

Henry V abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2

Acceptance

Situation: The duke of Burgundy, a French nobleman who had married into English royalty and who now represents the French forces that were soundly defeated at Agincourt, humbly speaks of peace to the two kings.

KING OF FRANCE: Right joyous are we to behold your face, most worthy brother England.

QUEEN OF FRANCE: So happy be the issue, brother England. We are now glad to behold your eyes. The venom of such looks, we fairly hope, have lost their quality, and that this day shall change all griefs and quarrels into love.

HENRY: To cry "Amen" to that.

BURGUNDY: My duty to you both, on equal love, great kings of France and England. Let it not disgrace me if I demand before this royal view what rub or what impediment there is why we should not in this best garden of the world, our fertile France, put up her lovely visage?

Burgundy to the Kings

Alas, peace hath from France too long been chased,
Where her husbandry doth now lie in waste,
Corrupting her fertility. Her vine,
The gay cheerer of the heart, unpruned, dies.
Her fallow fields now unplanted, once fine
For cowslips and green clover wanting scythes,
Teems with thistles and weeds, losing beauty
And utility. We have, our country,
Ourselves and children, lost the sciences
That should become us. Majesties, you are
Assembled to reduce us to what was
Our former favor. What remains to bar
Us from comfort and let gentle peace please
And bless us with her former qualities.

HENRY: If, Duke of Burgundy, you would the peace, you must buy that with full accord to all our just demands.