

Henry V

5.2

Enter at one door King Harry, the Dukes of Exeter and [Clarence], the Earl of Warwick, and other lords; at another, King Charles the Sixth of France, Queen Isabel, the Duke of Burgundy, and other French, among them Princess Catherine and Alice

KING HARRY

Peace to this meeting, wherefor we are met.
Unto our brother France and to our sister,
Health and fair time of day. Joy and good wishes
To our most fair and princely cousin Catherine;
And as a branch and member of this royalty, 5
By whom this great assembly is contrived,
We do salute you, Duke of Burgundy.
And princes French, and peers, health to you all.

KING CHARLES

Right joyous are we to behold your face.
Most worthy brother England, fairly met. 10
So are you, princes English, every one.

QUEEN ISABEL

So happy be the issue, brother England,
Of this good day and of this gracious meeting,
As we are now glad to behold your eyes±±
Your eyes which hitherto have borne in them, 15
Against the French that met them in their bent,
The fatal balls of murdering basilisks.
The venom of such looks we fairly hope
Have lost their quality, and that this day
Shall change all griefs and quarrels into love. 20

KING HARRY

To cry amen to that, thus we appear.

QUEEN ISABEL

You English princes all, I do salute you.

BURGUNDY

My duty to you both, on equal love,
Great Kings of France and England. That I have
laboured
With all my wits, my pains, and strong endeavours, 25

To bring your most imperial majesties
 Unto this bar and royal interview,
 Your mightiness on both parts best can witness.
 Since, then, my office hath so far prevailed
 That face to face and royal eye to eye 30
 You have congreeted, let it not disgrace me
 If I demand, before this royal view,
 What rub or what impediment there is
 Why that the naked, poor, and mangled peace,
 Dear nurse of arts, plenties, and joyful births, 35
 Should not in this best garden of the world,
 Our fertile France, put up her lovely visage?
 Alas, she hath from France too long been chased,
 And all her husbandry doth lie on heaps,
 Corrupting in it own fertility. 40
 Her vine, the merry cheerer of the heart,
 Unpruned dies; her hedges even-plashed
 Like prisoners wildly overgrown with hair
 Put forth disordered twigs; her fallow leas
 The darnel, hemlock, and rank fumitory 45
 Doth root upon, while that the coulter rusts
 That should deracinate such savagery.
 The even mead±±that erst brought sweetly forth
 The freckled cowslip, burnet, and green clover±±
 Wanting the scythe, all uncorrected, rank, 50
 Conceives by idleness, and nothing teems
 But hateful docks, rough thistles, kecksies, burs,
 Losing both beauty and utility.
 An all our vineyards, fallows, meads, and hedges,
 Defective in their natures, grow to wildness, 55
 Even so our houses and ourselves and children
 Have lost, or do not learn for want of time,
 The sciences that should become our country,
 But grow like savages±±as soldiers will
 That nothing do but meditate on blood±± 60
 To swearing and stern looks, diffused attire,
 And everything that seems unnatural.
 Which to reduce into our former favour
 You are assembled, and my speech entreats
 That I may know the let why gentle peace 65

Should not expel these inconveniences
And bless us with her former qualities.

KING HARRY

If, Duke of Burgundy, you would the peace
Whose want gives growth to th'imperfections
Which you have cited, you must buy that peace
With full accord to all our just demands,
Whose tenors and particular effects
You have enscheduled briefly in your hands.

70

BURGUNDY

The King hath heard them, to the which as yet
There is no answer made.

KING HARRY

Well then, the peace,
Which you before so urged, lies in his answer.

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KING CHARLES

I have but with a cursitory eye
O'erglanced the articles. Pleaseth your grace
To appoint some of your council presently
To sit with us once more, with better heed
To re-survey them, we will suddenly
Pass our accept and peremptory answer.

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KING HARRY

Brother, we shall.±±Go, Uncle Exeter
And brother Clarence, and you, brother Gloucester;
Warwick and Huntingdon, go with the King,
And take with you free power to ratify,
Augment, or alter, as your wisdoms best
Shall see advantageable for our dignity,
Anything in or out of our demands,
And we'll consign thereto.±±Will you, fair sister,
Go with the princes, or stay here with us?

85

QUEEN

Our gracious brother, I will go with them.
Haply a woman's voice may do some good
When articles too nicely urged be stood on.

KING HARRY

Yet leave our cousin Catherine here with us.
She is our capital demand, comprised
Within the fore-rank of our articles.

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QUEEN

She hath good leave.

Exeunt all but King Harry, Catherine, and Alice

KING HARRY Fair Catherine, and most fair,
Will you vouchsafe to teach a soldier terms
Such as will enter at a lady's ear 100
And plead his love-suit to her gentle heart?

CATHERINE Your majesty shall mock at me. I cannot speak
your England.

KING HARRY O fair Catherine, if you will love me soundly
with your French heart, I will be glad to hear you 105
confess it brokenly with your English tongue. Do you
like me, Kate?

CATHERINE *Pardonnez-moi*, I cannot tell what is 'like me'.

KING HARRY An angel is like you, Kate, and you are like
an angel. 110

CATHERINE (to Alice) *Que dit-il?±±que je suis semblable à les*
anges?

ALICE *Oui, vraiment±±sauf votre grâce±±ainsi dit-il.*

KING HARRY I said so, dear Catherine, and I must not
blush to affirm it. 115

CATHERINE *O bon Dieu! Les langues des hommes sont pleines*
de tromperies.

KING HARRY What says she, fair one? That the tongues
of men are full of deceits?

ALICE *Oui*, that de tongue of de mans is be full of deceits±± 120
that is de Princess.

KING HARRY The Princess is the better Englishwoman.
I'faith, Kate, my wooing is fit for thy understanding. I
am glad thou canst speak no better English, for if thou
couldst, thou wouldst find me such a plain king that 125
thou wouldst think I had sold my farm to buy my
crown. I know no ways to mince it in love, but directly
to say, 'I love you'; then if you urge me farther than
to say, 'Do you in faith?', I wear out my suit. Give me
your answer, I'faith do, and so clap hands and a 130
bargain. How say you, lady?

CATHERINE *Sauf votre honneur*, me understand well.

KING HARRY Marry, if you would put me to verses, or to
dance for your sake, Kate, why, you undid me. For the
one I have neither words nor measure, and for the 135
other I have no strength in measure±±yet a reasonable

measure in strength. If I could win a lady at leap-frog,
 or by vaulting into my saddle with my armour on my
 back, under the correction of bragging be it spoken, I
 should quickly leap into a wife. Or if I might buffet for 140
 my love, or bound my horse for her favours, I could
 lay on like a butcher, and sit like a jackanapes, never
 off. But before God, Kate, I cannot look greenly, nor
 gasp out my eloquence, nor I have no cunning in
 protestation±±only downright oaths, which I never use 145
 till urged, nor never break for urging. If thou canst
 love a fellow of this temper, Kate, whose face is not
 worth sunburning, that never looks in his glass for
 love of anything he sees there, let thine eye be thy
 cook. I speak to thee plain soldier: if thou canst love 150
 me for this, take me. If not, to say to thee that I shall
 die, is true±±but for thy love, by the Lord, no. Yet I
 love thee, too. And while thou livest, dear Kate, take
 a fellow of plain and uncoined constancy, for he perforce
 must do thee right, because he hath not the gift to woo 155
 in other places. For these fellows of infinite tongue,
 that can rhyme themselves into ladies' favours, they
 do always reason themselves out again. What! A
 speaker is but a prater, a rhyme is but a ballad; a good
 leg will fall, a straight back will stoop, a black beard 160
 will turn white, a curled pate will grow bald, a fair
 face will wither, a full eye will wax hollow, but a good
 heart, Kate, is the sun and the moon±±or rather the
 sun and not the moon, for it shines bright and never
 changes, but keeps his course truly. If thou would have 165
 such a one, take me; and take me, take a soldier; take
 a soldier, take a king. And what sayst thou then to my
 love? Speak, my fair±±and fairly, I pray thee.

CATHERINE Is it possible dat I sould love de *ennemi* of
 France? 170

KING HARRY No, it is not possible you should love the
 enemy of France, Kate. But in loving me, you should
 love the friend of France, for I love France so well that
 I will not part with a village of it, I will have it all
 mine; and Kate, when France is mine, and I am yours, 175
 then yours is France, and you are mine.

CATHERINE I cannot tell vat is dat.

KING HARRY No, Kate? I will tell thee in French±±which
I am sure will hang upon my tongue like a new-married
wife about her husband's neck, hardly to be shook off. 180
Je quand suis le possesseur de France, et quand vous avez
le possession de moi±±let me see, what then? Saint Denis
be my speed!±±*donc voÃtre est France, et vous eÃtes mienne.*
It is as easy for me, Kate, to conquer the kingdom as
to speak so much more French. I shall never move thee 185
in French, unless it be to laugh at me.

CATHERINE *Sauf votre honneur, le francÃais que vous parlez,*
il est meilleur que l'anglais lequel je parle.

KING HARRY No, faith, is't not, Kate. But thy speaking of
my tongue, and I thine, most truly-falsely, must needs 190
be granted to be much at one. But Kate, dost thou
understand thus much English? Canst thou love me?

CATHERINE I cannot tell.

KING HARRY Can any of your neighbours tell, Kate? I'll
ask them. Come, I know thou lovest me, and at night 195
when you come into your closet you'll question this
gentlewoman about me, and I know, Kate, you will to
her dispraise those parts in me that you love with your
heart. But good Kate, mock me mercifully±±the rather,
gentle princess, because I love thee cruelly. If ever thou 200
be'st mine, Kate±±as I have a saving faith within me
tells me thou shalt±±I get thee with scrambling, and
thou must therefore needs prove a good soldier-breeder.
Shall not thou and I, between Saint Denis and Saint
George, compound a boy, half-French half-English, that 205
shall go to Constantinople and take the Turk by the
beard? Shall we not? What sayst thou, my fair flower-
de-luce?

CATHERINE I do not know dat.

KING HARRY No, 'tis hereafter to know, but now to 210
promise. Do but now promise, Kate, you will endeavour
for your French part of such a boy, and for my English
moiety take the word of a king and a bachelor. How
answer you, *la plus belle Catherine du monde, mon treÃs*
cheÃre et divine deÃesse? 215

CATHERINE Your *majesteÃ* 'ave *faux* French enough to

deceive de most sage *demoiselle* dat is *en France*.

KING HARRY Now fie upon my false French! By mine honour, in true English, I love thee, Kate. By which honour I dare not swear thou lovest me, yet my blood 220 begins to flatter me that thou dost, notwithstanding the poor and untempering effect of my visage. Now beshrew my father's ambition! He was thinking of civil wars when he got me; therefore was I created with a stubborn outside, with an aspect of iron, that when I 225 come to woo ladies I fright them. But in faith, Kate, the elder I wax the better I shall appear. My comfort is that old age, that ill layer-up of beauty, can do no more spoil upon my face. Thou hast me, if thou hast me, at the worst, and thou shalt wear me, if thou wear 230 me, better and better; and therefore tell me, most fair Catherine, will you have me? Put off your maiden blushes, avouch the thoughts of your heart with the looks of an empress, take me by the hand and say, `Harry of England, I am thine'±±which word thou shalt 235 no sooner bless mine ear withal, but I will tell thee aloud, `England is thine, Ireland is thine, France is thine, and Henry Plantagenet is thine'±±who, though I speak it before his face, if he be not fellow with the best king, thou shalt find the best king of good fellows. 240 Come, your answer in broken music±±for thy voice is music and thy English broken. Therefore, queen of all, Catherine, break thy mind to me in broken English: wilt thou have me?

CATHERINE Dat is as it shall please de *roi mon peÁre*. 245

KING HARRY Nay, it will please him well, Kate. It shall please him, Kate.

CATHERINE Den it sall also content me.

KING HARRY Upon that I kiss your hand, and I call you my queen. 250

CATHERINE *Laissez, mon seigneur, laissez, laissez! Ma foi, je ne veux point que vous abaissez votre grandeur en baisant la main d'une de votre seigneurie indigne serviteur. Excusez-moi, je vous supplie, mon treis-puissant seigneur.*

KING HARRY Then I will kiss your lips, Kate. 255

CATHERINE *Les dames et demoiselles pour eÁtre baiseÁes devant*

leurs noces, il n'est pas la coutume de France.

KING HARRY (to Alice) Madam my interpreter, what says she?

ALICE Dat it is not be de *facËon pour les ladies* of France±± 260
I cannot tell vat is *baiser en* English.

KING HARRY To kiss.

ALICE Your *majesteÂ* *entend* better *que moi*.

KING HARRY It is not a fashion for the maids in France to
kiss before they are married, would she say? 265

ALICE *Oui, vraiment.*

KING HARRY O Kate, nice customs curtsy to great kings.
Dear Kate, you and I cannot be confined within the
weak list of a country's fashion. We are the makers of
manners, Kate, and the liberty that follows our places 270
stops the mouth of all find-faults, as I will do yours,
for upholding the nice fashion of your country in
denying me a kiss. Therefore, patiently and yielding.
(*He kisses her*) You have witchcraft in your lips, Kate.
There is more eloquence in a sugar touch of them than 275
in the tongues of the French Council, and they should
sooner persuade Harry of England than a general
petition of monarchs. Here comes your father.

*Enter King Charles, Queen Isabel, the Duke of
Burgundy, and the French and English lords*

BURGUNDY God save your majesty. My royal cousin, teach
you our princess English? 280

KING HARRY I would have her learn, my fair cousin, how
perfectly I love her, and that is good English.

BURGUNDY Is she not apt?

KING HARRY Our tongue is rough, coz, and my condition
is not smooth, so that having neither the voice nor the 285
heart of flattery about me I cannot so conjure up the
spirit of love in her that he will appear in his true
likeness.

BURGUNDY Pardon the frankness of my mirth, if I answer
you for that. If you would conjure in her, you must 290
make a circle; if conjure up love in her in his true
likeness, he must appear naked and blind. Can you
blame her then, being a maid yet rosed over with the
virgin crimson of modesty, if she deny the appearance

of a naked blind boy in her naked seeing self? It were, 295
my lord, a hard condition for a maid to consign to.

KING HARRY Yet they do wink and yield, as love is blind
and enforces.

BURGUNDY They are then excused, my lord, when they
see not what they do. 300

KING HARRY Then, good my lord, teach your cousin to
consent winking.

BURGUNDY I will wink on her to consent, my lord, if you
will teach her to know my meaning. For maids, well
summered and warm kept, are like flies at 305
Bartholomew-tide: blind, though they have their eyes.
And then they will endure handling, which before
would not abide looking on.

KING HARRY This moral ties me over to time and a hot
summer, and so I shall catch the fly, your cousin, in 310
the latter end, and she must be blind too.

BURGUNDY As love is, my lord, before that it loves.

KING HARRY It is so. And you may, some of you, thank
love for my blindness, who cannot see many a fair
French city for one fair French maid that stands in my 315
way.

KING CHARLES Yes, my lord, you see them perspectivevely,
the cities turned into a maid±±for they are all girdled
with maiden walls that war hath never entered.

KING HARRY Shall Kate be my wife? 320

KING CHARLES So please you.

KING HARRY I am content, so the maiden cities you talk
of may wait on her: so the maid that stood in the way
for my wish shall show me the way to my will.

KING CHARLES
We have consented to all terms of reason. 325

KING HARRY Is't so, my lords of England?

[WARWICK]
The King hath granted every article:
His daughter first, and so in sequel all,
According to their firm proposeÁd natures.

EXETER
Only he hath not yet subscribeÁd this: 330
where your majesty demands that the King of France,

having any occasion to write for matter of grant, shall
name your highness in this form and with this addition:
[reads] in French, *Notre treÁs cher fils Henri, Roi*
d'Angleterre, HeÁritier de France, and thus in Latin, 335
Praeclarissimus filius noster Henricus, Rex Angliae et
Haeres Franciae.

KING CHARLES

Nor this I have not, brother, so denied,
But your request shall make me let it pass.

KING HARRY

I pray you then, in love and dear alliance, 340
Let that one article rank with the rest,
And thereupon give me your daughter.

KING CHARLES

Take her, fair son, and from her blood raise up
Issue to me, that the contending kingdoms
Of France and England, whose very shores look pale 345
With envy of each other's happiness,
May cease their hatred, and this dear conjunction
Plant neighbourhood and Christian-like accord
In their sweet bosoms, that never war advance
His bleeding sword 'twixt England and fair France. 350

[ALL] Amen.

KING HARRY

Now welcome, Kate, and bear me witness all
That here I kiss her as my sovereign Queen.
Flourish

QUEEN ISABEL

God, the best maker of all marriages,
Combine your hearts in one, your realms in one. 355
As man and wife, being two, are one in love,
So be there 'twixt your kingdoms such a spousal
That never may ill office or fell jealousy,
Which troubles oft the bed of blesseÁd marriage,
Thrust in between the paction of these kingdoms 360
To make divorce of their incorporate league;
That English may as French, French Englishmen,
Receive each other, God speak this `Amen'.

ALL Amen.

KING HARRY

Prepare we for our marriage. On which day, 365

My lord of Burgundy, we'll take your oath,
And all the peers', for surety of our leagues.
Then shall I swear to Kate, and you to me,
And may our oaths well kept and prosp'rous be.
Sennet. Exeunt