

Henry VI Part 3 abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 6

Resignation

Situation: The three Plantagenet brothers fatally stab the young Prince Edward and have Queen Margaret taken away, the two of them having been captured during a battle at Tewksbury. It's at this point when Richard Plantagenet quietly slips away to the Tower of London with plans to kill Henry VI.

KING HENRY: But wherefore dost thou come? Is't for my life?

RICHARD DUKE OF GLOUCESTER: Think'st thou I am an executioner?

KING HENRY: If murdering innocents be executing, why, then thou art an executioner.

RICHARD DUKE OF GLOUCESTER: Thy son I killed for his presumption.

KING HENRY: Hadst thou been killed when first thou didst presume, thou hadst not lived to kill a son of mine.

Henry VI to Richard Duke of Gloucester

Though few suspect my fear, I prophecy,
To be heard in many an old man's sigh
And seen in many a woman's tearful
Eye, that men and widows will howl at their
Sons' and husbands' deaths, praying o'er the soul
Of each loss and shall rue the hour that 'er
Thou wast born. If which I have heard be true,
At thy birth the night crow cried, tempests blew
Down trees, owls shrieked and magpies did chatter,
Singing in bleak discord; howling dogs fought
Each other, a luckless sign. Thy mother
Felt more than a mother's pain and yet brought
Forth less than what a mother'd hope would be,
Not like the fruit of such a goodly tree.

RICHARD DUKE OF GLOUCESTER: I'll hear no more. Die, prophet, in thy speech.
He stabs him.