

Henry IV Part 2 abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 3.1

Father to Son

Situation: Being very ill and seriously concerned with the belief that Prince Harry will need help from all of his brothers if he is to govern England well, Henry IV calls his second son Thomas forward, suggesting to him ways he will be able to help his older brother, the Prince of Wales.

Thomas of Clarence comes forward.

KING: How chance thou art not with the prince thy brother? He loves thee, and thou dost neglect him, Thomas. Thou hast a better place in his affection than all thy brothers.

Henry IV to Thomas

**Cherish thy good place in his affection,
And once I'm dead effect mediation
Between his greatness and all thy brethren.
He is gracious with a tear for pity,
And a hand for giving, yet can be stern
As flint, sudden as flaws congealed in the
Spring of day, as humorous as winter.
You must chide his faults and watch his temper,
Reverently. When he with mirth, give the
Time and let his passions confound themselves
With working. Learn this that thou shall prove a
Hoop of gold that binds thy brothers and quells
Strife, that the vessel of their love never
Leak; yet be as strong as rash gunpowder.**

THOMAS: I shall observe him with all care and love.

KING: Why art thou not at Windsor with him, Thomas?

THOMAS: He is not there today; he dines in London with Poins and other continual followers.

KING: Most subject is the fattest soil to weeds, and he, the noble image of my youth, is overspread with

them. And rotten times that you shall look upon when I am sleeping with my ancestors.

WARWICK: The prince will, in the perfectness of time, cast off his followers, turning past evils to advantages.