

Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2

Pride

Situation: When Archbishop of Canterbury Cranmer enters the Council building, he is left waiting outside the Council door “mongst attendants, pages and footboys.” When the king sees him there he says “Is this the honor they do one another?”

Cranmer approaches the Council table.

CHANCELLOR: My good lord Archbishop, I'm very sorry to sit here at this present and behold that chair stand empty. You have misdemeaned yourself toward the king first, then his laws, by your teaching and your chaplains' --- for so we are informed --- with new opinions which are heresies and, not reformed, may prove destructive.

GARDINER: If we suffer, out of our easiness and childish pity to one man's honor, this contagious sickness, farewell, all medical treatment. And what follows then? Commotions, uproars, with a general corrupting influence of the whole state.

Cranmer to Council members

**My good lords, I have labored, and with no
Little study, that my teaching might go
Safely, and that I forever may do
Well. Nor is their living a man that more
Detests broken peace. I do beseech you,
My accusers, declare what you stand for
And freely urge against me. Winchester,
Friend, meekness becomes a churchman better
Than ambition beyond our calling. What
Better way to serve than to win straying
Souls with our love and leniency? But
I see your purpose: 'tis my undoing.
I have little doubt, as some may have feared,
As some may have wished, that I shall be cleared.**

GARDINER: My lord, my lord, you are a heretic. That's the plain truth.

CROMWELL: My Lord of Winchester, you're a little too sharp. Men so noble, however faulty, yet should find respect for what they have been. 'Tis a cruelty to load a falling man.