

Henry IV Part 1 abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

Envy

Situation: The king is pleased to learn that his forces have beaten the Scots, but that good news quickly turns sour when the king learns that Hotspur, the young Harry Percy, the son of the earl of Northumberland, doesn't plan to turn the Scottish prisoners over to him. Later and aside, the king lets us know how he envies Northumberland, having such a gallant son as Hotspur.

HENRY IV: A true-industrious friend, Sir Walter Blunt, brought us smooth and welcome news. The Earl of Douglas is discomfited; two and twenty knights, Mordake, Earl of Fife and eldest son of beaten Douglas. A gallant prize? Ha, cousin, is it not?

WESTMORELAND: In faith, it is a conquest for a prince to boast of.

Henry IV to Westmoreland

Ten thousand Scots balked in their own blood where
Others took horse did Sir Walter see there
On Holmedon's plains. There, on that blood-stained soil,
Young Harry Percy took prisoners, knights, and
Earls. Is this not an honorable spoil?
'Tis it not a grand conquest in this land
To boast of? Yea, there he makest me sad.
O, that it could be proved some fairy had
Exchanged our cradle-clothed children and lied
To all, then would I have his Harry and
He mine. That Hotspur is sweet Fortune's pride.
Do I envy my Lord Northumberland,
The father of so blest a son, who fought
The Scots nobly? But let him from my thought.

HENRY IV: What think you, coz, of this young Percy's pride? The prisoners which he in this adventure hath surprised to his own use he keeps, and sends me word I shall have none but Mordake, Earl of Fife.