

Henry IV Part 1 abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 4

Braggadocio

Situation: Following the robbery of the travelers at Gad's Hill, Falstaff swaggers into the Eastcheap tavern and entertains the other "thieves" with his description of his role in the thievery, unaware that it was Poins and Prince Hal who following the robbery had robbed him.

POINS: Welcome, Jack. Where hast thou been?

FALSTAFF: A plague of all cowards, I say, and a vengeance too! Marry and amen! Give me a cup of sack, boy.

Falstaff to friends

Here's lime in this sack, yet a coward's worse
Than a cup of sack with lime in it. Curse
On all cowards. If manhood, good manhood,
Be not forgot in all of this England,
Then am I a weak, shotten herring. Would
There not be here three good men unhanged? And
One is too fat and grows old. And Poins there,
You are straight enough in the shoulders where
You care not who sees your back. Just four of
Us took a thousand pounds as a day's fee,
And we outnumbered, a hundred above.
Just four of us! A plague on cowards. We
Four set upon sixteen with no remorse,
Hal. If I tell thee a lie, call me horse.

PRINCE: Why, thou claybrained guts, thou knotty-pated fool.

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

PRINCE: I'll be no longer guilty of this sin. This sanguine coward, this bed-presser, this horse-back-breaker.

FALSTAFF: 'Sblood, you starveling, you elfskin. O, for breath to utter what is like thee! You tailor's yard, you sheath, you bowcase, you vile standing tuck---

PRINCE: We two saw you four set on four, and bound them and were masters of their wealth. Then did we two set on you four and, with a word, outfaced you from your prize, and have it, yea, and can show it you here in the house. And, Falstaff, you roared for mercy, as ever I heard bull-calf. What a slave art thou to hack the word as you hast done, and then say it was in fight!

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

FALSTAFF: By the Lord, I knew you as well as he that made you. Should I turn upon true prince?