

Henry IV Part 1 abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Chivalry

Situation: Honoring his earlier commitment to his father, Prince Harry, through an offer made to the earl of Worcester, suggests that an opportunity to solve this crisis could be decided through a “single fight,” a fight between the two of them, Hotspur and himself.

PRINCE: In both your armies there is many a soul shall pay full dearly for this encounter if once they join in trial.

Prince Harry to Worcester

Tell your nephew; all the world doth join me,
The Prince of Wales, in praise of brave Henry
Percy. By faith, this present moment set
Aside, I think no other man doth strive
To be more active-valiant or to abet
Good. And being so daringly alive,
Most able to lead this latter age, we're
Set to be served with his noble deeds. Here
Before my father's majesty, while speaking
To it in shame, having not joined the corps
Of his chivalry, and recognizing
The odds of his great name, to save blood for
Both sides, I am content as best I might
To try fate with him in a single fight.

HENRY IV: And, Prince of Wales, so dare we venture thee. Good Worcester, will they take the offer of our grace, both he and they and you, yea, every man shall be my friend again, and I'll be his. So tell your cousin, and bring me word what he will do. But if he will not yield, we will not now be troubled with reply. We offer fair. Take it advisedly.

Worcester and Vernon exit.