

Tucholsky Wagner Zola Scott  
Turgenev Wallage Fonatne Sydon Freud Schlegel  
Twain Walther von der Vogelweide Fouqué Friedrich II. von Preußen  
Weber Freiligrath Frey  
Fechner Fichte Weiße Rose von Fallersleben Kant Ernst Richthofen Frommel  
Engels Fielding Hölderlin Eichendorff Tacitus Dumas  
Fehrs Faber Flaubert Eliasberg Eliot Zweig Ebner Eschenbach  
Feuerbach Maximilian I. von Habsburg Fock Ewald Vergil  
Goethe Elisabeth von Österreich London  
Mendelssohn Balzac Shakespeare Rathenau Dostojewski Ganghofer  
Trackl Stevenson Lichtenberg Doyle Gjellerup  
Mommssen Thoma Tolstoi Lenz Hambruch Droste-Hülshoff  
Dach Thoma von Arnim Hägele Hanrieder Hauptmann Humboldt  
Karrillon Reuter Verne Rousseau Hagen Hauff Baudelaire Gautier  
Garschin Defoe Hebbel Hegel Kussmaul Herder  
Damaschke Descartes Schopenhauer Bebel Proust  
Wolfram von Eschenbach Darwin Dickens Grimm Jerome Rilke George  
Bronner Campe Horváth Aristoteles Voltaire Federer Herodot  
Bismarck Vigny Gengenbach Barlach Heine Grillparzer Georgy  
Storm Casanova Lessing Tersteegen Gilm Gryphius  
Chamberlain Langbein Schiller Iffland Sokrates  
Brentano Claudius Schilling Kralik Katharina II. von Rußland Bellamy Raabe Gibbon Tschchow  
Gerstäcker Vulpius  
Löns Hesse Hoffmann Gogol Wilde Gleim  
Luther Heym Hofmannsthal Klee Hölty Morgenstern Goedicke  
Roth Heyse Klopstock Puschkin Homer Kleist  
Luxemburg La Roche Horaz Mörike Musil  
Machiavelli Kierkegaard Kraft Kraus  
Navarra Aurel Musset Lamprecht Kind Kirchhoff Hugo Moltke  
Nestroy Marie de France Laotse Ipsen Liebknecht  
Nietzsche Nansen Lassalle Gorki Klett Leibniz Ringelntz  
von Ossietzky Marx vom Stein Lawrence Irving  
Petalozzi Platon Pückler Michelangelo Knigge Kock Kafka  
Sachs Poe Liebermann Koroienko  
de Sade Praetorius Mistral Zetkin



---

The publishing house **tredition** has created the series **TREDITION CLASSICS**. It contains classical literature works from over two thousand years. Most of these titles have been out of print and off the bookstore shelves for decades.

The book series is intended to preserve the cultural legacy and to promote the timeless works of classical literature. As a reader of a **TREDITION CLASSICS** book, the reader supports the mission to save many of the amazing works of world literature from oblivion.

The symbol of **TREDITION CLASSICS** is Johannes Gutenberg (1400 – 1468), the inventor of movable type printing.

With the series, **tredition** intends to make thousands of international literature classics available in printed format again – worldwide.

All books are available at book retailers worldwide in paperback and in hardcover. For more information please visit: [www.tredition.com](http://www.tredition.com)



**tredition** was established in 2006 by Sandra Latusseck and Soenke Schulz. Based in Hamburg, Germany, **tredition** offers publishing solutions to authors and publishing houses, combined with worldwide distribution of printed and digital book content. **tredition** is uniquely positioned to enable authors and publishing houses to create books on their own terms and without conventional manufacturing risks.

For more information please visit: [www.tredition.com](http://www.tredition.com)

# King Richard II

William Shakespeare

## Imprint

This book is part of the TREDITION CLASSICS series.

Author: William Shakespeare

Cover design: toepferschumann, Berlin (Germany)

Publisher: tredition GmbH, Hamburg (Germany)

ISBN: 978-3-8491-6793-6

[www.tredition.com](http://www.tredition.com)

[www.tredition.de](http://www.tredition.de)

Copyright:

The content of this book is sourced from the public domain.

The intention of the TREDITION CLASSICS series is to make world literature in the public domain available in printed format. Literary enthusiasts and organizations worldwide have scanned and digitally edited the original texts. tredition has subsequently formatted and redesigned the content into a modern reading layout. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the exact reproduction of the original format of a particular historic edition. Please also note that no modifications have been made to the spelling, therefore it may differ from the orthography used today.

This Etext file is presented by Project Gutenberg, in cooperation with World Library, Inc., from their Library of the Future and Shakespeare CDROMS. Project Gutenberg often releases Etexts that are NOT placed in the Public Domain!!

\*This Etext has certain copyright implications you should read!\*

<<THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE IS COPYRIGHT 1990-1993 BY WORLD LIBRARY, INC., AND IS PROVIDED BY PROJECT GUTENBERG WITH PERMISSION. ELECTRONIC AND MACHINE READABLE COPIES MAY BE DISTRIBUTED SO LONG AS SUCH COPIES (1) ARE FOR YOUR OR OTHERS PERSONAL USE ONLY, AND (2) ARE NOT DISTRIBUTED OR USED COMMERCIALY. PROHIBITED COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION INCLUDES BY ANY SERVICE THAT CHARGES FOR DOWNLOAD TIME OR FOR MEMBERSHIP.>>

\*Project Gutenberg is proud to cooperate with The World Library\* in the presentation of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare for your reading for education and entertainment. HOWEVER, THIS IS NEITHER SHAREWARE NOR PUBLIC DOMAIN. . .AND UNDER THE LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE CONDITIONS OF THIS PRESENTATION. . .NO CHARGES MAY BE MADE FOR \*ANY\* ACCESS TO THIS MATERIAL. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED!! TO GIVE IT AWAY TO ANYONE YOU LIKE, BUT NO CHARGES ARE ALLOWED!!

\*\*Welcome To The World of Free Plain Vanilla Electronic Texts\*\*

\*\*Etexts Readable By Both Humans and By Computers, Since 1971\*\*

\*These Etexts Prepared By Hundreds of Volunteers and Donations\*

Information on contacting Project Gutenberg to get Etexts, and further information is included below. We need your donations.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare  
King Richard the Second

November, 1997 [Etext #1111]

The Library of the Future Complete Works of William Shakespeare  
Library of the Future is a TradeMark (TM) of World Library Inc.  
\*\*\*\*\*This file should be named 1ws1510.txt or 1ws1510.zip\*\*\*\*\*

Corrected EDITIONS of our etexts get a new NUMBER, 1ws1511.txt  
VERSIONS based on separate sources get new NUMBER,  
2ws1510.txt

The official release date of all Project Gutenberg Etexts is at Midnight, Central Time, of the last day of the stated month. A preliminary version may often be posted for suggestion, comment and editing by those who wish to do so. To be sure you have an up to date first edition [xxxxx10x.xxx] please check file sizes in the first week of the next month.

Information about Project Gutenberg (one page)

We produce about two million dollars for each hour we work. The fifty hours is one conservative estimate for how long it we take to get any etext selected, entered, proofread, edited, copyright searched and analyzed, the copyright letters written, etc. This projected audience is one hundred million readers. If our value per text is nominally estimated at one dollar, then we produce 2 million dol-

lars per hour this year we, will have to do four text files per month: thus upping our productivity from one million. The Goal of Project Gutenberg is to Give Away One Trillion Etext Files by the December 31, 2001. [10,000 x 100,000,000=Trillion] This is ten thousand titles each to one hundred million readers, which is 10% of the expected number of computer users by the end of the year 2001.

We need your donations more than ever!

All donations should be made to "Project Gutenberg/CMU", and are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law ("CMU" is Carnegie Mellon University).

Please mail to:

Project Gutenberg  
P. O. Box 2782  
Champaign, IL 61825

You can visit our web site at [promo.net](http://promo.net) for complete information about Project Gutenberg.

When all other else fails try our Executive Director: [dir-comp@pobox.com](mailto:dir-comp@pobox.com) or [hart@pobox.com](mailto:hart@pobox.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*Information prepared by the Project Gutenberg legal advisor\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* SMALL PRINT! for COMPLETE SHAKESPEARE \*\*\*\*\*

**THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE IS COPYRIGHT 1990-1993 BY WORLD LIBRARY, INC., AND IS PROVIDED BY PROJECT GUTENBERG ETEXT OF CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WITH PERMISSION.**

Since unlike many other Project Gutenberg-tm etexts, this etext is copyright protected, and since the materials and methods you use will effect the Project's reputation, your right to copy and distribute it is limited by the copyright and other laws, and by the conditions of this "Small Print!" statement.

## 1. LICENSE

**A) YOU MAY (AND ARE ENCOURAGED) TO DISTRIBUTE ELECTRONIC AND MACHINE READABLE COPIES OF THIS ETEXT, SO LONG AS SUCH COPIES (1) ARE FOR YOUR OR OTHERS PERSONAL USE ONLY, AND (2) ARE NOT DISTRIBUTED OR USED COMMERCIALY. PROHIBITED COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION INCLUDES BY ANY SERVICE THAT CHARGES FOR DOWNLOAD TIME OR FOR MEMBERSHIP.**

B) This license is subject to the conditions that you honor the refund and replacement provisions of this "small print!" statement; and that you distribute exact copies of this etext, including this Small Print statement. Such copies can be compressed or any proprietary form (including any form resulting from word processing or hypertext software), so long as \*EITHER\*:

(1) The etext, when displayed, is clearly readable, and does \*not\* contain characters other than those intended by the author of the work, although tilde (~), asterisk (\*) and underline (\_) characters may be used to convey punctuation intended by the author, and additional characters may be used to indicate hypertext links; OR

(2) The etext is readily convertible by the reader at no expense into plain ASCII, EBCDIC or equivalent form by the program that displays the etext (as is the case, for instance, with most word processors); OR

(3) You provide or agree to provide on request at no additional cost, fee or expense, a copy of the etext in plain ASCII.

## 2. LIMITED WARRANTY; DISCLAIMER OF DAMAGES

This etext may contain a "Defect" in the form of incomplete, inaccurate or corrupt data, transcription errors, a copyright or other infringement, a defective or damaged disk, computer virus, or codes that damage or cannot be read by your equipment. But for the "Right of Replacement or Refund" described below, the Project (and

any other party you may receive this etext from as a PROJECT GUTENBERG-tm etext) disclaims all liability to you for damages, costs and expenses, including legal fees, and YOU HAVE NO REMEDIES FOR NEGLIGENCE OR UNDER STRICT LIABILITY, OR FOR BREACH OF WARRANTY OR CONTRACT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL, PUNITIVE OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES, EVEN IF YOU GIVE NOTICE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

If you discover a Defect in this etext within 90 days of receiving it, you can receive a refund of the money (if any) you paid for it by sending an explanatory note within that time to the person you received it from. If you received it on a physical medium, you must return it with your note, and such person may choose to alternatively give you a replacement copy. If you received it electronically, such person may choose to alternatively give you a second opportunity to receive it electronically.

THIS ETEXT IS OTHERWISE PROVIDED TO YOU "AS-IS". NO OTHER WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, ARE MADE TO YOU AS TO THE ETEXT OR ANY MEDIUM IT MAY BE ON, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Some states do not allow disclaimers of implied warranties or the exclusion or limitation of consequential damages, so the above disclaimers and exclusions may not apply to you, and you may have other legal rights.

3. INDEMNITY: You will indemnify and hold the Project, its directors, officers, members and agents harmless from all liability, cost and expense, including legal fees, that arise directly or indirectly from any of the following that you do or cause: [A] distribution of this etext, [B] alteration, modification, or addition to the etext, or [C] any Defect.

4. WHAT IF YOU \*WANT\* TO SEND MONEY EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO? Project Gutenberg is dedicated to increasing the number of public domain and licensed works that can be freely distributed in machine readable form. The Project gratefully accepts contributions in money, time, scanning machines, OCR software, public domain etexts, royalty free copyright licenses, and whatever

else you can think of. Money should be paid to "Project Gutenberg Association / Carnegie Mellon University".

WRITE TO US! We can be reached at:

Internet: hart@pobox.com

Mail: Prof. Michael Hart

O. Box 2782

hampaign, IL 61825

This "Small Print!" by Charles B. Kramer, Attorney

Internet (72600.2026@compuserve.com); TEL: (212-254-5093)

\*\*\*\* SMALL PRINT! FOR \_ COMPLETE SHAKESPEARE \*\*\*\*

["Small Print" V.12.08.93]

<<THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE COMPLETE WORKS OF  
WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE IS COPYRIGHT 1990-1993 BY WORLD LIBRARY,  
INC., AND IS  
PROVIDED BY PROJECT GUTENBERG ETEXT OF CARNEGIE  
MELLON UNIVERSITY  
WITH PERMISSION. ELECTRONIC AND MACHINE READABLE  
COPIES MAY BE  
DISTRIBUTED SO LONG AS SUCH COPIES (1) ARE FOR YOUR  
OR OTHERS  
PERSONAL USE ONLY, AND (2) ARE NOT DISTRIBUTED OR  
USED  
COMMERCIALLY. PROHIBITED COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION  
INCLUDES BY ANY  
SERVICE THAT CHARGES FOR DOWNLOAD TIME OR FOR  
MEMBERSHIP.>>

# KING RICHARD THE SECOND

by William Shakespeare

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

- 𠂆 KING RICHARD THE SECOND
- 𠂆 JOHN OF GAUNT, Duke of Lancaster - uncle to the King
- 𠂆 EDMUND LANGLEY, Duke of York - uncle to the King
- 𠂆 HENRY, surnamed BOLINGBROKE, Duke of Hereford, son of
- 𠂆 John of Gaunt, afterwards King Henry IV
- 𠂆 DUKE OF AUMERLE, son of the Duke of York
- 𠂆 THOMAS MOWBRAY, Duke of Norfolk
- 𠂆 DUKE OF SURREY
- 𠂆 EARL OF SALISBURY
- 𠂆 EARL BERKELEY
- 𠂆 BUSHY - favourites of King Richard
- 𠂆 BAGOT - " " " "
- 𠂆 GREEN - " " " "
- 𠂆 EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND
- 𠂆 HENRY PERCY, surnamed HOTSPUR, his son
- 𠂆 LORD Ross LORD WILLOUGHBY
- 𠂆 LORD FITZWATER BISHOP OF CARLISLE
- 𠂆 ABBOT OF WESTMINSTER LORD MARSHAL
- 𠂆 SIR STEPHEN SCROOP SIR PIERCE OF EXTON
- 𠂆 CAPTAIN of a band of Welshmen TWO GARDENERS
  
- 𠂆 QUEEN to King Richard
- 𠂆 DUCHESS OF YORK
- 𠂆 DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER, widow of Thomas of Woodstock,
- 𠂆 Duke of Gloucester
- 𠂆 LADY attending on the Queen
  
- 𠂆 Lords, Heralds, Officers, Soldiers, Keeper, Messenger,
- 𠂆 Groom, and other Attendants

<<THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE IS COPYRIGHT 1990-1993 BY WORLD LIBRARY, INC., AND IS PROVIDED BY PROJECT GUTENBERG ETEXT OF CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WITH PERMISSION. ELECTRONIC AND MACHINE READABLE COPIES MAY BE DISTRIBUTED SO LONG AS SUCH COPIES (1) ARE FOR YOUR OR OTHERS PERSONAL USE ONLY, AND (2) ARE NOT DISTRIBUTED OR USED COMMERCIALY. PROHIBITED COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION INCLUDES BY ANY SERVICE THAT CHARGES FOR DOWNLOAD TIME OR FOR MEMBERSHIP.>>

## **SCENE: England and Wales**

### **ACT I. SCENE I. London. The palace**

Enter RICHARD, JOHN OF GAUNT, with other NOBLES and attendants

      KING RICHARD. Old John of Gaunt, time-honoured Lancaster,  
      Hast thou, according to thy oath and band,  
      Brought hither Henry Hereford, thy bold son,  
      Here to make good the boist'rous late appeal,  
      Which then our leisure would not let us hear,  
      Against the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray?  
      GAUNT. I have, my liege.  
      KING RICHARD. Tell me, moreover, hast thou sounded him  
      If he appeal the Duke on ancient malice,  
      Or worthily, as a good subject should,  
      On some known ground of treachery in him?

賤 GAUNT. As near as I could sift him on that argument,  
賤 On some apparent danger seen in him  
賤 Aim'd at your Highness-no inveterate malice.  
賤 KING RICHARD. Then call them to our presence: face to face  
賤 And frowning brow to brow, ourselves will hear  
賤 The accuser and the accused freely speak.  
賤 High-stomach'd are they both and full of ire,  
賤 In rage, deaf as the sea, hasty as fire.

Enter BOLINGBROKE and MOWBRAY

賤 BOLINGBROKE. Many years of happy days befall  
賤 My gracious sovereign, my most loving liege!  
賤 MOWBRAY. Each day still better other's happiness  
賤 Until the heavens, envying earth's good hap,  
賤 Add an immortal title to your crown!  
賤 KING RICHARD. We thank you both; yet one but flatters us,  
賤 As well appeareth by the cause you come;  
賤 Namely, to appeal each other of high treason.  
賤 Cousin of Hereford, what dost thou object  
賤 Against the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray?  
賤 BOLINGBROKE. First-heaven be the record to my speech!  
賤 In the devotion of a subject's love,  
賤 Tend'ring the precious safety of my prince,  
賤 And free from other misbegotten hate,  
賤 Come I appellat to this princely presence.  
賤 Now, Thomas Mowbray, do I turn to thee,  
賤 And mark my greeting well; for what I speak  
賤 My body shall make good upon this earth,  
賤 Or my divine soul answer it in heaven-  
賤 Thou art a traitor and a miscreant,  
賤 Too good to be so, and too bad to live,  
賤 Since the more fair and crystal is the sky,  
賤 The uglier seem the clouds that in it fly.  
賤 Once more, the more to aggravate the note,  
賤 With a foul traitor's name stuff I thy throat;  
賤 And wish-so please my sovereign-ere I move,

賤賤 What my tongue speaks, my right drawn sword may prove.  
 賤 MOWBRAY. Let not my cold words here accuse my zeal.  
 賤賤 'Tis not the trial of a woman's war,  
 賤賤 The bitter clamour of two eager tongues,  
 賤賤 Can arbitrate this cause betwixt us twain;  
 賤賤 The blood is hot that must be cool'd for this.  
 賤賤 Yet can I not of such tame patience boast  
 賤賤 As to be hush'd and nought at an to say.  
 賤賤 First, the fair reverence of your Highness curbs me  
 賤賤 From giving reins and spurs to my free speech;  
 賤賤 Which else would post until it had return'd  
 賤賤 These terms of treason doubled down his throat.  
 賤賤 Setting aside his high blood's royalty,  
 賤賤 And let him be no kinsman to my liege,  
 賤賤 I do defy him, and I spit at him,  
 賤賤 Call him a slanderous coward and a villain;  
 賤賤 Which to maintain, I would allow him odds  
 賤賤 And meet him, were I tied to run afoot  
 賤賤 Even to the frozen ridges of the Alps,  
 賤賤 Or any other ground inhabitable  
 賤賤 Where ever Englishman durst set his foot.  
 賤賤 Meantime let this defend my loyalty-  
 賤賤 By all my hopes, most falsely doth he lie  
 賤 BOLINGBROKE. Pale trembling coward, there I throw my gage,  
 賤賤 Disclaiming here the kindred of the King;  
 賤賤 And lay aside my high blood's royalty,  
 賤賤 Which fear, not reverence, makes thee to except.  
 賤賤 If guilty dread have left thee so much strength  
 賤賤 As to take up mine honour's pawn, then stoop.  
 賤賤 By that and all the rites of knighthood else  
 賤賤 Will I make good against thee, arm to arm,  
 賤賤 What I have spoke or thou canst worst devise.  
 賤 MOWBRAY. I take it up; and by that sword I swear  
 賤賤 Which gently laid my knighthood on my shoulder  
 賤賤 I'll answer thee in any fair degree  
 賤賤 Or chivalrous design of knightly trial;  
 賤賤 And when I mount, alive may I not light

賤賤 If I be traitor or unjustly fight!

賤 KING RICHARD. What doth our cousin lay to Mowbray's charge?

賤賤 It must be great that can inherit us

賤賤 So much as of a thought of ill in him.

賤 BOLINGBROKE. Look what I speak, my life shall prove it true-

賤賤 That Mowbray hath receiv'd eight thousand nobles

賤賤 In name of lendings for your Highness' soldiers,

賤賤 The which he hath detain'd for lewd employments

賤賤 Like a false traitor and injurious villain.

賤賤 Besides, I say and will in battle prove-

賤賤 Or here, or elsewhere to the furthest verge

賤賤 That ever was survey'd by English eye-

賤賤 That all the treasons for these eighteen years

賤賤 Complotted and contrived in this land

賤賤 Fetch from false Mowbray their first head and spring.

賤賤 Further I say, and further will maintain

賤賤 Upon his bad life to make all this good,

賤賤 That he did plot the Duke of Gloucester's death,

賤賤 Suggest his soon-believing adversaries,

賤賤 And consequently, like a traitor coward,

賤賤 Sluic'd out his innocent soul through streams of blood;

賤賤 Which blood, like sacrificing Abel's, cries,

賤賤 Even from the tongueless caverns of the earth,

賤賤 To me for justice and rough chastisement;

賤賤 And, by the glorious worth of my descent,

賤賤 This arm shall do it, or this life be spent.

賤 KING RICHARD. How high a pitch his resolution soars!

賤賤 Thomas of Norfolk, what say'st thou to this?

賤 MOWBRAY. O, let my sovereign turn away his face

賤賤 And bid his ears a little while be deaf,

賤賤 Till I have told this slander of his blood

賤賤 How God and good men hate so foul a liar.

賤 KING RICHARD. Mowbray, impartial are our eyes and ears.

賤賤 Were he my brother, nay, my kingdom's heir,

賤賤 As he is but my father's brother's son,

賤賤 Now by my sceptre's awe I make a vow,

賤 賤 Such neighbour nearness to our sacred blood  
 賤 賤 Should nothing privilege him nor partialize  
 賤 賤 The unstooping firmness of my upright soul.  
 賤 賤 He is our subject, Mowbray; so art thou:  
 賤 賤 Free speech and fearless I to thee allow.  
 賤 MOWBRAY. Then, Bolingbroke, as low as to thy heart,  
 賤 賤 Through the false passage of thy throat, thou liest.  
 賤 賤 Three parts of that receipt I had for Calais  
 賤 賤 Disburs'd I duly to his Highness' soldiers;  
 賤 賤 The other part reserv'd I by consent,  
 賤 賤 For that my sovereign liege was in my debt  
 賤 賤 Upon remainder of a dear account  
 賤 賤 Since last I went to France to fetch his queen:  
 賤 賤 Now swallow down that lie. For Gloucester's death-  
 賤 賤 I slew him not, but to my own disgrace  
 賤 賤 Neglected my sworn duty in that case.  
 賤 賤 For you, my noble Lord of Lancaster,  
 賤 賤 The honourable father to my foe,  
 賤 賤 Once did I lay an ambush for your life,  
 賤 賤 A trespass that doth vex my grieved soul;  
 賤 賤 But ere I last receiv'd the sacrament  
 賤 賤 I did confess it, and exactly begg'd  
 賤 賤 Your Grace's pardon; and I hope I had it.  
 賤 賤 This is my fault. As for the rest appeal'd,  
 賤 賤 It issues from the rancour of a villain,  
 賤 賤 A recreant and most degenerate traitor;  
 賤 賤 Which in myself I boldly will defend,  
 賤 賤 And interchangeably hurl down my gage  
 賤 賤 Upon this overweening traitor's foot  
 賤 賤 To prove myself a loyal gentleman  
 賤 賤 Even in the best blood chamber'd in his bosom.  
 賤 賤 In haste whereof, most heartily I pray  
 賤 賤 Your Highness to assign our trial day.  
 賤 KING RICHARD. Wrath-kindled gentlemen, be rul'd by me;  
 賤 賤 Let's purge this choler without letting blood-  
 賤 賤 This we prescribe, though no physician;  
 賤 賤 Deep malice makes too deep incision.

賤賤 Forget, forgive; conclude and be agreed:  
賤賤 Our doctors say this is no month to bleed.  
賤賤 Good uncle, let this end where it begun;  
賤賤 We'll calm the Duke of Norfolk, you your son.  
賤 GAUNT. To be a make-peace shall become my age.  
賤賤 Throw down, my son, the Duke of Norfolk's gage.  
賤 KING RICHARD. And, Norfolk, throw down his.  
賤 GAUNT. When, Harry, when?  
賤賤 Obedience bids I should not bid again.  
賤 KING RICHARD. Norfolk, throw down; we bid.  
賤賤 There is no boot.  
賤 MOWBRAY. Myself I throw, dread sovereign, at thy foot;  
賤賤 My life thou shalt command, but not my shame:  
賤賤 The one my duty owes; but my fair name,  
賤賤 Despite of death, that lives upon my grave  
賤賤 To dark dishonour's use thou shalt not have.  
賤賤 I am disgrac'd, impeach'd, and baffl'd here;  
賤賤 Pierc'd to the soul with slander's venom'd spear,  
賤賤 The which no balm can cure but his heart-blood  
賤賤 Which breath'd this poison.  
賤 KING RICHARD. Rage must be withstood:  
賤賤 Give me his gage-lions make leopards tame.  
賤 MOWBRAY. Yea, but not change his spots. Take but my shame,  
賤賤 And I resign my gage. My dear dear lord,  
賤賤 The purest treasure mortal times afford  
賤賤 Is spotless reputation; that away,  
賤賤 Men are but gilded loam or painted clay.  
賤賤 A jewel in a ten-times barr'd-up chest  
賤賤 Is a bold spirit in a loyal breast.  
賤賤 Mine honour is my life; both grow in one;  
賤賤 Take honour from me, and my life is done:  
賤賤 Then, dear my liege, mine honour let me try;  
賤賤 In that I live, and for that will I die.  
賤 KING RICHARD. Cousin, throw up your gage; do you begin.  
賤 BOLINGBROKE. O, God defend my soul from such deep sin!  
賤賤 Shall I seem crest-fallen in my father's sight?  
賤賤 Or with pale beggar-fear impeach my height

賤賤 Before this outdar'd dastard? Ere my tongue  
賤賤 Shall wound my honour with such feeble wrong  
賤賤 Or sound so base a parle, my teeth shall tear  
賤賤 The slavish motive of recanting fear,  
賤賤 And spit it bleeding in his high disgrace,  
賤賤 Where shame doth harbour, even in Mowbray's face.  
賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤賤 Exit

GAUNT

賤 KING RICHARD. We were not born to sue, but to command;  
賤賤 Which since we cannot do to make you friends,  
賤賤 Be ready, as your lives shall answer it,  
賤賤 At Coventry, upon Saint Lambert's day.  
賤賤 There shall your swords and lances arbitrate  
賤賤 The swelling difference of your settled hate;  
賤賤 Since we can not atone you, we shall see  
賤賤 Justice design the victor's chivalry.  
賤賤 Lord Marshal, command our officers-at-arms  
賤賤 Be ready to direct these home alarms. Exeunt

## SCENE 2. London. The DUKE OF LANCASTER'S palace

Enter JOHN OF GAUNT with the DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER

賤 GAUNT. Alas, the part I had in Woodstock's blood  
賤 賤 Doth more solicit me than your exclaims  
賤 賤 To stir against the butchers of his life!  
賤 賤 But since correction lieth in those hands  
賤 賤 Which made the fault that we cannot correct,  
賤 賤 Put we our quarrel to the will of heaven;  
賤 賤 Who, when they see the hours ripe on earth,  
賤 賤 Will rain hot vengeance on offenders' heads.  
賤 DUCHESS. Finds brotherhood in thee no sharper spur?  
賤 賤 Hath love in thy old blood no living fire?  
賤 賤 Edward's seven sons, whereof thyself art one,  
賤 賤 Were as seven vials of his sacred blood,  
賤 賤 Or seven fair branches springing from one root.  
賤 賤 Some of those seven are dried by nature's course,  
賤 賤 Some of those branches by the Destinies cut;  
賤 賤 But Thomas, my dear lord, my life, my Gloucester,  
賤 賤 One vial full of Edward's sacred blood,  
賤 賤 One flourishing branch of his most royal root,  
賤 賤 Is crack'd, and all the precious liquor spilt;  
賤 賤 Is hack'd down, and his summer leaves all faded,  
賤 賤 By envy's hand and murder's bloody axe.  
賤 賤 Ah, Gaunt, his blood was thine! That bed, that womb,  
賤 賤 That mettle, that self mould, that fashion'd thee,  
賤 賤 Made him a man; and though thou livest and breathest,  
賤 賤 Yet art thou slain in him. Thou dost consent  
賤 賤 In some large measure to thy father's death  
賤 賤 In that thou seest thy wretched brother die,  
賤 賤 Who was the model of thy father's life.  
賤 賤 Call it not patience, Gaunt-it is despair;

賤賤 In suffering thus thy brother to be slaught' red,  
 賤賤 Thou showest the naked pathway to thy life,  
 賤賤 Teaching stern murder how to butcher thee.  
 賤賤 That which in mean men we entitle patience  
 賤賤 Is pale cold cowardice in noble breasts.  
 賤賤 What shall I say? To safeguard thine own life  
 賤賤 The best way is to venge my Gloucester's death.  
 賤 GAUNT. God's is the quarrel; for God's substitute,  
 賤賤 His deputy anointed in His sight,  
 賤賤 Hath caus'd his death; the which if wrongfully,  
 賤賤 Let heaven revenge; for I may never lift  
 賤賤 An angry arm against His minister.  
 賤 DUCHESS. Where then, alas, may I complain myself?  
 賤 GAUNT. To God, the widow's champion and defence.  
 賤 DUCHESS. Why then, I will. Farewell, old Gaunt.  
 賤賤 Thou goest to Coventry, there to behold  
 賤賤 Our cousin Hereford and fell Mowbray fight.  
 賤賤 O, sit my husband's wrongs on Hereford's spear,  
 賤賤 That it may enter butcher Mowbray's breast!  
 賤賤 Or, if misfortune miss the first career,  
 賤賤 Be Mowbray's sins so heavy in his bosom  
 賤賤 That they may break his foaming courser's back  
 賤賤 And throw the rider headlong in the lists,  
 賤賤 A caitiff recreant to my cousin Hereford!  
 賤賤 Farewell, old Gaunt; thy sometimes brother's wife,  
 賤賤 With her companion, Grief, must end her life.  
 賤 GAUNT. Sister, farewell; I must to Coventry.  
 賤賤 As much good stay with thee as go with me!  
 賤 DUCHESS. Yet one word more- grief boundeth where it falls,  
 賤賤 Not with the empty hollowness, but weight.  
 賤賤 I take my leave before I have begun,  
 賤賤 For sorrow ends not when it seemeth done.  
 賤賤 Commend me to thy brother, Edmund York.  
 賤賤 Lo, this is all- nay, yet depart not so;  
 賤賤 Though this be all, do not so quickly go;  
 賤賤 I shall remember more. Bid him- ah, what?-  
 賤賤 With all good speed at Plashy visit me.