

Henry IV Part 1 abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 3

Wife to Husband

Situation: Lady Percy, Hotspur's wife and Edward III's great-granddaughter, a succession to the crown issue not lost on Hotspur, feels the tension, Hotspur having arrived home after a contentious meeting among the rebels, Hotspur having been the one who had created most of the tension.

HOTSPUR: How now, Kate? I must leave you within these two hours.

Lady Percy to Hotspur

Do you not love me? If you love me not
I will not love myself. What hath thou sought
That takes from thee thy stomach, pleasure, thy
Sound sleep? In thy faint slumbers I heard thee
Murmur tales of wars. Why thou given my
Rights to musing and curst melancholy?
My good lord, for what offense have I been
From you this fortnight a banished woman?
My lord, I fear my brother Mortimer
Hath sent for you to line his enterprise.
And it's about his title he doth stir.
You say I'm constant and a woman wise,
Yet leave, saying it's to others you owe,
That I'll not utter what I dost not know.

LADY PERCY: What is it carries you away?

HOTSPUR: Why, my horse, my love, my horse.

LADY PERCY: Out, you mad-headed ape!

HOTSPUR: Away, you trifler. Love, I love thee not. I care not for thee, Kate. We must have bloody noses and cracked crowns. What say'st thou, Kate? What wouldst thou have with me?

LADY PERCY: Do you not love me? Do you not indeed? Do you not love me? Nay, tell me if you speak in jest or no.

HOTSPUR: When I am a-horseback I will swear I love thee infinitely. I must not have you henceforth question me whither I go, nor reason whereabout. Today will I set forth, tomorrow you. Will this content you, Kate?

LADY PERCY: It must, of force.