

Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 4

Wife to Husband

Situation: Queen Katherine was the aunt of Charles the Emperor, the king of Spain. She was close to the pope. She pleads with Henry VIII not to leave her, now aware that he has romantic interests in her lady-in-waiting, Anne Bullen.

CRIER: Katherine Queen of England, come into the court.
The Queen kneels at the king's feet and speaks.

Queen Katherine to Henry VIII

Sir, I desire you do me justice and
Bestow pity, for born out of your land
I am a foreigner, having here no
Judge indifferent nor no assurance
Of equal friendship. Alas, let me know
In what I offended you; of your sense
Of my behavior that should take your good
Grace from me; that gave you displeasure? Could
I have been a more true and humble wife,
Conforming to your will, glad or sorry
As expressed in your look, making your life
With mine one of peace? Call to mind that I
For these twenty years your wife and we two
Blessed as parents of these children by you.

KATHERINE: I humbly beseech you, sir, to spare me till I may be by my friends in Spain advised, whose counsel I will implore. If not, i' th' name of God, your pleasure be fulfilled.