

Henry IV Part 1 abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Honor

Situation: With the battle of Shrewsbury about to begin, cowardly Falstaff shuns the conflict, having been named a captain in the king's army by Prince Harry.

FALSTAFF: Hal, if thou see me down in the battle and bestride me, so; 'tis a point of friendship.

PRINCE: Nothing but a colossus can do thee that friendship. Say they prayers. Why, thou owest God a death.

He exits.

Falstaff to himself, No. 1

What's that word honour? Can honour set a
Leg, an arm? Can honour take away the
Grief of a wound? Honour hath no skill in
Surgery! To what doth this honour owe?
Air. It's just a word. He that died in sin
O-Wednesday, doth he feel or hear it? No.
If I were to fall in battle before
My time would death's friendship be my honour?
I would it were bedtime and all well. Why
Thou owest God a death? O, I would be
Loath to pay Him before His day. Why I
Be forward with Him that calls not on me?
Honour is a mere shield, a passing whim.
I'll none of it. That ends my catechism.