

# 1 Henry VI

## 5.6

*Enter Richard Duke of York, the Earl of Warwick,  
and a Shepherd*

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**

Bring forth that sorceress condemned to burn.

*[Enter Joan la Pucelle guarded]*

**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?

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Ah Joan, sweet daughter Joan, I'll die with thee.

**JOAN**

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't please you, 'tis not so. 10

I did beget her, all the parish knows.

Her mother liveth yet, can testify

She was the first fruit of my bach'lorship.

**WARWICK** *(to Joan)*

Graceless, wilt thou deny thy parentage?

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**

This argues what her kind of life hath been±± 15

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.

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**JOAN**

Peasant, avaunt! *(To the English)* You have suborned  
this man

Of purpose to obscure my noble birth.

**SHEPHERD** *(to the English)*

'Tis true I gave a noble to the priest

The morn that I was wedded to her mother.

(To Joan) Kneel down, and take my blessing, good my  
girl. 25

Wilt thou not stoop? Now curseÁd 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 afield, 30  
I wish some ravenous wolf had eaten thee.

Dost thou deny thy father, curseÁd drab?

(To the English) O burn her, burn her! Hanging is too  
good.

*Exit*

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK** (to guards)

Take her away, for she hath lived too long,  
To fill the world with vicious qualities. 35

**JOAN**

First let me tell you whom you have condemned:

Not one begotten of a shepherd swain,

But issued from the progeny of kings;

Virtuous and holy, chosen from above

By inspiration of celestial grace 40

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±± 45

Because you want the grace that others have,

You judge it straight a thing impossible

To compass wonders but by help of devils.

No, misconceiveÁd Joan of Arc hath been

A virgin from her tender infancy, 50

Chaste and immaculate in very thought,

Whose maiden-blood thus rigorously effused

Will cry for vengeance at the gates of heaven.

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**

Ay, ay, (to guards) away with her to execution.

**WARWICK** (to guards)

And hark ye, sirs: because she is a maid, 55

Spare for no faggots. Let there be enough.

Place barrels of pitch upon the fatal stake,

That so her torture may be shorteneÁd.

**JOAN**  
 Will nothing turn your unrelenting hearts?  
 Then Joan, discover thine infirmity, 60  
 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.

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**  
 Now heaven forbend±±the holy maid with child? 65

**WARWICK** *(to Joan)*  
 The greatest miracle that e'er ye wrought.  
 Is all your strict preciseness come to this?

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**  
 She and the Dauphin have been ingling.  
 I did imagine what would be her refuge.

**WARWICK**  
 Well, go to, we will have no bastards live, 70  
 Especially since Charles must father it.

**JOAN**  
 You are deceived. My child is none of his.  
 It was AlencÖon that enjoyed my love.

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**  
 AlencÖon, that notorious Machiavel?  
 It dies an if it had a thousand lives. 75

**JOAN**  
 O give me leave, I have deluded you.  
 'Twas neither Charles nor yet the Duke I named,  
 But ReneÂ King of Naples that prevailed.

**WARWICK**  
 A married man?±±That's most intolerable.

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**  
 Why, here's a girl; I think she knows not well±± 80  
 There were so many±±whom she may accuse.

**WARWICK**  
 It's sign she hath been liberal and free.

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**  
 And yet forsooth she is a virgin pure!  
*(To Joan)* Strumpet, thy words condemn thy brat and  
 thee.  
 Use no entreaty, for it is in vain. 85

**JOAN**

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 90  
Drive you to break your necks or hang yourselves.

*Enter the Bishop of Winchester, now Cardinal*

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK** (to Joan)

Break thou in pieces, and consume to ashes,  
Thou foul accursed minister of hell.  
*[Exit Joan, guarded]*

**WINCHESTER**

Lord Regent, I do greet your excellence  
With letters of commission from the King. 95  
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 100  
Approacheth to confer about some matter.

**RICHARD DUKE OF 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 105  
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 conquereÁd? 110  
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. 115

*Enter Charles the Dauphin, the Duke of Alenc on,  
the Bastard of Orle ans, and Rene  Duke of Anjou*

**CHARLES**

Since, lords of England, it is thus agreed  
That peaceful truce shall be proclaimed in France,  
We come to be informèd by yourselves  
What the conditions of that league must be.

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**

Speak, Winchester; for boiling choler chokes  
The hollow passage of my poisoned voice  
By sight of these our baleful enemies. 120

**WINCHESTER**

Charles and the rest, it is enacted thus:  
That, in regard King Henry gives consent,  
Of mere compassion and of lenity, 125  
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, 130  
Thou shalt be placed as viceroy under him,  
And still enjoy thy regal dignity.

**ALENCËON**

Must he be then as shadow of himself?±±  
Adorn his temples with a coronet,  
And yet in substance and authority 135  
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. 140  
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, 145  
Be cast from possibility of all.

**RICHARD DUKE OF 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? 150

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.

**RENEÂ** (*aside to Charles*)

My lord, you do not well in obstinacy  
To cavil in the course of this contract. 155  
If once it be neglected, ten to one  
We shall not find like opportunity.

**ALENCËON** (*aside to Charles*)

To say the truth, it is your policy  
To save your subjects from such massacre 160  
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? 165

**CHARLES** It shall,

Only reserved you claim no interest  
In any of our towns of garrison.

**RICHARD DUKE OF YORK**

Then swear allegiance to his majesty,  
As thou art knight, never to disobey 170  
Nor be rebellious to the crown of England,  
Thou nor thy nobles, to the crown of England.

*[They swear]*

So, now dismiss your army when ye please.  
Hang up your ensigns, let your drums be still;  
For here we entertain a solemn peace. 175

*Exeunt*