

Richard II abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 5.2

Introspection

Situation: Shakespeare continues with these lessons from a life, as Richard's life is about to end. As an ex-king, Richard reflects on how the life of a king affected him. He also reflects on life in general for all people.

RICHARD II: Sometimes am I king. Then treasons make me wish myself a beggar, and so I am; then crushing penury persuades me I was better when a king.

Richard to himself, No. 2

My brain and soul beget still-breeding thought,
And for me thoughts end in conflict not sought,
As they do for all people of this world,
For no thought is contented. The divine
Thoughts are intermixed with doubt, tightly curled
To test the word against itself. 'Tis fine
To know I in one person play many
People, none contented. This penury
Makes me think I am kinged again, but then
Unkinged by Bolingbroke, and then again
Straight nothing. How sour sweet music is when
Time's no longer kept. And so is it in
The music of men's lives. It is too sad,
So let it stop 'fore it makes this man mad.

RICHARD II: The harmony of my state and time had not an ear to hear my true time broke. I wasted time, and now doth time waste me.