

Richard III abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 3

Fear

Situation: Richard III's nemesis, the earl of Richmond, has left France with a force of seven thousand men and has landed in Wales. With plans set for a battle between the two of them the next day at Salisbury, Richard III has pitched his tent and says here is "where I will lie tonight." He and his troops are encamped in Bosworth Field. During the night Richard III is visited by the ghosts of Prince Edward, Henry VI, Clarence, Hastings, Lady Anne and Buckingham.

RICHARD: Give me another horse! Bind up my wounds! Soft, I did but dream.

Richard III to himself, No. 4

O coward conscience, thou dost afflict me,
As the lights burn blue at dead midnight. See
How cold fearful drops stand on my trembling
Flesh. What do I fear? Me? There's none else by.
It's me, Richard. Is there a murdering
Man here? No. Yes. Could I from myself fly?
So, I rather hate myself for hateful
Deeds committed by myself. I'm a fool.
My weak conscience hath a thousand or more
Tongues, and from each unique tongue people see
A unique tale, each condemning me for
A villain. There is no creature loves me,
And if I die no soul will pity me,
And why should they, when I find no pity.

RICHARD: Methought the souls of all that I had murdered came to my tent, and every one did threat tomorrow's vengeance on the head of Richard.