

CHORUS

Now entertain conjecture of* a time when creeping murmur and the poring dark
fills the wide vessel of the universe.

From camp to camp, through the foul womb of night, the hum of either army stilly* sounds,
that the fixed sentinels almost receive the secret whispers of each other's watch.

Fire answers fire, and through their paly* flames each battle sees the other's umbered* face.

Steed threatens steed, in high and boastful neighs piercing the night's dull ear;

and from the tents the armorers, accomplishing* the knights, with busy hammers closing rivets up,
give dreadful note of preparation.

The country cocks do crow, the clocks do toll, and the third hour of drowsy morning name.

Proud of their numbers and secure in soul,

the confident and over-lusty French do the low-rated English play at dice;

and chide the cripple tardy-gaited* night who like a foul and ugly witch doth limp so tediously away.

The poor condemned English, like sacrifices,

by their watchful fires sit patiently and inly ruminate the morning's danger.

O now, who will behold the royal captain of this ruined band

walking from watch to watch, from tent to tent, let him cry, 'Praise and glory on his head!'

For forth he goes and visits all his host, bids them good morrow with a modest smile

and calls them brothers, friends and countrymen.

Upon his royal face there is no note how dread an army hath enrouned him;

nor doth he dedicate one jot of color unto the weary and all-watched night,

but freshly looks and over-bears attaint* with cheerful semblance and sweet majesty;

that every wretch, pining and pale before, beholding him, plucks comfort from his looks.

A largess* universal like the sun his liberal eye doth give to every one, thawing cold fear,

that mean* and gentle* all behold, as may unworthiness define,* a little touch of Harry in the night.

(Exit CHORUS.)

entertain conjecture of - imagine, *stilly* - quietly, *paly* - pale, *umbered* - shadowed; earth colored,

accomplishing - completing the armoring of; equipping, *tardy-gaited* - slow footed,

over bears attaint - masters fatigue, *largess* - generosity of spirit, *mean* - low born,

gentle - high born, *as may unworthiness define* - as far as our unworthy selves can present it