

## **King John abbreviated**

Act 2, Scene 1

### **Plea**

**Situation: King John and King Philip proceed to argue with each other over the issue of who is the rightful king of England, the French king arguing the case on behalf of young Arthur. A citizen soon addresses the kings from the walls of Angiers. King John is the first king to respond.**

CITIZEN: Who is it that hath warned us to the walls?

KING PHILIP: 'Tis France, for England.

KING JOHN: England, for itself. You men of Angiers, and my loving subjects ---

KING PHILIP: You loving men of Angiers, Arthur's subjects ---

### **King John to Citizens of Angiers**

**Citizens of Angiers, hear us first. These  
Flags of France that they have raised here to please  
The eye have advanced to your danger. Their  
Cannons are full of wrath, ready to spit  
Forth their indignation 'gainst your walls, where  
They plan a bloody siege. But as is writ,  
Angiers is yours and what is yours is ours,  
But on the sight of your king in these hours,  
The French condescended to a parley,  
And now, instead of bullets wrapped in fire  
They shoot but calming words fraudulently  
To lead you faithlessly as a liar  
Would. Your king, before this openness stalls,  
Craves shelter within your fair city's walls.**