

## Henry IV Part 2 abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 3

### Son to Father

**Situation:** Having received a lecture from his seriously ill father, Prince Harry asks his father for forgiveness and a pardon, and in the doing describes to his father how he saw the situation, his father having fallen asleep with the crown on the pillow next to him.

KING: O, thou wilt be a wilderness again, peopled with wolves, thy old inhabitants.

PRINCE: O pardon me, my liege! There is your crown, and He that wears the crown immortally long guard it yours.

He kneels.

### Prince Harry to Henry IV, No. 2

God witness with me, when I, having been  
Given good news, found no course of breath in  
Your Majesty, how cold it struck my soul.  
The world should hear the noble change I purposed.  
I did spake unto this golden rigol,  
Upbraiding it. "Thee care is depended  
Upon my father and though thou art in  
Gold carat the best, potable med'cine  
Preserves precious life, where thou hast eaten  
Thy bearer up." In a moment angry  
I put it on to show it the beaten  
Foe, accused, as if the enemy,  
Who, in a quarrel with the inheritor,  
Had before my face murdered my father.

PRINCE: But if it did infect my blood with joy or swell my thoughts to any strain of pride, let God forever keep it from my head and make me as the poorest vassal is that doth with awe and terror kneel to it.