

# Henry 5

By William Shakespeare; Adapted by Tom Woldt

Annotations: Bevington, David. Henry V. Complete Works of Shakespeare

## ACT I

### PROLOGUE

*Enter Chorus*

#### Chorus

O for a Muse of fire, that would ascend **1**  
The brightest heaven of invention, **2**  
A kingdom for a stage, princes to act  
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene! **4**  
Then should the warlike Harry, like himself, **5**  
Assume the port of Mars; and at his heels, **6**  
Leash'd in like hounds, should famine, sword and fire  
Crouch for employment. But pardon, and gentles all,  
The flat unraised spirits that have dared **9**  
On this unworthy scaffold to bring forth **10**  
So great an object: can this cockpit hold **11**  
The vasty fields of France? or may we cram  
Within this wooden **O** the very casques **12**  
That did affright the air at Agincourt?  
O, pardon! since a crooked figure may **15**  
Attest in little place a million; **16**  
And let us, ciphers to this great account, **17**  
On your imaginary forces work. **18**  
Suppose within the girdle of these walls  
Are now confined two mighty monarchies,  
Whose high upreared and abutting fronts **21**  
The perilous narrow ocean parts asunder: **22**  
Piece out our imperfections with your thoughts;  
Into a thousand parts divide on man,  
And make imaginary puissance;  
Think when we talk of horses, that you see them  
Printing their proud hoofs i' the receiving earth;  
For 'tis your thoughts that now must deck our kings,  
Carry them here and there; jumping o'er times,  
Turning the accomplishment of many years  
Into an hour-glass: for the which supply, **31**  
Admit me Chorus to this history;

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**1 Muse of fire** (Of the four elements, earth, air, fire, and water, fire is the most sublime and mounting.) **2 invention** poetic imagination **4 swelling** splendid, magnificent **5 like himself** i.e., presented in a fashion worthy of so great a king **6 port** bearing **9 spirits** i.e., actors and playwright **10 scaffold** stage **11 cockpit** (Elizabethan theatres were shaped rather like arenas for animal fighting.) **13 O** (refers to a round theatre such as the Globe; the play may have been performed at the Curtain.) **casques** helmets **15 crooked figure** cipher or zero (which, added to a number will then multiply its value tenfold.) **16 Attest** stand for **17 account** (1) sum total (continuing the metaphor of crooked figure) (2) story **18 imaginary forces** forces of the imagination **21 fronts** frontiers, i.e., the Cliffs of Dover and Calais **22 perilous...ocean** i.e., English Channel **31 supply** service

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

**SCENE I. London. An ante-chamber in the KING'S palace.**

*Enter the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, and the BISHOP OF ELY*

**CANTERBURY**

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

**ELY**

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

**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 honour,  
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 beside,  
A thousand pounds by the year: thus runs the bill.

**ELY**

This would drink deep.

**CANTERBURY**

'Twould drink the cup and all.

**ELY**

But what prevention?

**CANTERBURY**

The king is full of grace and fair regard.

**ELY**

And a true lover of the holy church.

**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,  
Seem'd to die too; yea, at that very moment  
Consideration, like an angel, came  
And whipp'd the offending Adam out of him,  
Leaving his body as a paradise,  
To envelop and contain celestial spirits:  
Never was such a sudden scholar made;  
Never came reformation in a flood,  
With such a heady currence, scouring faults  
Nor never Hydra-headed wilfulness  
So soon did lose his seat and all at once  
As in this king.

**ELY**

We are blessed in the change.

**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:  
List his discourse of war, and you shall hear  
A fearful battle render'd 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,  
The air, a charter'd libertine, is still,  
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears,  
To steal his sweet and honey'd sentences;  
So that the art and practie part of life  
Must be the mistress to this theorie:  
Which is a wonder how his grace should glean it,  
Since his addiction was to courses vain,  
His companies unletter'd, rude and shallow,  
His hours fill'd up with riots, banquets, sports,  
And never noted in him any study,  
Any retirement, any sequestration  
From open haunts and popularity.

**ELY**

The strawberry grows underneath the nettle  
And wholesome berries thrive and ripen best  
Neighbour'd 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 crecive in his faculty.

**CANTERBURY**

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

**ELY**

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

**CANTERBURY**

He seems indifferent,  
Or rather swaying more upon our part  
Than cherishing the 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 open'd to his grace at large,  
As touching France, to give a greater sum  
Than ever at one time the clergy yet  
Did to his predecessors part withal.

**ELY**

How did this offer seem received, my lord?

**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  
Of his true titles to some certain dukedoms  
And generally to the crown and seat of France  
Derived from Edward, his great grandfather.~~

**ELY**

~~What was the impediment that broke this off?~~

**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?~~

**ELY**

~~It is.~~

**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.~~

**ELY**

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

*Exeunt*

**SCENE II. ~~The same. The Presence chamber.~~**

*Enter KING HENRY V, GLOUCESTER, BEDFORD, EXETER, WARWICK,  
WESTMORELAND, and Attendants*

**KING HENRY V**

Where is my gracious ~~Lord~~ [Sister] of Canterbury?

**EXETER**

Not here in presence.

**KING HENRY V**

Send for ~~him, good uncle.~~ [her, my good aunt.]

**WESTMORELAND**

Shall we call in the ambassador, my liege?

**KING HENRY V**

Not yet, my cousin: we would be resolved, **4**  
Before we hear him, of some things of weight  
That task our thoughts, concerning us and France.

*Enter the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, and the BISHOP of ELY*

**CANTERBURY**

God and his angels guard your sacred throne  
And make you long become it!

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**4 cousin** (Correct form of address from royal family to nobles.)

### KING HENRY V

Sure, we thank you.  
My learned ~~lord~~ [lady] we pray you to proceed  
And justly and religiously unfold  
Why the law Salique that they have in France  
Or should, or should not, bar us in our claim. **12**  
And God forbid, my dear and faithful ~~lord~~, [one]  
That you should fashion, wrest, or bow your reading,  
Or nicely charge your understanding soul **15**  
With opening titles miscreate, whose right **16**  
Suits not in native colours with the truth; **17**  
For God doth know how many now in health  
Shall drop their blood in approbation **19**  
Of what your reverence shall incite us to.  
Therefore take heed how you impawn our person, **21**  
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 [them] whose wrong gives edge unto the swords~~  
~~That make such waste in brief mortality.~~  
~~Under this conjuration, speak, my lord; [your honor]~~  
~~For we will hear, note and believe in heart~~  
~~That what you speak is in your conscience wash'd~~  
~~As pure as sin with baptism.~~

### 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  
But this, which they produce from Pharamond, **37**  
'In terram Salicam mulieres ne succedant:  
'No woman shall succeed in Salique land:  
Which Salique land the French unjustly gloze **40**  
To be the realm of France, and Pharamond  
The founder of this law and female bar.  
Yet their own authors faithfully affirm  
That the land Salique is in Germany,  
~~Between the floods of Sala and of Elbe;~~  
~~Where Charles the Great, having subdued the Saxons,~~  
~~There left behind and settled certain French;~~  
~~Who, holding in disdain the German women~~  
~~For some dishonest manners of their life,~~  
~~Establish'd then this law; to wit, no female~~  
~~Should be inheritrix in Salique land:~~  
~~Which Salique, as I said, 'twixt Elbe and Sala,~~  
~~Is at this day in Germany call'd Meisen.~~  
Then doth it well appear that Salique law  
Was not devised for the realm of France:

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**12 Or** either **15 nicely charge** subtly and foolishly burden **16 opening titles miscreate** expounding spurious claims **17 Suits...colors** i.e., does not naturally harmonize **19 approbation** support, proof **37 Pharamond** legendary Frankish King **40 gloze** explain, interpret

Nor did the French possess the Salique land  
 Until four hundred one and twenty years  
 After defunction of King Pharamond, **58**  
 Idly supposed the founder of this law;  
~~Who died within the year of our redemption~~  
~~Four hundred twenty six; and Charles the Great~~  
 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 deposed Childeric,  
 Did, as heir general, being descended **66**  
 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~~  
~~Of the true line and stock of Charles the Great,~~  
~~To find his title with some shows of truth,~~  
~~Through, in pure truth, it was corrupt and naught,~~  
~~Convey'd himself as heir to the Lady Lingare,~~  
~~Daughter to Charlemain, who was the son~~  
~~To Lewis the emperor, and Lewis the son~~  
~~Of Charles the Great.~~ Also King Lewis the Tenth, **77**  
 Who was sole heir to the usurper Capet,  
 Could not keep quiet in his conscience,  
 Wearing the crown of France, till satisfied  
 That fair Queen Isabel, his grandmother,  
 Was lineal of the Lady Ermengare, **82**  
 Daughter to Charles the foresaid duke of Lorraine:  
 By the which marriage the line of Charles the Great  
 Was re-united to the crown of France.  
 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 **88**  
 To hold in right and title of the female:  
~~So do the kings of France unto this day;~~  
~~Howbeit they would hold up this Salique law **91**~~  
~~To bar your highness claiming from the female,~~  
~~And rather choose to hide them in a net **93**~~  
~~Than amply to imbar their crooked titles **94**~~  
~~Usurp'd from you and your progenitors.~~

#### KING HENRY V

May I with right and conscience make this claim?

#### CANTERBURY

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**66 heir general** heir through male or female line

**77 Lewis the Tenth** (Actually, Louis IX; an error copied from the chronicles.) **82 lineal of** descended from **88 Lewis his satisfaction** Lewis' conviction **91 How-beit** notwithstanding **93 hide...net** i.e., conceal the weakness of their case in a tangle of contradictions **94 amply to imbar** frankly to bar claim to

The sin upon my head, dread sovereign!  
 For in the book of Numbers is it writ, **98**  
 When the man dies, let the inheritance  
 Descend unto the daughter. Gracious lord,  
 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,~~  
~~Who on the French ground play'd 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.~~  
 O noble English, that could entertain **111**  
 With half their forces the full Pride of France  
 And let another half stand laughing by,  
 All out of work and cold for action! **114**

#### **ELY**

Awake remembrance of these valiant dead  
 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,~~  
~~Ripe for exploits and mighty enterprises.~~

#### **EXETER**

Your ~~brother kings~~ [sisters] 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 might;  
 So hath your highness! ~~never king of England~~  
~~Had nobles richer and more loyal subjects,~~  
~~Whose hearts have left their bodies here in England~~  
~~And lie pavilion'd in the fields of France.~~

#### **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 **132**  
 Will raise your highness such a mighty sum  
 As never did the clergy at one time  
 Bring in to any of your ancestors.

#### **~~KING HENRY V~~**

~~We must not only arm to invade the French,~~  
~~But lay down our proportions to defend **137**~~

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**98 Numbers** (See Numbers 27:8). **111 entertain** engage, encounter **114 for action** for want of action **132 spirituality** clergy **137 lay...proportions** allocate our forces

~~Against the Scot, who will make road upon us 138  
With all advantages. 139~~

#### **CANTERBURY**

~~They of those marches, gracious sovereign, 140  
Shall be a wall sufficient to defend  
Our inland from the pilfering borderers.~~

#### **KING HENRY V**

~~We do not mean the coursing snatchers only, 143  
But fear the main intendment of the Scot, 144  
Who hath been still a giddy neighbour to us; 145  
For you shall read that my great grandfather  
Never went with his forces into France  
But that the Scot on his unfurnish'd kingdom 148  
Came pouring, like the tide into a breach,  
With ample and brim fulness of his force,  
Galling the gleaned land with hot assays, 151  
Girding with grievous siege castles and towns;  
That England, being empty of defence,  
Hath shook and trembled at the ill neighbourhood. 154~~

#### **CANTERBURY**

~~She hath been then more fear'd than harm'd, my liege; 155  
For hear her but exempl'd by herself: 156  
When all her chivalry hath been in France  
And she a mourning widow of her nobles,  
She hath herself not only well defended  
But taken and impounded as a stray 160  
The King of Scots; whom she did send to France, 161  
To fill King Edward's fame with prisoner kings  
And make her chronicle as rich with praise  
As is the ooze and bottom of the sea  
With sunken wreck and sumless treasures. 165~~

#### **WESTMORELAND ELY**

~~But there's a saying very old and true,  
If that you will France win,  
Then with Scotland first begin:  
For once the eagle England being in prey, 169  
To her unguarded nest the weasel Scot~~

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**138 road** inroad **139 With all advantages** whenever a good opportunity presents itself **140 marches** borderlands (here, in the north) **143 coursing snatchers** mounted raiders **144 intendment** plan, hostile intent **145 still** always **giddy** unstable, fickle **148 unfurnish'd** unprovided with defense **151 Galling...assays** worrying the land stripped of defenders with hot attacks **154 neighborhood** neighborliness **155 fear'd** frightened **156 hear...herself** i.e., only listen how she can be instructed by an example from her own history **160 impounded as a stray** (David II of Scotland was captured and imprisoned in 1346 while Edward III was in France.) **161 to France** (Historically, David II was imprisoned in London, not sent to France.) **165 sumless** inestimable **169 in prey** absent in search of prey

~~Comes sneaking and so sucks her princely eggs,  
Playing the mouse in absence of the cat,  
To tear and havoc more than she can eat. 173~~

### **EXETER**

~~It follows then the cat must stay at home:  
Yet that is but a crush'd necessity, 175  
Since we have locks to safeguard necessities,  
And pretty traps to catch the petty thieves.  
While that the armed hand doth fight abroad,  
The advised head defends itself at home; 179  
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.~~

### **CANTERBURY**

~~Therefore doth heaven divide  
The state of man [people] in divers functions;  
Setting endeavour in continual motion;  
To which is fixed, as an aim or butt, 186  
Obedience: for so work the honey bees,  
Creatures that by a rule in nature teach  
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.  
They have a king [queen] and officers of sorts;  
Where some, like magistrates, correct at home,  
Others, like merchants, venture trade abroad,  
Others, like soldiers, armed in their stings,  
Make boot upon the summer's velvet buds; 194  
Which pillage they with merry march bring home  
To the tent royal of their emperor;  
Who, busied in his majesty, surveys  
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,  
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, loosed several ways, 207  
Come to one mark; as many ways meet in one town; 208  
As many fresh streams meet in one salt sea;  
As many lines close in the dial's centre; 210  
So may a thousand actions, once afoot,  
End in one purpose, and be all well borne  
Without defeat. Therefore to France, my liege.~~

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173 'tame attame, cut into. Havoc ravage 175 crush'd necessity forced conclusion 179 advised  
wise, prudent 207 loosed several ways shot from different directions 208 ways roads 210 close  
come together dial's sundial's

~~Divide your happy England into four;  
Whereof take you one quarter into France,  
And you withal shall make all Gallia shake. 216  
If we, with thrice such powers left at home;  
Cannot defend our own doors from the dog,  
Let us be worried and our nation lose 219  
The name of hardiness and policy. 220~~

**KING HENRY V**

Call in the messengers sent from the Dauphin. 221

*Exeunt some Attendants*

Now are we well resolved; and, by God's help,  
And yours, the noble sinews of our power,  
France being ours, we'll bend it to our awe, 224  
Or break it all to pieces: or there we'll sit, 225  
Ruling in large and ample empery 226  
O'er France and all her ~~almost kingly~~ dukedoms,  
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,  
Not worshipping'd with a waxen epitaph.~~

*Enter Ambassadors of France*

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.

**First Ambassador**

May't please your majesty to give us leave  
Freely to render what we have in charge;  
Or shall we sparingly show you far off  
The Dauphin's meaning and our embassy? 240

**KING HENRY V**

We are no tyrant, ~~but a Christian king;~~  
~~Unto whose grace our passion is as subject~~  
~~As are our wretches fetter'd in our prisons:~~  
Therefore with frank and with uncurbed plainness  
Tell us the Dauphin's mind.

**First Ambassador**

Thus, then, in few.  
Your highness, lately sending into France,

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216 Gallia France. (Latin name.) 219 worried torn apart, as by dogs 220 hardiness and policy

bravery and statesmanship 221 Dauphin heir apparent to the French throne 224 our awe submission  
to us 225 Or either 226 empery dominion

Did claim some certain dukedoms, in the right  
Of your ~~great~~ predecessor[s], ~~King Edward the Third~~.  
In answer of which claim, the prince our master  
Says that you savour too much of your youth,  
And bids you be advised there's nought in France  
That can be with a nimble galliard won; **252**  
You cannot revel into dukedoms there.  
He therefore sends you, meeter for your spirit,  
This tun of treasure; and, in lieu of this, **255**  
Desires you let the dukedoms that you claim  
Hear no more of you. This the Dauphin speaks.  
*[Presents a casket/crate]*

**KING HENRY V**

What treasure, ~~uncle~~ [Exeter]?

**EXETER**

Tennis-balls, my liege.

**KING HENRY V**

We are glad the Dauphin is so pleasant with us;  
His present and your pains we thank you for:  
When we have march'd 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. **263**  
~~Tell him he hath made a match with such a wrangler~~ **264**  
~~That all the courts of France will be disturb'd~~ **265**  
~~With chaces.~~ And we understand him well, **266**  
How he comes o'er us with our wilder days, **267**  
Not measuring what use we made of them.  
~~We never valued this poor seat of England;~~ **269**  
~~And therefore, living hence, did give ourself~~ **270**  
~~To barbarous licence; as 'tis ever common~~  
~~That men [we] are merriest when they [we] are from home.~~ **272**  
But tell the Dauphin I will keep my state, **273**  
~~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~~ **276**  
~~And plodded like a man for working days;~~  
~~But~~ I will rise there with so full a glory  
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 turn'd his balls to gun-stones; and his soul **282**  
Shall stand sore charged for the wasteful vengeance **283**  
That shall fly with them: ~~for many a thousand widows~~

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**252 galliard** a lively dance **255 tun** cask **263 crown** (1) coin staked in a game (2) symbol of majesty **hazard** (1) in tennis of that time, an opening in the wall; hitting the ball into it scored a point (2) jeopardy **264 wrangler** adversary **265 courts** (1) tennis courts (2) royal courts **266 chaces** (1) double bounce in tennis, unsuccessful return (2) pursuits **267 comes o'er us** taunts me (Us is the royal plural) **269 seat** throne **270 living hence** not frequenting the royal court **272 from** away from **273 keep my state** i.e., fulfill the role of the king **276 For that** i.e., for my French kingdom. (Henry says he has not yet revealed his full majesty in laying claim to France.) **282 gun-stones** cannon balls **283 sore charged** sorely burdened with responsibility **wasteful** destructive

~~Shall this his mock mock out of their dear husbands;  
Mock mothers from their sons, mock castles down;  
And some are yet ungotten and unborn  
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  
My rightful hand in a well hallow'd cause.~~  
So get you hence in peace; and tell the Dauphin  
His jest will savour but of shallow wit,  
When thousands weep more than did laugh at it.  
Convey ~~them~~ [him] with safe conduct. Fare you well. 297

*Exeunt Ambassadors*

### EXETER

This was a merry message.

### KING HENRY V

We hope to make the sender blush at it.  
Therefore, my ~~lords~~ [friends] omit no happy hour 300  
That may give furtherance to our expedition;  
For we have now no thought in us but France,  
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,  
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.~~

*Exeunt. Flourish*

## ACT II

### PROLOGUE

*Enter Chorus*

#### Chorus

Now all the youth of ~~England~~ [this land] are on fire,  
~~And silken dalliance in the wardrobe lies:  
Now thrive the armourers, and honour'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 winged heels, as English Mercuries.~~

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297 Convey escort 300 omit...hour lose no favorable opportunity

For now sits Expectation in the air,  
~~And hides a sword from hilts unto the point~~ **9**  
~~With crowns imperial, crowns and coronets,~~ **10**  
~~Promised to Harry and his [her] followers.~~  
 The French, advised by good intelligence  
~~Of this most dreadful preparation;~~  
~~Shake in their fear and with pale policy~~ **14**  
~~Seek to divert the English purposes.~~  
 O England! model to thy inward greatness, **16**  
 Like little body with a mighty heart,  
 What mightst thou do, that honour would thee do, **18**  
 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~~ [crones], **22**  
 One, ~~Richard Earl~~ of Cambridge, and the second,  
~~Henry Lord~~ Scroop of Masham, and the third,  
~~Sir Thomas~~ Grey, knight, of Northumberland,  
 Have, for the guilt of France,--O guilt indeed!-- **26**  
 Confirm'd 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.~~  
~~Linger your patience on; and we'll digest~~  
~~The 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;  
 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, **39**  
 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.

*Exit*

**SCENE I. London. A street.**

*Enter Corporal NYM and Lieutenant BARDOLPH*

**BARDOLPH**

Well met, Corporal Nym.

**NYM**

Good morrow, Lieutenant Bardolph.

**BARDOLPH**

**9 hides a sword** i.e., holds up a sword completely impaled with the prizes of war **10**  
**With...coronets** with the crowns of emperors, kings, and nobles **14 pale policy** fear-inspired  
 intrigue **16 Model** to small replica of **18 would** have **22 crowns** crown pieces, money (as  
 bribe) **26 gilt** gold **39 pass** passage **40 offend one stomach** (1) offend anyone's taste in plays (2)  
 make anyone seasick.

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.

**BARDOLPH**

I will bestow a breakfast to make you friends; and we'll be all three sworn brothers to France: let it 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.

**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.

**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.

*Enter PISTOL and Hostess*

**BARDOLPH**

Here comes Ancient Pistol and his wife: good corporal, be patient here. How now, mine host Pistol!

**PISTOL**

Base tike, call'st thou me host? Now, by this hand, I swear, I scorn the term; Nor shall my Nell keep lodgers.

**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.

*NYM and PISTOL draw*

O well a day, Lady, if he be not drawn now! we shall see wilful adultery and murder committed.

**BARDOLPH**

Good lieutenant! good corporal! offer nothing here.

**NYM**

Pish!

**PISTOL**

Pish for thee, Iceland dog! thou prick-ear'd cur of Iceland!

**Hostess**

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

**NYM**

Will you shog off? I would have you solus.

**PISTOL**

'Solus,' egregious dog? O viper vile!  
The 'solus' in thy most mervailous 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  
humour 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 humour of it.

**PISTOL**

O braggart vile and damned 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.

*Draws*

**PISTOL**

An oath of mickle might; and fury shall abate.  
Give me thy fist, thy fore foot to me give:  
Thy spirits are most tall.

**NYM**

I will cut thy throat, one time or other, in fair  
terms: that is the humour of it.

**PISTOL**

'Couple a gorge!'  
That is the word. I thee defy again.  
O hound of Crete, think'st thou my spouse to get?  
No; to the spital go,  
And from the powdering tub of infamy  
Fetch forth the lazar kite of Cressid's kind,  
Doll Tearsheet she by name, and her espouse:  
I have, and I will hold, the quondam Quickly  
For the only she; and—pauca, there's enough. Go to.

*Enter the Boy*

**Boy**

Mine host Pistol, you must come to my master, and  
you, 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.

**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. Good husband, come home presently.

*Exeunt Hostess and 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?

**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 humour of it.

**PISTOL**

As manhood shall compound: push home.

*They draw*

**BARDOLPH**

By this sword, he that makes the first thrust, I'll kill him; by this sword, I will.

**PISTOL**

Sword is an oath, and oaths must have their course.

**BARDOLPH**

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

**NYM**

I shall have my eight shillings I won of you at betting?

**PISTOL**

A noble shalt thou have, and present pay;  
And liquor likewise will I give to thee,  
And 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.

**NYM**

I shall have my noble?

**PISTOL**

In cash most justly paid.

**NYM**

Well, then, that's the humour of't.

*Re-enter Hostess*

**Hostess**

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

**NYM**

~~The king hath run bad humours on the knight; that's the even of it.~~

**PISTOL**

~~Nym, thou hast spoke the right;  
His heart is fracted and corroborate.~~

**NYM**

~~The king is a good king; but it must be as it may;  
he passes some humours and careers.~~

**PISTOL**

~~Let us condole the knight; for, lambkins we will live.~~

## SCENE II. Southampton. A council-chamber.

*Enter EXETER, BEDFORD, and WESTMORELAND*

**BEDFORD**

'Fore God, ~~his~~ [her] 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,  
Crowned with faith and constant loyalty.

**BEDFORD**

~~The king~~ [Her grace] hath note of all that they intend,  
By interception which they dream not of.

**EXETER**

Nay, but ~~man~~ [one] that was ~~his~~ [her] bedfellow, **8**  
Whom [s]he hath dull'd and cloy'd with gracious favours, **9**  
That [s]he should, for a foreign purse, so sell  
~~His~~ [Her] sovereign's life to death and treachery.

*Trumpets sound. Enter KING HENRY V, SCROOP, CAMBRIDGE, GREY, and Attendants*

**KING HENRY V**

Now sits the wind fair, and we will aboard.  
My ~~Lord of~~ [friend] Cambridge, and ~~my kind Lord of~~ Masham,  
And you, my gentle ~~knight~~ [one], give me your thoughts:  
Think you not that the powers we bear with us **15**  
Will cut their passage through the force of France,

---

**8 bedfellow** i.e., constant companion (Refers to Scroop.) **9 dull'd** tired **15 pow'rs** armed forces **18 in head** as an army

Doing the execution and the act **18**  
For which we have in head assembled them?

**SCROOP**

No doubt, my liege, if each ~~man~~ [one] do ~~his~~ [her] best.

**KING HENRY V**

~~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, **22**  
Nor leave not one behind that doth not wish  
Success and conquest to attend on us.~~

**CAMBRIDGE**

Never was monarch better fear'd 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.

**GREY**

True: those that were your ~~father's~~ [mother's] enemies  
Have steep'd their galls in honey and do serve you **30**  
With hearts create of duty and of zeal. **31**

**KING HENRY V**

We therefore have great cause of thankfulness;  
And shall forget the office of our hand, **33**  
Sooner than quittance of desert and merit **34**  
According to the weight and worthiness.

**SCROOP**

So service shall with steeled sinews toil,  
And labour shall refresh itself with hope,  
To do your grace incessant services.

**KING HENRY V**

We judge no less. ~~Uncle of Exeter,~~  
~~Enlarge~~ [Set free] the ~~man~~ [girl] committed yesterday, **40**  
That rail'd against our person: we consider  
it was excess of wine that set ~~him~~ [her] on;  
And on ~~his~~ [her] more advice we pardon ~~him~~ [her]. **43**

**SCROOP**

That's mercy, but too much security: **44**  
Let ~~him~~ [her] be punish'd, sovereign, lest example  
Breed, by his sufferance, more of such a kind. **46**

**KING HENRY V**

O, let us yet be merciful.

---

**22** grows...consent does not act in harmony **30** galls resentment **33** office use, function **34** quittance requital **40** Enlarge set free **43** more advice thinking better of it **44** security overconfidence **46** sufferance being pardoned

**CAMBRIDGE**

So may your highness, and yet punish too.

**GREY**

~~Sir~~, [Madam]

You show great mercy, if you give ~~him~~ [her] life,  
After the taste of much correction.

**KING HENRY V**

Alas, your too much love and care of me  
Are heavy orisons 'gainst this poor wretch! **53**  
If little faults, proceeding on distemper, **54**  
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye **55**  
When capital crimes, chew'd, swallow'd and digested, **56**  
Appear before us? We'll yet enlarge that ~~man~~ [girl], **57**  
Though Cambridge, Scroop and Grey, in their dear care  
And tender preservation of our person,  
Would have ~~him~~ [her] punished. And now to our French causes:  
Who are the late commissioners? **61**

**CAMBRIDGE**

I one, my lord:  
Your highness bade me ask for it to-day. **63**

**SCROOP**

So did you me, my liege.

**GREY**

And I, my royal sovereign.

**KING HENRY V**

Then, ~~Richard Earl~~ of Cambridge, there is yours; [*(gives them papers)*]  
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,  
We will aboard to night. Why, how now, ~~gentlemen~~ [my friends]?  
What see you in those papers that you lose  
So much complexion? Look ye, how they change!  
Their cheeks are paper. Why, what read you there  
That hath so cowarded and chased your blood  
Out of appearance?

**CAMBRIDGE**

I do confess my fault; **76**  
And do submit me to your highness' mercy.

**GREY, SCROOP**

To which we all appeal.

---

**53 heavy orisons** weighty prayers, pleas **54 proceeding on distemper** resulting from excessive drinking **55 stretch** open wide, not wink **56 chew'd...digested** i.e., premeditated **57 yet** in spite of what you say **61 late** recently appointed (to serve while Henry is in France) **63 it** i.e., my commission **76 appearance** sight (Presumably the traitors kneel at this point.) **79 quick** alive

## KING HENRY V

The mercy that was quick in us but late, **79**  
By your own counsel is suppress'd and kill'd:  
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. **83**  
See you, ~~my princes, and~~ my noble peers,  
These English monsters! ~~My Lord of Cambridge~~ here,  
You know how apt our love was to accord **86**  
To furnish ~~him~~ [her] with all appertinents **87**  
Belonging to ~~his~~ [her] honour; and this ~~man~~ [one]  
Hath, for a few light crowns, lightly conspired,  
And sworn unto the practices of France, **90**  
To kill us here in Hampton: ~~to the which~~  
~~This knight, no less for bounty bound to us~~ **92**  
~~Than Cambridge is, hath likewise sworn.~~ But, O,  
What shall I say to thee, ~~Lord~~ [~~Lady~~] [Mariana] 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 coin'd me into gold,~~  
~~Wouldst thou have practised on me for thy use,~~ **99**  
May it be possible, that foreign hire  
Could out of thee extract one spark of evil  
That might annoy my finger? 'tis so strange, **102**  
~~That, though the truth of it stands off as gross~~ **103**  
~~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,~~ **106**  
~~Working so grossly in a natural cause,~~ **107**  
~~That admiration did not whoop at them:~~ **108**  
But thou, 'gainst all proportion, didst bring in **109**  
Wonder to wait on treason and on murder: **110**  
And whatsoever cunning fiend it was  
That wrought upon thee so preposterously  
Hath got the voice in hell for excellence: **113**  
~~All other devils that suggest by treasons~~ **114**  
~~Do botch and bungle up damnation~~ **115**  
~~With patches, colours, and with forms being fetch'd~~ **116**  
~~From glistening semblances of piety;~~ **117**  
~~But~~ he that temper'd thee bade thee stand up, **118**  
Gave thee no instance why thou shouldst do treason, **119**  
Unless to dub thee with the name of traitor.  
~~If that same demon that hath gull'd thee thus~~

---

**83** worrying tearing **86** accord consent **87** appertinents appurtenances **90** practices plots **92** This knight i.e., Grey **99** use profit (with play on the meaning *interest derived from usury*; Scroop has served as Lord Treasurer) **102** annoy injure **103** stands...gross appears as obvious **106** yoke-devils partners in a diabolical cause **107-108** Working...them working together with such obvious fitness, and toward a purpose that suits them so naturally, that they provoked no outcry of wonder. (*Hoop means Whoop.*) **109** proportion fitness of things **110** Wonder astonishment (that Scroop should be a murderer). **Wait on** attend, accompany **113** voice vote **114** suggest tempt **115-117** Do...piety i.e., clumsily conceal their damnable temptation by tricking it out in attractive-looking semblance of virtue **118** tempr'd directed (to evil) **stand up** volunteer **119** instance reason

~~Should with his lion gait walk the whole world,  
 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 affiance! Show men dutiful?  
 Why, so didst thou: seem they grave and learned?  
 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,  
 Garnish'd and deck'd in modest complement,  
 Not working with the eye without the ear,  
 And but in purged judgment trusting neither?  
 Such and so finely bolted didst thou seem:  
 And thus thy fall hath left a kind of blot,  
 To mark the full fraught man and best indued  
 With some suspicion: **I will weep for thee;**  
 For this revolt of thine, methinks, is like  
 Another fall of man. Their faults are open : **142**  
 Arrest them to the answer of the law;  
 And God acquit them of their practises!

**EXETER**

~~I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of  
 Richard Earl [Constance] of Cambridge.  
 I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of  
 Henry Lord [Mariana] Scroop of Masham.  
 I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of  
 Thomas [Alice] Grey, knight, of Northumberland.~~

**SCROOP**

~~Our purposes God justly hath discover'd;  
 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:  
 But God be thanked for prevention;  
 Which I in sufferance heartily will rejoice,  
 Beseeching God and you to pardon me.~~

**GREY**

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

---

142 open apparent, obvious 166 quit acquit

## KING HENRY V

God quit you in his mercy! Hear your sentence. **166**  
You have conspired against our royal person,  
Join'd with an enemy proclaim'd and from his coffers  
Received the golden earnest of our death; **169**  
Wherein you would have sold your ~~king~~ [leader] to slaughter,  
~~His princes~~ and [her colleagues and] ~~his-peers~~ to servitude,  
~~His~~ [Her] subjects to oppression and contempt  
And [t]his whole ~~kingdom~~ [domain] into desolation.  
~~Touching our person seek we no revenge;~~  
~~But we our kingdom's [land's] safety must so tender, 175~~  
~~Whose ruin you have sought, that to her laws~~  
~~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 offences!~~ Bear them hence. **181**

*Exeunt CAMBRIDGE, SCROOP and GREY, guarded*

Now, ~~lords,~~ [friends,] for France; the enterprise whereof  
Shall be to you, as us, like glorious. **183**  
~~We doubt not of a fair and lucky war,~~  
Since God so graciously hath brought to light  
This dangerous treason lurking in our way  
To hinder our beginnings. ~~We doubt not now~~  
~~But every rub is smoothed on our way. 188~~  
Then forth, dear ~~countrymen~~ [my women]: ~~let us deliver~~  
~~Our puissance into the hand of God,~~  
~~Putting it straight in expedition. 191~~  
~~Cheerly to sea;~~ the signs of war advance: **192**  
No ~~king~~ [ruler] of England, if not ~~king~~ [ruler] of France.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE III. London. Before a tavern.

*Enter PISTOL, Hostess, NYM, BARDOLPH, and Boy*

### Hostess

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

### PISTOL

No; for my manly heart doth yearn.

Bardolph, be blithe: Nym, rouse thy vaunting veins:

Boy, bristle thy courage up; for Falstaff he is dead,

And we must yearn therefore.

### BARDOLPH

Would I were with him, wheresome'er he is, either in  
heaven or in hell!

---

**169 golden earnest** advance payment **175 tender** regard, hold dear **181 dear** grievous **183 like**  
alike, equally **188 But** but that rub obstacle (A bowling term) **191 straight in expedition**  
immediately in action **192 signs** ensigns

**Hostess**

Nay, sure, he's not in hell: he's in Arthur's bosom, if ever man went to Arthur's bosom. A' made a finer end and went away an it had been any christom child; a' parted even just between twelve and one, even at the turning o' the tide: for after I saw him fumble with the sheets and play with flowers and smile upon his fingers' ends, I knew there was but one way; for his nose was as sharp as a pen, and a' babbled of green fields. 'How now, sir John!' quoth I 'what, man! be o' good cheer.' So a' cried out 'God, God, God!' three or four times. Now I, to comfort him, bid him a' should not think of God; I hoped there was no need to trouble himself with any such thoughts yet. So a' 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 felt to his knees, and they were as cold as any stone, and so upward and upward, and all was as cold as any stone.

**NYM**

They say he cried out of sack.

**Hostess**

Ay, that a' did.

**BARDOLPH**

And of women.

**Hostess**

Nay, that a' did not.

**Boy**

Yes, that a' did; and said they were devils incarnate.

**Hostess**

A' could never abide carnation; 'twas a colour he never liked.

**Boy**

A' said once, the devil would have him about women.

**Hostess**

A' did in some sort, indeed, handle women; but then he was rheumatic, and talked of the whore of Babylon.

**Boy**

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

**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.

**PISTOL**

Come, let's away. My love, give me thy lips.

Look to my chattels and my movables:

Let senses rule; the word is 'Pitch and Pay:'

Trust none;

For oaths are straws, men's faiths are wafer cakes,

And hold fast is the only dog, my duck:

Therefore, Caveto be thy counsellor.  
Go, clear thy c-rystals. Yoke fellows in arms,  
Let us to France; like horse-leeches, my boys,  
To suck, to suck, the very blood to suck!

**Boy**

And that's but unwholesome food they say.

**PISTOL**

Touch her soft mouth, and march.

**BARDOLPH**

Farewell, hostess.

*Kissing her*

**NYM**

I cannot kiss, that is the humour of it; but, adieu.

**PISTOL**

Let housewifery appear: keep close, I thee command.

**Hostess**

Farewell; adieu.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE IV. France. The KING'S palace.**

*Flourish. Enter the FRENCH KING, the DAUPHIN, the ~~DUKES of BERRI and BRETAGNE~~, 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 defences.

~~Therefore the Dukes of Berri and of Bretagne,  
Of Brabant and of Orleans, shall make forth,  
And you, Prince Dauphin, with all swift dispatch,  
To line and new repair our towns of war<sup>7</sup>  
With men of courage and with means defendant;~~

For England['s] 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 **12**  
Left by the fatal and neglected English **13**  
Upon our fields.

**DAUPHIN**

My most redoubted father,  
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 defences, musters, preparations,  
Should be maintain'd, assembled and collected,~~

---

<sup>7</sup> line reinforce <sup>10</sup> gulf whirlpool <sup>12</sup> late recent <sup>13</sup> fatal and neglected fatally underestimated <sup>25</sup> Whitsun morris-dance dance performed during Whitsuntide, in early summer, by persons in fancy costumes

~~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 [But] let us do it with no show of fear;  
No, with no more than if we heard that England  
Were busied with a Whitsun morris-dance: 25  
For, my good liege, she is so idly king'd [led],  
Her sceptre so fantastically borne  
By a vain, giddy, shallow, humorous youth, 28  
That fear attends her not.~~

### Constable

O peace, Prince Dauphin!  
You are too much mistaken in this king [one]:  
Question your grace the late ambassadors,  
With what great state [s]he heard ~~their~~ [his] embassy,  
How well supplied with noble counsellors,  
How modest in exception, and withal 34  
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.~~

### DAUPHIN

Well, 'tis not so, my lord high constable;  
But though we think it so, it is no matter:  
In cases of defence 'tis best to weigh  
The enemy more mighty than ~~he~~ [it] seems:  
~~So the proportions of defence are fill'd; 45  
Which of a weak or niggardly projection 46  
Doth, like a miser, spoil his coat with scanting  
A little cloth.~~

### KING OF FRANCE

Think we ~~King Harry~~ [our foes] strong;  
And, princes, look you strongly arm to meet ~~him~~ [them].  
The kindred of ~~him~~ [her] hath been flesh'd upon us; 50  
And [s]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, 54  
And all our princes captiv'd by the hand  
Of that black name, Edward, Black Prince of Wales;  
Whiles that his mountain sire, on mountain standing,  
Up in the air, crown'd with the golden sun,  
Saw his heroical seed, and smiled to see him,  
Mangle the work of nature and deface~~

---

28 humorous capricious 34 exception making objectives 45 So...fill'd i.e., thus an adequate and full defense is provided 46 Which...projection i.e., which defense, if it should be provided on a small and miserly scale 50 kindred i.e., his great-grandfather Edward III and great-uncle Edward the Black Prince flesh'd initiated in the shedding of blood, with foretaste of further success 54 Crecy French defeat in 1346 struck waged 64 fate what he is destined to do

~~The patterns that by God and by French fathers  
Had twenty years been made.~~ This is a stem  
Of that victorious stock; and let us fear  
The native mightiness and fate of ~~him~~ [her]. 64

*Enter a Messenger*

**Messenger**

[An] Ambassadors from Harry ~~King~~ of England  
~~Do~~ Crave[s] admittance to your majesty.

**KING OF FRANCE**

We'll give ~~him~~ [her] present audience. Go, and bring ~~him~~ [her.]

*Exeunt Messenger and certain Lords*

You see this chase is hotly follow'd, friends.

**DAUPHIN**

~~Turn head, and stop pursuit; for coward dogs 69  
Most spend their mouths when what they seem to threaten 70  
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  
As self-neglecting.

*Re-enter Lords, with EXETER and train*

**KING OF FRANCE**

From our ~~brother~~ [sister] England?

**EXETER**

From ~~him~~ [her]; and thus [s]he greets your majesty.  
[S]He wills you, in the name of God Almighty,  
That you divest yourself, and lay apart 78  
The borrow'd glories that by gift of heaven,  
By law of nature and of nations, 'longs 80  
To ~~him~~ her and to ~~his~~ her heirs; namely, the crown  
And all wide-stretched honours that pertain  
By custom and the ordinance of times 83  
Unto the crown of France. ~~That you may know  
'Tis no sinister nor no awkward claim,  
Pick'd from the worm holes of long vanish'd days,  
Nor from the dust of old oblivion raked,  
He sends you this most memorable line,  
In every branch truly demonstrative;  
Willing to overlook this pedigree:  
And when you find him evenly derived  
From his most famed of famous ancestors,~~

---

69 Turn head stand at bay (a hunting term) stop put an end to 70 Most...mouths bay the loudest  
78 apart aside 80 'longs belongs 83 ordinance of times decrees of tradition

~~Edward the Third, he bids you then resign  
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 [s]he rake for it:  
Therefore in fierce tempest is [s]he coming,  
In thunder and in earthquake, like a Jove,  
That, if requiring fail, [s]he will compel; **101**  
And bids you, in the bowels of the Lord, **102**  
Deliver up the crown, and to take mercy  
On the poor souls for whom this hungry war  
Opens ~~his~~ [its] vasty jaws; and on your head  
Turning the widows' tears, the orphans' cries  
The dead men's blood, the pining maidens groans, **107**  
For husbands, fathers and betrothed lovers,  
That shall be swallow'd in this controversy.  
This is ~~his~~ [her] claim, ~~his~~ [her] threatening and my message;  
Unless the Dauphin be in presence here,  
To whom expressly I bring greeting too.

**KING OF FRANCE**

For us, we will consider of this further:  
To-morrow shall you bear our full intent  
Back to our ~~brother~~ [sister] England.

**DAUPHIN**

For the Dauphin,  
I stand here for him: what to him from England?

**EXETER**

Scorn and defiance; slight regard, contempt,  
~~And any thing that may not misbecome  
The mighty sender, doth [s]he prize you at.  
Thus says my king [liege];~~ an' if your father's highness  
Do not, in grant of all demands at large,  
Sweeten the bitter mock you sent ~~his~~ [her] majesty,  
[S]He'll call you to so hot an answer of it,  
That caves and wombly vaultages of France **124**  
Shall chide your trespass and return your mock  
In second accent of ~~his~~ [her] ordnance. **126**

**DAUPHIN**

---

**101** requiring requesting **102** bowels mercy, or innermost being. (Cf. Philippeans 1:8) **107** privy maidens' groans maidens' secret grievings **124** wombly vaultages deep caverns **126** second accent echo **ordnance** cannon **127** fair return courteous reply **131** Paris balls tennis balls **132** Louvre the French royal palace

Say, if my father render fair return, **127**  
It is against my will; for I desire  
Nothing but odds with England: to that end,  
As matching to ~~his~~ [her] youth and vanity,  
I did present ~~him~~ [her] with the Paris balls. **131**

**EXETER**

~~[S]He'll make your Paris Louvre shake for it, 132~~  
~~Were it the mistress court of mighty Europe:~~  
~~And,~~ be assured, you'll find a difference,  
As we ~~his~~ [her] subjects have in wonder found,  
Between the promise of ~~his~~ [her] greener days  
And these [s]he masters now: now [s]he weighs time  
Even to the utmost grain: that you shall read  
In your own losses, if [s]he stay in France.

**KING OF FRANCE**

To-morrow shall you know our mind at full.

**EXETER**

~~Dispatch us with all speed, lest that our king~~  
~~Come here himself to question our delay;~~  
~~For he is footed in this land already.~~

**KING OF FRANCE**

~~You shall be soon dispatch's with fair conditions:~~  
~~A night is but small breath and little pause~~  
~~To answer matters of this consequence.~~

*Flourish. Exeunt*

**ACT III**

**PROLOGUE**

*Enter Chorus*

**Chorus**

Thus with imagined wing our swift scene flies **1**  
In motion of no less celerity  
Than that of thought. Suppose that you have seen  
The well-appointed ~~king~~ [ruler] at Hampton pier **4**  
Embark ~~his~~ [her] royalty; and ~~his~~ [her] brave fleet **5**  
~~With silken streamers the young Phoebus fanning:~~  
~~Play with your fancies, and in them behold~~  
~~Upon the hempen tackle ship boys climbing;~~  
~~Hear the shrill whistle which doth order give~~  
~~To sounds confused; behold the threaten sails,~~  
~~Borne with the invisible and creeping wind,~~  
~~Draw the huge bottoms through the furrow'd sea,~~

---

**1** imagin'd wing wings of imagination **4** well-appointed well-equipped **5** brave handsome **18** to sternage astern

~~Breasting the lofty surge: O, do but think~~  
~~You stand upon the ravage and behold~~  
~~A city on the inconstant billows dancing;~~  
~~For so appears this fleet majestic,~~  
 Holding due course to Harfleur. Follow, follow:  
 Grapple your minds to sternage of this navy, **18**  
 And leave your England, as dead midnight still,  
 Guarded with ~~grandsires~~ [young girls], babies and old women,  
~~Either past or not arrived to pith and puissance;~~  
~~For who is he, whose chin is but enrich'd~~  
~~With one appearing hair, that will not follow~~  
~~These cull'd and choice drawn cavaliers to France?~~  
 Work, work your thoughts, and therein see a siege;  
 Behold the ordnance on their carriages,  
 With fatal mouths gaping on girded Harfleur. **27**  
 Suppose the ambassador from the French comes back;  
 Tells Harry that the king doth offer ~~him~~ [her]  
~~Katharine his daughter~~, [his younger son] and with ~~her~~ [him], to dowry,  
 Some petty and unprofitable dukedoms.  
 The offer likes not: and the nimble gunner **32**  
 With linstock now the devilish cannon touches, **33**

*Alarum, and chambers go off* [Fighting begins]

And down goes all before them. Still be kind,  
 And eke out our performance with your mind. **35**

*Exit*

### SCENE I. France. Before Harfleur.

*Alarum. Enter KING HENRY, EXETER, BEDFORD, GLOUCESTER, and Soldiers, with scaling ladders*

#### KING HENRY V

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~~ [us all]  
 As modest stillness and humility:  
 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-favour'd rage;  
 Then lend the eye a terrible aspect;  
~~Let it pry through the portage of the head~~  
~~Like the brass cannon; let the brow o'erwhelm it~~  
~~As fearfully as doth a galled rock~~  
~~O'erhang and jutty his confounded base,~~  
~~Swill'd with the wild and wasteful ocean.~~  
 Now set the teeth and stretch the nostril wide,  
 Hold hard the breath and bend up every spirit

---

**27 girded** besieged **32 likes** pleases **33 linstock** staff holding a gunner's match **33 s.d. Alarum** a call to arms **chambers** small cannon (fired off backstage, or "within") **35 eke** eke

To his [her] full height. On, on, you noblest English.  
~~Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof!~~  
~~Fathers that, like so many Alexanders,~~  
~~Have in these parts from morn till even fought~~  
~~And sheathed their swords for lack of argument:~~  
~~Dishonour not your mothers; now attest~~  
~~That those whom you call'd fathers did beget you.~~  
 Be copy now to ~~men~~ [warriors] of grosser blood, **24**  
 And teach them how to war. And you, good ~~yeoman~~ [women],  
 Whose limbs were made in England, show us here  
 The mettle of your pasture; ~~let us swear~~ **27**  
~~That you are worth your breeding; which I doubt not;~~  
~~For there is none of you so mean and base,~~  
~~That hath not noble lustre in your eyes.~~  
 I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips, **31**  
 Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:  
 Follow your spirit, and upon this charge  
 Cry 'God for Harry, England, and Saint George!' **34**

*Exeunt. Alarum, and chambers go off*

**SCENE II. The same.**

*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 humour of it is too hot, that is the very  
 plain song of it.

**PISTOL**

The plain song is most just: for humours do abound:  
 Knocks go and come; God's vassals drop and die;  
 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:

If wishes would prevail with me,  
 My purpose should not fail with me,  
 But thither would I hie.

**Boy**

As duly, but not as truly,  
 As bird doth sing on bough.

*Enter FLUELLEN*

---

**24 copy** models **27 mettle...pasture** quality of your breeding. (Literally, pasture means "feeding")  
**31 slips** leashes **34 Saint George** patron saint of England

**FLUELLEN**

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

*Driving them forward*

**PISTOL**

Be merciful, great duke, to men of mould.  
Abate thy rage, abate thy manly rage,  
Abate thy rage, great duke!  
Good bawcock, bate thy rage; use lenity, sweet chuck!

**NYM**

These be good humours! your honour wins bad humours.

*Exeunt all but Boy*

**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 a' faces it out, but fights not. For Pistol, he hath a killing tongue and a quiet sword; by the means whereof a' breaks words, and keeps whole weapons. For Nym, he hath heard that men of few words are the best men; and therefore he scorns to say his prayers, lest a' should be thought a coward: but his few bad words are matched with as few good deeds; for a' never broke any man's head but his own, and that was against a post when he was drunk. They will steal any thing, and call it purchase. Bardolph stole a lute case, bore it twelve leagues, and sold it for three half pence. 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 villany goes against my weak stomach, and therefore I must cast it up.

*Exit*

*Re-enter FLUELLEN, GOWER following*

**GOWER**

Captain Fluellen, you must come presently to the mines; the Duke of Gloucester would speak with you. **54**

**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 **57** concavities of it is not sufficient; for, look you, **58** the athversary, you may discuss unto the duke, look **59** you, is digt himself four yard under the **60** countermines: by Cheshu, I think a' will plough up **61** 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.

**FLUELLEN**

By Cheshu, he is an ass, as in the world: I will verify as much in his beard: be has no more **70** directions in the true disciplines of the wars, look you, of the Roman disciplines, than is a puppy-dog.

*Enter MACMORRIS and Captain JAMY*

**GOWER**

Here a' comes; and the Scots captain, Captain Jamy, with him.

**FLUELLEN**

~~Captain Jamy is a marvellous falourous 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.~~

**JAMY**

~~I say gud day, Captain Fluellen.~~

**FLUELLEN**

~~God den to your worship, good Captain James.~~

**GOWER**

~~How now, Captain Macmorris! have you quit the mines? have the pioneers given o'er?~~

---

**54 mines** undermining operation in siege

**57 disciplines of war** science of warfare (about which there were many books from Greek and Roman times down to Renaissance; Fluellen's humor involves an obsession with this study and a preference for traditional methods) **58 concavities** i.e., slope **59 discuss** explain **60 digt** digged **61 Chesu** Jesu, Jesu **62 plough** blow. (In Fluellen's Welsh dialect, "p" is regularly substituted for "b" and "f" for "v.") **70 in his beard** i.e., to his face

**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!

**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.

**JAMY**

It sall be vary gud, gud feith, gud captains bath: and I sall quit you with gud leve, as I may pick occasion; that sall I, marry.

**MACMORRIS**

It is no time to discourse, so Chrish save 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 beseeched, and the trumpet 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 Chrish sa' me, la!

**JAMY**

By the mess, ere theise eyes of mine take themselves to slomber, ay'll de gud service, or ay'll lig i' the grund for it; ay, or go to death; and ay'll pay 't as valourously as I may, that sall I suerly do, that is the breff and the long. Marry, I wad full fain hear some question 'tween you tway.

**FLUELLEN**

Captain Macmorris, I think, look you, under your correction, there is not many of your nation—

**MACMORRIS**

Of my nation! What ish my nation? Ish a villain, and a bastard, 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 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 myself: so Chrish save me, I will cut off your head.

**GOWER**

~~Gentlemen both, you will mistake each other.~~

**JAMY**

~~A! that's a foul fault.~~

*A parley sounded*

**GOWER**

The town sounds a parley . **134**

**FLUELLEN**

~~Captain Macmorris,~~ when there is more better opportunity to be required, look you, I will be so **137** bold as to tell you I know the disciplines of war; and there is an end.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE III. The same. Before the gates.**

*The Governor and some Citizens on the walls; the English forces below. Enter KING HENRY and his train*

**KING HENRY V**

How yet resolves the governor of the town?  
This is the ~~latest~~ [last] parley we will ~~admit~~ [allow];  
Therefore to our best mercy give yourselves;  
Or like to ~~men~~ [those] proud of destruction **4**  
Defy us to our worst: for, as I am a soldier,  
A name that in my thoughts becomes me best,  
If I begin the battery 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,  
And the flesh'd soldier, rough and hard of heart, **11**  
In liberty of bloody hand shall range  
With conscience wide as hell, mowing like grass  
Your fresh fair virgins and your flowering infants.~~

~~What is it then to me, if impious war,  
Array'd in flames like to the prince of fiends,  
Do, with his smirch'd complexion, all fell feats  
Enlink'd to waste and desolation?~~

~~What is't to me, when you yourselves are cause,  
If your pure maidens fall into the hand  
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  
Upon the enraged soldiers in their spoil  
As send precepts to the leviathan~~

---

**134** parley trumpet summons to a negotiation **137** required found

**4** proud of glorying in **11** flesh'd made fierce with the taste of blood **30** grace mercy **31**  
**O'erblows** blows away (Contagion was thought to reside in clouds and mists)

~~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 31  
Of heady murder, spoil and villany: 32~~  
If not, why, in a moment look to see  
The blind and bloody soldier with foul hand  
Defile the locks of your shrill shrieking daughters;  
Your fathers taken by the silver beards,  
And their most reverend heads dash'd 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  
At Herod's bloody hunting-slaughtermen.  
What say you? will you yield, and this avoid,  
Or, guilty in defence, be thus destroy'd? 43

#### GOVERNOR

Our expectation hath this day an end:  
The Dauphin, whom of succors we entreated,  
Returns us that his powers are yet not ready 46  
To raise so great a siege. Therefore, great king [one],  
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 V

Open your gates. Come, ~~uncle~~ [aunt] Exeter,  
Go you and enter Harfleur; there remain,  
And fortify it strongly 'gainst the French:  
Use mercy to them all. For us, ~~dear uncle~~,  
The winter coming on and sickness growing  
Upon our soldiers, we will retire to Calais.  
To-night in Harfleur we will be your guest;  
To-morrow for the march are we address. 58

*Flourish. The King and his train enter the town*

#### SCENE IV. The FRENCH KING's palace.

*Enter KATHARINE [CLARENCE] and ALICE [ALEX]*

**KATHARINE**-[CLARENCE]

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

**ALICE**-[ALEX]

Un peu, madame.

**KATHARINE**-[CLARENCE]

---

32 heady deadly; headstrong 43 in defense i.e., by not surrendering 46 Returns replies to 50 defensible able to defend ourselves 58 address'd prepared

Je te prie, m'enseignez: il faut que j'apprenne a parler. Comment appelez-vous la main en Anglois?

**ALICE-[ALEX]**

La main? elle est appelee de hand.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**

De hand. Et les doigts?

**ALICE-[ALEX]**

Les doigts? ma foi, j'oublie les doigts; mais je me souviendrai. Les doigts? je pense qu'ils sont appeles de fingres; oui, de fingres.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**

La main, de hand; les doigts, de fingres. Je pense que je suis le bon ecolier; j'ai gagne deux mots d'Anglois vitement. Comment appelez-vous les ongles?

**ALICE-[ALEX]**

Les ongles? nous les appelons de nails.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**

De nails. Ecoutez; dites-moi, si je parle bien: de hand, de fingres, et de nails.

**ALICE-[ALEX]**

C'est bien dit, madame; il est fort bon Anglois.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**

Dites-moi l'Anglois pour le bras.

**ALICE-[ALEX]**

De arm, madame.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**

Et le coude?

**ALICE-[ALEX]**

De elbow.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**

De elbow. Je m'en fais la repetition de tous les mots que vous m'avez appris des a present.

**ALICE-[ALEX]**

Il est trop difficile, madame, comme je pense.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**

Excusez-moi, Alice; ecoutez: de hand, de fingres, de nails, de arma, de bilbow.

**ALICE-[ALEX]**

De elbow, madame.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**

O Seigneur Dieu, je m'en oublie! de elbow. Comment appelez-vous le col?

**ALICE-[ALEX]**  
De neck, madame.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**  
De nick. Et le menton?

**ALICE-[ALEX]**  
De chin.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**  
De sin. Le col, de nick; de menton, de sin.

**ALICE-[ALEX]**  
Oui. Sauf votre honneur, en verite, vous prononcez les mots aussi droit que les natifs d'Angleterre.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**  
Je ne doute point d'apprendre, par la grace de Dieu, et en peu de temps.

**ALICE-[ALEX]**  
N'avez vous pas deja oublie ce que je vous ai enseigne?

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**  
Non, je reciterai a vous promptement: de hand, de fingres, de mails—

**ALICE-[ALEX]**  
De nails, madame.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**  
De nails, de arm, de ilbow.

**ALICE-[ALEX]**  
Sauf votre honneur, de elbow.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**  
Ainsi dis-je; de elbow, de nick, et de sin. Comment appelez-vous le pied et la robe?

**ALICE-[ALEX]**  
De foot, madame; et de coun.

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**  
De foot et de coun! O Seigneur Dieu! ce sont 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 coun!  
Neanmoins, je reciterai une autre fois ma lecon ensemble: de hand, de fingres, de nails, de arm, de elbow, de nick, de sin, de foot, de coun.

**ALICE-[ALEX]**  
Excellent, madame!

**KATHARINE-[CLARENCE]**  
C'est assez pour une fois: allons-nous a diner.

**(English Translation of scene IV)**

**CLARENCE**  
Alex, you have been in England and speak the language well.

**ALEX**  
A little, my lady.

**CLARENCE**  
I pray you teach me; I have to learn to speak it. What do you call *la main* in English?

**ALEX**  
*La main?* It is called de hand.

**CLARENCE**  
De hand. And *les doigts*?

**ALEX**  
*Les doigts?* Dear me, I forget *les doigts*; but I shall remember. I think that they are called de fingres; yes, de fingres.

**CLARENCE**  
*La main*, de hand; *les doigts*, de fingres. I think that I am a clever scholar; I have learned two English words in no time. What do you call *les ongles*?

**ALEX**  
*Les ongles?* We call them *de nailes*.

**CLARENCE**  
*De nailes*. Listen; tell me whether or not I speak correctly; *de hand*, *de fingres*, and *de nailes*.

**ALEX**  
That is correct, my lady. It is very good English.

**CLARENCE**  
Tell me the English for *le bras*.

**ALEX**  
De arm, my lady.

**CLARENCE**  
And *le coude*?

**ALEX**  
D' elbow.

**CLARENCE**  
D' elbow. I am going to repeat all the words you have taught me so far.

**ALEX**

It is too hard, my lady, I fear.

**CLARENCE**

Pardon me, Alex; listen: d' hand, de fingre, de nailes, d' arma, de bilbow.

**ALEX**

D' elbow, my lady.

**CLARENCE**

O Lord, I can't remember! D' elbow. What do you call *le col*?

**ALEX**

De nick, my lady.

**CLARENCE**

De nick. And *le menton*?

**ALEX**

De chin.

**CLARENCE**

De sin. Le col, de nick; le menton, de sin.

**ALEX**

Yes. If I may say so, really you pronounce the words just as correctly as native Englishmen.

**CLARENCE**

I have no doubt that I shall learn, with God's help, in a very short time.

**ALEX**

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

**CLARENCE**

No. I shall recite to you at once: d' hand, de fingre, de mailles—

**ALEX**

De nailes, my lady.

**CLARENCE**

De nailes, de arm, de ilbow.

**ALEX**

By your leave, d' elbow.

**CLARENCE**

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

**ALEX**

Le foot, my lady, and le count. [As she pronounces them, *foot* sounds to Clarence like *foutre*, fornicate, and *count* (for *gown*) sounds like French for the female sexual organ, *cunt* in English.]

**CLARENCE**

Le foot and le count! O Lord! Those are naughty words, wicked, coarse, and immodest, and are not fit to be used by ladies. I wouldn't say those words before French gentlemen for the whole world. Bah! Le foot and le count! Nevertheless, I hall recite my whole lesson once more: d' hand, de fingre, de nailes, de arm, d' elbow, de nick, de sin, de foot, le count.

**ALEX**

Excellent, my lady.

**CLARENCE**

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

*Exeunt*

**SCENE V. The same.**

*Enter the KING OF FRANCE, the DAUPHIN, the DUKE OF BOURBON, the Constable Of France, and others*

**KING OF FRANCE**

'Tis certain ~~he hath~~ [they have] pass'd the river Somme.

**Constable**

And if ~~he~~ [they] 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**

~~O Dieu vivant! shall a few sprays of us, 5  
The emptying of our fathers' luxury, 6  
Our scions, put in wild and savage stock, 7  
Spirt up so suddenly into the clouds, 8  
And overlook their grafters? 9~~

**BOURBON**

Normans, but bastard Normans, Norman bastards!  
~~Mort de ma vie~~ [By God]! if they march along 11  
Unfought withal, but I will sell my dukedom,  
To buy a slobbery and a dirty farm 13  
In that nook-shotten isle of Albion. 14

**Constable**

~~Dieu de batailles~~ [My God]! 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, 18

---

5 Dieu vivant living God sprays offshoots, illegitimate stock 6 father's luxury ancestor's lust 7 scions grafts put in grafted upon 8 Spirt shoot 9 overlook rise above grafters trees from which scions are taken 11 Mort Dieu, ma vie by God's (Christ's) death, my life 13 slobb'ry slovenly 14 nook-shotten full of nooks and angles. (Refers to coast line.) 15 Dieu de batailles God of battles 18 sodden water boiled water, i.e., ale 19 drench...jades drink for overridden horses barley-broth ale 20 Decoct warm up 23 roping hanging down like rope

A drench for sur-rein'd jades, their barley-broth, **19**  
Decoct their cold blood to such valiant heat? **20**  
~~And shall our quick blood, spirited with wine,  
Seem frosty? O, for honour of our land,~~  
Let us not hang like roping icicles **23**  
Upon our houses' thatch, whiles a more frosty people  
Sweat drops of gallant youth in our rich fields!  
Poor we may call them in their native lords . **26**

#### DAUPHIN

By faith and honour,  
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.~~ **31**

#### BOURBON

~~They bid us to the English dancing schools, **32**  
And teach lavoltas high and swift corantos; **33**  
Saying our grace is only in our heels, **34**  
And that we are most lofty runaways.~~

#### KING OF FRANCE

Where is Montjoy the herald? speed him hence: **36**  
Let him greet England with our sharp defiance.  
Up, princes! and, with spirit of honour edged  
More sharper than your swords, hie to the field:  
~~Charles Delabreth, high constable of France;  
You Dukes of Orleans, Bourbon, and of Berri,  
Alencon, Brabant, Bar, and Burgundy;  
Jaques Chatillon, Rambures, Vaudemont,  
Beaumont, Grandpre, Roussi, and Fauconberg,  
Foix, Lestral, Bouciqualt, and Charolois;~~  
High dukes, great princes, barons, lords and knights,  
For your great seats now quit you of great shames. **47**  
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~~ [her], you have power enough,  
And in a captive chariot into Rouen  
Bring ~~him~~ [her] our prisoner.

#### Constable

This becomes the great.  
Sorry am I ~~his~~ [her] numbers are so few,  
~~His~~ [her] soldiers sick and famish'd in their march,  
For I am sure, when ~~he~~ [she] shall see our army,

---

**26 Poor...lords** i.e., our fields though rich in themselves, are poor insofar as they are owned by a spiritless people **31 new-store** newly supply **32 bid us** bid us go **33 lavoltas, corantos** fashionable dances **34 in our heels** (1) in dancing gracefully (2) in running away **36 Montjoy** title of the chief herald of France **47 quit you** of redeem yourselves from **59 sink** pit **60 for achievement** instead of achieving victory

[S]He'll drop ~~his~~ [her] heart into the sink of fear 59  
And for achievement offer us ~~his~~ [her] ransom. 60

**KING OF FRANCE**

Therefore, lord constable, haste on Montjoy.  
And let him say to England that we send  
To know what willing ransom ~~he~~ [she] will give.  
Prince Dauphin, you shall stay with us in Rouen.

**DAUPHIN**

Not so, I do beseech your majesty.

**KING OF FRANCE**

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

*Exeunt*

**SCENE VI. The English camp in Picardy.**

*Enter GOWER and FLUELLEN, meeting*

**GOWER**

How now, Captain Fluellen! come you from the bridge? 2

**FLUELLEN**

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

**GOWER**

Is the Duke of Exeter safe?

**FLUELLEN**

~~The Duke of Exeter is as magnanimous as Agamemnon;  
and a man that I love and honour 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 did see him do as  
gallant service.~~

**GOWER**

What do you call him?

**FLUELLEN**

~~He is called Aunchient Pistol.~~

---

2 bridge (According to Holinshed, the French were beaten in their attempt to break down the bridge over the Ternois.)

**GOWER**

I know him not.

*Enter PISTOL*

**FLUELLEN**

Here is the man.

**PISTOL**

Captain, I thee beseech to do me favours:  
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 valour, hath, by cruel fate,  
And giddy Fortune's furious fickle wheel,  
That goddess blind,  
That stands upon the rolling restless stone—

**FLUELLEN**

By your patience, Aunchient Pistol. Fortune is  
painted blind, with a muffler afore her 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.

**PISTOL**

Fortune is Bardolph's foe, and frowns on him;  
For he hath stolen a pax, and hanged must a' be:  
A damned death!  
Let gallows gape for dog; let man go free  
And let not hemp his wind pipe 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.

**FLUELLEN**

Aunchient Pistol, I do partly understand your meaning.

**PISTOL**

Why then, rejoice therefore.

**FLUELLEN**

Certainly, aunchient, it is not a thing to 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.

**PISTOL**

Die and be damn'd! and figo for thy friendship!

**FLUELLEN**

It is well.

**PISTOL**

The fig of Spain!

*Exit*

**FLUELLEN**

Very good.

**GOWER**

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

**FLUELLEN**

I'll assure you, a' uttered as brave words at the bridge 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.

**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 marvellously mistook.

**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.

*Drum heard*

Hark you, ~~the king~~ [Harry] is coming, and I must speak with ~~him~~ [her] from the pridge. **86**

*Drum and colours. Enter KING HENRY, GLOUCESTER, and Soldiers*

God pless your majesty!

**KING HENRY V**

How now, Fluellen! camest thou from the bridge?

**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 **93** possession of the pridge; but he is enforced to retire, and the ~~Duke of~~ [proud, strong] Exeter is master of the pridge: I can tell your majesty, ~~the duke~~ [your aunt] is a prave [wo]man.

**KING HENRY V**

What ~~men~~ [warriors] have you lost, Fluellen?

**FLUELLEN**

The perdition of th' athversary hath been very **98** great, reasonable great: marry, for my part, I think the duke hath lost never a subject, but one that is like to be executed for robbing a church, one Bardolph, if your majesty know the ~~man~~ [person]: ~~his face is all bubukles, and wheelks, 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.~~

**KING HENRY V**

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 lenity and cruelty play for a kingdom, the gentler gamester is the soonest winner.

*Tucket. Enter MONTJOY 113*

**MONTJOY**

You know me by my habit. **114**

---

**86 from the pridge** with news concerning the bridge

**93 passages** deeds of arms **98 perdition** losses **113 s.d. Tucket** trumpet signal, fanfare **114 habit** i.e., tabard, herald's coat

**KING HENRY V**

Well then I know thee: what shall I know of thee?

**MONTJOY**

My master's mind.

**KING HENRY V**

Unfold it.

**MONTJOY**

Thus says my king: Say thou to Harry of England:  
Though we seemed dead, we did but sleep: advantage **119**  
is a better soldier than rashness. Tell ~~him~~ [her] we  
could have rebuked ~~him~~ [her] at Harfleur, but that we  
thought not good to bruise an injury till it were **122**  
full ripe: now we speak upon our cue, and our voice  
is imperial: England shall repent [t]his folly, see  
~~his~~ [her] weakness, and admire our sufferance. Bid ~~him~~ [her] **125**  
therefore consider of ~~his~~ [her] ransom; which must  
proportion the losses we have borne, the subjects we  
have lost, the disgrace we have digested; which in **128**  
weight to re-answer, ~~his~~ pettiness would bow under. **129**  
~~For our losses, his [her] exchequer [finance] is too poor; for the  
effusion of our blood, the muster of his [her] kingdom too **131**  
faint a number; and for our disgrace, his [her] own  
person, kneeling at our feet, but a weak and  
worthless satisfaction. To this add defiance: and  
tell him her, for conclusion, [s]he hath betrayed his [her]  
followers, whose condemnation is pronounced.~~ So far  
my king and master; so much my office.

**KING HENRY V**

What is thy name? I know thy quality. **137**

**MONTJOY**

Montjoy.

**KING HENRY V**

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, **142**  
Though 'tis no wisdom to confess so much  
Unto an enemy of craft and vantage, **144**  
My people are with sickness much enfeebled,  
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~~

---

**119 Advantage** circumspection **122 bruise an injury** i.e., squeeze a boil or pimple **125 admire our sufferance** wonder at our patience **128-129 which...under** i.e., to compensate for which his means are too slender **131 muster** total population **137 quality** rank and profession **142 impeachment** impediment **144 vantage** superiority in resources

~~Did march three Frenchmen. Yet, forgive me, God,  
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;  
Yet, God before, tell him we will come on,  
Though France himself and such another neighbour  
Stand in our way. There's for thy labour, Montjoy.~~  
Go bid thy master well advise himself : **159**  
If we may pass, we will; if we be hinder'd,  
We shall your tawny ground with your red blood  
Discolour: 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:  
So tell your master.

**MONTJOY**

I shall deliver so. Thanks to your highness.

*Exit*

**GLOUCESTER**

I hope they will not come upon us now.

**KING HENRY V**

We are in God's hand, ~~brother~~ [sister], not in theirs.  
March to the bridge; it now draws toward night:  
Beyond the river we'll encamp ourselves,  
And on to-morrow, bid them march away. **172**

*Exeunt*

**SCENE VII. The French camp, near Agincourt:**

*Enter the Constable of France, the LORD RAMBURES, ORLEANS, DAUPHIN,  
with others*

**Constable**

Tut! I have the best armour of the world. Would it were day!

**ORLEANS**

You have an excellent armour; but let my horse have his due.

**Constable**

It is the best horse of Europe.

**ORLEANS**

Will it never be morning?

**DAUPHIN**

---

**159 advise himself** consider **172 bid...away** i.e., bid our army march toward Calais

My lord of Orleans, and my lord high constable, you  
talk of horse and armour?

**ORLEANS**

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 . 12  
Ca, ha! he bounds from the earth, as if ~~his~~ **13**  
~~entrails were hairs; le cheval volant, the~~ Pegasus, **14**  
~~chez 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 **17**  
hoof is more musical than the pipe of Hermes. **18**

**ORLEANS**

He's of the colour 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 **21**  
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. **25**

**DAUPHIN**

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

**ORLEANS**

~~No more, cousin.~~

**DAUPHIN**

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

---

**12 pasterns** hoofs **13-14 as...hairs** i.e., as if here were a tennis ball. (Tennis balls were stuffed with hair.) **14-15 le cheval ...feu** the flying horse, Pegasus with nostrils breathing fire **17 basest horn** (1) lowest part (2) hoofbeat **18 pipe of Hermes** (Hermes, messenger of he gods, charmed Argus of the hundred eyes asleep with playing on his pipe.) **21 Perseus** (According to some Greek legends and to Ovid, Perseus rode Pegasus when he rescued Andromeda from the dragon.) **25 absolute** excellent **27 palfreys** saddle-horses

once writ a sonnet in his praise and began thus:  
'Wonder of nature,'—

**ORLEANS**

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

**DAUPHIN**

Then did they imitate that which I composed to my  
courser, for my horse is my mistress . **44**

**ORLEANS**

Your mistress bears well.

**DAUPHIN**

Me well; which is the prescript praise and **46**  
perfection of a good and particular mistress. **47**

**Constable**

Nay, for methought yesterday your mistress shrewdly  
shook your back. **49**

**DAUPHIN**

So perhaps did yours.

**Constable**

Mine was not bridled.

**DAUPHIN**

O then belike she was old and gentle; and you rode,  
like a kern of Ireland, your French hose off, and in **53**  
your straight strossers. **54**

**Constable**

You have good judgment in horsemanship.

**DAUPHIN**

Be warned by me, then: they that ride so and ride  
not warily, fall into foul bogs. I had rather have  
my horse to my mistress. **58**

**Constable**

I had as lief have my mistress a jade.

**DAUPHIN**

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

---

**44 horse is my mistress** (Here begins a series of bawdy double entendres involving human and animal sexuality: bears, shook your back, rode, foul bogs, doing, etc.) **46 prescript** prescribed **47 particular** acknowledging only one master **49 shrewdly** viciously **53 kern** light-armed Irish foot soldier **French hose** wide breeches **54 strait strossers** tight trousers, i.e., barelegged **58 to as**

**Constable**

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

**DAUPHIN**

'Le chien est retourné a son propre vomissement, et  
la truie lavée au borbier;' thou makest use of any thing.

**Constable**

Yet do I not use my horse for my mistress, or any  
such proverb so little kin to the purpose.

**RAMBURES**

My lord constable, the armour that I saw in your tent  
to night, are those stars or suns upon it?

**Constable**

Stars, my lord.

**DAUPHIN**

Some of them will fall to-morrow, I hope.

**Constable**

And yet my sky shall not want<sup>73</sup>.

**DAUPHIN**

That may be, for you bear a many superfluously, and  
'twere more honour some were away.

**Constable**

Even as your horse bears your praises; who would  
trot as well, were some of your brags dismounted.

**DAUPHIN**

Would I were able to load him with his desert! Will  
it never be day? I will trot to-morrow 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 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.

**DAUPHIN**

'Tis midnight; I'll go arm myself.

---

<sup>73</sup> sky i.e., sky of honor want be lacking (in honor)

*Exit*

**ORLEANS**

The Dauphin longs for morning.

**RAMBURES**

He longs to eat the English.

**Constable**

I think he will eat all he kills.

**ORLEANS**

By the white hand of my lady, he's a gallant prince.

**Constable**

Swear by her foot, that she may tread out the oath . **95**

**ORLEANS**

He is simply the most active gentleman of France.

**Constable**

Doing is activity; and he will still be doing. **97**

**ORLEANS**

He never did harm, that I heard of. **98**

**Constable**

Nor will do none to-morrow: he will keep that good name still.

~~**ORLEANS**~~

~~I know him to be valiant.~~

~~**Constable**~~

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

~~**ORLEANS**~~

~~What's he?~~

~~**Constable**~~

~~Marry, he told me so himself; and he said he cared not who knew it~~

~~**ORLEANS**~~

~~He needs not; it is no hidden virtue in him.~~

~~**Constable**~~

---

**95-96 tread...oath** (1) fulfill the oath by dancing (2) stamp on, spurn the oath **99 Doing** i.e., acting, pretending **still** continually **100 did harm** i.e., offended. (But the Constable uses it to mean *hurt any enemy*.) **110-111 Never...lackey** i.e., he shows "valor" only in beating his servant **111 hooded valor** (The hawk was kept hooded to prevent it from beating its wings, or "baiting.") **112 bate** (1) beat its wings (2) abate, be downcast

~~By my faith, sir, but it is; never any body saw it 110  
but his lackey: 'tis a hooded valour; and when it 111  
appears, it will bate. 112~~

**ORLEANS**

~~Ill will never said well.~~

**Constable**

~~I will cap that proverb with 'There is flattery in friendship.'~~

**ORLEANS**

~~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.'~~

**ORLEANS**

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

**Constable**

~~You have shot over.~~

**ORLEANS**

~~'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 Grandpre.

**Constable**

A valiant and most expert gentleman. Would it were  
day! Alas, poor Harry of England! [s]he longs not for  
the dawning as we do.

**ORLEANS**

What a wretched and peevish fellow [wench] is this king [Harry] of  
England, to mope with his [her] fat-brained followers so 133  
far out of his knowledge!

**Constable**

If the English had any apprehension, they would run away. 135

---

133 mope wander about 135 apprehension (1) sense (2) sense of danger

**ORLEANS**

~~That they lack; for if their heads had any intellectual armour, they could never wear such heavy head pieces.~~

**RAMBURES**

~~That island of England breeds very valiant creatures; their mastiffs are of unmatchable courage.~~

**ORLEANS**

~~Foolish curs, that run winking into the mouth of a **142** 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.~~

**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.~~

**ORLEANS**

~~Ay, but these English are shrewdly out of beef.~~

**Constable**

~~Then shall we find to-morrow they have only stomachs to eat and none to fight. Now is it time to arm: come, shall we about it?~~

**ORLEANS**

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

*Exeunt*

**ACT IV**

**PROLOGUE**

*Enter Chorus*

**Chorus**

Now entertain conjecture of a time  
When creeping murmur and the poring dark **2**  
Fills the wide vessel of the universe.  
From camp to camp through the foul womb of night

---

**142 winking** shutting their eyes

**2 poring** straining the eyes to see **9 battle** army **umber;d** shadowed

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 umber'd face; **9**  
~~Steed threatens steed, in high and boastful neighs  
 Piercing the night's dull ear, and from the tents  
 The armourers, 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 name.~~  
 Proud of their numbers and secure in soul, **17**  
 The confident and over-lusty French **18**  
 Do the low-rated English play at dice; **19**  
 And chide the cripple tardy-gaited night  
 Who, like a foul and ugly witch, doth limp  
 So tediously away. The poor condemned English,  
 Like sacrifices, by their watchful fires  
 Sit patiently and inly ruminate  
 The morning's danger, and their gesture sad **25**  
~~Investing lank lean; cheeks and war worn coats **26**  
 Presenteth them unto the gazing moon  
 So many horrid ghosts.~~ O now, who will behold  
 The royal captain of this ruin'd band  
 Walking from watch to watch, from tent to tent,  
 Let him [them] cry 'Praise and glory on his [her] head!'  
 For forth [s]he goes and visits all his [her] host.  
 Bids them good morrow with a modest smile  
 And calls them ~~brothers~~ [sisters], friends and countrymen.  
 Upon his royal face there is no note  
 How dread an army hath enrounded him;  
 Nor doth he dedicate one jot of colour  
 Unto the weary and all watched night,  
 But freshly looks and over bears attaint  
 With cheerful semblance and sweet majesty;  
 That every wretch, pining and pale before,  
 Beholding him, plucks comfort from his looks:  
 A largess universal like the sun  
 His liberal eye doth give to every one,  
 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  
 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 mockeries be. **53**

*Exit*

---

**17 secure** overconfident **18 over-lusty** lovably merry **19 play** gamble for **25 gesture sad** serious  
 bearing **26 Investing** clothing **53 Minding** bearing in mind **mock'ries** inadequate imitations

## SCENE I. The English camp at Agincourt.

*Enter KING HENRY, BEDFORD, and GLOUCESTER*

### KING HENRY V

Gloucester, 'tis true that we are in great danger;  
The greater therefore should our courage be.

~~Good morrow, brother [sister] Bedford. God Almighty!  
There is some soul of goodness in things evil,  
Would men observingly distil it out.~~

For our bad neighbour 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.~~  
Thus may we gather honey from the weed,  
And make a moral of the devil himself.

*Enter ERPINGHAM*

Good morrow, old Sir Thomas ~~[Mother]~~ [Captain] 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, 16  
Since I may say 'Now lie I like a ~~king~~ [queen].'

### KING HENRY V

'Tis good for ~~men~~ [warriors] to love their present pains  
Upon example; so the spirit is eased:  
~~And when the mind is quicken'd, out of doubt,  
The organs, though defunct and dead before,  
Break up their drowsy grave and newly move,  
With easted slough and fresh legerity.~~  
Lend me thy cloak, Sir Thomas [friend]. Brothers [sisters] both, 24  
Commend me to the ~~princes~~ [commanders] in our camp;  
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?

### KING HENRY V

No, my good ~~knigh~~ [friend];  
~~Go with my brothers to my lords of England:~~  
I and my bosom must debate awhile,  
And then I would no other company.

---

15 churlish niggardly 16 likes pleases 19 Upon example following or considering example 24  
Brothers both i.e., Bedford and Gloucester

**ERPINGHAM**

~~The Lord in heaven~~ bless thee, noble Harry!

*Exeunt all but KING HENRY*

**KING HENRY V**

God-a-mercy, old heart! thou speak'st cheerfully.

*Enter PISTOL*

**PISTOL**

Qui va la?

**KING HENRY V**

A friend.

**PISTOL**

Discuss unto me; art thou officer?

Or art thou base, common and popular?

**KING HENRY V**

I am a gentleman of a company.

**PISTOL**

Trail'st thou the puissant pike?

**KING HENRY V**

Even so. What are you?

**PISTOL**

As good a gentleman as the emperor.

**KING HENRY V**

Then you are a better than the king.

**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 heart string

I love the lovely bully. What is thy name?

**KING HENRY V**

Harry le Roy.

**PISTOL**

Le Roy! a Cornish name: art thou of Cornish crew?

**KING HENRY V**

No, I am a Welshman.

**PISTOL**

Know'st thou Fluellen?

**KING HENRY V**

Yes.

**PISTOL**

Tell him, I'll knock his leek about his pate

Upon Saint Davy's day.

**KING HENRY V**

Do not you wear your dagger in your cap that day,

lest he knock that about yours.

**PISTOL**

Art thou his friend?

**KING HENRY V**

And his kinsman too.

**PISTOL**

~~The figo for thee, then!~~

~~**KING HENRY V**~~

~~I thank you: God be with you!~~

~~**PISTOL**~~

~~My name is Pistol call'd.~~

*Exit*

~~**KING HENRY V**~~

~~It sorts well with your fierceness.~~

*Enter FLUELLEN and GOWER*

**GOWER**

Captain Fluellen!

**FLUELLEN**

So! in the name of Jesu Christ, speak lower. It is the greatest admiration of the universal world, when **66** 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 **69** find, I warrant you, that there is no tiddle toddle nor pibble pabble 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.

**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?

**GOWER**

I will speak lower.

**FLUELLEN**

I pray you and beseech you that you will.

*Exeunt GOWER and FLUELLEN*

**KING HENRY V**

Though it appear a little out of fashion,  
There is much care and valour in this ~~Welshman~~ [soldier.]

*Enter three soldiers, JOHN BATES, ALEXANDER COURT, and MICHAEL WILLIAMS*

---

**66** admiration wonder **69** Pompey the Great Roman general defeated by Julius Caesar

**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.

**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 V**

A friend.

**WILLIAMS**

Under what captain serve you?

**KING HENRY V**

Under ~~Sir Thomas~~ Erpingham.

**WILLIAMS**

A good old commander and a most kind ~~gentleman~~ [one]: I  
pray you, what thinks [s]he of our estate? **96**

**KING HENRY V**

Even as ~~men~~ [women] wrecked upon a sand, that look to be  
washed off the next tide.

**BATES**

[S]He hath not told [t]his thought to the king?

**KING HENRY V**

No; nor it is not meet [s]he should. For, though I  
speak it to you, I think ~~the king~~ [Harry] is but a ~~man~~ [woman], as I  
am: ~~the violet smells to him [her] as it doth to me: the  
element shows to him [her] as it doth to me; all his~~ **103**  
~~[her] senses have but human conditions: his [her] ceremonies~~ **104**  
~~laid by, in his [her] nakedness [s]he appears but a man [woman]; and~~  
~~though his affections are higher mounted than ours,~~  
~~yet, when they stoop, they stoop with the like~~  
~~wing.~~ Therefore when [s]he sees reason of fears, as we  
do, ~~his~~ [her] fears, out of doubt, be of the same relish **109**  
as ours are: yet, in reason, no ~~man~~ [woman] should possess **110**  
~~him~~ [her] with any appearance of fear, lest [s]he, by showing  
it, should dishearten ~~his~~ [her] army.

**BATES**

---

**96** estate condition **102-103** element shows sky appears **104** conditions qualities, i.e., limitations  
ceremonies observances due royalty; royal robes **109** relish taste **110** posses him with induce him  
**116** at all adventures no matter what the risk (since the Thames would be less risky under any  
circumstances than the impending battle) **quit here** out of this situation

[S]He may show what outward courage [s]he will; but I believe, as cold a night as 'tis, [s]he could wish ~~himself~~ [herself] in ~~Thames~~ [a river] up to the neck; and so I would [s]he were, and I by ~~him~~ [her], at all adventures, so we were quit here. **116**

**KING HENRY V**

By my troth, I will speak my conscience of ~~the king~~ our leader: I think [s]he would not wish ~~himself~~ [herself] any where but where [s]he is.

**BATES**

Then I would [s]he were here alone; so should [s]he be sure to be ransomed, and a many poor ~~men's~~ [warriors] lives saved.

**KING HENRY V**

I dare say you love ~~him~~ [her] not so ill, to wish ~~him~~ [her] here alone, howsoever you speak this to feel other [wo]men's minds: methinks I could not die any where so contented as in ~~the king's~~ [Harry's] company; ~~his~~ [her] cause being just and ~~his~~ [her] quarrel honourable.

**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 kings~~ [her] subjects: if ~~his~~ [her] cause be wrong, our obedience to ~~the king~~ [her] wipes the crime of it out of us.

**WILLIAMS**

But if the cause be not good, the ~~king himself~~ [Harry herself] hath a heavy reckoning to make, when all those legs and arms and heads, chopped off in battle, shall join together at the latter day and cry all 'We died at **136** such a place;' some swearing, some crying for a surgeon, some upon their ~~wives~~ [lovers] left poor behind them, some upon the debts they owe, some upon their children rawly left. ~~I am afraid there are few die well that die in a battle; for how can they charitably dispose of any thing, when blood is their argument?~~ Now, if these ~~men~~ [ones] do not die well, it will be a black matter for ~~the king~~ [she who] ~~that~~ led them to it; whom to disobey were against all proportion of **144** subjection.

**KING HENRY V**

So, if a ~~son~~ [girl] that is by ~~his father~~ [her mother] sent about merchandise do sinfully miscarry upon the sea, the **147** imputation of ~~his~~ [her] wickedness by your rule, should be

---

**136 latter day** last day, Day of judgment **140 rawly** without provision **144 who** whom **145 proportion of subjection** proper duty of a subject **147 sinfully miscarry** die in his sins **151-152 in...iniquities** with his wicked deeds unabsolved

imposed upon his father [her mother] that sent him [her]: ~~or if a servant, under his [her] master's command transporting a sum of money, be assailed by robbers and die in 151 many irreconciled iniquities, you may call the 152 business of the master the author of the servant's damnation: but this is not so:~~ the king [queen] is not bound to answer the particular endings of his [her] soldiers, the father [mother] of his son [her daughter], nor the master of his [her] 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 arbitrement 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 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 [queen's]; but every subject's soul is his [her] own. Therefore should every soldier in the wars do as every sick [wo]man in his [her] bed, wash every mote out of his [her] conscience: and dying so, death 178 is to him [her] advantage; or not dying, the time was blessedly lost wherein such preparation was gained: ~~and in him [she] that escapes, it were not sin to think that, making God so free an offer, He let him [her] outlive that day to see His greatness and to teach others how they should prepare.~~

#### WILLIAMS

'Tis certain, every [wo]man that dies ill, the ill upon his [her] own head, the king [queen] is not to answer it.

#### BATES

But I do not desire [s]he should answer for me; and yet I determine to fight lustily for him [her].

#### KING HENRY V

I myself heard the king [Harry] say [s]he would not be ransomed.

#### WILLIAMS

---

178 mote small impurity

Ay, [s]he said so, to make us fight cheerfully: but  
when our throats are cut, [s]he may be ransomed, and we  
ne'er the wiser.

**KING HENRY V**

If I live to see it, I will never trust ~~his~~ [her] word after.

**WILLIAMS**

~~You pay him [her] then. That's a perilous shot out of an  
elder gun, that a poor and private displeasure can  
do against a monarch!~~ you may as well go about to  
turn the sun to ice with fanning in ~~his~~ [her] face with a  
peacock's feather. You'll never trust ~~his~~ [her] word  
after! come, 'tis a foolish saying.

**KING HENRY V**

Your reproof is something too round: I should be **201**  
angry with you, if the time were convenient.

**WILLIAMS**

Let it be a quarrel between us, if you live.

**KING HENRY V**

I embrace it.

**WILLIAMS**

How shall I know thee again?

**KING HENRY V**

Give me any gage of thine, and I will wear it in my **206**  
bonnet: then, if ever thou darest acknowledge it, I **207** (a piece of headgear)  
will make it my quarrel.

**WILLIAMS**

Here's my glove: give me another of thine.

**KING HENRY V**

There.

**WILLIAMS**

This will I also wear in my cap: if ever thou come  
to me and say, after to-morrow, 'This is my glove,'  
by this hand, I will take thee a box on the ear. **213**

**KING HENRY V**

If ever I live to see it, I will challenge it.

**WILLIAMS**

~~Thou darest as well be hanged.~~

~~**KING HENRY V**~~

---

**201 round** direct, brusque **206 gage** pledge **213 take** give, strike **222 crowns** (1) coins (2) heads

~~Well, I will do it, though I take thee in the  
king's [Harry'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.

**KING HENRY V**

Indeed, the French may lay twenty French crowns to **222**  
one, they will beat us; ~~for they bear them on their  
shoulders: but it is no English treason to cut~~ **224**  
~~French crowns, and to-morrow the king himself [monarch  
Herself] will be a clipper.~~

*Exeunt soldiers*

Upon ~~the king~~ [my head]! let us our lives, our souls,  
Our debts, our careful ~~wives~~ [lovers], **228**  
Our children and our sins lay on ~~the king~~ [my head]!  
We must bear all. ~~O hard condition,  
Twin-born with greatness, subject to the breath~~ **231**  
~~Of every fool, whose sense no more can feel~~ **232**  
~~But his [her] own wringing! What infinite heart's ease~~ **233**  
~~Must kings [monarchs] neglect, that private men [women] enjoy!~~  
And what have ~~kings~~ [I], that privates have not too, **235**  
Save ceremony, save general ceremony?  
And what art thou, thou idle ceremony?  
~~What kind of god art thou, that suffer'st more  
Of mortal griefs than do thy worshippers?  
What are thy rents? what are thy comings in?  
O ceremony, show me but thy worth!  
What is thy soul of adoration? 242  
Art thou aught else but place, degree and form, 243  
Creating awe and fear in other[s] men?  
Wherein thou art less happy being fear'd  
Than they in fearing.  
What drink'st thou oft, instead of homage sweet,  
But poison'd flattery? O, be sick, great greatness,  
And bid thy ceremony give thee cure!  
Think'st thou the fiery fever will go out  
With titles blown from adulation?  
Will it give place to flexure and low bending?  
Canst thou, when thou command'st the beggar's knee,~~

---

**224 English treason** (It was a treasonable offense to clip or “cut” English coins; it obviously is no offense to slash French heads, and even King Henry will be such a “clipper.”) **228 careful** full of cares **231-233 Twin-born...wringing** i.e., inseparable from the condition of being born of royal rank, a condition that makes one the subject of the idle gossip of every fool, even those whose sensibilities pay attention to nothing other than the rumbling of their own stomachs **235 privates** private men **242 thy soul of adoration** the essential quality that makes you so much admired **243 place** rank **257 balm** consecrating oil used to anoint a king in his coronation

~~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 sceptre and the ball,~~ 257  
 The sword, the mace, the crown imperial,  
~~The intertissued robe of gold and pearl,~~  
 The farced 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,~~  
~~Not all these,~~ laid in bed majestical,  
 Can sleep so soundly as the ~~wretched slave~~ [peasant],  
~~Who with a body fill'd and vacant mind~~  
~~Gets him to rest, cramm'd with distressful bread;~~ 267  
 Never sees horrid night, the child of hell,  
 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,  
 With profitable labour, to his grave:  
~~And, but for ceremony, such a wretch,~~  
~~Winding up days with toil and nights with sleep,~~  
~~Had the fore-hand and vantage of a king.~~ 277  
 The slave, a member of the country's peace, 278  
 Enjoys it; but in gross brain little ~~wots~~ [knows] 279  
 What watch the ~~king~~ [monarch] keeps to maintain the peace, 280  
 Whose hours the peasant best advantages. 281

*Enter ERPINGHAM*

**ERPINGHAM**

My ~~lord~~ [liege], your ~~nobles~~ [commanders], jealous of your absence, 282  
 Seek through your camp to find you.

**KING HENRY V**

Good old ~~knicht~~ [sister],  
 Collect them all together at my tent:  
 I'll be before thee.

**ERPINGHAM**

I shall do't, my ~~lord~~ [liege].

*Exit*

**KING HENRY V**

O God of battles! steel my soldiers' hearts;  
 Possess them not with fear; take from them now  
 The sense of reckoning, if the opposed numbers 288  
 Pluck their hearts from them. ~~Not to-day, O Lord,~~

---

267 *distressful* earned by hard work 277 *forehand* upper hand 278 *member* sharer 279 *it* i.e., peace 280 *watch* wakeful guard 281 *peasant best advantages* most benefit the peasant 282 *jealous of* apprehensive because of 288 *sense of reck'ning* ability to count (the enemy)

~~O, not to day, think not upon the fault  
My father made in compassing the crown!  
I Richard's body have interred anew;  
And on it have bestow'd more contrite tears  
Than from it issued forced drops of blood:  
Five hundred poor I have in yearly pay,  
Who twice a day their wither'd hands hold up  
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,  
Imploring pardon.~~

*Enter GLOUCESTER*

**GLOUCESTER**

My liege!

**KING HENRY V**

My ~~brother~~ [sister] Gloucester's voice? Ay;  
I know thy errand, I will go with thee:  
The day, my friends and all things stay for me.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE II. The French camp.**

*Enter the DAUPHIN, ORLEANS, RAMBURES, and others*

**ORLEANS**

The sun doth gild our armour; up, my lords!

**DAUPHIN**

~~Montez A cheval! My horse! varlet! laquais! ha! 2~~

**ORLEANS**

~~O brave spirit!~~

**DAUPHIN**

~~Via! les-eaux-et-la-terre. 4~~

**ORLEANS**

~~Rien puis? L'air et la feu. 5~~

**DAUPHIN**

~~Ciel, cousin Orleans. 6~~

---

2 **Montez a cheval** to horse 4 **Via...terre** begone, waters and earth (The Dauphin imagines himself riding above rives and solid ground) 5 **Rien...feu** nothing more? What about air and fire? (I.e., Why not soar above all 4 elements, not just water and earth?) 6 **Cieux** the heavens. (The Dauphin carries the metaphor one step further to its ultimate height) 9 **incision** i.e., with spurs 10 **spin** gush, spatter 11 **And...courage** i.e., and put out the English eyes with the horses' superfluous blood, the proof of their excessive courage. **Dout** put out

*Enter Constable*

Now, my lord constable!

**Constable**

Hark, how our steeds for present service neigh!

**DAUPHIN**

Mount them, and make incision in their hides, **9**  
That their hot blood may spin in English eyes, **10**  
And dout them with superfluous courage, ha! **11**

**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. **14**

**Constable**

To horse, you gallant princes! straight to horse!  
~~Do but behold yon poor and starved band,  
And your fair show shall suck away their souls, **17**  
Leaving them but the shales and husks of men. **18**~~  
~~There is not work enough for all our hands;  
Scarce blood enough in all their sickly veins  
To give each naked curtle axe a stain,  
That our French gallants shall to-day draw out,  
And sheathe for lack of sport: let us but blow on them,  
The vapour of our valour will o'erturn them.  
'Tis positive 'gainst all exceptions, lords,  
That our superfluous lackeys and our peasants,  
Who in unnecessary action swarm  
About our squares of battle, were enow  
To purge this field of such a hilding foe,  
Though we upon this mountain's basis by  
Took stand for idle speculation:  
But that our honours must not. What's to say?  
A very little little let us do.  
And all is done. Then let the trumpets sound  
The tucket sonance and the note to mount;  
For our approach shall so much dare the field **36**  
That England shall couch down in fear and yield.~~

*Enter GRANDPRE*

**GRANDPRE**

---

**14 embattled** arranged in battle order **17 fair show** impressive appearance **18 shales** shells **36 dare** cause to stare, to be stupefied

~~Why do you stay so long, my lords of France?  
Yon island carrions, desperate of their bones,  
Ill favouredly become the morning field:  
Their ragged curtains poorly are let loose,  
And our air shakes them passing scornfully:  
Big Mars seems bankrupt in their beggar'd host  
And faintly through a rusty beaver peeps:  
The horsemen sit like fixed candlesticks,  
With torch staves in their hand; and their poor jades  
Lob down their heads, dropping the hides and hips,  
The gum down roping from their pale dead eyes  
And in their pale dull mouths the gimball bit  
Lies foul with chew'd 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  
In life so lifeless as it shows itself.~~

**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?~~

**Constable**

~~I stay but for my guidon: 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. 63~~

*Exeunt*

**SCENE III. The English camp.**

*Enter GLOUCESTER, BEDFORD, EXETER, ERPINGHAM, with all his host:  
SALISBURY and WESTMORELAND*

**GLOUCESTER**

Where is ~~the king~~ [queen] [Harry]?

**BEDFORD**

The king himself [She] is rode to view their battle [army].

**WESTMORELAND**

Of fighting men they have full three score thousand.

**EXETER**

---

63 outwear waste

10 kinsman [sister] i.e., Westmorland, whose son had married Salisbury's daughter

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~~ [sister], warriors all, adieu! **10**

**BEDFORD**

Farewell, good Salisbury; and good luck go with thee!

**EXETER**

Farewell, ~~kind lord~~; fight valiantly to-day:  
And yet I do thee wrong to mind thee of it, **13**  
For thou art framed of the firm truth of valour. **14**

*Exit SALISBURY*

**BEDFORD**

[S]He is full of valour as of kindness;  
~~Princely~~ [Royally] in both.

*Enter the KING*

**WESTMORELAND**

O that we now had here  
But one ten thousand of those ~~men~~ in England  
That do no work to-day!

**KING HENRY V**

What's [s]he that wishes so?  
My cousin Westmoreland? No, my fair cousin:  
If we are mark'd to die, we are enough  
To do our country loss; and if to live,  
The fewer ~~men~~ [of us], the greater share of honour.  
God's will! I pray thee, wish not one [wo]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:~~  
~~But if it be a sin to covet honour,~~  
~~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 honour~~  
~~As one man more, methinks, would share from me~~  
~~For the best hope I have. O, do not wish one more!~~

---

**13** mind remind **14** fram'd made, built **20-21** enow...loss enough for our country to suffer **37** crowns for convoy travel **money 39** That...us that is afraid to risk his life in my **company 40** feast of **Crispian** St. Crispin's day, October 25. (Crispinus and Crispianus were martyrs who fled from Rome in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century; they disguised themselves as shoemakers, and afterward became the patron saints of the craft.) **44** live live to see **45** vigil evening before a feast day

~~Rather proclaim it, Westmoreland, through my host,  
That [s]he which hath no stomach to this fight,  
Let him [her] depart; his [her] passport shall be made  
And crowns for convoy put into his [her] purse: 37  
We would not die in that [wo]man's company  
That fears his [her] fellowship to die with us. 39~~

This day is called the feast of Crispian: 40  
[S]He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,  
Will stand a tip-toe when the day is named,  
And rouse ~~him~~ at the name of Crispian.  
[S]He that shall live this day, and see old age, 44  
Will yearly on the vigil feast ~~his~~ [her] neighbours, 45  
And say 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian:'  
Then will [s]he strip ~~his~~ [her] sleeve and show ~~his~~ [her] scars.  
And say 'These wounds I had on Crispin's day.'  
~~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~~ [the] mouth as household words  
Harry ~~the king~~, Bedford and Exeter,  
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester,  
Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd.  
~~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 remember'd;  
We few, we happy few, we band of ~~brothers~~ [sisters];  
For [s]he to-day that sheds [her] blood with me  
Shall be my [sister]; be [s]he ne'er so vile, 62  
This day shall gentle [her] condition: 63  
And [those] ~~in England~~ now a-bed  
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,  
And hold their ~~manhoods~~ [lives] cheap whiles any speaks  
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

*Re-enter SALISBURY*

#### **SALISBURY**

My sovereign ~~lord~~ [lady], bestow yourself with speed: 68  
The French are bravely in their battles set, 69  
And will with all expedience charge on us. 70

#### **KING HENRY V**

All things are ready, if our minds be so.

#### **WESTMORELAND**

Perish the [one] whose mind is backward now!

#### **KING HENRY V**

Thou dost not wish more help from England, coz?

---

62 vile lowly 63 gentle his condition raise him to the rank of gentlemen 68 bestow yourself take up your battle position 69 bravely...set finely arrayed in their battalions 70 expedience speed 77 likes pleases

### WESTMORELAND

God's will! my liege, would you and I alone,  
Without more help, could fight this royal battle!

### KING HENRY V

Why, now thou hast unwish'd five thousand [warriors];  
Which likes me better than to wish us one. **77**  
You know your places: God be with you all!

*Tucket. Enter MONTJOY*

### MONTJOY

Once more I come to know of thee, ~~King~~ Harry,  
If for thy ransom thou wilt now compound, **80**  
Before thy most assured overthrow:  
~~For certainly thou art so near the gulf,  
Thou needs must be englutted. Besides, in mercy,  
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.~~

### KING HENRY V

Who hath sent thee now?

### MONTJOY

The Constable of France.

### KING HENRY V

I pray thee, bear my former answer back:  
Bid them achieve me and then sell my bones. **91**  
Good God! why should they mock poor [folks] 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:  
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,  
And draw their honours reeking up to heaven;  
Leaving their earthly parts to choke your clime,  
The smell whereof shall breed a plague in France.  
Mark then abounding valour in our English,  
That being dead, like to the bullet's grazing,  
Break out into a second course of mischief,  
Killing in relapse of mortality.~~  
Let me speak proudly: tell the constable

---

**80 compound** make terms **91 achieve** capture **109 for the working day** i.e., to do serious work, not take a holiday **117 in fresher robes** i.e., in heavenly garb **119 turn...service** i.e., send them away stripped of their finery, like dismissed servants stripped of their livery **121 levied** collected

We are but warriors for the working-day; **109**  
Our gayness and our gilt are all besmirch'd  
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:  
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 **117**  
The gay new coats o'er the French soldiers' heads  
And turn them out of service. If they do this,-- **119**  
As, if God please, they shall,--my ransom then  
Will soon be levied. Herald, save thou thy labour; **121**  
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.

**MONTJOY**

I shall, ~~King Harry~~. And so fare thee well:  
Thou never shalt hear herald any more.

*Exit*

**KING HENRY V**

I fear thou'lt once more come again for ransom.

*Enter YORK*

**YORK**

My lord, most humbly on my knee I beg  
The leading of the ~~vaward~~ [vanguard].

**KING HENRY V**

Take it, brave York. Now, [sisters, move!]:  
And how thou pleasest, God, dispose the day!

*Exeunt*

**SCENE IV. The field of battle.**

*Alarum. Excursions. Enter PISTOL, French Soldier, and Boy*

[Fighting, by group or by pair, commences]

[Some text from the following may be inserted among the combatants]

**PISTOL**

Yield, cur!

**French Soldier**

~~Je pense que vous etes gentilhomme de bonne qualite.~~

**PISTOL**

~~Qualitie calmie custure me! Art thou a gentleman?~~

~~what is thy name? discuss.~~

**French Soldier**

~~O Seigneur Dieu!~~

**PISTOL**

O, Signieur Dew should be a gentleman:  
Perpend my words, O Signieur Dew, and mark;  
O Signieur Dew, thou diest on point of fox,  
Except, O signieur, thou do give to me  
Egregious ransom.

**French Soldier**

O, prenez misericorde! ayez pitie de moi!

**PISTOL**

Moy shall not serve; I will have forty moys;  
Or I will fetch thy rim out at thy throat  
In drops of crimson blood.

**French Soldier**

Est-il impossible d'echapper la force de ton bras?

**PISTOL**

Brass, cur!

Thou damned and luxurious mountain goat,  
Offer'st me brass?

**French Soldier**

O pardonnez moi!

**PISTOL**

Say'st thou me so? is that a ton of moys?  
Come hither, boy: ask me this slave in French  
What is his name.

**Boy**

Ecoutez: comment etes vous appele?

**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**

Que dit il, monsieur?

**Boy**

Il me commande de vous dire que vous faites vous  
pret; car ce soldat ici est dispose tout a 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**

O, je vous supplie, pour l'amour de Dieu, me  
pardonner! Je suis gentilhomme de bonne maison:  
gardez ma vie, et je vous donnerai deux cents ecus.

**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**

Petit monsieur, que dit-il?

**Boy**

Encore qu'il est contre son jurement de pardonner aucun prisonnier, néanmoins, pour les ecus que vous l'avez promis, il est content de vous donner la liberté, le franchisement.

**French Soldier**

Sur mes genoux je vous donne mille remerciemens; et je m'estime heureux que je suis tombe entre les mains d'un chevalier, je pense, le plus brave, vaillant, et tres distingue 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 fallen into the hands of one, as he thinks, the most brave, valorous, and thrice worthy signieur of England.

**PISTOL**

As I suck blood, I will some mercy show.

Follow me!

**Boy**

Suivez vous le grand capitaine.

*Exeunt PISTOL, and French Soldier*

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 valour than this roaring devil i' the old play, that every one may pare his nails with a wooden dagger; and they are both hanged; and so would this be, if he durst steal any thing 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 [girls].

*Exit*

**SCENE V. Another part of the field.**

*Enter Constable, ORLEANS, BOURBON, DAUPHIN, and RAMBURES*

**Constable**

O ~~di~~able [the devil]! 1

**ORLEANS**

~~O seigneur! le jour est perdu, tout est perdu!~~ 2  
[O lord, the day is lost, all is lost]

**DAUPHIN**

~~Mort de ma vie~~ [Good Christ]! all is confounded, all! 3  
Reproach and everlasting shame  
Sits mocking in our plumes. O ~~mechante~~ [damnable] fortune! 5  
Do not run away.

*A short alarum*

**Constable**

Why, all our ranks are broke.

**DAUPHIN**

O ~~perdurable~~ [neverending] shame! let's stab ourselves. 7  
Be these the wretches that we play'd at dice for?

**ORLEANS**

Is this the [monarch] we sent to for [her] ransom?

**BOURBON**

Shame and eternal shame, nothing but shame!  
Let us die in honour: once more back again;  
And he that will not follow Bourbon now,  
Let him go hence, and with his cap in hand,  
~~Like a base pander, hold the chamber door~~  
~~Whilst by a slave, no gentler than my dog,~~  
~~His fairest daughter is contaminated.~~

**Constable**

Disorder, that hath spoil'd us, friend us now!  
Let us on heaps go offer up our lives.

**ORLEANS**

~~We are enow 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.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE VI. Another part of the field.**

---

1 **O diable** Oh the devil 2 **O...perdu** O lord, the day is lost, all is lost 3 **Mort Dieu, ma vie** by  
God's (Christ's) death, my life **confounded** lost 5 **O mechante fortune** malicious fortune

7 **perdurable** everlasting

*Alarums. Enter KING HENRY and forces, EXETER, and others*

**KING HENRY V**

Well have we done, thrice valiant **countrymen** [sisters]:  
But all's not done; yet keep the French the field.

**EXETER**

[Commander] of York commends [her] to your majesty.

**KING HENRY V**

Lives [s]he, good [aunt]? thrice within this hour  
I saw [her] down; thrice up again and fighting;  
From [head to toe] all blood [s]he was.

**EXETER**

In which array, brave soldier, doth [s]he lie,  
Larding the plain; and by [her] bloody side, **8**  
[Partner] to [her] honour-owing wounds, **9**  
The noble [sister] of Suffolk also lies.  
Suffolk first died: and York, all haggled over, **11**  
Comes to [her], where in gore [s]he lay insteep'd,  
And takes [her] by the [ears]; kisses the gashes  
That bloodily did spawn upon [her] face;  
And cries aloud 'Tarry, dear cousin Suffolk!  
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 cheer'd him up:~~  
~~He smiled me in the face, raught me his hand,~~  
And, with a feeble gripe, says 'Dear my lord,  
Commend my service to me sovereign.'  
~~So did he turn and over Suffolk's neck~~  
~~He threw his wounded arm and kiss'd his lips;~~  
~~And so espoused to death, with blood he seal'd~~  
~~A testament of noble ending love.~~  
The pretty and sweet manner of it forced  
Those waters from me which I would have stopp'd;  
But I had not so much of [grown-up] in me,  
And all my [sadness] came into mine eyes  
And gave me up to tears.

**KING HENRY V**

I blame you not;  
For, hearing this, I must perforce compound **33**  
With mistful eyes, or they will issue too. **34**

*Alarum*

---

**8 Larding** fattening, enriching (with his blood) **9 honor-owing** honor-owning, honorable **11 haggled over** mangled, hacked **21 raught** reached **33 compound** come to terms **34 issue** i.e., issue forth tears **37 kill his prisoners** (This follows Holinshed, who says that Henry, alarmed by the outcry of the lackeys and boys of the camp, feared a new attack and ordered the prisoners killed as a means of precaution. Gower, IV.vii 9-10, attributes the Kings action as revenge)

But, hark! what new alarum is this same?  
The French have reinforced their scatter'd men:  
Then every soldier kill his prisoners: **37**  
Give the word through.

*Exeunt*

[More fighting moves across the space]

**SCENE VII. Another part of the field.**

*Enter FLUELLEN and GOWER*

**FLUELLEN** [*carrying dead girl{s}*]

Kill the [girls] and the luggage! 'tis expressly **1** [~~isn't it the French prisoners he is killing?, not girls?]~~

against the law of arms: 'tis as arrant a piece of knavery, mark you now, as can be offer't; in your conscience, now, is it not?

**GOWER**

'Tis certain there's not a [girl] left alive; and the cowardly rascals that ran from the battle ha' done this slaughter: besides, they have burned and carried away all that was in [Harry's] tent; wherefore [she], most worthily, hath caused every soldier to cut [her] prisoner's throat. O, 'tis a gallant [queen]!

**FLUELLEN**

Ay, [s]he was porn at Monmouth, Captain Gower. What **11** call you the town's name where Alexander the Pig was born!

**GOWER**

Alexander the Great.

**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 Macedon; 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 the 'orld, I warrant you sall find, in the comparisons between Macedon and Monmouth, that the situations, look you, is both alike. There is a river in

---

**1** luggage i.e., lackeys guarding the luggage **11** Monmouth (i.e., in Wales)

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; 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 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.~~

**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 take 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 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 [her] majesty.

*Alarum. Enter KING HENRY, and forces; WARWICK, GLOUCESTER, EXETER, and others*

**KING HENRY V**

I was not angry since I came to France  
Until this instant. Take a trumpet, herald; **55**  
[Go] thou unto the horsemen on yon hill:  
If they will fight with us, bid them come down,  
Or void the field; they do offend our sight: **58**  
If they'll do neither, we will come to them,  
And make them skirr away, as swift as stones **60**  
Enforced from the old Assyrian slings: **61**  
Besides, we'll cut the throats of those we have,

---

**55 trumpet** trumpeter **58 void** leave **60 skirr** scurry **61 Enforced** discharged **68 fin'd...mine** i.e., agreed to pay as a fine or ransom only these bones of mine and no more

And not a man of them that we shall take  
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 V**

How now! ~~what means this, herald? know'st thou not  
That I have fined these bones of mine for ransom? 68~~  
Comest thou again for ransom?

**MONTJOY**

No, great king:  
I come to thee for charitable licence,  
That we may wander o'er this bloody field  
To book our dead, and then to bury them; **72**  
~~To sort our nobles from our common men.  
For many of our princes—woe the while!—  
Lie drown'd and soak'd in mercenary blood;  
So do our vulgar drench their peasant limbs  
In blood of princes; and their 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  
Of their dead bodies!~~

**KING HENRY V**

I tell thee truly, herald,  
I know not if the day be ours or no;  
~~For yet a many of your horsemen peer **84**  
And gallop o'er the field.~~

**MONTJOY**

The day is yours.

**KING HENRY V**

Praised be God, and not our strength, for it!  
What is this castle call'd that stands hard by?

**MONTJOY**

They call it Agincourt.

**KING HENRY V**

Then call we this the field of Agincourt,  
Fought on the day of Crispin Crispianus.

---

**72 book** record **84 peer** appear

**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 France.

**KING HENRY V**

They did, Fluellen.

**FLUELLEN**

Your majesty says very true: if your majesties is remembered of it, the Welshmen did good service in a garden where leeks did grow, wearing leeks in their Monmouth caps; which, your majesty know, to this hour is an honourable badge of the service; and I do believe your majesty takes no scorn to wear the leek upon Saint Tavy's day.

**KING HENRY V**

I wear it for a memorable honour;  
For I am Welsh, you know, good countryman.

**FLUELLEN**

All the water in Wye cannot wash your majesty's Welsh blood 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!

**KING HENRY V**

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, praised be God, so long as your majesty is an honest man.

**KING HENRY V**

God keep me so! Our heralds go with him:  
Bring me just notice of the numbers dead  
On both our parts. Call yonder fellow hither.

*Points to WILLIAMS. Exeunt Heralds with Montjoy*

**EXETER**

Soldier, you must come to the [queen].

**KING HENRY V**

Soldier, why wearest thou that glove in thy cap?

**WILLIAMS**

An't please your majesty, 'tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if [s]he be alive.

**KING HENRY V**

[One of ours]<sup>2</sup>

**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 [her] a box o' th' ear: ~~or if I can see my glove in [her] cap, which he swore, as he was a soldier, he would wear if alive, I will strike it out soundly.~~

**KING HENRY V**

What think you, Captain Fluellen? is it fit this soldier keep [her] oath?

**FLUELLEN**

[S]He is a craven and a villain else, an't please your majesty, in my conscience.

~~**KING HENRY V**~~

~~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 Belzebub 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 Jacksauce, as ever his black shoe trod upon God's ground and his earth, in my conscience, la!~~

~~**KING HENRY V**~~

~~Then keep thy vow, sirrah, when thou meetest the fellow.~~

~~**WILLIAMS**~~

~~So I will, my liege, as I live.~~

~~**KING HENRY V**~~

~~Who servest thou under?~~

~~**WILLIAMS**~~

~~Under Captain Gower, my liege.~~

~~**FLUELLEN**~~

~~Gower is a good captain, and is good knowledge and literated in the wars.~~

~~**KING HENRY V**~~

~~Call him hither to me, soldier.~~

~~**WILLIAMS**~~

~~I will, my liege.~~

*Exit*

**KING HENRY V**

Here, Fluellen; wear thou this favour for me and stick it in thy cap: when Alencon and myself were down together, I plucked this glove from his helm: if any man challenge this, he is a friend to Alencon, and an enemy to our person; if thou encounter any such, apprehend him, an thou dost me love.

**FLUELLEN**

Your grace doo's me as great honours 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 this glove; that is all; but I would fain see it once, an please God of his grace that I might see.

**KING HENRY V**

Knowest thou Gower?

**FLUELLEN**

He is my dear friend, an please you.

**KING HENRY V**

Pray thee, go seek him, and bring him to my tent.

**FLUELLEN**

I will fetch him.

*Exit*

**KING HENRY V**

My Lord of Warwick, and my brother Gloucester, Follow Fluellen closely at the heels: The glove which I have given him for a favour 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, 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. Go you with me, uncle of Exeter.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE VIII. Before KING HENRY'S pavilion.**

*Enter GOWER and WILLIAMS*

**WILLIAMS**

I warrant it is to knight you, captain.

*Enter FLUELLEN*

**FLUELLEN**

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.

**WILLIAMS**

Sir, know you this glove?

**FLUELLEN**

Know the glove! I know the glove is glove.

**WILLIAMS**

I know this; and thus I challenge it.

*Strikes him*

**FLUELLEN**

'Sblood! an arrant traitor as any is in the universal world, or in France, or in England!

**GOWER**

How now, sir! you villain!

**WILLIAMS**

Do you think I'll be forsworn?

**FLUELLEN**

Stand away, Captain Gower; I will give treason his payment into ploughs, I warrant you.

**WILLIAMS**

I am no traitor.

**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 Alencon's.

*Enter WARWICK and GLOUCESTER*

**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. Here is his majesty.

*Enter KING HENRY and EXETER*

**KING HENRY V**

How now! what's the matter?

**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 Alencon.

**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.

**FLUELLEN**

Your majesty hear now, saving your majesty'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 Alencon, that your majesty is give me; in your conscience, now?

**KING HENRY V**

Give me thy glove, soldier: look, here is the fellow of it.

'Twas I, indeed, thou promised'st to strike; And thou hast given me most bitter terms . 42

**FLUELLEN**

An please your majesty, let his neck answer for it, if there is any martial law in the world.

**KING HENRY V**

How canst thou make me satisfaction?

**WILLIAMS**

All offences, my [liege], come from the heart: never came any from mine that might offend your majesty.

**KING HENRY V**

It was ourself thou didst abuse.

**WILLIAMS**

Your majesty came not like yourself: you appeared to me but as a common[er]; witness the night, your garments, your lowliness; ~~and what your highness 52 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 offence; therefore, I beseech your highness, pardon me.

---

42 terms words 52 lowliness humble mien

**KING HENRY V**

Here, [good] Exeter, fill this glove with crowns,  
And give it to this [youngster]. Keep it, fellow;  
And wear it for an honour in thy cap  
Till I do challenge it. Give [her] the crowns:  
~~And, captain, you must needs be friends with him [her].~~

**FLUELLEN**

~~By this day and this light, the [soldier] has mettle  
enough in [her] belly. Hold, there is twelve pence  
for you; and I pray you to serve Got, and keep you  
out of prawls, and prabbles' and quarrels, and  
dissensions, and, I warrant you, it is the better for you.~~

**WILLIAMS**

~~I will none of your money.~~

**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.~~

*Enter an English Herald*

**KING HENRY V**

Now, herald, are the dead number'd?

**Herald**

Here is the number of the slaughter'd French.  
(Gives a paper)

**KING HENRY V**

What prisoners of good sort are taken, [aunt]? 75

**EXETER**

Charles Duke of Orleans, nephew to the king; 76  
John Duke of Bourbon, and Lord Bouciqualt:  
Of other lords and barons, knights and squires,  
Full fifteen hundred, besides common men.

**KING HENRY V**

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  
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 dubb'd knights:  
~~So that, in these ten thousand they have lost,  
There are but sixteen hundred mercenaries;~~

---

75 good sort high rank 76-112 Charles...thine ( The catalogue of the captured and slain is from Holinshed.)

~~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;  
~~Jaques of Chatillon, admiral of France;~~  
The master of the cross-bows, Lord Rambures;  
Great Master of France, the brave Sir Guichard Dolphin,  
John Duke of Alencon, Anthony Duke of Brabant,  
The brother of the Duke of Burgundy,  
~~And Edward Duke of Bar: of lusty earls,  
Grandpre and Roussi, Fauconberg and Foix,  
Beaumont and Marle, Vaudemont and Lestrale.~~  
Here was a royal fellowship of death!  
Where is the number of our English dead?

*Herald shews 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[s] ~~men~~ **105**  
But five and twenty. O God, thy arm was here;  
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 the other? ~~Take it, God,  
For it is none but thine!~~

**EXETER**

'Tis wonderful!

**KING HENRY V**

Come, go we in procession to the village.  
And be it death proclaimed through our host  
To boast of this or take the praise from God  
Which is his only.

**FLUELLEN**

Is it not lawful, an please your majesty, to tell  
how many is killed?

**KING HENRY V**

Yes, captain; but with this acknowledgement,  
That God fought for us.

**FLUELLEN**

Yes, my conscience, he did us great good.

**KING HENRY V**

---

**105 name** rank, importance **122 Non nobis** i.e., Psalm 115, beginning, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto they name give glory." **Te Deum** a hymn of thanksgiving, beginning, "We thank thee O God." **125 happy** fortunate

Do we all holy rites;  
Let there be sung 'Non nobis' and 'Te Deum;' 122  
The dead with charity enclosed in clay:  
And then to Calais; and to [home] then:  
Where ne'er from France arrived more happy [wo]men. 125

*Exeunt*

## ACT V

### PROLOGUE

*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 the excuse 3  
Of time, of numbers and due course of things,  
Which cannot in their huge and proper life  
Be here presented. Now we bear [Harry]  
Toward Calais: grant [her] there; there seen,  
Heave [her] away upon your winged thoughts  
Athwart the sea. Behold, the English beach  
Pales in the flood with [people], 10  
Whose shouts and claps out-voice the deep mouth'd sea,  
~~Which like a mighty whiffler 'fore the king  
Seems to prepare his way:~~ so let [her] land,  
And solemnly see [her] set on to London.  
~~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,  
Being free from vainness and self-glorious pride;  
Giving full trophy, signal and ostent  
Quite from himself to God. But now behold,  
In the quick forge and working house of thought,  
How London doth pour out her citizens!~~  
The mayor and all his brethren in best sort,  
Like to the senators of the antique Rome,  
With the plebeians swarming at their heels,  
Go forth and fetch their conquering Caesar in:  
As, by a lower but loving likelihood,  
Were now the general of our gracious empress,  
As in good time he may, from Ireland coming,  
Bringing rebellion broached on his sword,  
How many would the peaceful city quit,  
To welcome ~~him~~ [her]! much more, and much more cause,  
Did they this Harry. ~~Now in London place [her];  
As yet the lamentation of the French~~ 36

---

3 admit th' excuse excuse our handling 10 Pales in hems in, surrounds 36-37 As...home i.e., the French are so dejected that Henry can stay in England without fear of loss in France 41 Harry's back-return i.e., Henry's second campaign, commencing in 1417 43 rememb'ring reminding

~~[Allows our graces?] stay at home; 37~~

~~The emperor's coming in behalf of France,  
To order peace between them; and omit  
All the occurrences, whatever chanced,  
[Then comes] Harry's back-return again to France: 41  
There must we bring [her]; and myself have play'd  
The interim, by remembering you 'tis past. 43  
Then brook abridgment, and your eyes advance, 44  
After your thoughts, straight back again to France.~~

*Exit*

**SCENE I. France. The English camp.**

*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, asse my friend,  
Captain Gower: the rascally, scald, beggarly,  
lousy, pragging knave, Pistol, which you and  
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 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.~~

*Enter PISTOL*

**GOWER**

~~Why, here he comes, swelling like a turkey cock.~~

**FLUELLEN**

~~'Tis no matter for his swellings nor his  
turkey cocks. God pless you, Aunchient Pistol! you  
seurvvy, lousy knave, God pless you!~~

**PISTOL**

~~Ha! art thou bedlam? dost thou thirst, base Trojan,  
To have me fold up Paree's fatal web?  
Hence! I am qualmish at the smell of leek.~~

**FLUELLEN**

---

44 brook tolerate, excuse

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 digestions doo's not agree with it, I would desire you to eat it.

**PISTOL**

Not for Cadwallader and all his goats.

**FLUELLEN**

There is one goat for you.

*Strikes him*

Will you be so good, scauld knave, as eat it?

**PISTOL**

Base Trojan, thou shalt die.

**FLUELLEN**

You say very true, scauld knave, when God's will is: I will desire you to live in the mean time, and eat your victuals: come, there is sauce for it.

*Strikes him*

You called me yesterday mountain squire; but I will make you to day a squire of low degree. I pray you, fall to: if you can mock a leek, you can eat a leek.

**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 coxeomb.

**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: I eat and eat, I swear—

**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, scauld knave, heartily. Nay, pray you, throw none away; the skin is good for your broken coxeomb. When you take occasions to see leeks hereafter, I pray you, mock at 'em; that is all.

**PISTOL**

Good.

**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.

**PISTOL**

I take thy groat in earnest of revenge.

**FLUELLEN**

If I owe you any thing, I will pay you in cudgels: you shall be a woodmonger, and buy nothing of me but cudgels. God b' wi' you, and keep you, and heal your pate.

*Exit*

**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 honourable respect, and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valour and dare not avouch in 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 ye well.

*Exit*

**PISTOL**

Doth Fortune play the huswife with me now?  
News have I, that my Nell is dead i' the spital  
Of malady of France;  
And there my rendezvous is quite cut off.  
Old I do wax; and from my weary limbs  
Honour is cudgelled. 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 cudgell'd scars,  
And swear I got them in the Gallia wars.

*Exit*

**SCENE II. France. A royal palace.**

*Enter, at one door KING HENRY, EXETER, BEDFORD, GLOUCESTER, WARWICK, WESTMORELAND, and other Lords; at another, the FRENCH KING, QUEEN ISABEL, the PRINCE CLARENCE, ALEX and other Ladies; the DUKE of BURGUNDY, and his train*

**KING HENRY V**

Peace to this meeting, wherefore 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 [Clarence];  
~~And, as a branch and member of this royalty, 5~~  
~~By whom this great assembly is contrived,~~  
We do salute you, Duke of Burgundy;  
And, princes French, and peers, health to you all!

#### KING OF FRANCE

Right joyous are we to behold your face,  
Most worthy [sister]; fairly met:  
So are you, [commanders], every one.

#### QUEEN ISABEL

So happy be the issue, [sister] England,  
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~~  
~~Against the French, that met them in their bent, 16~~  
~~The fatal balls of murdering basilisks: 17~~  
~~The venom of such looks, we fairly hope,~~  
~~Have lost their quality, and that this day~~  
Shall change all griefs and quarrels into love.

#### KING HENRY V

To cry amen to that, thus we appear.

#### QUEEN ISABEL

You English [commanders] all, I do salute you.

#### BURGUNDY

My duty to you both, on equal love,  
Great [Monarchs] of France and England! That I have labour'd,  
With all my wits, my pains and strong endeavours,  
To bring your most imperial majesties  
Unto this bar and royal interview, 27  
Your mightiness on both parts best can witness.  
~~Since then my office hath so far prevail'd~~  
~~That, face to face and royal eye to eye,~~  
~~You have congreeted, let it not disgrace me, 31~~  
~~If I demand, before this royal view,~~  
~~What rub or what impediment there is, 33~~  
~~Why that the naked, poor and mangled Peace,~~  
~~Dear nurse of arts and joyful births,~~  
~~Should not in this best garden of the world~~  
~~Our fertile France, put up her lovely visage? 37~~  
~~Alas, she hath from France too long been chased,~~  
And all her husbandry doth lie on heaps,  
Corrupting in its own fertility.  
Her vine, the merry cheerer of the heart,

---

5 **royalty** royal family

16 **in their bent** (1) as they were directed (2) in their glance 17 **fatal balls** (1) cannon balls (2) eyeballs **basilisks** (1) large cannon (2) monsters supposed to kill with their gaze 27 **bar** court 31 **congreeted** greeted each other 33 **rub** obstacle ( A term from bowls) 37 **put up** show

~~Unpruned dies; her hedges even pleach'd,  
 Like prisoners wildly overgrown with hair,  
 Put forth disorder'd twigs; her fallow leas  
 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,  
 Wanting the scythe, all uncorrected, rank,  
 Conceives by idleness and nothing teems  
 But hateful docks, rough thistles, keeksies, burs,  
 Losing both beauty and utility.  
 And as our vineyards, fallows, meads and hedges,  
 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  
 That nothing do but meditate on blood,—  
 To swearing and stern looks, diffused attire  
 And every thing that seems unnatural.  
 Which to reduce into our former favour  
 You are assembled: and my speech entreats  
 That I may know the let, why gentle Peace  
 Should not expel these inconveniences  
 And bless us with her former qualities.~~

**KING HENRY V**

If, Duke of Burgundy, you would the peace, **68**  
~~Whose want gives growth to the imperfections~~  
 Which you have cited, you must buy that peace  
 With full accord to all our just demands;  
 Whose tenors and particular effects **72**  
 You have enscheduled briefly in your hands. **73**

**BURGUNDY**

The king hath heard them; to the which as yet  
 There is no answer made.

**KING HENRY V**

Well then the peace,  
 Which you before so urged, lies in his answer.

**KING OF FRANCE**

I have but with a cursory eye **77**  
 O'erglanced the articles: pleaseth your grace **78**  
 To appoint some of your council presently  
 To sit with us once more, with better heed  
 To re-survey them, we will suddenly **81**  
 Pass our accept and peremptory answer. **82**

---

**68** would wish **72** tenors general purport **particular effects** specific details **73** enschedul'd drawn up in writing **77** cursitory cursory hasty **78** Pleaseth may it please **81** suddenly speedily **82** Pass...answer deliver an answer acceptable to us and final, decisive **90** consign agree, subscribe

**KING HENRY V**

Brother, we shall. Go, Exeter,  
~~And brother Clarence,~~ and you, [sisters] Gloucester,  
Warwick and Huntingdon, 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,~~  
~~Any thing in or out of our demands,~~  
And we'll consign thereto. Will you, fair sister, **90**  
Go with the princes, or stay here with us?

**QUEEN ISABEL**

~~Our gracious brother,~~ I will go with them:  
Haply a [queen]'s voice may do some good,  
When articles too nicely urged be stood on. **94**

**KING HENRY V**

Yet leave our cousin [Clarence] here with us:  
[He] is our capital demand, comprised **96**  
Within the fore-rank of our articles.

**QUEEN ISABEL**

She hath good leave.

*Exeunt all except HENRY, CLARENCE, and ALEX*

**KING HENRY V**

Fair [Clarence], and most fair,  
Will you vouchsafe to teach a soldier terms  
Such as will enter at a [young gentleman]'s ear  
And plead [her] love-suit to [his] gentle heart?

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

Your majesty shall mock at me; I cannot speak your England.

**KING HENRY V**

O fair [Clarence], if you will love me soundly with  
your French heart, I will be glad to hear you  
confess it brokenly with your English tongue. Do  
you like me, [Clare]?

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

Pardonnez-moi, I cannot tell vat is 'like me.'

**KING HENRY V**

An angel is like you, [Clare], and you are like an angel.

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

Que dit-il? que je suis semblable a les anges? **112**

**ALICE [ALEX]**

---

**94** nicely punctiliously, with insistence on detail **stood on** insisted on **96 capital** chief **112-114**  
**Que...ainsi dit-il** What does he say? That I am like the Angels? *Alice [Alex]* Yes, truly, save your  
Grace, she says so.

Oui, vraiment, sauf votre grace, ainsi dit-il. 114

**KING HENRY V**

I said so, dear [Clarence]; and I must not blush to affirm it.

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

O bon Dieu! les langues des hommes sont pleines de tromperies.

**KING HENRY V**

What says she, fair one? that the tongues of [wo]men are full of deceits?

**ALICE [ALEX]**

Oui, dat de tongues of de mans is be full of deceits: dat is de princess.

**KING HENRY V**

~~The princess is the better Englishwoman.~~ I' faith, [Clare], 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 [one] that thou wouldst think I 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 **130** clap hands and a bargain: how say you, [young man]? **131**

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

Sauf votre honneur, me understand vell.

**KING HENRY V**

~~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 for the other, I have no strength in measure, yet a reasonable measure in strength. If I could win a lady at leap frog, or by vaulting into my saddle with my armour on my back, under the correction of bragging be it spoken. I should quickly leap into a wife. Or if I might buffet for my love, or bound my horse for her favours, I could lay on like a butcher and sit like a jack-an-apes, never off. But, before God, Kate, I cannot look greenly nor gasp out my eloquence, nor I have no cunning in protestation; only 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 sun burning, that never looks in his glass for love~~

---

**130 wear out my suit** expend all my resources as a wooer **131 clap** clasp

~~of any thing he sees there, let thine eye be thy  
cook. I 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  
livest, dear Kate, take a fellow of plain and  
uncoined constancy; for he perforce must 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' favours, they do  
always reason themselves out again. What! a  
speaker is but a prater; a rhyme is but a ballad. A  
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 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 sayest thou then to my love?  
speak, my fair, and fairly, I pray thee.~~

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

Is it possible dat I sould love de enemy of France?

**KING HENRY V**

No; it is not possible you should love the enemy of France, [Clare]: 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, [Clare], when France is mine and I am yours, then yours is France and you are mine.

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

I cannot tell vat is dat.

**KING HENRY V**

No, ~~Kate~~? I will tell thee in French; which I am sure will hang upon my tongue like a new-married [husband] about [his wife's] neck, hardly to be shook off. Je quand sur le possession de France, et quand **182** vous avez le possession de moi,--let me see, what then? Saint Denis be my speed!--donc votre est **184** France et vous etes mienne. It is as easy for me, Clare, 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.

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

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**182-185 Je...mienne** (Henry haltingly translates the last sentence in his previous speech) **184 Saint Denis** patron saint of France **189-190 Sauf...parle** save your honor, the French that you speak is better than the English that I speak

Sauf votre honneur, le Francois que vous parlez, il **189**  
est meilleur que l'Anglois le quel je parle. **190**

**KING HENRY V**

No, faith, is't not, Clare: but thy speaking of my  
tongue, and I thine, most truly-falsely, must needs  
be granted to be much at one. But, [Clare], dost thou  
understand thus much English, canst thou love me?

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

I cannot tell.

**KING HENRY V**

Can any of your neighbours tell, Clare? I'll ask  
them. Come, I know thou lovest me: and at night,  
when you come into your closet, you'll question this **199**  
gentlewoman about me; and I know, ~~Kate~~, you will to  
[him] dispraise those parts in me that you love with  
your heart: but, good [Clare], mock me mercifully; the  
rather, gentle princess, because I love thee  
cruelly. ~~If ever thou beest mine, [Clare], as I have a  
saving faith within me tells me thou shalt, I get  
thee with scrambling, and thou must therefore needs~~ **205**  
~~prove a good soldier breeder: shall not thou and I,  
between Saint Denis and Saint George, compound a  
boy [child], half French, half English, that shall go to  
Constantinople and take the Turk by the beard?  
shall we not?~~ what sayest thou, my fair  
flower-de-luce? **211**

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

I do not know dat

**KING HENRY V**

No; 'tis hereafter to know, but now to promise: ~~do  
but now promise, Kate, you will endeavour 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 Clarence du monde, mon tres cher **217**  
et devin deesse? **218**

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

Your majestee ave fausse French enough to deceive de  
most sage demoiselle dat is en France.

**KING HENRY V**

Now, fie upon my false French! By mine honour, in  
true English, I love thee, [Clare]: by which honour 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, beshrew~~ **225**

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**199 closet** private chamber **205 scrambling** scrambling, struggling **211 flower-de-luce** fleur-de-lis,  
the emblem of France **217-218 la plus...deesse** the most beautiful Clarence in the world, my very  
dear and divine god **225 untempering** unsoftening

~~my father's ambition! he was thinking of civil wars  
 when he got me: therefore [I was] created with a  
 stubborn outside, with an aspect of iron, that, when  
 I come to woo ladies [lovers], I fright them. But, in faith,  
 Clare, 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 Katharine, will you  
 have me? Put off your maiden blushes; avouch the  
 thoughts of your heart with the looks of an empress;  
 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 Harry  
 Plantagenet is thine;' who though I speak it before  
 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 **244**  
 music and thy English broken; therefore, ~~queen of  
 all, [Prince Clarence], Katharine,~~ break thy mind to me in broken  
 English; wilt thou have me?~~

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

Dat is as it sall please de roi mon pere. **248**

**KING HENRY V**

Nay, it will please him well, ~~Kate~~ it shall please  
 him, [Clare].

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

Den it sall also content me.

**KING HENRY V**

Upon that I kiss your hand, and I call you my [prince].

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

Laissez, mon ~~seigneur~~, laissez, laissez: ma foi, je **254**  
 ne veux point que vous abaissiez votre grandeur en **255**  
 baisant la main d'une de votre seigneurie indigne **256**  
 serviteur; excusez-moi, je vous supplie, mon **257**  
 tres-puissant ~~seigneur~~. **258**

**KING HENRY V**

Then I will kiss your lips, ~~Kate~~.

**KATHARINE [CLARENCE]**

---

**244 broken music** music in parts **248 de roi men pere** the King my father **254-258**

**Laissez...seigneur** don't, my lady, don't don't; by my faith, I do not wish to lower your greatness by  
 kissing the hand on an – Our dear Lord! – unworthy servant; excuse me, I beg you most powerful  
 lady **260-262 Le dames...France** it is not customary in France for gentlemen and young lads to be  
 kissed before their marriage

Les **dames et demoiselles** pour etre baisees devant **260**  
leur noces, il n'est pas la coutume de France. **261**

**KING HENRY V**

**Madam** [Friend], my interpreter, what says she?

**ALICE [ALEX]**

Dat it is not be de fashion pour les **ladies** [lovers] of  
France,--I cannot tell vat is baiser en Anglish.

**KING HENRY V**

To kiss.

**ALICE [ALEX]**

Your majesty entendre better que moi. **266**

**KING HENRY V**

It is not a fashion for the **maids** [lovers] in France to kiss  
before they are married, would he say?

**ALICE [ALEX]**

Oui, vraiment. **269**

**KING HENRY V**

O [Clare], nice customs curtsy to [royalty]. Dear **270**  
[Clare], you and I cannot be confined within the weak  
list of a country's fashion: we are the makers of **272**  
manners, [Clare] ~~Kate; and the liberty that follows our~~ **273**  
~~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, patiently  
and yielding.

*Kissing her*

You have witchcraft in your lips, [Clare]: 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 of monarchs. Here comes your father.

*Re-enter the FRENCH KING and his QUEEN, BURGUNDY, and other Lords*

**BURGUNDY**

God save your majesty! my royal cousin, teach you  
our princess English?

**KING HENRY V**

---

**266 entendre...moi** understands better than I **269 Oui, vraiment** yes, truly **270 nice** fastidious **272**  
**list** limit, barrier **273 follows our places** attends our (high) rank

I would have [him] learn, my fair cousin, how perfectly I love [him]; and that is good English.

**BURGUNDY**

Is he not apt?

**KING HENRY V**

Our tongue is rough, coz, and my condition is not 287 smooth; ~~so that, having neither the voice nor the heart of flattery about me, I cannot so conjure up the spirit of love in [him], 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 [him], you must 293 make a circle; if conjure up love in [him] in his true likeness, he must appear naked and blind. Can you blame [Clarence] then, being a [lad] yet rosed over with the virgin crimson of modesty, if he deny the appearance of a naked blind boy in [his] naked seeing self? It were, my lord, a hard condition for a maid [such a one] to consign to. 299~~

**KING HENRY V**

Yet they do wink and yield, as love is blind and enforces. 300

**BURGUNDY**

~~They are then excused, my lord, when they see not what they do.~~

**KING HENRY V**

~~Then, good my lord, teach your cousin to consent winking.~~

**BURGUNDY**

I will wink on [him] to consent, [good Harry], ~~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.~~

**KING HENRY V**

~~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.~~

**BURGUNDY**

~~As love is, my lord, before it loves.~~

**KING HENRY V**

---

287 condition personality 293 conjure in her (with bawdy double meaning, continued in *circle*, *hard*, etc.) 299 consign agree 300 wink close the eyes

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.

**FRENCH KING**

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.

**KING HENRY V**

Shall [Clarence] be my [life's mate]?

**FRENCH KING**

So please you.

**KING HENRY V**

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.

**FRENCH KING**

We have consented to all terms of reason.

**KING HENRY V**

Is't so, my lords of England [sisters]?

**WESTMORELAND**

The king hath granted every article:  
His daughter [youngest son] first, and then in sequel all,  
According to their firm proposed natures. **332**

**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 trescher fils Henri, Roi  
d'Angleterre, Heritier de France; and thus in  
Latin, Praeclarissimus filius noster Henricus, Rex  
Angliae, et Haeres Franciae.~~

**FRENCH KING**

Nor this I have not, brother, so denied;  
But your request shall make me let it pass.

**KING HENRY V**

I pray you then, in love and dear alliance,  
Let that one article rank with the rest;  
And thereupon give me your daughter.

**FRENCH KING**

---

332 According...natures exactly as specified in the proposals **361 ill office** unfriendly dealings **fell**  
cruel

Take [him], fair [sister], and from [his] 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 neighbourhood and Christian-like accord  
In their sweet bosoms, that never war advance  
His bleeding sword 'twixt England and fair France.

**ALL**  
Amen!

**KING HENRY V**  
Now, welcome, [Clare]: and bear me witness all,  
That here I kiss [him] as my sovereign [companion.]

*Flourish*

**QUEEN ISABEL**  
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, 361  
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!~~

**ALL**  
Amen!

**KING HENRY V**  
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 [Clarence], and you to me;  
And may our oaths well kept and prosperous be!

*Sennet. Exeunt*

EPILOGUE

*Enter Chorus*

**Chorus**  
Thus far, with rough and all-unable pen,  
Our bending author hath pursued the story, **2**  
In little room confining mighty [women and] men,  
Mangling by starts the full course of their glory. **4**

---

**Epilogue**  
**2 bending** i.e., under the weight of his task **4 by starts** in fits and starts, in fragments

Small time, but in that small most greatly lived  
This star of England: Fortune made [her] sword;  
By which the world's best garden be achieved, **7**  
And of it left [her] son imperial lord.  
Henry [6], in infant bands crown'd King **9**  
Of France and England, did this [pair] 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, **13**  
In your fair minds let this acceptance take. **14**

*Exit*

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**7 best garden** i.e., France **9 infant bands** swaddling clothes **13 Which...shown** (Refers to three parts of *King Henry VI*) **for their sake** i.e., since you liked them **14 this acceptance take** this play meet with your approval