

## Henry VI Part 3 abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 5

### Capitulation

**Situation:** Warwick has been proclaiming “in the towns” that Edward, duke of York, is now king, King Edward IV. This rather bold action by Warwick (now we know why he was known as The Kingmaker) causes each side to once again take up arms. The queen and Lord Clifford aggressively advance their efforts against Warwick and his forces, leaving Henry VI to wander aimlessly alone in the fields outside the city of York, wishing his life had a lower profile.

Henry VI to himself, No. 1

This war is now poised as the wind and rain,  
Both tugging to win, yet neither doth gain  
On the other. Both Clifford and the queen  
Do chide me, swearing they prosper best when  
I am thence. Methinks a good life might mean  
Carving out my days as a shepherd; then  
Life ends with white hairs in a quiet grave.  
Doth not the raw hawthorn bush give the brave  
Shepherd a more pleasing shade than a fine  
Canopy to kings, who fear treachery?  
Doth not the favored prince, who drinks his wine  
From a gold cup, sleep poorly, his body  
Hoping the suffering of the day abates,  
When beyond, care, mistrust and tension waits?

KING HENRY: To conclude, the shepherd's homely curds, his cold thin drink out of his leather bottle is far beyond a prince's dainty foods.