

All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

Honor

Situation: Bertram arrives in Paris to join the king's court. The king graciously greets him, having known his father well. The king lets us know that a civil war of sorts continues in Italy between "the Florentines and Senoys" and that if his men "mean to see the Tuscan service" that they are free "to stand on either part." The king also lets us know that he is in need of some medical help.

KING: What's he comes here?

FIRST LORD: It is the Count Rossillion, my good lord, young Bertram.

KING: Youth, thou bear'st thy father's face. Thy father's moral parts mayst thou inherit too. Welcome to Paris.

BERTRAM: My thanks and duties are your Majesty's.

King to Bertram

That corporal soundness now do I wish
I had, when we tried soldiership, haggish
Age wearing us to inactivity.
He had the wit of today's youth whose deeds
Of honor eclipse their frivolity,
But his mind showed not the scorn that feeds
Contempt. And he knew the true minute when
Reprimand bid him speak; his tongue would then
Obey his hand. He would say, "Let me not
Live after my flame lacks oil; not to strive
As the snuff of younger men." Since I ought
But now cannot bring home the honey, I've
Set free from my hive to give another
More room. Welcome count. My son's no dearer.

SECOND LORD: You're loved, sir.

KING: I fill a place, I know 't. How long is 't count, since the physician at your father's side died? He was much famed.

BERTRAM: Some six months since, my lord.

KING: If he were living, I would try him yet. The rest have worn me out with several applications.