



# King Richard II

by

# William Shakespeare

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# KING RICHARD II

William Shakespeare

(written about 1594)

## *DRAMATIS PERSONAE*

**KING RICHARD:** the Second. (KING RICHARD II:)

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** Duke of Lancaster & **EDMUND OF LANGLEY:** Duke of York: uncles to the King.

**HENRY**, surnamed **BOLINGBROKE:** (HENRY BOLINGBROKE:) Duke of Hereford, son to John of Gaunt; afterwards King Henry IV.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** son to the Duke of York.

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** Duke of Norfolk.

**DUKE OF SURREY:**

**EARL OF SALISBURY:**

**LORD BERKELEY:**

**BUSHY**, **BAGOT** and **GREEN:** servants to King Richard.

**EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND:** (NORTHUMBERLAND:)

**HENRY PERCY**, surnamed **HOTSPUR:** his son. (HENRY PERCY:)

**LORD ROSS:**

**LORD WILLOUGHBY:**

**LORD FITZWATER:**

**BISHOP OF CARLISLE:**

**Abbot of Westminster:** (Abbot:)

**LORD MARSHAL:** (Lord Marshal:)

**SIR STEPHEN SCROOP:**

**SIR PIERCE OF EXTON:** (EXTON:)

Captain of a band of Welshmen. (Captain:)

**QUEEN** to King Richard: (QUEEN:)

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** (DUCHESS OF YORK:)

**DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER:** (DUCHESS:)

Lady attending on the Queen. (Lady:)

Lords, Heralds, Officers, Soldiers, two Gardeners, Keeper, Messenger, Groom, and other Attendants.

(Lord:)

(First Herald:)

(Second Herald:)

(Gardener:)

(Keeper:)

(Groom:)

(Servant:)

**SCENE: England and Wales.**

# KING RICHARD II

## ACT I

### SCENE I: London. KING RICHARD II's palace.

*[Enter KING RICHARD II, JOHN OF GAUNT, with other Nobles and Attendants.]*

**KING RICHARD II:** Old John of Gaunt, time-honor'd  
Lancaster,

Hast thou, according to thy oath and band,  
Brought hither Henry Hereford thy bold son,  
Here to make good the boisterous late appeal,  
Which then our leisure would not let us hear,  
Against the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray?

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** I have, my liege.

**KING RICHARD II:** Tell me, moreover, hast thou  
sounded him,  
If he appeal the duke on ancient malice;  
Or worthily, as a good subject should,  
On some known ground of treachery in him?

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** As near as I could sift him on that  
argument,  
On some apparent danger seen in him  
Aim'd at your highness, no inveterate malice.

**KING RICHARD II:** Then call them to our presence;  
face to face,  
And frowning brow to brow, ourselves will hear  
The accuser and the accused freely speak:  
High-stomach'd are they both, and full of ire,  
In rage deaf as the sea, hasty as fire.

*[Enter HENRY BOLINGBROKE and THOMAS MOWBRAY.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Many years of happy days befall  
My gracious sovereign, my most loving liege!

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** Each day still better other's happiness;  
Until the heavens, envying earth's good hap,  
Add an immortal title to your crown!

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

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** First, heaven be the record to  
my speech!

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

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** Let not my cold words here  
accuse my zeal:

'Tis not the trial of a woman's war,  
The bitter clamor of two eager tongues,  
Can arbitrate this cause betwixt us twain;  
The blood is hot that must be cool'd for this:  
Yet can I not of such tame patience boast  
As to be hush'd and nought at all to say:

First, the fair reverence of your highness curbs me  
From giving reins and spurs to my free speech;  
Which else would post until it had return'd  
These terms of treason doubled down his throat.  
Setting aside his high blood's royalty,  
And let him be no kinsman to my liege,  
I do defy him, and I spit at him;  
Call him a slanderous coward and a villain:  
Which to maintain I would allow him odds,  
And meet him, were I tied to run afoot  
Even to the frozen ridges of the Alps,  
Or any other ground inhabitable,  
Where ever Englishman durst set his foot.  
Mean time let this defend my loyalty,  
By all my hopes, most falsely doth he lie.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Pale trembling coward, there I  
throw my gage,

Disclaiming here the kindred of the king,  
And lay aside my high blood's royalty,  
Which fear, not reverence, makes thee to except.  
If guilty dread have left thee so much strength  
As to take up mine honor's pawn, then stoop:  
By that and all the rites of knighthood else,  
Will I make good against thee, arm to arm,  
What I have spoke, or thou canst worse devise.

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

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

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Look, what I speak, my life  
shall prove it true;  
That Mowbray hath received eight thousand nobles  
In name of lendings for your highness' soldiers,  
The which he hath detain'd for lewd employments,  
Like a false traitor and injurious villain.  
Besides I say and will in battle prove,  
Or here or elsewhere to the furthest verge  
That ever was survey'd by English eye,  
That all the treasons for these eighteen years  
Complotted and contrived in this land  
Fetch from false Mowbray their first head and spring.  
Further I say and further will maintain  
Upon his bad life to make all this good,  
That he did plot the Duke of Gloucester's death,

Suggest his soon-believing adversaries,  
And consequently, like a traitor coward,  
Sluiced out his innocent soul through streams of blood:  
Which blood, like sacrificing Abel's, cries,  
Even from the tongueless caverns of the earth,  
To me for justice and rough chastisement;  
And, by the glorious worth of my descent,  
This arm shall do it, or this life be spent.

**KING RICHARD II:** How high a pitch his resolution soars!  
Thomas of Norfolk, what say'st thou to this?

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

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

Richard II, Act I, scene i

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** Then, Bolingbroke, as low as to  
thy heart,

Through the false passage of thy throat, thou liest.

Three parts of that receipt I had for Calais

Disbursed I duly to his highness' soldiers;

The other part reserved I by consent,

For that my sovereign liege was in my debt

Upon remainder of a dear account,

Since last I went to France to fetch his queen:

Now swallow down that lie. For Gloucester's death,

I slew him not; but to my own disgrace

Neglected my sworn duty in that case.

For you, my noble Lord of Lancaster,

The honorable father to my foe

Once did I lay an ambush for your life,

A trespass that doth vex my grieved soul

But ere I last received the sacrament

I did confess it, and exactly begg'd

Your grace's pardon, and I hope I had it.

This is my fault: as for the rest appeal'd,

It issues from the rancor of a villain,

A recreant and most degenerate traitor

Which in myself I boldly will defend;

And interchangeably hurl down my gage

Upon this overweening traitor's foot,

To prove myself a loyal gentleman

Even in the best blood chamber'd in his bosom.

In haste whereof, most heartily I pray  
Your highness to assign our trial day.

**KING RICHARD II:** Wrath-kindled gentlemen, be ruled  
by me;

Let's purge this choler without letting blood:

This we prescribe, though no physician;

Deep malice makes too deep incision;

Forget, forgive; conclude and be agreed;

Our doctors say this is no month to bleed.

Good uncle, let this end where it begun;

We'll calm the Duke of Norfolk, you your son.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** To be a make-peace shall become my age:  
Throw down, my son, the Duke of Norfolk's gage.

**KING RICHARD II:** And, Norfolk, throw down his.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** When, Harry, when?  
Obedience bids I should not bid again.

**KING RICHARD II:** Norfolk, throw down, we bid; there  
is no boot.

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** Myself I throw, dread sovereign,  
at thy foot.

My life thou shalt command, but not my shame:

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

**KING RICHARD II:** Rage must be withstood:  
Give me his gage: lions make leopards tame.

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** Yea, but not change his spots:  
take but my shame.

And I resign my gage. My dear dear lord,  
The purest treasure mortal times afford  
Is spotless reputation: that away,  
Men are but gilded loam or painted clay.  
A jewel in a ten-times-barr'd-up chest  
Is a bold spirit in a loyal breast.  
Mine honor is my life; both grow in one:  
Take honor from me, and my life is done:  
Then, dear my liege, mine honor let me try;  
In that I live and for that will I die.

**KING RICHARD II:** Cousin, throw up your gage; do  
you begin.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** O, God defend my soul from  
such deep sin!

Shall I seem crest-fall'n in my father's sight?  
Or with pale beggar-fear impeach my height  
Before this out-dared dastard? Ere my tongue  
Shall wound my honor with such feeble wrong,  
Or sound so base a parle, my teeth shall tear  
The slavish motive of recanting fear,  
And spit it bleeding in his high disgrace,  
Where shame doth harbor, even in Mowbray's face.

*[Exit JOHN OF GAUNT.]*

**KING RICHARD II:** We were not born to sue, but to  
command;

Which since we cannot do to make you friends,  
Be ready, as your lives shall answer it,  
At Coventry, upon Saint Lambert's day:  
There shall your swords and lances arbitrate  
The swelling difference of your settled hate:  
Since we can not atone you, we shall see  
Justice design the victor's chivalry.  
Lord marshal, command our officers at arms  
Be ready to direct these home alarms.

*[Exeunt.]*



**SCENE II: The DUKE OF LANCASTER'S palace.**

*[Enter JOHN OF GAUNT with DUCHESS.]*

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

**DUCHESS:** Finds brotherhood in thee no sharper spur?  
Hath love in thy old blood no living fire?  
Edward's seven sons, whereof thyself art one,  
Were as seven vials of his sacred blood,  
Or seven fair branches springing from one root:  
Some of those seven are dried by nature's course,  
Some of those branches by the Destinies cut;  
But Thomas, my dear lord, my life, my Gloucester,  
One vial full of Edward's sacred blood,  
One flourishing branch of his most royal root,  
Is crack'd, and all the precious liquor spilt,  
Is hack'd down, and his summer leaves all faded,  
By envy's hand and murder's bloody axe.  
Ah, Gaunt, his blood was thine! that bed, that womb,

That metal, that self-mould, that fashion'd thee  
Made him a man; and though thou livest and breathest,  
Yet art thou slain in him: thou dost consent  
In some large measure to thy father's death,  
In that thou seest thy wretched brother die,  
Who was the model of thy father's life.  
Call it not patience, Gaunt; it is despair:  
In suffering thus thy brother to be slaughter'd,  
Thou showest the naked pathway to thy life,  
Teaching stern murder how to butcher thee:  
That which in mean men we intitle patience  
Is pale cold cowardice in noble breasts.  
What shall I say? to safeguard thine own life,  
The best way is to venge my Gloucester's death.

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

**DUCHESS:** Where then, alas, may I complain myself?

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** To God, the widow's champion and defence.

**DUCHESS:** Why, then, I will. Farewell, old Gaunt.  
Thou goest to Coventry, there to behold

Our cousin Hereford and fell Mowbray fight:  
O, sit my husband's wrongs on Hereford's spear,  
That it may enter butcher Mowbray's breast!  
Or, if misfortune miss the first career,  
Be Mowbray's sins so heavy in his bosom,  
They may break his foaming courser's back,  
And throw the rider headlong in the lists,  
A caitiff recreant to my cousin Hereford!  
Farewell, old Gaunt: thy sometimes brother's wife  
With her companion grief must end her life.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** Sister, farewell; I must to Coventry:  
As much good stay with thee as go with me!

**DUCHESS:** Yet one word more: grief boundeth where  
it falls,  
Not with the empty hollowness, but weight:  
I take my leave before I have begun,  
For sorrow ends not when it seemeth done.  
Commend me to thy brother, Edmund York.  
Lo, this is all:—nay, yet depart not so;  
Though this be all, do not so quickly go;  
I shall remember more. Bid him—ah, what?—  
With all good speed at Plashy visit me.  
Alack, and what shall good old York there see  
But empty lodgings and unfurnish'd walls,  
Unpeopled offices, untrodden stones?

And what hear there for welcome but my groans?  
Therefore commend me; let him not come there,  
To seek out sorrow that dwells every where.  
Desolate, desolate, will I hence and die:  
The last leave of thee takes my weeping eye.

*[Exeunt.]*

### **SCENE III: The lists at Coventry.**

*[Enter the Lord Marshal and the DUKE OF AUMERLE.]*

**Lord Marshal:** My Lord Aumerle, is Harry Hereford arm'd?

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Yea, at all points; and longs to enter in.

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

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Why, then, the champions are  
prepared, and stay  
For nothing but his majesty's approach.

*[The trumpets sound, and KING RICHARD enters with his nobles, JOHN OF GAUNT, BUSHY, BAGOT, GREEN, and others. When they are set, enter THOMAS MOWBRAY in arms, defendant, with a Herald.]*

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

**Lord Marshal:** In God's name and the king's, say who  
thou art  
And why thou comest thus knightly clad in arms,  
Against what man thou comest, and what thy quarrel:  
Speak truly, on thy knighthood and thy oath;  
As so defend thee heaven and thy valor!

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

*[The trumpets sound. Enter HENRY BOLINGBROKE, ap-  
pellant, in armor, with a Herald.]*

**KING RICHARD II:** Marshal, ask yonder knight in arms,  
Both who he is and why he cometh hither  
Thus plated in habiliments of war,  
And formally, according to our law,  
Depose him in the justice of his cause.

**Lord Marshal:** What is thy name? and wherefore  
comest thou hither,  
Before King Richard in his royal lists?  
Against whom comest thou? and what's thy quarrel?  
Speak like a true knight, so defend thee heaven!

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

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

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Lord marshal, let me kiss my  
sovereign's hand,

And bow my knee before his majesty:  
For Mowbray and myself are like two men  
That vow a long and weary pilgrimage;  
Then let us take a ceremonious leave  
And loving farewell of our several friends.

**Lord Marshal:** The appellant in all duty greets your  
highness,  
And craves to kiss your hand and take his leave.

**KING RICHARD II:** We will descend and fold him in  
our arms.  
Cousin of Hereford, as thy cause is right,  
So be thy fortune in this royal fight!  
Farewell, my blood; which if to-day thou shed,  
Lament we may, but not revenge thee dead.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** O let no noble eye profane a tear  
For me, if I be gored with Mowbray's spear:  
As confident as is the falcon's flight  
Against a bird, do I with Mowbray fight.  
My loving lord, I take my leave of you;  
Of you, my noble cousin, Lord Aumerle;  
Not sick, although I have to do with death,  
But lusty, young, and cheerly drawing breath.  
Lo, as at English feasts, so I regret  
The daintiest last, to make the end most sweet:

O thou, the earthly author of my blood,  
Whose youthful spirit, in me regenerate,  
Doth with a twofold vigor lift me up  
To reach at victory above my head,  
Add proof unto mine armor with thy prayers;  
And with thy blessings steel my lance's point,  
That it may enter Mowbray's waxen coat,  
And furbish new the name of John a Gaunt,  
Even in the lusty havior of his son.

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

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Mine innocency and Saint  
George to thrive!

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** However God or fortune cast my lot,  
There lives or dies, true to King Richard's throne,  
A loyal, just and upright gentleman:  
Never did captive with a freer heart  
Cast off his chains of bondage and embrace  
His golden uncontrol'd enfranchisement,

More than my dancing soul doth celebrate  
This feast of battle with mine adversary.  
Most mighty liege, and my companion peers,  
Take from my mouth the wish of happy years:  
As gentle and as jocund as to jest  
Go I to fight: truth hath a quiet breast.

**KING RICHARD II:** Farewell, my lord: securely I espy  
Virtue with valor couched in thine eye.  
Order the trial, marshal, and begin.

**Lord Marshal:** Harry of Hereford, Lancaster and Derby,  
Receive thy lance; and God defend the right!

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Strong as a tower in hope, I  
cry amen.

**Lord Marshal:** Go bear this lance to Thomas, Duke of  
Norfolk.

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

**Second Herald:** Here standeth Thomas Mowbray, Duke  
of Norfolk,  
On pain to be found false and recreant,  
Both to defend himself and to approve  
Henry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby,  
To God, his sovereign and to him disloyal;  
Courageously and with a free desire  
Attending but the signal to begin.

**Lord Marshal:** Sound, trumpets; and set forward,  
combatants.

*[A charge sounded.]*

Stay, the king hath thrown his warder down.

**KING RICHARD II:** Let them lay by their helmets and  
their spears,  
And both return back to their chairs again:  
Withdraw with us: and let the trumpets sound  
While we return these dukes what we decree.

*[A long flourish.]*

Draw near,  
And list what with our council we have done.  
For that our kingdom's earth should not be soil'd

With that dear blood which it hath fostered;  
And for our eyes do hate the dire aspect  
Of civil wounds plough'd up with neighbors' sword;  
And for we think the eagle-winged pride  
Of sky-aspiring and ambitious thoughts,  
With rival-hating envy, set on you  
To wake our peace, which in our country's cradle  
Draws the sweet infant breath of gentle sleep;  
Which so roused up with boisterous untuned drums,  
With harsh resounding trumpets' dreadful bray,  
And grating shock of wrathful iron arms,  
Might from our quiet confines fright fair peace  
And make us wade even in our kindred's blood,  
Therefore, we banish you our territories:  
You, cousin Hereford, upon pain of life,  
Till twice five summers have enrich'd our fields  
Shall not regret our fair dominions,  
But tread the stranger paths of banishment.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Your will be done: this must  
my comfort be,  
Sun that warms you here shall shine on me;  
And those his golden beams to you here lent  
Shall point on me and gild my banishment.

**KING RICHARD II:** Norfolk, for thee remains a heavier  
doom,

Which I with some unwillingness pronounce:  
The sly slow hours shall not determinate  
The dateless limit of thy dear exile;  
The hopeless word of 'never to return'  
Breathe I against thee, upon pain of life.

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

**KING RICHARD II:** It boots thee not to be compassionate:

After our sentence plaining comes too late.

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** Then thus I turn me from my country's light,  
To dwell in solemn shades of endless night.

**KING RICHARD II:** Return again, and take an oath with thee.

Lay on our royal sword your banish'd hands;  
Swear by the duty that you owe to God—  
Our part therein we banish with yourselves—  
To keep the oath that we administer:  
You never shall, so help you truth and God!  
Embrace each other's love in banishment;  
Nor never look upon each other's face;  
Nor never write, regret, nor reconcile  
This luring tempest of your home-bred hate;  
Nor never by advised purpose meet  
To plot, contrive, or complot any ill  
'Gainst us, our state, our subjects, or our land.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** I swear.

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** And I, to keep all this.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Norfolk, so far as to mine enemy:—

By this time, had the king permitted us,  
One of our souls had wander'd in the air.  
Banish'd this frail sepulchre of our flesh,  
As now our flesh is banish'd from this land:  
Confess thy treasons ere thou fly the realm;  
Since thou hast far to go, bear not along  
The clogging burthen of a guilty soul.

**THOMAS MOWBRAY:** No, Bolingbroke: if ever I were traitor,

My name be blotted from the book of life,  
And I from heaven banish'd as from hence!  
But what thou art, God, thou, and I do know;  
And all too soon, I fear, the king shall rue.  
Farewell, my liege. Now no way can I stray;  
Save back to England, all the world's my way.

*[Exit.]*

**KING RICHARD II:** Uncle, even in the glasses of thine eyes

I see thy grieved heart: thy sad aspect  
Hath from the number of his banish'd years  
Pluck'd four away.

[To HENRY BOLINGBROKE.]

Six frozen winter spent,  
Return with welcome home from banishment.

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

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

**KING RICHARD II:** Why uncle, thou hast many years  
to live.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** But not a minute, king, that thou  
canst give:  
Shorten my days thou canst with sullen sorrow,  
And pluck nights from me, but not lend a morrow;

Thou canst help time to furrow me with age,  
But stop no wrinkle in his pilgrimage;  
Thy word is current with him for my death,  
But dead, thy kingdom cannot buy my breath.

**KING RICHARD II:** Thy son is banish'd upon good advice,  
Whereto thy tongue a party-verdict gave:  
Why at our justice seem'st thou then to lour?

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** Things sweet to taste prove in  
digestion sour.

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

**KING RICHARD II:** Cousin, farewell; and, uncle, bid  
him so:  
Six years we banish him, and he shall go.

[Flourish. Exeunt KING RICHARD II and train.]



**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Cousin, farewell: what presence  
must not know,  
From where you do remain let paper show.

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

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** O, to what purpose dost thou hoard  
thy words,  
That thou return'st no greeting to thy friends?

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

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** Thy grief is but thy absence for a time.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Joy absent, grief is present for  
that time.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** What is six winters? they are  
quickly gone.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** To men in joy; but grief makes  
one hour ten.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** Call it a travel that thou takest for pleasure.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** My heart will sigh when I  
miscall it so,  
Which finds it an enforced pilgrimage.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** The sullen passage of thy weary steps  
Esteem as foil wherein thou art to set  
The precious jewel of thy home return.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Nay, rather, every tedious  
stride I make  
Will but remember me what a deal of world  
I wander from the jewels that I love.  
Must I not serve a long apprenticeship  
To foreign passages, and in the end,  
Having my freedom, boast of nothing else  
But that I was a journeyman to grief?

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** All places that the eye of heaven visits  
Are to a wise man ports and happy havens.  
Teach thy necessity to reason thus;  
There is no virtue like necessity.  
Think not the king did banish thee,  
But thou the king. Woe doth the heavier sit,  
Where it perceives it is but faintly borne.  
Go, say I sent thee forth to purchase honor

And not the king exiled thee; or suppose  
Devouring pestilence hangs in our air  
And thou art flying to a fresher clime:  
Look, what thy soul holds dear, imagine it  
To lie that way thou go'st, not whence thou comest:  
Suppose the singing birds musicians,  
The grass whereon thou tread'st the presence strew'd,  
The flowers fair ladies, and thy steps no more  
Than a delightful measure or a dance;  
For gnarling sorrow hath less power to bite  
The man that mocks at it and sets it light.

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

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

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Then, England's ground,  
farewell; sweet soil, adieu;  
My mother, and my nurse, that bears me yet!  
Where'er I wander, boast of this I can,  
Though banish'd, yet a trueborn Englishman.

*[Exeunt.]*

#### **SCENE IV: The court.**

*[Enter KING RICHARD II, with BAGOT and GREEN at one door; and the DUKE OF AUMERLE at another.]*

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

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** I brought high Hereford, if you  
call him so,  
But to the next highway, and there I left him.

**KING RICHARD II:** And say, what store of parting  
tears were shed?

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Faith, none for me; except the  
north-east wind,  
Which then blew bitterly against our faces,  
Awaked the sleeping rheum, and so by chance  
Did grace our hollow parting with a tear.

**KING RICHARD II:** What said our cousin when you parted with him?

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** 'Farewell:'

And, for my heart disdained that my tongue  
Should so profane the word, that taught me craft  
To counterfeit oppression of such grief  
That words seem'd buried in my sorrow's grave.  
Marry, would the word 'farewell' have lengthen'd hours  
And added years to his short banishment,  
He should have had a volume of farewells;  
But since it would not, he had none of me.

**KING RICHARD II:** He is our cousin, cousin; but 'tis doubt,

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

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

**GREEN:** Well, he is gone; and with him go these thoughts.

Now for the rebels which stand out in Ireland,  
Expedient manage must be made, my liege,  
Ere further leisure yield them further means  
For their advantage and your highness' loss.

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

*[Enter BUSHY.]*

Bushy, what news?

**BUSHY:** Old John of Gaunt is grievous sick, my lord,  
Suddenly taken; and hath sent post haste  
To entreat your majesty to visit him.

**KING RICHARD II:** Where lies he?

**BUSHY:** At Ely House.

**KING RICHARD II:** Now put it, God, in the physician's  
mind

To help him to his grave immediately!  
The lining of his coffers shall make coats  
To deck our soldiers for these Irish wars.  
Come, gentlemen, let's all go visit him:  
Pray God we may make haste, and come too late!

**All:** Amen.

*[Exeunt.]*

## ACT II

### SCENE I: Ely House.

*[Enter JOHN OF GAUNT sick, with the DUKE OF YORK, &c.]*

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** Will the king come, that I may  
breathe my last  
In wholesome counsel to his unstaid youth?

**DUKE OF YORK:** Vex not yourself, nor strive not with  
your breath;  
For all in vain comes counsel to his ear.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** O, but they say the tongues of  
dying men  
Enforce attention like deep harmony:  
Where words are scarce, they are seldom spent in vain,  
For they breathe truth that breathe their words in pain.  
He that no more must say is listen'd more  
Than they whom youth and ease have taught to glose;  
More are men's ends mark'd than their lives before:  
The setting sun, and music at the close,  
As the last taste of sweets, is sweetest last,  
Writ in remembrance more than things long past:  
Though Richard my life's counsel would not hear,  
My death's sad tale may yet undeaf his ear.

**DUKE OF YORK:** No; it is stopp'd with other flattering sounds,

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

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** Methinks I am a prophet new inspired  
And thus expiring do foretell of him:  
His rash fierce blaze of riot cannot last,  
For violent fires soon burn out themselves;  
Small showers last long, but sudden storms are short;  
He tires betimes that spurs too fast betimes;  
With eager feeding food doth choke the feeder:  
Light vanity, insatiate cormorant,  
Consuming means, soon preys upon itself.  
This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,  
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,

This other Eden, demi-paradise,  
This fortress built by Nature for herself  
Against infection and the hand of war,  
This happy breed of men, this little world,  
This precious stone set in the silver sea,  
Which serves it in the office of a wall,  
Or as a moat defensive to a house,  
Against the envy of less happier lands,  
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England,  
This nurse, this teeming womb of royal kings,  
Fear'd by their breed and famous by their birth,  
Renowned for their deeds as far from home,  
For Christian service and true chivalry,  
As is the sepulchre in stubborn Jewry,  
Of the world's ransom, blessed Mary's Son,  
This land of such dear souls, this dear dear land,  
Dear for her reputation through the world,  
Is now leased out, I die pronouncing it,  
Like to a tenement or pelting farm:  
England, bound in with the triumphant sea  
Whose rocky shore beats back the envious siege  
Of watery Neptune, is now bound in with shame,  
With inky blots and rotten parchment bonds:  
That England, that was wont to conquer others,  
Hath made a shameful conquest of itself.  
Ah, would the scandal vanish with my life,  
How happy then were my ensuing death!

*[Enter KING RICHARD II and QUEEN, DUKE OF AUMERLE, BUSHY, GREEN, BAGOT, LORD ROSS, and LORD WILLOUGHBY.]*

**DUKE OF YORK:** The king is come: deal mildly with his youth;  
For young hot colts being raged do rage the more.

**QUEEN:** How fares our noble uncle, Lancaster?

**KING RICHARD II:** What comfort, man? how is't with aged Gaunt?

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** O how that name befits my composition!  
Old Gaunt indeed, and gaunt in being old:  
Within me grief hath kept a tedious fast;  
And who abstains from meat that is not gaunt?  
For sleeping England long time have I watch'd;  
Watching breeds leanness, leanness is all gaunt:  
The pleasure that some fathers feed upon,  
Is my strict fast; I mean, my children's looks;  
And therein fasting, hast thou made me gaunt:  
Gaunt am I for the grave, gaunt as a grave,  
Whose hollow womb inherits nought but bones.

**KING RICHARD II:** Can sick men play so nicely with their names?

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** No, misery makes sport to mock itself:  
Since thou dost seek to kill my name in me,  
I mock my name, great king, to flatter thee.

**KING RICHARD II:** Should dying men flatter with those that live?

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** No, no, men living flatter those that die.

**KING RICHARD II:** Thou, now a-dying, say'st thou flatterest me.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** O, no! thou diest, though I the sicker be.

**KING RICHARD II:** I am in health, I breathe, and see thee ill.

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** Now He that made me knows I see thee ill;  
Ill in myself to see, and in thee seeing ill.  
Thy death-bed is no lesser than thy land  
Wherein thou liest in reputation sick;  
And thou, too careless patient as thou art,  
Commit'st thy anointed body to the cure  
Of those physicians that first wounded thee:  
A thousand flatterers sit within thy crown,

Whose compass is no bigger than thy head;  
And yet, incaged in so small a verge,  
The waste is no whit lesser than thy land.  
O, had thy grandsire with a prophet's eye  
Seen how his son's son should destroy his sons,  
From forth thy reach he would have laid thy shame,  
Deposing thee before thou wert possess'd,  
Which art possess'd now to depose thyself.  
Why, cousin, wert thou regent of the world,  
It were a shame to let this land by lease;  
But for thy world enjoying but this land,  
Is it not more than shame to shame it so?  
Landlord of England art thou now, not king:  
Thy state of law is bondslave to the law;  
And thou—

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

**JOHN OF GAUNT:** O, spare me not, my brother Edward's son,

For that I was his father Edward's son;  
That blood already, like the pelican,  
Hast thou tapp'd out and drunkenly caroused:  
My brother Gloucester, plain well-meaning soul,  
Whom fair befall in heaven 'mongst happy souls!  
May be a precedent and witness good  
That thou respect'st not spilling Edward's blood:  
Join with the present sickness that I have;  
And thy unkindness be like crooked age,  
To crop at once a too long wither'd flower.  
Live in thy shame, but die not shame with thee!  
These words hereafter thy tormentors be!  
Convey me to my bed, then to my grave:  
Love they to live that love and honor have.

*[Exit, borne off by his Attendants.]*

**KING RICHARD II:** And let them die that age and  
sullens have;  
For both hast thou, and both become the grave.

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

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

*[Enter NORTHUMBERLAND.]*

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** My liege, old Gaunt commends  
him to your majesty.

**KING RICHARD II:** What says he?

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Nay, nothing; all is said  
His tongue is now a stringless instrument;  
Words, life and all, old Lancaster hath spent.

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

**KING RICHARD II:** The ripest fruit first falls, and so  
doth he;  
His time is spent, our pilgrimage must be.  
So much for that. Now for our Irish wars:  
We must supplant those rough rug-headed kerns,  
Which live like venom where no venom else  
But only they have privilege to live.  
And for these great affairs do ask some charge,

Towards our assistance we do seize to us  
The plate, corn, revenues and moveables,  
Whereof our uncle Gaunt did stand possess'd.

**DUKE OF YORK:** How long shall I be patient? ah, how long  
Shall tender duty make me suffer wrong?  
Not Gloucester's death, nor Hereford's banishment  
Not Gaunt's rebukes, nor England's private wrongs,  
Nor the prevention of poor Bolingbroke  
About his marriage, nor my own disgrace,  
Have ever made me sour my patient cheek,  
Or bend one wrinkle on my sovereign's face.  
I am the last of noble Edward's sons,  
Of whom thy father, Prince of Wales, was first:  
In war was never lion raged more fierce,  
In peace was never gentle lamb more mild,  
Than was that young and princely gentleman.  
His face thou hast, for even so look'd he,  
Accomplish'd with the number of thy hours;  
But when he frown'd, it was against the French  
And not against his friends; his noble hand  
Did will what he did spend and spent not that  
Which his triumphant father's hand had won;  
His hands were guilty of no kindred blood,  
But bloody with the enemies of his kin.  
O Richard! York is too far gone with grief,  
Or else he never would compare between.



**KING RICHARD II:** Why, uncle, what's the matter?

**DUKE OF YORK:** O my liege,  
Pardon me, if you please; if not, I, pleased  
Not to be pardon'd, am content withal.  
Seek you to seize and gripe into your hands  
The royalties and rights of banish'd Hereford?  
Is not Gaunt dead, and doth not Hereford live?  
Was not Gaunt just, and is not Harry true?  
Did not the one deserve to have an heir?  
Is not his heir a well-deserving son?  
Take Hereford's rights away, and take from Time  
His charters and his customary rights;  
Let not to-morrow then ensue to-day;  
Be not thyself; for how art thou a king  
But by fair sequence and succession?  
Now, afore God—God forbid I say true!—  
If you do wrongfully seize Hereford's rights,  
Call in the letters patent that he hath  
By his attorneys-general to sue  
His livery, and deny his offer'd homage,  
You pluck a thousand dangers on your head,  
You lose a thousand well-disposed hearts  
And prick my tender patience, to those thoughts  
Which honor and allegiance cannot think.

**KING RICHARD II:** Think what you will, we seize into  
our hands

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

**DUKE OF YORK:** I'll not be by the while: my liege,  
farewell:  
What will ensue hereof, there's none can tell;  
But by bad courses may be understood  
That their events can never fall out good.

*[Exit.]*

**KING RICHARD II:** Go, Bushy, to the Earl of Wiltshire  
straight:

Bid him repair to us to Ely House  
To see this business. To-morrow next  
We will for Ireland; and 'tis time, I trow:  
And we create, in absence of ourself,  
Our uncle York lord governor of England;  
For he is just and always loved us well.  
Come on, our queen: to-morrow must we part;  
Be merry, for our time of stay is short

*[Flourish. Exeunt KING RICHARD II, QUEEN, DUKE OF  
AUMERLE, BUSHY, GREEN, and BAGOT.]*

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Well, lords, the Duke of  
Lancaster is dead.

**LORD ROSS:** And living too; for now his son is duke.

**LORD WILLOUGHBY:** Barely in title, not in revenue.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Richly in both, if justice had her right.

**LORD ROSS:** My heart is great; but it must break with silence,  
Ere't be disburden'd with a liberal tongue.

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

**LORD WILLOUGHBY:** Tends that thou wouldst speak to the Duke of Hereford?  
If it be so, out with it boldly, man;  
Quick is mine ear to hear of good towards him.

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

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Now, afore God, 'tis shame such wrongs are borne  
In him, a royal prince, and many moe

Of noble blood in this declining land.  
The king is not himself, but basely led  
By flatterers; and what they will inform,  
Merely in hate, 'gainst any of us all,  
That will the king severely prosecute  
'Gainst us, our lives, our children, and our heirs.

**LORD ROSS:** The commons hath he pill'd with grievous taxes,  
And quite lost their hearts: the nobles hath he fined  
For ancient quarrels, and quite lost their hearts.

**LORD WILLOUGHBY:** And daily new exactions are devised,  
As blanks, benevolences, and I wot not what:  
But what, o' God's name, doth become of this?

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Wars have not wasted it, for warr'd he hath not,  
But basely yielded upon compromise  
That which his noble ancestors achieved with blows:  
More hath he spent in peace than they in wars.

**LORD ROSS:** The Earl of Wiltshire hath the realm in farm.

**LORD WILLOUGHBY:** The king's grown bankrupt, like a broken man.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Reproach and dissolution  
hangeth over him.

**LORD ROSS:** He hath not money for these Irish wars,  
His burthenous taxations notwithstanding,  
But by the robbing of the banish'd duke.

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

**LORD ROSS:** We see the very wreck that we must  
suffer;  
And unavoided is the danger now,  
For suffering so the causes of our wreck.

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

**LORD WILLOUGHBY:** Nay, let us share thy thoughts,  
as thou dost ours.

**LORD ROSS:** Be confident to speak, Northumberland:  
We three are but thyself; and, speaking so,  
Thy words are but as thoughts; therefore, be bold.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Then thus: I have from Port le Blanc,  
a bay

In Brittany, received intelligence  
That Harry Duke of Hereford, Rainold Lord Cobham,  
That late broke from the Duke of Exeter,  
His brother, Archbishop late of Canterbury,  
Sir Thomas Erpingham, Sir John Ramston,  
Sir John Norbery, Sir Robert Waterton and Francis Quoint,  
All these well furnish'd by the Duke of Bretagne  
With eight tall ships, three thousand men of war,  
Are making hither with all due expedience  
And shortly mean to touch our northern shore:  
Perhaps they had ere this, but that they stay  
The first departing of the king for Ireland.  
If then we shall shake off our slavish yoke,  
Imp out our drooping country's broken wing,  
Redeem from broking pawn the blemish'd crown,  
Wipe off the dust that hides our sceptre's gilt  
And make high majesty look like itself,  
Away with me in post to Ravenspurgh;  
But if you faint, as fearing to do so,  
Stay and be secret, and myself will go.

**LORD ROSS:** To horse, to horse! urge doubts to them  
that fear.

**LORD WILLOUGHBY:** Hold out my horse, and I will  
first be there.

*[Exeunt.]*

## **SCENE II: The palace.**

*[Enter QUEEN, BUSHY, and BAGOT.]*

**BUSHY:** Madam, your majesty is too much sad:  
You promised, when you parted with the king,  
To lay aside life-harming heaviness  
And entertain a cheerful disposition.

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

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

**QUEEN:** It may be so; but yet my inward soul  
Persuades me it is otherwise: howe'er it be,  
I cannot but be sad; so heavy sad  
As, though on thinking on no thought I think,  
Makes me with heavy nothing faint and shrink.

**BUSHY:** 'Tis nothing but conceit, my gracious lady.

**QUEEN:** 'Tis nothing less: conceit is still derived  
From some forefather grief; mine is not so,  
For nothing had begot my something grief;

Or something hath the nothing that I grieve:  
'Tis in reversion that I do possess;  
But what it is, that is not yet known; what  
I cannot name; 'tis nameless woe, I wot.

*[Enter GREEN.]*

**GREEN:** God save your majesty! and well met, gentlemen:  
I hope the king is not yet shipp'd for Ireland.

**QUEEN:** Why hopest thou so? 'tis better hope he is;  
For his designs crave haste, his haste good hope:  
Then wherefore dost thou hope he is not shipp'd?

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

**QUEEN:** Now God in heaven forbid!

**GREEN:** Ah, madam, 'tis too true: and that is worse,  
The Lord Northumberland, his son young Henry Percy,  
The Lords of Ross, Beaumont, and Willoughby,  
With all their powerful friends, are fled to him.

**BUSHY:** Why have you not proclaim'd Northumberland  
And all the rest revolted faction traitors?

**GREEN:** We have: whereupon the Earl of Worcester  
Hath broke his staff, resign'd his stewardship,  
And all the household servants fled with him  
To Bolingbroke.

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

**BUSHY:** Despair not, madam.

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

*[Enter DUKE OF YORK.]*

**GREEN:** Here comes the Duke of York.

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

**DUKE OF YORK:** Should I do so, I should belie my  
thoughts:

Comfort's in heaven; and we are on the earth,  
Where nothing lives but crosses, cares and grief.  
Your husband, he is gone to save far off,  
Whilst others come to make him lose at home:  
Here am I left to underprop his land,  
Who, weak with age, cannot support myself:  
Now comes the sick hour that his surfeit made;  
Now shall he try his friends that flatter'd him.

*[Enter a Servant.]*

**Servant:** My lord, your son was gone before I came.

**DUKE OF YORK:** He was? Why, so! go all which way it  
will!

The nobles they are fled, the commons they are cold,  
And will, I fear, revolt on Hereford's side.  
Sirrah, get thee to Plashy, to my sister Gloucester;  
Bid her send me presently a thousand pound:  
Hold, take my ring.

**Servant:** My lord, I had forgot to tell your lordship,  
To-day, as I came by, I called there;  
But I shall grieve you to report the rest.

**DUKE OF YORK:** What is't, knave?

**Servant:** An hour before I came, the duchess died.

**DUKE OF YORK:** God for his mercy! what a tide of woes  
Comes rushing on this woeful land at once!  
I know not what to do: I would to God,  
So my untruth had not provoked him to it,  
The king had cut off my head with my brother's.  
What, are there no posts dispatch'd for Ireland?  
How shall we do for money for these wars?  
Come, sister,—cousin, I would say—pray, pardon me.  
Go, fellow, get thee home, provide some carts  
And bring away the armor that is there.

*[Exit Servant.]*

Gentlemen, will you go muster men?  
If I know how or which way to order these affairs  
Thus thrust disorderly into my hands,  
Never believe me. Both are my kinsmen:  
The one is my sovereign, whom both my oath  
And duty bids defend; the other again

Is my kinsman, whom the king hath wrong'd,  
Whom conscience and my kindred bids to right.  
Well, somewhat we must do. Come, cousin, I'll  
Dispose of you.  
Gentlemen, go, muster up your men,  
And meet me presently at Berkeley.  
I should to Plashy too;  
But time will not permit: all is uneven,  
And every thing is left at six and seven.

*[Exeunt DUKE OF YORK and QUEEN.]*

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

**GREEN:** Besides, our nearness to the king in love  
Is near the hate of those love not the king.

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

**BUSHY:** Wherein the king stands generally condemn'd.

**BAGOT:** If judgement lie in them, then so do we,

Because we ever have been near the king.

**GREEN:** Well, I will for refuge straight to Bristol castle:  
The Earl of Wiltshire is already there.

**BUSHY:** Thither will I with you; for little office  
The hateful commons will perform for us,  
Except like curs to tear us all to pieces.  
Will you go along with us?

**BAGOT:** No; I will to Ireland to his majesty.  
Farewell: if heart's presages be not vain,  
We three here art that ne'er shall meet again.

**BUSHY:** That's as York thrives to beat back Bolingbroke.

**GREEN:** Alas, poor duke! the task he undertakes  
Is numbering sands and drinking oceans dry:  
Where one on his side fights, thousands will fly.  
Farewell at once, for once, for all, and ever.

**BUSHY:** Well, we may meet again.

**BAGOT:** I fear me, never.

*[Exeunt.]*

**SCENE III: Wilds in Gloucestershire.**

*[Enter HENRY BOLINGBROKE and NORTHUMBERLAND, with Forces.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** How far is it, my lord, to Berkeley now?

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Believe me, noble lord, I am a stranger here in Gloucestershire: These high wild hills and rough uneven ways Draw out our miles, and makes them wearisome, And yet your fair discourse hath been as sugar, Making the hard way sweet and delectable. But I bethink me what a weary way From Ravenspurgh to Cotswold will be found In Ross and Willoughby, wanting your company, Which, I protest, hath very much beguiled The tediousness and process of my travel: But theirs is sweetened with the hope to have The present benefit which I possess; And hope to joy is little less in joy Than hope enjoy'd: by this the weary lords Shall make their way seem short, as mine hath done By sight of what I have, your noble company.

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

*[Enter HENRY PERCY.]*

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

**HENRY PERCY:** I had thought, my lord, to have learn'd his health of you.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Why, is he not with the queen?

**HENRY PERCY:** No, my good Lord; he hath forsook the court, Broken his staff of office and dispersed The household of the king.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** What was his reason? He was not so resolved when last we spake together.

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

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Have you forgot the Duke of Hereford, boy?



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

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Then learn to know him now;  
this is the duke.

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

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

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

**HENRY PERCY:** There stands the castle, by yon tuft of trees,  
Mann'd with three hundred men, as I have heard;  
And in it are the Lords of York, Berkeley, and Seymour;

None else of name and noble estimate.

*[Enter LORD ROSS and LORD WILLOUGHBY.]*

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

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Welcome, my lords. I wot your  
love pursues  
A banish'd traitor: all my treasury  
Is yet but unfelt thanks, which more enrich'd  
Shall be your love and labor's recompense.

**LORD ROSS:** Your presence makes us rich, most noble lord.

**LORD WILLOUGHBY:** And far surmounts our labor to  
attain it.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Evermore thanks, the exchequer  
of the poor;  
Which, till my infant fortune comes to years,  
Stands for my bounty. But who comes here?

*[Enter LORD BERKELEY.]*

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** It is my Lord of Berkeley, as I guess.

**LORD BERKELEY:** My Lord of Hereford, my message is to you.

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

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

*[Enter DUKE OF YORK attended.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** I shall not need transport my words by you;  
Here comes his grace in person. My noble uncle!

*[Kneels.]*

**DUKE OF YORK:** Show me thy humble heart, and not thy knee,

Whose duty is deceiveable and false.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** My gracious uncle—

**DUKE OF YORK:** Tut, tut!

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

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** My gracious uncle, let me know my fault:

On what condition stands it and wherein?

**DUKE OF YORK:** Even in condition of the worst degree,  
In gross rebellion and detested treason:  
Thou art a banish'd man, and here art come  
Before the expiration of thy time,  
In braving arms against thy sovereign.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** As I was banish'd, I was banish'd  
Hereford;

But as I come, I come for Lancaster.  
And, noble uncle, I beseech your grace  
Look on my wrongs with an indifferent eye:  
You are my father, for methinks in you  
I see old Gaunt alive; O, then, my father,  
Will you permit that I shall stand condemn'd  
A wandering vagabond; my rights and royalties  
Pluck'd from my arms perforce and given away  
To upstart unthrifths? Wherefore was I born?  
If that my cousin king be King of England,  
It must be granted I am Duke of Lancaster.  
You have a son, Aumerle, my noble cousin;  
Had you first died, and he been thus trod down,  
He should have found his uncle Gaunt a father,  
To rouse his wrongs and chase them to the bay.  
I am denied to sue my livery here,  
And yet my letters-patents give me leave:

My father's goods are all distrain'd and sold,  
And these and all are all amiss employ'd.  
What would you have me do? I am a subject,  
And I challenge law: attorneys are denied me;  
And therefore, personally I lay my claim  
To my inheritance of free descent.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** The noble duke hath been too  
much abused.

**LORD ROSS:** It stands your grace upon to do him right.

**LORD WILLOUGHBY:** Base men by his endowments are  
made great.

**DUKE OF YORK:** My lords of England, let me tell you this:  
I have had feeling of my cousin's wrongs  
And labored all I could to do him right;  
But in this kind to come, in braving arms,  
Be his own carver and cut out his way,  
To find out right with wrong, it may not be;  
And you that do abet him in this kind  
Cherish rebellion and are rebels all.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** The noble duke hath sworn his  
coming is  
But for his own; and for the right of that

We all have strongly sworn to give him aid;  
And let him ne'er see joy that breaks that oath!

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

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

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

*[Exeunt.]*

## **SCENE IV: A camp in Wales.**

*[Enter EARL OF SALISBURY and a Welsh Captain.]*

**Captain:** My lord of Salisbury, we have stay'd ten days,  
And hardly kept our countrymen together,  
And yet we hear no tidings from the king;  
Therefore we will disperse ourselves: farewell.

**EARL OF SALISBURY:** Stay yet another day, thou trusty  
Welshman:  
The king reposes all his confidence in thee.

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

*[Exit.]*

**EARL OF SALISBURY:** Ah, Richard, with the eyes of  
heavy mind

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

*[Exit.]*

## ACT III

### SCENE I: Bristol. Before the castle.

*[Enter HENRY BOLINGBROKE, DUKE OF YORK, NORTHUMBERLAND, LORD ROSS, HENRY PERCY, LORD WILLOUGHBY, with BUSHY and GREEN, prisoners.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Bring forth these men.  
Bushy and Green, I will not vex your souls—  
Since presently your souls must part your bodies—  
With too much urging your pernicious lives,  
For 'twere no charity; yet, to wash your blood  
From off my hands, here in the view of men  
I will unfold some causes of your deaths.  
You have misled a prince, a royal king,  
A happy gentleman in blood and lineaments,  
By you unhappied and disfigured clean:  
You have in manner with your sinful hours  
Made a divorce betwixt his queen and him,  
Broke the possession of a royal bed  
And stain'd the beauty of a fair queen's cheeks  
With tears drawn from her eyes by your foul wrongs.  
Myself, a prince by fortune of my birth,  
Near to the king in blood, and near in love  
Till you did make him misinterpret me,

Have stoop'd my neck under your injuries,  
And sigh'd my English breath in foreign clouds,  
Eating the bitter bread of banishment;  
Whilst you have fed upon my signories,  
Dispark'd my parks and fell'd my forest woods,  
From my own windows torn my household coat,  
Razed out my imprese, leaving me no sign,  
Save men's opinions and my living blood,  
To show the world I am a gentleman.  
This and much more, much more than twice all this,  
Condemns you to the death. See them deliver'd over  
To execution and the hand of death.

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

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

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** My Lord Northumberland, see  
them dispatch'd.

*[Exeunt NORTHUMBERLAND and others, with the prisoners.]*

Uncle, you say the queen is at your house;  
For God's sake, fairly let her be entreated:  
Tell her I send to her my kind commends;  
Take special care my greetings be deliver'd.

**DUKE OF YORK:** A gentleman of mine I have dispatch'd  
With letters of your love to her at large.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Thank, gentle uncle. Come, lords,  
away.  
To fight with Glendower and his complices:  
Awhile to work, and after holiday.

*[Exeunt.]*

**SCENE II: The coast of Wales. A castle in view.**

*[Drums; flourish and colors. Enter KING RICHARD II, the BISHOP OF CARLISLE, DUKE OF AUMERLE, and Soldiers.]*

**KING RICHARD II:** Barkloughly castle call they this at hand?

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Yea, my lord. How brooks your  
grace the air,  
After your late tossing on the breaking seas?

**KING RICHARD II:** Needs must I like it well: I weep for joy  
To stand upon my kingdom once again.  
Dear earth, I do salute thee with my hand,  
Though rebels wound thee with their horses' hoofs:  
As a long-parted mother with her child  
Plays fondly with her tears and smiles in meeting,

So, weeping, smiling, greet I thee, my earth,  
And do thee favors with my royal hands.  
Feed not thy sovereign's foe, my gentle earth,  
Nor with thy sweets comfort his ravenous sense;  
But let thy spiders, that suck up thy venom,  
And heavy-gaited toads lie in their way,  
Doing annoyance to the treacherous feet  
Which with usurping steps do trample thee:  
Yield stinging nettles to mine enemies;  
And when they from thy bosom pluck a flower,  
Guard it, I pray thee, with a lurking adder  
Whose double tongue may with a mortal touch  
Throw death upon thy sovereign's enemies.  
Mock not my senseless conjuration, lords:  
This earth shall have a feeling and these stones  
Prove armed soldiers, ere her native king  
Shall falter under foul rebellion's arms.

**BISHOP OF CARLISLE:** Fear not, my lord: that Power  
that made you king  
Hath power to keep you king in spite of all.  
The means that heaven yields must be embraced,  
And not neglected; else, if heaven would,  
And we will not, heaven's offer we refuse,  
The proffer'd means of succor and redress.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** He means, my lord, that we are  
too remiss;

Whilst Bolingbroke, through our security,  
Grows strong and great in substance and in power.

**KING RICHARD II:** Discomfortable cousin! know'st  
thou not

That when the searching eye of heaven is hid,  
Behind the globe, that lights the lower world,  
Then thieves and robbers range abroad unseen  
In murders and in outrage, boldly here;  
But when from under this terrestrial ball  
He fires the proud tops of the eastern pines  
And darts his light through every guilty hole,  
Then murders, treasons and detested sins,  
The cloak of night being pluck'd from off their backs,  
Stand bare and naked, trembling at themselves?  
So when this thief, this traitor, Bolingbroke,  
Who all this while hath revell'd in the night  
Whilst we were wandering with the antipodes,  
Shall see us rising in our throne, the east,  
His treasons will sit blushing in his face,  
Not able to endure the sight of day,  
But self-affrighted tremble at his sin.  
Not all the water in the rough rude sea  
Can wash the balm off from an anointed king;  
The breath of worldly men cannot depose  
The deputy elected by the Lord:  
For every man that Bolingbroke hath press'd

To lift shrewd steel against our golden crown,  
God for his Richard hath in heavenly pay  
A glorious angel: then, if angels fight,  
Weak men must fall, for heaven still guards the right.

*[Enter EARL OF SALISBURY.]*

Welcome, my lord: how far off lies your power?

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

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Comfort, my liege; why looks  
your grace so pale?

**KING RICHARD II:** But now the blood of twenty  
thousand men

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

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Comfort, my liege; remember who  
you are.

**KING RICHARD II:** I had forgot myself; am I not king?  
Awake, thou coward majesty! thou sleepest.  
Is not the king's name twenty thousand names?  
Arm, arm, my name! a puny subject strikes  
At thy great glory. Look not to the ground,  
Ye favorites of a king: are we not high?  
High be our thoughts: I know my uncle York  
Hath power enough to serve our turn. But who comes  
here?

*[Enter SIR STEPHEN SCROOP.]*

**SIR STEPHEN SCROOP:** More health and happiness  
betide my liege  
Than can my care-tuned tongue deliver him!

**KING RICHARD II:** Mine ear is open and my heart prepared;  
The worst is worldly loss thou canst unfold.



Say, is my kingdom lost? why, 'twas my care  
And what loss is it to be rid of care?  
Strives Bolingbroke to be as great as we?  
Greater he shall not be; if he serve God,  
We'll serve Him too and be his fellow so:  
Revolt our subjects? that we cannot mend;  
They break their faith to God as well as us:  
Cry woe, destruction, ruin and decay:  
The worst is death, and death will have his day.

**SIR STEPHEN SCROOP:** Glad am I that your highness is  
so arm'd

To bear the tidings of calamity.  
Like an unseasonable stormy day,  
Which makes the silver rivers drown their shores,  
As if the world were all dissolved to tears,  
So high above his limits swells the rage  
Of Bolingbroke, covering your fearful land  
With hard bright steel and hearts harder than steel.  
White-beards have arm'd their thin and hairless scalps  
Against thy majesty; boys, with women's voices,  
Strive to speak big and clap their female joints  
In stiff unwieldy arms against thy crown:  
The very beadsmen learn to bend their bows  
Of double-fatal yew against thy state;  
Yea, distaff-women manage rusty bills  
Against thy seat: both young and old rebel,  
And all goes worse than I have power to tell.

**KING RICHARD II:** Too well, too well thou tell'st a tale  
so ill.

Where is the Earl of Wiltshire? where is Bagot?  
What is become of Bushy? where is Green?  
That they have let the dangerous enemy  
Measure our confines with such peaceful steps?  
If we prevail, their heads shall pay for it:  
I warrant they have made peace with Bolingbroke.

**SIR STEPHEN SCROOP:** Peace have they made with  
him indeed, my lord.

**KING RICHARD II:** O villains, vipers, damn'd without  
redemption!  
Dogs, easily won to fawn on any man!  
Snakes, in my heart-blood warm'd, that sting my heart!  
Three Judases, each one thrice worse than Judas!  
Would they make peace? terrible hell make war  
Upon their spotted souls for this offence!

**SIR STEPHEN SCROOP:** Sweet love, I see, changing his  
property,  
Turns to the sourest and most deadly hate:  
Again uncurse their souls; their peace is made  
With heads, and not with hands; those whom you curse  
Have felt the worst of death's destroying wound  
And lie full low, graved in the hollow ground.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Is Bushy, Green, and the Earl of Wiltshire dead?

**SIR STEPHEN SCROOP:** Ay, all of them at Bristol lost their heads.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Where is the duke my father with his power?

**KING RICHARD II:** No matter where; of comfort no man speak:

Let's talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs;  
Make dust our paper and with rainy eyes  
Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth,  
Let's choose executors and talk of wills:  
And yet not so, for what can we bequeath  
Save our deposed bodies to the ground?  
Our lands, our lives and all are Bolingbroke's,  
And nothing can we call our own but death  
And that small model of the barren earth  
Which serves as paste and cover to our bones.  
For God's sake, let us sit upon the ground  
And tell sad stories of the death of kings;  
How some have been deposed; some slain in war,  
Some haunted by the ghosts they have deposed;  
Some poison'd by their wives: some sleeping kill'd;  
All murder'd: for within the hollow crown

That rounds the mortal temples of a king  
Keeps Death his court and there the antic sits,  
Scoffing his state and grinning at his pomp,  
Allowing him a breath, a little scene,  
To monarchize, be fear'd and kill with looks,  
Infusing him with self and vain conceit,  
As if this flesh which walls about our life,  
Were brass impregnable, and humor'd thus  
Comes at the last and with a little pin  
Bores through his castle wall, and farewell king!  
Cover your heads and mock not flesh and blood  
With solemn reverence: throw away respect,  
Tradition, form and ceremonious duty,  
For you have but mistook me all this while:  
I live with bread like you, feel want,  
Taste grief, need friends: subjected thus,  
How can you say to me, I am a king?

**BISHOP OF CARLISLE:** My lord, wise men ne'er sit and wail their woes,

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

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** My father hath a power; inquire  
of him

And learn to make a body of a limb.

**KING RICHARD II:** Thou chidest me well: proud  
Bolingbroke, I come  
To change blows with thee for our day of doom.  
This ague fit of fear is over-blown;  
An easy task it is to win our own.  
Say, Scroop, where lies our uncle with his power?  
Speak sweetly, man, although thy looks be sour.

**SIR STEPHEN SCROOP:** Men judge by the complexion  
of the sky

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

**KING RICHARD II:** Thou hast said enough.  
Beshrew thee, cousin, which didst lead me forth

*[To DUKE OF AUMERLE.]*

Of that sweet way I was in to despair!  
What say you now? what comfort have we now?  
By heaven, I'll hate him everlastingly  
That bids me be of comfort any more.  
Go to Flint castle: there I'll pine away;  
A king, woe's slave, shall kingly woe obey.  
That power I have, discharge; and let them go  
To ear the land that hath some hope to grow,  
For I have none: let no man speak again  
To alter this, for counsel is but vain.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** My liege, one word.

**KING RICHARD II:** He does me double wrong  
That wounds me with the flatteries of his tongue.  
Discharge my followers: let them hence away,  
From Richard's night to Bolingbroke's fair day.

*[Exeunt.]*

**SCENE III: Wales. Before Flint castle.**

*[Enter, with drum and colors, HENRY BOLINGBROKE, DUKE OF YORK, NORTHUMBERLAND, Attendants, and forces.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** So that by this intelligence we  
learn

The Welshmen are dispersed, and Salisbury  
Is gone to meet the king, who lately landed  
With some few private friends upon this coast.

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

**DUKE OF YORK:** It would beseem the Lord Northumberland  
To say 'King Richard:' alack the heavy day  
When such a sacred king should hide his head.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Your grace mistakes; only to be brief  
Left I his title out.

**DUKE OF YORK:** The time hath been,  
Would you have been so brief with him, he would  
Have been so brief with you, to shorten you,  
For taking so the head, your whole head's length.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Mistake not, uncle, further  
than you should.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Take not, good cousin, further than  
you should.  
Lest you mistake the heavens are o'er our heads.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** I know it, uncle, and oppose  
not myself  
Against their will. But who comes here?

*[Enter HENRY PERCY.]*

Welcome, Harry: what, will not this castle yield?

**HENRY PERCY:** The castle royally is mann'd, my lord,  
Against thy entrance.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Royally!  
Why, it contains no king?

**HENRY PERCY:** Yes, my good lord,  
It doth contain a king; King Richard lies  
Within the limits of yon lime and stone:  
And with him are the Lord Aumerle, Lord Salisbury,  
Sir Stephen Scroop, besides a clergyman  
Of holy reverence; who, I cannot learn.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** O, belike it is the Bishop of Carlisle.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Noble lords,  
Go to the rude ribs of that ancient castle;  
Through brazen trumpet send the breath of parley  
Into his ruin'd ears, and thus deliver:  
Henry Bolingbroke  
On both his knees doth kiss King Richard's hand  
And sends allegiance and true faith of heart  
To his most royal person, hither come  
Even at his feet to lay my arms and power,  
Provided that my banishment repeal'd  
And lands restored again be freely granted:  
If not, I'll use the advantage of my power  
And lay the summer's dust with showers of blood  
Rain'd from the wounds of slaughter'd Englishmen:  
The which, how far off from the mind of Bolingbroke  
It is, such crimson tempest should bedrench  
The fresh green lap of fair King Richard's land,  
My stooping duty tenderly shall show.  
Go, signify as much, while here we march  
Upon the grassy carpet of this plain.  
Let's march without the noise of threatening drum,  
That from this castle's tatter'd battlements  
Our fair appointments may be well perused.  
Methinks King Richard and myself should meet  
With no less terror than the elements

Of fire and water, when their thundering shock  
At meeting tears the cloudy cheeks of heaven.  
Be he the fire, I'll be the yielding water:  
The rage be his, whilst on the earth I rain  
My waters; on the earth, and not on him.  
March on, and mark King Richard how he looks.

*[Parle without, and answer within. Then a flourish. Enter on the walls, KING RICHARD II, the BISHOP OF CARLISLE, DUKE OF AUMERLE, SIR STEPHEN SCROOP, and EARL OF SALISBURY.]*

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

**DUKE OF YORK:** Yet looks he like a king: behold, his eye,  
As bright as is the eagle's, lightens forth  
Controlling majesty: alack, alack, for woe,  
That any harm should stain so fair a show!

**KING RICHARD II:** We are amazed; and thus long have  
we stood  
To watch the fearful bending of thy knee,

[To NORTHUMBERLAND.]

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

To scarlet indignation and bedew  
Her pastures' grass with faithful English blood.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** The king of heaven forbid our  
lord the king  
Should so with civil and uncivil arms  
Be rush'd upon! Thy thrice noble cousin  
Harry Bolingbroke doth humbly kiss thy hand;  
And by the honorable tomb he swears,  
That stands upon your royal grandsire's bones,  
And by the royalties of both your bloods,  
Currents that spring from one most gracious head,  
And by the buried hand of warlike Gaunt,  
And by the worth and honor of himself,  
Comprising all that may be sworn or said,  
His coming hither hath no further scope  
Than for his lineal royalties and to beg  
Enfranchisement immediate on his knees:  
Which on thy royal party granted once,  
His glittering arms he will commend to rust,  
His barbed steeds to stables, and his heart  
To faithful service of your majesty.  
This swears he, as he is a prince, is just;  
And, as I am a gentleman, I credit him.

**KING RICHARD II:** Northumberland, say thus the king  
returns:

His noble cousin is right welcome hither;  
And all the number of his fair demands  
Shall be accomplish'd without contradiction:  
With all the gracious utterance thou hast  
Speak to his gentle hearing kind commends.  
We do debase ourselves, cousin, do we not,

[*To DUKE OF AUMERLE.*]

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

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** No, good my lord; let's fight with  
gentle words  
Till time lend friends and friends their helpful swords.

**KING RICHARD II:** O God, O God! that e'er this tongue  
of mine,  
That laid the sentence of dread banishment  
On yon proud man, should take it off again  
With words of sooth! O that I were as great  
As is my grief, or lesser than my name!  
Or that I could forget what I have been,  
Or not remember what I must be now!  
Swell'st thou, proud heart? I'll give thee scope to beat,  
Since foes have scope to beat both thee and me.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Northumberland comes back from  
Bolingbroke.

**KING RICHARD II:** What must the king do now? must  
he submit?

The king shall do it: must he be deposed?  
The king shall be contented: must he lose  
The name of king? o' God's name, let it go:  
I'll give my jewels for a set of beads,  
My gorgeous palace for a hermitage,  
My gay apparel for an almsman's gown,  
My figured goblets for a dish of wood,  
My sceptre for a palmer's walking staff,  
My subjects for a pair of carved saints  
And my large kingdom for a little grave,  
A little little grave, an obscure grave;  
Or I'll be buried in the king's highway,  
Some way of common trade, where subjects' feet  
May hourly trample on their sovereign's head;  
For on my heart they tread now whilst I live;  
And buried once, why not upon my head?  
Aumerle, thou weep'st, my tender-hearted cousin!  
We'll make foul weather with despised tears;  
Our sighs and they shall lodge the summer corn,  
And make a dearth in this revolting land.  
Or shall we play the wantons with our woes,  
And make some pretty match with shedding tears?

As thus, to drop them still upon one place,  
Till they have fretted us a pair of graves  
Within the earth; and, therein laid,—there lies  
Two kinsmen digg'd their graves with weeping eyes.  
Would not this ill do well? Well, well, I see  
I talk but idly, and you laugh at me.  
Most mighty prince, my Lord Northumberland,  
What says King Bolingbroke? will his majesty  
Give Richard leave to live till Richard die?  
You make a leg, and Bolingbroke says ay.

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

**KING RICHARD II:** Down, down I come; like glistering  
Phaethon,  
Wanting the manage of unruly jades.  
In the base court? Base court, where kings grow base,  
To come at traitors' calls and do them grace.  
In the base court? Come down? Down, court! down, king!  
For night-owls shriek where mounting larks should sing.

*[Exeunt from above.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** What says his majesty?

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

*[Enter KING RICHARD and his attendants below.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Stand all apart,  
And show fair duty to his majesty.

*[He kneels down.]*

My gracious lord,—

**KING RICHARD II:** Fair cousin, you debase your princely  
knee

To make the base earth proud with kissing it:  
Me rather had my heart might feel your love  
Than my unpleased eye see your courtesy.  
Up, cousin, up; your heart is up, I know,  
Thus high at least, although your knee be low.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** My gracious lord, I come but  
for mine own.

**KING RICHARD II:** Your own is yours, and I am yours,  
and all.



**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** So far be mine, my most redoubted  
lord,

As my true service shall deserve your love.

**KING RICHARD II:** Well you deserve: they well deserve  
to have,

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

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Yea, my good lord.

**KING RICHARD II:** Then I must not say no.

*[Flourish. Exeunt.]*

**SCENE IV: LANGLEY. The DUKE OF YORK's garden.**

*[Enter the QUEEN and two Ladies.]*

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

**Lady:** Madam, we'll play at bowls.

**QUEEN:** 'Twill make me think the world is full of rubs,  
And that my fortune rubs against the bias.

**Lady:** Madam, we'll dance.

**QUEEN:** My legs can keep no measure in delight,  
When my poor heart no measure keeps in grief:  
Therefore, no dancing, girl; some other sport.

**Lady:** Madam, we'll tell tales.

**QUEEN:** Of sorrow or of joy?

**Lady:** Of either, madam.

**QUEEN:** Of neither, girl:  
For of joy, being altogether wanting,  
It doth remember me the more of sorrow;  
Or if of grief, being altogether had,  
It adds more sorrow to my want of joy:  
For what I have I need not to repeat;  
And what I want it boots not to complain.

**Lady:** Madam, I'll sing.

Richard II, Act III, scene iv

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

**Lady:** I could weep, madam, would it do you good.

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

*[Enter a Gardener, and two Servants.]*

But stay, here come the gardeners:  
Let's step into the shadow of these trees.  
My wretchedness unto a row of pins,  
They'll talk of state; for every one doth so  
Against a change; woe is forerun with woe.

*[QUEEN and Ladies retire.]*

**Gardener:** Go, bind thou up yon dangling apricocks,  
Which, like unruly children, make their sire  
Stoop with oppression of their prodigal weight:  
Give some supportance to the bending twigs.  
Go thou, and like an executioner,  
Cut off the heads of too fast growing sprays,  
That look too lofty in our commonwealth:  
All must be even in our government.  
You thus employ'd, I will go root away

The noisome weeds, which without profit suck  
The soil's fertility from wholesome flowers.

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

**Gardener:** Hold thy peace:  
He that hath suffer'd this disorder'd spring  
Hath now himself met with the fall of leaf:  
The weeds which his broad-spreading leaves did shelter,  
That seem'd in eating him to hold him up,  
Are pluck'd up root and all by Bolingbroke,  
I mean the Earl of Wiltshire, Bushy, Green.

**Servant:** What, are they dead?

**Gardener:** They are; and Bolingbroke  
Hath seized the wasteful king. O, what pity is it  
That he had not so trimm'd and dress'd his land  
As we this garden! We at time of year  
Do wound the bark, the skin of our fruit-trees,

Lest, being over-proud in sap and blood,  
With too much riches it confound itself:  
Had he done so to great and growing men,  
They might have lived to bear and he to taste  
Their fruits of duty: superfluous branches  
We lop away, that bearing boughs may live:  
Had he done so, himself had borne the crown,  
Which waste of idle hours hath quite thrown down.

**Servant:** What, think you then the king shall be deposed?

**Gardener:** Depress'd he is already, and deposed  
'Tis doubt he will be: letters came last night  
To a dear friend of the good Duke of York's,  
That tell black tidings.

**QUEEN:** O, I am press'd to death through want of speaking!

*[Coming forward.]*

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

What Eve, what serpent, hath suggested thee  
To make a second fall of cursed man?

Why dost thou say King Richard is deposed?  
Darest thou, thou little better thing than earth,

Divine his downfall? Say, where, when, and how,  
Camest thou by this ill tidings? speak, thou wretch.

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

**QUEEN:** Nimble mischance, that art so light of foot,  
Doth not thy embassy belong to me,  
And am I last that knows it? O, thou think'st  
To serve me last, that I may longest keep  
Thy sorrow in my breast. Come, ladies, go,  
To meet at London London's king in woe.  
What, was I born to this, that my sad look  
Should grace the triumph of great Bolingbroke?  
Gardener, for telling me these news of woe,  
Pray God the plants thou graft'st may never grow.

*[Exeunt QUEEN and Ladies.]*

**GARDENER:** Poor queen! so that thy state might be  
no worse,

I would my skill were subject to thy curse.  
Here did she fall a tear; here in this place  
I'll set a bank of rue, sour herb of grace:  
Rue, even for ruth, here shortly shall be seen,  
In the remembrance of a weeping queen.

*[Exeunt.]*

## ACT IV

### SCENE I: Westminster Hall.

*[Enter, as to the Parliament, HENRY BOLINGBROKE, DUKE OF AUMERLE, NORTHUMBERLAND, HENRY PERCY, LORD FITZWATER, DUKE OF SURREY, the BISHOP OF CARLISLE, the Abbot Of Westminster, and another Lord, Herald, Officers, and BAGOT.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Call forth Bagot.  
Now, Bagot, freely speak thy mind;  
What thou dost know of noble Gloucester's death,  
Who wrought it with the king, and who perform'd  
The bloody office of his timeless end.

**BAGOT:** Then set before my face the Lord Aumerle.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Cousin, stand forth, and look  
upon that man.

**BAGOT:** My Lord Aumerle, I know your daring tongue  
Scorns to unsay what once it hath deliver'd.  
In that dead time when Gloucester's death was plotted,  
I heard you say, 'Is not my arm of length,  
That reacheth from the restful English court

As far as Calais, to mine uncle's head?  
Amongst much other talk, that very time,  
I heard you say that you had rather refuse  
The offer of an hundred thousand crowns  
Than Bolingbroke's return to England;  
Adding withal how blest this land would be  
In this your cousin's death.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Princes and noble lords,  
What answer shall I make to this base man?  
Shall I so much dishonor my fair stars,  
On equal terms to give him chastisement?  
Either I must, or have mine honor soil'd  
With the attainder of his slanderous lips.  
There is my gage, the manual seal of death,  
That marks thee out for hell: I say, thou liest,  
And will maintain what thou hast said is false  
In thy heart-blood, though being all too base  
To stain the temper of my knightly sword.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Bagot, forbear; thou shalt not  
take it up.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Excepting one, I would he were  
the best  
In all this presence that hath moved me so.

**LORD FITZWATER:** If that thy valor stand on sympathy,  
There is my gage, Aumerle, in gage to thine:  
By that fair sun which shows me where thou stand'st,  
I heard thee say, and vauntingly thou spakest it  
That thou wert cause of noble Gloucester's death.  
If thou deny'st it twenty times, thou liest;  
And I will turn thy falsehood to thy heart,  
Where it was forged, with my rapier's point.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Thou darest not, coward, live to  
see that day.

**LORD FITZWATER:** Now by my soul, I would it were  
this hour.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Fitzwater, thou art damn'd to hell  
for this.

**HENRY PERCY:** Aumerle, thou liest; his honor is as true  
In this appeal as thou art all unjust;  
And that thou art so, there I throw my gage,  
To prove it on thee to the extremest point  
Of mortal breathing: seize it, if thou darest.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** An if I do not, may my hands rot off  
And never brandish more revengeful steel  
Over the glittering helmet of my foe!

**Lord:** I task the earth to the like, forsworn Aumerle;  
And spur thee on with full as many lies  
As may be holloa'd in thy treacherous ear  
From sun to sun: there is my honor's pawn;  
Engage it to the trial, if thou darest.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Who sets me else? by heaven, I'll  
throw at all:  
I have a thousand spirits in one breast,  
To answer twenty thousand such as you.

**DUKE OF SURREY:** My Lord Fitzwater, I do remember well  
The very time Aumerle and you did talk.

**LORD FITZWATER:** 'Tis very true: you were in presence  
then;  
And you can witness with me this is true.

**DUKE OF SURREY:** As false, by heaven, as heaven itself  
is true.

**LORD FITZWATER:** Surrey, thou liest.

**DUKE OF SURREY:** Dishonorable boy!  
That lie shall lie so heavy on my sword,  
That it shall render vengeance and revenge  
Till thou the lie-giver and that lie do lie

In earth as quiet as thy father's skull:  
In proof whereof, there is my honor's pawn;  
Engage it to the trial, if thou darest.

**LORD FITZWATER:** How fondly dost thou spur a  
forward horse!  
If I dare eat, or drink, or breathe, or live,  
I dare meet Surrey in a wilderness,  
And spit upon him, whilst I say he lies,  
And lies, and lies: there is my bond of faith,  
To tie thee to my strong correction.  
As I intend to thrive in this new world,  
Aumerle is guilty of my true appeal:  
Besides, I heard the banish'd Norfolk say  
That thou, Aumerle, didst send two of thy men  
To execute the noble duke at Calais.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Some honest Christian trust me  
with a gage  
That Norfolk lies: here do I throw down this,  
If he may be repeal'd, to try his honor.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** These differences shall all rest  
under gage  
Till Norfolk be repeal'd: repeal'd he shall be,  
And, though mine enemy, restored again  
To all his lands and signories: when he's return'd,  
Against Aumerle we will enforce his trial.

**BISHOP OF CARLISLE:** That honorable day shall ne'er  
be seen.

Many a time hath banish'd Norfolk fought  
For Jesu Christ in glorious Christian field,  
Streaming the ensign of the Christian cross  
Against black pagans, Turks, and Saracens:  
And toil'd with works of war, retired himself  
To Italy; and there at Venice gave  
His body to that pleasant country's earth,  
And his pure soul unto his captain Christ,  
Under whose colors he had fought so long.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Why, bishop, is Norfolk dead?

**BISHOP OF CARLISLE:** As surely as I live, my lord.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Sweet peace conduct his sweet  
soul to the bosom  
Of good old Abraham! Lords appellants,  
Your differences shall all rest under gage  
Till we assign you to your days of trial.

*[Enter DUKE OF YORK, attended.]*

**DUKE OF YORK:** Great Duke of Lancaster, I come to thee  
From plume-pluck'd Richard; who with willing soul  
Adopts thee heir, and his high sceptre yields

To the possession of thy royal hand:  
Ascend his throne, descending now from him;  
And long live Henry, fourth of that name!

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** In God's name, I'll ascend the  
regal throne.

**BISHOP OF CARLISLE:** Marry. God forbid!  
Worst in this royal presence may I speak,  
Yet best beseeming me to speak the truth.  
Would God that any in this noble presence  
Were enough noble to be upright judge  
Of noble Richard! then true noblesse would  
Learn him forbearance from so foul a wrong.  
What subject can give sentence on his king?  
And who sits here that is not Richard's subject?  
Thieves are not judged but they are by to hear,  
Although apparent guilt be seen in them;  
And shall the figure of God's majesty,  
His captain, steward, deputy-elect,  
Anointed, crowned, planted many years,  
Be judged by subject and inferior breath,  
And he himself not present? O, forfend it, God,  
That in a Christian climate souls refined  
Should show so heinous, black, obscene a deed!  
I speak to subjects, and a subject speaks,  
Stirr'd up by God, thus boldly for his king:





**DUKE OF YORK:** To do that office of thine own good will  
Which tired majesty did make thee offer,  
The resignation of thy state and crown  
To Henry Bolingbroke.

**KING RICHARD II:** Give me the crown. Here, cousin,  
seize the crown;

Here cousin:  
On this side my hand, and on that side yours.  
Now is this golden crown like a deep well  
That owes two buckets, filling one another,  
The emptier ever dancing in the air,  
The other down, unseen and full of water:  
That bucket down and full of tears am I,  
Drinking my griefs, whilst you mount up on high.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** I thought you had been willing  
to resign.

**KING RICHARD II:** My crown I am; but still my griefs  
are mine:

You may my glories and my state depose,  
But not my griefs; still am I king of those.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Part of your cares you give me  
with your crown.

**KING RICHARD II:** Your cares set up do not pluck my  
cares down.

My care is loss of care, by old care done;  
Your care is gain of care, by new care won:  
The cares I give I have, though given away;  
They tend the crown, yet still with me they stay.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Are you contented to resign  
the crown?

**KING RICHARD II:** Ay, no; no, ay; for I must nothing be;  
Therefore no no, for I resign to thee.  
Now mark me, how I will undo myself;  
I give this heavy weight from off my head  
And this unwieldy sceptre from my hand,  
The pride of kingly sway from out my heart;  
With mine own tears I wash away my balm,  
With mine own hands I give away my crown,  
With mine own tongue deny my sacred state,  
With mine own breath release all duty's rites:  
All pomp and majesty I do forswear;  
My manors, rents, revenues I forego;  
My acts, decrees, and statutes I deny:  
God pardon all oaths that are broke to me!  
God keep all vows unbroke that swear to thee!  
Make me, that nothing have, with nothing grieved,  
And thou with all pleased, that hast all achieved!

Long mayst thou live in Richard's seat to sit,  
And soon lie Richard in an earthly pit!  
God save King Harry, unking'd Richard says,  
And send him many years of sunshine days!  
What more remains?

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** No more, but that you read  
These accusations and these grievous crimes  
Committed by your person and your followers  
Against the state and profit of this land;  
That, by confessing them, the souls of men  
May deem that you are worthily deposed.

**KING RICHARD II:** Must I do so? and must I ravel out  
My weaved-up folly? Gentle Northumberland,  
If thy offences were upon record,  
Would it not shame thee in so fair a troop  
To read a lecture of them? If thou wouldst,  
There shouldst thou find one heinous article,  
Containing the deposing of a king  
And cracking the strong warrant of an oath,  
Mark'd with a blot, damn'd in the book of heaven:  
Nay, all of you that stand and look upon,  
Whilst that my wretchedness doth bait myself,  
Though some of you with Pilate wash your hands  
Showing an outward pity; yet you Pilates  
Have here deliver'd me to my sour cross,  
And water cannot wash away your sin.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** My lord, dispatch; read o'er these  
articles.

**KING RICHARD II:** Mine eyes are full of tears, I cannot  
see:

And yet salt water blinds them not so much  
But they can see a sort of traitors here.  
Nay, if I turn mine eyes upon myself,  
I find myself a traitor with the rest;  
For I have given here my soul's consent  
To undeck the pompous body of a king;  
Made glory base and sovereignty a slave,  
Proud majesty a subject, state a peasant.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** My lord,—

**KING RICHARD II:** No lord of thine, thou haught  
insulting man,  
Nor no man's lord; I have no name, no title,  
No, not that name was given me at the font,  
But 'tis usurp'd: alack the heavy day,  
That I have worn so many winters out,  
And know not now what name to call myself!  
O that I were a mockery king of snow,  
Standing before the sun of Bolingbroke,  
To melt myself away in water-drops!  
Good king, great king, and yet not greatly good,

An if my word be sterling yet in England,  
Let it command a mirror hither straight,  
That it may show me what a face I have,  
Since it is bankrupt of his majesty.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Go some of you and fetch a  
looking-glass.

*[Exit an attendant.]*

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Read o'er this paper while the  
glass doth come.

**KING RICHARD II:** Fiend, thou torment'st me ere I  
come to hell!

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Urge it no more, my Lord  
Northumberland.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** The commons will not then be  
satisfied.

**KING RICHARD II:** They shall be satisfied: I'll read enough,  
When I do see the very book indeed  
Where all my sins are writ, and that's myself.

*[Re-enter Attendant, with a glass.]*

Give me the glass, and therein will I read.  
No deeper wrinkles yet? hath sorrow struck  
So many blows upon this face of mine,  
And made no deeper wounds? O flattering glass,  
Like to my followers in prosperity,  
Thou dost beguile me! Was this face the face  
That every day under his household roof  
Did keep ten thousand men? was this the face  
That, like the sun, did make beholders wink?  
Was this the face that faced so many follies,  
And was at last out-faced by Bolingbroke?  
A brittle glory shineth in this face:  
As brittle as the glory is the face;

*[Dashes the glass against the ground.]*

For there it is, crack'd in a hundred shivers.  
Mark, silent king, the moral of this sport,  
How soon my sorrow hath destroy'd my face.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** The shadow of your sorrow  
hath destroy'd  
The shadow or your face.

**KING RICHARD II:** Say that again.  
The shadow of my sorrow! ha! let's see:  
'Tis very true, my grief lies all within;

And these external manners of laments  
Are merely shadows to the unseen grief  
That swells with silence in the tortured soul;  
There lies the substance: and I thank thee, king,  
For thy great bounty, that not only givest  
Me cause to wail but teachest me the way  
How to lament the cause. I'll beg one boon,  
And then be gone and trouble you no more.  
Shall I obtain it?

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Name it, fair cousin.

**KING RICHARD II:** 'Fair cousin'? I am greater than a king:  
For when I was a king, my flatterers  
Were then but subjects; being now a subject,  
I have a king here to my flatterer.  
Being so great, I have no need to beg.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Yet ask.

**KING RICHARD II:** And shall I have?

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** You shall.

**KING RICHARD II:** Then give me leave to go.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Whither?

**KING RICHARD II:** Whither you will, so I were from  
your sights.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Go, some of you convey him to  
the Tower.

**KING RICHARD II:** O, good! convey? conveyers are you all,  
That rise thus nimbly by a true king's fall.

*[Exeunt KING RICHARD II, some Lords, and a Guard.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** On Wednesday next we solemnly  
set down  
Our coronation: lords, prepare yourselves.

*[Exeunt all except the BISHOP OF CARLISLE, the Abbot of Westminster, and DUKE OF AUMERLE.]*

**Abbot:** A woeful pageant have we here beheld.

**BISHOP OF CARLISLE:** The woe's to come; the children  
yet unborn.  
Shall feel this day as sharp to them as thorn.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** You holy clergymen, is there no plot  
To rid the realm of this pernicious blot?

**Abbot:** My lord,  
Before I freely speak my mind herein,  
You shall not only take the sacrament  
To bury mine intents, but also to effect  
Whatever I shall happen to devise.  
I see your brows are full of discontent,  
Your hearts of sorrow and your eyes of tears:  
Come home with me to supper; and I'll lay  
A plot shall show us all a merry day.

*[Exeunt.]*

## ACT V

### SCENE I: London. A street leading to the Tower.

*[Enter QUEEN and Ladies.]*

**QUEEN:** This way the king will come; this is the way  
To Julius Caesar's ill-erected tower,  
To whose flint bosom my condemned lord  
Is doom'd a prisoner by proud Bolingbroke:  
Here let us rest, if this rebellious earth  
Have any resting for her true king's queen.

*[Enter KING RICHARD II and Guard.]*

But soft, but see, or rather do not see,  
My fair rose wither: yet look up, behold,  
That you in pity may dissolve to dew,  
And wash him fresh again with true-love tears.  
Ah, thou, the model where old Troy did stand,  
Thou map of honor, thou King Richard's tomb,  
And not King Richard; thou most beauteous inn,  
Why should hard-favor'd grief be lodged in thee,  
When triumph is become an alehouse guest?

**KING RICHARD II:** Join not with grief, fair woman, do  
not so,

To make my end too sudden: learn, good soul,  
To think our former state a happy dream;  
From which awaked, the truth of what we are  
Shows us but this: I am sworn brother, sweet,  
To grim Necessity, and he and I  
Will keep a league till death. Hie thee to France  
And cloister thee in some religious house:  
Our holy lives must win a new world's crown,  
Which our profane hours here have stricken down.

**QUEEN:** What, is my Richard both in shape and mind  
Transform'd and weaken'd? hath Bolingbroke deposed  
Thine intellect? hath he been in thy heart?  
The lion dying thrusteth forth his paw,  
And wounds the earth, if nothing else, with rage  
To be o'erpower'd; and wilt thou, pupil-like,  
Take thy correction mildly, kiss the rod,  
And fawn on rage with base humility,  
Which art a lion and a king of beasts?

**KING RICHARD II:** A king of beasts, indeed; if aught  
but beasts,  
I had been still a happy king of men.  
Good sometime queen, prepare thee hence for France:  
Think I am dead and that even here thou takest,  
As from my death-bed, thy last living leave.  
In winter's tedious nights sit by the fire

With good old folks and let them tell thee tales  
Of woeful ages long ago betid;  
And ere thou bid good night, to quit their griefs,  
Tell thou the lamentable tale of me  
And send the hearers weeping to their beds:  
For why, the senseless brands will sympathize  
The heavy accent of thy moving tongue  
And in compassion weep the fire out;  
And some will mourn in ashes, some coal-black,  
For the deposing of a rightful king.

*[Enter NORTHUMBERLAND and others.]*

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** My lord, the mind of Bolingbroke  
is changed:  
You must to Pomfret, not unto the Tower.  
And, madam, there is order ta'en for you;  
With all swift speed you must away to France.

**KING RICHARD II:** Northumberland, thou ladder wherewithal  
The mounting Bolingbroke ascends my throne,  
The time shall not be many hours of age  
More than it is ere foul sin gathering head  
Shalt break into corruption: thou shalt think,  
Though he divide the realm and give thee half,  
It is too little, helping him to all;  
And he shall think that thou, which know'st the way

To plant unrightful kings, wilt know again,  
Being ne'er so little urged, another way  
To pluck him headlong from the usurped throne.  
The love of wicked men converts to fear;  
That fear to hate, and hate turns one or both  
To worthy danger and deserved death.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** My guilt be on my head, and  
there an end.  
Take leave and part; for you must part forthwith.

**KING RICHARD II:** Doubly divorced! Bad men, you violate  
A twofold marriage, 'twixt my crown and me,  
And then betwixt me and my married wife.  
Let me unkiss the oath 'twixt thee and me;  
And yet not so, for with a kiss 'twas made.  
Part us, Northumberland; I toward the north,  
Where shivering cold and sickness pines the clime;  
My wife to France: from whence, set forth in pomp,  
She came adorned hither like sweet May,  
Sent back like Hallowmas or short'st of day.

**QUEEN:** And must we be divided? must we part?

**KING RICHARD II:** Ay, hand from hand, my love, and  
heart from heart.

**QUEEN:** Banish us both and send the king with me.

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** That were some love but little policy.

**QUEEN:** Then whither he goes, thither let me go.

**KING RICHARD II:** So two, together weeping, make  
one woe.

Weep thou for me in France, I for thee here;  
Better far off than near, be ne'er the near.  
Go, count thy way with sighs; I mine with groans.

**QUEEN:** So longest way shall have the longest moans.

**KING RICHARD II:** Twice for one step I'll groan, the  
way being short,  
And piece the way out with a heavy heart.  
Come, come, in wooing sorrow let's be brief,  
Since, wedding it, there is such length in grief;  
One kiss shall stop our mouths, and dumbly part;  
Thus give I mine, and thus take I thy heart.

**QUEEN:** Give me mine own again; 'twere no good part  
To take on me to keep and kill thy heart.  
So, now I have mine own again, be gone,  
That I might strive to kill it with a groan.

**KING RICHARD II:** We make woe wanton with this  
fond delay:  
Once more, adieu; the rest let sorrow say.

*[Exeunt.]*

**SCENE II: The DUKE OF YORK's palace.**

*[Enter DUKE OF YORK and DUCHESS OF YORK.]*

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** My lord, you told me you would  
tell the rest,  
When weeping made you break the story off, of our  
two cousins coming into London.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Where did I leave?

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** At that sad stop, my lord,  
Where rude misgovern'd hands from windows' tops  
Threw dust and rubbish on King Richard's head.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Then, as I said, the duke, great Bolingbroke,  
Mounted upon a hot and fiery steed  
Which his aspiring rider seem'd to know,  
With slow but stately pace kept on his course,  
Whilst all tongues cried 'God save thee, Bolingbroke!'  
You would have thought the very windows spake,

So many greedy looks of young and old  
Through casements darted their desiring eyes  
Upon his visage, and that all the walls  
With painted imagery had said at once  
'Jesu preserve thee! welcome, Bolingbroke!'  
Whilst he, from the one side to the other turning,  
Bareheaded, lower than his proud steed's neck,  
Bespake them thus: 'I thank you, countrymen:'  
And thus still doing, thus he pass'd along.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Alack, poor Richard! where rode  
he the whilst?

**DUKE OF YORK:** As in a theatre, the eyes of men,  
After a well-graced actor leaves the stage,  
Are idly bent on him that enters next,  
Thinking his prattle to be tedious;  
Even so, or with much more contempt, men's eyes  
Did scowl on gentle Richard; no man cried 'God save him!'  
No joyful tongue gave him his welcome home:  
But dust was thrown upon his sacred head:  
Which with such gentle sorrow he shook off,  
His face still combating with tears and smiles,  
The badges of his grief and patience,  
That had not God, for some strong purpose, steel'd  
The hearts of men, they must perforce have melted  
And barbarism itself have pitied him.



But heaven hath a hand in these events,  
To whose high will we bound our calm contents.  
To Bolingbroke are we sworn subjects now,  
Whose state and honor I for aye allow.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Here comes my son Aumerle.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Aumerle that was;  
But that is lost for being Richard's friend,  
And, madam, you must call him Rutland now:  
I am in parliament pledge for his truth  
And lasting fealty to the new-made king.

*[Enter DUKE OF AUMERLE.]*

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Welcome, my son: who are the violets now  
That strew the green lap of the new come spring?

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Madam, I know not, nor I greatly  
care not:  
God knows I had as lief be none as one.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Well, bear you well in this new spring  
of time,  
Lest you be cropp'd before you come to prime.  
What news from Oxford? hold those justs and triumphs?

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** For aught I know, my lord, they do.

**DUKE OF YORK:** You will be there, I know.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** If God prevent not, I purpose so.

**DUKE OF YORK:** What seal is that, that hangs without  
thy bosom?  
Yea, look'st thou pale? let me see the writing.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** My lord, 'tis nothing.

**DUKE OF YORK:** No matter, then, who see it;  
I will be satisfied; let me see the writing.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** I do beseech your grace to pardon me:  
It is a matter of small consequence,  
Which for some reasons I would not have seen.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Which for some reasons, sir, I mean to see.  
I fear, I fear,—

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** What should you fear?  
'Tis nothing but some bond, that he is enter'd into  
For gay apparel 'gainst the triumph day.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Bound to himself! what doth he with a bond

That he is bound to? Wife, thou art a fool.  
Boy, let me see the writing.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** I do beseech you, pardon me; I  
may not show it.

**DUKE OF YORK:** I will be satisfied; let me see it, I say.

*[He plucks it out of his bosom and reads it.]*

Treason! foul treason! Villain! traitor! slave!

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** What is the matter, my lord?

**DUKE OF YORK:** Ho! who is within there?

*[Enter a Servant.]*

Saddle my horse.

God for his mercy, what treachery is here!

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Why, what is it, my lord?

**DUKE OF YORK:** Give me my boots, I say; saddle my horse.  
Now, by mine honor, by my life, by my troth,  
I will appeach the villain.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** What is the matter?

**DUKE OF YORK:** Peace, foolish woman.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** I will not peace. What is the matter,  
Aumerle.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Good mother, be content; it is no more  
Than my poor life must answer.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Thy life answer!

**DUKE OF YORK:** Bring me my boots: I will unto the king.

*[Re-enter Servant with boots.]*

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Strike him, Aumerle. Poor boy,  
thou art amazed.  
Hence, villain! never more come in my sight.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Give me my boots, I say.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Why, York, what wilt thou do?  
Wilt thou not hide the trespass of thine own?  
Have we more sons? or are we like to have?  
Is not my teeming date drunk up with time?  
And wilt thou pluck my fair son from mine age,

And rob me of a happy mother's name?  
Is he not like thee? is he not thine own?

**DUKE OF YORK:** Thou fond mad woman,  
Wilt thou conceal this dark conspiracy?  
A dozen of them here have ta'en the sacrament,  
And interchangeably set down their hands,  
To kill the king at Oxford.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** He shall be none;  
We'll keep him here: then what is that to him?

**DUKE OF YORK:** Away, fond woman! were he twenty  
times my son,  
I would appeach him.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Hadst thou groan'd for him  
As I have done, thou wouldst be more pitiful.  
But now I know thy mind; thou dost suspect  
That I have been disloyal to thy bed,  
And that he is a bastard, not thy son:  
Sweet York, sweet husband, be not of that mind:  
He is as like thee as a man may be,  
Not like to me, or any of my kin,  
And yet I love him.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Make way, unruly woman!  
*[Exit.]*

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** After, Aumerle! mount thee upon  
his horse;

Spur post, and get before him to the king,  
And beg thy pardon ere he do accuse thee.  
I'll not be long behind; though I be old,  
I doubt not but to ride as fast as York:  
And never will I rise up from the ground  
Till Bolingbroke have pardon'd thee. Away, be gone!

*[Exeunt.]*

### **SCENE III: A royal palace.**

*[Enter HENRY BOLINGBROKE, HENRY PERCY, and other Lords.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Can no man tell me of my  
unthrifty son?

'Tis full three months since I did see him last;  
If any plague hang over us, 'tis he.  
I would to God, my lords, he might be found:  
Inquire at London, 'mongst the taverns there,  
For there, they say, he daily doth frequent,  
With unrestrained loose companions,  
Even such, they say, as stand in narrow lanes,  
And beat our watch, and rob our passengers;  
Which he, young wanton and effeminate boy,  
Takes on the point of honor to support  
So dissolute a crew.

**HENRY PERCY:** My lord, some two days since I saw  
the prince,  
And told him of those triumphs held at Oxford.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** And what said the gallant?

**HENRY PERCY:** His answer was, he would unto the stews,  
And from the common'st creature pluck a glove,  
And wear it as a favor; and with that  
He would unhorse the lustiest challenger.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** As dissolute as desperate; yet  
through both  
I see some sparks of better hope, which elder years  
May happily bring forth. But who comes here?

*[Enter DUKE OF AUMERLE.]*

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Where is the king?

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** What means our cousin, that  
he stares and looks  
So wildly?

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** God save your grace! I do beseech  
your majesty,  
To have some conference with your grace alone.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Withdraw yourselves, and  
leave us here alone.

*[Exeunt HENRY PERCY and Lords.]*

What is the matter with our cousin now?

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** For ever may my knees grow to  
the earth,  
My tongue cleave to my roof within my mouth  
Unless a pardon ere I rise or speak.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Intended or committed was  
this fault?  
If on the first, how heinous e'er it be,  
To win thy after-love I pardon thee.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Then give me leave that I may  
turn the key,  
That no man enter till my tale be done.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Have thy desire.

**DUKE OF YORK:** *[Within]* My liege, beware; look to  
thysself;  
Thou hast a traitor in thy presence there.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Villain, I'll make thee safe.

*[Drawing.]*

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Stay thy revengeful hand; thou hast no cause to fear.

**DUKE OF YORK:** *[Within]* Open the door, secure, foolhardy king:

Shall I for love speak treason to thy face?  
Open the door, or I will break it open.

*[Enter DUKE OF YORK.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** What is the matter, uncle? speak;  
Recover breath; tell us how near is danger,  
That we may arm us to encounter it.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Peruse this writing here, and thou shalt know  
The treason that my haste forbids me show.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Remember, as thou read'st, thy promise pass'd:

I do repent me; read not my name there  
My heart is not confederate with my hand.

**DUKE OF YORK:** It was, villain, ere thy hand did set it down.

I tore it from the traitor's bosom, king;  
Fear, and not love, begets his penitence:  
Forget to pity him, lest thy pity prove  
A serpent that will sting thee to the heart.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** O heinous, strong and bold conspiracy!

O loyal father of a treacherous son!  
Thou sheer, immaculate and silver fountain,  
From when this stream through muddy passages  
Hath held his current and defiled himself!  
Thy overflow of good converts to bad,  
And thy abundant goodness shall excuse  
This deadly blot in thy digressing son.

**DUKE OF YORK:** So shall my virtue be his vice's bawd;  
And he shall spend mine honor with his shame,  
As thriftless sons their scraping fathers' gold.  
Mine honor lives when his dishonor dies,  
Or my shamed life in his dishonor lies:  
Thou kill'st me in his life; giving him breath,  
The traitor lives, the true man's put to death.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** *[Within]* What ho, my liege! for God's sake, let me in.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** What shrill-voiced suppliant  
makes this eager cry?

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** A woman, and thy aunt, great  
king; 'tis I.  
Speak with me, pity me, open the door.  
A beggar begs that never begg'd before.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Our scene is alter'd from a  
serious thing,  
And now changed to 'The Beggar and the King.'  
My dangerous cousin, let your mother in:  
I know she is come to pray for your foul sin.

**DUKE OF YORK:** If thou do pardon, whosoever pray,  
More sins for this forgiveness prosper may.  
This fester'd joint cut off, the rest rest sound;  
This let alone will all the rest confound.

*[Enter DUCHESS OF YORK.]*

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** O king, believe not this hard-hearted  
man!  
Love loving not itself none other can.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Thou frantic woman, what dost thou  
make here?  
Shall thy old dugs once more a traitor rear?

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Sweet York, be patient. Hear me,  
gentle liege.

*[Kneels.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Rise up, good aunt.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Not yet, I thee beseech:  
For ever will I walk upon my knees,  
And never see day that the happy sees,  
Till thou give joy; until thou bid me joy,  
By pardoning Rutland, my transgressing boy.

**DUKE OF AUMERLE:** Unto my mother's prayers I bend  
my knee.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Against them both my true joints  
bended be.  
Ill mayst thou thrive, if thou grant any grace!

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Pleads he in earnest? look upon  
his face;  
His eyes do drop no tears, his prayers are in jest;  
His words come from his mouth, ours from our breast:  
He prays but faintly and would be denied;  
We pray with heart and soul and all beside:  
His weary joints would gladly rise, I know;

Our knees shall kneel till to the ground they grow:  
His prayers are full of false hypocrisy;  
Ours of true zeal and deep integrity.  
Our prayers do out-pray his; then let them have  
That mercy which true prayer ought to have.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Good aunt, stand up.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Nay, do not say, 'stand up';  
Say, 'pardon' first, and afterwards 'stand up.'  
And if I were thy nurse, thy tongue to teach,  
'Pardon' should be the first word of thy speech.  
I never long'd to hear a word till now;  
Say 'pardon,' king; let pity teach thee how:  
The word is short, but not so short as sweet;  
No word like 'pardon' for kings' mouths so meet.

**DUKE OF YORK:** Speak it in French, king; say,  
*'pardonne moi.'*

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Dost thou teach pardon pardon to  
destroy?

Ah, my sour husband, my hard-hearted lord,  
That set'st the word itself against the word!  
Speak 'pardon' as 'tis current in our land;  
The chopping French we do not understand.  
Thine eye begins to speak; set thy tongue there;

Or in thy piteous heart plant thou thine ear;  
That hearing how our complaints and prayers do pierce,  
Pity may move thee 'pardon' to rehearse.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Good aunt, stand up.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** I do not sue to stand;  
Pardon is all the suit I have in hand.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** I pardon him, as God shall  
pardon me.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** O happy vantage of a kneeling knee!  
Yet am I sick for fear: speak it again;  
Twice saying 'pardon' doth not pardon twain,  
But makes one pardon strong.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** With all my heart  
I pardon him.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** A god on earth thou art.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** But for our trusty brother-in-law  
and the abbot,  
With all the rest of that consorted crew,  
Destruction straight shall dog them at the heels.  
Good uncle, help to order several powers

To Oxford, or where'er these traitors are:  
They shall not live within this world, I swear,  
But I will have them, if I once know where.  
Uncle, farewell: and, cousin too, adieu:  
Your mother well hath pray'd, and prove you true.

**DUCHESS OF YORK:** Come, my old son: I pray God  
make thee new.

*[Exeunt.]*

#### **SCENE IV: The same.**

*[Enter EXTON and Servant.]*

**EXTON:** Didst thou not mark the king, what words he  
spake,  
'Have I no friend will rid me of this living fear?'  
Was it not so?

**Servant:** These were his very words.

**EXTON:** 'Have I no friend?' quoth he: he spake it twice,  
And urged it twice together, did he not?

**Servant:** He did.

**EXTON:** And speaking it, he wistly look'd on me,  
And who should say, 'I would thou wert the man'  
That would divorce this terror from my heart;  
Meaning the king at Pomfret. Come, let's go:  
I am the king's friend, and will rid his foe.

*[Exeunt.]*

#### **SCENE V: Pomfret castle.**

*[Enter KING RICHARD.]*

**KING RICHARD II:** I have been studying how I may compare  
This prison where I live unto the world:  
And for because the world is populous  
And here is not a creature but myself,  
I cannot do it; yet I'll hammer it out.  
My brain I'll prove the female to my soul,  
My soul the father; and these two beget  
A generation of still-breeding thoughts,  
And these same thoughts people this little world,  
In humors like the people of this world,  
For no thought is contented. The better sort,  
As thoughts of things divine, are intermix'd  
With scruples and do set the word itself  
Against the word:  
As thus, 'Come, little ones,' and then again,



'Tis as hard to come as for a camel  
 To thread the postern of a small needle's eye.  
 Thoughts tending to ambition, they do plot  
 Unlikely wonders; how these vain weak nails  
 May tear a passage through the flinty ribs  
 Of this hard world, my ragged prison walls,  
 And, for they cannot, die in their own pride.  
 Thoughts tending to content flatter themselves  
 That they are not the first of fortune's slaves,  
 Nor shall not be the last; like silly beggars  
 Who sitting in the stocks refuge their shame,  
 That many have and others must sit there;  
 And in this thought they find a kind of ease,  
 Bearing their own misfortunes on the back  
 Of such as have before endured the like.  
 Thus play I in one person many people,  
 And none contented: sometimes am I king;  
 Then treasons make me wish myself a beggar,  
 And so I am: then crushing penury  
 Persuades me I was better when a king;  
 Then am I king'd again: and by and by  
 Think that I am unking'd by Bolingbroke,  
 And straight am nothing: but whate'er I be,  
 Nor I nor any man that but man is  
 With nothing shall be pleased, till he be eased  
 With being nothing. Music do I hear?

[*Music.*]

Ha, ha! keep time: how sour sweet music is,  
 When time is broke and no proportion kept!  
 So is it in the music of men's lives.  
 And here have I the daintiness of ear  
 To check time broke in a disorder'd string;  
 But for the concord of my state and time  
 Had not an ear to hear my true time broke.  
 I wasted time, and now doth time waste me;  
 For now hath time made me his numbering clock:  
 My thoughts are minutes; and with sighs they jar  
 Their watches on unto mine eyes, the outward watch,  
 Whereto my finger, like a dial's point,  
 Is pointing still, in cleansing them from tears.  
 Now sir, the sound that tells what hour it is  
 Are clamorous groans, which strike upon my heart,  
 Which is the bell: so sighs and tears and groans  
 Show minutes, times, and hours: but my time  
 Runs posting on in Bolingbroke's proud joy,  
 While I stand fooling here, his Jack o' the clock.  
 This music mads me; let it sound no more;  
 For though it have help madmen to their wits,  
 In me it seems it will make wise men mad.  
 Yet blessing on his heart that gives it me!  
 For 'tis a sign of love; and love to Richard  
 Is a strange brooch in this all-hating world.

*[Enter a Groom of the Stable.]*

**Groom:** Hail, royal prince!

**KING RICHARD II:** Thanks, noble peer;  
The cheapest of us is ten groats too dear.  
What art thou? and how comest thou hither,  
Where no man never comes but that sad dog  
That brings me food to make misfortune live?

**Groom:** I was a poor groom of thy stable, king,  
When thou wert king; who, travelling towards York,  
With much ado at length have gotten leave  
To look upon my sometimes royal master's face.  
O, how it yearn'd my heart when I beheld  
In London streets, that coronation-day,  
When Bolingbroke rode on roan Barbary,  
That horse that thou so often hast bestrid,  
That horse that I so carefully have dress'd!

**KING RICHARD II:** Rode he on Barbary? Tell me, gentle friend,  
How went he under him?

**Groom:** So proudly as if he disdain'd the ground.

**KING RICHARD II:** So proud that Bolingbroke was on his back!  
That jade hath eat bread from my royal hand;

This hand hath made him proud with clapping him.  
Would he not stumble? would he not fall down,  
Since pride must have a fall, and break the neck  
Of that proud man that did usurp his back?  
Forgiveness, horse! why do I rail on thee,  
Since thou, created to be awed by man,  
Wast born to bear? I was not made a horse;  
And yet I bear a burthen like an ass,  
Spurr'd, gall'd and tired by jouncing Bolingbroke.

*[Enter Keeper, with a dish.]*

**Keeper:** Fellow, give place; here is no longer stay.

**KING RICHARD II:** If thou love me, 'tis time thou wert away.

**Groom:** What my tongue dares not, that my heart  
shall say.

*[Exit.]*

**Keeper:** My lord, will't please you to fall to?

**KING RICHARD II:** Taste of it first, as thou art wont to do.

**Keeper:** My lord, I dare not: Sir Pierce of Exton, who  
lately came from the king, commands the contrary.

**KING RICHARD II:** The devil take Henry of Lancaster  
and thee!  
Patience is stale, and I am weary of it.

*[Beats the keeper.]*

**Keeper:** Help, help, help!

*[Enter EXTON and Servants, armed.]*

**KING RICHARD II:** How now! what means death in  
this rude assault?  
Villain, thy own hand yields thy death's instrument.

*[Snatching an axe from a Servant and killing him.]*

Go thou, and fill another room in hell.

*[He kills another. Then Exton strikes him down.]*

That hand shall burn in never-quenching fire  
That staggers thus my person. Exton, thy fierce hand  
Hath with the king's blood stain'd the king's own land.  
Mount, mount, my soul! thy seat is up on high;  
Whilst my gross flesh sinks downward, here to die.

*[Dies.]*

**EXTON:** As full of valor as of royal blood:  
Both have I spill'd; O would the deed were good!  
For now the devil, that told me I did well,  
Says that this deed is chronicled in hell.  
This dead king to the living king I'll bear  
Take hence the rest, and give them burial here.

*[Exeunt.]*

## **SCENE VI: Windsor castle.**

*[Flourish. Enter HENRY BOLINGBROKE, DUKE OF YORK,  
with other Lords, and Attendants.]*

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Kind uncle York, the latest  
news we hear  
Is that the rebels have consumed with fire  
Our town of Cicester in Gloucestershire;  
But whether they be ta'en or slain we hear not.

*[Enter NORTHUMBERLAND.]*

Welcome, my lord: what is the news?

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** First, to thy sacred state wish I  
all happiness.  
The next news is, I have to London sent

The heads of Oxford, Salisbury, Blunt, and Kent:  
The manner of their taking may appear  
At large discoursed in this paper here.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** We thank thee, gentle Percy,  
for thy pains;  
And to thy worth will add right worthy gains.

*[Enter LORD FITZWATER.]*

**LORD FITZWATER:** My lord, I have from Oxford sent to  
London  
The heads of Brocas and Sir Bennet Seely,  
Two of the dangerous consorted traitors  
That sought at Oxford thy dire overthrow.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Thy pains, Fitzwater, shall not  
be forgot;  
Right noble is thy merit, well I wot.

*[Enter HENRY PERCY, and the BISHOP OF CARLISLE.]*

**HENRY PERCY:** The grand conspirator, Abbot of Westminster,  
With clog of conscience and sour melancholy  
Hath yielded up his body to the grave;  
But here is Carlisle living, to abide  
Thy kingly doom and sentence of his pride.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Carlisle, this is your doom:  
Choose out some secret place, some reverend room,  
More than thou hast, and with it joy thy life;  
So as thou livest in peace, die free from strife:  
For though mine enemy thou hast ever been,  
High sparks of honor in thee have I seen.

*[Enter EXTON, with persons bearing a coffin.]*

**EXTON:** Great king, within this coffin I present  
Thy buried fear: herein all breathless lies  
The mightiest of thy greatest enemies,  
Richard of Bordeaux, by me hither brought.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** Exton, I thank thee not; for  
thou hast wrought  
A deed of slander with thy fatal hand  
Upon my head and all this famous land.

**EXTON:** From your own mouth, my lord, did I this deed.

**HENRY BOLINGBROKE:** They love not poison that do  
poison need,  
Nor do I thee: though I did wish him dead,  
I hate the murderer, love him murdered.  
The guilt of conscience take thou for thy labor,  
But neither my good word nor princely favor:

With Cain go wander through shades of night,  
And never show thy head by day nor light.  
Lords, I protest, my soul is full of woe,  
That blood should sprinkle me to make me grow:  
Come, mourn with me for that I do lament,  
And put on sullen black incontinent:  
I'll make a voyage to the Holy Land,  
To wash this blood off from my guilty hand:  
March sadly after; grace my mournings here;  
In weeping after this untimely bier.

[*Exeunt.*]

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