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claiming in the sixteenth century, and so certain persons saw this as an opportunity to capitalize on the possibility with breaking from Rome. They knew that there was a time when the churches appreciate and recognize each other, recognizing the fact that they are all from the five different patriarchs of the early church. These include the Church of: Jerusalem, Antioch, Constantinople, Alexandria, and Rome. Eventually, the attempt of one patriarch (the Bishop of Rome) to assume the position of Head (or Pope) of the Universal Church, gave rise to the great division or schism of the Church. “The Western Church recognized the sole leadership of the Pope in Rome; the Eastern Churches continued to recognize the historic leadership of their particular patriarchs in the East” (The *Early Church: Western and Eastern*, n.d.). So when the advisors to King Henry (VIII) were acting to remove the Pope as head of the Church, it was this piece of evidence that they were acting on.

The driving force behind this movement, was none other than Thomas Cromwell. “He believed in a sovereign nation state and that the monarch should have no rival within his/her state.” (Trueman, 2015). This was based on the *Statute of Praemunire* which was passed in 1393 by King Richard II, to limit the controlling powers of the pope in England. With this view, therefore, one can appreciate why it is that he would use this opportunity, to seek to break from papal jurisdictions which was used to control what happened in England. This view that Cromwell had, was also supported by Thomas Cranmer, who was eventually appointed to be the Archbishop of Canterbury.

As was mentioned earlier, Trueman, (2015) also justifies that it was never Henry’s intent to break with the Church of Rome, but “when it became obvious that the Pope (Clement VII) was not going to be persuaded to do as Henry wished, the next step was for the king to remove

the Pope’s authority within his kingdom.” The idea to replace the Pope’s authority with that of the king’s greatly excited King Henry (VIII), as he would now be recognized as not only the king, but also as the supreme head of the Church in England.

Between 1534 and 1536, the Parliament pushed through a number of acts to establish the King as the head of the Church; halt all payments being made to the Pope, and to give the Archbishop of Canterbury the power and authority that the Pope had. As for the Crown he/she was given the authority to appoint senior church persons, and to define the necessary doctrines of the church. So by 1536, the authority of the Bishop in Rome was extinguished, and laws were set in place, in which persons who supported the Pope, for instance, would have their property confiscated (Trueman, 2015).

One of the first duties exercised by Thomas Cranmer, as Archbishop, was Henry’s divorce/annulment, in which he declared the Pope’s dispensation for the Marriage between Catherine of Aragon and King Henry (VIII) invalid. He then performed the marriage between King Henry (VIII) and Anne Boleyn, who by now was pregnant. Trueman (2015) also pointed out that there is evidence to show that Henry had hoped to have a settlement of some form with the Papacy, via the Pope giving him his blessing to the marriage he had with Anne Boleyn, but this was not forthcoming.

#### References

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# The Break of the Roman Catholic Church from the Church of England

## Part 1

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# The Role of King Henry (VIII)

King Henry (VIII) is often times seen as the person who is responsible for the break of the Church of England with the Roman Catholic Church, because of him wanting a divorce from his wife Catherine of Aragon. This, however, is not the case, as the Roman Catholic Church has often led individuals to believe. This they do by asserting the position that they do not believe in divorce, but historical records will show that what they believe in is a procedure call annulment of marriage, which is still practiced even today by them.

At that time, therefore, the concept of annulment of marriages was what the Roman Church practiced, and so when King Henry wanted to leave his wife, because of her inability to bear a male child who would become an heir to the throne, (as she was getting old), he decided that he would leave her, and marry a younger person by the name of Anne Boleyn. However, some of his advisors told him that he did not need to apply for permission from the Pope to get his marriage annulled, as it was not until the early Middle Ages that the Pope had claimed all this authority to himself. According to Morello and Media (2015), "A king had been sovereign ruler of his lands". Out of loyalty to the Pope, however, another chief advisor (Cardinal Wolsey) encouraged him to apply to the Pope to get his marriage annulled, out of mere respect for his authority as head of the church. A decision he lived to regret, because of certain political influence which was at work between the Pope (Clement VII) and the Holy Roman Emperor (Charles V), who was one of Catherine's nephew.

## Understanding the Concept of Annulment

Even though the Roman Catholics may say they do not believe in divorce, which may be defined as the **official ending of a marriage** via an official decision in a court of law (*Microsoft Encarta Reference Library*, 2005), they do practice what is called an annulment. According *Microsoft Encarta Reference Library* (2005), an annulment is a **ruling that marriage is invalid. In other words, it was never a true** marriage in the eyes of a church. So when King Henry applied for an annulment of his marriage in 1534, it was nothing strange that he was doing at that time. In fact, other persons had applied for annulment of their marriage and gotten theirs. Two such persons who had gotten their marriages annulled before 1534 include:

- 1) Robert II of France got his marriage annulled in 1000 by Pope Sylvester II. In 1003 Robert submitted to the pope and married the daughter of the marquis of Provence.
- 2) Richard Fitzalan (Earl of Arundel) got his marriage annulled in December 1344 by Pope Clement VI on the grounds that he had been underage and unwilling.

So, to say that the Roman Catholic Church did not give King Henry (VIII) the annulment of his marriage because they do not believe in divorce, is obviously not true. Something else was at work, and this obviously is not made known to everyone.

## Struggle between Church and State

During the early middle ages, (500-1000 ACE) the struggle between the church and state for power was a popular issue during this era. When Catherine learned of the desires of King Henry (VIII) to annul their marriage she appealed to her nephew Charles V of the House of Hapsburg. He was the son

of Catherine's sister, Joanna. She had married Philip of Burgundy, who was the King of Spain, Holy Roman Emperor and ruler of Burgundy, Naples, Milan, etc. Essentially, therefore, **Charles V was the major power on the mainland of Europe, and he let the pope (Clement VII) know that if he granted an annulment to Henry VIII he, Charles V, would sack Rome** (*Enotes.com*, 2010).

So with Pope Clement VII becoming the prisoner of Charles V, King Henry (VIII) had no chance of getting his marriage annulled. In fact, Orr (n.d.) further explained that ... Charles V had invaded Italy and so Clement VII was in no position to agree to granting King Henry (VIII) this annulment (considering the family connections). Orr (n.d.) further added that "According to the mores of the day he did what he had to do - prevaricate and procrastinate." For approximately six years, Pope Clement VII wrangled over the details of Henry (VIII)'s marriage, but because of the pressure he was under from Charles V, he refused to grant the annulment. Consequently, what this charade showed was that "the earthly concerns of the prelates - their personal security and wealth, was the determining factor even in the weightiest of decisions." (Orr, n.d.). This was indeed politics at work.

## The Actions of Henry VIII when his Marriage was not Annulled by the Pope.

It was never the intention of King Henry for the Roman Church to break from the Church in England. This is because the church was still viewed as one holy, catholic and apostolic church, up to 1054 ACE. What they had an issue with, however, was the power which the pope was