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Turgenev Wallace 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  
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Trackl Stevenson Lichtenberg Doyle Gjellerup  
Mommsen Thoma Tolstoi Lenz Hambruch Droste-Hülshoff  
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Garschin Defoe Hebbel Hegel Kussmaul Herder  
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Chamberlain Langbein Lafontaine Iffland Sokrates  
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Katharina II. von Rußland Gerstäcker Raabe Gleim Vulpius  
Löns Hesse Hoffmann Gogol Morgenstern Goedicke  
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# **King Henry VI, Part 3**

William Shakespeare

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**THE HISTORY OF KING HENRY THE SIXTH,  
THIRD PART**

by William Shakespeare



## **DRAMATIS PERSONAE**

KING HENRY the Sixth.

EDWARD, Prince of Wales, his son.

LEWIS XI, King of France.

DUKE OF SOMERSET.

DUKE OF EXETER.

EARL OF OXFORD.

EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

EARL OF WESTMORELAND.

LORD CLIFFORD.

RICHARD PLANTAGENET, Duke of York.

EDWARD, Earl of March, afterwards King Edward IV., his son.

EDMUND, Earl of Rutland, his son.

GEORGE, afterwards Duke of Clarence, his son.

RICHARD, afterwards Duke of Gloster, his son.

DUKE OF NORFOLK.

MARQUESS OF MONTAGUE.

EARL OF WARWICK.

EARL OF PEMBROKE.

LORD HASTINGS.

LORD STAFFORD.

SIR JOHN MORTIMER, uncle to the Duke of York.

SIR HUGH MORTIMER, uncle to the Duke of York.

HENRY, Earl of Richmond, a youth.

LORD RIVERS, brother to Lady Grey.

SIR WILLIAM STANLEY.

SIR JOHN MONTGOMERY.

SIR JOHN SOMERVILLE.

Tutor to Rutland.

Mayor of York.

Lieutenant of the Tower.

A Nobleman. Two Keepers. A Huntsman.

A Son that has killed his father.

A Father that has killed his son.

QUEEN MARGARET.

LADY GREY, afterwards Queen to Edward IV.

BONA, sister to the French Queen.

Soldiers, Attendants, Messengers, Watchmen, etc.

**SCENE: England and France.**

## ACT I

### SCENE I. London. The Parliament-house

[Alarum. Enter DUKE of YORK, EDWARD, RICHARD, NORFOLK, MONTAGUE, WARWICK, and Soldiers.]

WARWICK.

I wonder how the king escap'd our hands.

YORK.

While we pursued the horsemen of the North,  
He slyly stole away and left his men,  
Whereat the great Lord of Northumberland,  
Whose warlike ears could never brook retreat,  
Cheer'd up the drooping army; and himself,  
Lord Clifford, and Lord Stafford, all abreast,  
Charg'd our main battle's front, and breaking in,  
Were by the swords of common soldiers slain.

EDWARD.

Lord Stafford's father, Duke of Buckingham,  
Is either slain or wounded dangerously;  
I cleft his beaver with a downright blow.  
That this is true, father, behold his blood.

[Showing his bloody sword.]

MONTAGUE.

And, brother, here 's the Earl of Wiltshire's blood,

[To York, showing his.]

Whom I encounter'd as the battles join'd.

RICHARD.

Speak thou for me, and tell them what I did.

[Throwing down the Duke of Somerset's head.]

YORK.

Richard hath best deserv'd of all my sons. —  
But is your grace dead, my Lord of Somerset?

NORFOLK.

Such hope have all the line of John of Gaunt!

RICHARD.

Thus do I hope to shake King Henry's head.

WARWICK.

And so do I. — Victorious Prince of York,  
Before I see thee seated in that throne  
Which now the house of Lancaster usurps,  
I vow by heaven these eyes shall never close.  
This is the palace of the fearful king,  
And this the regal seat; possess it, York,  
For this is thine, and not King Henry's heirs'.

YORK.

Assist me, then, sweet Warwick, and I will;  
For hither we have broken in by force.

NORFOLK.

We'll all assist you; he that flies shall die.

YORK.

Thanks, gentle Norfolk. — Stay by me, my lords; —  
And, soldiers, stay and lodge by me this night.

WARWICK.

And when the king comes, offer him no violence,  
Unless he seek to thrust you out perforce.

[They retire.]

YORK.

The queen this day here holds her parliament,  
But little thinks we shall be of her council.  
By words or blows here let us win our right.

RICHARD.

Arm'd as we are, let 's stay within this house.

WARWICK.

The bloody parliament shall this be call'd,  
Unless Plantagenet, Duke of York, be king,  
And bashful Henry depos'd, whose cowardice  
Hath made us bywords to our enemies.

YORK.

Then leave me not, my lords; be resolute.  
I mean to take possession of my right.

WARWICK.

Neither the king, nor he that loves him best,  
The proudest he that holds up Lancaster,  
Dares stir a wing if Warwick shake his bells.  
I'll plant Plantagenet, root him up who dares. —  
Resolve thee, Richard; claim the English crown.

[Warwick leads York to the throne, who seats himself.]

[Flourish. Enter KING HENRY, CLIFFORD, NORTHUMBER-  
LAND,  
WESTMORELAND, EXETER, and the rest.]

KING HENRY.

My lords, look where the sturdy rebel sits,  
Even in the chair of state! belike he means,  
Back'd by the power of Warwick, that false peer,  
To aspire unto the crown and reign as king. —  
Earl of Northumberland, he slew thy father;  
And thine, Lord Clifford; and you both have vow'd revenge

On him, his sons, his favourites, and his friends.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

If I be not, heavens be reveng'd on me!

CLIFFORD.

The hope thereof makes Clifford mourn in steel.

WESTMORELAND.

What! shall we suffer this? let 's pluck him down;  
My heart for anger burns; I cannot brook it.

KING HENRY.

Be patient, gentle Earl of Westmoreland.

CLIFFORD.

Patience is for poltroons, such as he;  
He durst not sit there had your father liv'd.  
My gracious lord, here in the parliament  
Let us assail the family of York.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Well hast thou spoken, cousin; be it so.

KING HENRY.

Ah, know you not the city favours them,  
And they have troops of soldiers at their beck?

EXETER.

But when the duke is slain, they'll quickly fly.

KING HENRY.

Far be the thought of this from Henry's heart,  
To make a shambles of the parliament-house!  
Cousin of Exeter, frowns, words, and threats  
Shall be the war that Henry means to use. —

[They advance to the duke.]

Thou factious Duke of York, descend my throne,  
And kneel for grace and mercy at my feet;  
I am thy sovereign.

YORK.  
I am thine.

EXETER.  
For shame, come down; he made thee Duke of York.

YORK.  
'T was my inheritance, as the earldom was.

EXETER.  
Thy father was a traitor to the crown.

WARWICK.  
Exeter, thou art a traitor to the crown  
In following this usurping Henry.

CLIFFORD.  
Whom should he follow, but his natural king?

WARWICK.  
True, Clifford; and that 's Richard, Duke of York.

KING HENRY.  
And shall I stand, and thou sit in my throne?

YORK.  
It must and shall be so.  
Content thyself.

WARWICK.  
Be Duke of Lancaster; let him be king.

WESTMORELAND.  
He is both king and Duke of Lancaster;

And that the Lord of Westmoreland shall maintain.

WARWICK.

And Warwick shall disprove it. You forget  
That we are those which chas'd you from the field,  
And slew your fathers, and with colours spread  
March'd through the city to the palace gates.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Yes, Warwick, I remember it to my grief;  
And, by his soul, thou and thy house shall rue it.

WESTMORELAND.

Plantagenet, of thee, and these thy sons,  
Thy kinsmen, and thy friends, I'll have more lives  
Than drops of blood were in my father's veins.

CLIFFORD.

Urge it no more; lest that instead of words  
I send thee, Warwick, such a messenger  
As shall revenge his death before I stir.

WARWICK.

Poor Clifford! how I scorn his worthless threats!

YORK.

Will you we show our title to the crown?  
If not, our swords shall plead it in the field.

KING HENRY.

What title hast thou, traitor, to the crown?  
Thy father was, as thou art, Duke of York;  
Thy grandfather, Roger Mortimer, Earl of March.  
I am the son of Henry the Fifth,  
Who made the Dauphin and the French to stoop,  
And seiz'd upon their towns and provinces.

WARWICK.

Talk not of France, sith thou hast lost it all.

KING HENRY.

The lord protector lost it, and not I;  
When I was crown'd I was but nine months old.

RICHARD.

You are old enough now, and yet, methinks, you lose. —  
Father, tear the crown from the usurper's head.

EDWARD.

Sweet father, do so; set it on your head.

MONTAGUE.

Good brother, as thou lov'st and honourest arms,  
Let's fight it out and not stand cavilling thus.

RICHARD.

Sound drums and trumpets, and the king will fly.

YORK.

Sons, peace!

KING HENRY.

Peace thou, and give King Henry leave to speak.

WARWICK.

Plantagenet shall speak first; hear him, lords,  
And be you silent and attentive too,  
For he that interrupts him shall not live.

KING HENRY.

Think'st thou that I will leave my kingly throne,  
Wherein my grandsire and my father sat?  
No! first shall war unpeople this my realm;  
Ay, and their colours — often borne in France,  
And now in England, to our heart's great sorrow —  
Shall be my winding sheet. — Why faint you, lords?

My title's good, and better far than his.

WARWICK.

Prove it, Henry, and thou shalt be king.

KING HENRY.

Henry the Fourth by conquest got the crown.

YORK.

'T was by rebellion against his king.

KING HENRY.

[Aside.] I know not what to say; my title's weak. —  
Tell me, may not a king adopt an heir?

YORK.

What then?

KING HENRY.

An if he may, then am I lawful king;  
For Richard, in the view of many lords,  
Resign'd the crown to Henry the Fourth,  
Whose heir my father was, and I am his.

YORK.

He rose against him, being his sovereign,  
And made him to resign his crown perforce.

WARWICK.

Suppose, my lords, he did it unconstrain'd,  
Think you 't were prejudicial to his crown?

EXETER.

No; for he could not so resign his crown  
But that the next heir should succeed and reign.

KING HENRY.

Art thou against us, Duke of Exeter?

EXETER.

His is the right, and therefore pardon me.

YORK.

Why whisper you, my lords, and answer not?

EXETER.

My conscience tells me he is lawful king.

KING HENRY.

[Aside.] All will revolt from me and turn to him.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Plantagenet, for all the claim thou lay'st,  
Think not that Henry shall be so depos'd.

WARWICK.

Depos'd he shall be, in despite of all.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Thou art deceiv'd; 't is not thy southern power,  
Of Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, nor of Kent,  
Which makes thee thus presumptuous and proud,  
Can set the duke up in despite of me.

CLIFFORD.

King Henry, be thy title right or wrong,  
Lord Clifford vows to fight in thy defence.  
May that ground gape and swallow me alive,  
Where I shall kneel to him that slew my father!

KING HENRY.

O Clifford, how thy words revive my heart!

YORK.

Henry of Lancaster, resign thy crown. —  
What mutter you, or what conspire you, lords?

WARWICK.

Do right unto this princely Duke of York,  
Or I will fill the house with armed men,  
And over the chair of state where now he sits  
Write up his title with usurping blood.

[He stamps, and the soldiers show themselves.]

KING HENRY.

My Lord of Warwick, hear but one word:  
Let me for this my lifetime reign as king.

YORK.

Confirm the crown to me, and to mine heirs,  
And thou shalt reign in quiet while thou liv'st.

KING HENRY.

I am content; Richard Plantagenet,  
Enjoy the kingdom after my decease.

CLIFFORD.

What wrong is this unto the prince your son!

WARWICK.

What good is this to England and himself!

WESTMORELAND.

Base, fearful, and despairing Henry!

CLIFFORD.

How hast thou injur'd both thyself and us!

WESTMORELAND.

I cannot stay to hear these articles.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Nor I.

CLIFFORD.

Come, cousin, let us tell the queen these news.

WESTMORELAND.

Farewell, faint-hearted and degenerate king,  
In whose cold blood no spark of honour bides.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Be thou a prey unto the house of York,  
And die in bands for this unmanly deed!

CLIFFORD.

In dreadful war mayst thou be overcome,  
Or live in peace abandon'd and despis'd!

[Exeunt Northumberland, Clifford, and Westmoreland.]

WARWICK.

Turn this way, Henry, and regard them not.

EXETER.

They seek revenge, and therefore will not yield.

KING HENRY.

Ah, Exeter!

WARWICK.

Why should you sigh, my lord?

KING HENRY.

Not for myself, Lord Warwick, but my son,  
Whom I unnaturally shall disinherit. —  
But be it as it may, I here entail  
The crown to thee, and to thine heirs for ever;  
Conditionally, that here thou take an oath  
To cease this civil war, and whilst I live  
To honour me as thy king and sovereign,  
And neither by treason nor hostility

To seek to put me down and reign thyself.

YORK.

This oath I willingly take and will perform.

[Coming from the throne.]

WARWICK.

Long live King Henry! – Plantagenet, embrace him.

KING HENRY.

And long live thou, and these thy forward sons!

YORK.

Now York and Lancaster are reconcil'd.

EXETER.

Accurs'd be he that seeks to make them foes!

[Sennet. The Lords come forward.]

YORK. Farewell, my gracious lord; I'll to my castle.

WARWICK.

And I'll keep London with my soldiers.

NORFOLK.

And I to Norfolk with my followers.

MONTAGUE.

And I unto the sea from whence I came.

[Exeunt York and his Sons, Warwick, Norfolk, Montague,  
Soldiers, and Attendants.]

KING HENRY.

And I, with grief and sorrow, to the court.