

1 Henry VI

5.3

Alarum. Excursions. Enter Joan la Pucelle

JOAN

The Regent conquers, and the Frenchmen fly.
Now help, ye charming spells and periapts,
And ye choice spirits that admonish me
And give me signs of future accidents.

Thunder

You speedy helpers, that are substitutes 5
Under the lordly monarch of the north,
Appear, and aid me in this enterprise.

Enter Fiends

This speed and quick appearance argues proof
Of your accustomed diligence to me.
Now, ye familiar spirits that are culled 10
Out of the powerful regions under earth,
Help me this once, that France may get the field.

They walk and speak not

O, hold me not with silence overlong!
Where I was wont to feed you with my blood,
I'll lop a member off and give it you 15
In earnest of a further benefit,
So you do condescend to help me now.

They hang their heads

No hope to have redress? My body shall
Pay recompense if you will grant my suit.

They shake their heads

Cannot my body nor blood-sacrifice 20
Entreat you to your wonted furtherance?
Then take my soul±±my body, soul, and all±±
Before that England give the French the foil.

They depart

See, they forsake me. Now the time is come
That France must vail her lofty-plumeÁd crest 25
And let her head fall into England's lap.
My ancient incantations are too weak,
And hell too strong for me to buckle with.

Now, France, thy glory droopeth to the dust.

Exit