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English 250
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5/15/02

Richard II

Richard and Bolingbroke may be related, but their attitudes definitely were not.

Bolingbroke:

Bolingbroke is a realist. He tells Gaunt that it's better to accept reality however harsh it is, than it is to pretend that the troubles ailing you- don't exist. In Act I, scene iii- he says to Gaunt:

"O no, the apprehension of the good
Gives but the greater feeling to the worse.
Fell sorrow's tooth doth never rankle more
Than when he bites but lanceth not the sore."

An apt metaphor explaining that to cut deep into a wound, to drain the sore of its infection is better than the seemingly superficial puncture wound from being bitten; which is susceptible to a festering infection (Ludowyk)

King Richard:

Richard continually indulges in his own sorrow. He is a drama *queen*, an attention whore, who evokes (and demands) the pity from everyone around him. He lives in a fantasy world where he can remain in denial, and wallow in his pity-wanting grief.

But, his bouts from manic depression to hyper-mania become too much for his subjects to bear. Forcing them to choose between lawful incompetence and unlawful competence, that in the end, would rather take their chances with God's wrath – than with Richard's rule.

Bibliography

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