

# All Is True

## 1.1

*[A cloth of state throughout the play.] Enter the Duke of Norfolk at one door; at the other door enter the Duke of Buckingham and the Lord Abergavenny*

**BUCKINGHAM** *(to Norfolk)*

Good morrow, and well met. How have ye done  
Since last we saw in France?

**NORFOLK**

I thank your grace,  
Healthful, and ever since a fresh admirer  
Of what I saw there.

**BUCKINGHAM**

An untimely ague  
Stayed me a prisoner in my chamber when  
Those suns of glory, those two lights of men,  
Met in the vale of Ardres.

5

**NORFOLK**

'Twixt Guisnes and Ardres.  
I was then present, saw them salute on horseback,  
Beheld them when they lighted, how they clung  
In their embracement as they grew together,  
Which had they, what four throned ones could have  
weighed  
Such a compounded one?

10

**BUCKINGHAM**

All the whole time  
I was my chamber's prisoner.

**NORFOLK**

Then you lost  
The view of earthly glory. Men might say  
Till this time pomp was single, but now married  
To one above itself. Each following day  
Became the next day's master, till the last  
Made former wonders its. Today the French,  
All clinquant all in gold, like heathen gods  
Shone down the English; and tomorrow they  
Made Britain India. Every man that stood  
Showed like a mine. Their dwarfish pages were  
As cherubim, all gilt; the *mesdames*, too,  
Not used to toil, did almost sweat to bear  
The pride upon them, that their very labour  
Was to them as a painting. Now this masque

15

20

25

Was cried incomparable, and th'ensuing night  
Made it a fool and beggar. The two kings  
Equal in lustre, were now best, now worst,  
As presence did present them. Him in eye 30  
Still him in praise, and being present both,  
'Twas said they saw but one, and no discerner  
Durst wag his tongue in censure. When these suns±±  
For so they phrase 'em±±by their heralds challenged  
The noble spirits to arms, they did perform 35  
Beyond thought's compass, that former fabulous story  
Being now seen possible enough, got credit  
That *Bevis* was believed.

**BUCKINGHAM**

O, you go far!

**NORFOLK**

As I belong to worship, and affect  
In honour honesty, the tract of ev'rything 40  
Would by a good discourser lose some life  
Which action's self was tongue to. All was royal.  
To the disposing of it naught rebelled.  
Order gave each thing view. The office did  
Distinctly his full function.

**BUCKINGHAM**

Who did guide±± 45

I mean, who set the body and the limbs  
Of this great sport together, as you guess?

**NORFOLK**

One, certes, that promises no element  
In such a business.

**BUCKINGHAM**

I pray you who, my lord?

**NORFOLK**

All this was ordered by the good discretion 50  
Of the right reverend Cardinal of York.

**BUCKINGHAM**

The devil speed him! No man's pie is freed  
From his ambitious finger. What had he  
To do in these fierce vanities? I wonder  
That such a keech can, with his very bulk, 55  
Take up the rays o'th' beneficial sun,  
And keep it from the earth.

**NORFOLK**

Surely, sir,

There's in him stuff that puts him to these ends.

For being not propped by ancestry, whose grace  
Chalks successors their way, nor called upon 60  
For high feats done to th' crown, neither allied  
To eminent assistants, but spider-like,  
Out of his self-drawing web, a gives us note  
The force of his own merit makes his way±±  
A gift that heaven gives for him which buys 65  
A place next to the King.

**ABERGAVENNY** I cannot tell  
What heaven hath given him±±let some graver eye  
Pierce into that; but I can see his pride  
Peep through each part of him. Whence has he that?  
If not from hell, the devil is a niggard 70  
Or has given all before, and he begins  
A new hell in himself.

**BUCKINGHAM** Why the devil,  
Upon this French going out, took he upon him  
Without the privity o'th' King t'appoint  
Who should attend on him? He makes up the file 75  
Of all the gentry, for the most part such  
To whom as great a charge as little honour  
He meant to lay upon; and his own letter,  
The honourable board of council out,  
Must fetch him in, he papers.

**ABERGAVENNY** I do know 80  
Kinsmen of mine±±three at the least±±that have  
By this so sickened their estates that never  
They shall abound as formerly.

**BUCKINGHAM** O, many  
Have broke their backs with laying manors on 'em  
For this great journey. What did this vanity 85  
But minister communication of  
A most poor issue?

**NORFOLK** Grievingly I think  
The peace between the French and us not values  
The cost that did conclude it.

**BUCKINGHAM** Every man,  
After the hideous storm that followed, was 90  
A thing inspired, and, not consulting, broke  
Into a general prophecy±±that this tempest,

Dashing the garment of this peace, aboded  
The sudden breach on't.

**NORFOLK** Which is budded out±±  
For France hath flawed the league, and hath attached 95  
Our merchants' goods at Bordeaux.

**ABERGAVENNY** Is it therefore  
Th'ambassador is silenced?

**NORFOLK** Marry is't.

**ABERGAVENNY**  
A proper title of a peace, and purchased  
At a superfluous rate.

**BUCKINGHAM** Why, all this business  
Our reverend Cardinal carried.

**NORFOLK** Like it your grace, 100

The state takes notice of the private difference  
Betwixt you and the Cardinal. I advise you±±  
And take it from a heart that wishes towards you  
Honour and plenteous safety±±that you read  
The Cardinal's malice and his potency 105  
Together; to consider further that  
What his high hatred would effect wants not  
A minister in his power. You know his nature,  
That he's revengeful; and I know his sword  
Hath a sharp edge±±it's long, and't may be said 110  
It reaches far; and where 'twill not extend  
Thither he darts it. Bosom up my counsel,  
You'll find it wholesome. Lo, where comes that rock  
That I advise your shunning.

*Enter Cardinal Wolsey, the purse containing the  
great seal borne before him. Enter with him certain  
of the guard, and two secretaries with papers. The  
Cardinal in his passage fixeth his eye on Buckingham  
and Buckingham on him, both full of disdain*

**CARDINAL WOLSEY** (to a secretary)  
The Duke of Buckingham's surveyor, ha? 115  
Where's his examination?

**SECRETARY** Here, so please you.

**CARDINAL WOLSEY**  
Is he in person ready?

**SECRETARY** Ay, please your grace.

**CARDINAL WOLSEY**

Well, we shall then know more, and Buckingham  
Shall lessen this big look.

*Exeunt Wolsey and his train*

**BUCKINGHAM**

This butcher's cur is venom-mouthed, and I 120  
Have not the power to muzzle him; therefore best  
Not wake him in his slumber. A beggar's book  
Outworths a noble's blood.

**NORFOLK**

What, are you chafed?  
Ask God for temp'rance; that's th'appliance only  
Which your disease requires.

**BUCKINGHAM**

I read in's looks 125  
Matter against me, and his eye reviled  
Me as his abject object. At this instant  
He bores me with some trick. He's gone to th' King±±  
I'll follow, and outstare him.

**NORFOLK**

Stay, my lord,  
And let your reason with your choler question 130  
What 'tis you go about. To climb steep hills  
Requires slow pace at first. Anger is like  
A full hot horse who, being allowed his way,  
Self-mettle tires him. Not a man in England  
Can advise me like you. Be to yourself 135  
As you would to your friend.

**BUCKINGHAM**

I'll to the King,  
And from a mouth of honour quite cry down  
This Ipswich fellow's insolence, or proclaim  
There's difference in no persons.

**NORFOLK**

Be advised.  
Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot 140  
That it do singe yourself. We may outrun  
By violent swiftness that which we run at,  
And lose by over-running. Know you not  
The fire that mounts the liquor till't run o'er  
In seeming to augment it wastes it? Be advised. 145  
I say again there is no English soul  
More stronger to direct you than yourself,  
If with the sap of reason you would quench  
Or but allay the fire of passion.

**BUCKINGHAM**

Sir,

I am thankful to you, and I'll go along 150  
By your prescription; but this top-proud fellow±±  
Whom from the flow of gall I name not, but  
From sincere motions±±by intelligence,  
And proofs as clear as founts in July when  
We see each grain of gravel, I do know 155  
To be corrupt and treasonous.

**NORFOLK**

Say not `treasonous'.

**BUCKINGHAM**

To th' King I'll say't, and make my vouch as strong  
As shore of rock. Attend: this holy fox,  
Or wolf, or both±±for he is equal rav'nous  
As he is subtle, and as prone to mischief 160  
As able to perform't, his mind and place  
Infecting one another, yea, reciprocally±±  
Only to show his pomp as well in France  
As here at home, suggests the King our master  
To this last costly treaty, th'interview 165  
That swallowed so much treasure and, like a glass,  
Did break i'th' rinsing.

**NORFOLK**

Faith, and so it did.

**BUCKINGHAM**

Pray give me favour, sir. This cunning Cardinal,  
The articles o'th' combination drew  
As himself pleased, and they were ratified 170  
As he cried `Thus let be', to as much end  
As give a crutch to th' dead. But our count-Cardinal  
Has done this, and 'tis well for worthy Wolsey,  
Who cannot err, he did it. Now this follows±±  
Which, as I take it, is a kind of puppy 175  
To th'old dam, treason±±Charles the Emperor,  
Under pretence to see the Queen his aunt±±  
For 'twas indeed his colour, but he came  
To whisper Wolsey±±here makes visitation.  
His fears were that the interview betwixt 180  
England and France might through their amity  
Breed him some prejudice, for from this league  
Peeped harms that menaced him. Privily he  
Deals with our Cardinal and, as I trow±±

Which I do well, for I am sure the Emperor 185  
Paid ere he promised, whereby his suit was granted  
Ere it was asked±±but when the way was made,  
And paved with gold, the Emperor thus desired  
That he would please to alter the King's course  
And break the foresaid peace. Let the King know, 190  
As soon he shall by me, that thus the Cardinal  
Does buy and sell his honour as he pleases,  
And for his own advantage.

**NORFOLK** I am sorry  
To hear this of him, and could wish he were  
Something mistaken in't.

**BUCKINGHAM** No, not a syllable. 195  
I do pronounce him in that very shape  
He shall appear in proof.

*Enter Brandon, a serjeant-at-arms before him, and  
two or three of the guard*

**BRANDON**  
Your office, serjeant, execute it.

**SERJEANT** Sir.  
(*To Buckingham*) My lord the Duke of Buckingham and  
Earl  
Of Hereford, Stafford, and Northampton, I 200  
Arrest thee of high treason in the name  
Of our most sovereign King.

**BUCKINGHAM** [*to Norfolk*] Lo you, my lord,  
The net has fall'n upon me. I shall perish  
Under device and practice.

**BRANDON** I am sorry  
To see you ta'en from liberty to look on 205  
The business present. 'Tis his highness' pleasure  
You shall to th' Tower.

**BUCKINGHAM** It will help me nothing  
To plead mine innocence, for that dye is on me  
Which makes my whit'st part black. The will of  
heav'n  
Be done in this and all things. I obey. 210  
O, my lord Abergavenny, fare you well.

**BRANDON**  
Nay, he must bear you company.

