

## King John abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

### Counsel

**Situation:** King John recommits himself to the Church. He has Pandulph re-coronate him, hoping Pandulph will intercede on his behalf to stop the Dauphin's assault on him and his forces. The king has recently received nothing but bad news, including the report of Arthur's death.

#### Bastard to King John

Let not the world see fear and sad distrust  
In the movement of your kingly eyes. Thrust  
Your might as fire on fire, looking down at  
The threat'ner as you outface the brow of  
Bragging foes. So shall those younger lives, that  
Borrow their behavior from the great, love  
You for your courage, leading them to run  
Free with your spirited resolution.  
Glisten like the god of war, aspiring  
Confidence when you grace the field. Let it  
Be said you greet trouble 'fore it can ring  
Your forces and freight them here. Do not sit  
On hope, letting your defense all but cease,  
For perchance Pandulph cannot make your peace.

BASTARD: Shall a beardless boy, a pampered silken wanton, defy our fields and lead to bloodshed with his spirit on our soil, mocking the air with flags carelessly spread, and find no check? Let us, my liege, to arms!

KING JOHN: Have thou the management of this present time.

BASTARD: Away then with good courage!

BASTARD ASIDE: Yet I know our party may well meet a prouder foe.