

ACT 3 SCENE 3
Eastcheap: the Boar's Head Tavern

Enter FALSTAFF and BARDOLPH

FALSTAFF Bardolph, have I lost weight since the robbery? My skin is hanging off me like an old lady's dress. I'm wasting away. I need to repent while I still have some strength. If I haven't forgotten what the inside of a church looks like, I'm a peppercorn.

BARDOLPH U can't live long if ur this sad, Sir John

FALSTAFF Sing me a song. I used to be as good as a gentleman needs to be. I swore a bit, played dice not more than seven times a week, went to a brothel not more than once every fifteen minutes, paid back money I borrowed three or four times. Now I'm out of control.

BARDOLPH Ur so fat you're out of all reasonable compass, Sir John

FALSTAFF Fix ur face and I'll fix my life. Your nose is so red it's like a lantern on a ship. U are the Knight of the Burning Lamp. Every time I look at your face I think of hellfire. When u ran up Gad's Hill at night I thought you were a will-o'-the-wisp. You've saved me a thousand marks in torches. I've been paying for your wine for 32 years.

BARDOLPH I wish my face was in ur stomach

FALSTAFF Then I'd have heartburn lol

Enter HOSTESS

FALSTAFF Hostess, have you found out who picked my pocket?

HOSTESS Wtf Sir John? Do you think I keep thieves in my house? I've searched everywhere, every single person. No one has ever lost a hair in my house.

FALSTAFF Bullshit. Bardolph was shaved here and lost heaps of hair. And I've had my pocket picked. Go away, you're a woman.

HOSTESS You owe me money, Sir John. I bought you a dozen shirts.

FALSTAFF They were dirty and I gave them to bakers' wives who used them for sieves.

HOSTESS They were legit linen, eight shillings a yard. You also owe me 24 pounds for food and drink, and the money I lent you.

FALSTAFF (pointing at BARDOLPH) He had some of it. Let him pay.

HOSTESS He's povo. He has nothing.

FALSTAFF Look at his face. He's rich. And someone stole my grandfather's ring worth forty marks.

Enter the PRINCE marching, with PETO, and FALSTAFF meets them playing on his truncheon like a fife

FALSTAFF Wassup Hal? Is that the way the wind's blowing? Are we all marching now?

HOSTESS My lord, please listen to me

PRINCE What's up Mistress Quickly? How's your husband?

FALSTAFF Listen to me, not her

PRINCE What's up, Jack?

FALSTAFF Last night I fell asleep behind the curtain and my pocket got picked. This house is full of thieves.

PRINCE What did you lose, Jack?

FALSTAFF Three or four bonds worth forty pounds each, and my grandpa's ring

PRINCE It's a cheap brass ring worth eight pence

HOSTESS That's what I told him my lord. And he said you owe him a thousand pounds and he'll beat you up!

PRINCE Is that true?

FALSTAFF A thousand pounds, Hal? A million. Your love is worth a million. You owe me your love.

HOSTESS He called you a jack-ass and said he'd beat you up!

FALSTAFF Did I, Bardolph?

BARDOLPH U did

FALSTAFF Only if he says my ring is copper

PRINCE I say it's copper. Will u fight me now?

FALSTAFF Hal, you're a man so I'm scared of you. But you're also a prince, so I'm scared of you like I'm scared of a lion's cub.

PRINCE Why not a lion?

FALSTAFF Your dad is the lion. Am I meant to be scared of you like your dad? Nah.

PRINCE Listen u fat cunt. There's no room for honesty or loyalty in that massive gut of yours. Your pocket had nothing in it except tavern bills, brothel receipts and a pennyworth of sugar candy to help you breathe. I picked it. What's ur excuse now?

FALSTAFF You know, Hal, in the state of innocence Adam fell. So what's poor Jack Falstaff gonna do in these evil days? You can see I have more flesh than other men, so I'm more vulnerable. So you admit you picked my pocket?

PRINCE Yep

FALSTAFF Hostess, I forgive you. Go make breakfast, love your husband, look after your servants, cherish your guests. See? I'm reasonable now. Go away.

Exit HOSTESS

FALSTAFF So Hal, what's the news from court? What happened with the robbery?

PRINCE The money's been paid back. I'm on good terms with my dad now and I can do whatever I want.

FALSTAFF Rob the treasury straight away then lol

BARDOLPH Yeah do it my lord

PRINCE I got you a job, Jack. You're in charge of some foot soldiers.

FALSTAFF I wish it was cavalry. Where am I meant to find a good thief? A 22 year old thief would be nice. I'm desperately povo. Anyways, thank God for these rebels. They only attack good people. I praise them.

PRINCE Bardolph, take this letter to my brother John. Peto, come with me, we have heaps to do. Jack, meet me in the Temple hall tomorrow at 2pm. You'll get your orders and money for equipment. The whole country's on fire. Percy's so high now, either we fall or they do.

Exeunt PRINCE, PETO and BARDOLPH

FALSTAFF What a time to be alive! Hostess, my breakfast! I wish this tavern was my drum.

Exit