

## Henry IV Part 2 abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

### Introspection

**Situation:** In the early hours of the morning an ill and disheartened Henry IV walks the stage alone, unable to sleep, famously saying “uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.”

KING: How many thousand of my poorest subjects are at this hour asleep!

Henry IV to himself

O sleep, O gentle sleep, nature's soft nurse,  
Have I scared thee, that thou wilt not immerse  
My senses in forgetfulness nor weigh  
My eyelids down? Why rather thou liest  
In smoky cribs where buzzing night-flies play,  
Than perfumed chambers, denying kind rest  
To a king under a fair canopy  
Where lulled with sound of sweetest melody?  
Wilt thou in the cords high in the giddy  
Mast where the imperious surge of rude  
Winds with deafening clamor in slippery  
Clouds could awaken the dead seal the crude  
Shipboy's eyes when here pleasing calm doth bring  
The stillest night deny it to a king?

KING: Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

Warwick, Surrey and Sir John Blunt enter.

KING: Have you read o'er the letter that I sent you?

WARWICK: We have, my liege.

KING: Then you perceive the body of our kingdom how foul it is, what rank diseases grow, and with what danger near the heart of it.