

Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 2

Request

Situation: A sick Katherine Dowager learns that “Cardinal Wolsey was dead.” She hands Capuchius a letter when he enters, a letter intended for her nephew, her nephew being Charles the Emperor, Spain’s king. Capuchius is an ambassador representing Spain’s king.

KATHERINE TO PATIENCE: Is that letter I caused you write yet sent away?

PATIENCE: No, madam.

She presents a paper to Katherine, who gives it to Capuchius.

KATHERINE: Sir, I most humbly pray you to deliver this to my lord the king.

CAPUCHIUS: Most willing, madam.

Katherine to Capuchius

I have commended to his goodness the
Image of our love, our daughter Mary,
Beseeching him to provide her a good
Upbringing, she being young and of a
Modest nature, and that his Highness would
Assure my loyal servants receive their pay.
For virtue, beauty of the soul, honor
And proper behavior, strew me over
With maiden flowers that all the world may
Know when I am dead a chaste wife they see
Goes to her grave. Though unqueened, yet like a
Queen and daughter to a king inter me.
As you wish Christian peace as souls take flight,
Urge the king to do me this final rite.

CAPUCHIUS: By heaven, I will, or let me lose the fashion of a man.

KATHERINE: I thank you honest lord. Remember me in all humility unto his Grace. Say his long trouble now is passing out of this world. When I am dead let me be used with honor. I can say no more.