

Henry IV Part 2 abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

Acceptance

Situation: The earl of Northumberland, a leader of the rebels in Henry IV Part 1, the Welsh led group that had intended to overthrow Henry IV, the noble who had in Richard II defected from Richard II and had been instrumental in leading the young Henry Bolingbroke to England's throne, has just learned that his son, Harry Percy, better known as Hotspur, was slain during the recent battle of Shrewsbury.

NORTHUMBERLAND: How doth my son and brother? Thou tremblest, and the whiteness in thy cheek is apter than thy tongue to tell thy errand. Thou hast a sigh to blow away this praise, ending with "Brother, son, and all are dead."

MORTON: Douglas is living, and your brother yet, but for my lord you son-----.

NORTHUMBERLAND: Why, he is dead. Yet speak, Morton.

MORTON: Your spirit is too true, your fears too certain.

NORTHUMBERLAND: Yet, for all this, say not that Percy's dead. If he be slain, say so. The tongue offends not that reports his death; and he doth sin that doth belie the dead.

LORD BARDOLPH: I cannot think, my lord, your son is dead!

Morton to Northumberland

Sorry I that I force you to believe
That which I wish to God I would have leave
Not seen, but mine eyes through their disgraced worth
Saw Harry Monmouth, where swift, fierce wrath took
The never-daunting Percy to the earth,
From whence he never sprung up. He, whose look
Lent a spirit to the dullest peasant
In his camp, took there by his death present
Courage from his troops, for from his mettle
Was his party steeled, which, once in him lost
They turned on themselves, choosing to settle
Like dull and heavy lead. Hotspur's loss cost
Us the war when they to the King did yield,
Aiming at their safety, fled from the field.

MORTON: The sum of all is that the King hath won and hath sent out a speedy power to encounter you, my lord, under the conduct of young Lancaster and Westmoreland. This is the news at full.

NORTHUMBERLAND: For this I shall have time enough to mourn. In poison there is physic, and these news, having been well, that would have made me sick, being sick, have in some measure made me well.

He throws down his crutch.

