

Richard II abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 3

Acceptance

Situation: The duke of York's older son, the duke of Aumerle, a first cousin to both the king and to Henry Bolingbroke, has been unwaveringly loyal to the king. He is devastated by the king's capitulation, perhaps having been a little naïve along the way.

RICHARD II TO AUMERLE: We do debase ourselves, cousin, do we not, to look so poorly and to speak so fair? Shall we call back Northumberland and send defiance to the traitor and so die?

AUMERLE: No, good my lord, let's fight with gentle words.

RICHARD II: O, that I were as great as is my grief, or lesser than my name! Or that I could forget what I have been, or not remember what I must be now. Swell'st thou proud heart? I'll give thee scope to beat, since foes have scope to beat both thee and me.

AUMERLE: Northumberland comes back from Bolingbroke.

Richard II to Aumerle

What should the king do now? Should he submit?

Must he be deposed? In God's name, let it

Go; lose the name of king, but be content.

I'll give my jewels for a set of beads, my

Gorgeous palaces if I can be sent

To a hermitage, my fine robes that tie

Me to royalty for an almsman's gown,

My scepter for a stick to walk 'bout town,

My subjects for a pair of carved saints, and

My large kingdom for a little grave, a

Small grave under an obscure bit of land;

Or I'll be buried in the plain highway,

Where the most common traffic can be led

To hourly trample on their sovereign's head.

RICHARD II: Aumerle, thou weep'st, my tender-hearted cousin. Well, well, I see I talk but idly, and you laugh at me.