

1.) “Now is the winter of our discontent / Made glorious summer by this son of York...” (1.1.1-2)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Richard alone

Context: opening soliloquy of Richard. This is when the battle between the York and Lancaster family is finally over due to the current king, King Edward IV. He then says that everything that threatened the York family is now gone and replaced with sunshine.

Significance: The first phrase signifies the death of our hardships. The second phrase signifies the life restored by the “sun” or “son” of York, meaning Edward. Contrasts the dark and hard winter with the lighthearted and content summer. Significance of this quote is that because Richard lacks good looks, he reveal himself as the villain. He cannot obtain what he wants with his looks so he must figure out another way. To further his villainy, he reveals his plan, to obtain the crown, which is his ultimate goal.

2.) “O, wonderful, when devils tell the truth!” (1.2.77)

Speaker: Anne

On stage: corpse of Henry, Richard, Halberds, Gentlemen

Context: The second scene of act 1, Richard has stopped the funeral procession of King Henry, Anne’s father-in-law. Anne is angry at Richard because she knows that Richard killed her father-in-law, Henry, and her husband, Edward.

Significance: Because of Anne’s sarcastic reply, it is clear that she doubts Richard’s honesty, yet later on in conversation, she falls captive to Richard’s words and accepts his hand in marriage. This shows Richard’s skill in manipulation.

3.) “Was ever woman in this humor wooed? / Was ever woman in this humor won?” (1.2.247-248)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Richard alone

Context: Throughout the scene, Richard continuously compliments Anne in attempt to woo and court her. By the end of the scene she is wooed and accepts a ring from Richard. He is now gloating in his success.

Significance: The quote is questioning if a woman in such a state of mourning was ever won over the way Anne was. Significant because this shows how deceiving Richard can be. Even being the man who killed her husband and father-in-law, he was able to woo Anne and get her to accept his hand in marriage.

4.) “A sweeter and a lovelier gentleman, / Framed in the prodigality of nature, ... / The spacious world cannot again afford.” (1.2.263-66)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Richard alone

Context: Richard has just wooed Anne into accepting his proposal for marriage, despite the fact that Anne was in the middle of burying her dead father-in-law whom Richard had murdered. Anne exits with Tressel and Barkley and Richard now speaks to himself of how great a villain he is. He specifically regards his victory in killing Prince Edward.

Significance: This quote is significant as it elicits Richard’s villainous traits, as he murdered the perfect king for the throne. Even Richard himself declares that there will never be a king more fit for the throne than Prince Edward.

Mocking her and saying that she's already forgotten about her dead husband Prince Edward. He doesn't care about her and is only marrying her cause it'll help him move forward with his plans.

5.) "I do mistake my person all this while, / Upon my life, she finds, although I cannot, / Myself to be a marv'lous proper man./ I'll be at charges for a looking glass./ And entertain a score or two tailors... / Shine out, fair sun, till I have bought a glass, That I may see my shadow as I pass. "
(1.2.273-84)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Richard alone

Context: Richard reflects upon his manipulative act of wooing Anne into marriage. He marvels at the fact Anne sees him as good-looking, despite his obvious deformities.

Significance: This quote signifies how good Richard is at deceiving people, as he was able to woo Anne despite being the murderer of her late loved ones. Moreover, it signifies the success of his first plan in his evil scheme of trying to become king.

6.) Cannot a plain man live and think no harm,/ But thus his simple truth must be abused/ With silken, sly, insinuating Jacks? (1.3.52-54)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Queen Elizabeth, Rivers, Grey, Stanley, Buckingham, Hastings

Context: At the palace, the others speak lowly of Richard and how they are displeased at the knowing he is to be Protector. Richard comes in and is furious at them all for speaking negatively on his behalf.

Significance: This quote signifies how Richard is forming this innocent reputation for himself in order to sway the negative connotations the others have about him. He portrays himself to be more noble, and they a bunch of lowlifes. This is ironic because he calls others untrustworthy, while he's the one who cannot be trusted.

7.) The world is grown so bad / That wrens make prey where eagles dare not perch. / Since every Jack became a gentleman, / There's many a gentle person made a Jack. (1.3.71-74)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Richard, Hastings, Grey, Queen Elizabeth, Rivers, Buckingham, Stanley,

Context: They were discussing whether Richard was going to be Lord Protector and Queen Elizabeth in particular is skeptical of it. Richard is furious they are speaking negatively of him, and deflects Elizabeth's mention of his hatred for his relatives.

Significance: Richard accuses Queen Elizabeth of putting undeserving relatives in power (not of nobility)

This quote signifies Richard's views on the situation as he believes that the Queen's relatives are the "wrens" and "Jacks" who think that they have lots of power and see themselves as equal to "eagles" and "gentle person/noblemen". This is ironic bc he calls others untrustworthy, when he himself is the one who cannot be trusted

8.) The first that there did greet my stranger soul / Was my great father-in-law, renowned Warwick, / Who spoke aloud "What scourge for perjury / Can this dark monarchy afford false

Clarence?" / A shadow like an angel, with bright hair / Dabbled in blood, and he shrieked, out aloud, / "Clarence is come --- false, fleeting, perjured Clarence, That stabbed me in the field by Tewkesbury." (1.4.49-58)

Speaker: Clarence

On stage: Keeper

Context: Clarence has a dream in which his conscience is afflicted as he feels guilty for betraying his own father-in-law.

Significance: Foreshadows his death.

9.) O momentary grace of mortal men,/ Which we more hunt for than the grace of God!/ Who builds his hope in air of your good looks/ Lives like a drunken sailor on a mast,/ Ready with every nod to tumble down/ Into the fatal bowels of the deep. (3.4.98-103)

Speaker: Hastings

On stage: Ratcliffe, Lovell

Context: Catesby has told Richard that Hastings is very unlikely to side with Richard, so Richard decides to kill Hastings. Hastings regrets hunting for the "momentary grace" of Richard, who betrays and kills him

Significance: This quote is saying that men focus on finding the temporary things, not the things that matter and are more permanent, like the Grace of God. This is significant as Hastings's is saying that Richard only cares for a place on the throne and is not looking at all the sins he is making in the process. While Richard is trying to get the throne he is losing the Grace of God (place in heaven), which lasts much longer than a seat on the throne.

10.) ...I am in/ So far in blood that sin will pluck on sin. (4.2.66-67)

Speaker: Richard (aside)

On stage: Stanley, Lovell

Context: This is after Richard has ordered the princes to die, and to spread a rumor that Anne is very sick.

Significance: This is when Richard is saying that he has sinned so much, that adding on a few more will have no effect. This quote signifies the amount of evil and sin Richard has already accomplished, and so committing another grievous sin does not matter to him. Thus, eliciting Richard's depreciating set of morals as he plunges deeper into his evil scheme. Conscience briefly made Richard question his motives, and this is the beginning of his downfall when he starts becoming reckless because of power and killing without reason.

11.) Harp not on that string... (4.4.378)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Queen Elizabeth

Context: After the duchess cursed him, Richard goes on to persuade Queen Elizabeth that he should marry her daughter. Yet, Queen Elizabeth says that she can not let him marry her due to Richard's past. In which, he responds by telling her to forget about his past as that happened before.

Significance: The string represents the series of events that lead to prince's death. This quote further shows how deceiving Richard can be because by the end of their conversation, he ends up convincing Elizabeth that the right thing to do is to allow him to marry her daughter.

12.) O coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me! (5.3.191)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Soliloquy

Context: Richard wakes up from his dream (with all the ghosts)

Significance: This is when Richard's conscience has finally (momentarily) caught up to him making him feel guilty for what he has done. He looks at this as a sign of weakness. However, he has just woken up from the truth, that being that he will die and despair, while Richmond will win the crown and conquer the land. Richard's downfall is foreshadowed by this dream, and the audience knows he is doomed. The ghosts' and Margaret's curses finally begin to take effect

13.) A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse! (5.4.7)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Catesby

Context: Richard has lost his horse in battle and he is asking for another one so that he can find Richmond and battle him.

Significance: This foreshadows what is to come when he goes to fight Richmond. He has lost his horse like he will his life. He gets killed by Richmond, and Richmond becomes King. It is also foreshadowing that if he walks into battle without a horse, the loss of the horse may lead to the loss of the kingdom.

14.) ... I have set my life upon a cast, / And i will stand the hazard of the die. (5.4.9)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Catesby

Context: Richard is without a horse and is beginning to accept the chance of defeat. He is stating that the outcome of this battle has an equal chance of success or failure.

Significance: The die refers to a dice, he is gambling his life. Foreshadowing his death in battle and his ultimate downfall.

I am determined to prove a villain..... (1.1.30)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Richard alone

Context: opening soliloquy

Significance: Richard is deformed and unable to receive the glory of being an attractive king. He is determined to prove a villain because he is envious of the other nobles. He is determined to create conflict

by killing off anyone who stands in the way of him and the throne. The namesake of the play is generally the protagonist, yet Richard is determined to be the antagonist.

I, that am rudely stamped, and want loves majesty to strut before a wanting nymph (1.1.16-17)

Speaker: Richard

On stage: Richard alone

Context: opening soliloquy

Significance: Richard is unable to achieve the good looks that would be used to woo women. His lack of these qualities allows the readers to understand his motives and the extent he goes to in order to achieve what he wants.

Methoughts that I had broken from the Tower,
And was embarked to cross to Burgundy,
And in my company my brother Gloucester,

...

Methought that Gloucester stumbled, and in falling
Struck me—that thought to stay him—overboard
Into the tumbling billows of the main.

(I.iv.9–20)

Speaker: Clarence

On stage: keeper

Context: Clarence is locked in a tower and had a dream, which he tells the keeper about

Significance: In his dream he escaped from the tower and when they were on a boat, Richard stumbled and Clarence tried to help him but Richard accidentally shoved him overboard. This foreshadows Clarence's demise and shows how much he trusts Richard, which makes Richard's later betrayal more surprising.

**Forbear to sleep the nights, and fast the days;
Compare dead happiness with living woe;
Think that thy babes were sweeter than they were,
And he that slew them fouler than he is.
Bett'ring thy loss makes the bad causer worse.
Revolving this will teach thee how to curse.**

(IV.iv.118–123)

Speaker: Queen Margaret

On stage: Queen Elizabeth and the Dutchess

Context: They were speaking about Richard and the pain he has caused

Significance: Margaret tells Elizabeth to pretend everything was better than it actually was in order to effectively curse. This gives insight on Margaret's character as it brings to light the pain of her losses.