

The Falstaffian Words of Wisdom

- 1) "...and now am I, if a man should speak truly, little better than one of the wicked. I must give over this life, and I will give it over. by the Lord, and I do not, I am a villain: I'll be damned for never a king's son in Christiandom!" (I, ii. 88-94)
- 2) "Go, hang thyself in thine heir-apparent garters! If I be ta'en, I'll plead for this. An I have not ballads made on you and sung to filthy tunes, let a cup of sack be my poison: when a jest is so forward, and about too! I hate it!" (II, ii. 44-48)
- 3) "Give you reasons on compulsion! If reasons were as plentiful as blackberries, I would give no man a reason upon compulsion, I" (II, iv. 242-243).
- 4) "...why, thou knowest I am as valiant as Hercules: but beware instinct; the lion will not touch the true prince. Instinct is a great matter; I was now a coward on instinct" (II, iv. 273-277)
- 5) "I am a peppercorn, a brewer's horse: the inside of a church! Company, villainous company, hath been the spoil of me" (III, iii. 207-209)
- 6) "Why, Hal, thou knowest, as thou art but man, I dare; but as thou art prince, I fear thee as I fear the roaring of a lion's whelp" (III, iii. 158-160)
- 7) "To the latter end of a fray and the beginning of a feast fits a dull fighter and a keen guest." (IV, ii. 83-85).
- 8) "'Tis not due yet; I would be loath to pay him before his day. [...] honour pricks me on [...] therefore I'll none of it. Honour is a mere scutcheon: and so ends my catechism" (IV, i. 136-150)
- 9) "'Blood, 'twas time to counterfeit, or that hot termagant Scot had paid me Scot and lot too. Counterfeit? I lie, I am no counterfeit to die, 's to be a counterfeit [...]" (IV, iv. 133-150)
IV, iv
- 10) "If I do great, I'll grow less; for I'll purge, and leave sack, and live clearly as a nobleman shall do" (V, iv. 191-194).