

## Henry VI Part 3 abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 2

### Pleading

**Situation:** The queen and Lord Clifford meet with Henry VI at the city of York, Clifford practically begging the king to stiffen his back, encouraging him to hold on to his crown and give it to his son. Warwick, Edward and Richard have by now joined forces to defeat the king and queen. Warwick unilaterally names Edward the successor to the revered duke of York title.

QUEEN: Welcome, my lord, to this brave town of York.

KING HENRY: Withhold revenge, dear God --- 'tis not my fault.

CLIFFORD: My gracious liege, this too much lenity and harmful pity must be laid aside.

#### Clifford to King Henry

Ambitious York did level at thy crown,  
Thou smiling while he knit his angry frown;  
When do lions cast their gentle looks? He  
Would raise his son as if the crown should fit  
There, where thou, as king, blest with a goodly  
Son, didst yield consent to disinherit  
Him. Unreasoning creatures facing a test  
Make war with him that climbed unto their nest,  
Giving their lives for their young. Should this glad  
Boy long hereafter to his child need say  
“What my great-grandfather and grandsire had  
My careless father fondly gave away?”  
Look on with steely eyes that do not dim  
To hold thine own and leave thine own with him.

KING HENRY: But, Clifford, tell me --- didst thou never hear that things ill got had ever bad success? I'll leave my son my virtuous deeds behind, and would my father had left me no more.

Ah, cousin, York, would thy best friends did know how it doth grieve me that thy head is here.

QUEEN MARGARET: My lord, cheer up your spirits --- our foes are nigh, and this soft courage makes your followers fainthearted. You promised knighthood to our high-spirited son. Unsheathe your sword and dub him presently. Edward, kneel down.

Prince Edward kneels.

KING HENRY: Edward Plantagenet, arise a knight. And learn this lesson: draw thy sword in right.