

## King John abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

### Appreciation

**Situation:** Lady Faulconbridge enters, wanting to know who has been spreading rumors about her honor. When confronted by her son Philip, she acknowledges that Richard I was his father. At that point, Philip generously thanks her for her indiscretion, saying “I would not wish a better sin.”

BASTARD: Madam, I was not old Sir Robert's son. We know his handiwork. Therefore, good mother, to whom am I beholding for these limbs?

LADY FAULCONBRIDGE: Hast thou conspired with thy brother too. What means this scorn, thou most untoward knave?

BASTARD: Knight, knight, good mother. But mother, I am not Sir Robert's son. Let me know my father, some proper man, I hope. Who was it, mother?

LADY FAULCONBRIDGE: Hast thou denied thyself a Faulconbridge?

BASTARD: As faithfully as I deny the devil.

LADY FAULCONBRIDGE: King Richard Coeur de Lion was thy father. Heaven lay not my transgression to my charge! Thou art the issue of my dear offense, which was so strongly urged past my defense.

#### Bastard to Lady Faulconbridge

Now, if I were to be fathered again,  
Mother, I would not wish a better sin.  
Some sins have their advantage here on earth,  
As yours; your fault not being your folly.  
The fierce lion that fought for all his worth  
Could not keep his heart from Richard's hand. He  
Who can rob a lion of his heart may  
Easily win a woman's. Let me say,  
Mother, with all my heart I thank thee for  
My father. And to any who dare say  
Thou didst not well I say for evermore  
Let their souls rest in hell. To those who may  
Say 'twas a sin when Richard me begot,  
I say they all do lie. I say 'twas not.