

RICHARD & LADY ANNE : SCENE 1

LADY ANNE

What black magician conjures up this fiend, To stop devoted charitable deeds?

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

Sweet saint, for charity, be not so curst.

LADY ANNE

Foul devil, for God's sake, hence, and trouble us not; For thou hast made the happy earth thy hell, O, see, see! dead Henry's wounds 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; O God, which this blood madest, 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.

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

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

LADY ANNE

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

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

But I know none, and therefore am no beast.

LADY ANNE

O wonderful, when devils tell the truth!

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

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

LADY ANNE

Vouchsafe, defused infection of a man,
For these known evils, but to give me leave,
By circumstance, to curse thy cursed self.

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

Fairer than tongue can name thee, let me have Some patient leisure
to excuse myself. I did not kill your husband

LADY ANNE

In thy foul throat thou liest: Queen Margaret saw Thy murderous
falchion smoking in his blood

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

I was provoked by her slanderous tongue,
which laid their guilt upon my guiltless shoulders. **LADY ANNE**

Thou wast provoked by thy bloody mind.

Which never dreamt on aught but butcheries: Didst thou not kill
this king?

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

I grant ye.

LADY 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!

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

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

LADY ANNE

He is in heaven, where thou shalt never come

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

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

LADY ANNE

And thou unfit for any place but hell

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER)

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

LADY ANNE

Some dungeon.

RICHARD (Duke of GLOUCESTER) Your bed-chamber.