

Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 4

Honor

Situation: When Cranmer shows Council members the king's ring, Council members quickly retreat from their indictment. Earlier the Chancellor had told Cranmer "forthwith you be conveyed to th' Tower a prisoner." The king soon enters saying "My Lord of Canterbury, there is a fair young maid that yet wants baptism."

The King kisses the infant.

CRANMER: Amen. Let me speak, sir, for heaven now bids me; and the words I utter let none think flattery, for they'll find 'em truth.

Cranmer to the King and others, No. 1

This royal infant now promises upon
This land a set of blessings from this dawn,
That time alone shall bring to ripeness. She
Shall be a model for princes living
In her time and all that shall succeed. We
Shall soon see the princely graces forming
This masterpiece double, as if it were
Heaven spreading truths and counseling her.
She shall be loved and feared, and her people
Shall bless her; while her foes shall with sorrow
Hang their heads as weather-beaten corn, still
As night. In her days every man shall go
About life knowing safety shall not cease
And to all his neighbors sing songs of peace.

KING: Thou speakest wonders.

Cranmer to the King and others, No. 2

Those about her shall from her learn the ways
Of honor and by those ways in their days
Shall claim greatness, rather than by blood. Nor
Shall this peace die with her but as with the
Phoenix her ashes create another
Heir as admired as herself, so shall she
Leave her blessedness in time to one who
Shall star-like rise and like a vine grow to
Him. Love and truth that are hers shall be his,
Bringing honor to new lands wherever
The bright sun of heaven shall shine. What is

**To be his is hers; the saints will have her
And all the world shall mourn her. The children
Of our children so blessed shall bless heaven.**

KING: My lord Archbishop, thou hast made me now a man. I thank you all. To you, good lord mayor and you, good brethren, I am much beholding. You must all see the Queen, and she must thank you; she will be sick else. This day, no man think 'has business at his house, for all shall stay. This little one shall make it holiday.