

Henry VI Part 3 abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Deference

Situation: After having sent Henry VI to the Tower, Edward IV, his brother Richard and others challenge Warwick at Coventry. Warwick lets Oxford, Montague, Somerset and Clarence enter the city's gates, all proclaiming their support for Henry VI. At this point Richard and Clarence "whisper together," Clarence deciding to shift his support from Warwick back to his brother Edward.

GEORGE DUKE OF CLARENCE: Father of Warwick, know you what this means?
Clarence takes the red rose out of his hat and throws it at Warwick.

Clarence to Warwick

Warwick, I throw at thee my infamy.
I'll not ruin the house of my family.
Why would you believe that Clarence is so
Indifferent to his family to bend
The fatal instruments of war and go
Against his brother and lawful king? Lend
Your ear to my sorrow for that oath made,
But with the hope that this mistake will fade,
And that I deserve well at my brothers'
Hands, I proclaim myself thy mortal foe,
As I turn my blushing cheeks to others.
Where'er thee be I'll afflict thee with woe.
And so, foul Warwick, I now defy thee,
And will plague thee for so misleading me.

GEORGE DUKE OF CLARENCE TO KING EDWARD: Pardon me, Edward. I will make amends.

GEORGE DUKE OF CLARENCE TO RICHARD: And, Richard, do not frown upon my faults, for I will henceforth be no more unconstant.

KING EDWARD: Now welcome more, and ten times more beloved, than if thou never hadst deserved our hate.

WARWICK: O, passing traitor --- perjured and unjust!