

# Henry V

## 4.4

*Alarum. Excursions. Enter Pistol, a French soldier,  
and the Boy*

**PISTOL** Yield, cur.

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *Je pense que vous eÃtes le gentilhomme de  
bon qualiteÃ.*

**PISTOL**

*QualiteÃ? `Calin o custure me!*

Art thou a gentleman? What is thy name? Discuss. 5

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *O Seigneur Dieu!*

**PISTOL** *[aside]*

O Seigneur Dew should be a gentleman.±±

Perpend my words, O Seigneur Dew, and mark:

O Seigneur Dew, thou diest, on point of fox,

Except, O Seigneur, thou do give to me 10

Egregious ransom.

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *O prenez miseÃricorde! Ayez pitieÃ de moi!*

**PISTOL**

`Moy' shall not serve, I will have forty `moys',

Or I will fetch thy rim out at thy throat

In drops of crimson blood. 15

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *Est-il impossible d'eÃchapper la force de ton  
bras?*

**PISTOL**

Brass, cur? Thou damneÃd and luxurious mountain  
goat,

Offer'st me brass?

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *O pardonne-moi!* 20

**PISTOL**

Sayst thou me so? Is that a ton of moys?±±

Come hither boy. Ask me this slave in French

What is his name.

**BOY** *EÃcoutez: comment eÃtes-vous appeleÃ?*

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *Monsieur le Fer.* 25

**BOY** He says his name is Master Fer.

**PISTOL** Master Fer? I'll fer him, and firk him, and ferret  
him.

Discuss the same in French unto him.

**BOY** I do not know the French for fer and ferret and firk. 30

**PISTOL**

Bid him prepare, for I will cut his throat.

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *Que dit-il, monsieur?*

**BOY** *Il me commande aÁ vous dire que vous faites vous preÃt,*  
car ce soldat ici est disposeÂ tout aÁ cette heure de couper  
votre gorge. 35

**PISTOL**

*Oui, couper la gorge, par ma foi,*  
Peasant, unless thou give me crowns, brave crowns;  
Or mangled shalt thou be by this my sword.

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *O je vous supplie, pour l'amour de Dieu, me*  
pardonner. Je suis le gentilhomme de bonne maison. Gardez 40  
ma vie, et je vous donnerai deux cents eÂcus.

**PISTOL** What are his words?

**BOY** He prays you to save his life. He is a gentleman of a  
good house, and for his ransom he will give you two  
hundred crowns. 45

**PISTOL**

Tell him, my fury shall abate, and I the crowns will  
take.

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *Petit monsieur, que dit-il?*

**BOY** *Encore qu'il est contre son jurement de pardonner aucun*  
prisonnier; neÂanmoins, pour les eÂcus que vous lui ci  
promettez, il est content aÁ vous donner la liberteÂ, le 50  
franchisement.

**FRENCH SOLDIER** *(kneeling to Pistol) Sur mes genoux je vous*  
donne mille remerciements, et je m'estime heureux que j'ai  
tombeÂ entre les mains d'un chevalier, comme je pense, le  
plus brave, vaillant, et treis-distingueÂ seigneur d'Angleterre. 55

**PISTOL** Expound unto me, boy.

**BOY** He gives you upon his knees a thousand thanks, and  
he esteems himself happy that he hath fallen into the  
hands of one, as he thinks, the most brave, valorous,  
and thrice-worthy seigneur of England. 60

**PISTOL**

As I suck blood, I will some mercy show.  
Follow me.

**BOY** *Suivez-vous le grand capitaine.*

*Exeunt Pistol and French Soldier*

I did never know so full a voice issue from so empty a heart. But the saying is true: 'The empty vessel makes the greatest sound.' Bardolph and Nim had ten times more valour than this roaring devil i'th' old play, that everyone may pare his nails with a wooden dagger, and they are both hanged, and so would this be, if he durst steal anything adventurously. I must stay with 70 the lackeys with the luggage of our camp. The French might have a good prey of us, if he knew of it, for there is none to guard it but boys.

65

*Exit*