

## **Richard II abbreviated**

Act 3, Scene 3

### **Acceptance**

**Situation:** The duke of York's older son, the duke of Aumerle, a first cousin to both the king and to Henry Bolingbroke, has been unwaveringly loyal to the king. He is devastated by the king's capitulation, perhaps having been a little naïve along the way.

RICHARD II TO AUMERLE: We do debase ourselves, cousin, do we not, to look so poorly and to speak so fair? Shall we call back Northumberland and send defiance to the traitor and so die?

AUMERLE: No, good my lord, let's fight with gentle words.

RICHARD II: O, that I were as great as is my grief, or lesser than my name! Or that I could forget what I have been, or not remember what I must be now. Swell'st thou proud heart? I'll give thee scope to beat, since foes have scope to beat both thee and me.

AUMERLE: Northumberland comes back from Bolingbroke.

#### **Richard II to Aumerle**

**What should the king do now? Should he submit?**

**Must he be deposed? In God's name, let it**

**Go; lose the name of king, but be content.**

**I'll give my jewels for a set of beads, my**

**Gorgeous palaces if I can be sent**

**To a hermitage, my fine robes that tie**

**Me to royalty for an almsman's gown,**

**My scepter for a stick to walk 'bout town,**

**My subjects for a pair of carved saints, and**

**My large kingdom for a little grave, a**

**Small grave under an obscure bit of land;**

**Or I'll be buried in the plain highway,**

**Where the most common traffic can be led**

**To hourly trample on their sovereign's head.**

RICHARD II: Aumerle, thou weep'st, my tender-hearted cousin. Well, well, I see I talk but idly, and you laugh at me.