

*At Shrowesbury in the place then called Olfeilde a great and bloody battaill was fought by the percie Henry furnamed Hotspure, and Thomas Earle of Worrester, against King Henry the 4. Wherein the sayd Lord Henry slayne and L. Thomas taken and beheaded with y<sup>e</sup> losse of 6600. Souldiers on both parts Anno 1403.*

The battle of Shrewsbury.

From John Speed, *A prospect of the most famous part of the world* (1631).

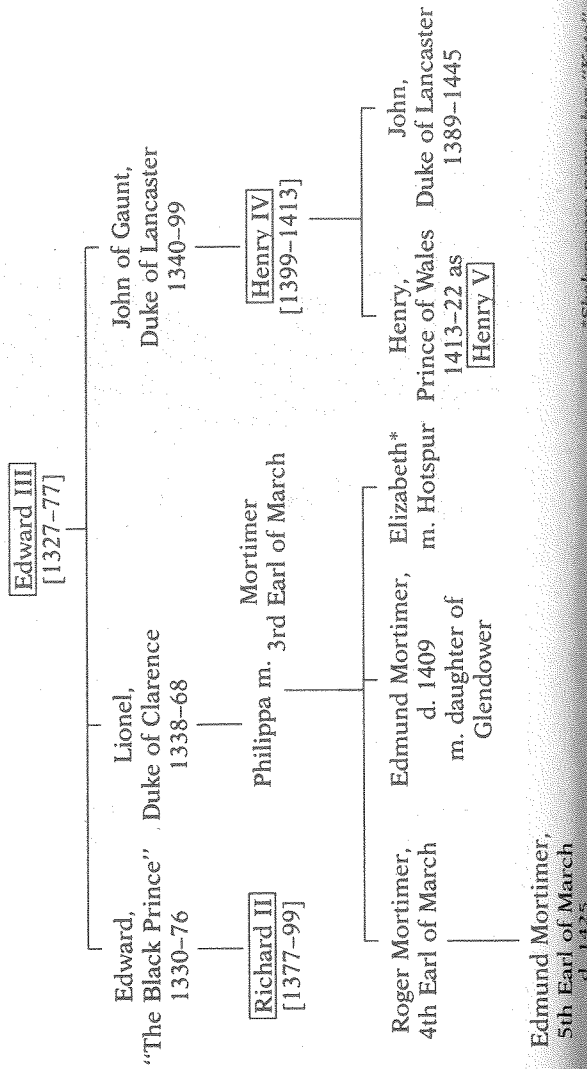
*The History of*

HENRY IV

Part 1

# The Line of Edward III

[Dates of reign are given in brackets.]



## Characters in the Play

KING HENRY IV, formerly Henry Bolingbroke

PRINCE HAL, Prince of Wales and heir to the throne (also called Harry and Harry Monmouth)

LORD JOHN OF LANCASTER, younger son of King Henry  
EARL OF WESTMORELAND  
SIR WALTER BLUNT

HOTSPUR (Sir Henry, or Harry, Percy)  
LADY PERCY (also called Kate)  
EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND, Henry Percy, Hotspur's father  
EARL OF WORCESTER, Thomas Percy, Hotspur's uncle

EDMUND MORTIMER, earl of March  
LADY MORTIMER (also called "the Welsh lady")  
OWEN GLENDOWER, a Welsh lord, father of Lady Mortimer

DOUGLAS (Archibald, earl of Douglas)  
ARCHBISHOP (Richard Scroop, archbishop of York)  
SIR MICHAEL, a priest or knight associated with the archbishop  
SIR RICHARD VERNON, an English knight

SIR JOHN FALSTAFF  
POINS (also called Edward, Yedward, and Ned)  
BARDOLPH  
PETO  
GADSHILL, setter for the robbers

HOSTESS of the tavern (also called Mistress Quickly)

VINTNER, or keeper of the tavern

FRANCIS, an apprentice tapster

Carriers, Ostlers, Chamberlain, Travelers, Sheriff, Servants, Lords, Attendants, Messengers, Soldiers

*The History of*

# HENRY IV

## Part 1

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ACT 1

1.1 King Henry meets with his advisers to discuss his proposed crusade to the Holy Land, but the discussion turns instead to new battles on England's borders. In Wales, an English nobleman named Mortimer has been captured by Owen Glendower; in the north, England's forces have prevailed over the Scots, but Hotspur, a young English nobleman, refuses to yield his prisoners to King Henry. In the face of these crises, the crusade is once again put off as the king calls a meeting at Windsor.

2. **frighted peace:** Peace is here pictured as a frightened animal trying to catch its breath.

3. **accents:** words

4. **strands afar remote:** i.e., distant lands  
**strands:** shores

5-6. **No . . . blood:** i.e., no longer must English soil drink the blood of its own people **daub:** smear, paint

7. **her fields:** i.e., the fields of England

8-9. **armèd . . . paces:** i.e., the iron-shod hooves of the cavalry's horses

9-18. **Those . . . master:** i.e., instead of fighting each other in civil war, Englishmen will march together (against a common enemy)

9. **opposèd eyes:** eyes of antagonistic forces

12. **intestine:** internal

13. **close:** struggle

14. **mutual:** i.e., joined in common purpose; **well-beseeming:** suitable; or, attractive

18. **his:** its

(continued)

## 「ACT I」

### 「Scene 1」

*Enter the King, Lord John of Lancaster, 「and the」 Earl of Westmoreland, with others.*

KING

So shaken as we are, so wan with care,  
Find we a time for frightened peace to pant  
And breathe short-winded accents of new broils  
To be commenced in strands afar remote.  
No more the thirsty entrance of this soil  
Shall daub her lips with her own children's blood.  
No more shall trenching war channel her fields,  
Nor bruise her flow'rets with the armèd hoofs  
Of hostile paces. Those opposèd eyes,  
Which, like the meteors of a troubled heaven,  
Did lately meet in the intestine shock  
And furious close of civil butchery,  
Shall now, in mutual well-beseeming ranks,  
March all one way and be no more opposed  
Against acquaintance, kindred, and allies.  
The edge of war, like an ill-sheathèd knife,  
No more shall cut his master. Therefore, friends,  
As far as to the sepulcher of Christ—  
Whose soldier now, under whose blessèd cross  
We are impressèd and engaged to fight—

5

10

15

20



19. **sepulcher of Christ:** i.e., the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem (From 1095 to c. 1450, a series of wars—the Crusades—were fought by Christians to recover the sepulcher from the Muslims. At the end of Shakespeare's *Richard II*, King Henry promises to fight such a war in order to gain God's forgiveness for Henry's part in Richard's death.)

21. **We:** i.e., I (the royal "we"); **impressèd:** drafted, conscripted

22. **a power:** an army

24. **these pagans:** i.e., the Muslims

30. **Therefor:** for that purpose

31. **Of:** from; **gentle:** noble; **cousin:** i.e., kinsman (Henry and Westmoreland were related by marriage.)

33. **dear expedience:** important expedition

34. **this haste:** i.e., this urgent matter; **hot in question:** actively discussed

35. **limits of the charge:** (1) estimates of the cost; or (2) duties and commands

36. **all athwart:** i.e., across our path and thwarting our purposes

37. **post:** i.e., a messenger riding a post horse; **loaden:** laden, loaded

40. **irregular:** perhaps a reference to Glendower's guerrilla style of fighting; or perhaps synonymous with **wild**, a reference to Glendower's powers as a Welsh sorcerer

43. **corpse:** corpses

48. **Brake:** broke

50. **uneven:** rough

52. **Holy-rood Day:** i.e., September 14, Holy Cross Day (The year of this battle between Harry Percy and Archibald, earl of Douglas, was 1402.)

Forthwith a power of English shall we levy,  
Whose arms were molded in their mothers' womb  
To chase these pagans in those holy fields  
Over whose acres walked those blessed feet  
Which fourteen hundred years ago were nailed  
For our advantage on the bitter cross.  
But this our purpose now is twelve month old,  
And bootless 'tis to tell you we will go.  
Therefor we meet not now. Then let me hear  
Of you, my gentle cousin Westmoreland,  
What yesternight our council did decree  
In forwarding this dear expedience.

25

30

## WESTMORELAND

My liege, this haste was hot in question,  
And many limits of the charge set down  
But yesternight, when all athwart there came  
A post from Wales loaden with heavy news,  
Whose worst was that the noble Mortimer,  
Leading the men of Herefordshire to fight  
Against the irregular and wild Glendower,  
Was by the rude hands of that Welshman taken,  
A thousand of his people butcherèd,  
Upon whose dead corpse there was such misuse,  
Such beastly shameless transformation  
By those Welshwomen done, as may not be  
Without much shame retold or spoken of.

35

40

45

## KING

It seems then that the tidings of this broil  
Brake off our business for the Holy Land.

## WESTMORELAND

This matched with other did, my gracious lord.  
For more uneven and unwelcome news  
Came from the north, and thus it did import:  
On Holy-rood Day the gallant Hotspur there,  
Young Harry Percy, and brave Archibald,  
That ever valiant and approvèd Scot,

50

57-58. **As . . . told:** i.e., as we can assume by what was heard

59. **them:** i.e., the news

60. **pride:** intensity

62. **Here . . . friend:** It is possible that Sir Walter Blunt is onstage and that Henry gestures to him at this point, though the fact that Blunt is given no lines and that Henry describes Blunt's appearance suggests that Blunt is not present, and that Henry's line means that Blunt is "here in the court." Either of these readings would mean that Henry has entered the scene knowing Blunt's news, which he waits until this moment to reveal. It is also possible that a messenger brings Henry a letter, which Henry here reads and reports.

66. **smooth and welcome:** Henry's response to Westmoreland's **uneven and unwelcome** at line 50

67. **discomfited:** defeated

69. **Balked:** i.e., piled up in ridges, as if by a plow

74. **spoil:** plunder, loot

82. **minion:** darling

84. **riot:** dissipation, loose living

85-89. **O, that . . . mine:** Henry's statement draws on the old belief that fairies exchanged one newborn for another or for a fairy child.

At Holmedon met, where they did spend  
A sad and bloody hour—  
As by discharge of their artillery  
And shape of likelihood the news was told,  
For he that brought them, in the very heat  
And pride of their contention did take horse,  
Uncertain of the issue any way.

55

60

KING

Here is <sup>「a」</sup> dear, a true-industrious friend,  
Sir Walter Blunt, new lighted from his horse,  
Stained with the variation of each soil  
Betwixt that Holmedon and this seat of ours,  
And he hath brought us smooth and welcome news.  
The Earl of Douglas is discomfited;  
Ten thousand bold Scots, two-and-twenty knights,  
Balked in their own blood, did Sir Walter see  
On Holmedon's plains. Of prisoners Hotspur took  
Mordake, Earl of Fife and eldest son  
To beaten Douglas, and the Earl of Atholl,  
Of Murray, Angus, and Menteith.  
And is not this an honorable spoil?  
A gallant prize? Ha, cousin, is it not?

65

70

75

WESTMORELAND

In faith, it is a conquest for a prince to boast of.

KING

Yea, there thou mak'st me sad, and mak'st me sin  
In envy that my Lord Northumberland  
Should be the father to so blest a son,  
A son who is the theme of Honor's tongue,  
Amongst a grove the very straightest plant,  
Who is sweet Fortune's minion and her pride;  
Whilst I, by looking on the praise of him,  
See riot and dishonor stain the brow  
Of my young Harry. O, that it could be proved  
That some night-tripping fairy had exchanged  
In cradle-clothes our children where they lay,

80

85

88. **Percy**: the surname of the earl of Northumberland and his family; **Plantagenet**: a surname applied to the royal house of England between 1154 and 1485

90. **from**: i.e., go out of

92. **surprised**: captured

93. **To . . . use**: i.e., to enjoy their ransoms himself

96. **Malevolent . . . aspects**: an astrological image, in which Worcester is like a planet that, no matter what its position or **aspect**, portends evil for Henry

97. **Which**: i.e., Worcester's teaching; **makes him prune himself**: i.e., makes Hotspur prepare himself for action (like a hawk pruning away broken feathers in preparation for a fight)

1.2 Prince Hal and Sir John Falstaff taunt each other, Hal warning Falstaff that he will one day be hanged as a thief and Falstaff insisting that, when Hal becomes king, thieves will have a friend in court. Poins enters to enlist them in an upcoming robbery. Hal refuses, but, after Falstaff leaves, Poins persuades Hal to join in a plot to rob and embarrass Falstaff and the other thieves. Alone, Hal reveals that he will soon end his association with his companions and that, after his "reformation," he will shine all the brighter against his background of irresponsible living.

2. **fat-witted**: thick-brained, stupid

3. **sack**: sherry

5. **truly**: correctly

5-6. **wouldst truly know**: i.e., really want to know

And called mine "Percy," his "Plantagenet"!  
Then would I have his Harry, and he mine.  
But let him from my thoughts. What think you, coz, 90  
Of this young Percy's pride? The prisoners  
Which he in this adventure hath surprised  
To his own use he keeps, and sends me word  
I shall have none but Mordake, Earl of Fife.

WESTMORELAND

This is his uncle's teaching. This is Worcester, 95  
Malevolent to you in all aspects,  
Which makes him prune himself, and bristle up  
The crest of youth against your dignity.

KING

But I have sent for him to answer this.  
And for this cause awhile we must neglect 100  
Our holy purpose to Jerusalem.  
Cousin, on Wednesday next our council we  
Will hold at Windsor. So inform the lords.  
But come yourself with speed to us again,  
For more is to be said and to be done 105  
Than out of anger can be uttered.

WESTMORELAND I will, my liege.

*They exit.*

[Scene 2]

*Enter Prince of Wales, and Sir John Falstaff.*

FALSTAFF Now, Hal, what time of day is it, lad?  
PRINCE Thou art so fat-witted with drinking of old 5  
sack, and unbuttoning thee after supper, and  
sleeping upon benches after noon, that thou hast  
forgotten to demand that truly which thou wouldst  
truly know. What a devil hast thou to do with  
the time of the day? Unless hours were cups of  
sack, and minutes capons, and clocks the tongues

9. **dials**: sun dials; **leaping-houses**: brothels  
 11–12. **why . . . demand**: i.e., why you should be so inane as to ask  
 14. **you come near me**: i.e., you're near the mark  
 15. **go by**: (1) walk under the light of; (2) tell time by  
 15–16. **seven stars**: the constellation also known as the Pleiades  
 16. **Phoebus**: god of the sun, or, here, the sun itself  
 16–17. **wand'ring knight**: i.e., a knight errant  
 17. **sweet wag**: dear fellow  
 18. **thy Grace**: your Majesty (with a pun on **grace** as "virtue," or as "God's grace")  
 22. **prologue . . . butter**: another pun on **grace**, a short prayer before a meal  
 23. **roundly**: i.e., speak bluntly  
 24. **Marry**: i.e., indeed (a mild oath)  
 25. **squires . . . body**: A "squire of the body" was an officer who attended on the person of a dignitary. Falstaff is perhaps punning on night/knight.  
 26. **beauty**: probably a pun on "booty" or loot; **be**: i.e., be called; **Diana**: goddess of the moon (See page 66.)  
 27. **foresters**: officials in charge of forest lands  
 30–31. **under . . . steal**: (1) beneath whose face we move stealthily; (2) under whose protection we commit theft  
 38. **swearing "Lay by"**: i.e., ordering people to give up their money  
 38–39. **crying "Bring in"**: i.e., calling to the waiter for more wine  
 39. **the ladder**: the steps leading up to the **gallows** (See page 82.)

of bawds, and dials the signs of leaping-houses, and the blessed sun himself a fair hot wench in flame-colored taffeta, I see no reason why thou shouldst be so superfluous to demand the time of the day.

FALSTAFF Indeed, you come near me now, Hal, for we that take purses go by the moon and the seven stars, and not by Phoebus, he, that wand'ring knight so fair. And I prithee, sweet wag, when thou art king, as God save thy Grace—Majesty, I should say, for grace thou wilt have none—

PRINCE What, none?

FALSTAFF No, by my troth, not so much as will serve to be prologue to an egg and butter.

PRINCE Well, how then? Come, roundly, roundly.

FALSTAFF Marry then, sweet wag, when thou art king, let not us that are squires of the night's body be called thieves of the day's beauty. Let us be Diana's foresters, gentlemen of the shade, minions of the moon, and let men say we be men of good government, being governed, as the sea is, by our noble and chaste mistress the moon, under whose countenance we steal.

PRINCE Thou sayest well, and it holds well too, for the fortune of us that are the moon's men doth ebb and flow like the sea, being governed, as the sea is, by the moon. As for proof now: a purse of gold most resolutely snatched on Monday night and most dissolutely spent on Tuesday morning, got with swearing "Lay by" and spent with crying "Bring in"; now in as low an ebb as the foot of the ladder, and by and by in as high a flow as the ridge of the gallows.

FALSTAFF By the Lord, thou sayst true, lad. And is not my hostess of the tavern a most sweet wench?

44. **Hybla**: a place in ancient Sicily, famous for its honey bees; **old . . . castle**: This reference, along with other evidence, persuades editors that the character called Falstaff was originally named Oldcastle. See "Historical Background: Sir John Falstaff and Sir John Oldcastle," pages 235–41.

45. **buff jerkin**: leather military jacket (worn by sheriff's officers, for example)

45–46. **robe of durance**: Hal puns on **durance** as "confinement, imprisonment" and as a kind of coarse, imitation-leather cloth

48. **quiddities**: quibbles

48, 50. **What a plague, what a pox**: mild oaths, though Hal's use of **pox** (which can refer to venereal disease) makes his oath more pointed

52. **called . . . reckoning**: i.e., asked for the bill (The phrase normally means "made her give an account of herself.")

61. **heir apparent**: i.e., the next king

63. **resolution**: (thieves') firmness of purpose

64. **fubbed . . . with**: i.e., cheated (fobbed) . . . by; **curb**: metal part of a horse's bridle; **old father Antic**: The word **antic** referred to theatrical characters or dancers who were clothed grotesquely and who acted fantastically. It also meant "antique," i.e., ancient. Both meanings are appropriate here.

68. **rare**: excellent; **brave**: splendid, admirable

73. **jumps**: agrees, fits

74. **humor**: temperament, disposition; **waiting . . . court**: i.e., awaiting cases to try as a judge (Hal responds as if Falstaff had meant "being in attendance at the royal court.")

76. **suits**: petitions

(continued)

PRINCE As the honey of Hybla, my old lad of the castle.  
And is not a buff jerkin a most sweet robe of  
durance? 45

FALSTAFF How now, how now, mad wag? What, in thy  
quips and thy quiddities? What a plague have I to  
do with a buff jerkin?

PRINCE Why, what a pox have I to do with my hostess  
of the tavern? 50

FALSTAFF Well, thou hast called her to a reckoning  
many a time and oft.

PRINCE Did I ever call for thee to pay thy part?

FALSTAFF No, I'll give thee thy due. Thou hast paid all  
there. 55

PRINCE Yea, and elsewhere, so far as my coin would  
stretch, and where it would not, I have used my  
credit.

FALSTAFF Yea, and so used it that were it not here  
apparent that thou art heir apparent—But I prith-  
ee, sweet wag, shall there be gallows standing in  
England when thou art king? And resolution thus  
fubbed as it is with the rusty curb of old father Antic  
the law? Do not thou, when thou art king, hang a  
thief. 60 65

PRINCE No, thou shalt.

FALSTAFF Shall I? O rare! By the Lord, I'll be a brave  
judge.

PRINCE Thou judgest false already. I mean thou shalt  
have the hanging of the thieves, and so become a  
rare hangman. 70

FALSTAFF Well, Hal, well, and in some sort it jumps  
with my humor as well as waiting in the court, I  
can tell you. 75

PRINCE For obtaining of suits?

FALSTAFF Yea, for obtaining of suits, whereof the hang-  
man hath no lean wardrobe. 'Sblood, I am as  
melancholy as a gib cat or a lugged bear.

77-78. **suits . . . wardrobe:** The hangman was given the clothing of those he executed.

78. **'Sblood:** an oath "by Christ's blood"

79. **gib cat . . . bear:** The tomcat and the bear pulled by the head were proverbially melancholy, as were the **old lion, lover's lute, bagpipe, and hare.**

83. **Moorditch:** a foul ditch in the north of London (See page 20.)

85. **comparative:** i.e., quick to make similes

87. **vanity:** that which is vain or worthless

88. **commodity:** supply

89. **rated:** reproved, scolded

90-91. **marked him not:** paid no attention to him

91-93. **he talked . . . too:** Falstaff here echoes Proverbs 1.20 and 1.24 ("Wisdom crieth . . . in the streets . . . and no man regardeth"). Hal responds by repeating the verses of Scripture.

96. **damnable iteration:** perhaps, a devilish way of quoting Scripture; or, perhaps, a way of using Scripture that will damn you

102. **an:** if

105. **take a purse:** i.e., commit a robbery

106. **Zounds:** an oath "by God's wounds"; **make one:** i.e., be one of the party

107. **baffle me:** subject me to public disgrace

110-11. **'Tis . . . vocation:** The Bible urges Christians to labor in the vocations to which they are called (see 1 Corinthians 7.20 and Ephesians 4.1).

112-13. **set a match:** i.e., arranged a robbery

113. **if . . . merit:** i.e., if the salvation of one's soul rested on one's actions, rather than on God's grace (The issue of salvation by grace or by good works was hotly debated in Shakespeare's day.)

PRINCE Or an old lion, or a lover's lute. 80

FALSTAFF Yea, or the drone of a Lincolnshire bagpipe.

PRINCE What sayest thou to a hare, or the melancholy of Moorditch?

FALSTAFF Thou hast the most unsavory <sup>1</sup>similes,<sup>1</sup> and art indeed the most comparative, rascaliest, sweet young prince. But, Hal, I prithee trouble me no more with vanity. I would to God thou and I knew where a commodity of good names were to be bought. An old lord of the council rated me the other day in the street about you, sir, but I marked him not, and yet he talked very wisely, but I regarded him not, and yet he talked wisely, and in the street, too. 85 90

PRINCE Thou didst well, for wisdom cries out in the streets and no man regards it. 95

FALSTAFF O, thou hast damnable iteration, and art indeed able to corrupt a saint. Thou hast done much harm upon me, Hal, God forgive thee for it. Before I knew thee, Hal, I knew nothing, and now am I, if a man should speak truly, little better than one of the wicked. I must give over this life, and I will give it over. By the Lord, an I do not, I am a villain. I'll be damned for never a king's son in Christendom. 100

PRINCE Where shall we take a purse tomorrow, Jack? 105

FALSTAFF Zounds, where thou wilt, lad. I'll make one.

An I do not, call me villain and baffle me.

PRINCE I see a good amendment of life in thee, from praying to purse-taking.

FALSTAFF Why, Hal, 'tis my vocation, Hal. 'Tis no sin for a man to labor in his vocation. 110

*Enter Poins.*

Poins!—Now shall we know if Gadshill have set a match. O, if men were to be saved by merit, what

115. **Stand:** a highwayman's command to his victim

116. **true:** honest

121–22. **thy soul . . . leg:** Falstaff is accused of selling his soul to the devil for food and drink on a day of strict fasting.

128. **Else:** otherwise; **cozening:** cheating

132. **Canterbury:** site of the shrine of Thomas à Becket; **offerings:** donations

133. **vizards:** masks

135. **bespoke:** arranged for

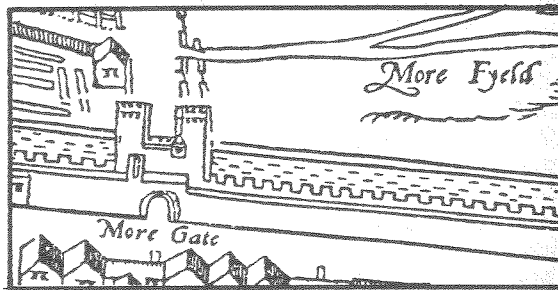
136. **Eastcheap:** an area of London filled with markets and taverns (See pages xviii–xix.)

141. **hang you:** i.e., have you hanged

142. **chops:** fat cheeks

145. **honesty:** honor

147–48. **stand . . . shillings:** i.e., rob a victim of ten shillings (See the note on **stand** at line 115.) The phrase can also mean “represent the royal blood.” (A **royal** was a coin worth ten shillings.)



Moorditch. (1.2.83)

From R. Agas, *Map of London* attributed to Ralph Agas, ca. 1560 (1905).

hole in hell were hot enough for him? This is the most omnipotent villain that ever cried “Stand!” to a true man. 115

PRINCE Good morrow, Ned.

POINS Good morrow, sweet Hal.—What says Monsieur Remorse? What says Sir John Sack-and-Sugar? Jack, how agrees the devil and thee about thy soul that thou soldest him on Good Friday last for a cup of Madeira and a cold capon’s leg? 120

PRINCE Sir John stands to his word. The devil shall have his bargain, for he was never yet a breaker of proverbs. He will give the devil his due. 125

POINS, <sup>to Falstaff</sup> Then art thou damned for keeping thy word with the devil.

PRINCE Else he had been damned for cozening the devil.

POINS But, my lads, my lads, tomorrow morning, by four o’clock early at Gad’s Hill, there are pilgrims going to Canterbury with rich offerings, and traders riding to London with fat purses. I have vizards for you all. You have horses for yourselves. Gadshill lies tonight in Rochester. I have bespoke supper tomorrow night in Eastcheap. We may do it as secure as sleep. If you will go, I will stuff your purses full of crowns. If you will not, tarry at home and be hanged. 135

FALSTAFF Hear you, Yedward, if I tarry at home and go not, I’ll hang you for going. 140

POINS You will, chops?

FALSTAFF Hal, wilt thou make one?

PRINCE Who, I rob? I a thief? Not I, by my faith.

FALSTAFF There’s neither honesty, manhood, nor good fellowship in thee, nor thou cam’st not of the blood royal, if thou dar’st not stand for ten shillings. 145

PRINCE Well then, once in my days I’ll be a madcap.

FALSTAFF Why, that’s well said. 150



158-61. **God . . . believed:** language used at the close of religious services

163. **want countenance:** lack support and encouragement (from high-ranking persons)

165-66. **latter spring, Allhallown summer:** Both phrases allude to Falstaff's age. **latter:** late, second; **Allhallown:** i.e., Allhallows, or All Saints' Day (November 1)

171. **waylaid:** set the trap for

172. **they, them:** Falstaff and his fellow thieves

176-77. **wherein . . . fail:** i.e., where we may, if we please, fail (to meet them)

180. **like:** likely

181. **habits:** clothes

181-82. **every other appointment:** everything about our outfits

185. **sirrah:** a familiar form of "sir" (Poins's use of it here shows his sense that he may treat Hal familiarly.); **cases of buckram:** suits of buckram cloth

186. **for the nonce:** for the occasion; **immask:** i.e., hide; **noted:** well-known

PRINCE Well, come what will, I'll tarry at home.

FALSTAFF By the Lord, I'll be a traitor then when thou art king.

PRINCE I care not.

POINS Sir John, I prithee leave the Prince and me alone. I will lay him down such reasons for this adventure that he shall go. 155

FALSTAFF Well, God give thee the spirit of persuasion, and him the ears of profiting, that what thou speakest may move, and what he hears may be believed, that the true prince may, for recreation sake, prove a false thief, for the poor abuses of the time want countenance. Farewell. You shall find me in Eastcheap. 160

PRINCE Farewell, 'thou' latter spring. Farewell, Allhallown summer. 'Falstaff exits.' 165

POINS Now, my good sweet honey lord, ride with us tomorrow. I have a jest to execute that I cannot manage alone. Falstaff, 'Peto, Bardolph,' and Gads-hill shall rob those men that we have already waylaid. Yourself and I will not be there. And when they have the booty, if you and I do not rob them, cut this head off from my shoulders. 170

PRINCE How shall we part with them in setting forth?

POINS Why, we will set forth before or after them, and appoint them a place of meeting, wherein it is at our pleasure to fail; and then will they adventure upon the exploit themselves, which they shall have no sooner achieved but we'll set upon them. 175

PRINCE Yea, but 'tis like that they will know us by our horses, by our habits, and by every other appointment to be ourselves. 180

POINS Tut, our horses they shall not see; I'll tie them in the wood. Our vizards we will change after we leave them. And, sirrah, I have cases of buckram for the nonce, to immask our noted outward garments. 185



188. **doubt**: fear; **too hard for us**: i.e., stronger than we are  
 189. **for**: i.e., as for  
 190. **turned back**: i.e., ran away  
 192. **forswear arms**: give up wearing a sword;  
**virtue**: power, worth  
 193. **incomprehensible**: immense, boundless  
 195. **wards**: defensive motions  
 202. **know you**: am aware of what you are  
 203. **unyoked**: uncontrolled; **humor . . . idleness**: inclination to behave irresponsibly  
 205. **Who**: i.e., which; **base**: menial; **contagious**: corrupting  
 206-10. **his, he, himself, he, him**: All of these words refer to the **sun**.  
 212. **sport**: play  
 213. **they**: i.e., holidays  
 214. **accidents**: events (Proverbial: "That which is rare is precious.")  
 218. **hopes**: expectations  
 219. **on . . . ground**: against a dark background

- PRINCE Yea, but I doubt they will be too hard for us.  
 POINS Well, for two of them, I know them to be as  
 true-bred cowards as ever turned back; and for the 190  
 third, if he fight longer than he sees reason, I'll  
 forswear arms. The virtue of this jest will be the  
 incomprehensible lies that this same fat rogue will  
 tell us when we meet at supper: how thirty at least 195  
 he fought with, what wards, what blows, what  
 extremities he endured; and in the reproof of this  
 lives the jest.  
 PRINCE Well, I'll go with thee. Provide us all things  
 necessary and meet me tomorrow night in East-  
 cheap. There I'll sup. Farewell. 200  
 POINS Farewell, my lord. *Poins exits.*  
 PRINCE  
 I know you all, and will awhile uphold  
 The unyoked humor of your idleness.  
 Yet herein will I imitate the sun,  
 Who doth permit the base contagious clouds 205  
 To smother up his beauty from the world,  
 That, when he please again to be himself,  
 Being wanted, he may be more wondered at  
 By breaking through the foul and ugly mists  
 Of vapors that did seem to strangle him. 210  
 If all the year were playing holidays,  
 To sport would be as tedious as to work,  
 But when they seldom come, they wished-for come,  
 And nothing pleaseth but rare accidents.  
 So when this loose behavior I throw off 215  
 And pay the debt I never promised,  
 By how much better than my word I am,  
 By so much shall I falsify men's hopes;  
 And, like bright metal on a sullen ground,  
 My reformation, glitt'ring o'er my fault, 220  
 Shall show more goodly and attract more eyes  
 Than that which hath no foil to set it off.

224. **Redeeming:** i.e., recovering by paying that which is owed (The idea of **redeeming time** is both proverbial and biblical. See, e.g., Ephesians 5.16.)

1.3 King Henry meets with Hotspur, Hotspur's father (Northumberland), and his uncle (Worcester) to demand that Hotspur yield his prisoners to the crown. Hotspur agrees to do so only if Henry will ransom Mortimer, Hotspur's brother-in-law, from captivity in Wales. Henry refuses and exits. Hotspur is enraged by Henry's accusation that Mortimer is a traitor and is happy to go along with a plot devised by Worcester and Northumberland to oust Henry from the throne.

- 
2. **Unapt:** not inclined  
 3. **found me:** discovered me (to be so), found me out; or, found me so  
 5. **myself:** i.e., a king  
 6. **condition:** disposition, temperament  
 10. **Our house:** i.e., the Percy family  
 13. **help:** helped; **portly:** imposing, majestic  
 17. **peremptory:** obstinate (pronounced *pèremptory*)  
 19. **moody frontier . . . brow:** i.e., a subject's frowning forehead **frontier:** forehead  
 20. **us, we:** i.e., me, I (the royal "we")

I'll so offend to make offense a skill,  
 Redeeming time when men think least I will.

*He exits.*

「Scene 3」

*Enter the King, Northumberland, Worcester, Hotspur,  
 「and」 Sir Walter Blunt, with others.*

KING, 「to Northumberland, Worcester, and Hotspur」  
 My blood hath been too cold and temperate,  
 Unapt to stir at these indignities,  
 And you have found me, for accordingly  
 You tread upon my patience. But be sure  
 I will from henceforth rather be myself,  
 Mighty and to be feared, than my condition,  
 Which hath been smooth as oil, soft as young down,  
 And therefore lost that title of respect  
 Which the proud soul ne'er pays but to the proud.

WORCESTER

Our house, my sovereign liege, little deserves  
 The scourge of greatness to be used on it,  
 And that same greatness too which our own hands  
 Have help to make so portly.

NORTHUMBERLAND My lord—

KING

Worcester, get thee gone, for I do see  
 Danger and disobedience in thine eye.  
 O sir, your presence is too bold and peremptory,  
 And majesty might never yet endure  
 The moody frontier of a servant brow.  
 You have good leave to leave us. When we need  
 Your use and counsel, we shall send for you.

*Worcester exits.*

You were about to speak.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Yea, my good lord.

27. **delivered:** reported  
 28. **envy . . . or misprision:** malice or misunderstanding  
 32. **dry:** thirsty; **extreme:** pronounced *extrême*  
 35. **new reaped:** i.e., freshly shaved; or, with beard freshly trimmed  
 36. **Showed:** looked; **harvest home:** the end of harvesting  
 39. **pouncet box:** small container filled with a fragrant substance (See page 34.); **ever and anon:** now and then  
 40. **gave his nose:** brought up to his nose  
 41. **Who therewith angry:** i.e., which, being angry that the pouncet box had been taken away  
 42. **Took . . . snuff:** (1) took offense; (2) sniffed angrily, or, perhaps, sneezed; **still:** continually  
 44. **them:** i.e., the soldiers  
 45. **slovenly:** disgusting; **corse:** corpse  
 46. **his nobility:** i.e., himself  
 47. **holiday . . . terms:** To "speak holiday" meant to use choice language. **lady terms:** words used by ladies  
 51. **popinjay:** (1) parrot; (2) vain, conceited person  
 52. **grief:** anger; or, pain  
 53. **neglectingly:** negligently, carelessly  
 57-58. **God . . . mark:** here, an expression of impatience

Those prisoners in your Highness' name demanded,  
 Which Harry Percy here at Holmedon took,  
 Were, as he says, not with such strength denied  
 As is delivered to your Majesty.  
 Either envy, therefore, or misprision  
 Is guilty of this fault, and not my son.

## HOTSPUR

My liege, I did deny no prisoners.  
 But I remember, when the fight was done,  
 When I was dry with rage and extreme toil,  
 Breathless and faint, leaning upon my sword,  
 Came there a certain lord, neat and trimly dressed,  
 Fresh as a bridegroom, and his chin new reaped  
 Showed like a stubble land at harvest home.  
 He was perfumèd like a milliner,  
 And 'twixt his finger and his thumb he held  
 A pouncet box, which ever and anon  
 He gave his nose and took 't away again,  
 Who therewith angry, when it next came there,  
 Took it in snuff; and still he smiled and talked.  
 And as the soldiers bore dead bodies by,  
 He called them untaught knaves, unmannerly,  
 To bring a slovenly unhandsome corse  
 Betwixt the wind and his nobility.  
 With many holiday and lady terms  
 He questioned me, amongst the rest demanded  
 My prisoners in your Majesty's behalf.  
 I then, all smarting with my wounds being cold,  
 To be so pestered with a popinjay,  
 Out of my grief and my impatience  
 Answered neglectingly I know not what—  
 He should, or he should not; for he made me mad  
 To see him shine so brisk and smell so sweet  
 And talk so like a waiting-gentlewoman  
 Of guns, and drums, and wounds—God save the  
 mark!—

59. **sovereignest**: most excellent

60. **parmacety**: i.e., spermaceti, a waxy substance used as a medicinal ointment, taken from the head of the sperm whale

62. **saltpeter**: the chief ingredient of gunpowder

64. **Which . . . destroyed**: i.e., the saltpeter had destroyed many brave men

65. **but for**: except for

67. **bald unjointed**: trivial, incoherent

70. **Come current for**: i.e., be accepted as

75. **with . . . retold**: i.e., taking into account the rest of the story

77. **impeach**: (1) attack, discredit; (2) make treasonous

78. **so**: i.e., provided that

79. **yet . . . deny**: he still denies

80–81. **But . . . That**: i.e., unless

81. **straight**: immediately

82–87. **His brother-in-law . . . married**: Shakespeare follows the chronicles of the time in treating two Edmund Mortimers as if they were a single person. (Sir Edmund Mortimer, brother to Hotspur's wife, was captured by Glendower and married Glendower's daughter; his nephew, Edmund Mortimer, was fifth earl of March and had a strong claim to the throne. See family chart, page 2, and lines 147–63 below.)

89. **indent with fears**: i.e., make a covenant with those we should fear

And telling me the sovereignest thing on earth  
Was parmacety for an inward bruise,  
And that it was great pity, so it was,  
This villainous saltpeter should be digged  
Out of the bowels of the harmless earth,  
Which many a good tall fellow had destroyed  
So cowardly, and but for these vile guns  
He would himself have been a soldier.  
This bald unjointed chat of his, my lord,  
I answered indirectly, as I said,  
And I beseech you, let not his report  
Come current for an accusation  
Betwixt my love and your high Majesty.

60

65

70

BLUNT

The circumstance considered, good my lord,  
Whate'er Lord Harry Percy then had said  
To such a person and in such a place,  
At such a time, with all the rest retold,  
May reasonably die and never rise  
To do him wrong or any way impeach  
What then he said, so he unsay it now.

75

KING

Why, yet he doth deny his prisoners,  
But with proviso and exception  
That we at our own charge shall ransom straight  
His brother-in-law, the foolish Mortimer,  
Who, on my soul, hath willfully betrayed  
The lives of those that he did lead to fight  
Against that great magician, damned Glendower,  
Whose daughter, as we hear, that Earl of March  
Hath lately married. Shall our coffers then  
Be emptied to redeem a traitor home?  
Shall we buy treason and indent with fears  
When they have lost and forfeited themselves?  
No, on the barren mountains let him starve,  
For I shall never hold that man my friend

80

85

90

94. **revolted Mortimer:** i.e., Mortimer, who has thrown off his allegiance

96. **fall off:** i.e., go over to the enemy

97. **But by:** except through

99. **mouthèd:** i.e., open like mouths

100. **Severn's . . . bank:** i.e., the sedge-covered bank of the river Severn

102. **confound:** spend

103. **changing hardiment:** exchanging brave deeds

104. **breathed:** i.e., stopped to catch their breath

107. **Who:** i.e., the Severn River; **affrighted with:** frightened by

109. **his crisp head:** i.e., its rough water (literally, his curly hair) The words play on the image of the river as a frightened man running from the bloody looks of the fighters.

110. **combatants:** pronounced *còmbatants*

111. **policy:** cunning

112. **Color:** misrepresent; paint, as with cosmetics (literally, stain with blood); **her:** its

115. **with revolt:** i.e., with the charge of having changed his allegiance

116. **belie:** misrepresent

118. **alone:** i.e., in single combat

120. **sirrah:** familiar form of "sir," used here to emphasize the king's position of authority over Hotspur

123. **kind:** manner

125. **license your departure:** give you leave to depart

Whose tongue shall ask me for one penny cost  
To ransom home revolted Mortimer.

HOTSPUR Revolted Mortimer!

95

He never did fall off, my sovereign liege,  
But by the chance of war. To prove that true

Needs no more but one tongue for all those wounds,  
Those mouthèd wounds, which valiantly he took

When on the gentle Severn's sedgy bank 100

In single opposition hand to hand

He did confound the best part of an hour

In changing hardiment with great Glendower.

Three times they breathed, and three times did they  
drink,

105

Upon agreement, of swift Severn's flood,

Who then, affrighted with their bloody looks,

Ran fearfully among the trembling reeds

And hid his crisp head in the hollow bank,

Blood-stainèd with these valiant combatants. 110

Never did bare and rotten policy

Color her working with such deadly wounds,

Nor never could the noble Mortimer

Receive so many, and all willingly.

Then let not him be slandered with revolt. 115

KING

Thou dost belie him, Percy; thou dost belie him.

He never did encounter with Glendower.

I tell thee, he durst as well have met the devil alone

As Owen Glendower for an enemy.

Art thou not ashamed? But, sirrah, henceforth 120

Let me not hear you speak of Mortimer.

Send me your prisoners with the speediest means,

Or you shall hear in such a kind from me

As will displease you.—My lord Northumberland,

We license your departure with your son.— 125

Send us your prisoners, or you will hear of it.

*King exits* [with Blunt and others.]

128. **I . . . straight:** i.e., I'll go after him right now  
 130. **Albeit . . . head:** i.e., even if I risk my head  
 131. **choler:** anger  
 134. **Zounds:** an oath "by Christ's wounds"  
 135. **Want mercy:** lack mercy (from God)  
 140. **ingrate:** ungrateful; **cankered:** malignant;  
 spiteful; **Bolingbroke:** King Henry's family name  
 141. **made . . . mad:** i.e., put . . . in a rage  
 143. **forsooth:** here, an expression of impatience  
 146. **an eye of death:** perhaps, a deathlike look of  
 fear; or, perhaps, a look threatening death  
 148. **he:** i.e., Mortimer (See note on lines 82–87,  
 above.)  
 149. **next of blood:** i.e., heir to the throne  
 151–55. **And . . . murderèd:** This story is drama-  
 tized by Shakespeare in *Richard II*.  
 151. **unhappy:** unfortunate  
 152. **in us:** i.e., committed by us



A pouncet box. (1.3.39)  
 From Walther Hermann Ryff, *Confect Bock* (1563).

HOTSPUR

An if the devil come and roar for them,  
 I will not send them. I will after straight  
 And tell him so, for I will ease my heart,  
 Albeit I make a hazard of my head.

130

NORTHUMBERLAND

What, drunk with choler? Stay and pause awhile.  
 Here comes your uncle.

*Enter Worcester.*

HOTSPUR

Speak of Mortimer?

Zounds, I will speak of him, and let my soul  
 Want mercy if I do not join with him.  
 Yea, on his part I'll empty all these veins  
 And shed my dear blood drop by drop in the dust,  
 But I will lift the downtrod Mortimer  
 As high in the air as this unthankful king,  
 As this ingrate and cankered Bolingbroke.

135

140

NORTHUMBERLAND

Brother, the King hath made your nephew mad.

WORCESTER

Who struck this heat up after I was gone?

HOTSPUR

He will forsooth have all my prisoners,  
 And when I urged the ransom once again  
 Of my wife's brother, then his cheek looked pale,  
 And on my face he turned an eye of death,  
 Trembling even at the name of Mortimer.

145

WORCESTER

I cannot blame him. Was not he proclaimed  
 By Richard, that dead is, the next of blood?

NORTHUMBERLAND

He was; I heard the proclamation.  
 And then it was when the unhappy king—  
 Whose wrongs in us God pardon!—did set forth  
 Upon his Irish expedition;

150

158. **soft:** i.e., wait a minute  
 159. **brother:** i.e., brother-in-law  
 163. **wished him . . . starve:** i.e., wanted Mortimer . . . to starve  
 167. **Of . . . subornation:** i.e., of having instigated a murder (The following lines make it clear that he is referring to the death of Richard II.)  
 169. **base:** contemptible; **second means:** agents  
 172. **line:** rank, station; **predicament:** dangerous situation  
 173. **range:** occupy a place (with wordplay on its more usual meaning of "wander around, stray")  
 177. **gage them:** bind themselves (either by offering themselves as guarantee or risking themselves as a wager)  
 180. **thorn, canker:** i.e., the prickly wild rose (*Rosa canina*)

From whence he, intercepted, did return  
 To be deposed and shortly murderèd. 155

WORCESTER

And for whose death we in the world's wide mouth  
 Live scandalized and foully spoken of.

HOTSPUR

But soft, I pray you. Did King Richard then  
 Proclaim my brother Edmund Mortimer  
 Heir to the crown? 160

NORTHUMBERLAND He did; myself did hear it.

HOTSPUR

Nay then, I cannot blame his cousin king  
 That wished him on the barren mountains starve.  
 But shall it be that you that set the crown  
 Upon the head of this forgetful man 165

And for his sake wear the detested blot  
 Of murderous subornation—shall it be  
 That you a world of curses undergo,  
 Being the agents or base second means,  
 The cords, the ladder, or the hangman rather? 170

O, pardon me that I descend so low  
 To show the line and the predicament  
 Wherein you range under this subtle king.  
 Shall it for shame be spoken in these days,  
 Or fill up chronicles in time to come, 175

That men of your nobility and power  
 Did gage them both in an unjust behalf  
 (As both of you, God pardon it, have done)  
 To put down Richard, that sweet lovely rose,  
 And plant this thorn, this canker, Bolingbroke? 180

And shall it in more shame be further spoken  
 That you are fooled, discarded, and shook off  
 By him for whom these shames you underwent?  
 No, yet time serves wherein you may redeem  
 Your banished honors and restore yourselves 185  
 Into the good thoughts of the world again,

187. **disdained:** i.e., disdainful  
 193. **unclasp:** Books were often fastened by means of metal clasps. (See page 40.)  
 195. **matter:** i.e., subject matter  
 198. **footing:** surface  
 199. **he:** such a man; **or:** i.e., whether he  
 201. **So:** i.e., provided that  
 202. **them:** i.e., danger and honor  
 203. **lion:** a symbol of the monarch (Both **rouse** and **start** mean to cause game to run or fly from hiding.)  
 208. **deep:** i.e., sea  
 211. **So:** i.e., provided; **her:** i.e., honor, pictured here as a woman in need of rescue  
 213. **out . . . fellowship:** i.e., curses on sharing honor's favors with others  
 214. **figures:** (1) figures of speech; (2) images  
 215. **attend:** pay attention to  
 217. **I . . . mercy:** i.e., I beg your pardon



"The King himself is to be feared as the lion." (3.3.158)  
 From John Speed, *A prospect of the most famous part of the world* (1631).

Revenge the jeering and disdained contempt  
 Of this proud king, who studies day and night  
 To answer all the debt he owes to you  
 Even with the bloody payment of your deaths. 190  
 Therefore I say—

WORCESTER Peace, cousin, say no more.  
 And now I will unclasp a secret book,  
 And to your quick-conceiving discontents  
 I'll read you matter deep and dangerous, 195  
 As full of peril and adventurous spirit  
 As to o'erwalk a current roaring loud  
 On the unsteadfast footing of a spear.

HOTSPUR  
 If he fall in, good night, or sink or swim!  
 Send danger from the east unto the west, 200  
 So honor cross it from the north to south,  
 And let them grapple. O, the blood more stirs  
 To rouse a lion than to start a hare!

NORTHUMBERLAND, [to Worcester]  
 Imagination of some great exploit  
 Drives him beyond the bounds of patience. 205

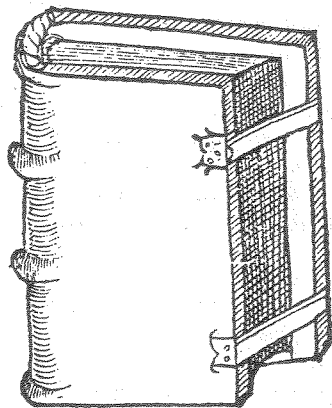
[HOTSPUR]  
 By heaven, methinks it were an easy leap  
 To pluck bright honor from the pale-faced moon,  
 Or dive into the bottom of the deep,  
 Where fathom line could never touch the ground,  
 And pluck up drowned honor by the locks, 210  
 So he that doth redeem her thence might wear  
 Without corrival all her dignities.  
 But out upon this half-faced fellowship!

WORCESTER  
 He apprehends a world of figures here,  
 But not the form of what he should attend.— 215  
 Good cousin, give me audience for a while.

HOTSPUR  
 I cry you mercy.



221. **a Scot of them:** i.e., a single Scot  
 224. **start away:** i.e., will not stay still  
 234. **still:** constantly, always  
 237. **Save:** i.e., except  
 238. **sword . . . buckler:** These were weapons worn mostly by servants and lower-class men.  
 249. **stung with pismires:** i.e., as if stung by ants



A book fastened with clasps. (1.3.193)  
 From *Notitia vtraque cum Orientis tum Occidentis* (1552).

- WORCESTER            Those same noble Scots  
                          That are your prisoners—
- HOTSPUR                            I'll keep them all.            220  
                          By God, he shall not have a Scot of them.  
                          No, if a Scot would save his soul, he shall not.  
                          I'll keep them, by this hand!
- WORCESTER                            You start away  
                          And lend no ear unto my purposes:            225  
                          Those prisoners you shall keep—
- HOTSPUR    Nay, I will. That's flat!  
                          He said he would not ransom Mortimer,  
                          Forbade my tongue to speak of Mortimer.  
                          But I will find him when he lies asleep,            230  
                          And in his ear I'll hollo "Mortimer."  
                          Nay, I'll have a starling shall be taught to speak  
                          Nothing but "Mortimer," and give it him  
                          To keep his anger still in motion.
- WORCESTER    Hear you, cousin, a word.            235  
                          HOTSPUR  
                          All studies here I solemnly defy,  
                          Save how to gall and pinch this Bolingbroke.  
                          And that same sword-and-buckler Prince of Wales—  
                          But that I think his father loves him not  
                          And would be glad he met with some mischance—            240  
                          I would have him poisoned with a pot of ale.
- WORCESTER  
                          Farewell, kinsman. I'll talk to you  
                          When you are better tempered to attend.
- NORTHUMBERLAND, [to Hotspur]  
                          Why, what a wasp-stung and impatient fool  
                          Art thou to break into this woman's mood,            245  
                          Tying thine ear to no tongue but thine own!
- HOTSPUR  
                          Why, look you, I am [whipped] and scourged with  
                          rods,  
                          Nettled and stung with pismires, when I hear

250. **politician**: shrewd schemer  
 253. **madcap duke his uncle**: i.e., the duke of York, Richard's uncle; **kept**: lived, stayed  
 257. **Ravenspurgh**: a seaport on the Humber River, where Bolingbroke landed when he returned to England from exile  
 258. **Berkeley Castle**: a castle near Bristol  
 260. **candy**: i.e., sweet, melting; **deal**: quantity  
 261. **fawning greyhound**: The dog was often used as the symbol of flattery.  
 262. **Look when**: i.e., whenever, as soon as  
 263. **gentle**: i.e., noble  
 264. **cozeners**: cheats (with a pun on "cousin-ers," i.e., those who call me "cousin")  
 266. **to it**: i.e., go to it  
 267. **stay your leisure**: i.e., wait until you have time for us  
 270. **Deliver them up**: free them; **straight**: straightway, immediately  
 271. **mean**: means  
 272. **For powers**: i.e., for raising an army; **divers**: diverse, various  
 276. **bosom**: i.e., confidence  
 280. **bears hard**: resents  
 281. **His . . . Scroop**: The earl of Scroop was executed for treason in 1399; Shakespeare follows the chronicles in making him the brother of the archbishop of York.  
 282. **estimation**: conjecture

- Of this vile politician, Bolingbroke. 250  
 In Richard's time—what do you call the place?  
 A plague upon it! It is in Gloucestershire.  
 'Twas where the madcap duke his uncle kept,  
 His uncle York, where I first bowed my knee  
 Unto this king of smiles, this Bolingbroke. 255  
 'Sblood, when you and he came back from  
 Ravenspurgh.  
 NORTHUMBERLAND At Berkeley Castle.  
 HOTSPUR You say true.  
 Why, what a candy deal of courtesies 260  
 This fawning greyhound then did proffer me:  
 "Look when his infant fortune came to age,"  
 And "gentle Harry Percy," and "kind cousin."  
 O, the devil take such cozeners!—God forgive me!  
 Good uncle, tell your tale. I have done. 265  
 WORCESTER  
 Nay, if you have not, to it again.  
 We will stay your leisure.  
 HOTSPUR I have done, i' faith.  
 WORCESTER  
 Then once more to your Scottish prisoners:  
 Deliver them up without their ransom straight, 270  
 And make the Douglas' son your only mean  
 For powers in Scotland, which, for divers reasons  
 Which I shall send you written, be assured  
 Will easily be granted.—You, my lord,  
 Your son in Scotland being thus employed, 275  
 Shall secretly into the bosom creep  
 Of that same noble prelate well beloved,  
 The Archbishop.  
 HOTSPUR Of York, is it not?  
 WORCESTER True, who bears hard 280  
 His brother's death at Bristol, the Lord Scroop.  
 I speak not this in estimation,

285. **stays:** waits  
 288. **Before . . . slip:** i.e., you always unleash the dogs before the quarry is stirring  
 290. **power:** forces  
 293. **aimed:** devised  
 294. **'tis . . . speed:** i.e., we have great reason to make haste  
 295. **a head:** i.e., an army  
 296. **bear . . . can:** i.e., no matter how carefully we conduct ourselves  
 299. **pay us home:** i.e., repay us completely (The term is from fencing, where a *home thrust* is a sword thrust that hits a vital spot. Here, the deadly sense of the term is suggested.)  
 305. **suddenly:** soon, shortly  
 307. **powers:** forces  
 308. **happily:** successfully (with a play on its usual meaning)  
 310. **Which:** i.e., our fortunes

As what I think might be, but what I know  
 Is ruminated, plotted, and set down,  
 And only stays but to behold the face  
 Of that occasion that shall bring it on.

285

HOTSPUR

I smell it. Upon my life it will do well.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Before the game is afoot thou still let'st slip.

HOTSPUR

Why, it cannot choose but be a noble plot.  
 And then the power of Scotland and of York  
 To join with Mortimer, ha?

290

WORCESTER

And so they shall.

HOTSPUR

In faith, it is exceedingly well aimed.

WORCESTER

And 'tis no little reason bids us speed  
 To save our heads by raising of a head,  
 For bear ourselves as even as we can,  
 The King will always think him in our debt,  
 And think we think ourselves unsatisfied,  
 Till he hath found a time to pay us home.  
 And see already how he doth begin  
 To make us strangers to his looks of love.

295

300

HOTSPUR

He does, he does. We'll be revenged on him.

WORCESTER

Cousin, farewell. No further go in this  
 Than I by letters shall direct your course.  
 When time is ripe, which will be suddenly,  
 I'll steal to Glendower and Lord Mortimer,  
 Where you and Douglas and our powers at once,  
 As I will fashion it, shall happily meet  
 To bear [our] fortunes in our own strong arms,  
 Which now we hold at much uncertainty.

305

310

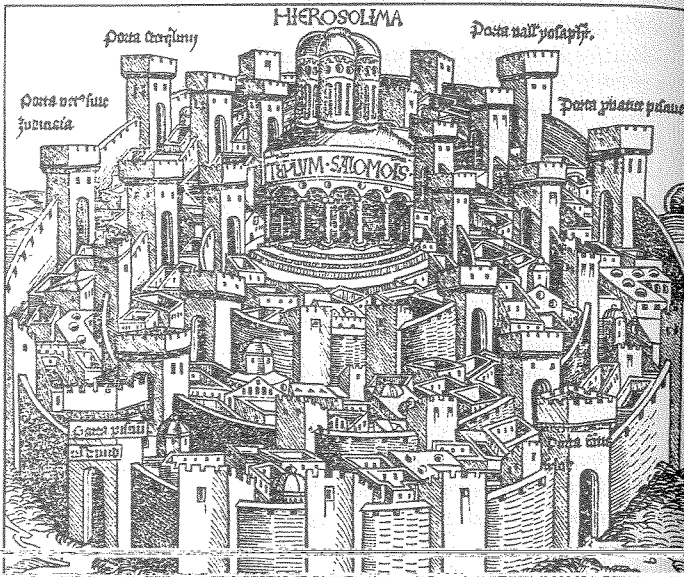
NORTHUMBERLAND

Farewell, good brother. We shall thrive, I trust.

HOTSPUR

Uncle, adieu. O, let the hours be short

Till fields and blows and groans applaud our sport.

*They exit.*

Jerusalem. (1.1.19)

From Hartmann Schedel, *Liber chronicorum* (1493).

*The History of*

HENRY IV

Part 1

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ACT 2

2.1 Gadshill, the "setter" for Falstaff and his fellow thieves, seeks information at an inn about the travelers whom they plan to rob.

1. **An:** if; **four . . . day:** i.e., four o'clock in the morning

2. **Charles's Wain:** i.e., "Charlemagne's wagon," a constellation of stars also known as the Big Dipper

3. **horse:** i.e., horses

4. **ostler:** one who takes care of horses at an inn

5. **Anon:** i.e., just a minute

6. **Tom:** probably addressed to the Second Carrier, who is just entering; **Cut:** A **cut** is a horse with a docked tail, or a gelding; here, it seems to be the horse's name.

7. **flocks:** locks of wool; **point:** i.e., the pommel of the saddle; **wrung:** chafed

8. **withers:** ridge between the horse's shoulders; **out of all cress:** beyond estimation, excessively

9. **Peas and beans:** i.e., cheap food for horses

9-10. **dank . . . dog:** i.e., damp as can be

10. **next:** i.e., quickest; **jades:** horses

11. **bots:** intestinal worms

11-12. **Robin ostler:** i.e., Robin, the ostler

16. **house:** inn; **London road:** i.e., the road leading to London

17. **tench:** a freshwater fish related to the carp (According to Pliny's *Natural History*, "the very fleas that skip so merrily in summertime . . . is thought to

(continued)

「Scene 1」

*Enter a Carrier with a lantern in his hand.*

FIRST CARRIER Heigh-ho! An it be not four by the day, I'll be hanged. Charles's Wain is over the new chimney, and yet our horse not packed.—What, ostler!

OSTLER, 「within」 Anon, anon.

5

FIRST CARRIER I prithee, Tom, beat Cut's saddle. Put a few flocks in the point. Poor jade is wrung in the withers out of all cress.

*Enter another Carrier, 「with a lantern.」*

SECOND CARRIER Peas and beans are as dank here as a dog, and that is the next way to give poor jades the bots. This house is turned upside down since Robin ostler died.

10

FIRST CARRIER Poor fellow never joyed since the price of oats rose. It was the death of him.

SECOND CARRIER I think this be the most villainous house in all London road for fleas. I am stung like a tench.

15

FIRST CARRIER Like a tench? By the Mass, there is ne'er a king christen could be better bit than I have been since the first cock.

20

SECOND CARRIER Why, they will allow us ne'er a jor-

trouble the poor fishes in their sleep" [trans. Philemon Holland, 1601].)

19. **king christen:** i.e., Christian king

20. **first cock:** i.e., midnight

21–22. **jordan:** chamber pot

22. **leak . . . chimney:** urinate in the fireplace (Your is used as an impersonal pronoun with no definite meaning.)

22–23. **your chamber-lye:** urine; **loach:** another freshwater fish

24. **What:** an interjection, here suggesting impatience; **come away:** i.e., come along

26. **a gammon of bacon:** i.e., a ham

27. **races:** roots

27–28. **Charing Cross:** a market town west of London (now part of the city)

29. **God's body:** an oath by the body of Christ; **pannier:** a large basket hung over a horse's back

31. **never:** i.e., not

32. **as good . . . drink:** a colloquial expression ("as good a deed as to take a drink")

32–33. **the pate on thee:** i.e., your head

33. **a very villain:** i.e., a complete scoundrel

34. **Hast . . . thee?:** i.e., can't you be trusted?

39. **soft:** i.e., wait a minute

43. **when, canst tell:** a colloquial way of saying no

48. **Time enough:** i.e., in time

50–51. **will . . . company:** i.e., want to travel with company

51. **great charge:** i.e., a lot of money or other possessions

52. **chamberlain:** one responsible for the bedrooms in the inn

dan, and then we leak in your chimney, and your chamber-lye breeds fleas like a loach.

FIRST CARRIER What, ostler, come away and be hanged. Come away.

SECOND CARRIER I have a gammon of bacon and two races of ginger to be delivered as far as Charing Cross.

FIRST CARRIER God's body, the turkeys in my pannier are quite starved.—What, ostler! A plague on thee! Hast thou never an eye in thy head? Canst not hear? An 'twere not as good deed as drink to break the pate on thee, I am a very villain. Come, and be hanged. Hast no faith in thee?

*Enter Gadshill.*

GADSHILL Good morrow, carriers. What's o'clock?

「FIRST」 CARRIER I think it be two o'clock.

GADSHILL I prithee, lend me thy lantern to see my gelding in the stable.

FIRST CARRIER Nay, by God, soft. I know a trick worth two of that, i' faith.

GADSHILL, 「to Second Carrier」 I pray thee, lend me thine.

SECOND CARRIER Ay, when, canst tell? "Lend me thy lantern," quoth he. Marry, I'll see thee hanged first.

GADSHILL Sirrah carrier, what time do you mean to come to London?

SECOND CARRIER Time enough to go to bed with a candle, I warrant thee. Come, neighbor Mugs, we'll call up the gentlemen. They will along with company, for they have great charge.

「Carriers」 exit.

GADSHILL What ho, chamberlain!

*Enter Chamberlain.*

53. At . . . **pickpurse**: i.e., "Here I am, said the pickpocket to his victim" (a colloquial expression)

54. **even as fair as**: i.e., just as good as saying

55-56. **thou variest . . . purses**: i.e., your work is no more different from picking purses

56. **giving direction**: i.e., supervising

57. **laboring**: i.e., doing the actual work

58. **Good morrow**: good morning

58-59. **It . . . yesternight**: i.e., what I told you last night is still true

59-60. **franklin . . . Kent**: i.e., a wealthy landowner from the Weald (forest) of Kent (a large district southeast of London)

62. **auditor**: an official who examines monetary accounts (perhaps an officer of the king's Exchequer)

64-65. **eggs and butter**: i.e., breakfast

65. **presently**: at once

66-67. **Saint Nicholas' clerks**: i.e., robbers, highwaymen (The patron saint of travelers, St. Nicholas, became the saint of robbers as well. The name also suggests "Old Nick," the devil.)

74. **Troyans**: Trojans (a slang term for "good fellows," "companions"), here referring to Prince Hal

75. **the which**: i.e., who; **sport sake**: i.e., fun

76. **the profession**: i.e., of robbery

78. **make all whole**: i.e., have any scandal covered up; or, have any resulting problems smoothed over

78-81. **I am joined . . . malt-worms**: i.e., my companions are not base scoundrels **foot-land-rakers**: i.e., footpads, highwaymen on foot **long-staff . . . strikers**: i.e., thieves with poles who steal paltry sums **mad . . . malt-worms**: i.e., beer drinkers with mustaches and florid faces

(continued)

CHAMBERLAIN At hand, quoth pickpurse.

GADSHILL That's even as fair as "at hand, quoth the Chamberlain," for thou variest no more from picking of purses than giving direction doth from laboring: thou layest the plot how.

CHAMBERLAIN Good morrow, Master Gadshill. It holds current that I told you yesternight: there's a franklin in the Wild of Kent hath brought three hundred marks with him in gold. I heard him tell it to one of his company last night at supper—a kind of auditor, one that hath abundance of charge too, God knows what. They are up already and call for eggs and butter. They will away presently.

GADSHILL Sirrah, if they meet not with Saint Nicholas' clerks, I'll give thee this neck.

CHAMBERLAIN No, I'll none of it. I pray thee, keep that for the hangman, for I know thou worshipest Saint Nicholas as truly as a man of falsehood may.

GADSHILL What talkest thou to me of the hangman? If I hang, I'll make a fat pair of gallows, for if I hang, old Sir John hangs with me, and thou knowest he is no starveling. Tut, there are other Troyans that thou dream'st not of, the which for sport sake are content to do the profession some grace, that would, if matters should be looked into, for their own credit sake make all whole. I am joined with no foot-land-rakers, no long-staff sixpenny strikers, none of these mad mustachio purple-hued malt-worms, but with nobility and tranquillity, burgomasters and great oneyers, such as can hold in, such as will strike sooner than speak, and speak sooner than drink, and drink sooner than pray, and yet, zounds, I lie, for they pray continually to their saint the commonwealth, or rather not pray to her but prey on her, for they ride up and down on her and make her their boots.



81. **nobility**: i.e., noblemen; **tranquillity**: perhaps, those who have easy lives

82. **great oneyers**: i.e., great ones; **hold in**: i.e., keep their own counsel

88. **boots**: booty, profit (The Chamberlain responds with the obvious pun.)

90. **in foul way**: i.e., on a muddy road

91. **liquored**: covered with grease

92. **as in a castle**: i.e., with complete safety (with a probable reference to Sir John Oldcastle)

93. **receipt of**: recipe for; **fern seed**: popularly thought to make one invisible

98. **purchase**: plunder, booty

101. **Go to**: an expression of impatience; **Homo** . . . **men**: Gadshill quotes from *Lily's Latin Grammar* to defend his oath "as I am a true man." **Homo**: Latin for "man"

103. **muddy**: immoral, "dirty"; stupid

2.2 Falstaff, Peto, Bardolph, and Gadshill rob the travelers and are, in turn, robbed by Prince Hal and Poins in disguise.

2. **frets**: fusses, fumes (with a pun on **frets** meaning to become frayed, like **gummed velvet**, velvet that has been treated with resin and frays easily)

3. **Stand close**: i.e., hide

12-13. **by the square**: exactly, precisely

13. **break my wind**: i.e., wheeze like a broken-winded horse; expel intestinal gas

CHAMBERLAIN What, the commonwealth their boots?

Will she hold out water in foul way?

90

GADSHILL She will, she will. Justice hath liquored her.

We steal as in a castle, cocksure. We have the receipt of fern seed; we walk invisible.

CHAMBERLAIN Nay, by my faith, I think you are more beholding to the night than to fern seed for your walking invisible.

95

GADSHILL Give me thy hand. Thou shalt have a share in our purchase, as I am a true man.

CHAMBERLAIN Nay, rather let me have it as you are a false thief.

100

GADSHILL Go to. *Homo* is a common name to all men. Bid the ostler bring my gelding out of the stable. Farewell, you muddy knave.

「They exit.」

「Scene 2」

Enter Prince, Poins, 「Bardolph,」 and Peto.

POINS Come, shelter, shelter! I have removed Falstaff's horse, and he frets like a gummed velvet.

PRINCE Stand close. 「Poins, Bardolph, and Peto exit.」

Enter Falstaff.

FALSTAFF Poins! Poins, and be hanged! Poins!

PRINCE Peace, you fat-kidneyed rascal. What a brawling dost thou keep!

5

FALSTAFF Where's Poins, Hal?

PRINCE He is walked up to the top of the hill. I'll go seek him.

「Prince exits.」

FALSTAFF I am accursed to rob in that thief's company. The rascal hath removed my horse and tied him I know not where. If I travel but four foot by the square further afoot, I shall break my wind. Well, I

10

14. **doubt not but:** i.e., expect; **for all this:** i.e., in spite of all this

19. **medicines:** potions

20. **else:** otherwise

22. **ere:** before

22-23. **as . . . drink:** See note on 2.1.32.

23. **to turn true man:** i.e., to become honest

24. **veriest varlet:** i.e., worst scoundrel

26. **with:** i.e., for

29. **Whew:** perhaps Falstaff's attempt to whistle; or, perhaps, his exclamation of disgust

34. **list:** i.e., listen

39. **colt:** trick (Hal responds with a pun on **colt** as "horse.")

45. **Out:** an interjection of reproach

46-47. **Hang . . . garters:** Falstaff's version of the proverb "He may hang himself in his own garters"

47. **peach:** appeach, turn informer

doubt not but to die a fair death for all this, if I  
'scape hanging for killing that rogue. I have for-  
sworn his company hourly any time this two-and-  
twenty years, and yet I am bewitched with the  
rogue's company. If the rascal have not given me  
medicines to make me love him, I'll be hanged. It  
could not be else: I have drunk medicines.—Poins!  
Hal! A plague upon you both.—Bardolph! Peto!—  
I'll starve ere I'll rob a foot further. An 'twere not as  
good a deed as drink to turn true man and to leave  
these rogues, I am the veriest varlet that ever  
chewed with a tooth. Eight yards of uneven ground  
is threescore and ten miles afoot with me, and the  
stony-hearted villains know it well enough. A plague  
upon it when thieves cannot be true one to another!  
(*They whistle, 'within.'*) Whew! A plague upon you  
all!

*Enter the Prince, Poins, Peto, and Bardolph.*

Give me my horse, you rogues. Give me my horse  
and be hanged!

PRINCE Peace, you fat guts! Lie down, lay thine ear  
close to the ground, and list if thou canst hear the  
tread of travelers.

FALSTAFF Have you any levers to lift me up again be-  
ing down? 'Sblood, I'll not bear my own flesh so  
far afoot again for all the coin in thy father's Ex-  
chequer. What a plague mean you to colt me  
thus?

PRINCE Thou liest. Thou art not colted; thou art un-  
colted.

FALSTAFF I prithee, good Prince Hal, help me to my  
horse, good king's son.

PRINCE Out, you rogue! Shall I be your ostler?

FALSTAFF Hang thyself in thine own heir-apparent  
garters! If I be ta'en, I'll peach for this. An I have

48. **made on:** i.e., written about

49–50. **when . . . afoot:** (1) when our plot is so advanced, moving forward so well; (2) when your joke on me is so blatant, making me go on foot

53. **setter:** the thief who “sets” (arranges) the robbery (Gadshill may enter masked.)

55. **Case you:** i.e., put on your masks

57. **'Tis . . . Exchequer:** i.e., it is royal, or government, revenue

60. **make us all:** i.e., make our fortunes, make us wealthy

62. **front:** i.e., confront

69. **John of Gaunt:** Falstaff puns on **gaunt** as “thin.”

71. **proof:** test

75–76. **if . . . hanged:** i.e., no matter what

78. **hard by:** i.e., nearby

79. **happy . . . dole:** a proverbial expression for wishing good luck **dole:** lot in life, destiny

not ballads made on you all and sung to filthy tunes, let a cup of sack be my poison—when a jest is so forward, and afoot too! I hate it.

50

*Enter Gadshill.*

GADSHILL Stand.

FALSTAFF So I do, against my will.

POINS O, 'tis our setter. I know his voice.

「BARDOLPH」 What news?

「GADSHILL」 Case you, case you. On with your vizards.

55

There's money of the King's coming down the hill.

'Tis going to the King's Exchequer.

FALSTAFF You lie, you rogue. 'Tis going to the King's Tavern.

GADSHILL There's enough to make us all.

60

FALSTAFF To be hanged.

PRINCE Sirs, you four shall front them in the narrow lane. Ned Poins and I will walk lower. If they 'scape from your encounter, then they light on us.

PETO How many be there of them?

65

GADSHILL Some eight or ten.

FALSTAFF Zounds, will they not rob us?

PRINCE What, a coward, Sir John Paunch?

FALSTAFF Indeed, I am not John of Gaunt, your grandfather, but yet no coward, Hal.

70

PRINCE Well, we leave that to the proof.

POINS Sirrah Jack, thy horse stands behind the hedge.

When thou need'st him, there thou shalt find him.

Farewell and stand fast.

FALSTAFF Now cannot I strike him, if I should be hanged.

75

PRINCE, 「*aside to Poins*」 Ned, where are our disguises?

POINS, 「*aside to Prince*」 Here, hard by. Stand close.

「*The Prince and Poins exit.*」

FALSTAFF Now, my masters, happy man be his dole, say I. Every man to his business.

80

「*They step aside.*」

87. **caterpillars**: a conventional term of abuse for those seen as feeding off the commonwealth; **bacon-fed**: i.e., fat

92. **gorbellied**: potbellied, corpulent

92-93. **undone**: ruined

93. **chuffs**: a term of abuse for country people or misers; **your store**: all you own

94. **bacons**: i.e., fatties

95. **grandjurors**: i.e., wealthy enough to serve on a grand jury

95-96. **jure you**: a general threat of violence, playing on the sound of "juror"

97. **true**: honest

98. **could . . . I**: i.e., if you and I could

99. **argument**: something to talk about

104. **equity**: i.e., ability to judge character



"The most villainous house . . . for fleas." (2.1.15-16)

From *Hortus sanitatis* (1536).

*Enter the Travelers.*

[FIRST<sup>1</sup> TRAVELER Come, neighbor, the boy shall lead our horses down the hill. We'll walk afoot awhile and ease our legs.

THIEVES, [advancing<sup>1</sup> Stand!

TRAVELERS Jesus bless us!

FALSTAFF Strike! Down with them! Cut the villains' throats! Ah, whoreson caterpillars, bacon-fed knaves, they hate us youth. Down with them! Fleece them!

TRAVELERS O, we are undone, both we and ours forever!

FALSTAFF Hang, you gorbellied knaves! Are you undone? No, you fat chuffs. I would your store were here. On, bacons, on! What, you knaves, young men must live. You are grandjurors, are you? We'll jure you, faith.

*Here they rob them and bind them. They [all<sup>1</sup> exit.*

*Enter the Prince and Poins, [disguised.<sup>1</sup>*

PRINCE The thieves have bound the true men. Now could thou and I rob the thieves and go merrily to London, it would be argument for a week, laughter for a month, and a good jest forever.

POINS Stand close, I hear them coming.

*[They step aside.<sup>1</sup>*

*Enter the Thieves again.*

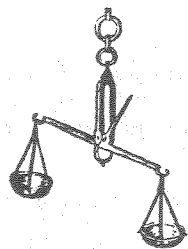
FALSTAFF Come, my masters, let us share, and then to horse before day. An the Prince and Poins be not two arrant cowards, there's no equity stirring. There's no more valor in that Poins than in a wild duck.

*As they are sharing, the Prince and Poins set upon them.*

113. **officer:** constable  
115. **lards:** i.e., covers with fat

2.3 Hotspur reads a letter from a nobleman who refuses to join the rebellion against King Henry. Lady Percy enters to ask Hotspur what has been troubling him so much lately, but he will not confide in her.

2. **in respect of:** because of  
3. **house:** family (Hotspur, lines 5–6, gives the word its usual meaning.)  
9. **Lord Fool:** We are not told whose letter Hotspur is reading.  
12. **uncertain:** not reliable; **unsorted:** unsuitable  
13. **light . . . counterpoise:** The image here is of weights put into opposing balance scales.



Scales. (2.3.13)  
From Silvestro Pietrasanta, *Symbola heroica* (1682).

PRINCE Your money!  
POINS Villains!

*They all run away, and Falstaff, after a blow or two, runs away too, leaving the booty behind them.*

PRINCE

Got with much ease. Now merrily to horse.

The thieves are all scattered, and possessed with fear 110

So strongly that they dare not meet each other.

Each takes his fellow for an officer.

Away, good Ned. Falstaff sweats to death,

And lards the lean earth as he walks along. 115

Were 't not for laughing, I should pity him.

POINS How the fat rogue roared!

*They exit.*

「Scene 3」

*Enter Hotspur alone, reading a letter.*

「HOTSPUR」 *But, for mine own part, my lord, I could be well contented to be there, in respect of the love I bear your house. He could be contented; why is he not, then? In respect of the love he bears our house—he shows in this he loves his own barn better than he loves our house. Let me see some more. The purpose you undertake is dangerous. Why, that's certain. 'Tis dangerous to take a cold, to sleep, to drink; but I tell you, my Lord Fool, out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety. The purpose you undertake is dangerous, the friends you have named uncertain, the time itself unsorted, and your whole plot too light for the counterpoise of so great an opposition. Say you so, say you so? I say unto you again, you are a shallow, cowardly hind, and you lie. What a lack-brain is this! By* 15

23. **by:** close to  
 31–32. **in . . . heart:** i.e., in his very sincere cowardice  
 32. **will he:** i.e., he will go; **lay open:** reveal  
 34. **buffets:** fisticuffs (one part of me against another); **moving . . . with:** i.e., approaching such a coward about  
 43. **stomach:** appetite  
 45. **start:** i.e., jump, move suddenly  
 47. **my treasures . . . thee:** i.e., the pleasures I should be enjoying as your wife  
 48. **curst:** bad-tempered  
 49. **watched:** stayed awake



Diana. (1.2.26)

From Johann Engel, *Astrolabium* (1488).

the Lord, our plot is a good plot as ever was laid, our friends true and constant—a good plot, good friends, and full of expectation; an excellent plot, very good friends. What a frosty-spirited rogue is this! Why, my Lord of York commends the plot and the general course of the action. Zounds, an I were now by this rascal, I could brain him with his lady's fan. Is there not my father, my uncle, and myself, Lord Edmund Mortimer, my Lord of York, and Owen Glendower? Is there not besides the Douglas? Have I not all their letters to meet me in arms by the ninth of the next month, and are they not some of them set forward already? What a pagan rascal is this—an infidel! Ha, you shall see now, in very sincerity of fear and cold heart, will he to the King and lay open all our proceedings. O, I could divide myself and go to buffets for moving such a dish of skim milk with so honorable an action! Hang him, let him tell the King. We are prepared. I will set forward tonight.

*Enter his Lady.*

How now, Kate? I must leave you within these two hours.

LADY PERCY

O my good lord, why are you thus alone?  
 For what offense have I this fortnight been  
 A banished woman from my Harry's bed?  
 Tell me, sweet lord, what is 't that takes from thee  
 Thy stomach, pleasure, and thy golden sleep?  
 Why dost thou bend thine eyes upon the earth  
 And start so often when thou sit'st alone?  
 Why hast thou lost the fresh blood in thy cheeks  
 And given my treasures and my rights of thee  
 To thick-eyed musing and curst melancholy?  
 In thy faint slumbers I by thee have watched,

51. **manage:** i.e., *manege*, horsemanship  
 53. **retires:** military retreats  
 54. **palisadoes:** palisades, fences made of pales or stakes; **frontiers:** ramparts  
 55. **basilisks:** very large cannon; **culverin:** smaller cannon  
 62. **motions:** emotions; movements  
 64. **hest:** command; purpose  
 66. **heavy:** weighty; sad, woeful  
 69. **packet:** i.e., packet of letters, dispatches  
 72. **even:** i.e., just  
 76. **back:** mount; **straight:** right away; **Esperance:** the Percy motto, which means "hope"

And heard thee murmur tales of iron wars, 50  
 Speak terms of manage to thy bounding steed,  
 Cry "Courage! To the field!" And thou hast talked  
 Of sallies and retires, of trenches, tents,  
 Of palisadoes, frontiers, parapets, 55  
 Of basilisks, of cannon, culverin,  
 Of prisoners' ransom, and of soldiers slain,  
 And all the currents of a heady fight.  
 Thy spirit within thee hath been so at war,  
 And thus hath so bestirred thee in thy sleep,  
 That beads of sweat have stood upon thy brow 60  
 Like bubbles in a late-disturbed stream,  
 And in thy face strange motions have appeared,  
 Such as we see when men restrain their breath  
 On some great sudden hest. O, what portents are 65  
 these?  
 Some heavy business hath my lord in hand,  
 And I must know it, else he loves me not.

HOTSPUR

What, ho!

「Enter a Servant.」

Is Gilliams with the packet gone?

SERVANT He is, my lord, an hour ago. 70

HOTSPUR

Hath Butler brought those horses from the sheriff?

SERVANT

One horse, my lord, he brought even now.

HOTSPUR

What horse? 「A」 roan, a crop-ear, is it not?

SERVANT

It is, my lord.

HOTSPUR That roan shall be my throne. 75

Well, I will back him straight. O, Esperance!

Bid Butler lead him forth into the park.

「Servant exits.」

80. **carries you away:** i.e., makes you so wild (Hotspur responds as if she means the words literally.)

83. **such . . . spleen:** i.e., such a changeable temperament (The **spleen** was considered the seat of many strong emotions, and the **weasel** was proverbially quarrelsome.)

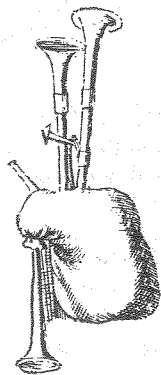
88. **line:** reinforce, strengthen; **go:** travel (Hotspur gives the word its meaning of "walk.")

90. **paraquito:** little parrot

97. **mammets:** dolls; **tilt:** battle as in a tournament

98. **cracked crowns:** broken heads

99. **pass them current:** make them acceptable (with a pun on the sense of **crown** as the French coin, which, even when **cracked**, should be made to pass as genuine currency); **Gods:** i.e., God save



A bagpipe. (1.2.81)

From Giovanni Francesco Bonomi, *Chiron Achillis, siue Nauarchus humanae vitae* (1691).

LADY PERCY But hear you, my lord.

HOTSPUR What say'st thou, my lady?

LADY PERCY What is it carries you away?

HOTSPUR Why, my horse, my love, my horse.

LADY PERCY Out, you mad-headed ape!

A weasel hath not such a deal of spleen

As you are tossed with. In faith,

I'll know your business, Harry, that I will.

I fear my brother Mortimer doth stir

About his title, and hath sent for you

To line his enterprise; but if you go—

HOTSPUR

So far afoot, I shall be weary, love.

LADY PERCY

Come, come, you paraquito, answer me

Directly unto this question that I ask.

In faith, I'll break thy little finger, Harry,

An if thou wilt not tell me all things true.

HOTSPUR Away!

Away, you trifler. Love, I love thee not.

I care not for thee, Kate. This is no world

To play with mammets and to tilt with lips.

We must have bloody noses and cracked crowns,

And pass them current too.—Gods me, my horse!—

What say'st thou, Kate? What wouldst thou have with me?

LADY PERCY

Do you not love me? Do you not indeed?

Well, do not then, for since you love me not,

I will not love myself. Do you not love me?

Nay, tell me if you speak in jest or no.

HOTSPUR Come, wilt thou see me ride?

And when I am a-horseback I will swear

I love thee infinitely. But hark you, Kate,

I must not have you henceforth question me

Whither I go, nor reason whereabout.

80

85

90

95

100

105

110



116. **closer**: more able to keep a secret  
 124. **of force**: perforce, of necessity

2.4 At a tavern in Eastcheap, Prince Hal and Poins amuse themselves by tormenting a young waiter while waiting for Falstaff to return. Falstaff comes in telling a story about having been robbed by a large body of men with whom he fought bravely. Hal then reveals that it was he and Poins who robbed Falstaff. A messenger arrives from King Henry to summon Hal to court. Falstaff and Hal stage mock versions of the scene to take place between Hal and his father. These impromptu performances are halted by the arrival of a sheriff in search of Falstaff and his gang, whom Hal conceals.

1. **fat room**: perhaps, room full of thick air; or, perhaps, vat room  
 2. **lend . . . hand**: i.e., help me  
 4. **loggerheads**: blockheads  
 5. **hogsheads**: wine barrels; **sounded**: (1) played like a musical instrument; (2) measured the depths, as with a sounding line  
 6. **sworn brother**: i.e., best buddy (as if we had sworn an oath to defend each other)  
 7. **leash**: set of three (a hunting term applied to animals); **drawers**: tapsters  
 9. **take it**: maintain; or, take their oath; **upon . . . salvation**: i.e., as they hope to be saved  
 11. **jack**: (1) fellow; (2) Jack Falstaff  
 12. **Corinthian**: good sport; **lad of mettle**: spirited fellow

Whither I must, I must; and to conclude  
 This evening must I leave you, gentle Kate.  
 I know you wise, but yet no farther wise  
 Than Harry Percy's wife; constant you are,  
 But yet a woman; and for secrecy  
 No lady closer, for I well believe  
 Thou wilt not utter what thou dost not know,  
 And so far will I trust thee, gentle Kate.

115

LADY PERCY How? So far?

HOTSPUR

Not an inch further. But hark you, Kate,  
 Whither I go, thither shall you go too.  
 Today will I set forth, tomorrow you.  
 Will this content you, Kate?

120

LADY PERCY

It must, of force.

*They exit.*

「Scene 4」

*Enter Prince and Poins.*

PRINCE Ned, prithee, come out of that fat room and  
 lend me thy hand to laugh a little.

POINS Where hast been, Hal?

PRINCE With three or four loggerheads amongst three  
 or fourscore hogsheads. I have sounded the very  
 bass string of humility. Sirrah, I am sworn brother  
 to a leash of drawers, and can call them all by their  
 Christian names, as Tom, Dick, and Francis. They  
 take it already upon their salvation that though I be  
 but Prince of Wales, yet I am the king of courtesy,  
 and tell me flatly I am no proud jack, like Falstaff,  
 but a Corinthian, a lad of mettle, a good boy—by  
 the Lord, so they call me—and when I am king of  
 England, I shall command all the good lads in  
 Eastcheap. They call drinking deep “dyeing scar-

5

10

15

16. **breathe . . . watering:** i.e., stop to take a breath while drinking  
 17. **Play it off:** i.e., drink it down  
 19. **tinker:** mender of pots and pans  
 21. **action:** i.e., noble military engagement  
 24. **undersinker:** assistant tapster  
 27. **Anon:** i.e., coming, right away; **Score:** i.e., mark down the charges for a drink  
 28. **bastard:** sweet wine; **Half-moon:** the name of a room in the tavern  
 30. **by-room:** side room  
 32. **leave:** i.e., stop  
 38-39. **Pomgarnet:** a room in the tavern  
 42. **serve:** i.e., as an apprentice (usually a seven-year term)  
 46. **By 'r Lady:** by our Lady (the Virgin Mary)  
 46-47. **a long . . . pewter:** i.e., a long apprenticeship to learn how to be a tapster **lease:** contract  
 48-49. **indenture:** i.e., contract of apprenticeship

let," and when you breathe in your watering, they cry "Hem!" and bid you "Play it off!" To conclude, I am so good a proficient in one quarter of an hour that I can drink with any tinker in his own language during my life. I tell thee, Ned, thou hast lost much honor that thou wert not with me in this action; but, sweet Ned—to sweeten which name of Ned, I give thee this pennyworth of sugar, clapped even now into my hand by an undersinker, one that never spake other English in his life than "Eight shillings and sixpence," and "You are welcome," with this shrill addition, "Anon, anon, sir.—Score a pint of bastard in the Half-moon," or so. But, Ned, to drive away the time till Falstaff come, I prithee, do thou stand in some by-room while I question my puny drawer to what end he gave me the sugar, and do thou never leave calling "Francis," that his tale to me may be nothing but "Anon." Step aside, and I'll show thee a precedent. *Poins exits.*

POINS, *within* Francis!

PRINCE Thou art perfect.

*POINS, within* Francis!

*Enter Francis, the Drawer.*

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir.—Look down into the Pomgarnet, Ralph.

PRINCE Come hither, Francis.

FRANCIS My lord?

PRINCE How long hast thou to serve, Francis?

FRANCIS Forsooth, five years, and as much as to—

POINS, *within* Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir.

PRINCE Five year! By 'r Lady, a long lease for the clinking of pewter! But, Francis, darest thou be so valiant as to play the coward with thy indenture, and show it a fair pair of heels, and run from it?

56. **Michaelmas next:** i.e., next Feast of Michael the Archangel (September 29)

71-73. **this . . . Spanish-pouch:** Hal presumably describes the tavern owner to whom Francis is apprenticed, noting his close-fitting short leather coat with crystal buttons, his closely cropped head (**not-pated**), his quartz-crystal ring, his dark-wool stockings fastened with worsted garters, his unctuous way of talking, and his Spanish-leather vintner's pouch.

75-78. **Why . . . much:** This speech has been variously explained as (1) nonsense meant to mystify Francis, (2) a warning to Francis not to rob his master, (3) a mocking reference to Francis's having missed his chance to be given a thousand pounds.

75-76. **your only drink:** i.e., the best of all drinks

77. **doublet:** close-fitting jacket

82 SD. **amazed:** utterly confused, dumbfounded (as if lost in a maze)

FRANCIS O Lord, sir, I'll be sworn upon all the books in England, I could find in my heart—

POINS, 「within」 Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, sir.

PRINCE How old art thou, Francis?

FRANCIS Let me see. About Michaelmas next, I shall be—

POINS, 「within」 Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, sir.—Pray, stay a little, my lord.

PRINCE Nay, but hark you, Francis, for the sugar thou gavest me—'twas a pennyworth, was 't not?

FRANCIS O Lord, I would it had been two!

PRINCE I will give thee for it a thousand pound. Ask me when thou wilt, and thou shalt have it.

POINS, 「within」 Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, anon.

PRINCE Anon, Francis? No, Francis. But tomorrow, Francis; or, Francis, o' Thursday; or indeed, Francis, when thou wilt. But, Francis—

FRANCIS My lord?

PRINCE Wilt thou rob this leathern-jerkin, crystal-button, not-pated, agate-ring, puke-stocking, cad-dis-garter, smooth-tongue, Spanish-pouch—

FRANCIS O Lord, sir, who do you mean?

PRINCE Why then, your brown bastard is your only drink, for look you, Francis, your white canvas doublet will sully. In Barbary, sir, it cannot come to so much.

FRANCIS What, sir?

POINS, 「within」 Francis!

PRINCE Away, you rogue! Dost thou not hear them call?

*Here they both call him. The Drawer stands amazed, not knowing which way to go.*

*Enter Vintner.*

93. **match:** agreement, bargain

93-94. **with this jest of:** i.e., in this game with

94. **issue:** outcome

95. **humors:** moods, whims

96-97. **Goodman:** a form of address for a lower-class man

97. **pupil:** i.e., young

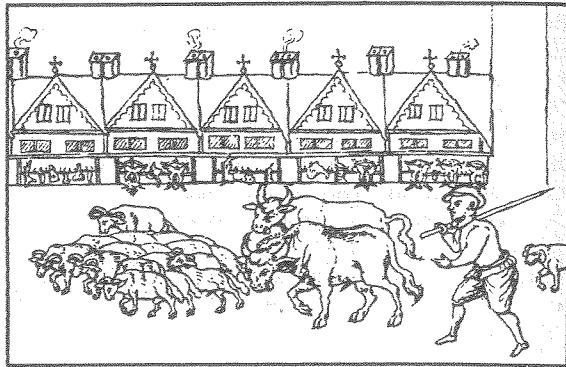
102. **yet:** i.e., yet be

104. **parcel:** i.e., words or items; **reckoning:** tavern bill

105. **kills me:** i.e., kills

113, 115. **brawn, Ribs, Tallow:** i.e., Falstaff (All three words allude to fat meat.)

114. **Rivo:** a shout used in drinking bouts



Eastcheap. (1.2.136)

From Hugh Alley, *A caveat for the city of London* (1598).

VINTNER What, stand'st thou still and hear'st such a calling? Look to the guests within. *Francis exits.*  
My lord, old Sir John with half a dozen more are at the door. Shall I let them in? 85

PRINCE Let them alone awhile, and then open the door. *Vintner exits.* Poinis!

*Enter Poinis.*

POINIS Anon, anon, sir.

PRINCE Sirrah, Falstaff and the rest of the thieves are at the door. Shall we be merry? 90

POINIS As merry as crickets, my lad. But hark you, what cunning match have you made with this jest of the drawer. Come, what's the issue?

PRINCE I am now of all humors that have showed themselves humors since the old days of Goodman Adam to the pupil age of this present twelve o'clock at midnight. 95

*Enter Francis, in haste.*

What's o'clock, Francis?

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir. *Francis exits.* 100

PRINCE That ever this fellow should have fewer words than a parrot, and yet the son of a woman! His industry is upstairs and downstairs, his eloquence the parcel of a reckoning. I am not yet of Percy's mind, the Hotspur of the north, he that kills me some six or seven dozen of Scots at a breakfast, washes his hands, and says to his wife "Fie upon this quiet life! I want work." "O my sweet Harry," says she, "how many hast thou killed today?" "Give my roan horse a drench," says he, and answers "Some fourteen," an hour after. "A trifle, a trifle." I prithee, call in Falstaff. I'll play Percy, and that damned brawn shall play Dame Mortimer his wife. "Rivo!" says the drunkard. Call in Ribs, call in Tallow. 115

117. **A plague of:** i.e., curses on

119–20. **Ere . . . them:** i.e., I'll give up this life and take up sewing and mending **netherstocks:** stockings **foot:** perhaps, make new feet for

123. **Titan:** i.e., the sun

124. **that:** i.e., the butter

126. **that compound:** perhaps, melting butter; or, perhaps, Falstaff's round hot face "kissing" the cup of sack

127. **lime:** calcium oxide, added to wine by unscrupulous vintners to make it sparkle

130–31. **Go thy ways:** i.e., off you go

133. **a . . . herring:** i.e., thin and weak, like a fish that has just spawned

134. **good men:** i.e., men of courage

135. **the while:** i.e., the present age

136–37. **weaver . . . psalms:** Weavers were known for singing and for belonging to Protestant sects that favored psalm-singing.

139. **woolsack:** large bale of wool (with perhaps plays on "wool" with reference to weavers, and on "sack")

141. **dagger of lath:** a wooden dagger carried by a comic character called the Vice

*Enter Falstaff, 「Gadshill, Peto, Bardolph;  
and Francis, with wine.」*

POINS Welcome, Jack. Where hast thou been?

FALSTAFF A plague of all cowards, I say, and a vengeance too! Marry and amen!—Give me a cup of sack, boy.—Ere I lead this life long, I'll sew netherstocks and mend them, and foot them too. A plague of all cowards!—Give me a cup of sack, rogue!—Is there no virtue extant? *He drinketh.* 120

PRINCE Didst thou never see Titan kiss a dish of butter—pitiful-hearted Titan!—that melted at the sweet tale of the sun's? If thou didst, then behold that compound. 125

FALSTAFF, 「to Francis」 You rogue, here's lime in this sack too.—There is nothing but roguery to be found in villainous man, yet a coward is worse than a cup of sack with lime in it. A villainous coward! Go thy ways, old Jack. Die when thou wilt. If manhood, good manhood, be not forgot upon the face of the earth, then am I a shotten herring. There lives not three good men unchanged in England, and one of them is fat and grows old, God help the while. A bad world, I say. I would I were a weaver. I could sing psalms, or anything. A plague of all cowards, I say still. 135

PRINCE How now, woolsack, what mutter you?

FALSTAFF A king's son! If I do not beat thee out of thy kingdom with a dagger of lath, and drive all thy subjects afore thee like a flock of wild geese, I'll never wear hair on my face more. You, Prince of Wales! 140

PRINCE Why, you whoreson round man, what's the matter? 145

FALSTAFF Are not you a coward? Answer me to that—and Poin's there?

161. **All . . . that:** i.e., it doesn't matter

165. **this day morning:** i.e., this morning

170. **at half-sword:** i.e., in close combat

171. **together:** altogether

173. **doublet:** close-fitting short jacket; **buckler:** small shield (See note on 1.3.238.)

175. **Ecce signum:** behold the sign (an echo of religious language); **dealt:** i.e., fought

176. **All . . . do:** i.e., no matter what I did, it wasn't enough

179–80. **sons of darkness:** Biblical: "You are all the children of light . . . : we are not of the night, neither of darkness" (1 Thessalonians 5.5).



"The ridge of the gallows." (1.2.40–41)

From Raphael Holinshed, *The chronicles of England* (1577).

POINS Zounds, you fat paunch, an you call me coward, by the Lord, I'll stab thee.

FALSTAFF I call thee coward? I'll see thee damned ere I call thee coward, but I would give a thousand pound I could run as fast as thou canst. You are straight enough in the shoulders you care not who sees your back. Call you that backing of your friends? A plague upon such backing! Give me them that will face me.—Give me a cup of sack.—I am a rogue if I drunk today.

PRINCE O villain, thy lips are scarce wiped since thou drunk'st last.

FALSTAFF All is one for that. (*He drinketh.*) A plague of all cowards, still say I.

PRINCE What's the matter?

FALSTAFF What's the matter? There be four of us here have ta'en a thousand pound this day morning.

PRINCE Where is it, Jack, where is it?

FALSTAFF Where is it? Taken from us it is. A hundred upon poor four of us.

PRINCE What, a hundred, man?

FALSTAFF I am a rogue if I were not at half-sword with a dozen of them two hours together. I have 'scaped by miracle. I am eight times thrust through the doublet, four through the hose, my buckler cut through and through, my sword hacked like a handsaw. *Ecce signum!* I never dealt better since I was a man. All would not do. A plague of all cowards! Let them speak. [*Pointing to Gads-hill, Bardolph, and Peto.*] If they speak more or less than truth, they are villains, and the sons of darkness.

[PRINCE] Speak, sirs, how was it?

[BARDOLPH] We four set upon some dozen.

FALSTAFF Sixteen at least, my lord.

[BARDOLPH] And bound them.

191. **other:** others

200, 201. **peppered, paid:** killed

203. **call me horse:** i.e., feel free to insult me

203-4. **my old ward:** i.e., the stance I take in defending myself

204. **Here . . . point:** i.e., this is how I stood, and this is how I held my sword

209. **afront:** abreast; **mainly:** vigorously, violently

210. **I . . . ado:** i.e., I delayed no longer **made me:** i.e., made **ado:** ceremony, fuss

211. **target:** shield, buckler

215. **by these hilts:** i.e., by my sword (a common oath)

219. **mark:** pay attention to

PETO No, no, they were not bound.

FALSTAFF You rogue, they were bound, every man of them, or I am a Jew else, an Ebrew Jew.

「BARDOLPH」 As we were sharing, some six or seven fresh men set upon us.

FALSTAFF And unbound the rest, and then come in the other.

PRINCE What, fought you with them all?

FALSTAFF All? I know not what you call all, but if I fought not with fifty of them I am a bunch of radish. If there were not two- or three-and-fifty upon poor old Jack, then am I no two-legged creature.

PRINCE Pray God you have not murdered some of them.

FALSTAFF Nay, that's past praying for. I have peppered two of them. Two I am sure I have paid, two rogues in buckram suits. I tell thee what, Hal, if I tell thee a lie, spit in my face, call me horse. Thou knowest my old ward. Here I lay, and thus I bore my point. Four rogues in buckram let drive at me.

PRINCE What, four? Thou said'st but two even now.

FALSTAFF Four, Hal, I told thee four.

POINS Ay, ay, he said four.

FALSTAFF These four came all afront, and mainly thrust at me. I made me no more ado, but took all their seven points in my target, thus.

PRINCE Seven? Why there were but four even now.

FALSTAFF In buckram?

POINS Ay, four in buckram suits.

FALSTAFF Seven by these hilts, or I am a villain else.

PRINCE, 「to Poins」 Prithee, let him alone. We shall have more anon.

FALSTAFF Dost thou hear me, Hal?

PRINCE Ay, and mark thee too, Jack.

224. **Down . . . hose:** Poins plays on a second meaning of **points**, i.e., the laces that hold up a man's breeches.

225. **followed me:** i.e., followed

226. **with a thought:** i.e., as quick as a thought

231. **Kendal green:** coarse woolen cloth

236. **knotty-pated:** blockheaded

237. **tallow-catch:** perhaps, tallow-keech (a rolled-up lump of fat sent by the butcher to the candle-maker); or, perhaps, the pan used to collect drippings from roasting meat

246. **at the strappado:** i.e., being tortured by being hauled up with ropes (See page 88.); **racks:** instruments of torture on which a victim's limbs were torn apart (See page 90.)

251. **this sin:** i.e., of hiding the truth

251-52. **sanguine:** (1) red-cheeked; (2) courageous; (3) confident, hopeful

254. **'Sblood:** an oath by Christ's blood

255. **dried . . . stockfish:** All of these suggest emaciation. **neat's:** cow's or ox's; **pizzle:** penis (dried to make a whip); **stockfish:** dried cod

FALSTAFF Do so, for it is worth the listening to. These 220  
nine in buckram that I told thee of—

PRINCE So, two more already.

FALSTAFF Their points being broken—

POINS Down fell their hose.

FALSTAFF Began to give me ground, but I followed me 225  
close, came in foot and hand, and, with a thought,  
seven of the eleven I paid.

PRINCE O monstrous! Eleven buckram men grown out  
of two!

FALSTAFF But as the devil would have it, three misbe- 230  
gotten knaves in Kendal green came at my back,  
and let drive at me, for it was so dark, Hal, that thou  
couldst not see thy hand.

PRINCE These lies are like their father that begets 235  
them, gross as a mountain, open, palpable. Why,  
thou claybrained guts, thou knotty-pated fool, thou  
whoreson, obscene, greasy tallow-catch—

FALSTAFF What, art thou mad? Art thou mad? Is not  
the truth the truth?

PRINCE Why, how couldst thou know these men in 240  
Kendal green when it was so dark thou couldst not  
see thy hand? Come, tell us your reason. What sayest  
thou to this?

POINS Come, your reason, Jack, your reason.

FALSTAFF What, upon compulsion? Zounds, an I were 245  
at the strappado or all the racks in the world, I  
would not tell you on compulsion. Give you a  
reason on compulsion? If reasons were as plentiful  
as blackberries, I would give no man a reason upon  
compulsion, I. 250

PRINCE I'll be no longer guilty of this sin. This san-  
guine coward, this bed-presser, this horse-back-  
breaker, this huge hill of flesh—

FALSTAFF 'Sblood, you starveling, you elfskin, you 255  
dried neat's tongue, you bull's pizzle, you stockfish!



257. **yard:** yardstick

258. **tuck:** rapier

266–67. **outfaced . . . prize:** i.e., forced your booty from you

273. **starting-hole:** escape hole (a hunting term)

275. **apparent:** obvious, visible

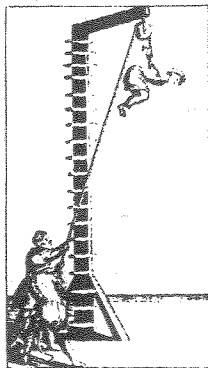
282. **Hercules:** in Greek mythology, a hero of extraordinary strength and courage

282–83. **The lion . . . prince:** an accepted belief

288. **clap to:** slam shut

288–89. **Watch . . . tomorrow:** Falstaff plays on Jesus' words to the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26.41). **watch:** (1) keep prayerful vigil; (2) stay awake and revel **pray:** (1) address prayers to God; (2) prey on innocent victims

291–92. **play extempore:** an impromptu play



"At the strappado." (2.4.246)

From Girolamo Maggi, *De tintinnabulis liber . . .* (1689).

O, for breath to utter what is like thee! You tailor's yard, you sheath, you bowcase, you vile standing tuck—

PRINCE Well, breathe awhile, and then to it again, and when thou hast tired thyself in base comparisons, hear me speak but this. 260

POINS Mark, Jack.

PRINCE We two saw you four set on four, and bound them and were masters of their wealth. Mark now how a plain tale shall put you down. Then did we two set on you four and, with a word, outfaced you from your prize, and have it, yea, and can show it you here in the house. And, Falstaff, you carried your guts away as nimbly, with as quick dexterity, and roared for mercy, and still run and roared, as ever I heard bull-calf. What a slave art thou to hack thy sword as thou hast done, and then say it was in fight! What trick, what device, what starting-hole canst thou now find out to hide thee from this open and apparent shame? 270 275

POINS Come, let's hear, Jack. What trick hast thou now?

FALSTAFF By the Lord, I knew you as well as he that made you. Why, hear you, my masters, was it for me to kill the heir apparent? Should I turn upon the true prince? Why, thou knowest I am as valiant as Hercules, but beware instinct. The lion will not touch the true prince. Instinct is a great matter. I was now a coward on instinct. I shall think the better of myself, and thee, during my life—I for a valiant lion, and thou for a true prince. But, by the Lord, lads, I am glad you have the money.—Hostess, clap to the doors.—Watch tonight, pray tomorrow. Gallants, lads, boys, hearts of gold, all the titles of good fellowship come to you. What, shall we be merry? Shall we have a play extempore? 280 285 290

293. **Content:** i.e., I am content, I agree; **argument:** plot, story

300. **at door:** i.e., at the door

302-3. **royal man:** A **royal** (a coin worth 10 shillings) exceeded a **noble** (a coin worth about 7 shillings); Hal here makes the usual pun (see line 299).

304. **manner:** kind

306. **Gravity:** a grave (serious) old man

322. **beslubber:** soil, daub

324. **did . . . before:** i.e., did something I had not done in the past seven years



Victims tortured on a rack. (2.4.246)

From Girolamo Maggi, *De tintinnabulis liber* . . . (1689).

PRINCE Content, and the argument shall be thy running away.

FALSTAFF Ah, no more of that, Hal, an thou lovest me. 295

*Enter Hostess.*

HOSTESS O Jesu, my lord the Prince—

PRINCE How now, my lady the hostess, what sayst thou to me?

HOSTESS Marry, my lord, there is a nobleman of the court at door would speak with you. He says he comes from your father. 300

PRINCE Give him as much as will make him a royal man and send him back again to my mother.

FALSTAFF What manner of man is he?

HOSTESS An old man. 305

FALSTAFF What doth Gravity out of his bed at midnight? Shall I give him his answer?

PRINCE Prithee do, Jack.

FALSTAFF Faith, and I'll send him packing. *He exits.*

PRINCE Now, sirs. *['To Gadshill.']* By 'r Lady, you fought fair.—So did you, Peto.—So did you, Bardolph.—You are lions too. You ran away upon instinct. You will not touch the true prince. No, fie! 310

BARDOLPH Faith, I ran when I saw others run.

PRINCE Faith, tell me now in earnest, how came Falstaff's sword so hacked? 315

PETO Why, he hacked it with his dagger and said he would swear truth out of England but he would make you believe it was done in fight, and persuaded us to do the like. 320

BARDOLPH Yea, and to tickle our noses with speargrass to make them bleed, and then to beslubber our garments with it, and swear it was the blood of true men. I did that I did not this seven year before: I blushed to hear his monstrous devices. 325

PRINCE O villain, thou stolest a cup of sack eighteen

327. **taken . . . manner:** i.e., captured with the stolen goods on you

328. **extempore:** i.e., on any and every occasion (This reference to Bardolph's red face and nose is elaborated on in the word **fire** and in lines 331–32—with the reference to **these meteors, these exhalations**—and again at 3.3.25–54.)

334. **portend:** i.e., predict, herald (**Meteors** were thought to be **exhalations** and were thought to appear as omens.)

335. **Hot livers:** the result, it was thought, of much drinking; **cold:** i.e., empty

336. **Choler:** anger; **rightly taken:** i.e., correctly understood (Hal responds as if the phrase meant "lawfully arrested.")

337. **halter:** i.e., hanging (with a pun on collar/choler)

339. **bombast:** (1) cotton padding or stuffing; (2) inflated language

343. **thumb-ring:** a signet ring worn on the thumb

347–48. **That same . . . Percy:** i.e., Hotspur

348. **Amamon:** the name of a demon

349. **bastinado:** beating on the feet; **Lucifer:** i.e., the devil (whose horns suggest the image of the cuckold)

349–50. **swore . . . liegeman:** i.e., made the devil swear to serve him

351. **Welsh hook:** a heavy weapon with a hooked end

359. **hit it:** i.e., got it exactly right (Hal responds to the literal meaning.)

years ago, and wert taken with the manner, and ever since thou hast blushed extempore. Thou hadst fire and sword on thy side, and yet thou ran'st away. What instinct hadst thou for it? 330

BARDOLPH My lord, do you see these meteors? Do you behold these exhalations?

PRINCE I do.

BARDOLPH What think you they portend?

PRINCE Hot livers and cold purses. 335

BARDOLPH Choler, my lord, if rightly taken.

PRINCE No. If rightly taken, halter.

*Enter Falstaff.*

Here comes lean Jack. Here comes bare-bone.—How now, my sweet creature of bombast? How long is 't ago, Jack, since thou sawest thine own knee? 340

FALSTAFF My own knee? When I was about thy years, Hal, I was not an eagle's talon in the waist. I could have crept into any alderman's thumb-ring. A plague of sighing and grief! It blows a man up like a bladder. There's villainous news abroad. Here was Sir John Bracy from your father. You must to the court in the morning. That same mad fellow of the north, Percy, and he of Wales that gave Amamon the bastinado, and made Lucifer cuckold, and swore the devil his true liegeman upon the cross of a Welsh hook—what a plague call you him? 345

POINS 'Owen' Glendower.

FALSTAFF Owen, Owen, the same, and his son-in-law Mortimer, and old Northumberland, and that sprightly Scot of Scots, Douglas, that runs a-horse-back up a hill perpendicular— 355

PRINCE He that rides at high speed, and with his pistol kills a sparrow flying.

FALSTAFF You have hit it.

PRINCE So did he never the sparrow. 360

361. **mettle**: spirit, courage  
 369. **blue-caps**: Scots soldiers (who wore "blue bonnets")  
 373. **like**: i.e., likely  
 374. **buffeting**: strife  
 374-75. **buy maidenheads**: Rape was, and is, common in wartime.  
 378. **horrible afeard**: i.e., horribly afraid  
 384. **chid**: chided, scolded  
 385. **If . . . me**: i.e., I beg you  
 387. **stand for**: i.e., play the role of  
 390. **state**: chair of state, throne  
 392. **taken for**: understood to be; **joined stool**: a stool made of parts fitted together  
 396. **moved**: emotionally stirred



"The earth shook like a coward." (3.1.16-17)  
 From Conrad Lycosthenes, *Prodigiorum* (1557).

- FALSTAFF Well, that rascal hath good mettle in him. He will not run.  
 PRINCE Why, what a rascal art thou then to praise him so for running?  
 FALSTAFF A-horseback, you cuckoo, but afoot he will not budge a foot. 365  
 PRINCE Yes, Jack, upon instinct.  
 FALSTAFF I grant you, upon instinct. Well, he is there too, and one Mordake, and a thousand blue-caps more. Worcester is stolen away tonight. Thy father's beard is turned white with the news. You may buy land now as cheap as stinking mackerel. 370  
 PRINCE Why then, it is like if there come a hot June, and this civil buffeting hold, we shall buy maidenheads as they buy hobnails, by the hundreds. 375  
 FALSTAFF By the Mass, thou sayest true. It is like we shall have good trading that way. But tell me, Hal, art not thou horrible afeard? Thou being heir apparent, could the world pick thee out three such enemies again as that fiend Douglas, that spirit Percy, and that devil Glendower? Art thou not horribly afraid? Doth not thy blood thrill at it? 380  
 PRINCE Not a whit, i' faith. I lack some of thy instinct.  
 FALSTAFF Well, thou wilt be horribly chid tomorrow when thou comest to thy father. If thou love me, practice an answer. 385  
 PRINCE Do thou stand for my father and examine me upon the particulars of my life.  
 FALSTAFF Shall I? Content. *[He sits down.]* This chair shall be my state, this dagger my scepter, and this cushion my crown. 390  
 PRINCE Thy state is taken for a joined stool, thy golden scepter for a leaden dagger, and thy precious rich crown for a pitiful bald crown.  
 FALSTAFF Well, an the fire of grace be not quite out of thee, now shalt thou be moved.—Give me a cup of 395

398. **in passion:** passionately, emotionally  
 399. **King Cambyses' vein:** i.e., a highly ornate style (*Cambyses, King of Persia* was a tragedy from the 1560s.)  
 400. **leg:** i.e., elaborate bow  
 404. **vain:** in vain, useless  
 405. **holds his countenance:** i.e., keeps a straight face  
 406. **convey:** lead away; **tristful:** unhappy  
 408-9. **harlotry players:** rascally actors  
 410-11. **tickle-brain:** a slang term for liquor  
 412-13. **how . . . accompanied:** i.e., who you spend time with  
 413-15. **though . . . wears:** an echo of John Lyly's *Euphues* (1578), once very popular for its highly mannered style: "Though the camomile, the more it is trodden and pressed down, the more it spreadeth, yet the violet the oftener it is handled and touched, the sooner it withereth and decayeth."  
 414. **so:** Most editions follow Q3 here and print "yet." Though this makes more sense of the passage, it may be funnier with **so**.  
 415. **wasted:** decayed, worn; **wears:** decays, is ruined  
 418. **trick:** trait, characteristic  
 419. **nether:** lower; **warrant me:** furnish me with a guarantee  
 421. **pointed at:** i.e., mocked  
 422. **micher:** truant  
 427-28. **This pitch . . . defile:** Biblical: "He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled" (Ecclesiasticus 13.1).

- sack to make my eyes look red, that it may be thought I have wept, for I must speak in passion, and I will do it in King Cambyses' vein.  
 PRINCE, <sup>1</sup>*bowing* Well, here is my leg. 400  
 FALSTAFF And here is my speech. <sup>1</sup>*As King.* Stand aside, nobility.  
 HOSTESS O Jesu, this is excellent sport, i' faith!  
 FALSTAFF, <sup>1</sup>*as King*  
 Weep not, sweet queen, for trickling tears are vain.  
 HOSTESS O the Father, how he holds his countenance! 405  
 FALSTAFF, <sup>1</sup>*as King*  
 For God's sake, lords, convey my <sup>1</sup>*tristful* queen,  
 For tears do stop the floodgates of her eyes.  
 HOSTESS O Jesu, he doth it as like one of these harlotry players as ever I see.  
 FALSTAFF Peace, good pint-pot. Peace, good tickle-brain.—<sup>1</sup>*As King.* Harry, I do not only marvel where thou spendest thy time, but also how thou art accompanied. For though the camomile, the more it is trodden on, the faster it grows, so youth, the more it is wasted, the sooner it wears. That 415  
 thou art my son I have partly thy mother's word, partly my own opinion, but chiefly a villainous trick of thine eye and a foolish hanging of thy nether lip that doth warrant me. If then thou be son to me, here lies the point: why, being son to me, art thou so pointed at? Shall the blessed sun of heaven prove a micher and eat blackberries? A question not to be asked. Shall the son of England prove a thief and take purses? A question to be asked. There is a thing, Harry, which thou hast 425  
 often heard of, and it is known to many in our land by the name of pitch. This pitch, as ancient writers do report, doth defile; so doth the company thou keepest. For, Harry, now I do not speak to thee in drink, but in tears; not in pleasure, but in passion; 430

434. **an it like:** i.e., if it please  
 435. **goodly:** (1) handsome; (2) large; **portly:** (1) stately; (2) fat  
 436. **corpulent:** (1) full-bodied; (2) very fat  
 437. **carriage:** bearing  
 440. **lewdly given:** i.e., inclined to wicked living  
 441-42. **tree . . . fruit:** Biblical: "The tree is known by his fruit" (Matthew 12.33).  
 444. **him keep with:** i.e., keep him with you; stay with him  
 445. **naughty varlet:** bad boy  
 449. **dost it:** i.e., play the part of king  
 451. **rabbit-sucker:** baby rabbit (not yet weaned)  
 452. **poulter's hare:** dead rabbit hung up for sale  
**poulter:** poultry dealer  
 460. **tickle . . . prince:** i.e., amuse you in my role as prince (probably addressed to the others onstage)  
 461. **Ungracious:** irreverent, without grace  
 463. **grace:** virtue; God's grace  
 464. **tun:** (1) large barrel; (2) ton  
 465. **converse:** associate  
 466. **trunk:** (1) body; (2) large container; **humors:** bodily fluids; diseases; **bolting-hutch:** sifting bin

not in words only, but in woes also. And yet there is a virtuous man whom I have often noted in thy company, but I know not his name.

PRINCE What manner of man, an it like your Majesty?  
 FALSTAFF, *as King*<sup>1</sup> A goodly portly man, i' faith, and a 435  
 corpulent; of a cheerful look, a pleasing eye, and a most noble carriage, and, as I think, his age some fifty, or, by 'r Lady, inclining to threescore; and now I remember me, his name is Falstaff. If that man should be lewdly given, he deceiveth me, for, Harry, I see virtue in his looks. If then the tree may be known by the fruit, as the fruit by the tree, then peremptorily I speak it: there is virtue in that Falstaff; him keep with, the rest banish. And tell me now, thou naughty varlet, tell me where hast thou 440  
 been this month? 445

PRINCE Dost thou speak like a king? Do thou stand for me, and I'll play my father.

FALSTAFF, *as rising*<sup>1</sup> Depose me? If thou dost it half so gravely, so majestically, both in word and matter, 450  
 hang me up by the heels for a rabbit-sucker or a poulter's hare.

PRINCE, *as sitting down*<sup>1</sup> Well, here I am set.

FALSTAFF And here I stand.—Judge, my masters.

PRINCE, *as King*<sup>1</sup> Now, Harry, whence come you? 455

FALSTAFF, *as Prince*<sup>1</sup> My noble lord, from Eastcheap.

PRINCE, *as King*<sup>1</sup> The complaints I hear of thee are grievous.

FALSTAFF, *as Prince*<sup>1</sup> 'Sblood, my lord, they are false.

—Nay, I'll tickle you for a young prince, i' faith. 460

PRINCE, *as King*<sup>1</sup> Swarest thou? Ungracious boy, henceforth ne'er look on me. Thou art violently carried away from grace. There is a devil haunts thee in the likeness of an old fat man. A tun of man is thy companion. Why dost thou converse with that 465  
 trunk of humors, that bolting-hutch of beastliness,

467. **bombard**: leather wine jug

468. **cloakbag**: i.e., suitcase

468-69. **roasted . . . belly**: i.e., roast stuffed ox (It is unclear why ox roasts are here associated with Manningtree, a town in Essex.)

470-71. **that . . . years**: Each of these terms includes a paradox: **reverend, gray, father, and years**

refer to Falstaff's age and the behavior that should go with it; **Vice, iniquity, ruffian**, and **vanity** describe his actual immoral behavior. The **Vice** was a character in earlier drama who, among other things, led the hero astray.

473. **cunning**: learned, skillful

474. **craft**: deceit, fraud

477-78. **take . . . you**: i.e., help me understand what you mean

486. **saving your reverence**: a conventional request to be excused for being about to use an indecent word

487. **sack and sugar**: i.e., drinking sugared wine

489. **host**: innkeeper

490-91. **Pharaoh's lean kine**: In the Bible (Genesis 41) the **lean kine** (cattle) in Pharaoh's dream predict famine.

that swollen parcel of dropsies, that huge bombard of sack, that stuffed cloakbag of guts, that roasted Manningtree ox with the pudding in his belly, that reverend Vice, that gray iniquity, that father ruffian, that vanity in years? Wherein is he good, but to taste sack and drink it? Wherein honest and cleanly but to

craft? Wherein crafty but in villainy? Wherein villainous but in all things? Wherein worthy but in nothing?

FALSTAFF, *as Prince*<sup>1</sup> I would your Grace would take me with you. Whom means your Grace?

PRINCE, *as King*<sup>1</sup> That villainous abominable misleader of youth, Falstaff, that old white-bearded Satan.

FALSTAFF, *as Prince*<sup>1</sup> My lord, the man I know.

PRINCE, *as King*<sup>1</sup> I know thou dost.

FALSTAFF, *as Prince*<sup>1</sup> But to say I know more harm in him than in myself were to say more than I know. That he is old, the more the pity; his white hairs do witness it. But that he is, saving your reverence, a whoremaster, that I utterly deny. If sack and sugar be a fault, God help the wicked. If to be old and merry be a sin, then many an old host that I know is damned. If to be fat be to be hated, then Pharaoh's *lean*<sup>1</sup> kine are to be loved. No, my good lord, banish Peto, banish Bardolph, banish Poin, but for sweet Jack Falstaff, kind Jack Falstaff, true Jack Falstaff, valiant Jack Falstaff, and therefore more valiant being as he is old Jack Falstaff, banish not him thy Harry's company, banish not him thy Harry's company. Banish plump Jack, and banish all the world.

PRINCE I do, I will.

*A loud knocking, and Bardolph, Hostess, and Francis exit.*<sup>1</sup>

501. **watch:** group of officers

505-6. **the devil . . . fiddlestick:** i.e., what a to-do

510-12. **Never . . . so:** These lines have been interpreted in many different ways. One possible way is as follows: "I am virtuous and brave, though I seem otherwise. You are a true prince, though you seem otherwise."

514. **major:** i.e., major premise (The syllogism that Falstaff denies is, perhaps: all men who run are cowards; Falstaff ran; therefore, Falstaff is a coward. Falstaff has argued that some men run for other reasons than cowardice—e.g., out of instinctive recognition of "the true prince.")

515-16. **become not a cart:** i.e., am not as fit to be carted (i.e., dragged through the streets in a cart on my way to be hanged) See page 106.

518. **halter:** hangman's noose

519. **arras:** a hanging screen of tapestry fabric

520. **walk up above:** i.e., go upstairs; **true:** innocent, honest

522. **their date is out:** i.e., their lease has run out

*Enter Bardolph running.*

BARDOLPH O my lord, my lord, the Sheriff with a most monstrous watch is at the door. 500

FALSTAFF Out, you rogue.—Play out the play. I have much to say in the behalf of that Falstaff.

*Enter the Hostess.*

HOSTESS O Jesu, my lord, my lord—

PRINCE Heigh, heigh, the devil rides upon a fiddlestick. What's the matter? 505

HOSTESS The Sheriff and all the watch are at the door. They are come to search the house. Shall I let them in?

FALSTAFF Dost thou hear, Hal? Never call a true piece of gold a counterfeit. Thou art essentially made without seeming so. 510

PRINCE And thou a natural coward without instinct.

FALSTAFF I deny your major. If you will deny the Sheriff, so; if not, let him enter. If I become not a cart as well as another man, a plague on my bringing up. I hope I shall as soon be strangled with a halter as another. 515

PRINCE, <sup>1</sup>*standing* Go hide thee behind the arras. The rest walk up above.—Now, my masters, for a true face and good conscience. 520

FALSTAFF Both which I have had, but their date is out; and therefore I'll hide me. <sup>1</sup>*He hides.*

PRINCE Call in the Sheriff.

<sup>1</sup>*All but the Prince and Peto exit.*

*Enter Sheriff and the Carrier.*

PRINCE

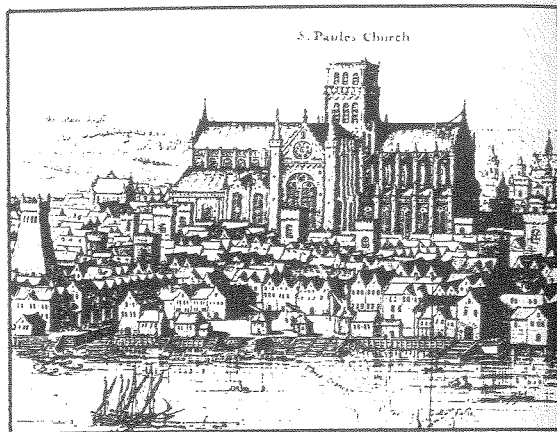
Now, Master Sheriff, what is your will with me? 525

SHERIFF

First pardon me, my lord. A hue and cry Hath followed certain men unto this house.



537. **withal**: i.e., with  
 544. **morrow**: morning  
 546. **Paul's**: i.e., St. Paul's Cathedral  
 555. **Item**: likewise (from Latin *ita*, meaning "so,"  
 used to introduce each article in a list or inventory);  
 s.: shilling(s); d.: denarius, penny or pennies



St. Paul's Cathedral. (2.4.546)  
 From Claes Jansz Visscher, *Londinum Florentissima  
 Britanniae Urbs* . . . (1625).

PRINCE What men?

SHERIFF

One of them is well known, my gracious lord.  
 A gross fat man.

530

CARRIER As fat as butter.

PRINCE

The man I do assure you is not here,  
 For I myself at this time have employed him.  
 And, sheriff, I will engage my word to thee  
 That I will by tomorrow dinner time  
 Send him to answer thee or any man  
 For anything he shall be charged withal.  
 And so let me entreat you leave the house.

535

SHERIFF

I will, my lord. There are two gentlemen  
 Have in this robbery lost three hundred marks.

540

PRINCE

It may be so. If he have robbed these men,  
 He shall be answerable; and so farewell.

SHERIFF Good night, my noble lord.

PRINCE

I think it is good morrow, is it not?

SHERIFF

Indeed, my lord, I think it be two o'clock.

545

*He exits [with the Carrier.]*

PRINCE This oily rascal is known as well as Paul's. Go  
 call him forth.

PETO Falstaff!—Fast asleep behind the arras, and  
 snorting like a horse.

PRINCE Hark, how hard he fetches breath. Search his  
 pockets. (*He searcheth his pocket, and findeth certain  
 papers.*) What hast thou found?

550

PETO Nothing but papers, my lord.

PRINCE Let's see what they be. Read them.

[PETO reads]

*Item, a capon, . . . 2s. 2d.*

555

559. **ob.:** obolus, halfpenny

561. **deal:** quantity

562. **close:** secret, hidden; **at . . . advantage:** at a more favorable time

566. **charge of foot:** i.e., command of an infantry troop

567. **twelve score:** i.e., 240 yards

568. **advantage:** i.e., interest; **betimes:** early



A prisoner drawn on a cart to execution. (2.4.515-16)  
From John Geninges, *The life and death of Mr. Edmund Geninges*  
priest (1614).

*Item, sauce, . . . 4d.*

*Item, sack, two gallons, . . . 5s. 8d.*

*Item, anchovies and sack after supper, . . . 2s. 6d.*

*Item, bread, . . . ob.*

[PRINCE] O monstrous! But one halfpennyworth of 560  
bread to this intolerable deal of sack? What there is  
else, keep close. We'll read it at more advantage.  
There let him sleep till day. I'll to the court in the  
morning. We must all to the wars, and thy place 565  
shall be honorable. I'll procure this fat rogue a  
charge of foot, and I know his death will be a march  
of twelve score. The money shall be paid back again  
with advantage. Be with me betimes in the morn-  
ing, and so good morrow, Peto.

PETO Good morrow, good my lord. 570

*They exit.*

*The History of*

# HENRY IV

## Part 1

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ACT 3

3.1 Hotspur, Worcester, Mortimer, and the leader of the Welsh rebels, Glendower, meet in Wales to make final the terms of their plot against King Henry and to determine how they will divide up the conquered kingdom. Hotspur ridicules Glendower to his face and is criticized by Mortimer and Worcester for doing so. Glendower brings in the wives of Hotspur and Mortimer to take leave of their husbands.

1. **promises:** i.e., the commitment of the parties allied with Hotspur, Glendower, and Mortimer in rebellion against King Henry

2. **induction:** initial steps; **prosperous hope:** i.e., hope of prospering

8. **Lancaster:** King Henry, formerly duke of Lancaster

15. **Burning cressets.** i.e., stars or comets, which, according to a belief that goes back to classical antiquity, are omens of a newborn's greatness (Literally, **cressets** are fire baskets, iron vessels containing combustibles and mounted on poles or suspended from roofs.)

## 「ACT 3」

### 「Scene 1」

*Enter Hotspur, Worcester, Lord Mortimer, 「and」 Owen Glendower.*

MORTIMER

These promises are fair, the parties sure,  
And our induction full of prosperous hope.

Lord Mortimer and cousin Glendower,  
Will you sit down? And uncle Worcester—  
A plague upon it, I have forgot the map.

GLENDOWER

No, here it is. Sit, cousin Percy,  
Sit, good cousin Hotspur, for by that name  
As oft as Lancaster doth speak of you  
His cheek looks pale, and with a rising sigh  
He wisheth you in heaven.

HOTSPUR

And you in hell,  
As oft as he hears Owen Glendower spoke of.

GLENDOWER

I cannot blame him. At my nativity  
The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes,  
Of burning cressets, and at my birth  
The frame and huge foundation of the earth  
Shaked like a coward.

HOTSPUR

Why, so it would have done

28. **Diseasèd:** (1) disordered; (2) sick (Hotspur's explanation [in lines 29–36] of earthquakes as wind erupting from within the earth goes back to classical antiquity.)

29. **teeming:** prolific, fertile

32. **which . . . striving:** i.e., the wind struggling to be released

33. **beldam:** grandmother

35. **distemp'rature:** disorder, ailment

36. **passion:** pain

38. **these crossings:** this opposition, contradiction

44. **courses:** proceedings

45. **in the roll:** i.e., in the list or catalog

46. **he:** i.e., any person; **clipped in with:** embraced or surrounded by

At the same season if your mother's cat  
Had but kittened, though yourself had never been 20  
born.

GLENDOWER

I say the earth did shake when I was born.

HOTSPUR

And I say the earth was not of my mind,  
If you suppose as fearing you it shook.

GLENDOWER

The heavens were all on fire; the earth did tremble. 25

HOTSPUR

O, then the earth shook to see the heavens on fire,  
And not in fear of your nativity.  
Diseased nature oftentimes breaks forth  
In strange eruptions; oft the teeming earth  
Is with a kind of scellipinched and varied

in passion shook.

GLENDOWER

Cousin, of many men  
I do not bear these crossings. Give me leave  
To tell you once again that at my birth  
The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes,  
The goats ran from the mountains, and the herds 40  
Were strangely clamorous to the frightened fields.  
These signs have marked me extraordinary,  
And all the courses of my life do show  
I am not in the roll of common men. 45  
Where is he living, clipped in with the sea  
That chides the banks of England, Scotland, Wales,  
Which calls me pupil or hath read to me?  
And bring him out that is but woman's son  
Can trace me in the tedious wars of art

54. **mad:** insane (with fury)  
55. **vasty deep:** perhaps, ocean, or, perhaps, abyss  
60. **coz:** i.e., cousin (This familiar form, and Hotspur's shift to the familiar **thee** and **thou**, could suggest disrespect.)

61. **Tell . . . devil:** proverbial  
67. **made head:** led an army  
68. **power:** armed forces  
68, 69. **Wye, Severn:** rivers near the English-Welsh border

70. **Bootless:** unsuccessful  
72. **agues:** chills and fevers  
73. **right:** territory  
74. **our threefold order ta'en:** i.e., the document recording our pact (**Threefold** may refer to the plan to divide the island into three parts, or to the fact that the document is being prepared in triplicate. See lines 83-84.)

75. **Archdeacon:** i.e., the archdeacon of Bangor, at whose home, according to the chronicles, the plan was made for dividing the realm

76. **limits:** territories, regions

HOTSPUR

I think there's no man speaks better Welsh.  
I'll to dinner.

MORTIMER

Peace, cousin Percy. You will make him mad.

GLENDOWER

I can call spirits from the vasty deep. 55

HOTSPUR

Why, so can I, or so can any man,  
But will they come when you do call for them?

GLENDOWER

Why, I can teach you, cousin, to command the  
devil.

HOTSPUR

And I can teach thee, coz, to shame the devil 60  
By telling truth. Tell truth and shame the devil.  
If thou have power to raise him, bring him hither,  
And I'll be sworn I have power to shame him  
hence.

O, while you live, tell truth and shame the devil! 65

MORTIMER

Come, come, no more of this unprofitable chat.

GLENDOWER

Three times hath Henry Bolingbroke made head  
Against my power; thrice from the banks of Wye  
And sandy-bottomed Severn have I sent him  
Bootless home and weather-beaten back. 70

HOTSPUR

Home without boots, and in foul weather too!  
How 'scapes he agues, in the devil's name?

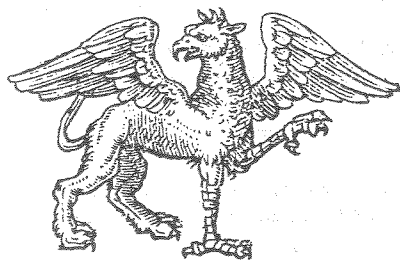
GLENDOWER

Come, here is the map. Shall we divide our right  
According to our threefold order ta'en?

MORTIMER

The Archdeacon hath divided it 75  
Into three limits very equally:

- 77-78. **England . . . east:** i.e., all England south-east of the Trent and Severn rivers  
 80. **that bound;** i.e., these boundaries  
 82. **lying off from:** i.e., starting from  
 83. **indentures . . . drawn:** i.e., the document recording our pact is drawn up in triplicate  
 84. **sealed interchangeably:** i.e., each copy bearing the seals of the three nobles  
 85. **this . . . execute:** i.e., can be done tonight  
 90. **father:** i.e., father-in-law  
 96. **conduct:** escort, safe-conduct  
 100. **moiety:** share  
 101. **not one:** i.e., neither  
 102. **comes me:** i.e., comes; **cranking:** twisting  
 103. **cuts me:** i.e., cuts, removes  
 104. **cantle:** slice  
 106. **smug:** smooth  
 107. **fair and evenly:** i.e., straight  
 109. **bottom:** bottom land, lowland, river valley



A griffin. (3.1.156)

From Giulio Cesare Capaccio, *Delle imprese trattate* . . . (1592).

England, from Trent and Severn hitherto,  
 By south and east is to my part assigned;  
 All westward, Wales beyond the Severn shore,  
 And all the fertile land within that bound  
 To Owen Glendower; and, dear coz, to you  
 The remnant northward lying off from Trent.  
 And our indentures tripartite are drawn,  
 Which being sealed interchangeably—  
 A business that this night may execute—  
 Tomorrow, cousin Percy, you and I  
 And my good Lord of Worcester will set forth  
 To meet your father and the Scottish power,  
 As is appointed us, at Shrewsbury.  
 My father Glendower is not ready yet,  
 Nor shall we need his help these fourteen days.  
 'To Glendower.' Within that space you may have  
 drawn together.

Your tenants, friends, and neighboring gentlemen.

GLENDOWER

A shorter time shall send me to you, lords,  
 And in my conduct shall your ladies come,  
 From whom you now must steal and take no leave,  
 For there will be a world of water shed  
 Upon the parting of your wives and you.

HOTSPUR, 'looking at the map'

Methinks my moiety, north from Burton here,  
 In quantity equals not one of yours.  
 See how this river comes me cranking in  
 And cuts me from the best of all my land  
 A huge half-moon, a monstrous 'cantle' out.  
 I'll have the current in this place dammed up,  
 And here the smug and silver Trent shall run  
 In a new channel, fair and evenly.  
 It shall not wind with such a deep indent  
 To rob me of so rich a bottom here.

111-15. **Yea . . . you:** i.e., see how the Trent winds and turns up in the same way on the other side, cutting from its opposite bank just as much as it takes from your side **he:** i.e., the river Trent **runs me up:** i.e., turns up **like:** similar **continent:** bank (literally, container)

116. **charge:** expense; **trench him:** i.e., divert it into a newly dug course

128. **framèd to:** adapted to, arranged for

130. **the tongue:** i.e., the English language

131. **virtue:** accomplishment

132. **Marry:** a mild oath

134. **meter balladmongers:** hawkers of metrical ballads (whom Hotspur here equates with courtly composers)

135. **brazen can'stick:** brass candlestick; **turned:** i.e., turned on a lathe (to smooth and polish it)

136. **dry:** unlubricated

137. **nothing an:** i.e., not nearly as much on

139. **forced gait:** jerky steps; **shuffling nag:** hobbled horse (Note the jerky rhythm of the line itself.)

GLENDOWER

Not wind? It shall, it must. You see it doth.

110

MORTIMER, <sup>to Hotspur</sup>

Yea, but mark how he bears his course, and runs me up

With like advantage on the other side,  
Gelding the opposed continent as much

As on the other side it takes from you.

115

WORCESTER

Yea, but a little charge will trench him here  
And on this north side win this cape of land,  
And then he runs straight and even.

HOTSPUR

I'll have it so. A little charge will do it.

GLENDOWER I'll not have it altered.

120

HOTSPUR Will not you?

GLENDOWER No, nor you shall not.

HOTSPUR Who shall say me nay?

GLENDOWER Why, that will I.

HOTSPUR

Let me not understand you, then; speak it in Welsh.

125

GLENDOWER

I can speak English, lord, as well as you,  
For I was trained up in the English court,  
Where being but young I framèd to the harp  
Many an English ditty lovely well  
And gave the tongue a helpful ornament—  
A virtue that was never seen in you.

130

HOTSPUR

Marry, and I am glad of it with all my heart.  
I had rather be a kitten and cry "mew"  
Than one of these same <sup>meter</sup> balladmongers.  
I had rather hear a brazen can'stick turned,  
Or a dry wheel grate on the axletree,  
And that would set my teeth nothing an edge,  
Nothing so much as mincing poetry.  
'Tis like the forced gait of a shuffling nag.

135



143. **bargain:** i.e., driving a bargain  
 144. **cavil on:** quibble about  
 147. **writer:** scribe; **withal:** at the same time  
 148. **Break with:** tell, advise  
 151. **cross:** oppose, contradict  
 152. **choose:** i.e., choose to do otherwise  
 153. **moldwarp:** mole  
 154. **Merlin:** the magician in Arthurian legend  
 156. **griffin:** a mythological creature with the wings and head of the eagle and the body of the lion (See page 116.); **moulten:** i.e., moulted  
 157. **A couching . . . cat:** This line parodies the heraldic language in which the crests of noble houses are described. It plays with "couchant"—which refers to an animal depicted on a crest as lying down with its head raised—and with "rampant"—which refers to an animal reared up on its hind legs—and it includes among heraldic beasts the ordinary **cat**. (See page 212.)  
 158. **skimble-skamble stuff:** i.e., nonsense  
 159. **puts . . . faith:** i.e., makes it impossible for me to believe in anything, even my Christian faith  
 160. **held me:** i.e., held me in conversation  
 161. **several:** various  
 162–63. **go to:** an expression, perhaps, of impatience or, perhaps, of skepticism  
 164. **marked him not a word:** paid no attention to a word he said  
 166–67. **rather live . . . far:** i.e., far rather . . . live  
 168. **cates:** delicacies  
 169. **summer house:** house in the country, built for pleasure and recreation

- GLENDOWER Come, you shall have Trent turned. 140  
 HOTSPUR  
 I do not care. I'll give thrice so much land  
 To any well-deserving friend;  
 But in the way of bargain, mark you me,  
 I'll cavil on the ninth part of a hair.  
 Are the indentures drawn? Shall we be gone? 145  
 GLENDOWER  
 The moon shines fair. You may away by night.  
 I'll haste the writer, and withal  
 Break with your wives of your departure hence.  
 I am afraid my daughter will run mad,  
 So much she doteth on her Mortimer. *He exits.* 150  
 MORTIMER  
 Fie, cousin Percy, how you cross my father!  
 HOTSPUR  
 I cannot choose. Sometime he angers me  
 With telling me of the moldwarp and the ant,  
 Of the dreamer Merlin and his prophecies,  
 And of a dragon and a finless fish, 155  
 A clip-winged griffin and a moulten raven,  
 A couching lion and a ramping cat,  
 And such a deal of skimble-skamble stuff  
 As puts me from my faith. I tell you what—  
 He held me last night at least nine hours 160  
 In reckoning up the several devils' names  
 That were his lackeys. I cried "Hum," and "Well, go  
 to,"  
 But marked him not a word. O, he is as tedious  
 As a tired horse, a railing wife, 165  
 Worse than a smoky house. I had rather live  
 With cheese and garlic in a windmill, far,  
 Than feed on cates and have him talk to me  
 In any summer house in Christendom.  
 MORTIMER  
 In faith, he is a worthy gentleman, 170

171-72. **profited . . . concealments:** advanced in secret knowledge

174. **mines of India:** i.e., the gold mines of the Indies

175. **temper:** temperament, character

177. **come . . . humor:** oppose his temper, or mood

179. **Might:** i.e., who could

181. **use it:** i.e., take advantage of Glendower's forbearance

182. **willful-blame:** i.e., blameworthy for your willfulness

184. **besides:** out of

187. **blood:** mettle, spirit

188. **dearest grace:** most honorable credit

189. **present:** show

190. **want of government:** lack of discretion

191. **opinion:** conceit, arrogance

192. **haunting:** i.e., habitually associated with (with the sense also of infesting and of supernatural visitation)

193. **Loseth:** i.e., causes him to lose

194. **parts:** qualities; accomplishments

195. **Beguiling:** cheating

196. **schooled:** instructed; **be your speed:** i.e., bring you success

198. **spite:** annoyance, irritation

Exceedingly well read and profited  
In strange concealments, valiant as a lion,  
And wondrous affable, and as bountiful  
As mines of India. Shall I tell you, cousin?  
He holds your temper in a high respect  
And curbs himself even of his natural scope  
When you come cross his humor. Faith, he does.  
I warrant you that man is not alive  
Might so have tempted him as you have done  
Without the taste of danger and reproof.  
But do not use it oft, let me entreat you.

175

180

WORCESTER, <sup>1</sup>to Hotspur<sup>1</sup>

In faith, my lord, you are too willful-blame,  
And, since your coming hither, have done enough  
To put him quite besides his patience.  
You must needs learn, lord, to amend this fault.  
Though sometimes it show greatness, courage,  
blood—

185

And that's the dearest grace it renders you—  
Yet oftentimes it doth present harsh rage,  
Defect of manners, want of government,  
Pride, haughtiness, opinion, and disdain,  
The least of which, haunting a nobleman,  
Loseth men's hearts and leaves behind a stain  
Upon the beauty of all parts besides,  
Beguiling them of commendation.

190

195

HOTSPUR

Well, I am schooled. Good manners be your speed!  
Here come our wives, and let us take our leave.

*Enter Glendower with the Ladies.*

MORTIMER

This is the deadly spite that angers me:  
My wife can speak no English, I no Welsh.

GLENDOWER

My daughter weeps; she'll not part with you.  
She'll be a soldier too, she'll to the wars

200

to 1.3.82-87 for information about the Mortimer-Percy family tie.)

204. **peevish**: obstinate; **harlotry**: good-for-nothing (most often with reference to a harlot, or whore)

206. **That pretty Welsh**: i.e., your tears

209. **perfect in**: conversant with

209-10. **but for shame . . . thee**: i.e., if I were not ashamed to appear unmanly, I'd weep with you  
**parley**: speech

212. **feeling disputation**: A **disputation** was a debate, an exchange of speeches among academics sustaining, attacking, and defending a thesis. The word **feeling** carries several meanings, suggesting the exchange of feelings through touch and the emotional intensity of the exchange.

215. **highly penned**: written in a high style

217. **division**: a rapid, melodious passage of music

220. **wanton**: luxuriant; **rushes**: i.e., green rushes, commonly strewn on floors of houses

223. **crown . . . sleep**: i.e., make sleep the supreme ruler

224. **heaviness**: sleepiness

MORTIMER

Good father, tell her that she and my aunt Percy  
Shall follow in your conduct speedily.

*Glendower speaks to her in Welsh,  
and she answers him in the same.*

GLENDOWER

She is desperate here, a peevish self-willed harlotry,  
One that no persuasion can do good upon.

205

*The Lady speaks in Welsh.*

MORTIMER

I understand thy looks. That pretty Welsh  
Which thou pourest down from these swelling  
heavens

I am too perfect in, and but for shame  
In such a parley should I answer thee.

210

*The Lady speaks again in Welsh. They kiss.*

I understand thy kisses, and thou mine,  
And that's a feeling disputation;  
But I will never be a truant, love,  
Till I have learned thy language; for thy tongue  
Makes Welsh as sweet as ditties highly penned,  
Sung by a fair queen in a summer's bower,  
With ravishing division, to her lute.

215

GLENDOWER

Nay, if you melt, then will she run mad.

*The Lady speaks again in Welsh.*

MORTIMER

O, I am ignorance itself in this!

She bids you on the wanton rushes lay you down

220

And she will sing the song that pleaseth you,  
And on your eyelids crown the god of sleep,  
Charming your blood with pleasing heaviness,  
Making such difference 'twixt wake and sleep  
As is the difference betwixt day and night

225

227. **heavenly harnessed team:** in mythology, the team of horses that draws the sun's chariot

228. **progress:** royal journey

230. **book . . . drawn:** indentures . . . drawn up (See note to line 83.)

233. **straight:** straightway, immediately

234. **perfect:** expert

239. **he:** i.e., since he; or, that he; **humorous:** capricious, flighty

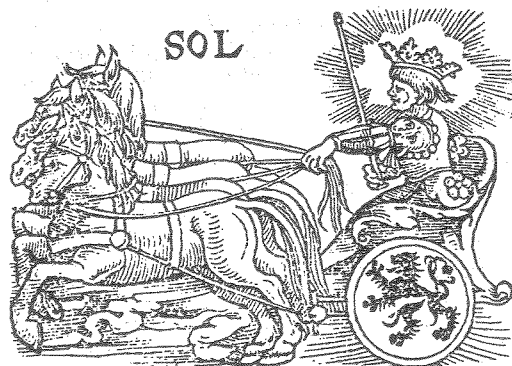
244. **brach:** bitch hound

246. **broken:** i.e., cut

249. **Neither:** i.e., I won't be quiet either; **a woman's fault:** According to Elizabethan conduct books, women were to be chaste, silent, and obedient.

255. **in good sooth:** a very mild oath **sooth:** truth

256. **Heart:** i.e., Christ's heart



"The heavenly harnessed team." (3.1.227)

From Hyginus, *Fabularum liber* (1549).

The hour before the heavenly harnessed team  
Begins his golden progress in the east.

MORTIMER

With all my heart I'll sit and hear her sing.  
By that time will our book, I think, be drawn.

230

GLENDOWER

Do so, and those musicians that shall play to you  
Hang in the air a thousand leagues from hence,  
And straight they shall be here. Sit and attend.

HOTSPUR

Come, Kate, thou art perfect in lying down.  
Come, quick, quick, that I may lay my head in thy  
lap.

235

LADY PERCY Go, you giddy goose.

*The music plays.*

HOTSPUR

Now I perceive the devil understands Welsh,  
And 'tis no marvel he is so humorous.

By 'r Lady, he is a good musician.

240

LADY PERCY Then should you be nothing but musical,  
for you are altogether governed by humors. Lie  
still, you thief, and hear the lady sing in Welsh.

HOTSPUR I had rather hear Lady, my brach, howl in  
Irish.

245

LADY PERCY Wouldst thou have thy head broken?

HOTSPUR No.

LADY PERCY Then be still.

HOTSPUR Neither; 'tis a woman's fault.

LADY PERCY Now God help thee!

250

HOTSPUR To the Welsh lady's bed.

LADY PERCY What's that?

HOTSPUR Peace, she sings.

*Here the Lady sings a Welsh song.*

HOTSPUR Come, Kate, I'll have your song too.

LADY PERCY Not mine, in good sooth.

255

HOTSPUR Not yours, in good sooth! Heart, you swear

257. **comfit-maker's wife**: Hotspur insists that his wife, a noblewoman or **lady** (line 262), use strong oaths to set herself off from the prim wives of ordinary London citizens like the **comfit-maker** or confectioner, who never go further than **Finsbury** (line 261), a playing field just north of the city.

257-59. "**Not you . . . day**": Hotspur's catalog of very mild oaths **mend**: amend, free from sin

260. **sarcenet**: soft, insubstantial (literally, a thin, soft silk material)

264. **pepper-gingerbread**: a coarse, hot-spicy comfit or confection

265. **velvet-guards . . . citizens**: i.e., citizens in Sunday clothes trimmed (guarded) with velvet

268. "**'Tis . . . way**": i.e., singing is the quickest way

268-69. **to turn . . . teacher**: i.e., to turn into a tailor (since tailors, like weavers, were said to sing at their work) or to become a bird's singing teacher

270. **away**: i.e., go away, leave

274. **this**: i.e., now; **but**: just

3.2 Prince Hal reconciles himself with his father by swearing to fight the rebels and to defeat Hotspur.

1. **give us leave**: a polite request for privacy

5-19. **I know . . . heart**: King Henry suggests that the only way of explaining Hal's attraction to the tavern is as divine punishment of Hal and himself: Hal is God's **scourge**, the **rod of heaven**, i.e., the instrument through whom God punishes King Henry for his transgressions.

(continued)

like a comfit-maker's wife! "Not you, in good sooth," and "as true as I live," and "as God shall mend me," and "as sure as day"—

And givest such sarcenet surety for thy oaths 260

As if thou never walk'st further than Finsbury.

Swear me, Kate, like a lady as thou art,

A good mouth-filling oath, and leave "in sooth,"

And such protest of pepper-gingerbread

To velvet-guards and Sunday citizens. 265

Come, sing.

LADY PERCY I will not sing.

HOTSPUR 'Tis the next way to turn tailor, or be red-breast teacher. An the indentures be drawn, I'll away within these two hours, and so come in when you will. 270  
*He exits.*

GLENDOWER

Come, come, Lord Mortimer, you are as slow

As hot Lord Percy is on fire to go.

By this our book is drawn. We'll but seal,

And then to horse immediately. 275

MORTIMER With all my heart.

*They exit.*

[Scene 2]

*Enter the King, Prince of Wales, and others.*

KING

Lords, give us leave; the Prince of Wales and I  
Must have some private conference, but be near at  
hand,

For we shall presently have need of you.

*Lords exit.*

I know not whether God will have it so  
For some displeasing service I have done,  
That, in His secret doom, out of my blood

7. **doom:** judgment; **blood:** offspring  
 9. **thy . . . life:** i.e., the way you live your life  
 10–11. **marked/For:** i.e., destined to be  
 12. **else:** i.e., if such is not the case  
 14. **lewd:** poor, sorry, vulgar  
 15. **attempts:** endeavors, efforts  
 16. **rude society:** unrefined company  
 18. **blood:** i.e., royal blood  
 19. **hold their:** i.e., be on a  
 20. **So . . . Majesty:** a polite request to speak  
 21. **Quit:** prove myself innocent of  
 24–30. **Yet . . . submission:** Hal offers to refute the charges against him, and to provide an accurate account (**true submission**) of how he has strayed (**wandered**), for which conduct he begs pardon.  
 25. **in reproof:** upon disproof or refutation  
 26. **ear of greatness:** i.e., ears of great persons such as King Henry  
 27. **pickthanks:** those who seek favor by telling tales; **newsmongers:** retailers of news  
 28–29. **wherein . . . irregular:** i.e., in which my youth has gone astray and transgressed rules (*Regula* is Latin for “rules.”)  
 32. **affections:** inclinations  
 33. **from:** away from  
 34. **rudely:** i.e., through violence (The chronicles say that Hal was banished from the council for striking the lord chief justice.)  
 38. **hope . . . time:** i.e., the hopes that people had for what you could achieve in your time  
 40. **forethink:** anticipate

He'll breed revengement and a scourge for me.  
 But thou dost in thy passages of life  
 Make me believe that thou art only marked  
 For the hot vengeance and the rod of heaven  
 To punish my mistreadings. Tell me else,  
 Could such inordinate and low desires,  
 Such poor, such bare, such lewd, such mean  
 attempts,  
 Such barren pleasures, rude society  
 As thou art matched withal, and grafted to,  
 Accompany the greatness of thy blood,  
 And hold their level with thy princely heart?

PRINCE

So please your Majesty, I would I could  
 Quit all offenses with as clear excuse  
 As well as I am doubtless I can purge  
 Myself of many I am charged withal.  
 Yet such extenuation let me beg  
 As, in reproof of many tales devised,  
 Which oft the ear of greatness needs must hear,  
 By smiling pickthanks and base newsmongers,  
 I may for some things true, wherein my youth  
 Hath faulty wandered and irregular,  
 Find pardon on my true submission.

KING

God pardon thee. Yet let me wonder, Harry,  
 At thy affections, which do hold a wing  
 Quite from the flight of all thy ancestors.  
 Thy place in council thou hast rudely lost,  
 Which by thy younger brother is supplied,  
 And art almost an alien to the hearts  
 Of all the court and princes of my blood.  
 The hope and expectation of thy time  
 Is ruined, and the soul of every man  
 Prophetically do forethink thy fall.  
 Had I so lavish of my presence been,

42. **common-hackneyed**: i.e., common (A hackney was a horse available to anyone for hire.)

44. **Opinion**: probably not modern "public opinion," but the views of the ruling class (See Leggatt's "Modern Perspective.")

45. **loyal to possession**: i.e., loyal to Richard II, then in possession of the crown

46. **reputeless**: inglorious

47. **of no . . . likelihood**: i.e., undistinguished by any promise of greatness

52. **stole . . . heaven**: i.e., put on a saintlike demeanor

58. **pontifical**: belonging to a bishop or archbishop, for example

59. **my state**: i.e., the splendor accompanying my public appearance

60. **Seldom**: i.e., seldom seen; **feast**: religious festival or feast day

61. **solemnity**: dignity, awful grandeur, as befitting a ceremony

62. **skipping**: flighty, frivolous

63. **rash bavin**: i.e., flashy (Literally, **bavin** is brushwood used as kindling.)

64. **carded**: debased (literally, adulterated by mixing with inferior matter); **state**: position, status

66. **their scorns**: i.e., scorn for the **fools** with whom he mingled

67. **countenance**: (1) approval; (2) face; **against his name**: i.e., to the dishonor of his reputation

68-69. **stand . . . comparative**: i.e., engage in (verbal) combat with empty young satirists (quick to make comparisons)

71. **Enfeoffed . . . popularity**: i.e., surrendered himself entirely to the pursuit of popular approval

So common-hackneyed in the eyes of men,

So stale and cheap to vulgar company,

Opinion, that did help me to the crown,

Had still kept loyal to possession

And left me in reputeless banishment,

A fellow of no mark nor likelihood.

By being seldom seen, I could not stir

But like a comet I was wondered at,

That men would tell their children "This is he."

Others would say "Where? Which is Bolingbroke?"

And then I stole all courtesy from heaven,

And dressed myself in such humility

That I did pluck allegiance from men's hearts,

Loud shouts and salutations from their mouths,

Even in the presence of the crowned king.

Thus did I keep my person fresh and new,

My presence, like a robe pontifical,

Ne'er seen but wondered at, and so my state,

Seldom but sumptuous, showed like a feast

And won by rareness such solemnity.

The skipping king, he ambled up and down

With shallow jesters and rash bavin wits,

Soon kindled and soon burnt; carded his state,

Mingled his royalty with cap'ring fools,

Had his great name profaned with their scorns,

And gave his countenance, against his name,

To laugh at gibing boys and stand the push

Of every beardless vain comparative;

Grew a companion to the common streets,

Enfeoffed himself to popularity,

That, being daily swallowed by men's eyes,

They surfeited with honey and began

To loathe the taste of sweetness, whereof a little

More than a little is by much too much.

So, when he had occasion to be seen,

77-78. **cuckoo . . . regarded:** Proverbial: No one regards the June cuckoo's song. (Cuckoos were abundant in June.)

79. **community:** i.e., familiarity

84. **rendered such aspect:** i.e., gave him such looks

85. **cloudy:** frowning

87. **line:** rank, category

89. **participation:** (1) fellowship, association; (2) partaking (in common activities)

92. **that:** i.e., that which

93. **foolish tenderness:** i.e., weeping

97. **to:** i.e., at

100. **to boot:** as well, in addition

101-2. **He . . . succession:** i.e., Percy has a stronger claim to the throne based on merit (**worthy interest to the state**) than you, because your claim is a shadowy one based only on heredity and not supported by merit

103. **of . . . like to right:** i.e., without any right to the throne, or even anything like such a right

104. **harness:** armor, and, by extension, armed men

105. **Turns head:** directs an army; **lion's:** i.e., king's

106. **no . . . years:** i.e., no older

108. **arms:** i.e., war

110. **high:** i.e., great

He was but as the cuckoo is in June,  
 Heard, not regarded; seen, but with such eyes  
 As, sick and blunted with community,  
 Afford no extraordinary gaze  
 Such as is bent on sunlike majesty  
 When it shines seldom in admiring eyes,  
 But rather drowsed and hung their eyelids down,  
 Slept in his face, and rendered such aspect  
 As cloudy men use to their adversaries,  
 Being with his presence glutted, gorged, and full.  
 And in that very line, Harry, standest thou,  
 For thou hast lost thy princely privilege  
 With vile participation. Not an eye  
 But is awearied of thy common sight,  
 Save mine, which hath desired to see thee more,  
 Which now doth that I would not have it do,  
 Make blind itself with foolish tenderness.

PRINCE

I shall hereafter, my thrice gracious lord,  
 Be more myself.

KING For all the world

As thou art to this hour was Richard then  
 When I from France set foot at Ravenspurgh,  
 And even as I was then is Percy now.  
 Now, by my scepter, and my soul to boot,  
 He hath more worthy interest to the state  
 Than thou, the shadow of succession.  
 For of no right, nor color like to right,  
 He doth fill fields with harness in the realm,  
 Turns head against the lion's armed jaws,  
 And, being no more in debt to years than thou,  
 Leads ancient lords and reverend bishops on  
 To bloody battles and to bruising arms.  
 What never-dying honor hath he got  
 Against renowned Douglas, whose high deeds,  
 Whose hot incursions and great name in arms,

80

85

90

95

100

105

110



112-13. **Holds . . . capital:** i.e., is regarded by all soldiers as preeminent and worthy of the highest military title

115. **Mars:** the god of war

118. **Discomfited:** defeated; **ta'en:** captured

119. **Enlargèd:** released

125. **Capitulate:** draw up articles of agreement; **up:** i.e., up in arms

126. **wherefore:** why

128. **dearest:** (1) most loved; (2) direst

129. **like:** i.e., likely; **vassal:** abject

130. **start of spleen:** outburst of bad temper or of whimsy, caprice

137. **on Percy's head:** i.e., to Percy's cost

141. **favours:** facial features (The word could also refer to the scarves, sleeves, and other ornaments or insignia worn into battle by knights.)

143. **lights:** dawns

146. **unthought-of:** disrespected

Holds from all soldiers chief majority  
And military title capital

Through all the kingdoms that acknowledge Christ.  
Thrice hath this Hotspur, Mars in swaddling  
clothes,

115

This infant warrior, in his enterprises  
Discomfited great Douglas, ta'en him once,  
Enlargèd him, and made a friend of him,

To fill the mouth of deep defiance up  
And shake the peace and safety of our throne.

120

And what say you to this? Percy, Northumberland,  
The Archbishop's Grace of York, Douglas,  
Mortimer,

Capitulate against us and are up.  
But wherefore do I tell these news to thee?

125

Why, Harry, do I tell thee of my foes,  
Which art my nearest and dearest enemy?

Thou that art like enough, through vassal fear,  
Base inclination, and the start of spleen,

130

To fight against me under Percy's pay,  
To dog his heels, and curtsy at his frowns,  
To show how much thou art degenerate.

PRINCE

Do not think so. You shall not find it so.  
And God forgive them that so much have swayed  
Your Majesty's good thoughts away from me.

135

I will redeem all this on Percy's head,  
And, in the closing of some glorious day,  
Be bold to tell you that I am your son,  
When I will wear a garment all of blood  
And stain my favours in a bloody mask,  
Which, washed away, shall scour my shame with it.

140

And that shall be the day, whene'er it lights,  
That this same child of honor and renown,  
This gallant Hotspur, this all-praised knight,  
And your unthought-of Harry chance to meet.

145

147. **every honor:** i.e., every **glorious deed** that has brought him honor (Hal images them as insignia worn on Hotspur's helmet, and contrasts them with the **shames** worn on his own.)

152. **factor:** agent

153. **engross up:** buy up in great quantity, monopolize

154-57. **And . . . heart:** i.e., "Hotspur will either yield to me and confess that all the glory is mine, or I will capture the glory by killing him"

156. **worship of his time:** honor won in his lifetime

157. **reckoning:** account

160. **salve:** i.e., put a salve on, and thereby heal

161. **intemperance:** excesses

162. **bands:** bonds, debts

164. **parcel:** part

165. **in this:** i.e., through this vow; or, through the action you have promised

166. **charge:** command (of soldiers); **sovereign trust:** (1) the highest responsibility; (2) responsibility delegated from the sovereign himself

169. **Mortimer of Scotland:** not the English ally of Percy and Glendower; probably an error for the Scottish earl of March

172. **head:** army

177. **advertisement:** intelligence (pronounced *ad-vèrtisement*)

For every honor sitting on his helm,  
Would they were multitudes, and on my head  
My shames redoubled! For the time will come  
That I shall make this northern youth exchange  
His glorious deeds for my indignities.  
Percy is but my factor, good my lord,  
To engross up glorious deeds on my behalf.  
And I will call him to so strict account  
That he shall render every glory up,  
Yea, even the slightest worship of his time,  
Or I will tear the reckoning from his heart.  
This in the name of God I promise here,  
The which if He be pleased I shall perform,  
I do beseech your Majesty may salve  
The long-grown wounds of my intemperance.  
If not, the end of life cancels all bands,  
And I will die a hundred thousand deaths  
Ere break the smallest parcel of this vow.

KING

A hundred thousand rebels die in this.  
Thou shalt have charge and sovereign trust herein.

*Enter Blunt.*

How now, good Blunt? Thy looks are full of speed.

BLUNT

So hath the business that I come to speak of.  
Lord Mortimer of Scotland hath sent word  
That Douglas and the English rebels met  
The eleventh of this month at Shrewsbury.  
A mighty and a fearful head they are,  
If promises be kept on every hand,  
As ever offered foul play in a state.

KING

The Earl of Westmoreland set forth today,  
With him my son, Lord John of Lancaster,  
For this advertisement is five days old.—

150

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179. **we ourselves:** i.e., I; **meeting:** i.e., meeting place

180. **Bridgenorth:** a town on the Severn, twenty miles from the eventual battleground near Shrewsbury

181-82. **by which . . . valuèd:** i.e., according to this calculation, as I have estimated the time we need for what we have to do

185. **Advantage:** perhaps, (1) opportunity (to rebel); or, perhaps, (2) the superior position (of the rebels) (It is possible that the whole line simply adapts the proverb "Delay breeds danger."); **him:** i.e., itself

3.3 Falstaff tries to swindle the Hostess of his inn. Prince Hal offers Falstaff a command in the infantry.

1. **am I not fallen away:** i.e., haven't I shrunk

2. **bate:** abate, grow thin

4. **applejohn:** an old apple with a shriveled skin

5-6. **am in some liking:** (1) am so inclined; (2) have some flesh on me

6. **out of heart:** (1) dispirited; (2) in poor condition

9. **peppercorn, brewer's horse:** Both look old and shriveled. (Decrepit horses were sold to brewers to pull their carts.)

15. **given:** inclined

20. **good compass:** within the bounds of moderation (**Compass** also means "girth," the sense in which Bardolph immediately uses it.)

On Wednesday next, Harry, you shall set forward.  
On Thursday we ourselves will march. Our meeting  
Is Bridgenorth. And, Harry, you shall march 180  
Through Gloucestershire; by which account,  
Our business valuèd, some twelve days hence  
Our general forces at Bridgenorth shall meet.  
Our hands are full of business. Let's away.  
Advantage feeds him fat while men delay. 185

*They exit.*

### Scene 3

*Enter Falstaff and Bardolph.*

FALSTAFF Bardolph, am I not fallen away vilely since  
this last action? Do I not bate? Do I not dwindle?  
Why, my skin hangs about me like an old lady's  
loose gown. I am withered like an old applejohn.  
Well, I'll repent, and that suddenly, while I am in 5  
some liking. I shall be out of heart shortly, and then  
I shall have no strength to repent. An I have not  
forgotten what the inside of a church is made of, I  
am a peppercorn, a brewer's horse. The inside of a  
church! Company, villainous company, hath been 10  
the spoil of me.

BARDOLPH Sir John, you are so fretful you cannot live long.

FALSTAFF Why, there is it. Come, sing me a bawdy  
song, make me merry. I was as virtuously given as a 15  
gentleman need to be, virtuous enough: swore  
little; diced not above seven times—a week; went to  
a bawdy house not above once in a quarter—of an  
hour; paid money that I borrowed—three or four  
times; lived well and in good compass; and now I 20  
live out of all order, out of all compass.

BARDOLPH Why, you are so fat, Sir John, that you must

25. **amend:** (1) improve; (2) reform

26. **admiral:** flagship (which led the fleet, at night, by means of a lantern)

27. **nose:** another reference to Bardolph's drink-reddened nose

31-32. **death's . . . mori:** i.e., a skull or an image of a skull (kept as a reminder of one's mortality)

33. **Dives . . . purple:** See Luke 16.19-31, for the story of the rich man (called "Dives" in the Latin Vulgate) who dressed in purple and who, after death, burned in hell.

36. **God's angel:** There are several references in the Bible to angels appearing as fire: Exodus 3.2, Psalms 104.4, and Hebrews 1.7.

37. **given over:** i.e., to evil

38. **son . . . darkness:** This biblical reference combines language from Matthew 8.12 and 1 Thessalonians 5.5.

40-41. **ignis fatuus, ball of wildfire:** a phosphorescent light that hovers over swampy ground at night, a will-o'-the-wisp (A **ball of wildfire** was also a kind of firework, and **wildfire** can refer to a skin disease.)

42. **triumph:** i.e., illuminated public festivity

44. **links:** small torches

46. **drunk me:** i.e., drunk (at my expense)

47. **good cheap:** cheaply; **dearest chandler's:** most expensive candlemaker's

48. **salamander:** literally, a lizard thought to live in fire (See page 146.)

51-52. **I . . . belly:** Proverbial (as a retort to an insult): "I wish it were in your belly."

55. **Dame Partlet the hen:** Pertilote (or Partlet) is Chauntecleer's favorite (but nagging) hen in Chaucer's "Nun's Priest's Tale." 142

needs be out of all compass, out of all reasonable compass, Sir John.

FALSTAFF Do thou amend thy face, and I'll amend my life. Thou art our admiral, thou bearest the lantern in the poop, but 'tis in the nose of thee. Thou art the Knight of the Burning Lamp. 25

BARDOLPH Why, Sir John, my face does you no harm.

FALSTAFF No, I'll be sworn, I make as good use of it as many a man doth of a death's-head or a *memento mori*. I never see thy face but I think upon hellfire and Dives that lived in purple, for there he is in his robes, burning, burning. If thou wert any way given to virtue, I would swear by thy face. My oath should be "By this fire, <sup>1</sup>that's<sup>1</sup> God's angel." But thou art altogether given over, and wert indeed, but for the light in thy face, the son of utter darkness. When thou ran'st up Gad's Hill in the night to catch my horse, if I did not think thou hadst been an *ignis fatuus*, or a ball of wildfire, there's no purchase in money. O, thou art a perpetual triumph, an everlasting bonfire-light. Thou hast saved me a thousand marks in links and torches, walking with thee in the night betwixt tavern and tavern, but the sack that thou hast drunk me would have bought me lights as good cheap at the dearest chandler's in Europe. I have maintained that salamander of yours with fire any time this two-and-thirty years, God reward me for it. 30 40 45 50

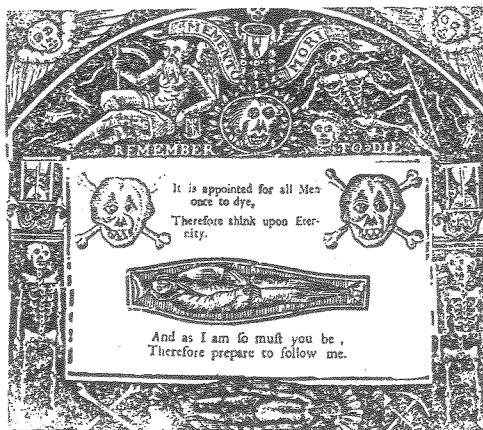
BARDOLPH 'Sblood, I would my face were in your belly!

FALSTAFF Godamercy, so should I be sure to be heart-burned!

*Enter Hostess.*

How now, Dame Partlet the hen, have you enquired yet who picked my pocket? 55

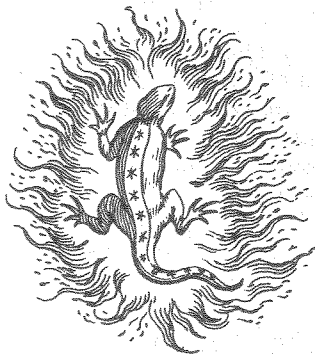
61. **tithe**: tenth part  
 72. **to your back**: i.e., for you  
 73. **Dowlas**: coarse linen  
 74. **bolters**: sieves  
 76. **holland**: fine linen; **of**: i.e., at  
 77. **ell**: a yard and a quarter  
 78. **diet**: meals; **by-drinkings**: drinks between meals  
 84-5. **Let . . . cheeks**: a suggestion that Bardolph's red nose and cheeks could be (like rubies and carbuncles) sold or otherwise converted to cash  
 85. **denier**: coin of very small value  
 86. **younger**: youngster, novice  
 88. **seal ring**: a ring bearing a seal or signet  
 92. **jack**: silly, saucy fellow; **sneak-up**: sneak



A memento mori. (3.3.31-32)  
 From the Folger Library collection (c. 1640).

- HOSTESS Why, Sir John, what do you think, Sir John, do you think I keep thieves in my house? I have searched, I have enquired, so has my husband, man by man, boy by boy, servant by servant. The 'tithe' of a hair was never lost in my house before. 60
- FALSTAFF You lie, hostess. Bardolph was shaved and lost many a hair, and I'll be sworn my pocket was picked. Go to, you are a woman, go. 65
- HOSTESS Who, I? No, I defy thee! God's light, I was never called so in mine own house before.
- FALSTAFF Go to, I know you well enough.
- HOSTESS No, Sir John, you do not know me, Sir John. I know you, Sir John. You owe me money, Sir John, and now you pick a quarrel to beguile me of it. I bought you a dozen of shirts to your back. 70
- FALSTAFF Dowlas, filthy dowlas. I have given them away to bakers' wives; they have made bolters of them. 75
- HOSTESS Now, as I am a true woman, holland of eight shillings an ell. You owe money here besides, Sir John, for your diet and by-drinkings and money lent you, four-and-twenty pound.
- FALSTAFF, 'pointing to Bardolph' He had his part of it. Let him pay. 80
- HOSTESS He? Alas, he is poor. He hath nothing.
- FALSTAFF How, poor? Look upon his face. What call you rich? Let them coin his nose. Let them coin his cheeks. I'll not pay a denier. What, will you make a younger of me? Shall I not take mine ease in mine inn but I shall have my pocket picked? I have lost a seal ring of my grandfather's worth forty mark. 85
- HOSTESS, 'to Bardolph' O Jesu, I have heard the Prince tell him, I know not how oft, that that ring was copper. 90
- FALSTAFF How? The Prince is a jack, a sneak-up.

- 94 SD. **truncheon**: officer's short staff  
 95. **is . . . door**: i.e., is that how things are?  
 97. **Newgate fashion**: i.e., two by two, like an officer leading a prisoner to Newgate prison  
 100. **honest**: honorable  
 111. **eightpenny**: i.e., paltry  
 120. **stewed prune**: Stewed prunes were served in houses of prostitution—perhaps in the misplaced belief that they prevented venereal disease.  
 121. **drawn fox**: i.e., a fox driven out of its lair by hunters and forced to escape through trickery  
 121–22. **Maid . . . ward**: **Maid Marian** was an unsavory character in morris dances and May games, often played by a man; the deputy of the ward was its most responsible citizen, and his **wife** would thus have to be the model of respectability.  
 122. **to thee**: in comparison to you



A salamander. (3.3.48)  
 From Gilles Sadeler, *Symbola diuina & humana pontificum*  
 (1600).

'Sblood, an he were here, I would cudgel him like a dog if he would say so.

*Enter the Prince marching, 「with Peto,」 and Falstaff meets him playing upon his truncheon like a fife.*

How now, lad, is the wind in that door, i' faith? Must we all march? 95

BARDOLPH Yea, two and two, Newgate fashion.

HOSTESS, 「to Prince」 My lord, I pray you, hear me.

PRINCE What say'st thou, Mistress Quickly? How doth thy husband? I love him well; he is an honest man. 100

HOSTESS Good my lord, hear me.

FALSTAFF Prithee, let her alone, and list to me.

PRINCE What say'st thou, Jack?

FALSTAFF The other night I fell asleep here, behind the arras, and had my pocket picked. This house is turned bawdy house; they pick pockets. 105

PRINCE What didst thou lose, Jack?

FALSTAFF Wilt thou believe me, Hal, three or four bonds of forty pound apiece, and a seal ring of my grandfather's. 110

PRINCE A trifle, some eightpenny matter.

HOSTESS So I told him, my lord, and I said I heard your Grace say so. And, my lord, he speaks most vilely of you, like a foul-mouthed man, as he is, and said he would cudgel you. 115

PRINCE What, he did not!

HOSTESS There's neither faith, truth, nor womanhood in me else.

FALSTAFF There's no more faith in thee than in a stewed prune, nor no more truth in thee than in a drawn fox, and for womanhood, Maid Marian may be the deputy's wife of the ward to thee. Go, you thing, go. 120

HOSTESS Say, what thing, what thing?

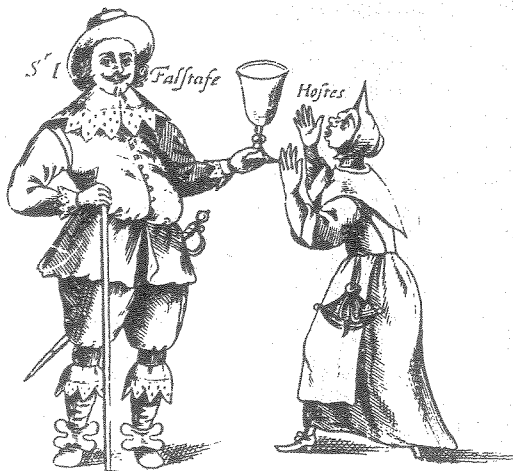
FALSTAFF What thing? Why, a thing to thank God on. 125

128. **setting . . . aside:** i.e., your knighthood accepted

135. **neither fish nor flesh:** a reference, perhaps, to uncertainty then about whether an otter is a fish or an animal (**flesh**)

142. **this:** i.e., the

160. **girdle:** belt from which the sword hangs



A seventeenth-century view of Falstaff and the Hostess.  
From *The wits, or Sport against sport* (1662).

HOSTESS I am no thing to thank God on, I would thou shouldst know it! I am an honest man's wife, and, setting thy knighthood aside, thou art a knave to call me so.

FALSTAFF Setting thy womanhood aside, thou art a beast to say otherwise. 130

HOSTESS Say, what beast, thou knave, thou?

FALSTAFF What beast? Why, an otter.

PRINCE An otter, Sir John. Why an otter?

FALSTAFF Why, she's neither fish nor flesh; a man knows not where to have her. 135

HOSTESS Thou art an unjust man in saying so. Thou or any man knows where to have me, thou knave, thou.

PRINCE Thou sayst true, hostess, and he slanders thee most grossly. 140

HOSTESS So he doth you, my lord, and said this other day you owed him a thousand pound.

PRINCE Sirrah, do I owe you a thousand pound?

FALSTAFF A thousand pound, Hal? A million. Thy love is worth a million; thou owest me thy love. 145

HOSTESS Nay, my lord, he called you "jack," and said he would cudgel you.

FALSTAFF Did I, Bardolph?

BARDOLPH Indeed, Sir John, you said so. 150

FALSTAFF Yea, if he said my ring was copper.

PRINCE I say 'tis copper. Darest thou be as good as thy word now?

FALSTAFF Why, Hal, thou knowest, as thou art but man, I dare, but as thou art prince, I fear thee as I fear the roaring of the lion's whelp. 155

PRINCE And why not as the lion?

FALSTAFF The King himself is to be feared as the lion.

Dost thou think I'll fear thee as I fear thy father?

Nay, an I do, I pray God my girdle break.

PRINCE O, if it should, how would thy guts fall about 160

163. **bosom**: probably referring to both the chest and belly

164. **midriff**: diaphragm

166. **embossed**: (1) bulging, swollen; (2) foaming at the mouth from exhaustion, like a hunted deer;

**rascal**: (1) villain; (2) young deer

167. **reckonings**: bills

168. **memorandums**: souvenirs

169-70. **long-winded**: Fighting cocks were given sugar to prolong their breath.

171. **injuries**: i.e., things whose loss would be an injury

172. **stand to it**: i.e., persevere in it, insist on it; **pocket up**: quietly put up with (with a pun on **pocket**)

176-78. **I . . . frailty**: a variation on the proverb "Flesh is frail"

184. **still**: always

186. **For**: i.e., as for

187. **answered**: justified; taken care of

194. **me**: i.e., for me

195. **with unwashed hands**: immediately and without ceremony

197. **charge of foot**: command of a company of infantry

thy knees! But, sirrah, there's no room for faith, truth, nor honesty in this bosom of thine. It is all filled up with guts and midriff. Charge an honest woman with picking thy pocket? Why, thou whore-son, impudent, embossed rascal, if there were anything in thy pocket but tavern reckonings, memorandums of bawdy houses, and one poor pennyworth of sugar candy to make thee long-winded, if thy pocket were enriched with any other injuries but these, I am a villain. And yet you will stand to it! You will not pocket up wrong! Art thou not ashamed? 165 170

FALSTAFF Dost thou hear, Hal? Thou knowest in the state of innocence Adam fell, and what should poor Jack Falstaff do in the days of villainy? Thou seest I have more flesh than another man and therefore more frailty. You confess, then, you picked my pocket. 175

PRINCE It appears so by the story. 180

FALSTAFF Hostess, I forgive thee. Go make ready breakfast, love thy husband, look to thy servants, cherish thy 'guests.' Thou shalt find me tractable to any honest reason. Thou seest I am pacified still. Nay, prithee, begone. (*Hostess exits.*) Now, Hal, to the news at court. For the robbery, lad, how is that answered? 185

PRINCE O, my sweet beef, I must still be good angel to thee. The money is paid back again.

FALSTAFF O, I do not like that paying back. 'Tis a double labor. 190

PRINCE I am good friends with my father and may do anything.

FALSTAFF Rob me the Exchequer the first thing thou dost, and do it with unwashed hands too. 195

BARDOLPH Do, my lord.

PRINCE I have procured thee, Jack, a charge of foot.



198. **of horse:** i.e., cavalry  
 199. **one:** i.e., a man, someone  
 201. **unprovided:** unprepared; ill-equipped  
 211. **Temple hall:** i.e., Inner Temple hall of the Inns at Court (the legal community) in London  
 214. **furniture:** equipment  
 217. **brave:** splendid

FALSTAFF I would it had been of horse. Where shall I find one that can steal well? O, for a fine thief of the age of two-and-twenty or thereabouts! I am heinously unprovided. Well, God be thanked for these rebels. They offend none but the virtuous. I laud them; I praise them. 200

PRINCE Bardolph.

BARDOLPH My lord. 205

PRINCE, *handing Bardolph papers*<sup>7</sup>

Go, bear this letter to Lord John of Lancaster,  
 To my brother John; this to my Lord of  
 Westmoreland. *Bardolph exits.*<sup>7</sup>

Go, Peto, to horse, to horse, for thou and I  
 Have thirty miles to ride yet ere dinner time. 210  
*Peto exits.*<sup>7</sup>

Jack, meet me tomorrow in the Temple hall  
 At two o'clock in the afternoon;  
 There shalt thou know thy charge, and there receive  
 Money and order for their furniture.  
 The land is burning. Percy stands on high,  
 And either we or they must lower lie. *He exits.*<sup>7</sup> 215

FALSTAFF

Rare words, brave world!—Hostess, my breakfast,  
 come.—

O, I could wish this tavern were my drum.  
*He exits.*<sup>7</sup>

*The History of*

# HENRY IV

## Part 1

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ACT 4

4.1 Hotspur, Worcester, and Douglas learn that Hotspur's father, Northumberland, is too sick to join them in the coming battle. They also learn that King Henry is approaching with a great army, including the splendidly armed Prince Hal, and that Glendower and his forces have been delayed.

2. **fine:** (1) refined; (2) cunning, crafty

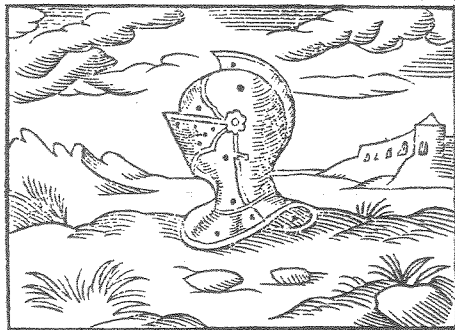
3. **attribution:** name, credit

4-5. **As not . . . world:** Hotspur compares soldiers to newly minted currency, and says that no soldier minted in this season would be so generally accepted and praised. **general:** generally

7. **soothers:** flatterers; **braver:** more worthy

9. **task me to:** i.e., challenge me to be as good as; **approve me:** test me

11-12. **No man . . . beard him:** i.e., I will defy anyone, no matter how powerful



Helmet with beaver down. (4.1.110)  
From Henry Peacham, *Minerva Britannia* (1612).

156

## 「ACT 4」

### 「Scene 1」

「Enter Hotspur, Worcester, and Douglas.」

HOTSPUR

Well said, my noble Scot. If speaking truth  
In this fine age were not thought flattery,  
Such attribution should the Douglas have  
As not a soldier of this season's stamp  
Should go so general current through the world.  
By God, I cannot flatter. I do defy  
The tongues of soothers. But a braver place  
In my heart's love hath no man than yourself.  
Nay, task me to my word; approve me, lord.

DOUGLAS Thou art the king of honor.

No man so potent breathes upon the ground  
But I will beard him.

HOTSPUR

Do so, and 'tis well.

Enter 「a Messenger」 with letters.

What letters hast thou there? 「To Douglas.」 I can but  
thank you.

MESSANGER These letters come from your father.

HOTSPUR

Letters from him! Why comes he not himself?

MESSANGER

He cannot come, my lord. He is grievous sick.

157

19. **Zounds:** i.e., by Christ's wounds, a strong oath  
 20. **justling:** jostling, colliding; **power:** army  
 21. **government:** command  
 22. **letters:** i.e., letter  
 26. **feared:** i.e., feared for  
 27. **the state of time:** i.e., this juncture in our affairs  
 29. **better worth:** of greater value  
 34. **by deputation:** by his deputies  
 35. **drawn:** drawn up, mobilized  
 36. **meet:** appropriate, fitting  
 38. **On . . . own:** i.e., on anybody but himself  
 39. **bold advertisement:** (1) warning to be bold; (2) fearless instruction (pronounced *advertisment*)  
 40. **conjunction:** joint force; **on:** i.e., proceed  
 43-44. **possessed . . . purposes:** i.e., aware of all our plans



A knight dressed in mail armor. (4.1.122)  
 From Henry Peacham, *Minerua Britannia* (1612).

HOTSPUR

Zounds, how has he the leisure to be sick  
 In such a justling time? Who leads his power?  
 Under whose government come they along?

20

MESSENGER, *handing letter to Hotspur, who begins reading it*

His letters bears his mind, not I, my *lord.*

WORCESTER

I prithee, tell me, doth he keep his bed?

MESSENGER

He did, my lord, four days ere I set forth,  
 And, at the time of my departure thence,  
 He was much feared by his physicians.

25

WORCESTER

I would the state of time had first been whole  
 Ere he by sickness had been visited.  
 His health was never better worth than now.

HOTSPUR

Sick now? Droop now? This sickness doth infect  
 The very lifeblood of our enterprise.  
 'Tis catching hither, even to our camp.  
 He writes me here that inward sickness—  
 And that his friends by deputation  
 Could not so soon be drawn, nor did he think it  
 meet

30

35

To lay so dangerous and dear a trust  
 On any soul removed but on his own;  
 Yet doth he give us bold advertisement  
 That with our small conjunction we should on  
 To see how fortune is disposed to us,  
 For, as he writes, there is no quailing now,  
 Because the King is certainly possessed  
 Of all our purposes. What say you to it?

40

WORCESTER

Your father's sickness is a maim to us.

45

47-48. **His . . . it:** i.e., his absence seems to us at the present moment a greater difficulty than it will actually turn out to be

48. **Were it:** i.e., would it be

49-50. **To . . . cast:** i.e., to risk all that we have on one throw (of the dice) **exact:** i.e., total, complete (pronounced *èxact*) **states:** estates

50. **main:** (1) stake, bet; (2) army

51. **nice hazard:** delicately balanced chance; i.e., risky venture

54. **list:** limit, boundary

57. **A sweet reversion:** i.e., comforting hopes (A **reversion** is literally property that will one day revert to you.)

59. **A comfort of retirement:** i.e., some support for a possible retreat

61. **big:** threateningly

62. **maidenhead:** first stage or trial

64. **hair:** nature

65. **Brooks:** can tolerate

67. **loyalty:** i.e., to King Henry

69. **apprehension:** (1) idea; (2) fear

71. **question in:** i.e., doubt about

72. **off'ring side:** i.e., the party that has started the war

73. **strict arbitrament:** rigorous judgment of an impartial arbitrator

74. **loop:** i.e., loophole

76. **draws:** i.e., draws back, opens

## HOTSPUR

A perilous gash, a very limb lopped off!  
And yet, in faith, it is not. His present want  
Seems more than we shall find it. Were it good  
To set the exact wealth of all our states  
All at one cast? To set so rich a main  
On the nice hazard of one doubtful hour?  
It were not good, for therein should we read  
The very bottom and the soul of hope,  
The very list, the very utmost bound  
Of all our fortunes.

## DOUGLAS

Faith, and so we should, where now remains  
A sweet reversion. We may boldly spend  
Upon the hope of what 'is' to come in.  
A comfort of retirement lives in this.

## HOTSPUR

A rendezvous, a home to fly unto,  
If that the devil and mischance look big  
Upon the maidenhead of our affairs.

## WORCESTER

But yet I would your father had been here.  
The quality and hair of our attempt  
Brooks no division. It will be thought  
By some that know not why he is away  
That wisdom, loyalty, and mere dislike  
Of our proceedings kept the Earl from hence.  
And think how such an apprehension  
May turn the tide of fearful faction  
And breed a kind of question in our cause.  
For well you know, we of the off'ring side  
Must keep aloof from strict arbitrament,  
And stop all sight-holes, every loop from whence  
The eye of reason may pry in upon us.  
This absence of your father's draws a curtain



106. **images:** gilded effigies of entombed warriors  
 109. **Wanton:** frisky  
 110. **beaver:** i.e., helmet (literally, the face guard on a helmet) See page 156.  
 111. **cuisse:** thigh armor  
 112. **feathered Mercury:** Mercury, the messenger of the gods, is often pictured with wings on his helmet and heels.  
 113. **seat:** i.e., saddle  
 114. **As if:** i.e., as if he were  
 115. **wind:** wheel about; **Pegasus:** the mythological winged horse (See page 162.)  
 116. **witch:** i.e., bewitch  
 118. **agues:** chills and fevers  
 119. **sacrifices in their trim:** i.e., animals adorned to be offered as blood sacrifices  
 120. **maid . . . war:** perhaps, Bellona, Roman goddess of war  
 122. **mailed:** i.e., dressed in mail armor (See page 158.)  
 124. **reprisal:** prize; **nigh:** near  
 125. **taste:** test, try  
 129. **corse:** i.e., corpse  
 132. **Worcester:** a city on the Severn, just south of Shrewsbury  
 133. **draw:** i.e., muster; **power:** army  
 136. **battle:** army; **reach unto:** i.e., amount to

Glittering in golden coats like images,  
 As full of spirit as the month of May,  
 And gorgeous as the sun at midsummer,  
 Wanton as youthful goats, wild as young bulls.  
 I saw young Harry with his beaver on,  
 His cuisses on his thighs, gallantly armed,  
 Rise from the ground like feathered Mercury  
 And vaulted with such ease into his seat  
 As if an angel 'dropped' down from the clouds,  
 To turn and wind a fiery Pegasus  
 And witch the world with noble horsemanship.

110

115

## HOTSPUR

No more, no more! Worse than the sun in March  
 This praise doth nourish agues. Let them come.  
 They come like sacrifices in their trim,  
 And to the fire-eyed maid of smoky war  
 All hot and bleeding will we offer them.  
 The mailed Mars shall on his 'altar' sit  
 Up to the ears in blood. I am on fire  
 To hear this rich reprisal is so nigh  
 And yet not ours. Come, let me taste my horse,  
 Who is to bear me like a thunderbolt  
 Against the bosom of the Prince of Wales.  
 Harry to Harry shall, hot horse to horse,  
 Meet and ne'er part till one drop down a corse.  
 O, that Glendower were come!

120

125

130

## VERNON

There is more news.

I learned in Worcester, as I rode along,  
 He 'cannot' draw his power this fourteen days.

## DOUGLAS

That's the worst tidings that I hear of 'yet.'

## WORCESTER

Ay, by my faith, that bears a frosty sound.

135

## HOTSPUR

What may the King's whole battle reach unto?

140. **powers of us:** i.e., our armies

4.2 Falstaff discloses to the audience how he has misused his commission as an officer to take money from men eager to avoid serving as soldiers, and how he has filled the ranks instead with beggars and prisoners. Prince Hal and Westmoreland overtake him and urge him to hasten to the impending battle.

5. **Lay out:** i.e., pay for it yourself

6. **makes an angel:** i.e., brings your debt to me to an angel (a coin worth several shillings)

7. **An . . . labor:** Falstaff's answer takes literally Bardolph's statement (that the bottle "makes an angel"), and he tells Bardolph to take for himself the coin that the bottle "makes."

8. **answer:** i.e., take legal responsibility for; **coinage:** counterfeiting (of the coins)

12. **soused gurnet:** small pickled fish; **press:** authority to conscript or impress soldiers

15. **press me:** conscript; **good:** well-off; **yeomen's:** landowners'

16. **contracted:** engaged

16-17. **such . . . banns:** i.e., who were just about to be married (literally, who had already had their intentions to marry read out in church on two successive Sundays)

17-18. **commodity:** lot, stock

18. **warm slaves:** i.e., well-off cowards; **as had as lief:** as would rather

19. **drum:** The drum in Shakespeare's plays often symbolizes military action or zeal. **caliver:** light musket

166

VERNON

To thirty thousand.

HOTSPUR

Forty let it be.

My father and Glendower being both away,  
The powers of us may serve so great a day.

140

Come, let us take a muster speedily.  
Doomsday is near. Die all, die merrily.

DOUGLAS

Talk not of dying. I am out of fear  
Of death or death's hand for this one half year.

*They exit.*

「Scene 2」

*Enter Falstaff「and」Bardolph.*

FALSTAFF Bardolph, get thee before to Coventry. Fill  
me a bottle of sack. Our soldiers shall march  
through. We'll to Sutton 「Coldfield」 tonight.

BARDOLPH Will you give me money, captain?

FALSTAFF Lay out, lay out.

5

BARDOLPH This bottle makes an angel.

FALSTAFF An if it do, take it for thy labor. An if it make  
twenty, take them all. I'll answer the coinage. Bid  
my lieutenant Peto meet me at town's end.

BARDOLPH I will, captain. Farewell. *He exits.*

10

FALSTAFF If I be not ashamed of my soldiers, I am a  
soused gurnet. I have misused the King's press  
damnably. I have got, in exchange of a hundred  
and fifty soldiers, three hundred and odd pounds. I  
press me none but good householders, 「yeomen's」  
sons, inquire me out contracted bachelors, such as  
had been asked twice on the banns—such a com-  
modity of warm slaves as had as 「lief」 hear the devil  
as a drum, such as fear the report of a caliver worse

15



20. **struck**: wounded

21. **toasts-and-butter**: soft citizens; **hearts**: considered the seat of courage

23. **bought . . . services**: i.e., bribed Falstaff to be released from military service

23–24. **my . . . charge**: company under my command

24. **ancients**: ensigns, standard-bearers

25. **gentlemen of companies**: those of a rank between privates and officers

25–27. **Lazarus . . . sores**: Falstaff again refers to Luke's story (16.19–31) of the beggar (Lazarus) and the rich man, here called a **glutton** (see 3.3.33). He pictures the story in terms of a cheap wall hanging (**painted cloth**) upon which this biblical scene has been painted—rather than woven, as in more expensive tapestries. (See page 182.)

28. **discarded**: dismissed; **unjust**: dishonest

28–29. **younger . . . brothers**: i.e., young men with no hope of an inheritance, since, according to the custom of primogeniture then in force, the eldest son inherited all of the family property

29. **revolted**: runaway

30. **tradefallen**: whose jobs have disappeared; **cankers of**: cankerworms that are abundant in

31. **dishonorable-ragged**: i.e., dishonorable in their raggedness

32. **feazed ancient**: frayed flag (ensign)

33. **rooms of them as have**: places of those who have

35–36. **prodigals . . . husks**: In Luke 15.11–32, the prodigal son is given a job feeding swine, and, in his hunger, envies them the **draff** (swill, refuse) and **husks** he feeds them. (continued)

168

than a struck fowl or a hurt wild duck. I pressed me none but such toasts-and-butter, with hearts in their bellies no bigger than pins' heads, and they have bought out their services, and now my whole charge consists of ancients, corporals, lieutenants, gentlemen of companies—slaves as ragged as Lazarus in the painted cloth, where the glutton's dogs licked his sores; and such as indeed were never soldiers, but discarded, unjust servingmen, younger sons to younger brothers, revolted tapsters, and ostlers tradefallen, the cankers of a calm world and a long peace, ten times more dishonorable-ragged than an old feazed ancient; and such have I to fill up the rooms of them as have bought out their services, that you would think that I had a hundred and fifty tattered prodigals lately come from swine-keeping, from eating draff and husks. A mad fellow met me on the way and told me I had unloaded all the gibbets and pressed the dead bodies. No eye hath seen such scarecrows. I'll not march through Coventry with them, that's flat. Nay, and the villains march wide betwixt the legs as if they had gyves on, for indeed I had the most of them out of prison. There's not a shirt and a half in all my company, and the half shirt is two napkins tacked together and thrown over the shoulders like a herald's coat without sleeves; and the shirt, to say the truth, stolen from my host at Saint Albans or the red-nose innkeeper of Daventry. But that's all one; they'll find linen enough on every hedge.

*Enter the Prince and the Lord of Westmoreland.*

PRINCE How now, blown Jack? How now, quilt?  
FALSTAFF What, Hal, how now, mad wag? What a devil dost thou in Warwickshire?—My good Lord of

38. **pressed:** conscripted  
 41. **gyves:** ankle fetters (See page 198.)  
 45-46. **herald's . . . sleeves:** i.e., tabard, the herald's sleeveless coat  
 47. **my host:** i.e., the innkeeper  
 48. **all one:** i.e., no matter  
 49. **on every hedge:** i.e., where it is hung to dry after being washed  
 50. **blown:** (1) swollen; (2) winded; **quilt:** i.e., well-padded (with a pun on **Jack**, which is a quilted soldier's jacket)  
 53. **I . . . mercy:** i.e., I beg your pardon  
 56. **powers:** forces  
 57. **looks for:** expects  
 58. **away . . . night:** i.e., travel all night  
 59. **fear:** doubt  
 62. **butter:** i.e., fat  
 66. **toss:** i.e., toss on a pike  
 66-67. **powder:** i.e., gunpowder  
 67. **pit:** grave  
 70. **bare:** i.e., threadbare, ragged  
 71. **for:** as for  
 74. **three fingers:** i.e., fat that is as thick as the breadth of three fingers  
 76. **field:** i.e., battlefield  
 81-83. **To . . . guest:** Proverbial: "It is better coming to the beginning of a feast than the end of a fray."

Westmoreland, I cry you mercy. I thought your Honor had already been at Shrewsbury.

WESTMORELAND Faith, Sir John, 'tis more than time that I were there and you too, but my powers are there already. The King, I can tell you, looks for us all. We must away all night. 55

FALSTAFF Tut, never fear me. I am as vigilant as a cat to steal cream. 60

PRINCE I think to steal cream indeed, for thy theft hath already made thee butter. But tell me, Jack, whose fellows are these that come after?

FALSTAFF Mine, Hal, mine.

PRINCE I did never see such pitiful rascals. 65

FALSTAFF Tut, tut, good enough to toss; food for powder, food for powder. They'll fill a pit as well as better. Tush, man, mortal men, mortal men.

WESTMORELAND Ay, but, Sir John, methinks they are exceeding poor and bare, too beggarly. 70

FALSTAFF Faith, for their poverty, I know not where they had that, and for their bareness, I am sure they never learned that of me.

PRINCE No, I'll be sworn, unless you call three fingers in the ribs bare. But, sirrah, make haste. Percy is already in the field. 75

*He exits.*

FALSTAFF What, is the King encamped?

WESTMORELAND He is, Sir John. I fear we shall stay too long. *He exits.*

FALSTAFF Well, 80  
 To the latter end of a fray and the beginning of a feast

Fits a dull fighter and a keen guest.

*He exits.*

4.3 As Hotspur argues with his fellow commanders about when to fight, they are visited by Sir Walter Blunt, who brings them a request from the king that they state their grievances and a promise that, if the grievances are just, they will be answered and the rebels pardoned. After listing their grievances, Hotspur promises to send Worcester the next morning to continue discussions with the king.

1. **him:** i.e., King Henry

5. **supply:** reinforcements

14. **well-respected:** i.e., reasonably considered, not rash; **bid me on:** i.e., urge me to act

23. **leading:** generalship

25. **Drag . . . expedition:** slow or prevent speedy action; **horse:** cavalry

「Scene 3」

*Enter Hotspur, Worcester, Douglas, 「and」 Vernon.*

HOTSPUR

We'll fight with him tonight.

WORCESTER

It may not be.

DOUGLAS

You give him then advantage.

VERNON

Not a whit.

HOTSPUR

Why say you so? Looks he not for supply?

5

VERNON So do we.

HOTSPUR His is certain; ours is doubtful.

WORCESTER

Good cousin, be advised. Stir not tonight.

VERNON, 「to Hotspur」

Do not, my lord.

DOUGLAS

You do not counsel well.

10

You speak it out of fear and cold heart.

VERNON

Do me no slander, Douglas. By my life  
(And I dare well maintain it with my life),

If well-respected honor bid me on,

I hold as little counsel with weak fear

15

As you, my lord, or any Scot that this day lives.

Let it be seen tomorrow in the battle

Which of us fears.

DOUGLAS Yea, or tonight.

VERNON Content.

20

HOTSPUR Tonight, say I.

VERNON

Come, come, it may not be. I wonder much,

Being men of such great leading as you are,

That you foresee not what impediments

Drag back our expedition. Certain horse

25

Of my cousin Vernon's are not yet come up.

28. **pride and mettle**: spirit  
 32. **journey-bated**: exhausted, or abated, by travel;  
**brought low**: dispirited  
 35 SD. **parley**: a trumpet call indicating the approach of a delegation from the opposing army for the purpose of discussion  
 37. **respect**: attention  
 39. **determination**: opinion, persuasion  
 42. **quality**: party, side  
 44. **defend**: forbid; **still**: always  
 45. **limit**: bounds (perhaps of allegiance, or of duty)  
 47. **my charge**: the duty given me to carry out  
 48. **griefs**: grievances  
 53. **Which**: i.e., your **deserts**, your good deeds

Your uncle Worcester's 'horse' came but today,  
 And now their pride and mettle is asleep,  
 Their courage with hard labor tame and dull,  
 That not a horse is half the half of himself.

30

HOTSPUR

So are the horses of the enemy  
 In general journey-bated and brought low.  
 The better part of ours are full of rest.

WORCESTER

The number of the King exceedeth 'ours.'  
 For God's sake, cousin, stay till all come in.

35

*The trumpet sounds a parley.*

*Enter Sir Walter Blunt.*

BLUNT

I come with gracious offers from the King,  
 If you vouchsafe me hearing and respect.

HOTSPUR

Welcome, Sir Walter Blunt, and would to God  
 You were of our determination.  
 Some of us love you well, and even those some  
 Envy your great deservings and good name  
 Because you are not of our quality  
 But stand against us like an enemy.

40

BLUNT

And God defend but still I should stand so,  
 So long as out of limit and true rule  
 You stand against anointed majesty.  
 But to my charge. The King hath sent to know  
 The nature of your griefs, and whereupon  
 You conjure from the breast of civil peace  
 Such bold hostility, teaching his duteous land  
 Audacious cruelty. If that the King  
 Have any way your good deserts forgot,  
 Which he confesseth to be manifold,  
 He bids you name your griefs, and with all speed

45

50

57. **suggestion:** prompting, enticement  
62. **not . . . strong:** i.e., when he had fewer than twenty-six followers

64. **unminded:** unnoticed, unregarded

68. **sue his livery:** to recover his inheritance, which, upon the death of his father, John of Gaunt, had been seized by Richard II; **beg his peace:** i.e., be reconciled with Richard

74. **The more . . . knee:** i.e., all the lords and barons, the greater and lesser, did him homage, removing their caps and kneeling

76. **stood in lanes:** i.e., lined the road

79. **golden:** (1) propitious (for Henry's future); (2) splendidly dressed

80. **as . . . itself:** i.e., since the great come to recognize their own power

81. **Steps me:** i.e., steps

82. **while his blood was poor:** i.e., while he was still being meek in temper

84. **forsooth:** a mild oath; **takes on him:** i.e., takes it upon himself

85. **strait:** strict

87. **Cries out upon:** vehemently objects to

88-89. **this face,/This seeming brow:** i.e., this pretense

You shall have your desires with interest  
And pardon absolute for yourself and these  
Herein misled by your suggestion.

55

HOTSPUR

The King is kind, and well we know the King  
Knows at what time to promise, when to pay.  
My father and my uncle and myself  
Did give him that same royalty he wears,  
And when he was not six-and-twenty strong,  
Sick in the world's regard, wretched and low,  
A poor unminded outlaw sneaking home,  
My father gave him welcome to the shore;  
And when he heard him swear and vow to God  
He came but to be Duke of Lancaster,  
To sue his livery, and beg his peace  
With tears of innocence and terms of zeal,  
My father, in kind heart and pity moved,  
Swore him assistance and performed it too.  
Now when the lords and barons of the realm  
Perceived Northumberland did lean to him,  
The more and less came in with cap and knee,  
Met him in boroughs, cities, villages,  
Attended him on bridges, stood in lanes,  
Laid gifts before him, proffered him their oaths,  
Gave him their heirs as pages, followed him  
Even at the heels in golden multitudes.

60

65

70

75

He presently, as greatness knows itself,  
Steps me a little higher than his vow  
Made to my father while his blood was poor  
Upon the naked shore at Ravenspurgh,  
And now forsooth takes on him to reform  
Some certain edicts and some strait decrees  
That lie too heavy on the commonwealth,  
Cries out upon abuses, seems to weep  
Over his country's wrongs, and by this face,  
This seeming brow of justice, did he win  
The hearts of all that he did angle for,

80

85

90

91. **cut me off:** i.e., cut off  
 93. **In deputation:** i.e., as deputies  
 94. **personal:** i.e., personally engaged  
 99. **in . . . that:** i.e., right after that; **tasked:** taxed  
 100. **March:** i.e., Mortimer  
 101. **if every . . . placed:** i.e., if everyone were in his rightful position  
 102. **his king:** i.e., king over Henry IV; **engaged:** involved, entangled  
 103. **forfeited:** i.e., abandoned  
 104. **happy:** fortunate  
 105. **intelligence:** spies  
 106. **Rated . . . from:** drove away by scolding;  
**board:** table  
 110. **head of safety:** i.e., army raised to ensure our own safety; **withal:** i.e., in addition  
 112. **indirect:** not descending in a direct line of succession  
 115–16. **let . . . again:** i.e., leave some hostage with us to guarantee Worcester's safe return to us  
 118. **our purposes:** i.e., what we propose  
 119. **grace:** mercy

Proceeded further—cut me off the heads  
 Of all the favorites that the absent king  
 In deputation left behind him here  
 When he was personal in the Irish war.

BLUNT

Tut, I came not to hear this.

95

HOTSPUR

Then to the point.

In short time after, he deposed the King,  
 Soon after that deprived him of his life  
 And, in the neck of that, tasked the whole state.  
 To make that worse, suffered his kinsman March  
 (Who is, if every owner were well placed,  
 Indeed his king) to be engaged in Wales,  
 There without ransom to lie forfeited,  
 Disgraced me in my happy victories,  
 Sought to entrap me by intelligence,  
 Rated mine uncle from the council board,  
 In rage dismissed my father from the court,  
 Broke oath on oath, committed wrong on wrong,  
 And in conclusion drove us to seek out  
 This head of safety, and withal to pry  
 Into his title, the which we find  
 Too indirect for long continuance.

100

105

110

BLUNT

Shall I return this answer to the King?

HOTSPUR

Not so, Sir Walter. We'll withdraw awhile.  
 Go to the King, and let there be impawned  
 Some surety for a safe return again,  
 And in the morning early shall mine uncle  
 Bring him our purposes. And so farewell.

115

BLUNT

I would you would accept of grace and love.

HOTSPUR

And maybe so we shall.

120

BLUNT

Pray God you do.

[*They exit.*]

4.4 The archbishop of York and Sir Michael, who sympathize with Hotspur, debate the chances of his success against the king's greater force.

0 SD. **Sir Michael**: perhaps a priest, or perhaps a knight, since "sir" was the title of courtesy for both

1. **brief**: letter

4. **To whom**: i.e., to those to whom

5. **How . . . import**: i.e., how important they are

10. **bide the touch**: be put to the test (as in the testing of gold for purity)

15. **Whose . . . proportion**: i.e., whose army was the largest

17. **a rated sinew**: i.e., accounted most strong

18. **o'erruled**: dissuaded

25. **head**: army



"The front of heaven . . . full of fiery shapes." (3.1.14)  
From Conrad Lycosthenes, *Prodigiorum* (1557).

180

「Scene 4」

*Enter Archbishop of York 「and」 Sir Michael.*

ARCHBISHOP, 「handing papers」

Hie, good Sir Michael, bear this sealed brief  
With wingèd haste to the Lord Marshal,  
This to my cousin Scroop, and all the rest  
To whom they are directed. If you knew  
How much they do import, you would make haste.

5

SIR MICHAEL

My good lord, I guess their tenor.

ARCHBISHOP Like enough you do.

Tomorrow, good Sir Michael, is a day  
Wherein the fortune of ten thousand men  
Must bide the touch. For, sir, at Shrewsbury,  
As I am truly given to understand,  
The King with mighty and quick-raised power  
Meets with Lord Harry. And I fear, Sir Michael,  
What with the sickness of Northumberland,  
Whose power was in the first proportion,  
And what with Owen Glendower's absence thence,  
Who with them was a rated sinew too  
And comes not in, o'erruled by prophecies;  
I fear the power of Percy is too weak  
To wage an instant trial with the King.

10

15

20

SIR MICHAEL

Why, my good lord, you need not fear.

There is Douglas and Lord Mortimer.

ARCHBISHOP No, Mortimer is not there.

SIR MICHAEL

But there is Mordake, Vernon, Lord Harry Percy,  
And there is my Lord of Worcester, and a head  
Of gallant warriors, noble gentlemen.

25

ARCHBISHOP

And so there is. But yet the King hath drawn  
The special head of all the land together:

31. **corrivals**: partners, associates  
 31-32. **dear . . . arms**: i.e., men of great reputation as military commanders



"Lazarus . . . where the . . . dogs licked his sores."  
 (4.2.25-27)

From Guillaume Guérault, *Figures de la Bible* (1565-70).

The Prince of Wales, Lord John of Lancaster,  
 The noble Westmoreland, and warlike Blunt,  
 And many more corrivals and dear men  
 Of estimation and command in arms.

30

SIR MICHAEL

Doubt not, my lord, they shall be well opposed.

ARCHBISHOP

I hope no less, yet needful 'tis to fear;  
 And to prevent the worst, Sir Michael, speed.  
 For if Lord Percy thrive not, ere the King  
 Dismiss his power he means to visit us,  
 For he hath heard of our confederacy,  
 And 'tis but wisdom to make strong against him.  
 Therefore make haste. I must go write again  
 To other friends. And so farewell, Sir Michael.

35

40

*They exit.*



*The History of*

# HENRY IV

## Part 1

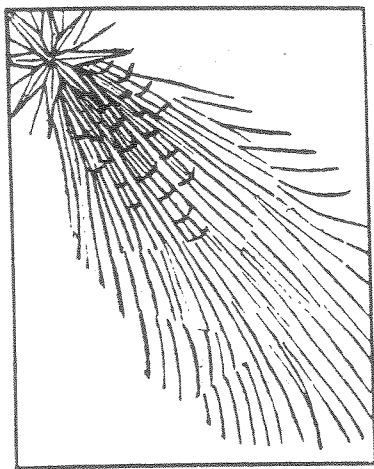
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ACT 5



5.1 Worcester and Vernon visit the king's camp, where Worcester repeats the grievances that he says have led to the rebellion. Prince Hal offers to oppose Hotspur in single combat, and King Henry promises pardon and reconciliation to the rebels if they yield.

- 3. **his distemp'rature:** i.e., the sun's sickness
- 5. **play . . . purposes:** i.e., act as the herald signaling the sun's meanings
- 8. **sympathize:** harmonize
- 13. **easy:** comfortable



"Like a comet I was wondered at." (3.2.49)  
From Hartmann Schedel, *Liber chronicorum* (1493).

## 「ACT 5」

### 「Scene 1」

*Enter the King, Prince of Wales, Lord John of Lancaster,  
Sir Walter Blunt, 「and」 Falstaff.*

KING

How bloodily the sun begins to peer  
Above yon bulky hill. The day looks pale  
At his distemp'rature.

PRINCE

The southern wind  
Doth play the trumpet to his purposes,  
And by his hollow whistling in the leaves  
Foretells a tempest and a blust'ring day.

KING

Then with the losers let it sympathize,  
For nothing can seem foul to those that win.

*The trumpet sounds.*

*Enter Worcester 「and」 Vernon.*

How now, my Lord of Worcester? 'Tis not well  
That you and I should meet upon such terms  
As now we meet. You have deceived our trust  
And made us doff our easy robes of peace  
To crush our old limbs in ungentle steel.  
This is not well, my lord; this is not well.  
What say you to it? Will you again unknit  
This churlish knot of all-aborred war

18–22. **And . . . times:** i.e., return to your proper subordinate position (Henry compares the formerly obedient Worcester to a star or planet that moved properly around the earth in its sphere [**orb**] in Ptolemaic cosmology. Henry then likens the present rebellious Worcester to a meteor drawn up [i.e., **exhaled**] as a fiery gas, and thought to be a fearful portent [**prodigy of fear**] of evil that has been broken open [**broached**] to afflict the future [**unborn times**].)

25. **entertain:** occupy, fill up; **lag end:** latter part

27. **dislike:** i.e., hostility

30. **chewet:** (1) chough, jackdaw (hence a chatterer); (2) mincemeat pie

32. **from:** i.e., away from; **house:** i.e., family

33. **remember:** remind

36. **posted:** rode post-haste

38. **place:** political and social position; **account:** reputation

39. **Nothing:** not at all

45. **new-fall'n:** newly inherited

51. **injuries:** wrongs; **wanton:** lawless, violent

And move in that obedient orb again  
Where you did give a fair and natural light,  
And be no more an exhaled meteor,  
A prodigy of fear, and a portent  
Of broachèd mischief to the unborn times?

20

WORCESTER Hear me, my liege:

For mine own part I could be well content  
To entertain the lag end of my life  
With quiet hours. For I protest  
I have not sought the day of this dislike.

25

KING

You have not sought it. How comes it then?

FALSTAFF Rebellion lay in his way, and he found it.

PRINCE Peace, chewet, peace.

30

WORCESTER

It pleased your Majesty to turn your looks  
Of favor from myself and all our house;  
And yet I must remember you, my lord,  
We were the first and dearest of your friends.  
For you my staff of office did I break  
In Richard's time, and posted day and night  
To meet you on the way and kiss your hand  
When yet you were in place and in account  
Nothing so strong and fortunate as I.

35

It was myself, my brother, and his son  
That brought you home and boldly did outdare  
The dangers of the time. You swore to us,  
And you did swear that oath at Doncaster,  
That you did nothing purpose 'gainst the state,  
Nor claim no further than your new-fall'n right,  
The seat of Gaunt, dukedom of Lancaster.

40

To this we swore our aid. But in short space  
It rained down fortune show'ring on your head,  
And such a flood of greatness fell on you—  
What with our help, what with the absent king,  
What with the injuries of a wanton time,

45

50

52. **seeming sufferances**: apparent sufferings  
 58. **gripe . . . hand**: i.e., grasp control of the kingdom  
 61. **gull**: nestling, young bird; **cuckoo's bird**: The cuckoo lays its egg in the nest of a bird such as the **sparrow**, who, when the egg hatches, feeds the fledgling until it grows so large as to be threatening.  
 64. **our love**: i.e., those of us who love you  
 65. **swallowing**: i.e., being swallowed  
 66. **safety**: i.e., safety's  
 68. **by such means**: i.e., on such grounds  
 70. **dangerous countenance**: threatening behavior  
 71. **troth**: sworn word  
 73. **articulate**: i.e., articulated, itemized article by article  
 75. **face**: trim, or cover with another layer of cloth  
 76. **color**: (1) hue; (2) pretext, fiction  
 77. **changelings**: turncoats, renegades; **poor discontents**: the discontented impoverished  
 78. **rub the elbow**: a gesture of satisfaction (like rubbing one's hands together)  
 79. **hurlyburly innovation**: i.e., chaotic change  
 80. **want**: lack  
 81. **water colors**: i.e., thin fictions; **impaint**: depict; or, beautify; **his**: i.e., its  
 82. **moody**: angry, sullen  
 85. **Shall**: i.e., who shall; **full**: very

The seeming sufferances that you had borne,  
 And the contrarious winds that held the King  
 So long in his unlucky Irish wars  
 That all in England did repute him dead— 55  
 And from this swarm of fair advantages  
 You took occasion to be quickly wooed  
 To gripe the general sway into your hand,  
 Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster;  
 And being fed by us, you used us so 60  
 As that ungentle gull, the cuckoo's bird,  
 Useth the sparrow—did oppress our nest,  
 Grew by our feeding to so great a bulk  
 That even our love durst not come near your sight  
 For fear of swallowing; but with nimble wing 65  
 We were enforced for safety sake to fly  
 Out of your sight and raise this present head,  
 Whereby we stand opposed by such means  
 As you yourself have forged against yourself  
 By unkind usage, dangerous countenance, 70  
 And violation of all faith and troth  
 Sworn to us in your younger enterprise.

## KING

These things indeed you have articulate,  
 Proclaimed at market crosses, read in churches,  
 To face the garment of rebellion 75  
 With some fine color that may please the eye  
 Of fickle changelings and poor discontents,  
 Which gape and rub the elbow at the news  
 Of hurlyburly innovation.  
 And never yet did insurrection want 80  
 Such water colors to impaint his cause,  
 Nor moody beggars starving for a time  
 Of pellmell havoc and confusion.

## PRINCE

In both your armies there is many a soul  
 Shall pay full dearly for this encounter 85

88. **hopes:** i.e., hope for salvation  
 89. **This . . . head:** i.e., this current rebellion not charged against his reputation  
 90. **braver:** nobler  
 93. **latter:** i.e., present  
 95. **chivalry:** the code governing the action of knights  
 97. **this:** i.e., I say this  
 98. **he:** Hotspur; **take the odds:** have the advantage  
 99. **estimation:** reputation  
 100. **either side:** i.e., both sides  
 103. **Albeit:** although  
 106. **cousin's:** kinsman's  
 112. **wait on us:** are in our service  
 113. **office:** duty  
 115. **it:** i.e., our offer



The Colossus. (5.1.124)  
 From Henry Peacham, *Minerua Britannia* (1612).

192

If once they join in trial. Tell your nephew,  
 The Prince of Wales doth join with all the world  
 In praise of Henry Percy. By my hopes,  
 This present enterprise set off his head,  
 I do not think a braver gentleman,  
 More active-valiant, or more valiant-young,  
 More daring or more bold, is now alive  
 To grace this latter age with noble deeds.  
 For my part, I may speak it to my shame,  
 I have a truant been to chivalry,  
 And so I hear he doth account me too.  
 Yet this before my father's majesty:  
 I am content that he shall take the odds  
 Of his great name and estimation,  
 And will, to save the blood on either side,  
 Try fortune with him in a single fight.

KING

And, Prince of Wales, so dare we venture thee,  
 Albeit considerations infinite  
 Do make against it.—No, good Worcester, no.  
 We love our people well, even those we love  
 That are misled upon your cousin's part.  
 And, will they take the offer of our grace,  
 Both he and they and you, yea, every man  
 Shall be my friend again, and I'll be his.  
 So tell your cousin, and bring me word  
 What he will do. But if he will not yield,  
 Rebuke and dread correction wait on us,  
 And they shall do their office. So begone.  
 We will not now be troubled with reply.  
 We offer fair. Take it advisedly.

Worcester exits [with Vernon.]

PRINCE

It will not be accepted, on my life.  
 The Douglas and the Hotspur both together  
 Are confident against the world in arms.

119. **charge:** command  
 120. **on their:** i.e., as soon as we have their  
 124. **colossus:** a gigantic statue in human form whose legs, according to legend, spanned the harbor at Rhodes (See page 192.)  
 127. **thou . . . death:** proverbial  
 131. **pricks:** spurs  
 131-32. **prick me off:** mark me for death  
 132-33. **set to a leg:** set a broken leg  
 133. **grief:** pain  
 136-37. **A trim reckoning:** a fine balance sheet or total  
 138. **insensible:** not perceptible by the senses  
 140. **suffer:** allow  
 141. **scutcheon:** i.e., funerary device (literally, a piece of metal, cloth, or paper painted with the deceased's coat of arms or other emblem, to be displayed in funeral processions and subsequently hung up in churches)  
 142. **catechism:** instructive questions and answers (literally, a book teaching basic religious principles through a series of questions and answers) See page xxxi.

5.2 Worcester lies to Hotspur, telling him that the king made no offer of pardon and is ready to begin the battle. Hotspur sends his own defiance to the king by Douglas. On Douglas's return, Hotspur and his men prepare for battle.

KING

Hence, therefore, every leader to his charge,  
 For on their answer will we set on them,  
 And God befriend us as our cause is just. 120

*They exit. Prince and Falstaff remain.*

FALSTAFF Hal, if thou see me down in the battle and  
 bestride me, so; 'tis a point of friendship.

PRINCE Nothing but a colossus can do thee that friend-  
 ship. Say thy prayers, and farewell. 125

FALSTAFF I would 'twere bedtime, Hal, and all well.

PRINCE Why, thou owest God a death. *He exits.*

FALSTAFF 'Tis not due yet. I would be loath to pay Him  
 before His day. What need I be so forward with  
 Him that calls not on me? Well, 'tis no matter. 130  
 Honor pricks me on. Yea, but how if honor prick me  
 off when I come on? How then? Can honor set to a  
 leg? No. Or an arm? No. Or take away the grief of a  
 wound? No. Honor hath no skill in surgery, then?  
 No. What is honor? A word. What is in that word 135  
 "honor"? What is that "honor"? Air. A trim reckon-  
 ing. Who hath it? He that died o' Wednesday. Doth  
 he feel it? No. Doth he hear it? No. 'Tis insensible,  
 then? Yea, to the dead. But will 'it' not live with the  
 living? No. Why? Detraction will not suffer it. There- 140  
 fore, I'll none of it. Honor is a mere scutcheon. And  
 so ends my catechism.

*He exits.*

Scene 2

*Enter Worcester and Sir Richard Vernon.*

WORCESTER

O no, my nephew must not know, Sir Richard,  
 The liberal and kind offer of the King.

4. **undone**: destroyed, ruined  
 7. **still**: always  
 8. **in**: i.e., when punishing  
 13. **a wild trick**: i.e., the characteristic wildness  
 14. **Look . . . can**: i.e., no matter how we appear;  
 or . . . or: i.e., either . . . or  
 15. **misquote**: incorrectly observe; misinterpret  
 20. **an adopted . . . privilege**: i.e., a nickname  
 (Hotspur) that gives him the privilege of being impulsive  
 21. **spleen**: sudden impulse, whim  
 23. **train**: entice, allure  
 24. **ta'en**: caught, contracted (as if a disease)  
 25. **spring**: source  
 28. **Deliver**: i.e., report  
 31. **Deliver up**: release (This line indicates that Westmoreland served as the hostage from the king's side, held by Hotspur to ensure Worcester's safe return from the parley with the king. See note to 4.3.115-16.)

VERNON

'Twere best he did.

WORCESTER

Then are we all 'undone.'

It is not possible, it cannot be

The King should keep his word in loving us.

He will suspect us still and find a time

To punish this offense in other faults.

'Suspicion' all our lives shall be stuck full of eyes,

For treason is but trusted like the fox,

Who, never so tame, so cherished and locked up,  
Will have a wild trick of his ancestors.

Look how we can, or sad or merrily,

Interpretation will misquote our looks;

And we shall feed like oxen at a stall,

The better cherished still the nearer death.

My nephew's trespass may be well forgot;

It hath the excuse of youth and heat of blood,

And an adopted name of privilege—

A harebrained Hotspur governed by a spleen.

All his offenses live upon my head

And on his father's. We did train him on,

And his corruption being ta'en from us,

We as the spring of all shall pay for all.

Therefore, good cousin, let not Harry know

In any case the offer of the King.

VERNON

Deliver what you will; I'll say 'tis so.

*Enter 'Hotspur, Douglas, and their army.'*

Here comes your cousin.

HOTSPUR, 'to Douglas' My uncle is returned.

Deliver up my Lord of Westmoreland.—

Uncle, what news?

WORCESTER

The King will bid you battle presently.

34. **Defy** . . . **Westmoreland**: i.e., to  
land to take our reply of defiance back to the king
36. **shall**: i.e., I shall
37. **seeming**: i.e., semblance of
41. **forswearing** . . . **forsworn**: denying with a  
false oath that he had ever sworn falsely (or that he  
had ever broken his oath)
45. **brave**: proud
46. **engaged**: held hostage
47. **cannot** . . . **him**: i.e., must of necessity bring  
King Henry
52. **Harry Monmouth**: i.e., Prince Hal, called  
**Monmouth** after his birthplace in Wales
53. **showed his tasking**: i.e., did his challenge  
appear as he delivered it
55. **urged**: put forward
57. **gentle** . . . **arms**: gentlemanly practice and test  
of military skill



Man in gyves. (4.2.41)  
From Cesare Vecellio, *Degli habitì antichi et moderni* (1590).

- Defy** him by the Lord of Westmoreland.
- HOTSPUR**  
Lord Douglas, go you and tell him so. 35
- DOUGLAS**  
Marry, and shall, and very willingly. *Douglas exits.*
- WORCESTER**  
There is no seeming mercy in the King.
- HOTSPUR**  
Did you beg any? God forbid!
- WORCESTER**  
I told him gently of our grievances,  
Of his oath-breaking, which he mended thus 40  
By now forswearing that he is forsworn.  
He calls us "rebels," "traitors," and will scourge  
With haughty arms this hateful name in us.
- Enter Douglas.*
- DOUGLAS**  
Arm, gentlemen, to arms. For I have thrown  
A brave defiance in King Henry's teeth, 45  
And Westmoreland, that was engaged, did bear it,  
Which cannot choose but bring him quickly on.
- WORCESTER**  
The Prince of Wales stepped forth before the King,  
And, nephew, challenged you to single fight.
- HOTSPUR**  
O, would the quarrel lay upon our heads, 50  
And that no man might draw short breath today  
But I and Harry Monmouth! Tell me, tell me,  
How showed his tasking? Seemed it in contempt?
- VERNON**  
No, by my soul. I never in my life  
Did hear a challenge urged more modestly, 55  
Unless a brother should a brother dare



58. **gave . . . man:** i.e., credited you with all manly qualities

59. **Trimmed up . . . praises:** adorned his praise of you

62. **dispraising . . . you:** i.e., disparaging his praise as unequal to your merits

64. **cital:** recital, account

68. **pause:** cease, stop

69. **envy:** malice, hostility

70. **envy your possessors**

71. **misconstrued . . . unruliness:** misunderstood in his unruliness and extravagant behavior

72. **Crave of**

80-82. **Better . . . persuasion:** i.e., you can better arouse yourselves for battle by thinking about how you will fight than by listening to me, since I have no talent for rousing oratory

86-88. **To spend . . . hour:** i.e., even if life were only an hour long, it would be too long a time if spent in ignoble action **dial's point:** the hand of a clock or sundial **Still:** always

90. **brave:** splendid, glorious

He gave you all the duties of a man,  
Trimmed up your praises with a princely tongue,  
Spoke your deservings like a chronicle,  
Making you ever better than his praise  
By still dispraising praise valued with you,  
And, which became him like a prince indeed,  
He made a blushing cital of himself,  
And chid his truant youth with such a grace  
As if he mastered there a double spirit  
Of teaching and of learning instantly

60

65

If he outlive the envy of this day,  
England did never owe so sweet a home

70

## HOTSPUR

Cousin, I think thou art enamored  
On his follies. Never did I hear  
Of any prince so wild a liberty.  
But be he as he will, yet once ere night  
I will embrace him with a soldier's arm  
That he shall shrink under my courtesy.—  
Arm, arm with speed, and, fellows, soldiers,  
friends,  
Better consider what you have to do  
Than I that have not well the gift of tongue  
Can lift your blood up with persuasion.

75

80

*Enter a Messenger.*

MESSENGER My lord, here are letters for you.

HOTSPUR I cannot read them now.—

O gentlemen, the time of life is short;  
To spend that shortness basely were too long  
If life did ride upon a dial's point,  
Still ending at the arrival of an hour.  
An if we live, we live to tread on kings;  
If die, brave death, when princes die with us.

85

90

91. **for:** i.e., as for; **fair:** just  
 92. **intent of bearing:** object for which we bear them  
 94. **cuts . . . tale:** i.e., stops me from talking  
 97. **temper:** i.e., tempered steel  
 98. **withal:** i.e., with  
 99. **adventure of:** what chances to happen on  
 100. **Esperance. Percy:** the battle cries of the

103. **heaven to earth:** i.e., as sure as heaven is greater than earth

**5.3** The battle begins. Douglas kills Blunt, who is disguised as King Henry. Falstaff enters alone to disclose to the audience that he has led his men to their massacre. When Prince Hal enters and asks Falstaff to lend him a sword, Falstaff instead gives him a bottle of sack.

0 SD. **Alarum:** trumpet call

Now, for our consciences, the arms are fair  
 When the intent of bearing them is just.

*Enter another 'Messenger.'*

「SECOND」 MESSENGER

My lord, prepare. The King comes on apace.

HOTSPUR

Let each man do his best. And here draw I a sword,  
 Whose temper I intend to stain  
 With the best blood that I can meet withal  
 In the adventure of this perilous day.  
 Now, Esperance! Percy! And set on.  
 Sound all the lofty instruments of war,  
 And by that music let us all embrace,  
 For, heaven to earth, some of us never shall  
 A second time do such a courtesy.

100

*Here they embrace. The trumpets sound.  
 「They exit.」*

「Scene 3」

*The King enters with his power, 「crosses the stage and exits.」 Alarum to the battle. Then enter Douglas, and Sir Walter Blunt, 「disguised as the King.」*

BLUNT, 「as King」

What is thy name that in 「the」 battle thus  
 Thou crossest me? What honor dost thou seek  
 Upon my head?

DOUGLAS                      Know then my name is Douglas,  
 And I do haunt thee in the battle thus  
 Because some tell me that thou art a king.

BLUNT, 「as King」    They tell thee true.

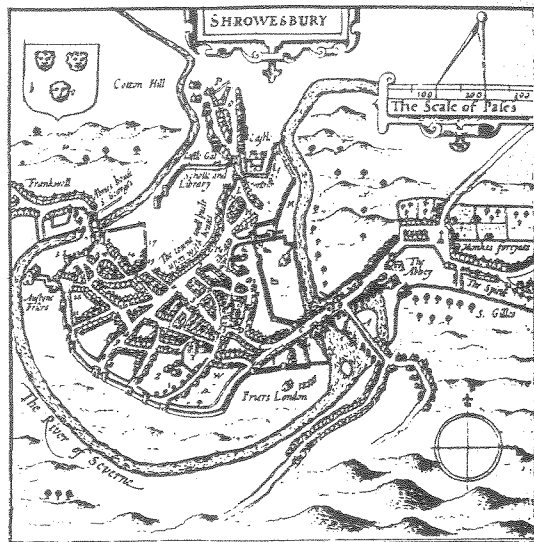
8. **dear:** dearly, at great cost  
8-9. **bought / Thy likeness:** paid for resembling you

20. **full:** very  
22. **Semblably . . . himself:** i.e., dressed and equipped to look like the king

23. **whither:** wherever

26. **coats:** perhaps, tunics emblazoned with the king's coat of arms and worn over armor

31. **stand . . . day:** i.e., are in a position to win



A bird's-eye view of the city of Shrewsbury.  
From John Speed, *A prospect of the most famous part of  
the world* (1631).

DOUGLAS

The Lord of Stafford dear today hath bought  
Thy likeness, for instead of thee, King Harry,  
This sword hath ended him. So shall it thee,  
Unless thou yield thee as my prisoner.

10

BLUNT, *as King*

I was not born a yielder, thou proud Scot,  
And thou shalt find a king that will revenge  
Lord Stafford's death.

*They fight. Douglas kills Blunt.*

*Then enter Hotspur.*

HOTSPUR

O Douglas, hadst thou fought at Holmedon thus,  
I never had triumphed upon a Scot.

15

DOUGLAS

All's done, all's won; here breathless lies the King.

HOTSPUR Where?

DOUGLAS Here.

HOTSPUR

This, Douglas? No, I know this face full well.  
A gallant knight he was; his name was Blunt,  
Semblably furnished like the King himself.

20

DOUGLAS, *addressing Blunt's corpse*

«A» fool go with thy soul whither it goes!  
A borrowed title hast thou bought too dear.  
Why didst thou tell me that thou wert a king?

25

HOTSPUR

The King hath many marching in his coats.

DOUGLAS

Now, by my sword, I will kill all his coats.  
I'll murder all his wardrobe, piece by piece,  
Until I meet the King.

HOTSPUR

Up and away!  
Our soldiers stand full fairly for the day.

30

*They exit.*

31 SD. **Alarm:** i.e., alarum, trumpet call  
32. **shot-free:** i.e., free from paying his shot, or bill, at the tavern

33. **shot:** arrows or bullets; **scoring:** (1) cutting (with weapons on the battlefield); (2) chalking up or notching on a tally the number of drinks a customer has had in a tavern

34. **Soft:** i.e., wait a minute

35. **Here's no vanity:** perhaps a reference to Falstaff's earlier speech about the emptiness and futility of honor

39. **peppered:** destroyed

40. **for the town's end:** i.e., destined to loiter at the city gates (See page 218.)

43. **stark:** rigid

47. **breathe:** rest, pause

48. **Turk Gregory:** The Turk was considered a merciless fighter, and Gregory probably referred either to Pope Gregory VII (11th century) or Pope Gregory XIII (16th century), both of whom were accused of violence by Protestant writers.

49. **paid:** i.e., killed

50. **made him sure:** killed him (In the next line, the prince's reply uses the meaning of **sure** as "safe, secure.")

57. **that:** that which

*Alarm: Enter Falstaff, alone.*  
FALSTAFF Though I could 'scape shot-free at London, I fear the shot here. Here's no scoring but upon the pate.—Soft, who are you? Sir Walter Blunt. There's honor for you. Here's no vanity. I am as hot as molten lead, and as heavy too. God keep lead out of me; I need no more weight than mine own bowels. I have led my ragamuffins where they are peppered. There's not three of my hundred and fifty left alive, and they are for the town's end, to beg during life. But who comes here?

*Enter the Prince.*

PRINCE

What, stand'st thou idle here? Lend me thy sword. Many a nobleman lies stark and stiff Under the hoofs of vaunting enemies, Whose deaths are yet unrevenged. I prithee Lend me thy sword.

FALSTAFF O Hal, I prithee give me leave to breathe awhile. Turk Gregory never did such deeds in arms as I have done this day. I have paid Percy; I have made him sure.

PRINCE

He is indeed, and living to kill thee. I prithee, lend me thy sword.

FALSTAFF Nay, before God, Hal, if Percy be alive, thou gett'st not my sword; but take my pistol, if thou wilt.

PRINCE

Give it me. What, is it in the case?

FALSTAFF Ay, Hal, 'tis hot, 'tis hot. There's that will sack a city.

*The Prince draws it out, and finds it to be a bottle of sack.*

59. **dally**: (1) chat; (2) delay; (3) mock  
 62. **carbonado**: meat that is cut crosswise and grilled  
 63. **grinning honor**: a reference to the death agony visible on Blunt's face

5.4 Prince Hal saves King Henry from death at the hands of Douglas. Hal then meets Hotspur. While they are fighting, Falstaff and Douglas enter; they fight, Falstaff falls down as if he were dead, and Douglas exits. Hal kills Hotspur. Finding Falstaff's body, Hal briefly mourns his death. When Hal leaves, Falstaff rises, sees the slain Percy, stabs him in the thigh, and picks up the body, planning to claim the credit for killing him. When Prince Hal reenters with his brother and meets Falstaff, Hal agrees to give his support to Falstaff's lie.

0 SD. **excursions**: i.e., soldiers issuing across the stage as if moving against the enemy

1. **bleedest**: In the chronicles, Prince Hal is described as having been badly cut on the face.
5. **make up**: bring up your troops (into the battle)
6. **retirement**: retreat; **amaze**: fill with sudden fear and panic
13. **stained**: i.e., (1) with blood and dirt; (2) with defeat

PRINCE

What, is it a time to jest and dally now?

*He throws the bottle at him* 「and」 exits.

FALSTAFF Well, if Percy be alive, I'll pierce him. If he do come in my way, so; if he do not, if I come in his willingly, let him make a carbonado of me. I like not such grinning honor as Sir Walter hath. Give me life, which, if I can save, so: if not, honor comes unlooked for, and there's an end.

「He exits.」

「Scene 4」

*Alarm, excursions. Enter the King, the Prince, Lord John of Lancaster, 「and the」 Earl of Westmoreland.*

KING

I prithee, Harry, withdraw thyself. Thou bleedest too much.

Lord John of Lancaster, go you with him.

LANCASTER

Not I, my lord, unless I did bleed too.

PRINCE

I beseech your Majesty, make up,  
 Lest your retirement do amaze your friends.

KING

I will do so.—My Lord of Westmoreland,  
 Lead him to his tent.

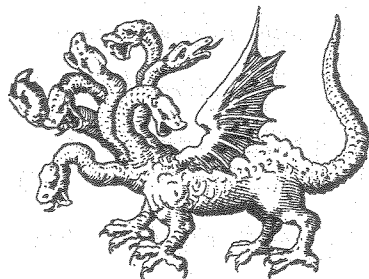
WESTMORELAND

Come, my lord, I'll lead you to your tent.

PRINCE

Lead me, my lord? I do not need your help,  
 And God forbid a shallow scratch should drive  
 The Prince of Wales from such a field as this,  
 Where stained nobility lies trodden on,  
 And rebels' arms triumph in massacres.

15. **breathe:** pause  
 20. **as my soul:** i.e., as if you were my soul  
 21–22. **at . . . maintenance:** at sword's point with more courageous and active bearing  
 23. **ungrown:** i.e., youthful  
 25. **Hydra's heads:** The mythical Hydra grew two heads for every one that was cut off.  
 27. **colors:** i.e., coats emblazoned with the king's arms  
 30. **his shadows:** those disguised as the king  
 31. **very king:** i.e., the king himself  
 32. **Seek:** i.e., who seek  
 34. **assay:** fight with  
 37. **mine:** i.e., my conquest



Hydra. (5.4.25)  
 From Jacob Typot, *Symbola diuina* . . . (1652).

LANCASTER

We breathe too long. Come, cousin Westmoreland, 15  
 Our duty this way lies. For God's sake, come.  
*「Lancaster and Westmoreland exit.」*

PRINCE

By God, thou hast deceived me, Lancaster.  
 I did not think thee lord of such a spirit.  
 Before, I loved thee as a brother, John,  
 But now I do respect thee as my soul. 20

KING

I saw him hold Lord Percy at the point  
 With lustier maintenance than I did look for  
 Of such an ungrown warrior.

PRINCE

O, this boy lends mettle to us all. *He exits.*  
*「Enter Douglas.」*

DOUGLAS

Another king! They grow like Hydra's heads. — 25  
 I am the Douglas, fatal to all those  
 That wear those colors on them. What art thou  
 That counterfeit'st the person of a king?

KING

The King himself, who, Douglas, grieves at heart,  
 So many of his shadows thou hast met 30  
 And not the very king. I have two boys  
 Seek Percy and thyself about the field,  
 But, seeing thou fall'st on me so luckily,  
 I will assay thee. And defend thyself.

DOUGLAS

I fear thou art another counterfeit, 35  
 And yet, in faith, thou bearest thee like a king.  
 But mine I am sure thou art, whoe'er thou be,  
 And thus I win thee.

*They fight. The King being in danger,  
 enter Prince of Wales.*

39. **like:** i.e., likely  
 45. **succor:** help, relief  
 46. **straight:** i.e., straightway, immediately  
 48. **opinion:** reputation  
 49. **mak'st . . . tender of:** have some loving regard

for

52. **hearkened for:** desired to hear of  
 54. **insulting:** triumphing  
 55. **in your end:** i.e., in bringing about your end



A heraldic lion. (3.1.157)  
 From Conrad Lycosthenes, *Prodigiorum* (1557).

212

PRINCE

Hold up thy head, vile Scot, or thou art like  
 Never to hold it up again. The spirits  
 Of valiant Shirley, Stafford, Blunt are in my arms. 40  
 It is the Prince of Wales that threatens thee,  
 Who never promiseth but he means to pay.

*They fight. Douglas flieth.*

「To King.」 Cheerly, my lord. How fares your Grace?  
 Sir Nicholas Gawsey hath for succor sent, 45  
 And so hath Clifton. I'll to Clifton straight.

KING Stay and breathe awhile.

Thou hast redeemed thy lost opinion  
 And showed thou mak'st some tender of my life  
 In this fair rescue thou hast brought to me. 50

PRINCE

O God, they did me too much injury  
 That ever said I hearkened for your death.  
 If it were so, I might have let alone  
 The insulting hand of Douglas over you, 55  
 Which would have been as speedy in your end  
 As all the poisonous potions in the world,  
 And saved the treacherous labor of your son.

KING

Make up to Clifton. I'll to Sir Nicholas Gawsey.

*King exits.*

*Enter Hotspur.*

HOTSPUR

If I mistake not, thou art Harry Monmouth.

PRINCE

Thou speak'st as if I would deny my name. 60

HOTSPUR

My name is Harry Percy.

PRINCE

Why then I see

A very valiant rebel of the name.

I am the Prince of Wales; and think not, Percy,

66. **Two . . . sphere:** proverbial (In Ptolemaic cosmology, each star moved in its own sphere. See the note to 5.1.18–22.)

67. **brook:** tolerate, endure

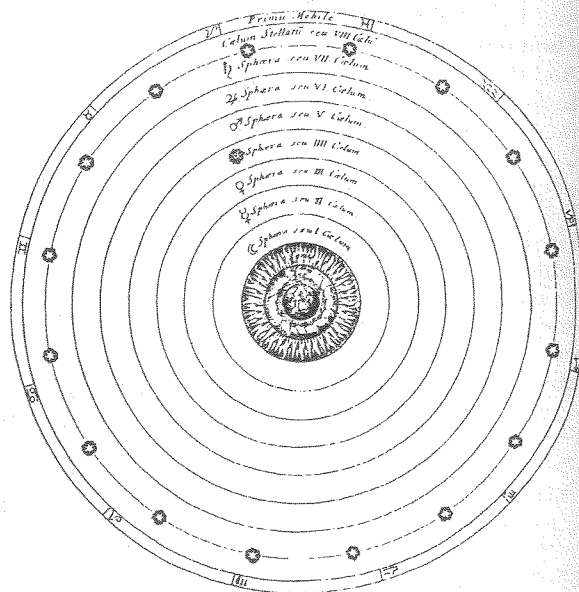
71. **name in arms:** i.e., reputation as a fighter

73. **budding honors:** See note to 3.2.147.

75. **vanities:** boasts; inanities

80. **Than:** i.e., than of

85. **a stop:** an end



Ptolemaic universe. (5.1.18–22)  
From Marcus Manilius, *The sphere of . . .* (1675).

To share with me in glory any more.

Two stars keep not their motion in one sphere,  
Nor can one England brook a double reign  
Of Harry Percy and the Prince of Wales.

HOTSPUR

「Nor」 shall it, Harry, for the hour is come  
To end the one of us, and would to God  
Thy name in arms were now as great as mine.

PRINCE

I'll make it greater ere I part from thee,  
And all the budding honors on thy crest  
I'll crop to make a garland for my head.

HOTSPUR

I can no longer brook thy vanities.

*They fight.*

*Enter Falstaff.*

FALSTAFF Well said, Hal! To it, Hal! Nay, you shall find  
no boys' play here, I can tell you.

*Enter Douglas. He fighteth with Falstaff, 「who」 falls  
down as if he were dead. 「Douglas exits.」 The Prince  
killeth Percy.*

HOTSPUR

O Harry, thou hast robbed me of my youth.  
I better brook the loss of brittle life  
Than those proud titles thou hast won of me.  
They wound my thoughts worse than thy sword my  
flesh.

But thoughts, the slaves of life, and life, time's fool,  
And time, that takes survey of all the world,  
Must have a stop. O, I could prophesy,  
But that the earthy and cold hand of death  
Lies on my tongue. No, Percy, thou art dust,  
And food for—

*「He dies.」*

PRINCE

For worms, brave Percy. Fare thee well, great heart.



92. **bound**: territory  
 95. **stout**: formidable; brave  
 96. **sensible**: i.e., aware  
 97. **dear a show**: great an expression  
 98. **favors**: ornaments or insignia worn into battle  
 101. **Adieu**: good-bye  
 107. **heavy**: (1) sorrowful; (2) weighty  
 108. **vanity**: idle or unprofitable conduct  
 111. **Emboweled**: disemboweled (in preparation for embalming); **by and by**: soon  
 112. **in blood**: in your own blood (It is possible that Hal continues the metaphor of Falstaff as a **deer**; if so, **in blood** would also mean "in full vigor.")  
 114. **leave . . . eat me**: i.e., permission to pickle me in salt and eat me (like a slain deer after it has been disemboweled)  
 116. **termagant**: savage (**Termagant** was a fictional Muslim god, shown in early drama as noisy and unrestrained.); **paid me scot and lot**: (1) paid me in full; (2) killed me  
 122. **The better . . . discretion**: proverbial before Shakespeare

Ill-weaved ambition, how much art thou shrunk!  
 When that this body did contain a spirit,  
 A kingdom for it was too small a bound,  
 But now two paces of the vilest earth  
 Is room enough. This earth that bears thee dead  
 Bears not alive so stout a gentleman.  
 If thou wert sensible of courtesy,  
 I should not make so dear a show of zeal.  
 But let my favors hide thy mangled face;  
*He covers Hotspur's face.*  
 And even in thy behalf I'll thank myself  
 For doing these fair rites of tenderness.  
 Adieu, and take thy praise with thee to heaven.  
 Thy ignominy sleep with thee in the grave,  
 But not remembered in thy epitaph.  
*He spieth Falstaff on the ground.*  
 What, old acquaintance, could not all this flesh  
 Keep in a little life? Poor Jack, farewell.  
 I could have better spared a better man.  
 O, I should have a heavy miss of thee  
 If I were much in love with vanity.  
 Death hath not struck so fat a deer today,  
 Though many dearer in this bloody fray.  
 Emboweled will I see thee by and by;  
 Till then in blood by noble Percy lie. *He exits.*

*Falstaff riseth up.*  
 FALSTAFF Emboweled? If thou embowel me today, I'll  
 give you leave to powder me and eat me too  
 tomorrow. 'Sblood, 'twas time to counterfeit, or  
 that hot termagant Scot had paid me scot and lot  
 too. Counterfeit? I lie. I am no counterfeit. To die is  
 to be a counterfeit, for he is but the counterfeit of a  
 man who hath not the life of a man; but to counter-  
 feit dying when a man thereby liveth is to be no  
 counterfeit, but the true and perfect image of life  
 indeed. The better part of valor is discretion, in the

129. **Nothing . . . eyes:** i.e., nothing but an eyewitness could refute my story

132. **fleshed:** used for the first time

139. **fantasy:** imagination

142. **a double man:** (1) two men in one (with Hotspur on his back); (2) an apparition

143. **jack:** knave

145-46. **I look . . . duke:** i.e., I expect to be given a title (for this)



"For the town's end, to beg during life." (5.3.40-41)  
From August Casimir Redel, *Apophtegmata symbolica* (n.d.).

which better part I have saved my life. Zounds, I am  
afraid of this gunpowder Percy, though he be dead.  
How if he should counterfeit too, and rise? By my  
faith, I am afraid he would prove the better counter- 125  
feit. Therefore I'll make him sure, yea, and I'll swear  
I killed him. Why may not he rise as well as I?  
Nothing confutes me but eyes, and nobody sees me.  
Therefore, sirrah, *stabbing him* with a new wound 130  
in your thigh, come you along with me.

*He takes up Hotspur on his back.*

*Enter Prince and John of Lancaster.*

PRINCE

Come, brother John. Full bravely hast thou fleshed  
Thy maiden sword.

LANCASTER

But soft, whom have we here?

Did you not tell me this fat man was dead?

PRINCE I did; I saw him dead,

Breathless and bleeding on the ground.—Art thou  
alive?

Or is it fantasy that plays upon our eyesight?

I prithee, speak. We will not trust our eyes 140

Without our ears. Thou art not what thou seem'st.

FALSTAFF No, that's certain. I am not a double man.

But if I be not Jack Falstaff, then am I a jack. There

is Percy. If your father will do me any honor, so; if

not, let him kill the next Percy himself. I look to be 145

either earl or duke, I can assure you.

PRINCE

Why, Percy I killed myself, and saw thee dead.

FALSTAFF Didst thou? Lord, Lord, how this world is

given to lying. I grant you, I was down and out of

breath, and so was he, but we rose both at an instant 150

and fought a long hour by Shrewsbury clock. If I

may be believed, so; if not, let them that should

reward valor bear the sin upon their own heads. I'll

154. **take . . . death:** i.e., swear an oath at the moment of my death (when the eternal life of my soul is at risk)

156–57. **eat . . . sword:** a comic variation on the cliché “eat his words”

160. **luggage:** i.e., that which you are lugging

161. **do thee grace:** bring you into favor (with the king)

162. **happiest:** most fitting; most favorable

164. **highest:** i.e., perhaps, highest ground (from which the battlefield may be surveyed)

167. **grow great:** i.e., be made a **duke** or **earl**

168. **purge:** (1) lose weight through purging; (2) repent

**5.5** The king's forces having won, King Henry condemns Worcester and Vernon to death, and the king and his supporters prepare to march against the remaining rebels.

1. **rebuke:** (1) shame, disgrace; (2) reproof

5. **tenor:** nature

6. **upon our party:** on our side

take it upon my death, I gave him this wound in the thigh. If the man were alive and would deny it, zounds, I would make him eat a piece of my sword. 155

LANCASTER

This is the strangest tale that ever I heard.

PRINCE

This is the strangest fellow, brother John.—  
Come bring your luggage nobly on your back. 160  
For my part, if a lie may do thee grace,  
I'll gild it with the happiest terms I have.

*A retreat is sounded.*

The trumpet sounds retreat; the day is 「ours.」  
Come, brother, let us to the highest of the field  
To see what friends are living, who are dead. 165

*They exit.*

FALSTAFF I'll follow, as they say, for reward. He that rewards me, God reward him. If I do grow great, I'll grow less, for I'll purge and leave sack and live cleanly as a nobleman should do.

*He exits 「carrying Hotspur's body.」*

「Scene 5」

*The trumpets sound. Enter the King, Prince of Wales, Lord John of Lancaster, Earl of Westmoreland, with Worcester and Vernon prisoners, 「and Soldiers.」*

KING

Thus ever did rebellion find rebuke.—  
Ill-spirited Worcester, did not we send grace,  
Pardon, and terms of love to all of you?  
And wouldst thou turn our offers contrary,  
Misuse the tenor of thy kinsman's trust?  
Three knights upon our party slain today,  
A noble earl, and many a creature else

10. **intelligence:** information  
 12. **patiently:** calmly  
 20. **Upon . . . fear:** i.e., in terrified retreat  
 27. **honorable bounty:** i.e., the honor of this kindness or generosity

Had been alive this hour  
 If, like a Christian, thou hadst truly borne  
 Betwixt our armies true intelligence.

10

WORCESTER

What I have done my safety urged me to.  
 And I embrace this fortune patiently,  
 Since not to be avoided it falls on me.

KING

Bear Worcester to the death, and Vernon too.  
 Other offenders we will pause upon.

15

*Worcester and Vernon exit, under guard.*

How goes the field?

PRINCE

The noble Scot, Lord Douglas, when he saw  
 The fortune of the day quite turned from him,  
 The noble Percy slain, and all his men  
 Upon the foot of fear, fled with the rest,  
 And, falling from a hill, he was so bruised  
 That the pursuers took him. At my tent  
 The Douglas is, and I beseech your Grace  
 I may dispose of him.

20

KING

With all my heart.

25

PRINCE

Then, brother John of Lancaster, to you  
 This honorable bounty shall belong.  
 Go to the Douglas and deliver him  
 Up to his pleasure, ransomless and free.  
 His valors shown upon our crests today  
 Have taught us how to cherish such high deeds,  
 Even in the bosom of our adversaries.

30

LANCASTER

I thank your Grace for this high courtesy,  
 Which I shall give away immediately.

KING

Then this remains, that we divide our power.  
 You, son John, and my cousin Westmoreland,

35

37. **bend you:** turn; **dearest:** greatest

43. **his:** its

44. **such another day:** i.e., another day such as this one

46. **leave:** stop (fighting)

Towards York shall bend you with your dearest  
speed

To meet Northumberland and the prelate Scroop,  
Who, as we hear, are busily in arms.

Myself and you, son Harry, will towards Wales  
To fight with Glendower and the Earl of March.

Rebellion in this land shall lose his sway,  
Meeting the check of such another day.

And since this business so fair is done,  
Let us not leave till all our own be won.

*They exit.*