

Henry VI Part 2 abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Grief

Situation: Being overtaken by events and by the people around him, the king bemoans the loss of Gloucester, his uncle, his most loyal relative, his father's brother.

CARDINAL: Sirs, take away the duke, and guard him sure.

GLOUCESTER: Ah, thus King Henry throws away his crutch, before his legs be firm to bear his body. Thus is the shepherd beaten from thy side, and wolves are gnarling who shall gnaw thee first. Ah, that my fear were false! Ah, that it were, for good King Henry, thy decay I fear.

Gloucester exits, guarded.

KING: My lords, what to your wisdoms seemeth best?

QUEEN: What, will your Highness leave the Parliament?

King to the Queen and Lords

My heart is drowned with grief, for what is more
Wretched than discontent. I see honor,
Truth and loyalty in thy face, Humphrey,
Yet is this the fateful time I feared one
Day would come? What frowning star affects the
Great lords and my Queen to seek subversion
Of thy harmless life? Thou ne'er didst them wrong
Nor no man wrong. I bewaileth as strong
As a dam who lows up and down as the
Butcher takes away her calf, bearing it
To the cruel slaughterhouse, trying to see
Where her gentle one went, in an angst fit,
Wailing her darling's loss. My dimmed eyes see
Him gone, so mighty is this enemy.