



Queen's Apartments
Hampton Court Palace
Hampton

Your Holiness,

I am sure you know why the Queen of England is writing to you. Can you believe that my husband and king, of 24 years, is trying to divorce me so that he may marry one of my ladies in waiting, Anne Boleyn? I implore you not to grant this divorce as it will be the ruin of this great kingdom

As everyone knows, I am the rightful, and lawful, queen of this nation. Even though I am originally Spanish, I have taken England into my heart and have worked endlessly for the good of all my husband's loyal subjects. These decades of experience are invaluable for a queen. It is quite clear that Anne, a mere girl of 31, cannot possibly fulfil the heavy burden of queenship in the same experienced manner as I can. This would be a disaster for the citizens of England.

I also know that some people say that Henry must marry another wife for the good of the kingdom. They think that the country needs a male heir to secure the throne. This is a fallacious argument as I have already given this nation an heir, Princess Mary. She is a bright, intelligent girl, dedicated to the Catholic faith. Who better than her to lead the country after the King has departed this world?

There is no doubt in my mind that I am more suitable than Anne to sit on throne. Royal blood flows through my veins. My parents are King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. My family has been rulers in Europe for centuries and my current nephew is the Holy Roman Emperor. We would not want to cause him show his famous temper, would we Your Holiness?

I would also like to draw your attention to the worrying fact that Anne is rumoured to favour the Protestant religion which would mean, that if Henry succeeds in marrying her, the whole country would become Protestant. This would be a disaster for the Church. I, on the other hand, will always do everything in my power to protect and defend the Catholic Church.

I believe that the choice between me and Anne is quite clear, Your Holiness. I beg you to make the right decision, not just for me, but for England and the Church.

I have the honor to profess myself with the most profound respect. Your Holiness' most obedient and humble servant,

Catherine,

Queen of England, Ireland and France