

Richard II abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 3

Deference

Situation: Bolingbroke accepts his uncle's tongue-lashing. With gentle and reasoned support from others, he quietly persuades York to be neutral in this struggle between the two cousins. As the encounter ends, the duke of York suggests that Bolingbroke and his friends be his guests that night.

BOLINGBROKE: My gracious uncle, let me know my fault.

Bolingbroke to York

I beseech my Grace to indifferent be.
You are my father, for methinks I see
In you old Gaunt alive. Will you then, my
Father, permit that I shall stand condemned,
A vagabond whom the king doth deny
Just rights, given to unthrifths who depend
On handups? If that cousin be king in
England, then by rights I must be given
The title, Duke of Lancaster. Your son,
Aumerle, had you first died and he been
Trodden down, his uncle Gaunt should be the one
To rouse his wrongs and right them. 'Twas his sin
My father's goods were so seized and sold. We
Challenge the law, but counsel's denied me.

BOLINGBROKE: Wherefore was I born?

NORTHUMBERLAND TO YORK: The noble duke hath been too much abused.

ROSS TO YORK: It stands your Grace upon to do him right.

WILLOUGHBY TO YORK: Base men by his endowments are made great.

YORK: My lords of England, let me tell you this: in braving arms to find out right with wrong, it may not be. And you that do abet him in this kind cherish rebellion and are rebels all.

NORTHUMBERLAND: The noble duke hath sworn his coming is but for his own, and for the right of that we all have strongly sworn to give him aid.

YORK: Well, well, I see the issue of these arms. If I could, by Him that gave me life, I would attach you all and make you stoop unto the sovereign mercy of the king. But since I cannot, be it known unto you I do remain as neuter. So fare you well-----unless you please to enter in the castle and there repose you for this night.

BOLINGBROKE: An offer, uncle, that we will accept. But we must win your Grace to go with us to Bristow Castle.

YORK: It may be I will go with you.