

Henry IV Part 1 abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2

Father to Son

Situation: The king has a long one-sided conversation with his oldest son, the prince, Prince Harry to the king, giving him a history lesson, suggesting he need to mature and prepare to lead the state. He reminds him of the real risks posed by Hotspur.

HENRY IV: Lords, give us leave; the Prince of Wales and I must have some private conference.

The Lords exit.

HENRY IV: Tell me else, could such inordinate and low desires, such poor, such bare, such mean attempts, as thou art matched withal accompany the greatness of thy blood, and hold their level with thy princely heart?

PRINCE: So please your Majesty, I would I could quit all offenses as well as I am charged withal. Let me beg as, in reproof of many tales devised, I may for some things true, find pardon on my true submission.

Henry IV to Prince Harry, No. 1

Son, your ways hold a wing quite from the flight
Of thy ancestors and strange in the sight
Of the court and princes of my blood. Crime
'Tis that every man prophetically
Do forethink thy fall, the hope of thy time
Ruined. Had I in such stale company
Been seen or in so lavish presence been,
Then opinion kept loyal and I still in
Banishment, a fellow of no mark. By
Being seldom seen I was wandered at,
And through courteous humility I
Did pluck royal allegiance from men's hearts that
Was his. What was fresh and new they did see
And won by rareness such solemnity.

HENRY IV: God pardon thee. Yet let me wonder, Harry, at thy affection.

Henry IV to Prince Harry, No. 2

Richard, ambling up and down with shallow
Jesters, mingling his rare royalty so
With fools, profaning his great name with scorn,
Grew a companion to the common street.
The prestige of his highness then soon worn
With popularity thin, as men greet
Daily swallowed honey with a loathing

For the taste of sweetness. Unadmiring
Drowsy eyes for a king a fatal sign.
He was heard, not regarded; as men ought
Not, they slept in his face. In that same line,
Harry, standst thou, for of thy sight not
An eye but is as weary of as war,
Save mine, which hath desired to see thee more.

PRINCE: I shall hereafter, my thrice gracious lord, be more myself.

Henry IV to Prince Harry, No. 3

Percy is now as was I when I set
Foot from France at Ravenspurgh. Why thou let
Him show more worthy interest to the state
Than thou, the shadow of succession? He,
In debt to years just as thou, does not wait
To lead old lords and bishops to bloody
Battles and bruising arms. This young warrior
Discomfited great Douglas, then further
Made him a friend. Now Douglas and the rest,
Mortimer and Northumberland, we see
Capitulate 'gainst us, now my dearest
Enemy. Like enough you'll fight 'gainst me
Through vassal fear or whimsy with base wit,
To show how much thou art degenerate.

PRINCE: Do not think so. You shall not find it so. And God forgive them that so much have
swayed your Majesty's good thoughts away from me.