



KING HENRY THE SIXTH PART 1

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PART 1

BY
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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ACT 1

SCENE 1

Westminster Abbey.

Dead March. Enter the Funeral of KING HENRY the Fifth, attended on by Dukes of BEDFORD, Regent of France; GLOUCESTER, Protector; and EXETER, Earl of WARWICK, the BISHOP OF WINCHESTER, Herald, & c

BEDFORD

Hung be the heavens with black, yield day to night!
Comets, importing change of times and states,
Brandish your crystal tresses in the sky,
And with them scourge the bad revolting stars
That have consented unto Henry's death!
King Henry the Fifth, too famous to live long!
England ne'er lost a king of so much worth.

GLOUCESTER

England ne'er had a king until his time.
Virtue he had, deserving to command:
His brandish'd sword did blind men with his beams:
His arms spread wider than a dragon's wings;
His sparking eyes, replete with wrathful fire,
More dazzled and drove back his enemies
Than mid-day sun fierce bent against their faces.
What should I say? his deeds exceed all speech:
He ne'er lift up his hand but conquered.

EXETER

We mourn in black: why mourn we not in blood?
Henry is dead and never shall revive:
Upon a wooden coffin we attend,
And death's dishonourable victory
We with our stately presence glorify,

Like captives bound to a triumphant car.
 What! shall we curse the planets of mishap
 That plotted thus our glory's overthrow?
 Or shall we think the subtle-witted French
 Conjurers and sorcerers, that afraid of him
 By magic verses have contrived his end?
 BISHOP

OF WINCHESTER

He was a king bless'd of the King of kings.
 Unto the French the dreadful judgement-day
 So dreadful will not be as was his sight.
 The battles of the Lord of hosts he fought:
 The church's prayers made him so prosperous.

GLOUCESTER

The church! where is it? Had not churchmen pray'd,
 His thread of life had not so soon decay'd:
 None do you like but an effeminate prince,
 Whom, like a school-boy, you may over-awe.
 BISHOP

OF WINCHESTER

Gloucester, whate'er we like, thou art protector
 And lookest to command the prince and realm.
 Thy wife is proud; she holdeth thee in awe,
 More than God or religious churchmen may.

GLOUCESTER

Name not religion, for thou lovest the flesh,
 And ne'er throughout the year to church thou go'st
 Except it be to pray against thy foes.

BEDFORD