

## Henry V abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

### Resentment

**Situation:** Representing the young and self-confident French Dauphin, a French ambassador delivers a “chest of treasure” as a gift from the Dauphin to the young English king, a chest that contains tennis balls, a gift that solicits a snappy response from the young Henry V.

AMBASSADOR: The prince our master says that you savor too much of your youth and bids you be advised there's naught in France that can be with nimble galliard won; you cannot revel into dukedoms there. He therefore sends you this chest of treasure and desires you let the dukedoms that you claim hear no more of you. This the Dauphin speaks.

HENRY: What treasure, uncle?

EXETER: Tennis balls, my liege.

HENRY: We are glad the Dauphin is so pleasant with us. His present and your pains we thank you for.

### Henry V to the French Ambassador

**Weigh his father into the crowd to get  
His crown when we in France do play a set.  
We understand how he chides us with our  
Wild days, men being merry when away  
From home. Tell the Dauphin he will cower  
When we dazzle the eyes of France that day  
I rise in my French throne, with the glory  
Of a king. Please tell the pleasant prince we  
Have turned his tennis balls to bullets, and  
That his soul will be sore charged with this scorn  
Shown, for this mock shall mock men from their land,  
Mock mothers from their sons and those unborn.  
Tell him few will savor his shallow wit;  
Thousands more will weep than did laugh at it.**

HENRY: Convey them with safe conduct. Fare you well.

Ambassadors exit.

EXETER: This was a merry message.