

Henry IV Part 1 abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

Introspection

Situation: While Prince Hal's buddies, Peto, Bardolph and Falstaff (the thieves), plan to rob a group of travelers at Gad's Hill, Poins and Prince Hal, following the robbery plan to rob the thieves. But aside to us, before he robs the thieves, the prince reflects on his need to reform his behavior and serve destiny's call.

POINS: Now, my good lord, ride with us tomorrow. I have a jest to execute that I cannot manage alone. Falstaff, Peto, Bardolph, and Gadshill shall rob those men that we have already waylaid. Yourself and I will not be there. And when they have the booty, if you and I do not rob them, cut this head off from my shoulders.

PRINCE: Yea, but I doubt they will be too hard for us.

POINS: I know them to be as true-bred cowards as ever turned back. The virtue of this jest will be the incomprehensible lies that this same fat rogue will tell us when we meet at supper.

PRINCE: Well, I'll go with thee. Provide us all things necessary and meet me tomorrow night in Eastcheap.

POINS: Farewell, my lord.

Poins exits.

Prince Hal to himself, No. 1

If all days were as if a holiday
And idleness the normal way, then play
Would be as dull as work, for nothing yet
Pleaseth more than rare events when wished-for
Come. So when I this never promised debt
Pay, and I throw off this loose behavior,
By my being better than my word, my
Reformation shall appeal to the eye
More than that with no offset as a foil.
I'll imitate the sun, who doth permit
The clouds to smother him, though ever loyal
To his earth-bound dependents, always lit,
And who may, being wanted, on a whim,
Break through the mists that seem to strangle him.