

# Richard Duke of York

## 3.3

*[Two] chairs of state. Flourish. Enter King Louis of France, his sister the Lady Bona, Lord Bourbon his admiral, Prince Edward, Queen Margaret, and the Earl of Oxford. Louis goes up upon the state, sits, and riseth up again*

**KING LOUIS**

Fair Queen of England, worthy Margaret,  
Sit down with us. It ill befits thy state  
And birth that thou shouldst stand while Louis  
doth sit.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

No, mighty King of France, now Margaret  
Must strike her sail and learn a while to serve 5  
Where kings command. I was, I must confess,  
Great Albion's queen in former golden days,  
But now mischance hath trod my title down,  
And with dishonour laid me on the ground,  
Where I must take like seat unto my fortune 10  
And to my humble state conform myself.

**KING LOUIS**

Why, say, fair Queen, whence springs this deep  
despair?

**QUEEN MARGARET**

From such a cause as fills mine eyes with tears  
And stops my tongue, while heart is drowned in cares.

**KING LOUIS**

Whate'er it be, be thou still like thyself, 15  
And sit thee by our side.

*Seats her by him*

Yield not thy neck

To fortune's yoke, but let thy dauntless mind  
Still ride in triumph over all mischance.  
Be plain, Queen Margaret, and tell thy grief.  
It shall be eased if France can yield relief. 20

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Those gracious words revive my drooping thoughts,  
And give my tongue-tied sorrows leave to speak.

Now, therefore, be it known to noble Louis  
That Henry, sole possessor of my love,  
Is of a king become a banished man, 25  
And forced to live in Scotland a forlorn,  
While proud ambitious Edward, Duke of York,  
Usurps the regal title and the seat  
Of England's true-anointed lawful King.  
This is the cause that I, poor Margaret, 30  
With this my son, Prince Edward, Henry's heir,  
Am come to crave thy just and lawful aid.  
An if thou fail us all our hope is done.  
Scotland hath will to help, but cannot help;  
Our people and our peers are both misled, 35  
Our treasure seized, our soldiers put to flight,  
And, as thou seest, ourselves in heavy plight.

**KING LOUIS**

Renowne—Ad Queen, with patience calm the storm,  
While we bethink a means to break it off.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

The more we stay, the stronger grows our foe. 40

**KING LOUIS**

The more I stay, the more I'll succour thee.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

O, but impatience waiteth on true sorrow.

*Enter the Earl of Warwick*

And see where comes the breeder of my sorrow.

**KING LOUIS**

What's he approacheth boldly to our presence?

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Our Earl of Warwick, Edward's greatest friend. 45

**KING LOUIS**

Welcome, brave Warwick. What brings thee to France?

*He descends. She ariseth*

**QUEEN MARGARET** *(aside)*

Ay, now begins a second storm to rise,  
For this is he that moves both wind and tide.

**WARWICK** *(to King Louis)*

From worthy Edward, King of Albion,  
My lord and sovereign, and thy vowe—Ad friend, 50  
I come in kindness and unfeigne—Ad love,  
First, to do greetings to thy royal person,

And then, to crave a league of amity,  
And lastly, to confirm that amity  
With nuptial knot, if thou vouchsafe to grant 55  
That virtuous Lady Bona, thy fair sister,  
To England's King in lawful marriage.

**QUEEN MARGARET** (*aside*)

If that go forward, Henry's hope is done.

**WARWICK** (*to Lady Bona*)

And, gracious madam, in our King's behalf  
I am commanded, with your leave and favour, 60  
Humbly to kiss your hand, and with my tongue  
To tell the passion of my sovereign's heart,  
Where fame, late ent'ring at his heedful ears,  
Hath placed thy beauty's image and thy virtue.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

King Louis and Lady Bona, hear me speak 65  
Before you answer Warwick. His demand  
Springs not from Edward's well-meant honest love,  
But from deceit, bred by necessity.

For how can tyrants safely govern home  
Unless abroad they purchase great alliance? 70

To prove him tyrant this reason may suffice±±  
That Henry liveth still; but were he dead,  
Yet here Prince Edward stands, King Henry's son.  
Look, therefore, Louis, that by this league and  
marriage

Thou draw not on thy danger and dishonour, 75  
For though usurpers sway the rule a while,  
Yet heav'ns are just and time suppresseth wrongs.

**WARWICK**

Injurious Margaret.

**PRINCE EDWARD** And why not `Queen'?

**WARWICK**

Because thy father Henry did usurp,  
And thou no more art prince than she is queen. 80

**OXFORD**

Then Warwick disannuls great John of Gaunt,  
Which did subdue the greatest part of Spain;  
And, after John of Gaunt, Henry the Fourth,  
Whose wisdom was a mirror to the wisest;

And, after that wise prince, Henry the Fifth, 85  
Who by his prowess conquereÁd all France.  
From these our Henry lineally descends.

**WARWICK**

Oxford, how haps it in this smooth discourse  
You told not how Henry the Sixth hath lost  
All that which Henry the Fifth had gotten? 90  
Methinks these peers of France should smile at that.  
But for the rest, you tell a pedigree  
Of threescore and two years±±a silly time  
To make prescription for a kingdom's worth.

**OXFORD**

Why, Warwick, canst thou speak against thy liege, 95  
Whom thou obeyedest thirty and six years,  
And not bewray thy treason with a blush?

**WARWICK**

Can Oxford, that did ever fence the right,  
Now buckler falsehood with a pedigree?  
For shame±±leave Henry, and call Edward king. 100

**OXFORD**

Call him my king by whose injurious doom  
My elder brother, the Lord Aubrey Vere,  
Was done to death? And more than so, my father,  
Even in the downfall of his mellowed years,  
When nature brought him to the door of death? 105  
No, Warwick, no±±while life upholds this arm,  
This arm upholds the house of Lancaster.

**WARWICK** And I the house of York.

**KING LOUIS**

Queen Margaret, Prince Edward, and Oxford,  
Vouchsafe, at our request, to stand aside 110  
While I use further conference with Warwick.

*Queen Margaret [comes down from the state and],  
with Prince Edward and Oxford, stands apart*

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Heavens grant that Warwick's words bewitch him not.

**KING LOUIS**

Now, Warwick, tell me even upon thy conscience,  
Is Edward your true king? For I were loath  
To link with him that were not lawful chosen. 115

**WARWICK**

Thereon I pawn my credit and mine honour.

**KING LOUIS**

But is he gracious in the people's eye?

**WARWICK**

The more that Henry was unfortunate.

**KING LOUIS**

Then further, all dissembling set aside,  
Tell me for truth the measure of his love 120  
Unto our sister Bona.

**WARWICK**

Such it seems  
As may beseem a monarch like himself.  
Myself have often heard him say and swear  
That this his love was an eternal plant,  
Whereof the root was fixed in virtue's ground, 125  
The leaves and fruit maintained with beauty's sun,  
Exempt from envy, but not from disdain,  
Unless the Lady Bona quit his pain.

**KING LOUIS** *(to Lady Bona)*

Now, sister, let us hear your firm resolve.

**LADY BONA**

Your grant, or your denial, shall be mine. 130  
*(To Warwick)* Yet I confess that often ere this day,  
When I have heard your king's desert recounted,  
Mine ear hath tempted judgement to desire.

**KING LOUIS** *(to Warwick)*

Then, Warwick, thus±±our sister shall be Edward's.  
And now, forthwith, shall articles be drawn 135  
Touching the jointure that your king must make,  
Which with her dowry shall be counterpoised.  
*(To Queen Margaret)* Draw near, Queen Margaret, and  
be a witness  
That Bona shall be wife to the English king.  
*Queen Margaret, Prince Edward, [and Oxford] come  
forward*

**PRINCE EDWARD**

To Edward, but not to the English king. 140

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Deceitful Warwick±±it was thy device  
By this alliance to make void my suit!  
Before thy coming Louis was Henry's friend.

**KING LOUIS**

And still is friend to him and Margaret.  
But if your title to the crown be weak, 145  
As may appear by Edward's good success,  
Then 'tis but reason that I be released  
From giving aid which late I promiseÁd.  
Yet shall you have all kindness at my hand  
That your estate requires and mine can yield. 150

**WARWICK** (to Queen Margaret)

Henry now lives in Scotland at his ease,  
Where having nothing, nothing can he lose.  
And as for you yourself, our quondam queen,  
You have a father able to maintain you,  
And better 'twere you troubled him than France. 155

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Peace, impudent and shameless Warwick, peace!  
Proud setter-up and puller-down of kings!  
I will not hence till, with my talk and tears,  
Both full of truth, I make King Louis behold  
Thy sly conveyance and thy lord's false love, 160  
*Post blowing a horn within*  
For both of you are birds of selfsame feather.

**KING LOUIS**

Warwick, this is some post to us or thee.  
*Enter the Post*

**POST** (to Warwick)

My lord ambassador, these letters are for you,  
Sent from your brother Marquis Montague;  
(To Louis) These from our King unto your majesty; 165  
(To Queen Margaret)  
And, madam, these for you, from whom I know not.  
*They all read their letters*

**OXFORD** (to Prince Edward)

I like it well that our fair Queen and mistress  
Smiles at her news, while Warwick frowns at his.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

Nay, mark how Louis stamps as he were nettled.  
I hope all's for the best. 170

**KING LOUIS**

Warwick, what are thy news? And yours, fair Queen?

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Mine, such as fill my heart with unhopèd joys.

**WARWICK**

Mine, full of sorrow and heart's discontent.

**KING LOUIS**

What! Has your king married the Lady Gray?

And now to soothe your forgery and his, 175

Sends me a paper to persuade me patience?

Is this th'alliance that he seeks with France?

Dare he presume to scorn us in this manner?

**QUEEN MARGARET**

I told your majesty as much before±±

This proveth Edward's love and Warwick's honesty. 180

**WARWICK**

King Louis, I here protest in sight of heaven

And by the hope I have of heavenly bliss,

That I am clear from this misdeed of Edward's,

No more my king, for he dishonours me,

But most himself, if he could see his shame. 185

Did I forget that by the house of York

My father came untimely to his death?

Did I let pass th'abuse done to my niece?

Did I impale him with the regal crown?

Did I put Henry from his native right? 190

And am I guerdoned at the last with shame?

Shame on himself, for my desert is honour.

And to repair my honour, lost for him,

I here renounce him and return to Henry.

(To Queen Margaret) My noble Queen, let former

grudges pass, 195

And henceforth I am thy true servitor.

I will revenge his wrong to Lady Bona

And replant Henry in his former state.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Warwick, these words have turned my hate to love,

And I forgive and quite forget old faults, 200

And joy that thou becom'st King Henry's friend.

**WARWICK**

So much his friend, ay, his unfeignèd friend,

That if King Louis vouchsafe to furnish us

With some few bands of chosen soldiers,

I'll undertake to land them on our coast 205

And force the tyrant from his seat by war.  
'Tis not his new-made bride shall succour him.  
And as for Clarence, as my letters tell me,  
He's very likely now to fall from him  
For matching more for wanton lust than honour, 210  
Or than for strength and safety of our country.

**LADY BONA** *(to King Louis)*

Dear brother, how shall Bona be revenged,  
But by thy help to this distresseÁd Queen?

**QUEEN MARGARET** *(to King Louis)*

RenowneÁd Prince, how shall poor Henry live  
Unless thou rescue him from foul despair? 215

**LADY BONA** *(to King Louis)*

My quarrel and this English Queen's are one.

**WARWICK**

And mine, fair Lady Bona, joins with yours.

**KING LOUIS**

And mine with hers, and thine, and Margaret's.

Therefore at last I firmly am resolved:

You shall have aid. 220

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Let me give humble thanks for all at once.

**KING LOUIS** *(to the Post)*

Then, England's messenger, return in post

And tell false Edward, thy supposeÁd king,

That Louis of France is sending over masquers

To revel it with him and his new bride. 225

Thou seest what's passed, go fear thy king withal.

**LADY BONA** *(to the Post)*

Tell him, in hope he'll prove a widower shortly,

I'll wear the willow garland for his sake.

**QUEEN MARGARET** *(to the Post)*

Tell him my mourning weeds are laid aside,

And I am ready to put armour on. 230

**WARWICK** *(to the Post)*

Tell him from me that he hath done me wrong,

And therefore I'll uncrown him ere't be long.

*(Giving money)* There's thy reward±±be gone.

*Exit Post*

**KING LOUIS**



But, Warwick, thou and Oxford, with five thousand  
men,  
Shall cross the seas and bid false Edward battle; 235  
And, as occasion serves, this noble Queen  
And Prince shall follow with a fresh supply.  
Yet, ere thou go, but answer me one doubt:  
What pledge have we of thy firm loyalty?

**WARWICK**

This shall assure my constant loyalty: 240  
That if our Queen and this young Prince agree,  
I'll join mine eldest daughter and my joy  
To him forthwith in holy wedlock bands.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Yes, I agree, and thank you for your motion.  
(To Prince Edward) Son Edward, she is fair and  
virtuous, 245  
Therefore delay not. Give thy hand to Warwick,  
And with thy hand thy faith irrevocable  
That only Warwick's daughter shall be thine.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

Yes, I accept her, for she well deserves it,  
And here to pledge my vow I give my hand. 250  
*He and Warwick clasp hands*

**KING LOUIS**

Why stay we now? These soldiers shall be levied,  
And thou, Lord Bourbon, our high admiral,  
Shall waft them over with our royal fleet.  
I long till Edward fall by war's mischance  
For mocking marriage with a dame of France. 255  
*Exeunt all but Warwick*

**WARWICK**

I came from Edward as ambassador,  
But I return his sworn and mortal foe.  
Matter of marriage was the charge he gave me,  
But dreadful war shall answer his demand.  
Had he none else to make a stale but me? 260  
Then none but I shall turn his jest to sorrow.  
I was the chief that raised him to the crown,  
And I'll be chief to bring him down again.  
Not that I pity Henry's misery,

But seek revenge on Edward's mockery.  
*Exit*

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