

Richard II abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2

Counsel

Situation: The Bishop of Carlisle temporarily rekindles the king's spirits with an inspirational pep talk. But the king gives up when Stephen Scroop happens to mention Henry Bolingbroke and the depth of his support.

Carlisle to Richard II

You say throw away form, ceremony
And tradition, and that all this while we
Have mistook thee; that you feel want, have foes,
Taste grief, need friends. You ask how can we say
You're king. Wise men ne'er sit and wail their woes,
My lord, but presently prevent the way
To wail. Since fear doth oppresseth strength, to
Fear your foe gives strength to your foe, and you
In your follies fight against yourself. Fear
And be slain. Fight any fear of death sown,
For no worse can come if in this fight we're
One. My brave lord, to fear what is unknown
Is to fear ghosts. Chiding may be o'erblown,
But our task for England's to win our own.

AUMERLE: My father hath a power. Inquire of him, and learn to make a body of a limb.

RICHARD II: 'Thou chid'st me well. An easy task it is to win our own. Say, Scroop, where lies our uncle with his power?

SCROOP: York is joined with Bolingbroke, and all your northern castles yielded up, and all your southern gentlemen in arms upon his party.

RICHARD II: Thou hast said enough.

RICHARD II TO AUMERLE: What say you now? What comfort have we now? By heaven, I'll hate him everlastingly that bids me be of comfort anymore. Let no man speak again to alter this, for counsel is but vain.

AUMERLE: My liege, one word.

RICHARD II: Discharge my followers. Let them hence away, from Richard's night to Bolingbroke's fair day.