

King and No King, A

Bacarius Now, Captain Bessus, I come about a frivolous matter caus'd by as idle a report. You know you were a coward.

Bessus Very right.

Ba And wrong'd me.

B True, my lord.

Ba But now people will call you valiant - desertlessly, O think; yet, for their satisfaction, I will have you fight with me.

B Oh, my good lord, my deep engagements-

Ba Tell not me of your engagements, Captain Bessus; it is not to be put off with an excuse. For my own part, I am none of the multitude that believe your conversion from coward.

B My lord, I seek not quarrels, and this belongs not to me; I am not to maintain it.

Ba Who then, pray?

B Bessus the coward wrong'd you.

Ba Right.

B And shall Bessus the valiant maintain what Bessus the coward did?

Ba I prithee, leave these cheating tricks. I swear thou shalt fight with me, or thou shalt be beat extremely and kick'd.

B Since you provoke me thus far, my lord, I will fight with you, and, by my sword, it shall cost me twenty pounds but I will have my leg well a week sooner purposely.

Ba Your leg! Why, what ails your leg? I'll do a cure on you; stand up.

B My lord, this is not noble in you.

Ba What dost thou with such a phrase in thy mouth? I will kick thee out of all good words before I leave thee.

Kicks him

B My lord, I take this as a punishment for the offense I did when I was a coward.