

Richard III abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Grief

Situation: Edward IV, having learned from his brother Richard that their brother George duke of Clarence is dead, reminisces about the greatness that was Clarence. He separately, ironically and reluctantly grants a pardon to Stanley's servant "who slew today a riotous gentleman."

STANLEY: A favor, my sovereign, for my service done.

KING EDWARD: Say at once what is it thou requests.

STANLEY: The forfeit, sovereign, of my servant's life, who slew today a riotous gentleman lately attendant on the Duke of Norfolk.

KING EDWARD: Have I a tongue to doom my brother's death, and shall that tongue give pardon to a slave?

Edward IV to Stanley and others

**My brother's fault was thought. He hath killed no
Man, yet his punishment was harsh death. So,
Who begged my favor for him? Who spoke of
Brotherhood? Who told me how the poor soul
Forsook mighty Warwick, turning his love
To me? When Oxford was taking his toll,
Who rescued me, saying, "Dear brother, live,
And be king"? Who told me how he did give
Me his garments when we both in the field
Lay frozen almost to death, and how he
Gave himself, bare, to the numb-cold night? Yield
From my past brutish wrath hath sinfully
Restored, and not a man of you did find
So much grace as to put it in my mind.**

KING EDWARD: You straight are on your knees for pardon, pardon, and I, unjustly too, must grant it you.

Stanley rises.