

# Henry IV, Part 1

by William Shakespeare

Act V, sc. 2. Line 6 – Verse (intercut)

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## Earl of Worcester

**VERNON**

*'Twere best he did.*

### EARL OF WORCESTER

Then are we all undone.

It is not possible, it cannot be,

The king should keep his word in loving us;

He will suspect us still and find a time

To punish this offence in other faults:

Suspicion all our lives shall be stuck full of eyes;

For treason is but trusted like the fox,

Who, ne'er so tame, so cherish'd and lock'd up,

Will have a wild trick of his ancestors.

Look how we can, or sad or merrily,

Interpretation will misquote our looks,

And we shall feed like oxen at a stall,

The better cherish'd, still the nearer death.

My nephew's trespass may be well forgot;

it hath the excuse of youth and heat of blood,

And an adopted name of privilege,

A hair-brain'd Hotspur, govern'd by a spleen:

All his offences live upon my head

And on his father's; we did train him on,

And, his corruption being ta'en from us,

We, as the spring of all, shall pay for all.

Therefore, good cousin, let not Harry know,

In any case, the offer of the king.