

Henry VI Part 1 abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

Threat

Situation: Henry VI and others learn while in Paris that Burgundy has joined forces with Charles VII, “the rightful King of France,” while Somerset and York squabble over who wears red and who wears white roses, justifiably angering Gloucester, Exeter and the king.

YORK: Let this dissension first be tried by fight.

SOMERSET: The quarrel toucheth none but us alone.

GLOUCESTER: Presumptuous vassals, are you not ashamed with this immodest clamorous outrage to trouble and disturb the King and us?

EXETER: It grieves His Highness: good my lords, be friends.

Henry VI to Somerset and York

I charge you quite to forget this quarrel;
Remember we are in France, a fickle
Wavering nation. If they dissension
In our looks see that we disagree, will
They not be provoked, seeing confusion,
And rebel? Will they rise, seeing us ill,
That for a toy, King Henry's peers destroyed
Themselves and lost France? 'Tis well remembered
The conquest of my father; let us not
Forgo that that was bought with blood. Do ban
This strife. If I wear a red rose, none ought
Be suspect. Your discretions better can
Persuade than I am able to teach. Cease
Your conflict, let us continue in peace.

KING: Cousin of York, we institute your Grace to be our Regent in these parts of France. And, good my lord of Somerset, unite your troops of horsemen with his bands of foot, and go cheerfully together and digest your angry choler on your enemies. Ourselves, my Lord Protector, and the rest to England, where I hope ere long to be presented by your victories with Charles, Alencon, and that traitorous rout.