

## **King John abbreviated**

Act 4, Scene 3

### **Counsel**

**Situation:** Having heard falsely that Arthur was dead, Salisbury, Pembroke and Bigot have left the king. They attempt to locate Arthur's body and they do. The three of them tell Hubert when he enters that they are off to meet with the Dauphin at St. Bury. The Bastard enters and angrily accuses the innocent Hubert of Arthur's death.

BASTARD: Knew you of this fair work? If thou didst this deed of death, art thou damned, Hubert.

HUBERT: Do but hear me, sir.

BASTARD: Ha! I'll tell thee what. There is not yet so ugly a fiend of hell as thou shalt be, if thou didst kill this child.

HUBERT: Upon my soul ---

BASTARD: I do suspect thee very grievously.

HUBERT: If I be guilty of the stealing that sweet breath, let hell want pains enough to torture me. I left him well.

BASTARD: Go, bear him in thine arms.

### **Bastard to Hubert**

**I am bewildered, me thinks, feeling hurled  
Into the thorns and dangers of this world.  
How easily doth thou accept that Arthur,  
The life and truth of all this realm, has fled  
To heaven, leaving us here to endure  
The damage to the state he could have led?  
Now dogged war doth raise its ire, snarling  
Into the eyes of peace as invading  
Powers and discontents at home unite,  
And confusion waits, as does a buzzard  
For the decay of wrested pomp. Be light  
With that child. Follow me. Wait for my word.  
We face a thousand matters near at hand,  
As heaven itself frowns upon the land.**

They exit, with Hubert carrying Arthur's body.