

Henry VI Part 2 abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

Resentment

Situation: During a failed attempt to disguise himself, Suffolk is captured at sea by men who are upset with what they consider the sad state of England, believing Suffolk had a major role in leading it to where it is. The lieutenant gives us a good history lesson.

WHITMORE: The duke of Suffolk muffled up in rags

SUFFOLK: Ay, but these rags are no part of the Duke. Jove sometime went disguised, and why not I?

LIEUTENANT: But Jove was never slain, as thou shalt be.

SUFFOLK: Lowly swain, King Henry's blood must not be shed by such a jaded groom. Hast thou not kissed thy hand and held my stirrup? This hand of mine hath writ in thy behalf, and therefore shall it charm thy riotous tongue.

WHITMORE: Speak, captain, shall I stab the forlorn swain?

LIEUTENANT: First, let my words stab him, as he hath me.

SUFFOLK: Base slave, thy words are blunt, and so art thou.

Lieutenant to Suffolk

**By devilish policy thou hath grown
Great overgorging on the grief you've sown
In thy motherland's bleeding heart. Now will
I dam up the throat that spoke falsely, seize
This yawning mouth that hath kissed the queen, still
Thy lips that smiledst at good Humphrey's
Death. By thee Anjou and Maine were sold to
The revolting, disdainful French who through
Thee refuse our presence, take what have been
Our forts, and our soldiers wounded sending
Home. The Nevilles all are rising up in
Arms. The house of York burns with revenging
Fire. And, to conclude, shameless beggary
Creeps into the king's palace, all by thee.**

LIEUTENANT: Away, convey him hence.

SUFFOLK: It is impossible that I should die by such a lowly vassal as thyself. Thy words move rage and not remorse in me. I go of message from the Queen of France; I charge thee waft me safely cross the Channel.

WHITMORE: Come, Suffolk, I must waft thee to thy death.