

Shakespeare | King Richard III

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William Shakespeare

King Richard III

Herausgegeben von Herbert Geisen

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Dramatis personae

KING EDWARD THE FOURTH	↗
EDWARD, <i>Prince of Wales</i> ;	} Sons to the King.
<i>afterwards King Edward the Fifth,</i>	
RICHARD, <i>Duke of York</i> ,	5
GEORGE, <i>Duke of Clarence</i> ,	} Brothers to the King.
RICHARD, <i>Duke of Gloucester</i> ;	
<i>afterwards King Richard the Third,</i>	
<i>A young Son of Clarence.</i>	
HENRY, <i>Earl of Richmond</i> ; <i>afterwards King Henry the</i>	10
<i>Seventh.</i>	
CARDINAL BOURCHIER, <i>Archbishop of Canterbury.</i>	
THOMAS ROTHERHAM, <i>Archbishop of York.</i>	
JOHN MORTON, <i>Bishop of Ely.</i>	
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.	15
DUKE OF NORFOLK.	
EARL OF SURREY, <i>his Son.</i>	
EARL RIVERS, <i>Brother to King Edward's Queen.</i>	
<u>MARQUESS</u> OF DORSET, <i>and</i> LORD GREY, <i>her Sons.</i>	
EARL OF OXFORD.	20
LORD HASTINGS.	
LORD STANLEY, <i>called also</i> EARL OF DERBY.	
LORD LEVEL.	
SIR THOMAS VAUGHAN.	
SIR RICHARD RATCLIFF.	25
SIR WILLIAM CATESBY.	

1 **Dramatis personae:** *Charaktere.* | 3 **Prince of Wales:** heir to the throne (also today in the United Kingdom). | 4 **afterwards:** later, subsequently. | 5 **duke:** *Herzog.* | 10 **earl:** *Graf.* | 12 **archbishop:** *Erzbischof.* | 19 **marquess:** *Marquis.*

SIR JAMES TYRRELL.

SIR JAMES BLOUNT.

SIR WALTER HERBERT.

SIR ROBERT BRAKENBURY, *Lieutenant of the Tower.*

5 SIR WILLIAM BRANDON.

CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, *a Priest.*

Another Priest.

Lord Mayor of London. Sheriff of Wiltshire.

TRESSEL and BERKELEY, *Gentlemen attending on*

10 *Lady Anne.*

ELIZABETH, *Queen of King Edward the Fourth.*

MARGARET, *Widow of King Henry the Sixth.*

DUCHESS OF YORK, *Mother to King Edward the Fourth,
Clarence, and Gloucester.*

15 LADY ANNE, *Widow of Edward, Prince of Wales, Son to
King Henry the Sixth; afterwards married to the Duke of
Gloucester.*

LADY MARGARET PLANTAGENET, *a young Daughter of
Clarence.*

20 *Lords, and other Attendants; two Gentlemen, a Pursuivant,
Scrivener, Citizens, Murderers, Messengers, Ghosts of
those murdered by Richard the Third, Soldiers, etc.*

Scene: England.

4 lieutenant: chief officer of the Tower. | **Tower:** 11th century castle in London, which served as a prison for high-ranking offenders. | **8 Lord Mayor:** Bürgermeister der City of London. | **Sheriff:** in 16th century England: holder of a largely ceremonial office. | **9 to attend on s.o.:** *jdm. aufwarten.* | **20 attendant:** servant. | **pursuivant:** *Persevant* (officer assisting a herald, i. e. the announcer of important news). | **21 scrivener:** *Amtsschreiber.* | **citizen:** *Bürger(in).* | **messenger:** *Bote, Botin.*

6 **Dramatis personae**

Act I

Scene 1

London. A Street.

Enter Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER. Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York; ↗
And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.
Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths; 5
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments;
Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings;
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.
Grim-visag'd war hath smooth'd his wrinkled front;
And now, – instead of mounting barbed steeds, 10
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries, –
He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.

[Regie] **to enter:** to come on stage. | 1 **discontent:** feeling of being dissatisfied. | 3 **to lour, to lower** ['ləʊə']: to frown. | **house:** *Herrscherhaus* (as in House of Windsor). | 4 **bosom:** *Busen* (here: vast depth). | 5 **brow:** *Augenbraue, sinnbildlich für Stirn*. | **victorious wreath:** *Siegerkranz*. | 6 **bruised:** here: utterly destroyed. | **arm:** here: weapon. | **monument:** sculpture to remind people of a major event in history. | 7 **stern:** very severe. | **alarum:** alarm. | 8 **dreadful:** terrible. | **measure:** *hier: langsamer, höfischer Schreittanz*. | 9 **grim-visag'd:** with a cruel face. | **to smooth s.th.:** *etwas glätten*. | **wrinkled:** *runzelig*. | **front:** forehead. | 10 **to mount s.th.:** to get on s.th. | **barbed:** *gepanzert*. | **steed:** *Ross*. | 11 **to fright s.o.:** to frighten s.o., to cause fear. | **fearful:** here: full of fear. | **adversary:** enemy. | 12 **to caper:** *hüpfen*. | **nimbly** (adv.): *behende*. | **chamber:** room. | 13 **lascivious:** full of sexual longing. | **pleasing:** pleasing sound. | **lute:** *Laute*.

But I, that am not shap'd for sportive tricks,
 Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass; 15
 I, that am rudely stamp'd, and want love's majesty
 To strut before a wanton ambling nymph;
 I, that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,
 Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,
 Deform'd, unfinish'd, sent before my time 20
 Into this breathing world, scarce half made up,
 And that so lamely and unfashionable
 That dogs bark at me, as I halt by them;
 Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace,
 Have no delight to pass away the time, 25
 Unless to see my shadow in the sun
 And descant on mine own deformity:
 And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover,
 To entertain these fair well-spoken days,
 I am determin'd to prove a villain, 30
 And hate the idle pleasures of these days.
 Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous,
 By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,

14 **sportive:** *leicht, lustig.* | **trick:** *Streich.* | 15 **to court s.o.:** to flirt with s.o. | **amorous looking-glass:** *Spiegel für Verliebte.* | 16 **to be stamp'd:** *geprägt sein.* | **to want s.th.:** here: to lack s.th. | 17 **to strut:** *stolzieren.* | **wanton:** driven by sexual longings. | **to amble:** to walk slowly. | **nymph:** *Nymphe.* | 18 **to be curtail'd of s.th.:** to be short of s.th. | 19 **to dissemble:** to pretend to be what one is not. | 21 **scarce:** not even. | 22 **lamely** (adj.): unable to move. | **unfashionable:** not conforming to current beauty ideals. | 23 **to halt:** here: to move unevenly. | 27 **to descant on s.th.:** to sing a melody above the main tune. | 29 **to entertain s.th.:** here: to spend s.th. pleasantly. | **well-spoken:** able to express o.s. pleasantly. | 30 **villain:** wicked person. | 31 **idle:** meaningless. | 32 **plot:** secret plan to do s.th. wicked. | **induction:** preparation for s.th. | 33 **libel:** *Schmähschrift.*

To set my brother Clarence and the king
In deadly hate the one against the other: 35
And if King Edward be as true and just
As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,
This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up,
About a prophecy, which says, that G
Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be. 40
Dive, thoughts, down to my soul: here Clarence
comes.

Enter Clarence, guarded, and Brakenbury.

Brother, good day: what means this armed guard
That waits upon your Grace?

CLARENCE. His majesty,
Tendering my person's safety, hath appointed
This conduct to convey me to the Tower. 45

GLOUCESTER. Upon what cause?

CLARENCE. Because my name is George.

GLOUCESTER.

Alack! my lord, that fault is none of yours;
He should, for that, commit your godfathers.
Belike his majesty hath some intent
That you should be new-christen'd in the Tower. 50
But what's the matter, Clarence? may I know?

37 **subtle**: cunning. | **treacherous**: not to be trusted. | 38 **to be mew'd up closely**: to be locked into a narrow cell. | 41 **to dive**: here: to hide. |
43 **to wait upon s.o.**: to serve, to accompany s.o. | **your Grace**: *Euer Gnaden*. |
44 **to tender s.th.**: here: to look after s.th. with great care. | 45 **conduct**:
guide. | **to convey**: *befördern*. | 47 **alack**: oh dear. | **fault**: responsibility for
s.th. negative. | 48 **to commit s.o.**: here: to imprison s.o. | **godfather**: *Pate*. |
49 **belike**: perhaps. | **intent**: intention. | 50 **to be new-christen'd**: to be
baptized a second time.

CLARENCE. Yea, Richard, when I know; for I protest
As yet I do not: but, as I can learn,
He hearkens after prophecies and dreams;
And from the cross-row plucks the letter G, 55
And says a wizard told him that by G
His issue disinherited should be;
And, for my name of George begins with G,
It follows in his thought that I am he.
These, as I learn, and such like toys as these, 60
Have mov'd his highness to commit me now.

GLOUCESTER.

Why, this it is, when men are rul'd by women:
'Tis not the king that sends you to the Tower;
↗ My Lady Grey, his wife, Clarence, 'tis she
That tempers him to this extremity. 65
↗ Was it not she and that good man of worship,
Anthony Woodville, her brother there,
That made him send Lord Hastings to the Tower,
From whence this present day he is deliver'd?
We are not safe, Clarence; we are not safe. 70

CLARENCE. By heaven, I think there is no man secure
But the queen's kindred and night-walking heralds
That trudge betwixt the king and Mistress Shore.

52 **to protest**: here: to declare. | 54 **to hearken after s.th.**: to believe s.th. that other people say. | 55 **cross-row**: here: sign of the cross which used to be placed at the beginning of an alphabet. | **to pluck s.th.**: *etwas pflücken*. | 56 **wizard**: magician. | 57 **issue**: *hier: Nachkommen*. | **to disinherit s.o.**: jdn. enterben. | 62 **why**: *hier: nun, ja*. | 65 **to temper s.o.**: jdn. *verleiten*. | **extremity**: extreme measure. | 66 **good man of worship**: polite form of address for high-ranking people who are not aristocrats. | 69 **whence**: from where. | 72 **kindred**: family and relatives. | **herald**: *Herold*. | 73 **to trudge**: to move slowly and heavily. | **betwixt**: between. | **Mistress**: *Mätresse* (here: beloved).

Heard you not what a humble suppliant
Lord Hastings was to her for his delivery? 75
GLOUCESTER. Humbly complaining to her deity
Got my lord chamberlain his liberty.
I'll tell you what; I think it is our way,
If we will keep in favour with the king,
To be her men and wear her livery: 80
The jealous o'er-worn widow and herself,
Since that our brother dubb'd them gentlewomen,
Are mighty gossips in our monarchy.

BRAKENBURY.

Beseech your Graces both to pardon me;
His majesty hath straitly given in charge 85
That no man shall have private conference,
Of what degree soever, with your brother.

GLOUCESTER.

Even so; an't please your worship, Brakenbury,
You may partake of anything we say:
We speak no treason, man: we say the king 90
Is wise and virtuous, and his noble queen
Well struck in years, fair, and not jealous;
We say that Shore's wife hath a pretty foot,

74 **suppliant**: *Bittsteller(in)*. | 75 **delivery**: here: discharge from prison. |
76 **humbly** (adv.): *demütig, unterwürfig*. | **deity**: god or goddess. |
77 **lord chamberlain**: *Lordkämmerer* (chief official of the royal household). |
79 **favour**: *Gunst*. | 80 **livery**: uniform of a servant of a high-ranking person. |
81 **o'er-worn**: used too much. | 82 **to dub s.o. s.th.**: *jdn. zu etwas ernennen*. |
gentlewoman: *Edeldame*. | 83 **gossip**: person telling stories about s.o. else. |
84 **to beseech s.o.**: *jdn. dringend bitten*. | 85 **straitly**: strikt. | **to give in charge**:
einen Auftrag geben. | 86 **conference**: conversation, talk. | 88 **even so**: *und wenn schon*. | **an't**: and if it. | 89 **to partake of s.th.**: here: to hear s.th. |
92 **well struck in years**: no longer young.

A cherry lip, a **bonny** eye, a **passing-pleasing** tongue;
And that the queen's **kin** are made gentlefolks. 95
How say you, sir? can you deny all this?

BRAKENBURY.

With this, my lord, myself have **nought** to do.

GLOUCESTER.

↗ **Naught** to do with Mistress Shore! I tell thee, **fellow**,
He that doth naught with her, **excepting** one,
Were best to do it secretly, alone. 100

BRAKENBURY. What one, my lord?

GLOUCESTER.

↗ Her husband, **knave**. Wouldst thou **betray me**?

BRAKENBURY.

I beseech your Grace to pardon me; and **withal**
Forbear your conference with the noble duke.

CLARENCE.

We know thy charge, Brakenbury, and will obey. 105

↗ GLOUCESTER. We are the queen's **abjects**, and must obey.
Brother, farewell: I will unto the king;
And whatsoe'er you will employ me in,
Were it to call King Edward's widow sister,
I will **perform it** to enfranchise you. 110
Meantime, this deep **disgrace** in brotherhood
Touches me deeper than you can imagine.

94 **bonny**: good-looking. | **passing-pleasing**: extremely pleasing. | 95 **kin**: relatives. | 97 **nought**: nothing. | 98 **naught**: s.th. naughty. | **fellow**: *Kerl.* | 99 **excepting**: except. | 100 **were best to**: would be well advised to. | 102 **knave**: *Schuft.* | **to betray s.o.**: to set a trap for s.o. | 103 **withal**: what is more. | 104 **to forbear**: to stop doing something. | 106 **abject**: wretch. | 109 **were it ...**: even if you asked me ... | 110 **to perform s.th.**: *etwas ausführen.* | **to enfranchise s.o.**: to restore s.o.'s liberty and rights. | 111 **meantime**: *inzwischen.* | **disgrace**: shame or dishonour.

CLARENCE. I know it pleaseth neither of us well.

GLOUCESTER. Well, your **imprisonment** shall not be long;

I will **deliver** you, or else lie for you: 115 ↗

Meantime, have patience.

CLARENCE. I must **perforce**: farewell.

Exeunt Clarence, Brakenbury, and Guard.

GLOUCESTER.

Go, **tread the path** that **thou shalt** ne'er return,

Simple, **plain** Clarence! I do love thee so

That I will shortly send thy soul to heaven,

If heaven will take the present at our hands. 120

But who comes here? the **new-deliver'd** Hastings!

Enter Hastings.

HASTINGS. Good time of day unto my **gracious** lord!

GLOUCESTER. As much unto my good lord chamberlain!

Well are you welcome to this open air.

How hath your **lordship brook'd** imprisonment? 125

HASTINGS. With patience, noble lord, as prisoners must:

But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks

That were the cause of my imprisonment.

GLOUCESTER.

No doubt, no doubt; and so shall Clarence too;

For they that were your enemies are his, 130

And have **prevail'd** as much on him as you.

114 **imprisonment**: *Gefangenschaft*. | 115 **to deliver s.o.**: here: to set s.o. free. |

116 **perforce**: inevitably. | [Regie] **guard**: *Wache*. | 117 **to tread the path**: to walk the way. | **thou**: for addressing people of lower rank or whom you know very well. | **shalt**: shall. | 118 **plain**: *redlich, schlicht*. | 121 **new-deliver'd**:

recently discharged. | 122 **gracious**: *gnädig* (here: used in addressing superi-

ors). | 125 **lordship**: *Lordschaft*. | **to brook s.th.**: here: to put up with s.th. |

131 **to prevail**: to gain the upper hand.