

Henry VI Part 2 abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Proposal

Situation: Having returned from Ireland, York audaciously proposes to the king that he turn his crown over to him. York looks to his sons for support, as well as from Salisbury, Warwick and others.

York to King

Ay, York, let loose this long-imprisoned thought;
Let thy tongue speak to what thy heart hath taught.
Why hast thou broken faith with me, knowing
How I can hardly endure thy deceit?
Thou art not a king fit for governing,
Nor canst thou rule a traitor from thy seat
Of Pow'r. A crown doth not become thy head,
Nor thy hand a royal scepter, it be said.
Here is a hand to hold that scepter still
And control events by law. God above
Gave me a smile and frown to cure and kill.
That gold must round encircle these brows of
Mine. By Heaven, thou shalt rule no further
O'er him whom God sent to be thy ruler.

SOMERSET: O monstrous traitor! I arrest thee, York, of capital treason 'gainst the King and crown.

YORK: Wouldst have me kneel? Sirrah, call in my sons to be my bail.

An attendant exits.

QUEEN: Call hither Clifford; bid him come to say if that the bastard boys of York shall be the surety for their traitor father.

Buckingham exits.

YORK: O blood-spotted citizen of Naples, outcast of Naples, England's bloody scourge! The sons of York, thy betters in their birth, shall be their father's bail.