

Shakespeare | King Richard III

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William Shakespeare

King Richard III

Herausgegeben von Herbert Geisen

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Der ↗ verweist auf die Annotations S. 187 ff.

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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:** *Nymfhe.* | 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 whatso'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.

HASTINGS. More pity that the eagles should be mew'd,
While kites and buzzards prey at liberty.

GLOUCESTER. What news abroad?

HASTINGS. No news so bad abroad as this at home; 135
The king is sickly, weak, and melancholy,
And his physicians fear him mightily.

GLOUCESTER. Now by Saint Paul, this news is bad indeed.
O! he hath kept an evil diet long.
And over-much consum'd his royal person: 140
'Tis very grievous to be thought upon.
What, is he in his bed?

HASTINGS. He is.

GLOUCESTER. Go you before, and I will follow you.

Exit Hastings.

He cannot live, I hope; and must not die
Till George be pack'd with post-horse up to heaven.
I'll in, to urge his hatred more to Clarence, 146
With lies well steel'd with weighty arguments;
And, if I fail not in my deep intent,
Clarence hath not another day to live:
Which done, God take King Edward to his mercy, 150
And leave the world for me to bustle in!
For then I'll marry Warwick's youngest daughter.

133 **kite:** hier: Geier. | **buzzard:** Bussard. | **to prey:** to catch and kill for food. |
134 **abroad:** here: in the country. | 136 **sickly:** weak and often ill. | 137 **physi-**
cian: Arzt. | **to fear s.o.:** hier: sich sorgen um jdn. | **mightily:** very much. |
140 **over-much:** excessively. | **to consume s.o.:** to make s.o. weak and ill. |
141 **grievous:** very worrying. | 143 **to go before:** here: to go ahead. | 145 **to be**
pack'd: verfrachtet werden. | **with post-horse:** per Eilpost. | 146 **to urge s.th.:**
hier: etwas schüren. | 147 **to steel s.o.:** to make s.o. as strong as steel. | **weighty:**
gewichtig. | 148 **deep:** hier: finster. | 150 **which done:** when that has been
done. | **mercy:** Gnade. | 151 **to bustle:** geschäftig sein, herumwuseln.

What though I kill'd her husband and her father,
The readiest way to make the wench amends
Is to become her husband and her father: 155 ↗
The which will I; not all so much for love
As for another secret close intent, ↗
By marrying her, which I must reach unto.
But yet I run before my horse to market: ↗
Clarence still breathes; Edward still lives and reigns:
When they are gone, then must I count my gains. 161
Exit.

Scene 2

London. Another Street.

Enter the corpse of King Henry the Sixth, borne in an open coffin; Gentlemen bearing halberds to guard it; and Lady Anne, as mourner.

ANNE. Set down, set down your honourable load,
If honour may be shrouded in a hearse,
Whilst I awhile obsequiously lament
The untimely fall of virtuous Lancaster. ↗

154 **wench**: young girl. | **to make s.o. amends**: *jdm. Wiedergutmachung leisten*. | 157 **close**: secret. | 158 **to reach unto s.th.**: to achieve s.th. | 161 **to count one's gains**: *ihren/seinen Gewinn zählen*. | [Regie] **to exit**: to leave the stage.

[Regie] **corpse, corpse**: body of a dead person. | **coffin**: *Sarg*. | **halberd**: medieval weapon. | **mourner**: *Trauernde*. | 1 **honourable**: *ehrenwert*. | 2 **shrouded**: *mit einem Leichentuch umhüllt*. | **hearse**: vehicle to transport a coffin. | 3 **obsequiously**: *unterwürfig*. | **to lament**: to express deep sorrow. | 4 **untimely**: *unzeitig*.

Poor key-cold figure of a holy king! 5
 Pale ashes of the house of Lancaster!
 Thou bloodless remnant of that royal blood!
 Be it lawful that I invoke thy ghost,
 To hear the lamentations of poor Anne,
 Wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughter'd son, 10
Stabb'd by the selfsame hand that made these
 wounds!
 Lo, in these windows that let forth thy life,
 I pour the helpless balm of my poor eyes.
 O! cursed be the hand that made these holes;
 Cursed the heart that had the heart to do it! 15
 Cursed the blood that let this blood from hence!
 More direful hap betide that hated wretch,
 That makes us wretched by the death of thee,
 Than I can wish to adders, spiders, toads,
 Or any creeping venom'd thing that lives! 20
 If ever he have child, abortive be it,
Prodigious, and untimely brought to light,
 Whose ugly and unnatural aspect
 May fright the hopeful mother at the view;
 And that be heir to his unhappiness! 25
 If ever he have wife, let her be made

5 **key-cold**: a term often used for dead bodies in the Elizabethan era. |
 7 **remnant**: what is left of s.th. | 8 **to invoke (a ghost)**: (*einen Geist*) anrufen. |
 10 **slaughter'd**: *geschlachtet*. | 11 **to stab s.o.**: to kill s.o. with a knife. | **self-**
same: *eben der/die/das*. | 12 **lo!**: look! | **to let forth**: to allow to escape. |
 13 **helpless**: here: useless. | **balm**: oily liquid for healing purposes. | 16 **hence**:
 from here. | 17 **direful**: *schrecklich*. | **hap**: fate. | **to betide s.o.**: to happen to
 s.o. | **wretch**: *Elende(r)*. | 19 **adder**: *Natter*. | **toad**: *Kröte*. | 21 **abortive**: here:
 with a misshapen body. | 22 **prodigious**: *Unheil verkündend*. | 23 **aspect**:
 appearance, looks.

More miserable by the death of him
Than I am made by my young lord and thee!
Come, now towards Chertsey with your holy load, ↗
Taken from Paul's to be interred there; 30
And still, as you are weary of the weight,
Rest you, whiles I lament King Henry's corse.
The Bearers take up the corpse and advance.
Enter Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER.

Stay, you that bear the corse, and set it down.

ANNE. What black magician conjures up this fiend, ↗
To stop devoted charitable deeds? 35

GLOUCESTER.

Villains! set down the corse; or, by Saint Paul,
I'll make a corse of him that disobeys.

FIRST GENTLEMAN.

My lord, stand back, and let the coffin pass.

GLOUCESTER.

Unmanner'd dog! stand thou when I command:
Advance thy halberd higher than my breast, 40
Or, by Saint Paul, I'll strike thee to my foot,
And spurn upon thee, beggar, for thy boldness.
The Bearers set down the coffin.

ANNE. What! do you tremble? are you all afraid?

Alas! I blame you not; for you are mortal,

30 **to inter s.o.:** to bury s.o. | 31 **wear**y: tired. | 34 **to conjure up s.th.:** *etwas herbeizaubern.* | **fiend:** devil. | 35 **devoted:** *hingebungsvoll.* | **charitable:** kind. | **deed:** action. | 37 **to disobey:** not to do what you are told. | 39 **unmanner'd:** *ungehobelt, grob.* | 40 **to advance s.th.:** here: to lift s.th. | 42 **to spurn:** here: to kick. | **boldness:** complete lack of respect. | 44 **alas:** *o weh.* | **mortal:** *sterblich.*

And mortal eyes cannot endure the devil. 45
Avaunt! thou dreadful minister of hell,
 Thou hadst but power over his mortal body,
 His soul thou canst not have: therefore, be gone.
 GLOUCESTER. Sweet saint, for charity, be not so curst.
 ANNE. Foul devil, for God's sake hence, and trouble us not;
 For thou hast made the happy earth thy hell, 51
 Fill'd it with cursing cries and deep exclaims.
 If thou delight to view thy heinous deeds,
Behold this pattern of thy butcheries.
 O! gentlemen; see, see! dead Henry's wounds 55
 Open their congeal'd mouths and bleed afresh.
Blush, blush, thou lump of foul deformity,
 For 'tis thy presence that exhales this blood
 From cold and empty veins, where no blood dwells:
 Thy deed, inhuman and unnatural, 60
Provokes this deluge most unnatural.
 O God! which this blood mad'st, revenge his death;
 O earth! which this blood drink'st, revenge his death;
 Either heaven with lightning strike the murderer dead,
 Or earth, gape open wide, and eat him quick, 65

45 **to endure s.th.:** to put up with s.th. | 46 **avaunt!:** go away! | **minister:** here: servant. | 47 **but:** here: only. | 49 **saint:** here: extremely kind person. | **to be curst:** *boshaft sein*. | 50 **foul:** disgusting. | **for God's sake:** *um Gottes willen*. | 52 **cursing:** *fluchend, Fluch-*. | **exclaim:** *Jammerruf*. | 53 **heinous:** disgusting. | 54 **to behold s.o.:** *jdn. ansehen, betrachten*. | **butchery:** *Schlachtereier, Abschlachten*. | 56 **congeal'd:** *eingedickt*. | **afresh:** again. | 57 **to blush:** to turn red in the face. | **lump:** *Klumpen*. | **deformity:** *Missgestalt*. | 58 **presence:** *Gegenwart, Anwesenheit*. | **to exhale:** here: to make s.th. flow out. | 59 **vein:** blood vessel transporting blood to the heart. | **to dwell:** here: to be found. | 61 **to provoke:** here: to make appear. | **deluge:** *Sintflut, Flut*. | 62 **to revenge s.o./o.s.:** *jdn./sich rächen*. | 65 **to gape open:** *aufklaffen*. | **quick:** alive.

As thou dost swallow up this good king's blood,
Which his hell-govern'd arm hath butchered!

GLOUCESTER. Lady, you know no rules of charity,
Which renders good for bad, blessings for curses.

ANNE. Villain, thou know'st no law of God nor man: 70
No beast so fierce but knows some touch of pity.

GLOUCESTER.

But I know none, and therefore am no beast.

ANNE. O! wonderful, when devils tell the truth.

GLOUCESTER.

More wonderful when angels are so angry.
Vouchsafe, divine perfection of a woman, 75
Of these supposed evils, to give me leave,
By circumstance, but to acquit myself.

ANNE. Vouchsafe, diffus'd infection of a man,
For these known evils, but to give me leave,
By circumstance, to curse thy cursed self. 80

GLOUCESTER.

Fairer than tongue can name thee, let me have
Some patient leisure to excuse myself.

ANNE. Fouler than heart can think thee, thou canst make
No excuse current, but to hang thyself.

GLOUCESTER. By such despair I should accuse myself. 85

66 **to swallow s.th.:** *etwas verschlingen*. | 67 **hell-govern'd:** *von der Hölle geführt*. | 69 **to render s.th.:** here: to return s.th. | **blessing:** *Segen*. | 71 **beast:** animal. | **fierce:** aggressive. | **but:** here: that it does not. | 75 **to vouchsafe to do s.th.:** to be so good as to do s.th. | **divine:** *göttlich*. | 76 **supposed:** *vermeintlich*. | **to give s.o. leave to do s.th.:** to permit s.o. to do s.th. | 77 **circumstance:** detail. | **to acquit o.s.:** *sich freisprechen*. | 78 **diffus'd:** widespread. | **infection:** *Seuche*. | 82 **to excuse:** here: to prove one's innocence. | 84 **current:** valid. | 85 **despair:** *Verzweiflung*.

ANNE. And by despairing shouldst thou stand excus'd
For doing worthy vengeance on thyself.
Which didst unworthy slaughter upon others.

GLOUCESTER. Say that I slew them not.

ANNE. Then say they were not slain:
But dead they are, and, devilish slave, by thee. 90

GLOUCESTER. I did not kill your husband.

ANNE. Why, then he is alive.

GLOUCESTER.

Nay, he is dead; and slain by Edward's hand.

ANNE. In thy foul throat thou liest: Queen Margaret saw
Thy murderous falchion smoking in his blood;
The which thou once didst bend against her breast, 95
But that thy brothers beat aside the point.

GLOUCESTER. I was provoked by her slanderous tongue,
That laid their guilt upon my guiltless shoulders.

ANNE. Thou was provoked by thy bloody mind,
That never dreamt on ought but butcheries. 100
Didst thou not kill this king?

GLOUCESTER. I grant ye.

ANNE. Dost grant me, hedgehog? Then, God grant me too
Thou mayst be damned for that wicked deed!
O! he was gentle, mild, and virtuous. 105

GLOUCESTER.

The fitter for the King of heaven, that hath him.

86 **to stand excus'd**: to be regarded as innocent. | 87 **worthy**: here: appropriate. | **vengeance**: *Rache, Vergeltung*. | 89 **to slay, slew, slain**: *erschlagen, töten*. | 94 **falchion**: curved medieval sword. | 96 **but that**: if not. | 97 **slanderous**: spreading lies. | 99 **bloody**: keen on shedding blood. | 100 **ought**: anything. | 102 **to grant**: *gestehen, zugeben*. | 103 **hedgehog**: *Igel*; used to describe a reckless person until well into the 17th century.

ANNE. He is in heaven, where thou shalt never come.

GLOUCESTER.

Let him thank me, that help'd to send him thither;
For he was fitter for that place than earth.

ANNE. And thou unfit for any place but hell.

110

GLOUCESTER.

Yes, one place else, if you will hear me name it.

ANNE. Some dungeon.

GLOUCESTER. Your bed-chamber.

ANNE. Ill rest betide the chamber where thou liest!

GLOUCESTER. So will it, madam, till I lie with you.

ANNE. I hope so.

GLOUCESTER. I know so. But, gentle Lady Anne,

115

To leave this keen encounter of our wits,
And fall somewhat into a slower method,
Is not the causer of the timeless deaths
Of these Plantagenets, Henry and Edward,
As blameful as the executioner?

120

ANNE. Thou wast the cause, and most accurs'd effect.

GLOUCESTER. Your beauty was the cause of that effect;

Your beauty, that did haunt me in my sleep
To undertake the death of all the world,
So might I live one hour in your sweet bosom.

125

ANNE. If I thought that, I tell thee, homicide,

These nails should rend that beauty from my cheeks.

108 **thither**: there, to that place. | 112 **dungeon**: underground prison in a castle. | 116 **keen encounter**: *scharfes Duell*. | **wit**: intelligence. | 118 **causer**: *Verursacher(in)*. | **timeless**: too early. | 120 **blameful**: guilty. | **executioner**: *Henker*. | 121 **accurs'd**: damned. | 123 **to haunt s.o.**: *jdn. (seelisch) quälen*. | 124 **to undertake s.th.**: to make it one's job to do s.th. | 126 **homicide**: murderer. | 127 **to rend s.th.**: *etwas abreißen*.

GLOUCESTER.

These eyes could not endure that beauty's wrack;
You should not blemish it if I stood by:
As all the world is cheered by the sun, 130
So I by that; it is my day, my life.

ANNE. Black night o'ershade thy day, and death thy life!

GLOUCESTER.

Curse not thyself, fair creature; thou art both.

ANNE. I would I were, to be reveng'd on thee.

GLOUCESTER. It is a quarrel most unnatural, 135
To be reveng'd on him that loveth thee.

ANNE. It is a quarrel just and reasonable,

To be reveng'd on him that kill'd my husband.

GLOUCESTER. He that bereft thee, lady, of thy husband,
Did it to help thee to a better husband. 140

ANNE. His better doth not breathe upon the earth.

GLOUCESTER. He lives that loves thee better than he could.

ANNE. Name him.

GLOUCESTER. Plantagenet.

↗ ANNE. Why, that was he.

GLOUCESTER.

The selfsame name, but one of better nature.

ANNE. Where is he?

GLOUCESTER. Here. [*She spitteth at him.*] Why dost
thou spit at me? 145

ANNE. Would it were mortal poison, for thy sake!

128 **wrack:** *Ruin, Wrack.* | 129 **to blemish s.th.:** to make s.th. dirty. |
130 **to cheer s.o.:** to make s.o. cheerful. | 132 **to o'ershade s.th.:** to darken
s.th. | 135 **quarrel:** here: matter. | 139 **to bereave, bereft, bereft:** to take away
by force. | 145 **to spit:** *spucken.* | 146 **mortal:** *tödlich.* | **for thy sake:** here: so
that you may die.

GLOUCESTER. Never came poison from so sweet a place.

ANNE. Never hung poison on a fouler toad.

Out of my sight! thou dost infect mine eyes.

GLOUCESTER. Thine eyes, sweet lady, have infected mine.

ANNE. Would they were basilisks, to strike thee dead! 151 ↗

GLOUCESTER. I would they were, that I might die at once;

For now they kill me with a living death.

Those eyes of thine from mine have drawn salt tears,
Sham'd their aspects with store of childish drops; 155

These eyes, which never shed remorseful tear;

No, when my father York and Edward wept

To hear the piteous moan that Rutland made

When black-fac'd Clifford shook his sword at him; ↗

Nor when thy warlike father like a child, 160

Told the sad story of my father's death,

And twenty times made pause to sob and weep,

That all the standers-by had wet their cheeks,

Like trees bedash'd with rain: in that sad time

My manly eyes did scorn an humble tear; 165

And what these sorrows could not thence exhale,

Thy beauty hath, and made them blind with weeping.

I never sued to friend nor enemy;

My tongue could never learn sweet smoothing words;

But, now thy beauty is propos'd my fee, 170

150 **to infect:** here: to poison. | 155 **aspect:** appearance, looks. | **store:** here: large amount. | 156 **to shed, shed, shed:** *vergießen*. | **remorseful:** *mitleidig*. | 158 **piteous:** causing pity. | **moan:** *Stöhnen*. | 159 **black-fac'd:** gloomy. | 162 **to sob:** *schluchzen*. | 163 **standers-by:** people standing near. | 164 **bedash'd:** sprinkled. | 165 **to scorn s.o.:** to hold s.o. in low esteem. | 168 **to sue to s.o.:** to ask s.o. for s.th. | 169 **smoothing:** *einschmeichelnd*. | 170 **to propose s.th.:** *etwas (als Preis) aussetzen*. | **fee:** here: reward, compensation.

My proud heart sues, and prompts my tongue to
speak.

She looks scornfully at him.

Teach not thy lip such scorn, for it was made
For kissing, lady, not for such contempt.

If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive,

Lo! here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword; 175

Which if thou please to hide in this true breast,

And let the soul forth that adoreth thee,

I lay it open to the deadly stroke,

And humbly beg the death upon my knee.

He lays his breast open: she offers at it with his sword.

Nay, do not pause; for I did kill King Henry; 180

But 'twas thy beauty that provoked me.

Nay, now dispatch; 'twas I that stabb'd young

Edward;

She again offers at his breast.

But 'twas thy heavenly face that set me on.

She lets fall the sword.

Take up the sword again, or take up me.

ANNE. Arise, dissembler: though I wish thy death, 185

I will not be thy executioner.

GLOUCESTER. Then bid me kill myself, and I will do it.

ANNE. I have already.

171 **to sue**: *hier: bitten, werben (um jdn.)*. | **to prompt s.o.**: to help s.o. remember their text during a performance. | [Regie] **scornfully**: without any respect. |

173 **contempt**: *Verachtung*. | 174 **revengeful**: *rachsüchtig*. | 175 **sharp-pointed**: with a thin and sharp end. | 177 **to adore s.o.**: *jdn. anbeten*. | 178 **to lay s.th. open**: *etwas entblößen*. | [Regie] **to offer at s.th.**: to point at s.th. |

180 **nay**: no. | 182 **to dispatch**: to hurry up; to finish s.th. quickly, here: to kill s.o. | 185 **to arise**: to stand up. | 187 **to bid**: to command.

GLOUCESTER. That was in thy rage:
Speak it again, and, even with the word,
This hand, which for thy love did kill thy love, 190
Shall, for thy love, kill a far truer love:
To both their deaths shalt thou be accessory.

ANNE. I would I knew thy heart.

GLOUCESTER. 'Tis figur'd in my tongue.

ANNE. I fear me both are false. 195

GLOUCESTER. Then never man was true.

ANNE. Well, well, put up your sword.

GLOUCESTER. Say, then, my peace is made.

ANNE. That shalt thou know hereafter.

GLOUCESTER. But shall I live in hope? 200

ANNE. All men, I hope, live so.

GLOUCESTER. Vouchsafe to wear this ring.

ANNE. To take is not to give.

She puts on the ring.

GLOUCESTER.

Look how my ring encompasseth thy finger,
Even so thy breast encloseth my poor heart; 205
Wear both of them, for both of them are thine.
And if thy poor devoted servant may
But beg one favour at thy gracious hand,
Thou dost confirm his happiness for ever.

ANNE. What is it? 210

GLOUCESTER.

That it may please you leave these sad designs

192 **to be accessory:** *mit schuld sein.* | 194 **to be figur'd:** *abgebildet sein.* |
197 **to put up:** here: to put back. | 199 **hereafter:** later. | 204 **to encompass:**
to surround completely. | 208 **gracious:** *gnädig.* | 209 **to confirm:** *bestätigen.* |
211 **design:** plan.