

Henry IV Part 2 abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

Reflection

Situation: A confident group of rebels that includes the Archbishop of York, Mowbray and Hastings meets at Gaultree Forest with Westmorland, a man of honor and the king's brother-in-law. Prince John, the duke of Lancaster, the king's third son, soon enters and assures the rebels that their "griefs shall be with speed redressed."

JOHN OF LANCASTER: You are well encountered here, my cousin Mowbray. Good day to you, gentle Lord Archbishop, and so to you, Lord Hastings, and to all.

John of Lancaster to the Archbishop of York

My lord of York, it better showed with you
When your assembled flock circled you to
Hear your exposition on the holy
Text than now to see you here, an iron man
Talking, cheering rebels on, turning thee
Word to sword, life to death. Having spoken
To us th' voice of God Himself, come 'tween
The sanctities of heaven and our lean
Workings, you have ta'en up under the
Counterfeited zeal of God the subjects
Of his substitute, my father, as we
See them passionately swarm as objects
To heaven's peace and him. To make your case
You misuse the reverence of your place.

ARCHBISHOP: Good my Lord of Lancaster, I am not here against your father's peace, but, the time misordered doth crowd us and crush us to this monstrous form to hold our safety up.

HASTINGS: And though we here fall down, we have supplies to second our attempt; if they miscarry, theirs shall second them.

JOHN OF LANCASTER: You are too shallow, Hastings, much too shallow to sound the bottom of the after-times.

WESTMORELAND: Pleaseth your Grace to answer them directly how far forth you do like their articles.

JOHN OF LANCASTER TO THE ARCHBISHOP: My lord, these griefs shall be with speed redressed; upon my soul, they shall.