

Henry V abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2.2

Proposal

Situation: With the Princess of France, Katherine, barely understanding what he is asking her, Henry V beautifully persists in asking for her hand.

HENRY: But, Kate, dost thou understand this much English? Canst thou love me?

KATHERINE: I cannot tell.

HENRY: Good Kate, mock me mercifully because I love thee cruelly. If ever thou beest mine, Kate, thou must therefore needs prove a good soldier-breeder. What say'st thou, my fair flower de luce?

KATHERINE: I do not know dat.

HENRY: No, 'tis hereafter to know, but now to promise.

Henry V to Katherine, No. 3

By mine honor, in true English, I love
Thee, fair Kate. My father was thinking of
Civil wars when he got me, creating
Me with a stubborn hide, that frights ladies
When I woo. But in faith, notwithstanding
The poor look of my face, Kate, that agrees
Not with me, I shall appear the better
With age; a face not worth sun burning. Were
It not my comfort that old age can do
No more spoil to my face, I'd be not well.
If thou wilt have me at the worst, then you
With time shalt have me for the better. Tell
Me, in your voice that's music, queen may be,
In thy English broken, wilt thou have me?

KATHERINE: Dat is as it shall please my father.

HENRY: Nay, it will please him well, Kate; it shall please him, Kate.

KATHERINE: Den it sall also content me.

HENRY: Upon that I kiss your hand, and I call you my queen.