

1 Henry IV

4.3

*Enter Hotspur, the Earls of Worcester and Douglas,
and Sir Richard Vernon*

HOTSPUR

We'll fight with him tonight.

WORCESTER

It may not be.

DOUGLAS

You give him then advantage.

VERNON

Not a whit.

HOTSPUR

Why say you so? Looks he not for supply?

VERNON

So do we.

HOTSPUR His is certain; ours is doubtful.

WORCESTER

Good cousin, be advised. Stir not tonight.

5

VERNON *(to Hotspur)*

Do not, my lord.

DOUGLAS You do not counsel well.

You speak it out of fear and cold heart.

VERNON

Do me no slander, Douglas. By my life±±

And I dare well maintain it with my life±±

If well-respected honour bid me on,

10

I hold as little counsel with weak fear

As you, my lord, or any Scot that this day lives.

Let it be seen tomorrow in the battle

Which of us fears.

DOUGLAS Yea, or tonight.

15

VERNON Content.

HOTSPUR Tonight, say I.

VERNON

Come, come, it may not be. I wonder much,

Being men of such great leading as you are,

That you foresee not what impediments

20

Drag back our expedition. Certain horse

Of my cousin Vernon's are not yet come up.

Your uncle Worcester's horse came but today,

And now their pride and mettle is asleep,
Their courage with hard labour tame and dull, 25
That not a horse is half the half himself.

HOTSPUR

So are the horses of the enemy
In general journey-bated and brought low.
The better part of ours are full of rest.

WORCESTER

The number of the King exceedeth our. 30
For God's sake, cousin, stay till all come in.

*The trumpet sounds a parley [within]. Enter Sir
Walter Blunt*

BLUNT

I come with gracious offers from the King,
If you vouchsafe me hearing and respect.

HOTSPUR

Welcome, Sir Walter Blunt; and would to God
You were of our determination. 35
Some of us love you well, and even those some
Envy your great deservings and good name,
Because you are not of our quality,
But stand against us like an enemy.

BLUNT

And God defend but still I should stand so, 40
So long as out of limit and true rule
You stand against anointed majesty.
But to my charge. The King hath sent to know
The nature of your griefs, and whereupon
You conjure from the breast of civil peace 45
Such bold hostility, teaching his duteous land
Audacious cruelty. If that the King
Have any way your good deserts forgot,
Which he confesseth to be manifold,
He bids you name your griefs, and with all speed 50
You shall have your desires, with interest,
And pardon absolute for yourself and these
Herein misled by your suggestion.

HOTSPUR

The King is kind, and well we know the King
Knows at what time to promise, when to pay. 55
My father and my uncle and myself

Did give him that same royalty he wears;
 And when he was not six-and-twenty strong,
 Sick in the world's regard, wretched and low,
 A poor unminded outlaw sneaking home, 60
 My father gave him welcome to the shore;
 And when he heard him swear and vow to God
 He came but to be Duke of Lancaster,
 To sue his livery, and beg his peace
 With tears of innocency and terms of zeal, 65
 My father, in kind heart and pity moved,
 Swore him assistance, and performed it too.
 Now when the lords and barons of the realm
 Perceived Northumberland did lean to him,
 The more and less came in with cap and knee, 70
 Met him in boroughs, cities, villages,
 Attended him on bridges, stood in lanes,
 Laid gifts before him, proffered him their oaths,
 Gave him their heirs as pages, followed him,
 Even at the heels, in golden multitudes. 75
 He presently, as greatness knows itself,
 Steps me a little higher than his vow
 Made to my father while his blood was poor
 Upon the naked shore at Ravenspurgh,
 And now forsooth takes on him to reform 80
 Some certain edicts and some strait decrees
 That lie too heavy on the commonwealth,
 Cries out upon abuses, seems to weep
 Over his country's wrongs; and by this face,
 This seeming brow of justice, did he win 85
 The hearts of all that he did angle for;
 Proceeded further, cut me off the heads
 Of all the favourites that the absent King
 In deputation left behind him here
 When he was personal in the Irish war. 90

BLUNT

Tut, I came not to hear this.

HOTSPUR

Then to the point.

In short time after, he deposed the King,
 Soon after that deprived him of his life,
 And in the neck of that tasked the whole state;

To make that worse, suffered his kinsman March^{±±} 95
Who is, if every owner were well placed,
Indeed his king^{±±} to be engaged in Wales,
There without ransom to lie forfeited;
Disgraced me in my happy victories,
Sought to entrap me by intelligence, 100
Rated mine uncle from the Council-board,
In rage dismissed my father from the court,
Broke oath on oath, committed wrong on wrong,
And in conclusion drove us to seek out
This head of safety, and withal to pry 105
Into his title, the which we find
Too indirect for long continuance.

BLUNT

Shall I return this answer to the King?

HOTSPUR

Not so, Sir Walter. We'll withdraw awhile.
Go to the King, and let there be impawned 110
Some surety for a safe return again;
And in the morning early shall mine uncle
Bring him our purposes. And so, farewell.

BLUNT

I would you would accept of grace and love.

HOTSPUR

And maybe so we shall.

BLUNT

Pray God you do. 115

*Exeunt [Hotspur, Worcester, Douglas, and
Vernon at one door, Blunt at another door]*