

Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Anger

Situation: A justifiably distrusting Queen Katherine lashes out at Cardinals Wolsey and Campeius when they both speak to her condescendingly, saying such things as “your hopes and friends are infinite” and “put your main cause into the king’s protection.”

QUEEN KATHERINE: You tell me what you wish for both: my ruin. Is this your Christian counsel? Out upon you! Heaven is above all yet; there sits a judge that no king can corrupt.

CAMPEIUS: Your rage mistakes us.

Queen Katherine to Wolsey and Campeius

The more shame for you. Is this your comfort?
Your cardinal sins and hollow hearts do court
My fear. Is this the soothing medicine
You bring a woman lost among you, scorned,
Laughed at? Those who profess to be Christian,
Woe upon you. Take heed and say I warned
You, lest the burden of my sorrows fall
Upon you. This is my sick cause, and all
The contact I have with him to the end
Will be from obedience. Having here
Lived thus a true wife, without a friend,
Shall I hang my head and perish, with fear
Of tomorrow, when contenting him did
Forget my prayers? Am I thus rewarded?

QUEEN KATHERINE: 'Tis not well, lords. Bring me a constant woman to her husband, one that ne'er dreamed a joy beyond his pleasure, yet will I add an honor: a great patience.

WOLSEY: Madam, you wander from the good we aim at.

CAMPEIUS: I would your Grace would leave your griefs and take my counsel.