



# The life and death of King Iohn.

## Actus Primus, Scena Prima.

Enter King Iohn, Queene Eleanor, Pembroke, Essex, and Salisbury, with the Chastillon of France.

King Iohn.

**N**ow lay Chastillon, what would France with vs?  
 Chat. Thus (after greeting) speakes the King  
 of France,

In my behaviour to the Maiesty,  
 The borrowed Maiesty of England heere.

Elen. A strange beginning: borrowed Maiesty?

K. Iohn. Silence (good mother) heare the Embassie.

Chat, Philip of France, in right and true behalf  
 Of thy deceated brother, Geffreyes sonne,  
 Arthur Plantagenet, laies most lawfull claime  
 To this faire land, and the Territories:  
 To Ireland, Poitiers, Anjou, Torayne, Maine,  
 Desiring thee to lay aside the sword  
 Which by aies vsurpingly these feucrall titles,  
 And put the same into yong Arthurs hand,  
 Thy Nephew, and right royall Soueraigne.

K. Iohn. What followes if we disallow of this?

Chat. The proud controle of fierce and bloody warre,  
 To enforce these rights, to forcibly withheld,

K. Iohn. Heere haue we war for war, & bloud for bloud,  
 Controlement for controlement: so answer France.

Chat. Then take my Kings defiance from my mouth,  
 The farthest limit of my Embassie.

K. Iohn. Beare mine to him, and so depart in peace,

Be thou as lightning in the eies of France;

For ere thou canst report, I will be there:

The thunder of my Cannon shall be heard.

So hence: be thou the trumpet of our wrath,

And fullen preface of your owne decay:

An honourable conduct let him haue,

Pembroke looke too't: farewell Chastillon.

Exit Chat and Tem.

Elen. What now my sonne, haue I not euer said  
 How that ambitious Constance would not cease  
 Till she had kindled France and all the world,  
 Vpon the right and party of her sonne.  
 This might haue beene preuented, and made whole  
 With very easie arguments of loue,  
 Which now the mannage of two kingdomes must  
 With fearefull bloody issue arbitrate.

K. Iohn. Our strong possession, and our right for vs.

Elen. Your strong possessio much more then your right,  
 Or else it must go wrong with you and me,  
 So much my conscience whispers in your eare,

Which none but heauen, and you, and I, shall heare.

Enter a Sheriffe.

Elen. My Liege, here is the strangest controuersie  
 Come from the Country to be iudg'd by you  
 That ere I heard. Shall I produce the men?

K. Iohn. Let them approach:

Our Abbies and our Priorities shall pay

This expeditious charge: what men are you?

Enter Robert Faulconbridge, and Philip.

Philip. Your faithfull subject, I a gentleman,  
 Borne in Northamptonshire, and eldest sonne  
 As I suppose, to Robert Faulconbridge,  
 A Souldier by the Honor-giving-hand  
 Of Cord Lion Knighted in the field.

K. Iohn. What art thou?

Robert. The son and heire to that same Faulconbridge.

K. Iohn. Is that the elder, and art thou the heyre?  
 You came not of one mother then it seemes.

Philip. Most certain of one mother, mighty King,  
 That is well knowne, and as I thinke one father:  
 But for the certaine knowledge of that truth,  
 I put you o're to heauen, and to my mother;  
 Of that I doubt, as all mens children may.

Elen. Out on thee rude man, y dost shame thy mother,  
 And wound her honor with this diffidence.

Philip. I Madame? No, I haue no reason for it,  
 That is my brothers plea, and none of mine.

The which if he can proue, a pops me out,

At least from faire five hundred pound a yeere:

He men guard my mothers honor, and my Land.

K. Iohn. A good blunt fellow: why being younger born  
 Doth he lay claime to thine inheritance?

Philip. I know not why, except to get the land:

But once he slanderd me with bastardy:

But where I be as true begot or no,

That still I lay vpon my mothers head,

But that I am as well begot my Liege  
 (Faie fall the bones that tooke the paines for me)

Compare our faces, and be Iudge your selfe

If old Sir Robert did beget vs both,

And were our father, and this sonne like him:

Old sir Robert Father, on my knee

I giue heauen thanks I was not like to thee.

K. Iohn. Why what a mad-cap hath heauen lent vs here?

Elen. He hath a tricke of Cordelions face,

The accent of his tongue affecteth him:

Doe you not read some tokens of my sonne

In the large composition of this man?

K. Iohn

*K. Iohn.* Mine eye hath well examined his parts,  
And findes them perfect *Richard*: sirra speake,  
What doth moue you to claime your brothers land.

*Philp.* Because he hath a half-face like my father:  
With halfe that face would he haue all my land:  
A halfe-fac'd goat, five hundred pound a yeare.

*Rob.* My gracious Liege, when that my father shu'd,  
Your brother did employ my father much.

*Phil.* Well sir, by this you cannot get my land,  
Your tale must be how he employ'd my mother.

*Rob.* And once dispatch'd him in an Embassie  
To *Germany*, there with the Emperour  
To treat of high affaires touching that time:  
Th'aduantage of his absence tooke the King,  
And in the meane time sojourn'd at my fathers;  
Where how he did preuaile, I shame to speake:  
But truth is truth, large lengths of seas and shores  
Betwoene my father, and my mother lay,  
As I haue heard my father speake himselfe  
When this same lusty gentleman was got:  
Vpon his death-bed he by will bequeath'd  
His lands to me, and tooke it on his death  
That this my mothers sonne was none of his,  
And if he were, he came into the world  
Full fourteene weekes before the course of time:  
Then good my Lidge let me haue what is mine,  
My fathers land, as was my fathers will.

*K. Iohn.* Sirra, your brother is Legittimate,  
Your fathers wife did after wedlocke beare him:  
And if she did play false, the fault was hers,  
Which fault lyes on the bazards of all husbands  
That marry wiues: tell me, how if my brother  
Who as you say, tooke paines to get this sonne,  
Had of your father claim'd this sonne for his,  
Insooth, good friend, your father might haue kept  
This Calfe, bred from his Cow from all the world.  
Insooth he might: then if he were my brothers,  
My brother might not claime him, nor your father  
Being none of his, refuse him: thus concludes,  
My mothers sonne did get you: fathers heyre,  
Your fathers heyre must haue your fathers land.

*Rob.* Shal'then my fathers Will be of no force,  
To dispossesse that childe which is not his.

*Phil.* Of no more force to dispossesse me sir,  
Then was his will to get me, as I think.

*Ele.* Whether hadst thou rather be a *Faulconbridge*,  
And like thy brother to enioy thy land:  
Or the reputed sonne of *Cordelion*,  
Lord of thy presence, and no land beside.

*Raff.* Madam, and if my brother had my shape  
And I had his, sir *Roberts* his like him,  
And if my legs were two such riding rods,  
My armes, such eele skins stuf, my face to thin,  
That in mine eare I durst not sticke a roe,  
Left men should say, looke where three farthings goes,  
And to his shape were heyre to all this land,  
Would I might neuer stirre from off this place,  
I would giue it eny foot to haue this face:  
It would not be sir noble in any case.

*Elmor.* I like thee well: wilt thou forsake thy fortune,  
Bequeath thy land to him, and follow me?  
I am a Souldier, and now bound to *France*.

*Raff.* Brother, take you my land, Ile take my chances,  
Your face hath got five hundred pound a yeare,  
Yet sell your face for five pence and 'tis decreed:  
Madam, Ile follow you vnto the death.

*Elmor.* Nay, I would haue you go before me thither.

*Bast.* Our Country manners giue our betters way.

*K. Iohn.* What is thy name?

*Bast.* *Philp* my Liege, so is my name begun,  
*Philp*, good old *Sir Roberts* viues eldest sonne.

*K. Iohn.* From henceforth beare his name  
Whose forme thou bearest:

Kneele thou downe *Philp*, but rise more great,  
Arise *Sir Richard*, and *Plantagenet*.

*Bast.* Brother by th'mothers side, giue me your hand,  
My father gaue me honor, yours gaue land:  
Now blessed be the houre by night or day  
When I was got, *Sir Robert* was away.

*Ele.* The very spirit of *Plantagenet*:  
I am thy grandame *Richard*, call me so.

*Bast.* Madam by chance, but not by truth, what tho;  
Something about a litle from the right,  
In at the window, or else ore the hatch:  
Who dares not sture by day, must walke by night,  
And haue is haue, how euer men doe catch:  
Neere or farre off well wonne is still well shor,  
And I am I, how ere I was begot.

*K. Iohn.* Goe, *Faulconbridge*, now hast thou thy desire,  
A landlesse Knight, makes thee a landed Squire:  
Come Madam, and come *Richard*, we must speed  
For *France*, for *France*, for it is more then need.

*Bast.* Brother adieu, good fortune come to thee,  
For thou wast got with way of honesty.

*Exeunt all but bastard.*

*Bast.* A foot of Honor better then I was,  
But many a many foot of Land the worse.  
Well, now can I make any *Ioane* a Lady,  
Good den *Sir Richard*, Godamercy fellow,  
And if his name be *George*, Ile call him *Peter*;  
For new made honor doth forget mens names:  
'Tis two respectiue, and too sociable  
For your conuersion, now your trauelle,  
Hee and his tooth-picke at my worships messe,  
And when my knightly stomacke is suffis'd,  
Why then I tuse my teeth, and catechize  
My picked man of Countines: my deare sir,  
Thus leaning on mine elbow I begin,  
I shall beseech you; that is question now,  
And then comes answer like an *Absley* booke:  
Oir, taves answer, at your best command,  
At your employment, at your seruice sir:  
No sir, sues question, I sweet in at points,  
And so ere answer knowes what question would,  
Saung in Dialogue of Complement,  
And talking of the Alpes and Appennines,  
The *Perenne* in and the river *Poe*,  
It drawes toward supper in conclusion so.  
But this is worshipfull society,  
And fits the mounting spirit like my selfe;  
For he is but a bastard to the time  
That doth not inoake of obseruation,  
And so am I whether I smacke or no.  
And not alone in habit and deuice,  
Exterior forme, outward accoutrement;  
But from the inward motion to deliuer  
Sweet, sweet, sweet poyson for the ages tooth,  
Which though I will not practise to deceiue,  
Yet to auoid deceit I meane to learne;  
For it shall strew the footsteps of my sinning:  
But who comes in such haste in riding robes?

What

What woman post is this? hath she no husband  
That will take paines to blow a horn before her?  
O me, 'tis my mother: how now good Lady,  
What brings you heere to Court so hastily?

Enter Lady Faulconbridge and James Gurney.

Lady. Where is that slaue thy brother? where is he?  
That holds in chafe mine honour vp and downe.

Bast. My brother Robert, old Sir Roberts sonne:  
Colbrand the Gyant, that same mighty man,  
Is it Sir Roberts sonne that you seeke so?

Lady. Sir Roberts sonne, I thou vnreuerend boy,  
Sir Roberts sonne? why scorn'st thou at sir Robert?  
He is Sir Roberts sonne, and so art thou.

Bast. James Gournie, wilt thou giue vs leaue a while?

Gour. Good leaue good Philip.

Bast. Philip, sparrow, James,  
There's toys abroad, anon Ile tell thee more.

Exit James.

Madam, I was not old Sir Roberts sonne,  
Sir Robert might haue eat his part in me  
Vpon good Friday, and nere broke his fast:  
Sir Robert could doe well, marrie to confesse  
Could get me sir Robert could not doe it;  
We know his handy-worke, therefore good mother  
To whom am I beholding for these limmes?  
Sir Robert neuer holpe to make this legge.

Lady. Hast thou conspired with thy brother too,  
That for thine owne gaine shouldst defend mine honor?  
What meanes this scorne, thou most vntoward knaue?

Bast. Knight, knight good mother, Basilisco-like:  
What, I am dub'd, I haue it on my shoulder.  
But mother, I am not Sir Roberts sonne,  
I haue disclaim'd Sir Robert and my land,  
Legitimation, name, and all is gone;  
Then good my mother, let me know my father,  
Some proper man I hope, who was it mother?

Lady. Hast thou denied thy selfe a Faulconbridge?

Bast. As faithfully as I denie the deuill

Lady. King Richard Cordelion was thy father,  
By long and vehement suit I was seduc'd  
To make roome for him in my husbands bed:  
Heauen lay not my transgression to my charge,  
That art the issue of my deere offence  
Which was so strongly vrg'd past my defence.

Bast. Now by this light were I to get againe,  
Madam I would not wish a better father:  
Some sinnes doe beare their priuiledge on earth,  
And so doth yours: your fault, was not your follie,  
Needs must you lay your heart at his dispose,  
Subiected tribute to commanding loue,  
Against whose furie and vnmatched force,  
The awlesse Lion could not wage the fight,  
Nor keepe his Princely heart from Richards hand:  
He that perforce robs Lions of their hearts,  
May easily winne a womans: aye my mother,  
With all my heart I thanke thee for my father:  
Who liues and dares but say, thou didst not well  
When I was got, Ile send his soule to hell.  
Come Lady I will shew thee to my kinne,  
And they shall say, when Richard me begot,  
If thou hadst sayd him nay, it had beene sinne;  
Who sayes it was, he lyes, I say twas not.

Exeunt.

Scena Secunda.

Enter before Angiers, Philip King of France, Lewis, Dauphin, Austria, Constance, Arthur.

Lewis. Before Angiers well met braue Austria,  
Arthur that great fore-runner of thy blood,  
Richard that rob'd the Lion of his heart,  
And fought the holy Warres in Palestine,  
By this braue Duke came early to his graue;  
And for amends to his posteritie,  
At our importance hether is he come,  
To spread his colours boy, in thy behalfe,  
And to rebuke the vsurpation  
Of thy vnnaturall Vncle, English John,  
Embrace him, loue him, giue him welcome hether.

Arth. God shall forgie you Cordelions death  
The rather, that you giue his off-spring life,  
Shadowing their right vnder your wings of warret  
I giue you welcome with a powerlesse hand,  
But with a heart full of vntained loue,  
Welcome before the gates of Angiers Duke.

Lewis. A noble boy, who would not doe thee right?

Aust. Vpon thy cheeke lay I this zelous kisse,  
As seale to this indenture of my loue:  
That to my home I will no more returne  
Till Angiers, and the right thou hast in France,  
Together with that pale, that white-fac'd shore,  
Whose foot spurnes backe the Oceans roaring tides,  
And coopes from other lands her Islanders,  
Euen till that England hedg'd in with the maine,  
That Water-walled Bulwarke, still secure  
And confident from forreine purposes,  
Euen till that vtmost corner of the West  
Salute thee for her King, till then faire boy  
Will I not thinke of home, but follow Armes.

Const. O take his mothers thanks, a widdows thanks,  
Till your strong hand shall helpe to giue him strength,  
To make a more requitall to your loue.

Aust. The peace of heauen is theirs: lift their swords  
In such a iust and charitable warre.

King. Well, then to worke our Cannon shall be bent  
Against the browes of this resisting towne,  
Call for our cheefest men of discipline,  
To cull the plots of best aduantages:  
Wee'll lay before this towne our Royal bones;  
Wade to the market-place in French-mens blood,  
But we will make it subiect to this boy.

Con. Stay for an answer to your Embassie,  
Lest vnaduis'd you staine your swords with blood,  
My Lord Chastilion may from England bring  
That right in peace which heere we vrg'e in warre,  
And then we shall repent each drop of blood;  
That hot rash haste so indirectly shedde.

Enter Chastilion.

King. A wonder Lady: lo vpon thy wish  
Our Messenger Chastilion is arriu'd,  
What England saies, say breefely gentle Lords:  
We coldly pause for thee, Chastilion speake,

Chas. Then turne your forces from this paltry siege,  
And stirre them vp against a mightier task:  
England impatient of your iust demands,  
Hath put himselfe in Armes, the aduerser winds

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Whose

Whose leisure I haue staid, haue giuen him time  
To land his Legions all as soone as I:  
His marches are expedient to this purpose,  
His forces strong, his Souldiers confident:  
With him along is come the Mother Queene,  
An Ace stirring him to bloud and strife,  
With her her Neece, the Lady *Blanch* of *Spaine*,  
With them a Bastard of the Kings decait,  
And all th'vntused humors of the Land,  
Rash, inconsiderate, fiery voluntaries,  
With Ladies faces, and fierce Dragons spleenes,  
Haue sold their fortunes at their natiue homes,  
Bearing their birth-rights proudly on their backs,  
To make a hazard of new fortunes heere:  
In brieft, a brauer choyse of dauntlesse spirits  
Then now the *English* botcomes haue waft o're,  
Did neuer stote vpon the swelling tide,  
To doe offence and scathe in Christendome;  
The interruption of their churlish drums  
Cuts off more circumstance, they are at hand,

*Drum beats.*

To parlie or to fight, therefore prepare.

*King.* How much vnlook'd for, is this expedition.

*Anst.* By how much vnexpected, by to much  
We must awake in dueor for defence,  
For courage mounteth with occasion,  
Let them be welcome then, we are prepar'd.

*Enter King of England, Bastard, Queene, Blanch, Pembroke,  
and others.*

*King John.* Peace be to *France*: If *France* in peace permit  
Our iust and lineall entrance to our owne;  
If not, bleede *France*, and peace ascend to heauen.  
Whiles we Gods wrathfull agent doe correct  
Their proud contempt that beats his peace to heauen.

*Fran.* Peace be to *England*, if that warre returne  
From *France* to *England*, there to liue in peace:  
*England* we loue, and for that *Englands* sake,  
With burden of our armor heere we sweat:  
This toyle of ours should be a worke of thine;  
But thou from loosing *England* art so farre,  
That thou hast vnder-wrought his lawfull King,  
Cut off the sequence of posterity,  
Out-faced Infant State, and done a rape  
Vpon the maiden vertue of the Crowne:  
Looke heere vpon thy brother *Geffreyes* face,  
These eyes, these browes, were moulded out of his;  
This little abstract doth containe that large,  
Which died in *Geffrey*: and the hand of time,  
Shall draw this breese into as huge a volume:  
That *Geffrey* was thy elder brother borne,  
And this his sonne, *England* was *Geffreyes* right,  
And this is *Geffreyes* in the name of God:  
How comes it then that thou art call'd a King,  
When liuing blood doth in these temples beat  
Which owe the crowne, that thou ore-masterest?

*King John.* From whom hast thou this great commission  
To draw my answer from thy Articles? (*France*,

*Fra.* From that supernal Iudge that stirs good thoughts  
In any beak of strong authoritie,  
To looke into the blots and staines of right,  
That Iudge hath made me guardian to this boy,  
Vnder whose warrant I impeach thy wrong,  
And by whose helpe I meane to chastise it.

*King John.* Alack thou dost vsurpe authoritie.

*Fran.* Excuse it is to beat vsurping downe.

*Queen.* Who is it thou dost call vsurper *France*?

*Const.* Let me make answer: thy vsurping sonne.

*Queen.* Out insolent, thy bastard shall be King,  
That thou maist be a Queen, and checke the world.

*Con.* My bed was euer to thy sonne as true  
As thine was to thy husband, and this boy  
Liker in feature to his father *Geffrey*  
Then thou and *John*, in manners being as like,  
As raine to water, or deuill to his damme;  
My boy a bastard? by my soule I thinke  
His father neuer was so true begot,  
It cannot be, and if thou wert his mother.

(*ther*

*Queen.* There's a good mother boy, that blots thy fa-

*Const.* There's a good grandame boy  
That would blot thee.

*Anst.* Peace.

*Bast.* Heare the Cryer.

*Anst.* What the deuill art thou?

*Bast.* One that wil play the deuill fir with you,  
And a may catch your hide and you alone:  
You are the Hare of whom the Prouerb goes  
Whose valour plucks dead Lyons by the beard;  
He smoake your skin-coat and I catch you right,  
Sirra looke too't, yfaith I will, yfaith.

*Blan.* O well did he become that Lyons robe,  
That did disrobe the Lion of that robe.

*Bast.* It lies as sightly on the backe of him  
As great *Alcides* shooes vpon an Ass:  
But Ass, he take that burthen from your backe,  
Or lay on that shall make your shoulders cracke.

*Anst.* What cracker is this same that deafes our eares  
With this abundance of superfluous breath?  
King *Lewis*, determine what we shall doe strait.

*Lew.* Women & fooles, breake off your confesence.  
King *John*, this is the very summe of all:  
*England* and *Ireland*, *Angiers*, *Toraine*, *Maine*,  
In right of *Arthur* doe I claime of thee:

Wilt thou resigne them, and lay downe thy Armes?

*John.* My life as soone: I doe defie thee *France*,  
*Arthur* of *Britaine*, yeeld thee to my hand,  
And out of my deere loue he giue thee more,  
Then ere the coward hand of *France* can win;  
Submit thee boy.

*Queen.* Come to thy grandame child.

*Const.* Doe childe, goe to yt grandame childe,  
Giue grandame kingdome, and it grandame will  
Giue yt a plum, a cherry, and a figge,  
There's a good grandame.

*Arthur.* Good my mother peace,  
I would that I were low laid in my graue,  
I am not worth this coyle that's made for me. (*weepes.*)

*Qu. Mo.* His mother shames him so, poore boy hee

*Con.* Now shame vpon you where shee does or no,  
His grandames wrongs, and not his mothers shames  
Drawes those heauen-mouing pearles from his poor eies,  
Which heauen shall take in nature of a fee:  
I, with these Christall beads heauen shall be brib'd  
To doe him Iustice, and reuenge on you.

*Qu.* Thou monstrous slanderer of heauen and earth.

*Con.* Thou monstrous Iniurer of heauen and earth,  
Call not me slanderer, thou and thine vsurpe  
The Dominations, Royalties, and rights  
Of this oppressed boy; this is thy eldest sonnes sonne,  
Infortunate in nothing but in thee:

Thy

Thy finnes are visited in this poore childe,  
The Canon of the Law is laide on him,  
Being but the second generation  
Remoued from thy sinne-conceiuing worabe.

*John.* Bedlam haue done.

*Con.* I haue but this to say,  
That he is not onely plagued for her sin,  
But God hath made her sinne and her, the plague  
On this remoued issue, plagued for her,  
And with her plague her sinne: his iniury  
Her iniurie the Beadle to her sinne,  
All punish'd in the person of this childe,  
And all for her, a plague vpon her.

*Que.* Thou vnaduised scold, I can produce  
A Will, that barres the title of thy sonne.

*Con.* I who doubts that, a Will: a wicked will,  
A womans will, a cankred Grandams will.

*Fra.* Peace Lady, pause, or be more temperate,  
It ill befeemes this prience to cry ayme  
To these ill tuned repetitions:  
Some Trumpet summon hither to the walles  
These men of Angiers, let vs heare them speake,  
Whose title they admit, *Arthurs* or *Johns*.

*Trumpet sounds.*

*Enter a Citizen vpon the walles.*

*Cit.* Who is it that hath warn'd vs to the walles?

*Fra.* 'Tis France, for England.

*John.* England for it selfe:

You men of Angiers, and my louing subiects,

*Fra.* You louing men of Angiers, *Arthurs* subiects,  
Our Trumpet call'd you to this gentle parle.

*John.* For our aduantage, therefore heare vs first:  
These flagges of France that are aduanced heere  
Before the eye and prospect of your Towne,  
Haue hither march'd to your endamagement.  
The Canons haue their bowels full of wrath,  
And ready mounted are they to spit forth  
Their Iron indignation 'gainst your walles:  
All preparation for a bloody siege  
And merciles proceeding, by these French.  
Comfort yours Citties eies, your winking gates:  
And but for our approach, those sleeping stones,  
That as a waste doth girdle you about  
By the compulsion of their Ordinance,  
By this time from their fixed beds of lime  
Had bin dishabited, and wide hauocke made  
For bloody power to rush vpon your peace.  
But on the sight of vs your lawfull King,  
Who painefully with much expedient march  
Haue brought a counter-checke before your gates,  
To saue vnscratch'd your Citties threatned cheekes:  
Behold the French amaz'd vouchsafe a parole,  
And now instead of bullets wrapt in fire  
To make a shaking sauer in your walles,  
They shoope but calme words, folded vp in smooke,  
To make a faithlesse error in your eares,  
Which trust accordingly kinde Cittizens,  
And let vs in. Your King, whose labour'd spirits  
Fore-wearied in this action of swift speede,  
Craues harborage within your Cittie walles.

*Fraunce.* When I haue laide, make answer to vs both.  
Loe in this right hand, whose protection  
Is most diuinely vow'd vpon the right  
Of him it holds, stands yong *Plantagenet*,  
Sonne to the elder brother of this man,

And King ore him, and all that he enioyes:  
For this downe-troden equity, we tread  
In warlike march, these greenes before your Towne,  
Being no further euemy to you  
Then the constraint of hospitable zeale,  
In the relecte of this oppressed childe,  
Religiously prouoke. Be pleased then  
To pay that dutie which you truly owe,  
To him that owes it, namely, this yong Prince,  
And then our Armes, like to a muzled Beare,  
Saue in aspect, hath all offence seal'd vp:  
Our Cannons malice vainly shall be spent  
Against th'invulnerable clouds of heauen,  
And with a blessed and vn-vext retyre,  
With vnhack'd swords, and Helmets all vnbruis'd,  
We will beare home that lustie blood againe,  
Which heere we came to spout against your Towne,  
And leaue your children, wiues, and you in peace.  
But if you fondly passe our proffer'd offer,  
'Tis not the rounder of your old-fac'd walles,  
Can hide you from our messengers of Warre,  
Though all these English, and their discipline  
Were harbour'd in their rude circumference:  
Then tell vs, Shall your Citie call vs Lord,  
In that behalfe which we haue challeng'd it?  
Or shall we giue the signall to our rage,  
And flake in blood to our possession?

*Cit.* In breefe, we are the King of Englands subiects  
For him, and in his right, we hold this Towne.

*John.* Acknowledge then the King, and let me in.

*Cit.* That can we not: but he that proues the King  
To him will we proue loyall, till that time  
Haue we rammi'd vp our gates against the world.

*John.* Doth not the Crowne of England, proues the  
King?

And if not that, I bring you Witnesse  
Twice fiftene thousand hearts of Englands breed.

*Bast.* Bastards and else.

*John.* To verifie our title with their liues.

*Fra.* As many and as well-borne bloods as those.

*Bast.* Some Bastards too.

*Fra.* Stand in his face to contradict his claime.

*Cit.* Till you compound whose right is worthiest,  
We for the worthiest hold the right from both.

*John.* Then God forgue the sinne of all thoe soules,  
That to their euerlasting residence,  
Before the dew of euening fall, shall flecte  
In dreadfull triall of our kingdomes King.

*Fra.* Amen, Amen, mount Cheualiers to Armes!

*Bast.* Saint George that swindg'd the Dragon,  
And ere since sit's on's horsebacke at mine Hostesse dore  
Teach vs some fence. Sirrah, were I at home  
At your dea sirrah, with your Lionnesse,  
I would set an Oxe-head to your Lyons hide:  
And make a monster of you.

*Aust.* Peace, no more.

*Bast.* Dremble: for you heare the Lyon rore.

*John.* Vp higher to the plaine, where we'll set forth  
In best appoiatment all our Regiment.

*Bast.* Speed then to take aduantage of the field.

*Fra.* It shall be so, and at the other hill.

Command the rest to stand, God and our right, *Exeunt*  
*Heere after excursions, Enter the Herald of France*  
*with Trumpets to the gates.*

*F. Her.* You men of Angiers open wide your gates,  
And let yong *Arthur* Duke of Britaine in,

Who by the hand of France, this day hath made  
 Much worke for teares in many an English mother,  
 Whose sonnes lye scattered on the bleeding ground :  
 Many a widdowes husband grousling lies,  
 Coldly embracing the discoloured earth,  
 And victorie with little losse doth play  
 Vpon the dancing banners of the French,  
 Who are at hand triumphantly displayed  
 To enter Conquerors, and to proclaime  
 Arthur of Britaine, Englands King, and yours.

*Enter English Herald with Trumpets.*

*E. Her.* Reioyce you men of Angiers, ring your bells,  
 King John, your king and Englands, doth approach,  
 Commander of this hot malicious day,  
 Their Armourd that march'd hence so siluer bright,  
 Hither retaine all gilt with Frenchmens blood :  
 There stucke no plume in any English Crest,  
 That is remoued by a staffe of France .  
 Our colours do returne in those same bands  
 That did display them when we first marcht forth :  
 And like a iolly troope of Huntsmen come  
 Our lustie English, all with purpled hands,  
 Dide in the dying slaughter of their foes,  
 Open your gates, and giue the Victors way.

*Hubert.* Herald, from off our towres we might behold  
 From first to last, the on-set and retyre ;  
 Of both your Armies, whose equality  
 By our best eyes cannot be censured : (blowes :  
 Blood hath bought blood, and blowes haue answerd  
 Strength matcht with strength, and power confronted  
 power,

Both are alike, and both alike we like :  
 One must proue greatest. While they weigh so euer,  
 We hold our Towne for neither : yet for both.

*Enter the two Kings with their powers,  
 at severall doores.*

*John.* France, hast thou yet more blood to cast away?  
 Say, shall the currant of our right come on,  
 Whose passage vext with thy impediment,  
 Shall leaue his native channell, and ore-swell  
 with course disturb'd euen thy confining shores,  
 Vnlesse thou let his siluer Water, keepe  
 A peacefull progresse to the Ocean.

*Fra.* England thou hast not sau'd one drop of blood  
 In this hot triall more then we of France,  
 Rather lost more. And by this hand I sweare  
 That swayes the earth this Climate ouer-lookes,  
 Before we will lay downe our iust-borne Armes,  
 Wee I put thee downe, gainst whom these Armes wee  
 Or adde a royall number to the dead : (beare,  
 Gracing the scroule that tels of this warres losse,  
 With slaughter coupled to the name of kings.

*Bast.* Ha Maiesty : how high thy glory towres,  
 When the rich blood of kings is set on fire :  
 Oh now doth death line his dead chaps with Steele,  
 The swords of souldiers are his teeth, his phangs,  
 And now he feasts, mousing the flesh of men  
 In vndermin'd differences of kings.  
 Why stand these royall fronts amazed thus :  
 Cry hauocke kings, backe to the stained field  
 You equal Potents, fierie kindled spirits,  
 Then let confusion of one part confirm  
 The others peace : till then, blowes, blood, and death.

*John.* Whose party do the Townesmen yet admie?

*Fra.* Speake Citizens for England, whose your king.

*Hub.* The king of England, when we know the king.

*Fra.* Know him in vs, that heere hold vp his right.

*John.* In Vs, that are our owne great Deputie,  
 And beare possession of our Person heere,  
 Lord of our presence Angiers, and of you.

*Fra.* A greater powre then We denies all this,  
 And till it be vndoubted, we do locke  
 Our former scruple in our strong barr'd gates :  
 Kings of our feare, vntill our feares resolu'd  
 Be by some certaine king, purg'd and depos'd.

*Bast.* By heauen, these scroyles of Angiers flout you  
 And stand securely on their battelments, (kings,  
 As in a Theater, whence they gape and point  
 At your industrious Scenes and acts of death.  
 Your Royall presences be rul'd by mee,  
 Do like the Mutines of Ierusalem,  
 Be friends a-while, and both conioyntly bend  
 Your sharpest Deeds of malice on this Towne.  
 By East and West let France and England mount.  
 Their battering Canon charged to the mouthes,  
 Till their soule-fearing clamours haue brauil'd downe  
 The flintie ribbes of this contemptuous Citie,  
 I'de play incessantly vpon these Iades,  
 Euen till vnscenced desolation

Leaue them as naked as the vulgar ayre :  
 That done, disseuer your vnited strengths,  
 And part your mingled colours once againe,  
 Turne face to face, and bloody point to point.

Then in a moment Fortune shall cull forth  
 Out of one side her happy Minion,  
 To whom in fauour she shall giue the day,  
 And kisse him with a glorious victory :  
 How like you this wilde counsell mighty States,  
 Smackes it not something of the policie.

*John.* Now by the sky that hangs aboute our heads,  
 I like it well. France, shall we knit our powres,  
 And lay this Angiers euen with the ground,  
 Then after fight whis shall be king of it ?

*Bast.* And if thou hast the mettle of a king,  
 Being wrong'd as we are by this peccish Towne :  
 Turne thou the mouth of thy Artillerie,  
 As we will ours, against these sawcie walles,  
 And when that we haue dash'd them to the ground,  
 Why then defie each other, and pell-mell,  
 Make worke vpon our selues, for heauen or hell.

*Fra.* Let it be so : say, where will you assault ?

*John.* We from the West will send destruction  
 Into this Cities bosome.

*Aust.* I from the North.

*Fra.* Our Thunder from the South,  
 Shall raine their drift of bullets on this Towne.

*Bast.* O prudent discipline ! From North to South :  
 Austria and France shoot in each others mouth,  
 Ile stirre them to it : Come, away, away.

*Hub.* Heere vs great kings, vouchsafe awhile to stay  
 And I shall shew you peace, and faire-fac'd league :  
 Win you this Citie without stroke, or wound,  
 Rescuc those breathing liues to dye in beds,  
 That heere come sacrifices for the field.  
 Perseuer not, but heare me mighty kings.

*John.* Speake on with fauour, we are bent to heare.

*Hub.* That daughter there of Spaine, the Lady Blanch  
 Is nere to England, looke vpon the yeeres  
 Of Lewis the Dolphin, and that louely maid.  
 If lustie loue should go in quest of beautie,

Where

Where should he finde it fairer, then in *Blanch* :  
 If zealous loue should go in search of vertue,  
 Where should he finde it purer then in *Blanch* ?  
 If loue ambitious, sought a match of birth,  
 Whose veines bound richer blood then Lady *Blanch* ?  
 Such as she is, in beautie, vertue, birth,  
 Is the yong Dolphin euery way compleat,  
 If not compleat of, say he is not shee,  
 And she againe wants nothing, to name want,  
 If want it be not, that she is not hee :  
 He is the halfe part of a blessed man,  
 Left to be finished by such as shee,  
 And she a faire diuided excellence,  
 Whose fulnesse of perfection lyes in him.  
 O two such siluer currents when they ioyne  
 Do glorifie the bankes that bound them in :  
 And two such shores, to two such streames made one,  
 Two such controlling bounds shall you be, kings,  
 To the two Princes, if you marrie them:  
 This Union shall do more then batterie can  
 To our fast closed gates : for at this match,  
 With swifter spleene then powder can enforce  
 The mouth of passage shall we fling wide ope,  
 And giue you entrance : but without this match,  
 The sea entaged is not halfe so deafe,  
 I yors more confident, Mountaines and rockes  
 More free from monion, no not death himselfe  
 In mortall furie halfe so peremptorie,  
 As we to keepe this Citie.

*Bas.* Heeres a stay,  
 That shakes the rotten carkasse of old death.  
 Out of his ragges. Here's a large mouth in dedde,  
 That spits forth death, and mountaines, rockes, and seas,  
 Talkes as familiarly of roaring Lyons,  
 As maids of thirteene do of puppy dogges.  
 What Cannonere be got this litle blood,  
 He takes plane Cannon fire, and linoake, and bounce,  
 He giues the battinade with his tongue :  
 Our eares are coldgeld, not a word of his  
 But buifets better then a fist of iustice :  
 Zounds, I was neuer so be-nurpt with words,  
 Since I first cal'd my brothers father Dad.

*Old Qu.* Son, list to this coniunction, make this match  
 Giue with our Neece a dowrie large enough,  
 For by this knot, thou shalt so surely tye  
 Thy now vnfur'd assurance to the Crowne,  
 That yon greene boy shall haue no Soome to ripe  
 The bloome that promisseth a mightie fruite  
 I see a yeelding in the lockes of France :  
 Marke how they whisper, vrge them while their soules  
 Are capeable of this ambition,  
 Least zeale now melted by the windie breath  
 Of soft petitions, pittie and remorse,  
 Coole and congeale againe to what it was.

*Hub.* Why answer not the double Maesties,  
 This friendly treatie of our threatned Towne.  
*Fra.* Speake England first, that hath bin forward first  
 To speake vnto this Citie : what say you ?

*John.* If that the Dolphin there thy Princely sonne,  
 Can in this booke of Leautie read, I loue :  
 Her Dowrie shall weigh equall with a Queene :  
 For *Augiers*, and faire *Terraine Maunc*, *Poytiers*,  
 And all that we vpon this side the Sea,  
 (Except this Citie now by vs besiedg'd)  
 Shall gild her bridall bed and make her rich

In titles, honors, and promotions,  
 As shee in beautie, education, blood,  
 Holdes hand with any Princesse of the world.

*Fra.* What saist thou boy ? looke in the Ladies face.  
*Del.* I do my Lord, and in her eie I find  
 A wonder, or a wondrous miracle,  
 The shadow of my selfe form'd in her eye,  
 Which being but the shadow of your sonne,  
 Becomes a sonne and makes your sonne a shadow.  
 I do protest I neuer lou'd my selfe  
 Till now, infixed I beheld my selfe,  
 Drawne in the flattering table of her eie.

*Whispers with Blanch.*

*Bas.* Drawne in the flattering table of her eie,  
 Hang'd in the frowning wrinkle of her brow,  
 And quarter'd in her heart, hee doth eipie  
 Himselfe louestraytor, this is pittie now ;  
 That hang'd, and drawne, and quarter'd there should be  
 In such a loue, to vile a I but as hee.

*Blanch.* My vuckles will in this respect is mine,  
 If hee see ought in you that makes him like,  
 That any thing he sees which moues his liking,  
 I can with ease translate it to my will :  
 Or if you will, to speake more properly,  
 I will enforce it easie to my loue.  
 Further I will not flatter you, my Lord,  
 That all I see in you is worthe loue,  
 Then this, that nothing do I see in you,  
 I though enough both oughts themselves should see your  
 iudge.

That I can finde, should merit any hate.

*John.* What face these yong-ones ? What say you my  
 Neece ?

*Blanch.* That she is bound in honor still to do  
 What you in wisdome still vouchsafe to say

*John.* Speake then Prince Dolphin, can you loue this  
 Ladie ?

*Del.* Nay aske me if I can refrain from loue,  
 For I doe loue her most vnfaignedly.

*John.* Then do I giue *Volquesen*, *Toraine*, *Maunc*,  
*Poytiers* and *Amou*, these five Prouinces  
 With her to thee, and this addition more,  
 Full thirty thousand Markes of English coyne :  
*Phillip* of France, if thou be pleas'd withall,  
 Command thy sonne, and daughtet to ioyne hands.

*Fra.* It likes vs well young Princes: close your hands  
*Asst.* And your lippes too, for I am well assur'd,  
 That I did so when I was first assur'd.

*Fra.* Now Cittizens of Angiers ope your gates,  
 Let in that amitie which you haue made,  
 For at Saint Maries Chappell presently,  
 The rights of marriage shall be solemniz'd.  
 Is not the Ladie *Constance* in this troope ?  
 I know she is not for this match made vp,  
 Her presence would haue interrupted much.  
 Where is she and her sonne, tell me, who knowes ?

*Del.* She is sad and passionat at your highnes Tent

*Fra.* And by my faith, this league that we haue made  
 Will giue her tadnesse very little cure :  
 Brother of England, how may we content  
 This widdow Lady ? In her right we came,  
 Which we God knowes, haue turn'd another way,  
 To our owne vantage.

*John.* We will heale vp all,  
 For we'll create yong *Arthur* Duke of Britaine  
 And Earle of Richmond, and this rich faire Towne

We

We make him Lord of. Call the Lady Constance,  
Some speedy Messenger bid her repair  
To our solemnity: I trust we shall,  
(If not fill up the measure of her will)  
Yet in some measure satisfy her so,  
That we shall stop her exclamation,  
Go we as well as hath will suffer vs,  
To this vnlook'd for vnprepared pompe. *Exeunt.*

*Bass.* Mad world, mad kings, mad composition:  
*Iohn* to stop *Arthurs* Title in the whole,  
Hath willingly departed with a part,  
And France, whose armour Conscience buckled on,  
Whom zeale and charitie brought to the field,  
As Gods owne souldier, rounded in the care,  
With that same purpose-changer, that slye diuel,  
That Broker, that still breaks the pate of faith,  
That dayly breake-vow, he that winnes of all,  
Of kings, of beggers, old men, yong men, maids,  
Who hauing no externall thing to loose,  
But the word Maid, cheats the poore Maide of that.  
That smooth-fac'd Gentleman, tickling commoditie,  
Commoditie, the byas of the world,  
The world, who of it selfe is peysed well,  
Made to run euen, vpon euen ground;  
Till this aduantage, this vile drawing byas,  
This sway of motiue, this conmoditie,  
Makes it take head from all indifferency,  
From all direction, purpose, counseil intent.  
And this same byas, this Commoditie,  
This Bawd, this Broker, this all-changer word,  
Clap'd on the outward eye of fickle France,  
Hath drawne him from his owne determin'd ayd,  
From a resolu'd and honourable warre,  
To a most base and vile-concluded peace.  
And why rayle I on this Commoditie?  
But for because he hath not wooed me yet:  
Not that I haue the power to clutch my hand,  
When his faire Angels would salute my paimes,  
But for my hand, as vnattempted yet,  
Like a poore begger, raileth on the rich.  
Well, whiles I am a begger, I will raile,  
And say there is no sin but to be rich:  
And being rich, my vertue then shall be,  
To say there is no vice, but beggerie:  
Since Kings breake faith vpon commoditie,  
Gaine be my Lord, for I will worship thee. *Exit.*

### Actus Secundus

*Enter Constance, Arthur, and Salisbury.*

*Con.* Gone to be married? Gone to sweare a peace?  
False blood to false blood ioyn'd. Gone to be freinds?  
Shall *Lewis* haue *Blanch*, and *Blanch* those Prouinces?  
It is not so, thou hast mispoke, misheard,  
Be well adu' d, tell ore thy tale againe.  
It cannot be, thou do'st but say 'tis so.  
I trust I may not trust thee, for thy word  
Is but the vaine breath of a common man:  
Beleue me, I doe not beleue thee man,  
I haue a Kings oath to the contrarie.  
Thou shalt be punish'd for thus frightening me,  
For I am sicke, and capable of feares,

Opprest with wrongs, and therefore full of feares,  
A widdow, husbandles, subiect to feares,  
A woman naturally borne to feares;  
And though thou now confesse thou didst but iust  
With my vext spirits, I cannot take a Truce,  
But they will quake and tremble all this day.  
What dost thou meane by shaking of thy head?  
Why dost thou looke so sadly on my soone?  
What meanes that hand vpon that breast of thine?  
Why holdes thine eie that lamentable rhenne,  
Like a proud riuer peering ore his bounds?  
Be these sad signes confirmers of thy words?  
Then speake againe, not all thy former tale,  
But this one word, whether thy tale be true.

*Sal.* As true as I beleue you thinke them false,  
That giue you cause to proue my saying true.

*Con.* Oh if thou teach me to beleue this sorrow,  
Teach thou this sorrow, how to make me dye,  
And let beleefe, and life encounter so,  
As doth the furie of two desperate men,  
Which in the very meeting fall, and dye.

*Lewis* marry *Blanch*? O boy, then where art thou?  
*France* friend with *England*, what becomes of me?  
Fellow be gone: I cannot brooke thy sight,  
This newes hath made thee a most vgly man.

*Sal.* What other harme haue I good Lady done,  
But spoke the harme, that is by others done?

*Con.* Which harme within it selfe so heynous is,  
As it makes hamefull all that speake of it.

*Ar.* I do beleech you Madam be content.

*Con.* If thou that bidst me be content, wert grim  
Vgly, and slanderous to thy Mothers wombe,  
Full of vnpleasing blots, and sightlesse staines,  
Lame, foolish, crooked, swart, prodigious,  
Patch'd with foule Moles, and eye-offending markes,  
I would not care, I then would be content,  
For then I should not loue thee: no, nor thou  
Become thy great birth, nor deserue a Crowne.  
But thou art faire, and at thy birth (deere boy)  
Nature and Fortune ioyn'd to make thee great.  
Of Natures gifts, thou mayst with Lillies boast,  
And with the halic-blowne Rose. But Fortune, oh,  
She is corrupted, chang'd, and wonne from thee,  
Sh adulterates hourly with thine Vnckle *Iohn*,  
And with her golden hand hath pluckt on France  
To tread downe faire respect of Soueraigntie,  
And made his Maiestie the bawd to theirs.  
France is a Bawd to Fortune, and King *Iohn*,  
That strumpet Fortune, that vsurping *Iohn*:  
Tell me thou fellow, is not France forsworne?  
Euenom him with words, or get thee gone,  
And leaue those woes alone, which I alone  
Am bound to vnder-bear.

*Sal.* Pardon me Madam,  
I may not goe without you to the kings.

*Con.* Thou maist, thou shalt, I will not go with thee,  
I will instruct my sorrowes to be proud,  
For greefe is proud, and makes his owne stoope,  
To me and to the state of my great greefe,  
Let kings assemble: for my greefe's so great,  
That no supporter but the huge firme earth  
Can hold it vp: here I and sorrowes sit,  
Heere is my Throne, bid kings come bow to it.

*Actus*



Actus Tertius, Scena prima.

Enter King John, France, Dolphin, Blanch, Elianor, Philip, Austria, Constance.

*Fran.* 'Tis true (faire daughter) and this blessed day,  
Euer in France shall be kept festiuall:  
To solemnize this day the glorious sunne  
Stayes in his course, and playes the Alchymist,  
Turning with splendor of his precious eye  
The meager cloddy earth to glittering gold:  
The yearly course that brings this day about,  
Shall neuer see it, but a holy day.

*Const.* A wicked day, and not a holy day.  
What hath this day deseru'd? what hath it done,  
That it in golden letters should be set  
Among the high tides in the Kalender?  
Nay, rather turne this day out of the weeke,  
This day of shame, oppression, perjury.  
Or if it must stand still, let wiues with childe  
Pray that their burthens may not fall this day,  
Lest that their hopes prodigiously be crost:  
But (on this day) let Sea-men feare no wracke,  
No bargaines breake that are not this day made;  
This day all things begun, come to ill end,  
Yea, for hit selfe to hollow falshood change.

*Fra.* By heauen Lady, you shall haue no cause  
To curse the faire proceedings of this day:  
Haue I not pawn'd to you my Maiesty?

*Const.* You haue beguil'd me with a counterfeit  
Resembling Maiesty, which being touch'd and tride,  
Prooues valuelesse: you are forsworne, forsworne,  
You came in Armes to spill mine enemies blood,  
But now in Armes, you strengthen it with yours.  
The grappling vigor, and rough frowne of Warre  
Is cold in amitie, and painted peace,  
And our oppression hath made vp this league:  
Arme, arme, you heauens, against these periur'd Kings,  
A widdow cries, be husband to me (heauens)  
Let not the howres of this vngodly day  
Weare out the daies in Peace; but ere Sun-set,  
Set armed discord 'twixt these periur'd Kings,  
Heare me, Oh, heare me.

*Aust.* Lady Constance, peace.

*Const.* War, war, no peace, peace is to me a warre:  
O Lymoges, O Austria, thou dost thame  
That bloody spoyle: thou slave, thou wretch, y coward,  
Thou little valiant, great in villanie,  
Thou euer strong vpon the stronger side;  
Thou Fortunes Champion, that do'st neuer fight  
But when her humourous Ladiship is by  
To teach thee safety: thou art periur'd too,  
And sooth'st vp greatnesse. What a foole art thou,  
A ramping foole, to brag, and stamp, and sweare,  
Vpon my partie: thou cold blooded slave,  
Hast thou not spoke like thunder on my side?  
Beene sworne my Souldier, bidding me depend  
Vpon thy starres, thy fortune, and thy strength,  
And dost thou now fall ouer to my foes?  
Thou weare a Lyons hide, doff it for shame,  
And hang a Calues skin on those recreant limbes.

*Ans.* O that a man should speake those words to me.

*Phil.* And hang a Calues-skin on those recreant limbs

*Ans.* Thou dar'st not say so villaine for thy life.

*Phil.* And hang a Calues-skin on those recreant limbs  
*John.* We like not this, thou dost forget thy selfe.

Enter Pandulph.

*Fra.* Heere comes the holy Legat of the Pope.

*Pan.* Haile you annointed deputies of heauen;  
To thee King John my holy errand is:  
I Pandulph, of faire Milane Cardinall,  
And from Pope Innocent the Legate heere,  
Doe in his name religiously demand  
Why thou against the Church, our holy Mother,  
So wilfully dost spurne; and force perforce  
Keepe Stephen Langton chosen Archbishop  
Of Canterbury from that holy Sea:  
This in our foresaid holy Fathers name  
Pope Innocent, I doe demand of thee.

*John.* What earthie name to Interrogatories  
Can tast the free breath of a sacred King?  
Thou canst not (Cardinall) deuise a name  
So slight, vnworthy, and ridiculous  
To charge me to an answer, as the Pope:  
Tell him this tale, and from the mouth of England,  
Adde thus much more, that no Italian Priest  
Shall tythe or toll in our dominions:  
But as we, vnder heauen, are supreme head,  
So vnder him that great supremacy  
Where we doe reigne, we will alone vphold  
Without th'assistance of a mortall hand:  
So tell the Pope, all reuerence set apart  
To him and his vsurp'd authoritie.

*Fra.* Brother of England, you blaspheme in this.

*John.* Though you, and all the Kings of Christendom  
Are led so grossely by this meddling Priest,  
Dreading the curse that money may buy out,  
And by the merit of vilde gold, drosse, dust,  
Purchase corrupted pardon of a man,  
Who in that sale sels pardon from himselfe:  
Though you, and al the rest so grossely led,  
This iugling witchcraft with reuennue cherish,  
Yet I alone, alone doe me oppose  
Against the Pope, and count his friends my foes.

*Pand.* Then by the lawfull power that I haue,  
Thou shalt stand curst, and excommunicate,  
And blessed shall he be that doth reuolt  
From his Allegiance to an heretique,  
And meritorious shall that hand be call'd,  
Canonized and worship'd as a Saint,  
That takes away by any secret course  
Thy hatefull life.

*Con.* O lawfull let it be  
That I haue roome with Rome to curse a while,  
Good Father Cardinall, cry thou Amen  
To my keene curses; for without my wrong  
There is no tongue hath power to curse him right.

*Pan.* There's Law and Warrant (Lady) for my curse.

*Const.* And for mine too, when Law can do no right.  
Let it be lawfull, that Law barre no wrong:  
Law cannot gree my childe his kingdome heere;  
For he that holds his Kingdome, holds the Law:  
Therefore since Law it selfe is perfect wrong,  
How can the Law forbid my tongue to curse?

*Pand.* Philip of France, on perill of a curse,  
Let goe the hand of that Arch-heretique,  
And raise the power of France vpon his head,  
Vnlesse he doe submit himselfe to Rome.

*Elea.* Look'st thou pale France? do not let go thy hand.

*Con.* Looke to that Deuill, lest that France repent,

And

And by disioyning hands hell lose a soule.

*Ans.* King *Philip*, listen to the *Cardinall*.

*Bas.* And hang a Calues-skin on his recreant limbs.

*Ans.* Well ruffian, I must pocket vp these wrongs,  
Because,

*Bas.* Your breeches best may carry them.

*John.* *Philip*, what saist thou to the *Cardinall*?

*Con.* What should he say, but as the *Cardinall*?

*Dolph.* Bethinke you father, for the difference  
Is purchase of a heauy curse from *Rome*,  
Or the light losse of *England*, for a friend:  
Forgoe the easier.

*Bla.* That is the curse of *Rome*.

*Con.* O *Lewis*, stand fast, the deuill tempts thee heere  
In likenesse of a new vntrimmed Bride.

*Bla.* The *Lady Constance* speaks not from her faith,  
But from her need.

*Con.* Oh, if thou grant my need,  
Which onely liues but by the death of faith,  
That need, must needs inferre this principle,  
That faith would liue againe by death of need:  
O then tread downe my need, and faith mounts vp,  
Keepe my need vp, and faith is trodden downe.

*John.* The king is mou'd, and answers not to this.

*Con.* O be remou'd from him, and answer well.

*Ans.* Doe so king *Philip*, hang no more in doubt.

*Bas.* Hang nothing but a Calues skin most sweet lout.

*Fra.* I am perplext, and know not what to say.

*Pand.* What canst thou say, but wil perplex thee more?  
If thou stand excommunicate, and curst?

*Fra.* Good reuerend father, make my person yours,  
And tell me how you would bestow your selfe?  
This royall hand and mine are newly knit,  
And the coniunction of our inward soules  
Married in league, coupled, and link'd together  
With all religious strength of sacred vowes,  
The latest breath that gaue the sound of words  
Was deepe-sworne faith, peace, amity, true loue  
Betweene our kingdomes and our royall selues,  
And euen before this truce, but new before,  
No longer then we well could wash our hands,  
To clap this royall bargaine vp of peace,  
Heauen knowes they were besmeared and ouer-staind  
With slaughters pencill; where reuenge did paint  
The fearefull difference of incensed kings:  
And shall these hands so lately purg'd of blood?  
So newly ioyn'd in loue? so strong in both,  
Vnyoke this seysure, and this kinde regreete?  
Play fast and loose with faith? so rest with heauen,  
Make such vnconstant children of our selues  
As now againe to snatch our palme from palme:  
Vn-swear faith sworne, and on the marriage bed  
Of smiling peace to march a bloody hoast,  
And make a yot on the gentle brow  
Of true sincerity? O holy Sir  
My reuerend father, let it not be so;  
Out of your grace, deuise, ordaine, impose  
Some gentle order, and then we shall be blest  
To doe your pleasure, and continue friends.

*Pand.* All forme is formelesse, Order orderlesse,  
Sauer what is opposite to *Englands* loue.  
Therefore to Armes, be Champion of our Church,  
Or let the Church our mother breathe her curse,  
A mothers curse, on her reuolting sonne:  
*France*, thou maist hold a serpent by the tongue,  
A cased Lion by the mortall paw,

A fasting Tyger safer by the tooth,  
Then keepe in peace that hand which thou dost hold.

*Fra.* I may dis-ioyne my hand, but not my faith.

*Pand.* So mak' st thou faith an enemy to faith,  
And like a ciuill warre setst oath to oath,  
Thy tongue against thy tongue. O let thy vow  
First made to heauen, first be to heauen perform'd,  
That is, to be the Champion of our Church,  
What since thou sworst, is sworne against thy selfe,  
And may not be performed by thy selfe,  
For that which thou hast sworne to doe amisse,  
Is not amisse when it is truly done:  
And being not done, where doing tends to ill,  
The truth is then most done not doing it:  
The better Act of purposes mistooke,  
Is to mistake again, though indirect,  
Yet indirection thereby growes direct,  
And falshood, falshood cures, as fire cooles fire  
Within the scorched veines of one new burn'd:  
It is religion that doth make vowes kept,  
But thou hast sworne against religion:  
By what thou swear' st against the thing thou swear' st,  
And mak' st an oath the suretie for thy truth,  
Against an oath the truth, thou art vnure  
To sweate, sweares onely not to be forsworne,  
Else what a mockerie should it be to sweare?  
But thou dost sweare, onely to be forsworne,  
And most forsworne, to keepe what thou dost sweare,  
Therefore thy later vowes, against thy first,  
Is in thy selfe rebellion to thy selfe:  
And better conquest neuer canst thou make,  
Then arme thy constant and thy nobler parts  
Against these giddy loose suggestions:  
Vpon which better part, our prayrs come in,  
If thou vouchsafe them. But if not, then know  
The perill of our curses light on thee  
So heauy, as thou shalt not shake them off  
But in despaire, dye vnder their blacke weight.

*Ans.* Rebellion, flat rebellion.

*Bas.* Will't not be?

Will not a Calues-skin stop that mouth of thine?

*Daul.* Father, to Armes.

*Blanch.* Vpon thy wedding day?

Against the blood that thou hast married?  
What, shall our feast be kept with slaughtered men?  
Shall braying trumpets, and loud churlish drums  
Clamors of hell, be measures to our pomp?  
O husband heare me: aye, alacke, how new  
Is husband in my mouth? euen for that name  
Which till this time my tongue did nere pronounce;  
Vpon my knee I beg, goe not to Armes  
Against mine Vncle.

*Const.* O, vpon my knee made hard with kneeling,  
I doe pray to thee, thou vertuous *Daulphin*,  
Alter not the doome fore-thought by heauen.

*Blan.* Now shall I see thy loue, what motiue may  
Be stronger with thee, then the name of wife?

*Con.* That which vpholdeth him, that thee vpholds,  
His Honor, Oh thine Honor, *Lewis* thine Honor.

*Dolph.* I muse your Maiesty doth seeme so cold,  
When such profound respects doe pull you on?

*Pand.* I will denounce a curse vpon his head.

*Fra.* Thou shalt not need. *England*, I will fall fro' thee.

*Const.* O faire returne of banish'd Maiestie.

*Elea.* O soule reuolt of French inconstancy.

*Eng. Franco,* y' shalt rue this houre within this houre.

*Bas.*

The life and death of King John.

II

*Bast.* Oid Time the clocke setter, y bald texton Time:  
Is it as he wil? well then, *France* shall rue.

*Bla.* The Sun's orecaft with blood : faire day adieu,  
Which is the side that I must goe withall?  
I am with both, each Army hath a hand,  
And in their rage, I hauing hold of both,  
They whurle a-rounder, and dismember mee.  
Husband, I cannot pray that thou maist winne :  
Vnkle, I needs must pray that thou maist lose  
Father, I may not wish the fortune thine :  
Grandam, I will not wish thy wishes thriue :  
Who-euer wins, on that side shall I lose :  
Assured losse, before the match be plaid.

*Dolph.* Lady, with me, with me thy fortune lies.

*Bla.* There where my fortune liues, there my life dies.

*John. Cosen,* goe draw our puifance together,  
*France,* I am burn'd vp with inflaming wrath,  
A rage, whose heat hath this condition ;  
That nothing can allay, nothing but blood,  
The blood and deereft valued blood of *France.*

*Fra.* Thy rage shall burne thee vp, & thou shalt turne  
To ashes, ere our blood shall quench that fire :  
Looke to thy selfe, thou art in ieopardie.

*John.* No more then he that threatens. To Arms let's hie.

*Exeunt.*

Scena Secunda.

*Alarums, Exursions :* Enter *Bastard* with *Austria's*  
head.

*Bast.* Now by my life, this day grows wondrous hot,  
Some ayery Demill houers in the skie,  
And pouer's downe mischief. *Austria's* head lye there,

Enter *John, Arthur, Hubert.*

While *Philip* breathes.

*John. Hubert,* keepe this boy : *Philip* make vp,  
My Mother is assayled in our Tent,  
And tane I feare.

*Bast.* My Lord I rescued her,  
Her Highnesse is in safety, feare you not :  
But on my Liege, for very little paines  
Will bring this labor to an happy end.

*Exit.*

*Alarums, excursions, Retreat.* Enter *John, Eleanor, Arthur*  
*Bastard, Hubert, Lords.*

*John.* So shall it be : your Grace shall stay behinde  
So strongly guarded : *Cosen,* looke not sad,  
Thy Grandame loues thee, and thy Vnkle will  
As deere be to thee, as thy father was.

*Arth.* O this will make my mother die with griefe.

*John.* *Cosen* away for *England,* haste before,  
And ere our comming see thou shake the bags  
Of hoording Abbots, imprisoned angells  
Set at libertie : the fat ribs of peace  
Must by the hungry now be fed vpon :  
Vie our Commission in his vtmost force.

*Bast.* Bell, Booke, & Candle, shall not drive me back,  
When gold and siluer becks me to come on.  
I leaue your highnesse : Grandame, I will pray  
(If euer I remember to be holy)  
For your faire safety : so I kisse your hand.

*Ele.* Farewell gentle *Cosen.*

*John. Coz,* farewell.

*Ele.* Come hether little kintman *Parke,* a worde.

*John.* Come hether *Hubert.* O my gentle *Hubert,*  
We owe thee much : within this wall of flesh  
There is a foule counts thee her Creditor,  
And with aduantage meanes to pay thy loue :  
And my good friend, thy voluntary oath  
Liues in this bosome, deereley cherished.  
Giue me thy hand, I had a thing to say,  
But I will fit it with some better tune.  
By heauen *Hubert,* I am almost a sham'd  
To say what good respect I haue of thee.

*Hub.* I am much bounden to your Maiesty.

*John.* Good friend, thou hast no cause to say so yet,  
But thou shalt haue : and creepe time nere so slow,  
Yet it shall come, for me to doe thee good.

I had a thing to say, but let it goe :

The Sunne is in the heauen, and the proud day,  
Attended with the pleasures of the world,  
Is all too wanton, and too full of gawdes  
To giue me audience : If the mid-night bell  
Did with his yron tongue, and brazen mouth  
Sound on into the drowzie race of night :

If this same were a Church-yard where we stand,

And thou possessed with a thousand wrongs :

Or if that furly spirit melancholy

Had bak'd thy blood, and made it heauy, thicke,  
Which else runnes tickling vp and downe the veines,

Making that idiot laughter keepe mens eyes,

And straine their cheekes to idle merriment,

A passion hatefull to my purposes :

Or if that thou couldst see me without eyes,

Heare me without thine eares, and make reply

Witho it a tongue, vsing conceit alone,

Without eyes, eares, and harmefull sound of words :

Then, in despite of brooded watchfull day,

I would into thy bosome poure my thoughts :

Put (ah) I will not, yet I loue thee well,

And by my troth I thinke thou lou'st me well.

*Hub.* So well, that what you bid me vndertake,

Though that my death were adunet to my Act,

By heauen I would doe it.

*John.* Doe not I know thou wouldst?

Good *Hubert, Hubert, Hubert* throw thine eye

On yon young boy : He tell thee what my friend,

He is a very serpent in my way,

And where soere this foot of mine doth tread,

He lies before me : dost thou vnderstand me ?

Thou art his keeper.

*Hub.* And He keepe him so,

That he shall not offend your Maiesty.

*John.* Death.

*Hub.* My Lord.

*John.* A Graue.

*Hub.* He shall not liue.

*John.* Enough.

I could be merry now, *Hubert,* I loue thee.

Well, He not say what I intend for thee :

Remember : Madam, Fare you well,

He send those powers o're to your Maiesty.

*Ele.* My blessing goe with thee.

*John.* For *England* *Cosen,* goe.

*Hubert* shall be your man, attend on you

Withal true dautie : On toward *Callice,* ho.

*Exeunt.*

Scena

## Scena Tertia.

Enter France, Dolphin, Pandulpho, Astondanis.

*Fra.* So by a roaring Tempest on the flood,  
A whole Armado of conuicted saile  
Is scattered and dis-ioyn'd from fellowship.

*Pand.* Courage and comfort, all shall yet goe well.

*Fra.* What can goe well, when we haue runne so ill?  
Are we not beaten? Is not *Angiers* lost?

*Arthur* tane prisoner? diuers deere friends slaine?  
And bloody *England* into *England* gone,  
Ore-bearing interruption spight of *France*?

*Dol.* What he hath won, that hath he fortified:  
So hot a speed, with such aduice dispos'd,  
Such temperate order in so fierce a cause,  
Doth want example: who hath read, or heard  
Of any kindred-action like to this?

*Fra.* Well could I beare that *England* had this praise,  
So we could finde some patterne of our shame:

Enter *Constance*.

Looke who coms heere? a graue vnto a soule,  
Holding th'eternall spirit against her will,  
In the vilde prison of afflicted breath:  
I prethee Lady goe away with me.

*Con.* Lo; now: now see the issue of your peace.

*Fra.* Patience good Lady, comfort gentle *Constance*.

*Con.* No, I defie all Counsell, all redresse,  
But that which ends all counsell, true Redresse:  
Death, death, O amiable, louely death,  
Thou odoriferous stench: sound rottenesse,  
Arise forth from the couch of lasting night,  
Thou hate and terror to prosperitie,  
And I will kisse thy detestable bones,  
And put my eye-balls in thy vaultie browes,  
And ring these fingers with thy household wormes,  
And stop this gap of breath with fullome dust,  
And be a Carrion Monster like thy selfe;  
Come, grin on me, and I will thinke thou smil'st,  
And busse thee as thy wife: Miseries Loue,  
O come to me.

*Fra.* O faire affliction, peace.

*Con.* No, no, I will not, hauing breath to cry:  
O that my tongue were in the thunders mouth,  
Then with a passion would I shake the world,  
And rowze from sleepe that fell Anatomy  
Which cannot heare a Ladies feeble voyce,  
Which scornes a moderne Inuocation.

*Pand.* Lady, you vtter madnesse, and not sorrow

*Con.* Thou art holy to belye me so,  
I am not mad: this haire I teare is mine,  
My name is *Constance*, I was *Goffroyes* wife,  
Yong *Arthur* is my sonne, and he is lost:  
I am not mad, I would to heauen I were,  
For then 'tis like I should forget my selfe:  
O, if I could, what griefe should I forget?  
Preach some Philofophy to make me mad,  
And thou shalt be Canoniz'd (Cardinall.)  
For, being not mad, but sensible of griefe,  
My reason, ble part produces reason  
How I may be deliuer'd of these woes,  
And teaches mee to kill or hang my selfe:  
If I were mad, I should forget my sonne,

Or madly thinke a babe of clowts were he;  
I am not mad: too well, too well I feele  
The different plague of each calamitie.

*Fra.* Binde vp those tresses: O what loue I note  
In the faire multitude of those her haire;  
Where but by chance a siluer drop hath fa'ne,  
Euen to that drop ten thousand wery fiends  
Doe glew themselues in sociable griefe,  
Like true, inseparable, faithfull loues,  
Sticking together in calamitie.

*Con.* To *England*, if you will.

*Fra.* Binde vp your haire.

*Con.* Yes that I will: and wherefore will I do it?  
I tore them from their bonds, and cride aloud,  
O, that these hands could so redeeme my sonne,  
As they haue giuen these hayres their libertie:  
But now I enuie at their libertie,  
And will againe commit them to their bonds,  
Because my poore childe is a prisoner.  
And Father Cardinall, I haue heard you say  
That we shall see and know our friends in heauen.  
If that be true, I shall see my boy againe;  
For since the birth of *Came*, the first male-childe  
To him that did but yesterday suspire,  
There was not such a gracious creature borne:  
But now will Canker-sorrow eat my bud,  
And chase the natiue beauty from his cheek,  
And he will looke as hollow as a Ghost,  
As dim and meager as an Agues fitte,  
And so hee'll dye: and rising so againe,  
When I shall meet him in the Court of heauen  
I shall not know him: therefore neuer, neuer  
Must I behold my pretty *Arthur* more.

*Pand.* You hold too heynous a respect of griefe.

*Con.* He talks to me, that neuer had a sonne.

*Fra.* You are as fond of griefe, as of your childe.

*Con.* Griefe fills the roome vp of my absent childe:  
Lies in his bed, walkes vp and downe with me,  
Puts on his pretty looks, repeats his words,  
Remembets me of all his gracious parts,  
Stuffes out his vacant garments with his forme;  
Then, haue I reason to be fond of griefe?  
Fareyouwell: had you such a losse as I,  
I could giue better comfort then you doe.  
I will not keepe this forme vpon my head,  
When there is such disorder in my witte:  
O Lord, my boy, my *Arthur*, my faire sonne,  
My life, my ioy, my food, my all the world:  
My widow-comfort, and my sorrowes cure. *Exit.*

*Fra.* I feare some out-rage, and Ile follow her. *Exit.*

*Dol.* There's nothing in this world can make me ioy,  
Life is as tedious as a twice-told tale,  
Vexing the dull eare of a drowse man;  
And bitter shame hath spoyl'd the sweet words taste,  
That it yeelds nought but shame and bitternesse.

*Pand.* Before the curing of a strong disease,  
Euen in the instant of repaire and health,  
The fit is strongest: Evils that take leaue  
On their departure, most of all shew euill:  
What haue you lost by losing of this day?

*Dol.* All daies of glory, ioy, and happinesse.

*Pand.* If you had won it, certainly you had.  
No, no: when Fortune meanes to men most good,  
Shee lookes vpon them with a threatening eye:  
'Tis strange to thinke how much King *John* hath lost  
In this which he accounts so clearly wonne:

*Are*

Are not you griu'd that *Arthur* is his prisoner?

*Dol.* As heartily as he is glad he hath him.

*Pan.* Your minde is all as youthfull as your blood.

Now heare me speake with a propheticke spirit:  
For euen the breath of what I meane to speake,  
Shall blow each dust, each straw, each little stub  
Out of the path which shall directly lead  
Thy foote to Englands Throne: And therefore marke:  
*John* hath seiz'd *Arthur*, and it cannot be,  
That whiles warme life playes in that infants veines,  
The mis-plac'd *John* should entertaine an houre,  
One minute, nay one quiet breath of rest.  
A Scepter snatch'd with an vntuly hand,  
Must be as boysterously maintain'd as gain'd.  
And he that stands vpon a slippy place,  
Makes nice of no wilde hold to stay him vp:  
That *John* may stand, then *Arthur* needs must fall,  
So be it, for it cannot be but so.

*Dol.* But what shall I gaine by yong *Arthurs* fall?

*Pan.* You, in the right of Lady *Blanch* your wife,  
May then make all the claime that *Arthur* did.

*Dol.* And loose it, life and all, as *Arthur* did.

*Pan.* How green you are, and fresh in this old world?

*John* layes you plots: the times conspire with you,  
For he that steapes his safetic in true blood,  
Shall finde but bloodie safety, and vntue.

This Act so euilly borne shall coole the hearts  
Of all his people, and freeze vp their zeale,  
That none so small advantage shall step forth  
To checke his reigne, but they will cherish it.

No naturall exhalation in the skie,

No scope of Nature, no distemper'd day,

No common winde, no custumed euent,

But they will plucke away his naturall cause,

And call them Meteors, prodigies, and signes,

Abominations, presages, and tongues of heauen,

Floudly denouncing vengeance vpon *John*.

*Dol.* May he will not touch yong *Arthurs* life,  
But hold him selfe safe in his pritchment.

*Pan.* O Sir, when he shall heare of your approach,  
If that yong *Arthur* be not gone alreadie,

Fuen at that newes he dies: and then the hearts

Of all his people shall reuel from him,

And kisse the lippes of vnacquainted change,

And picke strong matter of reuolt, and wrath

Out of the bloody fingers ends of *John*.

Me thinkes I see this hurley all on foot;

And O, what better matter breeds for you,

Then I haue nam'd. The Bastard *Falconbridge*

Is now in England ransacking the Church,

Offending Charity: If but a dozen French

Were there in Armes, they would be as a Call

To traine ten thousand English to their side;

Or, as a little snow, tumbled about,

Anon becomes a Mountaine. O noble Dolphine,

Go with me to the King, 'tis wonderfull,

What may be wrought out of their discontent,

Now that their soules are topsfull of offence,

For England go; I will whet on the King.

*Dol.* Strong reasons makes strange actions: let vs go,  
If you say I, the King will not say no. *Exeunt.*

Actus Quartus, Scena prima.

Enter Hubert and Executioners.

*Hub.* Heate me these Irons hot, and looke thou stand  
Within the Arras: when I strike my foot  
Vpon the boosome of the ground, rush forth  
And binde the boy, which you shall finde with me  
Fast to the chaire: be heedfull: hence, and watch.

*Exec.* I hope your warrant will beare out the deed.

*Hub.* Vncleanly scruples feare not you: looke too't.  
Yong Lad come forth; I haue to say with you.

Enter Arthur.

*Ar.* Good morrow Hubert.

*Hub.* Good morrow, little Prince.

*Ar.* As little Prince, hauing so great a Title  
To be more Prince, as may be: you are sad.

*Hub.* Indeed I haue bene merrier.

*Ar.* Mercie on me:

Me thinkes no body should be sad but I:  
Yet I remember, when I was in France,  
Yong Gentlemen would be as sad as night  
Onely for wantonnesse. by my Christendome,  
So I were out of prison, and kept Sheepe  
I should be as merry as the day is long:  
And so I would be heere, but that I doubt  
My Vnckle practises more harme to me:  
He is afraid of me, and I of him:  
Is it my fault, that I was *Geffreyes* sonne?  
No in deede: 't is not: and I would to heauen  
I were your sonne, to you would loue me; Hubert:

*Hub.* If I talke to him, with his innot one prate  
He will awake my mercie, which lies dead:  
Therefore I will be todame, and dispatch.

*Ar.* Are you sicke Hubert? you looke pale to day,  
Infooth I would you were a little sicke,  
That I might sit all night, and watch with you.  
I warrant I loue you more then you do me.

*Hub.* His words do take possession of my bosome.  
Reade heere yong *Arthur*. How now foolish rheume?  
Turning dispitious to rature out of doore?  
I must be brieefe, least resolution drop  
Out at mine eyes, in tender womanish teares.  
Can you not reade it? Is it not faire writ?

*Ar.* Too fairely Hubert, for so foule effect,  
Must you with hot Irons, burne out both mine eyes?

*Hub.* Yong Boy, I must.

*Ar.* And will you?

*Hub.* And I will.

*Ar.* Haue you the heart? When your head did but  
ake,

I knit my hand-kercher about your browes  
(The best I had, a Princesse wrought it me)  
And I did neuer aske it you againe:  
And with my hand, at midnight held your head;  
And like the watchfull minutes, to the houre,  
Still and anon cheer'd vp the heavy time;  
Saying, what lacke you? and where lies your greefe?  
Or what good loue may I performe for you?  
Many a poore mans sonne would haue lyen still,  
And nere haue spoke a louing word to you:  
But you, at your sicke seruice had a Prince:  
Nay, you may thinke my loue was craftie loue,  
And call it cunning. Do, and if you will,

If heauen be pleas'd that you must vse me ill,  
Why then you must. Will you put out mine eyes?  
These eyes, that neuer did, nor neuer shall  
So much as frowne on you.

*Hub.* I haue sworne to do it:

And with hot Irons must I burne them out.

*Ar.* Ah, none but in this Iron Age, would do it:  
The Iron of it selfe, though heate red hot,  
Approaching neere these eyes, would drinke my teares,  
And quench this fierie indignation,

Euen in the matter of mine innocence:

Nay, after that, consume away in rust,

But for containing fire to harme mine eye.

Are you more stubborne hard, then hammer'd Iron?

And if an Angell should haue come to me,

And told me *Hubert* should put out mine eyes,

I would not haue beleeu'd him: no tongue but *Huberts*.

*Hub.* Come forth: Do as I bid you do.

*Ar.* O saue me *Hubert*, saue me: my eyes are out  
Euen with the fierie lookes of these bloody men.

*Hub.* Giue me the Iron I say, and binde him heere.

*Ar.* Alas, what neede you be so boistrous rough?

I will not struggle, I will stand stone still:

For heauen sake *Hubert* let me not be bound:

Nay heare me *Hubert*, driue these men away,

And I will sit as quiet as a Lambe.

I will not stirre, nor winch, nor speake a word,

Nor looke vpon the Iron angerly:

Thrust but these men away, and Ile forgie you,

What euer torment you do put me too.

*Hub.* Go stand within: let me alone with him.

*Exc.* I am best pleas'd to be from such a deede.

*Ar.* Alas, I then haue chid away my friend,

He hath a sterne looke, but a gentle heart:

Let him come backe, that his compassion may

Giue life to yours.

*Hub.* Come (Boy) prepare your selfe.

*Ar.* Is there no remedie?

*Hub.* None, but to lose your eyes.

*Ar.* O heauen: that there yere but a moth in yours,

A graine, a dust, a gnaw, a wandering haire,

Any annoyance in that precious sense:

Then feeling what small things are boyttrous there,

Your vilde intent must needs seeme horrible.

*Hub.* Is this your promise? Go too, hold your toong

*Ar.* *Hubert*, the vterance of a brace of tongues,

Must needs want pleading for a paire of eyes:

Let me not hold my tongue: let me not *Hubert*,

Or *Hubert*, if you will cut out my tongue,

So I may keepe mine eyes. O spare mine eyes,

Though to no vse, but still to looke on you.

Loe, by my troth, the Instrument is cold,

And would not harme me.

*Hub.* I can heate it, Boy.

*Ar.* No, in good sooth: the fire is dead with griefe,

Being create for comfort, to be vs'd

In vnderferued extreames: See else your selfe,

There is no malice in this burning cole,

The breath of heauen, hath blowne his spirit out,

And strew'd repentant ashes on his head.

*Hub.* But with my breach I can reuiue it Boy.

*Ar.* And if you do, you will but make it blush,

And glow with shame of your proceedings, *Hubert*

Nay, it perchance will sparkle in your eyes:

And, like a dogge that is compell'd to fight,

Snatch at his Master that doth tarre him on.

All things that you should vse to do me wrong

Deny their office: onely you do lacke

That mercie, which fierce fire, and Iron extends.

Creatures of note for mercy, lacking vses.

*Hub.* Well, see to liue: I will not touch thine eye,

For all the Treasure that thine Vnckle owes,

Yet am I sworne, and I did purpose, Boy,

With this same very Iron, to burne them out.

*Ar.* O now you looke like *Hubert*. All this while  
You were disguis'd.

*Hub.* Peace: no more. Adieu,

Your Vnckle must not know but you are dead.

Ile fill these dogged Spies with false reports:

And, pretty childe, sleepe doubtlesse, and secure,

That *Hubert* for the wealth of all the world,

Will not offend thee.

*Ar.* O heauen! I thanke you *Hubert*.

*Hub.* Silence, no more; go closely in with mee,  
Much danger do I vndergo for thee.

*F. venter*

### Scena Secunda.

*Enter Iohn, Pembroke, Salubury, and other Iordes.*

*Iohn.* Heere once againe we sit: once against crown'd  
And look'd vpon, I hope, with chearefull eyes.

*Pem.* This once again (but that your Highnes pleas'd)

Was once superfluous: you were Crown'd before,

And that high Royalty was nere pluck'd off:

The faiths of men, nere stained with reuolt.

Fresh expectation troubled not the Land

With any long'd-for-change, or better State.

*Sal.* Therefore, to be possess'd with double pompe,

To guard a Title, that was rich before:

To gilde refined Gold, to paint the Lilly.

To throw a perfume on the Violet,

To smooth the yce, or adde another hew

Vnto the Raine-bow; or with Taper-light

To seeke the beauteous eye of heauen to gaze on.

Is wastefull, and ridiculous excesse.

*Pem.* But that your Royall pleasure must be done

This acte, is as an ancient tale new told,

And, in the last repeating, troublesome,

Being vrged at a time vntreasonable.

*Sal.* In this the Anticke, and well noted face

Of plaine old forme, is much disfigured,

And like a shifted winde vnto a saile,

It makes the course of thoughts to fetch about,

Startles, and frights consideration:

Makes sound opinion sicke, and truth suspected,

For putting on so new a fashion'd robe.

*Pem.* When Workemen striue to do better then wel,

They do confound their skill in couetousnesse,

And oftentimes excusing of a fault,

Doth make the fault the worse by th'excuse.

As patches set vpon a little breach,

Discredite more in hiding of the fault,

Then did the fault before it was so patch'd.

*Sal.* To this effect, before you were new crown'd

We breath'd our Councell: but it pleas'd your Highnes

To ouer-bear it, and we are all well pleas'd,

Since all, and euery part of what we would

Doth make a stand, at what your Highnesse will.

*Iohn*

*Job* Some reasons of this double Coronation  
I haue possess't you with, and thinke them strong,  
And more, more strong, then lesser is my feare  
I shall indue you with: Meane time, but aske  
What you would haue reform'd, that is not well,  
And well shall you perceiue, how willingly  
I will both heare, and grant you your requests.

*Pem.* Then I, as one that am the tongue of these  
To sound the purposes of all their hearts,  
Both for my selfe, and them: but chiefe of all  
Your safety: for the which, my selfe and them  
Bend their best studies, heartily request  
Th' enfranchisement of *Arthur*, whose restraint  
Doth moue the murmuring lips of discontent  
To breake into this dangerous argument.  
If what in rest you haue, in right you hold,  
Why then your feares, which (as they say) attend  
The steppes of wrong, should moue you to mew vp  
Your tender kinsman, and to choake his dayes  
With barbarous ignorance, and deny his youth  
The rich aduantage of good exercise,  
That the times enemies may not haue this  
To grace occasions: let it be our suite,  
That you haue bid vs aske his libertie,  
Which for our goods, we do no further aske,  
Then, whereupon our weale on you depending,  
Counts it your weale: he haue his libertie.

*Enter Hubert.*

*John.* Let it be so: I do commit his youth  
To your direction: *Hubert*, what newes with you?

*Pem.* This is the man should do the bloody deed  
He shew'd his warrant to a friend of mine,  
The image of a wicked heynous fault  
Liues in his eye: that close aspect of his,  
Do shew the mood of a much troubled brest,  
And I do fearefully beleue 'tis done,  
What we so feard he had a charge to do.

*Sal.* The colour of the King doth come, and go  
Betweene his purpose and his conscience,  
Like Herald's' twixt two dreadfull battails set.  
His passion is so ripe, it needs must breake.

*Pem.* And when it breakes, I feare will issue thence  
The foule corruption of a sweet chuldes death.

*John.* We cannot hold more lines strong hand.  
Good Lords, although my will to giue, is liuing,  
The suite which you demand is gone, and dead.  
He tels vs *Arthur* is deceas'd to night

*Sal.* Indeed we fear'd his sicknesse was past cure.

*Pem.* Indeed we heard how neere his death he was,  
Before the childe himselfe felt he was sicke:  
This must be answer'd either heere, or hence.

*John.* Why do you bend such solemne brows on me?  
Thinke you I beare the Sheeres of destiny?

Haue I commandement on the pulse of life?  
*Sal.* It is apparant foule-play, and 'tis shame  
That Greatnesse should so g: offely offer it;  
So thrise it in your game, and so farewell.

*Pem.* Stay yet (Lord Salisbury) He go with thee,  
And finde th' inheritance of this poore childe,  
His little kingdome of a forced graue.  
That blood which ow'd the bredth of all this Ile,  
Three foot of it doth hold; bad world the while:  
This must not be thus borne, this will breake out  
To all our sorrowes, and ere long I doubt.

*Exeunt*

*Jo.* They burn in indignation: I repent: *Enter Mes.*  
There is no sure foundation set on blood:

No certaine life atchieu'd by others death:  
A fearefull eye thou hast. Where is that blood,  
That I haue seene inhabite in those cheekes?  
So foule a skie, cleeres not without a storme,  
Poure downe thy weather: how goes all in France?

*Mes.* From France to England, neuer such a powre  
For any forraigne preparation,  
Was leuied in the body of a land.

The Copie of your speede is learn'd by them:  
For when you should be told they do prepare,  
The tydings comes, that they are all arriu'd.

*John.* On where hath our Intelligence bin drunke?  
Where hath it slept? Where is my Mothers care?  
That such an Army could be drawne in France,  
And she not heare of it?

*Mes.* My Liege, her care  
Is stopt with dust: the first of Aprill di'de  
Your noble mother; and as I heare, my Lord,  
The Lady *Constance* in a frenzie di'de  
Three dayes before: but this from Rumors tongue  
I dely heard: if true, or false I know not.

*John.* With-hold thy speed, dreadfull Occasion:  
O make a league with me, 'till I haue pleas'd  
My discontented Peeres. What? Mother dead?  
How widely then walkes my Estate in France?  
Vnder whose conduct came those powres of France,  
That thou so truthfull gi'ft out are landed heere?

*Mes.* Vnder the Dolphin.

*Enter B. and Peter of Pomfret*

*John.* Thou hast made me giddy  
With these ill tydings: Now? What sayes the world  
To your proceedings? Do not seeke to stuffe  
My head with more ill newes: for it is full.

*Bas.* But if you be a-feard to heare the worst,  
Then let the worst vn-heard, fall on your head.

*John.* Beare with me Cosen, for I was amaz'd  
Vnder the tide; but now I breath againe  
Aloft the flood, and can giue audience  
To any tongue, speake it of what it will.

*Bas.* How I haue sped among the Clergy men,  
The summes I haue collected shall expresse:  
But as I traual'd hither through the land,  
I finde the people strangely fantasied,  
Possess't with rumors, full of idle dreames,  
Not knowing what they feare, but full of feare.  
And here's a Prophet that I brought with me  
From forth the streets of Pomfret, whom I found  
With many hundreds treading on his heeles:  
To whom he sung in rude harsh founding rimes,  
That ere the next Ascension day at noone,  
Your Highnesse shoul'd deliuer vp your Crowne.

*John.* Thou idle Dreamer, wherefore didst thou so?

*Pet.* Fore-knowing that the truth will fall out so.

*John.* *Hubert*, away with him: imprison him,  
And on that day at noone, whereon he sayes  
I shall yeeld vp my Crowne, let him be hang'd  
Deliuer him to safety, and returne,  
For I must vse thee. O my gentle Cosen,  
Hear'st thou the newes abroad, who are arriu'd?

*Bas.* The French (my Lord) mens mouths are ful of it:  
Besides I met Lord *Bigot*, and Lord *Salisbury*  
With eyes as red as new enkindled fire,  
And others more, going to seeke the graue  
Of *Arthur*, whom they say is kill'd to night, on your

*John.* Gentle kinsman, go (suggestion.)  
And thrust thy selfe into their Companies,

I have a way to winne their loves againe:  
Bring them before me.

*Bas.* I will seeke them out.

*John.* Nay, but make haste: the better foote before.

O, let me have no subiect enemies,  
When aduerse Forreyners affright my Townes  
With dreadfull pompe of stout inuasion.  
Be Mercurie, let feathers to thy heeles,  
And flye (like thought) from them, to me againe.

*Bas.* The spirit of the time shall teach me speed. *Exit*

*John.* Spoke like a sprightfull Noble Gentleman.

Go after him: for he perhaps shall neede  
Some Messenger betwixt me, and the Peeres,  
And be thou hee.

*Mes.* With all my heart, my Liege.

*John.* My mother dead?

*Enter Hubert.*

*Hub.* My Lord, they say five Moones were seene to  
Foure fixed, and the fift did whirle about (night:  
The other foure, in wondrous motion.

*John.* Five Moones?

*Hub.* Old men, and Beldames, in the streets  
Do prophesie vpon it dangerously:  
Yong *Arthurs* death is common in their mouths,  
And when they talke of him, they shake their heads,  
And whisper one another in the eare.  
And he that speakes, doth gripe the hearers wrist,  
Whilst he that heares, makes fearefull action  
With wrinkled browes, with aods, with rolling eyes.  
I saw a Smith stand with his hammer (thus)  
The whilst his Iron did on the Anuile coole,  
With open mouth swallowing a Taylors newes,  
Who with his Sheeres, and Measure in his hand,  
Standing on slippers, which his nimble haste  
Had falliey thrust vpon contrary feete,  
Told of a many thousand warlike French,  
That were embattailed, and rank'd in Kent.  
Another leane, vnwash'd Artificer,  
Cuts off his tale, and talkes of *Arthurs* death.

*John.* Why seek'st thou to possesse me with these feares?  
Why vgest thou to oft yong *Arthurs* death?  
Thy hand hath murdred him: I had a mighty cause  
To wish him dead, but thou hadst none to kill him.

*H.* No had (my Lord?) why, did you not prouoke me?

*John.* It is the curse of Kings, to be attended  
By slaues, that take their humors for a warrant,  
To breake within the bloody house of life,  
And on the winking of Authoritie  
To vnderstand a Law; to know the meaning  
Of dangerous Maiefty, when perchance it frownes  
More vpon humor, then adu's'd respect.

*Hub.* Heere is your hand and Seale for what I did.

*John.* Oh, when the last accompt twixt heauen & earth  
Is to be made, then shall this hand and Seale  
Witnesse against vs to damnation.  
How oft the sight of meanes to do ill deeds,  
Make deeds ill done? Had'st not thou beene by,  
A fellow by the hand of Nature mark'd,  
Quoted, and sign'd to do a deede of shame,  
This murder had not come into my minde.  
But taking note of thy abhor'd Aspect,  
Finding thee fit for bloody villanie:  
Apt, liable to be employ'd in danger,  
I faintly broke with thee of *Arthurs* death:  
And thou, to be endeeded to a King,  
Made it no conscience to destroy a Prince.

*Hub.* My Lord,

*John.* Had'st thou but shooke thy head, or made a pause  
When I spake darkely, what I purposed:  
Or turn'd an eye of doubt vpon my face;  
As bid me tell my tale in expresse words:  
Deepe shame had struck me dumbe, made me break off,  
And those thy feares, might haue wrought feares in me.  
But, thou didst vnderstand me by my signes,  
And didst in signes againe parley with lianes,  
Yea, without stop, didst let thy heart consent,  
And consequently, thy rude hand to acte  
The deed, which both our tongues held vilde to name.  
Out of my sight, and neuer see me more:  
My Nobles leaue me, and my State is braued,  
Euen at my gates, with rankes of forraigne powres;  
Nay, in the body of this fleshly Land,  
This kingdome, this Confinde of blood, and breathe  
Hostilitie, and ciuill tumult reignes  
Betweene my conscience, and my Cousins death.

*Hub.* Arme you against your other enemies:  
He make a peace betweene your soule, and you.  
Yong *Arthur* is aliuie: This hand of mine  
Is yet a maiden, and an innocent hand.  
Not painted with the Crimson spots of blood,  
Within this bosome, neuer entred yet  
The dreadfull motion of a murderous thought,  
And you haue slander'd Nature in my forme,  
Which howsoeuer rude exteriorly,  
Is yet the couer of a fayrer minde,  
Then to be butcher of an innocent childe.

*John.* Doth *Arthur* liue? O hast thee to the Peeres,  
Throw this report on their incens'd rage,  
And make them tame to their obedience.  
Forgiue the Comment that my passion made  
Vpon thy feature, for my rage was blinde,  
And foule immaginarie eyes of blood  
Presented thee more hideous then thou art.  
Oh, answer not; but to my Cloffet bring:  
The angry Lords, with all expedient hast,  
I coniure thee but slowly: run more fast. *Exeunt.*

### Scena Tertia.

*Enter Arthur on the walles.*

*Ar.* The Wall is high, and yet will I leape downe.  
Good ground be pittifull, and hurt me not:  
There's few or none do know me, if they did,  
This Ship-boyes semblance hath disguis'd me quite.  
I am afride, and yet I venture it.  
If I get downe, and do not breake my limbes,  
He finde a thousand shifts to get away;  
As good to dye, and go; as dye, and stay.  
Oh me, my Vnckles spirit is in these stones,  
Heauen take my soule, and England keep my bones. *Dis.*

*Enter Pembroke, Salisbury, & Bigot.*

*Sal.* Lords, I will meet him at *S. Edmondsbury*,  
It is our safetic, and we must embrace  
This gentle offer of the perillous time.

*Pem.* Who brought that Letter from the Cardinall?

*Sal.* The Count *Meloens*, a Noble Lord of France,  
Whose priuate with me of the Dolphines loue,  
Is much more generall, then these lines import.

*Big.*



*Big.* To morrow morning let vs meete him then.

*Sal.* Or rather then set forward, for 'twill be  
Two long dayes journey (Lords) or ere we meete.

*Enter Bassard.*

*Bass.* Once more to day well met, distemper'd Lords,  
The King by me requests your presence straight.

*Sal.* The king hath dispossest himselfe of vs,  
We will not lyne his thin-bestained cloake  
With our pure Honors: nor attend the soote  
That leaues the print of blood where ere it walkes.  
Returne, and tell him so: we know the worst.

*Bass.* What ere you thinke, good words I thinke  
were best.

*Sal.* Our greets, and not our manners reason now

*Bass.* But there is little reason in your greete.

Therefore 'twere reason you had manners now.

*Pem.* Sit, sir, impatience hath his priuledge.

*Bass.* 'Tis true, to hurt his master, no man else.

*Sal.* This is the prison: What is he iyes heere?

*P.* Oh death, made proud with pure & princely beauty,  
The earth had not a hole to hide this deede.

*Sal.* Murther, as hating what himselfe hath done,  
Doth lay it open to vrge on reuenge.

*Big.* Or when he doom'd this Beautie to a grieue,  
Found it too precious Princely, for a grieue.

*Sal.* Sir Richard, what thinke you? you haue beheld,

Or haue you read, or heard, or could you thinke?

Or do you almost thinke, although you see,

That you do see? Could thought, without this object

Forme such another? This is the very top,

The heighth, the Crest: or Crest vnto the Crest

Of murtherers Armes: This is the bloodiest shame,

The wildest Sauagery, the vilest stroke

That euer wall-ey'd wrath, or staring rage

Presented to the teares of soft remorse.

*Pem.* All murtherers past, do stand excus'd in this:

And this so sole, and so vnmatchable,

Shall giue a holinesse, a puritie,

To the yet vnbegotten sinne of times;

And proue a deadly blood-shed, but a iest,

Exampled by this heynous spectacle.

*Bass.* It is a damned, and a bloody worke,

The gracelesse action of a heavy hand,

If that it be the worke of any hand.

*Sal.* If that it be the worke of any hand?

We had a kinde of light, what would ensue:

It is the shamefull worke of *Huberts* hand,

The practise, and the purpose of the king:

From whose obedience I forbid my soule,

Kneeling before this ruine of sweete life,

And breathing to his breathlesse Excellence

The Incense of a Vow, a holy Vow:

Neuer to taste the pleasures of the world,

Neuer to be infected with delight,

Nor conuersant with Ease, and Idlenesse,

Till I haue set a glory to this hand,

By giuing it the worship of Reuenge.

*Pem. Big.* Our soules religiously confirme thy words.

*Enter Hubert.*

*Hub.* Lords, I am hot with haste, in seeking you,  
*Arthur* doth liue, the king hath sent for you.

*Sal.* Oh he is bold, and blusbes not at death,  
Auant thou hatefull villain, get thee gone: (the Law?)

*Hub.* I am no villaine.

*Sal.* Must I rob

*Bass.* Your sword is bright sir, put it vp againe.

*Sal.* Not till I sheath it in a murtherers skin.

*Hub.* Stand backe Lord Salisbury, stand backe I say:  
By heauen, I thinke my sword's as sharpe as yours.

I would not haue you (Lord) forget your selfe,

Nor tempt the danger of my true defence;

Least I, by marking of your rage, forget

your Worth, your Greatnesse, and Nobility.

*Big.* Our dunghill: dar'st thou braue a Nobleman?

*Hub.* Not for my life: But yet I dare defend  
My innocent life against an Emperor.

*Sal.* Thou art a Murtherer.

*Hub.* Do not proue me so:

Yet I am none. Whose tongue so ere speakes false,

Not truly speakes: who speakes not truly, Lies.

*Pem.* Cut him to peeces.

*Bass.* Keepe the peace, I say.

*Sal.* Stand by, or I shall gaul you *Fauconbridge*.

*Bass.* Thou wer't better gaul the diuell Salisbury.

If thou but frowne on me, or stirre thy soote,

Or reach thy hastie spleene to do me thame,

He strike thee dead. Put vp thy sword betime,

Or lie so maule you, and your toasting-Iron,

That you shall thinke the diuell is come from hell.

*Big.* What wilt thou do, renowned *Fauconbridge*?

Second a Villaine, and a Murtherer?

*Hub.* Lord *Bigot*, I am none.

*Big.* Who kill'd this Prince?

*Hub.* 'Tis not an houre since I left him well:

I honour'd him, I lou'd him, and will weepe

My date of life out, for his sweete liues losse.

*Sal.* Trust not those cunning waters of his eyes,

For villaine is not without such rheume,

And he, long traded in it, makes it seeme

Like Runers of remorse and innocencie.

Away with me, all you whose soules abhorre

Th'vncleanly saouours of a Slaughter-house,

For I am stifled with this smell of sinne.

*Big.* Away, toward *Burie*, to the Dolphin there.

*P.* There tel the king, he may inquire vs out. *Ex. Lords.*

*Ba.* Here's a good world: knew you of this faire work?

Beyond the infinite and boundlesse reach of mercie,

(If thou didst this deed of death) art 'y damn'd *Hubert*.

*Hub.* Do but heare me sir.

*Bass.* Ha? He tell thee what.

Thou'rt damn'd as blacke, nay nothing is so blacke,

Thou art more deepe damn'd then Prince Lucifer:

There is not yet so vgly a fiend of hell

As thou shalt be, if thou didst kill this childe.

*Hub.* Vpon my soule.

*Bass.* If thou didst but consent

To this most cruell Act: do but dispaire,

And if thou want'st a Cord, the smallest thred

That euer Spider twisted from her wombe

Will serue to strangle thee: A rush will be a beame

To hang thee on. Or wouldst thou drowne thy selfe,

Put but a little water in a spoone,

And it shall be as all the Ocean,

Enough to stifle such a villaine vp.

I do suspect thee very grieuouly

*Hub.* If I in act, consent, or sinne of thought

Be guiltie of the stealing that sweete breath

Which was embounded in this beauteous clay,

Let hell want paines enough to torture me:

I left him well.

*Bass.* Go, beare him in thine armes:

I am amaz'd me thinkes, and loose my way

Among the thornes, and dangers of this world,

How easie dost thou take all *England* vp,  
From forth this morcell of dead Royaltie?  
The life, the right, and truth of all this Realme  
Is fled to heauen: and *England* now is left  
To tug and scramble, and to part by th' teeth  
The vn-owed interest of proud swelling State:  
Now for the bare-pickt bone of Maiesty,  
Doth dogged warre bristle his angry crest,  
And snarleth in the gentle eyes of peace:  
Now Powers from home, and discontents at home  
Meet in one line: and vast confusion waites  
As doth a Rauē on a sicke-falne beaft,  
The imminent decay of wrested pompe.  
Now happy he, whose cloake and center can  
Hold out this tempest. Beare away that childe,  
And follow me with speed: Ile to the King:  
A thousand businesses are brieft in hand,  
And heauen it selfe doth frowne vpon the Land. *Exit.*

### *Actus Quartus, Scena prima.*

*Enter King John and Pandolph, attendants.*

*K. John.* Thus haue I yeelded vp into your hand  
The Circle of my glory.

*Pan.* Take againe  
From this my hand, as holding of the Pope  
Your Soueraigne greatnesse and authoritie.

*John.* Now keep your holy word, go meet the *French*,  
And from his holinesse vse all your power  
To stop their marches: fore we are enflam'd:  
Our discontented Countie doe reuolt:  
Our people quarrell with obedience,  
Swearing Allegiance, and the loue of soule  
To stranger-bloud, to forren Royalty;  
This inundation of mistempred humor,  
Rests by you onely to be qualified.  
Then pause not: for the present time's so sicke,  
That present medicine must be ministred,  
Or ouerthrow incurable ensues.

*Pand.* It was my breath that blew this Tempest vp,  
Vpon your stubborne visage of the Pope:  
But since you are a gentle conuertite,  
My tongue shall hush againe this storme of warre,  
And make faire weather in your blustering land:  
On this Ascension day, remember well,  
Vpon your oath of seruice to the Pope,  
Goe I to make the *French* lay downe their Armes. *Exit.*

*John.* Is this Ascension day I did not the Prophet  
Say, that before Ascension day at noone,  
My Crowne I should giue off? euen so I haue:  
I did suppose it should be on constraint,  
But (heau'n be thank'd) it is but voluntary.

*Enter Bastard.*

*Bast.* All Kent hath yeelded: nothing there holds out  
But Douer Castle: London hath receiu'd  
Like a kinde Host, the Dolphin and his powers.  
Your Nobles will not heare you, but are gone  
To offer seruice to your enemy:  
And wilde amazement hurries vp and downe  
The little number of your doubtfull friends.

*John.* Would not my Lords returne to me againe  
After they heard yong *Arthur* was aliue?

*Bast.* They found him dead, and cast into the streets,  
An empty Casket, where the Iewell of life  
By some damn'd hand was rob'd, and tane away.

*John.* That villaine *Hubert* told me he did liue.

*Bast.* So on my soule he did, for ought he knew:  
But wherefore doe you droope? why looke you sad?  
Be great in act, as you haue beene in thought:  
Let not the world see feare and sad distrust  
Gouerne the motion of a kinglye eye:  
Be stirring as the time, be fire with fire,  
Threaten the threatner, and out-face the brow  
Of bragging horror: So shall inferior eyes  
That borrow their behaviours from the great,  
Grow great by your example, and put on  
The dauntlesse spirit of resolution.

Away, and glister like the god of warre  
When he intendeth to become the field:  
Shew boldnesse and aspiring confidence:  
What, shall they seeke the Lion in his denne,  
And fright him there? and make him tremble there?  
Oh let it not be said: forrage, and runne  
To meet displeasure farther from the dores,  
And grapple with him ere he come so nye.

*John.* The Legat of the Pope hath beene with mee,  
And I haue made a happy peace with him,  
And he hath promis'd to dismisse the Powers  
Led by the Dolphin.

*Bast.* Oh inglorious league:  
Shall we vpon the footing of our land,  
Send sayre-play-orders, and make compromise,  
Insinuation, parley, and base truce  
To Armes Inuasie? Shall a beardless boy,  
A cockred-silken wanton braue our fields,  
And flesh his spirit in a warre-like soyle,  
Mocking the ayre with colours idlye spred,  
And finde no checke? Let vs my Liege to Armes:  
Perchance the Cardinall cannot make your peace;  
Or if he doe, let it at least be said  
They saw we had a purpose of defence.

*John.* Haue thou the ordering of this present time.

*Bast.* A way then with good courage: yet I know  
Our Partie may well meet a powder foe. *Exeunt.*

### *Scena Secunda.*

*Enter (in Armes) Dolphin, Salisbury, Meloone, Pembroke, Bigot, Souldiers.*

*Dol.* My Lord *Meloone*, let this be coppied out,  
And keepe it safe for our remembrance:  
Returne the president to these Lords againe,  
That hauing our faire order written downe,  
Both they and we, perusing ore these notes  
May know wherefore we tooke the Sacrament,  
And keepe our faithes firme and inuolable.

*Sal.* Vpon our sides it neuer shall be broken.  
And Noble Dolphin, albeit we sweare  
A voluntary zeale, and an vn-urg'd Faith  
To your proceedings: yet beleue me Prince,  
I am not glad that such a fore of Time  
Should seeke a plaster by contempt'd reuolt,  
And heale the inueterate Canker of one wound,

*By*

By making many: Oh it grieues my soule,  
That I must draw this nettles from my side  
To be a widdow-maker: oh, and there  
Where honourable rescue, and defence  
Cries out vpon the name of *Salisbury*.  
But such is the infection of the time,  
That for the health and Physicke of our right,  
We cannot deale but with the very hand  
Of sterne Inujustice, and confused wrong:  
And is't not pittie, (oh my griued friends)  
That we, the tonnes and children of this Isle,  
Was borne to see so sad an houre as this,  
Wherein we step after a stranger, march  
Vpon her gentle bosom, and fill vp  
Her Enemies rankes? I must withdraw, and weepe  
Vpon the spot of this inforced cause,  
To grace the Gentry of a Land remote,  
And follow vnacquainted colours heere:  
What heere? O Nation that thou couldst remoue,  
That *Neptunes* Armes who clippeth thee about,  
Would beare thee from the knowledge of thy selfe,  
And crippe thee vnto a Pagan shore,  
Where these two Christian Armies might combine  
The blood of malice, in a vaine of league,  
And not to spend it so vn-neighbourly.

*Dolph.* A noble temper dost thou shew in this,  
And great affections wrastring in thy bosome  
Doth make an earth-quake of Nobility:  
Oh, what a noble combat hast fought  
Between compulsion, and a braue respect:  
Let me wipe off this honourable dewe,  
That siluerly doth progresse on thy cheekes:  
My heart hath melted at a Ladies teares,  
Being an ordinary Inundation:  
But this effusion of such manly drops,  
This showre, blowne vp by tempest of the soule,  
Startles mine eyes, and makes me more amaz'd  
Then had I seene the vaultie top of heauen  
Figur'd quite ore with burning Meteors,  
Lift vp thy brow (renowned *Salisbury*)  
And with a great heart heaue away this storme:  
Commend these waters to those baby-eyes  
That neuer saw the giant-world enrag'd,  
Nor met with Fortune, other then at feasts,  
Full warm of blood, of mirth, of gossiping:  
Come, come; for thou shalt thrust thy hand as deepe  
Into the purse of rich prosperity  
As *Lewis* himselfe: so (Nobles) shall you all,  
That knit your sinewes to the strength of mine.

*Enter Pandulpho.*

And euen there, methinkes an Angell spake,  
Looke where the holy Legate comes apace,  
To giue vs warrant from the hand of heauen,  
And on our actions set the name of right  
With holy breath.

*Pand.* Haile noble Prince of France:  
The next is this; King *Iohn* hath reconcil'd  
Himselfe to *Rome*, his spirit is come in,  
That so stood out against the holy Church,  
The great Metropolis and Sea of Rome:  
Therefore thy threatening Colours now winde vp,  
And tame the sauage spirit of wilde warre,  
That like a Lion fostered vpon hand,  
It may lie gently at the foot of peace.  
And be no further harmefull then in shewes.

*Dol.* Your Grace shall pardon me, I will not backe:

I am too high-borne to be proportied  
To be a secondary at controll,  
Or vsfull seruing-man, and Instrument  
To any Soueraigne State throughout the world.  
Your breath first kindled the dead coale of warres,  
Betweene this chastiz'd kingdome and my selfe,  
And brought in matter that should feed this fire;  
And now 'tis farre too huge to be blowne out  
With that same weake winde, which enkindled it:  
You taught me how to know the face of right,  
Acquainted me with interest to this Land,  
Yea, thrust this enterprize into my heart,  
And come ye now to tell me *Iohn* hath made  
His peace with *Rome*? what is that peace to me?  
I (by the honour of my marriage bed)  
After yong *Arthur*, claime this Land for mine,  
And now it is halfe conquer'd, must I backe,  
Because that *Iohn* hath made his peace with *Rome*?  
Am I *Romes* slaue? What penny hath *Rome* borne?  
What men provided? What munition sent  
To vnder-prop this Action? Is't not I  
That vnder-goe this charge? Who else but I,  
And such as to my claime are liable,  
Sweat in this businesse, and maintaine this warre?  
Haue I not heard these Islanders shout out  
*Vive le Roy*, as I haue bank'd their Townes?  
Haue I not heere the best Cards for the game  
To winne this easie match, plaid for a Crowne?  
And shall I now giue ore the yeilded Set?  
No, no, on my soule it neuer shall be said.

*Pand.* You looke but on the out-side of this worke.

*Dol.* Out-side or in-side, I will not returne  
Till my attempt so much be glorified,  
As to my aniple hope was promised,  
Before I drew this gallant head of warre,  
And cull'd these fiery spirits from the world  
To out looke Conquest, and to winne renowne  
Euen in the lawes of danger, and of death:  
What lusty Trumpet thus doth summon vs?

*Enter Bastard.*

*Bast.* According to the faire-play of the world,  
Let me haue audience: I am sent to speake:  
My holy Lord of Millane, from the King  
I come to learne how you haue dealt for him:  
And, as you answer, I doe know the scope  
And warrant limited vnto my tongue.

*Pand.* The *Dolphin* is too wilfull opposite  
And will not temporize with my intreaties:  
He flatly saies, hee'll not lay downe his Armes.

*Bast.* By all the blood that euer fury breath'd,  
The youth saies well. Now heare our *English* King,  
For thus his Royaltie doth speake in me:  
He is prepar'd, and reason to he should,  
This apish and vnmanly approach,  
This harness'd Maske, and vnaduis'd Reuell,  
This vnheard sawcinesse and boyish Troopes,  
The King doth smile at, and is well prepar'd  
To whip this dwarfish warre, this Pigmy Armes  
From out the circle of his Territories.  
That hand which had the strength, euen at your dore,  
To cudgell you, and make you take the hatch,  
To duellike Buckets in concealed Welles,  
To growch in litter of your stable planks,  
To lye like pawnes, lock'd vp in chests and trunks,  
To hug with swine, to seeke sweet safety out  
In vaults and prisons, and to thrill and shake,

*Euen*

Euen at the crying of your Nations crow,  
Thinking this voyce an armed Englishman,  
Shall that victorious hand be feeble here,  
That in your Chambers gaue you chastisement?  
No: know the gallant Monarch is in Armes,  
And like an Eagle, o're his ayerie towres,  
To sowle annoyance that comes neere his Nest;  
And you degenerate, you ingrate Reuolts,  
you bloody Nero's, ripping vp the wombe  
Of your deere Mother-England: blush for shame:  
For your owne Ladies, and pale-visag'd Maides,  
Like *Amazons*, come tripping after drummes:  
Their thimbles into armed Ganciets change,  
Their Needl's to Lances, and their gentle hearts  
To fierce and bloody inclination.

*Dol.* There end thy braue, and turn thy face in peace,  
We grant thou canst out-scol'd vs: Far thee well,  
We hold our time too precious to be spent  
With such a brabler.

*Pan.* Giue me leaue to speake.

*Bas.* No, I will speake.

*Dol.* We will attend to neyther:

Strike vp the drummes, and let the tongue of warre  
Pleade for our interest, and our being heere.

*Bas.* Indeede your drums being beaten, wil cry out;  
And so shall you, being beaten: Do but start  
An eccho with the clamor of thy drumme,  
And euen at hand, a drumme is readie brad'd,  
That shall reuerberate all, as lowd as thine  
Sound but another, and another shall  
(As lowd as thine) rattle the Welkins eare,  
And mocke the deepe mouth'd Thunder: for at hand  
(Not trusting to th's halting Legate heere,  
Whom he hath vs'd rather for sport, then neede)  
Is warlike *Iohn*: and in his fore-head sits  
A bare-rib'd death: whoe's office is this day  
To feast vpon whole the ulands of the French.

*Dol.* Strike vp our drummes, to finde this danger out.

*Bas.* And thou shalt finde it (Dolphin) do not doubt

*Exeunt.*

### Scena Tertia.

*Alarums. Enter Iohn and Hubert.*

*Iohn.* How goes the day with vs? oh tell me *Hubert*.

*Hub.* Badly I feare; how fares your Maiesty?

*Iohn.* This Feauer that hath troubled me so long,  
Lyes heuie on me: oh, my heart is sicke.

*Enter a Messenger.*

*Mes.* My Lord: your valiant kinsman *Falconbridge*,  
Desires your Maiestie to leaue the field,  
And send him word by me, which way you go.

*Iohn.* Tell him toward *Swinshead*, to the Abbey there.

*Mes.* Be of good comfort: for the great supply,  
That was expected by the Dolphin heere,  
Acr wrack'd three nights ago on *Goodwin* lands.  
This newes was brought to *Richard* but euen now,  
The French fight coldly, and retire themselves.

*Iohn.* Aye me, this tyrant Feauer burnes mee vp,  
And will not let me welcome this good newes.  
Set on toward *Swinshead*: to my Litter straight,  
V. eaknesse possesseth me, and I am faint.

*Exeunt.*

### Scena Quarta.

*Enter Salisbury, Pembroke, and Bigot.*

*Sal.* I did not thinke the King so stor'd with friends.

*Pem.* Vp once againe: put spirit in the French,  
If they miscarry: we miscarry too.

*Sal.* That misbegotten diuell *Falconbridge*,  
In spite of spight, alone vpholds the day.

*Pem.* They say King *Iohn* sore sick, hath left the field.

*Enter Meloon wounded.*

*Mel.* Lead me to the Reuolts of England heere.

*Sal.* When we were happie, we had other names.

*Pem.* It is the Count *Meloone*.

*Sal.* Wounded to death.

*Mel.* Fly Noble English, you are bought and sold,  
Vnthred the rude eye of Rebellion,

And welcome home againe discarded faith,  
Seeke out King *Iohn*, and fall before his secte:

For if the French be Lords of this loud day,  
He meanes to recompence the paines you take,  
By cutting off your heads: Thus hath he sworne,

And I with him, and many moe with mee,  
Vpon the Altar at *S. Edmondsbury*,

Euen on that Altar, where we swore to you  
Deere Amity, and euerlasting loue.

*Sal.* May this be possible? May this be true?

*Mel.* Haue I not hideous death within my view,  
Retaining but a quantity of life,

Which bleeds away, euen as a forme of waxe  
Resolueth from his figure 'gainst the fire?

What in the world should make me now deceiue,  
Since I must loose the vse of all deceite?

Why should I then be false, since it is true

That I must dye heere, and liue hence, by Truth?

I say againe, if *Lewis* do win the day,

He is forsworne, if ere those eyes of yours

Behold another day breake in the East:

But euen this night whose blacke contagious breath

Already smoakes about the burning Crest

Of the old, feeble, and day-wearied Sunne,

Euen this ill night, your breathing shall expire,

Paying the fine of rated Treachery,

Euen with a treacherous fine of all your liues:

If *Lewis*, by your assistance win the day.

Commend me to one *Hubert*, with your King;

The loue of him, and this respect besides

(For that my Grandfire was an Englishman)

Awakes my Conscience to confesse all this.

In lieu whereof, I pray you beare me hence

From forth the noise and rumour of the Field;

Where I may thinke the remnant of my thoughts

In peace: and part this bodie and my soule

With contemplation, and deuout desires.

*Sal.* We do beleue thee, and beshrew my soule,

But I do loue the fauour; and the forme

Of this most faire occasion, by the which

We will vntread the steps of damned flight,

And like a bated and retired Flood,

Leauing our ranknesse and irregular course,

Stoope lowe within those bounds we haue ore-look'd,

And calmly run on in obedience

Euen to our Ocean, to our great King *Iohn*.

My arme shall giue thee helpe to beare thee hence,

*For*

For I do see the cruell pangs of death  
Right in thine eye. Away, my friends, new flight,  
And happie newnesse, that intends old right. *Exeunt*

Scena Quinta.

*Enter Dolphin, and his Traine.*

*Dol.* The Sun of heauen (me thought) was loth to set;  
But staid, and made the Westerne Welkin bluish,  
When English measure backward their owne ground  
In faint Retreat: Oh brauely came we off,  
When with a volley of our accedlesse shot,  
After such bloody toile, we bid good night,  
And woo'd our tottering colours clearly vp,  
Last in the field, and almost Lords of it.

*Enter a Messenger.*

*Mes.* Where is my Prince, the Dolphin?

*Dol.* Heere: what newes?

*Mes.* The Count Meloune is slaine: The English Lords  
By his perswasion, are againe false off,  
And your supply, which you haue wish'd so long,  
Are cast away, and sunke on Goodwin sands.

*Dol.* Ah fowle, shrew'd newes. Beshrew thy very  
I'd not thinke to be so sad to night *(hart:)*  
As this hath made me. Who was he that said  
King John did flie an houre or two before  
The stumbling night did part our wearie powres?

*Mes.* Who euer spoke it, it is true my Lord.

*Dol.* Well: keepe good quarter, & good care to night,  
The day shall not be vp so soone as I,  
To try the faire aduerture of to morrow. *Exeunt*

Scena Sexta.

*Enter Bastard and Hubert, severally.*

*Hub.* Whose there? Speake hoa, speake quickly, or  
I shoote.

*Bast.* A Friend. What art thou?

*Hub.* Of the part of England.

*Bast.* Whether doest thou go?

*Hub.* What's that to thee?

Why may not I demand of thine affaires,  
As well as thou of mine?

*Bast.* Hubert, I thinke.

*Hub.* Thou hast a perfect thought:

I will vpon all hazards well beleue  
Thou art my friend, that know'st my tongue so well:  
Who art thou?

*Bast.* Who thou wilt: and if thou please  
Thou maist be-friend me so much, as to thinke  
I come one way of the Plantagenets.

*Hub.* Vnkinde remembrance: thou, & endles night,  
Haue done me shame: Braue Soldier, pardon me,  
That any accent breaking from thy tongue,  
Should scape the true acquaintance of mine eare.

*Bast.* Come, come: sans complement, What comes  
abroad?

*Hub.* Why heere walke I, in the black brow of night,  
To finde you out.

*Bast.* Breese then: and what's the newes?

*Hub.* O my sweet sir, newes fitting to the night,  
Blacke, fearefull, comfortlesse, and horrible.

*Bast.* Shew me the very wound of this ill newes,  
I am no woman, Ile not swound at it.

*Hub.* The King I feare is poyson'd by a Monke,  
I left him almost speechlesse, and broke out  
To acquaint you with this euill, that you might  
The better arme you to the sodaine time,  
Then if you had at leisure knowne of this.

*Bast.* How did he take it? Who did taste to him?

*Hub.* A Monke I tell you, a resolu'd villaine  
Whose Bowels sodainly burst out: The King  
Yet speakes, and peraduenture may recouer.

*Bast.* Who didst thou leaue to tend his Maiesty?

*Hub.* Why know you not? The Lords are all come  
backe,

And brought Prince Henry in their companie,  
At whole request the king hath pardon'd them,  
And they are all about his Maiestie.

*Bast.* With-hold thine indignation, mighty heauen,  
And tempt vs not to beare about our power.

Ile tell thee Hubert, halie my power this night  
Passing these Flats, are taken by the Tide,  
These Lincolne-Washes haue deuoued them,  
My selfe, well mounted, hardly haue escap'd.

Away before: Conduct me to the king,  
I doubt he will be dead, or ere I come. *Exeunt*

Scena Septima.

*Enter Prince Henry, Salisbury, and Bigot.*

*Hen.* It is too late, the life of all his blood  
Is touch'd, corruptibly: and his pure braine  
(Which some suppose the soules fraile dwelling house)  
Doth by the idle Comments that it makes,  
Fore-tell the ending of mortality.

*Enter Pembroke.*

*Pem.* His Highnesse yet doth speak, & holds beleefe,  
That being brought into the open ayre,  
It would allay the burning qualitie  
Of that fell poison which assaileth him.

*Hen.* Let him be brought into the Orchard heere:  
Doth he still rage?

*Pem.* He is more patient  
Then when you left him; euen now he sung.

*Hen.* Oh vanity of sicknesse: fierce extreames  
In their continuance, will not feele themselves.  
Death hauing praide vpon the outward parts  
Leaues them inuisible, and his seige is now  
Against the winde, the which he prickes and wounds  
With many legions of strange fantasies,  
Which in their throng, and presse to that last hold,  
Counfound themselves. 'Tis strange y death shold sing:  
I am the Symet to this pale faint Swan,  
Who chaunts a dolefull hymne to his owne death,  
And from the organ-pipe of frailty sings  
His soule and body to their lasting rest.

*Sal.* Be of good comfort (Prince) for you are borne  
To get a forme vpon that indigeft  
Which he hath left so shapelesse, and so rude.

*John brought so.*

*John.* I marrie, now my soule hath elbow roome,

It would not out at windowes, nor at doores,  
There is so hot a summer in my bosome,  
That all my bowels crumble vp to dust:  
I am a scribled forme drawne with a pen  
Vpon a Parchment, and against this fire  
Do I shrinke vp.

*Hen.* How fares your Maiesty?

*Job.* Poyson'd, ill fare: dead, forsooke, cast off,  
And none of you will bid the winter come  
To thrust his ycie fingers in my maw;  
Nor let my kingdomes Riuers take their course  
Through my burn'd bosome: nor intreat the North  
To make his bleake windes kisse my parched lips,  
And comfort me with cold. I do not aske you much,  
I begge cold comfort: and you are so straight  
And so ingratefull, you deny me that.

*Hen.* Oh that there were some vertue in my teares,  
That might relecue you.

*Jobn.* The salt in them is hot.  
Within me is a hell, and there the poyson  
Is, as a fiend, confin'd to tyrannize,  
On vnreprouable condemned blood.

*Enter Bastard.*

*Bast.* Oh, I am scalded with my violent motion  
And spleene of speede, to see your Maiesty.

*Jobn.* Oh Cozen, thou art come to set mine eye:  
The tackle of my heart, is crack'd and burnt,  
And all the shrowds wherewith my life should saile,  
Are turned to one thred, one little haire:  
My heart hath one poore string to stay it by,  
Which holds but till thy newes be vttered,  
And then all this thou seest, is but a clod,  
And module of confounded royalty.

*Bast.* The Dolphin is preparing hither-ward,  
Where heaven he knowes how we shall answer him,  
For in a night the best part of my powre,  
As I vpon aduantage did remoue,  
Were in the *Washes* all vnwarily,  
Deuour'd by the vnexpected flood.

*Sal.* You breath these dead newes in as dead an eare  
My Liege, my Lord: but now a King, now thus.

*Hen.* Euen so must I run on, and euen so stop.  
What surety of the world, what hope, what stay,  
When this was now a King, and now is clay?

*Bast.* Art thou gone so? I do but stay behinde,  
To do the office for thee, of reuenge,  
And then my soule shall waite on thee to heauen,

As it on earth hath bene thy seruant still.  
Now, now you starras, that moue in your right spheres,  
Where be your powres? Shew now your mended faiths,  
And instantly returne with me againe.

To push destruction, and perpetuall shame  
Out of the weake doore of our fainting Land:  
Straight let vs seeke, or straight we shall be sought,  
The Dolphine rages at our verie heeles.

*Sal.* It seemes you know not then so much as we,  
The Cardinall *Pandulph* is within at rest,  
Who halfe an houre since came from the Dolphin,  
And brings from him such offers of our peace,  
As we with honor and respect may take,  
With purpose presently to leaue this warre.

*Bast.* He will the rather do it, when he sees  
Our selues well finew'd to our defence.

*Sal.* Nay, 'tis in a manner done already,  
For many carriages hee hath dispatch'd  
To the sea side, and put his cause and quarrell  
To the disposing of the Cardinall,  
With whom your selfe, my selfe, and other Lords,  
If you thinke meete, this afternoone will poast  
To consummate this businesse happily.

*Bast.* Let it be so, and you my noble Prince,  
With other Princes that may best be spar'd,  
Shall waite vpon your Fathers Funerall.

*Hen.* At Worcester must his bodie be interr'd,  
For so he will'd it.

*Bast.* Thither shall it then,  
And happily may your sweet selfe put on  
The lineall state, and glorie of the Land,  
To whom with all submission on my knee,  
I do bequeath my faithfull seruices  
And true subiection eue lastingly.

*Sal.* And the like tender of our loue wee make  
To rest without a spot for euermore.

*Hen.* I haue a kinde soule, that would giue thanks,  
And knowes not how to do it, but with teares.

*Bast.* Oh let vs pay the time: but needfull woe,  
Since it hath beene before hand with our griefes,  
This England neuer did, nor neuer shall  
Lye at the proud foote of a Conqueror,  
But when it first did helpe to wound it selfe.  
Now, these her Princes are come home againe,  
Come the three corners of the world in Armes,  
And we shall shocke them: Naught shall make vs rue,  
If England to it selfe, do rest but true.

*Exeunt.*

