

Henry VI Part 3 abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Resignation

Situation: In a forest in northern England, Prince Edward had told his father, the king, to “Fly, father, fly.” His queen had told him “Mount you, my lord. Towards Berwick post amain. Edward and Richard are at our backs.” Henry VI now finds himself pretty much physically and mentally lost wandering alone in the forest where two gamekeepers overhear him talking to himself.

FIRST GAMEKEEPER: Here comes a man. Let's stay till he be past.

King Henry enters, disguised, carrying a prayer book.

KING HENRY: From Scotland am I stolen to greet mine own land with my wishful sight.

Henry VI to himself, No. 2

Harry, this land's not thine; no bending knee
Will call thee Caesar. Let me embrace thee,
Sour adversity; wise men say 'tis your
Wisest course. My queen and son are gone; quick
They to France for aid. If true, their labor
Is but lost, poor queen and son, for Warwick
Is a subtle orator. Ay, she's come
To beg, where he offers strength, seeking from
The king a wife, his sister, for Edward.
Harry, thy scepter's been wrung from thee, while
Warwick smiles in France, not to be deterred.
This talk of kings and queens is of a style
More than I seem; less than I born to be.
My crown's "content;" a crown kings seldom see.

SECOND GAMEKEEPER: Say, what art thou that talk'st of kings and queens?

KING HENRY: More than I seem, and less than I was born to. A man, at least, and men may talk of kings, and why not I.

SECOND GAMEKEEPER: Ay, but thou talk'st as if thou wert a king.

KING HENRY: Why, so I am, in mind. And that's enough.