

HENRY THE SIXTH, PART 1

By William Shakespeare

CAST

The English

KING HENRY the Sixth

Dukes of GLOUCESTER, Uncle to the King, and Lord Protector
BEDFORD, Uncle to the King, and Regent of France
EXETER, Thomas Beaufort, great-uncle to the King
SOMERSET, John Beaufort

Earls of WARWICK
SALISBURY
SUFFOLK, William de la Pole

Bishop of WINCHESTER, Henry Beaufort, great-uncle to the King, and afterwards
Cardinal

PLANTAGENET, Richard Plantagenet afterwards Duke of
YORK and Regent of France

TALBOT, Lord Talbot afterwards Earl of Shrewsbury
JOHN TALBOT, his son

MORTIMER, Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March
GAOLERS, 1st and 2nd Gaoler, Mortimer's keepers in the Tower

FALSTAFF Sir John Falstaff

LUCY Sir William Lucy
GLANSDALE Sir William Glansdale
GARGRAVE Sir Thomas Gargrave

MAYOR of London.
OFFICER and Other Officers, serving the Mayor
WOODVILLE, Lieutenant of the Tower
WARDERS 1st and 2nd warders of the Tower

VERNON, of the White-Rose of York
BASSET, of the Red-Rose of Lancaster
LAWYER.

MESSENGERS, 1st 2nd 3rd and others
SERVANTS, 1st, 2nd and other
SERVANTS to Gloucester
SERVANT to Talbot
CAPTAIN
SOLDIER, and other English Soldiers

LEGATE Papal Legate
TWO AMBASSADORS to the English court

The French

CHARLES, Dauphin, and afterwards King of France
REIGNIER, Duke of Anjou, and titular King of Naples
MARGARET, Daughter to Reignier, afterwards married to King Henry

BURGUNDY Duke of Burgundy
ALENON Duke of Alenon

BASTARD of Orleans

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

LA PUCELLE, Joan la Pucelle, Joan of Arc
SHEPHERD, father to Joan la Pucelle

COUNTESS of Auvergne
PORTER, to the Countess
MESSENGER to the Countess

GOVERNOR of Paris
GENERAL of the French forces in Bordeaux
MASTER GUNNER of Orleans.
BOY, the Master Gunner's son
WATCH of Orleans
SERGEANT
SENTINELS 1st, 2nd and others of Orleans
SOLDIERS, 1st and others
SCOUT

Fiends appearing to La Pucelle
Heralds, Drummers, Trumpeters, Lords, Attendants

Scene: partly in England, and partly in France.

ACT 1.

Scene 1. Westminster Abbey.

Dead March.

Enter the Funeral of King Henry the Fifth, attended on by the Duke of BEDFORD, Regent of France; the Duke of GLOUCESTER, Protector; the Duke of EXETER; WARWICK; the Bishop of WINCHESTER, and the Duke of SOMERSET.

Bedford

Hung be the heavens with black, yield day to night;
Comets, importing change of times and states,
Brandish your crystal tresses in the sky,
And with them scourge the bad revolting stars
That have consented unto Henry's death:
King Henry the Fifth, too famous to live long!
England ne'er lost a king of so much worth.

Gloucester

England ne'er had a king until his time.
Virtue he had, deserving to command;
His brandished sword did blind men with his beams;
His arms spread wider than a dragon's wings;
His sparkling eyes, replete with wrathful fire,
More dazzled and drove back his enemies
Than midday sun fierce bent against their faces.
What should I say? His deeds exceed all speech:
He ne'er lift up his hand but conquered.

Exeter

We mourn in black; why mourn we not in blood?
Henry is dead and never shall revive.
Upon a wooden coffin we attend,
And death's dishonourable victory
We with our stately presence glorify,
Like captives bound to a triumphant car.
What, shall we curse the planets of mishap
That plotted thus our glory's overthrow?
Or shall we think the subtle-witted French
Conjurers and sorcerers, that, afraid of him,
By magic verses have contrived his end?

Winchester

He was a king blessed of the King of kings.
Unto the French the dreadful judgment-day
So dreadful will not be as was his sight.
The battles of the Lord of Hosts he fought;
The Church's prayers made him so prosperous.

Gloucester

The Church? Where is it? Had not churchmen prayed,
His thread of life had not so soon decayed.
None do you like but an effeminate prince,
Whom like a schoolboy you may overawe.

Winchester

Gloucester, whate'er we like, thou art Protector,
And lookest to command the prince and realm.
Thy wife is proud; she holdeth thee in awe
More than God or religious churchmen may.

Gloucester

Name not religion, for thou lov'st the flesh;
And ne'er throughout the year to church thou go'st
Except it be to pray against thy foes.

Bedford

Cease, cease these jars, and rest your minds in peace.
Let's to the altar. Heralds, wait on us.

Exeunt the Funeral; manet BEDFORD, GLOUCESTER, EXETER, and WINCHESTER.

Instead of gold, we'll offer up our arms,

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Since arms avail not, now that Henry's dead.
Posterity, await for wretched years,
When at their mothers' moistened eyes babes shall suck,
Our isle be made a nourish of salt tears,
And none but women left to wail the dead.
Henry the Fifth, thy ghost I invoke:
Prosper this realm, keep it from civil broils,
Combat with adverse planets in the heavens.
A far more glorious star thy soul will make
Than Julius Caesar or bright -

Enter 1st MESSENGER.

1st Messenger

My honourable lords, health to you all!
Sad tidings bring I to you out of France,
Of loss, of slaughter, and discomfiture:
Guienne, Compiègne, Rheims, Rouen, Orleans,
Paris, Gisors, Poitiers, are all quite lost.

Bedford

What sayst thou, man, before dead Henry's corse?
Speak softly, or the loss of those great towns
Will make him burst his lead and rise from death.

Gloucester

Is Paris lost? Is Rouen yielded up?
If Henry were recalled to life again,
These news would cause him once more yield the ghost.

Exeter

How were they lost? What treachery was used?

1st Messenger

No treachery, but want of men and money.
Amongst the soldiers this is muttered:
That here you maintain several factions;
And whilst a field should be dispatched and fought,
You are disputing of your generals.
One would have ling'ring wars, with little cost;
Another would fly swift, but wanteth wings;
A third thinks, without expense at all,
By guileful fair words peace may be obtained.
Awake, awake, English nobility!
Let not sloth dim your honours new-begot.
Cropped are the flower-de-luces in your arms;
Of England's coat one half is cut away.

Exit

Exeter

Were our tears wanting to this funeral,
These tidings would call forth her flowing tides.

Bedford

Me they concern; Regent I am of France.
Give me my steeled coat; I'll fight for France.
Away with these disgraceful wailing robes.
Wounds will I lend the French instead of eyes,
To weep their intermissive miseries.

Enter to them another MESSENGER.

2nd Messenger

Lords, view these letters full of bad mischance.
France is revolted from the English quite,
Except some petty towns of no import.
The Dauphin Charles is crowned king in Rheims;
The Bastard of Orleans with him is joined;
Reignier Duke of Anjou, doth take his part;
The Duke of Alençon flieth to his side.

Exit

Exeter

The Dauphin crowned king! All fly to him!
O, whither shall we fly from this reproach?

Gloucester

We will not fly, but to our enemies' throats.
Bedford, if thou be slack, I'll fight it out.

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Bedford Gloucester, why doubt'st thou of my forwardness?
An army have I mustered in my thoughts,
Wherewith already France is overrun.

Enter 3rd MESSENGER.

3rd Messenger My gracious lords, to add to your laments,
Wherewith you now bedew King Henry's hearse,
I must inform you of a dismal fight
Betwixt the stout Lord Talbot and the French.

Winchester What, wherein Talbot overcame, is't so?

3rd Messenger O, no; wherein Lord Talbot was o'erthrown.
The circumstance I'll tell you more at large.
The tenth of August last this dreadful lord,
Retiring from the siege of Orleans,
Having full scarce six thousand in his troop,
By three and twenty thousand of the French
Was round encompassed and set upon.
No leisure had he to enrank his men;
He wanted pikes to set before his archers;
Instead whereof, sharp stakes plucked out of hedges
They pitched in the ground confusedly,
To keep the horsemen off from breaking in.
More than three hours the fight continued;
Where valiant Talbot, above human thought,
Enacted wonders with his sword and lance.
Hundreds he sent to hell, and none durst stand him.
Here, there, and everywhere, enraged he slew -
The French exclaimed the devil was in arms;
All the whole army stood agazed on him.
His soldiers, spying his undaunted spirit,
'A Talbot! A Talbot!' cried out amain,
And rushed into the bowels of the battle.
Here had the conquest fully been sealed up
If Sir John Falstaff had not played the coward.
He, being in the vanguard, placed behind
With purpose to relieve and follow them,
Cowardly fled, not having struck one stroke.
Hence grew the general wrack and massacre:
Enclosed were they with their enemies.
A base Walloon, to win the Dauphin's grace,
Thrust Talbot with a spear into the back,
Whom all France, with their chief assembled strength,
Durst not presume to look once in the face.

Bedford Is Talbot slain? Then I will slay myself,
For living idly here in pomp and ease,
Whilst such a worthy leader, wanting aid,
Unto his dastard foemen is betrayed.

3rd Messenger O no, he lives, but is took prisoner,
And Lord Scales with him, and Lord Hungerford;
Most of the rest slaughtered, or took likewise.

Bedford His ransom there is none but I shall pay.
I'll hale the Dauphin headlong from his throne;
His crown shall be the ransom of my friend;
Four of their lords I'll change for one of ours.
Farewell, my masters; to my task will I.
Bonfires in France forthwith I am to make,
To keep our great Saint George's feast withal.
Ten thousand soldiers with me I will take,
Whose bloody deeds shall make all Europe quake.

3rd Messenger So had you need: 'fore Orleans, besieged,
The English army is grown weak and faint;
The Earl of Salisbury craveth supply,
And hardly keeps his men from mutiny,
Since they, so few, watch such a multitude.

Exit

Exeter Remember, lords, your oaths to Henry sworn,
Either to quell the Dauphin utterly,
Or bring him in obedience to your yoke.

Bedford I do remember it, and here take my leave
To go about my preparation.

Exit

Gloucester I'll to the Tower with all the haste I can,
To view th' artillery and munition;
And then I will proclaim young Henry king.

Exit

Exeter To Eltham will I, where the young king is,
Being ordained his special governor;
And for his safety there I'll best devise.

Exit

Winchester Each hath his place and function to attend;
I am left out; for me nothing remains.
But long I will not be 'Jack out of office'.
The king from Eltham I intend to steal,
And sit at chiefest stern of public weal.

Exit

Scene 2. France. Before Orleans.

Sound a [Flourish]

Enter CHARLES the Dauphin, the Duke of ALENON, and REIGNIER, marching with DRUM and SOLDIERS.

Charles Mars his true moving, even as in the heavens
So in the earth, to this day is not known.
Late did he shine upon the English side;
Now we are victors, upon us he smiles.
What towns of any moment but we have?
At pleasure here we lie near Orleans,
Otherwhiles the famished English, like pale ghosts,
Faintly besiege us one hour in a month.

Alencon They want their porridge and their fat bull-beeves:
Either they must be dieted like mules
And have their provender tied to their mouths,
Or piteous they will look, like drowned mice.

Reignier Let's raise the siege. Why live we idly here?
Talbot is taken, whom we wont to fear.
Remaineth none but madbrained Salisbury,
And he may well in fretting spend his gall; Nor men nor money hath he
to make war.

Charles Sound, sound alarum; we will rush on them.
Now for the honour of the forlorn French!
Him I forgive my death that killeth me
When he sees me go back one foot or fly.

Exeunt

Here alarum.

Enter SOLDIERS of both armies.
The FRENCH are beaten back by the ENGLISH with great loss.

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Re-enter CHARLES, ALENON, and REIGNIER.

Charles Who ever saw the like? What men have I!
Dogs! Cowards! Dastards! I would ne'er have fled
But that they left me 'midst my enemies.

Reignier Salisbury is a desperate homicide;
He fighteth as one weary of his life.
The other lords, like lions wanting food,
Do rush upon us as their hungry prey.

Alencon Froissart, a countryman of ours, records
England all Olivers and Rolands bred
During the time Edward the Third did reign.
More truly now may this be verified;
For none but Samsons and Goliases
It sendeth forth to skirmish. One to ten!
Lean raw-boned rascals! Who would e'er suppose
They had such courage and audacity?

Charles Let's leave this town, for they are hare-brained slaves,
And hunger will enforce them to be more eager.
Of old I know them: rather with their teeth
The walls they'll tear down than forsake the siege.

Reignier I think by some odd gimmals or device
Their arms are set like clocks, still to strike on;
Else ne'er could they hold out so as they do.
By my consent, we'll even let them alone.

Alencon Be it so.

Enter the BASTARD OF ORLEANS.

Bastard Where's the Prince Dauphin? I have news for him.

Charles Bastard of Orleans, thrice welcome to us.

Bastard Methinks your looks are sad, your cheer appalled.
Hath the late overthrow wrought this offence?
Be not dismayed, for succour is at hand.
A holy maid hither with me I bring,
Which, by a vision sent to her from heaven,
Ordained is to raise this tedious siege
And drive the English forth the bounds of France.
The spirit of deep prophecy she hath,
Exceeding the nine sibyls of old Rome;
What's past and what's to come she can descry.
Speak, shall I call her in? Believe my words,
For they are certain and unfallible.

Charles Go, call her in.

Exit BASTARD.

But first, to try her skill:
Reignier, stand thou as Dauphin in my place;
Question her proudly, let thy looks be stern;
By this means shall we sound what skill she hath.

Re-enter the BASTARD OF ORLEANS with JOAN LA PUCELLE.

Reignier Fair maid, is't thou wilt do these wondrous feats?

La Pucelle Reignier, is't thou that thinkest to beguile me?
Where is the Dauphin? Come, come from behind;
I know thee well, though never seen before.
Be not amazed, there's nothing hid from me.
In private will I talk with thee apart.
Stand back, you lords, and give us leave awhile.

Reignier She takes upon her bravely at first dash.

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

La Pucelle Dauphin, I am by birth a shepherd's daughter,
My wit untrained in any kind of art.
Heaven and our Lady gracious hath it pleased
To shine on my contemptible estate.
Lo, whilst I waited on my tender lambs,
And to sun's parching heat displayed my cheeks,
God's mother deigned to appear to me,
And, in a vision full of majesty,
Willed me to leave my base vocation
And free my country from calamity.
Her aid she promised, and assured success.
In complete glory she revealed herself,
And, whereas I was black and swart before,
With those clear rays which she infused on me,
That beauty am I blest with which you see.
Ask me what question thou canst possible,
And I will answer unpremeditated.
My courage try by combat, if thou dar'st,
And thou shalt find that I exceed my sex.
Resolve on this; thou shalt be fortunate
If thou receive me for thy warlike mate.

Charles Thou hast astonished me with thy high terms.
Only this proof I'll of thy valour make:
In single combat thou shalt buckle with me,
And if thou vanquishest, thy words are true;
Otherwise I renounce all confidence.

La Pucelle I am prepared: here is my keen-edged sword,
Decked with five flower-de-luces on each side,
The which, at Touraine, in Saint Katharine's churchyard,
Out of a great deal of old iron I chose forth.

Charles Then come, o'God's name; I fear no woman.

La Pucelle And while I live, I'll ne'er fly from a man.
[Here they fight, and JOAN LA PUCELLE overcomes]

Charles Stay, stay thy hands! Thou art an Amazon,
And fightest with the sword of Deborah.

La Pucelle Christ's Mother helps me, else I were too weak.

Charles Whoe'er helps thee, 'tis thou that must help me.
Impatiently I burn with thy desire;
My heart and hands thou hast at once subdued.
Excellent Pucelle, if thy name be so,
Let me thy servant, and not sovereign, be.
'Tis the French Dauphin sueth to thee thus.

La Pucelle I must not yield to any rites of love,
For my profession's sacred from above.
When I have chased all thy foes from hence,
Then will I think upon a recompense.

Charles Meantime look gracious on thy prostrate thrall.

Reignier My lord, methinks, is very long in talk.

Alencon Doubtless he shrives this woman to her smock;
Else ne'er could he so long protract his speech.

Reignier Shall we disturb him, since he keeps no mean?

Alencon He may mean more than we poor men do know:
These women are shrewd tempters with their tongues.

Reignier My lord, where are you? What devise you on?
Shall we give over Orleans, or no?

La Pucelle Why, no, I say, distrustful recreants!
Fight till the last gasp! I will be your guard.

Charles What she says, I'll confirm: we'll fight it out.

La Pucelle Assigned am I to be the English scourge.
This night the siege assuredly I'll raise:
Expect Saint Martin's summer, halcyon's days,
Since I have entered into these wars.
Glory is like a circle in the water,
Which never ceaseth to enlarge itself,
Till, by broad spreading, it disperse to nought.
With Henry's death the English circle ends;
Dispersed are the glories it included.
Now am I like that proud insulting ship
Which Caesar and his fortune bare at once.

Charles Was Mohammed inspired with a dove?
Thou with an eagle art inspired then.
Helen, the mother of great Constantine,
Nor yet Saint Philip's daughters, were like thee.
Bright star of Venus, fallen down on the earth,
How may I reverently worship thee enough?

Alencon Leave off delays, and let us raise the siege.

Reignier Woman, do what thou canst to save our honours;
Drive them from Orleans, and be immortalized.

Charles Presently we'll try. Come, let's away about it.
No prophet will I trust if she prove false.

Exeunt

Scene 3. London. Before the Tower.

Enter the Duke of GLOUCESTER, with his SERVINGMEN in blue coats.

Gloucester I am come to survey the Tower this day:
Since Henry's death, I fear, there is conveyance.
Where be these warders that they wait not here?
Open the gates! 'Tis Gloucester that calls.

1st Warder [Within] Who's there that knocketh so imperiously?

1st Servant It is the noble Duke of Gloucester.

2nd Warder [Within] Whoe'er he be, you may not be let in.

1st Servant Villains, answer you so the Lord Protector?

1st Warder [Within] 'The Lord protect him!' - so we answer him.
We do no otherwise than we are willed.

Gloucester Who willed you, or whose will stands but mine?
There's none Protector of the realm but I.
Break up the gates, I'll be your warrantize.
Shall I be flouted thus by dunghill grooms?
[Gloucester's MEN rush at the Tower gates, and WOODVILLE the Lieutenant
speaks within]

Woodville [Within] What noise is this? What traitors have we here?

Gloucester Lieutenant, is it you whose voice I hear?
Open the gates; here's Gloucester that would enter.

Woodville [Within] Have patience, noble duke; I may not open:
The Cardinal of Winchester forbids.
From him I have express commandment
That thou nor none of thine shall be let in.

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Gloucester Faint-hearted Woodville, prizest him 'fore me?
Arrogant Winchester, that haughty prelate
Whom Henry, our late sovereign, ne'er could brook!
Thou art no friend to God or to the king.
Open the gates, or I'll shut thee out shortly.

Servingmen Open the gates unto the Lord Protector,
Or we'll burst them open, if that you come not quickly.

Enter, to the Protector at the Tower gates, WINCHESTER and his MEN in tawny coats.

Winchester How now, ambitious Humphrey! What means this?

Gloucester Peeled priest, dost thou command me be shut out?

Winchester I do, thou most usurping proditor,
And not Protector of the king or realm.

Gloucester Stand back, thou manifest conspirator;
Thou that contrived'st to murder our dead lord,
Thou that giv'st whores indulgences to sin.
I'll canvas thee in thy broad cardinal's hat,
If thou proceed in this thy insolence.

Winchester Nay, stand thou back! I will not budge a foot.
This be Damascus, be thou cursed Cain,
To slay thy brother Abel, if thou wilt.

Gloucester I will not slay thee, but I'll drive thee back.
Thy scarlet robes, as a child's bearing-cloth,
I'll use to carry thee out of this place.

Winchester Do what thou dar'st, I beard thee to thy face.

Gloucester What, am I dared and bearded to my face?
Draw, men, for all this privileged place. Blue coats to tawny coats! Priest,
beware your beard;
I mean to tug it, and to cuff you soundly.
Under my feet I'll stamp thy cardinal's hat,
In spite of pope or dignities of church,
Here by the cheeks I'll drag thee up and down.

Winchester Gloucester, thou'lt answer this before the pope.

Gloucester Winchester goose! I cry, `A rope! a rope!'
Now beat them hence: - why do you let them stay?
Thee I'll chase hence, thou wolf in sheep's array.
Out, tawny coats! Out, scarlet hypocrite!

Here Gloucester's MEN beat out the Cardinal's MEN;
and enter, in the hurly-burly, the MAYOR of London and his OFFICERS.

Mayor Fie, lords! That you, being supreme magistrates,
Thus contumeliously should break the peace!

Gloucester Peace, mayor! Thou know'st little of my wrongs.
Here's Beaufort, that regards nor God nor king,
Hath here distrained the Tower to his use.

Winchester Here's Gloucester, a foe to citizens,
One that still motions war, and never peace,
O'ercharging your free purses with large fines,
That seeks to overthrow religion,
Because he is Protector of the realm,
And would have armour here out of the Tower,
To crown himself king and suppress the prince.

Gloucester I will not answer thee with words, but blows.
[Here they skirmish again]

Mayor Nought rests for me in this tumultuous strife
But to make open proclamation.
Come, officer, as loud as e'er thou canst.

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Officer All manner of men assembled here in arms this day against God's peace and the king's, we charge and command you, in his highness' name, to repair to your several dwelling-places, and not to wear, handle, or use, any sword, weapon, or dagger, henceforward, upon pain of death.

Gloucester Cardinal, I'll be no breaker of the law;
But we shall meet and break our minds at large.

Winchester Gloucester, we will meet to thy cost, be sure:
Thy heart-blood I will have for this day's work.

Mayor I'll call for clubs if you will not away.
This cardinal's more haughty than the devil.

Gloucester Mayor, farewell; thou dost but what thou mayst.

Winchester Abominable Gloucester, guard thy head,
For I intend to have it ere long.

Exeunt, severally, GLOUCESTER and WINCHESTER with their SERVINGMEN.

Mayor See the coast cleared, and then we will depart.
Good God, these nobles should such stomachs bear!
I myself fight not once in forty year.

Exeunt

Scene 4. France. Before Orleans.

Enter the MASTER GUNNER of Orleans and his BOY.

Master Gunner Sirrah, thou know'st how Orleans is besieged,
And how the English have the suburbs won.

Boy Father, I know; and oft have shot at them,
Howe'er unfortunate I missed my aim.

Master Gunner But now thou shalt not. Be thou ruled by me.
Chief master-gunner am I of this town;
Something I must do to procure me grace.
The prince's espials have informed me
How the English, in the suburbs close intrenched,
Wont, through a secret grate of iron bars
In yonder tower, to overpeer the city,
And thence discover how with most advantage
They may vex us with shot or with assault.
To intercept this inconvenience,
A piece of ordnance 'gainst it I have placed,
And even these three days have I watched
If I could see them. Now do thou watch,
For I can stay no longer.
If thou spy'st any, run and bring me word;
And thou shalt find me at the Governor's.

Exit

Boy Father, I warrant you; take you no care;
I'll never trouble you if I may spy them.

Exit

Enter SALISBURY and TALBOT on the turrets, with Sir William GLANSDALE, Sir Thomas GAR-GRAVE, and OTHERS.

Salisbury Talbot, my life, my joy, again returned!
How wert thou handled, being prisoner?
Or by what means got'st thou to be released?
Discourse, I prithee, on this turret's top.

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Talbot The Earl of Bedford had a prisoner,
Called the brave Lord Ponton de Santrailles;
For him I was exchanged and ransomed.
But with a baser man of arms by far,
Once, in contempt, they would have bartered me,
Which I, disdainingly, scorned, and craved death
Rather than I would be so vile-esteemed.
In fine, redeemed I was as I desired.
But O, the treacherous Falstaff wounds my heart,
Whom with my bare fists I would execute
If I now had him brought into my power.

Salisbury Yet tell'st thou not how thou wert entertained.

Talbot With scoffs and scorns and contumelious taunts.
In open market-place produced they me
To be a public spectacle to all.
'Here', said they, 'is the terror of the French,
The scarecrow that affrights our children so.'
Then broke I from the officers that led me,
And with my nails digged stones out of the ground
To hurl at the beholders of my shame.
My grisly countenance made others fly:
None durst come near for fear of sudden death.
In iron walls they deemed me not secure;
So great fear of my name 'mongst them were spread
That they supposed I could rend bars of steel
And spurn in pieces posts of adamant:
Wherefore a guard of chosen shot I had,
That walked about me every minute-while;
And if I did but stir out of my bed,
Ready they were to shoot me to the heart.

Enter the BOY with a lighted linstock.
He passes over the stage, and **Exit**

Salisbury I grieve to hear what torments you endured;
But we will be revenged sufficiently.
Now it is supertime in Orleans;
Here, through this grate, I count each one,
And view the Frenchmen how they fortify:
Let us look in; the sight will much delight thee.
Sir Thomas Gargrave, and Sir William Glansdale,
Let me have your express opinions
Where is best place to make our battery next.

Gargrave I think at the North Gate, for there stands lords.

Glansdale And I here, at the bulwark of the bridge.

Talbot For aught I see, this city must be famished,
Or with light skirmishes enfeebled.
[Here they shoot, and SALISBURY and GARGRAVE fall down]

Salisbury O Lord, have mercy on us, wretched sinners!

Gargrave O Lord, have mercy on me, woeful man!

Talbot What chance is this that suddenly hath crossed us?
Speak, Salisbury; at least, if thou canst speak.
How far'st thou, mirror of all martial men?
One of thy eyes and thy cheek's side struck off!
Accursed tower! Accursed fatal hand
That hath contrived this woeful tragedy!
In thirteen battles Salisbury o'ercame;
Henry the Fifth he first trained to the wars;
Whilst any trump did sound or drum struck up,
His sword did ne'er leave striking in the field.
Yet liv'st thou, Salisbury? Though thy speech doth fail,
One eye thou hast to look to heaven for grace:
The sun with one eye vieweth all the world.

Heaven, be thou gracious to none alive,
If Salisbury want mercy at thy hands!
Sir Thomas Gargrave, hast thou any life?
Speak unto Talbot; nay, look up to him.
Bear hence his body; I will help to bury it.

Exeunt SOLDIERS with the body of GARGRAVE.

Salisbury, cheer thy spirit with this comfort,
Thou shalt not die whiles -
He beckons with his hand and smiles on me,
As who should say, 'When I am dead and gone,
Remember to avenge me on the French.'
Plantagenet, I will, and, like thee, Nero,
Play on the lute, beholding the towns burn.
Wretched shall France be only in my name.
[Here an alarum, and it thunders and lightens]
What stir is this? What tumult's in the heavens?
Whence cometh this alarum, and the noise?

Enter a MESSENGER.

Messenger My lord, my lord! The French have gathered head:
The Dauphin, with one Joan la Pucelle joined,
A holy prophetess new risen up,
Is come with a great power to raise the siege.
[Here SALISBURY lifteth himself up and groans]

Talbot Hear, hear how dying Salisbury doth groan!
It irks his heart he cannot be revenged.
Frenchmen, I'll be a Salisbury to you.
Pucelle or Puzzle, dolphin or dogfish,
Your hearts I'll stamp out with my horse's heels
And make a quagmire of your mingled brains.
Convey me Salisbury into his tent,
And then we'll try what these dastard Frenchmen dare.
[Alarum]

Exeunt carrying SALISBURY.

Scene 5. Orleans. Before the Gates.

Here an alarum again,
and TALBOT pursueth CHARLES the Dauphin and driveth him in, and **Exit**

Then enter JOAN LA PUCELLE, driving ENGLISHMEN before her, and Exeunt

Then enter TALBOT.

Talbot Where is my strength, my valour, and my force?
Our English troops retire, I cannot stay them.
A woman clad in armour chaseth them.

Enter JOAN LA PUCELLE.

Here, here she comes. - I'll have a bout with thee.
Devil or devil's dam, I'll conjure thee;
Blood will I draw on thee - thou art a witch -
And straightway give thy soul to him thou serv'st.

La Pucelle Come, come, 'tis only I that must disgrace thee.
[Here they fight]

Talbot Heavens, can you suffer hell so to prevail?
My breast I'll burst with straining of my courage,
And from my shoulders crack my arms asunder,
But I will chastise this high-minded strumpet.
[They fight again]

La Pucelle Talbot, farewell; thy hour is not yet come:
I must go victual Orleans forthwith.

A short alarum;

Then LA PUCELLE enters the town with French SOLDIERS.

O'ertake me if thou canst; I scorn thy strength.
Go, go, cheer up thy hunger-starved men;
Help Salisbury to make his testament.
This day is ours, as many more shall be.

Exit

Talbot My thoughts are whirled like a potter's wheel;
I know not what I am nor what I do.
A witch by fear, not force, like Hannibal
Drives back our troops and conquers as she lists.
So bees with smoke and doves with noisome stench,
Are from their hives and houses driven away.
They called us, for our fierceness, English dogs;
Now, like to whelps, we crying run away.
[A short alarum]
Hark, countrymen! Either renew the fight
Or tear the lions out of England's coat.
Renounce your style, give sheep in lions' stead:
Sheep run not half so treacherous from the wolf,
Or horse or oxen from the leopard,
As you fly from your oft-subdued slaves.
[Alarum. Here another skirmish]
It will not be: retire into your trenches.
You all consented unto Salisbury's death,
For none would strike a stroke in his revenge.
Pucelle is entered into Orleans
In spite of us or aught that we could do.
O, would I were to die with Salisbury!
The shame hereof will make me hide my head.

Exit TALBOT. Alarum. Retreat.

Scene 6. Before Orleans.

[Flourish]

Enter on the walls, JOAN LA PUCELLE, CHARLES, REIGNIER, ALENON, and French SOLDIERS.

La Pucelle Advance our waving colours on the walls;
Rescued is Orleans from the English.
Thus Joan la Pucelle hath performed her word.

Charles Divinest creature, Astraea's daughter,
How shall I honour thee for this success?
Thy promises are like Adonis' gardens,
That one day bloomed and fruitful were the next.
France, triumph in thy glorious prophetess!
Recovered is the town of Orleans:
More blessed hap did ne'er befall our state.

Reignier Why ring not out the bells throughout the town?
Dauphin, command the citizens make bonfires
And feast and banquet in the open streets,
To celebrate the joy that God hath given us.

Alencon All France will be replete with mirth and joy,
When they shall hear how we have played the men.

Charles 'Tis Joan, not we, by whom the day is won;

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

For which I will divide my crown with her;
And all the priests and friars in my realm
Shall in procession sing her endless praise.
A statelier pyramis to her I'll rear
Than Rhodope's of Memphis ever was.
In memory of her, when she is dead,
Her ashes, in an urn more precious
Than the rich-jewelled coffer of Darius,
Transported shall be at high festivals
Before the kings and queens of France.
No longer on Saint Denis will we cry,
But Joan la Pucelle shall be France's saint.
Come in, and let us banquet royally
After this golden day of victory.
[Flourish]

Exeunt

ACT 2.**Scene 1. Before Orleans.**

Enter a French SERGEANT with two SENTINELS, on the walls.

Sergeant Sirs, take your places and be vigilant.
If any noise or soldier you perceive
Near to the walls, by some apparent sign
Let us have knowledge at the court of guard.

1st Sentinel Sergeant, you shall.

Exit SERGEANT.

Thus are poor servitors,
When others sleep upon their quiet beds,
Constrained to watch in darkness, rain, and cold.

Enter TALBOT, BEDFORD, BURGUNDY, and FORCES, with scaling-ladders; their drums beating a dead march.

Talbot Lord Regent, and redoubted Burgundy,
By whose approach the regions of Artois,
Walloon, and Picardy, are friends to us,
This happy night the Frenchmen are secure,
Having all day caroused and banqueted:
Embrace we then this opportunity,
As fitting best to quittance their deceit,
Contrived by art and baleful sorcery.

Bedford Coward of France! How much he wrongs his fame,
Despairing of his own arm's fortitude,
To join with witches and the help of hell!

Burgundy Traitors have never other company.
But what's that Pucelle whom they term so pure?

Talbot A maid, they say.

Bedford A maid! - and be so martial?

Burgundy Pray God she prove not masculine ere long,
If underneath the standard of the French
She carry armour as she hath begun.

Talbot Well, let them practise and converse with spirits;
God is our fortress, in whose conquering name
Let us resolve to scale their flinty bulwarks.

Bedford Ascend, brave Talbot; we will follow thee.

Talbot Not all together! Better far, I guess,
That we do make our entrance several ways,
That if it chance the one of us do fall,
The other yet may rise against their force.

Bedford Agreed. I'll to yon corner.

Burgundy And I to this.

Talbot And here will Talbot mount, or make his grave.
Now, Salisbury, for thee, and for the right
Of English Henry, shall this night appear
How much in duty I am bound to both.
[The ENGLISH scale the walls and cry "Saint George! A Talbot!"]

1st Sentinel Arm, arm! The enemy doth make assault.

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The ENGLISH exeunt into the town.

The FRENCH leap over the walls in their shirts, and Exeunt

Enter, several ways, the BASTARD, ALENON, and REIGNIER, half ready and half unready.

Alencon How now, my lords! What, all unready so?

Bastard Unready? Ay, and glad we 'scaped so well.

Reignier 'Twas time, I trow, to wake and leave our beds,
Hearing alarums at our chamber-doors.

Alencon Of all exploits since first I followed arms,
Ne'er heard I of a warlike enterprise
More venturous or desperate than this.

Bastard I think this Talbot be a fiend of hell.

Reignier If not of hell, the heavens sure favour him.

Alencon Here cometh Charles: I marvel how he sped.

Enter CHARLES and JOAN LA PUCELLE.

Bastard Tut, holy Joan was his defensive guard.

Charles Is this thy cunning, thou deceitful dame?
Didst thou at first, to flatter us withal,
Make us partakers of a little gain,
That now our loss might be ten times so much?

La Pucelle Wherefore is Charles impatient with his friend?
At all times will you have my power alike?
Sleeping or waking must I still prevail,
Or will you blame and lay the fault on me?
Improvident soldiers! Had your watch been good
This sudden mischief never could have fallen.

Charles Duke of Alencon, this was your default,
That, being captain of the watch tonight,
Did look no better to that weighty charge.

Alencon Had all your quarters been as safely kept
As that whereof I had the government,
We had not been thus shamefully surprised.

Bastard Mine was secure.

Reignier And so was mine, my lord.

Charles And for myself, most part of all this night,
Within her quarter and mine own precinct
I was employed in passing to and fro,
About relieving of the sentinels.
Then how or which way should they first break in?

La Pucelle Question, my lords, no further of the case,
How or which way: 'tis sure they found some place
But weakly guarded, where the breach was made.
And now there rests no other shift but this:
To gather our soldiers, scattered and dispersed,
And lay new platforms to endamage them.

Alarum. Enter an English SOLDIER crying "A Talbot, A Talbot!"
The FRENCH fly, leaving their clothes behind.

Soldier I'll be so bold to take what they have left.
The cry of 'Talbot' serves me for a sword;
For I have loaden me with many spoils,
Using no other weapon but his name.

Exit

Scene 2. Orleans. Within the Town.

Enter TALBOT, BEDFORD, BURGUNDY, a CAPTAIN, and English SOLDIERS.

Bedford The day begins to break, and night is fled,
Whose pitchy mantle overveiled the earth.
Here sound retreat, and cease our hot pursuit.
[Retreat sounded]

Talbot Bring forth the body of old Salisbury,
And here advance it in the market-place,
The middle centre of this cursed town.
Now have I paid my vow unto his soul;
For every drop of blood was drawn from him
There hath at least five Frenchmen died tonight.
And that hereafter ages may behold
What ruin happened in revenge of him,
Within their chiefest temple I'll erect
A tomb, wherein his corpse shall be interred,
Upon the which, that everyone may read,
Shall be engraved the sack of Orleans,
The treacherous manner of his mournful death,
And what a terror he had been to France.
But, lords, in all our bloody massacre,
I muse we met not with the Dauphin's grace,
His new-come champion, virtuous Joan of Arc,
Nor any of his false confederates.

Bedford 'Tis thought, Lord Talbot, when the fight began,
Roused on the sudden from their drowsy beds,
They did amongst the troops of armed men
Leap o'er the walls for refuge in the field.

Burgundy Myself, as far as I could well discern
For smoke and dusky vapours of the night,
Am sure I scared the Dauphin and his trull,
When arm in arm they both came swiftly running,
Like to a pair of loving turtle-doves
That could not live asunder day or night.
After that things are set in order here,
We'll follow them with all the power we have.

Enter a MESSENGER.

Messenger All hail, my lords! Which of this princely train
Call ye the warlike Talbot, for his acts
So much applauded through the realm of France?

Talbot Here is the Talbot. Who would speak with him?

Messenger The virtuous lady, Countess of Auvergne,
With modesty admiring thy renown,
By me entreats, great lord, thou wouldst vouchsafe
To visit her poor castle where she lies,
That she may boast she hath beheld the man
Whose glory fills the world with loud report.

Burgundy Is it even so? Nay, then I see our wars
Will turn unto a peaceful comic sport,
When ladies crave to be encountered with.
You may not, my lord, despise her gentle suit.

Talbot Ne'er trust me then, for when a world of men
Could not prevail with all their oratory,
Yet hath a woman's kindness overruled;
And therefore tell her I return great thanks
And in submission will attend on her.
Will not your honours bear me company?

Bedford No, truly, it is more than manners will;
And I have heard it said, unbidden guests
Are often welcomest when they are gone.

Talbot Well then, alone, since there's no remedy:
I mean to prove this lady's courtesy.
Come hither, Captain. [Whispers] You perceive my mind?

Captain I do, my Lord, and mean accordingly.

Exeunt

Scene 3. Auvergne. The Castle.

Enter the COUNTESS and her PORTER.

Countess Porter, remember what I gave in charge;
And when you have done so, bring the keys to me.

Porter Madam, I will.

Exit

Countess The plot is laid; if all things fall out right,
I shall as famous be by this exploit
As Scythian Tomyris by Cyrus' death.
Great is the rumour of this dreadful knight,
And his achievements of no less account.
Fain would mine eyes be witness with mine ears
To give their censure of these rare reports.

Enter her MESSENGER and TALBOT.

Messenger Madam, according as your ladyship desired,
By message craved, so is Lord Talbot come.

Countess And he is welcome. What, is this the man?

Messenger Madam, it is.

Countess Is this the scourge of France?
Is this the Talbot so much feared abroad
That with his name the mothers still their babes?
I see report is fabulous and false.
I thought I should have seen some Hercules,
A second Hector, for his grim aspect
And large proportion of his strong-knit limbs.
Alas, this is a child, a silly dwarf!
It cannot be this weak and writhled shrimp
Should strike such terror to his enemies.

Talbot Madam, I have been bold to trouble you;
But since your ladyship is not at leisure,
I'll sort some other time to visit you.
[Going]

Countess What means he now? Go ask him whither he goes.

Messenger Stay, my Lord Talbot, for my lady craves
To know the cause of your abrupt departure.

Talbot Marry, for that she's in a wrong belief,
I go to certify her Talbot's here.

Re-enter PORTER with keys.

Countess If thou be he, then art thou prisoner.

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Talbot Prisoner! To whom?

Countess To me, bloodthirsty lord;
And for that cause I trained thee to my house.
Long time thy shadow hath been thrall to me,
For in my gallery thy picture hangs;
But now the substance shall endure the like,
And I will chain these legs and arms of thine,
That hast by tyranny these many years
Wasted our country, slain our citizens,
And sent our sons and husbands captivate.

Talbot Ha, ha, ha!

Countess Laughest thou, wretch? Thy mirth shall turn to moan.

Talbot I laugh to see your ladyship so fond
To think that you have aught but Talbot's shadow
Whereon to practise your severity.

Countess Why, art not thou the man?

Talbot I am indeed.

Countess Then have I substance too.

Talbot No, no, I am but shadow of myself:
You are deceived, my substance is not here;
For what you see is but the smallest part
And least proportion of humanity.
I tell you, madam, were the whole frame here,
It is of such a spacious lofty pitch
Your roof were not sufficient to contain't.

Countess This is a riddling merchant for the nonce:
He will be here, and yet he is not here.
How can these contrarities agree?

Talbot That will I show you presently.

He winds his horn; drums strike up; a peal of ordnance.
Enter English SOLDIERS.

How say you, madam? Are you now persuaded
That Talbot is but shadow of himself?
These are his substance, sinews, arms, and strength,
With which he yoketh your rebellious necks,
Razeth your cities, and subverts your towns,
And in a moment makes them desolate.

Countess Victorious Talbot, pardon my abuse:
I find thou art no less than fame hath bruited,
And more than may be gathered by thy shape.
Let my presumption not provoke thy wrath,
For I am sorry that with reverence
I did not entertain thee as thou art.

Talbot Be not dismayed, fair lady, nor misconster
The mind of Talbot as you did mistake
The outward composition of his body.
What you have done hath not offended me;
Nor other satisfaction do I crave
But only, with your patience, that we may
Taste of your wine and see what cates you have;
For soldiers' stomachs always serve them well.

Countess With all my heart, and think me honoured
To feast so great a warrior in my house.

Exeunt

Scene 4. London. The Temple Garden.

Enter RICHARD PLANTAGENET, WARWICK, SOMERSET, SUFFOLK, VERNON, and a LAWYER.

Plantagenet Great lords and gentlemen, what means this silence?
Dare no man answer in a case of truth?

Suffolk Within the Temple Hall we were too loud;
The garden here is more convenient.

Plantagenet Then say at once if I maintained the truth,
Or else was wrangling Somerset in th' error?

Suffolk Faith, I have been a truant in the law,
And never yet could frame my will to it;
And therefore frame the law unto my will.

Somerset Judge you, my Lord of Warwick, then, between us.

Warwick Between two hawks, which flies the higher pitch?
Between two dogs, which hath the deeper mouth?
Between two blades, which bears the better temper?
Between two horses, which doth bear him best?
Between two girls, which hath the merriest eye? I have perhaps some shallow
spirit of judgment,
But in these nice sharp quilllets of the law,
Good faith, I am no wiser than a daw.

Plantagenet Tut, tut, here is a mannerly forbearance.
The truth appears so naked on my side
That any purblind eye may find it out.

Somerset And on my side it is so well apparelled,
So clear, so shining, and so evident,
That it will glimmer through a blind man's eye.

Plantagenet Since you are tongue-tied and so loath to speak,
In dumb significants proclaim your thoughts.
Let him that is a true-born gentleman
And stands upon the honour of his birth,
If he suppose that I have pleaded truth,
From off this brier pluck a white rose with me.

Somerset Let him that is no coward nor no flatterer,
But dare maintain the party of the truth,
Pluck a red rose from off this thorn with me.

Warwick I love no colours, and, without all colour
Of base insinuating flattery
I pluck this white rose with Plantagenet.

Suffolk I pluck this red rose with young Somerset,
And say withal I think he held the right.

Vernon Stay, lords and gentlemen, and pluck no more,
Till you conclude that he, upon whose side
The fewest roses from the tree are cropped,
Shall yield the other in the right opinion.

Somerset Good Master Vernon, it is well objected:
If I have fewest, I subscribe in silence.

Plantagenet And I.

Vernon Then, for the truth and plainness of the case,
I pluck this pale and maiden blossom here,
Giving my verdict on the white rose side.

Somerset Prick not your finger as you pluck it off,
Lest, bleeding, you do paint the white rose red,

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And fall on my side so, against your will.

Vernon If I, my lord, for my opinion bleed,
Opinion shall be surgeon to my hurt
And keep me on the side where still I am.

Somerset Well, well come on; who else?

Lawyer [To SOMERSET] Unless my study and my books be false,
The argument you held was wrong in law;
In sign whereof I pluck a white rose too.

Plantagenet Now, Somerset, where is your argument?

Somerset Here in my scabbard, meditating that
Shall dye your white rose in a bloody red.

Plantagenet Meantime your cheeks do counterfeit our roses,
For pale they look with fear, as witnessing
The truth on our side.

Somerset No, Plantagenet,
'Tis not for fear, but anger, that thy cheeks
Blush for pure shame to counterfeit our roses,
And yet thy tongue will not confess thy error.

Plantagenet Hath not thy rose a canker, Somerset?

Somerset Hath not thy rose a thorn, Plantagenet?

Plantagenet Ay, sharp and piercing, to maintain his truth;
Whiles thy consuming canker eats his falsehood.

Somerset Well, I'll find friends to wear my bleeding roses,
That shall maintain what I have said is true,
Where false Plantagenet dare not be seen.

Plantagenet Now, by this maiden blossom in my hand,
I scorn thee and thy fashion, peevish boy.

Suffolk Turn not thy scorns this way, Plantagenet.

Plantagenet Proud Pole, I will, and scorn both him and thee.

Suffolk I'll turn my part thereof into thy throat.

Somerset Away, away, good William de la Pole!
We grace the yeoman by conversing with him.

Warwick Now, by God's will, thou wrong'st him, Somerset;
His grandfather was Lionel Duke of Clarence,
Third son to the third Edward, King of England.
Spring crestless yeomen from so deep a root?

Plantagenet He bears him on the place's privilege,
Or durst not, for his craven heart, say thus.

Somerset By Him that made me, I'll maintain my words
On any plot of ground in Christendom.
Was not thy father, Richard Earl of Cambridge,
For treason executed in our late king's days?
And by his treason stand'st not thou attainted,
Corrupted, and exempt from ancient gentry?
His trespass yet lives guilty in thy blood;
And, till thou be restored, thou art a yeoman.

Plantagenet My father was attached, not attainted;
Condemned to die for treason, but no traitor;
And that I'll prove on better men than Somerset,
Were growing time once ripened to my will.
For your partaker Pole, and you yourself,
I'll note you in my book of memory,
To scourge you for this apprehension:

Look to it well, and say you are well warned.

Somerset Ah, thou shalt find us ready for thee still,
And know us by these colours for thy foes;
For these my friends in spite of thee shall wear.

Plantagenet And, by my soul, this pale and angry rose,
As cognizance of my blood-drinking hate,
Will I for ever, and my faction, wear,
Until it wither with me to my grave
Or flourish to the height of my degree.

Suffolk Go forward, and be choked with thy ambition!
And so farewell until I meet thee next.

Exit

Somerset Have with thee, Pole. Farewell, ambitious Richard.

Exit

Plantagenet How I am braved and must perforce endure it!

Warwick This blot that they object against your house
Shall be wiped out in the next Parliament,
Called for the truce of Winchester and Gloucester.
And if thou be not then created York,
I will not live to be accounted Warwick.
Meantime, in signal of my love to thee,
Against proud Somerset and William Pole,
Will I upon thy party wear this rose.
And here I prophesy: this brawl today,
Grown to this faction in the Temple garden,
Shall send between the red rose and the white
A thousand souls to death and deadly night.

Plantagenet Good Master Vernon, I am bound to you,
That you on my behalf would pluck a flower.

Vernon In your behalf still will I wear the same.

Lawyer And so will I.

Plantagenet Thanks, gentle sir.
Come, let us four to dinner. I dare say
This quarrel will drink blood another day.

Exeunt

Scene 5. London. The Tower.

Enter MORTIMER, brought in a chair by two GAOLERS.

Mortimer Kind keepers of my weak decaying age,
Let dying Mortimer here rest himself.
Even like a man new haled from the rack,
So fare my limbs with long imprisonment;
And these grey locks, the pursuivants of death,
Nestor-like aged in an age of care,
Argue the end of Edmund Mortimer.
These eyes, like lamps whose wasting oil is spent,
Wax dim, as drawing to their exigent.
Weak shoulders, overborne with burdening grief,
And pithless arms, like to a withered vine
That droops his sapless branches to the ground.
Yet are these feet, whose strengthless stay is numb,
Unable to support this lump of clay,

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Swift-winged with desire to get a grave,
As witting I no other comfort have.
But tell me, keeper, will my nephew come?

1st Gaoler Richard Plantagenet, my lord, will come.
We sent unto the Temple, unto his chamber;
And answer was returned that he will come.

Mortimer Enough; my soul shall then be satisfied.
Poor gentleman! His wrong doth equal mine.
Since Henry Monmouth first began to reign,
Before whose glory I was great in arms,
This loathsome sequestration have I had;
And even since then hath Richard been obscured,
Deprived of honour and inheritance.
But now the arbitrator of despairs,
Just Death, kind umpire of men's miseries,
With sweet enlargement doth dismiss me hence.
I would his troubles likewise were expired,
That so he might recover what was lost.

Enter RICHARD PLANTAGENET.

1st Gaoler My lord, your loving nephew now is come.

Mortimer Richard Plantagenet, my friend, is he come?

Plantagenet Ay, noble uncle, thus ignobly used,
Your nephew, late despised Richard, comes.

Mortimer Direct mine arms I may embrace his neck,
And in his bosom spend my latter gasp.
O, tell me when my lips do touch his cheeks,
That I may kindly give one fainting kiss.
And now declare, sweet stem from York's great stock,
Why didst thou say of late thou wert despised?

Plantagenet First, lean thine aged back against mine arm,
And in that ease I'll tell thee my disease.
This day, in argument upon a case,
Some words there grew 'twixt Somerset and me;
Among which terms he used his lavish tongue
And did upbraid me with my father's death;
Which obloquy set bars before my tongue,
Else with the like I had requited him.
Therefore, good uncle, for my father's sake,
In honour of a true Plantagenet,
And for alliance sake, declare the cause
My father, Earl of Cambridge, lost his head.

Mortimer That cause, fair nephew, that imprisoned me
And hath detained me all my flowering youth
Within a loathsome dungeon, there to pine,
Was cursed instrument of his decease.

Plantagenet Discover more at large what cause that was,
For I am ignorant and cannot guess.

Mortimer I will, if that my fading breath permit,
And death approach not ere my tale be done.
Henry the Fourth, grandfather to this king,
Deposed his nephew Richard, Edward's son,
The first-begotten and the lawful heir
Of Edward king, the third of that descent;
During whose reign the Percys of the north,
Finding his usurpation most unjust,
Endeavoured my advancement to the throne.
The reason moved these warlike lords to this
Was for that - young King Richard thus removed,
Leaving no heir begotten of his body -
I was the next by birth and parentage;

For by my mother I derived am
 From Lionel Duke of Clarence, third son
 To King Edward the Third; whereas he
 From John of Gaunt doth bring his pedigree,
 Being but fourth of that heroic line.
 But mark: as in this haughty great attempt
 They laboured to plant the rightful heir,
 I lost my liberty, and they their lives.
 Long after this, when Henry the Fifth,
 Succeeding his father Bolingbroke, did reign,
 Thy father, Earl of Cambridge then, derived
 From famous Edmund Langley, Duke of York,
 Marrying my sister, that thy mother was,
 Again, in pity of my hard distress,
 Levied an army, weening to redeem
 And have installed me in the diadem;
 But, as the rest, so fell that noble earl,
 And was beheaded. Thus the Mortimers,
 In whom the title rested, were suppressed.

Plantagenet Of which, my lord, your honour is the last.

Mortimer True; and thou seest that I no issue have,
 And that my fainting words do warrant death.
 Thou art my heir; the rest I wish thee gather.
 But yet be wary in thy studious care.

Plantagenet Thy grave admonishments prevail with me.
 But yet methinks my father's execution
 Was nothing less than bloody tyranny.

Mortimer With silence, nephew, be thou politic:
 Strong fixed is the house of Lancaster,
 And like a mountain, not to be removed.
 But now thy uncle is removing hence,
 As princes do their courts when they are cloyed
 With long continuance in a settled place.

Plantagenet O uncle, would some part of my young years
 Might but redeem the passage of your age!

Mortimer Thou dost then wrong me, as that slaughterer doth
 Which giveth many wounds when one will kill.
 Mourn not, except thou sorrow for my good;
 Only give order for my funeral.
 And so farewell; and fair befall thy hopes,
 And prosperous be thy life in peace and war!
 [Dies]

Plantagenet And peace, no war, befall thy parting soul!
 In prison hast thou spent a pilgrimage,
 And like a hermit overpassed thy days.
 Well, I will lock his counsel in my breast;
 And what I do imagine, let that rest.
 Keepers, convey him hence; and I myself
 Will see his burial better than his life.

Exeunt GAOLERS, bearing out the body of MORTIMER.
 Here dies the dusky torch of Mortimer,
 Choked with ambition of the meaner sort;
 And for those wrongs, those bitter injuries,
 Which Somerset hath offered to my house,
 I doubt not but with honour to redress;
 And therefore haste I to the Parliament,
 Either to be restored to my blood,
 Or make my ill th' advantage of my good.

Exit

ACT 3.

Scene 1. London. The Parliament House.

[Flourish]

Enter KING, EXETER, GLOUCESTER, WINCHESTER, WARWICK, SOMERSET, SUFFOLK, RICHARD PLANTAGENET, and OTHERS.

GLOUCESTER offers to put up a bill;

WINCHESTER snatches it, and tears it.

Winchester

Com'st thou with deep premeditated lines,
With written pamphlets studiously devised,
Humphrey of Gloucester? If thou canst accuse
Or aught intend'st to lay unto my charge,
Do it without invention, suddenly;
As I, with sudden and extemporal speech
Purpose to answer what thou canst object.

Gloucester

Presumptuous priest! This place commands my patience,
Or thou shouldst find thou hast dishonoured me.
Think not, although in writing I preferred
The manner of thy vile outrageous crimes,
That therefore I have forged, or am not able
Verbatim to rehearse the method of my pen.
No, prelate, such is thy audacious wickedness,
Thy lewd, pestiferous, and dissentious pranks,
As very infants prattle of thy pride.
Thou art a most pernicious usurer,
Froward by nature, enemy to peace;
Lascivious, wanton, more than well beseems
A man of thy profession and degree;
And for thy treachery, what's more manifest,
In that thou laid'st a trap to take my life,
As well at London Bridge as at the Tower?
Beside, I fear me, if thy thoughts were sifted,
The king, thy sovereign, is not quite exempt
From envious malice of thy swelling heart.

Winchester

Gloucester, I do defy thee. Lords, vouchsafe
To give me hearing what I shall reply.
If I were covetous, ambitious, or perverse,
As he will have me, how am I so poor?
Or how haps it I seek not to advance
Or raise myself, but keep my wonted calling?
And for dissension, who preferreth peace
More than I do, except I be provoked?
No, my good lords, it is not that offends;
It is not that that hath incensed the duke:
It is because no one should sway but he,
No one but he should be about the king;
And that engenders thunder in his breast,
And makes him roar these accusations forth.
But he shall know I am as good -

Gloucester

As good?
Thou bastard of my grandfather!

Winchester

Ay, lordly sir, for what are you, I pray,
But one imperious in another's throne?

Gloucester

Am I not Protector, saucy priest?

Winchester

And am not I a prelate of the Church?

Gloucester

Yes, as an outlaw in a castle keeps,

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And useth it to patronage his theft.

Winchester Unreverent Gloucester!

Gloucester Thou art reverend
Touching thy spiritual function, not thy life.

Winchester Rome shall remedy this.

Warwick Roam thither then.

Somerset My lord, it were your duty to forbear.

Warwick Ay, see the bishop be not overborne.

Somerset Methinks my lord should be religious,
And know the office that belongs to such.

Warwick Methinks his lordship should be humbler;
It fitteth not a prelate so to plead.

Somerset Yes, when his holy state is touched so near.

Warwick State holy or unhallowed, what of that?
Is not his grace Protector to the king?

Plantagenet [Aside] Plantagenet, I see, must hold his tongue,
Lest it be said `Speak, sirrah, when you should;
Must your bold verdict enter talk with lords?
Else would I have a fling at Winchester.

King Henry Uncles of Gloucester and of Winchester,
The special watchmen of our English weal,
I would prevail, if prayers might prevail,
To join your hearts in love and amity.
O, what a scandal is it to our crown
That two such noble peers as ye should jar!
Believe me, lords, my tender tears can tell
Civil dissension is a viperous worm
That gnaws the bowels of the commonwealth.
[A noise within: "Down with the tawny-coats!"]

King Henry What tumult's this?

Warwick An uproar, I dare warrant,
Begun through malice of the bishop's men.
[A noise again: "Stones, stones!"]

Enter the MAYOR of London.

Mayor O my good lords, and virtuous Henry,
Pity the city of London, pity us!
The Bishop and the Duke of Gloucester's men,
Forbidden late to carry any weapon,
Have filled their pockets full of pebble stones,
And, banding themselves in contrary parts,
Do pelt so fast at one another's pate
That many have their giddy brains knocked out.
Our windows are broke down in every street,
And we for fear compelled to shut our shops.

Enter, in skirmish with bloody pates, Gloucester's SERVINGMEN and Winchester's SERVINGMEN.

King Henry We charge you, on allegiance to ourself,
To hold your slaughtering hands and keep the peace.
Pray, uncle Gloucester, mitigate this strife.

1st Servant Nay, if we be forbidden stones, we'll fall to it with our teeth.

2nd Servant Do what ye dare, we are as resolute.
[Skirmish again]

Gloucester You of my household, leave this peevish broil,

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And set this unaccustomed fight aside.

- 3rd Servant My lord, we know your grace to be a man
Just and upright, and, for your royal birth,
Inferior to none but to his majesty;
And ere that we will suffer such a prince,
So kind a father to the commonweal,
To be disgraced by an inkhorn mate,
We and our wives and children all will fight
And have our bodies slaughtered by thy foes.
- 1st Servant Ay, and the very parings of our nails
Shall pitch a field when we are dead.
[Begin skirmish again]
- Gloucester Stay, stay, I say!
And if you love me, as you say you do,
Let me persuade you to forbear awhile.
- King Henry O, how this discord doth afflict my soul!
Can you, my Lord of Winchester, behold
My sighs and tears and will not once relent?
Who should be pitiful if you be not?
Or who should study to prefer a peace
If holy churchmen take delight in broils?
- Warwick Yield, my Lord Protector; yield, Winchester;
Except you mean with obstinate repulse
To slay your sovereign and destroy the realm.
You see what mischief, and what murder too,
Hath been enacted through your enmity:
Then be at peace, except ye thirst for blood.
- Winchester He shall submit, or I will never yield.
- Gloucester Compassion on the king commands me stoop,
Or I would see his heart out ere the priest
Should ever get that privilege of me.
- Warwick Behold, my Lord of Winchester, the duke
Hath banished moody discontented fury,
As by his smoothed brows it doth appear:
Why look you still so stern and tragical?
- Gloucester Here, Winchester, I offer thee my hand.
- King Henry Fie, uncle Beaufort! I have heard you preach
That malice was a great and grievous sin;
And will you not maintain the thing you teach,
But prove a chief offender in the same?
- Warwick Sweet king! The bishop hath a kindly gird.
For shame, my Lord of Winchester, relent!
What, shall a child instruct you what to do?
- Winchester Well, Duke of Gloucester, I will yield to thee;
Love for thy love and hand for hand I give.
- Gloucester [Aside] Ay, but I fear me, with a hollow heart.
See here, my friends and loving countrymen,
This token serveth for a flag of truce
Betwixt ourselves and all our followers.
So help me God, as I dissemble not!
- Winchester So help me God - [Aside] as I intend it not!
- King Henry O loving uncle, kind Duke of Gloucester,
How joyful am I made by this contract!
Away, my masters! Trouble us no more,
But join in friendship, as your lords have done.
- 1st Servant Content; I'll to the surgeon's.

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2nd Servant And so will I.

3rd Servant And I will see what physic the tavern affords.

Exeunt SERVINGMEN and MAYOR.

Warwick Accept this scroll, most gracious sovereign,
Which in the right of Richard Plantagenet
We do exhibit to your majesty.

Gloucester Well urged, my Lord of Warwick; for, sweet prince,
And if your grace mark every circumstance,
You have great reason to do Richard right;
Especially for those occasions
At Eltham Place I told your majesty.

King Henry And those occasions, uncle, were of force;
Therefore, my loving lords, our pleasure is
That Richard be restored to his blood.

Warwick Let Richard be restored to his blood;
So shall his father's wrongs be recompensed.

Winchester As will the rest, so willeth Winchester.

King Henry If Richard will be true, not that alone,
But all the whole inheritance I give
That doth belong unto the house of York,
From whence you spring by lineal descent.

Plantagenet Thy humble servant vows obedience
And humble service till the point of death.

King Henry Stoop then, and set your knee against my foot;
And in requerdon of that duty done
I girt thee with the valiant sword of York.
Rise, Richard, like a true Plantagenet,
And rise created princely Duke of York.

Plantagenet And so thrive Richard as thy foes may fall!
And as my duty springs, so perish they
That grudge one thought against your majesty!

All Welcome, high prince, the mighty Duke of York!

Somerset [Aside] Perish, base prince, ignoble Duke of York!

Gloucester Now will it best avail your majesty
To cross the seas and to be crowned in France.
The presence of a king engenders love
Amongst his subjects and his loyal friends,
As it disanimates his enemies.

King Henry When Gloucester says the word, King Henry goes;
For friendly counsel cuts off many foes.

Gloucester Your ships already are in readiness.
[Sennet. Flourish]

Exeunt

Manet EXETER.

Exeter Ay, we may march in England or in France,
Not seeing what is likely to ensue.
This late dissension grown betwixt the peers
Burns under feigned ashes of forged love
And will at last break out into a flame:
As festered members rot but by degree,
Till bones and flesh and sinews fall away,
So will this base and envious discord breed.
And now I fear that fatal prophecy
Which in the time of Henry named the Fifth
Was in the mouth of every sucking babe:

That Henry born at Monmouth should win all,
And Henry born at Windsor should lose all;
Which is so plain that Exeter doth wish
His days may finish ere that hapless time.

Exit

Scene 2. France. Before Rouen.

Enter JOAN LA PUCELLE disguised, with four SOLDIERS dressed like countrymen, with sacks upon their backs.

La Pucelle These are the city gates, the gates of Rouen,
Through which our policy must make a breach.
Take heed, be wary how you place your words;
Talk like the vulgar sort of market-men
That come to gather money for their corn.
If we have entrance, as I hope we shall,
And that we find the slothful watch but weak,
I'll by a sign give notice to our friends,
That Charles the Dauphin may encounter them.

1st Soldier Our sacks shall be a mean to sack the city,
And we be lords and rulers over Rouen;
Therefore we'll knock.
[Knock]

Watch [Within] Qui la?

La Pucelle Paysans, la pauvre gens de France:
Poor market-folks that come to sell their corn.

Watch [Opens the gate] Enter, go in; the market-bell is rung.

La Pucelle Now, Rouen, I'll shake thy bulwarks to the ground.

Exeunt into the town.

Enter CHARLES, the BASTARD, ALENON, REIGNIER, and French SOLDIERS.

Charles Saint Denis bless this happy stratagem!
And once again we'll sleep secure in Rouen.

Bastard Here entered Pucelle and her practisants;
Now she is there, how will she specify
Where is the best and safest passage in?

Reignier By thrusting out a torch from yonder tower,
Which, once discerned, shows that her meaning is:
No way to that, for weakness, which she entered.

Enter LA PUCELLE on the top, thrusting out a torch burning.

La Pucelle Behold! This is the happy wedding torch
That joineth Rouen unto her countrymen,
But burning fatal to the Talbotites.

Exit

Bastard See, noble Charles, the beacon of our friend,
The burning torch, in yonder turret stands.

Charles Now shine it like a comet of revenge,
A prophet to the fall of all our foes!

Reignier Defer no time, delays have dangerous ends;
Enter, and cry 'The Dauphin!' presently,
And then do execution on the watch.

[Alarum]

Exeunt into the town.

An alarum. TALBOT in an excursion.

Talbot France, thou shalt rue this treason with thy tears,
If Talbot but survive thy treachery.
Pucelle, that witch, that damned sorceress,
Hath wrought this hellish mischief unawares,
That hardly we escaped the pride of France.

Exit

An alarum; excursions.

BEDFORD brought in sick in a chair.
Enter TALBOT and BURGUNDY without;
within, JOAN LA PUCELLE, CHARLES, the BASTARD, ALENON, and
REIGNIER, on the walls.

La Pucelle Good morrow, gallants! Want ye corn for bread?
I think the Duke of Burgundy will fast
Before he'll buy again at such a rate.
'Twas full of danel; do you like the taste?

Burgundy Scoff on, vile fiend and shameless courtezan.
I trust ere long to choke thee with thine own,
And make thee curse the harvest of that corn.

Charles Your grace may starve, perhaps, before that time.

Bedford O, let no words, but deeds, revenge this treason!

La Pucelle What will you do, good greybeard? Break a lance,
And run a tilt at death within a chair?

Talbot Foul fiend of France and hag of all despite,
Encompassed with thy lustful paramours,
Becomes it thee to taunt his valiant age
And twit with cowardice a man half dead?
Damsel, I'll have a bout with you again,
Or else let Talbot perish with this shame.

La Pucelle Are ye so hot, sir? Yet, Pucelle, hold thy peace;
If Talbot do but thunder, rain will follow.
[The English whisper together in council]
God speed the parliament! Who shall be the Speaker?

Talbot Dare ye come forth and meet us in the field?

La Pucelle Belike your lordship takes us then for fools,
To try if that our own be ours or no.

Talbot I speak not to that railing Hecate,
But unto thee, Alencon, and the rest:
Will ye, like soldiers, come and fight it out?

Alencon Signor, no.

Talbot Signor, hang! Base muleteers of France!
Like peasant footboys do they keep the walls,
And dare not take up arms like gentlemen.

La Pucelle Away, captains! Let's get us from the walls,
For Talbot means no goodness by his looks.
God-bye, my lord; we came to tell you but
That we are here.

Exeunt from the walls.

Talbot And there will we be too ere it be long,
Or else reproach be Talbot's greatest fame!
Vow, Burgundy, by honour of thy house,

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Pricked on by public wrongs sustained in France,
Either to get the town again, or die;
And I, as sure as English Henry lives,
And as his father here was conqueror,
As sure as in this late-betrayed town
Great Coeur-de-lion's heart was buried,
So sure I swear to get the town or die.

Burgundy My vows are equal partners with thy vows.

Talbot But, ere we go, regard this dying prince,
The valiant Duke of Bedford. Come, my lord,
We will bestow you in some better place,
Fitter for sickness and for crazy age.

Bedford Lord Talbot, do not so dishonour me.
Here will I sit, before the walls of Rouen,
And will be partner of your weal or woe.

Burgundy Courageous Bedford, let us now persuade you.

Bedford Not to be gone from hence; for once I read
That stout Pendragon in his litter, sick,
Came to the field and vanquished his foes.
Methinks I should revive the soldiers' hearts,
Because I ever found them as myself.

Talbot Undaunted spirit in a dying breast!
Then be it so. Heavens keep old Bedford safe!
And now no more ado, brave Burgundy,
But gather we our forces out of hand,
And set upon our boasting enemy.

Exeunt all but BEDFORD and ATTENDANTS.

An alarum; excursions.

Enter Sir John FALSTAFF and a CAPTAIN.

Captain Whither away, Sir John Falstaff, in such haste?

Falstaff Whither away? To save myself by flight:
We are like to have the overthrow again.

Captain What, will you fly, and leave Lord Talbot?

Falstaff Ay,
All the Talbots in the world, to save my life.

Exit

Captain Cowardly knight, ill fortune follow thee!

Exit

Retreat; excursions.

Enter LA PUCELLE, ALENON and CHARLES from the town, and exeunt flying.

Bedford Now, quiet soul, depart when heaven please,
For I have seen our enemies' overthrow.
What is the trust or strength of foolish man?
They that of late were daring with their scoffs
Are glad and fain by flight to save themselves.
[BEDFORD dies, and is carried in by two in his chair]

An alarum. Enter TALBOT, BURGUNDY, and the Rest of the English.

Talbot Lost, and recovered in a day again!
This is a double honour, Burgundy.
Yet heavens have glory for this victory!

Burgundy Warlike and martial Talbot, Burgundy
Enshrines thee in his heart, and there erects
Thy noble deeds as valour's monuments.

Talbot Thanks, gentle duke. But where is Pucelle now?
I think her old familiar is asleep.
Now where's the Bastard's braves, and Charles his gleeks?
What, all amont? Rouen hangs her head for grief
That such a valiant company are fled.
Now will we take some order in the town,
Placing therein some expert officers,
And then depart to Paris to the king,
For there young Henry with his nobles lie.

Burgundy What wills Lord Talbot pleaseth Burgundy.

Talbot But yet, before we go, let's not forget
The noble Duke of Bedford late deceased,
But see his exequies fulfilled in Rouen.
A braver soldier never couched lance,
A gentler heart did never sway in court;
But kings and mightiest potentates must die,
For that's the end of human misery.

Exeunt

Scene 3. The Plains near Rouen.

Enter CHARLES, the BASTARD, ALENON, LA PUCELLE, and SOLDIERS.

La Pucelle Dismay not, princes, at this accident,
Nor grieve that Rouen is so recovered:
Care is no cure, but rather corrosive,
For things that are not to be remedied.
Let frantic Talbot triumph for a while,
And like a peacock sweep along his tail;
We'll pull his plumes and take away his train,
If Dauphin and the rest will be but ruled.

Charles We have been guided by thee hitherto,
And of thy cunning had no diffidence;
One sudden foil shall never breed distrust.

Bastard Search out thy wit for secret policies,
And we will make thee famous through the world.

Alencon We'll set thy statue in some holy place,
And have thee reverenced like a blessed saint.
Employ thee, then, sweet virgin, for our good.

La Pucelle Then thus it must be; this doth Joan devise:
By fair persuasions, mixed with sugared words,
We will entice the Duke of Burgundy
To leave the Talbot and to follow us.

Charles Ay, marry, sweeting, if we could do that,
France were no place for Henry's warriors;
Nor should that nation boast it so with us,
But be extirped from our provinces.

Alencon For ever should they be expelled from France,
And not have title of an earldom here.

La Pucelle Your honours shall perceive how I will work
To bring this matter to the wished end.
[Drum sounds afar off]
Hark! - by the sound of drum you may perceive
Their powers are marching unto Paris-ward.
[Here sound an English march]
There goes the Talbot, with his colours spread,
And all the troops of English after him.

[Here sound a French march]
 Now in the rearward comes the duke and his;
 Fortune in favour makes him lag behind.
 Summon a parley; we will talk with him.
 [Trumpets sound a parley]

Charles A parley with the Duke of Burgundy!

Enter BURGUNDY and his SOLDIERS.

Burgundy Who craves a parley with the Burgundy?

La Pucelle The princely Charles of France, thy countryman.

Burgundy What sayst thou, Charles, for I am marching hence?

Charles Speak, Pucelle, and enchant him with thy words.

La Pucelle Brave Burgundy, undoubted hope of France,
 Stay, let thy humble handmaid speak to thee.

Burgundy Speak on, but be not overtedious.

La Pucelle Look on thy country, look on fertile France,
 And see the cities and the towns defaced
 By wasting ruin of the cruel foe.
 As looks the mother on her lowly babe
 When death doth close his tender dying eyes,
 See, see the pining malady of France;
 Behold the wounds, the most unnatural wounds,
 Which thou thyself hast given her woeful breast.
 O, turn thy edged sword another way;
 Strike those that hurt, and hurt not those that help!
 One drop of blood drawn from thy country's bosom
 Should grieve thee more than streams of foreign gore.
 Return thee therefore, with a flood of tears,
 And wash away thy country's stained spots.

Burgundy [Aside] Either she hath bewitched me with her words,
 Or nature makes me suddenly relent.

La Pucelle Besides, all French and France exclaims on thee,
 Doubting thy birth and lawful progeny.
 Who join'st thou with but with a lordly nation

That will not trust thee but for profit's sake?
 When Talbot hath set footing once in France,
 And fashioned thee that instrument of ill,
 Who then but English Henry will be lord,
 And thou be thrust out like a fugitive?
 Call we to mind - and mark but this for proof -
 Was not the Duke of Orleans thy foe,
 And was he not in England prisoner?
 But when they heard he was thine enemy
 They set him free, without his ransom paid,
 In spite of Burgundy and all his friends.
 See then, thou fight'st against thy countrymen,
 And join'st with them will be thy slaughtermen.
 Come, come, return; return, thou wand'ring lord;
 Charles and the rest will take thee in their arms.

Burgundy [Aside] I am vanquished; these haughty words of hers
 Have battered me like roaring cannon-shot,
 And made me almost yield upon my knees.
 [Aloud] Forgive me, country, and sweet countrymen!
 And, lords, accept this hearty kind embrace.
 My forces and my power of men are yours.
 So, farewell, Talbot. I'll no longer trust thee.

La Pucelle Done like a Frenchman! - [Aside] Turn and turn again.

Charles Welcome, brave duke! Thy friendship makes us fresh.

Bastard And doth beget new courage in our breasts.

Alencon Pucelle hath bravely played her part in this,
And doth deserve a coronet of gold.

Charles Now let us on, my lords, and join our powers,
And seek how we may prejudice the foe.

Exeunt

Scene 4. Paris. A Room in the Palace.

Enter KING HENRY, GLOUCESTER, WINCHESTER, DUKE OF YORK, SUFFOLK, SOMERSET,
WARWICK, EXETER, VERNON, BASSET, and OTHERS.
To them, with his SOLDIERS, TALBOT.

Talbot My gracious prince, and honourable peers,
Hearing of your arrival in this realm,
I have awhile given truce unto my wars,
To do my duty to my sovereign:
In sign whereof, this arm, that hath reclaimed
To your obedience fifty fortresses,
Twelve cities, and seven walled towns of strength,
Beside five hundred prisoners of esteem,
Lets fall his sword before your highness' feet;
And with submissive loyalty of heart
Ascribes the glory of his conquest got,
First to my God, and next unto your grace.
[Kneels]

King Henry Is this the Lord Talbot, uncle Gloucester,
That hath so long been resident in France?

Gloucester Yes, if it please your majesty, my liege.

King Henry Welcome, brave captain and victorious lord!
When I was young - as yet I am not old -
I do remember how my father said
A stouter champion never handled sword.
Long since we were resolved of your truth,
Your faithful service, and your toil in war,
Yet never have you tasted our reward,
Or been reguerdoned with so much as thanks,
Because till now we never saw your face.
Therefore stand up; and for these good deserts
We here create you Earl of Shrewsbury;
And in our coronation take your place.
[Sennet. Flourish]

Exeunt

Manet VERNON and BASSET.

Vernon Now, sir, to you that were so hot at sea,
Disgracing of these colours that I wear
In honour of my noble Lord of York,
Dar'st thou maintain the former words thou spak'st?

Basset Yes, sir, as well as you dare patronage
The envious barking of your saucy tongue
Against my lord the Duke of Somerset.

Vernon Sirrah, thy lord I honour as he is.

Basset Why, what is he? As good a man as York.

Vernon Hark ye, not so. In witness take ye that.
[Strikes him]

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Basset Villain, thou knowest the law of arms is such
That whoso draws a sword 'tis present death,
Or else this blow should broach thy dearest blood.
But I'll unto his majesty and crave
I may have liberty to venge this wrong;
When thou shalt see I'll meet thee to thy cost.

Vernon Well, miscreant, I'll be there as soon as you,
And, after, meet you sooner than you would.

Exeunt

ACT 4.**Scene 1. Paris. A Room of State.**

Enter KING HENRY, GLOUCESTER, WINCHESTER, DUKE OF YORK, SUFFOLK, SOMERSET, WARWICK, TALBOT, EXETER, GOVERNOR OF PARIS, and OTHERS.

Gloucester Lord bishop, set the crown upon his head.

Winchester God save King Henry, of that name the sixth!

Gloucester Now, Governor of Paris, take your oath -
[GOVERNOR kneels]
That you elect no other king but him,
Esteem none friends but such as are his friends,
And none your foes but such as shall pretend
Malicious practices against his state:
This shall ye do, so help you righteous God!

Exeunt GOVERNOR and his Train.

Enter FALSTAFF.

Falstaff My gracious sovereign, as I rode from Calais
To haste unto your coronation,
A letter was delivered to my hands,
Writ to your grace from th' Duke of Burgundy.
[He delivers the letter]

Talbot Shame to the Duke of Burgundy and thee!
I vowed, base knight, when I did meet thee next
To tear the Garter from thy craven's leg.
Which I have done, because unworthily
Thou was installed in that high degree.
Pardon me, princely Henry and the rest,
This dastard, at the battle of Patay,
When but in all I was six thousand strong,
And that the French were almost ten to one,
Before we met or that a stroke was given,
Like to a trusty squire did run away;
In which assault we lost twelve hundred men;
Myself and divers gentlemen beside
Were there surprised and taken prisoners.
Then judge, great lords, if I have done amiss,
Or whether that such cowards ought to wear
This ornament of knighthood - yea or no.

Gloucester To say the truth, this fact was infamous,
And ill-beseeming any common man,
Much more a knight, a captain, and a leader.

Talbot When first this order was ordained, my lords,
Knights of the Garter were of noble birth,
Valiant and virtuous, full of haughty courage,
Such as were grown to credit by the wars;
Not fearing death nor shrinking for distress,
But always resolute in most extremes.
He then that is not furnished in this sort
Doth but usurp the sacred name of knight,
Profaning this most honourable order,
And should, if I were worthy to be judge,
Be quite degraded, like a hedge-born swain
That doth presume to boast of gentle blood.

King Henry Stain to thy countrymen, thou hear'st thy doom!
Be packing therefore, thou that wast a knight;

Henceforth we banish thee on pain of death.

Exit FALSTAFF.

And now, my Lord Protector, view the letter
Sent from our uncle, Duke of Burgundy.

Gloucester [Viewing the address]
What means his grace that he hath changed his style?
No more but plain and bluntly "To the king"?
Hath he forgot he is his sovereign,
Or doth this churlish superscription
Pretend some alteration in good will?
What's here?

[Reads] "I have, upon especial cause,
Moved with compassion of my country's wrack,
Together with the pitiful complaints
Of such as your oppression feeds upon,
Forsaken your pernicious faction,
And joined with Charles, the rightful King of France."

O monstrous treachery! Can this be so,
That in alliance, amity, and oaths,
There should be found such false dissembling guile?

King Henry What, doth my uncle Burgundy revolt?

Gloucester He doth, my lord, and is become your foe.

King Henry Is that the worst this letter doth contain?

Gloucester It is the worst, and all, my lord, he writes.

King Henry Why then Lord Talbot there shall talk with him,
And give him chastisement for this abuse.
How say you, my lord; are you not content?

Talbot Content, my liege? Yes, but that I am prevented,
I should have begged I might have been employed.

King Henry Then gather strength, and march unto him straight.
Let him perceive how ill we brook his treason,
And what offence it is to flout his friends.

Talbot I go, my lord, in heart desiring still
You may behold confusion of your foes.

Exit

Enter VERNON and BASSET.

Vernon Grant me the combat, gracious sovereign.

Basset And me, my lord, grant me the combat too.

York This is my servant; hear him, noble prince.

Somerset And this is mine; sweet Henry, favour him.

King Henry Be patient, lords, and give them leave to speak.
Say, gentlemen, what makes you thus exclaim?
And wherefore crave you combat, or with whom?

Vernon With him, my lord, for he hath done me wrong.

Basset And I with him, for he hath done me wrong.

King Henry What is that wrong whereof you both complain?
First let me know, and then I'll answer you.

Basset Crossing the sea from England into France,
This fellow here, with envious carping tongue,
Upbraided me about the rose I wear,
Saying the sanguine colour of the leaves

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Did represent my master's blushing cheeks
 When stubbornly he did repugn the truth
 About a certain question in the law
 Argued betwixt the Duke of York and him;
 With other vile and ignominious terms;
 In confutation of which rude approach,
 And in defence of my lord's worthiness,
 I crave the benefit of law of arms.

Vernon And that is my petition, noble lord;
 For though he seem with forged quaint conceit
 To set a gloss upon his bold intent,
 Yet know, my lord, I was provoked by him,
 And he first took exceptions at this badge,
 Pronouncing that the paleness of this flower
 Bewrayed the faintness of my master's heart.

York Will not this malice, Somerset, be left?

Somerset Your private grudge, my Lord of York, will out,
 Though ne'er so cunningly you smother it.

King Henry Good Lord, what madness rules in brainsick men,
 When for so slight and frivolous a cause
 Such factious emulations shall arise!
 Good cousins both, of York and Somerset,
 Quiet yourselves, I pray, and be at peace.

York Let this dissension first be tried by fight,
 And then your highness shall command a peace.

Somerset The quarrel toucheth none but us alone;
 Betwixt ourselves let us decide it then.

York There is my pledge; accept it, Somerset.

Vernon Nay, let it rest where it began at first.

Basset Confirm it so, mine honourable lord.

Gloucester Confirm it so? Confounded be your strife,
 And perish ye with your audacious prate!
 Presumptuous vassals, are you not ashamed
 With this immodest clamorous outrage
 To trouble and disturb the king and us?
 And you, my lords, methinks you do not well
 To bear with their perverse objections,
 Much less to take occasion from their mouths
 To raise a mutiny betwixt yourselves.
 Let me persuade you take a better course.

Exeter It grieves his highness. Good my lords, be friends.

King Henry Come hither, you that would be combatants.
 Henceforth I charge you, as you love our favour,
 Quite to forget this quarrel and the cause.
 And you, my lords, remember where we are -
 In France, amongst a fickle wavering nation.
 If they perceive dissension in our looks,
 And that within ourselves we disagree,
 How will their grudging stomachs be provoked
 To wilful disobedience, and rebel!
 Beside, what infamy will there arise
 When foreign princes shall be certified
 That for a toy, a thing of no regard,
 King Henry's peers and chief nobility
 Destroyed themselves and lost the realm of France!
 O, think upon the conquest of my father,
 My tender years, and let us not forgo
 That for a trifle that was bought with blood!
 Let me be umpire in this doubtful strife.

I see no reason, if I wear this rose,
 [Putting on a red rose]
 That any one should therefore be suspicious
 I more incline to Somerset than York:
 Both are my kinsmen, and I love them both.
 As well may they upbraid me with my crown
 Because, forsooth, the King of Scots is crowned.
 But your discretions better can persuade
 Than I am able to instruct or teach;
 And, therefore, as we hither came in peace,
 So let us still continue peace and love.
 Cousin of York, we institute your grace
 To be our regent in these parts of France;
 And, good my Lord of Somerset, unite
 Your troops of horsemen with his bands of foot;
 And like true subjects, sons of your progenitors,
 Go cheerfully together and digest
 Your angry choler on your enemies.
 Ourself, my Lord Protector, and the rest,
 After some respite will return to Calais;
 From thence to England, where I hope ere long
 To be presented by your victories
 With Charles, Alencon, and that traitorous rout.
 [Flourish]

Exeunt

Manet YORK, WARWICK, EXETER, VERNON.

Warwick

My Lord of York, I promise you, the king
 Prettily, methought, did play the orator.

York

And so he did; but yet I like it not,
 In that he wears the badge of Somerset.

Warwick

Tush, that was but his fancy; blame him not.
 I dare presume, sweet prince, he thought no harm.

York

And if I wist he did - but let it rest;
 Other affairs must now be managed.

Exeunt

Manet EXETER.

Exeter

Well didst thou, Richard, to suppress thy voice;
 For had the passions of thy heart burst out,
 I fear we should have seen deciphered there
 More rancorous spite, more furious raging broils,
 Than yet can be imagined or supposed.
 But howsoe'er, no simple man that sees
 This jarring discord of nobility,
 This shouldering of each other in the court,
 This factious bandying of their favourites,
 But sees it doth presage some ill event.
 'Tis much when sceptres are in children's hands,
 But more when envy breeds unkind division:
 There comes the ruin, there begins confusion.

Exit

Scene 2. Before Bordeaux.

Enter TALBOT with TRUMPET, DRUM and SOLDIERS, before Bordeaux.

Talbot

Go to the gates of Bordeaux, trumpeter;
 Summon their general unto the wall.

[Sounds]

Enter the French GENERAL, aloft.

English John Talbot, captains, calls you forth,
 Servant in arms to Harry King of England;
 And thus he would: - open your city gates,
 Be humble to us, call my sovereign yours
 And do him homage as obedient subjects,
 And I'll withdraw me and my bloody power.
 But if you frown upon this proffered peace,
 You tempt the fury of my three attendants,
 Lean famine, quartering steel, and climbing fire,
 Who in a moment even with the earth
 Shall lay your stately and air-braving towers,
 If you forsake the offer of their love.

General

Thou ominous and fearful owl of death,
 Our nation's terror and their bloody scourge!
 The period of thy tyranny approacheth.
 On us thou canst not enter but by death,
 For, I protest, we are well fortified,
 And strong enough to issue out and fight.
 If thou retire, the Dauphin, well appointed,
 Stands with the snares of war to tangle thee.
 On either hand thee there are squadrons pitched,
 To wall thee from the liberty of flight;
 And no way canst thou turn thee for redress
 But death doth front thee with apparent spoil,
 And pale destruction meets thee in the face.
 Ten thousand French have ta'en the sacrament,
 To rive their dangerous artillery
 Upon no Christian soul but English Talbot.
 Lo, there thou stand'st, a breathing valiant man,
 Of an invincible unconquered spirit:
 This is the latest glory of thy praise,
 That I, thy enemy, due thee withal;
 For ere the glass, that now begins to run,
 Finish the process of his sandy hour,
 These eyes, that see thee now well coloured,
 Shall see thee withered, bloody, pale, and dead.
 [Drum afar off]
 Hark, hark! The Dauphin's drum, a warning bell,
 Sings heavy music to thy timorous soul;
 And mine shall ring thy dire departure out.

Exit

Talbot

He fables not; I hear the enemy.
 Out, some light horsemen, and peruse their wings.
 O, negligent and heedless discipline!
 How are we parked and bounded in a pale, A little herd of England's tim-
 orous deer,
 Mazed with a yelping kennel of French curs!
 If we be English deer, be then in blood;
 Not rascal-like to fall down with a pinch,
 But rather, moody-mad and desperate stags,
 Turn on the bloody hounds with heads of steel
 And make the cowards stand aloof at bay.
 Sell every man his life as dear as mine,
 And they shall find dear deer of us, my friends.
 God and Saint George, Talbot and England's right,
 Prosper our colours in this dangerous fight!

Exeunt

Scene 3. Plains in Gascony.

HENRY VI, PART 1 BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Enter YORK with TRUMPET and many SOLDIERS.

Enter a MESSENGER that meets York.

York Are not the speedy scouts returned again,
That dogged the mighty army of the Dauphin?

Messenger They are returned, my lord, and give it out
That he is marched to Bordeaux with his power
To fight with Talbot. As he marched along,
By your espials were discovered
Two mightier troops than that the Dauphin led,
Which joined with him, and made their march for Bordeaux.

Exit

York A plague upon that villain Somerset,
That thus delays my promised supply
Of horsemen that were levied for this siege!
Renowned Talbot doth expect my aid,
And I am louted by a traitor villain
And cannot help the noble chevalier.
God comfort him in this necessity!
If he miscarry, farewell wars in France.

Enter Sir William LUCY.

Lucy Thou princely leader of our English strength,
Never so needful on the earth of France,
Spur to the rescue of the noble Talbot,
Who now is girdled with a waist of iron,
And hemmed about with grim destruction.
To Bordeaux, warlike duke! To Bordeaux, York!
Else farewell Talbot, France, and England's honour.

York O God, that Somerset, who in proud heart
Doth stop my cornets, were in Talbot's place!
So should we save a valiant gentleman
By forfeiting a traitor and a coward.
Mad ire and wrathful fury makes me weep
That thus we die while remiss traitors sleep.

Lucy O, send some succour to the distressed lord!

York He dies, we lose; I break my warlike word;
We mourn, France smiles; we lose, they daily get -
All 'long of this vile traitor Somerset.

Lucy Then God take mercy on brave Talbot's soul,
And on his son, young John, who two hours since
I met in travel toward his warlike father.
This seven years did not Talbot see his son,
And now they meet where both their lives are done.

York Alas, what joy shall noble Talbot have,
To bid his young son welcome to his grave?
Away! Vexation almost stops my breath
That sundered friends greet in the hour of death.
Lucy, farewell; no more my fortune can
But curse the cause I cannot aid the man.
Maine, Blois, Poitiers, and Tours, are won away,
'Long all of Somerset and his delay.

Exit, with his SOLDIERS.

Lucy Thus, while the vulture of sedition
Feeds in the bosom of such great commanders,
Sleeping neglect doth betray to loss
The conquest of our scarce cold conqueror,
That ever-living man of memory,
Henry the Fifth. Whiles they each other cross,
Lives, honours, lands, and all, hurry to loss.

Exit

Scene 4. Elsewhere on the Plains in Gascony.**Enter** SOMERSET, with his SOLDIERS; a CAPTAIN of TALBOT'S with him.

Somerset It is too late; I cannot send them now.
 This expedition was by York and Talbot
 Too rashly plotted. All our general force
 Might with a sally of the very town
 Be buckled with. The overdaring Talbot
 Hath sullied all his gloss of former honour
 By this unheedful, desperate, wild adventure.
 York set him on to fight and die in shame,
 That, Talbot dead, great York might bear the name.

Enter Sir William LUCY.

Captain Here is Sir William Lucy, who with me
 Set from our o'ermatched forces forth for aid.

Somerset How now, Sir William, whither were you sent?

Lucy Whither, my lord? From bought and sold Lord Talbot,
 Who, ringed about with bold adversity,
 Cries out for noble York and Somerset
 To beat assailing death from his weak legions;
 And whiles the honourable captain there
 Drops bloody sweat from his war-wearied limbs,
 And, in advantage lingering, looks for rescue,
 You, his false hopes, the trust of England's honour,
 Keep off aloof with worthless emulation.
 Let not your private discord keep away
 The levied succours that should lend him aid,
 While he, renowned noble gentleman,
 Yield up his life unto a world of odds.
 Orleans the Bastard, Charles, Burgundy,
 Alencon, Reignier, compass him about,
 And Talbot perisheth by your default.

Somerset York set him on; York should have sent him aid.

Lucy And York as fast upon your grace exclaims,
 Swearing that you withhold his levied horse
 Collected for this expedition.

Somerset York lies. He might have sent and had the horse.
 I owe him little duty, and less love,
 And take foul scorn to fawn on him by sending.

Lucy The fraud of England, not the force of France,
 Hath now entrapped the noble-minded Talbot.
 Never to England shall he bear his life,
 But dies, betrayed to fortune by your strife.

Somerset Come, go. I will dispatch the horsemen straight;
 Within six hours they will be at his aid.

Lucy Too late comes rescue: he is ta'en or slain,
 For fly he could not if he would have fled;
 And fly would Talbot never, though he might.

Somerset If he be dead, brave Talbot, then adieu!

Lucy His fame lives in the world, his shame in you.

Exeunt

Scene 5. The English Camp near Bordeaux.

Enter TALBOT, and JOHN his son.

Talbot O young John Talbot, I did send for thee
To tutor thee in stratagems of war,
That Talbot's name might be in thee revived
When sapless age and weak unable limbs
Should bring thy father to his drooping chair.
But - O malignant and ill-boding stars! -
Now thou art come unto a feast of death,
A terrible and unavowed danger;
Therefore, dear boy, mount on my swiftest horse,
And I'll direct thee how thou shalt escape
By sudden flight. Come, dally not. Be gone.

John Talbot Is my name Talbot, and am I your son?
And shall I fly? O, if you love my mother,
Dishonour not her honourable name
To make a bastard and a slave of me!
The world will say he is not Talbot's blood
That basely fled when noble Talbot stood.

Talbot Fly - to revenge my death if I be slain.

John Talbot He that flies so will ne'er return again.

Talbot If we both stay, we both are sure to die.

John Talbot Then let me stay; and, father, do you fly.
Your loss is great, so your regard should be;
My worth unknown, no loss is known in me.
Upon my death the French can little boast;
In yours they will, in you all hopes are lost.
Flight cannot stain the honour you have won;
But mine it will, that no exploit have done.
You fled for vantage everyone will swear;
But if I bow, they'll say it was for fear.
There is no hope that ever I will stay
If the first hour I shrink and run away.
Here, on my knee, I beg mortality,
Rather than life preserved with infamy.

Talbot Shall all thy mother's hopes lie in one tomb?

John Talbot Ay, rather than I'll shame my mother's womb.

Talbot Upon my blessing, I command thee go.

John Talbot To fight I will, but not to fly the foe.

Talbot Part of thy father may be saved in thee.

John Talbot No part of him but will be shame in me.

Talbot Thou never hadst renown, nor canst not lose it.

John Talbot Yes, your renowned name - shall flight abuse it?

Talbot Thy father's charge shall clear thee from that stain.

John Talbot You cannot witness for me, being slain.
If death be so apparent, then both fly.

Talbot And leave my followers here to fight and die?
My age was never tainted with such shame.

John Talbot And shall my youth be guilty of such blame?
No more can I be severed from your side
Than can yourself yourself in twain divide.
Stay, go, do what you will, the like do I;

For live I will not, if my father die.

Talbot Then here I take my leave of thee, fair son,
Born to eclipse thy life this afternoon.
Come, side by side together live and die,
And soul with soul from France to heaven fly.

Exeunt

Scene 6. A Field of Battle.

Alarum. Excursions;

wherein JOHN TALBOT is hemmed about, and TALBOT rescues him.

Talbot Saint George and victory! Fight, soldiers, fight!
The Regent hath with Talbot broke his word,
And left us to the rage of France his sword.
Where is John Talbot? Pause, and take thy breath;
I gave thee life and rescued thee from death.

John Talbot O, twice my father, twice am I thy son!
The life thou gav'st me first was lost and done,
Till with thy warlike sword, despite of fate,
To my determined time thou gav'st new date.

Talbot When from the Dauphin's crest thy sword struck fire,
It warmed thy father's heart with proud desire
Of bold-faced victory. Then leaden age
Quickened with youthful spleen and warlike rage
Beat down Alencon, Orleans, Burgundy,
And from the pride of Gallia rescued thee.
The ireful Bastard Orleans, that drew blood
From thee, my boy, and had the maidenhood
Of thy first fight, I soon encountered,
And, interchanging blows, I quickly shed
Some of his bastard blood, and in disgrace
Bespoke him thus: `Contaminated, base,
And misbegotten blood I spill of thine,
Mean and right poor, for that pure blood of mine
Which thou didst force from Talbot, my brave boy'.
Here, purposing the Bastard to destroy,
Came in strong rescue. Speak, thy father's care,
Art thou not weary, John? How dost thou fare?
Wilt thou yet leave the battle, boy, and fly,
Now thou art sealed the son of chivalry?
Fly, to revenge my death when I am dead;
The help of one stands me in little stead.
O, too much folly is it, well I wot,
To hazard all our lives in one small boat!
If I today die not with Frenchmen's rage,
Tomorrow I shall die with mickle age.
By me they nothing gain an if I stay;
'Tis but the shortening of my life one day.
In thee thy mother dies, our household's name,
My death's revenge, thy youth, and England's fame.
All these and more we hazard by thy stay;
All these are saved if thou wilt fly away.

John Talbot The sword of Orleans hath not made me smart;
These words of yours draw lifeblood from my heart.
On that advantage, bought with such a shame,
To save a paltry life and slay bright fame,
Before young Talbot from old Talbot fly,
The coward horse that bears me fall and die!
And like me to the peasant boys of France,
To be shame's scorn and subject of mischance!

Surely, by all the glory you have won,
An if I fly, I am not Talbot's son.
Then talk no more of flight, it is no boot;
If son to Talbot, die at Talbot's foot.

Talbot Then follow thou thy desperate sire of Crete,
Thou Icarus; thy life to me is sweet.
If thou wilt fight, fight by thy father's side;
And, commendable proved, let's die in pride.

Exeunt

Scene 7. Another Part of the Field.

Alarum; excursions.

Enter old TALBOT, wounded, led by a SERVANT.

Talbot Where is my other life? Mine own is gone.
O, where's young Talbot? Where is valiant John?
Triumphant death, smeared with captivity,
Young Talbot's valour makes me smile at thee.
When he perceived me shrink and on my knee,
His bloody sword he brandished over me,
And like a hungry lion did commence
Rough deeds of rage and stern impatience;
But when my angry guardant stood alone,
Tendering my ruin and assailed of none,
Dizzy-eyed fury and great rage of heart
Suddenly made him from my side to start
Into the clustering battle of the French;
And in that sea of blood my boy did drench
His overmounting spirit; and there died
My Icarus, my blossom, in his pride.

Enter English SOLDIERS, bearing the body of JOHN TALBOT.

Servant O, my dear lord, lo where your son is borne!

Talbot Thou antic death, which laugh'st us here to scorn,
Anon, from thy insulting tyranny,
Coupled in bonds of perpetuity,
Two Talbots, winged through the lither sky,
In thy despite shall 'scape mortality.
O thou, whose wounds become hard-favoured death,
Speak to thy father ere thou yield thy breath!
Brave death by speaking, whether he will or no;
Imagine him a Frenchman and thy foe.
Poor boy! He smiles, methinks, as who should say
'Had death been French, then death had died today'.
Come, come, and lay him in his father's arms.
My spirit can no longer bear these harms.
Soldiers, adieu! I have what I would have,
Now my old arms are young John Talbot's grave.
[Dies]

Exeunt SOLDIERS and SERVANT.

Enter CHARLES, ALENON, BURGUNDY, the BASTARD, and LA PUCELLE.

Charles Had York and Somerset brought rescue in,
We should have found a bloody day of this.

Bastard How the young whelp of Talbot's, raging wood,
Did flesh his puny sword in Frenchmen's blood!

La Pucelle Once I encountered him, and thus I said:
'Thou maiden youth, be vanquished by a maid'.

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But with a proud majestic high scorn
He answered thus: `Young Talbot was not born
To be the pillage of a giglet wench'.
So, rushing in the bowels of the French,
He left me proudly, as unworthy fight.

Burgundy Doubtless he would have made a noble knight;
See where he lies inhearsed in the arms
Of the most bloody nurser of his harms.

Bastard Hew them to pieces, hack their bones asunder,
Whose life was England's glory, Gallia's wonder.

Charles O no, forbear! For that which we have fled
During the life, let us not wrong it dead.

Enter Sir William LUCY, with ATTENDANTS and a French HERALD.

Lucy Herald, conduct me to the Dauphin's tent,
To know who hath obtained the glory of the day.

Charles On what submissive message art thou sent?

Lucy Submission, Dauphin? 'Tis a mere French word;
We English warriors wot not what it means.
I come to know what prisoners thou hast ta'en,
And to survey the bodies of the dead.

Charles For prisoners ask'st thou? Hell our prison is.
But tell me whom thou seek'st.

Lucy But where's the great Alcides of the field,
Valiant Lord Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury,
Created for his rare success in arms
Great Earl of Washford, Waterford, and Valence,
Lord Talbot of Goodrig and Urchinfield,
Lord Strange of Blackmere, Lord Verdun of Alton,
Lord Cromwell of Wingfield, Lord Furnival of Sheffield,
The thrice victorious Lord of Falconbridge,
Knight of the noble order of Saint George,
Worthy Saint Michael and the Golden Fleece,
Great Marshal to Henry the Sixth
Of all his wars within the realm of France?

La Pucelle Here is a silly-stately style indeed!
The Turk, that two and fifty kingdoms hath,
Writes not so tedious a style as this.
Him that thou magnifiest with all these titles,
Stinking and fly-blown lies here at our feet.

Lucy Is Talbot slain, the Frenchmen's only scourge,
Your kingdom's terror and black Nemesis?
O, were mine eyeballs into bullets turned,
That I in rage might shoot them at your faces!
O that I could but call these dead to life!
It were enough to fright the realm of France.
Were but his picture left amongst you here,
It would amaze the proudest of you all.
Give me their bodies, that I bear them hence
And give them burial as beseems their worth.

La Pucelle I think this upstart is old Talbot's ghost,
He speaks with such a proud commanding spirit.
For God's sake, let him have them. To keep them here
They would but stink and putrefy the air.

Charles Go, take their bodies hence.

Lucy I'll bear them hence; but from their ashes shall be reared
A phoenix that shall make all France afeard.

Charles So we be rid of them, do with them what thou wilt.

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And now to Paris in this conquering vein!
All will be ours now bloody Talbot's slain.

Exeunt

ACT 5.**Scene 1. London. A Room in the Palace.**

Sennet. Enter KING HENRY, GLOUCESTER, and EXETER.

King Henry Have you perused the letters from the pope,
The emperor, and the Earl of Armagnac?

Gloucester I have, my lord; and their intent is this:
They humbly sue unto your excellence
To have a godly peace concluded of
Between the realms of England and of France.

King Henry How doth your grace affect their motion?

Gloucester Well, my good lord; and as the only means
To stop effusion of our Christian blood,
And stablish quietness on every side.

King Henry Ay, marry, uncle, for I always thought
It was both impious and unnatural
That such immanity and bloody strife
Should reign among professors of one faith.

Gloucester Beside, my lord, the sooner to effect
And surer bind this knot of amity,
The Earl of Armagnac, near knit to Charles,
A man of great authority in France,
Proffers his only daughter to your grace
In marriage, with a large and sumptuous dowry.

King Henry Marriage, uncle? Alas, my years are young,
And fitter is my study and my books
Than wanton dalliance with a paramour.
Yet call th' ambassadors; and, as you please,
So let them have their answers every one.
I shall be well content with any choice
Tends to God's glory and my country's weal.

Enter WINCHESTER, now Cardinal Beaufort, a Papal LEGATE, and two AMBASSADORS.

Exeter [Aside] What, is my Lord of Winchester installed,
And called unto a cardinal's degree?
Then I perceive that will be verified
Henry the Fifth did sometime prophesy:
'If once he come to be a cardinal,
He'll make his cap coequal with the crown.'

King Henry My Lords Ambassadors, your several suits
Have been considered and debated on.
Your purpose is both good and reasonable,
And therefore are we certainly resolved
To draw conditions of a friendly peace,
Which by my Lord of Winchester we mean
Shall be transported presently to France.

Gloucester And for the proffer of my lord your master,
I have informed his highness so at large
As, liking of the lady's virtuous gifts,
Her beauty, and the value of her dower,
He doth intend she shall be England's Queen.

King Henry In argument and proof of which contract,
Bear her this jewel, pledge of my affection.
And so, my Lord Protector, see them guarded
And safely brought to Dover; where, inshipped,

Commit them to the fortune of the sea.

Exeunt all but WINCHESTER and the LEGATE.

Winchester Stay, my Lord Legate. You shall first receive
The sum of money which I promised
Should be delivered to his holiness
For clothing me in these grave ornaments.

Legate I will attend upon your lordship's leisure.

Exit

Winchester Now Winchester will not submit, I trow,
Or be inferior to the proudest peer.
Humphrey of Gloucester, thou shalt well perceive
That neither in birth or for authority
The bishop will be overborne by thee:
I'll either make thee stoop and bend thy knee,
Or sack this country with a mutiny.

Exit

Scene 2. France. Plains in Anjou.

Enter CHARLES, BURGUNDY, ALENON, BASTARD, REIGNIER, and LA PUCELLE.

Charles These news, my lords, may cheer our drooping spirits:
'Tis said the stout Parisians do revolt,
And turn again unto the warlike French.

Alencon Then march to Paris, royal Charles of France,
And keep not back your powers in dalliance.

La Pucelle Peace be amongst them if they turn to us;
Else ruin combat with their palaces!

Enter a SCOUT.

Scout Success unto our valiant general,
And happiness to his accomplices!

Charles What tidings send our scouts? I prithee speak.

Scout The English army, that divided was
Into two parties, is now conjoined in one,
And means to give you battle presently.

Charles Somewhat too sudden, sirs, the warning is;
But we will presently provide for them.

Burgundy I trust the ghost of Talbot is not there.
Now he is gone, my lord, you need not fear.

La Pucelle Of all base passions, fear is most accursed.
Command the conquest, Charles, it shall be thine;
Let Henry fret and all the world repine.

Charles Then on, my lords; and France be fortunate!

Exeunt

Scene 3. France. Before Angiers.

Alarum; excursions. Enter LA PUCELLE.

La Pucelle The Regent conquers and the Frenchmen fly.
Now help, ye charming spells and periapts,
And ye choice spirits that admonish me,
And give me signs of future accidents;
[Thunder]
You speedy helpers, that are substitutes
Under the lordly monarch of the north,
Appear and aid me in this enterprise!

Enter FIENDS.

This speedy and quick appearance argues proof
Of your accustomed diligence to me.
Now, ye familiar spirits that are culled
Out of the powerful regions under earth,
Help me this once, that France may get the field.
[They walk, and speak not]
O, hold me not with silence overlong!
Where I was wont to feed you with my blood,
I'll lop a member off and give it you
In earnest of a further benefit,
So you do condescend to help me now.
[They hang their heads]
No hope to have redress? My body shall
Pay recompense if you will grant my suit.
[They shake their heads]
Cannot my body nor blood-sacrifice
Entreat you to your wonted furtherance?
Then take my soul - my body, soul, and all,
Before that England give the French the foil.
[They depart]
See, they forsake me! Now the time is come
That France must veil her lofty-plumed crest
And let her head fall into England's lap.
My ancient incantations are too weak,
And hell too strong for me to buckle with.
Now, France, thy glory droopeth to the dust.

Exit

Excursions. Enter the FRENCH and ENGLISH fighting.
BURGUNDY and YORK fight hand to hand.
The FRENCH fly. LA PUCELLE is taken.

York Damsel of France, I think I have you fast.
Unchain your spirits now with spelling charms,
And try if they can gain your liberty.
A goodly prize, fit for the devil's grace!
See how the ugly witch doth bend her brows,
As if with Circe she would change my shape!

La Pucelle Changed to a worsen shape thou canst not be.

York O, Charles the Dauphin is a proper man;
No shape but his can please your dainty eye.

La Pucelle A plaguing mischief light on Charles and thee!
And may ye both be suddenly surprised
By bloody hands, in sleeping on your beds!

York Fell banning hag, enchantress, hold thy tongue!

La Pucelle I prithee, give me leave to curse awhile.

York Curse, miscreant, when thou comest to the stake.

Exeunt

Alarum. Enter SUFFOLK, with MARGARET in his hand.

Suffolk Be what thou wilt, thou art my prisoner.
 [Gazes on her]
 O fairest beauty, do not fear nor fly,
 For I will touch thee but with reverent hands,
 And lay them gently on thy tender side.
 I kiss these fingers for eternal peace.
 Who art thou? Say, that I may honour thee?

Margaret Margaret my name, and daughter to a king,
 The King of Naples, whosoe'er thou art.

Suffolk An earl I am, and Suffolk am I called.
 Be not offended, nature's miracle,
 Thou art allotted to be ta'en by me.
 So doth the swan her downy cygnets save,
 Keeping them prisoner underneath her wings.
 Yet, if this servile usage once offend,
 Go and be free again, as Suffolk's friend.
 [She is going]
 O, stay! [Aside] I have no power to let her pass;
 My hand would free her, but my heart says no.
 As plays the sun upon the glassy streams,
 Twinkling another counterfeited beam,
 So seems this gorgeous beauty to mine eyes.
 Fain would I woo her, yet I dare not speak.
 I'll call for pen and ink and write my mind.
 Fie, de la Pole, disable not thyself;
 Hast not a tongue? Is she not here thy prisoner?
 Wilt thou be daunted at a woman's sight?
 Ay, beauty's princely majesty is such
 Confounds the tongue and makes the senses rough.

Margaret Say, Earl of Suffolk, if thy name be so,
 What ransom must I pay before I pass?
 For I perceive I am thy prisoner.

Suffolk [Aside] How canst thou tell she will deny thy suit,
 Before thou make a trial of her love?

Margaret Why speak'st thou not? What ransom must I pay?

Suffolk [Aside] She's beautiful, and therefore to be wooed;
 She is a woman, therefore to be won.

Margaret Wilt thou accept of ransom, yea or no?

Suffolk [Aside] Fond man, remember that thou hast a wife;
 Then how can Margaret be thy paramour?

Margaret [Aside] 'Twere best to leave him, for he will not hear.

Suffolk [Aside] There all is marred; there lies a cooling card.

Margaret [Aside] He talks at random; sure, the man is mad.

Suffolk [Aside] And yet a dispensation may be had.

Margaret And yet I would that you would answer me.

Suffolk [Aside] I'll win this Lady Margaret. For whom?
 Why, for my king! Tush, that's a wooden thing!

Margaret [Aside] He talks of wood; it is some carpenter.

Suffolk [Aside] Yet so my fancy may be satisfied,
 And peace established between these realms.
 But there remains a scruple in that too;
 For though her father be the King of Naples,
 Duke of Anjou and Maine, yet is he poor,

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And our nobility will scorn the match.

Margaret Hear ye, captain? Are you not at leisure?

Suffolk [Aside] It shall be so, disdain they ne'er so much.
Henry is youthful and will quickly yield.
[To MARGARET] Madam, I have a secret to reveal.

Margaret [Aside] What though I be enthralled? He seems a knight,
And will not any way dishonour me.

Suffolk Lady, vouchsafe to listen what I say.

Margaret [Aside] Perhaps I shall be rescued by the French,
And then I need not crave his courtesy.

Suffolk Sweet madam, give me hearing in a cause -

Margaret [Aside] Tush, women have been captivate ere now.

Suffolk Lady, wherefore talk you so?

Margaret I cry you mercy, 'tis but quid for quo.

Suffolk Say, gentle princess, would you not suppose
Your bondage happy, to be made a queen?

Margaret To be a queen in bondage is more vile
Than is a slave in base servility;
For princes should be free.

Suffolk And so shall you,
If happy England's royal king be free.

Margaret Why, what concerns his freedom unto me?

Suffolk I'll undertake to make thee Henry's queen,
To put a golden sceptre in thy hand
And set a precious crown upon thy head,
If thou wilt condescend to be my -

Margaret What?

Suffolk His love.

Margaret I am unworthy to be Henry's wife.

Suffolk No, gentle madam, I unworthy am
To woo so fair a dame to be his wife
And have no portion in the choice myself.
How say you, madam; are ye so content?

Margaret An if my father please, I am content.

Suffolk Then call our captains and our colours forth!
And, madam, at your father's castle walls
We'll crave a parley to confer with him.

Sound a parley.

Enter REIGNIER on the walls.

See, Reignier, see thy daughter prisoner!

Reignier To whom?

Suffolk To me.

Reignier Suffolk, what remedy?
I am a soldier, and unapt to weep
Or to exclaim on fortune's fickleness.

Suffolk Yes, there is remedy enough, my lord.
Consent, and for thy honour give consent,
Thy daughter shall be wedded to my king,

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Whom I with pain have wooed and won thereto;
And this her easy-held imprisonment
Hath gained thy daughter princely liberty.

Reignier Speaks Suffolk as he thinks?

Suffolk Fair Margaret knows
That Suffolk doth not flatter, face, or feign.

Reignier Upon thy princely warrant I descend
To give thee answer of thy just demand.

Exit from the walls.

Suffolk And here I will expect thy coming.

Trumpets sound. Enter REIGNIER, below.

Reignier Welcome, brave earl, into our territories.
Command in Anjou what your honour please.

Suffolk Thanks, Reignier, happy for so sweet a child,
Fit to be made companion with a king.
What answer makes your grace unto my suit?

Reignier Since thou dost deign to woo her little worth
To be the princely bride to such a lord,
Upon condition I may quietly
Enjoy mine own, the country Maine and Anjou,
Free from oppression or the stroke of war,
My daughter shall be Henry's, if he please.

Suffolk That is her ransom. I deliver her;
And those two counties I will undertake
Your grace shall well and quietly enjoy.

Reignier And I again, in Henry's royal name,
As deputy unto that gracious king,
Give thee her hand for sign of plighted faith.

Suffolk Reignier of France, I give thee kingly thanks,
Because this is in traffic of a king.
[Aside] And yet, methinks, I could be well content
To be mine own attorney in this case.
I'll over then to England with this news,
And make this marriage to be solemnized.
So farewell, Reignier. Set this diamond safe
In golden palaces, as it becomes.

Reignier I do embrace thee, as I would embrace
The Christian prince King Henry, were he here.

Margaret Farewell, my lord. Good wishes, praise, and prayers
Shall Suffolk ever have of Margaret.
[She is going]

Suffolk Farewell, sweet madam. But hark you, Margaret, -
No princely commendations to my king?

Margaret Such commendations as becomes a maid,
A virgin, and his servant, say to him.

Suffolk Words sweetly placed and modestly directed.
But, madam, I must trouble you again -
No loving token to his majesty?

Margaret Yes, my good lord; a pure unspotted heart,
Never yet taint with love, I send the king.

Suffolk And this withal.
[Kisses her]

Margaret That for thyself. I will not so presume

To send such peevish tokens to a king.

Exeunt REIGNIER and MARGARET.

Suffolk O, wert thou for myself! But, Suffolk, stay;
Thou mayst not wander in that labyrinth:
There Minotaurs and ugly treasons lurk.
Solicit Henry with her wondrous praise.
Bethink thee on her virtues that surmount,
And natural graces that extinguish art;
Repeat their semblance often on the seas,
That, when thou com'st to kneel at Henry's feet,
Thou mayst bereave him of his wits with wonder.

Exit

Scene 4. Camp of the Duke of York in Anjou.

Enter YORK, WARWICK, and OTHERS.

York Bring forth that sorceress condemned to burn.

Enter LA PUCELLE, guarded, and a SHEPHERD.

Shepherd Ah, Joan, this kills thy father's heart outright!
Have I sought every country far and near,
And, now it is my chance to find thee out,
Must I behold thy timeless cruel death?
Ah, Joan, sweet daughter Joan, I'll die with thee!

La Pucelle Decrepit miser! Base ignoble wretch!
I am descended of a gentler blood;
Thou art no father nor no friend of mine.

Shepherd Out, out! My lords, an please you, 'tis not so.
I did beget her, all the parish knows:
Her mother liveth yet, can testify
She was the first fruit of my bachelorship.

Warwick Graceless, wilt thou deny thy parentage?

York This argues what her kind of life hath been:
Wicked and vile - and so her death concludes.

Shepherd Fie, Joan, that thou wilt be so obstacle!
God knows thou art a collop of my flesh,
And for thy sake have I shed many a tear.
Deny me not, I prithee, gentle Joan.

La Pucelle Peasant, avaunt! You have suborned this man
Of purpose to obscure my noble birth.

Shepherd 'Tis true, I gave a noble to the priest
The morn that I was wedded to her mother.
Kneel down and take my blessing, good my girl.
Wilt thou not stoop? Now cursed be the time
Of thy nativity! I would the milk
Thy mother gave thee when thou sucked'st her breast
Had been a little ratsbane for thy sake;
Or else, when thou didst keep my lambs a-field,
I wish some ravenous wolf had eaten thee.
Dost thou deny thy father, cursed drab?
O, burn her, burn her! Hanging is too good.

Exit

York Take her away; for she hath lived too long,
To fill the world with vicious qualities.

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La Pucelle First let me tell you whom you have condemned:
Not me begotten of a shepherd swain,
But issued from the progeny of kings;
Virtuous and holy, chosen from above
By inspiration of celestial grace,
To work exceeding miracles on earth.
I never had to do with wicked spirits;
But you, that are polluted with your lusts,
Stained with the guiltless blood of innocents,
Corrupt and tainted with a thousand vices,
Because you want the grace that others have,
You judge it straight a thing impossible
To compass wonders but by help of devils.
No, misconceived Joan of Arc hath been
A virgin from her tender infancy,
Chaste and immaculate in very thought,
Whose maiden blood, thus rigorously effused,
Will cry for vengeance at the gates of heaven.

York Ay, ay. Away with her to execution!

Warwick And hark ye, sirs; because she is a maid,
Spare for no faggots, let there be enow.
Place barrels of pitch upon the fatal stake,
That so her torture may be shortened.

La Pucelle Will nothing turn your unrelenting hearts?
Then, Joan, discover thine infirmity,
That warranteth by law to be thy privilege.
I am with child, ye bloody homicides;
Murder not then the fruit within my womb,
Although ye hale me to a violent death.

York Now heaven forfend! The holy maid with child?

Warwick The greatest miracle that e'er ye wrought!
Is all your strict preciseness come to this?

York She and the Dauphin have been juggling.
I did imagine what would be her refuge.

Warwick Well, go to; we'll have no bastards live;
Especially since Charles must father it.

La Pucelle You are deceived; my child is none of his.
It was Alencon that enjoyed my love.

York Alencon, that notorious Machiavel!
It dies, an if it had a thousand lives.

La Pucelle O, give me leave, I have deluded you.
'Twas neither Charles nor yet the duke I named,
But Reignier King of Naples that prevailed.

Warwick A married man! That's most intolerable.

York Why, here's a girl! I think she knows not well -
There were so many - whom she may accuse.

Warwick It's sign she hath been liberal and free.

York And yet, forsooth, she is a virgin pure!
Strumpet, thy words condemn thy brat and thee.
Use no entreaty, for it is in vain.

La Pucelle Then lead me hence; with whom I leave my curse:
May never glorious sun reflex his beams
Upon the country where you make abode,
But darkness and the gloomy shade of death
Environ you, till mischief and despair
Drive you to break your necks or hang yourselves!

Exit, guarded.

York Break thou in pieces and consume to ashes,
Thou foul accursed minister of hell!

Enter WINCHESTER, attended.

Winchester Lord Regent, I do greet your excellence
With letters of commission from the king.
For know, my lords, the states of Christendom,
Moved with remorse of these outrageous broils,
Have earnestly implored a general peace

Betwixt our nation and the aspiring French;
And here at hand the Dauphin and his train
Approacheth to confer about the same.

York Is all our travail turned to this effect?
After the slaughter of so many peers,
So many captains, gentlemen, and soldiers,
That in this quarrel have been overthrown
And sold their bodies for their country's benefit,
Shall we at last conclude effeminate peace?
Have we not lost most part of all the towns,
By treason, falsehood, and by treachery,
Our great progenitors had conquered?
O, Warwick, Warwick! I foresee with grief
The utter loss of all the realm of France.

Warwick Be patient, York. If we conclude a peace,
It shall be with such strict and severe covenants
As little shall the Frenchmen gain thereby.

Enter CHARLES, ALENON, BASTARD, REIGNIER, and ATTENDANTS.

Charles Since, lords of England, it is thus agreed
That peaceful truce shall be proclaimed in France,

We come to be informed by yourselves
What the conditions of that league must be.

York Speak, Winchester, for boiling choler chokes
The hollow passage of my poisoned voice,
By sight of these our baleful enemies.

Cardinal Charles, and the rest, it is enacted thus:
That, in regard King Henry gives consent,
Of mere compassion and of lenity,
To ease your country of distressful war,
And suffer you to breathe in fruitful peace,
You shall become true liegemen to his crown.
And, Charles, upon condition thou wilt swear
To pay him tribute and submit thyself,
Thou shalt be placed as viceroy under him,
And still enjoy thy regal dignity.

Alencon Must he be then as shadow of himself?
Adorn his temples with a coronet,
And yet, in substance and authority,
Retain but privilege of a private man?
This proffer is absurd and reasonless.

Charles 'Tis known already that I am possessed
With more than half the Gallian territories,
And therein revered for their lawful king.
Shall I, for lucre of the rest unvanquished,
Detract so much from that prerogative
As to be called but viceroy of the whole?
No, Lord Ambassador, I'll rather keep
That which I have than, coveting for more,
Be cast from possibility of all.

York Insulting Charles! Hast thou by secret means

Used intercession to obtain a league,
 And now the matter grows to compromise
 Stand'st thou aloof upon comparison?
 Either accept the title thou usurp'st,
 Of benefit proceeding from our king
 And not of any challenge of desert,
 Or we will plague thee with incessant wars.

Reignier [Aside to CHARLES] My lord, you do not well in obstinacy
 To cavil in the course of this contract.
 If once it be neglected, ten to one
 We shall not find like opportunity.

Alencon [Aside to CHARLES] To say the truth, it is your policy
 To save your subjects from such massacre
 And ruthless slaughters as are daily seen
 By our proceeding in hostility;
 And therefore take this compact of a truce,
 Although you break it when your pleasure serves.

Warwick How sayst thou, Charles? Shall our condition stand?

Charles It shall;
 Only reserved you claim no interest
 In any of our towns of garrison.

York Then swear allegiance to his majesty:
 As thou art knight, never to disobey
 Nor be rebellious to the crown of England -
 Thou, nor thy nobles, to the crown of England.
 [CHARLES and the REST give gestures of fealty]
 So, now dismiss your army when ye please;
 Hang up your ensigns, let your drums be still,
 For here we entertain a solemn peace.

Exeunt

Scene 5. London. A Room in the Palace.

Enter SUFFOLK in conference with KING HENRY, GLOUCESTER, and EXETER.

King Henry Your wondrous rare description, noble earl,
 Of beauteous Margaret hath astonished me.
 Her virtues, graced with external gifts,
 Do breed love's settled passions in my heart;
 And like as rigour of tempestuous gusts
 Provokes the mightiest hulk against the tide,
 So am I driven by breath of her renown
 Either to suffer shipwreck or arrive
 Where I may have fruition of her love.

Suffolk Tush, my good lord, this superficial tale
 Is but a preface of her worthy praise.
 The chief perfections of that lovely dame,
 Had I sufficient skill to utter them,
 Would make a volume of enticing lines
 Able to ravish any dull conceit;
 And, which is more, she is not so divine,
 So full replete with choice of all delights,
 But with as humble lowliness of mind
 She is content to be at your command -
 Command, I mean, of virtuous chaste intents,
 To love and honour Henry as her lord.

King Henry And otherwise will Henry ne'er presume.
 Therefore, my Lord Protector, give consent

That Margaret may be England's royal queen.

Gloucester So should I give consent to flatter sin.
 You know, my lord, your highness is betrothed
 Unto another lady of esteem.
 How shall we then dispense with that contract,
 And not deface your honour with reproach.

Suffolk As doth a ruler with unlawful oaths,
 Or one that at a triumph, having vowed
 To try his strength, forsaketh yet the lists
 By reason of his adversary's odds.
 A poor earl's daughter is unequal odds,
 And therefore may be broke without offence.

Gloucester Why, what, I pray, is Margaret more than that?
 Her father is no better than an earl,
 Although in glorious titles he excel.

Suffolk Yes, my good lord, her father is a king,
 The King of Naples and Jerusalem;
 And of such great authority in France
 As his alliance will confirm our peace,
 And keep the Frenchmen in allegiance.

Gloucester And so the Earl of Armagnac may do,
 Because he is near kinsman unto Charles.

Exeter Beside, his wealth doth warrant a liberal dower,
 Where Reignier sooner will receive than give.

Suffolk A dower, my lords? Disgrace not so your king,
 That he should be so abject, base, and poor,
 To choose for wealth and not for perfect love.
 Henry is able to enrich his queen,
 And not to seek a queen to make him rich:
 So worthless peasants bargain for their wives,
 As market-men for oxen, sheep, or horse.
 Marriage is a matter of more worth
 Than to be dealt in by attorneyship.
 Not whom we will, but whom his grace affects,
 Must be companion of his nuptial bed.
 And therefore, lords, since he affects her most,
 It most of all these reasons bindeth us
 In our opinions she should be preferred.
 For what is wedlock forced but a hell,
 An age of discord and continual strife?
 Whereas the contrary bringeth bliss,
 And is a pattern of celestial peace.
 Whom should we match with Henry, being a king,
 But Margaret, that is daughter to a king?
 Her peerless feature, joined with her birth,
 Approves her fit for none but for a king.
 Her valiant courage and undaunted spirit,
 More than in women commonly is seen,
 Will answer our hope in issue of a king;
 For Henry, son unto a conqueror,
 Is likely to beget more conquerors
 If with a lady of so high resolve
 As is fair Margaret he be linked in love.
 Then yield, my lords, and here conclude with me
 That Margaret shall be queen, and none but she.

King Henry Whether it be through force of your report,
 My noble Lord of Suffolk, or for that
 My tender youth was never yet attaint
 With any passion of inflaming love,
 I cannot tell; but this I am assured:
 I feel such sharp dissension in my breast,
 Such fierce alarms both of hope and fear,
 As I am sick with working of my thoughts.

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Take therefore shipping; post, my lord, to France;
Agree to any covenants, and procure
That Lady Margaret do vouchsafe to come
To cross the seas to England and be crowned
King Henry's faithful and anointed queen.
For your expenses and sufficient charge,
Among the people gather up a tenth.
Be gone, I say; for till you do return
I rest perplexed with a thousand cares.
[To GLOUCESTER] And you, good uncle, banish all offence:
If you do censure me by what you were,
Not what you are, I know it will excuse
This sudden execution of my will.
And so conduct me where from company
I may revolve and ruminare my grief.

Exit

Gloucester Ay, grief, I fear me, both at first and last.

Exeunt GLOUCESTER and EXETER.

Suffolk Thus suffolk hath prevailed; and thus he goes,
As did the youthful Paris once to Greece,
With hope to find the like event in love,
But prosper better than the Trojan did.
Margaret shall now be queen, and rule the king;
But I will rule both her, the king, and realm.

Exit
