

Henry VI Part 2 abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Deviousness

Situation: At the time York is developing his strategy to unseat Henry VI, we learn that the Irish in Ireland are making mischief, the king saying the “rebels there are up and put the Englishmen unto the sword.” The king asks York to “lead a band of men and try your luck against the Irishmen” and York accepts the request.

CARDINAL: My lord of York, try what your fortune is. To Ireland will you lead a band of men and try your luck against the Irishmen?

YORK: I will, my lord, so please His Majesty. I am content. Provide me soldiers, lords, whiles I take order for mine own affairs.

SUFFOLK: A charge, Lord York, that I will see performed. But now return we to the false Duke Humphrey.

CARDINAL: No more of him, for I will deal with him. Lord Suffolk, you and I must talk of that event.

YORK: My lord of Suffolk, within fourteen days at Bristol I expect my soldiers, for there I'll ship them all for Ireland.

SUFFOLK: I'll see it truly done, my lord of York.

All exit but York.

York to himself, No. 2

Now, York, steel thy fearful thoughts and be thou
Hope to be. My brain weaves snares that allow
Me to trap mine enemies. Let pale-faced
Fear find no harbor in a royal heart. Well,
Nobles, 'tis your mistake to send me laced
With a host of men in Ireland to spell
You. Whiles my men there I'll stir in England
Some black storm that will blow 'till the gold band
Is on my head. I have seduced, to suit
My need, headstrong John Cade, to at some length
Make commotion here, as my substitute.
And then from Ireland come I with my strength,
For Humphrey being dead, as he will be,
And Henry put apart, the next for me.