

Henry VI Part 3 abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 7

Capitulation

Situation: Warwick tells the captured Edward IV that “I degraded you from being king, and come to create you duke of York,” sending him on to prison. But a sympathetic bishop lets him escape, to be “shipped from thence to Flanders.” At about this same time Warwick and Edward IV’s brother Clarence offer the crown to an imprisoned Henry VI. This is the time when Henry VI prophetically introduces us to the young earl of Richmond, the young man who in time becomes Henry VII, Henry VI calling him “England’s hope.”

Warwick and George Duke of Clarence enter with the crown.

Henry VI to Warwick

Warwick, imprisonment ‘twas a pleasure,
As engaged birds may conceive when, after
Many moody thoughts, they quite forget their
Loss of liberty. Therefore, that I may
Conquer fortune’s spite by living low, where
Fortune cannot hurt me, I here today
Resign my government to thee. After
God, thou sett’st me free; He the author,
Thou the instrument. Let me entreat that
Margaret your queen and my son Edward
Be sent for, to return here from France at
Once, for my joy of liberty deferred
Till they be with me. In my latter days
I’ll lead a life in my creator’s praise.

WARWICK: Your grace hath still been famed as wise and virtuous. Yet in this one thing let me blame your grace: for choosing me when Clarence is in place.

GEORGE DUKE OF CLARENCE: No, Warwick, I yield thee my free consent.

WARWICK: And I choose Clarence only for Protector.

KING HENRY: Warwick and Clarence, give me both your hands. Now join your hands, and with your hands your hearts, that no dissension hinder government.

WARWICK: What answers Clarence to his sovereign’s will?

GEORGE DUKE OF CLARENCE: It shall be done, my sovereign.

KING HENRY: My Lord of Somerset, what youth is that of whom you seem to have so tender care?

SOMERSET: My liege, it is young Henry, Earl of Richmond.

KING HENRY: Come hither, England’s hope.