

Henry VI Part 1 abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 3

Persuasion

Situation: In France, Charles VII and Joan of Arc have decided to do their best to convince the Duke of Burgundy to fight on behalf of the French, Burgundy being the French nobleman who had married Margaret, Richard Plantagenet's daughter, and who has been supporting Talbot and the English forces fighting in France.

BURGUNDY: Who craves a parley with the Burgundy?

PUCELLE: The princely Charles of France.

CHARLES: Speak, Pucelle, and enchant him with thy words.

PUCELLE: Brave Burgundy, let thy humble handmaid speak to thee.

BURGUNDY: Speak on; but be not overtedious.

Pucelle to Burgundy

**Look on fertile France, look on thy country;
The cities and towns defaced as you see;
Cruelly wasted and ruined by the foe;
As sad as the death of a babe, as told
In the looks of his mother. See the woe,
The pining malady of France; behold
The unnatural wounds which thyself hast
Given; overturn thy edged sword and cast
It another way. With thee here we can
Wash away our stained spots. One blood-drop from
Thy country's bosom should grieve thee more than
Streams of foreign gore. Do return. Come, come
Return, thou wandering lord; end these harms;
Charles and the rest will take thee in their arms.**

BURGUNDY ASIDE: I am vanquished; these haughty words of hers have battered me like roaring cannon shot and made me almost yield upon my knees.

BURGUNDY: Forgive me, country and sweet countrymen, and, lords, accept this hearty kind embrace. My forces and my power of men are yours. So farewell, Talbot: I'll no longer trust thee.