

Source booklet

Source A: Conversation between Henry II and Thomas Becket, quoted by Roger of Pontigny in his book *Life of Thomas Becket*. (c. 1176)

Henry II: Have I not raised you from the poor and humble to the peak of honour and rank?... How can it be that after so many favours... that you are not only ungrateful but oppose me in everything.

Thomas Becket: I am not unmindful of the favours which, not simply you, but God the giver of all things has decided to confer on me through you as St Peter says, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Source B:

Arnulf, the Bishop of Lisieux, in a letter to the Pope Alexander III described Henry II's reaction to the news of Thomas Becket's death.

The king burst into loud cries and exchanged his royal robes for sackcloth... For three whole days he remained shut up in his chamber, and would neither take food nor admit anyone to comfort him.