

# Richard Duke of York

## 4.7

*Flourish. Enter the Earl of Warwick and George Duke of Clarence [with the crown]. Then enter King Henry, the Earl of Oxford, the Duke of Somerset [with] young Henry Earl of Richmond, the Marquis of Montague, and the Lieutenant of the Tower*

### KING HENRY

Master Lieutenant, now that God and friends  
Have shaken Edward from the regal seat  
And turned my captive state to liberty,  
My fear to hope, my sorrows unto joys,  
At our enlargement what are thy due fees? 5

### LIEUTENANT

Subjects may challenge nothing of their sovereigns±±  
But if an humble prayer may prevail,  
I then crave pardon of your majesty.

### KING HENRY

For what, Lieutenant? For well using me?  
Nay, be thou sure I'll well requite thy kindness, 10  
For that it made my prisonment a pleasure±±  
Ay, such a pleasure as encageÁd birds  
Conceive when, after many moody thoughts,  
At last by notes of household harmony  
They quite forget their loss of liberty. 15  
But, Warwick, after God, thou sett'st me free,  
And chiefly therefore I thank God and thee.  
He was the author, thou the instrument.  
Therefore, that I may conquer fortune's spite  
By living low, where fortune cannot hurt me, 20  
And that the people of this blesseÁd land  
May not be punished with my thwarting stars,  
Warwick, although my head still wear the crown,  
I here resign my government to thee,  
For thou art fortunate in all thy deeds. 25

### WARWICK

Your grace hath still been famed for virtuous,

And now may seem as wise as virtuous  
By spying and avoiding fortune's malice,  
For few men rightly temper with the stars.  
Yet in this one thing let me blame your grace: 30  
For choosing me when Clarence is in place.

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

No, Warwick, thou art worthy of the sway,  
To whom the heav'ns in thy nativity  
Adjudged an olive branch and laurel crown,  
As likely to be blest in peace and war. 35  
And therefore I yield thee my free consent.

**WARWICK**

And I choose Clarence only for Protector.

**KING HENRY**

Warwick and Clarence, give me both your hands.  
Now join your hands, and with your hands your  
                  hearts,  
That no dissension hinder government. 40  
I make you both Protectors of this land,  
While I myself will lead a private life  
And in devotion spend my latter days,  
To sin's rebuke and my creator's praise.

**WARWICK**

What answers Clarence to his sovereign's will? 45

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

That he consents, if Warwick yield consent,  
For on thy fortune I repose myself.

**WARWICK**

Why, then, though loath, yet must I be content.  
We'll yoke together, like a double shadow  
To Henry's body, and supply his place±± 50  
I mean in bearing weight of government±±  
While he enjoys the honour and his ease.  
And, Clarence, now then it is more than needful  
Forthwith that Edward be pronounced a traitor,  
And all his lands and goods be confiscate. 55

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

What else? And that succession be determined.

**WARWICK**

Ay, therein Clarence shall not want his part.

**KING HENRY**

But with the first of all your chief affairs,  
Let me entreat±±for I command no more±±  
That Margaret your queen and my son Edward  
Be sent for, to return from France with speed.  
For, till I see them here, by doubtful fear  
My joy of liberty is half eclipsed.

60

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

It shall be done, my sovereign, with all speed.

**KING HENRY**

My lord of Somerset, what youth is that  
Of whom you seem to have so tender care?

65

**SOMERSET**

My liege, it is young Henry, Earl of Richmond.

**KING HENRY**

Come hither, England's hope.

*King Henry lays his hand on Richmond's head*

If secret

powers

Suggest but truth to my divining thoughts,  
This pretty lad will prove our country's bliss.  
His looks are full of peaceful majesty,  
His head by nature framed to wear a crown,  
His hand to wield a sceptre, and himself  
Likely in time to bless a regal throne.  
Make much of him, my lords, for this is he  
Must help you more than you are hurt by me.

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*Enter a Post*

**WARWICK** What news, my friend?

**POST**

That Edward is escapeÁd from your brother  
And fled, as he hears since, to Burgundy.

**WARWICK**

Unsavoury news±±but how made he escape?

80

**POST**

He was conveyed by Richard Duke of Gloucester  
And the Lord Hastings, who attended him  
In secret ambush on the forest side  
And from the Bishop's huntsmen rescued him±±  
For hunting was his daily exercise.

85

**WARWICK**

My brother was too careless of his charge.

(To King Henry) But let us hence, my sovereign, to  
provide

A salve for any sore that may betide.

*Exeunt all but Somerset, Richmond, and Oxford*

**SOMERSET** (to Oxford)

My lord, I like not of this flight of Edward's,  
For doubtless Burgundy will yield him help, 90  
And we shall have more wars before't be long.

As Henry's late presaging prophecy  
Did glad my heart with hope of this young Richmond,  
So doth my heart misgive me, in these conflicts,  
What may befall him, to his harm and ours. 95

Therefore, Lord Oxford, to prevent the worst,  
Forthwith we'll send him hence to Brittany,  
Till storms be past of civil enmity.

**OXFORD**

Ay, for if Edward repossess the crown,  
'Tis like that Richmond with the rest shall down. 100

**SOMERSET**

It shall be so±±he shall to Brittany.  
Come, therefore, let's about it speedily.

*Exeunt*