

## Henry V abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 2

### Anger

**Situation: Three friends of the king, the most prominent among them being the king's uncle, Richard earl of Cambridge, along with a Lord Scroop and a Sir Thomas Grey are accused by the king of being traitors and are executed.**

King Henry hands papers to the three men.

HENRY: Read them and know I know your worthiness.

They read the papers.

HENRY: Why, how now, gentlemen? What see you in those papers, that you lose so much complexion? What read you there that have so cowarded and chased your blood out of appearance?

CAMBRIDGE: I do confess my fault, and do submit me to your Highness' mercy.

GREY AND SCROOP: To which we all appeal.

### Henry V to the traitors

**The mercy in us that was quickly willed  
But late by your own counsel has been killed.  
You three must not dare to talk of mercy  
Having conspired on behalf of France to  
Kill us here. How could it be that from thee  
A foreign hire could extract for a few  
Crowns a spark of evil to annoy me?  
Whatsoever cunning fiend would gull thee  
To treason, unless to dub thee a dark  
Traitor? Yet thou seemed constant as the sun.  
And thus thy fall hath left a blot to mark  
The best endued man with some suspicion.  
Uncle, take them to answer to the law,  
And God acquit them of their savage flaw.**

SCROOP: Our purposes God justly hath discovered, and I repent my fault more than my death.

CAMBRIDGE: For me, the gold of France did not seduce, although I did admit it as a motive. But God be thanked for prevention.

GREY: Never did faithful subject more rejoice at the discovery of most dangerous treason than I do at this hour o'er myself.