

# Henry V

by William Shakespeare

Act I, sc. 1. Line 42 – Verse

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## Canterbury

Hear him but reason in divinity,  
And all-admiring with an inward wish  
You would desire the king were made a prelate:  
Hear him debate of commonwealth affairs,  
You would say it hath been all in all his study:  
List his discourse of war, and you shall hear  
A fearful battle render'd you in music:  
Turn him to any cause of policy,  
The Gordian knot of it he will unloose,  
Familiar as his garter: that, when he speaks,  
The air, a charter'd libertine, is still,  
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears,  
To steal his sweet and honey'd sentences;  
So that the art and practick part of life  
Must be the mistress to this theoretic:  
Which is a wonder how his grace should glean it,  
Since his addiction was to courses vain,  
His companies unletter'd, rude and shallow,  
His hours fill'd up with riots, banquets, sports,  
And never noted in him any study,  
Any retirement, any sequestration  
From open haunts and popularity.