

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Henry IV Part I

Act II, Scene 3: Kate Percy Soliloquy

Percy's castle. He has decided, after troubled deliberation, to join the rebellion against the king. His wife, Kate Percy enters to try and calm his cares, but also to discover what he is plotting.

O my good lord, why are you thus alone?
For what offence have I this fortnight been
A banished woman from my Harry's bed?
Tell me, sweet lord, what is't that takes from thee
Thy stomach, pleasure, and thy golden sleep?
Why dost thou bend thy eyes upon the earth,
And start so often when thou sitt'st alone?
Why hast thou lost the fresh blood in thy cheeks,
And given my treasures and my rights of thee
To thick-eyed musing and crused melancholy?
In thy faint slumbers I by thee have watched,
And heard thee murmur tales of iron wars,
Speak terms of manage to thy bounding steed,
Cry "Courage! To the field!" And thou hast talked
Of sallies and retires, of trenches, tents,
Of palisadoes, frontiers, parapets,
Of basilisks, of cannon, culverin,
Of prisoners ransomed, and of soldiers slain,
And all the currents of a heady fight.
Thy spirit within thee hath been so at war,
That beads of sweat have stood upon thy brow.
And in thy face strange motions have appeared,
Such as we see when men restrain their breath.
Some heavy business hath my lord in hand,
And I must know it, else he loves me not.

