

After Edward IV's death, his widow, Queen Elizabeth Woodville, tries to seize power through control of her son, the uncrowned Edward V. Nineteen years of Elizabeth's greed and misrule have shown the 'Old Nobility' that they must control the crown, or lose heavily. Richard Gloucester [later RIII] has an



opportunity to seize young Edward and appoint himself the young king's Protector until the boy reaches maturity. The move would break Elizabeth's power and restore stability. But Richard has been a competent and compassionate commander in Yorkshire and the Borders. Shall he seize the boy, or not? In Richard's soliloquy, he works through his moral dilemma:

### **An excerpt from Act 3, Scene 3**

*The dukes' inn at Northampton. Evening.*

**GLOUCESTER:** "Alone. At last lonely and alone.  
The nighted hours pass, a quiet wilderness without,  
contrary to the noise keeps coil within.  
How should I think? nor why, with voice of word,  
lend mettle and substantial form to thought?  
Speaks Reason to my Will?  
or doth proud Will to Reason speak?  
O, would I wist which captain order'd thought,  
prescrib'd it me, dictated every deed.  
Whether doth the Will or Reason urge me fasten  
on occasion of this night to sway the rule on England?  
If either door gaped wide, mankind would wholly righteous be,  
or damn'd. How stony is the way  
'twixt Reason and the Will, to judgment."

*Dark Sovereign* © Robert Fripp. An excerpt from Act 3.3

\* Detail from stained glass window in Cardiff Castle