

## Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 4

### Resentment

**Situation:** Queen Katherine knows that Cardinal Wolsey and his cohort Cardinal Campeius, the cardinal from Rome and representing the pope, are her nemeses. Queen Katherine does her best to save herself, knowing the king has his eye on the young and attractive Anne Bullen.

QUEEN KATHERINE: I do believe you are mine enemy, and make my challenge you shall not be my judge; for it is you who hath stirred up this strife betwixt my lord and me. Therefore I say again, I utterly abhor, yea, from my soul refuse you for my judge, whom I hold my most malicious foe and think not at all a friend in truth.

WOLSEY: Madam, you do me wrong. I have no spleen against you, nor injustice for you or any. You charge me that I “hath stirred up this strife.” I do deny it. I do beseech you, gracious madam, to unthink your speaking and to say so no more.

#### Queen Katherine to Wolsey

My lord, I am a simple woman, much  
Too weak to oppose your cunning. You're such  
A meek and humble-mouthed man, signing your  
Calling with meekness and humility,  
But with a revengeful heart that doth soar  
With arrogance and pride. You've come to be  
Cardinal through fortune and the King's favors,  
With well-placed people as your followers,  
And your words as your domestics, to serve  
Your will and let you know their actions. You  
Hold your fame dearer than it doth deserve;  
Dearer than your high profession's call to  
Us. I refuse you for my judge, and here  
Appeal unto Rome for the Pope to hear.

She curtsies to the king, and offers to depart.

CAMPEIUS: The Queen is obstinate, stubborn to justice, and disdainful to be tried by 't. She's going away.

KING: Call her again.

CRIER: Katherine, Queen of England, come into the court.

GENTLEMAN USHER: Madam, you are called back.

QUEEN KATHERINE: What need you note it? When you are called, return. Now, the Lord help! They vex me past my patience. I will not tarry.

