

SPEECH TRANSCRIPTS

Henry V (1599) – William Shakespeare Act 3 Scene 1

“Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more;
 Or close the wall up with our English dead.
 In peace there’s nothing so becomes a man
 As modest stillness and humility:
 But when the blast of war blows in our ears, 5
 Then imitate the action of the tiger;
 Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,
 Disguise fair nature with hard-favour’d rage;
 Then lend the eye a terrible aspect;
 Let pry through the portage of the head 10
 Like the brass cannon; let the brow o’erwhelm it
 As fearfully as doth a galled rock
 O’erhang and jutty his confounded base,
 Swill’d with the wild and wasteful ocean. 15
 Now set the teeth and stretch the nostril wide,
 Hold hard the breath and bend up every spirit
 To his full height. On, on, you noblest English.
 Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof!
 Fathers that, like so many Alexanders, 20
 Have in these parts from morn till even fought
 And sheathed their swords for lack of argument:
 Dishonour not your mothers; now attest
 That those whom you call’d fathers did beget you.
 Be copy now to men of grosser blood, 25
 And teach them how to war. And you, good yeoman,
 Whose limbs were made in England, show us here
 The mettle of your pasture; let us swear
 That you are worth your breeding; which I doubt not;
 For there is none of you so mean and base, 30
 That hath not noble lustre in your eyes.
 I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
 Straining upon the start. The game’s afoot:
 Follow your spirit, and upon this charge
 Cry ‘God for Harry, England, and Saint George!’”

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Prime Minister Winston Churchill Speech in the House of Commons, 4 June 1940

“We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/churchill_audio_01.shtml

Martin Luther King Address at March on Washington, D.C. 28 August 1963

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed; ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’ I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.”

<http://www.mlkonline.net/dream.html>