

## **Richard III abbreviated**

Act 3, Scene 5

### **Innocence**

**Situation: Richard convinces London's mayor that Lord Hastings is a traitor and had plotted to have both Buckingham and himself killed. Richard sends the willing and gullible Buckingham to Guildhall to convince the public that his brother Edward IV was really a bad guy.**

MAYOR: Had he done so?

RICHARD: What, think you we are 'Turks or infidels?' The peace of England, and our persons' safety enforced us to this execution?

MAYOR: He deserved his death.

BUCKINGHAM: I never looked for better at his hands after he once fell in with Mistress Shore.

MAYOR: And do not doubt, right noble princes both, but I'll acquaint our duteous citizens with all your just proceedings in this case.

The Mayor exits.

### **Richard to Buckingham**

**Go to the Guildhall; follow the mayor.  
Tell the people of Edward's flaws. Infer  
That his children are bastards. Moreover,  
Tell them of his vile, bestial lust which stretched  
Unto their daughters and wives, wherever  
His raging eye or savage heart desired  
To make a prey. Tell them when my mother  
Went with child, Edward, my princely father  
Then had wars in France, and by computing  
Time, and as seen in his facial feature,  
Found the male issue was not his, being  
Nothing like the noble duke my father.  
Yet this message you must sparingly give,  
For, my lord, you know my mother doth live.**

BUCKINGHAM: I'll play the orator as if the golden fee for which I plead were for myself.

RICHARD: If you thrive well, bring them to Baynard's Castle, where you shall find me well accompanied with reverend fathers and well-learned bishops.