

## Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 4

### Honor

**Situation:** When Cranmer shows Council members the king's ring, Council members quickly retreat from their indictment. Earlier the Chancellor had told Cranmer "forthwith you be conveyed to th' Tower a prisoner." The king soon enters saying "My Lord of Canterbury, there is a fair young maid that yet wants baptism."

The King kisses the infant.

CRANMER: Amen. Let me speak, sir, for heaven now bids me; and the words I utter let none think flattery, for they'll find 'em truth.

#### Cranmer to the King and others, No. 1

This royal infant now promises upon  
This land a set of blessings from this dawn,  
That time alone shall bring to ripeness. She  
Shall be a model for princes living  
In her time and all that shall succeed. We  
Shall soon see the princely graces forming  
This masterpiece double, as if it were  
Heaven spreading truths and counseling her.  
She shall be loved and feared, and her people  
Shall bless her; while her foes shall with sorrow  
Hang their heads as weather-beaten corn, still  
As night. In her days every man shall go  
About life knowing safety shall not cease  
And to all his neighbors sing songs of peace.

KING: Thou speakest wonders.

#### Cranmer to the King and others, No. 2

Those about her shall from her learn the ways  
Of honor and by those ways in their days  
Shall claim greatness, rather than by blood. Nor  
Shall this peace die with her but as with the  
Phoenix her ashes create another  
Heir as admired as herself, so shall she  
Leave her blessedness in time to one who  
Shall star-like rise and like a vine grow to  
Him. Love and truth that are hers shall be his,  
Bringing honor to new lands wherever  
The bright sun of heaven shall shine. What is

**To be his is hers; the saints will have her  
And all the world shall mourn her. The children  
Of our children so blessed shall bless heaven.**

KING: My lord Archbishop, thou hast made me now a man. I thank you all. To you, good lord mayor and you, good brethren, I am much beholding. You must all see the Queen, and she must thank you; she will be sick else. This day, no man think 'has business at his house, for all shall stay. This little one shall make it holiday.