

The Reformation

PLAY 5:

Mary I - Back to Rome.

Mary I is having a conversation with a trusted courtier and adviser.



Characters:

Mary I
Courtier

Mary I: Now let me think... My mother, Catherine of Aragon, brought me up as a devout Roman Catholic. I am married to Philip, future king of Spain, who is a devout Roman Catholic.

The English Church of my father, Henry VIII, and of my little half-brother Edward VI, says that king Henry VIII and my mother, Catherine of Aragon, have divorced! Therefore, I am apparently not the legitimate heir to the throne!

The Roman Catholic Church, on the other hand, says that my father and mother never had a divorce - so, therefore I am the legitimate heir to the throne! So, it is really in my best interest to make England completely Roman Catholic again!!

Courtier: Yes, your majesty. You need to be very careful of your sister.

Mary I: My sister? I don't have a sister!

Courtier: Yes, you do. Elizabeth. Well, half-sister.

Mary I: Yea, yea. We have the same father, but different mothers. Her mother was Anne Boleyn.

Courtier: But Elizabeth can claim the throne.

Mary I: No, she can't. She is an illegitimate child. She should never have been born! So, she is definitely not a legitimate successor to my father's throne. And the Roman Catholic Church supports me in this!

Courtier: Then you better make sure England is completely Roman Catholic! If not, the English church will say that Elizabeth is a legitimate successor - and Elizabeth may just try to take your place on the throne!

Mary I: Good point! I am giving you the task to immediately set out to make the church Roman Catholic again. We can start by dealing with the “ministers”. They must once again be called “priests”. And they are no longer allowed to get married.

Courtier: And what shall we do with those people who want to remain Protestant? Some may refuse to accept the changes.

Mary I: Put them to death. If they get burnt on the stake, they will hopefully be purified of their sin of being Protestant. Then, they may even get to heaven in the end - so, we are actually helping them!

Courtier: I will do as you command, your majesty.

the end

