

## **Henry V, Side #3: Orleans, Dauphin**

### **3.7. The French camp, near Agincourt:**

*Enter the CONSTABLE OF FRANCE, the LORD RAMBURES, ORLEANS.*

#### **CONSTABLE**

Tut! I have the best armour of the world. Would it were day!

#### **ORLEANS**

You have an excellent armour; but let my horse have his due.

#### **CONSTABLE**

It is the best horse of Europe.

#### **ORLEANS**

Will it never be morning?

*Enter Dauphin.*

#### **DAUPHIN**

My lord of Orleans, and my lord High Constable, you talk of horse and armour?

#### **ORLEANS**

You are as well provided of both as any prince in the world.

#### **DAUPHIN**

What a long night is this! I will not change my horse with any that treads but on four pasterns. Ca, ha! he bounds from the earth, as if his entrails were hairs. When I bestride him, I soar, I am a hawk. He trots the air. The earth sings when he touches it; the basest horn of his hoof is more musical than the pipe of Hermes.

#### **ORLEANS**

He's of the colour of the nutmeg.

#### **DAUPHIN**

And of the heat of the ginger. He is indeed a horse, and all other jades you may call beasts.

#### **CONSTABLE**

Indeed, my lord, it is a most absolute and excellent horse.

#### **DAUPHIN**

It is the prince of palfreys; his neigh is like the bidding of a monarch and his countenance enforces homage.

#### **ORLEANS**

No more, cousin.

**DAUPHIN**

Nay, the man hath no wit that cannot, from the rising of the lark to the lodging of the lamb, vary deserved praise on my palfrey: it is a theme as fluent as the sea. Turn the sands into eloquent tongues and my horse is argument for them all. 'Tis a subject for a sovereign to reason on, and for a sovereign's sovereign to ride on, and for the world, familiar to us and unknown, to lay apart their particular functions and wonder at him. I once writ a sonnet in his praise and began thus: 'Wonder of nature,'--

**ORLEANS**

I have heard a sonnet begin so to one's mistress.

**DAUPHIN**

Then did they imitate that which I composed to my courser, for my horse is my mistress.

**ORLEANS**

Your mistress bears well.

**DAUPHIN**

Me well; which is the prescript praise and perfection of a good and particular mistress.

**CONSTABLE**

Nay, for methought yesterday your mistress shrewdly shook your back.

**DAUPHIN**

So perhaps did yours.

**CONSTABLE**

Mine was not bridled.

**DAUPHIN**

O then belike she was old and gentle, and you rode, like a kern of Ireland, your French hose off and in your straight strossers.

**CONSTABLE**

You have good judgment in horsemanship.

**RAMBURES**

My lord Constable, the armour that I saw in your tent to-night, are those stars or suns upon it?

**CONSTABLE**

Stars, my lord.

**DAUPHIN**

Some of them will fall to-morrow, I hope.

**CONSTABLE**

And yet my sky shall not want.

**DAUPHIN**

That may be, for you bear a many superfluously, and 'twere more honour some were away.

**CONSTABLE**

Even as your horse bears your praises, who would trot as well were some of your brags dismounted.

**DAUPHIN**

Would I were able to load him with his desert! Will it never be day? I will trot to-morrow a mile, and my way shall be paved with English faces.

**CONSTABLE**

I will not say so, for fear I should be faced out of my way. But I would it were morning, for I would fain be about the ears of the English.

**DAUPHIN**

'Tis midnight; I'll go arm myself.

*Exit*

**ORLEANS**

The Dauphin longs for morning.

**RAMBURES**

He longs to eat the English.

**CONSTABLE**

I think he will eat all he kills.

**ORLEANS**

By the white hand of my lady, he's a gallant prince.

**CONSTABLE**

Swear by her foot, that she may tread out the oath.

**ORLEANS**

He is simply the most active gentleman of France.

**CONSTABLE**

Doing is activity; and he will still be doing.

**ORLEANS**

He never did harm, that I heard of.

**CONSTABLE**

Nor will do none to-morrow: he will keep that good name still.

**ORLEANS**

I know him to be valiant.

**CONSTABLE**

I was told that by one that knows him better than you.

**ORLEANS**

What's he?

**CONSTABLE**

Marry, he told me so himself; and he said he cared not who knew it,

**ORLEANS**

He needs not; it is no hidden virtue in him.

**CONSTABLE**

By my faith, sir, but it is; never anybody saw it but his lackey.

**ORLEANS**

Ill will never said well.

**CONSTABLE**

I will cap that proverb with 'There is flattery in friendship.'

*Enter a Messenger (or Montjoy?)*

**MESSENGER [OR MONTJOY]**

My lord High Constable, the English lie within fifteen hundred paces of your tents.

**CONSTABLE**

Who hath measured the ground?

**MESSENGER [OR MONTJOY]**

The Lord Grandpre.

**CONSTABLE**

A valiant and most expert gentleman.

*[Exit Messenger]*

Would it were day! Alas, poor Harry of England! he longs not for the dawning as we do.

**ORLEANS**

What a wretched and peevish fellow is this king of England, to mope with his fat-brained followers so far out of his knowledge!

**CONSTABLE**

If the English had any apprehension, they would run away.

**ORLEANS**

That they lack; for if their heads had any intellectual armor, they could never wear such heavy headpieces.

**CONSTABLE**

Now is it time to arm. Come shall we about it?

**ORLEANS**

It is now two o'clock: but, let me see, by ten  
We shall have each a hundred Englishmen.

*Exeunt*

**AND**

*Henry V, Side #4: 4.1: Williams*

*Enter two soldiers, JOHN BATES and MICHAEL WILLIAMS*

**WILLIAMS**

Brother John Bates, is not that the morning which breaks yonder?

**BATES**

I think it be; but we have no great cause to desire the approach of day.

**WILLIAMS**

We see yonder the beginning of the day, but I think we shall never see the end of it.  
Who goes there?

**KING HENRY V**

A friend.

**WILLIAMS**

Under what captain serve you?

**KING HENRY V**

Under Sir Thomas Erpingham.

**WILLIAMS**

A good old commander and a most kind gentleman: I pray you, what thinks he of our estate?

**KING HENRY V**

Even as men wrecked upon a sand, that look to be washed off the next tide.

**BATES**

He hath not told his thought to the king?

**KING HENRY V**

No, nor it is not meet he should. For, though I speak it to you, I think the king is but a man, as I am. Therefore when he sees reason of fears as we do, his fears, out of doubt, be of the same relish as ours are. Yet, in reason, no man should possess him with any appearance of fear, lest he, by showing it, should dishearten his army.

**BATES**

He may show what outward courage he will, but I believe, as cold a night as 'tis, he could wish himself in Thames up to the neck; and so I would he were, and I by him, at all adventures, so we were quit here.

**KING HENRY V**

By my troth, I will speak my conscience of the king: I think he would not wish himself anywhere but where he is.

**BATES**

Then I would he were here alone; so should he be sure to be ransomed, and a many poor men's lives saved.

**KING HENRY V**

I dare say you love him not so ill to wish him here alone, howsoever you speak this to feel other men's minds. Methinks I could not die anywhere so contented as in the king's company, his cause being just and his quarrel honourable.

**WILLIAMS**

That's more than we know.

**BATES**

Ay, or more than we should seek after, for we know enough if we know we are the king's subjects. If his cause be wrong, our obedience to the king wipes the crime of it out of us.

**WILLIAMS**

But if the cause be not good, the king himself hath a heavy reckoning to make, when all those legs and arms and heads, chopped off in battle, shall join together at the latter day and cry all 'We died at such a place', some swearing, some crying for a surgeon, some upon their wives left poor behind them, some upon the debts they owe, some upon their children rawly left. I am afeard there are few die well that die in a battle; for how can they charitably dispose of anything, when blood is their argument? Now, if these men do not die well, it will be a black matter for the king that led them to it, who to disobey were against all proportion of subjection.

**KING HENRY V**

So, if a servant, under his master's command transporting a sum of money, be assailed by robbers and die in many irreconciled iniquities, you may call the business of the master the author of the servant's damnation. But this is not so: the King is not bound to answer the particular endings of his soldiers, nor the master of his servant; for he purposes not their death when he purposes their services. Every subject's duty is the king's; but every subject's soul is his own. Therefore should every soldier in the wars do as every sick man in his bed, wash every mote out of his conscience; and dying so, death is to him advantage; or not dying, the time was blessedly lost wherein such preparation was gained; and in him that escapes, it were not sin to think that, making God so free an offer, He let him outlive that day to see His greatness and to teach others how they should prepare.

**WILLIAMS**

'Tis certain, every man that dies ill, the ill upon his own head, the king is not to answer it.

**BATES**

But I do not desire he should answer for me, and yet I determine to fight lustily for him.

**KING HENRY V**

I myself heard the king say he would not be ransomed.

**WILLIAMS**

Ay, he said so to make us fight cheerfully; but when our throats are cut he may be ransomed, and we ne'er the wiser.

**KING HENRY V**

If I live to see it, I will never trust his word after.

**WILLIAMS**

You may as well go about to turn the sun to ice with fanning in his face with a peacock's feather. You'll "never trust his word after"! Come, 'tis a foolish saying.

**KING HENRY V**

Your reproof is something too round; I should be angry with you if the time were convenient.

**WILLIAMS**

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

**KING HENRY V**

I embrace it.

**WILLIAMS**

How shall I know thee again?

**KING HENRY V**

Give me any gage of thine, and I will wear it in my bonnet. Then, if ever thou darest acknowledge it, I will make it my quarrel.

**WILLIAMS**

Here's my glove. Give me another of thine.

**KING HENRY V**

There.

**WILLIAMS**

This will I also wear in my cap. If ever thou come to me and say after to-morrow 'This is my glove,' by this hand, I will take thee a box on the ear.

**KING HENRY V**

If ever I live to see it, I will challenge it.

**WILLIAMS**

Thou darest as well be hanged.

**KING HENRY V**

Well, I will do it, though I take thee in the King's company.

**WILLIAMS**

Keep thy word: fare thee well.