

## Richard II abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2.2

### Despair

**Situation:** Richard II is seriously discouraged, having learned on his return from Ireland that the Welshmen have deserted him, that Bolingbroke has executed two of his key aides, and that Bolingbroke has amassed public support as he moves south with his troops into the heart of England.

AUMERLE: Where is the duke my father with his power?

RICHARD II: No matter where.

#### Richard II to Scroop, Aumerle and Carlisle

Speak not of comfort. Let's talk of the grave  
And of wills, yet what can we bequeath save  
Our deposed bodies to the ground. Our land,  
Our lives, and all are Bolingbroke's. Nothing  
Save grief can we call our own but death and  
The earth to cover our bones. Here sitting,  
Let's talk of death. Within the hollow ring  
That rounds the mortal temples of a king,  
Death keeps court, scoffing at his state, grinning  
At his pomp, enjoying his own humor,  
Flaunting his vain conceit, while we, acting  
As if this flesh which walls in our life were  
Protecting brass, he, with a pin, doth drill  
Through his castle wall, and the king be still.

RICHARD II: Tell sad stories of the death of kings----how some have been deposed, some slain in war, some poisoned by their wives, some sleeping killed, all murdered.