

Act 5, Scene 2 France. A royal palace

(Enter, at one door, KING HENRY, EXETER, BEDFORD, GLOUCESTER, WARWICK, WESTMORELAND and other lords; at another, the FRENCH KING, QUEEN ISABEL, the PRINCESS KATHERINE, ALICE and other French.)

KING HENRY V

Peace to this meeting, wherefore we are met.
Unto our brother France, and to our sister, health and fair time of day.
Joy and good wishes to our most fair and princely cousin Katherine.
And, princes French, and peers, health to you all.

KING OF FRANCE

Right joyous are we to behold your face, most worthy brother England. Fairly met.
So are you, princes English, every one.

QUEEN ISABEL

So happy be the issue, brother England, of this gracious meeting,
that shall this day change all griefs and quarrels into love.

KING HENRY V

To cry amen to that, thus we appear.

QUEEN ISABEL

You English princes all, I do salute you.

KING HENRY V

If you would the peace, which you have cited,
you must buy that peace with full accord to all our just demands;
whose tenors and particular effects you have, enscheduled briefly, in your hands.

KING OF FRANCE

I have but with a cursitory* eye overglanced the articles.
Pleaseth your grace to appoint some of your council presently to sit with us once more,
with better heed to re survey them, and we will suddenly pass our accept* and peremptory* answer.

KING HENRY V

Brother, we shall.
Go, uncle Exeter, and brother Clarence, and you, brother Gloucester, Warwick and Huntingdon,
go with the King; and take with you free power to ratify, augment, or alter,
as your wisdoms best shall see advantageable for our dignity,
anything in or out of our demands, and we'll consign* thereto.
Will you, fair sister, go with the princes or stay here with us?

QUEEN ISABEL

Our gracious brother, I will go with them.

cursitory - cursory, *accept* - accepted, *peremptory* - authoritative, *consign* - consent

Haply a woman's voice may do some good when articles too nicely urged be stood on.*

KING HENRY V

Yet leave our cousin Katherine here with us.
She is our capital* demand, comprised within the fore rank of our articles.

QUEEN ISABEL

She hath good leave.

(Exeunt all except HENRY, KATHERINE and ALICE.)

KING HENRY V

Fair Katherine, and most fair, will you teach a soldier terms such as will enter at a lady's ear and plead his love suit to her gentle heart?

KATHERINE

Your majesty shall mock at me. I cannot speak your England.

KING HENRY V

O fair Katherine, if you will love me soundly with your French heart,
I will be glad to hear you confess it brokenly with your English tongue.
Do you like me, Kate?

KATHERINE

Pardonnez-moi, I cannot tell wat is 'like me.'

KING HENRY V

An angel is like you, Kate, and you are like an angel.

KATHERINE

Que dit-il? Que je suis semblable a les anges?

ALICE

Oui, vraiment, sauf votre grace, ainsi dit il.

KING HENRY V

I said so, dear Katherine; and I must not blush to affirm it.

KATHERINE

O bon Dieu! les langues des hommes sont pleines de tromperies.

KING HENRY V

What says she, fair one? That the tongues of men are full of deceits?

ALICE

Oui, dat de tongues of de mans is be full of deceits. Dat is de princess.

when articles too nicely urged be stood on - when trivialities are insisted upon, *capital* - chief

KING HENRY V

In faith, Kate, I am glad thou canst speak no better English;
for if thou couldst, thou wouldst find me such a plain king
that thou wouldst think I had sold my farm to buy my crown.
I know no ways to mince it in love but directly to say, 'I love you.'
Then if you urge me farther than to say, 'Do you in faith?' I wear out my suit.*
Give me your answer, in faith, do: and so clap hands and a bargain.
How say you, lady?

KATHERINE

Sauf votre honneur, me understand vell.

KING HENRY V

Marry, if you would put me to verses or to dance for your sake, Kate, why you undid me.
If I could win a lady at leapfrog, or by vaulting into my saddle with my armor on my back,
I should quickly leap into a wife.
If thou canst love a fellow of this temper, Kate,
whose face is not worth sun-burning, that never looks in his glass for love of anything he sees there,
let thine eye be thy cook.
I speak to thee plain soldier. If thou canst love me for this, take me;
if not, to say to thee that I shall die, is true; but for thy love, by the Lord, no; yet I love thee too.
And while thou livest, dear Kate, take a fellow of plain and uncoined* constancy;
for he perforce must do thee right, because he hath not the gift to woo in other places.
For these fellows of infinite tongue, that can rhyme themselves into ladies' favors,
they do always reason themselves out again.
A speaker is but a prater; a rhyme is but a ballad.
A good leg will fall, a straight back will stoop, a black beard will turn white, a curled pate* will grow bald,
a fair face will wither, a full eye will wax hollow;
but a good heart, Kate, is the sun and the moon;
or rather, the sun, and not the moon, for it shines bright and never changes, but keeps his course truly.
If thou would have such a one, take me; and take me, take a soldier; take a soldier, take a king.
And what sayest thou then to my love?
Speak, my fair, and fairly, I pray thee.

KATHERINE

Is it possible dat I sould love de enemy of France?

KING HENRY V

No, it is not possible you should love the enemy of France, Kate;
but in loving me you should love the friend of France,
for I love France so well that I will not part with a village of it—I will have it all mine.
And, Kate, when France is mine and I am yours, then yours is France and you are mine.

KATHERINE

I cannot tell wat is dat.

wear out my suit - exhaust my terms of courtship, *uncoined* - not prepared for circulation, *pate* - head

KING HENRY V

No, Kate? I will tell thee in French;
which I am sure will hang upon my tongue like a new-married wife about her husband's neck,
hardly to be shook off.

Je quand sur le possession de France, et quand vous avez le possession de moi,—

let me see, what then? Saint Denis be my speed—

donc votre est France et vous etes mienne.

It is as easy for me, Kate, to conquer the kingdom as to speak so much more French.

I shall never move thee in French, unless it be to laugh at me.

KATHERINE

Sauf votre honneur, le Francois que vous parlez, il est meilleur que l'Anglois lequel je parle.

KING HENRY V

No, faith, is it not, Kate.

But, Kate, dost thou understand thus much English? Canst thou love me?

KATHERINE

I cannot tell.

KING HENRY V

Can any of thy neighbors tell, Kate? I'll ask them.

If ever thou beest mine, Kate, as I have a saving faith within me tells me thou shalt,
thou must needs prove a good soldier-breeder.

Shall not thou and I, compound a boy, half French, half English,
that shall go to Constantinople and take the Turk by the beard? Shall we not?
What sayest thou, my fair flower-de-luce?

KATHERINE

I do not know dat.

KING HENRY V

No; 'tis hereafter to know.

But by mine honor, I love thee, Kate; by which honor I dare not swear thou lovest me;
yet my blood begins to flatter me that thou dost, notwithstanding the poor effect of my visage.

Now beshrew my father's ambition! He was thinking of civil wars when he got me:
therefore was I created with a stubborn outside, with an aspect of iron,
that when I come to woo ladies I fright them.

But in faith, Kate, the elder I wax the better I shall appear.

My comfort is that old age can do no more spoil upon my face. Thou hast me, if thou hast me, at the worst.
And therefore tell me, most fair Katherine, will you have me?

Put off your maiden blushes; avouch the thoughts of your heart with the looks of an empress;
take me by the hand, and say, 'Harry of England I am thine!'

which word thou shalt no sooner bless mine ear withal, but I will tell thee aloud,
'England is thine, Ireland is thine, France is thine, and Harry Plantagenet is thine.'

Come, your answer in broken music; for thy voice is music and thy English broken;
therefore, queen of all, Katherine, break thy mind to me in broken English.

Wilt thou have me?

KATHERINE

Dat is as it sall please de roi mon pere.

KING HENRY V

Nay, it will please him well, Kate; it shall please him, Kate.

KATHERINE

Den it sall also content me.

KING HENRY V

Upon that I kiss your hand, and I call you my queen.

KATHERINE

Laissez, mon seigneur, laissez, laissez!

Ma foi, j'ene veux point que vous abaissiez votre grandeur enbaisant la main
d'une de votre seigneurie indigneserviteur; excusez-moi, je vous supplie, mon tres-puissant seigneur.

KING HENRY V

Then I will kiss your lips, Kate.

KATHERINE

Les dames et demoiselles pour etre baisees devant leur noces, il n'est pas la coutume de France.

KING HENRY V

Madam my interpreter, what says she?

ALICE

Dat it is not be de fashion pour les ladies of France—I cannot tell vat is baiser en English.

KING HENRY V

To kiss.

ALICE

Your majesty entendre bettere que moi.

KING HENRY V

It is not a fashion for the maids in France to kiss before they are married, would she say?

ALICE

Oui, vraiment.

KING HENRY V

O Kate, nice customs curtsy to great kings.

Dear Kate, you and I cannot be confined within the weak list* of a country's fashion.

We are the makers of manners, Kate; and the liberty that follows our places* stops the mouth of all find-faults,
as I will do yours for upholding the nice* fashion of your country in denying me a kiss.

Therefore, patiently and yielding. (*HENRY kisses KATE.*)

list - barrier, *follows our places* - attends our rank, *nice* - fastidious

You have witchcraft in your lips, Kate.
 There is more eloquence in a sugar touch of them than in the tongues of the French council,
 and they should sooner persuade Harry of England than a general petition of monarchs.
 Here comes your father.

(Re enter the FRENCH KING and his QUEEN, EXETER, WESTMORLAND and other lords.)

FRENCH KING

Gracious King, we have consented to all terms of reason.

KING HENRY V

Is it so, my lords of England?

WESTMORELAND

The King hath granted every article:
 his daughter first, and then in sequel all, according to their firm proposed natures.

KING HENRY

Shall Kate be my wife?

FRENCH KING

So please you.

KING HENRY

I am content.

FRENCH KING

Take her, fair son, and from her blood raise up issue to me,
 that the contending kingdoms of France and England,
 whose very shores look pale with envy of each other's happiness, may cease their hatred,
 and this dear conjunction plant neighborhood and Christian-like accord in their sweet bosoms,
 that never war advance his bleeding sword 'twixt England and fair France.

ALL

Amen!

KING HENRY V

Now, welcome, Kate: and bear me witness all, that here I kiss her as my sovereign Queen.
 Prepare we for our marriage;
 on which day, we'll take our oath, and all the peers for surety of our leagues.*
 Then shall I swear to Kate, and you to me, and may our oaths well kept and prosperous be!

(Horns.)

(Exeunt.)

surety of our leagues - guarantee of our treaties