

Richard Duke of York

5.1

*Enter the Earl of Warwick, the Mayor of Coventry,
two Messengers, and others upon the walls*

WARWICK

Where is the post that came from valiant Oxford?

[The First Messenger steps forward]

How far hence is thy lord, mine honest fellow?

FIRST MESSENGER

By this at Dunsmore, marching hitherward.

WARWICK

How far off is our brother Montague?

Where is the post that came from Montague?

5

[The Second Messenger steps forward]

SECOND MESSENGER

By this at Da'ntry, with a puissant troop.

Enter Somerville [to them, above]

WARWICK

Say, Somerville±±what says my loving son?

And, by thy guess, how nigh is Clarence now?

SOMERVILLE

At Southam I did leave him with his forces,

And do expect him here some two hours hence.

10

A march afar off

WARWICK

Then Clarence is at hand±±I hear his drum.

SOMERVILLE

It is not his, my lord. Here Southam lies.

The drum your honour hears marcheth from Warwick.

WARWICK

Who should that be? Belike, unlooked-for friends.

SOMERVILLE

They are at hand, and you shall quickly know.

15

Flourish. Enter below King Edward and Richard

Duke of Gloucester, with soldiers

KING EDWARD

Go, trumpet, to the walls, and sound a parley.

[Sound a parley]

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER

See how the surly Warwick mans the wall.

WARWICK
 O, unbid spite±±is sportful Edward come?
 Where slept our scouts, or how are they seduced,
 That we could hear no news of his repair? 20

KING EDWARD
 Now, Warwick, wilt thou ope the city gates,
 Speak gentle words, and humbly bend thy knee,
 Call Edward king, and at his hands beg mercy?
 And he shall pardon thee these outrages.

WARWICK
 Nay, rather, wilt thou draw thy forces hence, 25
 Confess who set thee up and plucked thee down,
 Call Warwick patron, and be penitent?
 And thou shalt still remain the Duke of York.

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER
 I thought at least he would have said 'the King'.
 Or did he make the jest against his will? 30

WARWICK
 Is not a dukedom, sir, a goodly gift?

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER
 Ay, by my faith, for a poor earl to give.
 I'll do thee service for so good a gift.

WARWICK
 'Twas I that gave the kingdom to thy brother.

KING EDWARD
 Why then, 'tis mine, if but by Warwick's gift. 35

WARWICK
 Thou art no Atlas for so great a weight;
 And, weakling, Warwick takes his gift again;
 And Henry is my king, Warwick his subject.

KING EDWARD
 But Warwick's king is Edward's prisoner,
 And, gallant Warwick, do but answer this: 40
 What is the body when the head is off?

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER
 Alas, that Warwick had no more forecast,
 But whiles he thought to steal the single ten,
 The king was slyly fingered from the deck.
[To Warwick] You left poor Henry at the Bishop's
 palace, 45

And ten to one you'll meet him in the Tower.

KING EDWARD

'Tis even so±± *[to Warwick]* yet you are Warwick still.

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER

Come, Warwick, take the time±±kneel down, kneel
down.

Nay, when? Strike now, or else the iron cools.

WARWICK

I had rather chop this hand off at a blow, 50
And with the other fling it at thy face,
Than bear so low a sail to strike to thee.

KING EDWARD

Sail how thou canst, have wind and tide thy friend,
This hand, fast wound about thy coal-black hair,
Shall, whiles thy head is warm and new cut off, 55
Write in the dust this sentence with thy blood:
'Wind-changing Warwick now can change no more'.

*Enter the Earl of Oxford, with a drummer and
[soldiers bearing] colours*

WARWICK

O cheerful colours! See where Oxford comes.

OXFORD

Oxford, Oxford, for Lancaster!
*[Oxford and his men pass over the stage and
exeunt into the city]*

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER *(to King Edward)*

The gates are open±±let us enter too. 60

KING EDWARD

So other foes may set upon our backs?
Stand we in good array, for they no doubt
Will issue out again and bid us battle.
If not, the city being but of small defence,
We'll quickly rouse the traitors in the same. 65

WARWICK *[to Oxford, within]*

O, welcome, Oxford±±for we want thy help.
*Enter the Marquis of Montague with a drummer
and [soldiers bearing] colours*

MONTAGUE

Montague, Montague, for Lancaster!
*[Montague and his men pass over the stage and
exeunt into the city]*

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER

Thou and thy brother both shall bye this treason
Even with the dearest blood your bodies bear.

KING EDWARD

The harder matched, the greater victory. 70
My mind presageth happy gain and conquest.

*Enter the Duke of Somerset with a drummer and
[soldiers bearing] colours*

SOMERSET

Somerset, Somerset, for Lancaster!
*[Somerset and his men pass over the stage and
exeunt into the city]*

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER

Two of thy name, both dukes of Somerset,
Have sold their lives unto the house of York±±
And thou shalt be the third, an this sword hold. 75
*Enter George Duke of Clarence with a drummer and
[soldiers bearing] colours*

WARWICK

And lo, where George of Clarence sweeps along,
Of force enough to bid his brother battle;
With whom an upright zeal to right prevails
More than the nature of a brother's love.

GEORGE OF CLARENCE

Clarence, Clarence, for Lancaster! 80

KING EDWARD

Et tu, Brute±±wilt thou stab Caesar too?
(To a trumpeter) A parley, sirra, to George of Clarence.
*Sound a parley. Richard of Gloucester and George of
Clarence whisper together*

WARWICK

Come, Clarence, come±±thou wilt if Warwick call.

GEORGE OF CLARENCE

Father of Warwick, know you what this means?
*[He takes his red rose out of his hat and throws it
at Warwick]*

Look±±here I throw my infamy at thee! 85
I will not ruinate my father's house,
Who gave his blood to lime the stones together,
And set up Lancaster. Why, trowest thou, Warwick,
That Clarence is so harsh, so blunt, unnatural,

To bend the fatal instruments of war 90
 Against his brother and his lawful king?
 Perhaps thou wilt object my holy oath.
 To keep that oath were more impiety
 Than Jephthah, when he sacrificed his daughter.
 I am so sorry for my trespass made 95
 That, to deserve well at my brothers' hands,
 I here proclaim myself thy mortal foe,
 With resolution, wheresoe'er I meet thee±±
 As I will meet thee, if thou stir abroad±±
 To plague thee for thy foul misleading me. 100
 And so, proud-hearted Warwick, I defy thee,
 And to my brothers turn my blushing cheeks.
(To King Edward)
 Pardon me, Edward±±I will make amends.
(To Richard)
 And, Richard, do not frown upon my faults,
 For I will henceforth be no more unconstant. 105

KING EDWARD
 Now welcome more, and ten times more beloved,
 Than if thou never hadst deserved our hate.

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER *(to George)*
 Welcome, good Clarence±±this is brother-like.

WARWICK *(to George)*
 O, passing traitor±±perjured and unjust!

KING EDWARD
 What, Warwick, wilt thou leave the town and fight? 110
 Or shall we beat the stones about thine ears?

WARWICK *[aside]*
 Alas, I am not cooped here for defence.
(To King Edward)
 I will away towards Barnet presently,
 And bid thee battle, Edward, if thou dar'st.

KING EDWARD
 Yes, Warwick±±Edward dares, and leads the way. 115
 Lords, to the field±±Saint George and victory!
Exeunt below King Edward and his company.
March. The Earl of Warwick and his company
descend and follow