

Henry V abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 6

Resentment

Situation: Having suffered an embarrassing loss-of-face at Harfleur, the French make a weak offer to Henry V, suggesting he accept a ransom, hoping the English king and his forces will quietly retreat back to England.

MONTJOY: You know me by my habit.

HENRY: Well then, I know thee. What shall I know of thee?

MONTJOY: My master's mind.

HENRY: Unfold it.

MONTJOY: "Say thou to Harry, of England, that we seemed dead, we did but sleep. Tell him we could have rebuked him at Harfleur, but that we thought not good to bruise an injury till it were full ripe. Now we speak upon our cue, and our voice is imperial. Bid him therefore consider of his ransom, which must proportion the losses we have borne, the subjects we have lost, the disgrace we have digested. To this, add defiance, and tell him, for conclusion, he hath betrayed his followers, whose condemnation is pronounced." So far my king and master; so much my office.

HENRY: What is thy name? I know thy quality.

MONTJOY: Montjoy.

HENRY: Thou dost thy office fairly.

Henry V to Montjoy, No. 1

**Please tell thy king I do not seek him now.
I'll march on to Calais, if he allow,
For, to say the sooth, though no wisdom to
Confess to an advantaged enemy,
My people are sick and weak, but those few,
When they in health, are a match for many
Frenchmen. Yet forgive me, that I do brag
Thus. This your foul air of France that doth drag
Me to this vice. I'll repent. Tell thy wise
Master my ransom is this frail, worthless
Body. Bid thy king that he well advise
Himself we plan to pass, if you so bless;
But if we be hindered, then we shall your
Tawny ground with your red blood discolor.**

HENRY: And so, Montjoy, fare you well.

MONTJOY: Thanks to your Highness.