

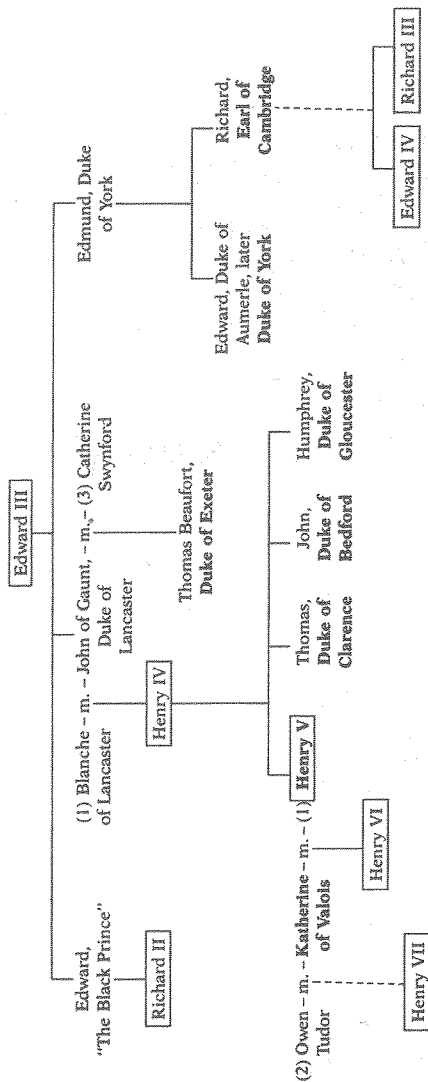
Then, when space allows, we rephrase in our own words the difficult passage, and add at the end synonyms for individual words in the passage. When scholars have been unable to determine the meaning of a word or phrase, we acknowledge the uncertainty.

*The Life of*

# HENRY V

## The Line of Edward III

[Characters in *Henry V* appear in bold]



## Characters in the Play

CHORUS

HENRY V, KING OF ENGLAND

THOMAS, DUKE OF EXETER, uncle to the King

HUMPHREY, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

JOHN, DUKE OF BEDFORD

THOMAS, DUKE OF CLARENCE

*brothers to the King*

DUKE OF YORK

EARL OF WESTMORELAND

EARL OF CAMBRIDGE

*cousins to the King*

EARL OF WARWICK

EARL OF SALISBURY

EARL OF HUNTINGTON

LORD SCROOP OF MASHAM

SIR THOMAS GREY

*English nobles*

HOSTESS QUICKLY

PISTOL

NYM

BARDOLPH

BOY, their servant

*former companions of Henry, now in his army*

SIR THOMAS ERPINGHAM

CAPTAIN FLUELLEN

CAPTAIN GOWER

CAPTAIN MACMORRIS

CAPTAIN JAMY

*officers in Henry's army*

## English heralds

JOHN BATES

ALEXANDER COURT

MICHAEL WILLIAMS

*soldiers in Henry's army*

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

BISHOP OF ELY

KING OF FRANCE

QUEEN ISABEL OF FRANCE

KATHERINE, Princess of France

ALICE, a gentlewoman attending on Katherine

DAUPHIN (i.e., Prince) of France

DUKE OF BERRI

DUKE OF BRITTANY

DUKE OF ORLÉANS

DUKE OF BOURBON

DUKE OF BURGUNDY

CONSTABLE OF FRANCE

LORD GRANDPRÉ

LORD RAMBURES

LORD BEAUMONT

*French nobles*

MONTJOY, French herald

French ambassadors to England

MONSIEUR LE FER, a French soldier

Governor of Harfleur

Lords, Attendants, Soldiers, French Prisoners, Messengers

*The Life of***HENRY V**

ACT 1

**Prologue.** The Chorus wishes for a far greater stage, actors, and audience. He apologizes for the scanty resources that are available and urges the audience to use its imagination to make up for them.

0 SD. **Chorus:** a character who tells the audience what they are about to see, or who comments on the action

1. **a muse:** an inspiring goddess (In mythology, the Muses were nine sister-goddesses, inspirers of the arts.); **fire:** the element that rose highest above the other elements of earth, water, and air

2. **invention:** inventiveness, creativity

3. **A kingdom for a stage:** i.e., I wish we had a whole kingdom as our stage

4. **swelling:** stately, majestic

5. **like himself:** i.e., represented in a fashion worthy of him

6. **port:** bearing; **Mars:** the Roman god of war

9. **for employment:** ready to do service; **gentles:** i.e., ladies and gentlemen (a polite, perhaps ingratiating, address to the audience)

10. **flat unraisèd:** dull, lifeless (in contrast to the **muse of fire**); **spirits:** i.e., actors and, perhaps, their playwright; **hath:** i.e., have

11. **scaffold:** platform, stage

12. **object:** sight, spectacle; **cockpit:** the open space (including the stage) enclosed by the theater's galleries (See "Shakespeare's Theater," pages xli-xliii.); literally, a small pit used for cockfighting

13. **vasty:** i.e., vast

(continued)

## PROLOGUE

Enter [Chorus as] Prologue.

[CHORUS]

O, for a muse of fire that would ascend  
The brightest heaven of invention!

A kingdom for a stage, princes to act,  
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene!  
Then should the warlike Harry, like himself,  
Assume the port of Mars, and at his heels,  
Leashed in like hounds, should famine, sword, and  
fire

Crouch for employment. But pardon, gentles all,  
The flat unraisèd spirits that hath dared  
On this unworthy scaffold to bring forth  
So great an object. Can this cockpit hold  
The vasty fields of France? Or may we cram  
Within this wooden O the very casques  
That did affright the air at Agincourt?

O pardon, since a crookèd figure may  
Attest in little place a million,  
And let us, ciphers to this great account,  
On your imaginary forces work.  
Suppose within the girdle of these walls  
Are now confined two mighty monarchies,  
Whose high uprearèd and abutting fronts



14. **wooden O:** i.e., theater (For the generally "round" shapes of the public theaters, see "Shakespeare's Theater," page xli, and the picture on page xxxii.); **the very casques:** i.e., even the helmets (of the knights)

15. **Agincourt:** site of Henry's most famous battle

16-17. **a crookèd . . . million:** i.e., a zero (or **cipher**), holding a place in a number, may multiply the number even to the value of a million **crookèd:** curved (i.e., round)

18. **account:** (1) sum; (2) story

19. **imaginary forces:** powers of imagination

22. **fronts:** (1) cliffs (of Dover and Calais); (2) frontiers

23. **narrow ocean:** i.e., English Channel

26. **puissance:** armed forces

31. **times:** i.e., periods of time

33. **for . . . supply:** i.e., for support in doing all this

34. **Admit me chorus to this history:** i.e., allow me to serve as commentator on this story

36. **Gently, kindly:** in a gentle, kind manner (with wordplay on *gentle* and *kind* as "well-born, gentlemanly")

The perilous narrow ocean parts asunder.  
Piece out our imperfections with your thoughts.  
Into a thousand parts divide one man,  
And make imaginary puissance.

25

Think, when we talk of horses, that you see them  
Printing their proud hoofs i' th' receiving earth,  
For 'tis your thoughts that now must deck our  
kings,

30

Carry them here and there, jumping o'er times,  
Turning th' accomplishment of many years  
Into an hourglass; for the which supply,  
Admit me chorus to this history,

Who, prologue-like, your humble patience pray  
Gently to hear, kindly to judge our play.

35

*He exits.*

1.1 The Bishop of Canterbury informs the Bishop of Ely of a bill threatening Church revenues and of a plan to postpone it by justifying King Henry's invasion of France to claim the French throne. Canterbury also reports his offer of a most generous contribution to the King to help finance the war.

0 SD. **Bishops:** To be historically accurate, the Folio should have given Canterbury the title "archbishop."

1. **self:** selfsame; **bill:** proposed act of Parliament

3. **like:** i.e., likely (to have passed)

4. **scambling:** contentious

5. **farther question:** further debate

8. **better:** i.e., greater

9-11. **For . . . valued thus:** i.e., they would take as much land bequeathed to the Church as would pay the following expenses **temporal:** i.e., used for worldly, rather than spiritual, purposes

13. **Full:** i.e., no fewer than

14. **esquires:** gentry, just below the rank of knight

15. **lazars:** lepers

16. **corporal toil:** manual labor

## ACT 1

### Scene 1

*Enter the two Bishops of Canterbury and Ely.*

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

My lord, I'll tell you that self bill is urged  
Which in th' eleventh year of the last king's reign  
Was like, and had indeed against us passed  
But that the scrambling and unquiet time  
Did push it out of farther question.

5

BISHOP OF ELY

But how, my lord, shall we resist it now?

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

It must be thought on. If it pass against us,  
We lose the better half of our possession,  
For all the temporal lands which men devout  
By testament have given to the Church  
Would they strip from us, being valued thus:  
"As much as would maintain, to the King's honor,  
Full fifteen earls and fifteen hundred knights,  
Six thousand and two hundred good esquires;  
And, to relief of lazars and weak age  
Of indigent faint souls past corporal toil,  
A hundred almshouses right well supplied;  
And to the coffers of the King besides,  
A thousand pounds by th' year." Thus runs the bill.

10

15

24. **grace:** graciousness; or, perhaps, heaven's grace; **fair:** kindly

26. **courses:** i.e., behavior (The story of Henry's wild youth is told in *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2.*)

28. **his:** i.e., Henry V's; **mortified:** deadened

30. **Consideration:** (1) spiritual meditation; (2) thoughtfulness

31. **th' offending Adam:** i.e., original sin (literally, Adam after he had sinned in the Garden of Eden, or **paradise**)

36. **currance:** flow

37. **Hydra-headed:** In mythology, the **Hydra** was a many-headed monster whose heads grew back as soon as they were cut off. (See page 164.)

38. **his:** i.e., its; **seat:** position of authority

41. **divinity:** theology

46. **List:** listen to

48. **cause of policy:** political concern

49. **Gordian knot:** in mythology, a knot that could not be untied because it was so intricately knotted (The Macedonian Alexander the Great, who conquered Asia in the fourth century B.C., according to legend cut through the knot with his sword. See page 182.)

50. **Familiar:** i.e., as if it were as familiar; **that:** i.e., so that

BISHOP OF ELY

This would drink deep.

20

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY 'Twould drink the cup and all.

BISHOP OF ELY But what prevention?

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The King is full of grace and fair regard.

BISHOP OF ELY

And a true lover of the holy Church.

25

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The courses of his youth promised it not.

The breath no sooner left his father's body

But that his wildness, mortified in him,

Seemed to die too. Yea, at that very moment

Consideration like an angel came

30

And whipped th' offending Adam out of him,

Leaving his body as a paradise

T' envelop and contain celestial spirits.

Never was such a sudden scholar made,

Never came reformation in a flood

35

With such a heady currance scouring faults,

Nor never Hydra-headed willfulness

So soon did lose his seat, and all at once,

As in this king.

BISHOP OF ELY We are blessed in the change.

40

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Hear him but reason in divinity

And, all-admiring, with an inward wish

You would desire the King were made a prelate;

Hear him debate of commonwealth affairs,

You would say it hath been all in all his study;

45

List his discourse of war, and you shall hear

A fearful battle rendered you in music;

Turn him to any cause of policy,

The Gordian knot of it he will unloose

Familiar as his garter; that, when he speaks,

50

51. **a chartered libertine:** i.e., one licensed to go his own way

53. **sentences:** wise sayings

54–55. **art . . . theoric:** i.e., his practical experience must have created his theoretical discourse

57. **courses vain:** worthless behavior

58. **rude:** (1) uneducated, ignorant; (2) unmannerly

59. **riots:** dissipation, extravagance

60. **And never:** i.e., and no one ever

61. **retirement, sequestration:** withdrawal

62. **open haunts and popularity:** public places and popular attractions

67. **which:** i.e., his contemplation

69. **crescive in his faculty:** i.e., growing by its own power

70. **miracles are ceased:** i.e., God no longer performs miracles

71–72. **admit the means / How:** acknowledge the natural ways by which

72. **perfected:** accented on the first syllable

74. **How now for mitigation:** i.e., what can be done to reduce the severity

77. **indifferent:** impartial

78. **upon our part;** i.e., toward our side

79. **exhibitors:** i.e., those sponsoring the Parliamentary bill

81. **Upon:** following upon; **spiritual convocation:** assembly of clergy

82. **in regard of:** with respect to; **causes now in hand:** matters now under discussion

83. **opened:** explained; **at large:** fully

84. **As touching:** concerning

The air, a chartered libertine, is still,  
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears  
To steal his sweet and honeyed sentences;  
So that the art and practic part of life  
Must be the mistress to this theoric;  
Which is a wonder how his Grace should glean it,  
Since his addiction was to courses vain,  
His companies unlettered, rude, and shallow,  
His hours filled up with riots, banquets, sports,  
And never noted in him any study,  
Any retirement, any sequestration  
From open haunts and popularity.

55

60

BISHOP OF ELY

The strawberry grows underneath the nettle;  
And wholesome berries thrive and ripen best  
Neighbored by fruit of baser quality;  
And so the Prince obscured his contemplation  
Under the veil of wildness, which, no doubt,  
Grew like the summer grass, fastest by night,  
Unseen yet crescive in his faculty.

65

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

It must be so, for miracles are ceased,  
And therefore we must needs admit the means  
How things are perfected.

70

BISHOP OF ELY

But, my good lord,  
How now for mitigation of this bill  
Urged by the Commons? Doth his Majesty  
Incline to it or no?

75

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

He seems indifferent,  
Or rather swaying more upon our part  
Than cherishing th' exhibitors against us;  
For I have made an offer to his Majesty—  
Upon our spiritual convocation  
And in regard of causes now in hand,  
Which I have opened to his Grace at large,  
As touching France—to give a greater sum

80

86. **withal**: with  
 88. **of**: i.e., by  
 89. **Save**: except  
 90. **fain**: gladly  
 91. **severals**: particulars; **unhidden passages**: i.e., clear lines of descent  
 93. **seat**: throne  
 94. **Edward**: i.e., Edward III, whose mother, Isabella, was the daughter of King Philip IV of France (Henry is thus a direct descendant of the French king Philip IV, but through the female line. See "Henry V's French Descent," page xv.)  
 96. **ambassador**: official messenger  
 100. **his embassy**: the French ambassador's message  
 103. **wait upon**: attend

1.2 At the King's request, Canterbury provides an extensive interpretation of French law to support Henry's claim to the French throne. After the court discusses ways of preventing a Scottish invasion of England while Henry is in France, Henry decides to go to war against France. The French ambassadors present Henry with a token of the Dauphin's insulting refusal to take seriously Henry's claims in France.

Than ever at one time the clergy yet  
 Did to his predecessors part withal. 85

BISHOP OF ELY

How did this offer seem received, my lord?

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

With good acceptance of his Majesty—

Save that there was not time enough to hear,  
 As I perceived his Grace would fain have done,  
 The severals and unhidden passages 90  
 Of his true titles to some certain dukedoms,  
 And generally to the crown and seat of France,  
 Derived from Edward, his great-grandfather.

BISHOP OF ELY

What was th' impediment that broke this off? 95

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The French ambassador upon that instant  
 Craved audience. And the hour, I think, is come  
 To give him hearing. Is it four o'clock?

BISHOP OF ELY It is.

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Then go we in to know his embassy,  
 Which I could with a ready guess declare  
 Before the Frenchman speak a word of it. 100

BISHOP OF ELY

I'll wait upon you, and I long to hear it.

*They exit.*

「Scene 2」

*Enter the King 「of England,」 Humphrey 「Duke of Gloucester,」 Bedford, Clarence, Warwick, Westmoreland, and Exeter, 「with other Attendants.」*

KING HENRY

Where is my gracious Lord of Canterbury?

2. **presence:** i.e., the king's presence chamber or reception room

5. **We:** i.e., I (Henry uses the royal "we" through much of this scene.)

5-6. **resolved . . . of:** freed from doubt . . . about

7. **task:** burden

9. **become:** grace, adorn

12. **unfold:** disclose

13. **law Salic:** This law will be described by Canterbury in lines 39-56.

14. **Or:** i.e., either; **our claim:** i.e., my claim to the French crown

16. **bow:** bend, force

18. **nicely charge:** subtly (and unwisely) burden

19. **With opening:** by declaring; **titles miscreate:** unfounded claims

20. **Suits not in native colors:** i.e., does not match

22. **approbation:** proof, support

23. **reverence:** perhaps, age, position as a venerable person

24. **impawn:** pledge

26. **charge:** command

29. **woe:** curse; **sore:** grievous

30. **wrongs:** wrongdoings

30-32. **gives . . . makes:** i.e., give . . . make

EXETER

Not here in presence.

KING HENRY

Send for him, good uncle.

WESTMORELAND

Shall we call in th' Ambassador, my liege?

KING HENRY

Not yet, my cousin. We would be resolved,

Before we hear him, of some things of weight

That task our thoughts concerning us and France.

*Enter [the] two Bishops [of Canterbury and Ely.]*

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

God and his angels guard your sacred throne

And make you long become it.

KING HENRY

Sure we thank you.

My learned lord, we pray you to proceed

And justly and religiously unfold

Why the law Salic that they have in France

Or should or should not bar us in our claim.

And God forbid, my dear and faithful lord,

That you should fashion, wrest, or bow your

reading,

Or nicely charge your understanding soul

With opening titles miscreate, whose right

Suits not in native colors with the truth;

For God doth know how many now in health

Shall drop their blood in approbation

Of what your reverence shall incite us to.

Therefore take heed how you impawn our person,

How you awake our sleeping sword of war.

We charge you in the name of God, take heed,

For never two such kingdoms did contend

Without much fall of blood, whose guiltless drops

Are every one a woe, a sore complaint

'Gainst him whose wrongs gives edge unto the

swords

32. **makes . . . waste:** cause . . . destruction; **mortality:** i.e., human lives

33. **conjunction:** solemn command

39. **There is no bar:** Canterbury's discussion of this **bar** addresses the fact that Henry's claim is through the female line.

41. **Pharamond:** a legendary Frankish king

43. **succeed:** i.e., inherit property or titles

44. **gloze:** gloss, explain

46. **this . . . bar:** i.e., this prohibition against women being heirs

49. **floods:** rivers

50. **Charles the Great:** i.e., Charlemagne (A.D. 742–814) See page 22.

54. **dishonest:** unchaste

55. **to wit:** namely

62. **four . . . twenty:** Actually, the correct calculation is 379. (This error derives from Holinshed's *Chronicle*, a source for *Henry V*.)

63. **defunction:** i.e., the death

64. **Idly supposed:** i.e., claimed without grounds to be

65. **within . . . redemption:** anno Domini (A.D.), literally, in the year of the Lord

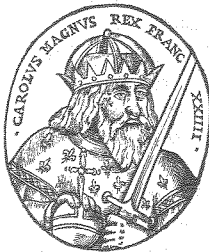
That makes such waste in brief mortality.  
Under this conjunction, speak, my lord,  
For we will hear, note, and believe in heart  
That what you speak is in your conscience washed 35  
As pure as sin with baptism.

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Then hear me, gracious sovereign, and you peers  
That owe yourselves, your lives, and services  
To this imperial throne. There is no bar  
To make against your Highness' claim to France 40  
But this, which they produce from Pharamond:  
"In terram Salicam mulieres ne succedant"  
(No woman shall succeed in Salic land),  
Which Salic land the French unjustly gloze  
To be the realm of France, and Pharamond 45  
The founder of this law and female bar.  
Yet their own authors faithfully affirm  
That the land Salic is in Germany,  
Between the floods of Sala and of Elbe,  
Where Charles the Great, having subdued the 50  
Saxons,

There left behind and settled certain French,  
Who, holding in disdain the German women  
For some dishonest manners of their life,  
Established then this law: to wit, no female 55  
Should be inheritrix in Salic land,  
Which "Salic," as I said, 'twixt Elbe and Sala  
Is at this day in Germany called Meissen.  
Then doth it well appear the Salic law  
Was not devised for the realm of France, 60  
Nor did the French possess the Salic land  
Until four hundred one and twenty years  
After defunction of King Pharamond,  
Idly supposed the founder of this law,  
Who died within the year of our redemption 65  
Four hundred twenty-six; and Charles the Great

67. **seat**: settle  
 70. **which**: i.e., who  
 71. **heir general**: heir-at-law, one who succeeds another by right of blood relation  
 77. **find**: provide; **shows**: semblances  
 78. **naught**: worthless  
 79. **Conveyed**: derived  
 80. **Charlemagne**: in fact, Charles II, not Charlemagne (Again the error is found in Holinshed.)  
 82. **Tenth**: actually, Ninth (again as in Holinshed)  
 87. **lineal of**: directly descended from  
 93. **Lewis his**: i.e., Lewis's  
 94. **hold . . . of**: derive . . . from  
 96. **Howbeit**: i.e., however much  
 98. **them**: i.e., themselves; **net**: tangle (of contradictory rules for succession)  
 99. **imbar**: i.e., embar, bar



Charlemagne, or "Charles the Great." (1.2.50)  
 From H.C., *Abbrege de l'histoire Frâçoise* . . . (1596).

Subdued the Saxons and did seat the French  
 Beyond the river Sala in the year  
 Eight hundred five. Besides, their writers say,  
 King Pepin, which deposèd Childeric, 70  
 Did, as heir general, being descended  
 Of Blithild, which was daughter to King Clothair,  
 Make claim and title to the crown of France.  
 Hugh Capet also, who usurped the crown  
 Of Charles the Duke of Lorraine, sole heir male 75  
 Of the true line and stock of Charles the Great,  
 To find his title with some shows of truth,  
 Though in pure truth it was corrupt and naught,  
 Conveyed himself as th' heir to th' Lady Lingare,  
 Daughter to Charlemagne, who was the son 80  
 To Lewis the Emperor, and Lewis the son  
 Of Charles the Great. Also King Lewis the Tenth,  
 Who was sole heir to the usurper Capet,  
 Could not keep quiet in his conscience;  
 Wearing the crown of France, till satisfied 85  
 That fair Queen Isabel, his grandmother,  
 Was lineal of the Lady Ermengare,  
 Daughter to Charles the foresaid Duke of Lorraine:  
 By the which marriage the line of Charles the Great  
 Was reunited to the crown of France. 90  
 So that, as clear as is the summer's sun,  
 King Pepin's title and Hugh Capet's claim,  
 King Lewis his satisfaction, all appear  
 To hold in right and title of the female.  
 So do the kings of France unto this day, 95  
 Howbeit they would hold up this Salic law  
 To bar your Highness claiming from the female,  
 And rather choose to hide them in a net  
 Than amply to imbar their crooked titles  
 Usurped from you and your progenitors. 100

KING HENRY

May I with right and conscience make this claim?



104–5. **When . . . daughter:** This is a partial version of Numbers 27.8, which reads in full: “If a man die, and have no son, you shall turn his inheritance unto his daughter.”

106. **unwind:** unfurl

108. **great-grandsire:** i.e., great-grandfather, Edward III (See note to 1.1.94, and pages 2 and 36.)

110. **Edward the Black Prince:** eldest son of Edward III

111. **played a tragedy:** an allusion to the Battle of Crécy in 1346

112. **power:** army

114. **his lion’s whelp:** i.e., his son (The lion is traditionally associated with the monarch.)

116. **entertain:** engage

119. **for:** i.e., for lack of

123. **renowned them:** i.e., made them renowned

132. **So hath your Highness:** i.e., so, in fact, you have



The lion as monarch. (1.2.114)  
From John Speed, *A prospect of the  
most famous part of the world* (1631).

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The sin upon my head, dread sovereign,  
For in the Book of Numbers is it writ:  
“When the man dies, let the inheritance  
Descend unto the daughter.” Gracious lord, 105  
Stand for your own, unwind your bloody flag,  
Look back into your mighty ancestors.  
Go, my dread lord, to your great-grandsire’s tomb,  
From whom you claim; invoke his warlike spirit  
And your great-uncle’s, Edward the Black Prince, 110  
Who on the French ground played a tragedy,  
Making defeat on the full power of France  
Whiles his most mighty father on a hill  
Stood smiling to behold his lion’s whelp  
Forage in blood of French nobility. 115  
O noble English, that could entertain  
With half their forces the full pride of France  
And let another half stand laughing by,  
All out of work and cold for action!

BISHOP OF ELY

Awake remembrance of these valiant dead 120  
And with your puissant arm renew their feats.  
You are their heir, you sit upon their throne,  
The blood and courage that renowned them  
Runs in your veins; and my thrice-puissant liege  
Is in the very May-morn of his youth, 125  
Ripe for exploits and mighty enterprises.

EXETER

Your brother kings and monarchs of the earth  
Do all expect that you should rouse yourself  
As did the former lions of your blood.

WESTMORELAND

They know your Grace hath cause and means and 130  
might;  
So hath your Highness. Never king of England  
Had nobles richer, and more loyal subjects,

135. **pavilioned:** in (grand military) tents  
 138. **spirituality:** clergy  
 143. **lay . . . proportions:** i.e., determine the proportion of our troops to be employed  
 144. **road:** i.e., raid  
 145. **With all advantages:** i.e., with all things in his favor  
 146. **of those marches:** i.e., who live in the borderlands  
 149. **coursing snatchers:** i.e., thieving riders  
 150. **main intendment:** general (hostile) intention  
 151. **still:** always; **giddy:** inconstant, flighty  
 154. **unfurnished:** unprovided, unprepared  
 157. **Galling:** (1) chafing, irritating; (2) harassing, annoying in battle; **gleanèd:** i.e., reaped (stripped of its defenders); **assays:** attacks  
 160. **ill neighborhood:** evil relations between neighbors  
 161. **She:** i.e., England; **feared:** perhaps, frightened (though England's actions, which Canterbury goes on to describe, could have caused her to be **feared** in the usual sense)  
 163. **hear . . . herself:** i.e., only listen to how she herself provides an instance (or model)  
 164. **chivalry hath:** knights have

Whose hearts have left their bodies here in England  
 And lie pavilioned in the fields of France. 135

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

O, let their bodies follow, my dear liege,  
 With 'blood' and sword and fire to win your right,  
 In aid whereof we of the spirituality  
 Will raise your Highness such a mighty sum  
 As never did the clergy at one time 140  
 Bring in to any of your ancestors.

KING HENRY

We must not only arm t' invade the French,  
 But lay down our proportions to defend  
 Against the Scot, who will make road upon us  
 With all advantages. 145

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

They of those marches, gracious sovereign,  
 Shall be a wall sufficient to defend  
 Our inland from the pilfering borderers.

KING HENRY

We do not mean the coursing snatchers only,  
 But fear the main intendment of the Scot,  
 Who hath been still a giddy neighbor to us. 150

For you shall read that my great-grandfather  
 Never went with his forces into France  
 But that the Scot on his unfurnished kingdom  
 Came pouring like the tide into a breach 155  
 With ample and brim fullness of his force,

Galling the gleanèd land with hot assays,  
 Girding with grievous siege castles and towns,  
 That England, being empty of defense,  
 Hath shook and trembled at th' ill neighborhood. 160

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

She hath been then more feared than harmed, my  
 liege,  
 For hear her but exemplified by herself:  
 When all her chivalry hath been in France

167. **impounded . . . stray:** i.e., confined in a pen as if he were a stray animal

168. **King of Scots:** David II, captured at Neville's Cross in 1346, while King Edward III was in France

171. **ooze and bottom:** i.e., oozy bottom

172. **sunken wrack:** wrecked ships; **sumless:** incalculable

174. **If that:** i.e., if

176. **in prey:** i.e., away seeking prey

180. **'tame and havoc:** i.e., spoil **'tame:** attame, or pierce **havoc:** lay waste

182. **that . . . crushed necessity:** i.e., Ely's conclusion that the cat (Henry) must stay home is forced, not logical

184. **pretty:** ingenious

185. **While that:** i.e., while

185-86. **hand . . . head:** The state is here represented as a human body. **advised:** wary, cautious

187-90. **government . . . Like music:** Cooperation among the social ranks who make up government is compared to a song sung in parts for high, low, and lower voices. **keep . . . consent:** (1) agree as to a course of action; (2) sing in harmony **Congreeing:** agreeing **close:** (1) closing together, union; (2) conclusion of a segment of music

194. **aim or butt:** target

196. **by a rule in nature:** (1) through the rulership that is natural to them; (2) by virtue of the natural law that controls them

197. **The act of order:** i.e., orderly action

And she a mourning widow of her nobles, 165

She hath herself not only well defended

But taken and impounded as a stray

The King of Scots, whom she did send to France

To fill King Edward's fame with prisoner kings

And make <sup>her</sup> chronicle as rich with praise 170

As is the ooze and bottom of the sea

With sunken wrack and sumless treasures.

BISHOP OF ELY

But there's a saying very old and true:

"If that you will France win,

Then with Scotland first begin." 175

For once the eagle England being in prey,

To her unguarded nest the weasel Scot

Comes sneaking and so sucks her princely eggs,

Playing the mouse in absence of the cat,

To 'tame and havoc more than she can eat. 180

EXETER

It follows, then, the cat must stay at home.

Yet that is but a crushed necessity,

Since we have locks to safeguard necessities

And pretty traps to catch the petty thieves.

While that the armed hand doth fight abroad, 185

Th' advised head defends itself at home.

For government, though high and low and lower,

Put into parts, doth keep in one consent,

Congreeing in a full and natural close,

Like music. 190

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Therefore doth heaven divide

The state of man in divers functions,

Setting endeavor in continual motion,

To which is fixed as an aim or butt

Obedience; for so work the honeybees,

Creatures that by a rule in nature teach 195

The act of order to a peopled kingdom.

198. **They have a king:** a widespread error deriving from the Greek philosopher Aristotle (384–322 B.C.); **officers of sorts:** various ranks of officers

199. **correct:** punish

202. **Make boot:** prey

205. **majesty:** royal dignity

207. **civil:** orderly, well-governed

208. **mechanic:** base, low

210. **sad-eyed:** serious-eyed

211. **executors:** executioners

213–14. **having full reference / To one consent:** i.e., in complete agreement about their purpose  
**consent:** agreement as to a course of action

215. **As:** i.e., just as; **loosèd several ways:** i.e., shot from different places

216. **ways:** roads

218. **close:** unite; **dial's:** sundial's

224. **withal:** nevertheless; **Gallia:** France

225. **powers:** armies

227. **worried:** (1) assailed; (2) bitten and shaken (as by dogs)

228. **The name of:** i.e., its reputation for

229. **Dauphin:** heir to the throne of France

230. **are we well resolved:** i.e., I am (1) utterly determined; (2) fully convinced

They have a king and officers of sorts,  
Where some like magistrates correct at home,  
Others like merchants venture trade abroad, 200  
Others like soldiers armèd in their stings  
Make boot upon the summer's velvet buds,  
Which pillage they with merry march bring home  
To the tent royal of their emperor,  
Who, busied in his 'majesty,' surveys 205  
The singing masons building roofs of gold,  
The civil citizens kneading up the honey,  
The poor mechanic porters crowding in  
Their heavy burdens at his narrow gate,  
The sad-eyed justice with his surly hum 210  
Delivering o'er to executors pale  
The lazy yawning drone. I this infer:  
That many things, having full reference  
To one consent, may work contrariously,  
As many arrows loosèd several ways 215  
Come to one mark, as many ways meet in one town,  
As many fresh streams meet in one salt sea,  
As many lines close in the dial's center,  
So may a thousand actions, once afoot,  
'End' in one purpose and be all well borne 220  
Without defeat. Therefore to France, my liege!  
Divide your happy England into four,  
Whereof take you one quarter into France,  
And you withal shall make all Gallia shake.  
If we, with thrice such powers left at home, 225  
Cannot defend our own doors from the dog,  
Let us be worried, and our nation lose  
The name of hardiness and policy.

KING HENRY

Call in the messengers sent from the Dauphin.

*'Attendants exit.'*

Now are we well resolved, and by God's help 230  
And yours, the noble sinews of our power,

232. **France being ours:** i.e., since France is mine;  
**awe:** power to inspire fear

233. **Or there we'll sit:** i.e., either I'll sit there

234. **emperry:** absolute dominion or authority

236. **urn:** grave

237. **remembrance:** memorial inscription

238. **with full mouth:** with the utmost force

240. **Turkish mute:** perhaps, a tongueless slave in  
a sultan's palace

241. **Not worshiped . . . epitaph:** i.e., not hon-  
ored by an inscription carved even in perishable wax

243. **cousin:** For Henry's blood relationship to the  
French royal family, see page xv.

246. **what we have in charge:** i.e., what we have  
been commanded to say

247. **sparingly:** with reserve; **far off:** at many  
removes

248. **embassy:** i.e., message

250. **grace:** (1) graciousness; (2) virtue

254. **in few:** i.e., briefly

260. **advised:** warned

261. **galliard:** lively dance

263. **meeter:** more fitting

France being ours, we'll bend it to our awe  
Or break it all to pieces. Or there we'll sit,  
Ruling in large and ample empery  
O'er France and all her almost kingly dukedoms, 235  
Or lay these bones in an unworthy urn,  
Tombless, with no remembrance over them.  
Either our history shall with full mouth  
Speak freely of our acts, or else our grave,  
Like Turkish mute, shall have a tongueless mouth, 240  
Not worshiped with a waxen epitaph.

*Enter Ambassadors of France, [with Attendants.]*

Now are we well prepared to know the pleasure  
Of our fair cousin Dauphin, for we hear  
Your greeting is from him, not from the King.

AMBASSADOR

May 't please your Majesty to give us leave 245  
Freely to render what we have in charge,  
Or shall we sparingly show you far off  
The Dauphin's meaning and our embassy?

KING HENRY

We are no tyrant, but a Christian king,  
Unto whose grace our passion is as subject 250  
As is our wretches fettered in our prisons.  
Therefore with frank and with uncurbèd plainness  
Tell us the Dauphin's mind.

AMBASSADOR

Thus, then, in few: 255  
Your Highness, lately sending into France,  
Did claim some certain dukedoms in the right  
Of your great predecessor, King Edward the Third;  
In answer of which claim, the Prince our master  
Says that you savor too much of your youth  
And bids you be advised there's naught in France 260  
That can be with a nimble galliard won;  
You cannot revel into dukedoms there.  
He therefore sends you, meeter for your spirit,

264. **tun**: chest; **in lieu of**: in return for

270. **pleasant**: jocular

272. **our rackets**: Here begins an extended comparison of Henry's proposed invasion of France and a game (**set**) of royal tennis, which was played inside a walled court.

274. **hazard**: hole in the wall of a royal tennis court

276. **wrangler**: debater (especially in a court of law)

277. **courts**: (1) royal courts; (2) tennis courts

278. **chases**: (1) winning strokes in tennis; (2) routs of enemies in battles

279. **comes o'er**: i.e., demeans me by citing; **our wilder days**: See note to 1.1.26.

281. **seat**: (1) throne; (2) place of habitation

284. **merriest**: most self-indulgent; **from**: i.e., away from

285-89. **I will keep . . . days**: Henry declares that he will appear all the more as a glorious king on the French throne because he has before seemed so unglamorous and unkingly. **keep my state**: observe the pomp and ceremony of kingship **rouse me**: raise myself up **For that**: because **for**: i.e., ready for

293. **pleasant**: joking

294. **gun-stones**: cannonballs; or, bullets

295. **stand sore chargèd**: be grievously burdened; **wasteful**: destructive; **vengeance**: i.e., Henry's revenge against the Dauphin for sending the tennis balls

This tun of treasure and, in lieu of this,  
Desires you let the dukedoms that you claim  
Hear no more of you. This the Dauphin speaks.

265

KING HENRY What treasure, uncle?

EXETER

Tennis balls,

my liege.

KING HENRY

We are glad the Dauphin is so pleasant with us.

270

His present and your pains we thank you for.

When we have matched our rackets to these balls,

We will in France, by God's grace, play a set

Shall strike his father's crown into the hazard.

Tell him he hath made a match with such a

275

wrangler

That all the courts of France will be disturbed

With chases. And we understand him well,

How he comes o'er us with our wilder days,

Not measuring what use we made of them.

280

We never valued this poor seat of England,

And therefore, living hence, did give ourself

To barbarous license, as 'tis ever common

That men are merriest when they are from home.

But tell the Dauphin I will keep my state,

285

Be like a king, and show my sail of greatness

When I do rouse me in my throne of France,

For that I have laid by my majesty

And plodded like a man for working days;

But I will rise there with so full a glory

290

That I will dazzle all the eyes of France,

Yea, strike the Dauphin blind to look on us.

And tell the pleasant prince this mock of his

Hath turned his balls to gun-stones, and his soul

Shall stand sore chargèd for the wasteful vengeance

295

That shall fly with them; for many a thousand

widows

Shall this his mock mock out of their dear husbands,

300. **ungotten:** unbegotten, not conceived  
 305. **venge:** avenge  
 306. **well-hallowed:** thoroughly sanctified  
 313. **happy:** favorable, fortunate  
 316. **Save those to:** except for those thoughts of;  
**run before:** have priority over

317. **proportions:** See lines 222–23, where it is suggested that a proportion of one-quarter of England's troops invade France.

320. **God before:** i.e., with God before us (as our leader)



King Edward III holding "a sword . . . with crowns imperial." (2.Chor.9–10)  
 From John Taylor, *All the workes of . . .* (1630).

Mock mothers from their sons, mock castles down;  
 And some are yet ungotten and unborn 300  
 That shall have cause to curse the Dauphin's scorn.  
 But this lies all within the will of God,  
 To whom I do appeal, and in whose name  
 Tell you the Dauphin I am coming on,  
 To venge me as I may and to put forth 305  
 My rightful hand in a well-hallowed cause.  
 So get you hence in peace. And tell the Dauphin  
 His jest will savor but of shallow wit  
 When thousands weep more than did laugh at it.—  
 Convey them with safe conduct.—Fare you well. 310

*Ambassadors exit, [with Attendants.]*

EXETER This was a merry message.

KING HENRY

We hope to make the sender blush at it.  
 Therefore, my lords, omit no happy hour  
 That may give furth'rance to our expedition;  
 For we have now no thought in us but France, 315  
 Save those to God, that run before our business.  
 Therefore let our proportions for these wars  
 Be soon collected, and all things thought upon  
 That may with reasonable swiftness add  
 More feathers to our wings. For, God before, 320  
 We'll chide this Dauphin at his father's door.  
 Therefore let every man now task his thought,  
 That this fair action may on foot be brought.

*Flourish. They exit.*

*The Life of*

# HENRY V

---

ACT 2



**2.Chorus** The Chorus announces the enthusiastic support of English youth for Henry's French campaign, but also advises that the French have bribed three noblemen to attempt Henry's assassination.

2. **dalliance:** trivial activities, and the clothes worn for them

3. **honor's thought:** i.e., the thought of honor

5. **horse:** i.e., great warhorse

6. **mirror:** paragon

7. **Mercurys:** Mercury is the messenger of the gods in Roman mythology, depicted with wings at the heels of his sandals. (See page 52.)

9. **hilts:** crosspiece on the sword handle (See page 36.); **unto:** i.e., up to

10. **crowns imperial:** emperors' crowns

12. **advised:** warned; **intelligence:** information

14. **pale:** i.e., cowardly; **policy:** cunning tricks

16. **England:** i.e., the little island itself; **model to:** replica of

18. **would:** i.e., would have

19. **kind:** naturally filial or devoted to you

20. **fault:** flaw, crack; moral failing

21. **hollow:** (1) false; (2) empty; **bosoms:** (1) seats of loyalty; (2) places in clothes for the concealment of money

22. **crowns:** coins

## ACT 2

*Enter Chorus.*

### CHORUS

Now all the youth of England are on fire,  
And silken dalliance in the wardrobe lies;  
Now thrive the armorers, and honor's thought  
Reigns solely in the breast of every man.

They sell the pasture now to buy the horse,  
Following the mirror of all Christian kings  
With wingèd heels, as English Mercurys.

For now sits Expectation in the air  
And hides a sword, from hilts unto the point,  
With crowns imperial, crowns, and coronets  
Promised to Harry and his followers.

The French, advised by good intelligence  
Of this most dreadful preparation,  
Shake in their fear, and with pale policy  
Seek to divert the English purposes.

O England, model to thy inward greatness,  
Like little body with a mighty heart,  
What might'st thou do, that honor would thee do,  
Were all thy children kind and natural!

But see, thy fault France hath in thee found out,  
A nest of hollow bosoms, which he fills  
With treacherous crowns, and three corrupted men—  
One, Richard, Earl of Cambridge, and the second,

26. **gilt:** i.e., gold  
 28. **grace of:** perhaps, most gracious  
 29. **hold:** keep  
 30. **Ere:** before  
 31. **Linger . . . on:** i.e., be patient and stay with us;  
**digest:** i.e., put up with, endure, brook, stomach  
 32. **Th' abuse of distance:** perhaps, the way spatial distance is portrayed onstage  
 34. **is set:** i.e., has set out  
 37. **safe:** i.e., safely  
 38. **charming:** i.e., putting a magic charm on;  
**narrow seas:** i.e., English Channel  
 39. **pass:** passage  
 40. **not . . . stomach:** (1) not make anybody seasick; (2) not do anything in bad taste  
 41–42. **But . . . scene:** Despite the promise in lines 34–35, the scene does not shift to Southampton until Scene 2. See longer note, page 239.

2.1 King Henry's former tavern companion Bardolph prevents Pistol and Nym from fighting over Hostess Quickly, Pistol's wife. They are interrupted by the news that Sir John Falstaff, once Henry's intimate friend, is gravely ill.

0 SD. **Nym:** To "nim" is to steal.

1, 2, 3. **Corporal, Lieutenant, Ancient:** These military titles seem not to have the precision they might in a modern army. Bardolph, for example, is later called "corporal." An **ancient** was a standard-bearer, or ensign.

(continued)

Henry, Lord Scroop of Masham, and the third,  
 Sir Thomas Grey, knight, of Northumberland— 25  
 Have, for the gilt of France (O guilt indeed!),  
 Confirmed conspiracy with fearful France,  
 And by their hands this grace of kings must die,  
 If hell and treason hold their promises,  
 Ere he take ship for France, and in Southampton. 30  
 Linger your patience on, and we'll digest  
 Th' abuse of distance, force a play.  
 The sum is paid, the traitors are agreed,  
 The King is set from London, and the scene  
 Is now transported, gentles, to Southampton. 35  
 There is the playhouse now, there must you sit,  
 And thence to France shall we convey you safe  
 And bring you back, charming the narrow seas  
 To give you gentle pass; for, if we may,  
 We'll not offend one stomach with our play. 40  
 But, till the King come forth, and not till then,  
 Unto Southampton do we shift our scene.

*He exits.*

「Scene 1」

*Enter Corporal Nym and Lieutenant Bardolph.*

BARDOLPH Well met, Corporal Nym.

NYM Good morrow, Lieutenant Bardolph.

BARDOLPH What, are Ancient Pistol and you friends yet?

NYM For my part, I care not. I say little, but when time shall serve, there shall be smiles; but that shall be as it may. I dare not fight, but I will wink and hold out mine iron. It is a simple one, but what though? It will toast cheese, and it will endure cold as another man's sword will, and there's an end. 5 10

BARDOLPH I will bestow a breakfast to make you

7. **wink:** i.e., shut my eyes

8. **iron:** i.e., sword; **what though:** i.e., why not (Nym is given language that is odd and often unidiomatic.)

16. **my rest:** the last of my stake (in the game of primero)

17. **rendezvous:** last resort

18. **he:** i.e., Pistol

20. **troth-plight:** betrothed, engaged

28. **patient:** calm

28-29. **How . . . Pistol:** See longer note, page 239.

30. **tyke:** mongrel cur

35. **by . . . needles:** i.e., as seamstresses

36. **thought we . . . straight:** i.e., immediately thought that we

37. **well-a-day:** exclamation of sorrow; **Lady:** i.e., by our Lady (the Virgin Mary)

37-38. **If . . . committed:** The humor of many of Hostess Quickly's speeches arises from their utter lack of logic combined with her misuse of particular words.

39-40. **offer . . . here:** i.e., do not fight

41. **Pish:** expression of disgust or contempt

42. **Iceland dog:** a small, hairy, quarrelsome breed of dog

friends, and we'll be all three sworn brothers to France. Let 't be so, good Corporal Nym.

NYM Faith, I will live so long as I may, that's the certain of it; and when I cannot live any longer, I will do as I may. That is my rest, that is the rendezvous of it. 15

BARDOLPH It is certain, corporal, that he is married to Nell Quickly, and certainly she did you wrong, for you were troth-plight to her. 20

NYM I cannot tell. Things must be as they may. Men may sleep, and they may have their throats about them at that time, and some say knives have edges. It must be as it may. Though patience be a tired 'mare,' yet she will plod. There must be conclusions. Well, I cannot tell. 25

*Enter Pistol and 'Hostess' Quickly.*

BARDOLPH Here comes Ancient Pistol and his wife. Good corporal, be patient here.—How now, mine host Pistol?

PISTOL Base tyke, call'st thou me host? Now, by this hand, I swear I scorn the term, nor shall my Nell keep lodgers. 30

HOSTESS No, by my troth, not long; for we cannot lodge and board a dozen or fourteen gentlewomen that live honestly by the prick of their needles but it will be thought we keep a bawdy house straight. 35

*'Nym and Pistol draw their swords.'*

O well-a-day, Lady! If he be not hewn now, we shall see willful adultery and murder committed.

BARDOLPH Good lieutenant, good corporal, offer nothing here. 40

NYM Pish!

PISTOL Pish for thee, Iceland dog, thou prick-eared cur of Iceland!

46. **shog off**: go away

47. **solus**: alone (Latin)

48. **O viper vile**: Pistol's speech is characterized by scraps of poetry, archaic language, and echoes of ranting speeches (sometimes from other plays).

51. **maw**: stomach; **perdy**: i.e., by God (French, *par Dieu*)

53. **take**: strike

53-54. **Pistol's cock . . . follow**: i.e., my hammer is cocked and ready to fire (**Cock** may also mean "penis" or "pizzle," a pronunciation of **Pistol**.)

55. **Barbason**: a name for a devil; **conjure**: Nym responds as if Pistol were reciting the *conjuration*, or conjuring part of the ceremony of exorcism.

56. **humor**: inclination, fancy

56-58. **If . . . rapier**: i.e., (1) if you, a pistol, become fouled, I'll clean your barrel with my ramrod; (2) if you speak foully, I'll stab you with my rapier

60. **that's the humor of it**: i.e., that's the way it is (See longer note, page 239.)

61. **wight**: creature

63. **exhale**: i.e., evaporate; breathe out (your last breath)

67. **mickle**: much (Like much of Pistol's bombastic language, this word was already archaic in Shakespeare's time.)

68. **spirits**: courage, vital powers

69. **tall**: bold, brave

72. **Couple à gorge**: corrupt French for "cut the throat"; **the word**: i.e., our motto

73. **hound of Crete**: a breed of hunting dog

74. **spital**: hospital; **powd'ring tub**: a sweating tub for the treatment of venereal disease

(continued)

HOSTESS Good Corporal Nym, show thy valor, and put up your sword.

NYM Will you shog off? *['To Pistol.]* I would have you *solus*.

PISTOL "*Solus*," egregious dog? O viper vile, the *solus* in thy most marvelous face, the *solus* in thy teeth and in thy throat and in thy hateful lungs, yea, in thy maw, perdy, and, which is worse, within thy nasty mouth! I do retort the *solus* in thy bowels, for I can take, and Pistol's cock is up, and flashing fire will follow.

NYM I am not Barbason, you cannot conjure me. I have an humor to knock you indifferently well. If you grow foul with me, Pistol, I will scour you with my rapier, as I may, in fair terms. If you would walk off, I would prick your guts a little in good terms, as I may, and that's the humor of it.

PISTOL  
O braggart vile and damnèd furious wight,  
The grave doth gape, and doting death is near.  
Therefore exhale.

BARDOLPH Hear me, hear me what I say: he that strikes the first stroke, I'll run him up to the hilts, as I am a soldier. *['He draws.]*

PISTOL An oath of mickle might, and fury shall abate. *['Pistol and Nym and then Bardolph sheathe their swords.]*

Give me thy fist, thy forefoot to me give. Thy spirits are most tall.

NYM, *['to Pistol']* I will cut thy throat one time or other in fair terms, that is the humor of it.

PISTOL *Couple à gorge*, that is the word. I defy thee again. O hound of Crete, think'st thou my spouse to get? No, to the spital go, and from the powd'ring tub of infamy fetch forth the lazar kite of Cressid's kind, Doll Tearsheet she by name, and her espouse. I

75. **lazar**: leprosy (Leprosy was associated with venereal disease.); **kite**: bird of prey; carrion bird; **Cressid's kind**: i.e., like Cressida (a leprous prostitute) (See longer note, page 239.)

76. **Doll Tearsheet**: a prostitute who appears in *Henry IV, Part 2*

77. **quondam**: former (**Quickly** is the maiden name of Pistol's wife.)

78. **pauca**: from *pauca verba*, Latin for "few words"; **Go to**: an expression of angry impatience

79. **my master**: i.e., Sir John Falstaff

80. **would**: i.e., wishes to go

81. **thy face**: In 3.6 (as in Shakespeare's *Henry IV* plays), Bardolph's face is described as inflamed with boils and pimples.

82. **do the office**: perform the function

85. **yield the crow a pudding**: i.e., make a meal for scavengers

86. **The King . . . heart**: In *Henry IV, Part 2*, as soon as King Henry V succeeds to the throne, he banishes Falstaff.

95. **That**: i.e., the money I am owed

96. **As . . . home**: apparently, an invitation to fight

100. **Sword**: i.e., "S word," or "God's word," an oath

102. **an**: i.e., if

104. **put up**: i.e., put away your sword

105. **noble**: a coin worth somewhat less than the eight shillings Nym has demanded

have, and I will hold, the quondam Quickly for the only she: and *pauca*, there's enough too! Go to.

*Enter the Boy.*

BOY Mine host Pistol, you must come to my master, and your hostess. He is very sick and would to bed.—Good Bardolph, put thy face between his sheets, and do the office of a warming-pan. Faith, he's very ill. 80

BARDOLPH Away, you rogue!

HOSTESS By my troth, he'll yield the crow a pudding one of these days. The King has killed his heart. 85  
Good husband, come home presently.

*She exits with the Boy.*

BARDOLPH Come, shall I make you two friends? We must to France together. Why the devil should we keep knives to cut one another's throats? 90

PISTOL

Let floods o'erswell and fiends for food howl on!

NYM You'll pay me the eight shillings I won of you at betting?

PISTOL Base is the slave that pays.

NYM That now I will have, that's the humor of it. 95

PISTOL As manhood shall compound. Push home.

*They draw.*

BARDOLPH, *drawing his sword* By this sword, he that makes the first thrust, I'll kill him. By this sword, I will.

PISTOL, *sheathing his sword* "Sword" is an oath, and oaths must have their course. 100

BARDOLPH Corporal Nym, an thou wilt be friends, be friends; an thou wilt not, why then be enemies with me too. Prithee, put up.

PISTOL, *to Nym* A noble shalt thou have, and present pay, and liquor likewise will I give to thee, and 105

109. **sutler**: seller of provisions

114. **come of**: were born of

115-16. **shaked . . . quotidian-tertian**: i.e., shaking with a fever **quotidian**: a fever recurring every day **tertian**: a fever recurring every other day

118. **run . . . knight**: perhaps, caused bad feelings or poor health in Falstaff; or, perhaps, put his bad feelings onto Falstaff

119. **even**: plain truth

120. **right**: truth

121. **fracted**: broken; **corroborate**: strengthened (Pistol seems self-contradictory here, though it has been argued that he may be using theological language, in which a heart, in repentance, may be humbled [**fracted**] and then strengthened.)

123. **careers**: gallops; courses of action

124. **condole**: i.e., condole with

2.2 Henry, informed of the treachery of three of his friends, confronts them with their crimes. They throw themselves on his mercy, but, having just denied mercy to another, they are themselves denied. As they leave, now welcoming their execution as deserved, Henry looks toward his French war.

3. **smooth and even**: i.e., calmly

friendship shall combine, and brotherhood. I'll live by Nym, and Nym shall live by me. Is not this just? For I shall sutler be unto the camp, and profits will accrue. Give me thy hand.

110

NYM I shall have my noble?

PISTOL In cash, most justly paid.

NYM Well, then, 'that's' the humor of 't.

'Nym and Bardolph sheathe their swords.'

*Enter Hostess.*

HOSTESS As ever you come of women, come in quickly to Sir John. Ah, poor heart, he is so shaked of a 115 burning quotidian-tertian that it is most lamentable to behold. Sweet men, come to him.

NYM The King hath run bad humors on the knight, that's the even of it.

PISTOL Nym, thou hast spoke the right. His heart is 120 fracted and corroborate.

NYM The King is a good king, but it must be as it may; he passes some humors and careers.

PISTOL Let us condole the knight, for, lambkins, we 125 will live.

*They exit.*

'Scene 2'

*Enter Exeter, Bedford, and Westmoreland.*

BEDFORD

'Fore God, his Grace is bold to trust these traitors.

EXETER

They shall be apprehended by and by.

WESTMORELAND

How smooth and even they do bear themselves,  
As if allegiance in their bosoms sat  
Crownèd with faith and constant loyalty.

6. **note:** information

11. **a foreign purse:** i.e., foreign money

13. **sits . . . fair:** i.e., blows . . . in the direction we need

17. **powers:** armies

19. **Doing . . . act:** i.e., executing the act

20. **in head:** as an armed force

22. **we are:** i.e., I am (Note Henry's use of the royal "we" throughout—except for the phrase "care of me," at line 53, which seems a deliberate reference to his own personal well-being—until he shifts to the first person in addressing Scroop at line 101.)

24. **grows . . . consent:** i.e., does not agree

26. **attend on:** accompany

27. **better:** i.e., more



"Wingèd heels, as English Mercurys." (2.Chor.7)  
From Innocenzio Ringhiere,  
*Cento giuochi liberali* . . . (1580).

BEDFORD

The King hath note of all that they intend,  
By interception which they dream not of.

EXETER

Nay, but the man that was his bedfellow,  
Whom he hath dulled and cloyed with gracious  
favors—

10

That he should, for a foreign purse, so sell  
His sovereign's life to death and treachery!

*Sound Trumpets. Enter the King* <sup>1</sup>*of England,*  
*Scroop, Cambridge, and Grey,* <sup>1</sup>*with Attendants.*

KING HENRY

Now sits the wind fair, and we will aboard.—  
My Lord of Cambridge, and my kind Lord of  
Masham,

15

And you, my gentle knight, give me your thoughts.  
Think you not that the powers we bear with us  
Will cut their passage through the force of France,  
Doing the execution and the act

For which we have in head assembled them?

20

SCROOP

No doubt, my liege, if each man do his best.

KING HENRY

I doubt not that, since we are well persuaded  
We carry not a heart with us from hence  
That grows not in a fair consent with ours,  
Nor leave not one behind that doth not wish  
Success and conquest to attend on us.

25

CAMBRIDGE

Never was monarch better feared and loved  
Than is your Majesty. There's not, I think, a subject  
That sits in heart-grief and uneasiness  
Under the sweet shade of your government.

30

<sup>1</sup>GREY

True. Those that were your father's enemies

32. **galls:** bitterness  
 33. **create:** i.e., created  
 35. **office:** function  
 36. **quittance:** recompense, repayment  
 37. **According to:** in accord with  
 42. **Enlarge:** set at large, set free  
 45. **on . . . advice:** i.e., now that he has thought more about it  
 46. **security:** carelessness  
 48. **his sufferance:** toleration of him  
 50. **So . . . Highness:** i.e., you may be merciful  
 52. **correction:** corporal punishment, flogging  
 53. **too much:** excess  
 54. **heavy orisons:** oppressive or severe speeches  
 55. **proceeding on distemper:** i.e., caused by drunkenness  
 56. **winked at:** overlooked; **stretch:** i.e., open wide  
 59. **yet:** nevertheless

Have steeped their galls in honey, and do serve you  
 With hearts create of duty and of zeal.

KING HENRY

We therefore have great cause of thankfulness,  
 And shall forget the office of our hand  
 Sooner than quittance of desert and merit  
 According to the weight and worthiness.

35

SCROOP

So service shall with steelèd sinews toil,  
 And labor shall refresh itself with hope  
 To do your Grace incessant services.

40

KING HENRY

We judge no less.—Uncle of Exeter,  
 Enlarge the man committed yesterday  
 That railed against our person. We consider  
 It was excess of wine that set him on,  
 And on his more advice we pardon him.

45

SCROOP

That's mercy, but too much security.  
 Let him be punished, sovereign, lest example  
 Breed, by his sufferance, more of such a kind.

KING HENRY O, let us yet be merciful.

CAMBRIDGE

So may your Highness, and yet punish too.

50

GREY

Sir, you show great mercy if you give him life  
 After the taste of much correction.

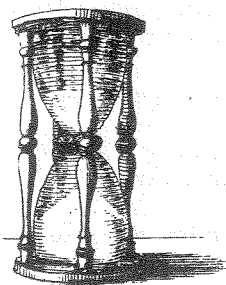
KING HENRY

Alas, your too much love and care of me  
 Are heavy orisons 'gainst this poor wretch.  
 If little faults proceeding on distemper  
 Shall not be winked at, how shall we stretch our eye  
 When capital crimes, chewed, swallowed, and  
 digested,  
 Appear before us? We'll yet enlarge that man,

55



64. **causes:** matters  
 65. **late commissioners:** i.e., newly created supreme district authorities  
 67. **it:** i.e., the commission  
 78. **complexion:** color (from your face); **change:** i.e., grow pale  
 79. **paper:** i.e., the pale color of paper  
 80. **cowarded:** i.e., made cowardly  
 81. **appearance:** i.e., sight  
 85. **quick:** alive; **late:** recently  
 88. **reasons:** perhaps, your (treacherous) motives; or, perhaps, your reasons why I should show justice rather than mercy  
 89. **worrying:** tearing, biting  
 90. **See you:** i.e., look at  
 93. **accord:** consent, agree



"An hourglass." (Pro.33)  
 From August Casimir Redel,  
*Apophtegmata symbolica* . . . (n.d.).

Though Cambridge, Scroop, and Grey, in their dear care 60

And tender preservation of our person,  
 Would have him punished. And now to our French causes.

Who are the late commissioners? 65

CAMBRIDGE I one, my lord.

Your Highness bade me ask for it today.

SCROOP So did you me, my liege.

GREY And I, my royal sovereign.

KING HENRY, *giving them papers*

Then Richard, Earl of Cambridge, there is yours— 70

There yours, Lord Scroop of Masham.—And, sir knight,

Grey of Northumberland, this same is yours.—

Read them, and know I know your worthiness.—

My Lord of Westmoreland and uncle Exeter, 75

We will aboard tonight.—Why how now, gentlemen?

What see you in those papers, that you lose

So much complexion?—Look you, how they change.

Their cheeks are paper.—Why, what read you there

That have so cowarded and chased your blood 80

Out of appearance?

CAMBRIDGE I do confess my fault,

And do submit me to your Highness' mercy.

GREY/SCROOP To which we all appeal.

KING HENRY

The mercy that was quick in us but late 85

By your own counsel is suppressed and killed.

You must not dare, for shame, to talk of mercy,

For your own reasons turn into your bosoms

As dogs upon their masters, worrying you.—

See you, my princes and my noble peers, 90

These English monsters. My Lord of Cambridge here,

You know how apt our love was to accord

94-95. **all . . . Belonging:** i.e., everything appropriate

96. **lightly:** easily, readily; wantonly

97. **practices:** schemes, intrigues

99. **This knight:** i.e., Grey

105. **coined . . . gold:** i.e., turned me into coin for your own profit

106. **Wouldst . . . me:** i.e., if you had taken advantage of me; **use:** interest; profit

109. **annoy:** harm, injure

110. **off:** i.e., out; **gross:** evident, obvious

112-17. **Treason . . . murder:** i.e., murder and treason have always kept company, and so their union has been no cause for astonishment, but your attempted murder and treason are matters for amazement **yoke-devils:** i.e., devils yoked together **either's:** each other's **grossly:** monstrosly, unnaturally **natural:** i.e., natural for devils, who are, by nature, monstrous **'gainst . . . proportion:** i.e., in violation of all harmony **Wonder:** amazement

119. **wrought:** worked; **preposterously:** unnaturally

120. **the voice:** fame

121-24. **All . . . piety:** i.e., all the other devils who tempt people into treason clumsily disguise the damnable crime in a patched but glittering costume of holiness **forms:** shapes

125-27. **But . . . traitor:** The devil's temptation of Scroop is compared to the ceremony in which a monarch calls forth a man to dub him knight. **tempered:** persuaded; i.e., tempted **instance:** motive

128. **gulled:** deceived, fooled

129. **lion gait:** i.e., lionlike stride (1 Peter 5.8: "Be sober and watch, for your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.")

58

To furnish <sup>1</sup>him<sup>1</sup> with all appurtenants  
 Belonging to his honor, and this man 95  
 Hath, for a few light crowns, lightly conspired  
 And sworn unto the practices of France  
 To kill us here in Hampton; to the which  
 This knight, no less for bounty bound to us  
 Than Cambridge is, hath likewise sworn.—But O, 100  
 What shall I say to thee, Lord Scroop, thou cruel,  
 Ingrateful, savage, and inhuman creature?  
 Thou that didst bear the key of all my counsels,  
 That knew'st the very bottom of my soul,  
 That almost mightst have coined me into gold, 105  
 Wouldst thou have practiced on me for thy use—  
 May it be possible that foreign hire  
 Could out of thee extract one spark of evil  
 That might annoy my finger? 'Tis so strange  
 That, though the truth of it stands off as gross 110  
 As black and white, my eye will scarcely see it.  
 Treason and murder ever kept together,  
 As two yoke-devils sworn to either's purpose,  
 Working so grossly in <sup>1</sup>a<sup>1</sup> natural cause  
 That admiration did not whoop at them. 115  
 But thou, 'gainst all proportion, didst bring in  
 Wonder to wait on treason and on murder,  
 And whatsoever cunning fiend it was  
 That wrought upon thee so preposterously  
 Hath got the voice in hell for excellence. 120  
<sup>1</sup>All<sup>1</sup> other devils that suggest by treasons  
 Do botch and bungle up damnation  
 With patches, colors, and with forms being fetched  
 From glist'ring semblances of piety;  
 But he that tempered thee bade thee stand up, 125  
 Gave thee no instance why thou shouldst do treason,  
 Unless to dub thee with the name of traitor.  
 If that same demon that hath gulled thee thus  
 Should with his lion gait walk the whole world,

130. **return . . . back:** i.e., go back to hell **Tartar:** Tartarus, a biblical name for hell from 2 Peter 2.4
131. **legions:** i.e., devils (See Mark 5.9 and page 62.)
133. **jealousy:** suspicion
134. **affiance:** faith in a person; **Show men:** i.e., do men appear to be
138. **spare in diet:** i.e., moderate in their appetites
139. **or . . . or:** either . . . or
140. **blood:** passions
141. **Garnished . . . complement:** i.e., complete in modesty **complement:** that which makes something complete and perfect
142. **Not . . . ear:** i.e., not depending only on what is seen
143. **And but in purgèd:** i.e., rather, instead, in purified or clarified
144. **bolted:** sifted (See page 150.)
145. **fall:** yielding to sin, fall from virtue
146. **the full . . . endued:** i.e., even the man fully endowed with the best qualities **full-fraught:** fully laden (as a ship with cargo)
148. **revolt:** renouncing of allegiance
149. **fall of man:** the sin committed by Adam and Eve in Eden, which marked all mankind with "original sin"; **open:** obvious
158. **discovered:** revealed
159. **more than my death:** i.e., more than I regret my death
160. **Which:** i.e., my fault
- 162–64. **For . . . intended:** Cambridge's motivation, according to historians, was to advance the Earl of March's claim to the English throne. **admit it as a motive:** i.e., allow it to motivate me

60

- He might return to vasty Tartar back  
And tell the legions "I can never win  
A soul so easy as that Englishman's."  
O, how hast thou with jealousy infected  
The sweetness of affianced! Show men dutiful?  
Why, so didst thou. Seem they grave and learnèd?  
Why, so didst thou. Come they of noble family?  
Why, so didst thou. Seem they religious?  
Why, so didst thou. Or are they spare in diet,  
Free from gross passion or of mirth or anger,  
Constant in spirit, not swerving with the blood,  
Garnished and decked in modest complement,  
Not working with the eye without the ear,  
And but in purgèd judgment trusting neither?  
Such and so finely bolted didst thou seem.  
And thus thy fall hath left a kind of blot  
To mark the<sup>1</sup> full-fraught man and best endued  
With some suspicion. I will weep for thee,  
For this revolt of thine methinks is like  
Another fall of man.—Their faults are open.  
Arrest them to the answer of the law,  
And God acquit them of their practices.  
EXETER I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of  
Richard, Earl of Cambridge.—  
I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of  
"Henry,"<sup>1</sup> Lord Scroop of Masham.—  
I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of  
Thomas Grey, knight, of Northumberland.  
SCROOP  
Our purposes God justly hath discovered,  
And I repent my fault more than my death,  
Which I beseech your Highness to forgive,  
Although my body pay the price of it.  
CAMBRIDGE  
For me, the gold of France did not seduce,  
Although I did admit it as a motive  
The sooner to effect what I intended;

166. **sufferance**: suffering the penalty  
 173. **quit**: acquit  
 177. **earnest**: a small payment that promises a larger reward to come  
 183. **Touching**: concerning  
 184. **tender**: regard; take care of  
 190. **dear**: dire, grievous  
 191. **enterprise whereof**: i.e., the bold undertaking of whose conquest  
 192. **like**: equally  
 193. **fair**: i.e., successful



"That same demon . . . might . . . tell the legions."  
 (2.2.128-31)  
 From Olaus Magnus, *Historia de gentibus* . . . (1555).

But God be thanked for prevention,  
 Which <sup>1</sup>I<sup>1</sup> in sufferance heartily will rejoice,  
 Beseeching God and you to pardon me. 165

GREY

Never did faithful subject more rejoice  
 At the discovery of most dangerous treason  
 Than I do at this hour joy o'er myself, 170  
 Prevented from a damnèd enterprise.  
 My fault, but not my body, pardon, sovereign.

KING HENRY

God quit you in His mercy. Hear your sentence:  
 You have conspired against our royal person,  
 Joined with an enemy proclaimed, and from his 175  
 coffers

Received the golden earnest of our death,  
 Wherein you would have sold your king to  
 slaughter,

His princes and his peers to servitude,  
 His subjects to oppression and contempt,  
 And his whole kingdom into desolation. 180

Touching our person, seek we no revenge,  
 But we our kingdom's safety must so tender,  
 Whose ruin you <sup>1</sup>have<sup>1</sup> sought, that to her laws 185

We do deliver you. Get you therefore hence,  
 Poor miserable wretches, to your death,  
 The taste whereof God of His mercy give  
 You patience to endure, and true repentance  
 Of all your dear offenses.—Bear them hence. 190

<sup>1</sup>They<sup>1</sup> exit <sup>1</sup>under guard.<sup>1</sup>

Now, lords, for France, the enterprise whereof  
 Shall be to you as us, like glorious.

We doubt not of a fair and lucky war,  
 Since God so graciously hath brought to light  
 This dangerous treason lurking in our way 195  
 To hinder our beginnings. We doubt not now

197. **rub**: obstacle—a term from the game of bowls, where a “rub” is an obstruction that hinders or deflects the course of the bowl (See page 194.)

199. **puissance**: power, army

200. **straight**: immediately; **in expedition**: in motion

201. **Cheerly**: cheerily (i.e., let’s go cheerfully or with a will); **The signs . . . advance**: i.e., advance the insignia, standards, banners

2.3 The tavern crew—Bardolph, Pistol, Nym, and the Boy—join the Hostess in mourning the dead Falstaff and, saying good-bye to the Hostess, leave for France.

2. **Staines**: a town twenty miles from London on the way to Southampton

3. **earn**: grieve

4. **rouse**: stir up; **vaunting**: bragging

7. **wheresome’er**: i.e., wheresoever, wherever

9–10. **Arthur’s bosom**: the Hostess’s mistake for “Abraham’s bosom” (See longer note, page 240.)

11. **an it**: i.e., as if he

12. **christom**: i.e., chrisom, an infant in its baptismal robe (See page 196.) **parted**: i.e., departed; **ev’n just**: exactly

16. **but**: only

17. **talked**: Here the Folio reads “Table.” Editors since Theobald in 1733 have substituted “babbled”—perhaps the most famous emendation in Shakespeare editing. (See longer note, page 240.) **green fields**: perhaps, an echo of Psalm 23’s “green pastures”

But every rub is smoothen’d on our way.  
Then forth, dear countrymen. Let us deliver  
Our puissance into the hand of God,  
Putting it straight in expedition.  
Cheerly to sea. The signs of war advance.  
No king of England if not king of France.

200

*Flourish.* [They exit.]

[Scene 3]

*Enter Pistol, Nym, Bardolph, Boy, and Hostess.*

HOSTESS Prithee, honey-sweet husband, let me bring thee to Staines.

PISTOL No; for my manly heart doth earn.—Bardolph, be blithe.—Nym, rouse thy vaunting veins.—Boy, bristle thy courage up. For Falstaff, he is dead, and we must earn therefore.

5

BARDOLPH Would I were with him, wheresome’er he is, either in heaven or in hell.

HOSTESS Nay, sure, he’s not in hell! He’s in Arthur’s bosom, if ever man went to Arthur’s bosom. He made a finer end, and went away an it had been any christom child. He parted ev’n just between twelve and one, ev’n at the turning o’ th’ tide; for after I saw him fumble with the sheets and play with flowers and smile upon his finger’s end, I knew there was but one way, for his nose was as sharp as a pen and he [talked] of green fields. “How now, Sir John?” quoth I. “What, man, be o’ good cheer!” So he cried out “God, God, God!” three or four times. Now I, to comfort him, bid him he should not think of God; I hoped there was no need to trouble himself with any such thoughts yet. So he bade me lay more clothes on his feet. I put my hand into the bed and felt them, and they were as cold as any stone. Then I

10

15

20

27. **of sack:** i.e., against sherry

35. **about:** i.e., because of

37. **handle:** discuss

38-39. **rheumatic . . . Whore of Babylon:** The Hostess's swerve from **rheumatic** to the **Whore of Babylon** has been explained by the resemblance in sound between **rheum-** and "Rome"; Protestants often attacked the Roman Catholic Church by calling it **Whore of Babylon**, a figure described in the last book of the New Testament, Revelation 17.4-5.

41. **Bardolph's nose:** See 3.6.104-8 for a detailed description of Bardolph's drink-inflamed face.

43. **fuel:** i.e., drink

44. **riches:** perhaps a comparison of his red nose to such jewels as rubies and carbuncles. (Compare *Henry IV, Part 1* 3.3.83-85.)

45. **shog:** go

49. **Let senses rule:** perhaps, keep alert; or, perhaps, use common sense; **Pitch and pay:** cash only, no credit

50-51. **oaths . . . wafer-cakes:** proverbial **wafer-cakes:** easily broken pastry

51. **Holdfast . . . dog:** Proverbial: "Brag is a good dog; but Holdfast is a better." **holdfast:** a hook, clamp, or bolt; "brag": a large nail

52. **Caveto:** beware

53. **crystals:** i.e., eyes

59. **adieu:** good-bye (in French)

felt to his knees, and so <sup>1</sup>upward and upward, and all was as cold as any stone. 25

NYM They say he cried out of sack.

HOSTESS Ay, that he did.

BARDOLPH And of women.

HOSTESS Nay, that he did not. 30

BOY Yes, that he did, and said they were devils incarnate.

HOSTESS He could never abide carnation. 'Twas a color he never liked.

BOY He said once, the devil would have him about women. 35

HOSTESS He did in some sort, indeed, handle women, but then he was rheumatic and talked of the Whore of Babylon.

BOY Do you not remember he saw a flea stick upon Bardolph's nose, and he said it was a black soul burning in hell? 40

BARDOLPH Well, the fuel is gone that maintained that fire. That's all the riches I got in his service.

NYM Shall we shog? The King will be gone from Southampton. 45

PISTOL Come, let's away.—My love, give me thy lips. <sup>1</sup>They kiss. Look to my chattels and my movables.

Let senses rule. The <sup>1</sup>word is "Pitch and pay." Trust none, for oaths are straws, men's faiths are wafer-cakes, and Holdfast is the only dog, my duck. 50  
Therefore, *Caveto* be thy counselor. Go, clear thy crystals.—Yoke-fellows in arms, let us to France, like horse-leeches, my boys, to suck, to suck, the very blood to suck. 55

BOY And that's but unwholesome food, they say.

PISTOL Touch her soft mouth, and march.

BARDOLPH, <sup>1</sup>kissing the Hostess Farewell, hostess.

NYM I cannot kiss, that is the humor of it. But adieu.

60. **huswifery**: thrift  
60-61. **Keep close**: i.e., perhaps, stay in the house  
**close**: hidden, secluded

2.4 The King of France and his court plan their defense against Henry's invasion. Exeter arrives to present the King with Henry's claim to the French throne, to threaten the French, and to return to the Dauphin the insulting defiance he sent to Henry.

- 
7. **line**: reinforce, fortify  
8. **defendant**: defensive  
9. **England**: i.e., Henry, King of England  
10. **gulf**: whirlpool  
11. **fits us**: is appropriate for us  
12. **late examples**: recent instances (namely, French defeats at Crécy [1346] and Poitiers [1356])  
13. **fatal and neglected**: i.e., fatally underestimated or underrated  
15. **redoubted**: dread, respected  
16. **meet**: i.e., fitting that  
19-20. **defenses . . . and collected**: i.e., defenses maintained, musters assembled, and preparations collected  
21. **As . . . war**: i.e., as if a war were  
24. **show**: appearance

PISTOL, 「to the Hostess」 Let huswifery appear. Keep close, I thee command. 60  
HOSTESS Farewell. Adieu.

*They exit.*

「Scene 4」

*Flourish. Enter the French King, the Dauphin, the Dukes of Berri and Brittany, 「the Constable, and others.」*

KING OF FRANCE

Thus comes the English with full power upon us,  
And more than carefully it us concerns  
To answer royally in our defenses.  
Therefore the Dukes of Berri and of Brittany,  
Of Brabant and of Orléans, shall make forth, 5  
And you, Prince Dauphin, with all swift dispatch,  
To line and new-repair our towns of war  
With men of courage and with means defendant.  
For England his approaches makes as fierce  
As waters to the sucking of a gulf. 10  
It fits us then to be as provident  
As fear may teach us out of late examples  
Left by the fatal and neglected English  
Upon our fields.

DAUPHIN

My most redoubted father, 15  
It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe,  
For peace itself should not so dull a kingdom,  
Though war nor no known quarrel were in question,  
But that defenses, musters, preparations  
Should be maintained, assembled, and collected 20  
As were a war in expectation.  
Therefore I say 'tis meet we all go forth  
To view the sick and feeble parts of France.  
And let us do it with no show of fear,  
No, with no more than if we heard that England 25

26. **Whitsun:** the festive May Sunday seven weeks after Easter; **morris-dance:** English folk dance that tells a story, performed by costumed figures

27. **she:** i.e., England; **idly:** ineffectively

28. **fantastically:** capriciously, strangely

29. **humorous:** whimsical

30. **fear . . . not:** i.e., no one fears England **at-**  
**tends:** waits upon

33. **Question . . . ambassadors:** i.e., let yourself  
(**your Grace**) question the messengers recently sent  
(to England)

34. **state:** ceremony; **embassy:** message

35. **councillors:** i.e., members of his council

36. **exception:** i.e., taking exception, disagreeing;  
**withal:** in addition

37. **terrible:** terrifying; **constant resolution:** fixed  
purpose

38-39. **his vanities . . . Brutus:** i.e., his previous  
frivolities were like Lucius Junius Brutus's feeble-  
mindedness, which he feigned to deceive Tarquin, a  
tyrannical king of Rome in the sixth century B.C.

40. **discretion:** discernment, wisdom

42. **spring:** grow

44. **though:** i.e., even if

45. **weigh:** consider

46. **more:** i.e., as more

47-50. **So . . . cloth:** i.e., by overestimating the  
enemy's strength, we ensure that our defense is  
sufficient; if we underestimate the enemy and provide  
an inadequate defense, we are like the miser who  
ruins his coat by providing the tailor too little cloth

53. **kindred of him:** e.g., Edward the Black  
Prince; **fleshed upon us:** initiated into bloodshed at  
our expense

54. **strain:** breed

57. **struck:** fought

70

Were busied with a Whitsun morris-dance.  
For, my good liege, she is so idly kinged,  
Her scepter so fantastically borne  
By a vain, giddy, shallow, humorous youth,  
That fear attends her not.

30

CONSTABLE O peace, Prince Dauphin!

You are too much mistaken in this king.  
Question your Grace the late ambassadors  
With what great state he heard their embassy,  
How well supplied with noble councillors,  
How modest in exception, and withal  
How terrible in constant resolution,  
And you shall find his vanities forespent  
Were but the outside of the Roman Brutus,  
Covering discretion with a coat of folly,  
As gardeners do with ordure hide those roots  
That shall first spring and be most delicate.

35

40

DAUPHIN

Well, 'tis not so, my Lord High Constable.  
But though we think it so, it is no matter.  
In cases of defense, 'tis best to weigh  
The enemy more mighty than he seems.  
So the proportions of defense are filled,  
Which of a weak and niggardly projection  
Doth, like a miser, spoil his coat with scanting  
A little cloth.

45

50

KING OF FRANCE Think we King Harry strong,  
And, princes, look you strongly arm to meet him.  
The kindred of him hath been fleshed upon us,  
And he is bred out of that bloody strain  
That haunted us in our familiar paths.  
Witness our too-much-memorable shame  
When Cressy battle fatally was struck  
And all our princes captured by the hand  
Of that black name, Edward, Black Prince of  
Wales,

55

60



61. **mountain sire:** Edward III, perhaps so called because he was born in the Welsh mountains
63. **seed:** i.e., son
- 64–66. **deface / The patterns . . . made:** i.e., kill twenty-year-old French fighters
67. **stock:** (1) tree; (2) progenitor of a family line
68. **native . . . him:** the might and destiny that are his by nature
71. **present:** immediate
73. **chase:** hunt
74. **Turn head:** turn at bay; i.e., stop and turn around (Like the French king, the Dauphin imagines the French as prey to English dogs.)
75. **Most spend their mouths:** i.e., bay loudest
78. **short:** sharply, abruptly
85. **apart:** aside
87. **'longs:** i.e., belongs

Whiles that his mountain sire, on mountain standing  
 Up in the air, crowned with the golden sun,  
 Saw his heroical seed and smiled to see him  
 Mangle the work of nature and deface  
 The patterns that by God and by French fathers 65  
 Had twenty years been made. This is a stem  
 Of that victorious stock, and let us fear  
 The native mightiness and fate of him.

*Enter a Messenger.*

MESSENGER

Ambassadors from Harry King of England  
 Do crave admittance to your Majesty. 70

KING OF FRANCE

We'll give them present audience. Go, and bring  
 them. *[Messenger exits.]*

You see this chase is hotly followed, friends.

DAUPHIN

Turn head and stop pursuit, for coward dogs  
 Most spend their mouths when what they seem to 75  
 threaten

Runs far before them. Good my sovereign,  
 Take up the English short, and let them know  
 Of what a monarchy you are the head.  
 Self-love, my liege, is not so vile a sin 80  
 As self-neglecting.

*Enter Exeter, [with Lords and Attendants.]*

KING OF FRANCE From our brother of England?

EXETER

From him, and thus he greets your Majesty:  
 He wills you, in the name of God almighty,  
 That you divest yourself and lay apart 85  
 The borrowed glories that, by gift of heaven,  
 By law of nature and of nations, 'longs  
 To him and to his heirs—namely, the crown

89. **wide-stretchèd**: far-ranging  
 90. **ordinance of times**: tradition  
 92. **sinister**: dishonest; erroneous; **awkward**: perverse; oblique  
 95. **line**: line of descent, family tree  
 96. **truly demonstrative**: i.e., providing evidence of the truth  
 97. **Willing you overlook**: i.e., desiring that you look over  
 98. **evenly**: directly, justly, accurately  
 101. **indirectly**: wrongfully; **held**: kept  
 102. **native**: entitled by birth; **challenger**: claimant  
 104. **constraint**: force  
 106–7. **tempest . . . earthquake**: Compare Isaiah 29.7: “Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts, with thunder, earthquake, and with a great noise, with storm and tempest.”  
 107. **Jove**: in Roman mythology, king of the gods and wielder of thunderbolts (See page 154.)  
 108. **requiring**: mere request  
 109. **bowels**: the seat of mercy (See Philippians 1.8: “in the bowels of Jesus Christ.”)  
 112. **his**: its  
 114. **privèd**: i.e., deprived (of **betrothèd lovers** [line 116], just as **widows** and **orphans** [line 113] are deprived of **husbands** and **fathers** [line 116] respectively)  
 121. **us**: i.e., me (the royal “we”)

And all wide-stretchèd honors that pertain  
 By custom and the ordinance of times 90  
 Unto the crown of France. That you may know  
 'Tis no sinister nor no awkward claim  
 Picked from the wormholes of long-vanished days  
 Nor from the dust of old oblivion raked,  
 He sends you this most memorable line, 95  
[He offers a paper.]

In every branch truly demonstrative,  
 Willing you overlook this pedigree,  
 And when you find him evenly derived  
 From his most famed of famous ancestors,  
 Edward the Third, he bids you then resign 100  
 Your crown and kingdom, indirectly held  
 From him, the native and true challenger.  
 KING OF FRANCE Or else what follows?

EXETER

Bloody constraint, for if you hide the crown  
 Even in your hearts, there will he rake for it. 105  
 Therefore in fierce tempest is he coming,  
 In thunder and in earthquake like a Jove,  
 That, if requiring fail, he will compel,  
 And bids you, in the bowels of the Lord,  
 Deliver up the crown and to take mercy 110  
 On the poor souls for whom this hungry war  
 Opens his vasty jaws, and on your head  
 Turning the widows' tears, the orphans' cries,  
 The dead men's blood, the 'privèd' maidens'  
 groans, 115  
 For husbands, fathers, and betrothèd lovers  
 That shall be swallowed in this controversy.  
 This is his claim, his threat'ning, and my message—  
 Unless the Dauphin be in presence here,  
 To whom expressly I bring greeting too. 120

KING OF FRANCE

For us, we will consider of this further.

125. **England:** i.e., Henry  
 127. **misbecome:** be inappropriate for  
 129. **an if:** i.e., if  
 130. **in grant . . . at large:** i.e., in acceding completely to all our demands  
 133. **womby vaultages:** womblike vaulted places (perhaps, caverns)  
 135. **second accent:** echo; **ordinance:** i.e., ordinance or cannon  
 136. **fair return:** i.e., pleasing or courteous reply  
 138. **odds:** conflict  
 139. **matching to:** fitting for  
 140. **Paris balls:** tennis balls  
 141. **Louvre:** royal palace (with a pun on "lover" that continues in the reference to **mistress court** in line 142)  
 142. **mistress:** i.e., greatest; **court:** (1) royal court; (2) tennis court  
 145. **greener:** i.e., younger  
 146-47. **Now . . . grain:** a reference to an hourglass, with which time is measured by grains of sand dropping from the upper to the lower half through a narrow passage (See page 56.)

- Tomorrow shall you bear our full intent  
 Back to our brother of England.  
 DAUPHIN, <sup>1</sup>to Exeter<sup>1</sup> For the Dauphin,  
 I stand here for him. What to him from England? 125  
 EXETER  
 Scorn and defiance, slight regard, contempt,  
 And anything that may not misbecome  
 The mighty sender, doth he prize you at.  
 Thus says my king: an if your father's Highness  
 Do not, in grant of all demands at large, 130  
 Sweeten the bitter mock you sent his Majesty,  
 He'll call you to so hot an answer of it  
 That caves and womby vaultages of France  
 Shall chide your trespass and return your mock  
 In second accent of his ordinance. 135  
 DAUPHIN  
 Say, if my father render fair return,  
 It is against my will, for I desire  
 Nothing but odds with England. To that end,  
 As matching to his youth and vanity,  
 I did present him with the Paris balls. 140  
 EXETER  
 He'll make your Paris <sup>1</sup>Louvre<sup>1</sup> shake for it,  
 Were it the mistress court of mighty Europe.  
 And be assured you'll find a difference,  
 As we his subjects have in wonder found,  
 Between the promise of his greener days 145  
 And these he masters now. Now he weighs time.  
 Even to the utmost grain. That you shall read  
 In your own losses, if he stay in France.  
 KING OF FRANCE  
 Tomorrow shall you know our mind at full.  
 Flourish.  
 EXETER  
 Dispatch us with all speed, lest that our king 150

152. **footed** . . . **already**: i.e., already in France  
 153. **fair conditions**: For the French king's reply to Henry's demands, see 3.Chorus.31–33.  
 154. **breath**: i.e., breathing space



"I did present him with the Paris balls." (2.4.140)

From Guillaume de Perrière,  
*Le theatre des bons engins* [1539?].

Come here himself to question our delay,  
 For he is footed in this land already.

KING OF FRANCE

You shall be soon dispatched with fair conditions.  
 A night is but small breath and little pause  
 To answer matters of this consequence.

155

*Flourish. They exit.*

*The Life of*

# HENRY V

---

ACT 3

**3. Chorus:** The Chorus describes the embarkation of Henry's fleet for France, Henry's preparations to besiege the town of Harfleur, and the breakdown of talks between the French (who have offered Henry some land, and their princess in marriage) and the English, who now begin the siege.

4. **well-appointed:** well-equipped; **Dover:** In Act 2, Henry's army was said to be departing from Southampton; often plays of this period contain such discrepancies.

5. **Embark . . . royalty:** i.e., take ship; **brave:** splendid

6. **young Phoebus:** i.e., the morning sun **Phoebus:** Roman god of the sun

8. **fancies:** imaginations

11. **threaden sails:** i.e., sails made of thread

13. **bottoms:** ships' hulls

15. **rivage:** shore

19. **Grapple . . . navy:** i.e., hook your imaginations to the sterns of the ships

20. **as . . . still:** i.e., as quiet as if it were midnight (proverbial)

22. **pith and puissance:** i.e., strength

## ACT [3]

*Enter Chorus.*

[CHORUS]

Thus with imagined wing our swift scene flies  
In motion of no less celerity  
Than that of thought. Suppose that you have seen  
The well-appointed king at Dover pier  
Embark his royalty, and his brave fleet  
With silken streamers the young Phoebus  
[fanning.]

Play with your fancies and in them behold,  
Upon the hempen tackle, shipboys climbing.  
Hear the shrill whistle, which doth order give  
To sounds confused. Behold the threaden sails,  
Borne with th' invisible and creeping wind,  
Draw the huge bottoms through the furrowed sea,  
Breasting the lofty surge. O, do but think  
You stand upon the rivage and behold  
A city on th' inconstant billows dancing,  
For so appears this fleet majestic,  
Holding due course to Harfleur. Follow, follow!  
Grapple your minds to sternage of this navy,  
And leave your England, as dead midnight still,  
Guarded with grandsires, babies, and old women,  
Either past or not arrived to pith and puissance,  
For who is he whose chin is but enriched  
With one appearing hair that will not follow

25. **cavaliers**: mounted knights  
 27. **carriages**: wheeled supports on which cannon are mounted  
 28. **girded**: i.e., perhaps, walled; perhaps, besieged (See pages 118 and 128.)  
 29. **ambassador**: i.e., Exeter  
 32. **to**: i.e., as  
 34. **likes**: pleases  
 35. **linstock**: the cleft stick holding the match used to fire the cannon (See page 124.)  
 35 SD. **Alarum**: call to arms; **chambers**: small cannon (fired offstage)  
 37. **eke out**: supplement

3.1 Henry delivers an oration to inspire his troops to take Harfleur.

1. **breach**: gap made by cannon in fortified walls (See page 94.)  
 9. **fair**: attractive; **hard-favored**: ill-favored, ugly  
 10. **terrible aspect**: terrifying look or glance  
 11. **portage**: ports, or portholes  
 12. **o'erwhelm**: overhang  
 13. **fearfully**: frighteningly; **gallèd**: i.e., projecting (literally, swollen)

These culled and choice-drawn cavaliers to France? 25  
 Work, work your thoughts, and therein see a siege;  
 Behold the ordnance on their carriages,  
 With fatal mouths gaping on girded Harfleur.  
 Suppose th' Ambassador from the French comes  
 back, 30  
 Tells Harry that the King doth offer him  
 Katherine his daughter and with her, to dowry,  
 Some petty and unprofitable dukedoms.  
 The offer likes not, and the nimble gunner  
 With linstock now the devilish cannon touches, 35  
*Alarum, and chambers go off.*  
 And down goes all before them. Still be kind,  
 And eke out our performance with your mind.  
*He exits.*

「Scene 1」

*Enter the King 「of England,」 Exeter, Bedford, and Gloucester. Alarum. 「Enter Soldiers with」 scaling ladders at Harfleur.*

KING HENRY

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once  
 more,  
 Or close the wall up with our English dead!  
 In peace there's nothing so becomes a man  
 As modest stillness and humility, 5  
 But when the blast of war blows in our ears,  
 Then imitate the action of the tiger:  
 Stiffen the sinews, 「summon」 up the blood,  
 Disguise fair nature with hard-favored rage,  
 Then lend the eye a terrible aspect, 10  
 Let it pry through the portage of the head  
 Like the brass cannon, let the brow o'erwhelm it  
 As fearfully as doth a gallèd rock

14. **jutty . . . base**: jut out beyond its demolished base  
 15. **Swilled**: drenched; **wasteful**: desolate  
 17. **bend up**: i.e., stretch (an image from archery)  
 18. **his**: its  
 19. **fet**: fetched; **war-proof**: (courage) tested by war  
 20. **Alexanders**: See note to 1.1.49.  
 21. **even**: evening  
 22. **argument**: subject for debate  
 25. **copy**: example; **grosser blood**: i.e., lower rank (in contrast to the highest social rank, the **noblest English**, line 18)  
 27. **yeomen**: commoners (below the rank of "gentleman") who cultivate their own land  
 29. **mettle . . . pasture**: i.e., spirit instilled in your breeding **pasture**: nourishment, sustenance (with wordplay on **pasture** as yeomen's land)  
 30. **worth**: i.e., worthy of; **breeding**: parentage; upbringing, education  
 32. **so mean and base**: i.e., of such low class  
 33. **That hath not**: i.e., but you have some  
 34. **in the slips**: i.e., leashed  
 35. **The game's afoot**: i.e., the quarry in the hunt has been roused and can be pursued  
 36. **upon . . . charge**: i.e., as you charge  
 37. **Saint George**: England's patron saint

3.2 Bardolph, Pistol, Nym, and the Boy withdraw from the assault on Harfleur. They are driven back to it by Captain Fluellen. The Boy tells us of his masters'

(continued)

86

O'erhang and jutty his confounded base  
 Swilled with the wild and wasteful ocean. 15  
 Now set the teeth, and stretch the nostril wide,  
 Hold hard the breath, and bend up every spirit  
 To his full height. On, on, you 'noblest' English,  
 Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof,  
 Fathers that, like so many Alexanders, 20  
 Have in these parts from morn till even fought,  
 And sheathed their swords for lack of argument.  
 Dishonor not your mothers. Now attest  
 That those whom you called fathers did beget you.  
 Be copy now to 'men' of grosser blood 25  
 And teach them how to war. And you, good  
 yeomen,  
 Whose limbs were made in England, show us here  
 The mettle of your pasture. Let us swear  
 That you are worth your breeding, which I doubt 30  
 not,  
 For there is none of you so mean and base  
 That hath not noble luster in your eyes.  
 I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,  
 'Straining' upon the start. The game's afoot. 35  
 Follow your spirit, and upon this charge  
 Cry "God for Harry, England, and Saint George!"  
*Alarum, and chambers go off.*  
*'They exit.'*

'Scene 2'

*Enter Nym, Bardolph, Pistol, and Boy.*

BARDOLPH On, on, on, on, on! To the breach, to the breach!  
 NYM Pray thee, corporal, stay. The knocks are too hot,  
 and, for mine own part, I have not a case of lives.  
 The humor of it is too hot; that is the very plainsong 5  
 of it.



cowardice. Fluellen then discusses military tactics with Captain Gower, Captain Jamy, and Captain Macmorris.

3-4. **knocks** . . . **hot**: i.e., perhaps, the resistance is too fierce

4. **case**: set

5. **humor**: See longer note to 2.1.60; **plainson**: i.e., plain truth (literally, early church music)

9. **vassals**: humble servants

13. **Would**: i.e., I wish

18. **hie**: hurry

22. **Avaunt**: begone; **cullions**: term of contempt (literally, testicles)

23. **men of mold**: i.e., mortal men (literally, men of clay, the substance from which, according to the book of Genesis, God made Adam)

25. **bawcock**: fellow (French *beau coq*, "fine bird")

26. **chuck**: like **bawcock**, a term of endearment

30. **swashers**: swaggerers, braggarts; **boy**: (1) servant; (2) boy as opposed to man

32, 33. **man**: (1) man of courage; (2) manservant

32. **antics**: mountebanks

33. **for**: i.e., as for; **white-livered**: cowardly

34. **faces it out**: looks defiant

36-37. **breaks words**: (1) breaks his word; (2) mangles language

37. **keeps whole weapons**: i.e., does not damage his weapons by using them

PISTOL "The plainsong" is most just, for humors do  
abound.

Knocks go and come. God's vassals drop and die,

「Sings」 And sword and shield,

In bloody field,

Doth win immortal fame.

BOY Would I were in an alehouse in London! I would  
give all my fame for a pot of ale, and safety.

PISTOL And I.

「Sings」 If wishes would prevail with me,

My purpose should not fail with me,

But thither would I hie.

BOY 「sings」

As duly,

But not as truly,

As bird doth sing on bough.

*Enter Fluellen.*

FLUELLEN

Up to the breach, you dogs! Avaunt, you cullions!

PISTOL Be merciful, great duke, to men of mold. Abate  
thy rage, abate thy manly rage, abate thy rage, great  
duke. Good bawcock, 'bate thy rage. Use lenity,  
sweet chuck.

NYM, 「to Fluellen」 These be good humors. Your Honor  
wins bad humors.

「All but the Boy」 *exit.*

BOY As young as I am, I have observed these three  
swashers. I am boy to them all three, but all they  
three, though they would serve me, could not be  
man to me. For indeed three such antics do not  
amount to a man: for Bardolph, he is white-livered  
and red-faced, by the means whereof he faces it out  
but fights not; for Pistol, he hath a killing tongue  
and a quiet sword, by the means whereof he breaks  
words and keeps whole weapons; for Nym, he hath  
heard that men of few words are the best men, and

10

15

20

25

35

41. **broke:** cut  
 44. **bore:** carried  
 45. **leagues:** A league is approximately three miles.  
 46. **filching:** stealing  
 47. **fire shovel:** i.e., a shovel sometimes used to carry coal  
 48. **carry coals:** i.e., suffer humiliation patiently  
 50–51. **makes . . . against:** i.e., is contrary to  
 53. **pocketing . . . wrongs:** (1) taking up stolen goods; (2) tolerating insults  
 54. **better service:** i.e., service with better masters  
 54–55. **Their villainy . . . up:** i.e., (1) I have no tolerance (**stomach**) for their villainy, and will stop serving them; (2) their villainy makes me sick to my stomach, and I must throw up  
 55 SD. **He exits:** See longer note, page 240.  
 56. **presently:** immediately  
 57. **mines:** In the practices of ancient warfare (which Fluellen prefers), mines were excavations of the foundations of walls to cause them to fall; in modern warfare following the introduction of gunpowder (as in *Henry V*), mines were tunnels dug under walls in which charges were laid to bring down the walls. **would:** wishes to  
 59. **Tell you:** i.e., tell (Fluellen, who represents Welsh speakers in this play, is made, at many points, to speak very broken and heavily accented English, as are Captain Jamy, the Scot, and Captain Macmorris, the Irishman.)  
 61. **disciplines of the war:** i.e., scholarly (usually classical) authorities who wrote about warfare

(continued)

90

therefore he scorns to say his prayers, lest he should  
 be thought a coward, but his few bad words are  
 matched with as few good deeds, for he never broke  
 any man's head but his own, and that was against a  
 post when he was drunk. They will steal anything  
 and call it purchase. Bardolph stole a lute case, bore  
 it twelve leagues, and sold it for three halfpence.  
 Nym and Bardolph are sworn brothers in filching,  
 and in Calais they stole a fire shovel. I knew by that  
 piece of service the men would carry coals. They  
 would have me as familiar with men's pockets as  
 their gloves or their handkerchers, which makes  
 much against my manhood, if I should take from  
 another's pocket to put into mine, for it is plain  
 pocketing up of wrongs. I must leave them and seek  
 some better service. Their villainy goes against my  
 weak stomach, and therefore I must cast it up.

*He exits.**Enter [Fluellen and] Gower.*

- GOWER Captain Fluellen, you must come presently to  
 the mines; the Duke of Gloucester would speak  
 with you.  
 FLUELLEN To the mines? Tell you the Duke it is not so  
 good to come to the mines, for, look you, the mines  
 is not according to the disciplines of the war. The  
 concavities of it is not sufficient, for, look you, th'  
 athversary, you may discuss unto the Duke, look  
 you, is digt himself four yard under the counter-  
 mines. By Cheshu, I think he will plow up all if  
 there is not better directions.  
 GOWER The Duke of Gloucester, to whom the order of  
 the siege is given, is altogether directed by an  
 Irishman, a very valiant gentleman, i' faith.  
 FLUELLEN It is Captain Macmorris, is it not?  
 GOWER I think it be.

61-65. **The . . . countermines:** According to Fluellen, the French are threatening the English tunnels by digging **countermines** four yards beneath them, from which the French can blow up the English mines. **concavities:** i.e., depth

65. **Cheshu:** i.e., Jesu; **plow:** i.e., blow (Often Fluellen is made to use *p* for *b* and *f* for *v*.)

66. **directions:** military orders, commands

67. **order:** command

72. **an ass . . . world:** perhaps, as great an ass as there is in the world

73. **in . . . beard:** i.e., to his face

79. **expedition:** readiness in the refutation of arguments (a term from rhetoric)

80. **aunchient:** i.e., ancient

83. **pristine:** original, ancient

86. **Godden:** good evening, or good afternoon

89. **pioners:** soldiers who excavate trenches and mines; **given o'er:** stopped

97. **voutsafe:** i.e., vouchsafe, grant

FLUELLEN By Cheshu, he is an ass, as in the world. I will verify as much in his beard. He has no more directions in the true disciplines of the wars, look you, of the Roman disciplines, than is a puppy dog. 75

*Enter* <sup>1</sup>Captain Macmorris, and Captain Jamy.

GOWER Here he comes, and the Scots captain, Captain Jamy, with him.

FLUELLEN Captain Jamy is a marvelous falorous gentleman, that is certain, and of great expedition and knowledge in th' aunchient wars, upon my particular knowledge of his directions. By Cheshu, he will maintain his argument as well as any military man in the world in the disciplines of the pristine wars of the Romans. 80

JAMY I say gudday, Captain Fluellen. 85

FLUELLEN Godden to your Worship, good Captain James.

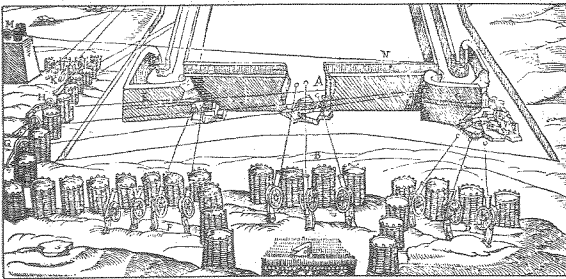
GOWER How now, Captain Macmorris, have you quit the mines? Have the pioners given o'er?

MACMORRIS By Chrish, la, 'tish ill done. The work ish give over. The trompet sound the retreat. By my hand I swear, and my father's soul, the work ish ill done. It ish give over. I would have blowed up the town, so Chrish save me, la, in an hour. O, 'tish ill done, 'tish ill done, by my hand, 'tish ill done. 95

FLUELLEN Captain Macmorris, I beseech you now, will you voutsafe me, look you, a few disputations with you as partly touching or concerning the disciplines of the war, the Roman wars? In the way of argument, look you, and friendly communication, partly to satisfy my opinion, and partly for the satisfaction, look you, of my mind, as touching the direction of the military discipline, that is the point. 100

JAMY It sall be vary gud, gud feith, gud captens bath,

105. **quit . . . leve:** i.e., answer, if you permit me  
 106. **marry:** indeed (Originally an oath on the name of the Virgin Mary.)  
 110. **beseached:** i.e., besieged; **An:** i.e., if  
 116. **Mess:** i.e., Mass  
 120. **breff . . . long:** i.e., short and the long (of it)  
 120–21. **wad . . . tway:** i.e., would very gladly have heard some debate between you two **fain:** gladly  
 125–27. **Of my nation . . . nation:** perhaps an expression of outrage that Fluellen may be about to slur the Irish  
 129. **peradventure:** perhaps  
 130. **use:** treat  
 137. **will mistake:** i.e., are determined to misunderstand  
 138 SD. **parley:** trumpet signal for a conference between leaders of opposing sides



Cannons creating breaches in fortifications. (3.1.1)  
 From Niccolò Machiavelli, *The arte of warre* . . . (1588).

and I sall quit you with gud leve, as I may pick 105  
 occasion, that sall I, marry.

MACMORRIS It is no time to discourse, so Chrish save 105  
 me. The day is hot, and the weather, and the wars,  
 and the King, and the dukes. It is no time to  
 discourse. The town is beseached. An the trumpet 110  
 call us to the breach and we talk and, be Chrish, do  
 nothing, 'tis shame for us all. So God sa' me, 'tis  
 shame to stand still. It is shame, by my hand. And  
 there is throats to be cut, and works to be done,  
 and there ish nothing done, so Christ sa' me, la. 115

JAMY By the Mess, ere theise eyes of mine take them-  
 selves to slomber, ay'll de gud service, or I'll lig i'  
 th' grund for it, ay, or go to death. And I'll pay 't as  
 valorously as I may, that sall I suerly do, that is the  
 breff and the long. Marry, I wad full fain heard 120  
 some question 'tween you tway.

FLUELLEN Captain Macmorris, I think, look you, un-  
 der your correction, there is not many of your  
 nation—

MACMORRIS Of my nation? What ish my nation? Ish 125  
 a villain and a basterd and a knave and a rascal. What  
 ish my nation? Who talks of my nation?

FLUELLEN Look you, if you take the matter otherwise  
 than is meant, Captain Macmorris, peradventure I  
 shall think you do not use me with that affability as, 130  
 in discretion, you ought to use me, look you, being  
 as good a man as yourself, both in the disciplines of  
 war and in the derivation of my birth, and in other  
 particularities.

MACMORRIS I do not know you so good a man as 135  
 myself. So Chrish save me, I will cut off your head.

GOWER Gentlemen both, you will mistake each other.

JAMY Ah, that's a foul fault.

*A parley* <sup>↑</sup> sounds. <sup>↑</sup>

GOWER The town sounds a parley.

3.3 Henry threatens the men of Harfleur with the destruction of the town and its population if they do not yield to him. The Governor then surrenders the town to Henry, who spares its people.

1. **resolves:** determines, decides
2. **latest parle:** i.e., last conference; **admit:** grant, allow
4. **like to:** i.e., like; **proud of destruction:** i.e., elated by the possibility of destruction
7. **batt'ry:** i.e., bombardment
11. **fleshed soldier:** the soldier that has tasted blood
12. **In liberty . . . hand:** i.e., completely free to be violent
13. **wide as hell:** i.e., allowing every atrocity
15. **impious war:** from the Latin *bellum impium*, meaning civil war, and so conveying the suggestion that Harfleur's citizens are resisting their lawful king
16. **prince of fiends:** i.e., Lucifer, the archangel whose name means "lightbearing," and who, after leading the revolt against God, was the prince of devils
17. **smirched:** blackened (by gunpowder); **fell:** fierce, savage
18. **Enlinked to:** joined in company with; **waste:** destruction
23. **he . . . his:** it . . . its; **career:** gallop at full speed
24. **bootless:** futilely; **vain:** useless

FLUELLEN Captain Macmorris, when there is more 140  
better opportunity to be required, look you, I will  
be so bold as to tell you I know the disciplines of  
war, and there is an end.

「They」exit.

「Scene 3」

Enter the King 「of England」 and all his train  
before the gates.

KING HENRY, 「to the men of Harfleur」

How yet resolves the Governor of the town?

This is the latest parle we will admit.

Therefore to our best mercy give yourselves

Or, like to men proud of destruction,

Defy us to our worst. For, as I am a soldier, 5

A name that in my thoughts becomes me best,

If I begin the batt'ry once again,

I will not leave the half-achieved Harfleur

Till in her ashes she lie buried.

The gates of mercy shall be all shut up, 10

And the fleshed soldier, rough and hard of heart,

In liberty of bloody hand, shall range

With conscience wide as hell, mowing like grass

Your fresh fair virgins and your flow'ring infants.

What is it then to me if impious war, 15

Arrayed in flames like to the prince of fiends,

Do with his smirched complexion all fell feats

Enlinked to waste and desolation?

What is 't to me, when you yourselves are cause,

If your pure maidens fall into the hand 20

Of hot and forcing violation?

What rein can hold licentious wickedness

When down the hill he holds his fierce career?

We may as bootless spend our vain command

25. **spoil**: looting and plundering  
 26. **precepts**: written summons; **Leviathan**: a monstrous sea creature mentioned in the Bible  
 30. **grace**: mercy  
 31. **O'erblows**: disperses; **contagious**: Clouds and mists were thought to carry disease.  
 32. **heady**: headstrong, violent  
 33. **look**: expect  
 35. **Desire**: See longer note, page 241.  
 40–41. **wives . . . slaughtermen**: Herod's "slaughter of the innocents" in his effort to kill the Child Jesus is narrated in Matthew 2.16–18. (See page 176.)  
 43. **guilty in defense**: i.e., guilty by reason of having defended yourselves (See longer note, page 241.)  
 45. **succors**: help  
 46. **Returns us**: replies  
 50. **defensible**: capable of defending ourselves (See longer note to line 43.)  
 55. **Use mercy to them all**: In history, Henry's troops plundered and looted Harfleur and, according to some commentators, drove citizens from the town. (Since Pope's edition of the play [1723–25], editors have put a period after **all** and a comma after **uncle**.)

Upon th' enraged soldiers in their spoil 25  
 As send precepts to the Leviathan  
 To come ashore. Therefore, you men of Harfleur,  
 Take pity of your town and of your people  
 Whiles yet my soldiers are in my command,  
 Whiles yet the cool and temperate wind of grace 30  
 O'erblows the filthy and contagious clouds  
 Of 'heady' murder, spoil, and villainy.  
 If not, why, in a moment look to see  
 The blind and bloody soldier with foul hand  
 Desire the locks of your shrill-shrieking daughters, 35  
 Your fathers taken by the silver beards  
 And their most reverend heads dashed to the walls,  
 Your naked infants spitted upon pikes  
 Whiles the mad mothers with their howls confused  
 Do break the clouds, as did the wives of Jewry 40  
 At Herod's bloody-hunting slaughtermen.  
 What say you? Will you yield and this avoid  
 Or, guilty in defense, be thus destroyed?

*Enter Governor.*

GOVERNOR

Our expectation hath this day an end.  
 The Dauphin, whom of succors we entreated, 45  
 Returns us that his powers are yet not ready  
 To raise so great a siege. Therefore, great king,  
 We yield our town and lives to thy soft mercy.  
 Enter our gates, dispose of us and ours,  
 For we no longer are defensible. 50

KING HENRY

Open your gates. *['Governor exits.]*

Come, uncle Exeter,  
 Go you and enter Harfleur. There remain,  
 And fortify it strongly 'gainst the French.  
 Use mercy to them all for us, dear uncle. 55

56-57. **growing / Upon:** i.e., increasing among  
59. **addressed:** prepared

3.4 An old gentlewoman, Alice, begins to teach English to Katherine, Princess of France.

KATHERINE Alice, you were in England, and you speak the language well.

ALICE A little, madam.

KATHERINE I beg you, teach me. I must learn to speak. What do you call *la main* in English? 5

ALICE *La main*? It is called "de hand."

KATHERINE De hand. And *les doigts*?

ALICE *Les doigts*? My faith, I forget *les doigts*; but I will remember. *Les doigts*? I think they are called "de fingres"; yes, de fingres. 10

KATHERINE *La main*, de hand. *Les doigts*, le fingres. I think I am a good student. I have quickly mastered two words of English. What do you call *les ongles*? 15

ALICE *Les ongles*? We call them "de nailes."

KATHERINE De nailes. Listen. Tell me if I speak well: de hand, de fingres, and de nailes.

ALICE That's well said, madam. It is very good English.

KATHERINE Tell me the English for *le bras*. 20

ALICE "De arme," madam.

KATHERINE And *le coude*?

ALICE "D' elbow."

KATHERINE D' elbow. I will repeat all the words that you have taught me so far. 25

ALICE It is too difficult, madam, I think. 100

The winter coming on and sickness growing  
Upon our soldiers, we will retire to Calais.  
Tonight in Harfleur will we be your guest.  
Tomorrow for the march are we addressed.

*Flourish, and enter the town.*

[Scene 4]

*Enter Katherine and [Alice,] an old Gentlewoman.*

KATHERINE Alice, tu as été en Angleterre, et tu parles bien le langage.

ALICE Un peu, madame.

KATHERINE Je te prie, m'enseignes. Il faut que j'apprenne à parler. Comment appelez-vous "*la main*" en anglais? 5

ALICE *La main*? Elle est appelée "*de hand*."

KATHERINE De hand. Et "*les doigts*"?

[ALICE] *Les doigts*? Ma foi, j'oublie *les doigts*; mais je me souviendrai. *Les doigts*? Je pense qu'ils sont appelés "*de fingres*"; oui, de fingres. 10

[KATHERINE] *La main*, de hand. *Les doigts*, le fingres. Je pense que je suis le bon écolier. J'ai gagné deux mots d'anglais vitelement. Comment appelez-vous "*les ongles*"? 15

ALICE *Les ongles*? Nous les appelons "*de nailes*."

KATHERINE De nailes. Écoutez. Dites-moi si je parle bien: de hand, de fingres, et de nailes.

ALICE C'est bien dit, madame. Il est fort bon anglais.

KATHERINE Dites-moi l'anglais pour "*le bras*." 20

ALICE "De arme," madame.

KATHERINE Et "*le coude*"?

ALICE "D' elbow."

KATHERINE D' elbow. Je m'en fais la répétition de tous les mots que vous m'avez appris dès à présent. 25

ALICE Il est trop difficile, madame, comme je pense.

KATHERINE Excuse me, Alice. Listen: d' hand, de fingre, de nailes, d' arma, de bilbow.

ALICE D' elbow, madam.

KATHERINE O Lord God! I forget it: d' elbow. 30  
What do you call *le col*?

ALICE "De nick," madam.

KATHERINE De nick. And *le menton*?

ALICE "De chin."

KATHERINE De sin. *Le col*, de nick; *le menton*, 35  
de sin.

ALICE Yes. Saving your honor [i.e., with all due respect], in truth you pronounce the words as correctly as the natives of England.

KATHERINE I have no doubt about learning it, by the grace of God, and in little time.

ALICE Haven't you already forgotten what I 40  
have taught you?

KATHERINE No. I will recite promptly to you: d' hand, de fingre, de mailles—

ALICE De nailes, madam.

KATHERINE De nailes, de arme, de ilbow— 45

ALICE With all due respect, d' elbow.

KATHERINE That's what I say: d' elbow, de nick, and de sin. What do you call *le pied* and *la robe*?

ALICE "Le foot," madam, and "le count" [i.e., the gown].

KATHERINE Le foot, and le count. O Lord 50  
God! They are ill-sounding words, corrupt, foul, and lewd, and not for ladies of honor to use. [See longer note, page 241.] I would not pronounce these words in front of the lords of France for the whole world. Foh! Le foot and le count! Nevertheless, I will recite one more time the whole 55

(continued)

KATHERINE Excusez-moi, Alice. Écoutez: d' hand, de fingre, de nailes, d' arma, de bilbow.

ALICE D' elbow, madame.

KATHERINE Ô Seigneur Dieu! Je m'en oublie; d' elbow. 30  
*Comment appelez-vous "le col"?*

ALICE "De nick," madame.

KATHERINE De nick. Et "le menton"?

ALICE "De chin."

KATHERINE De sin. *Le col*, de nick; *le menton*, de sin. 35

ALICE Oui. *Sauf votre honneur*, en vérité vous prononcez les mots aussi droit que les natifs d'Angleterre.

KATHERINE Je ne doute point d'apprendre, par la grâce de Dieu, et en peu de temps.

ALICE N'avez-vous pas déjà oublié ce que je vous ai 40  
enseigné?

KATHERINE Non. Je réciterai à vous promptement: d' hand, de fingre, de mailles—

ALICE De nailes, madame.

KATHERINE De nailes, de arme, de ilbow— 45

ALICE *Sauf votre honneur*, d' elbow.

KATHERINE Ainsi dis-je: d' elbow, de nick, et de sin.

*Comment appelez-vous "le pied" et "la robe"?*

ALICE "Le foot," madame, et "le count."

KATHERINE Le foot, et le count. Ô Seigneur Dieu! Ils 50  
*sont les mots de son mauvais, corruptible, gros, et impudique, et non pour les dames d'honneur d'user. Je ne voudrais prononcer ces mots devant les seigneurs de France, pour tout le monde. Foh! Le foot et le count! Néanmoins, je réciterai une autre fois ma leçon ensemble: d' hand, de fingre, de nailes, d' arme, d' elbow, de nick, de sin, de foot, le count.* 55

ALICE Excellent, madame.

KATHERINE C'est assez pour une fois. Allons-nous à 60  
dîner.

「They」 exit.



of my lesson: d'hand, de fingre, de nailes, d'  
arme, d' elbow, de nick, de sin, de foot, le count.

ALICE Excellent, madam.

KATHERINE That is enough for one time.  
Let's go to dinner.

60

3.5 The French nobles speak of their shame at the success of Henry's invasion. The French King plans to block Henry's march to Calais and orders the royal herald Montjoy sent to Henry to learn how much ransom Henry will pay for his release from certain capture by the French.

1. **he:** i.e., Henry

2. **withal:** with

3. **quit all:** renounce everything

5. **Ô Dieu vivant:** O living God; **sprays:** shoots, twigs (The Dauphin continues the gardening image in lines 7-9, referring to the English as French **scions**, or slips grafted to the **stock**, or stem, of a **wild** plant [i.e., the Saxons], where they did sprout [**spurt**] to such a height that they now look down with contempt on [i.e., **overlook**] the plants from which they were originally taken [**their grafters**].)

6. **The . . . luxury:** i.e., the dregs of our ancestors' lust

10. **Normans:** natives of Normandy, home of William the Conqueror, who invaded Saxon England in 1066

11. **Mort de ma vie:** death of my life; i.e., may I die

12. **but I will:** i.e., if I do not

13. **slobb'ry:** wet and slimy

(continued)

104

「Scene 5」

*Enter the King of France, the Dauphin, 「the Duke of Brittany,」 the Constable of France, and others.*

KING OF FRANCE

'Tis certain he hath passed the river Somme.

CONSTABLE

An if he be not fought withal, my lord,  
Let us not live in France. Let us quit all,  
And give our vineyards to a barbarous people.

DAUPHIN

Ô Dieu vivant, shall a few sprays of us, 5  
The emptying of our fathers' luxury,  
Our scions, put in wild and savage stock,  
Spurt up so suddenly into the clouds  
And overlook their grafters?

BRITTANY

Normans, but bastard Normans, Norman bastards! 10  
*Mort de ma vie*, if they march along  
Unfought withal, but I will sell my dukedom  
To buy a slobb'ry and a dirty farm  
In that nook-shotten isle of Albion.

CONSTABLE

*Dieu de batailles*, where have they this mettle? 15  
Is not their climate foggy, raw, and dull,  
On whom, as in despite, the sun looks pale,  
Killing their fruit with frowns? Can sodden water,  
A drench for sur-reined jades, their barley broth,  
Decoct their cold blood to such valiant heat? 20  
And shall our quick blood, spirited with wine,  
Seem frosty? O, for honor of our land,  
Let us not hang like roping icicles  
Upon our houses' thatch, whiles a more frosty  
people 25

Sweat drops of gallant youth in our rich fields!  
"Poor" we 「may」 call them in their native lords.

14. **nook-shotten**: running into corners or angles (coastal inlets); **Albion**: Great Britain
15. **Dieu de batailles**: god of battles; **where have they**: i.e., from where do they have
17. **as in despite**: i.e., as if in contempt
18. **sodden**: boiled (in the making of beer or ale)
19. **drench . . . jades**: a medicinal drink for overworked broken-down horses; **barley broth**: ale
20. **Decoct**: cook, or warm up
21. **quick**: lively
23. **roping**: i.e., ropelike
26. **drops . . . youth**: i.e., the blood of their brave young
27. **them**: i.e., our rich fields; **in . . . lords**: i.e., because their lords are so cowardly
29. **madams**: wives, ladies
30. **bred out**: exhausted
32. **new-store**: freshly supply
33. **bid us to**: tell us to go to
34. **lavoltas**: dances with leaping steps; **corantos**: dances with running steps
35. **grace**: attractiveness; excellence; **in our heels**: (1) in running from battle; (2) in dancing
36. **lofty runaways**: i.e., (1) high leaping and running dancers; (2) aristocratic cowards
37. **Montjoy**: Although in the play this is the herald's proper name, in history it was a title of the royal herald.
49. **For . . . seats**: in return for your great positions; **quit you**: rid yourselves
51. **pennons**: streamers on heads of lances
52. **host**: army

(continued)

106

DAUPHIN By faith and honor,

Our madams mock at us and plainly say  
Our mettle is bred out, and they will give  
Their bodies to the lust of English youth  
To new-store France with bastard warriors.

30

BRITTANY

They bid us to the English dancing-schools,  
And teach lavoltas high, and swift corantos,  
Saying our grace is only in our heels  
And that we are most lofty runaways.

35

KING OF FRANCE

Where is Montjoy the herald? Speed him hence.  
Let him greet England with our sharp defiance.  
Up, princes, and, with spirit of honor edged  
More sharper than your swords, hie to the field:  
Charles Delabreth, High Constable of France;  
You Dukes of Orléans, Bourbon, and of Berri,  
Alençon, Brabant, Bar, and Burgundy;  
Jacques Chatillon, Rambures, <sup>†</sup>Vaudemont,<sup>†</sup>  
Beaumont, Grandpré, Roussi, and Faulconbridge,  
<sup>†</sup>Foix, <sup>†</sup>Lestrale, Bouciqualt, and Charolois;  
High dukes, great princes, barons, lords, and  
<sup>†</sup>knights,<sup>†</sup>

40

45

For your great seats now quit you of great shames.  
Bar Harry England, that sweeps through our land  
With pennons painted in the blood of Harfleur.  
Rush on his host, as doth the melted snow  
Upon the valleys, whose low vassal seat  
The Alps doth spit and void his rheum upon.  
Go down upon him—you have power enough—  
And in a captive chariot into Rouen  
Bring him our prisoner.

50

55

CONSTABLE

This becomes the great!

Sorry am I his numbers are so few,  
His soldiers sick and famished in their march,  
For, I am sure, when he shall see our army,

60

53. **low . . . seat:** place of a humble servant  
 54. **rheum:** (1) water; (2) mucus  
 55. **power enough:** a great enough army  
 56. **captive chariot:** i.e., chariot drawing him as a captive (as in a Roman triumphal procession)  
 58. **This . . . great:** i.e., the capture of Henry is a task suitable for great men  
 62. **sink:** pit  
 63. **for achievement:** i.e., instead of winning his planned victory; **ransom:** See longer note, page 241.  
 64. **haste on Montjoy:** i.e., make Montjoy hurry  
 66. **willing:** voluntary  
 67–69. **Prince . . . us:** In the 1623 Folio text the Dauphin joins the fight; in the much shorter 1600 quarto, as in history, he does not.

**3.6** Captains Fluellen and Gower meet Pistol, who pleads for Bardolph, sentenced to die for robbery. Fluellen refuses to intervene and Pistol insults him and leaves. Henry enters and learns about Bardolph's sentence of death, which he upholds. Montjoy enters to urge that Henry propose a ransom. Henry offers only his body as ransom.

0 SD. **Captains, English and Welsh:** The English captain is Gower, the Welsh Fluellen.

2. **bridge:** i.e., perhaps the bridge over the Ter-noise River, essential to the English march from Harfleur to Calais

3. **services:** military operations

6. **magnanimous:** courageous, nobly ambitious

(continued)

He'll drop his heart into the sink of fear  
 And for achievement offer us his ransom.

KING OF FRANCE

Therefore, Lord Constable, haste on Montjoy,  
 And let him say to England that we send  
 To know what willing ransom he will give.—  
 Prince Dauphin, you shall stay with us in Rouen.

65

DAUPHIN

Not so, I do beseech your Majesty.

KING

Be patient, for you shall remain with us.—  
 Now forth, Lord Constable and princes all,  
 And quickly bring us word of England's fall.

70

*They exit.*

「Scene 6」

*Enter Captains, English and Welsh, Gower and Fluellen.*

GOWER How now, Captain Fluellen? Come you from the bridge?

FLUELLEN I assure you there is very excellent services committed at the bridge.

GOWER Is the Duke of Exeter safe?

5

FLUELLEN The Duke of Exeter is as magnanimous as Agamemnon, and a man that I love and honor with my soul and my heart and my duty and my life and my living and my uttermost power. He is not, God be praised and blessed, any hurt in the world, but keeps the bridge most valiantly, with excellent discipline. There is an aunchient lieutenant there at the pridge; I think in my very conscience he is as valiant a man as Mark Antony, and he is a man of no estimation in the world, but I did see him do as gallant service.

10

15

GOWER What do you call him?

7. **Agamemnon**: the general of the Greek army in the Trojan War (See page 140.)

14. **Mark Antony**: famous Roman military leader (See Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and *Antony and Cleopatra*.)

14–15. **no . . . world**: no reputation or standing

18. **Aunchient**: i.e., ancient, or standard-bearer

26. **buxom**: lively

27. **Fortune**: In lines 29–36 Fluellen provides a detailed explanation of contemporary depictions of the goddess Fortune. (See page 166.) **furious**: menacing

34. **mutability and variation**: i.e., mutable and variable

38. **moral**: symbolic figure

39. **Fortune . . . him**: Pistol echoes a line from a well-known contemporary ballad: "Fortune my foe, why dost thou frown on me."

40. **pax**: metal tablet (often of gold or silver) bearing a representation of the Crucifixion

41. **gallows . . . dog**: Animals were sometimes hung for offenses.

42. **hemp**: i.e., the hangman's rope

43. **doom**: judgment

44. **price**: value

45. **vital thread**: i.e., the thread woven by the three Fates—Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos—who weave one's life and cut the **vital thread** at death. (See page 208.) He changes the myth to make their knife's **edge** the **penny cord** (i.e., rope) and **vile reproach** of hanging.

FLUELLEN He is called Aunchient Pistol.

GOWER I know him not.

*Enter Pistol.*

FLUELLEN Here is the man.

20

PISTOL Captain, I thee beseech to do me favors. The Duke of Exeter doth love thee well.

FLUELLEN Ay, I praise God, and I have merited some love at his hands.

PISTOL Bardolph, a soldier firm and sound of heart and of buxom valor, hath, by cruel Fate and giddy Fortune's furious fickle wheel, that goddess blind, that stands upon the rolling restless stone—

25

FLUELLEN By your patience, Aunchient Pistol, Fortune is painted blind, with a muffler afore <sup>her</sup> eyes, to signify to you that Fortune is blind; and she is painted also with a wheel to signify to you, which is the moral of it, that she is turning and inconstant, and mutability and variation; and her foot, look you, is fixed upon a spherical stone, which rolls and rolls and rolls. In good truth, the poet makes a most excellent description of it. Fortune is an excellent moral.

30

35

PISTOL Fortune is Bardolph's foe and frowns on him, for he hath stolen a pax and hanged must he be. A damnèd death! Let gallows gape for dog, let man go free, and let not hemp his windpipe suffocate. But Exeter hath given the doom of death for pax of little price. Therefore go speak; the Duke will hear thy voice, and let not Bardolph's vital thread be cut with edge of penny cord and vile reproach. Speak, captain, for his life, and I will thee requite.

40

45

FLUELLEN Aunchient Pistol, I do partly understand your meaning.

PISTOL Why then, rejoice therefore.

50

FLUELLEN Certainly, aunchient, it is not a thing to

56. **figo**: like **the fig of Spain** (line 58), a contemptuous gesture which consisted in thrusting the thumb between two clenched fingers or into the mouth

61. **cutpurse**: pickpocket

67. **grace**: honor

69. **are perfect in**: i.e., have memorized

70. **learn . . . rote**: i.e., teach you from what they have memorized

70-71. **where . . . done**: i.e., where military operations were conducted

71. **sconce**: small fort or earthwork

72. **convoy**: protective escort

74. **stood**: insisted; **con**: memorize

75. **trick up**: adorn

75-76. **new-tuned**: fashionable

77. **horrid . . . camp**: rough battle dress

80-81. **marvelously mistook**: greatly mistaken

84. **If . . . coat**: proverbial: if I can get the upper hand over him

rejoice at, for if, look you, he were my brother, I would desire the Duke to use his good pleasure and put him to execution, for discipline ought to be used.

55

PISTOL Die and be damned, and *figo* for thy friendship!

FLUELLEN It is well.

PISTOL The fig of Spain!

*He exits.*

FLUELLEN Very good.

GOWER Why, this is an arrant counterfeit rascal. I remember him now, a bawd, a cutpurse.

60

FLUELLEN I'll assure you he uttered as prave words at the pride as you shall see in a summer's day. But it is very well; what he has spoke to me, that is well, I warrant you, when time is serve.

65

GOWER Why, 'tis a gull, a fool, a rogue, that now and then goes to the wars to grace himself at his return into London under the form of a soldier; and such fellows are perfect in the great commanders' names, and they will learn you by rote where services were done—at such and such a sconce, at such a breach, at such a convoy; who came off bravely, who was shot, who disgraced, what terms the enemy stood on; and this they con perfectly in the phrase of war, which they trick up with new-tuned oaths; and what a beard of the general's cut and a horrid suit of the camp will do among foaming bottles and ale-washed wits is wonderful to be thought on. But you must learn to know such slanders of the age, or else you may be marvelously mistook.

70

75

80

FLUELLEN I tell you what, Captain Gower. I do perceive he is not the man that he would gladly make show to the world he is. If I find a hole in his coat, I will tell him my mind.

85

86-87. **speak . . . pridge:** i.e., inform him of what happened at the bridge

94. **passages:** fights

100. **perdition:** losses

103. **like:** i.e., likely

105-6. **bubukles and welks . . . fire:** i.e., inflamed **bubukles:** confusion of "bubo" (inflamed swelling) and "carbuncle" (inflammatory tumor)

**welks:** pimples **knobs:** pustules

108. **his:** i.e., its

115. **gamester:** gambler

116 SD. **Tucket:** trumpet signal

*Drum and Colors. Enter the King<sup>1</sup> of England<sup>1</sup> and his poor Soldiers,<sup>1</sup> and Gloucester.<sup>1</sup>*

Hark you, the King is coming, and I must speak with him from the pridge.—God pless your Majesty.

KING HENRY How now, Fluellen, cam'st thou from the bridge? 90

FLUELLEN Ay, so please your Majesty. The Duke of Exeter has very gallantly maintained the pridge. The French is gone off, look you, and there is gallant and most prave passages. Marry, th' athversary was have possession of the pridge, but he is enforced to retire, and the Duke of Exeter is master of the pridge. I can tell your Majesty, the Duke is a prave man. 95

KING HENRY What men have you lost, Fluellen?

FLUELLEN The perdition of th' athversary hath been very great, reasonable great. Marry, for my part, I think the Duke hath lost never a man but one that is like to be executed for robbing a church, one Bardolph, if your Majesty know the man. His face is all bubukles and welks and knobs and flames o' fire; and his lips blows at his nose, and it is like a coal of fire, sometimes plue and sometimes red, but his nose is executed, and his fire's out. 105

KING HENRY We would have all such offenders so cut off; and we give express charge that in our marches through the country there be nothing compelled from the villages, nothing taken but paid for, none of the French upbraided or abused in disdainful language; for when<sup>1</sup> lenity<sup>1</sup> and cruelty play for a kingdom, the gentler gamester is the soonest winner. 115

*Tucket. Enter Montjoy.*

117. **habit**: clothing (i.e., the herald's sleeveless tabard, with the coat of arms of his master emblazoned on it)

121. **Unfold**: disclose, reveal

124. **Advantage**: superior position

126. **injury**: perhaps, a boil or pustule

129. **sufferance**: forbearance

130. **ransom**: See longer note to 3.5.63

130-31. **proportion**: i.e., be equivalent to

132. **digested**: borne without resistance, endured

132-33. **which . . . under**: i.e., which he is insufficient to recompense **his pettiness**: a mocking parody of "his Majesty"

134. **For**: i.e., to recompense; **exchequer**: treasury

135. **effusion . . . blood**: i.e., for our dead (literally, for the blood he has caused to be shed); **muster**: assembly, collection

136. **faint**: i.e., small

140. **whose . . . pronounced**: i.e., whom we have condemned to death

141. **office**: duty (as a herald)

142. **quality**: rank; ability

146. **could**: i.e., would

147. **impeachment**: obstruction; **sooth**: truth

148. **confess**: reveal

149. **craft**: power, strength; **vantage**: advantage, superiority

MONTJOY You know me by my habit.

KING HENRY Well then, I know thee. What shall I know of thee?

MONTJOY My master's mind.

KING HENRY Unfold it.

MONTJOY Thus says my king: "Say thou to Harry of England, though we seemed dead, we did but sleep. Advantage is a better soldier than rashness. Tell him we could have rebuked him at Harfleur, but that we thought not good to bruise an injury till it were full ripe. Now we speak upon our cue, and our voice is imperial. England shall repent his folly, see his weakness, and admire our sufferance. Bid him therefore consider of his ransom, which must proportion the losses we have borne, the subjects we have lost, the disgrace we have digested, which, in weight to reanswer, his pettiness would bow under. For our losses, his exchequer is too poor; for th' effusion of our blood, the muster of his kingdom too faint a number; and for our disgrace, his own person kneeling at our feet but a weak and worthless satisfaction. To this, add defiance, and tell him, for conclusion, he hath betrayed his followers, whose condemnation is pronounced." So far my king and master; so much my office.

KING HENRY

What is thy name? I know thy quality.

MONTJOY Montjoy.

KING HENRY

Thou dost thy office fairly. Turn thee back, And tell thy king I do not seek him now But could be willing to march on to Calais Without impeachment, for, to say the sooth, Though 'tis no wisdom to confess so much Unto an enemy of craft and vantage, My people are with sickness much enfeebled,

153. **Who:** i.e., **those few I have** (the remaining English soldiers)

157. **blown:** (1) aroused; (2) inflated; (3) magnified

159. **trunk:** i.e., body

160. **guard:** i.e., small body of soldiers assigned to escort or sentry duty

161. **God before:** i.e., God as my witness

164. **well advise himself:** consider carefully

175. **It . . . night:** i.e., night draws near

176. **encamp ourselves:** i.e., make our camp



A siege with cannons and bows and arrows. (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)  
From [John Lydgate,] *The hystorye sege and dystruccyon  
of Troye* [1513].

My numbers lessened, and those few I have  
Almost no better than so many French,  
Who when they were in health, I tell thee, herald,  
I thought upon one pair of English legs  
Did march three Frenchmen. Yet forgive me, God, 155  
That I do brag thus. This your air of France  
Hath blown that vice in me. I must repent.  
Go therefore, tell thy master: here I am.  
My ransom is this frail and worthless trunk,  
My army but a weak and sickly guard, 160  
Yet, God before, tell him we will come on  
Though France himself and such another neighbor  
Stand in our way. There's for thy labor, Montjoy.

「Gives money.」

Go bid thy master well advise himself:  
If we may pass, we will; if we be hindered, 165  
We shall your tawny ground with your red blood  
Discolor. And so, Montjoy, fare you well.  
The sum of all our answer is but this:  
We would not seek a battle as we are,  
Nor, as we are, we say we will not shun it. 170  
So tell your master.

MONTJOY

I shall deliver so. Thanks to your Highness.

「He exits.」

GLOUCESTER

I hope they will not come upon us now.

KING HENRY

We are in God's hand, brother, not in theirs.  
March to the bridge. It now draws toward night. 175  
Beyond the river we'll encamp ourselves,  
And on tomorrow bid them march away.

*They exit.*



3.7 On the eve of battle, the French nobles, confident of their army's superiority, engage in verbal competition.

1. **of:** i.e., in

11-12. **change . . . with:** i.e., exchange . . . for

12-13. **pasterns:** A pastern is the part of a horse's foot between the fetlock and the hoof. **Çà:** now (an interjection)

13-14. **as if . . . hairs:** i.e., as if he were a tennis ball, which was filled with hair

14. **le cheval volant:** the flying horse; **the Pegasus:** mythological winged horse (See page 138 and longer note, page 242.)

14-15. **qui . . . feu:** which has nostrils of fire

17. **horn:** (1) part of the hoof; (2) wind instrument

18. **Hermes:** in Greek mythology, the god who was, among other things, patron of music (See also longer note to 3.7.14.)

21. **Perseus:** This Greek mythological hero rode Pegasus when he rescued Andromeda from the dragon.

23. **patient:** calm

24. **jades:** horses of poor quality

26. **absolute:** perfect

28. **palfreys:** literally, saddle horses (as opposed to warhorses), especially small ones ridden by ladies (It is odd that the Dauphin is made to refer to his horse this way, especially since, at line 46, he calls it a **courser**, i.e., warhorse.)

[Scene 7]

*Enter the Constable of France, the Lord Rambures, Orléans, Dauphin, with others.*

CONSTABLE Tut, I have the best armor of the world.  
Would it were day!

ORLÉANS You have an excellent armor, but let my horse have his due.

CONSTABLE It is the best horse of Europe.

ORLÉANS Will it never be morning?

DAUPHIN My Lord of Orléans and my Lord High Constable, you talk of horse and armor?

ORLÉANS You are as well provided of both as any prince in the world.

DAUPHIN What a long night is this! I will not change my horse with any that treads but on four [pasterns.] *Çà*, ha! He bounds from the earth, as if his entrails were hairs, *le cheval volant*, the Pegasus, *qui a les narines de feu*. When I bestride him, I soar; I am a hawk; he trots the air. The earth sings when he touches it. The basest horn of his hoof is more musical than the pipe of Hermes.

ORLÉANS He's of the color of the nutmeg.

DAUPHIN And of the heat of the ginger. It is a beast for Perseus. He is pure air and fire, and the dull elements of earth and water never appear in him, but only in patient stillness while his rider mounts him. He is indeed a horse, and all other jades you may call beasts.

CONSTABLE Indeed, my lord, it is a most absolute and excellent horse.

DAUPHIN It is the prince of palfreys; his neigh is like the bidding of a monarch, and his countenance enforces homage.

ORLÉANS No more, cousin.

DAUPHIN Nay, the man hath no wit that cannot, from

33. **lodging:** i.e., lying down

34. **vary:** deliver variations of; **on:** i.e., concerning

36. **argument:** subject

37. **subject:** (1) theme; (2) one ruled by, or subject to, a sovereign (The Dauphin plays not only with the **subject/sovereign** combination, but also with the phrase "sovereign reason."); **reason:** talk, discourse

38–39. **world . . . unknown:** i.e., the people from the parts of the world that we know, and those from parts still unknown to us

39. **apart:** aside

46. **my horse . . . mistress:** This line begins a series of comparisons between horseback-riding and sexual relations with a mistress that extends through line 65 involving such terms as "bears," "shook your back," "ride," and "foul bogs."

48. **Me well:** i.e., bears me well; **prescript:** prescribed

49. **particular:** belonging to one alone

51. **shrewdly:** shrewishly

53. **bridled:** (1) as a horse; (2) wearing a scold's bridle, an instrument of torture used to punish women

54. **belike:** likely

55. **kern:** foot soldier (See page 186.); **French hose:** wide breeches

56. **in . . . strossers:** in tight trousers (i.e., bare-legged)

61. **lief:** gladly; **jade:** (1) horse of poor quality; (2) shrew, hag

65. **to:** i.e., for

66–67. **Le chien . . . boubier:** Proverb: "The dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed is turned again to her wallowing in the mire" (quoted in 2 Peter 2.22).

the rising of the lark to the lodging of the lamb, vary deserved praise on my palfrey. It is a theme as fluent as the sea. Turn the sands into eloquent 35  
tongues, and my horse is argument for them all. 'Tis a subject for a sovereign to reason on, and for a sovereign's sovereign to ride on, and for the world, familiar to us and unknown, to lay apart their particular functions and wonder at him. I once writ 40  
a sonnet in his praise and began thus: "Wonder of nature—"

ORLÉANS I have heard a sonnet begin so to one's mistress.

DAUPHIN Then did they imitate that which I composed 45  
to my courser, for my horse is my mistress.

ORLÉANS Your mistress bears well.

DAUPHIN Me well—which is the prescript praise and perfection of a good and particular mistress.

CONSTABLE Nay, for methought yesterday your mistress 50  
shrewdly shook your back.

DAUPHIN So perhaps did yours.

CONSTABLE Mine was not bridled.

DAUPHIN O, then belike she was old and gentle, and 55  
you rode like a kern of Ireland, your French hose off, and in your strait strossers.

CONSTABLE You have good judgment in horsemanship.

DAUPHIN Be warned by me, then: they that ride so, and 60  
ride not warily, fall into foul bogs. I had rather have my horse to my mistress.

CONSTABLE I had as lief have my mistress a jade.

DAUPHIN I tell thee, constable, my mistress wears his 65  
own hair.

CONSTABLE I could make as true a boast as that if I had 65  
a sow to my mistress.

DAUPHIN "*Le chien est retourné à son propre vomissement, et la truie lavée au boubier.*" Thou mak'st use of anything.

70. **kin:** i.e., relative, relevant  
 75. **want:** lack  
 76. **a many:** i.e., many  
 77. **'twere . . . away:** i.e., it would be a greater honor to you if you had fewer stars  
 84. **faced:** bullied  
 87. **go to hazard:** bet, gamble  
 89. **go . . . ere:** put yourself in danger before  
 94. **he . . . kills:** i.e., he will kill no one  
 101. **still:** always  
 102. **did harm:** i.e., gave offense  
 103. **do none:** i.e., injure no one in battle



"With linstock . . . the . . . cannon touches." (3.Chor.35)  
 From Edward Webbe, *The rare and most wonderfull things . . .* (1590, facsimile reprint 1868-72).

- CONSTABLE Yet do I not use my horse for my mistress,  
 or any such proverb so little kin to the purpose. 70
- RAMBURES My Lord Constable, the armor that I saw in  
 your tent tonight, are those stars or suns upon it?
- CONSTABLE Stars, my lord.
- DAUPHIN Some of them will fall tomorrow, I hope.
- CONSTABLE And yet my sky shall not want. 75
- DAUPHIN That may be, for you bear a many superflu-  
 ously, and 'twere more honor some were away.
- CONSTABLE Ev'n as your horse bears your praises—  
 who would trot as well were some of your brags  
 dismounted. 80
- DAUPHIN Would I were able to load him with his  
 desert! Will it never be day? I will trot tomorrow a  
 mile, and my way shall be paved with English faces.
- CONSTABLE I will not say so for fear I should be faced  
 out of my way. But I would it were morning, for I 85  
 would fain be about the ears of the English.
- RAMBURES Who will go to hazard with me for twenty  
 prisoners?
- CONSTABLE You must first go yourself to hazard ere you  
 have them. 90
- DAUPHIN 'Tis midnight. I'll go arm myself. *He exits.*
- ORLÉANS The Dauphin longs for morning.
- RAMBURES He longs to eat the English.
- CONSTABLE I think he will eat all he kills.
- ORLÉANS By the white hand of my lady, he's a gallant 95  
 prince.
- CONSTABLE Swear by her foot, that she may tread out  
 the oath.
- ORLÉANS He is simply the most active gentleman of  
 France. 100
- CONSTABLE Doing is activity, and he will still be doing.
- ORLÉANS He never did harm, that I heard of.
- CONSTABLE Nor will do none tomorrow. He will keep  
 that good name still.

111. **needs not:** i.e., need not have told you; or, need not care

112-13. **never . . . lackey:** i.e., the Dauphin's only show of valor has been to beat his servant

113-14. **'Tis . . . bate:** i.e., his courage is hidden, and, when it is revealed, it will abate, or decrease (Hoods were put on the heads of hunting falcons to stop them from beating their wings. See page 142.)

**bate:** (1) beat its wings; (2) abate, decrease

115. **Ill . . . well:** With this proverb begins a contest in which the speakers attempt to best each other's proverbs.

120. **your friend:** i.e., the Dauphin

121. **Have at:** i.e., I will attack

122. **of:** i.e., on

123. **how much:** i.e., as much as

124. **bolt:** short, blunt arrow

125. **shot over:** overshot, missed (the target)

126. **overshot:** i.e., outshot, defeated

134. **peevish:** obstinate

135. **mope:** move without the guidance of thought

137. **apprehension:** (1) conscious perception (of their plight); (2) fear

ORLÉANS I know him to be valiant.

CONSTABLE I was told that by one that knows him better than you. 105

ORLÉANS What's he?

CONSTABLE Marry, he told me so himself, and he said he cared not who knew it. 110

ORLÉANS He needs not. It is no hidden virtue in him.

CONSTABLE By my faith, sir, but it is; never anybody saw it but his lackey. 'Tis a hooded valor, and when it appears, it will bate.

ORLÉANS Ill will never said well. 115

CONSTABLE I will cap that proverb with "There is flattery in friendship."

ORLÉANS And I will take up that with "Give the devil his due."

CONSTABLE Well placed; there stands your friend for the devil. Have at the very eye of that proverb with "A pox of the devil." 120

ORLÉANS You are the better at proverbs, by how much "A fool's bolt is soon shot."

CONSTABLE You have shot over. 125

ORLÉANS 'Tis not the first time you were overshot.

*Enter a Messenger.*

MESSENGER My Lord High Constable, the English lie within fifteen hundred paces of your tents.

CONSTABLE Who hath measured the ground?

MESSENGER The Lord Grandpré. 130

CONSTABLE A valiant and most expert gentleman.— Would it were day! Alas, poor Harry of England! He longs not for the dawning as we do.

ORLÉANS What a wretched and peevish fellow is this King of England to mope with his fat-brained followers so far out of his knowledge. 135

CONSTABLE If the English had any apprehension, they would run away.

143–47. **Their mastiffs . . . apples:** an allusion to the bloodsport of bearbaiting, in which mastiffs attacked a bear chained to a post (See page 188.)

**winking:** with their eyes closed

150. **Just:** exactly; **sympathize with:** resemble

151. **robustious:** violent

155. **shrewdly:** seriously, grievously

158. **stomachs:** appetites



The siege of a city, using scaling ladders. (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

From [John Lydgate,] *The hystorye sege and dysturccyon of Troye* [1513].

ORLÉANS That they lack; for if their heads had any intellectual armor, they could never wear such heavy headpieces. 140

RAMBURES That island of England breeds very valiant creatures. Their mastiffs are of unmatched courage.

ORLÉANS Foolish curs, that run winking into the mouth of a Russian bear and have their heads crushed like rotten apples. You may as well say that's a valiant flea that dare eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion. 145

CONSTABLE Just, just; and the men do sympathize with the mastiffs in robustious and rough coming on, leaving their wits with their wives. And then give them great meals of beef and iron and steel, they will eat like wolves and fight like devils.

ORLÉANS Ay, but these English are shrewdly out of beef. 155

CONSTABLE Then shall we find tomorrow they have only stomachs to eat and none to fight. Now is it time to arm. Come, shall we about it?

ORLÉANS

It is now two o'clock. But, let me see, by ten We shall have each a hundred Englishmen. 160

*They exit.*

*The Life of*

# HENRY V

---

ACT 4

**4. Chorus** The Chorus describes the confident French and anxious English armies on the night before the battle of Agincourt, and portrays Henry as passing among his troops cheering them up. Again the Chorus laments that the stage and actors are so inadequate to the presentation of the battle to come.

1. **entertain conjecture of:** i.e., imagine
2. **poring:** eye-straining
3. **Fills:** i.e., fill
6. **stilly:** i.e., quietly
7. **That:** i.e., so that
8. **watch:** guard duty
9. **paly:** pale
10. **Each battle:** i.e., each of the opposing armies;  
**umbered:** shadowed
13. **accomplishing:** equipping (with armor)
15. **note:** (1) notice; (2) musical note
17. **the third . . . named:** i.e., the third hour having been named, or announced, by the cocks' crowing and the clocks' tolling
18. **secure:** free of anxiety
19. **overlusty:** overly cheerful, merry
20. **play at dice:** i.e., gamble on (perhaps, used as stakes in their gambling the ransoms they were confident of obtaining)

## ACT 4

「Enter」 Chorus.

「CHORUS」

Now entertain conjecture of a time  
When creeping murmur and the poring dark  
Fills the wide vessel of the universe.  
From camp to camp, through the foul womb of  
night,  
The hum of either army stilly sounds,  
That the fixed sentinels almost receive  
The secret whispers of each other's watch.  
Fire answers fire, and through their paly flames  
Each battle sees the other's umbered face;  
Steed threatens steed in high and boastful neighs  
Piercing the night's dull ear; and from the tents  
The armorers, accomplishing the knights,  
With busy hammers closing rivets up,  
Give dreadful note of preparation.  
The country cocks do crow, the clocks do toll,  
And, the third hour of drowsy morning named,  
Proud of their numbers and secure in soul,  
The confident and overlusty French  
Do the low-rated English play at dice  
And chide the cripple, tardy-gaited night,  
Who like a foul and ugly witch doth limp  
So tediously away. The poor condemnèd English,

5

10

15

20

25. **inly**: i.e., inwardly  
 26. **gesture sad**: grave bearing  
 27. **Investing**: occupying  
 29. **So**: i.e., as so; **who**: i.e., whoever  
 37. **enrouned**: surrounded  
 38–39. **Nor . . . night**: i.e., he is not a bit pale in spite of his weariness at not having slept all night  
 40. **overbears attaint**: overcomes fatigue; or, represses any stain on his freshness  
 41. **semblance**: appearance, look  
 44. **largesse**: bountifulness  
 46. **mean and gentle**: baseborn and noble  
 47. **as . . . define**: our inadequacy may describe  
 51. **ragged**: rough-edged; **foils**: blunted fencing swords  
 52. **Right**: completely  
 54. **Minding . . . be**: i.e., bringing to mind what happened through seeing a ridiculously inadequate representation of it

Like sacrifices, by their watchful fires  
 Sit patiently and inly ruminate 25  
 The morning's danger; and their gesture sad,  
 Investing lank-lean cheeks and war-worn coats,  
 'Presenteth' them unto the gazing moon  
 So many horrid ghosts. O now, who will behold  
 The royal captain of this ruined band 30  
 Walking from watch to watch, from tent to tent,  
 Let him cry, "Praise and glory on his head!"  
 For forth he goes and visits all his host,  
 Bids them good morrow with a modest smile,  
 And calls them brothers, friends, and countrymen. 35  
 Upon his royal face there is no note  
 How dread an army hath enrouned him,  
 Nor doth he dedicate one jot of color  
 Unto the weary and all-watchèd night,  
 But freshly looks and overbears attaint 40  
 With cheerful semblance and sweet majesty,  
 That every wretch, pining and pale before,  
 Beholding him, plucks comfort from his looks.  
 A largesse universal, like the sun,  
 His liberal eye doth give to everyone, 45  
 Thawing cold fear, that mean and gentle all  
 Behold, as may unworthiness define,  
 A little touch of Harry in the night.  
 And so our scene must to the battle fly,  
 Where, O for pity, we shall much disgrace, 50  
 With four or five most vile and ragged foils  
 Right ill-disposed in brawl ridiculous,  
 The name of Agincourt. Yet sit and see,  
 Minding true things by what their mock'ries be.

*He exits.*



4.1 Henry borrows Erpingham's cloak and, in this disguise, passes through his camp, meeting Pistol, overhearing a conversation between Fluellen and Gower, and getting into an argument with one of his soldiers, Michael Williams, about the King's responsibility for the spiritual fate of those of his soldiers who die in battle. Henry (in disguise) and Williams postpone their disagreement until after the battle, exchanging gloves as pledges to fight with each other later. Alone, Henry laments the care that accompanies his crown and then prays that God will not avenge upon him, in the upcoming battle, his father's usurpation of Richard II's throne and instigation of Richard's death.

4. **soul**: element, principle  
 5. **observingly**: i.e., observantly  
 10. **dress us fairly**: i.e., properly prepare  
 12. **moral**: symbolic figure; or, moral lesson  
 15. **churlish**: boorish (i.e., inhospitable)  
 16. **lodging**: i.e., place to lie down; **likes**: pleases  
 18–19. **to . . . example**: i.e., to be given an example of how to take pleasure in present discomfort  
 20. **quickened**: i.e., enlivened; **out of doubt**: i.e., without doubt  
 23. **With casted slough**: i.e., like a snake that has cast off its old skin; **legerity**: nimbleness

## 「Scene 1」

*Enter the King 「of England,」 Bedford, and Gloucester.*

KING HENRY

Gloucester, 'tis true that we are in great danger.  
 The greater therefore should our courage be.—  
 Good morrow, brother Bedford. God almighty,  
 There is some soul of goodness in things evil,  
 Would men observingly distill it out. 5  
 For our bad neighbor makes us early stirrers,  
 Which is both healthful and good husbandry.  
 Besides, they are our outward consciences  
 And preachers to us all, admonishing  
 That we should dress us fairly for our end. 10  
 Thus may we gather honey from the weed  
 And make a moral of the devil himself.

*Enter Erpingham.*

Good morrow, old Sir Thomas Erpingham.  
 A good soft pillow for that good white head  
 Were better than a churlish turf of France. 15

ERPINGHAM

Not so, my liege, this lodging likes me better,  
 Since I may say "Now lie I like a king."

KING HENRY

'Tis good for men to love their present pains  
 Upon example. So the spirit is eased;  
 And when the mind is quickened, out of doubt, 20  
 The organs, though defunct and dead before,  
 Break up their drowsy grave and newly move  
 With casted slough and fresh legerity.  
 Lend me thy cloak, Sir Thomas.

*「He puts on Erpingham's cloak.」*

Brothers both, 25  
 Commend me to the princes in our camp,

27. **Do:** i.e., say  
 28. **Desire:** invite  
 37. **Qui vous là:** bad French for "Qui va là?" or "Who goes there?"  
 41. **gentleman of a company:** a rank between common soldier and officer  
 42. **Trail'st . . . pike?:** i.e., are you infantry?  
**puissant:** powerful  
 43. **Even:** exactly  
 46. **bawcock:** fine fellow (French *beau coq*, fine bird, a term of endearment)  
 47. **imp:** child, lad  
 49. **bully:** fine fellow  
 50. **le Roy:** i.e., *le roi*, French for "the king"  
 51–52. **of Cornish crew:** from the Cornish force  
 56. **pate:** head  
 57. **Saint Davy's day:** March 1, the feast day of the patron saint of Wales, when Welshmen wear leeks in their caps



Pegasus. (3.7.14)  
 From August Casimir Redel,  
*Apophtegmata symbolica* . . . (n.d.).

- Do my good morrow to them, and anon  
 Desire them all to my pavilion.  
 GLOUCESTER We shall, my liege.  
 ERPINGHAM Shall I attend your Grace? 30  
 KING HENRY No, my good knight.  
 Go with my brothers to my lords of England.  
 I and my bosom must debate awhile,  
 And then I would no other company.  
 ERPINGHAM  
 The Lord in heaven bless thee, noble Harry. 35  
 "All but the King" exit.  
 KING HENRY  
 God-a-mercy, old heart, thou speak'st cheerfully.  
 Enter Pistol.  
 PISTOL *Qui vous là?*  
 KING HENRY A friend.  
 PISTOL Discuss unto me: art thou officer or art thou  
 base, common, and popular? 40  
 KING HENRY I am a gentleman of a company.  
 PISTOL Trail'st thou the puissant pike?  
 KING HENRY Even so. What are you?  
 PISTOL As good a gentleman as the Emperor.  
 KING HENRY Then you are a better than the King. 45  
 PISTOL The King's a bawcock and a heart of gold, a lad  
 of life, an imp of fame, of parents good, of fist most  
 valiant. I kiss his dirty shoe, and from heartstring I  
 love the lovely bully. What is thy name?  
 KING HENRY Harry le Roy. 50  
 PISTOL Le Roy? A Cornish name. Art thou of Cornish  
 crew?  
 KING HENRY No, I am a Welshman.  
 PISTOL Know'st thou Fluellen?  
 KING HENRY Yes. 55  
 PISTOL Tell him I'll knock his leek about his pate upon  
 Saint Davy's day.

65. **sorts:** corresponds  
 67. **speaking fewer:** i.e., do not talk so much; or, speak more softly  
 68. **admiration:** wonder  
 71-72. **Pompey the Great:** the elder Pompey, a great Roman military leader  
 80. **prating:** talkative, chattering  
 81. **coxcomb:** i.e., fool (literally, a fool's cap); **meet:** appropriate



Agamemnon. (3.6.7)  
 From Geoffrey Whitney,  
*A choice of emblems* . . . (1586).

KING HENRY Do not you wear your dagger in your cap that day, lest he knock that about yours.

PISTOL Art thou his friend?

60

KING HENRY And his kinsman too.

PISTOL The *figo* for thee then!

KING HENRY I thank you. God be with you.

PISTOL My name is Pistol called.

*He exits.*

KING HENRY It sorts well with your fierceness.

65

*He steps aside.*

*Enter Fluellen and Gower.*

GOWER Captain Fluellen.

FLUELLEN So. In the name of Jesu Christ, speak fewer.

It is the greatest admiration in the universal world when the true and aunchient prerogatifes and laws of the wars is not kept. If you would take the pains but to examine the wars of Pompey the Great, you shall find, I warrant you, that there is no tiddle taddle nor pibble babble in Pompey's camp. I warrant you, you shall find the ceremonies of the wars and the cares of it and the forms of it and the sobriety of it and the modesty of it to be otherwise.

70

75

GOWER Why, the enemy is loud. You hear him all night.

FLUELLEN If the enemy is an ass and a fool and a prating coxcomb, is it meet, think you, that we should also, look you, be an ass and a fool and a prating coxcomb, in your own conscience now?

80

GOWER I will speak lower.

FLUELLEN I pray you and beseech you that you will.

85

*He and Fluellen exit.*

KING HENRY

Though it appear a little out of fashion,  
 There is much care and valor in this Welshman.

100. **estate**: condition, situation  
 101. **wracked**: shipwrecked; **sand**: sandbank, shoal  
 107. **element**: sky  
 108. **have . . . conditions**: i.e., are only human  
 108-9. **His ceremonies**: formal acts or observances that express deference to and respect for him  
 110-12. **his affections . . . wing**: Here emotions or desires are compared to falcons that soar (**are mounted**) and plunge (**stoop**). **like**: same  
 113. **relish**: taste  
 114. **possess him**: affect him strongly  
 115. **he**: i.e., the King; **it**: i.e., fear  
 118. **could wish**: i.e., wishes  
 119. **would**: wish



Falconer with hooded falcon. (3.7.113)  
 From Antonio Francesco Doni, *L'academia Peregrina* . . . (1552).

*Enter three Soldiers, John Bates, Alexander Court, and Michael Williams.*

COURT Brother John Bates, is not that the morning which breaks yonder?

BATES I think it be, but we have no great cause to desire the approach of day. 90

WILLIAMS We see yonder the beginning of the day, but I think we shall never see the end of it. — Who goes there?

KING HENRY A friend. 95

WILLIAMS Under what captain serve you?

KING HENRY Under Sir 'Thomas' Erpingham.

WILLIAMS A good old commander and a most kind gentleman. I pray you, what thinks he of our estate? 100

KING HENRY Even as men wracked upon a sand, that look to be washed off the next tide.

BATES He hath not told his thought to the King?

KING HENRY No. Nor it is not meet he should, for, though I speak it to you, I think the King is but a man as I am. The violet smells to him as it doth to me. The element shows to him as it doth to me. All his senses have but human conditions. His ceremonies laid by, in his nakedness he appears but a man, and though his affections are higher mounted than ours, yet when they stoop, they stoop with the like wing. Therefore, when he sees reason of fears as we do, his fears, out of doubt, be of the same relish as ours are. Yet, in reason, no man should possess him with any appearance of fear, lest he, by showing it, should dishearten his army. 110 115

BATES He may show what outward courage he will, but I believe, as cold a night as 'tis, he could wish himself in Thames up to the neck; and so I would

120. **at all adventures:** i.e., whatever might happen

120-21. **so we were quit here:** i.e., so long as we were away from here

122. **my conscience:** i.e., what I believe

126. **ransomed:** See longer note on 3.5.63, page 241.

129. **feel:** i.e., feel out, test

139. **heavy . . . make:** grievous account of his life to deliver

141. **at the latter day:** on the last day of the world, when, according to Christian doctrine, bodies will rise from the grave and be brought to the Last Judgment

143. **upon:** i.e., about

145. **rawly left:** left at an immature age; **afeard:** afraid

147. **blood:** perhaps, the taking of life

148. **argument:** perhaps, motive (for fighting)

150-51. **against . . . subjection:** i.e., contrary to all relations of subjects to their king

153. **do sinfully miscarry:** dies outside a state of grace

154. **imputation of:** accusation for

he were, and I by him, at all adventures, so we were quit here. 120

KING HENRY By my troth, I will speak my conscience of the King. I think he would not wish himself anywhere but where he is.

BATES Then I would he were here alone; so should he be sure to be ransomed, and a many poor men's lives saved. 125

KING HENRY I dare say you love him not so ill to wish him here alone, howsoever you speak this to feel other men's minds. Methinks I could not die anywhere so contented as in the King's company, his cause being just and his quarrel honorable. 130

WILLIAMS That's more than we know.

BATES Ay, or more than we should seek after, for we know enough if we know we are the King's subjects. If his cause be wrong, our obedience to the King wipes the crime of it out of us. 135

WILLIAMS But if the cause be not good, the King himself hath a heavy reckoning to make, when all those legs and arms and heads, chopped off in a battle, shall join together at the latter day, and cry all "We died at such a place," some swearing, some crying for a surgeon, some upon their wives left poor behind them, some upon the debts they owe, some upon their children rawly left. I am afeard there are few die well that die in a battle, for how can they charitably dispose of anything when blood is their argument? Now, if these men do not die well, it will be a black matter for the king that led them to it, who to disobey were against all proportion of subjection. 140 145 150

KING HENRY So, if a son that is by his father sent about merchandise do sinfully miscarry upon the sea, the imputation of his wickedness, by your rule, should be imposed upon his father that sent him. 155

158. **irreconciled iniquities:** sins unforgiven and unatoned for

161. **answer . . . soldiers:** be accountable for the states in which his individual soldiers die

163. **purpose:** intend

166. **try it out:** i.e., fight a war to achieve his cause; **unspotted:** sinless

167. **peradventure:** perhaps

169. **seals:** promises; **perjury:** false oaths

171. **before:** earlier (i.e., before going to war)

173. **native punishment:** perhaps, punishment at home

175. **beadle:** messenger of justice

176. **before-breach:** i.e., their earlier breaking

177-78. **Where . . . life away:** i.e., where they feared capital punishment, they have escaped with their lives

179. **would be:** wish to be, think they will be

179-80. **unprovided:** i.e., without Last Rites

182. **visited:** punished; caused to die

185. **mote:** speck

186-87. **death . . . advantage:** Philippians 1.21: "death is to me advantage"

Or if a servant, under his master's command transporting a sum of money, be assailed by robbers and die in many irreconciled iniquities, you may call the business of the master the author of the servant's damnation. But this is not so. The King is not bound to answer the particular endings of his soldiers, the father of his son, nor the master of his servant, for they purpose not their death when they purpose their services. Besides, there is no king, be his cause never so spotless, if it come to the arbitrament of swords, can try it out with all unspotted soldiers. Some, peradventure, have on them the guilt of premeditated and contrived murder; some, of beguiling virgins with the broken seals of perjury; some, making the wars their bulwark, that have before gored the gentle bosom of peace with pillage and robbery. Now, if these men have defeated the law and outrun native punishment, though they can outstrip men, they have no wings to fly from God. War is His beadle, war is His vengeance, so that here men are punished for before-breach of the King's laws in now the King's quarrel. Where they feared the death, they have borne life away; and where they would be safe, they perish. Then, if they die unprovided, no more is the King guilty of their damnation than he was before guilty of those impieties for the which they are now visited. Every subject's duty is the King's, but every subject's soul is his own. Therefore should every soldier in the wars do as every sick man in his bed: wash every mote out of his conscience. And, dying so, death is to him advantage; or not dying, the time was blessedly lost wherein such preparation was gained. And in him that escapes, it were not sin to think that, making God so free an offer, He let him outlive that day to

193. **dies ill:** i.e., dies in sin; **the ill:** i.e., the sin  
 194. **answer:** i.e., answer for  
 196. **lustily:** vigorously  
 204. **pay:** avenge yourself on  
 205. **elder gun:** popgun made from a hollowed elder branch  
 205-6. **poor . . . displeasure:** i.e., the displeasure of a poor private subject  
 206-7. **go about:** attempt  
 207. **his face:** i.e., its face  
 210. **round:** severe  
 211. **should:** i.e., would  
 216. **gage:** pledge  
 225. **see it:** i.e., see the glove



An armorer. (2.Chor.3)

From Hartman Schopper, *ΠΑΝΟΠΛΙΑ omnium* . . . (1568).

see His greatness and to teach others how they should prepare.

WILLIAMS 'Tis certain, every man that dies ill, the ill upon his own head; the King is not to answer it.

BATES I do not desire he should answer for me, and yet I determine to fight lustily for him. 195

KING HENRY I myself heard the King say he would not be ransomed.

WILLIAMS Ay, he said so to make us fight cheerfully, but when our throats are cut, he may be ransomed and we ne'er the wiser. 200

KING HENRY If I live to see it, I will never trust his word after.

WILLIAMS You pay him then. That's a perilous chat.

sure can do against a monarch. You may as well go about to turn the sun to ice with fanning in his face with a peacock's feather. You'll "never trust his word after." Come, 'tis a foolish saying.

KING HENRY Your reproof is something too round. I should be angry with you if the time were convenient. 210

WILLIAMS Let it be a quarrel between us, if you live.

KING HENRY I embrace it.

WILLIAMS How shall I know thee again? 215

KING HENRY Give me any gage of thine, and I will wear it in my bonnet. Then, if ever thou dar'st acknowledge it, I will make it my quarrel.

WILLIAMS Here's my glove. Give me another of thine.

KING HENRY There. *They exchange gloves.* 220

WILLIAMS This will I also wear in my cap. If ever thou come to me and say, after tomorrow, "This is my glove," by this hand I will take thee a box on the ear.

KING HENRY If ever I live to see it, I will challenge it. 225

WILLIAMS Thou dar'st as well be hanged.

227. **take:** find  
234. **crowns:** (1) gold coins; (2) heads (or, literally, crowns of heads)

236. **treason . . . crowns:** It was a crime to clip gold from the edges of coins, whose worth was the value of the metal they contained.

239. **careful:** i.e., worried (literally, full of cares)

243–44. **whose . . . wringing:** i.e., who can feel no more than his own apprehension

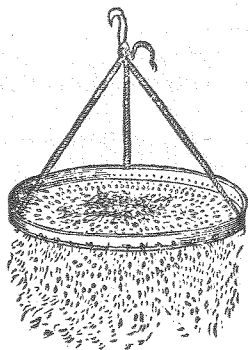
246. **privates:** private subjects

247. **ceremony:** pomp, state, ceremonial rites

251. **rents, comings-in:** incomes

253. **What . . . adoration:** perhaps, "What is the principle according to which you are adored?"; or, more simply, "Why are you adored?"

254. **aught:** anything; **place:** position, office; **degree:** rank



"Finely bolted." (2.2.144)  
From Geoffrey Whitney,  
*A choice of emblems . . .* (1586).

150

KING HENRY Well, I will do it, though I take thee in the King's company.

WILLIAMS Keep thy word. Fare thee well.

BATES Be friends, you English fools, be friends. We have French quarrels enough, if you could tell how to reckon. 230

KING HENRY Indeed, the French may lay twenty French crowns to one they will beat us, for they bear them on their shoulders. But it is no English treason to cut French crowns, and tomorrow the King himself will be a clipper. 235

*Soldiers exit.*

Upon the King! Let us our lives, our souls, our debts, our careful wives, our children, and our sins, lay on the King! 240

We must bear all. O hard condition,  
Twin-born with greatness, subject to the breath  
Of every fool whose sense no more can feel  
But his own wringing. What infinite heart's ease  
Must kings neglect that private men enjoy? 245  
And what have kings that privates have not too,  
Save ceremony, save general ceremony?  
And what art thou, thou idol ceremony?  
What kind of god art thou that suffer'st more  
Of mortal griefs than do thy worshipers? 250  
What are thy rents? What are thy comings-in?  
O ceremony, show me but thy worth!  
What is thy soul of adoration?

Art thou aught else but place, degree, and form,  
Creating awe and fear in other men,  
Wherein thou art less happy, being feared,  
Than they in fearing? 255

What drink'st thou oft, instead of homage sweet,  
But poisoned flattery? O, be sick, great greatness,  
And bid thy ceremony give thee cure!  
Think'st thou the fiery fever will go out 260



262. **blown**: inflated  
 263. **it**: i.e., the fever; **flexure**: perhaps, kneeling; perhaps, bowing  
 268. **find**: uncover  
 269-73. **balm . . . throne**: the material symbols of kingship **balm**: oil with which a monarch is anointed upon coronation **crown imperial**: emperor's crown **intertissued . . . pearl**: robe interwoven with gold and pearl **farcèd**: i.e., overly grand (literally, stuffed)  
 279. **distressful bread**: i.e., bread earned painfully  
 281. **lackey**: footman; **rise to set**: sunrise to sunset  
 282. **Phoebus**: mythological god of the sun  
 283. **Elysium**: i.e., bliss (as if in the Elysian Fields, where the heroes of classical mythology enjoyed eternity)  
 284. **Hyperion**: another name for the sun god  
 286. **profitable**: useful, beneficial  
 289. **Had**: i.e., would have; **forehand and vantage of**: i.e., the upper hand and the advantage over  
 290. **member of**: one who benefits from  
 291. **it**: i.e., the peace; **wots**: knows  
 292. **watch**: sleepless night  
 293. **Whose . . . advantages**: i.e., whose time does most good for the peasant, rather than for himself  
 294. **jealous of**: anxious at

With titles blown from adulation?  
 Will it give place to flexure and low bending?  
 Canst thou, when thou command'st the beggar's  
 knee,  
 265  
 Command the health of it? No, thou proud dream,  
 That play'st so subtly with a king's repose.  
 I am a king that find thee, and I know  
 'Tis not the balm, the scepter, and the ball,  
 The sword, the mace, the crown imperial,  
 270  
 The intertissued robe of gold and pearl,  
 The farcèd title running 'fore the King,  
 The throne he sits on, nor the tide of pomp  
 That beats upon the high shore of this world;  
 No, not all these, thrice-gorgeous ceremony,  
 275  
 Not all these, laid in bed majestical,  
 Can sleep so soundly as the wretched slave  
 Who, with a body filled and vacant mind,  
 Gets him to rest, crammed with distressful bread;  
 Never sees horrid night, the child of hell,  
 280  
 But, like a lackey, from the rise to set  
 Sweats in the eye of Phoebus, and all night  
 Sleeps in Elysium; next day after dawn  
 Doth rise and help Hyperion to his horse,  
 And follows so the ever-running year  
 285  
 With profitable labor to his grave.  
 And, but for ceremony, such a wretch,  
 Winding up days with toil and nights with sleep,  
 Had the forehand and vantage of a king.  
 The slave, a member of the country's peace,  
 290  
 Enjoys it, but in gross brain little wots  
 What watch the King keeps to maintain the peace,  
 Whose hours the peasant best advantages.

*Enter Erpingham.*

ERPINGHAM

My lord, your nobles, jealous of your absence,

298. **be:** i.e., be there  
 301. **Possess:** acquaint  
 302. **sense of reck'ning:** i.e., ability to calculate, count; **or:** before  
 303. **hearts:** i.e., courage  
 304-5. **the fault . . . crown:** Henry Bolingbroke, father of Henry V, deposed Richard II and took his crown to become Henry IV. Richard was subsequently imprisoned and killed. **compassing:** seizing  
 306. **new:** anew  
 311. **to pardon blood:** i.e., to pray for pardon for Richard's death  
 312. **chantries:** endowed chapels; **sad:** grave  
 313. **still:** continually  
 314-15. **all . . . all:** i.e., all the good works I can do are worthless in meriting pardon, because, after all I have done and will do, I can only offer my repentance



"In thunder and in earthquake like a Jove." (2.4.107)  
 From Vincenzo Cartari, *Le vere e noue imagini . . .* (1615).

- Seek through your camp to find you. 295  
 KING HENRY Good old knight,  
 Collect them all together at my tent.  
 I'll be before thee.  
 ERPINGHAM I shall do 't, my lord. *He exits.*  
 KING HENRY  
 O God of battles, steel my soldiers' hearts. 300  
 Possess them not with fear. Take from them now  
 The sense of reck'ning<sup>r</sup> or<sup>t</sup> th' opposèd numbers  
 Pluck their hearts from them. Not today, O Lord,  
 O, not today, think not upon the fault  
 My father made in compassing the crown. 305  
 I Richard's body have interrèd new  
 And on it have bestowed more contrite tears  
 Than from it issued forcèd drops of blood.  
 Five hundred poor I have in yearly pay  
 Who twice a day their withered hands hold up 310  
 Toward heaven to pardon blood. And I have built  
 Two chantries where the sad and solemn priests  
 Sing still for Richard's soul. More will I do—  
 Though all that I can do is nothing worth,  
 Since that my penitence comes after all, 315  
 Imploring pardon.

*Enter Gloucester.*

- GLOUCESTER My liege.  
 KING HENRY My brother Gloucester's voice.—Ay,  
 I know thy errand. I will go with thee.  
 The day, my<sup>r</sup> friends,<sup>t</sup> and all things stay for me. 320  
*They exit.*

4.2 The French nobles, about to fight, lament that the English are so few and so weak.

2. **Montez à cheval:** i.e., mount up; **varlet:** groom; rascal; **Lackey:** footman

4. **Via . . . terre:** by way of the waters and earth (a grandiose expression of where the horse will take him)

5. **Rien . . . feu:** Nothing after that? Certainly air and fire too (naming the other two elements besides water and earth).

6. **Cieux:** the heavens

8. **present service:** immediate action

9. **make incision:** i.e., with spurs

10. **spin:** stream, spurt

11. **dout them:** put them out; **superfluous courage:** overabundant vigor

14. **embattled:** drawn up in proper order for battle

17. **fair show:** beautiful display of military strength

18. **shales:** shells

21. **curtal ax:** cutlass

「Scene 2」

*Enter the Dauphin, Orléans, Rambures, and Beaumont.*

ORLÉANS

The sun doth gild our armor. Up, my lords.

DAUPHIN

*Montez à cheval!* My horse, varlet! Lackey! Ha!

ORLÉANS O brave spirit!

DAUPHIN *Via les eaux et terre.*

ORLÉANS *Rien puis? L'air et feu?*

5

DAUPHIN *Cieux, cousin Orléans.*

*Enter Constable.*

Now, my Lord Constable?

CONSTABLE

Hark how our steeds for present service neigh.

DAUPHIN

Mount them, and make incision in their hides,

That their hot blood may spin in English eyes

10

And dout them with superfluous courage. Ha!

RAMBURES

What, will you have them weep our horses' blood?

How shall we then behold their natural tears?

*Enter Messenger.*

MESSENGER

The English are embattled, you French peers.

CONSTABLE

To horse, you gallant princes, straight to horse.

15

Do but behold yond poor and starvèd band,

And your fair show shall suck away their souls,

Leaving them but the shales and husks of men.

There is not work enough for all our hands,

Scarce blood enough in all their sickly veins

20

To give each naked curtal ax a stain,

That our French gallants shall today draw out

26. **positive . . . exceptions:** i.e., certain  
 29. **squares of battle:** troops drawn up in square formations (See page 190.)  
 30. **hilding:** good-for-nothing  
 31. **upon this mountain's basis:** i.e., on the base of this mountain; **by:** nearby  
 32. **speculation:** looking on  
 33. **our honors:** i.e., for our honor's sake, we  
 36. **tucket sonance:** signal to march  
 37. **dare:** dazzle  
 38. **couch down:** cower  
 40–51. **Yond . . . motionless:** Grandpré compares the English soldiers to immobile corpses and skeletons, and emphasizes the raggedness of their insignia, the rottenness of their armor, and the thinness and sickness of their horses.  
 40. **carrions:** corpses  
 41. **Ill-favoredly become:** are unsuited in their ugliness to  
 42. **curtains:** flags, banners  
 43. **passing:** surpassingly, exceedingly  
 44. **beggared host:** i.e., army of beggars  
 45. **faintly:** timidly; feebly; **beaver:** front piece of the helmet in a suit of armor (See page 178.)  
 46–47. **like . . . hand:** i.e., immobile, holding  
**torch staves** (staves fitted with torches)  
 48. **Lob down:** droop  
 49. **gum down-roping . . . eyes:** i.e., matter discharged from their eyes trickling down like ropes  
 50. **gemeled bit:** a bit with either a hinge or a double ring  
 52. **executors:** those who dispose of what the dead leave behind (here, their bodies)

(continued)

158

And sheathe for lack of sport. Let us but blow on them,

The vapor of our valor will o'erturn them.

25

'Tis positive against all exceptions, lords,  
 That our superfluous lackeys and our peasants,  
 Who in unnecessary action swarm

About our squares of battle, were enough

To purge this field of such a hilding foe,

30

Though we upon this mountain's basis by

Took stand for idle speculation,

But that our honors must not. What's to say?

A very little little let us do,

And all is done. Then let the trumpets sound

35

The tucket sonance and the note to mount,

For our approach shall so much dare the field

That England shall couch down in fear and yield.

*Enter Grandpré.*

GRANDPRÉ

Why do you stay so long, my lords of France?

Yond island carrions, desperate of their bones,

40

Ill-favoredly become the morning field.

Their ragged curtains poorly are let loose,

And our air shakes them passing scornfully.

Big Mars seems bankrupt in their beggared host

And faintly through a rusty beaver peeps.

45

The horsemen sit like fixed candlesticks

With torch staves in their hand, and their poor jades

Lob down their heads, 'drooping' the hides and hips,

The gum down-roping from their pale dead eyes,

And in their pale dull mouths the gemeled bit

50

Lies foul with chewed grass, still and motionless.

And their executors, the knavish crows,

Fly o'er them all, impatient for their hour.

Description cannot suit itself in words

To demonstrate the life of such a battle

55

In life so lifeless, as it shows itself.

54. **suit . . . words:** (1) find suitable words; (2) clothe itself in words

55-56. **the life . . . itself:** in a lively way an army which shows itself to be so lifeless

60. **after:** i.e., then

61. **guard:** escort (which would perhaps be carrying the standard or banner)

62. **trumpet:** i.e., trumpeter

64. **outwear:** spend, waste

4.3 Henry delivers an oration to his troops urging them on to win glory in the battle. Montjoy again comes to establish the terms of Henry's ransom, and Henry again refuses to be ransomed should he be defeated and captured.

0 **SD. host:** army

2. **battle:** army

3. **full . . . thousand:** i.e., fully 60,000

6. **my charge:** i.e., troops that I am to lead

10. **kinsman:** Westmoreland

CONSTABLE

They have said their prayers, and they stay for death.

DAUPHIN

Shall we go send them dinners and fresh suits,  
And give their fasting horses provender,  
And after fight with them?

60

CONSTABLE

I stay but for my guard. On, to the field!  
I will the banner from a trumpet take  
And use it for my haste. Come, come away.  
The sun is high, and we outwear the day.

*They exit.*

「Scene 3」

*Enter Gloucester, Bedford, Exeter, Erpingham with all  
his host, Salisbury, and Westmoreland.*

GLOUCESTER Where is the King?

BEDFORD

The King himself is rode to view their battle.

WESTMORELAND

Of fighting men they have full threescore thousand.

EXETER

There's five to one. Besides, they all are fresh.

SALISBURY

God's arm strike with us! 'Tis a fearful odds.

God be wi' you, princes all. I'll to my charge.

If we no more meet till we meet in heaven,

Then joyfully, my noble Lord of Bedford,

My dear Lord Gloucester, and my good Lord Exeter,

And my kind kinsman, warriors all, adieu.

5

10

BEDFORD

Farewell, good Salisbury, and good luck go with  
thee.

13-14. **And yet . . . valor:** i.e., I need not wish you **good luck**, since you have so much courage you do not need luck (Editors often move these lines to follow line 15, where they become part of Exeter's speech.) **mind thee of it:** bring it to your mind **framed:** built

19. **one ten thousand:** i.e., ten thousand

21. **What's:** who is

24. **if to live:** i.e., if we are marked to live

28. **doth feed . . . cost:** i.e., eats at my expense

29. **yearns:** grieves

33. **coz:** i.e., cousin; **from:** i.e., to come to us from

35. **share from me:** i.e., take from me by sharing (in the honor)

36. **For:** i.e., in exchange for; **best hope:** i.e., hope of salvation

38. **stomach to:** appetite for

39. **passport:** permit given to discharged soldiers, allowing them to travel

40. **crowns for convoy:** money for passage

42. **fears . . . us:** is afraid to die with us

43. **feast of Crispian:** October 25, actually the feast day of the Roman brothers Crispinus and Crispianus, the patrons of shoemakers

And yet I do thee wrong to mind thee of it,  
For thou art framed of the firm truth of valor.

EXETER

Farewell, kind lord. Fight valiantly today.  
[Salisbury exits.] 15

BEDFORD

He is as full of valor as of kindness,  
Princely in both.

*Enter the King [of England.]*

WESTMORELAND O, that we now had here  
But one ten thousand of those men in England  
That do no work today. 20

KING HENRY What's he that wishes so?  
My cousin Westmoreland? No, my fair cousin.  
If we are marked to die, we are enough  
To do our country loss; and if to live,  
The fewer men, the greater share of honor. 25  
God's will, I pray thee wish not one man more.

By Jove, I am not covetous for gold,  
Nor care I who doth feed upon my cost;  
It yearns me not if men my garments wear;  
Such outward things dwell not in my desires. 30  
But if it be a sin to covet honor,  
I am the most offending soul alive.

No, 'faith, my coz, wish not a man from England.  
God's peace, I would not lose so great an honor  
As one man more, methinks, would share from me, 35  
For the best hope I have. O, do not wish one more!  
Rather proclaim it, Westmoreland, through my host,  
That he which hath no stomach to this fight,  
Let him depart. His passport shall be made,  
And crowns for convoy put into his purse. 40

We would not die in that man's company  
That fears his fellowship to die with us.  
This day is called the feast of Crispian.

47. **live old age:** i.e., live to an old age

48. **vigil:** evening before

50. **scars:** Since Malone (1790), editors have added here a line found only in the quarto of 1600: "And say 'These wounds I had on Crispin's day.'" The quarto line, although perhaps rhetorically strong, is not necessary to the sense of the speech.

51-52. **yet . . . remember:** i.e., after the old man forgets everything else, he will still remember

52. **advantages:** enhancements

57. **Be . . . remembered:** i.e., be toasted

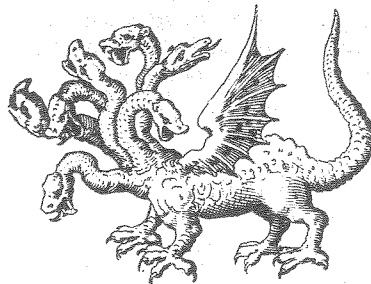
64. **vile:** lowly in birth

65. **gentle his condition:** ennoble his status

68. **hold:** regard

70. **bestow . . . speed:** i.e., come speedily

71. **bravely . . . set:** splendidly arrayed in their bat-  
talions



Hydra. (1.1.37)

From Jacob Typot, *Symbola diuina* . . . (1652).

164

He that outlives this day and comes safe home

Will stand o' tiptoe when this day is named

And rouse him at the name of Crispian.

He that shall see this day, and live old age,

Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbors

And say "Tomorrow is Saint Crispian."

Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars.

Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,

But he'll remember with advantages

What feats he did that day. Then shall our names,

Familiar in his mouth as household words,

Harry the King, Bedford and Exeter,

Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester,

Be in their flowing cups freshly remembered.

This story shall the good man teach his son,

And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,

From this day to the ending of the world,

But we in it shall be remembered—

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;

For he today that sheds his blood with me

Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,

This day shall gentle his condition;

And gentlemen in England now abed

Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,

And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks

That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

*Enter Salisbury.*

SALISBURY

My sovereign lord, bestow yourself with speed.

The French are bravely in their battles set,

And will with all expedience charge on us.

KING HENRY

All things are ready if our minds be so.

WESTMORELAND

Perish the man whose mind is backward now!

79. **likes:** pleases  
 82. **If . . . compound:** i.e., if you will come to an agreement with us about what your ransom is to be  
 84. **gulf:** yawning chasm, abyss  
 85. **englutted:** swallowed up  
 86. **mind:** remind  
 88. **retire:** retreat  
 95. **achieve:** acquire  
 100. **A many:** i.e., many  
 101. **native graves:** graves in England



"Giddy Fortune." (3.6.26–27)

From [Robert Recorde,] *The castle of knowledge* . . . [1556].

KING HENRY

Thou dost not wish more help from England, coz? 75

WESTMORELAND

God's will, my liege, would you and I alone,  
 Without more help, could fight this royal battle!

KING HENRY

Why, now thou hast unwished five thousand men,  
 Which likes me better than to wish us one.—  
 You know your places. God be with you all. 80

*Tucket. Enter Montjoy.*

MONTJOY

Once more I come to know of thee, King Harry,  
 If for thy ransom thou wilt now compound,  
 Before thy most assurèd overthrow.  
 For certainly thou art so near the gulf  
 Thou needs must be englutted. Besides, in mercy, 85  
 The Constable desires thee thou wilt mind  
 Thy followers of repentance, that their souls  
 May make a peaceful and a sweet retire  
 From off these fields where, wretches, their poor  
 bodies  
 Must lie and fester. 90

KING HENRY

Who hath sent thee now?

MONTJOY

The Constable of France.

KING HENRY

I pray thee bear my former answer back.  
 Bid them achieve me and then sell my bones. 95  
 Good God, why should they mock poor fellows  
 thus?

The man that once did sell the lion's skin  
 While the beast lived was killed with hunting him.  
 A many of our bodies shall no doubt  
 Find native graves, upon the which, I trust,  
 Shall witness live in brass of this day's work. 100



110. **Mark:** notice; **abounding valor:** abundant courage (with wordplay on "bounding")

111. **like . . . crazing:** i.e., like a ricocheting bullet

112. **Break . . . mischief:** i.e., kill again (by causing a plague) **mischief:** injury, evil

113. **Killing . . . mortality:** i.e., killing as they fall back in death **relapse:** falling back **mortality:** death (with wordplay on some of its other senses: namely, "deadliness" and "plague")

115. **but . . . day:** i.e., soldiers dressed for the workday (rather than the holiday)

116. **gayness:** dressiness; **gilt:** gilding

117. **rainy . . . field:** i.e., painful marching in the rainy field

119. **argument:** evidence; **fly:** i.e., run away

121. **in the trim:** i.e., dressed in the latest fashion

123. **fresher robes:** perhaps, the robes they will wear in heaven

123-25. **pluck . . . service:** i.e., treat the French soldiers as their servants whom they are dismissing, pulling the servants' livery off

127. **levied:** raised

129. **They:** i.e., the French

134-35. **I . . . ransom:** Editors often mark these lines as an aside, arguing that the assertion is an expression of Henry's fear of defeat, which he would not want his men to hear. However, the lines may be no more than a (perhaps jocular) contradiction of Montjoy that calls attention to his already evident persistence in seeking Henry's ransom.

And those that leave their valiant bones in France,  
Dying like men, though buried in your dunghills,  
They shall be famed; for there the sun shall greet  
them

105

And draw their honors reeking up to heaven,  
Leaving their earthly parts to choke your clime,  
The smell whereof shall breed a plague in France.  
Mark, then, abounding valor in our English,  
That being dead, like to the bullet's crazing,  
Break out into a second course of mischief,  
Killing in relapse of mortality.

110

Let me speak proudly: tell the Constable  
We are but warriors for the working day;  
Our gayness and our gilt are all besmirched  
With rainy marching in the painful field.  
There's not a piece of feather in our host—  
Good argument, I hope, we will not fly—  
And time hath worn us into slovenry.

115

But, by the Mass, our hearts are in the trim,  
And my poor soldiers tell me, yet ere night  
They'll be in fresher robes, or they will pluck  
The gay new coats o'er the French soldiers' heads  
And turn them out of service. If they do this,  
As, if God please, they shall, my ransom then  
Will soon be levied. Herald, save thou thy labor.  
Come thou no more for ransom, gentle herald.  
They shall have none, I swear, but these my joints,  
Which, if they have, as I will leave 'em them,  
Shall yield them little, tell the Constable.

120

125

130

MONTJOY

I shall, King Harry. And so fare thee well.  
Thou never shalt hear herald anymore.

KING HENRY I fear thou wilt once more come again  
for a ransom.

「Montjoy」 exits. 135

Enter York.

137. **vaward:** vanguard

4.4 A French soldier surrenders to Pistol, who threatens him with death until the soldier promises to pay a ransom of two hundred gold coins.

0 SD. **Alarum:** call to arms; **Excursions:** i.e., movements of soldiers over the stage (literally, raids, sorties)

2-3. **Je . . . qualité:** I think you are (a) gentleman of high rank.

4. **Qualitie . . . me:** nonsense as printed in the Folio, although editors have tried to emend it so that it echoes the refrain of an Irish ballad

6. **Ô . . . Dieu:** O Lord God

7-8. **Perpend:** consider

9. **fox:** a kind of sword

11-12. **Ô . . . moi:** O, have mercy! Have pity on me!

13. **Moy:** Pistol transforms the pronoun **moi** (me) into the name of an otherwise unknown coin or sum of money.

14. **rim:** belly, paunch

16-17. **Est-il . . . bras:** Is it impossible to escape the strength of your arm?

18. **luxurious:** lecherous

20. **Ô, pardonnez-moi:** O, pardon me.

YORK, <sup>1</sup>*[kneeling]*

My lord, most humbly on my knee I beg  
The leading of the vaward.

KING HENRY

Take it, brave York.

<sup>1</sup>*[York rises.]*

Now, soldiers, march away,  
And how Thou pleasest, God, dispose the day.

140

*They exit.*

<sup>1</sup>*[Scene 4]*

*Alarum. Excursions. Enter Pistol, French Soldier,  
and<sup>1</sup> Boy.*

PISTOL Yield, cur.

FRENCH <sup>1</sup>*[SOLDIER]* *Je pense que vous êtes le gentil-  
homme de bonne qualité.*

PISTOL *Qualitie calmie custure me.* Art thou a gentle-  
man? What is thy name? Discuss.

5

FRENCH <sup>1</sup>*[SOLDIER]* *Ô Seigneur Dieu!*

PISTOL O, Seigneur Dew should be a gentleman. Per-  
pend my words, O Seigneur Dew, and mark: O  
Seigneur Dew, thou diest on point of fox, except, O  
Seigneur, thou do give to me egregious ransom.

10

FRENCH <sup>1</sup>*[SOLDIER]* *Ô, prenez miséricorde! Ayez pitié de  
moi!*

PISTOL *Moy* shall not serve. I will have forty *moys*, <sup>1</sup>*[or]*  
I will fetch thy rim out at thy throat in drops of  
crimson blood.

15

FRENCH <sup>1</sup>*[SOLDIER]* *Est-il impossible d'échapper la force  
de ton bras?*

PISTOL Brass, cur? Thou damned and luxurious  
mountain goat, offer'st me brass?

FRENCH <sup>1</sup>*[SOLDIER]* *Ô, pardonnez-moi!*

20

PISTOL Say'st thou me so? Is that a ton of *moys*?—

22. **Ask me:** i.e., ask  
 24. **Écoutez . . . appelé:** Listen. What is your name?  
 27. **firk:** beat, trounce; **ferret:** worry (i.e., tear, bite)  
 32. **Que . . . monsieur:** What is he saying, sir?  
 33-35. **Il . . . gorge:** He orders me to say to you that you are to make yourself ready, for this soldier here is disposed to cut your throat immediately.  
 36. **Owy . . . permafoy:** broken French for "Yes, cut throat, by my faith"  
 37. **brave:** splendid  
 39-42. **Ô . . . écus:** O, I beg you, for the love of God, to pardon me. I am a gentleman of a good house. Preserve my life, and I will give you two hundred crowns. **maison:** house, i.e., family  
 49. **Petit . . . il:** Little sir, what is he saying?  
 50-55. **Encore . . . franchisement:** Once again that it is against his oath to pardon any prisoner; nevertheless, (in return) for the crowns that you have promised him, he is content to give you liberty, freedom.  
 54-57. **Sur . . . Angleterre:** See lines 59-63 for the translation.

Come hither, boy. Ask me this slave in French what is his name.

BOY *Écoutez. Comment êtes-vous appelé?*

FRENCH [SOLDIER] *Monsieur le Fer.*

BOY He says his name is Master Fer.

PISTOL Master Fer. I'll fer him, and firk him, and ferret him. Discuss the same in French unto him.

BOY I do not know the French for "fer," and "ferret," and "firk."

PISTOL Bid him prepare, for I will cut his throat.

FRENCH [SOLDIER, to the Boy] *Que dit-il, monsieur?*

BOY *Il me commande à vous dire que vous faites vous prêt, car ce soldat ici est disposé tout à cette heure de couper votre gorge.*

PISTOL Owy, cuppele gorge, permafoy, peasant, unless thou give me crowns, brave crowns, or mangled shalt thou be by this my sword.

FRENCH [SOLDIER] *Ô, je vous supplie, pour l'amour de Dieu, me pardonner. Je suis le gentilhomme de bonne maison. Gardez ma vie, et je vous donnerai deux cents écus.*

PISTOL What are his words?

BOY He prays you to save his life. He is a gentleman of a good house, and for his ransom he will give you two hundred crowns.

PISTOL Tell him my fury shall abate, and I the crowns will take.

FRENCH [SOLDIER, to the Boy] *Petit monsieur, que dit-il?*

BOY *Encore qu'il est contre son jurement de pardonner aucun prisonnier; néanmoins, pour les écus que vous lui avez promis, il est content à vous donner la liberté, le franchisement.*

[French soldier kneels.]

FRENCH [SOLDIER] *Sur mes genoux je vous donne mille remerciements, et je m'estime heureux que j'ai tombé*

66. **Suivez . . . capitaine:** Follow the great captain.

70. **this roaring devil:** i.e., this fellow who is nothing but the roaring devil ("i' th' old play")

71-72. **that everyone . . . dagger:** In contemporary reports about morality plays, the devil was a comic character made to roar as the Vice character beat him with a wooden dagger. **that:** i.e., so that

75. **might have a good prey of us:** i.e., might easily prey on us; **he:** i.e., the French

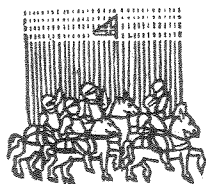
4.5 The French nobles, shamed in their defeat, decide to die fighting.

1. **Ô diable!:** O, the devil!

2. **Ô . . . perdu:** O Lord! The day is lost, all is lost!

3. **Mort . . . vie:** Death of my life; **confounded:** disordered, in confusion

5. **plumes:** the feathers adorning their helmets



Cavalry with pennon. (3.5.51)  
From [Raimond . . . baron de Fourquevaux,]  
*Instructions for the warres . . .* (1589).

*entre les mains d'un chevalier, je pense, le plus brave, vaillant, et très distingué seigneur d'Angleterre.*

PISTOL Expound unto me, boy.

BOY He gives you upon his knees a thousand thanks, and he esteems himself happy that he hath fall'n into the hands of one, as he thinks, the most brave, valorous, and thrice-worthy seigneur of England. 60

PISTOL As I suck blood, I will some mercy show. Follow me. 65

BOY *Suivez-vous le grand capitaine.*

*['The French Soldier stands up. He and Pistol exit.]*

I did never know so full a voice issue from so empty a heart. But the saying is true: "The empty vessel makes the greatest sound." Bardolph and Nym had ten times more valor than this roaring devil i' th' old play, that everyone may pare his nails with a wooden dagger, and they are both hanged, and so would this be if he durst steal anything adventurously. I must stay with the lackeys with the luggage of our camp. The French might have a good prey of us if he knew of it, for there is none to guard it but boys. 70 75

*He exits.*

*['Scene 5']*

*Enter Constable, Orléans, Bourbon, Dauphin, and Rambures.*

CONSTABLE *Ô diable!*

ORLÉANS

*Ô Seigneur! Le jour est perdu, tout est perdu!*

DAUPHIN

*Mort de ma vie, all is confounded, all!*

*Reproach and everlasting shame*

*Sits mocking in our plumes.*

*A short Alarum.* 5

6. **Ô méchante Fortune!**: O evil fortune!

17. **gentler**: more noble by birth

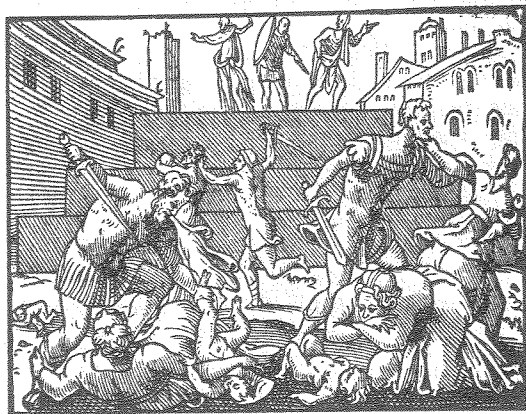
18. **contaminate**: contaminated (i.e., raped)

19. **spoiled**: ruined; **friend**: befriend

20. **on**: i.e., in

4.6 Henry, in doubt about the outcome of the battle, hears of York's and Suffolk's deaths, and then, when a French call to arms is again sounded, orders his troops to kill their prisoners.

2. Yet: still



"Herod's bloody-hunting slaughtermen." (3.3.41)

From [Guillaume Guérout,] *Figures de la Bible* . . . (1565-70).

176

*Ô méchante Fortune!*

Do not run away.

CONSTABLE Why, all our ranks are broke.

DAUPHIN

O perdurable shame! Let's stab ourselves.

Be these the wretches that we played at dice for?

10

ORLÉANS

Is this the king we sent to for his ransom?

BOURBON

Shame, and eternal shame, nothing but shame!

Let us die. In once more! Back again!

And he that will not follow Bourbon now,

Let him go hence, and with his cap in hand

15

Like a base pander hold the chamber door,

Whilst 'by a' slave, no gentler than my dog,

His fairest daughter is 'contaminate.'

CONSTABLE

Disorder, that hath spoiled us, friend us now.

Let us on heaps go offer up our lives.

20

ORLÉANS

We are enough yet living in the field

To smother up the English in our throngs,

If any order might be thought upon.

BOURBON

The devil take order now! I'll to the throng.

Let life be short, else shame will be too long.

25

*'They' exit.*

*'Scene 6'*

*Alarum. Enter the King 'of England' and his train,  
with prisoners.*

KING HENRY

Well have we done, thrice-valiant countrymen,

But all's not done. Yet keep the French the field.

「Enter Exeter.」

EXETER

The Duke of York commends him to your Majesty.

KING HENRY

Lives he, good uncle? Thrice within this hour

I saw him down, thrice up again and fighting.

5

From helmet to the spur, all blood he was.

EXETER

In which array, brave soldier, doth he lie,

Larding the plain, and by his bloody side,

Yoke-fellow to his honor-owing wounds,

The noble Earl of Suffolk also lies.

10

Suffolk first died, and York, all haggled over,

Comes to him where in gore he lay insteeped,

And takes him by the beard, kisses the gashes

That bloodily did yawn upon his face.

He cries aloud "Tarry, my cousin Suffolk.

15

My soul shall thine keep company to heaven.

Tarry, sweet soul, for mine; then fly abreast,

As in this glorious and well-foughten field

We kept together in our chivalry."

Upon these words I came and cheered him up.

20

He smiled me in the face, raught me his hand,

And with a feeble grip, says "Dear my lord,

Commend my service to my sovereign."

So did he turn, and over Suffolk's neck

He threw his wounded arm and kissed his lips,

25

And so, espoused to death, with blood he sealed

A testament of noble-ending love.

The pretty and sweet manner of it forced

Those waters from me which I would have stopped,

But I had not so much of man in me,

30

And all my mother came into mine eyes

And gave me up to tears.

KING HENRY

I blame you not,

7. **array:** attire  
 8. **Larding:** i.e., covering with blood  
 9. **honor-owing:** i.e., honor-owning, honorable  
 11. **haggled:** hacked, mangled  
 12. **insteeped:** steeped  
 15. **He:** i.e., York  
 19. **chivalry:** knighthood  
 20. **cheered him up:** comforted him; encouraged him  
 21. **smiled . . . hand:** i.e., smiled in my face and reached out his hand to me  
 26-27. **espoused . . . testament:** i.e., married to death, he put his seal in blood upon a will  
 29. **waters:** i.e., tears  
 31. **all my mother:** According to the beliefs of the time, men inherited weak female traits (like weeping) from their mothers.



A soldier peeping "through a . . . beaver." (4.2.45)  
 From Bonaventura Pistofilo, *Il torneo* . . . (1627).

34. **compound:** come to terms

35. **full:** i.e., tearful

39. **through:** i.e., throughout the army

39 SD. **They exit:** As the last line of this scene, the quarto prints "Pist. Couple gorge," a repetition of Pistol's line at 4.4.36. The quarto has Pistol enter at the beginning of 4.6 and stand silent, unheeded and idle, until he delivers this closing line.

4.7 Fluellen, in conversation with Gower, compares Henry to the classical world-conqueror Alexander the Great. Montjoy arrives to concede the French defeat. Williams appears with Henry's glove, which Henry does not acknowledge. Instead Henry sends Fluellen to challenge Williams, and then, to prevent the fight certain to ensue, sends Warwick and Gloucester after Fluellen.

2. **arrant:** notorious

3-4. **in your conscience:** i.e., according to your true belief

9. **wherefore:** i.e., for which reason

12. **Monmouth:** a town in Wales

15. **Alexander the Great:** See note to 1.1.49.

18. **magnanimous:** great in courage, nobly ambitious

For, hearing this, I must perforce compound  
With <sup>1</sup>my full<sup>1</sup> eyes, or they will issue too. *Alarum.* 35  
But hark, what new alarum is this same?  
The French have reinforced their scattered men.  
Then every soldier kill his prisoners.  
Give the word through.

<sup>1</sup>They<sup>1</sup> exit.

<sup>1</sup>Scene 7<sup>1</sup>

*Enter Fluellen and Gower.*

FLUELLEN Kill the poys and the luggage! 'Tis expressly  
against the law of arms. 'Tis as arrant a piece of  
knavery, mark you now, as can be offert, in your  
conscience now, is it not?

GOWER 'Tis certain there's not a boy left alive, and 5  
the cowardly rascals that ran from the battle ha'  
done this slaughter. Besides, they have burned  
and carried away all that was in the King's tent,  
wherefore the King, most worthily, hath caused  
every soldier to cut his prisoner's throat. O, 'tis a 10  
gallant king!

FLUELLEN Ay, he was porn at Monmouth, Captain  
Gower. What call you the town's name where  
Alexander the Pig was born?

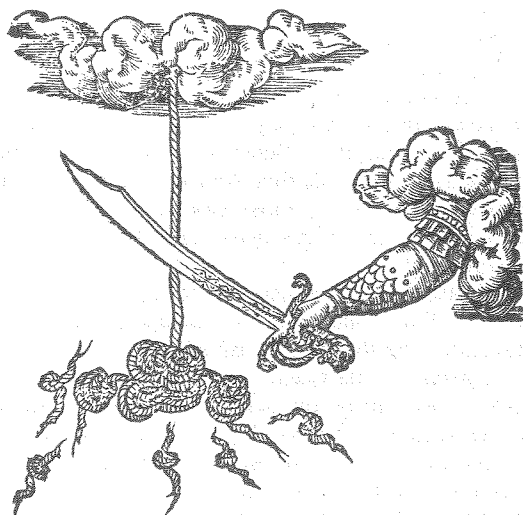
GOWER Alexander the Great. 15

FLUELLEN Why, I pray you, is not "pig" great? The pig,  
or the great, or the mighty, or the huge, or the  
magnanimous, are all one reckonings, save the  
phrase is a little variations.

GOWER I think Alexander the Great was born in Mace- 20  
don. His father was called Philip of Macedon, as I  
take it.

FLUELLEN I think it is in Macedon where Alexander is  
porn. I tell you, captain, if you look in the maps of

31. **'tis all one:** i.e., it does not matter  
 32. **both:** i.e., both rivers  
 34. **indifferent well:** fairly well; **figures:** comparisons (See line 45.)  
 37. **cholers:** anger  
 49–50. **great-belly doublet:** jacket stuffed to give its wearer the appearance of having a fat stomach (Falstaff is represented in Shakespeare's plays as very fat.)  
 50. **gipes:** perhaps, japes, jokes



Gordian knot. (1.1.49)  
 From Claude Paradin, *Deuises heroiques* . . . (1557).

the 'orld, I warrant you sall find, in the compari- 25  
 sons between Macedon and Monmouth, that the  
 situations, look you, is both alike. There is a river in  
 Macedon, and there is also, moreover, a river at  
 Monmouth. It is called Wye at Monmouth, but it is  
 out of my prains what is the name of the other river. 30  
 But 'tis all one; 'tis alike as my fingers is to my  
 fingers, and there is salmons in both. If you mark  
 Alexander's life well, Harry of Monmouth's life is  
 come after it indifferent well, for there is figures in 35  
 all things. Alexander, God knows and you know, in  
 his rages and his furies and his wraths and his  
 cholers and his moods and his displeasures and his  
 indignations, and also being a little intoxicates in  
 his prains, did, in his ales and his angers, look you,  
 kill his best friend, Cleitus. 40

GOWER Our king is not like him in that. He never  
 killed any of his friends.

FLUELLEN It is not well done, mark you now, to take 45  
 the tales out of my mouth ere it is made and  
 finished. I speak but in the figures and comparisons  
 of it. As Alexander killed his friend Cleitus, being in  
 his ales and his cups, so also Harry Monmouth,  
 being in his right wits and his good judgments,  
 turned away the fat knight with the great-belly 50  
 doublet; he was full of jests and gipes and knaveries  
 and mocks—I have forgot his name.

GOWER Sir John Falstaff.

FLUELLEN That is he. I'll tell you, there is good men  
 porn at Monmouth.

GOWER Here comes his Majesty. 55

*Alarum. Enter King Harry, 'Exeter, Warwick, Gloucester,  
 'Heralds' and Bourbon with 'other' prisoners. Flourish.*

KING HENRY

I was not angry since I came to France



57. **trumpet:** i.e., trumpeter  
 60. **Or:** i.e., or else; **void:** withdraw from  
 62. **skirr:** flee  
 63. **Enforcèd . . . slings:** Judith 9.7: "The Assyrians . . . trust in shield, spear, and bow, and sling." **Enforcèd:** forced  
 71. **finèd:** i.e., offered as a fine or ransom  
 76. **book:** record  
 79. **mercenary blood:** i.e., the blood of soldiers who were paid to fight  
 82. **Fret:** chafe  
 83. **Yerk:** lash



Soldiers plundering a village. (3.6.110–12)  
 From Raphael Holinshed, . . . *The chronicles of England* . . . (1577).

Until this instant. Take a trumpet, herald.  
 Ride thou unto the horsemen on yond hill.  
 If they will fight with us, bid them come down,  
 Or void the field. They do offend our sight. 60  
 If they'll do neither, we will come to them  
 And make them skirr away as swift as stones  
 Enforcèd from the old Assyrian slings.  
 Besides, we'll cut the throats of those we have,  
 And not a man of them that we shall take 65  
 Shall taste our mercy. Go and tell them so.

*Enter Montjoy.*

EXETER

Here comes the herald of the French, my liege.

GLOUCESTER

His eyes are humbler than they used to be.

KING HENRY

How now, what means this, herald? Know'st thou  
 not 70  
 That I have finèd these bones of mine for ransom?  
 Com'st thou again for ransom?

MONTJOY

No, great king.

I come to thee for charitable license,  
 That we may wander o'er this bloody field 75  
 To book our dead and then to bury them,  
 To sort our nobles from our common men,  
 For many of our princes—woe the while!—  
 Lie drowned and soaked in mercenary blood.  
 So do our vulgar drench their peasant limbs 80  
 In blood of princes, and the wounded steeds  
 Fret fetlock deep in gore, and with wild rage  
 Yerk out their armed heels at their dead masters,  
 Killing them twice. O, give us leave, great king,  
 To view the field in safety and dispose 85  
 Of their dead bodies.

KING HENRY

I tell thee truly, herald,

89. **peer:** come in sight, appear  
 93. **hard:** close  
 95. **field:** battle  
 97. **grandfather:** Edward III, actually Henry V's great-grandfather  
 105. **service:** military operations  
 106. **Monmouth caps:** round high-crowned caps without brims



A "kern of Ireland." (3.7.55)

From John Derrick, *The image of Irelande, with a discoverie of the woodkarne* . . . (1883).

I know not if the day be ours or no,  
 For yet a many of your horsemen peer  
 And gallop o'er the field.

90

MONTJOY The day is yours.

KING HENRY

Praised be God, and not our strength, for it!  
 What is this castle called that stands hard by?

MONTJOY They call it Agincourt.

KING HENRY

Then call we this the field of Agincourt,  
 Fought on the day of Crispin Crispianus.

95

FLUELLEN Your grandfather of famous memory, an 't  
 please your Majesty, and your great-uncle Edward  
 the Plack Prince of Wales, as I have read in the  
 chronicles, fought a most prave pattle here in 100  
 France.

KING HENRY They did, Fluellen.

FLUELLEN Your Majesty says very true. If your Majes-  
 ties is remembered of it, the Welshmen did good  
 service in a garden where leeks did grow, wearing 105  
 leeks in their Monmouth caps, which, your Majesty  
 know, to this hour is an honorable badge of the  
 service. And I do believe your Majesty takes no  
 scorn to wear the leek upon Saint Tavy's day.

KING HENRY

I wear it for a memorable honor,  
 For I am Welsh, you know, good countryman.

110

FLUELLEN All the water in Wye cannot wash your  
 Majesty's Welsh plood out of your pody, I can tell  
 you that. God pless it and preserve it as long as it  
 pleases his Grace and his Majesty too.

115

KING HENRY Thanks, good my 'countryman.'

FLUELLEN By Jeshu, I am your Majesty's countryman,  
 I care not who know it. I will confess it to all the  
 'orld. I need not to be ashamed of your Majesty,

121. **honest:** honorable

122. **him:** i.e., Montjoy

123. **just:** exact

133. **swaggered:** quarreled

134. **take:** give

137. **soundly:** smartly, severely

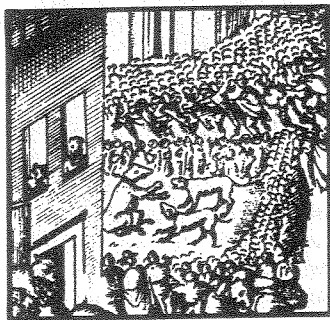
138. **fit:** appropriate

143. **great sort:** high rank; **quite . . . degree:** i.e., far removed from the obligation to take up a challenge from someone of Williams's (low) social rank

144-45. **gentleman . . . himself:** Perhaps proverbial: "The Prince of Darkness is a gentleman" (*King Lear* 3.4.151). **Beelzebub:** Matthew 12.24: "Beelzebub, the prince of the devils."

147. **be perjured:** fail to keep his oath

148. **Jack Sauce:** i.e., saucy (insolent) fellow



Bearbaiting. (3.7.145-47)

From Giacomo Franco, *Habiti d'huomeni et donne Venetiane* . . . [1609?].

praised be God, so long as your Majesty is an honest man. 120

KING HENRY

「God」 keep me so.—Our heralds, go with him.

Bring me just notice of the numbers dead

On both our parts.

「Montjoy, English Heralds, and Gower exit.」

*Enter Williams.*

Call yonder fellow hither. 125

EXETER Soldier, you must come to the King.

KING HENRY Soldier, why wear'st thou that glove in thy cap?

WILLIAMS An 't please your Majesty, 'tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if he be alive. 130

KING HENRY An Englishman?

WILLIAMS An 't please your Majesty, a rascal that swaggered with me last night, who, if alive and ever dare to challenge this glove, I have sworn to take him a box o' th' ear, or if I can see my glove in his cap, which he swore, as he was a soldier, he would wear if alive, I will strike it out soundly. 135

KING HENRY What think you, Captain Fluellen, is it fit this soldier keep his oath?

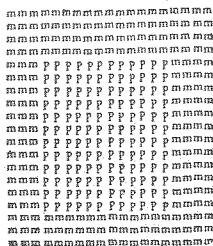
FLUELLEN He is a craven and a villain else, an 't please your Majesty, in my conscience. 140

KING HENRY It may be his enemy is a gentleman of great sort, quite from the answer of his degree.

FLUELLEN Though he be as good a gentleman as the devil is, as Lucifer and Beelzebub himself, it is necessary, look your Grace, that he keep his vow and his oath. If he be perjured, see you now, his reputation is as arrant a villain and a Jack Sauce as ever his black shoe trod upon God's ground and His earth, in my conscience, la. 150

151. **sirrah:** term of address to a social inferior  
 156-57. **good knowledge and literated:** i.e.,  
 knowledgeable and well read  
 161. **favor:** token  
 163. **helm:** helmet  
 165. **our person:** i.e., me  
 169. **fain:** gladly  
 171. **an:** i.e., if it  
 181. **haply:** perhaps

*Fronte of the battel. Square of men.*



144 Pikes.  
 48 Musk.  
 36 Musk.  
 76 Musk.  
 57 Musk.

361

A square of battle. (4.2.29)

From Gerrat Barry, *A discourse of military discipline* . . . (1634).

190

KING HENRY Then keep thy vow, sirrah, when thou  
 meet'st the fellow.

WILLIAMS So I will, my liege, as I live.

KING HENRY Who serv'st thou under?

WILLIAMS Under Captain Gower, my liege.

155

FLUELLEN Gower is a good captain, and is good knowl-  
 edge and literated in the wars.

KING HENRY Call him hither to me, soldier.

WILLIAMS I will, my liege.

*He exits.*

KING HENRY, *['giving Fluellen Williams's glove']* Here, 160

Fluellen, wear thou this favor for me, and stick it in  
 thy cap. When Alençon and myself were down  
 together, I plucked this glove from his helm. If any  
 man challenge this, he is a friend to Alençon and an  
 enemy to our person. If thou encounter any such, 165  
 apprehend him, an thou dost me love.

FLUELLEN, *['putting the glove in his cap']* Your Grace  
 does me as great honors as can be desired in the  
 hearts of his subjects. I would fain see the man that  
 has but two legs that shall find himself aggrieved at 170  
 this glove, that is all; but I would fain see it once, an  
 please God of His grace that I might see.

KING HENRY Know'st thou Gower?

FLUELLEN He is my dear friend, an please you.

KING HENRY Pray thee, go seek him, and bring him to 175  
 my tent.

FLUELLEN I will fetch him.

*He exits.*

KING HENRY

My Lord of Warwick and my brother Gloucester,  
 Follow Fluellen closely at the heels.

The glove which I have given him for a favor 180  
 May haply purchase him a box o' th' ear.

It is the soldier's. I by bargain should  
 Wear it myself. Follow, good cousin Warwick.

If that the soldier strike him, as I judge

By his blunt bearing he will keep his word, 185

187-89. **Fluellen** . . . **injury**: Ignited by his anger (**choler**) because of an insult or hurt (**injury**), Fluellen's valor explodes in retaliation (**quickly will return an injury**), just as gunpowder in a cannon goes off when it is **touched** by the gunner's match.

**4.8** Williams and Fluellen are prevented from fighting by Warwick and Gloucester. Henry arrives and accuses Williams of promising to strike him. Williams successfully excuses himself and is rewarded. Henry learns of the huge number of French casualties and the very few English. He declares the English victory to be God's own work, and he plans to return to England.

- 
1. **warrant**: i.e., I'll be bound, I'll bet
  4. **peradventure**: perhaps
  8. **this**: i.e., the glove in Fluellen's cap
  9. **'Sblood**: i.e., God's blood (a very strong oath)
  12. **be forsworn**: i.e., break my vow
  14. **his payment**: i.e., its payment (although possibly Fluellen's **treason** refers to Williams himself); **plows**: i.e., blows
  16. **lie** . . . **throat**: infamous lie

Some sudden mischief may arise of it,  
For I do know Fluellen valiant  
And, touched with choler, hot as gunpowder,  
And quickly will return an injury.  
Follow, and see there be no harm between them.— 190  
Go you with me, uncle of Exeter.

*They exit.*

「Scene 8」

*Enter Gower and Williams.*

WILLIAMS I warrant it is to knight you, captain.

*Enter Fluellen, 「wearing Williams's glove.」*

FLUELLEN, 「to Gower」 God's will and His pleasure,  
captain, I beseech you now, come apace to the  
King. There is more good toward you peradventure  
than is in your knowledge to dream of. 5

WILLIAMS, 「to Fluellen, pointing to the glove in his own  
hat」 Sir, know you this glove?

FLUELLEN Know the glove? I know the glove is a glove.

WILLIAMS I know this, and thus I challenge it.

*Strikes him.*

FLUELLEN 'Sblood, an arrant traitor as any 's in the  
universal world, or in France, or in England! 10

GOWER, 「to Williams」 How now, sir? You villain!

WILLIAMS Do you think I'll be forsworn?

FLUELLEN Stand away, Captain Gower. I will give trea-  
son his payment into plows, I warrant you.

WILLIAMS I am no traitor. 15

FLUELLEN That's a lie in thy throat.—I charge you in  
his Majesty's name, apprehend him. He's a friend  
of the Duke Alençon's.

*Enter Warwick and Gloucester.*

29. **this:** i.e., the glove in Fluellen's cap  
 30. **gave . . . change:** i.e., exchanged gloves with  
 34. **saving:** i.e., with all due respect to



"Every rub is smoothèd on our way." (2.2.197)  
 From *Le centre de l'amour* . . . [1650?].

WARWICK How now, how now, what's the matter?  
 FLUELLEN My Lord of Warwick, here is, praised be  
 God for it, a most contagious treason come to  
 light, look you, as you shall desire in a summer's  
 day. 20

*Enter King [of England] and Exeter.*

Here is his Majesty.  
 KING HENRY How now, what's the matter? 25  
 FLUELLEN My liege, here is a villain and a traitor, that,  
 look your Grace, has struck the glove which your  
 Majesty is take out of the helmet of Alençon.  
 WILLIAMS My liege, this was my glove; here is the fellow  
 of it. And he that I gave it to in change promised to  
 wear it in his cap. I promised to strike him if he did.  
 I met this man with my glove in his cap, and I have  
 been as good as my word. 30  
 FLUELLEN Your Majesty, hear now, saving your Majes-  
 ty's manhood, what an arrant, rascally, beggarly,  
 lousy knave it is. I hope your Majesty is pear me  
 testimony and witness and will avouchment that  
 this is the glove of Alençon that your Majesty is give  
 me, in your conscience now. 35  
 KING HENRY, [to Williams] Give me thy glove, soldier.  
 Look, here is the fellow of it. 40  
 'Twas I indeed thou promised'st to strike,  
 And thou hast given me most bitter terms.  
 FLUELLEN An please your Majesty, let his neck answer  
 for it, if there is any martial law in the world. 45  
 KING HENRY, [to Williams] How canst thou make me  
 satisfaction?  
 WILLIAMS All offenses, my lord, come from the heart.  
 Never came any from mine that might offend your  
 Majesty. 50  
 KING HENRY It was ourself thou didst abuse.  
 WILLIAMS Your Majesty came not like yourself. You

54. **lowliness**: low state or condition  
 55. **suffered under**: endured in  
 70. **will**: i.e., will take  
 72. **wherefore**: i.e., why  
 74. **silling**: shilling (twelve pence)  
 78. **good sort**: i.e., high rank  
 82. **Full**: i.e., fully



A "christom child." (2.3.12)  
 From [Richard Day,] *A booke of christian prayers* . . . (1578).

appeared to me but as a common man; witness the night, your garments, your lowliness. And what your Highness suffered under that shape, I beseech you take it for your own fault and not mine, for, had you been as I took you for, I made no offense. Therefore, I beseech your Highness pardon me. 55

KING HENRY

Here, uncle Exeter, fill this glove with crowns And give it to this fellow.—Keep it, fellow, And wear it for an honor in thy cap 60 Till I do challenge it.—Give him the crowns.— And, captain, you must needs be friends with him.

FLUELLEN By this day and this light, the fellow has mettle enough in his belly.—Hold, there is twelve-pence for you, and I pray you to serve God and keep you out of prawls and prabbles and quarrels and dissensions, and I warrant you it is the better for you. 65

WILLIAMS I will none of your money. 70

FLUELLEN It is with a good will. I can tell you it will serve you to mend your shoes. Come, wherefore should you be so pashful? Your shoes is not so good. 'Tis a good silling, I warrant you, or I will change it. 75

*Enter [an English] Herald.*

KING HENRY Now, herald, are the dead numbered?

HERALD, [giving the King a paper]

Here is the number of the slaughtered French.

KING HENRY, [to Exeter]

What prisoners of good sort are taken, uncle?

EXETER

Charles, Duke of Orléans, nephew to the King; John, Duke of Bourbon, and Lord Bouciquault. Of other lords and barons, knights and squires, Full fifteen hundred, besides common men. 80

## KING HENRY

This note doth tell me of ten thousand French  
 That in the field lie slain. Of princes in this number  
 And nobles bearing banners, there lie dead 85  
 One hundred twenty-six. Added to these,  
 Of knights, esquires, and gallant gentlemen,  
 Eight thousand and four hundred, of the which  
 Five hundred were but yesterday dubbed knights.  
 So that in these ten thousand they have lost, 90  
 There are but sixteen hundred mercenaries.  
 The rest are princes, barons, lords, knights, squires,  
 And gentlemen of blood and quality.  
 The names of those their nobles that lie dead:  
 Charles Delabreth, High Constable of France; 95  
 Jacques of Chatillon, Admiral of France;  
 The Master of the Crossbows, Lord Rambures;  
 Great Master of France, the brave Sir Guichard  
 Dauphin;  
 John, Duke of Alençon; Anthony, Duke of Brabant, 100  
 The brother to the Duke of Burgundy;  
 And Edward, Duke of Bar. Of lusty earls:  
 Grandpré and Roussi, Faulconbridge and Foix,  
 Beaumont and Marle, 'Vaudemont' and Lestrale.  
 Here was a royal fellowship of death. 105  
 Where is the number of our English dead?  
 'Herald gives him another paper.'  
 Edward the Duke of York, the Earl of Suffolk,  
 Sir Richard Ketly, Davy Gam, esquire;  
 None else of name, and of all other men  
 But five and twenty. O God, thy arm was here, 110  
 And not to us, but to thy arm alone  
 Ascribe we all! When, without stratagem,  
 But in plain shock and even play of battle,  
 Was ever known so great and little loss  
 On one part and on th' other? Take it, God, 115  
 For it is none but thine.



122. **an:** i.e., if it

128. **Non nobis:** a hymn that begins "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but only unto Thy name give glory" (Psalm 115); **Te Deum:** a hymn that begins "We praise thee, O God"

EXETER

'Tis wonderful.

KING HENRY

Come, go <sup>we</sup> in procession to the village,  
And be it death proclaimèd through our host  
To boast of this or take that praise from God  
Which is His only.

120

FLUELLEN Is it not lawful, an please your Majesty, to  
tell how many is killed?

KING HENRY

Yes, captain, but with this acknowledgment:  
That God fought for us.

125

FLUELLEN Yes, my conscience, He did us great good.

KING HENRY Do we all holy rites.

Let there be sung *Non nobis*, and *Te Deum*,  
The dead with charity enclosed in clay,  
And then to Calais, and to England then,

130

Where ne'er from France arrived more happy men.  
*They exit.*

*The Life of*

# HENRY V

---

ACT 5

**5. Chorus** The Chorus describes the great welcome accorded the English army when it returns home, the visit by the Holy Roman Emperor to establish peace between England and France, and the return of Henry to France.

1. **Vouchsafe:** grant as an act of condescension
3. **admit:** allow (i.e., as my excuse for what I'm doing in condensing things)
4. **time:** This chorus swallows up the many events of the five years between the Battle of Agincourt (1415), represented in Act 4, and the Treaty of Troyes (1420), represented in Act 5.
5. **proper life:** i.e., the life that actually belonged to them
10. **Pales in the flood:** encloses, or fences in, the ocean; **wives:** i.e., women
11. **outvoice:** i.e., drown out; **deep-mouthed:** sonorous
13. **whiffler:** official charged with clearing the way for a royal or civic procession
17. **Blackheath:** open space southeast of London
18. **Where that:** i.e., from where
19. **bruised, bended:** i.e., battle-damaged
- 22-23. **Giving . . . God:** i.e., attributing the triumph (referred to here in terms of the symbols of it—**trophy, signal, and ostent**) entirely to God
- signal:** sign, token    **ostent:** show, display

## ACT 5

*Enter Chorus.*

[CHORUS]

Vouchsafe to those that have not read the story  
 That I may prompt them; and of such as have,  
 I humbly pray them to admit th' excuse  
 Of time, of numbers, and due course of things,  
 Which cannot in their huge and proper life 5  
 Be here presented. Now we bear the King  
 Toward Calais. Grant him there. There seen,  
 Heave him away upon your wingèd thoughts  
 Athwart the sea. Behold, the English beach  
 Pales in the flood with men, wives, and boys, 10  
 Whose shouts and claps outvoice the deep-mouthed  
 sea,  
 Which, like a mighty whiffler 'fore the King  
 Seems to prepare his way. So let him land,  
 And solemnly see him set on to London. 15  
 So swift a pace hath thought that even now  
 You may imagine him upon Blackheath,  
 Where that his lords desire him to have borne  
 His bruised helmet and his bended sword  
 Before him through the city. He forbids it, 20  
 Being free from vainness and self-glorious pride,  
 Giving full trophy, signal, and ostent  
 Quite from himself, to God. But now behold,

24. **workinghouse**: workshop  
26. **brethren**: i.e., brother citizens; **in best sort**: i.e., dressed in their best

27. **th' antique**: ancient

30. **lower . . . likelihood**: i.e., a similarity of persons lower in rank, but a similarity much to be desired

31. **general**: perhaps Essex; perhaps Mountjoy (See longer note, page 242); **empress**: Queen Elizabeth I

33. **rebellion**: i.e., the Irish rebellion against England; **broachèd**: spitted

40. **Emperor**: Sigismund, the Holy Roman emperor, visited London to treat for peace in May 1416.

41. **order**: arrange

44-45. **myself . . . past**: i.e., I have performed what has happened since he was last in France by reminding you that it is now past

46. **brook abridgment**: perhaps, tolerate the omission from our performance of the events just narrated; or, perhaps, tolerate what I have done in thus digesting history

5.1 Fluellen avenges Pistol's insults by making Pistol eat a leek. Pistol, humiliated, plans to return to England in the guise of a wounded soldier.

4. **ass**: i.e., as

5. **scald**: scabby; mean

In the quick forge and workinghouse of thought,  
How London doth pour out her citizens. . . . 25

The Mayor and all his brethren in best sort,  
Like to the senators of th' antique Rome,  
With the plebeians swarming at their heels,  
Go forth and fetch their conqu'ring Caesar in—  
As, by a lower but by loving likelihood 30

Were now the general of our gracious empress,  
As in good time he may, from Ireland coming,  
Bringing rebellion broachèd on his sword,  
How many would the peaceful city quit  
To welcome him! Much more, and much more 35  
cause,

Did they this Harry. Now in London place him  
(As yet the lamentation of the French  
Invites the King of England's stay at home;  
The Emperor's coming in behalf of France 40  
To order peace between them) and omit  
All the occurrences, whatever chanced,  
Till Harry's back return again to France.

There must we bring him, and myself have played  
The interim, by remembering you 'tis past. 45  
Then brook abridgment, and your eyes advance  
After your thoughts, straight back again to France.

*He exits.*

「Scene 1」

*Enter Fluellen and Gower.*

GOWER Nay, that's right. But why wear you your leek  
today? Saint Davy's day is past.

FLUELLEN There is occasions and causes why and  
wherefore in all things. I will tell you ass my  
friend, Captain Gower. The rascally, scald, beggar- 5  
ly, lousy, praggng knave Pistol, which you and

15. **swelling**: i.e., puffing himself up  
 20. **bedlam**: mad (**Bedlam** refers to London's Bethlehem Hospital for the insane.)  
 21. **Trojan**: dissolute fellow; **fold up Parca's fatal web**: i.e., kill you (a mistaken reference to the Parcae, or Fates, of classical mythology, who did not **fold up** the **web** of life, but cut its thread)  
 22. **qualmish**: nauseated  
 27. **disgestions**: digestion  
 29. **Cadwallader**: seventh-century Welsh hero, here characterized as a goatherd  
 37. **mountain squire**: i.e., owner of worthless mountain land  
 38. **squire . . . degree**: (1) in contrast to **mountain squire**; (2) the name of a popular medieval romance **degree**: rank



The three Fates. (3.6.45)  
 From Vincenzo Cartari, *Imagines deorum* . . . (1581).

208

yourself and all the world know to be no petter than a fellow, look you now, of no merits, he is come to me and prings me pread and salt yesterday, look you, and bid me eat my leek. It was in a place where I could not breed no contention with him, but I will be so bold as to wear it in my cap till I see him once again, and then I will tell him a little piece of my desires. 10

*Enter Pistol.*

- GOWER Why here he comes, swelling like a turkey-cock. 15  
 FLUELLEN 'Tis no matter for his swellings, nor his turkey-cocks.—God pless you, Aunchient Pistol, you scurvy, lousy knave, God pless you.  
 PISTOL Ha, art thou bedlam? Dost thou thirst, base Trojan, to have me fold up Parca's fatal web? Hence. I am qualmish at the smell of leek. 20  
 FLUELLEN I peseech you heartily, scurvy, lousy knave, at my desires and my requests and my petitions, to eat, look you, this leek. Because, look you, you do not love it, nor your affections and your appetites and your disgestions does not agree with it, I would desire you to eat it. 25  
 PISTOL Not for Cadwallader and all his goats.  
 FLUELLEN There is one goat for you. (*Strikes him with a cudgel.*) Will you be so good, scald knave, as eat it? 30  
 PISTOL Base Trojan, thou shalt die.  
 FLUELLEN You say very true, scald knave, when God's will is. I will desire you to live in the meantime and eat your victuals. Come, there is sauce for it. (*Strikes him.*) You called me yesterday "mountain squire," but I will make you today a squire of low degree. I pray you, fall to. If you can mock a leek, you can eat a leek. 40

40

41. **astonished**: stunned  
 43. **pate**: scalp  
 44. **green**: fresh  
 45. **coxcomb**: head (literally, a fool's cap)  
 47. **out of**: without  
 55. **do**: i.e., may it do  
 61. **Hold you**: i.e., wait; **groat**: coin worth only four pence  
 64. **verily**: truly  
 67. **in earnest of revenge**: i.e., as a promise of the revenge to come  
 69. **woodmonger**: seller of wood  
 75. **respect**: consideration  
 76. **predeceased valor**: i.e., brave men who have died; **avouch**: affirm



A fool wearing a coxcomb. (5.1.45)  
 From George Wither, *A collection of emblemes* . . . (1635).

- GOWER Enough, captain. You have astonished him.  
 FLUELLEN I say I will make him eat some part of my leek, or I will peat his pate four days.—Bite, I pray you. It is good for your green wound and your bloody coxcomb. 45  
 PISTOL Must I bite?  
 FLUELLEN Yes, certainly, and out of doubt and out of question, too, and ambiguities.  
 PISTOL By this leek, I will most horribly revenge. *Fluellen threatens him.* I eat and eat, I swear— 50  
 FLUELLEN Eat, I pray you. Will you have some more sauce to your leek? There is not enough leek to swear by.  
 PISTOL Quiet thy cudgel. Thou dost see I eat.  
 FLUELLEN Much good do you, scald knave, heartily. 55  
 Nay, pray you throw none away. The skin is good for your broken coxcomb. When you take occasions to see leeks hereafter, I pray you mock at 'em, that is all.  
 PISTOL Good. 60  
 FLUELLEN Ay, leeks is good. Hold you, there is a groat to heal your pate.  
 PISTOL Me, a groat?  
 FLUELLEN Yes, verily, and in truth you shall take it, or I have another leek in my pocket, which you shall eat. 65  
 PISTOL I take thy groat in earnest of revenge.  
 FLUELLEN If I owe you anything, I will pay you in cudgels. You shall be a woodmonger and buy nothing of me but cudgels. God be wi' you and keep you and heal your pate. *He exits.* 70  
 PISTOL All hell shall stir for this.  
 GOWER Go, go. You are a counterfeit cowardly knave. Will you mock at an ancient tradition begun upon an honorable respect and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valor, and dare not avouch in 75

78. **gleeking and galling:** jesting and scoffing

82. **correction:** punishment

84. **Doth . . . huswife:** i.e., has the goddess Fortune betrayed me now like the hussy she is

85. **Doll:** In 2.1 and 2.3, Pistol is represented as married to the Hostess, Nell Quickly, not to Doll Tearsheet, a prostitute associated with Falstaff in *Henry IV, Part 2*. This incongruity in the Folio text has not been satisfactorily explained.

85-86. **i' th' spital . . . France:** in the hospital with venereal disease

86. **rendezvous:** retreat to safe haven

88-89. **something . . . cutpurse:** somewhat incline to (being a) pickpocket

92. **Gallia:** a mistake for "Gallic" or French

5.2 The Duke of Burgundy has brought about a meeting between French and English to sign a peace treaty. Henry delegates negotiation of the treaty to his nobles while he woos Katherine, Princess of France, who agrees to marry him. The French are brought to accept all English terms, including Henry's right to succeed to the French throne.

1. **wherefor:** i.e., for which reason (i.e., of making peace) (The language of these opening courtly speeches is marked by highly formal diction and contorted syntax.)

5. **royalty:** royal family

6. **contrived:** managed, brought about

your deeds any of your words? I have seen you gleeking and galling at this gentleman twice or thrice. You thought because he could not speak English in the native garb, he could not therefore handle an English cudgel. You find it otherwise, and henceforth let a Welsh correction teach you a good English condition. Fare you well. *He exits.*

PISTOL Doth Fortune play the huswife with me now?

News have I that my Doll is dead i' th' spital of a malady of France, and there my rendezvous is quite cut off. Old I do wax, and from my weary limbs honor is cudgeled. Well, bawd I'll turn, and something lean to cutpurse of quick hand. To England will I steal, and there I'll steal.

And patches will I get unto these cudgeled scars, And 'swear' I got them in the Gallia wars.

*He exits.*

### Scene 2

*Enter at one door, King Henry, Exeter, Bedford, Warwick, Westmoreland, and other Lords. At another, Queen Isabel of France, the King of France, the Princess Katherine and Alice, the Duke of Burgundy, and other French.*

KING HENRY

Peace to this meeting wherefor we are met.  
Unto our brother France and to our sister,  
Health and fair time of day.—Joy and good wishes  
To our most fair and princely cousin Katherine.—  
And, as a branch and member of this royalty,  
By whom this great assembly is contrived,  
We do salute you, Duke of Burgundy.—  
And princes French, and peers, health to you all.

10. **Fairly met:** i.e., welcome

12. **issue:** outcome; **Ireland:** This word was changed to "England" in the Second Folio of 1632, and has appeared thus in all subsequent editions. The name **Ireland** could, however, have been understood as a name for Henry V in plays onstage in the early seventeenth century. See longer note, page 243.

15-16. **have borne . . . in their bent:** i.e., have carried in them . . . when you directed your eyes (against the French)

17. **balls:** (1) cannonballs; (2) eyeballs; **basilisks:** (1) large cannon; (2) fabulous creatures whose glance was fatal (See page 220.)

19. **quality:** i.e., venomous quality

23. **on:** i.e., based on

28. **bar:** tribunal

29. **Your . . . parts:** i.e., your Majesties both English and French

30. **office:** service or duty toward you

32. **congreeted:** greeted each other

34. **rub:** obstacle (See 2.2.197 and page 194.)

38. **put up:** raise

KING OF FRANCE

Right joyous are we to behold your face,  
Most worthy brother England. Fairly met.— 10  
So are you, princes English, every one.

QUEEN OF FRANCE

So happy be the issue, brother Ireland,  
Of this good day and of this gracious meeting,  
As we are now glad to behold your eyes—  
Your eyes which hitherto have borne in them 15  
Against the French that met them in their bent  
The fatal balls of murdering basilisks.  
The venom of such looks, we fairly hope,  
Have lost their quality, and that this day  
Shall change all griefs and quarrels into love. 20

KING HENRY

To cry "Amen" to that, thus we appear.

QUEEN OF FRANCE

You English princes all, I do salute you.

BURGUNDY

My duty to you both, on equal love,  
Great kings of France and England. That I have 25  
labored  
With all my wits, my pains, and strong endeavors  
To bring your most imperial Majesties  
Unto this bar and royal interview,  
Your Mightiness on both parts best can witness.  
Since, then, my office hath so far prevailed 30  
That face to face and royal eye to eye  
You have congreeted, let it not disgrace me  
If I demand before this royal view  
What rub or what impediment there is  
Why that the naked, poor, and mangled peace, 35  
Dear nurse of arts, plenties, and joyful births,  
Should not in this best garden of the world,  
Our fertile France, put up her lovely visage?  
Alas, she hath from France too long been chased,



40. **husbandry**: agriculture; **on**: i.e., in  
 42. **merry cheerer**: i.e., when the grape from the vine becomes wine  
 43. **even-pleached**: uniformly interlaced  
 45. **fallow leas**: unplanted fields  
 46. **darnel . . . fumitory**: weeds  
 47. **coulter**: vertical blade on the front of a plow  
 48. **deracinate**: tear up by the roots  
 49. **even mead**: level meadow; **erst**: formerly  
 51. **Wanting**: lacking; **withal uncorrected**: i.e., therewith uncontrolled; **rank**: overgrown, in need of cutting; rotten  
 52. **Conceives**: reproduces  
 53. **docks**: weeds; **kecksies**: dry, hollow plant stems  
 55. **fallows**: unplanted lands; **meads**: meadows  
 57. **houses**: households  
 58. **want**: lack  
 59. **sciences**: learning; knowledge acquired through study  
 62. **diffused**: disordered  
 64. **reduce . . . favor**: i.e., bring into the favorable condition that formerly prevailed  
 66. **let**: hindrance  
 69. **would**: i.e., wish to have  
 72. **accord**: agreement  
 73. **tenors . . . effects**: general substance and details  
 74. **enscheduled**: listed

And all her husbandry doth lie on heaps, 40  
 Corrupting in its own fertility.  
 Her vine, the merry cheerer of the heart,  
 Unpruned, dies. Her hedges, even-pleached,  
 Like prisoners wildly overgrown with hair,  
 Put forth disordered twigs. Her fallow leas 45  
 The darnel, hemlock, and rank fumitory  
 Doth root upon, while that the coulter rusts  
 That should deracinate such savagery.  
 The even mead, that erst brought sweetly forth  
 The freckled cowslip, burnet, and green clover, 50  
 Wanting the scythe, withal uncorrected, rank,  
 Conceives by idleness, and nothing teems  
 But hateful docks, rough thistles, kecksies, burrs,  
 Losing both beauty and utility.  
 And all our vineyards, fallows, meads, and hedges, 55  
 Defective in their natures, grow to wildness.  
 Even so our houses and ourselves and children  
 Have lost, or do not learn for want of time,  
 The sciences that should become our country,  
 But grow like savages, as soldiers will 60  
 That nothing do but meditate on blood,  
 To swearing and stern looks, diffused attire,  
 And everything that seems unnatural.  
 Which to reduce into our former favor  
 You are assembled, and my speech entreats 65  
 That I may know the let why gentle peace  
 Should not expel these inconveniences  
 And bless us with her former qualities.

## KING HENRY

If, Duke of Burgundy, you would the peace, 70  
 Whose want gives growth to th' imperfections  
 Which you have cited, you must buy that peace  
 With full accord to all our just demands,  
 Whose tenors and particular effects  
 You have, enscheduled briefly, in your hands.

79. **cursitory**: cursory  
 81. **presently**: immediately  
 82. **better heed**: greater attention  
 84. **Pass**: give; **accept**: i.e., accepted; **peremptory**:  
 decisive, final  
 90. **advantageable for**: advantageous to  
 92. **consign**: subscribe  
 95. **Haply**: perhaps  
 96. **nicely**: precisely; **stood on**: insisted upon  
 98. **capital**: chief; **comprised**: included  
 99. **forerank**: first row (i.e., the first article of the  
 treaty; see line 345)  
 100. **good leave**: permission

Paix.



Peace. (5.2.66)  
 From Gilles Corrozet, *Hecatographie* . . . (1543).

BURGUNDY

The King hath heard them, to the which as yet 75  
 There is no answer made.

KING HENRY

Well then, the peace which you before so urged  
 Lies in his answer.

KING OF FRANCE

I have but with a <sup>1</sup>cursitory eye  
 O'erglanced the articles. Pleaseth your Grace 80  
 To appoint some of your council presently  
 To sit with us once more with better heed  
 To resurvey them, we will suddenly  
 Pass our accept and peremptory answer.

KING HENRY

Brother, we shall.—Go, uncle Exeter, 85  
 And brother Clarence, and you, brother Gloucester,  
 Warwick, and Huntington, go with the King,  
 And take with you free power to ratify,  
 Augment, or alter, as your wisdoms best  
 Shall see advantageable for our dignity, 90  
 Anything in or out of our demands,  
 And we'll consign thereto.—Will you, fair sister,  
 Go with the princes or stay here with us?

QUEEN OF FRANCE

Our gracious brother, I will go with them.  
 Haply a woman's voice may do some good 95  
 When articles too nicely urged be stood on.

KING HENRY

Yet leave our cousin Katherine here with us.  
 She is our capital demand, comprised  
 Within the forerank of our articles.

QUEEN OF FRANCE

She hath good leave. 100

*All but Katherine, and the King<sup>1</sup> of England,  
 and Alice<sup>1</sup> exit.*

KING HENRY

Fair Katherine, and most fair,

111. **Pardonnez-moi:** pardon me

115-16. **Que . . . anges:** What is he saying? That I am like the angels? (Here even the supposedly French-speaking princess speaks broken French.)

117. **Oui . . . il:** Yes, truly, saving your Grace, thus he says.

120. **Ô bon Dieu:** O good God (The rest of this speech is correctly translated in lines 122-23.)

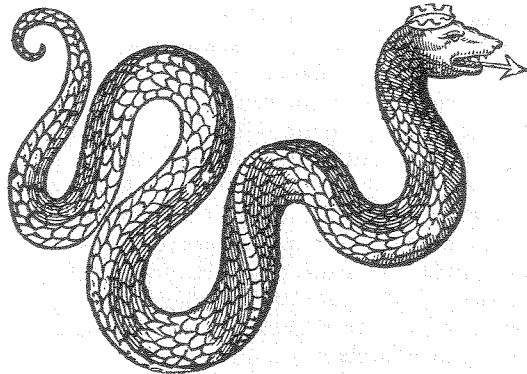
126-27. **Englishwoman:** i.e., a woman allegedly suspicious of flattery

132. **mince it in love:** i.e., speak elegant love-talk

134. **wear . . . suit:** exhaust my expressions of love

135. **clap:** i.e., clasp

137. **Sauf . . . honneur:** saving your honor (i.e., with all due respect to you)



A basilisk. (5.2.17)

From Edward Topsell, *The history of . . . beasts and serpents . . .* (1658).

Will you vouchsafe to teach a soldier terms

Such as will enter at a lady's ear

And plead his love-suit to her gentle heart?

KATHERINE Your Majesty shall mock at me. I cannot 105  
speak your England.

KING HENRY O fair Katherine, if you will love me  
soundly with your French heart, I will be glad to  
hear you confess it brokenly with your English 110  
tongue. Do you like me, Kate?

KATHERINE *Pardonnez-moi*, I cannot tell wat is "like  
me."

KING HENRY An angel is like you, Kate, and you are  
like an angel.

KATHERINE, <sup>to Alice</sup> *Que dit-il? Que je suis semblable à 115*  
*les anges?*

ALICE *Oui, vraiment, sauf votre Grâce, ainsi dit-il.*

KING HENRY I said so, dear Katherine, and I must not  
blush to affirm it.

KATHERINE *Ô bon Dieu, les langues des hommes sont 120*  
*pleines de tromperies.*

KING HENRY, <sup>to Alice</sup> What says she, fair one? That the  
tongues of men are full of deceits?

ALICE *Oui*, dat de tongues of de mans is be full of  
deceits; dat is de Princess. 125

KING HENRY The Princess is the better Englishwo-  
man.—I' faith, Kate, my wooing is fit for thy  
understanding. I am glad thou canst speak no  
better English, for if thou couldst, thou wouldst  
find me such a plain king that thou wouldst think I 130  
had sold my farm to buy my crown. I know no ways  
to mince it in love, but directly to say "I love you."  
Then if you urge me farther than to say "Do you, in  
faith?" I wear out my suit. Give me your answer, i'  
faith, do; and so clap hands and a bargain. How say 135  
you, lady?

KATHERINE *Sauf votre honneur*, me understand well.

KING HENRY Marry, if you would put me to verses or to dance for your sake, Kate, why you undid me. For the one, I have neither words nor measure; and 140 for the other, I have no strength in measure, yet a reasonable measure in strength. If I could win a lady at leapfrog or by vaulting into my saddle with my armor on my back, under the correction of bragging be it spoken, I should quickly leap into a 145 wife. Or if I might buffet for my love, or bound my horse for her favors, I could lay on like a butcher and sit like a jackanapes, never off. But, before God, Kate, I cannot look greenly nor gasp out my eloquence, nor I have no cunning in protestation, only 150 downright oaths, which I never use till urged, nor never break for urging. If thou canst love a fellow of this temper, Kate, whose face is not worth sunburning, that never looks in his glass for love of anything he sees there, let thine eye be thy cook. I 155 speak to thee plain soldier. If thou canst love me for this, take me. If not, to say to thee that I shall die is true, but for thy love, by the Lord, no. Yet I love thee too. And while thou liv'st, dear Kate, take a fellow of plain and uncoined constancy, for he perforce must 160 do thee right because he hath not the gift to woo in other places. For these fellows of infinite tongue, that can rhyme themselves into ladies' favors, they do always reason themselves out again. What? A speaker is but a prater, a rhyme is but a ballad, a 165 good leg will fall, a straight back will stoop, a black beard will turn white, a curled pate will grow bald, a fair face will wither, a full eye will wax hollow, but a good heart, Kate, is the sun and the moon, or rather the sun and not the moon, for it shines bright 170 and never changes but keeps his course truly. If thou would have such a one, take me. And take me, take a soldier. Take a soldier, take a king. And what

139. **you undid me:** i.e., you would undo me  
 140. **measure:** meter, poetic rhythm  
 141. **measure:** rhythmical motion, dancing  
 143. **leapfrog:** i.e., leaping or vaulting (as in the game of leapfrog)  
 144. **under . . . of:** i.e., at the risk of  
 146. **buffet:** fight with my fists  
 146-47. **bound my horse:** make my horse leap  
 147. **lay on:** fight with my fists  
 148. **jackanapes:** monkey; **never off:** i.e., never falling off my horse  
 149. **greenly:** as if I had greensickness (a form of anemia)  
 153. **temper:** i.e., temperament  
 154. **glass:** looking glass, mirror  
 155. **let . . . cook:** Proverbial: "Let his eye be the best cook."  
 160. **uncoined:** never put into circulation as currency; **perforce:** necessarily  
 161. **do thee right:** i.e., be faithful to you  
 165. **prater:** chatterer  
 166. **fall:** shrink  
 171. **his course:** its course

189–90. **Je . . . moi:** I, when on the possession of France, and when you have possession of me (One of Henry's errors is making **possession** a masculine rather than a feminine noun.)

191. **Saint Denis:** patron saint of France; **be my speed:** help me

191–92. **donc . . . mienne:** then France is yours, and you are mine

194. **move thee:** (1) persuade you; (2) stir your emotions

196–97. **Sauf . . . parle:** Saving your honor, the French that you speak is better than the English that I speak.

199. **truly-falsely:** sincerely but ungrammatically

200. **at one:** the same

206. **closet:** private room

208. **parts:** qualities



Henry V: "a fellow . . . whose face is not worth sunburning." (5.2.152–54)  
From John Taylor, *All the workes of . . .* (1630).

say'st thou then to my love? Speak, my fair, and fairly, I pray thee.

KATHERINE Is it possible dat I sould love de enemy of France? 175

KING HENRY No, it is not possible you should love the enemy of France, Kate. But, in loving me, you should love the friend of France, for I love France so well that I will not part with a village of it. I will have it all mine. And, Kate, when France is mine and I am yours, then yours is France and you are mine. 180

KATHERINE I cannot tell wat is dat. 185

KING HENRY No, Kate? I will tell thee in French, which I am sure will hang upon my tongue like a new-married wife about her husband's neck, hardly to be shook off. *Je quand sur le possession de France, et quand vous avez le possession de moi*—let me see, what then? Saint Denis be my speed!—*donc vôtre est France, et vous êtes mienne*. It is as easy for me, Kate, to conquer the kingdom as to speak so much more French. I shall never move thee in French, unless it be to laugh at me. 190 195

KATHERINE *Sauf votre honneur, le français que vous parlez, il est meilleur que l'anglais le quel je parle.*

KING HENRY No, faith, is 't not, Kate, but thy speaking of my tongue, and I thine, most truly-falsely must needs be granted to be much at one. But, Kate, dost thou understand thus much English? Canst thou love me? 200

KATHERINE I cannot tell.

KING HENRY Can any of your neighbors tell, Kate? I'll ask them. Come, I know thou lovest me; and at night, when you come into your closet, you'll question this gentlewoman about me, and, I know, Kate, you will, to her, dispraise those parts in me that you love with your heart. But, good Kate, mock me 205

211. **cruelly**: i.e., painfully

213. **scambling**: scrambling, scuffling (an understatement for warfare)

215-16. **compound**: i.e., create (literally, put together)

217. **take . . . beard**: i.e., humiliate the Turk (Constantinople did not fall to the Turks until 1453, some thirty-three years after the setting of this scene.)

218-19. **flower de luce**: i.e., fleur-de-lis, emblematic of France

224. **moiety**: half

225-26. **la plus . . . déesse**: the most beautiful Katherine in the world, my very dear and divine goddess (Again Henry gets the gender of a noun, **déesse**, wrong.)

227. **Majesté**: Majesty; **fausse**: false

228. **demoiselle**: young woman; **en**: in

231. **blood**: passion

233. **untempering**: unappeasing

234. **besbrow**: curse

235. **got**: begot

236. **stubborn**: stiff, rigid; **aspect**: appearance; expression

239. **ill layer-up**: poor preserver

242. **wear me**: possess and enjoy me as your own

244. **avouch**: affirm

mercifully, the rather, gentle princess, because I  
love thee cruelly. If ever thou beest mine, Kate, as I  
have a saving faith within me tells me thou shalt, I  
get thee with scrambling, and thou must therefore  
needs prove a good soldier-breeder. Shall not thou  
and I, between Saint Denis and Saint George, com-  
pound a boy, half French, half English, that shall go  
to Constantinople and take the Turk by the beard?  
Shall we not? What say'st thou, my fair flower de  
luce?

KATHERINE I do not know dat.

KING HENRY No, 'tis hereafter to know, but now to  
promise. Do but now promise, Kate, you will  
endeavor for your French part of such a boy; and  
for my English moiety, take the word of a king and  
a bachelor. How answer you, *la plus belle Katherine*  
*du monde, mon très cher et divin déesse*?

KATHERINE Your *Majesté* 'ave *fausse* French enough to  
deceive de most sage *demoiselle* dat is *en* France.

KING HENRY Now fie upon my false French. By mine  
honor, in true English, I love thee, Kate. By which  
honor I dare not swear thou lovest me, yet my blood  
begins to flatter me that thou dost, notwithstanding  
the poor and untempering effect of my visage. Now  
besbrow my father's ambition! He was thinking of  
civil wars when he got me; therefore was I created  
with a stubborn outside, with an aspect of iron, that  
when I come to woo ladies, I fright them. But, in  
faith, Kate, the elder I wax, the better I shall appear.  
My comfort is that old age, that ill layer-up of  
beauty, can do no more spoil upon my face. Thou  
hast me, if thou hast me, at the worst, and thou shalt  
wear me, if thou wear me, better and better. And  
therefore tell me, most fair Katherine, will you have  
me? Put off your maiden blushes, avouch the  
thoughts of your heart with the looks of an empress,

248. **withal**: with

250. **Plantagenet**: the name of the English royal family from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries

251. **fellow with**: equal to

253. **broken music**: music in parts

255. **break**: open

257. **roi mon père**: king my father

263–67. **Laissez . . . seigneur**: Let go, my lord, let go, let go! My faith, I do not wish in the least that you abase your greatness in kissing the hand of one—Our Lord!—unworthy servant. Pardon me, I beg you, my very powerful lord.

269–70. **Les . . . France**: For ladies and young women to be kissed before their weddings, it is not the French custom.

272. **pour les**: for the

275. **entendre**: i.e., understands; **que moi**: than I

278. **Oui, vraiment**: yes, indeed

279. **nice**: strict

281. **list**: barrier

take me by the hand, and say "Harry of England, I am thine," which word thou shalt no sooner bless mine ear withal, but I will tell thee aloud "England is thine, Ireland is thine, France is thine, and Henry Plantagenet is thine," who, though I speak it before 250 his face, if he be not fellow with the best king, thou shalt find the best king of good fellows. Come, your answer in broken music, for thy voice is music, and thy English broken. Therefore, queen of all, Katherine, break thy mind to me in broken English. Wilt 255 thou have me?

KATHERINE Dat is as it shall please de *roi mon père*.

KING HENRY Nay, it will please him well, Kate; it shall please him, Kate.

KATHERINE Den it sall also content me. 260

KING HENRY Upon that I kiss your hand, and I call you my queen.

KATHERINE *Laissez, mon seigneur, laissez, laissez! Ma foi, je ne veux point que vous abaissiez votre grandeur, en baisant la main d' une—Notre Seigneur!— 265 indigne serviteur. Excusez-moi, je vous supplie, mon très puissant seigneur.*

KING HENRY Then I will kiss your lips, Kate.

KATHERINE *Les dames et demoiselles, pour être baisées devant leurs noces, il n'est pas la coutume de France. 270*

KING HENRY Madam my interpreter, what says she?

ALICE Dat it is not be de fashion *pour les ladies of France—I cannot tell wat is baiser en English.*

KING HENRY To kiss.

ALICE Your *Majesté entendre* better *que moi*. 275

KING HENRY It is not a fashion for the maids in France to kiss before they are married, would she say?

ALICE *Oui, vraiment.*

KING HENRY O Kate, nice customs curtsy to great kings. Dear Kate, you and I cannot be confined 280 within the weak list of a country's fashion. We are

283. **follows our places:** waits upon our positions  
 284. **I will do yours:** Henry plays here with the phrase "stop the mouth," which also means "kiss."  
 298-99. **condition:** disposition, temper  
 301-2. **he, his:** i.e., it, its (referring to the **spirit of love**)

305. **circle:** i.e., a magic circle (The obscene implication of these lines—Burgundy's **frankness**—is carried on in the words "naked," "hard," "handling," "latter end," "entered."); **Love:** Cupid, the Roman god of love, is often depicted as naked and blindfolded.

307-8. **yet rosed over:** still blushing

311. **consign:** subscribe

312. **they:** maids, virgins; **wink:** close their eyes

313. **blind:** heedless, inconsiderate



Cupid, that "naked blind boy." (5.2.309)  
 Anonymous engraving inserted in Jacques Callot,  
 [*Le petit passion* (n.d.)].

the makers of manners, Kate, and the liberty that follows our places stops the mouth of all find-faults, as I will do yours for upholding the nice fashion of your country in denying me a kiss. Therefore, 285  
 patiently and yielding. *He kisses her.* You have witchcraft in your lips, Kate. There is more eloquence in a sugar touch of them than in the tongues of the French council, and they should sooner persuade Harry of England than a general petition 290  
 of monarchs.

*Enter the French power, the French King and Queen and Burgundy, and the English Lords Westmoreland and Exeter.*

Here comes your father.

BURGUNDY God save your Majesty. My royal cousin, teach you our princess English?

KING HENRY I would have her learn, my fair cousin, 295  
 how perfectly I love her, and that is good English.

BURGUNDY Is she not apt?

KING HENRY Our tongue is rough, coz, and my condition is not smooth, so that, having neither the voice nor the heart of flattery about me, I cannot so 300  
 conjure up the spirit of love in her that he will appear in his true likeness.

BURGUNDY Pardon the frankness of my mirth if I answer you for that. If you would conjure in her, you must make a circle; if conjure up Love in her in 305  
 his true likeness, he must appear naked and blind. Can you blame her, then, being a maid yet rosed over with the virgin crimson of modesty, if she deny the appearance of a naked blind boy in her naked seeing self? It were, my lord, a hard condition for a 310  
 maid to consign to.

KING HENRY Yet they do wink and yield, as love is blind and enforces.



318. **wink on her:** i.e., wink at her  
 320. **summered:** pastured  
 321. **Bartholomew-tide:** the time around St. Bartholomew's day, August 24, when flies are allegedly sluggish  
 324. **moral:** instructive example; **ties:** binds  
 326. **latter end:** (1) conclusion; (2) posterior, but-tocks  
 332-33. **perspectively:** in such a way that, from the single viewpoint from which you look, the cities are resolved into the image of a single maiden  
 337. **So:** i.e., if it  
 339. **wait on:** attend, accompany  
 341. **will:** desire  
 342. **terms of reason:** reasonable terms  
 346. **their firm proposèd natures:** i.e., the terms in which they were firmly proposed



A city "girdled with maiden walls." (5.2.334)  
 From Henry Peacham, *Minerua Britannia* . . . [1612].

- BURGUNDY They are then excused, my lord, when they see not what they do. 315  
 KING HENRY Then, good my lord, teach your cousin to consent winking.  
 BURGUNDY I will wink on her to consent, my lord, if you will teach her to know my meaning, for maids well summered and warm kept are like flies at Bartholomew-tide: blind, though they have their eyes; and then they will endure handling, which before would not abide looking on. 320  
 KING HENRY This moral ties me over to time and a hot summer. And so I shall catch the fly, your cousin, in the latter end, and she must be blind too. 325  
 BURGUNDY As love is, my lord, before it loves.  
 KING HENRY It is so. And you may, some of you, thank love for my blindness, who cannot see many a fair French city for one fair French maid that stands in my way. 330  
 KING OF FRANCE Yes, my lord, you see them perspectively, the cities turned into a maid, for they are all girdled with maiden walls that war hath "never" entered. 335  
 KING HENRY Shall Kate be my wife?  
 KING OF FRANCE So please you.  
 KING HENRY I am content, so the maiden cities you talk of may wait on her. So the maid that stood in the way for my wish shall show me the way to my will. 340  
 KING OF FRANCE  
 We have consented to all terms of reason.  
 KING HENRY Is 't so, my lords of England?  
 WESTMORELAND  
 The King hath granted every article,  
 His daughter first, and, in sequel, all, 345  
 According to their firm proposèd natures.

349-50. **matter of grant**: consent, permission

351. **addition**: title

351-52. **Notre . . . France**: our very dear son Henry, king of England, heir to France

353-54. **Praeclarissimus . . . Franciae**: our most excellent son Henry, king of England and heir to France

360. **from her blood**: i.e., from her (as a member of the royal blood of France)

361. **Issue**: i.e., descendants; **that**: i.e., so that

362. **pale**: a reference to the chalk cliffs on both sides of the English Channel

365. **neighborhood**: neighborliness

367. **His**: i.e., its

375. **ill office**: i.e., evil acts; **fell**: fierce



A tennis match. (1.2.272-78)  
From *Le centre de l'amour* . . . [1650?].

234

EXETER

Only he hath not yet subscribed this:

Where your Majesty demands that the King of France, having any occasion to write for matter of grant, shall name your Highness in this form and with this addition, in French: *Notre très cher fils Henri, roi d' Angleterre, héritier de France*; and thus in Latin: *Praeclarissimus filius noster Henricus, rex Angliae et hæres Franciae*. 350

KING OF FRANCE

Nor this I have not, brother, so denied  
But your request shall make me let it pass. 355

KING HENRY

I pray you, then, in love and dear alliance,  
Let that one article rank with the rest,  
And thereupon give me your daughter.

KING OF FRANCE

Take her, fair son, and from her blood raise up  
Issue to me, that the contending kingdoms  
Of France and England, whose very shores look pale  
With envy of each other's happiness,  
May cease their hatred, and this dear conjunction  
Plant neighborhood and Christian-like accord  
In their sweet bosoms, that never war advance  
His bleeding sword 'twixt England and fair France. 365

LORDS Amen.

KING HENRY

Now welcome, Kate, and bear me witness all  
That here I kiss her as my sovereign queen.  
[He kisses her.] Flourish. 370

QUEEN OF FRANCE

God, the best maker of all marriages,  
Combine your hearts in one, your realms in one.  
As man and wife, being two, are one in love,  
So be there 'twixt your kingdoms such a spousal  
That never may ill office or fell jealousy, 375

377. **paction:** compact, agreement

378. **make . . . league:** i.e., cause their embodied alliance to come apart (The **league** is **incorporate** or embodied in the metaphorically single flesh of the married couple, Henry and Katherine.)

380. **speak this Amen:** say "Amen" to this

384. **surety of our leagues:** security of our compacts

**Epilogue** The Chorus reminds the audience that Henry died very young, leaving the kingdom to his infant son, during whose reign France was lost and England did "bleed."

2. **bending:** (1) bowing, as if to receive applause; (2) straining

3. **room:** space

4. **by starts:** i.e., by fits and starts (perhaps, i.e., broken up into scenes)

5. **Small:** i.e., short (Henry lived to be only 35, dying in 1422.)

9. **infant bands:** swaddling clothes

13. **Which . . . shown:** a reference to such plays as *Henry VI, Parts 1, 2, and 3*; **their sake:** the sake of those plays

14. **let . . . take:** let this play be accepted

Which troubles oft the bed of blessed marriage,  
Thrust in between the paction of these kingdoms  
To make divorce of their incorporate league,  
That English may as French, French Englishmen,  
Receive each other. God speak this Amen!

380

ALL Amen.

KING HENRY

Prepare we for our marriage; on which day,  
My Lord of Burgundy, we'll take your oath,  
And all the peers', for surety of our leagues.  
Then shall I swear to Kate, and you to me,  
And may our oaths well kept and prosperous be.

385

*Sennet. They exit.*

*Enter Chorus* [as Epilogue.]

[CHORUS]

Thus far with rough and all-unable pen  
Our bending author hath pursued the story,  
In little room confining mighty men,  
Mangling by starts the full course of their glory.  
Small time, but in that small most greatly lived  
This star of England. Fortune made his sword,  
By which the world's best garden he achieved  
And of it left his son imperial lord.  
Henry the Sixth, in infant bands crowned King  
Of France and England, did this king succeed,  
Whose state so many had the managing  
That they lost France and made his England bleed,  
Which oft our stage hath shown. And for their sake,  
In your fair minds let this acceptance take.

5

10

*[He exits.]*