

## Richard II abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

### Pleading

**Situation:** Learning that his older brother, John of Gaunt, has died, Edmund of Langley, without success, pleads with Richard II not to seize the assets of the exiled Henry Bolingbroke, strongly suggesting that such actions will not be in the king's best interest.

RICHARD II: What says Gaunt?

NORTHUMBERLAND: His tongue is now a stringless instrument; words, life and all, old Lancaster hath spent.

RICHARD II: The ripest fruit first falls, and so doth he; his time is spent, our pilgrimage must be. Now for our Irish wars. Towards our assistance we do seize to us the plate, coin, revenues, and movables whereof our uncle Gaunt did stand possessed.

### York to Richard II

He loved you, on my life, and held you dear,  
But his words, life and all have ended here.  
Though death be poor, it ends a mortal woe.  
As Edward's son, I beg you do not fail  
To mend this beautiful broken land. O,  
How long shall I be patient? On your pale  
Face these wrongs not a wrinkle made, yet my  
Duty has kept me true. Your face your tie  
To great Edward. It was against the French  
He frowned, not 'gainst his friends. 'Tis wrong to say  
Unto your hands you plan to seize and wrench  
What they possessed. Was not Gaunt just? Away  
With Harry's rights and all becomes more tense;  
You'll gain dangers and lose my weak patience.

RICHARD II: Why, uncle, what's the matter?

YORK: Is not Harry true? Did not Gaunt deserve to have an heir? If you do wrongfully seize Hereford's rights, you pluck a thousand dangers on your head, you lose a thousand well-disposed hearts, and prick my tender patience.

RICHARD II: Think what you will, we seize into our hands his plate, his goods, his money, and his lands. YORK: I'll not be by the while. My liege, farewell.