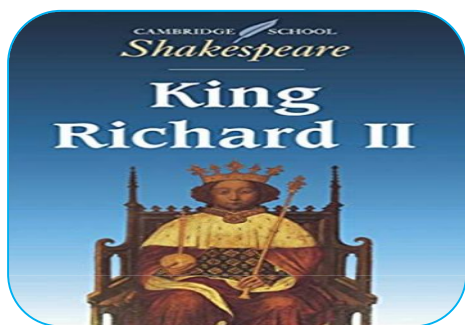




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## “HAVING AUTHORITY AND POWER IS NOT ENOUGH, A CRITICAL STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO SHAKESPEARE’S KING RICHARD II”

**Dolly Soni**

**Research Scholar, Department of English ,  
 Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur (M.P.) .**

### ABSTRACT:

The play King Richard II is Shakespeare’s most important and controversial play, which is believed to have been written in approximately, 1595. This play focuses on the Richard’s wasteful, unwise and irresponsible personality. Richard behavior in the play also shows Richards weakness as a ruler. The play basically deals with Richards believe of becoming a king is enough. There are two main protagonists in the play King Richard II and Henry Bolingbroke, through these two characters we come to know two different aspects of using the authority and power. The one who deal it abusively and the other one uses it respectfully. Both the two aspects of using authority and its power is very insightful. The play also seems like a case study for management students, which give

us a lesson to maintain authority, power and holding its place it is necessary to have passion, planning and a good skill of decision making. In the end of the play Shakespeare teaches a good lesson that having authority and its power is not enough, one has to exist in real material world, and where developing man to man relationship what we call human relationship is very necessary. A vision and planning must also be there to use the power of authority. This research paper explores Shakespeare’s king Richard II and his wrong beliefs of having power is enough.

**KEYWORDS:** Authority, Power, King Richard II, Henry Bolingbroke.

### INTRODUCTION :

Shakespeare’s play King Richard II is no doubted a brilliant and masterpiece among his all plays. The all incidents and scenes took their place around the two center characters, King Richard II and Henry Bolingbroke. To know a basic outline of this play a fine study of these two characters is enough. These two characters are totally opposites in their nature, living and behavior. King Richard II, who is having authority and power but do not worry about safe it. Unlike Henry Bolingbroke who

is cousin of King Richard in the beginning of the play does not having the authority and power but later on in the end of the play leads a troop against Richard to have the authority and power and then save it from its downfall.

King Richard, who ascended the throne as a young man, is portrayed as a regal and stately figure in the play by Shakespeare. But always wasteful, unwise and been always detached from his country and its common people. He was very fashionable, spends too much time pursuing latest fashion, and spends his royal money on his close friends and raising taxes to fund his wars in Ireland and other extraordinary

things which are not in use in the benefits of his country. All these wasteful habits arouse hates and disrespects in the eyes of the commoners and people of his country.

Not all the water in the rough rude sea  
 Can wash the balm off  
 from and anointed king  
 The breath of worldly man  
 cannot depose

The deputy elected by the  
 Lord; (3.2. 54 - 57)  
 These above lines shows  
 Richard believe in power

and authority. As he was the eldest son of his father, the people of his time believed that he is elected by God and anointed by Him. Therefore one who has the power of anointed by God must have unlimited power. King Richard well knew the beliefs of the people. He was fearless as no one could raise hand against him. King Richard II had a very strong power of authority but did not work on having power continuously for his upcoming generation to generation.

When Bolingbroke comes to know the real fact that Richard has stolen what should have been his inheritance, he fights against the God's deputy, and gathers an army against the God's anointed or what we can say against the beliefs of the people which are really a very big task and a big change in the thinking and beliefs of his contemporary people. Radha Krishnan Pillai in his treatise tells that;

It is easy to get to top, but it's very difficult to stay there, once you are in the leader's position, the whole dynamics of the game changes. The priority now is to get everything right and maintain your position (8).

The above said statement by Pillai is really worthy to know. To get a top level of authority and power is easy but maintaining it is really difficult. It needs lots of effort and strength. This is what Richard did not do and fail to maintain his authority of being a king and power. Unlike Richard, Bolingbroke when comes to know his inheritance of the throne. He first makes a firm man to man relationship. The commoners of the country at the time when lost all his beliefs and trust on their King Richard, They at the same time start believing their new leader deviating from their old beliefs of having God's deputy.

The main strength the King was his beliefs he always feels himself free and stronger. This thought provides him strength. He never worried about facing a superior army of Bolingbroke in a scene of the play Richard explains what happens when a common man raises his army against the God's deputy:

For every man that Bolingbroke hath pressed  
To lift shrewd steel against our golden crown,  
God for his Richard hath in heavenly pay  
A glorious angel: then, if angels fight,  
Weak men must fall, for heaven still guards the right. (3.2. 58 - 62)

These above lines describes Richard beliefs that if any army comes against a king who is God's deputy will have to fight with angels and in the fight between a man and an angel the angel wins. Such thought provides Richard the strength. Later on the scene continues one by one in the play. The angel of God disappears from Richard's mind when he faces the reality and comes to know Bolingbroke's determination and strength. Within a no time Richard becomes compel and weak.

The Lack of relationship with commoners and followers separate Richard from his authority of having crown. He was also not responsible towards his crown and people of his country, who worship him as God's deputy but in return he did not take care of them. His lack of relationship and lack of responsibility leads him towards downfall; he lost finally his land and respects both. Finally at the last of the play Richard realizes that having authority and power is not only enough.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

This research paper comprises the study of Shakespeare's play King Richard II and the study of management where power lies. The play begins with Richard's splendid and fashionable personality, a main protagonist of the play who is very irresponsible towards the authority he is having but fails to maintain it. A good king or leader puts his all efforts to manage his all authority for the long time. This authority is not for one person if it maintained deliberately and respectively it runs from generation to generation. King Richard had no sense of maintaining it he disrespects it and then loses it. The play whereas compared with the views of many management gurus who talk about maintaining power and its usages. The play *Richard II* should be considered as a case study by management scholars they may learn both good and bad sides of using power and authority.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Shakespeare's Richard II is portrayed as a carefree king, without a strong sense of direction and very weak. Because he was the eldest son of his father, he considered himself to be elected by God, He was always in believe that, if you are God's deputy, you are directly linked to him and you have unlimited power. Therefore if anyone challenges that power they are challenging God, But in the last of the play Richard comes to know the real world of the king where, being God's deputy is not only enough, realistic world is also important for a man who is running a kingdom. Power on the hand is not enough one need to have strength and wisdom as well. Richards's power was not based upon any form of material reality at all.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Shakespeare's play King Richard II is a critical study on power and its use. The two main protagonist of the play have their own importance, King John is known for his place having the authority and power of the throne, is regarded as the God's deputy. Henry Bolingbroke is known for his maintaining of human relationship and then changes the people's beliefs of having power is enough. Power needs its proper care. If you are having authority and its power you have to fight for it, you have to save it every time. Bolingbroke's emergence as a leader and his qualities of being passionate towards the throne, planning and good decision making lead him to get the throne and lack of these qualities led King Richard towards his downfall.

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**Dolly Soni**

Research Scholar, Department of English , Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya,  
Jabalpur (M.P.) .

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