

Richard III

5.1

*Enter the Duke of Buckingham with halberdiers, led
by a Sheriff to execution*

BUCKINGHAM

Will not King Richard let me speak with him?

SHERIFF

No, my good lord, therefore be patient.

BUCKINGHAM

Hastings, and Edward's children, Gray and Rivers,
Holy King Henry and thy fair son Edward,
Vaughan, and all that have miscarried 5
By underhand, corrupted, foul injustice:
If that your moody, discontented souls
Do through the clouds behold this present hour,
Even for revenge mock my destruction.
This is All-Souls' day, fellow, is it not? 10

SHERIFF It is.

BUCKINGHAM

Why then All-Souls' day is my body's doomsday.
This is the day which, in King Edward's time,
I wished might fall on me, when I was found
False to his children and his wife's allies. 15
This is the day wherein I wished to fall
By the false faith of him whom most I trusted.
This, this All-Souls' day to my fearful soul
Is the determined respite of my wrongs.
That high all-seer which I dallied with 20
Hath turned my feigned prayer on my head,
And given in earnest what I begged in jest.
Thus doth he force the swords of wicked men
To turn their own points in their masters' bosoms.
Thus Margaret's curse falls heavy on my neck. 25
'When he', quoth she, 'shall split thy heart with
sorrow,
Remember Margaret was a prophetess.'
Come lead me, officers, to the block of shame.
Wrong hath but wrong, and blame the due of blame.

Exeunt