

## Henry IV Part 2 abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

### Pleading

**Situation:** The Chief Justice has been looking for Sir John Falstaff for sometime for his participation in the Gad's Hill robbery. Falstaff, the man who has so significantly and so poorly influenced the young Prince Harry, tries but fails to slip out of the room when the Chief Justice enters. But when confronted by the Chief Justice, Falstaff does a pretty good job of trying to change the subject.

CHIEF JUSTICE: What's he that goes there?

SERVANT: Falstaff, an 't please your Lordship.

CHIEF JUSTICE: He that was in question for the robbery? What? Call him back again.

FALSTAFF: Boy, tell him I am deaf.

PAGE: You must speak louder. My master is deaf.

CHIEF JUSTICE: I am sure he is, to the hearing of anything good. Go pluck him by the elbow. I must speak with him. Sir John Falstaff, a word with you.

FALSTAFF: I heard say your Lordship was sick.

CHIEF JUSTICE: Sir John, I sent for you before your expedition to Shrewsbury.

### Falstaff to Chief Justice

May God give you good time of day, my good  
Lord. 'Tis nice to see you, hearing you should  
Not be out. I most humbly beseech your  
Lordship to have care for your good health. Sir,  
I hear our kind King, following his tour  
In Wales, has discomfort; he doth suffer  
Some apoplexy, a lethargy fit  
With a kind of tingling in the blood. It  
Comes from grief and irregularity  
Of the heart. I hear his Highness hath caught  
A kind of deafness, that comes from study  
And perturbation of the brain. That's not  
What you think I have. It's the non-fatal  
Listening-not malady that I've withal.