

Henry IV Part 2 abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2

Counsel

Situation: The young Henry V and his father's Chief Justice have had a difficult relationship. The Chief Justice and other nobles fear the worse for England. But they are all soon to be pleasantly surprised.

PRINCE TO CHIEF JUSTICE: You are, I think, assured I love you not.

CHIEF JUSTICE: I am assured, your Majesty hath no just cause to hate me.

KING: No? How might a prince of my great hopes forget so great indignities you laid upon me? What, rebuke, and roughly send to prison th' immediate heir of England? Was this easy?

CHIEF JUSTICE: I then did use the person of your father. The image of his power lay then in me.

Chief Justice to Henry V

Whiles I was administering law set
Down by your Highness, pleasing to forget
My place, the majesty and power of
Law and as representative of his
Image, he struck me firm to use above
All my judgment, whereon, where justice is
Blind, I did act. Propose a son and be
Now the father hearing your dignity
Much profaned, see your dreaded laws loosely
Slighted, and your royal image gaily spurned,
Mocking your work in a second body.
Behold yourself so by a son disdained,
And then imagine me taking this run
With your power soft silencing your son.

KING: You are right, justice, and you weigh this well. Therefore still bear the balance and the sword. I do commit into your hand th' unstained sword that you have used to bear, with this remembrance: that you use the same with the like bold, just, and impartial spirit as you have done 'gainst me. There is my hand.