

## Henry V abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

### Introspection

**Situation: Masquerading as Sir Thomas Erpingham, Henry V and a soldier in his army engage in a spirited discussion the night before the battle at Agincourt, the soldier agreeing to continue “a quarrel between us, if you live.”**

WILLIAMS: Let it be a quarrel between us, if you live.

HENRY: I embrace it.

WILLIAMS: How shall I know thee again?

HENRY: Give me any gage of thine, and I will wear it in my bonnet.

They exchange gloves.

BATES: Be friends, you English fools, be friends. We have French quarrels enough.

HENRY: Indeed.

The soldiers exit.

### Henry V to himself, No. 1

What infinite heart's ease must kings neglect  
That private men enjoy? Do kings detect  
What privates see not, save ceremony?  
O ceremony, show me they worth! When  
Else art thou aught but place, form and degree,  
Creating awe and fear in other men,  
Wherein thou art less happy, being feared,  
Than they in fearing? Drink from thy tankard  
But poisoned flattery? Ceremony  
Laid in bed majestic cannot sleep  
So soundly as the slave, with a body  
Filled and vacant mind. Lo, the king doth weep  
From sleepless nights to maintain the present  
Peace, that best advantages the peasant.