

King John abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 4

Insight

Situation: Pandulph tells Constance that she is “as fond of grief as of your child.” At that point Constance calmly and beautifully defends herself saying “have I not reason to be fond of grief?”

PANDULPH: You hold too heinous respect of grief.

CONSTANCE: He talks to me that never had a son.

KING PHILIP: You are as fond of grief as of your child. Bind up those tresses.

CONSTANCE TO PHILIP: Yes, that I will. And why will I do it? I tore them from their bonds and cried aloud “O, that these hands could so redeem my son, as they have given these hairs their liberty!” But now I envy at their liberty, and will again commit them to their bonds, because my poor child is a prisoner.

She binds up her hair.

Constance to Pandulph, No. 2

Now father cardinal, I've heard you say
That we'll know our friends in heaven that day.
If that be true, then he for whom I grieve,
My son, will soon be seen by me; my son
Who did but yesterday it seems first breathe.
But now worms will eat my most graceful one,
Chasing from his cheek his native beauty,
Making him look as a ghost, causing me
To not know him, forcing anger to vent
When I meet him in heaven's court above.
Grief doth fill up the room of my absent
Child. Have I not reason to be fond of
Grief? You would have been able to rely
More on me had you such a loss as I.

She exits.

KING PHILIP: I fear some violence, and I'll follow her.