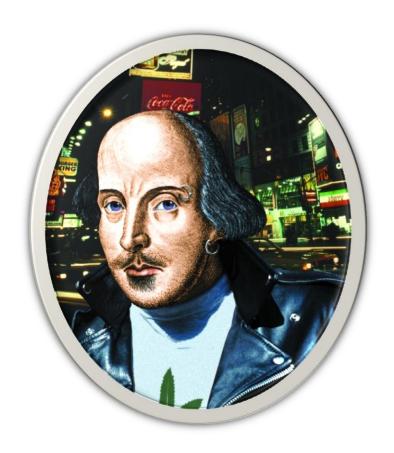


Sir Thomas More

Shakespeare's Sheriff More speech, Act 2.[4]

GENERAL EDITOR: John Nobody 9/5/2016



Shakespeare in Times Square, New York by kind permission of Mirko Ilic

Copyright Milo Ilic Inc.

St Martín's-le-Grand, Adlersgate, London

May Day, 1517

CROWD (of the prevailing mood)

¹⁻⁷⁶: Remove the strangers! °

LEGEND FOR STANDARD THEATRE SCRIPT

- * > alerts you to a note about scansion and elision in the corresponding ePlay resource
- > alerts you to a note about text, lineation, stage direction or speech header in the *ePlay*

SHERIFF MORE

- 77: Grant them remov'd, and grant that this your noise
- 78: Hath chid down all the majesty of England;
- 79: Imagine that you see the wretched strangers
- ^{80:} (Their babies at their backs and their poor luggage)
- ^{81:} Plodding to th' ports and coasts for transportation; ^x
- 82: And that you sit as kings in your desires,
- 83: Authority quite silenc'd by your brawl,
- 84: And you in ruff of your opinions clothed;
- 85: What had you got? 4
- 1'll tell you: you had taught
- ^{86:} How insolence and strong hand should prevail,
- ^{87:} How order should be quell'd; and by this pattern
- 88: Not one of you should live an agèd man—
- $^{89:}$ For other ruffians (as their fancies wrought) $^{\times}$
- ^{90:} With self same hand, self reasons, and self right,
- ^{91:} Would shark on you; and men like rav'nous fishes ^x
- ^{92:} Would feed on one another.

DOLL

93: Before God, that's as true as the Gospel.

LINCOLN or GEORGE BETTS O

^{94:} Nay, this is a sound fellow, I tell you—let's mark him.

```
SHERIFF MORE
 <sup>95:</sup> Let me set up before your thoughts, good friends,
 <sup>96:</sup> On supposition; which if you will mark,
 <sup>97:</sup> You shall perceive how horrible a shape
 <sup>98:</sup> Your insurrection bears. •
                                    First, 'tis a sin!
 <sup>99:</sup> Which oft the apostle did forewarn us of,
100: Urging obedience to authority; *
<sup>101:</sup> And 'twere no error, if I told you all,
<sup>102</sup>: You were in arms against your God Himself!
    ALL
<sup>103:</sup> Marry, God forbid that! <sup>o</sup>
    SHERIFF MORE
104: Nay, certainly you are;
<sup>105</sup>: For to the king God hath His office lent
<sup>106:</sup> Of dread, of justice, power and command;
107: Hath bid him rule, and willed you to obey;
<sup>108:</sup> And—to add ampler majesty to this—
109: He hath not only lent the king His figure,
<sup>110</sup>: His throne, His sword, but giv'n him his own name, <sup>×</sup> °
<sup>111:</sup> Calls him 'a god on earth'.
111:
                                      What do you then—
<sup>112:</sup> Rising 'gainst him that God Himself installs—<sup>x</sup>
113: But rise 'gainst God? X
113:
                                What do you to your souls
<sup>114:</sup> In doing this?
114:
                      O desp'rate as you are, x
<sup>115:</sup> Wash your foul minds with tears; and those same
                                                                  hands—
116: That you like rebels lift against the peace—
```

```
117: Lift up for peace; and your unrev'rent knees x
<sup>118:</sup> Make them your feet to kneel to be forgiven!
119: Tell me but this: what rebel captain—
<sup>120:</sup> As mutinies are like to hap—by his name <sup>x</sup> o
121: Can still the rout? Who will obey a traitor?
122: Or how can well that proclamation sound
123: When there is no addition but a 'rebel'
<sup>124:</sup> To qualify a rebel? <sup>x</sup>
                           You'll put down strangers, x
125: Kill them, cut their throats, possess their houses,
<sup>126:</sup> And lead the majesty of law on leash °
<sup>127</sup>: To slip him like a hound.
                                  Say now the king
128: (As he is clement if th' offender mourn)
<sup>129</sup>: Should so much come too short of your great trespass
<sup>130:</sup> As merely t' banish you—whith'r would you go? × °
131: What country—by the nature of your error—
132: Should give you harbor? X
                                  Go you to France or Flanders;
<sup>133:</sup> To any German province; Spain or Portugal;
<sup>134</sup>: Nay, anywhere that not adheres to England—
135: Why, you must needs be strangers. X
                                             Would you be pleased
<sup>136</sup>: To find a nation of such barb'rous temper, <sup>x</sup>
<sup>137</sup>: That breaking out in hideous violence <sup>x</sup>
138: Would not afford you an abode on earth?
139: Whet their detested knives across your throats?
<sup>140:</sup> Spurn you like dogs? and like as if that God
<sup>141</sup>: Own'd not, nor made not you? °
```

Nor that the elements

¹⁴²: Were not all appropriate to your comforts, ^x

^{143:} But charter'd unto them?

What would you think

To be thus used?

This is the strangers' case;

¹⁴⁵: And this your mountanish inhumanity. ^x

© VERSEBUSTER.

FOR THE OTHER, MORE DETAILED THEATRE SCRIPTS WE OFFER, PLEASE VIEW OUR THEATRE SCRIPT DEMOS ON THE VERSEBUSTER HOMEPAGE

FOR YOUR OWN CUSTOMISED THEATRE SCRIPTS PLEASE CONTACT US