

Richard II abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

Capitulation

Situation: Richard II haltingly concedes his crown to his cousin, Henry Bolingbroke, not quite ready to acknowledge the transfer of the crown. He says for what it's worth that his griefs remain his own.

YORK: Great Duke of Lancaster, I come to thee from plume-plucked Richard, who with willing soul adopts thee heir, and his high scepter yields to the possession of thy royal hand. Ascend his throne, descending now from him and long live Henry, fourth of that name!

BOLINGBROKE: In God's name, I'll ascend the regal throne.

CARLISLE: What subject can give sentence on his king? And who sits here that is not Richard's subject? My Lord of Hereford here, whom you call king, is a foul traitor to proud Hereford's king. O, if you raise this house against this house, it will the woofullest division prove that ever fell upon this cursed earth!

NORTHUMBERLAND: Well have you argued, sir, and, for your pains of capital treason we arrest you here.

BOLINGBROKE: Fetch hither Richard, that in common view he may surrender.

YORK: I will be his conduct.

He exits. Richard II and York enter.

Richard II to York and Bolingbroke

Give sorrow leave awhile to tutor me
From regal thoughts wherewith I reigned. Hardly
Have I learned to flatter and bend my knee.
These wars, were they not mine, each battle won?
Did not all twelve thousand cry "Hail" to me?
Yet He in twelve found truth in all but one.
I said I have been willing to resign;
My crown I am, but still my griefs are mine.
God save the King, although I be not he.
My service here was sent by heaven's sign,
So say amen, if heaven think him me.
Cares do attend the crown and I wear mine
Each day as grief. Ay, I resign to thee.
I have no name and I must nothing be.

RICHARD II: Give me the crown. Here, cousin, seize the crown. Here, cousin.

BOLINGBROKE: I thought you had been willing to resign. Part of your cares you give me with your crown.

RICHARD II: The cares I give I have, though given away. They 'tend the crown, yet still with me they stay.

BOLINGBROKE: Are you contented to resign the crown?

RICHARD II: I give this weight from off my head. With mine own hands I give away my crown. God save King Henry, unkinged Richard says, and send him many years of sunshine days. What more remains?