

Henry IV Part 2 abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 2

Humor

Situation: Having tricked Richard Scroop, the Archbishop of York, into releasing his soldiers at Gaultree Forest, tough-minded and clever John of Lancaster tells the rebel leaders that he will, as promised, redress their grievances “with a most Christian care.” This is what he tells the rebels just before he tells them they are to be executed, at which point he releases his own soldiers, Falstaff being one of them.

JOHN OF LANCASTER TO WESTMORLAND: I hear the King my father is sore sick. Cousin, you shall bear to comfort him, and we with sober speed will follow you.

FALSTAFF: My lord, I beseech you give me leave to go through Gloucestershire.

JOHN OF LANCASTER: Fare you well, Falstaff. I shall better speak of you than you deserve.

All but Falstaff exit.

Falstaff to himself, No. 2

This young sober-blooded boy doth not love
Me nor doth he laugh; makes me wonder of
Him, but then, no marvel, he drinks no wine.
None of these demure boys come to any
Proof and maids they marry tow too the line.
A goodly sherry sack doth ascend me
Into the brain, which, delivered over
To the voice through the tongue becomes clever
Wit, and is the source of the courage sent
To my sword. It's the drinking of fertile
Sherries that's caused Hal to become valiant.
Faith, if I had sons, the first principle
I would teach them would be to forswear lack
Potations and addict themselves to sack.