

Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 4

Reflection

Situation: Henry VIII and Katherine have a daughter. Since Katherine has had several miscarriages, Henry VIII uses his stated need for a male heir as a justification for showing interest in Anne Bullen.

KING: Go thy ways, Kate. That man i' th' world who shall report he has a better wife, let him in naught be trusted. She's noble born, and like her true nobility she has carried herself towards me.

WOLSEY: Most gracious sir, in humblest manner I require your Highness that it shall please you to declare in hearing of all these ears whether ever I did broach this business with your Highness, or ever have to you spake one the least word that might be to the prejudice of her present state, or touch of her good person?

KING: My Lord Cardinal, I do excuse you; yea, upon mine honor, I free you from 't. Now, what moved me to it, I will be bold with time and your attention. Give heed to the incentive. Thus it came; give heed to 't.

Henry VIII to Wolsey

**My conscience was wakened when I did gauge
The French ambassador hinted marriage
'twixt the Duke of Orleans and Mary,
Our daughter, during certain speeches. But
He sought delay, inquiring whether she
Was legitimate, Katherine being what
She was: our brother's widow. First, methought
I stood not in God's favor; one that ought
Not have a son; with a kingdom worthy
Of the world's best heir; a failing that's been
My doing. Weighing the danger to me
And my realm led to anguish. Drifting in
The wild sea of my conscience, I did steer
Toward this remedy, finding us here.**