

Henry VI Part 1 abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Insight

Situation: Before Richard Plantagenet is awarded his deserved family title, that being the Duke of York, Gloucester (in the Legitimate line), and Winchester (in the Beaufort line), both uncles to the king, furiously and personally attack each other, upsetting everyone, including Exeter, another one of the king's uncles (in the Beaufort line), but a more stable one.

KING: Stoop then and set your knee against my foot. Rise, Richard, like a true Plantagenet, and rise created princely Duke of York.

PLANTAGENET: And as my duty springs, so perish they that grudge one thought against your Majesty!

ALL: Welcome the mighty Duke of York!

SOMERSET ASIDE: Perish, base prince, ignoble Duke of York!

GLOUCESTER: Now will it best avail your Majesty to cross the seas and to be crowned in France.

KING: When Gloucester says the word, King Henry goes.

GLOUCESTER: Your ships already are in readiness.

All but Exeter exit.

Exeter to himself

Ay, we may well march in England or in
France, and here and there battles we may win,
But this dissension grown betwixt the peers
Burns yet under feigned ashes of forged love,
And will break into flames, the country fears.
This impure discord based on distrust of
One for the other festers by degree,
As rotting flesh from bones falls away. We
Now fear that fatal prophecy which in
The time of Henry the Fifth all felt would
Come to be: be born at Monmouth should win
All and his Henry born at Windsor should
Lose all, which now so plain that all doth see.
Wish I my days end ere it comes to be.