

Richard II abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 3

Resentment

Situation: Recognizing his reign is in serious jeopardy, Richard II defensively questions Henry Bolingbroke's motives and criticizes the earl of Northumberland; Northumberland having earlier in the play switched his allegiance from the king to Henry Bolingbroke.

Northumberland approaches the castle.

BOLINGBROKE: Methinks King Richard and myself should meet; be he the fire, I'll be the yielding water.

King Richard appears with Aumerle on the castle walls.

BOLINGBROKE: See, see, King Richard doth himself appear.

YORK: Yet looks he like a king. Behold, his eye, as bright as is the eagle's, lightens forth controlling majesty.

Richard II to Northumberland

**As your lawful king, high in this tower,
How dare your knee fail its duty to our
Presence. If not your king, show us the hand
Of God that hath dismissed this king from His
Service, for we know no hand of blood and
Bone can grip this scepter, unless it is
Stolen or usurped. Tell Bolingbroke, for
Yon methinks he stands, he reflect, before
He strides upon my land, of his treasons
And the dire testament of bleeding war,
Where all the bloody crowns of mother's sons
'Come the look of England's face, a horror
That would turn this pale-faced peaceful nation
To its shame, its scarlet indignation.**

NORTHUMBERLAND: By the buried hand of warlike Gaunt, and by the worth and honor of himself, comprising all that may be sworn or said, his coming hither hath no further scope than for his lineal royalties, and to beg enfranchisement immediate on his knees; which on thy royal party granted once, his glittering arms he will commend to rust, his bared steeds to stables, and his heart to faithful service of your Majesty.

RICHARD II: Northumberland, say thus the king returns: all the number of his fair demands shall be accomplished without contradiction.

Northumberland returns to Bolingbroke.