

Henry IV part I → Hal's placement in all three worlds

Court represents past

Henry IV obsesses about the past and is interested in going to the holy land to have his sins forgiven. He also fears if it is gone will ever change. He expresses these feelings by comparing Hotspur as a warrior and Hal as a waistrail.

Hal understands that some day he will stand in court as king. He also knows that before that he will need to stand behind his father when the time is right. He has no illusion or incorrect form of how he is to act in court.

Tavern represents present

Falstaff lives in the present. He has no care about the past and believes there is no need or purpose for honor. He lives in a very concrete world where the only thing that matters is the adventure and how well he can exaggerate the story.

Hal humorously recognises Falstaff's lack of use for time of day and enjoy himself in the adventure. He also enjoys exposing Falstaff's exaggeration.

Battlefield represents future

Hotspur lives for one thing, honor. He believes that the larger the victory the more honor he will receive. Hotspur lives in the world of the abstract. He is also very intolerant and physical and a schism.

Hal stands behind his father out to the battle field. He does not do it for honor, but for it is time to stand for his future. After killing Hotspur he praises him for all he has done.