so, my good Lord Mayor, we bid farewell. Mayor exits. RICHARD Go after, after, cousin Buckingham. The Mayor towards Guildhall hies him in all post. There, at your meetest vantage of the time, Infer the bastardy of Edward's children. Tell them how Edward put to death a citizen Only for saying he would make his son Heir to the Crown-meaning indeed his house, Which, by the sign thereof, was termed so. 80 Moreover, urge his hateful luxury And bestial appetite in change of lust. Which stretched unto their servants, daughters. wives. Even where his raging eye or savage heart, 85 Without control, lusted to make a prey. Nay, for a need, thus far come near my person: Tell them when that my mother went with child Of that insatiate Edward, noble York My princely father then had wars in France, 90 And, by true computation of the time, Found that the issue was not his begot, Which well appeared in his lineaments, Being nothing like the noble duke my father. Yet touch this sparingly, as 'twere far off, 95 Because, my lord, you know my mother lives. BUCKINGHAM Doubt not, my lord. I'll play the orator As if the golden fee for which I plead Were for myself. And so, my lord, adieu. RICHARD If you thrive well, bring them to Baynard's Castle,

109. take . . . order: i.e., give a secret order

111. no manner person: i.e., no one whatsoever

112. recourse: access, admission

3.6 The professional scribe who has just finished transcribing Hastings' indictment shows how the charge against Hastings had been prepared and the transcribing begun long before Hastings had even been accused or arrested.

0 SD. Scrivener: professional copyist; notary (See page 182.)

2. in . . . engrossed: i.e., is now properly transcribed set hand: a style of handwriting used for copying legal documents fairly: clearly, legibly

3. read...Paul's: proclaimed at Paul's Cross, outside of St. Paul's Cathedral (See page 192.)

4. mark: notice; sequel: sequence (of events)

7. precedent . . . a-doing: i.e., the original from which my copy was made took just as long to write

8. within . . . hours: i.e., five hours ago

9. Untainted: free of allegations

10. Here's . . . while: i.e., what a world we live in: gross: stupid

Where you shall find me well accompanied With reverend fathers and well-learned bishops. BUCKINGHAM I go; and towards three or four o'clock Look for the news that the Guildhall affords. Buckingham exits. RICHARD Go, Lovell, with all speed to Doctor Shaa. To Ratcliffe. Go thou to Friar Penker. Bid them 105 both Meet me within this hour at Baynard's Castle. [Ratcliffe and Lovell] exit,

Now will I go to take some privy order To draw the brats of Clarence out of sight,

And to give order that no manner person Have any time recourse unto the Princes.

(He exits.)

110

5

10

Scene 67 Enter a Scrivener.

SCRIVENER

Here is the indictment of the good Lord Hastings, Which in a set hand fairly is engrossed, That it may be today read o'er in Paul's. And mark how well the sequel hangs together: Eleven hours I have spent to write it over, For yesternight by Catesby was it sent me: The precedent was full as long a-doing, And yet within these five hours Hastings lived. Untainted, unexamined, free, at liberty. Here's a good world the while! Who is so gross That cannot see this palpable device? Yet who so bold but says he sees it not?

10

15

20

14. ill: evil; must...thought: i.e., cannot be ut-

3.7 Richard and Buckingham, having failed to persuade London's officials and citizens that Richard should be king, stage a scene of Richard's great piety. Richard "yields" to the Mayor's plea that Richard accept the kingship.

0 SD. several: separate

4. Touched you: i.e., did you mention

5. **contract with:** i.e., engagement to; **Lady Lucy:** Elizabeth Lucy, one of Edward's mistresses

6. **by...France:** Edward sent the earl of Warwick as his **deputy** to France to secure a marriage to the Lady Bona, sister-in-law to the French king, but then changed his mind. (See Shakespeare's *Henry VI, Part 3* [2.6.90–103, 3.2, and 3.3].)

7. unsatiate: insatiable

8. enforcement: (sexual) forcing, compelling

9. **tyranny for trifles:** i.e., cruel sentences for small offenses

10. got: conceived

11. Duke: the duke of York, Richard's father

12. Withal: in addition; infer: mention

13. right idea: proper image

19. **slightly handled:** i.e., treated carelessly or slightingly

Bad is the world, and all will come to naught When such ill dealing must be seen in thought.

He exits

「Scene 7 Enter Richard and Buckingham at several doors.

RICHARD

How now, how now? What say the citizens?
BUCKINGHAM

Now, by the holy mother of our Lord, The citizens are mum, say not a word.

Touched you the bastardy of Edward's children?
BUCKINGHAM

I did; with his contract with Lady Lucy And his contract by deputy in France; Th' unsatiate greediness of his desire And his enforcement of the city wives: His tyranny for trifles; his own bastardy, As being got, your father then in France, And his resemblance being not like the Duke. Withal, I did infer your lineaments, Being the right idea of your father, Both in your form and nobleness of mind; Laid open all your victories in Scotland, Your discipline in war, wisdom in peace. Your bounty, virtue, fair humility; Indeed, left nothing fitting for your purpose Untouched or slightly handled in discourse. And when (mine) oratory drew toward end, I bid them that did love their country's good Cry "God save Richard, England's royal king!" RICHARD And did they so?

BUCKINGHAM

26	each	on	other:	i.e.	at	each	other
~V.	1 6 8 W 1 3 W	N.P.B.R.	ANDRES CA	2 1 2 1 1	are.	VULL	ULLLUI

30. Recorder: municipal legal official

33. inferred: reported

34. in warrant from himself: on his own authority

38. vantage of: i.e., opportunity provided by

42. brake: broke

45. brethren: i.e., fellow civic officials

46. Intend: i.e., pretend

47. but...suit: i.e., until you are most insis-

tently petitioned

50. **on...descant:** (1) on that plainsong or melody I'll raise a harmonious song; (2) on that basis I'll comment on your holiness

52. **Play...it:** Proverbial: "Maids say nay and take it." **still answer:** keep answering

53. An if: i.e., if; for them: i.e., on their behalf

55. happy issue: fortunate outcome

No. So God help me, they spake not a word	
But, like dumb statues or breathing stones,	25
Stared each on other and looked deadly pale;	. 200
Which when I saw, I reprehended them	
And asked the Mayor what meant this willful silence.	
His answer was, the people were not used	
To be spoke to but by the Recorder.	
Then he was urged to tell my tale again:	30
"Thus saith the Duke. Thus hath the Duke	
inferred"—	
But nothing spoke in warrant from himself.	1
When he had done, some followers of mine own,	
At lower and of the hall hand a series of mine own,	35
At lower end of the hall, hurled up their caps,	
And some ten voices cried "God save King Richard!"	
And thus I took the vantage of those few.	
"Thanks, gentle citizens and friends," quoth I.	
"This general applause and cheerful shout	40
Argues your (wisdoms) and your love to Richard"—	
And even here brake off and came away.	
RICHARD	
What tongueless blocks were they! Would they not	
speak?	
Will not the Mayor then and his brethren come?	45
BUCKINGHAM	
The Mayor is here at hand. Intend some fear;	
Be not you spoke with but by mighty suit.	
And look you get a prayer book in your hand	
And stand between two churchmen, good my lord,	
For on that ground I'll make a holy descant.	50
And be not easily won to our requests.	
Play the maid's part: still answer "nay," and take it.	
ICHARD	
I go. An if you plead as well for them	
As I can say "nay" to thee for myself.	
No doubt we bring it to - 1	55
Knocking within.	- ~

60

70

57. dance attendance: i.e., am left to kick my heels waiting (for Richard)

58. withal: with

64. in: i.e., by; worldly suits: secular petitions; moved: persuaded

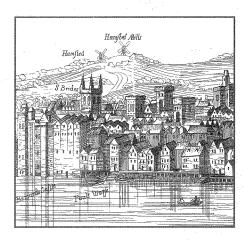
65. holy exercise: spiritual devotions

70. **conference**: conversation

71. **straight:** straightway, immediately

76. **deep:** learned 77. **engross:** fatten

78. watchful: unsleeping



Baynard's Castle. (3.5.100) From Claes Jansz Visscher, Londinum florentissima Britanniae urbs . . . [c. 1625].

BUCKINGHAM

Go, go, up to the leads. The Lord Mayor knocks. \(\bar{Richard}\gegin{array}{c} exits. \end{array}\)

Enter the Mayor and Citizens.

Welcome, my lord. I dance attendance here. I think the Duke will not be spoke withal.

Enter Catesby.

Now, Catesby, what says your lord to my request?

He doth entreat your Grace, my noble lord, To visit him tomorrow or next day. He is within, with two right reverend fathers, Divinely bent to meditation,

And in no worldly suits would he be moved To draw him from his holy exercise.

BUCKINGHAM

Return, good Catesby, to the gracious duke.
Tell him myself, the Mayor, and aldermen,
In deep designs, in matter of great moment
No less importing than our general good,

Are come to have some conference with his Grace. CATESBY

I'll signify so much unto him straight. He exits. BUCKINGHAM

Ah ha, my lord, this prince is not an Edward! He is not lolling on a lewd love-bed, But on his knees at meditation; Not dallying with a brace of courtesans, But meditating with two deep divines; Not sleeping, to engross his idle body, But praying, to enrich his watchful soul.

Happy were England would this virtuous prince

100

85. to what end: for what purpose

94. at their beads: i.e., praying (literally, saying the rosary)

95 SD. **aloft:** See page xlvi, above, for possible early staging practices.

98. stay: prevent; the ... vanity: i.e., sinning through vanity

100. to know: i.e., by which to identify



Scriveners at work. (3.6.0 SD) From Raphael Holinshed, *Chronicles of England* . . . (1577).

Take on his Grace the sovereignty thereof. 80 But sure I fear we shall not win him to it. MAYOR Marry, God defend his Grace should say us nay. BUCKINGHAM I fear he will. Here Catesby comes again. Enter Catesby. Now, Catesby, what says his Grace? CATESBY He wonders to what end you have assembled Such troops of citizens to come to him. His Grace not being warned thereof before. He fears, my lord, you mean no good to him. BUCKINGHAM Sorry I am my noble cousin should Suspect me that I mean no good to him. 90 By heaven, we come to him in perfect love, And so once more return and tell his Grace. (Catesby) exits. When holy and devout religious men Are at their beads, 'tis much to draw them thence, So sweet is zealous contemplation. 95 Enter Richard aloft, between two Bishops. Catesby reenters. MAYOR See where his Grace stands, 'tween two clergymen. BUCKINGHAM Two props of virtue for a Christian prince. To stay him from the fall of vanity; And, see, a book of prayer in his hand,

True ornaments to know a holy man.—

Lend favorable ear to our requests,

Famous Plantagenet, most gracious prince,

113. disgracious: displeasing

118. Else wherefore: otherwise why

121. office: position of authority

122. Your state of fortune: i.e., power and greatness awarded you by fortune

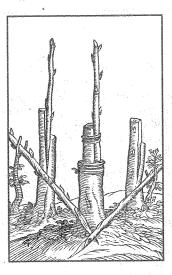
123. house: family

127. want ... limbs: lack her own limbs

129. graft: grafted (See below.)

130. **in:** i.e., into

132. recure: restore



"Stock graft with . . . plants." (3.7.129) From Marco Bussato, Giardino di agricoltura . . . (1599).

And pardon us the interruption Of thy devotion and right Christian zeal. RICHARD My lord, there needs no such apology. 105 I do beseech your Grace to pardon me, Who, earnest in the service of my God, Deferred the visitation of my friends. But, leaving this, what is your Grace's pleasure? BUCKINGHAM Even that, I hope, which pleaseth God above 110 And all good men of this ungoverned isle. RICHARD I do suspect I have done some offense That seems disgracious in the city's eye, And that you come to reprehend my ignorance. BUCKINGHAM You have, my lord. Would it might please your 115 Grace, On our entreaties, to amend your fault. RICHARD Else wherefore breathe I in a Christian land? BUCKINGHAM Know, then, it is your fault that you resign The supreme seat, the throne majestical, 120 The sceptered office of your ancestors, Your state of fortune, and your due of birth. The lineal glory of your royal house, To the corruption of a blemished stock, Whiles in the mildness of your sleepy thoughts. 125 Which here we waken to our country's good, The noble isle doth want (her) proper limbs— (Her) face defaced with scars of infamy, [Her] royal stock graft with ignoble plants, And almost shouldered in the swallowing gulf 130 Of dark forgetfulness and deep oblivion; Which to recure, we heartily solicit

136. factor: agent
137. successively to blood: i.e., succeeding
by right of immediate descent
138. empery: absolute dominion
139. consorted with: in the company of
140. worshipful: honorable
142. move: persuade
143. if: whether with the continue of the cont
145. fitteth: becomes; degree: rank; condition:
social status
146. not to: i.e., I do not; haply: perhaps
149. fondly: foolishly
150. If to: i.e., if I were to; suit: petition
152. on the other side: i.e., going to the other ex-
treme; checked: reprimanded
156-57. desert / Unmeritable: unworthiness (lit-
erally, "meritless merit")
159. that: if; even: straightforward, direct;
smooth
160. As birth: i.e., as my possession to claim
by right of birth
161. poverty of spirit: See Matthew 5.3: "Blessed
are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom
of heaven." (The parallel passage at Luke 6.20 is
glossed marginally in the Geneva Bible with this ex-
planation: "They that are humble and submit them-
selves willingly to obey God.")
163. my greatness: i.e., my title to the throne
164. bark: boat; brook: endure

	Nom.
Your gracious self to take on you the charge	
And kingly government of this your land,	
Not as Protector, steward, substitute,	135
Or lowly factor for another's gain,	133
But as successively, from blood to blood,	
Your right of birth, your empery, your own.	
For this, consorted with the citizens,	
Your very worshipful and loving friends,	1.10
And by their vehement instigation,	140
In this just cause come I to move your Grace.	
TOTTABB	
I cannot tell if to depart in silence	
Or hitterly to enock in your result of	
Or bitterly to speak in your reproof	
Best fitteth my degree or your condition.	145
If not to answer, you might haply think	
To be not be made in the made	
To bear the golden yoke of sovereignty,	
Which fondly you would here impose on me.	
If to reprove you for this suit of yours,	150
So seasoned with your faithful love to me,	
Then on the other side I checked my friends.	
Therefore, to speak, and to avoid the first,	
And then, in speaking, not to incur the last,	
Definitively thus I answer you:	155
Your love deserves my thanks, but my desert	
Unmeritable shuns your high request.	
First, if all obstacles were cut away	
And that my path were even to the crown	
As the ripe revenue and due of birth,	160
Yet so much is my poverty of spirit,	100
So mighty and so many my defects,	
That I would rather hide me from my greatness,	
Being a bark to brook no mighty sea,	
Than in my greatness covet to be hid	165
And in the vapor of my glory smothered.	103
But, God be thanked, there is no need of me,	

Richard III

168. I need: I lack

169. **The...fruit:** See Matthew 12.33: "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree evil, and his fruit evil: for the tree is known by his fruit."

170. stealing: i.e., imperceptively passing

171. become: grace, adorn

173. that: what, that which was a second of the

174. happy stars: i.e., fortunate destiny

176. **this...conscience:** i.e., this speech proves that there is conscientiousness

177. **the respects thereof:** the considerations supporting your argument; **nice:** slight

178. well: i.e., being well

179. Edward: i.e., Prince Edward

180. **Edward's:** i.e., **your brother's** (line 179), King Edward IV's

181. contract: contracted, engaged

184. sister: See note to 3.7.6.

185. **poor petitioner:** Elizabeth Grey, the Queen Elizabeth of this play (whom Edward met when she came to petition him for help). See *Henry VI*, *Part 3*, 3.2.

189. prize, purchase: plunder, booty

190. **Seduced:** enticed; **pitch:** i.e., pinnacle (literally, the highest point reached by a falcon in its flight); **degree:** rank

191. declension: falling away

192. got: i.e., begot, conceived

195. **some alive:** perhaps a reference to the duchess of York, King Edward IV's and Richard's mother

196. I...tongue: i.e., I speak with restraint

199. withal: as well

And much I need to help you, were there need. The royal tree hath left us royal fruit, Which, mellowed by the stealing hours of time. Will well become the seat of majesty. And make, no doubt, us happy by his reign. On him I lay that you would lay on me. The right and fortune of his happy stars. Which God defend that I should wring from him. 175 BUCKINGHAM My lord, this argues conscience in your Grace, But the respects thereof are nice and trivial, All circumstances well considered. You say that Edward is your brother's son: So say we too, but not by Edward's wife. 180 For first was he contract to Lady Lucy-Your mother lives a witness to his yow— And afterward by substitute betrothed To Bona, sister to the King of France. These both put off, a poor petitioner. 185 A care-crazed mother to a many sons, A beauty-waning and distressed widow. Even in the afternoon of her best days, Made prize and purchase of his wanton eye. Seduced the pitch and height of his degree 190 To base declension and loathed bigamy. By her in his unlawful bed he got This Edward, whom our manners call "the Prince." More bitterly could I expostulate, Save that, for reverence to some alive, 195 I give a sparing limit to my tongue. Then, good my lord, take to your royal self This proffered benefit of dignity, If not to bless us and the land withal. Yet to draw forth your noble ancestry 200 From the corruption of abusing times Unto a lineal, true-derivèd course.

210. as: being

213. **kind, effeminate remorse:** i.e., natural compassion

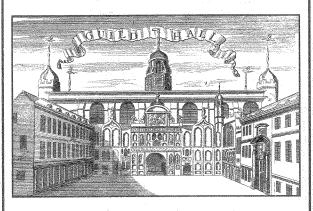
214. noted: observed; to: i.e., toward

215. all estates: all kinds of people

216. whe'er: i.e., whether

219. house: family

221. **Zounds:** i.e., God's or Christ's wounds (a strong oath)



Guildhall. (3.5.74)
From John Seller, A book of the prospects of . . .

London . . . (c. 1700?).

190

205

210

215

220

225

MAYOR

Do, good my lord. Your citizens entreat you.

Refuse not, mighty lord, this proffered love. CATESBY

O, make them joyful. Grant their lawful suit.

Alas, why would you heap this care on me? I am unfit for state and majesty. I do beseech you, take it not amiss:

I cannot, nor I will not, yield to you.

BUCKINGHAM

If you refuse it, as in love and zeal
Loath to depose the child, your brother's son—
As well we know your tenderness of heart
And gentle, kind, effeminate remorse.

Which we have noted in you to your kindred And equally indeed to all estates—

Yet know, whe'er you accept our suit or no, Your brother's son shall never reign our king, But we will plant some other in the throne,

To the disgrace and downfall of your house. And in this resolution here we leave you.—Come, citizens. (Zounds, I'll) entreat no more.

(RICHARD

O, do not swear, my lord of Buckingham!)

*Buckingham and some others exit.

CATESBY

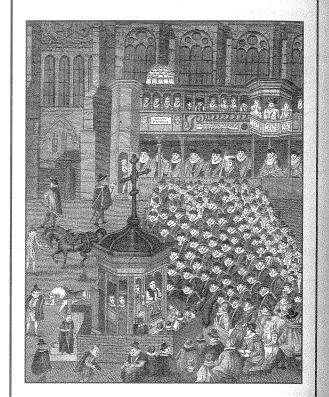
Call him again, sweet prince. Accept their suit. If you deny them, all the land will rue it.

RICHARD

Will you enforce me to a world of cares? Call them again. I am not made of stones, But penetrable to your kind entreaties, Albeit against my conscience and my soul.

Enter Buckingham and the rest.

230. Fortune: the goddess Fortuna235. mere: utter, absolute; acquittance: acquit



Paul's Cross. (3.6.3) From Robert Wilkinson, Londina illustrata . . . (1819–25).

	Cousin of Buckingham and sage, grave men,	
	Since you will buckle Fortune on my back	230
	10 bear her burden, whe'er I will or no	230
	I must have patience to endure the load.	
	But II black scandal or foul-faced reproach	
	Attend the sequel of your imposition	
	Your mere enforcement shall acquittance me	225
	rioui all the impure blots and stains thereof	235
	For God doin know, and you may partly see	
	How far I am from the desire of this.	
88000000	AYOR	
	God bless your Grace! We see it and will say it.	
KI.	CHARD	
	In saying so, you shall but say the truth.	240
Br	CKINGHAM	240
	Then I salute you with this royal title:	
	Long live Richard, England's worthy king!	
AL	L Amen.	
	CKINGHAM	
'	Tomorrow may it please you to be crowned?	
KIL	HARD	
	Even when you please, for you will have it so.	245
RO	CKINGHAM	245
_	Tomorrow, then, we will attend your Grace,	
I	and so most joyfully we take our leave	
RIC	HARD, to the Bishops	
(Come, let us to our holy work again	
I	Farewell, my (cousin.) Farewell, gentle friends.	
	They exit.	

The Tragedy of RICHARD III

ACT 4

- **4.1** Queen Elizabeth, her son Dorset, and the Duchess of York meet Lady Anne and Clarence's daughter as all approach the Tower to visit Prince Edward and the Duke of York. They are denied entry. Then Stanley comes to take Lady Anne to be crowned Richard's queen. At Elizabeth's urging, Dorset leaves for France to join Stanley's stepson, Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond.
- 1. **My niece Plantagenet:** The Duchess of York is referring to Clarence's daughter. Here, as often at the time, *niece* means granddaughter.
 - 3. for my life: a mild oath
 - 4. On: i.e., motivated by; tender: young
 - 5. Daughter: daughter-in-law
 - 8. sister: sister-in-law
- 10. **Upon...devotion:** i.e., to perform the same devout act
 - 11. gratulate: greet, salute

ACT 4

Scene 1

⟨Enter Queen 「Elizabeth, with the Duchess of York, 「and the Lord Marquess 「of Dorset, at one door; 「Anne, 」
Duchess of Gloucester 「with Clarence's daughter, at another door, 〉

DUCHESS

Who meets us here? My niece Plantagenet Led in the hand of her kind aunt of Gloucester? Now, for my life, she's wandering to the Tower, On pure heart's love, to greet the tender prince.— Daughter, well met.

ANNE God give your Graces both

A happy and a joyful time of day.
OUEEN ELIZABETH

As much to you, good sister. Whither away?

No farther than the Tower, and, as I guess, Upon the like devotion as yourselves, To gratulate the gentle princes there.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Kind sister, thanks. We'll enter all together.

Enter \[^1Brakenbury,^\] the Lieutenant.

And in good time here the Lieutenant comes.— Master Lieutenant, pray you, by your leave, How doth the Prince and my young son of York?

196

10

5

10

16.	Right:	very;	By	your	patience:	a	polite
phras	e reques	sting o	ne's :	indulge	nce or acqu	iies	scence

17. suffer: allow

18. charged: commanded

22. bounds: boundaries

25. in law: by marriage27. office: obligation, duty

28. leave it so: i.e., abdicate my responsibility

31. mother: mother-in-law

32. reverend looker-on: honored beholder; two fair queens: Queen Elizabeth and Anne (soon to be crowned)

34. Westminster: i.e., Westminster Abbey

36. lace: cord that closes the bodice of her dress

39. Despiteful: cruel, malicious

	BRAKENBURY	
	Right well, dear madam. By your patience,	
	I may not suffer you to visit them.	
	The King hath strictly charged the contrary.	
	QUEEN ELIZABETH	
	The King? Who's that?	
	BRAKENBURY I mean, the Lord Protector. QUEEN ELIZABETH	20
	The Lord protect him from that kingly title!	
	Hath he set bounds between their love and me?	
	I am their mother. Who shall bar me from them?	
	DUCHESS THE HOLL THE HOLL THE HOLL THE TIGHT T	
	I am their father's mother. I will see them.	
	ANNE	
	Their aunt I am in law, in love their mother.	25
	Then bring me to their sights. I'll bear thy blame	ديد
	And take thy office from thee, on my peril.	
	BRAKENBURY	
	No, madam, no. I may not leave it so.	
	I am bound by oath, and therefore pardon me.	
	Brakenbury the Lieutenant exits.	
	Enter Stanley.	
•	STANLEY	
	Let me but meet you ladies one hour hence,	30
	And I'll salute your Grace of York as mother	
	And reverend looker-on of two fair queens.	
	To Anne. Come, madam, you must straight to	
	westminster,	
	There to be crowned Richard's royal queen.	35
Ų	DUEEN ELIZABETH Ah, cut my lace asunder	
	That my pent heart may have some scope to beat,	
	Or else I swoon with this dead-killing news!	
Ą	NNE Doomite folders	
	Despiteful tidings! O, unpleasing news!	

46. hie thee: make haste

48. the thrall of: in bondage to

49. Nor...nor: i.e., neither...nor; counted: accounted, recognized, esteemed

53. **son:** stepson (i.e., Richmond)

55. ta'en: taken

56. ill: evil

58. **cockatrice:** a mythical creature whose glance was deadly, often identified with the basilisk (See below and page 34.)

62-63. the inclusive . . . metal: i.e., the crown

63. round: i.e., go around

68. humor: mood, state of feeling



A cockatrice. (1.2.164; 4.1.58) From Joachim Camerarius, Symbolorum et emblematum... (1605).

DORSET, To Queen Elizabeth Be of good cheer, mother. How fares your Grace? QUEEN ELIZABETH O Dorset, speak not to me. Get thee gone. Death and destruction dogs thee at thy heels. Thy mother's name is ominous to children. If thou wilt outstrip death, go, cross the seas, And live with Richmond, from the reach of hell. 45 Go, hie thee, hie thee from this slaughterhouse, Lest thou increase the number of the dead And make me die the thrall of Margaret's curse, Nor mother, wife, nor England's counted queen. STANLEY Full of wise care is this your counsel, madam. 50 To Dorset. Take all the swift advantage of the hours. You shall have letters from me to my son In your behalf, to meet you on the way. Be not ta'en tardy by unwise delay. 55 DUCHESS O ill-dispersing wind of misery! O my accursed womb, the bed of death! A cockatrice hast thou hatched to the world. Whose unavoided eye is murderous. STANLEY, To Anne? Come, madam, come. I in all haste was sent. ANNE And I with all unwillingness will go. O, would to God that the inclusive verge Of golden metal that must round my brow Were red-hot steel to sear me to the brains! Anointed let me be with deadly venom, 65 And die ere men can say "God save the Queen." QUEEN ELIZABETH Go, go, poor soul, I envy not thy glory.

To feed my humor, wish thyself no harm.

ANNE

70

90

95

70.	corse:	corps
-----	--------	-------

71. scarce: scarcely: his: i.e., Richard's

73. angel husband: i.e., Prince Edward, son of Henry VI

74. dear saint: i.e., Henry VI

84. Grossly: stupidly

86. hitherto: as yet

89. with: by; still: continually

90. for: because of

92. complaining: complaint

No? Why? When he that is my husband now Came to me as I followed Henry's corse, When scarce the blood was well washed from his hands	; .70
Which issued from my other angel husband	
And that dear saint which then I weeping followed	
o, when, I say, I looked on Richard's face	7-
ins was my wish: be thou, quoth I accurred	. 75
Tot making me, so young, so old a widow	
and, when thou wedd'st, let sorrow haunt thy had.	
And be thy wife, if any be so mad	
more iniserable by the life of thee was a second and the second an	- 80
I had wou hast made me by my dear lord's death	00
Lo, ere I can repeat this curse again	
Within so small a time my woman's heart	
Grossly grew captive to his honey words	
And proved the subject of mine own soul's curse,	85
Which hitherto hath held (my) eyes from rest,	

For never yet one hour in his bed Did I enjoy the golden dew of sleep, But with his timorous dreams was still awaked.

Besides, he hates me for my father Warwick, And will, no doubt, shortly be rid of me.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Poor heart, adieu. I pity thy complaining. ANNE

No more than with my soul I mourn for yours. DORSET

Farewell, thou woeful welcomer of glory. ANNE

Adieu, poor soul that tak'st thy leave of it. DUCHESS, Tto Dorset

Go thou to Richmond, and good fortune guide thee. To Anne. Go thou to Richard, and good angels tend thee.

106. envy: malice

108. Rude: harsh; playfellow: playmate

4.2 The newly crowned Richard asks Buckingham to arrange the deaths of Prince Edward and the Duke of York. When Buckingham resists the request, Richard procures "a discontented gentleman," James Tyrrel, to kill the boys. Richard decides to have Lady Anne killed and to marry Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV and Queen Elizabeth. He then refuses a promised earldom to Buckingham, and Buckingham flees.

1. apart: aside

8. Still live they: i.e., may they always continue

9-10. play...gold: test you to determine if you are real gold touch: touchstone current gold: genuine gold coin, used as currency (See page 210.)

mer "F. Se, Z	
To Queen Elizabeth. Go thou to sanctuary, and good thoughts possess thee. I to my grave, where peace and rest lie with me. Eighty-odd years of sorrow have I seen, And each hour's joy wracked with a week of teen. QUEEN ELIZABETH	100
Stay, yet look back with me unto the Tower.— Pity, you ancient stones, those tender babes Whom envy hath immured within your walls— Rough cradle for such little pretty ones. Rude ragged nurse, old sullen playfellow For tender princes, use my babies well.	105
So foolish sorrows bids your stones farewell.	110
They exit.	
Scene 2 Sound a sennet. Enter Richard in pomp; Buckingham, Catesby, Ratcliffe, Lovell, \(\text{rand others, including a Page.} \) RICHARD Stand all apart.—Cousin of Buckingham. \(\text{The others move aside.} \)	
BUCKINGHAM My gracious sovereign.	
Give me thy hand. (Here he ascendeth the throne.) Sound \(^1\) trumpets.\(^1\) Thus high, by thy advice And thy assistance is King Richard seated. But shall we wear these glories for a day, Or shall they last and we rejoice in them? BUCKINGHAM Still live they, and forever let them last. All Ruchingham are all the last.	5.
Ah, Buckingham, now do I play the touch, To try if thou be current gold indeed: Young Edward lives; think now what I would speak.	10

17. consequence: sequel

19. wont: accustomed

21. suddenly: immediately

26. **breath:** i.e., breathing space (in which to make a decision)

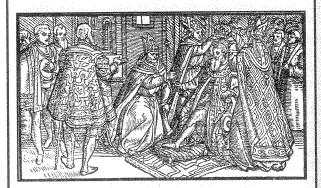
28. **resolve you:** make known to you my decision; **presently:** soon

30. I... with: i.e., I have no one to talk with but

31. **unrespective:** heedless; **are for me:** i.e., will be taken into my confidence

32. considerate: thoughtful, deliberate, prudent

37. close: secret



"Thus high... is King Richard seated." (4.2.4–5) From Raphael Holinshed, *Chronicles of England*... (1577).

206

BUCKINGHAM Say on, my loving lord.	
RICHARD	
Why, Buckingham, I say I would be king.	
BUCKINGHAM	
Why so you are, my thrice-renowned lord.	
RICHARD	
Ha! Am I king? 'Tis so—but Edward lives.	15
BUCKINGHAM	
True, noble prince.	
RICHARD O bitter consequence	
That Edward still should live "true noble prince"!	
Cousin, thou wast not wont to be so dull.	
Shall I be plain? I wish the bastards dead,	20
And I would have it suddenly performed.	
What sayst thou now? Speak suddenly. Be brief.	
BUCKINGHAM Your Grace may do your pleasure.	
RICHARD	
Tut, tut, thou art all ice; thy kindness freezes.	
Say, have I thy consent that they shall die?	25
BUCKINGHAM	
Give me some little breath, some pause, dear lord,	
Before I positively speak in this.	
I will resolve you herein presently.	
Buckingham exits.	
CATESBY, \(\sigma side to the other Attendants \)	
The King is angry. See, he gnaws his lip. RICHARD, $\lceil aside \rceil$	
I will converse with iron-witted fools	30
And unrespective boys. None are for me	
That look into me with considerate eyes.	
High-reaching Buckingham grows circumspect.— Boy!	
PAGE, Coming forward My lord?	
RICHARD	35
Know'st thou not any whom corrupting gold	
Will tempt unto a close exploit of death?	
compt auto a crose exploit of deatil!	

40. Gold ... orators: Proverbial: "Gold speaks."

45. **deep-revolving:** profoundly thoughtful; **witty:** wise, clever, cunning

47. held out: continued, endured

52. abides: resides

54. grievous: i.e., grievously

55. will ... close: i.e., command that she be kept hidden or secluded

56. **Inquire me out:** i.e., find for me; **mean:** low-born; **poor:** poverty-stricken

57. straight: straightway, immediately

59. dream'st: i.e., stand daydreaming; give out: announce

60. like: i.e., likely

61. About: i.e., set about; stands me much upon: i.e., is imperative for me

62. all hopes: i.e., (1) all who might hope to reign; or, (2) all hopes that are resting on potential rivals

63. **brother's daughter:** i.e., Elizabeth, daughter of King Edward IV (See page 234.)

PAGE I know a discontented gentleman Whose humble means match not his haughty spirit. Gold were as good as twenty orators. And will, no doubt, tempt him to anything. RICHARD What is his name? PAGE His name, my lord, is Tyrrel. RICHARD I partly know the man. Go, call him hither, boy. [Page] exits. 「Aside. The deep-revolving witty Buckingham No more shall be the neighbor to my counsels. Hath he so long held out with me, untired, And stops he now for breath? Well, be it so. Enter Stanley. How now, Lord Stanley, what's the news? STANLEY Know, my loving lord. 50 The Marquess Dorset, as I hear, is fled To Richmond, in the parts where he abides. THe walks aside. RICHARD Come hither, Catesby. Rumor it abroad That Anne my wife is very grievous sick. I will take order for her keeping close. 55 Inquire me out some mean poor gentleman. Whom I will marry straight to Clarence' daughter, The boy is foolish, and I fear not him. Look how thou dream'st! I say again, give out That Anne my queen is sick and like to die. 60 About it, for it stands me much upon To stop all hopes whose growth may damage me. Catesby exits. [Aside.] I must be married to my brother's daughter. Or else my kingdom stands on brittle glass.

66. of gain: i.e., to prosper

67. **pluck on sin:** i.e., draw more sin after it (In *Macbeth* a similar idea is expressed as "I am in blood / Stepped in so far that.../ Returning were as tedious as go o'er" [3.4.168–70].)

72. Prove: test

74. Please you: i.e., if it please you

75. deep: great

77. upon: i.e., with

79. open means to come: i.e., unobstructed access

82. by this token: Richard here hands Tyrrel an object that will show that he has Richard's authority to enter the prison.

84. prefer thee: i.e., promote you in rank or for-

tune



Testing gold on a touchstone. (4.2.9) From George Wither, A collection of emblemes... (1635).

Murder her brothers, and then marry her-65 Uncertain way of gain. But I am in So far in blood that sin will pluck on sin. Tear-falling pity dwells not in this eye. Enter Tyrrel. Is thy name Tyrrel? TYRREL James Tyrrel, and your most obedient subject. RICHARD Art thou indeed? TYRREI. Prove me, my gracious lord. RICHARD Dar'st thou resolve to kill a friend of mine? TYRREI. Please you. But I had rather kill two enemies. RICHARD Why then, thou hast it. Two deep enemies, 75 Foes to my rest, and my sweet sleep's disturbers, Are they that I would have thee deal upon. Tyrrel, I mean those bastards in the Tower. TYRREL Let me have open means to come to them, And soon I'll rid you from the fear of them. 80 RICHARD Thou sing'st sweet music. Hark, come hither, Tyrrel. Tyrrel approaches Richard and kneels. Go, by this token. Rise, and lend thine ear. Tyrrel rises, and Richard whispers to him. Then Tyrrel steps back. There is no more but so. Say it is done, And I will love thee and prefer thee for it. TYRREL I will dispatch it straight. He exits. 85

Enter Buckingham.

BUCKINGHAM

BUCKINGHAM My lord—

87. **late...in:** i.e., the request about which you recently sounded me out

90. he: i.e., Richmond

91. due: right

92. pawned: pledged

93-94. Th' earldom ... possess: See 3.1.197-99.

96. answer: i.e., answer for, be accountable for

98. remember me: i.e., remember

100. peevish: foolish

104. by: nearby

108. Rougemont: pronounced like "Richmond," and, like "Richmond," meaning "red hill"



Henry VI. (4.2.98)
From John Speed, The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine... (1627 [i.e., 1631]).

My lord, I have considered in my mind The late request that you did sound me in. RICHARD Well, let that rest. Dorset is fled to Richmond. BUCKINGHAM I hear the news, my lord. RICHARD Stanley, he is your wife's son. Well, look unto it. BUCKINGHAM My lord, I claim the gift, my due by promise, For which your honor and your faith is pawned— Th' earldom of (Hereford) and the movables Which you have promised I shall possess. RICHARD Stanley, look to your wife. If she convey Letters to Richmond, you shall answer it. BUCKINGHAM What says your Highness to my just request? RICHARD I do remember me, Henry the Sixth Did prophesy that Richmond should be king, When Richmond was a little peevish boy. 100 A king perhaps— BUCKINGHAM My lord— RICHARD How chance the prophet could not at that time Have told me, I being by, that I should kill him? BUCKINGHAM My lord, your promise for the earldom-105 RICHARD Richmond! When last I was at Exeter. The Mayor in courtesy showed me the castle And called it Rougemont, at which name I started, Because a bard of Ireland told me once I should not live long after I saw Richmond. 110

He exits.

112. what's o'clock: i.e., what time is it?

119. **jack:** i.e., a figure that strikes the bell on the outside of a clock; also, a lowborn fellow; **keep'st the stroke:** (1) continue to strike; (2) keep time (See page 230.)

120. Betwixt: between

124. deep: great, important

127. **Brecknock:** Buckingham's family estate in southeast Wales (See page 216.)

- **4.3** Tyrrel reports the deaths of Edward IV's sons. Richard then reveals that Anne is dead and that he will now woo his niece Elizabeth, whom Richmond also seeks in marriage. Ratcliffe informs Richard that Morton, Bishop of Ely, has fled to Richmond, and that Buckingham is "in the field." Richard musters his army.
 - 1. tyrannous: cruel
 - 2. most arch: preeminent
 - 4. who: i.e., whom
 - 6. fleshed villains: criminals initiated into killing

RICHARD Ay, what's o'clock?	
BUCKINGHAM	
I am thus bold to put your Grace in mind	
Of what you promised me.	
RICHARD Well, but what's o'clock?	115
BUCKINGHAM Upon the stroke of ten.	113
RICHARD Well, let it strike.	
BUCKINGHAM Why let it strike?	."
RICHARD	
Because that, like a jack, thou keep'st the stroke	
Betwixt thy begging and my meditation	120
I am not in the giving vein today.	
BUCKINGHAM	
Why then, resolve me whether you will or no.)	
RICHARD	
Thou troublest me; I am not in the vein.	
He exits, [「] and is followed by all but Buckingham. [¬]	
BUCKINGHAM	
And is it thus? Repays he my deep service	
With such contempt? Made I him king for this?	125
0, let me think on Hastings and be gone	
To Brecknock, while my fearful head is on!	

「Scene 3⁷ Enter Tyrrel.

TYRREI.

The tyrannous and bloody act is done,
The most arch deed of piteous massacre
That ever yet this land was guilty of.
Dighton and Forrest, who I did suborn
To do this piece of ruthless butchery,
Albeit they were fleshed villains, bloody dogs,
Melted with tenderness and mild compassion,

8. **their deaths' sad story:** i.e., the sad story of the princes' deaths

10. girdling: i.e., embracing

11. alabaster: i.e., white and smooth

19. replenishèd: full, perfect

20. prime: first; she framed: i.e., nature created

21. gone: destroyed, undone

23. this: i.e., these; bloody: bloodthirsty

26. gave in charge: i.e., ordered

34. after-supper: dessert

35. process: tale



The town and castle of Brecknock. (4.2.127) From John Speed, *The theatre of the empire of Great Britaine* . . . (1627 [i.e., 1631]).

Wept like two children in their deaths' sad story. "O thus," quoth Dighton, "lay the gentle babes." "Thus, thus," quoth Forrest, "girdling one another 10 Within their alabaster innocent arms. Their lips were four red roses on a stalk, And in their summer beauty kissed each other. A book of prayers on their pillow lay, Which (once,)" quoth Forrest, "almost changed my mind. But, O, the devil—" There the villain stopped; When Dighton thus told on: "We smothered The most replenished sweet work of nature That from the prime creation e'er she framed." 20 Hence both are gone with conscience and remorse; They could not speak; and so I left them both To bear this tidings to the bloody king, Enter Richard. And here he comes.—All health, my sovereign lord. RICHARD Kind Tyrrel, am I happy in thy news? TYRREL If to have done the thing you gave in charge Beget your happiness, be happy then, For it is done. But did'st thou see them dead? RICHARD TYRREL. I did, my lord. And buried, gentle Tyrrel? RICHARD TYRREI. The chaplain of the Tower hath buried them, But where, to say the truth, I do not know. RICHARD Come to me. Tyrrel, soon (at) after-supper, When thou shalt tell the process of their death. 35 Meantime, but think how I may do thee good,

They exit.

37. inheritor: possessor

40. pent up close: i.e., securely imprisoned

41. meanly: ignobly, basely

42. in Abraham's bosom: See Luke 16.22: "... the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom...."

46. by that knot: by virtue of marrying her; looks...crown: casts an arrogant look at the

crown

49. bluntly: abruptly, without ceremony

50. Morton: i.e., the bishop of Ely

52. in the field: i.e., on the march; power: army

53. near: closely, directly

55. **fearful commenting:** frightened or timorous talk

56. leaden servitor: indolent servant

58. expedition: speed

59. **Jove's Mercury:** Mercury was the god-messenger (often depicted with wings at his heels) used by Jove, king of the gods in Roman mythology. (See page 98.)

60. My...shield: i.e., instead of deliberating

(taking counsel), I will arm (and fight)

61. be brief: act quickly; brave the field: challenge us to fight

And be inheritor of thy desire.	
Farewell till then.	
TYRREL I humbly take my leave.	
⟨Tyrrel exits.⟩	
RICHARD	
The son of Clarence have I pent up close,	4(
His daughter meanly have I matched in marriage	
The sons of Edward sleep in Abraham's bosom	
And Anne my wife hath bid this world goodnight.	
Now, for I know the Breton Richmond aims	
At young Elizabeth, my brother's daughter,	45
And by that knot looks proudly on the crown,	
To her go I, a jolly thriving wooer.	
Enter Ratcliffe.	
RATCLIFFE My lord.	
RICHARD	
Good or bad news, that thou com'st in so bluntly?	
RATCLIFFE - AND LANGE OF CHARLES OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	
Bad news, my lord. Morton is fled to Richmond	50
And Buckingham, backed with the hardy Welshmen	
is in the field, and still his power increaseth.	
RICHARD	
Ely with Richmond troubles me more near	
Than Buckingham and his rash-levied strength.	
Come, I have learned that fearful commenting	55
Is leaden servitor to dull delay;	
Delay (leads) impotent and snail-paced beggary; Then fiery expedition be my wing,	
Jove's Mercury, and herald for a king.	
Go muster men My goungelie 1:11	
We must be brief when traitors brave the field.	50

Enter old Queen Margaret

4.4 Queen Margaret, Queen Elizabeth, and the Duchess of York grieve for their dead. Richard enters on his way to confront Buckingham's army, and he tries to persuade Queen Elizabeth to give him her daughter Elizabeth in marriage. Then a series of messengers bring Richard news of his enemies' maneuvers against him, and of Buckingham's capture.

5. induction: first part (of a play)

6. **will:** i.e., will go; **consequence:** i.e., what follows the **induction**

10. tender: young

11. **unblown:** unopened, still in the bud; **sweets:** flowers; darlings

13. doom: judgment

18. crazed: cracked, broken

20. Edward Plantagenet: probably Edward V (Plantagenet was the name of the whole English royal family, whether they were descendants of York or of Lancaster. See note on 1.2.153.)

21. quit: requite, pay for; balance

22. **dying debt:** i.e., debt that can be paid only by a death

23. fly: flee

25. When: i.e., whenever

Enter out Queen margaret.	
OUEEN MARGARET So now prosperity begins to mellow And drop into the rotten mouth of death. Here in these confines slyly have I lurked To watch the waning of mine enemies. A dire induction am I witness to, And will to France, hoping the consequence Will prove as bitter, black, and tragical. Withdraw thee, wretched Margaret. Who comes here? She steps aside. 1	
Enter Duchess (of York) and Queen [Elizabeth.]	
OUEEN ELIZABETH Ah, my poor princes! Ah, my tender babes, My (unblown) flowers, new-appearing sweets, If yet your gentle souls fly in the air And be not fixed in doom perpetual, Hover about me with your airy wings And hear your mother's lamentation. OUEEN MARGARET, 「aside 1 Hover about her; say that right for right Hath dimmed your infant morn to agèd night. DUCHESS	1
So many miseries have crazed my voice That my woe-wearied tongue is still and mute. Edward Plantagenet, why art thou dead? QUEEN MARGARET, faside Plantagenet doth quit Plantagenet; Edward for Edward pays a dying debt. QUEEN ELIZABETH Wilt thou, O God, fly from such gentle lambs	2(
And throw them in the entrails of the wolf?	

When didst thou sleep when such a deed was done? 25

26. Harry: i.e., Henry VI

30. abstract: epitome; record: pronounced record

33. that thou: i.e., if only England's lawful earth (line 31); afford: provide

35. hide my bones: be buried

38. **seigniory:** sovereignty (perhaps with a pun on *seniority*)

39. **on...hand:** from a position of superiority or precedence

41. Tell: count

44-45. Edward, Richard: Queen Elizabeth's young sons

46. Richard: i.e., her husband, the late duke of

York

47. holp'st: helped

51. dog...eyes: In Henry VI, Part 3, Richard describes the cry of women at his birth: "O Jesus bless us, he is born with teeth," adding "And so I was, which plainly signified / That I should snarl, and bite, and play the dog" (5.6.76–78). Queen Margaret refers to the fact that puppies are born blind.

53. excellent: preeminent, supreme

54. That reigns: who reigns

QUEEN MARGARET, [aside]	
When holy Harry died, and my sweet son.	
puchess, to Queen Elizabeth	
Dead life, blind sight, poor mortal living ghost,	
Woe's scene, world's shame, grave's due by life	
usurped,	
Brief abstract and record of tedious days,	30
Rest thy unrest on England's lawful earth,	
Unlawfully made drunk with innocent blood.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH, [as they both sit down]	
Ah, that thou wouldst as soon afford a grave	
As thou canst yield a melancholy seat,	
Then would I hide my bones, not rest them here.	35
Ah, who hath any cause to mourn but we?	
QUEEN MARGARET, Coming forward	
If ancient sorrow be most reverend,	
Give mine the benefit of seigniory,	
And let my griefs frown on the upper hand.	
If sorrow can admit society,	40
(Tell over your woes again by viewing mine.)	
I had an Edward till a Richard killed him;	
I had a husband till a Richard killed him.	
Thou hadst an Edward till a Richard killed him;	
Thou hadst a Richard till a Richard killed him.	45
I had a Richard too, and thou did'st kill him; I had a Rutland too; thou 「holp'st [†] to kill him.	
QUEEN MARGARET	
Thou hadst a Clarence too, and Richard killed him.	
From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept	
A hellhound that doth hunt us all to death—	50
That dog, that had his teeth before his eyes,	50
To worry lambs and lap their gentle blood;	
That excellent grand tyrant of the Earth,	
That reigns in gallèd eyes of weeping souls;	
That for first in gamed cycs of weeping sours,	

That foul defacer of God's handiwork

58. carnal: carnivorous, murderous

60. **pew-fellow:** i.e., fellow sufferer (literally, one sitting in the same church pew)

61. triumph: exult

64. cloy me: sate myself

65. Thy Edward: King Edward IV

66. other Edward: Edward V; quit: requite, pay for; balance

67. **but boot:** only thrown into the bargain to make up the difference between the **high perfection** (line 68) of Margaret's son Edward and the two Yorkist Edwards

70. frantic: insane

71. **adulterate:** adulterous (because of his relations with Mistress Shore)

72. smothered: hidden, concealed

73. intelligencer: spy

74. Only...factor: i.e., only held back from death so that he can be hell's agent

75. at hand: soon

79. bond: deed, lease

81–85. **O, thou . . . painted queen:** See 1.3.255–61 and notes. **shadow:** reflected image; actor

86. **presentation:** (1) representation; (2) theatrical presentation; **what I was:** i.e., what I was in actuality

87. **index:** prologue, preface; **direful:** terrible, calamitous

Thy womb let loose to chase us to our graves.	
O upright, just, and true-disposing God,	
How do I thank thee that this carnal cur	
Preys on the issue of his mother's body	1
And makes her pew-fellow with others' moan!	60
DUCHESS, [standing]	
O Harry's wife, triumph not in my woes!	
God witness with me, I have wept for thine.	
QUEEN MARGARET	1
Bear with me. I am hungry for revenge,	
And now I cloy me with beholding it.	
Thy Edward he is dead, that killed my Edward	65
(Thy) other Edward dead, to quit my Edward:	. 03
Young York, he is but boot, because both they	
Matched not the high perfection of my loss	
Thy Clarence he is dead that stabbed my Edward	
And the beholders of this frantic play.	70
Th' adulterate Hastings, Rivers, Vaughan, Grev	10
Untimely smothered in their dusky graves	
Richard yet lives, hell's black intelligencer	
Unly reserved their factor to buy souls	
And send them thither. But at hand, at hand	75
Ensues his piteous and unpitied end.	. 13
Earth gapes, hell burns, fiends roar, saints pray,	
To have him suddenly conveyed from hence.	
Cancel his bond of life, dear God I pray	
That I may live and say "The dog is dead."	0.0
UEEN ELIZABETH, [standing]	80
O, thou didst prophesy the time would come	
That I should wish for thee to help me curse	
That bottled spider, that foul bunch-backed toad!	
JEEN MARGARET	
I called thee then "vain flourish of my fortune."	
I called thee then poor shadow, "painted queen,"	0.5
The presentation of but what I was,	85
a transcription of the second	

The flattering index of a direful pageant,

88. **One heaved:** someone who was heaved; **a-high:** on high

91. shot: armed soldier

92. **sign:** i.e., empty symbol; **breath, bubble:** Proverbial: "Man is but a breath (or a bubble)."

93. scene: stage

96. sues: petitions

98. bending: bowing; peers: i.e., nobles

100. **Decline:** go through and recite (To **decline** a noun in a language that uses inflections is to recite its forms in the different cases: nominative, accusative, etc. Here, perhaps, **decline** also puns on the downward movement from happiness to unhappiness.)

101-7. For: i.e., instead of

104. very caitiff: true wretch

105. scorned at: mocked; scorned of: i.e., scorned by

106, 107. of: by

110. no more but thought: only thoughts

113. just: proper

114. **Now...yoke:** The image is of the two queens yoked together like oxen drawing a plow. The yoke, while coupling them, also burdens their necks.

One heaved a-high to be hurled down below, A mother only mocked with two fair babes, A dream of what thou wast, a garish flag To be the aim of every dangerous shot, A sign of dignity, a breath, a bubble, A queen in jest, only to fill the scene.	90
Where is thy husband now? Where be thy brothers? Where (are) thy two sons? Wherein dost thou joy? Who sues and kneels and says "God save the Queen?"	95
Where be the bending peers that flattered thee? Where be the thronging troops that followed thee?	
Decline all this, and see what now thou art: For happy wife, a most distressed widow; For joyful mother, one that wails the name; For one being sued to, one that humbly sues;	100
For queen, a very caitiff crowned with care:	
For she that scorned at me, now scorned of me; For she being feared of all, now fearing one;	105
For she commanding all, obeyed of none. Thus hath the course of justice whirled about	
And left thee but a very prey to time, Having no more but thought of what thou wast	110
To torture thee the more, being what thou art. Thou didst usurp my place, and dost thou not Usurp the just proportion of my sorrow?	
Now thy proud neck bears half my burdened yoke.	
From which even here I slip my (weary) head	115
And leave the burden of it all on thee. Farewell, York's wife, and queen of sad mischance.	
These English woes shall make me smile in France.	
She begins to exit.	

QUEEN ELIZABETH

O, thou well-skilled in curses, stay awhile, And teach me how to curse mine enemies.

126. Revolving: meditating on

127. quicken: enliven

132. succeeders ... joys: heirs to joys not passed on by the dead

139. copious: profuse; exclaims: exclamations, outcries

139 SD. As the textual note on page 331 shows, the quarto stage direction reads "Enter K. Richard marching with Drummes and Trumpets," making clear that Richard is off to war.

140. expedition: haste; military enterprise

141. intercepted: prevented, hindered

OUEEN MARGARET	
Forbear to sleep the (nights,) and fast the (days;)	
Compare dead happiness with living woe;	
Think that thy babes were sweeter than they were,	
And he that slew them fouler than he is.	
Bettering thy loss makes the bad causer worse.	12
Revolving this will teach thee how to curse.	I Au
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
My words are dull. O, quicken them with thine!	
QUEEN MARGARET	
Thy woes will make them sharp and pierce like	
mine, Margaret exits.	
DUCHESS	
Why should calamity be full of words?	130
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
Windy attorneys to their clients' woes,	
Airy succeeders of (intestate) joys,	
Poor breathing orators of miseries,	
Let them have scope; though what they will impart	
Help nothing else, yet do they ease the heart.	135
DUCHESS	
If so, then be not tongue-tied. Go with me,	
And in the breath of bitter words let's smother	
and the state of t	

My damned son that thy two sweet sons smothered.

「A trumpet sounds. ¬ The trumpet sounds. Be copious in exclaims.

Enter King Richard and his train, [including Catesby.]

RICHARD

Who intercepts me in my expedition? DUCHESS

140

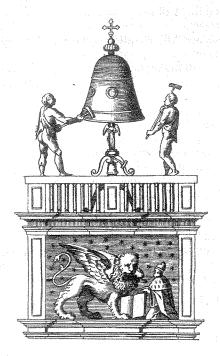
O, she that might have intercepted thee, By strangling thee in her accursed womb. From all the slaughters, wretch, that thou hast done. 146. owed: owned

153. **flourish:** trumpet call or fanfare; **alarum:** call to arms

156. patient: calm; fair: politely

157. report: resounding noise

163. brook: endure; accent: tone



"Like a jack, thou keep'st the stroke." (4.2.119) From Angelo Rocca, *De campanis commentarius*... (1612).

QUEEN ELIZABETH, To Richard Hid'st thou that forehead with a golden crown Where should be branded, if that right were right, The slaughter of the prince that owed that crown And the dire death of my poor sons and brothers? Tell me, thou villain-slave, where are my children? DUCHESS, [to Richard] Thou toad, thou toad, where is thy brother Clarence, And little Ned Plantagenet his son? QUEEN ELIZABETH. To Richard Where is the gentle Rivers, Vaughan, Grey? DUCHESS, To Richard Where is kind Hastings? RICHARD A flourish, trumpets! Strike alarum, drums! Let not the heavens hear these telltale women Rail on the Lord's anointed. Strike, I say! 155 Flourish. Alarums. Either be patient and entreat me fair. Or with the clamorous report of war Thus will I drown your exclamations. DUCHESS Art thou my son? RICHARD Ay, I thank God, my father, and yourself. 160 DUCHESS Then patiently hear my impatience. RICHARD Madam, I have a touch of your condition, That cannot brook the accent of reproof. DUCHESS O, let me speak! RICHARD Do then, but I'll not hear. 165 DUCHESS I will be mild and gentle in my words. RICHARD

And brief, good mother, for I am in haste.

Charlest Annual Transport	200000000000000000000000000000000000000								
168	ctaved.	tunited	(in	the	labor	of cl	hildh	nirth)	١

171. Holy Rood: cross on which Christ died

174. wayward: disobedient

175. frightful: frightening

177. prime of: i.e., early

178. age confirmed: maturity

179. kind in hatred: Richard says of himself in Henry VI, Part 3, "I can smile, and murder whiles I smile, . . . / And wet my cheeks with artificial tears" (3.2.184-86).

180. comfortable: pleasant, cheering

182. Humfrey Hower: This name has eluded editorial explanation—beyond the obvious pun on Hower/hour (line 180).

184. forth of: from

185. disgracious: displeasing 185. disgracional 194. turn: i.e., return

DUCHESS	
Art thou so hasty? I have stayed for thee,	
God knows, in torment and in agony.	
RICHARD	
And came I not at last to comfort you?	170
DUCHESS	170
No, by the Holy Rood, thou know'st it well.	
Thou cam'st on Earth to make the Earth my hell.	
A grievous burden was thy birth to me;	
Tetchy and wayward was thy infancy;	
Thy school days frightful, desp'rate, wild, and	175
furious;	
Thy prime of manhood daring, bold, and venturous;	
Thy age confirmed, proud, subtle, sly, and bloody,	
More mild, but yet more harmful, kind in hatred.	
What comfortable hour canst thou name,	180
That ever graced me with thy company?	100
ICHARD	
Faith, none but Humfrey Hower, that called your	
Grace	
To breakfast once, forth of my company.	.;
If I be so disgracious in your eye,	185
Let me march on and not offend you, madam.—	-
Strike up the drum.	
UCHESS I prithee, hear me speak.	
ICHARD	
You speak too bitterly.	
UCHESS Hear me a word,	190
For I shall never speak to thee again.	
CHARD So.	
UCHESS	
Either thou wilt die by God's just ordinance	
Ere from this war thou turn a conqueror,	
Or I with grief and extreme age shall perish	195
And nevermore behold thy face again.	
Therefore take with thee my most grious are	

D

R

202. Whisper: i.e., whisper to

204. Bloody: bloodthirsty; blood-covered

211. For my daughters: i.e., as for my daughters

213. level: aim

217. manners: morals

220. So: i.e., in order that; of: i.e., by

224. safest... birth: i.e., most secure only because she is Edward's child



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

Which in the day of battle tire thee more Than all the complete armor that thou wear'st. My prayers on the adverse party fight, 200 And there the little souls of Edward's children Whisper the spirits of thine enemies And promise them success and victory. Bloody thou art; bloody will be thy end. Shame serves thy life and doth thy death attend. She exits. OUEEN ELIZABETH Though far more cause, yet much less spirit to curse Abides in me. I say amen to her. Stay, madam. I must talk a word with you. QUEEN ELIZABETH I have no more sons of the royal blood 210 For thee to slaughter. For my daughters, Richard, They shall be praying nuns, not weeping queens. And therefore level not to hit their lives. RICHARD You have a daughter called Elizabeth, Virtuous and fair, royal and gracious. 215 QUEEN ELIZABETH And must she die for this? O, let her live, And I'll corrupt her manners, stain her beauty, Slander myself as false to Edward's bed. Throw over her the veil of infamy. So she may live unscarred of bleeding slaughter, 220 I will confess she was not Edward's daughter. RICHARD Wrong not her birth. She is a royal princess. **QUEEN ELIZABETH** To save her life, I'll say she is not so.

234

RICHARD

Her life is safest only in her birth.

226.	opposite:	hostile.	adverse

227. ill: evil; friends: kin, relatives

228. unavoided: unavoidable

229. **avoided grace:** i.e., Richard, who has refused the divine grace offered to him

230. fairer death: i.e., death without violence

231. fairer life: i.e., a less blemished life

233. **cozened:** cheated (Proverbial: "Call me cousin, but cozen me not.")

235. Whose hand soever: i.e., whosoever's hand; launched: pierced

236. **indirectly:** (1) not in express terms; (2) wrongfully

240. still use of grief: continual grieving

243–45. And I... bosom: The image she uses for her earlier "wild grief" (line 240) is of herself as a sailing ship, stripped of sails and tackling, trapped in an extremely dangerous and deadly bay, being dashed to pieces against the rocks (here, Richard's heart). reft: bereft, robbed

246–48. **so thrive I...As I intend:** i.e., may I prevail...to the extent that I intend **success:** results, consequences

251. discovered: uncovered, revealed

QUEEN ELIZABETH	
And only in that safety died her brothers.	225
RICHARD	
Lo, at their birth good stars were opposite.	,
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
No, to their lives ill friends were contrary.	
RICHARD	
All unavoided is the doom of destiny.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
True, when avoided grace makes destiny.	
My babes were destined to a fairer death	230
If grace had blessed thee with a fairer life.	
RICHARD	
You speak as if that I had slain my cousins.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
Cousins, indeed, and by their uncle cozened	
Of comfort, kingdom, kindred, freedom, life.	
Whose hand soever launched their tender hearts,	235
Thy head, all indirectly, gave direction.	
No doubt the murd'rous knife was dull and blunt	
Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart,	
To revel in the entrails of my lambs.	
But that still use of grief makes wild grief tame,	240
My tongue should to thy ears not name my boys	
Till that my nails were anchored in thine eyes,	
And I, in such a desp'rate bay of death,	
Like a poor bark of sails and tackling reft,	
Rush all to pieces on thy rocky bosom.	245
UCHARD	
Madam, so thrive I in my enterprise	
And dangerous success of bloody wars	
As I intend more good to you and yours	
Than ever you (or) yours by me were harmed!	
UEEN ELIZABETH	
What good is covered with the face of heaven,	250
To be discovered, that can do me good?	

255. type: symbol 256. report: an account 257. state: rank 258. demise: transmit, convey 260. withal: moreover, in addition 261–62. Sowrongs: provided you will forget the wrongs Lethe: the river of forgetfulness in the underworld of classical mythology 264. process: narrative 265. Lastdate: last in the telling beyond the duration of your kindness 269, 270, 271. from: contrary to 272. confound: spoil, corrupt	
212. Comound Spon, con apr	

RICHARD	
Th' advancement of your children, gentle lady.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
Up to some scaffold, there to lose their heads.	
RICHARD	
Unto the dignity and height of fortune,	
The high imperial type of this Earth's glory.	255
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
Flatter my sorrow with report of it.	
Tell me what state, what dignity, what honor,	
Canst thou demise to any child of mine?	
RICHARD	
Even all I have—ay, and myself and all—	
Will I withal endow a child of thine;	260
So in the Lethe of thy angry soul	
Thou drown the sad remembrance of those wrongs	
Which thou supposest I have done to thee.	
Be brief, lest that the process of thy kindness Last longer telling than thy kindness' date.	
RICHARD	265
Then know that from my soul I love thy daughter.	
OUEEN ELIZABETH	
My daughter's mother thinks it with her soul.	
RICHARD What do you think?	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
That thou dost love my daughter from thy soul.	
So from thy soul's love didst thou love her brothers,	270
And from my heart's love I do thank thee for it.	210
RICHARD	
Be not so hasty to confound my meaning.	
I mean that with my soul I love thy daughter	
And do intend to make her Queen of England.	
DUEEN ELIZABETH	
Well then, who dost thou mean shall be her king?	275

RICHARD

QUEEN ELIZABETH

280.	of	you:	i.e.,	from	you

281. humor: disposition

286. haply: perhaps

287. **sometime:** once

290. **purple:** i.e., crimson 291. **withal:** i.e., with it

294, 296. mad'st away, Mad'st quick convey-

ance with: i.e., killed

298. To win: i.e., for me successfully to woo

304. spoil: slaughter

Even he that makes her queen. Who else should be?	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
What, thou?	
RICHARD Even so. How think you of it?	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
How canst thou woo her?	
RICHARD That (would I) learn of you,	28
As one being best acquainted with her humor.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH And wilt thou learn of me?	
RICHARD Madam, with all my heart.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	
Send to her, by the man that slew her brothers,	
A pair of bleeding hearts; thereon engrave	28
"Edward" and "York." Then haply will she weep.	
Therefore present to her—as sometime Margaret	
Did to thy father, steeped in Rutland's blood—	
A handkerchief, which say to her did drain	
The purple sap from her sweet brother's body,	29
And bid her wipe her weeping eyes withal.	
If this inducement move her not to love,	
Send her a letter of thy noble deeds;	
Tell her thou mad'st away her uncle Clarence,	
Her uncle Rivers, ay, and for her sake	29
Mad'st quick conveyance with her good aunt Anne.	
RICHARD	
You mock me, madam. This (is) not the way	
To win your daughter.	
QUEEN ELIZABETH There is no other way,	
Unless thou couldst put on some other shape	300
And not be Richard, that hath done all this.	
RICHARD	
Say that I did all this for love of her.	

Nay, then indeed she cannot choose but hate thee, Having bought love with such a bloody spoil.

305.	In	ak	what	· wh	atever

306. **shall deal unadvisedly:** i.e., may act imprudently

307. Which ... repent: i.e., for which they can later repent

311. **quicken your increase:** i.e., give life to your offspring

314. doting ... mother: i.e., title of a doting mother

315. as...below: i.e., one step below being your own children

316. **metal:** substance; **very:** own

317. pain: labor, effort

317–18. save...sorrow: i.e., except for a night in labor endured by your daughter Elizabeth, for whom you endured the same pains bid: underwent, suffered (past tense of "bide")

323. would: wish, would like to

324. can: am capable of

334. What: interjection introducing an exclamation or question

337. Advantaging their love: i.e., increasing in worth the love that inspired them

Look what is done cannot be now amended.	305
Men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes,	1
Which after-hours gives leisure to repent.	
If I did take the kingdom from your sons,	
To make amends I'll give it to your daughter.	
If I have killed the issue of your womb,	310
To quicken your increase I will beget	
Mine issue of your blood upon your daughter.	
A grandam's name is little less in love	
Than is the doting title of a mother.	
They are as children but one step below,	315
Even of your metal, of your very blood,	
Of all one pain, save for a night of groans	
Endured of her for whom you bid like sorrow.	
Your children were vexation to your youth,	
But mine shall be a comfort to your age.	320
The loss you have is but a son being king,	
And by that loss your daughter is made queen.	
I cannot make you what amends I would;	
Therefore accept such kindness as I can.	
Dorset your son, that with a fearful soul	325
Leads discontented steps in foreign soil,	
This fair alliance quickly shall call home	
To high promotions and great dignity.	3
The king that calls your beauteous daughter wife	
Familiarly shall call thy Dorset brother.	330
Again shall you be mother to a king,	4
And all the ruins of distressful times	ŝ
Repaired with double riches of content.	
What, we have many goodly days to see!	
	335
Shall come again, transformed to orient pearl,	i i
Advantaging their love with interest	
Of ten times double gain of happiness.	
Go then, my mother; to thy daughter go.	

leaves awarded a Roman general on his return from a conquest (See below.)

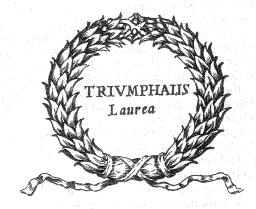
349. retail: recount, tell

357. Infer: mention, argue

360. at her hands: from her; King's King: i.e., God (The church forbade marriage between uncle and niece.)

362. vail: abase, lower (in subjection)

365. **in force:** in effect, operative (with perhaps some wordplay on the word **force**)



"Triumphant garlands." (4.4.347) From Giacomo Lauri, Antiquae vrbis splendor (1612–15).

Make bold her bashful years with your experience: Prepare her ears to hear a wooer's tale: Put in her tender heart th' aspiring flame Of golden sovereignty; acquaint the Princess With the sweet silent hours of marriage joys; And when this arm of mine hath chastised The petty rebel, dull-brained Buckingham, Bound with triumphant garlands will I come And lead thy daughter to a conqueror's bed, To whom I will retail my conquest won. And she shall be sole victoress, Caesar's Caesar. 350 **OUEEN ELIZABETH** What were I best to say? Her father's brother Would be her lord? Or shall I say her uncle? Or he that slew her brothers and her uncles? Under what title shall I woo for thee, That God, the law, my honor, and her love 355 Can make seem pleasing to her tender years? RICHARD Infer fair England's peace by this alliance. QUEEN ELIZABETH Which she shall purchase with still-lasting war. RICHARD Tell her the King, that may command, entreats— **OUEEN ELIZABETH** That, at her hands, which the King's King forbids. 360 RICHARD Say she shall be a high and mighty queen. OUEEN ELIZABETH To vail the title, as her mother doth. RICHARD Say I will love her everlastingly. OUEEN ELIZABETH But how long shall that title "ever" last? Sweetly in force unto her fair life's end.

375

366. fairly: i.e., without foul play

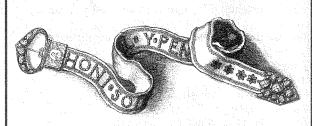
368. likes of: i.e., likes

372. speeds: succeeds

375. **reasons:** arguments; **quick:** hasty (Queen Elizabeth's reply plays on the words **reasons** ["motives, grounds"], **shallow**, and **quick** ["alive"].)

380. **George, Garter:** emblems of knighthood in the Order of the Garter (This reference is anachronistic, since the **George**, an ornament bearing a figure of St. George and forming part of the insignia of the Order of the Garter, dates only from the sixteenth century. See below, and page 248.)

384. his: i.e., its



A garter. (4.4.380)
From Elias Ashmole, The institution, laws & ceremonies of the . . . Order of the Garter . . . (1672).

QUEEN ELIZABETH

But how long fairly shall her sweet life last?

As long as heaven and nature lengthens it. OUEEN ELIZABETH

As long as hell and Richard likes of it. RICHARD

Say I, her sovereign, am her subject low. OUEEN ELIZABETH

But she, your subject, loathes such sovereignty.

Be eloquent in my behalf to her. QUEEN ELIZABETH

An honest tale speeds best being plainly told.

Then plainly to her tell my loving tale.
OUEEN ELIZABETH

Plain and not honest is too harsh a style. RICHARD

Your reasons are too shallow and too quick.
QUEEN ELIZABETH

O no, my reasons are too deep and dead— Too deep and dead, poor infants, in their graves. RICHARD

(Harp not on that string, madam; that is past. QUEEN ELIZABETH

Harp on it still shall I till heart-strings break.

Now by my George, my Garter, and my crown— QUEEN ELIZABETH

Profaned, dishonored, and the third usurped. RICHARD

I swear-

QUEEN ELIZABETH By nothing, for this is no oath.

Thy George, profaned, hath lost his lordly honor;

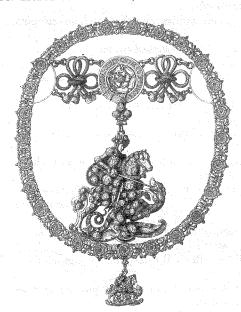
246

399. unity: reconciliation (between Richard's faction and the Queen's in 2.1)

405-6. **two...worms:** See Job 21.26: "They shall sleep both in the dust and the worms shall cover them."

409. o'erpast: i.e., already past

411. Hereafter time: i.e., future time



A George. (4.4.380)
From Elias Ashmole, The institution, laws & ceremonies of the ... Order of the Garter ... (1672).

Thy Garter, blemished, pawned his knightly virtue; 385 Thy crown, usurped, disgraced his kingly glory. If something thou wouldst swear to be believed. Swear then by something that thou hast not wronged. RICHARD Then, by myself-390 Thyself is self-misused. QUEEN ELIZABETH RICHARD Now, by the world-Tis full of thy foul wrongs. OUEEN ELIZABETH RICHARD My father's death-Thy life hath it dishonored. **QUEEN ELIZABETH** 395 RICHARD Why then, by (God.) QUEEN ELIZABETH (God's) wrong is most of all. If thou didst fear to break an oath with Him, The unity the King my husband made Thou hadst not broken, nor my brothers died. 400 If thou hadst feared to break an oath by Him, Th' imperial metal circling now thy head Had graced the tender temples of my child, And both the Princes had been breathing here. Which now, two tender bedfellows for dust. 405 Thy broken faith hath made the prey for worms. What canst thou swear by now? The time to come. RICHARD QUEEN ELIZABETH That thou hast wronged in the time o'erpast: For I myself have many tears to wash 410 Hereafter time, for time past wronged by thee. The children live whose fathers thou hast slaughtered. Ungoverned youth, to wail it (in) their age;

RICHARD

butchered.

415

420

422. Myself myself confound: may I destroy myself

423. Heaven: may Heaven

425. opposite: adverse, hostile

428. tender: regard, esteem

436. attorney: advocate, pleader

440. peevish: foolish

441. of: i.e., by



"... from the crossrow plucks the letter *G*." (1.1.59) From Andrew W. Tuer, *History of the horn-book*... (1896).

So thrive I in my dangerous affairs Of hostile arms! Myself myself confound, Heaven and fortune bar me happy hours, Day, yield me not thy light, nor night thy rest. Be opposite all planets of good luck 425 To my proceeding if, with dear heart's love, Immaculate devotion, holy thoughts, I tender not thy beauteous princely daughter. In her consists my happiness and thine. Without her follows to myself and thee, 430 Herself, the land, and many a Christian soul, Death, desolation, ruin, and decay. It cannot be avoided but by this; It will not be avoided but by this. Therefore, dear mother—I must call you so— 435 Be the attorney of my love to her; Plead what I will be, not what I have been: Not my deserts, but what I will deserve. Urge the necessity and state of times, And be not peevish found in great designs. **QUEEN ELIZABETH** Shall I be tempted of the devil thus? Ay, if the devil tempt you to do good. QUEEN ELIZABETH Shall I forget myself to be myself? RICHARD Ay, if your self's remembrance wrong yourself. QUEEN ELIZABETH Yet thou didst kill my children. 445

Richard III

The parents live whose children thou hast

Old barren plants, to wail it with their age.

As I intend to prosper and repent,

Swear not by time to come, for that thou hast

Misused ere used, by times ill-used (o'erpast.)

250

447. nest of spicery: perhaps an allusion to the
nest of aromatic boughs and spices in which, ac-
cording to ancient legend, the phoenix destroys it-
calf and from which the new phoenix arises

448. recomforture: consolation

457. Rideth: lies at anchor

458. doubtful: i.e., doubt-filled

459, 460. **them, their:** references to the **puissant navy** (line 457)

461. **hull:** drift, with sails furled

463. **light-foot:** lightly treading; hence, swift; **post:** travel at full speed (i.e., by post-horses)

468. convenient: suitable, appropriate

469. **Salisbury:** a town southwest of London at the edge of Salisbury Plain

RICHARD But in your daughter's womb I bury them. Where, in that nest of spicery, they will breed Selves of themselves, to your recomforture. OUEEN ELIZABETH Shall I go win my daughter to thy will? RICHARD And be a happy mother by the deed. 450 QUEEN ELIZABETH I go. Write to me very shortly. And you shall understand from me her mind. RICHARD Bear her my true love's kiss; and so, farewell. Oueen exits Relenting fool and shallow, changing woman! Enter Ratcliffe. How now, what news? 455 RATCLIFFE Most mighty sovereign, on the western coast Rideth a puissant navy. To our shores Throng many doubtful hollow-hearted friends. Unarmed and unresolved to beat them back. 'Tis thought that Richmond is their admiral; 460 And there they hull, expecting but the aid Of Buckingham to welcome them ashore. RICHARD Some light-foot friend post to the Duke of Norfolk-Ratcliffe thyself, or Catesby. Where is he? 465 CATESBY Here, my good lord. RICHARD Catesby, fly to the Duke. CATESBY I will, my lord, with all convenient haste.

Ratcliffe, come hither. Post to Salisbury.

RICHARD

471. villain: rascal, scoundrel
474. deliver: say
475. levy: muster up; straight: straightway, im-
mediately
476. The greatest make: i.e., the largest army
possible for him
477. suddenly: immediately
481. before: ahead, in advance
486. Hoyday: heyday, a sarcastic expression of
delight or surprise
488. the nearest way: i.e., directly
492. White-livered: cowardly; runagate: rene-
gade, fugitive, vagabond

When thou com'st thither—「To Catesby. ☐ Dull, unmindful villain,	470
Why stay'st thou here and go'st not to the Duke?	
CATESBY	
First, mighty liege, tell me your Highness' pleasure,	
What from your Grace I shall deliver to him.	
RICHARD 1 1927 1927 1928 1928 1921	
O true, good Catesby. Bid him levy straight	475
The greatest strength and power that he can make	
And meet me suddenly at Salisbury.	
CATESBY I go. He exits.	
RATCLIFFE TO A SECRET OF THE S	
What, may it please you, shall I do at Salisbury?	
RICHARD	
Why, what wouldst thou do there before I go?	480
Your Highness told me I should post before.	
My mind is changed.	
my mind is changed.	
Enter Lord Stanley.	
Stanley, what news with you?	
None good, my liege, to please you with the hearing,	
Nor none so bad but well may be reported.	405
RICHARD	485
Hoyday, a riddle! Neither good nor bad.	
What need'st thou run so many miles about	
When thou mayst tell thy tale the nearest way?	
Once more, what news?	
STANLEY Richmond is on the seas.	490
RICHARD	
There let him sink, and be the seas on him!	•
White-livered runagate, what doth he there?	
STANLEY	
I know not, mighty sovereign, but by guess.	

DICHARD Well as you diese?

swayed: i.e., without a ruler, uncontrolled

499. York: perhaps, the first duke of York, one of the sons of Edward III; or, perhaps, the third duke of York, father of Edward IV and of Richard; we: i.e., I (the royal "we")

501. makes: i.e., does

502. that: i.e., to claim the crown

504. **Welshman:** Richmond was a descendant of Owen Tudor (a Welshman) and Katherine of Valois. (See "The Line of Edward III," pages 2–3, above.)

506. **Therefore...not:** do not mistrust me for that reason, on that account

507. power: army

517. what time: i.e., when

Moning 11011, as you gaess.	
STANLEY	
Stirred up by Dorset, Buckingham, and Morton,	495
He makes for England, here to claim the crown.	
RICHARD	
Is the chair empty? Is the sword unswayed?	
Is the King dead, the empire unpossessed?	
What heir of York is there alive but we?	
And who is England's king but great York's heir?	500
Then tell me, what makes he upon the seas?	
STANLEY	
Unless for that, my liege, I cannot guess.	
RICHARD	è
Unless for that he comes to be your liege,	
You cannot guess wherefore the Welshman comes.	
Thou wilt revolt and fly to him, I fear.	505
STANLEY	3
No, my good lord. Therefore mistrust me not.	
RICHARD	
Where is thy power, then, to beat him back?	
Where be thy tenants and thy followers?	
Are they not now upon the western shore,	
Safe-conducting the rebels from their ships?	510
STANLEY	
No, my good lord. My friends are in the north.	
RICHARD	
Cold friends to me. What do they in the north	
When they should serve their sovereign in the west?	
STANLEY	
They have not been commanded, mighty king.	
Pleaseth your Majesty to give me leave,	515
I'll muster up my friends and meet your Grace	
Where and what time your Majesty shall please.	
Ay, thou wouldst be gone to join with Richmond,	

	259 Richard III ACT 4. Sc. 4	4
524. Look: i.e., take care that 527. Devonshire: county in the southwest of England 528. advertised: informed 532. Kent: county just southeast of London 533. competitors: associates 534. power: army 536. Out on you: expression of impatience; owlsdeath: The cry of the screech owl was believed to be an omen of death.	STANLEY Most mighty sovereign, You have no cause to hold my friendship doubtful. I never was nor never will be false. RICHARD Go then and muster men, but leave behind Your son George Stanley. Look your heart be firm, Or else his head's assurance is but frail. STANLEY So deal with him as I prove true to you. Stanley exits.	520 525
	Enter a Messenger.	
	FIRST MESSENGER My gracious sovereign, now in Devonshire, As I by friends am well advertised, Sir Edward Courtney and the haughty prelate, Bishop of Exeter, his elder brother, With many more confederates are in arms.	530
	Enter another Messenger.	
	「second」 Messenger In Kent, my liege, the Guilfords are in arms, And every hour more competitors Flock to the rebels, and their power grows strong.	1
	Enter another Messenger.	
	THIRD MESSENGER My lord, the army of great Buckingham— RICHARD	535
	Out on you, owls! Nothing but songs of death. He striketh him.	
	There, take thou that till thou bring better news. THIRD MESSENGER The news I have to tell your Majesty	
258	Is that by sudden floods and fall of waters Buckingham's army is dispersed and scattered,	540

	I mercy: I beg your pardon.
	well-advisèd: cautious, prudent
	Yorkshire: in the north of England
551.	Breton: i.e., from Brittany, in the north of
	Me <mark>ringki</mark> ski brok, halar mangapi sirikking maga
552.	Dorsetshire: on the south coast of England
	Hoised: hoisted
563.	Milford: Milford Haven, on the coast of
Wales	g gjarnikenjek bete britisj byt tjulition (1967)
565.	reason: converse

The state of the s	
And he himself wandered away alone, No man knows whither.	
RICHARD I cry thee mercy.	
There is my purse to cure that blow of thine.	1
Hath any well-advised friend proclaimed	
Reward to him that brings the traitor in?	545
THIRD MESSENGER	
Such proclamation hath been made, my lord.	
Enter another Messenger.	
FOURTH MESSENGER	4
Sir Thomas Lovell and Lord Marquess Dorset,	
Tis said, my liege, in Yorkshire are in arms.	
But this good comfort bring I to your Highness:	550
The Breton navy is dispersed by tempest.	
Richmond, in Dorsetshire, sent out a boat	
Unto the shore to ask those on the banks	
If they were his assistants, yea, or no—	
Who answered him they came from Buckingham	555
Upon his party. He, mistrusting them,	
Hoised sail and made his course again for Brittany.	,
UCHARD	
March on, march on, since we are up in arms,	
If not to fight with foreign enemies,	
Yet to beat down these rebels here at home.	560
Enter Catesby.	
ATESBY	
My liege, the Duke of Buckingham is taken.	
That is the best news. That the Earl of Richmond	
Is with a mighty power landed at Milford	

Is colder (tidings,) yet they must be told.

A royal battle might be won and lost.

Away towards Salisbury! While we reason here,

RICHARD

10

15

20

4.5 Lord Stanley sends news to Richmond, whose army is marching on London: Stanley will be unable to help because Richard is holding Stanley's son George hostage.

1. **Sir Christopher:** In Holinshed's *Chronicles*, this character is identified as the countess of Richmond's chaplain, Christopher Urswick. The title **Sir** was an appropriate form of address to a priest.

2. boar: an allusion to Richard's emblem

3. **franked up:** penned up; **in hold:** in custody, under guard

5. present: immediate

6. thy lord: i.e., Richmond

7. Withal: in addition

10. **Ha'rfordwest:** i.e., Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire, Wales, just northeast of Milford Haven

11. men of name: i.e., titled men

14. redoubted: feared, dreaded

16. name: reputation

17. bend their power: turn their army

18. by the way: i.e., along the way; withal: with

19. hie thee: hasten

20. resolve...mind: make known to him my thinking

Someone take order Buckingham be brought To Salisbury. The rest march on with me.

Flourish. They exit.

「Scene 57 Enter「Stanley, Earl of 7 Derby, and Sir Christopher.

STANLEY

Sir Christopher, tell Richmond this from me:
That in the sty of the most deadly boar
My son George Stanley is franked up in hold;
If I revolt, off goes young George's head;
The fear of that holds off my present aid.
So get thee gone. Commend me to thy lord.
Withal, say that the Queen hath heartily consented
He should espouse Elizabeth her daughter.
But tell me, where is princely Richmond now?
CHRISTOPHER

At (Pembroke,) or at Ha'rfordwest in Wales. STANLEY What men of name resort to him?

Sir Walter Herbert, a renowned soldier; Sir Gilbert Talbot, Sir William Stanley, Oxford, redoubted Pembroke, Sir James Blunt, And Rice ap Thomas, with a valiant crew, And many other of great name and worth; And towards London do they bend their power,

If by the way they be not fought withal.

STANLEY, 「giving Sir Christopher a paper
Well, hie thee to thy lord. I kiss his hand.

My letter will resolve him of my mind.

Farewell.

They exit.

The Tragedy of RICHARD III

ACT 5

5.1 Buckingham is led to execution.

0 SD. Halberds: i.e., halberdiers (See note to 1.2.0 SD.)

5. miscarrièd: died

7. moody: angry

10. **All Souls' Day:** November 2, a day observed in the Roman Catholic Church as a day of prayer for souls in purgatory

12. doomsday: i.e., final day

13–17. **This is...trusted:** See Buckingham's words at 2.1.33–41.

16. wherein: i.e., on which

17. By: i.e., through, because of

ACT 5

Scene 1
Enter Buckingham, with \(\subseteq \text{Sheriff and} \) Halberds, led to execution.

BUCKINGHAM

Will not King Richard let me speak with him?

No, my good lord. Therefore be patient.

Hastings and Edward's children, Grey and Rivers, Holy King Henry and thy fair son Edward, Vaughan, and all that have miscarrièd By underhand, corrupted, foul injustice,

If that your moody, discontented souls
Do through the clouds behold this present hour,
Even for revenge mock my destruction.—

10

15

This is All Souls' Day, fellow, is it not?

BUCKINGHAM

Why, then, All Souls' Day is my body's doomsday. This is the day which, in King Edward's time, I wished might fall on me when I was found False to his children and his wife's allies. This is the day wherein I wished to fall By the false faith of him whom most I trusted. This, this All Souls' Day to my fearful soul

19. determined ... wrongs: the appointed day until which the punishment of my wrongs was delayed

20. high All-seer: i.e., God; dallied: toyed

24, in their masters' bosoms: i.e., on their masters

26-28. When ... prophetess: See 1.3.319-20.

30. blame...blame: i.e., censure is the consequence of blameworthiness or culpability

5.2 Richmond and his army march against Richard.

0 SD. Drum: drummers; Colors: standard-bearer with Richmond's heraldic banner

3. bowels: interior

5. father: stepfather

6. Lines: i.e., written lines

7. usurping boar: Richard (See picture, page 270.)

9. Swills ... wash: greedily devours your blood as hogwash or swill

11. embowelled bosoms: i.e., disemboweled bellies

13. 14. Leicester, Tamworth: in central England, near Bosworth, where Richmond and Richard will join battle

15. cheerly on: i.e., go forward heartily, with a will

Is the determined respite of my wrongs. That high All-seer which I dallied with	
Hath turned my feignèd prayer on my head	2(
And given in earnest what I begged in jest.	
Thus doth he force the swords of wicked men	
To turn their own points in their masters' bosoms.	
Thus Margaret's curse falls heavy on my neck:	25
"When he," quoth she, "shall split thy heart with	
sorrow,	
Remember Margaret was a prophetess."	
Come, lead me, officers, to the block of shame.	
Wrong hath but wrong, and blame the due of blame.	30
Buckingham exits with Officers.	
Scene 2	
Enter Richmond, Oxford, Blunt, Herbert, and others,	
with Drum and Colors.	
CHMOND	

RIC

Fellows in arms, and my most loving friends, Bruised underneath the yoke of tyranny. Thus far into the bowels of the land Have we marched on without impediment, And here receive we from our father Stanley Lines of fair comfort and encouragement. The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar, That spoiled your summer fields and fruitful vines, Swills your warm blood like wash, and makes his trough

In your embowelled bosoms—this foul swine Is now even in the (center) of this isle, (Near) to the town of Leicester, as we learn. From Tamworth thither is but one day's march. In God's name, cheerly on, courageous friends,

23. vantage: advantage

25. meaner creatures: i.e., men lesser in rank

5.3 Richard and Richmond and their supporters prepare for battle. Asleep, Richard and Richmond are each visited by the ghosts of those whom Richard has killed or has had killed; the ghosts curse Richard and cheer Richmond. In the morning Richmond and Richard address their troops before battle.

6. knocks: blows



A boar destroying "summer fields and fruitful vines." (5.2.7–8) From Cornelis Zweerts, K. Zweerts Zede-en Zinnebeelden over Koning Davids Harpzangen... (1707).

To reap the harvest of perpetual peace By this one bloody trial of sharp war. OXFORD Every man's conscience is a thousand men To fight against this guilty homicide. HERBERT I doubt not but his friends will turn to us. BLUNT He hath no friends but what are friends for fear, Which in his dearest need will fly from him. RICHMOND All for our vantage. Then, in God's name, march. True hope is swift, and flies with swallow's wings: Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings. 25 All exit. Scene 3 Enter King Richard, in arms, with Norfolk, Ratcliffe, and the Earl of Surrey, \(\text{with Soldiers.} \) RICHARD Here pitch our tent, even here in Bosworth field. Soldiers begin to vitch the tent. My lord of Surrey, why look you so sad? SURREY My heart is ten times lighter than my looks. RICHARD My lord of Norfolk-NORFOLK Here, most gracious liege. RICHARD Norfolk, we must have knocks, ha, must we not?

We must both give and take, my loving lord.

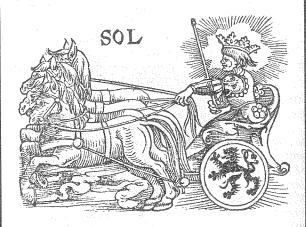
Up with my tent!—Here will I lie tonight.

270

NORFOLK

35

- 9. all's ... that: i.e., it doesn't matter
- 12. battalia: main body of troops in a battle formation; account: reckoning
 - 14. adverse: opposing; want: lack
- 16. vantage . . . ground: i.e., strategic advantages provided by the field of battle
 - 17 direction: instruction
- 21. fiery car: i.e., the sun god's chariot (See below.)
- 26. Limit: appoint; several charge: particular command
 - 27. part: divide; just: exact; power: army
 - 30. keeps: is staying with



The sun god's "fiery car." (5.3.20-21) From Hyginus, Fabularum liber . . . (1549)

But where tomorrow? Well, all's one for that. Who hath descried the number of the traitors? 10 NORFOLK Six or seven thousand is their utmost power. RICHARD Why, our battalia trebles that account. Besides, the King's name is a tower of strength Which they upon the adverse faction want.— Up with the tent!—Come, noble gentlemen, 15 Let us survey the vantage of the ground. Call for some men of sound direction: Let's lack no discipline, make no delay, For, lords, tomorrow is a busy day. The tent now in place, they exit. Enter Richmond, Sir William Brandon, Oxford, Dorset, [Herbert, Blunt, and others who set up Richmond's tent. The weary sun hath made a golden set,

RICHMOND

And by the bright (track) of his fiery car Gives token of a goodly day tomorrow.— Sir William Brandon, you shall bear my standard.-Give me some ink and paper in my tent; I'll draw the form and model of our battle. Limit each leader to his several charge, And part in just proportion our small power.— My Lord of Oxford, you, Sir William Brandon, And Tyou, Sir Walter Herbert, stay with me. The Earl of Pembroke keeps his regiment.— Good Captain Blunt, bear my goodnight to him, And by the second hour in the morning Desire the Earl to see me in my tent. Yet one thing more, good captain, do for me. Where is Lord Stanley quartered, do you know?

BLUNT

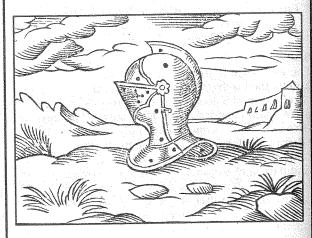
55

41. make: i.e., arrange

43. needful: indispensable

53. beaver: visor on the helmet (See below.); easier: more loosely fitting

57. Use ... sentinels: i.e., choose careful men to be sentinels



A helmet with the beaver closed. (5.3.53) From Henry Peacham, Minerua Britanna . . . (1612).

Unless I have mista'en his colors much. Which well I am assured I have not done. His regiment lies half a mile, at least, South from the mighty power of the King. RICHMOND If without peril it be possible, Sweet Blunt, make some good means to speak with him. And give him from me this most needful note. THe gives a paper. BLUNT Upon my life, my lord, I'll undertake it, And so God give you quiet rest tonight. 45 RICHMOND Good night, good Captain Blunt. FBlunt exits 7 Come, gentlemen, Let us consult upon tomorrow's business. Into my tent. The dew is raw and cold. 「Richmond, Brandon, Dorset, Herbert, and Oxford withdraw into the tent. The others exit. Enter Tto his tent Richard, Ratcliffe, Norfolk, and Catesby, \(\text{With Soldiers.}\)\(\text{7}\) What is 't o'clock? RICHARD 50 CATESBY It's suppertime, my lord. It's nine o'clock. RICHARD I will not sup tonight. Give me some ink and paper. What, is my beaver easier than it was, And all my armor laid into my tent? CATESBY It is, my liege, and all things are in readiness.

RICHARD

Good Norfolk, hie thee to thy charge.

Use careful watch. Choose trusty [sentinels.]

63. pursuivant-at-arms: junior officer who attends a herald

64. power: army

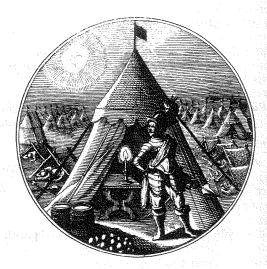
67-68. Give ... watch: perhaps, station a sentinel by my tent; or, perhaps, provide me with a watchlight, a candle marked so that it records the time as it melts

70. **staves:** plural of *staff*, the shaft of a lance

75. **cockshut time:** i.e., twilight

79. wont: accustomed

82. watch: stand watch, be alert



An army camp at night. (5.3.67–68) From Jacobus a. Bruck, Emblemata . . . (1615).

NORFOLK I go, my lord. RICHARD Stir with the lark tomorrow, gentle Norfolk. NORFOLK I warrant you, my lord. RICHARD Catesby. CATESBY My lord. RICHARD Send out a pursuivant-at-arms To Stanley's regiment. Bid him bring his power Before sunrising, lest his son George fall Into the blind cave of eternal night. Catesby exits. To Soldiers. Fill me a bowl of wine. Give me a watch. Saddle white Surrey for the field tomorrow. Look that my staves be sound and not too heavy.-Ratcliffe RATCLIFFE My lord. RICHARD Sawst thou the melancholy Lord Northumberland? RATCLIFFE Thomas the Earl of Surrey and himself, Much about cockshut time, from troop to troop 75 Went through the army cheering up the soldiers. RICHARD So. I am satisfied. Give me a bowl of wine. I have not that alacrity of spirit Nor cheer of mind that I was wont to have. Wine is brought. Set it down. Is ink and paper ready? 80 RATCLIFFE It is, my lord. Bid my guard watch. Leave me. RICHARD Ratcliffe, about the mid of night come to my tent And help to arm me. Leave me, I say. Ratcliffe exits. Richard sleeps in his tent, which is guarded by Soldiers.

87. father-in-law: stepfather
89. by attorney: as a deputy
92. flaky darkness breaks: i.e., the darkness be-
gins to break up
93. season: time
94. battle: battle array
96. mortal-staring: i.e., deadly
97. would: i.e., would like to do
99. doubtful shock of arms: i.e., battle of uncer-
tain outcome shock: encounter
101. being seen: i.e., I being seen; brother: i.e.,
stepbrother; tender: young
103. leisure: i.e., short period of leisure
104. ceremonious: showy; formal; punctilious
108. speed: prosper
110. with: i.e., against
111. peise: weigh
and the state of t
1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -
i de la companya de l
garan da karan da ka

Enter \[Stanley, Earl of \] Derby to Richmond in his tent.	
STANLEY	
Fortune and victory sit on thy helm!	9.5
RICHMOND	85
All comfort that the dark night can afford	
Be to thy person, noble father-in-law.	
Tell me, how fares our loving mother?	
STANLEY	à i
I, by attorney, bless thee from thy mother,	
Who prays continually for Richmond's good.	00
So much for that. The silent hours steal on,	90
And flaky darkness breaks within the east.	
In brief, for so the season bids us be,	
Prepare thy battle early in the morning,	Ŷ
And put thy fortune to the arbitrament	95
Of bloody strokes and mortal-staring war.	73
I, as I may—that which I would I cannot—	
With best advantage will deceive the time	
And aid thee in this doubtful shock of arms.	
But on thy side I may not be too forward.	100
Lest, being seen, thy brother, tender George.	
Be executed in his father's sight.	
Farewell. The leisure and the fearful time	
Cuts off the ceremonious vows of love	
And ample interchange of sweet discourse,	105
Which so-long-sundered friends should dwell upon.	
God give us leisure for these rites of love!	
Once more, adieu. Be valiant and speed well.	
CHMOND	
Good lords, conduct him to his regiment.	
I'll strive with troubled thoughts to take a nap,	110
Lest leaden slumber peise me down tomorrow	2
When I should mount with wings of victory.	
Once more, good night, kind lords and gentlemen.	

Richard III

THe exits.

116. Thy ... wrath: Compare Psalm 2.9: "Thou shalt crush them with a scepter of iron. . . ."

118. usurping ... adversaries: In this figure of speech, Richard's crime in usurping the crown is displaced onto his soldiers and thence unto their helmets.

121. watchful: sleepless, wakeful

123. still: always

124. sit heavy on: weigh down, oppress

131. issue: offspring

132. my anointed body: At his coronation, the

King is anointed with holy oil.

134. **Tower:** In Shakespeare's *Henry VI, Part 3* (5.6), Richard kills Henry VI in the Tower of London. (See picture, page 130.)

[All but Richmond leave his tent and] exit. [Richmond kneels.] O Thou, whose captain I account myself, Look on my forces with a gracious eye. Put in their hands Thy bruising irons of wrath, That they may crush down with a heavy fall The usurping helmets of our adversaries. Make us Thy ministers of chastisement, That we may praise Thee in the victory. To Thee I do commend my watchful soul, [Ere] I let fall the windows of mine eyes. Sleeping and waking, O, defend me still! [Sleeps.] Enter the Ghost of young Prince Edward, son [to] Harry the Sixth GHOST TOF EDWARD, (to Richard) Let me sit heavy on thy soul tomorrow. Think how thou [stabbed'st] me in my prime of 125 vouth At Tewkesbury. Despair therefore, and die! (To Richmond.) Be cheerful, Richmond, for the wrongèd souls Of butchered princes fight in thy behalf. 130 King Henry's issue, Richmond, comforts thee. THe exits. Enter the Ghost of Henry the Sixth. GHOST OF HENRY, (to Richard) When I was mortal, my anointed body By thee was punched full of deadly holes. Think on the Tower and me. Despair and die! Harry the Sixth bids thee despair and die. 135 (To Richmond.) Virtuous and holy, be thou conqueror. Harry, that prophesied thou shouldst be king,

Doth comfort thee in thy sleep. Live and flourish.

Enter the Ghost of Clarence.

155

160

140. fulsome: filling, cloying; loathsome

143. fall: drop

154 SD-168 SD. Enter the Ghosts of the two young Princes.... He exits: During the printing of the Third Quarto (Q3), the appearance of the Princes' ghosts was moved to follow that of Hastings' ghost. Many editors accept the Q3 arrangement on the grounds that all the other ghosts appear in the order of their deaths and that in the play Hastings was executed before the Princes were assassinated. However, Q3 has no authority as a text, and good order was not necessarily good art in Shakespeare's day.

,	
GHOST TOF CLARENCE, (to Richard) Let me sit heavy in thy soul tomorrow,	
I, that was washed to death with fulsome wine, Poor Clarence, by thy guile betrayed to death.	14
Tomorrow in the battle think on me,	
And fall thy edgeless sword. Despair and die!	
(<i>To Richmond.</i>) Thou offspring of the house of Lancaster,	
The wrongèd heirs of York do pray for thee.	145
Good angels ground that had a state of the	
Good angels guard thy battle. Live and flourish. [He exits.]	
・ アン・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・	
Enter the Ghosts of Rivers, Grey, [and] Vaughan.	
GHOST OF RIVERS, (to Richard)	
Let me sit heavy in thy soul tomorrow,	
Rivers, that died at Pomfret. Despair and die!	
GHOST OF GREY, (to Richard)	
Think upon Grey, and let thy soul despair!	
GHOST OF VAUGHAN, (to Richard)	150
Think upon Vaughan, and with guilty fear	
Let fall thy lance. Despair and die!	
LL, (to Richmond)	
Avales and think	
Awake, and think our wrongs in Richard's bosom	
[Will] conquer him. Awake, and win the day.	
「They exit.	
Enter the Charte of the	

Enter the Ghosts of the two young Princes.

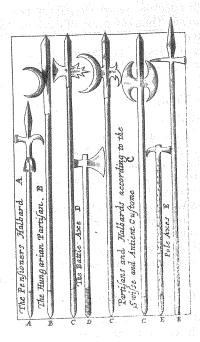
GHOSTS OF PRINCES, (to Richard) Dream on thy cousins smothered in the Tower. Let us be lead within thy bosom, Richard, And weigh thee down to ruin, shame, and death. Thy nephews' souls bid thee despair and die. (To Richmond.) Sleep, Richmond, sleep in peace and wake in joy.

161. annoy: harm, injury

179. tyranny: cruelty

183. Fainting: losing heart

184–85. I...aid: This much-debated line has not been satisfactorily explained.



Halberds and partisans. (1.2.0; 5.1.0 SDD) From Louis de Gaya, A treatise of the arms...(1678). Good angels guard thee from the boar's annoy. Live, and beget a happy race of kings. Edward's unhappy sons do bid thee flourish.

[They exit.]

Enter the Ghost of Hastings.

GHOST F HASTINGS, (to Richard)
Bloody and guilty, guiltily awake,
And in a bloody battle end thy days.

Think on Lord Hastings. Despair and die!
(To Richmond.) Quiet, untroubled soul, awake, awake.
Arm, fight, and conquer for fair England's sake.

FHe exits.

Enter the Ghost of Lady Anne his wife.

GHOST OF ANNE, (to Richard)
Richard, thy wife, that wretched Anne thy wife,
That never slept a quiet hour with thee,
Now fills thy sleep with perturbations.
Tomorrow, in the battle, think on me,
And fall thy edgeless sword. Despair and die!
(To Richmond.) Thou quiet soul, sleep thou a quiet sleep.
Dream of success and happy victory.
Thy adversary's wife doth pray for thee. \[\subseteq She exits. \]

Enter the Ghost of Buckingham.

GHOST OF BUCKINGHAM, (to Richard)

The first was I that helped thee to the crown;
The last was I that felt thy tyranny.
O, in the battle think on Buckingham,
And die in terror of thy guiltiness.
Dream on, dream on, of bloody deeds and death.
Fainting, despair; despairing, yield thy breath.
(To Richmond.) I died for hope ere I could lend thee aid,

190. Soft: i.e., wait a moment

197. fly: flee; Great reason why: i.e., there is an important reason to flee from myself

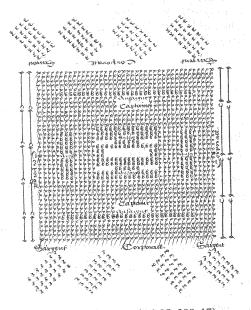
199. Wherefore: why

205. several: separate, different

211. the bar: the bar of justice

216. Methought: i.e., it seemed to me

217. threat: i.e., threaten



A battle formation. (5.3.25, 309–17) From Henry Barrett, A brief book unto private captains . . . (1562). But cheer thy heart, and be thou not dismayed. God and good angels fight on Richmond's side, And Richard [fall] in height of all his pride.

[He exits.] Richard starteth up out of a dream.

RICHARD

Give me another horse! Bind up my wounds! Have mercy, Jesu!—Soft, I did but dream. 190 O coward conscience, how dost thou afflict mel The lights burn blue; it is now dead midnight. Cold fearful drops stand on my trembling flesh. What do I fear? Myself? There's none else by. Richard loves Richard, that is, I [am] I. 195 Is there a murderer here? No. Yes, I am. Then fly! What, from myself? Great reason why: Lest I revenge. What, myself upon myself? Alack, I love myself. Wherefore? For any good That I myself have done unto myself? 200 O, no. Alas, I rather hate myself For hateful deeds committed by myself. I am a villain. Yet I lie; I am not. Fool, of thyself speak well. Fool, do not flatter. My conscience hath a thousand several tongues, 205 And every tongue brings in a several tale, And every tale condemns me for a villain. Perjury, perjury, in the highest degree; Murder, stern murder, in the direst degree; All several sins, all used in each degree. 210 Throng to the bar, crying all "Guilty, guilty!" I shall despair. There is no creature loves me, And if I die no soul will pity me. And wherefore should they, since that I myself Find in myself no pity to myself? 215 Methought the souls of all that I had murdered Came to my tent, and every one did threat Tomorrow's vengeance on the head of Richard.

Enter Ratcliffe.

220.	Zounds:	i.e.,	by	God's	wounds
220	3 3	- 11		7	,

228. shadows: illusions, phantoms, dreams

232. proof: proof armor, or impenetrable armor

237. Cry mercy: i.e., I'm sorry; watchful: wakeful

240. fairest-boding: i.e., most promising



St. George kills the fiery dragon. (5.3.285, 371–72) From [Jacobus de Voragine], Here begynneth the legende named in latyn legenda aurea . . . (1493).

R	ATCLIFFE My lord.	
R	ICHARD Zounds, who is there?	220
R	ATCLIFFE	
	Ratcliffe, my lord, 'tis I. The early village cock	
	Hath twice done salutation to the morn.	
	Your friends are up and buckle on their armor.	
2	ICHARD	
	O Ratcliffe, I have dreamed a fearful dream!	
	What think'st thou, will our friends prove all true?	225
	ATCLIFFE	1
	No doubt, my lord.	
Ĺ	ICHARD O Ratcliffe, I fear, I fear.	
L	ATCLIFFE	
	Nay, good my lord, be not afraid of shadows.	
U	ICHARD	
	By the apostle Paul, shadows tonight	
	Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard	230
	Than can the substance of ten thousand soldiers	
	Armed in proof and led by shallow Richmond.	
	Tis not yet near day. Come, go with me.	
	Under our tents I'll play the eavesdropper	
	To see if any mean to shrink from me.	235

Enter the Lords to Richmond, [in his tent.]

[Richard and Ratcliffe] exit.

240

LORDS Good morrow, Richmond. RICHMOND

Cry mercy, lords and watchful gentlemen. That you have ta'en a tardy sluggard here. ALORD How have you slept, my lord? RICHMOND

The sweetest sleep and fairest-boding dreams That ever entered in a drowsy head Have I since your departure had, my lords.

245	cried	on:	invoked

250. direction: instruction (to his troops)

252. leisure: i.e., short period of leisure

257. except: excluded

261. raised: elevated in rank; in blood: through bloodshed

265. **foul stone**: foul as opposed to a precious stone or gem; **foil**: thin sheet of metal placed under a gem to increase its brilliancy

266. **chair:** throne; **set:** (1) seated; (2) fixed (as a jewel on its **foil**)

269. ward: protect

273. fat: wealth (Compare Genesis 45.18: "the fat of the land.") your...hire: i.e., the hire for your efforts

	Methought their souls whose bodies Richard murdered	
	Came to my tent and cried on victory.	245
	I promise you, my soul is very jocund	243
	In the remembrance of so fair a dream.	j.
	How far into the morning is it, lords?	
١	LORD Upon the stroke of four.	
U	CHMOND, [leaving the tent]	
	Why, then 'tis time to arm and give direction.	250
	His oration to his soldiers.	
	More than I have said, loving countrymen,	
	The leisure and enforcement of the time	
	Forbids to dwell upon. Yet remember this:	
	God, and our good cause, fight upon our side.	
	The prayers of holy saints and wronged souls,	255
	Like high-reared bulwarks, stand before our faces.	7
	Richard except, those whom we fight against	
	Had rather have us win than him they follow.	
	For what is he they follow? Truly, gentlemen.	
	A bloody tyrant and a homicide;	260
	One raised in blood, and one in blood established;	
	One that made means to come by what he hath,	
	And slaughtered those that were the means to help	
	him;	
	A base foul stone, made precious by the foil	265
	Of England's chair, where he is falsely set;	
	One that hath ever been God's enemy.	
	Then if you fight against God's enemy,	
	God will, in justice, ward you as his soldiers.	
	If you do sweat to put a tyrant down,	270
	You sleep in peace, the tyrant being slain.	
	If you do fight against your country's foes,	
	Your country's fat shall pay your pains the hire.	- Data de
	If you do fight in safeguard of your wives,	9
	Your wives shall welcome home the conquerors.	275

277. quits: i.e., repay

279. Advance your standards: lift up your flags

280. For: as for

280–81. **the ransom...corpse:** i.e., if I am defeated the only ransom that I will offer the enemy is my cold corpse (Usually, in medieval warfare, prior to battle noblemen settled on the price of the ransom they would pay to redeem themselves should they be captured by the enemy. See the Folger edition of *Henry V*, longer note on **ransom** [3.5.63], page 241.)

282. gain: profit

285. **Saint George:** traditional English war cry (St. George was adopted as England's patron saint in the time of Edward III. See picture, page 288.)

286. as touching: concerning

291. **Tell the clock:** i.e., count the strokes of the clock; **calendar:** almanac

294. **he:** i.e., it (the sun); **by the book:** i.e., according to the almanac

295. braved: adorned, made splendid

If you do free your children from the sword,
Your children's children quits it in your age.
Then, in the name of God and all these rights,
Advance your standards; draw your willing swords.
For me, the ransom of my bold attempt
Shall be this cold corpse on the Earth's cold face,
But if I thrive, the gain of my attempt
The least of you shall share his part thereof.
Sound drums and trumpets boldly and cheerfully.
God, and Saint George, Richmond, and victory!

285

Enter King Richard, Ratcliffe, \(\text{and Soldiers.} \) \(\text{?}

RICHARD

What said Northumberland as touching Richmond?

That he was never trainèd up in arms.

He said the truth. And what said Surrey then?

He smiled and said "The better for our purpose."

He was in the right, and so indeed it is.

The clock striketh.

295

Tell the clock there. Give me a calendar.

THe looks in an almanac.

Who saw the sun today?

RATCLIFFE

Not I, my lord.

RICHARD

Then he disdains to shine, for by the book
He should have braved the east an hour ago.
A black day will it he to come he do.

A black day will it be to somebody.

Ratcliffe!

RATCLIFFE

My lord.

RICHARD The sun will [not] be seen today.

The sky doth frown and lour upon our army.

301. would these dewyground: i.e., wish the dew were off the ground 304. sadly: gravely, mournfully 305. foefield: enemy display themselves on the battlefield 306. Caparison: put trappings on 307. power: army 309. battle: battle formation (See page 286.) 310. foreward: vanguard; drawnlength: i.e., stretched out in a line 311. horse: cavalry; foot: infantry 315. directed: i.e., deployed, positioned; we: i.e., I 316. main battle: i.e., main part of the troop formation; puissance: power 317. wingèd withhorse: flanked by our best cavalry 320. direction: i.e., battle plan (literally, order to be carried out) 322. Jockey: i.e., Johnny (Norfolk was named John.) 323. Dickon: Dick, i.e., Richard; bought and sold: perhaps, betrayed; or, perhaps, tricked 325. charge: command

I would these dewy tears were from the ground.	
Not shine today? Why, what is that to me	
More than to Richmond, for the selfsame heaven	3
That frowns on me looks sadly upon him.	
Enter Norfolk.	
NORFOLK	
Arm, arm, my lord. The foe vaunts in the field.	305
RICHARD III	
Come, bustle, bustle. Caparison my horse.—	
Call up Lord Stanley; bid him bring his power.—	
I will lead forth my soldiers to the plain,	
And thus my battle shall be ordered:	
My foreward shall be drawn out all in length,	310
Consisting equally of horse and foot;	
Our archers shall be placed in the midst.	
John Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Earl of Surrey,	
Shall have the leading of this foot and horse.	
They thus directed, we will follow	315
In the main battle, whose puissance on either side	
Shall be well winged with our chiefest horse.	
This, and Saint George to [boot]!—What think'st	
thou, Norfolk?	
NORFOLK	
A good direction, warlike sovereign.	320
He sheweth him a paper.	
This found I on my tent this morning.	
[RICHARD reads]	
Jockey of Norfolk, be not so bold.	
For Dickon thy master is bought and sold.	
A thing devisèd by the enemy.—	
Go, gentlemen, every man unto his charge.	325
Let not our babbling dreams affright our souls.	
Conscience is but a word that cowards use,	
Devised at first to keep the strong in awe.	

332. inferred: i.e., said (literally, related, mentioned)

333. cope: meet in the shock of battle; withal: with

335. lackey: hanger-on, camp follower

336. o'ercloyèd: overly full, satiated

340. restrain: i.e., forbid your having; distain: stain, defile and a survey of a wife work in a ware

342. mother's cost: The allegation that Richard's mother supported Richmond in Brittany arises from a misprint ("mother" for "brother," i.e., brother-inlaw, the Duke of Burgundy) in the 1587 edition of Holinshed's Chronicles. See longer note, page 306.

344. overshoes in snow: i.e., as one feels when the snow comes in over one's shoes

346. overweening: arrogant, presumptuous

348. fond: foolish

349. means: i.e., means of survival

352-54. our fathers...thumped: a reference to the victories of Edward III, the Black Prince, and Henry V over the northern French in the Hundred Years' War of the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries bobbed: pommeled, buffeted and a decided

355. record: i.e., historical record (pronounced recòrd)

361. to the head: i.e., until the arrowhead touches the bent bow-

and the design of the design o	
March on. Join bravely. Let us to it pell mell,	330
If not to heaven, then hand in hand to hell.	
His oration to his army.	
What shall I say more than I have inferred?	
Remember whom you are to cope withal,	
A sort of vagabonds, rascals, and runaways,	
A scum of Bretons and base lackey peasants,	335
Whom their o'ercloyèd country vomits forth	
To desperate adventures and assured destruction.	4
You sleeping safe, they bring to you unrest;	
You having lands and blessed with beauteous wives.	
They would restrain the one, distain the other.	340
And who doth lead them but a paltry fellow,	
Long kept in Brittany at our mother's cost,	
A milksop, one that never in his life	
Felt so much cold as overshoes in snow?	
Let's whip these stragglers o'er the seas again,	345
Lash hence these overweening rags of France,	
These famished beggars weary of their lives,	
Who, but for dreaming on this fond exploit,	
For want of means, poor rats, had hanged	
themselves.	350
If we be conquered, let men conquer us,	
And not these bastard Bretons, whom our fathers	
Have in their own land beaten, bobbed, and	
thumped,	
And in record left them the heirs of shame.	355
Shall these enjoy our lands, lie with our wives,	,
Ravish our daughters? [Drum afar off.]	
Hark, I hear their drum.	
Fight, gentlemen of England.—Fight, bold	
yeomen.—	360
Draw, archers; draw your arrows to the head.—	

365

370

5

363. Amaze the welkin: terrify the sky

364. power: army

365. deny: refuse of to said the contract of the said

372. **spleen:** angry courage (For Saint George and the dragon, see page 288.)

373. Upon: set upon, attack and the set to be constructed to the set to be constructed to the set of the set o

5.4 In battle Richard has been unhorsed and faces defeat.

0 SD. Alarum: call to arms; Excursions: sorties

3. **Daring . . . danger:** perhaps, challenging whatever enemy he meets to fight to the death

Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in blood. Amaze the welkin with your broken staves.—

[Enter a Messenger.]

What says Lord Stanley? Will he bring his power?

MESSENGER My lord, he doth deny to come.

RICHARD Off with his son George's head!

NORFOLK

My lord, the enemy is past the marsh. After the battle let George Stanley die. RICHARD

A thousand hearts are great within my bosom. Advance our standards. Set upon our foes. Our ancient word of courage, fair Saint George, Inspire us with the spleen of fiery dragons. Upon them! Victory sits on our helms.

They exit.

「Scene 4¹ Alarum. Excursions. Enter 「Norfolk, with Soldiers, and ¹ Catesby.

CATESBY

Rescue, my lord of Norfolk, rescue, rescue! The King enacts more wonders than a man; Daring an opposite to every danger. His horse is slain, and all on foot he fights, Seeking for Richmond in the throat of death. Rescue, fair lord, or else the day is lost.

Norfolk exits with Soldiers.

[Alarums.] Enter Richard.

RICHARD

A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!

Withdraw, my lord. I'll help you to a horse.

298

- 9. Slave: used as a term of contempt (perhaps because Catesby has urged Richard to withdraw); cast: throw of the dice
- 10. stand ... die: accept the risk of one of the dice (a die) showing a losing number
- 5.5 Richmond kills Richard and is given the crown that he will wear as King Henry VII. His coming marriage to Elizabeth of York is hailed as the end of the Wars of the Roses and the beginning of a time of "smooth-faced peace."
 - 4. royalty: crown
 - 6. withal: with
 - 12. name: rank, title



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

RICHARD

Slave, I have set my life upon a cast, And I will stand the hazard of the die. I think there be six Richmonds in the field: Five have I slain today instead of him. A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!

They exit.

「Scene 57

Alarum. Enter Richard and Richmond. They fight. Richard is slain. Then retreat being sounded, Richmond exits, and Richard's body is removed. [Flourish.] Enter Richmond, \(\seta \) Stanley, Earl of \(\seta \) Derby, bearing the crown, with other Lords, \(\text{and Soldiers}. \)

RICHMOND

God and your arms be praised, victorious friends! The day is ours; the bloody dog is dead.

STANLEY, ^roffering him the crown T

Courageous Richmond, well hast thou acquit thee.

Lo, here this long-usurpèd royalty

From the dead temples of this bloody wretch Have I plucked off, to grace thy brows withal.

Wear it, enjoy it, and make much of it.

RICHMOND

Great God of heaven, say amen to all! But tell me, is young George Stanley living? STANLEY

He is, my lord, and safe in Leicester town, Whither, if it please you, we may now withdraw us.

RICHMOND What men of name are slain on either side? [STANLEY]

John, Duke of Norfolk, [Walter], Lord Ferrers, Sir Robert Brakenbury, and Sir William Brandon.

300

10

RICHMOND

- 18. as . . . sacrament: i.e., as I have vowed upon the Eucharist
- 19. white rose ... red: the respective emblems of the families of York and Lancaster
- 20. **conjunction:** union (an astrological meta-

21. **That:** i.e., **heaven**, or, perhaps, the heavens, the stars

- 28. **Divided...division:** Editors sometimes emend the word **Divided**, but Siemon notes that the "divided house" of York and Lancaster has in fact led to multiple divisions: "faction against faction, brother against brother, generation against generation."
- 29. Elizabeth: daughter of Edward IV and Queen Elizabeth
 - 30. succeeders: heirs
 - 35. Abate: blunt
 - 36. reduce: bring back
 - 37. And make: and that would make
 - 38. increase: prosperity
- 40. Now: now that; civil wounds: wounds made in battles among fellow countrymen; stopped: closed

Inter their bodies as 「becomes their births.	15
Proclaim a pardon to the soldiers fled	
That in submission will return to us.	
And then, as we have ta'en the sacrament,	
We will unite the white rose and the red;	
Smile heaven upon this fair conjunction,	20
That long have frowned upon their enmity.	
What traitor hears me and says not "Amen"?	
England hath long been mad and scarred herself:	
The brother blindly shed the brother's blood;	
The father rashly slaughtered his own son;	25
The son, compelled, been butcher to the sire.	
All this divided York and Lancaster,	
Divided in their dire division.	
O, now let Richmond and Elizabeth,	
The true succeeders of each royal house,	30
By God's fair ordinance conjoin together,	
And let their heirs, God, if Thy will be so,	
Enrich the time to come with smooth-faced peace,	
With smiling plenty and fair prosperous days.	
Abate the edge of traitors, gracious Lord,	35
That would reduce these bloody days again	
And make poor England weep in streams of blood.	
Let them not live to taste this land's increase,	
That would with treason wound this fair land's peace.	
Now civil wounds are stopped, peace lives again.	40
That she may long live here, God say amen.	-
[They exit.]	