

Henry VI Part 2 abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 2

Legitimacy

Situation: Pleading his case to Salisbury and Warwick, the duke of York, having married Cicely Neville, Salisbury's sister and Warwick's aunt, makes a persuasive claim that through his mother he is entitled to the throne, saying that at Richard II's death "the issue of the next son should have reigned."

SALISBURY: But William of Hatfield died without an heir.

York to Salisbury and Warwick, No. 2

The third son, Duke of Clarence, had issue,
Philippa, who married Edmund, who
Had issue, Roger, Earl of March. Roger
Had issue, Edmund, Anne and Eleanor.
Edmund's eldest sister, Anne, my mother,
Being heir unto England's crown before
Gaunt's son, married the Earl of Cambridge, son
Of the Duke of York. My mother's the one
Through whom I claim the kingdom. She was heir
To Roger, Earl of March, the son of my
Great-grandfather, Edmund, who married fair
Philippa, Lionel's sole daughter. I
Am king, if the issue of the elder
Son succeed to the throne ere the younger.

WARWICK: What plain proceedings is more plain than this? Henry doth claim the crown from John of Gaunt, the fourth son; York claims it from the third. Till Lionel's issue fails, his should not reign. It fails not yet but flourishes in thee and in thy sons, fair slips of such a stock. Then, father Salisbury, kneel we together; and in this private plot be we the first that shall salute our rightful sovereign with honor of his birthright to the crown.

SALISBURY AND WARWICK: Long live our sovereign Richard, England's king!