

King John abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2

Challenge

Situation: The Dauphin is riding-high with battlefield successes. With Salisbury's support, he tells Pandulph that he will not honor his request to lay down his arms, saying "Am I Rome's slave? What penny hath Rome borne? What men provided?" He tells the Bastard to "end thy bravado" when the Bastard tries to frighten him.

BASTARD: According to the fair play of the world, let me have audience. I am sent to speak, my holy lord of Milan, from the King. I come to learn how you have dealt with him.

PANDULPH: The Dauphin flatly says he'll not lay down his arms.

BASTARD: By all the blood that ever fury breathed, now hear our English king, for his royalty doth speak in me.

Bastard to Dauphin

The king is prepared to strip this dwarfish
War from his lands, smiling at the apish
And unseemly approach, the unadvised
Reveling and unheard-of insolence
Shown by your boyish troops. He who chastised
You in your towns and counties doesn't sense
You'll find wished for renown. Like an eagle
That swoops down on an annoyance that'll
Approach his nest, know that our monarch is
In arms, prepared to make your rebels heir
To eternal shame for believing 'tis
Their right to be here in England. Each fair
Maiden warrior who trips after the drum
Will live with a spiteful disposition.

DAUPHIN: There end thy bravado and go away in peace. We grant thou canst out scold us. Fare thee well. We hold our time too precious to be spend with such a brabber.

PANDULPH: Give me leave to speak.

BASTARD: No, I will speak.

DAUPHIN: We will attend to neither. Strike up the drums, and let the tongue of war plead for our interest and our being here.