

## **Richard III abbreviated**

Act 3, Scene 7.1

### **Deception**

**Situation:** Richard, having attempted to gain the public's support that he be named king and having failed, seeks with Buckingham's help to secure the support of London's mayor by following Buckingham's advice, Buckingham having said "The mayor is here art hand. Get a prayer book in your hand and stand between two churchmen. Play the maid's part: still answer 'nay,' and take it."

Richard enters aloft, between two clergymen.

MAYOR: See where his Grace stands, 'tween two clergymen.

BUCKINGHAM: And see, a book of prayer in his hand, true ornaments to know a holy man. Famous Plantagenet, lend favorable ear to our requests.

RICHARD: My lord, there needs no such apology. What is your Grace's pleasure?

BUCKINGHAM: I hope, which pleaseth God above and all good men of this ungoverned isle.

RICHARD: I do suspect I have done some offense that seems disgracious in the city's eye.

BUCKINGHAM: You have, my lord. Would it might please your Grace to amend your fault.

RICHARD: Else otherwise why breathe I?

#### **Buckingham to Richard, No. 1**

**It is your fault to resign the supreme  
Seat of your royal ancestors that doth seem  
Your due by birth, the lineal glory  
Of your house, to the corruption of a  
Blemished stock, whiles in your mildly sleepy  
Thoughts, which we must waken to a new day,  
The noble isle wants her own limbs, defaced  
With scars of infamy, royal stock grafted  
With ignoble plants shouldered almost in  
Darkest oblivion; which to restore,  
We solicit you to take charge and win  
Back for all this land, not as Protector,  
But as successor in blood to the throne,  
Your right of birth, your empery, your own.**