

1 Henry VI

1.4

*Enter the Duke of Gloucester, with his Servingmen
in blue coats*

GLOUCESTER

I am come to survey the Tower this day.
Since Henry's death, I fear there is conveyance.
Where be these warders, that they wait not here?
[A Servingman] knocketh on the gates
Open the gates: 'tis Gloucester that calls.

FIRST WARDER *[within the Tower]*

Who's there that knocketh so imperiously? 5

GLOUCESTER'S FIRST MAN

It is the noble Duke of Gloucester.

SECOND WARDER *[within the Tower]*

Whoe'er he be, you may not be let in.

GLOUCESTER'S FIRST MAN

Villains, answer you so the Lord Protector?

FIRST WARDER *[within the Tower]*

The Lord protect him, so we answer him.
We do no otherwise than we are willed. 10

GLOUCESTER

Who willeÁd you? Or whose will stands, but mine?
There's none Protector of the realm but I.
(To Servingmen) Break up the gates. I'll be your
warrantize.

Shall I be flouted thus by dunghill grooms?
Gloucester's men rush at the Tower gates

WOODVILLE *[within the Tower]*

What noise is this? What traitors have we here? 15

GLOUCESTER

Lieutenant, is it you whose voice I hear?
Open the gates! Here's Gloucester, that would enter.

WOODVILLE *[within the Tower]*

Have patience, noble duke: I may not open.
My lord of Winchester forbids.
From him I have express commandeÈment 20
That thou, nor none of thine, shall be let in.

GLOUCESTER

Faint-hearted Woodville! Prizest him fore me?±±
Arrogant Winchester, that haughty prelate,
Whom Henry, our late sovereign, ne'er could brook?
Thou art no friend to God or to the King. 25
Open the gates, or I'll shut thee out shortly.

SERVINGMEN

Open the gates unto the Lord Protector,
Or we'll burst them open, if that you come not
quickly.

*Enter, to the Lord Protector at the Tower gates, the
Bishop of Winchester and his men in tawny coats*

WINCHESTER

How now, ambitious vizier! What means this?

GLOUCESTER

Peeled priest, dost thou command me to be shut out? 30

WINCHESTER

I do, thou most usurping proditor,
And not 'Protector', of the King or realm.

GLOUCESTER

Stand back, thou manifest conspirator.
Thou that contrived'st to murder our dead lord,
Thou that giv'st whores indulgences to sin, 35
If thou proceed in this thy insolence±±

WINCHESTER

Nay, stand thou back! I will not budge a foot.
This be Damascus, be thou curseÁd Cain,
To slay thy brother Abel, if thou wilt.

GLOUCESTER

I will not slay thee, but I'll drive thee back. 40
Thy purple robes, as a child's bearing-cloth,
I'll use to carry thee out of this place.

WINCHESTER

Do what thou dar'st, I beard thee to thy face.

GLOUCESTER

What, am I dared and bearded to my face?
Draw, men, for all this privilegeÁd place. 45

All draw their swords

Blue coats to tawny coats!±±Priest, beware your
beard.

I mean to tug it, and to cuff you soundly.
Under my feet I'll stamp thy bishop's mitre.

In spite of Pope, or dignities of church,
Here by the cheeks I'll drag thee up and down.

50

WINCHESTER

Gloucester, thou wilt answer this before the Pope.

GLOUCESTER

Winchester goose! I cry, 'A rope, a rope!'

(To his Servingmen)

Now beat them hence. Why do you let them stay?

(To Winchester)

Thee I'll chase hence, thou wolf in sheep's array.

Out, tawny coats! Out, cloakeÁd hypocrite! 55

Here Gloucester's men beat out the Bishop's men.

*Enter in the hurly-burly the Mayor of London and
his Officers*

MAYOR

Fie, lords!±±that you, being supreme magistrates,

Thus contumeliously should break the peace.

GLOUCESTER

Peace, mayor, thou know'st little of my wrongs.

Here's Beaufort±±that regards nor God nor king±±

Hath here distrained the Tower to his use. 60

WINCHESTER *(to Mayor)*

Here's Gloucester±±a foe to citizens,

One that still motions war, and never peace,

O'ercharging your free purses with large fines±±

That seeks to overthrow religion,

Because he is Protector of the realm, 65

And would have armour here out of the Tower

To crown himself king and suppress the Prince.

GLOUCESTER

I will not answer thee with words but blows.

Here the factions skirmish again

MAYOR

Naught rests for me, in this tumultuous strife,

But to make open proclamation. 70

Come, officer, as loud as e'er thou canst, cry.

OFFICER All manner of men, assembled here in arms this
day against God's peace and the King's, we charge and
command you in his highness' name to repair to your
several dwelling places, and not to wear, handle, or 75
use any sword, weapon, or dagger henceforward, upon

pain of death.

The skirmishes cease

GLOUCESTER

Bishop, I'll be no breaker of the law.

But we shall meet and break our minds at large.

WINCHESTER

Gloucester, we'll meet to thy cost, be sure.

80

Thy heart-blood I will have for this day's work.

MAYOR

I'll call for clubs, if you will not away.

(Aside) This bishop is more haughty than the devil.

GLOUCESTER

Mayor, farewell. Thou dost but what thou mayst.

WINCHESTER

Abominable Gloucester, guard thy head,

85

For I intend to have it ere long.

Exeunt both factions severally

MAYOR *(to Officers)*

See the coast cleared, and then we will depart.±±

Good God, these nobles should such stomachs bear!

I myself fight not once in forty year.

Exeunt