

Henry VI Part 1 abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2.1

Braggadocio

Situation: Meanwhile in France, Joan la Pucelle, better known as Joan of Arc, enters with the Bastard of Orleans, a French noble, and challenges the Dauphin, now known as Dauphin Charles or King Charles VII, to accept her as a leader of his forces.

The Bastard enters with Joan la Pucelle.

REIGNIER: Fair maid, is't thou wilt do these wondrous feats.

PUCELLE: Reignier, is't thou that thinkest to beguile me. Where is the Dauphin? Come, come from behind: I know thee well, though never seen before. In private will I talk with thee apart: stand back, you lords, and give us leave awhile.

Pucelle to Charles VII, No. 1

Dauphin, I am but a shepherd's daughter,
With wit untrained in any art, kind sir.
Gracious Heaven hath shined on me. Whilst I
Waited on my tender lambs, God's mother
Did come to me, calling me to leave my
Base vocation. In full vision of her
Majesty, she willed I free my country
From dire calamity, promising me
Her aid and assuring success. Do gage
Me with thy questions and I will answer
Unpremeditated. Test my courage,
By combat, if thou darest. Test me, sir!
Resolve this shalt be your fortunate fate
If thou receive me as thy warlike mate.

CHARLES: Thou hast astonished me with thy high terms. Only this proof I'll of thy valor make; in single combat thou shalt buckle with me; and if thou vanquishest, thy words are true; otherwise I renounce all confidence.

PUCELLE: I am prepared. Here is my keen-edged sword.

CHARLES: Then come, o' God's name. I fear no woman.

PUCELLE: And while I live, I'll ne'er fly from a man.