

Henry VI Part 1 abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 5

History

Situation: During a historic visit, Richard Plantagenet, a descendent of Edward III's fifth son, meets with the imprisoned Edmund Mortimer, a descendent of Edward III's third son, both having been ruled during their lives by a descendent of Edward III's fourth son.

Richard Plantagenet enters.

PLANTAGENET: Ay, noble uncle, thus ignobly used, your nephew, late despised Richard, comes.

MORTIMER: Declare, sweet stem from York's great stock, why didst thou say of late thou wert despised?

PLANTAGENET: I'll tell thee my disease. This day some words there grew 'twixt Somerset and me; he did upbraid me with my father's death. Therefore, good uncle, for my father's sake, declare the cause my father, Earl of Cambridge, lost his head.

MORTIMER: That cause, fair nephew, that imprisoned me and hath detained me all my flow'ring youth within a loathsome dungeon, there to pine, was cursed instrument of his decease.

PLANTAGENET: Discover more at large what cause that was, for I am ignorant and cannot guess.

MORTIMER: I will, if that my fading breath permit, and death approach not ere my tale be done.

Mortimer to Plantagenet

Bolingbroke deposed his cousin Richard,
Edward's son, the lawful heir of Edward
The Third. King Richard thus removed left me
Next by birth and parentage, for I by
Mother derived am from Lionel, thee
Third son to King Edward, whereas doth lie
Henry the Fourth's pedigree from John of
Gaunt, fourth of that heroic line. The love
Of the Percys cost me my liberty
And they their lives. Later, thy father, Earl
Of Cambridge, derived from York, did marry
My sister, your mother; did in a whirl
Levy an army in pity of my
Distress. By Henry the Fifth he did die.

MORTIMER: Thus the Mortimers, in whom the title rested, were suppressed.

PLANTAGENET: Of which, my lord, your Honor is the last.