

A PAGAN PLAY

The Tragedy of KING LEAR

LEAR, as a play, needs to hit an
uncompromising rock-bottom - domestic
melodrama it ain't (deeply Greek)

LEAR ^{even} at start, is on a short fuse - erratic, rash
By trial scene - fuse even shorter, madder, more
fragile.
but recognizable

- what to Gods (+ nature above) - prayers
- and what to audience
- tremble then watch eg
OR poor wretched witches

- The Second Coming / sat's
- King Solomon

LEAR'S
CREATIVITY
+ imagination

lean bring it all on himself
His pride is in Cordelia
His anger is in General

his own
political
rebound to
destrory

they fuck you up you Mum + Dad - lookin

The play in a nutshell
- don't worry that it will be
beyond you - not some
impenetrable, Gtthic obscure opera.

Shakespeare wrote the Henry's
for commission to show how great
the Tudors are

lean he wrote for himself
about a world gone mad,
∴ set in ancient times
[see Fool + Merlin]

e.g. 'ee' sounds wheel of fire!

heart, nature; cause
 letters (count them)
 Ha! nothing.
 heavens/gods/Jupiter
 Goddess / crying / shame
 kneeling motif

Seeing!
 Lear Court → Goneril → Regan -
 heart attacks
 storm → prayer - rage in
 hovel trial → sleep → PAF
 garb → Cordelia → to
 prison → death.

cones of
 sight / smell
 touch

authority

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

repeated words as Howl, No no etc here never...

fire
 water
 stone

Lear, King of Britain
 King of France
 Duke of Burgundy
 Duke of Cornwall, husband to Regan
 Duke of Albany, husband to Goneril
 Earl of Kent
 Earl of Gloucester
 Edgar, son to Gloucester
 Edmund, bastard son to Gloucester
 Curan, a courtier
 Oswald, steward to Goneril
 Old Man, tenant to Gloucester
 Doctor
 Lear's Fool
 A Captain, subordinate to Edmund
 Gentlemen, attending on Cordelia
 A Herald
 Servants to Cornwall
 Goneril
 Regan
 Cordelia } daughters to Lear
 Knights attending on Lear, Officers,
 Messengers, Soldiers, Attendants

to Kent: what art thou?
 to Fool: how dost thou?

then in storm
 how dost, my boy

who am I?
 (society w. lot of
 fear in it)

Scene: Britain]

51



1

The Tragedy of King Lear

ACT I

Scene I. [*King Lear's palace.*]

Enter Kent, Gloucester, and Edmund.

Kent. I thought the King had more affected^{o1} the Duke of Albany^o than Cornwall.

Gloucester. It did always seem so to us; but now, in the division of the kingdom, it appears not which of the dukes he values most, for equalities are so weighed that curiosity in neither can make choice of either's moiety.⁵

Kent. Is not this your son, my lord?

Gloucester. His breeding,^o sir, hath been at my charge. I have so often blushed to acknowledge him that now I am brazed^o to't.¹⁰

Kent. I cannot conceive^o you.

Gloucester. Sir, this young fellow's mother could; whereupon she grew round-wombed, and had indeed, sir, a son for her cradle ere she had a husband for her bed. Do you smell a fault?¹⁵

¹ The degree sign (°) indicates a footnote, which is keyed to the text by line number. Text references are printed in *italic* type; the annotation follows in *roman* type.

I.i. ¹ *affected* loved ² *Albany* Albanactes, whose domain extended "from the river Humber to the point of Caithness" (Holinshed) ⁵⁻⁷ *equalities* . . . *moiety* i.e., shares are so balanced against one another that careful examination by neither can make him wish the other's portion ⁹ *breeding* upbringing ¹¹ *brazed* made brazen, hardened ¹² *conceive* understand (pun follows)

I am a very foolish fond old man
Fourscore and upward, not an hour more nor less

Lean starts
with crown

James 1st
was first self styled King of Great Britain
(i.e. Ireland, Scotland + England)

Kent. I cannot wish the fault undone, the issue^o of it being so proper.^o

Gloucester. But I have a son, sir, by order of law, some year elder than this, who yet is no dearer in my account:^o though this knave^o came some thing saucily^o to the world before, he was sent for, yet was his mother fair, there was good sport at his making, and the whoreson^o must be acknowledged. Do you know this noble gentleman, Edmund?

Edmund. No, my lord.

Gloucester. My Lord of Kent. Remember him here after as my honorable friend.

Edmund. My services to your lordship.

Kent. I must love you, and sue^o to know you better.

Edmund. Sir, I shall study deserving.

Gloucester. He hath been out^o nine years, and away he shall again. The King is coming.

Sound a sennet. Enter Lear and Court.

Lear: Thank you, Fool

Fool: Fourscore! Not bad! (Applause)

Lear: Attend the lords of France and Burgundy, Gloucester.

Gloucester. I shall, my lord. *Exit [with Edmund].*

Lear:

Know that we have divided
In three our kingdom; and 'tis our fast intent
To shake all cares and business from our age,
Conferring them on younger strengths, while we

17 *issue* result (child) 18 *proper* handsome 21 *account* estimation
 21 *knave* fellow (without disapproval) 22 *saucily* (1) insolently (2) lasciviously
 24 *whoreson* fellow (lit., son of a whore) 31 *sue* entreat
 33 *out* away, abroad 34 s.d. *seppet* set of notes played on a trumpet, signaling the entrance or departure of a procession 34 s.d. *coronet* small crown, intended for Cordelia 38 *darker purpose* hidden intention 40 *fast* fixed

Fool:
 HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY
 Thanks for
 the Memory

Secret?
 more
 serious?
 not

6

Albany, New York

expensive
magnanimous

Lear starts to prove
orchestrating the nature of Statin
or Capone

Unburthened crawl toward death. Our son of
Cornwall,

41
som around him

And you our no less loving son of Albany,
We have this hour a constant will to publish
Our daughters' several dowers, that future strife
May be prevented now.

45

The Princes, France and Burgundy,
Great rivals in our youngest daughter's love,

Long in our court have made their amorous sojourn,
And here are to be answered. Tell me, my daughters
(Since now we will divest us both of rule,

50

Interest of territory, cares of state),
Which of you shall we say doth love us most,
That we our largest bounty may extend

Where nature doth with merit challenge. Goneril,
Our eldest-born, speak first.

55

Goneril. Sir, I love you more than word can wield^o
the matter;

Dearer than eyesight, space and liberty;
Beyond what can be valued, rich or rare;
No less than life, with grace, health, beauty, honor;
As much as child e'er loved, or father found;
A love that makes breath poor, and speech
unable:

60

Beyond all manner of so much I love you.

Cordelia. [Aside] What shall Cordelia speak? Love,
and be silent.

Lear. Of all these bounds, even from this line to this,
With shadowy forests, and with champains riched,
With plenteous rivers and wide-skirted meads,
We make thee lady. To thine and Albany's issues
Be this perpetual. What says our second daughter,

65

45 constant will to publish fixed intention to proclaim 46 several sep-
arate 47 prevented forestalled 52 Interest legal right 55 nature . . .
challenge i.e., natural affection contends with desert for (or lays claim
to) bounty 57 wield handle 58 space scope 62 breath language
62 unable impotent 63 Beyond . . . much beyond all these comparisons
66 champains riched enriched plains 67 wide-skirted meads extensive
grasslands 68 issues descendants 69 perpetual in perpetuity

Is Foot
possibly?

throw to stone

resultant R
being added to
 $F + B$?

70

Our dearest Regan, wife of Cornwall?

Regan. I am made of that self mettle^o as my sister,
And prize me at her worth.^o In my true heart
I find she names my very deed of love;^o
Only she comes too short, that^o I profess
73 Myself an enemy to all other joys
Which the most precious square of sense
professes,^o

And find I am alone felicitate^o
In your dear Highness' love.

Cordelia. [Aside] Then poor Cordelia!
And yet not so, since I am sure my love's
80 More ponderous^o than my tongue.

Lear. To thee and thine hereditary ever
Remain this ample third of our fair kingdom,
No less in space, validity, and pleasure — But
Than that conferred on Goneril. Now, our joy, ... empty line
85 Although our last and least; to whose young love
The vines of France and milk of Burgundy
Strive to be interest; what can you say to draw
A third more opulent than your sisters? Speak.

already
10 best

Cordelia. Nothing, my lord. pause

90 *Lear.* Nothing? pause

Cordelia. Nothing. pause

Lear. Nothing will come of nothing. Speak again.

Cordelia. Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave
My heart into my mouth. I love your Majesty
95 According to my bond,^o no more nor less.

Lear. How, how, Cordelia? Mend your speech a little,
Lest you may mar your fortunes.

keep
as empty line of
verse;

⁷¹ self mettle same material or temperament ⁷² prize . . . worth value
me the same (imperative) ⁷³ my . . . love what my love really is (a
legalism) ⁷⁴ that in that ⁷⁵ Which . . . professes which the choicest
estimate of sense avows ⁷⁶ felicitate made happy ⁷⁷ ponderous weighty
⁷⁸ validity value ⁷⁹ least youngest, smallest ⁸⁰ milk i.e., pastures
⁸¹ interest closely connected, as interested parties ⁸² bond i.e., filial
obligation

Cordelia.

Good my lord,

You have begot me, bred me, loved me. I

Return those duties back as are right fit,⁹⁹

Obey you, love you, and most honor you. 100

Why have my sisters husbands, if they say

They love you all? Haply,¹⁰² when I shall wed,That lord whose hand must take my plight¹⁰³ shall
carry

Half my love with him, half my care and duty.

Sure I shall never marry like my sisters, 105

To love my father all. *pause*

Lear. But goes thy heart with this?

Cordelia.

Ay, my good lord.

Lear. So young, and so untender? *pause*Cordelia. So young, my lord, and true. *pause*

Lear. Let it be so, thy truth then be thy dower. 110

For by the sacred radiance of the sun,

The mysteries of Hecate¹¹² and the night,By all the operation of the orbs¹¹³

From whom we do exist and cease to be,

Here I disclaim all my paternal care, 115

Propinquity and property of blood,

And as a stranger to my heart and me

Hold thee from this for ever. 120

Kent.

Good my liege—

Lear. Peace, Kent— *pause*

⁹⁹ Return . . . fit i.e., am correspondingly dutiful ¹⁰² Haply perhaps
¹⁰³ plight troth plight ¹¹² mysteries of Hecate secret rites of Hecate
 (goddess of the infernal world, and of witchcraft) ¹¹³ operation of
 the orbs astrological influence ¹¹⁶ Propinquity and property of blood
 relationship and common blood ¹¹⁸ Scythian (type of the savage)
¹¹⁹ makes his generation messes eats his own offspring ¹²² sometime
 former

end of line

cut/wrench

- 123 Come not between the Dragon and his wrath!
 I loved her most, and thought to set my rest
 On her kind nursery. Hence and avoid my sight!
 So be my grave my peace, as here I give
 Her father's heart from her! Call France. Who stirs?
 Call Burgundy. Cornwall and Albany,
 130 With my two daughters' dowers digest this third;
 Let pride, which she calls plainness, marry her.
 I do invest you jointly with my power,
 Pre-eminence, and all the large effects
 That troop with majesty. Ourself, by monthly
 course,
 135 With reservation of an hundred knights,
 By you to be sustained, shall our abode
 Make with you by due turn; Only we shall retain
 The name, and all th' addition to a king: The sway,
 Revèue, execution of the rest,
 140 Belovèd sons, be yours; which to confirm,
 This coronet part between you.

KNOCK OVER
MIKE

Kent. Royal Lear,
 Whom I have ever honored as my king,
 Loved as my father, as my master followed,
 As my great patron thought on in my prayers——

145 *Lear.* The bow is bent and drawn; make from the
 shaft.

Kent. Let it fall^o rather, though the fork^o invade
 The region of my heart. Be Kent unmannerly
 When Lear is mad. What wouldst thou do, old
 man?
 Think'st thou that duty shall have dread to speak

124 *Dragon* (1) heraldic device of Britain (2) emblem of ferocity
 125 *set my rest* (1) stake my all (a term from the card game of primero)
 (2) find my rest 126 *nursery* care, nursing 130 *digest* absorb
 131 *Let . . . her* i.e., let her pride be her dowry and gain her a hus-
 band 133-34 *effects/That troop with majesty* accompaniments that go with
 kingship 134 *Ourself* (the royal "we") 135 *reservation* the action of
 reserving a privilege (a legalism) 138 *addition* titles and honors 141 *cor-*
onet (the crown which was to have been Cordelia's) 145 *make from*
the shaft avoid the arrow 146 *fall* strike 146 *fork* forked head of the
 arrow

When power to flattery bows? ~~To plainness honor's~~
~~bound~~

150

~~When majesty falls to folly.~~ Reserve thy state,^o
 And in thy best consideration^o check
 This hideous rashness. Answer my life my
 judgment,^o

Thy youngest daughter does not love thee least,
 Nor are those empty-hearted whose low sounds
 Reverb^o no hollowness.^o

155

Lear.

Kent, on thy life, no more.

Kent. My life I never held but as a pawn^o

To wage^o against thine enemies; nor fear to lose it,
 Thy safety being motive.^o

Lear.

Out of my sight!

Kent. See better, Lear, and let me still^o remain
 The true blank^o of thine eye.

160

Lear. Now by Apollo——

MOVE TO P/V MIKE

Kent.

Now by Apollo, King,

Thou swear'st thy gods in vain.

Lear.

O vassal! Miscreant!

[Laying his hand on his sword.]

Albany, Cornwall. Dear sir, forbear!

Kent. ~~Kill thy physician, and the fee bestow~~

165

~~Upon the foul disease.~~ Revoke thy gift,
 Or, whilst I can vent clamor^o from my throat,
 I'll tell thee thou dost evil.

Lear.

Hear me, recreant!

On thine allegiance, hear me. (pauze)

That thou hast sought to make us break our vows,

170

151 Reserve thy state retain your kingly authority 152 best considera-
 tion most careful reflection 153 Answer . . . judgment I will stake my
 life on my opinion 154 Reverb reverberate 155 hollowness (1) empti-
 ness (2) insincerity 156 pawn stake in a wager 157 wage (1) wager
 (2) carry on war 158 motive moving cause 159 still always 160 blank
 the white spot in the center of the target (at which Lear should aim)
 161 vassal! Miscreant! base wretch! Misbeliever! 162 vent clamor utter
 a cry 163 recreant traitor 164 On thine allegiance (to forswear, which
 is to commit high treason)

disasters ref Edmund + "eclipses"
set 1. sc. 2.

next day - later
editing

24. 88. 120
 n. natural life: I, i

Which we durst never yet, and with strained pride
 To come betwixt our sentence and our power,
 Which nor our nature nor our place can bear,
 Our potency made good, take thy reward!
 175 Five days we do allot thee for provision
 To shield thee from diseases of the world, disasters
 And on the sixth to turn thy hated back
 Upon our kingdom. If, on the next day following,
 Thy banished trunk be found in our dominions,
 180 The moment is thy death. Away! By Jupiter,
 This shall not be revoked.

Kent. Fare thee well, King. Sith^o thus thou wilt appear,
 Freedom lives hence, and banishment is here. Swee

[*To Cordelia*] The gods to their dear shelter take
 thee, maid,

185 That justly think'st, and hast most rightly said.
 [*To Regan and Goneril*] And your large speeches
 may your deeds approve,^o
 That good effects^o may spring from words of love.
 Thus Kent, O Princes, bids you all adieu;
 He'll shape his old course^o in a country new. *Exit.*

Flourish.^o *Enter Gloucester, with France and
 Burgundy; Attendants.*

190 ^{Cornwall} *Gloucester.* Here's France and Burgundy, my noble
 lord.

Lear. My Lord of Burgundy, pause
 We first address toward you, who with this king
 Hath rivaled for our daughter. What in the least
 Will you require in present dower with her,
 Or cease your quest of love?

195 *Burgundy.* Most royal Majesty,
 I crave no more than hath your Highness offered,

171 *strained* forced (and so excessive) 172 *sentence* judgment, decree
 174 *Our potency made good* my royal authority being now asserted
 175 *for provision* for making preparation, 176 *diseases* troubles
 179 *trunk* body 182 *Sith* since 186 *approve* prove true 187 *effects* results
 189 *shape* . . . *course* pursue his customary way 189 *s.d.* *Flourish* trumpet
 fanfare 194 *present* immediate

price is gone.

I would not deviate from your love
to match you with someone I hate

Nor will you tender^o less.

Lear. Right noble Burgundy,
When she was dear to us, we did hold her so;
But now her price is fallen. Sir, there she stands.
If aught within

200

may fitly like your Grace,
She's there, and she is yours.

Burgundy. I know no answer.

Lear. Will you, with those infirmities she owes,

203

Take her, or leave her?

Burgundy. Pardon me, royal sir.
Election makes not up^o on such conditions.

Lear. Then leave her, sir; for, by the pow'r that made
me,

I tell you all her wealth. [*To France.*] For you,
great King,

210

I would not from your love make such a stray
To match you where I hate, therefore beseech
you

T' avert your liking a more worthier way
Than on a wretch whom nature is ashamed
Almost t' acknowledge hers.

France. This is most strange, 213
That she whom even but now was your best object,^o
The argument^o of your praise, balm of your age,
The best, the dearest, should in this trice of time
Commit a thing so monstrous to dismantle^o

197 tender offer 198 dear (1) beloved (2) valued at a high price
200 little seeming substance person who is (1) inconsiderable (2) out-
spoken 201 pieced added to it 202 fitly like please by its fitness
204 owes possesses 206 strangered made a stranger 208 Election makes
not up no one can choose 211-12 make such a stray/*To* stray so far as to
212 beseech I beseech 213 avert . . . way turn your affections from her
and bestow them on a better person 216 best object i.e., the one you
loved most 217 argument subject 218 dismantle strip off

LEAR (regretfully?) touches her
cheek - she flicks ~~the~~ away
LEAR finally SITS?

220

So many folds of favor.

225

Cordelia.

I yet beseech your Majesty,

If for° I want that glib and oily art

To speak and purpose not,° since what I well intend

I'll do't before I speak, that you make known

It is no vicious blot, murder, or foulness,

230

No unchaste action or dishonored step,

That hath deprived me of your grace and favor;

But even for want of that for which I am richer,

A still-soliciting° eye, and such a tongue

That I am glad I have not, though not to have it

Hath lost° me in your liking.

235

Lear.

Better thou

Hadst not been born than not t' have pleased me
better.*France.*

My Lord of Burgundy,

240

What say you° to the lady?

Will you have her?

She is herself a dowry.

Burgundy.

Royal King,

Give but that portion which yourself proposed,

245

And here I take Cordelia by the hand,

Duchess of Burgundy. *PLEASE*

222 *That monsters it as makes it monstrous, unnatural* 222 *fore-*
vouched previously sworn 223 *Fall into taint* must be taken as having
 been unjustified all along i.e., Cordelia was unworthy of your love
 from the first 224-25 *reason . . . me* my reason would have to be sup-
 ported by a miracle to make me believe 226 *for* because 227 *purpose*
not not mean to do what I promise 233 *still-soliciting* always begging
 235 *lost* ruined 237 *tardiness in nature* natural reticence 238 *leaves the*
history unspoke does not announce the action 240 *What say you* i.e.,
 will you have 241 *regards* considerations (the dowry) 241-42 *stands*
 . . . *point* have nothing to do with the essential question (love)

Lear cannot see how he's really lost ---
he sides w Burgundy - cos ~~he~~ he
thinks B agrees with Cordelia's
lack of value

Lear. Nothing I have sworn, I am firm.

Burgundy. I am sorry then you have so lost a father
That you must lose a husband.

Cordelia. Peace be with Burgundy.
Since that respects of fortune^o are his love, 250
I shall not be his wife.

France. Fairest Cordelia, that art most rich being
poor,
Most choice forsaken, and most loved despised,
Thee and thy virtues here I seize upon.
Be it lawful I take up what's cast away. 255
Gods, gods! 'Tis strange that from their cold'st
neglect
My love should kindle to inflamed respect.^o
Thy dow'rless daughter, King, thrown to my
chance,^o
Is Queen of us, of ours, and our fair France.
Not all the dukes of wat'rish^o Burgundy 260
Can buy this unprized precious^o maid of me.
Bid them farewell, Cordelia, though unkind.
Thou lovest here, a better where^o to find.

Lear. Thou hast her, France; let her be thine, for we
Have no such daughter, nor shall ever see 265
That face of hers again. Therefore be gone,
Without our grace, our love, our benison.
Come, noble Burgundy.

Flourish. Exeunt [*Lear, Burgundy, Cornwall,
Albany, Gloucester, and Attendants*].

France. Bid farewell to your sisters.

Cordelia. The jewels of our father,^o with washed^o
eyes 270
Cordelia leaves you. I know you what you are,

250 *respects of fortune* mercenary considerations 257 *inflamed respect*
more ardent affection 258 *chance* lot 260 *wat'rish* (1) with many
rivers (2) weak, diluted 261 *unprized precious* unappreciated by oth-
ers, and yet precious 263 *here* . . . where in this place, in another
place 267 *benison* blessing 270 *The jewels of our father* you creatures
prized by our father 270 *washed* (1) weeping (2) clear-sighted

And, like a sister,^o am most loath to call
Your faults as they are named.^o Love well our
father.

To your professèd^o bosoms I commit him.
275 But yet, alas, stood I within his grace,
I would prefer^o him to a better place.
So farewell to you both.

Regan. Prescribe not us our duty.

Goneril. Let your study
Be to content your lord, who hath received you
280 At Fortune's alms.^o You have obedience scanted,^o
And well are worth the want that you have wanted.^o

Cordelia. Time shall unfold what ~~plighted~~^{pleated} cunning
hides,
Who covers faults, at last shame them derides.^o
Well may you prosper.

France. Come, my fair Cordelia.
Exit France and Cordelia.

285 *Goneril.* Sister, it is not little I have to say of what
most nearly appertains to us both. I think our
father will hence tonight.

Regan. That's most certain, and with you; next month
with us.

290 *Goneril.* You see how full of changes his age is. The
observation we have made of it hath not been lit-
tle. He always loved our sister most, and with
what poor judgment he hath now cast her off ap-
pears too grossly.^o

295 *Regan.* 'Tis the infirmity of his age; yet he hath ever
but slenderly known himself.

272 like a sister because I am a sister i.e., loyal, affectionate 273 as
they are named i.e., by their right and ugly names 274 professèd
pretending to love 276 prefer recommend 280 At Fortune's alms as
a charitable bequest from Fortune (and so, by extension, as one beg-
gared or cast down by Fortune) 280 scanted stinted 281 worth . . .
wanted deserve to be denied, even as you have denied 282 plighted
pleated, enfolded 283 Who . . . derides those who hide their evil are
finally exposed and shamed ("He that hideth his sins, shall not pros-
per") 294 grossly obviously

establishes 6 as
impetuous

Goneril. The best and soundest of his time^o hath been but rash; then must we look from his age to receive not alone the imperfections of long-ingrafted^o condition,^o but therewithal^o the unruly waywardness that infirm and choleric years bring with them. 300

Regan. Such unconstant starts^o are we like to have from him as this of Kent's banishment.

Goneril. There is further compliment^o of leave-taking between France and him. Pray you, let's hit^o together; if our father carry authority with such disposition as he bears,^o this last surrender^o of his will but offend^o us. 305

Regan. We shall further think of it. 310
Goneril. We must do something, and i' th' heat.^o
Exeunt.

Scene II. [The Earl of Gloucester's castle.]

Enter Edmund [with a letter].

Edmund. Thou, Nature,^o art my goddess; to thy law My services are bound. Wherefore should I Stand in the plague of custom,^o and permit The curiosity^o of nations to deprive me, For that^o I am some twelve or fourteen moonshines^o 3

297 of his time period of his life up to now 299-300 long-ingrafted im-
 planted for a long time 300 condition disposition 300 therewithal
 with them 303 unconstant starts impulsive whims 305 compliment
 formal courtesy 306 hit agree 307-8 carry . . . bears continues, and
 in such frame of mind, to wield the sovereign power 308 last surren-
 der recent abdication 309 offend vex 311 i' th' heat while the iron is
 hot I.ii. 1 Nature (Edmund's conception of Nature accords with our
 description of a bastard as a natural child) 3 Stand . . . custom
 respect hateful convention 4 curiosity nice distinctions 5 For that
 because 5 moonshines months

Lag of⁶ a brother? Why bastard? Wherefore base?
 When my dimensions are as well compact,⁷
 My mind as generous,⁸ and my shape as true,
 As honest⁹ madam's issue? Why brand they us
 10 With base? With baseness? Bastardy? Base? Base?
 Who, in the lusty stealth of nature, take
 More composition¹² and fierce¹² quality
 Than doth, within a dull, stale, tired bed,
 Go to th' creating a whole tribe of fops¹⁴
 15 Got¹⁵ 'tween asleep and wake? Well then,
 Legitimate Edgar, I must have your land.
 Our father's love is to the bastard Edmund
 As to th' legitimate. Fine word, "legitimate."
 Well, my legitimate, if this letter speed,¹⁹
 20 And my invention²⁰ thrive, Edmund the base
 Shall top th' legitimate. I grow, I prosper.
 Now, gods, stand up for bastards.

Enter Gloucester.

Gloucester. Kent banished thus? and France in choler parted?

And the King gone tonight? ~~prescribed²⁴ his pow'r?~~
 25 ~~Confined to exhibition?~~ All this done
 Upon the gad?²⁶ Edmund, how now? What news?

Edmund. So please your lordship, none.

Gloucester. Why so earnestly seek you to put up²⁸ that letter?

30 *Edmund.* I know no news, my lord.

Gloucester. What paper were you reading?

Edmund. Nothing, my lord.

Gloucester. No? What needed then that terrible dis-
 patch³³ of it into your pocket? ~~The quality of noth-~~

⁶ *Lag of* short of being (in age) ⁷ *compact* framed ⁸ *generous* gal-
 lant ⁹ *honest* chaste ¹² *composition* completeness ¹² *fierce* energetic
¹⁴ *fops* fools ¹⁵ *Got* begot ¹⁹ *speed* prosper ²⁰ *invention* plan
²⁴ *prescribed* limited ²⁵ *exhibition* an allowance or pension ²⁶ *Upon*
the gad on the spur of the moment (as if pricked by a gad or goad)
²⁸ *put up* put away, conceal ³³⁻³⁴ *terrible dispatch* hasty putting away

~~ing hath not such need to hide itself.~~ Let's see. 35
Come, if it be nothing, I shall not need spectacles.

Edmund. I beseech you, sir, pardon me. It is a letter
from my brother that I have not all o'er-read; and
for so much as I have perused, I find it not fit
for your o'erlooking.° 40

Gloucester. Give me the letter, sir.

Edmund. I shall offend, either to detain or give it.
The contents, as in part I understand them, are
to blame.°

Gloucester. Let's see, let's see. 45

Edmund. I hope, for my brother's justification, he
wrote this but as an essay or taste° of my virtue.

Gloucester. (*Reads*) ~~"This policy and reverence° of
age makes the world bitter to the best of our
times;° keeps our fortunes from us till our oldness
cannot relish° them."~~ I begin to find an idle and 50
fond° bondage in the oppression of aged tyranny,
who sways, not as it hath power, but as it is suf-
fered.° Come to me, that of this I may speak more.
If our father would sleep till I waked him, you 55
should enjoy half his revenue° for ever, and live
the beloved of your brother, EDGAR."
Hum! Conspiracy? "Sleep till I waked him, you
should enjoy half his revenue." My son Edgar! Had
he a hand to write this? A heart and brain to 60
breed it in? When came you to this? Who brought
it?

Edmund. It was not brought me, my lord; there's the
cunning of it. I found it thrown in at the case-
ment of my closet.° 65

40 o'erlooking inspection 44 to blame blameworthy 47 essay or taste
test 48 policy and reverence policy of reverencing (hendiadys)
49-50 best of our times best years of our lives (i.e., our youth) 51 relish
enjoy 51-52 idle and fond foolish 53-54 who . . . suffered which rules,
not from its own strength, but from our allowance 56 revenue income
64-65 casement of my closet window of my room

Gloucester. You know the character^o to be your brother's?

Edmund. If the matter were good, my lord, I durst swear it were his; but in respect of that,^o I would
70 fain^o think it were not.

Gloucester. It is his.

Edmund. It is his hand, my lord; but I hope his heart is not in the contents.

Gloucester. Has he never before sounded^o you in this
75 business?

Edmund. Never, my lord. But I have heard him oft maintain it to be fit that, sons at perfect^o age, and fathers declined, the father should be as ward to the son, and the son manage his revenue.

80 *Gloucester.* O villain, villain! His very opinion in the letter. Abhorred villain, unnatural, detested,^o brutish villain; worse than brutish! Go, sirrah,^o seek him. I'll apprehend him. Abominable villain! Where is he?

85 *Edmund.* I do not well know, my lord. If it shall please you to suspend your indignation against my brother till you can derive from him better testimony of his intent, you should run a certain
90 course;^o where, if you violently proceed against him, mistaking his purpose, it would make a great gap^o in your own honor and shake in pieces the heart of his obedience. I dare pawn down^o my life for him that he hath writ this to feel^o my affection to your honor, and to no other pretense of
95 danger.^o

Gloucester. Think you so?

⁶⁶ character handwriting ⁶⁹ in respect of that in view of what it is
⁷⁰ fain prefer to ⁷⁴ sounded sounded you out ⁷⁷ perfect mature
⁸¹ detested detestable ⁸² sirrah sir (familiar form of address) ⁸⁸⁻⁸⁹ run
a certain course i.e., proceed safely, know where you are going ⁹¹ gap
breach ⁹² pawn down stake ⁹³ feel test ⁹⁴⁻⁹⁵ pretense of danger
dangerous purpose

Edmund. If your honor judge it meet,⁹⁷ I will place you where you shall hear us confer of this, and ~~by an auricular assurance⁹⁹ have your satisfaction,~~ and that without any further delay than this very evening. 100

Gloucester. He cannot be such a monster.

Edmund. Nor is not, sure.

Gloucester. To his father, that so tenderly and entirely loves him. Heaven and earth! Edmund, seek him out; wind me into him,¹⁰⁶ I pray you; frame¹⁰⁶ the business after your own wisdom. ~~I would unstate myself to be in a due resolution.¹⁰⁷⁻⁰⁸~~ 109

Edmund. I will seek him, sir, presently;¹⁰⁹ convey¹⁰⁹ the business as I shall find means, and acquaint you withal.¹¹¹ 110

Gloucester. These late¹¹² eclipses in the sun and moon portend no good to us. ~~Though the wisdom of Nature¹¹³⁻¹⁴ can reason¹¹⁴ it thus and thus, yet Nature finds itself scourged by the sequent effects.¹¹⁴⁻¹⁵~~ Love 119 cools, friendship falls off,¹¹⁶ brothers divide. In cities, mutinies;¹¹⁷ in countries, discord; in palaces, treason; and the bond cracked 'twixt son and father. This villain of mine comes under the prediction,¹¹⁸ there's son against father; the King falls 120 from bias of nature,¹²¹ there's father against child. We have seen the best of our time.¹²² Machinations, hollowness,¹²³ treachery, and all ruinous disorders follow us disquietly¹²⁴ to our graves. Find out this

⁹⁷ meet fit ⁹⁹ auricular assurance proof heard with your own ears
¹⁰⁶ wind me into him insinuate yourself into his confidence for me
¹⁰⁶ frame manage ¹⁰⁷⁻⁰⁸ unstate . . . resolution forfeit my earldom to know the truth ¹⁰⁹ presently at once ¹⁰⁹ convey manage ¹¹¹ withal with it ¹¹² late recent ¹¹³⁻¹⁴ wisdom of Nature scientific learning ¹¹⁴ reason explain ¹¹⁴⁻¹⁵ yet . . . effects nonetheless our world is punished with subsequent disasters ¹¹⁶ falls off revolts ¹¹⁷ mutinies riots ¹¹⁹⁻²⁰ This . . . prediction i.e., my son's villainous behavior is included in these portents, and bears them out ¹²¹ bias of nature natural inclination (the metaphor is from the game of bowls) ¹²² best of our time our best days ¹²³ hollowness insincerity ¹²⁴ disquietly unquietly

judel

—

125 villain, Edmund; it shall lose thee nothing.^o Do it carefully. And the noble and true-hearted Kent banished; his offense, honesty. 'Tis strange.

Exit.

130 *Edmund.* This is the excellent foppery^o of the world, that when we are sick in fortune, often the surfeits of our own behavior,^o we make guilty of our disasters the sun, the moon, and stars; as if we were villains on^o necessity; fools by heavenly compulsion; knaves, thieves, and treachers by spherical predominance;^o drunkards, liars, and adulterers by an enforced obedience of planetary influence;^o and all that we are evil in, by a divine thrusting on.^o An admirable evasion of whoremaster^o man, to lay his goatish^o disposition on the charge of a star. My father compounded^o with my mother under the Dragon's Tail,^o and my nativity^o was under Ursa Major,^o so that it follows I am rough and lecherous. Fut!^o I should have been that^o I am, had the maidenliest star in the firmament twinkled on my bastardizing. Edgar——

Enter Edgar.

145 and pat he comes, ~~like the catastrophe^o of the old comedy.~~ My cue is villainous melancholy, with a sigh like Tom o' Bedlam.^o ~~O, these eclipses do portend these divisions.~~ Fa, sol, la, mi.^o

150 *Edgar.* How now, brother Edmund; what serious contemplation are you in?

125 *it* . . . *nothing* you will not lose by it 128 *foppery* folly
129-30 *often* . . . *behavior* often caused by our own excesses 132 *on* of
133-34 *treachers* . . . *predominance* traitors because of the ascendancy of a particular star at our birth 134-35 *by* . . . *influence* because we had to submit to the influence of our star 136 *divine thrusting on* supernatural compulsion 137 *whoremaster* lecherous 138 *goatish* lascivious 139 *compounded* (1) made terms (2) formed (a child)
140 *Dragon's Tail* the constellation Draco 140 *nativity* birthday
141 *Ursa Major* the Great Bear 142 *Fut!* 's foot (an impatient oath)
142 *that* what 145 *catastrophe* conclusion 146-47 *My . . . Bedlam* I must be doleful, like a lunatic beggar out of Bethlehem (Bedlam) Hospital, the London madhouse 148 *Fa, sol, la, mi* (Edmund's humming of the musical notes is perhaps prompted by his use of the word "division," which describes a musical variation)

Edmund. I am thinking, brother, of a prediction I read this other day, what should follow these eclipses.

Edgar. Do you busy yourself with that?

Edmund. I promise you, the effects he writes of succeed^o unhappily: as of unnaturalness^o between the child and the parent, death, dearth, dissolutions of ancient amities,^o divisions in state, menaces and maledictions against King and nobles, needless diffidences,^o banishment of friends, dissipation of cohorts,^o nuptial breaches, and I know not what. 155 160

Edgar. How long have you been a sectary astronomical?^o

Edmund. Come, come, when saw you my father last?

Edgar. Why, the night gone by. 163

Edmund. Spake you with him?

Edgar. Ay, two hours together.

Edmund. Parted you in good terms? Found you no displeasure in him by word nor countenance?^o

Edgar. None at all. 170

Edmund. Bethink yourself wherein you may have offended him; and at my entreaty forbear his presence^o until some little time hath qualified^o the heat of his displeasure, which at this instant so rageth in him that with the mischief of your person it would scarcely allay.^o 175

Edgar. Some villain hath done me wrong.

Edmund. That's my fear, brother I pray you have a continent forbearance^o till the speed of his rage goes slower; and, as I say, retire with me to my 180

155-56 *succeed* follow 157 *unnaturalness* unkindness 158 *amities* friendships 159-60 *diffidences* distrusts 160-61 *dissipation of cohorts* falling away of supporters 162-63 *sectary astronomical* believer in astrology 169 *countenance* expression 172-73 *forbear his presence* keep away from him 173 *qualified* lessened 175-76 *with . . . allay* even an injury to you would not appease his anger 178-79 *have a continent forbearance* be restrained and keep yourself withdrawn

lodging, from whence I will fitly^o bring you to hear
my lord speak. Pray ye, go; there's my key. If
you do stir abroad, go armed.

Edgar. Armed, brother?

¹⁸⁵ *Edmund.* Brother, I advise you to the best. Go armed.
I am no honest man if there be any good meaning
toward you. I have told you what I have seen and
heard; but faintly, nothing like the image and hor-
ror^o of it. Pray you, away.

¹⁹⁰ *Edgar.* Shall I hear from you anon?^o

Edmund. I do serve you in this business.

Exit Edgar.

A credulous father, and a brother noble,
Whose nature is so far from doing harms
That he suspects none; ~~on whose foolish honesty~~
¹⁹⁵ ~~My practices^o ride easy.~~ I see the business.
Let me, if not by birth, have lands by wit.
All with me's meet^o that I can fashion fit.^o *Exit.*

Scene III. [*The Duke of Albany's palace.*]

Enter Goneril, and [Oswald, her] Steward.

Goneril. Did my father strike my gentleman for chid-
ing of his Fool?^o

Oswald. Ay, madam.

⁵ *Goneril.* By day and night he wrongs me. Every hour
He flashes into one gross crime^o or other

¹⁸¹ fitly at a fit time ¹⁸⁸⁻⁹⁰ image and horror true horrible picture
¹⁹⁰ anon in a little while ¹⁹⁵ practices plots ¹⁹⁷ meet proper ¹⁹⁷ fashion
fit shape to my purpose Liii. ² Fool court jester ⁵ crime offense

That sets us all at odds. I'll not endure it.
 His knights grow riotous,⁷ and himself upbraids us
 On every trifle. When he returns from hunting,
 I will not speak with him. Say I am sick.
 If you come slack of former services,¹⁰ 10
 You shall do well; the fault of it I'll answer.¹¹

[*Horns within.*]

Oswald. He's coming, madam; I hear him.

Goneril. Put on what weary negligence you please,
 You and your fellows. I'd have it come to question.¹²
 If he distaste¹³ it, let him to my sister, 15
 Whose mind and mine I know in that are one,
 Not to be overruled. Idle¹⁴ old man,
 That still would manage those authorities
 That he hath given away. Now, by my life,
 Old fools are babes again, and must be used 20
 With checks as flatteries, when they are seen
 abused.¹⁵

Remember what I have said.

Oswald. Well, madam.

Goneril. And let his knights have colder looks among
 you.

What grows of it, no matter; advise your fellows so.
 I would breed from hence occasions, and I shall, 25
 That I may speak.¹⁶ I'll write straight¹⁷ to my sister
 To hold my course. Go, prepare for dinner.

Exeunt.

⁷ riotous dissolute ¹⁰ come . . . services are less serviceable to him
 than formerly ¹¹ answer answer for ¹⁴ come to question be discussed
 openly ¹⁵ distaste dislike ¹⁷ Idle foolish ²¹ With . . . abused
 with restraints as well as soothing words when they are misguided
²⁵⁻²⁶ breed . . . speak find in this opportunities for speaking out
²⁶ straight at once

dinner - commonly in
middle of day (morning hunt)

EMPTY TABLE - odd!

Throws coat + HAT
onto chair?

saddles - piles of them
thrown

Lear Alone
Kurt right
downstage
in shadow

A hound is glimpsed
grayhound? wild
slaughtered pig ca

Lear - quite muddy
wipes shit off his boot
on edge of stage

Lear is intrigued
fascinated by K.
The hunt (with MEN) has been
very therapeutic after the
trauma of Sc 1.

Scene IV. [A hall in the same.]

Enter Kent [disguised].

Kent. If but as well I other accents borrow
 That can my speech defuse,² my good intent
 May carry through itself to that full issue³
 For which I razed my likeness.⁴ Now, banished
 Kent,
 If thou canst serve where thou dost stand
 5 condemned,
 So may it come,⁵ thy master whom thou lov'st
 Shall find thee full of labors.

*Horns within.*⁶ *Enter Lear, [Knights] and
 Attendants.*

Lear. Let me not stay a jot for dinner; go, get it
 ready. [Exit an Attendant.] How now, what art
 10 thou?

Kent. A man, sir.

Lear. What dost thou profess? What wouldst thou
 with us?

Kent. I do profess⁷ to be no less than I seem, to
 13 serve him truly that will put me in trust, to love
 him that is honest, to converse with him that is
 wise and says little, to fear judgment,⁸ to fight
 when I cannot choose, and to eat no fish.⁹

I.iv. ² *defuse* disguise ³ *full issue* perfect result ⁴ *razed my likeness* shaved off, disguised my natural appearance ⁵ *So may it come* so may it fall out ⁷ *s.d. within* offstage ⁸ *stay wait* ¹² *What dost thou profess* what do you do ¹⁴ *profess* claim ¹⁷ *judgment* (by a heavenly or earthly judge) ¹⁸ *eat no fish* i.e., (1) I am no Catholic, but a loyal Protestant (2) I am no weakling (3) I use no prostitutes

Generous (I rather than
self-reflective

re dinner

Lear. What art thou?

Kent. A very honest-hearted fellow, and as poor as the King. 20

Lear. If thou be'st as poor for a subject as he's for a king, thou art poor enough. What wouldst thou?

Kent. Service.

Lear. Who wouldst thou serve? 25

Kent. You.

Lear. Dost thou know me, fellow?

Kent. No, sir, but you have that in your countenance which I would fain° call master.

Lear. What's that? 30

Kent. Authority.

Lear. What services canst thou do?

Kent. I can keep honest counsel,° ride, run, mar a curious tale in telling it,° and deliver a plain message bluntly. That which ordinary men are fit for, I am qualified in, and the best of me is diligence. 35

Lear. How old art thou?

Kent. Not so young, sir, to love a woman for singing, nor so old to dote on her for anything. I have years on my back forty-eight. 40

Lear. Follow me, thou shalt serve me; If I like thee no worse after dinner, I will not part from thee yet. Dinner, ho, dinner! Where's my knave? my Fool? Go you and call my Fool hither.

[Exit an Attendant.]

Enter Oswald.

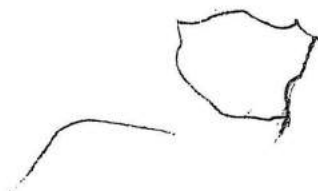
You, you, sirrah, where's my daughter? 45

Oswald. So please you—

Exit.

²⁰ countenance bearing ²³ fain like to ²⁵ honest counsel honorable secrets ²⁸⁻²⁴ mar . . . it i.e., I cannot speak like an affected courtier ("curious" = "elaborate," as against "plain") ⁴² knave boy

nothing's
happening



Lear. What says the fellow there? Call the clotpoll back. [*Exit a Knight.*] Where's my Fool? Ho, I think the world's asleep.

[*Re-enter Knight.*]

50 *Lear.* How now? Where's that mongrel?

Knight. He says, my lord, your daughter is not well.

Lear. Why came not the slave back to me when I called him?

55 *Knight.* Sir, he answered me in the roundest^o manner, he would not.

Lear. He would not?

60 *Knight.* My lord, I know not what the matter is; but to my judgment your Highness is not entertained^o with that ceremonious affection as you were wont. There's a great abatement of kindness appears as well in the general dependants^o as in the Duke himself also and your daughter.

Lear. Ha? Say'st thou so?

65 *Knight.* I beseech you pardon me, my lord, if I be mistaken; for my duty cannot be silent when I think your Highness wronged.

Lear.

70 I have perceived a most faint neglect of late, which I have rather blamed as mine own jealous curiosity than as a very pretense and purpose of unkindness. I will look further into't. But where's my Fool? I have not seen him this two days.

75 *Knight.* Since my young lady's going into France, sir, the Fool hath much pined away.

Lear. No more of that; I have noted it well. Go you

⁴⁷ clotpoll clodpoll, blockhead ⁵⁴ roundest rudest ⁵⁸⁻⁵⁹ entertained treated ⁶¹ dependants servants ⁶⁷ rememb'rest remindest ⁶⁷⁻⁶⁸ conception idea ⁶⁸ faint neglect i.e., "weary negligence" (I.iii.13) ⁶⁹⁻⁷⁰ mine own jealous curiosity suspicious concern for my own dignity ⁷⁰ very pretense actual intention

like a banner

Cairns here

and tell my daughter I would speak with her. Go
you, call hither my Fool. *[Exit an Attendant.]*

Enter Oswald.

O, you, sir, you! Come you hither, sir. Who am I,
sir? 80

Oswald. My lady's father.

Lear. "My lady's father"? My lord's knave, you
whoreson dog, you slave.

Oswald. I am none of these, my lord; I beseech your
pardon. 85

Lear. Do you bandy looks with me, you cur.
[Striking him.]

Oswald. I'll not be stricken,⁸⁶ my lord.

Kent. Nor tripped neither, you base football⁸⁸ player.
[Tripping up his heels.]

Lear. I thank thee, fellow. Thou serv'st me, and I'll
love thee. 90

Kent. Come, sir, arise, away. I'll teach you differ-
ences.⁹¹ Away, away. If you will measure your lub-
ber's⁹² length again, tarry; but away, Go to!⁹³ Have
you wisdom?⁹⁴ So.⁹⁵ *[Pushes Oswald out.]*

Lear. Now, my friendly knave, I thank thee. There's
earnest of thy service. *[Giving Kent money.]* 95

Enter Fool.

Fool. Let me hire him too. Here's my coxcomb.⁹⁷
[Offering Kent his cap.]

Lear. How now, my pretty knave How dost thou?

Fool. Sirrah, you were best⁹⁹ take my coxcomb.

Kent. Why, Fool? 100

⁸⁶ bandy exchange insolently (metaphor from tennis) ⁸⁷ stricken
struck ⁸⁸ football (a low game played by idle boys to the scandal of
sensible men) ⁹¹⁻⁹² differences (of rank) ⁹²⁻⁹³ lubber's lout's ⁹³ Go
to (expression of derisive incredulity) ⁹³⁻⁹⁴ Have you wisdom i.e., do
you know what's good for you ⁹⁴ So good ⁹⁵ earnest money for serv-
ices rendered ⁹⁷ coxcomb professional fool's cap, shaped like a cox-
comb ⁹⁹ you were best you had better

Touche, Foot
(I agree w that) Comraderie!?

Fool. Why? For taking one's part that's out of favor.
 Nay, an^o thou canst not smile as the wind sits,^o
 thou'lt catch cold shortly. There, take my coxcomb.
 Why, this fellow has banished^o two on's daughters,
 105 and did the third a blessing against his will. If thou
 follow him, thou must needs wear my coxcomb.
 —How now, Nuncle?^o Would I had two coxcombs
 and two daughters.

Lear. Why, my boy?

110 *Fool.* If I gave them all my living,^o I'd keep my cox-
 combs myself. There's mine; beg another of thy
 daughters.

Lear. Take heed, sirrah—the whip.

115 *Fool.* Truth's a dog must to kennel; he must be
 whipped out, when Lady the Brach^o may stand by
 th' fire and stink.

Lear. A pestilent gall to me.

Fool. Sirrah, I'll teach thee a speech.

Lear. Do.

120 *Fool.* Mark it, Nuncle.
 Have more than thou showest,
 Speak less than thou knowest,
 Lend less than thou owest,^o
 Ride more than thou goest,^o
 125 Learn more than thou trowest,^o
 Set less than thou throwest;^o
 Leave thy drink and thy whore,
 And keep in-a-door,
 And thou shalt have more
 130 Than two tens to a score.^o

Kent. This is nothing, Fool.

102 an if 102 smile . . . sits ingratiate yourself with those in power
 104 banished alienated (by making them independent) 107 Nuncle
 (contraction of "mine uncle") 110 living property 115 Brach bitch
 117 gall sore 123 owest ownest 124 goest walkest 125 trowest knowest
 126 Set . . . throwest bet less than you play for (get odds from your
 opponent) 129-30 have . . . score i.e., come away with more than you
 had (two tens, or twenty shillings, make a score, or one pound)

pagan thinking vs
contemp. Quantum Physics

Kent is the Fool's storge

Fool. Then 'tis like the breath of an unfeed^o lawyer
—you gave me nothing for't. Can you make no use
of nothing, Nuncle?

Lear. Why, no, boy; Nothing can be made out of nothing. 135

Fool. [To Kent] Prithee tell him, so much the
rent of his land comes to; he will not believe a
Fool.

Lear. A bitter Fool. 140

Fool. Dost thou know the difference, my boy, between
a bitter Fool and a sweet one?

Lear. No, lad, teach me.

Fool.

That lord that counseled thee
To give away thy land, 145
Come place him here by me,
Do thou for him stand.
The sweet and bitter fool
Will presently appear;
The one in motley^o here, 150
The other found out^o there.^o

Lear. Dost thou call me fool, boy?

Fool. All thy other titles thou hast given away; that
thou wast born with.

Kent. This is not altogether fool, my lord. 155

Fool. No, faith; lords and great men will not let me.^o
If I had a monopoly^o out, they would have part
on't. And ladies too, they will not let me have all
the fool to myself; they'll be snatching. Nuncle,
give me an egg, and I'll give thee two crowns. 160

132 *unfeed* unpaid for 140 *bitter* satirical 150 *motley* the drab costume
of the professional jester 151 *found out* revealed 151 *there* (the Fool
points at Lear, as a fool in the grain) 156 *let me* (have all the folly to
myself) 157 *monopoly* (James I gave great scandal by granting to his
"snatching" courtiers royal patents to deal exclusively in some com-
modity)

Lear. What two crowns shall they be?

Fool. Why, after I have cut the egg i' th' middle
and eat up the meat, the two crowns of the egg.
When thou clovest thy crown i' th' middle and
165 gav'st away both parts, thou bor'st thine ass on
thy back o'er the dirt.^o Thou hadst little wit in thy
bald crown when thou gav'st thy golden one away.
If I speak like myself^o in this, let him be whipped^o
that first finds it so.

170 [*Singing*]

Lear. When were you wont to be so full of songs,
175 sirrah?

Fool. I have used^o it, Nuncle, e'er since thou mad'st
thy daughters thy mothers; for when thou gav'st
them the rod, and put'st down thine own breeches,
[*Singing*] Then they for sudden joy did weep,
180 And I for sorrow sung,
That such a king should play bo-peep^o
And go the fools among.
Prithee, Nuncle, keep a schoolmaster that can teach
thy Fool to lie. I would fain learn to lie.

185 *Lear.* And you lie, sirrah, we'll have you whipped.

Fool. I marvel what kin thou and thy daughters are.
They'll have me whipped for speaking true; thou'lt
have me whipped for lying; and sometimes I am
whipped for holding my peace. I had rather be any
190 kind o' thing than a Fool, and yet I would not be

¹⁶⁵⁻⁶⁶ bor'st . . . dirt (like the foolish and unnatural countryman in Aesop's fable) ¹⁶⁸ like myself like a Fool ¹⁶⁹ let him be whipped i.e., let the man be whipped for a Fool who thinks my true saying to be foolish ¹⁷⁰⁻⁷² Fools . . . apish i.e., fools were never in less favor than now, and the reason is that wise men, turning foolish, and not knowing how to use their intelligence, imitate the professional fools and so make them unnecessary ¹⁷⁶ used practiced ¹⁸³ play bo-peep (1) act like a child (2) blind himself ¹⁸⁵ And if

Sudden
Verse
King/Father

She is now
a half Queen
of England
sitting alone.
Maybe speaking up
to hear in this
way for
first

thee, Nuncle: thou hast pared thy wit o' both sides
and left nothing i' th' middle. Here comes one o'
the parings.

Enter Goneril.

Lear. How now, daughter? What makes that frontlet
on? Methinks you are too much of late i' th' frown. 193

Fool. Thou wast a pretty fellow when thou hadst no
need to care for her frowning. Now thou art an O
without a figure.° I am better than thou art now: I
am a Fool, thou art nothing. [*To Goneril.*] Yes, 200
forsooth, I will hold my tongue. So your face bids
me, though you say nothing. Mum, mum,

~~He that keeps nor crust nor crum,°~~

Weary of all, shall want° some.

[*Pointing to Lear*] That's a shealed peascod.° 203

Goneril. Not only, sir, this your all-licensed° Fool,
But other° of your insolent retinue
Do hourly carp and quarrel, breaking forth
In rank° and not-to-be-endurèd riots. Sir,
I had thought by making this well known unto you 210
To have found a safe° redress, but now grow
fearful,

By what yourself too late° have spoke and done,
That you protect this course, and put it on
By your allowance;° which if you should, the fault
Would not 'scape censure, nor the redresses sleep,° 213
Which, in the tender of° a wholesome weal,°
Might in their working do you that offense,
Which else were shame, that then necessity
Will call discreet proceeding.° *Pause*

194 frontlet frown (lit., ornamental band) 199 figure digit, to give
value to the cipher (Lear is a nought) 203 crum soft bread inside
the loaf 204 want lack 205 shealed peascod empty pea pod 206 all-
licensed privileged to take any liberties 207 other others 209 rank
gross 211 safe sure 212 too late lately 213-14 put . . . allowance
promote it by your approval 214 allowance approval 215 redresses
sleep correction fail to follow 216 tender of desire for 216 weal state
217-19 Might . . . proceeding as I apply it, the correction might humil-
iate you; but the need to take action cancels what would otherwise be
unfilial conduct in me

LEAR, stunned, looks to Fool

maybe has more heart
Gonzalez "rave" to
vehemently

OR Tug is Gonzalez
fool finger that he
really loves her Tug learns
- Fool himself
him?

o understanding
o paralyzed
does learn learn this, —

Aren't we a family
— degenerate bastard.

And you are! —

220 *Fool.* For you know, Nuncle, ^{wished it}
 The hedge-sparrow fed the cuckoo° so long
 That it had it head bit off by it° young.
 So out went the candle, and we were left darkling.°

Lear. Are you our daughter?

225 *Goneril.* Come, sir,
 I would you would make use of your good wisdom
 Whereof I know you are fraught° and put away
 These dispositions° which of late transport you
 From what you rightly are.

230 *Fool.* May not an ass know when the cart draws the
 horse? ^{Neddy!}

Lear. Does any here know me? This is not Lear.
 Does Lear walk thus, speak thus? Where are his
 eyes?

235 *Is he sleeping? Ah! Sure tis not so.*
Who is it that can tell me who I am?

Fool. Lear's shadow. ^(Goneril Lear)

Lear. I would learn that, for, by the marks of sover-
 eignty, knowledge, and reason, I should be false
 persuaded I had daughters. ^(Goneril)

Fool. Which° they will make an obedient father.

Lear. Your name, fair gentlewoman?

Goneril. This admiration,° sir, is much o' th' savor°
 Of other your° new pranks. I do beseech you
 245 To understand my purposes aright.
 As you are old and reverend, should be wise.
 Here do you keep a hundred knights and squires,

221 cuckoo (who lays its eggs in the nests of other birds) 222 it its
 223 darkling in the dark 227 fraught endowed 228 dispositions moods
 231 Jug Joan (? a quotation from a popular song) 234 notion under-
 standing 234 discernings faculties 235 lethargied paralyzed 238-39 marks
 of sovereignty i.e., tokens that Lear is king, and hence father to his
 daughters 239 false falsely 241 Which whom (Lear) 243 admiration
 (affected) wonderment 243 is much o' th' savor smacks much
 244 other your others of your

- it started with No dinner ready
- Oswald being rude
- The 3rd Knight
- For's needing
- her unnecessary outspokenness

Substitute - monster
ingratitudes

see (do him)

powerful
silence
not!



Men so disordered, so deboshed,^o and bold,
 That this our court, infected with their manners,
 Shows^o like a riotous inn. Epicurism^o and lust 250
 Makes it more like a tavern or a brothel
 Than a graced^o palace. The shame itself doth speak
 For instant remedy. Be then desired^o
 By her, that else will take the thing she begs,
 A little to disquantity your train,^o 253
 And the remainders^o that shall still depend,^o
 To be such men as may besort^o your age,
 Which know themselves, and you.

Lear.

Darkness and devils!

Saddle my horses; call my train together!
 Degenerate bastard, I'll not trouble thee: 260
 Yet have I left a daughter!

Goneril. You strike my people, and your disordered
 rabble

Make servants of their betters.

Enter Albany.

Lear. Woe, that too late repents! O, sir, are you
 come?

Is it your will? Speak, sir. 263

ingratitude!

STAY

Albany.

Pray, sir, be patient

Lear. Detested kite, thou liest!

My train are men of choice and rarest parts 270
 That all particulars of duty know,
 And, in the most exact regard support
 The worship of their name. O most small fault,

248 deboshed debauched 250 Shows appears 250 Epicurism riotous liv-
 ing 252 graced dignified 253 desired requested 255 disquantity your
 train reduce the number of your dependents 256 remainders those who
 remain 256 depend attend on you 257 besort befit 260 Degenerate
 unnatural 269 kite scavenging bird of prey 270 parts accomplishments
 272 exact regard strict attention to detail 273 worships honor

1st major Realisation

* sees what he did to Cordelia
in perspective with GON now

the start of growing shame

OR both daughters are = to each other
is the folly the abdication???

Learn sports
rather than
confront
the situation

The Fool's penny
has finally dropped

subtext
(I wish I'd never
had GONERIL)

play intense + quiet!!
a weird prayer
- so evil

so she can feel like me

How ugly didst thou in Cordelia show
Which, like an engine, wrenched my frame of
279 nature

From the fixed place; drew from my heart all love,
And added to the gall. O Lear, Lear, Lear!
Beat at this gate that let thy folly in [Striking
his head.]

And thy dear judgment out. Go, go, my people.

280 Albany. My lord, I am guiltless, as I am ignorant
Of what hath moved you.

Lear. It may be so, my lord.

281 goes to have BUT - Hear, Nature, hear, dear Goddess, hear:
Suspend thy purpose if thou didst intend
To make this creature fruitful.

283 Into her womb convey sterility,
Dry up in her the organs of increase,
And from her derogate body never spring
A babe to honor her. If she must teem,
290 Create her child of spleen, that it may live
And be a thwart disnatured torment to her.
Let it stamp wrinkles in her brow of youth,
With cadent tears fret channels in her cheeks,
Turn all her mother's pains and benefits
293 To laughter and contempt, that she may feel
How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is
To have a thankless child. Away, away!

Exit.

Albany. Now, gods that we adore, whereof comes
this?

Goneril. Never afflict yourself to know the cause,
But let his disposition^o have that scope
300 As^o dotage gives it.

Enter Lear.

Lear. What, fifty of my followers at a clap?

275 engine destructive contrivance 274-76 wrenched . . . place i.e.,
disordered my natural self 277 gall bitterness 286 increase childbear-
ing 287 derogate degraded 288 teem conceive 289 spleen ill humor
290 thwart disnatured perverse unnatural 292 cadent falling 293 fret
wear 293 benefits the mother's beneficent care of her child 299 dispo-
sition mood 300 As that 301 at a clap at one stroke

credible time
for me for
discovery of
| TRAVEL-CUT
e, PAUSE

Regan is going
to recognize my
Kingship + Fatherhood
I'll resume the identity (in her eyes)
- Regan

Within a fortnight?

Albany.

What's the matter, sir?

Lear. I'll tell thee. ^{cries suddenly} [To Goneril] Life and death,
I am ashamed

That thou hast power to shake my manhood
thus.

That these hot tears, which break from me
perforce,

Should make thee worth them.

805

Old fond eyes,
Beweep this cause again, I'll pluck ye out!

Yea, is it come to this?

where did I go wrong?

Ha! Let it be so. I have another daughter,
Who I am sure is kind and comfortable:

When she shall hear this of thee, with her nails

She'll flay thy wolvisish visage. Thou shalt find

That I'll resume the shape which thou dost think
I have cast off for ever.

815

Exit [Lear with Kent and Attendants].

Goneril.

Do you mark that?

Albany. I cannot be so partial, Goneril,

To the great love I bear you°——

Goneril. Pray you, content. What, Oswald, ho!

820

[To the Fool] You, sir, more knave than fool,
after your master!

Fool. Nuncle Lear, Nuncle Lear, tarry. Take the Fool°
with thee.

804 shake my manhood i.e., with tears 805 perforce involuntarily,
against my will 807 untented woundings wounds too deep to be
probed with a tent (a roll of lint) 808 fond foolish 809 Beweep if you
weep over 810 loose (1) let loose (2) lose, as of no avail 811 temper
mix with and soften 813 comfortable ready to comfort 816 shape i.e.,
kingly role 818-19 I cannot . . . you i.e., even though my love inclines
me to you, I must protest 822 Fool (1) the Fool himself (2) the
epithet or character of "fool"

Further growing reluctance?

Should Kent
overheat this
in the shade as
of Horatio in Hamlet
our

825

A fox, when one has caught her,
And such a daughter,
Should sure to the slaughter,

Exit.

Goneril. This man hath had good counsel. A hundred knights!

830

'Tis politic^o and safe to let him keep
At point^o a hundred knights: yes, that on every
dream,
Each buzz,^o each fancy, each complaint, dislike,
He may enguard^o his dotage with their pow'rs
And hold our lives in mercy.^o Oswald, I say!

Albany. Well, you may fear too far.

835

Goneril. Safer than trust too far.

Let me still take away the harms I fear,
Not fear still to be taken.^o I know his heart.
What he hath uttered I have writ my sister.
If she sustain him and his hundred knights,
When I have showed th' unfitness——

Enter Oswald.

840

How now, Oswald?

What, have you writ that letter to my sister?

Oswald. Ay, madam.

Goneril. Take you some company,^o and away to horse.

845

Inform her full of my particular^o fear,
And thereto add such reasons of your own
As may compact^o it more. Get you gone,
And hasten your return. *[Exit Oswald.]* No, no,
my lord,
This milky gentleness and course^o of yours,
Though I condemn not,^o yet under pardon,

827-28 halter, after pronounced "hafter," "auter" 830 politic good policy 831 At point armed 832 buzz rumor 833 enguard protect 834 in mercy at his mercy 837 Not . . . taken rather than remain fearful of being overtaken by them 843 company escort 844 particular own 846 compact strengthen 848 milky . . . course mild and gentle way (hendiadys) 849 condemn not condemn it not

If 2 man's brains were in his ^{Joos} feet
wouldn't ~~it~~ ^{not} be in danger of chilblains!?

Any boy or (a little boy) you've got nothing to ~~worry~~
Then I picture be merry - we can get you some ~~bed~~
because ~~your~~ ^{thy} head ~~shall not need~~ slippers.
would look forsh in slippers,
bedsocks

bunions
you've got nothing to

You are much more attasked^o for want of wisdom
Than praised for harmful mildness.^o

350

Albany. How far your eyes may pierce I cannot tell;
Striving to better, oft we mar what's well.

Goneril. Nay then——

Albany. Well, well, th' event.^o

Exeunt. 355

Scene V. [Court before the same.]

Enter Lear, Kent, and Fool.

Lear. Go you before to *Regan* with this letter.
Acquaint my daughter no further with anything
you know than comes from *her* demand out of
the letter. If your diligence be not speedy, I shall
be there afore you.

5

Kent. I will not sleep, my lord, till I have delivered
your letter.

Exit.

Fool. If a man's brain were in's toes were't^o not
in danger of *time*?^o

Lear. Ay, boy.

10

Fool. Then I prithee be merry... you've got nothing
to worry about

Fool. Shalt^o see thy other daughter will use thee
kindly;^o for though she's as like this as a
like an apple, yet I can tell what I can tell.

15

350 *attasked* taken to task, blamed 351 *harmful mildness* dangerous in-
dulgence 355 *th' event* i.e., we'll see what happens I.v. 3-4 *than* . . .
letter than her reading of the letter brings her to ask 8 *were't* i.e., the
brains 9 *kibes* chilblains 11-12 *Thy* . . . *slipshod* your brains shall not
go in slippers (because you have no brains to be protected from chil-
blains) 14 *Shalt* thou shalt 15 *kindly* (1) affectionately (2) after her
kind or nature 15 *crab* crab apple

or another

* goes & go back
to Gornil
OR let it go! Trust yr natural
goodness, dear. Move on

with Gornil?
on the crown? —————

Lear. Why, what canst thou tell, my boy?

Fool. She ^{man} will taste as like this as a ^{man} does to a ^{man} ~~man~~. Thou canst tell why one's nose stands i' th' middle on's^o face?

20

Lear. No.

Fool. Why, to keep one's eyes of^o either side's nose, that what a man cannot smell out, he may spy into. ^{RIMSHOT}

25

Lear. I did her wrong.

Fool. Canst tell how an oyster makes his shell?

Lear. No.

Fool. Nor I neither; but I can tell why a snail has a house.

30

Lear. Why?

Fool. Why, to put 's head in; not to give it away to his daughters, and leave his horns^o without a case.

Lear. I will forget my nature: so kind a father! Be my horses ready?

35

Fool. Thy asses are gone about 'em. The reason why the seven stars^o are no moe^o than seven is a pretty^o reason.

Lear. Because they are not eight. ^{# RIMSHOT}

Fool. Yes indeed. Thou wouldst make a good Fool. ^{# RIMSHOT}

40

Lear. To take't again perforce! Monster ingratitude!

Fool. If thou wert my Fool, Nuncle, I'd have thee beaten for being old before thy time.

Lear. How's that?

45

Fool. Thou shouldst not have been old till thou hadst been wise.

20 on's of his 22 of on 32 horns (1) snail's horns (2) cuckold's horns 33 nature paternal instincts 36 seven stars the Pleiades 36 moe more 36 pretty apt 40 To . . . perforce (1) of Goneril, who has forcibly taken away Lear's privileges; or (2) of Lear, who meditates a forcible resumption of authority

mini-anxiety attack
hyperventilating
not a great way for him to
be approaching Regan

but has seen
panic attack

Fool has hesitated?
← go to bed at noon

I, v

KING LEAR

OR simply told it together
of I did her wrong
AND I am in a great deal

75

Lear. O, let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven! I would not be mad.
Keep me in temper, I would not be mad!

[Enter Gentleman.]

How now, are the horses ready? Look

Gentleman. Ready, my lord.

Lear. Come, boy. I am not in the mood to walk of 50

Fool. She that's a maid now, and laughs at my departure,
Shall not be a maid long, unless things be cut shorter.^o

Exeunt.

how I make off
with things cut my back off
fought
death etc

"in temper sane" 51-52 She . . . shorter the maid who laughs, missing the tragic implications of this quarrel, will not have sense enough to preserve her virginity ("things" = penises)

ACT II

Scene I. [*The Earl of Gloucester's castle.*]

Enter Edmund and Curan, severally.^o

Edmund. Save^o thee, Curan.

Curan. And you, sir. I have been with your father,
and given him notice that the Duke of Cornwall
and Regan his duchess will be here with him this
5 night.

Edmund. How comes that? *!!?*

Curan. Nay, I know not. You have heard of the news
abroad? I mean the whispered ones, for they are
yet but ear-kissing arguments.^o

10 *Edmund.* Not I. Pray you, what are they?

Curan. Have you heard of no likely^o wars toward,^o
'twixt the Dukes of Cornwall and Albany?

Edmund. Not a word.

15 *Curan.* You may do, then, in time. Fare you well,
sir. *Exit.*

Edmund. The Duke be here tonight? The better!^o
best!

II.i. 1 s.d. *severally* separately (from different entrances on stage)
1 *Save* God save 9 *ear-kissing arguments* subjects whispered in the
ear 11 *likely* probable 11 *toward* impending 16 *The better* so much
the better

about his hated

Bangs his head
(many blood
flashes)

This weaves itself perforce¹⁷ into my business.
 My father hath set guard to take my brother,
 And I have one thing of a queasy question¹⁸
 Which I must act. Briefness¹⁹ and Fortune, work! 20
 Brother, a word; descend. Brother, I say!

Enter Edgar.

My father watches. O sir, fly this place.
 Intelligence²⁰ is given where you are hid.
 You have now the good advantage of the night.
 Have you not spoken 'gainst the Duke of Cornwall? 25
 He's coming hither, now i' th' night, i' th' haste,²¹
 And Regan with him. Have you nothing said
 Upon his party²² 'gainst the Duke of Albany?
 Advise yourself.²³

Edgar. I am sure on't,²⁴ not a word.

Edmund. I hear my father coming. Pardon me: 30
 In cunning²⁵ I must draw my sword upon you.
 Draw, seem to defend yourself; now quit you²⁶ well.
 Yield! Come before my father! Light ho, here!
 Fly, brother. Torches, torches! —So farewell.

Exit Edgar.

Some blood drawn on me would beget opinion²⁷ 35
 [Wounds his arm]

Of my more fierce endeavor. I have seen drunkards
 Do more than this in sport. Father, father!
 Stop, stop! No help?

Enter Gloucester, and Servants with torches.

Gloucester. Now, Edmund, where's the villain?

Edmund. Here stood he in the dark, his sharp sword 40
 out,

Mumbling of wicked charms, conjuring the moon
 To stand auspicious mistress.

Gloucester.

But where is he?

¹⁷ perforce necessarily ¹⁸ of a queasy question that requires delicate
 handling (to be "queasy" is to be on the point of vomiting) ²⁰ Brief-
 ness speed ²³ Intelligence information ²⁶ i' th' haste in great haste
²⁸ Upon his party censuring his enmity ²⁹ Advise yourself reflect
²⁹ on't of it ³¹ In cunning as a pretense ³² quit you acquit yourself
³⁵ beget opinion create the impression

right
- Keen

Edmund. Look, sir, I bleed.

Gloucester. Where is the villain, Edmund?

Edmund. Fled this way, sir, when by no means he could——

Gloucester. Pursue him, ho! Go after.

[*Exeunt some Servants.*]

43 *By no means what?*

Edmund. Persuade me to the murder of your lordship;

But that I told him the revenging gods

'Gainst parricides did all the thunder bend;°

Spoke with how manifold and strong a bond

50 The child was bound to th' father. Sir, in fine,°

Seeing how loathly opposite° I stood

To his unnatural purpose, in fell° motion°

With his preparèd sword he charges home

My unprovided° body, latched° mine arm;

53 But when he saw my best alarumed° spirits

Bold in the quarrel's right,° roused to th'

encounter,

Or whether gasted° by the noise I made,

Full suddenly he fled.

Gloucester. Let him fly far.

Not in this land shall he remain uncaught;

60 And found——dispatch.° The noble Duke my master,

My worthy arch° and patron, comes tonight.

By his authority I will proclaim it,

That he which finds him shall deserve our thanks,

Bringing the murderous coward to the stake.

63 He that conceals him, death.°

Edmund. When I dissuaded him from his intent,

And found him pight° to do it, with curst° speech

Keen
pitcher I threatened to discover° him. He replied,

48 *bend* aim 50 *in fine* finally 51 *loathly opposite* bitterly opposed
52 *fell* deadly 52 *motion* thrust (a term from fencing) 54 *unprovided*
unprotected 54 *latched* wounded (lanced) 55 *best alarumed* wholly
aroused 56 *Bold . . . right* confident in the rightness of my cause
57 *gasted* struck aghast 60 *dispatch* i.e., he will be killed 61 *arch* chief
65 *death* (the same elliptical form that characterizes "dispatch," 1.60)
67 *pight* determined 67 *curst* angry 68 *discover* expose

Ne'er begot

"Thou unpossessing⁶⁹ bastard, dost thou think,
If I would stand against thee, would the reposa⁷⁰ 70
Of any trust, virtue, or worth in thee
Make thy words faithed?⁷² No. What I should
deny—

As this I would, ay, though thou didst produce
My very character⁷⁴—I'd turn it all
To thy suggestion,⁷⁵ plot, and damnèd practice.⁷⁵ 75
And thou must make a dullard of the world,⁷⁶
If they not thought⁷⁷ the profits of my death
Were very pregnant⁷⁸ and potential spirits⁷⁸ *Spwrs*
To make thee seek it."

Gloucester. O strange and fastened⁷⁹ villain!
Would he deny his letter, said he? I never got⁸⁰ him. 80

Tucket⁸¹ within.

Hark, the Duke's trumpets. I know not why he
comes.

All ports⁸² I'll bar; the villain shall not 'scape;
The Duke must grant me that. Besides, his picture
I will send far and near, that all the kingdom
May have due note of him; and of my land, 85
Loyal and natural⁸⁶ boy, I'll work the means
To make thee capable.⁸⁷

Enter Cornwall, Regan, and Attendants.

Cornwall. How now, my noble friend! Since I came
hither,
Which I can call but now, I have heard strange
news.

Regan. If it be true, all vengeance comes too short 90
Which can pursue th' offender. How dost, my lord?

Gloucester. O madam, my old heart is cracked, it's
cracked.

⁶⁹ *unpossessing* beggarly (landless) ⁷⁰ *reposa* placing ⁷² *faithed* be-
lieved ⁷⁴ *character* handwriting ⁷⁵ *suggestion* instigation ⁷⁵ *practice*
device ⁷⁶ *make* . . . world think everyone stupid ⁷⁷ *not thought* did
not think ⁷⁸ *pregnant* teeming with incitement ⁷⁸ *potential spirits*
powerful evil spirits ⁷⁹ *fastened* hardened ⁸⁰ *got* begot ⁸⁰ *s.d.* *Tuck-*
et (Cornwall's special trumpet call) ⁸² *ports* exits, of whatever sort
⁸⁶ *natural* (1) kind (filial) (2) illegitimate ⁸⁷ *capable* able to inherit

from Gornil's
letter

* showing up
his illegals
(against Albany)

Regan. What, did my father's godson seek your life?
He whom my father named, your Edgar?

⁹⁵ *Gloucester.* O lady, lady, shame would have it hid.

Regan. Was he not companion with the riotous knights
That tended upon my father?

Gloucester. I know not, madam. 'Tis too bad, too bad.

Edmund. Yes, madam, he was of that consort.^o

¹⁰⁰ *Regan.* No marvel then, though he were ill affected.^o
'Tis they have put^o him on the old man's death,
To have th' expense and waste^o of his revenues.

I have this present evening from my sister
Been well informed of them, and with such cautions
¹⁰⁵ That, if they come to sojourn at my house,
I'll not be there.

Cornwall. Nor I, assure thee, Regan.
Edmund, I hear that you have shown your father
A childlike^o office.

Edmund. It was my duty, sir.

¹¹⁰ *Gloucester.* He did bewray his practice,^o and received
This hurt you see, striving to apprehend him.

Cornwall. Is he pursued?

Gloucester. Ay, my good lord.

Cornwall. If he be taken, he shall never more
Be feared of doing^o harm. Make your own purpose,
¹¹⁵ How in my strength you please.^o For you, Edmund,
Whose virtue and obedience^o doth this instant
So much commend itself, you shall be ours. ✱
Natures of such deep trust we shall much need;
You we first seize on.

Edmund. I shall serve you, sir,
Truly, however else.

¹²⁰ *Gloucester.* For him I thank your Grace.

⁹⁹ consort company ¹⁰⁰ ill affected disposed to evil ¹⁰¹ put set
¹⁰² expense and waste squandering ¹⁰³ childlike filial ¹¹⁰ bewray his
practice disclose his plot ¹¹⁴ of doing because he might do
¹¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Make . . . please use my power freely, in carrying out your plans
for his capture ¹¹⁶ virtue and obedience virtuous obedience

she'll write back
to General

2 days since
Kent received
Leah's letters for
Stone & Regan

Kent

OSWALD/KENT
have already
met at Cornwall's
- weird game

going on
(which is what
probably
piles
Kent/Gino
into disposing
of Oswald's "diplomacy")

Cornwall. You know not why we came to visit you?

Regan. Thus out of season, threading dark-eyed night.

Occasions, noble Gloucester, of some prize,^o

Wherein we must have use of your advice.

Our father he hath writ, so hath our sister,

with Of differences,^o which^o I best thought it fit

To answer from^o our home. The several

messengers

From hence attend dispatch.^o Our good old friend,

Lay comforts to your bosom,^o and bestow

Your needful^o counsel to our businesses,

Which craves the instant use.^o

Gloucester.

I serve you, madam.

Your Graces are right welcome.

Exeunt. Flourish.

*has Kent been to Cornwall's place? most likely
Kent is fucking up Cornwall's plan*

Scene II. [Before Gloucester's castle.]

taking back Regan's letter to Cornwall
Exeunt
Enter Kent and Oswald, severally.

Oswald. Good dawning^o to thee, friend. Art of this house?^o *odd!*

Kent. Ay. Yes! *(that should confuse Oswald)*

Oswald. Where may we set our horses?

Kent. I' th' mire.

Oswald. Prithee, if thou lov'st me, tell me.

Kent. I love thee not.

122 prize importance 125 differences quarrels 125 which (referring not to "differences," but to the letter Lear has written) 128 from away from 127 attend dispatch are waiting to be sent off 128 Lay . . . bosom console yourself (about Edgar's supposed treason) 129 needful needed 131 craves the instant use demands immediate transaction II.ii. 1 dawning (dawn is impending, but not yet arrived) 1-2 Art of this house i.e., do you live here

Trapped
This ~~to~~ ^{disposed} ^{r. 2 (unw)} ^{in an animal} ^{pound}
Trapped between my teeth
part

I know there not
— such a deliberate
calculating denial
(e.g. I'm not any part
of your chess or
if all is gone
to the difficult
king
(poisoned by
Shagun
to Gornil)

* SAW THEE
at thy mistress's
sisters

Oswald. Why then, I care not for thee.

Kent. If I had thee in Lipsbury Pinfold,⁹ I would make
10 ~~thee care for me.~~

Oswald. Why dost thou use me thus? I know thee not. *I don't care to know*

Kent. Fellow, I know thee. *(saw him at Regan's)*

(you're a brute)

Oswald. What dost thou know me for?

Kent. A knave, a rascal, an eater of broken meats;¹⁰
15 a base, proud, shallow, beggarly, three-suited,¹¹ *Steward's allowance*
hundred-pound,¹² filthy worsted-stocking¹³ knave;
a lily-livered, action-taking,¹⁴ whoreson, glass-gaz-
ing,¹⁵ superserviceable,¹⁶ finical¹⁷ rogue; one-trunk-
20 inheriting¹⁸ slave; one that wouldst be a bawd in
way of good service,¹⁹ and art nothing but the com-
position²⁰ of a knave, beggar, coward, pander, and
the son and heir of a mongrel bitch; one whom I
will beat into clamorous whining if thou deniest the
least syllable of thy addition.²¹ *the truth of what Kent has just said*

25 Oswald. Why, what a monstrous fellow art thou, thus
to rail on one that is neither known of thee nor
knows thee!

Kent. What a brazen-faced varlet art thou to deny
thou knowest me! Is it two days since I
80 tripped up thy heels and beat thee before the
King? *[Drawing his sword]* Draw, you rogue,
for though it be night, yet the moon shines. I'll
make a sop o' th' moonshine²² of you. You whore-
son cullionly barbermonger,²³ draw!

⁹ *Lipsbury Pinfold* a pound or pen in which strayed animals are enclosed ("Lipsbury" may denote a particular place, or may be slang for "between my teeth") ¹⁴ *broken meats* scraps of food ¹⁵ *three-suited* (the wardrobe permitted to a servant or "knave") ¹⁶ *hundred-pound* (the extent of Oswald's wealth, and thus a sneer at his aspiring to gentility) ¹⁶ *worsted-stocking* (worn by servants) ¹⁷ *action-taking* one who refuses a fight and goes to law instead ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ *glass-gazing* conceited ¹⁸ *superserviceable* sycophantic, serving without principle. ¹⁸ *finical* overfastidious ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ *one-trunk-inheriting* possessing only a trunkful of goods ¹⁹⁻²⁰ *bawd* . . . service pimp, to please his master ²⁰⁻²¹ *composition* compound ²⁴ *addition* titles ³³ *sop o' th' moonshine* i.e., Oswald will admit the moonlight, and so sop it up, through the open wounds Kent is preparing to give him ³⁴ *cullionly barbermonger* base patron of hairdressers (effeminate man)

playing Ginn
credibly - test of
disgust to
Edmund

Kent + O S make

Oswald. Away, I have nothing to do with thee.

35

Kent. Draw, you rascal. You come with letters
against the King, and take ~~Vanity the puppet's~~ part
~~against the royalty of her father.~~ Draw, you rogue,
or I'll so carbonado^o your shanks. Draw, you ras-
cal. Come your ways!^o

40

Oswald. Help, ho! Murder! Help!

Kent. Strike, you slave! Stand, rogue! Stand, you neat^o
slave! Strike! [*Beating him*]

Oswald. Help, ho! Murder, murder!

*Enter Edmund, with his rapier drawn, Cornwall,
Regan, Gloucester, Servants.*

Edmund. How now? What's the matter? Part!

45

Kent. With you,^o goodman boy,^o if you please! Come,
I'll flesh^o ye, come on, young master.

*Attacking
Edmund*

Gloucester. Weapons? Arms? What's the matter here?

Cornwall. Keep peace, upon your lives.

He dies that strikes again. What is the matter?

50

Regan. The messengers from our sister and the King.

Cornwall. What is your difference?^o Speak.

Oswald. I am scarce in breath, my lord.

Kent. No marvel, you have so bestirred^o your valor.

You cowardly rascal, nature disclaims in thee.^o A
tailor made thee.^o

55

Cornwall. Thou art a strange fellow. A tailor make a
man?

Kent. A tailor, sir. A stonecutter or a painter could

³⁷ *Vanity the puppet's* Goneril, here identified with one of the personi-
fied characters in the morality plays, which were sometimes put
on as puppet shows ³⁹ *carbonado* cut across, like a piece of meat
before cooking ⁴⁰ *Come your ways* get along ⁴² *neat* (1) foppish
(2) unmixed, as in "neat wine" ⁴⁶ *With you* i.e., the quarrel is with
you ⁴⁸ *goodman boy* young man (peasants are "goodmen"; "boy" is
a term of contempt) ⁴⁷ *flesh* introduce to blood (term from hunting)
⁵² *difference* quarrel ⁵⁴ *bestirred* exercised ⁵⁵ *nature disclaims in thee*
nature renounces any part in you ⁵⁵⁻⁵⁶ *A tailor made thee* (from the
proverb "The tailor makes the man")

Wagtail?

Ref to Cordelia
2nd Edmund refs
earlier

60 not have made him so ill, though they had been
but two years o' th' trade.

Cornwall. Speak yet, how grew your quarrel?

Oswald. This ancient ruffian, sir, whose life I have
spared at suit of^o his gray beard—^(hair)

65 *Kent.* Thou whoreson zed,^o thou unnecessary letter!
My lord, if you will give me leave, I will tread this
unbolted^o villain into mortar and daub the wall of
a jakes^o with him. Spare my gray beard, you wag-
tail!^o

70 *Cornwall.* Peace, sirrah!
You beastly^o knave, know you no reverence?

Kent. Yes, sir, but anger hath a privilege.

Cornwall. Why art thou angry?

Kent. That such a slave as this should wear a sword,
Who wears no honesty. Such smiling rogues as
75 these,

~~Like rats, oft bite the holy cords^o atwain
Which are too intrince^o t' unloose, smooth^o
every passion~~

~~That in the natures of their lords rebel,
Being oil to fire, snow to the colder moods;
80 Renege^o, affirm, and turn their halcyon beaks^o
With every gale and vary^o of their masters,
Knowing naught, like dogs, but following
A plague upon your epileptic^o visage!
Smile you^o my speeches, as I were a fool?~~

Good!
64 at suit of out of pity for 65 zed the letter Z, generally omitted in
contemporary dictionaries 67 unbolted unsifted, i.e., altogether a vil-
lain 68 jakes privy 68-69 wagtail a bird that bobs its tail up and down,
and thus suggests obsequiousness 71 beastly irrational 76 holy cords
sacred bonds of affection (as between husbands and wives, par-
ents and children) 77 intrince entangled, intricate 77 smooth appease
80 Renege deny 80 halcyon beaks (the halcyon or kingfisher serves
here as a type of the opportunist because, when hung up by the tail or
neck, it was supposed to turn with the wind, like a weathervane)
81 gale and vary varying gale (hendiadys) 83 epileptic distorted by
grinning 84 Smile you do you smile at

~~Goese, if I had you upon Sarum Plain,^o
I'd drive ye cackling home to Camelot.^o~~

85

Cornwall. What, art thou mad, old fellow?

Gloucester. How fell you out? Say that.

Kent. No contraries^o hold more antipathy
Than I and such a knave.

90

Cornwall. Why dost thou call him knave? What is his
fault?

Kent. His countenance likes^o me not.

Cornwall. No more perchance does mine, nor his, nor
hers.

Kent. Sir, 'tis my occupation to be plain:
I have seen better faces in my time
Than stands on any shoulder that I see
Before me at this instant.

95

Cornwall. This is some fellow
Who, having been praised for bluntness, doth
affect

A saucy roughness, and constrains the garb
Quite from his nature.^o He cannot flatter, he;
An honest mind and plain, he must speak truth.
And^o they will take it, so; if not, he's plain.
~~These kind of knaves I know, which in this~~
~~plainness~~

100

~~Harbor more craft and more corrupter ends~~
~~Than twenty silly ducking observants^o~~
~~That stretch their duties nicely.^o~~

105

~~Kent. Sir, in good faith, in sincere verity,
Under th' allowance^o of your great aspect^o
Whose influence,^o like the wreath of radiant fire~~

⁸⁵ Sarum Plain Salisbury Plain ⁸⁶ Camelot the residence of King
Arthur (presumably a particular point, now lost, is intended here)
⁸⁹ contraries opposites ⁹² likes pleases ⁹⁹⁻¹⁰⁰ constrains . . . nature
forces the manner of candid speech to be a cloak, not for candor but
for craft ¹⁰² And if ¹⁰⁵ silly-ducking observants ridiculously obse-
quious attendants ¹⁰⁶ nicely punctiliously ¹⁰⁸ allowance approval
¹⁰⁸ aspect (1) appearance (2) position of the heavenly bodies ¹⁰⁹ in-
fluence astrological power

This man
is violent &
dangerous

~~On flick'ring Phoebus' front^o~~

110 Cornwall.

~~What mean'st by this?~~

Kent. To go out of my dialect,^o which you discommend so much. I know, sir, I am no flatterer. He^o that beguiled you in a plain accent was a plain knave, which, for my part, I will not be, though I should
115 win your displeasure to entreat me to't.^o

Cornwall. What was th' offense you gave him?

Oswald. I never gave him any.

It pleased the King his master very late^o

To strike at me, upon his misconstruction;^o

120 When he, compact,^o and flattering his displeasure,
Tripped me behind; ~~being down, insulted, railed,~~
~~And put upon him such a deal of man^o~~

~~That worthied him,^o~~ got praises of the King

~~For him attempting who was self-subdued,^o~~

125 ~~And, in the fleshment^o of this dread exploit,~~ IN

~~And~~ Drew on me here again.

Kent. None of these rogues and cowards
But Ajax is their fool.^o

Cornwall. Fetch forth the stocks!

You stubborn^o ancient knave, you reverent^o

braggart,

We'll teach you.

Kent. Sir, I am too old to learn.

110 *Phoebus' front* forehead of the sun 111 *dialect* customary manner of speaking 112 *He* i.e., the sort of candid-crafty man Cornwall has been describing 114-15 *though . . . to't* even if I were to succeed in bringing your graceless person ("displeasure" personified, and in lieu of the expected form, "your grace") to beg me to be a plain knave 118 *very late* recently 119 *misconstruction* misunderstanding 120 *compact* in league with the king 122 *put . . . man* pretended such manly behavior 123 *worthied him* made him seem heroic 124 *For . . . self-subdued* for attacking a man (Oswald) who offered no resistance 125 *fleshment* the bloodthirstiness excited by his first success or "fleshing" 126-27 *None . . . fool* i.e., cowardly rogues like Oswald always impose on fools like Cornwall (who is likened to Ajax: [1] the braggart Greek warrior [2] a jakes or privy) 128 *stubborn* rude 128 *reverent* old

overriding
Cornwall
again

General has
written
watch out for
Cain
he's dangerous
- worse than
the knights

Call not your stocks for me, I serve the King,
 On whose employment I was sent to you.
 You shall do small respect, show too bold malice
 Against the grace and person^o of my master,
 Stocking his messenger.

130

Cornwall. Fetch forth the stocks. As I have life and
 honor,

135

There shall he sit till noon.

Regan. Till noon? Till night, my lord, and all night
 too.

Kent. Why, madam, if I were your father's dog,
 You should not use me so.

Regan. Sir, being his knave, I will.

Cornwall. This is a fellow of the selfsame color^o
 Our sister speaks of. Come, bring away^o the stocks.
Stocks brought out.

140

Gloucester. Let me beseech your Grace not to do so.
 His fault is much, and the good King his master
 Will check^o him for't. Your purposed^o low
 correction

Is such as basest and contemnèdst^o wretches
 For pilf'rings and most common trespasses
 Are punished with.

145

The King his master needs must take it ill
 That he, so slightly valued in^o his messenger,
 Should have him thus restrained.

Cornwall. *(casts him off)* I'll answer^o that.

150

Regan. My sister may receive it much more worse,
 To have her gentleman abused, assaulted,
 For following her affairs. Put in his legs.

[Kent is put in the stocks.]

Q. Come, my good lord, away!

[Exeunt all but Gloucester and Kent.]

133 grace and person i.e., Lear as sovereign and in his personal character 140 color kind 141 away out 144 check correct 144 purposed intended 145 contemnèdst most despised 149 slightly valued in little honored in the person of 150 answer answer for

Phone caught
right in middle

disguised

Sort out
what went wrong
in Sc 1 Act 1.

Gloucester. I am sorry for thee, friend. 'Tis the Duke's
 155 pleasure,
 Whose disposition° all the world well knows
 Will not be rubbed° nor stopped. I'll entreat for
 thee.

Kent. Pray do not, sir. I have watched° and traveled
 hard.

Some time I shall sleep out, the rest I'll whistle.
 160 ~~A good man's fortune may grow out at heels.°~~
~~Give° you good morrow.~~

Gloucester. The Duke's to blame in this. 'Twill be
 ill taken.° *Exit.*

Kent. Good King, that must approve° the common
 saw,°

Thou out of Heaven's benediction com'st
 165 To the warm sun.°

Approach, thou beacon to this under globe,°
 That by thy comfortable° beams I may
 Peruse this letter. Nothing almost sees miracles
 But misery.° I know 'tis from Cordelia, — *starts, reading the letter*
 170 Who hath most fortunately been informed
 Of my obscured° course. "And shall find time I?
 From this enormous state, seeking to give
 Losses their remedies.° All weary and o'erwatched,
 Take vantage,° heavy eyes, not to behold
 175 This shameful lodging. Fortune, good night;
 Smile once more, turn thy wheel.°

Sleeps.

156 *disposition* inclination 157 *rubbed* diverted (metaphor from the game of bowls) 158 *watched* gone without sleep 160 *A . . . heels* even a good man may have bad fortune 161 *Give God give* 162 *taken* received 163 *approve* confirm 163 *saw* proverb 164-65 *Thou . . . sun* i.e., Lear goes from better to worse, from Heaven's blessing or shelter to lack of shelter 166 *beacon . . . globe* i.e., the sun, whose rising Kent anticipates 167 *comfortable* comforting 168-69 *Nothing . . . misery* i.e., true perception belongs only to the wretched 171 *obscured* disguised 171-73 *shall . . . remedies* (a possible reading: Cordelia, away from this monstrous state of things, will find occasion to right the wrongs we suffer) 174 *vantage* advantage (of sleep) 176 *turn thy wheel* i.e., so that Kent, who is at the bottom, may climb upward

First hint
of homeless
sub-class

Bed bn - since 15th Century

[Scene III. A wood.]

*dangerous
daylight**Enter Edgar.*

Edgar. I heard myself proclaimed,
 And by the happy^o hollow of a tree
 Escaped the hunt. No port is free, no place
 That guard and most unusual vigilance
 Does not attend my taking.^o Whiles I may 'scape,
 I will preserve myself; and am bethought^o
 To take the basest and most poorest shape
 That ever penury, in contempt of man,
 Brought near to beast;^o my face I'll grime with filth,
 Blanket^o my loins, elf^o all my hairs in knots,
 And with presented^o nakedness outface^o
 The winds and persecutions of the sky.
 The country gives me proof^o and precedent
 Of Bedlam^o beggars, who, with roaring voices,
 Strike^o in their numbed and mortified^o bare arms
 Pins, wooden pricks,^o nails, sprigs of rosemary;
 And with this horrible object,^o from low^o farms,
 Poor pelting^o villages, shepcotes, and mills,
 Sometimes with lunatic bans,^o sometime with
 prayers,
 Enforce their charity. Poor Turlygod, Poor Tom,^o
 That's something yet: Edgar I nothing am.^o *Exit.*

*Albion - quite
a police state*

II.iii. ^ohappy lucky ^oattend my taking watch to capture me ^oam
 bethought have decided ^openury . . . beast poverty, to show how
 contemptible man is, reduced to the level of a beast ¹⁰Blanket cover
 only with a blanket ¹⁰elf tangle (into "elflocks," supposed to be caused
 by elves) ¹¹presented the show of ¹¹outface brave ¹²proof example
¹⁴Bedlam (see I.ii.r. 140-47) ¹⁵strike stick ¹⁵mortified not alive to pain
¹⁶pricks skewers ¹⁷object spectacle ¹⁷low humble ¹⁸pelting paltry
¹⁹bans curses ²⁰Poor . . . Tom (Edgar recites the names a Bedlam
 beggar gives himself) ²¹That's . . . am there's a chance for me in that
 I am no longer known for myself

e.g. for entrance
I'm faint with travel all across the heath
Two days lost to find ~~they're~~ ^{my daughter} gone
It's sure ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} Cornwall under Gloucester's
arrives here for reasons yet unclear, sway

OR maybe Shakespeare knows
that audiences won't be bothering about this as they've already heard.

OR Lear wastell Reference 'by monthly course
at Regan's by etc'
servants.

Lear as King
is rankled by disrespect

Is this a joke?

Lear: What are Regan &
Cornwall up to!!?

[Scene IV. *Before Gloucester's castle. Kent in the stocks.*]

Enter Lear, Fool, and Gentleman.

Lear. 'Tis strange that they should so depart their home,
And not send back my messenger.

Gentleman. As I learned,
The night before there was no purpose^o in them
Of this remove.^o

Kent.

⁵ *Lear.* Ha!
Mak'st thou this shame thy pastime?

Kent. No, my lord.

10

Lear. What's he that hath so much thy place mistook
To set thee here?

Kent. It is both he and she,
Your son and daughter.

Lear. No.

¹⁵ *Kent.* Yes.

Lear. No, I say.

Kent. I say yea.

II.iv. ³ purpose intention ⁴ remove removal ⁵ Mak'st . . . pastime i.e., are you doing this to amuse yourself ⁷ cruel (1) painful (2) "crewel," a worsted yarn used in garters ⁹⁻¹⁰ overlusty at legs (1) a vagabond (2) [?] sexually promiscuous ¹⁰ netherstocks stockings (as opposed to knee breeches or upperstocks)

quicker but not so
last time used

Lear. No, no, they would not.

Kent. Yes, they have.

Lear. By Jupiter, I swear no!

20

Kent. By Juno, I swear ay!

Lear. They durst not do't;
They could not, would not do't—'Tis worse than murder

To do upon respect such violent outrage.

Resolve me with all modest haste which way

Thou mightst deserve or they impose this usage,

Coming from us.

25

Kent. My lord, when at their home
I did commend^o your Highness' letter to them,
Ere I was risen from the place that showed
My duty kneeling, came there a reeking post,^o
Stewed^o in his haste, half breathless, panting forth
From Goneril his mistress salutations,
Delivered letters, spite of intermission,^o
Which presently^o they read; on^o whose contents
They summoned up their meiny,^o straight took
horse,

80

Commanded me to follow and attend
The leisure of their answer, gave me cold looks,
And meeting here the other messenger,
Whose welcome I perceived had poisoned mine,
Being the very fellow which of late
Displayed^o so saucily against your Highness,
Having more man than wit^o about me, drew;
He raised^o the house, with loud and coward cries.
Your son and daughter found this trespass worth^o
The shame which here it suffers.

85

40

23 upon respect (1) on the respect due to the King (2) deliberately
24 Resolve inform 24 modest becoming 27 commend deliver 29 reek-
ing post sweating messenger 30 stewed steaming 32 spite of intermis-
sion in spite of the interrupting of my business 33 presently at once
33 on on the strength of 34 meiny retinue 40 Displayed showed off
41 more man than wit more manhood than sense 42 raised aroused
43 worth deserving

First 'physical' response to situation
extraordinary
giddiness in
head

45 *Fool.* Winter's not gone yet, if the wild geese fly that way.^o

50

55 *Lear.* O, how this mother swells up toward my heart!
down, thou climbing sorrow,
Thy element's below. Where is this daughter?

Kent. With the "Earl," sir, here within. *perjorative & lower rank*

Lear. Follow me not;
Stay here. *Exit.*

*A laugh
line*

60 *Gentleman.* Made you no more offense but what you speak of?

Kent. None.

How chance^o the King comes with so small a number?

Fool. And^o thou hadst been set i' th' stocks for that question, thou'dst well deserved it.

65 *Kent.* Why, Fool?

Fool. We'll set thee to school to an ant, to teach thee there's no laboring i' th' winter.

45-46 *Winter's . . . way* i.e., more trouble is to come, since Cornwall and Regan act so ("geese" is used contemptuously, as in Kent's quarrel with Oswald, II.ii. 85-6) 48 *blind* i.e., indifferent 49 *bags* moneybags 52 *turns the key* i.e., opens the door 53 *dolors* (1) sorrows (2) dollars (English name for Spanish and German coins) 54 *tell* (1) tell about (2) count 55-56 *mother . . . Hysterica passio* hysteria, causing suffocation or choking 57 *element* proper place 62 *How chance* how does it happen that 63 *And if* 66-67 *We'll . . . winter* (in the popular fable the ant, unlike the improvident grasshopper, anticipates the winter when none can labor by laying up provisions in the summer. Lear, trusting foolishly to summer days, finds himself unprovided for, and unable to provide, now that "winter" has come)

Leah's DW
opposed of Cornwall

it's all c/o
forget
for sure.

Let go thy hold when a great wheel runs down a hill, lest it break thy neck with following. But the great one that goes upward, let him draw thee after. When a wise man gives thee better counsel, give me mine again. I would have none but knaves follow it since a Fool gives it. 70 75

80

Kent. Where learned you this, Fool? 85

Fool. Not i' th' stocks, fool.

Enter Lear and Gloucester.

Lear. Deny to speak with me? They are sick, they are weary, They have traveled all the night? Mere fetches, ay! 85

Fetch me a better answer.

Gloucester. My dear lord, 90
You know the fiery quality^o of the Duke,
How unremovable and fixed he is
In his own course.

Lear. Vengeance, plague, death, confusion!
Fiery? What quality? Why, Gloucester, Gloucester,
I'd speak with the Duke of Cornwall and his wife. 95

67-70 *All . . . stinking* i.e., all can smell out the decay of Lear's fortunes. 72 *form* show 79 *pack* be off 83-84 *The . . . knave* i.e., the faithless man is the true fool, for wisdom requires fidelity. Lear's Fool, who remains faithful, is at least no knave 84 *perdy* by God (Fr. *par Dieu*) 87 *Deny* refuse 88 *fetches* subterfuges, acts of tacking (nautical metaphor) 89 *images* exact likenesses 89 *flying off* desertion 91 *quality* temperament

This is ^{the} king asking you

Heart spasm

Gloucester perhaps
rubs. Lb back
(L2 v. pity)

Gloucester. Well, my good lord, I have informed them so.

Lear. Informed them? Dost thou understand me, man?

Gloucester. Ay, my good lord.

Lear. The King would speak with Cornwall, the dear father

100 Would with his daughter speak, commands—tends—service.

Are they informed of this? My breath and blood! Fiery? The fiery Duke, tell the hot Duke that *Lear*—No, but not yet. May be he is not well.

105

I'll forbear;

110 [Looking on Kent] Death on my state! Wherefore Should he sit here?

115 Go tell the Duke and's wife I'd speak with them! Now, presently! Bid them come forth and hear me,

Or at their chamber door I'll beat the drum Till it cry sleep to death. (broken line)

92054 *Gloucester.* I would have all well betwixt you.

Exit.

100 *tends* attends (i.e., awaits); with, possibly, an ironic second meaning, "tenders," or "offers" 105 *Whereto* . . . bound duties which we are required to perform, when in health 108 *fallen out* angry 108 *head-ier* will headlong inclination 110 *state* royal condition 112 *remotion* (1) removal (2) remaining aloof 113 *practice* pretense 113 *forth* i.e., out of the stocks 115 *presently* at once 117 *cry* . . . death follow sleep, like a cry or pack of hounds, until it kills it

Crumples but not down!

perhaps distant thunder
starts here
sub-rofer.

illegitimacy adding to
Pagan nature of the play

you are legitimate
as my loving daughter

if you were not ~~girl~~
I'd know you were illegitimate

comfort me!

of Boris Johnson
was going to be
PM the press
would at last
bring up his baronies.

II, iv *VERSE again* KING LEAR

95

Lear. O me, my heart! My rising heart! But down!

119

PROSE again
Fool. Cry to it, Nuncle, as the cockney^o did to the eels when she put 'em i' th' paste^o alive. She knapped^o 'em o' th' coxcombs^o with a stick and cried, "Down, wantons,^o down!" 'Twas her brother that, in pure kindness to his horse, buttered his hay.^o

123

Enter Cornwall, Regan, Gloucester, Servants.

Lear. Good morrow to you both. *polite but loaded - no formal address*

Cornwall.

Hail to your Grace.

Kent here set at liberty.

Regan. I am glad to see your Highness.

Lear. Regan, I think you are. I know what reason I have to think so. If thou shouldst not be glad, I would divorce me from thy mother's tomb, Sepulchring an adultress. [To Kent] O, are you free?

130

Some other time for that. Beloved Regan, Thy sister's naught. O Regan, she hath tied Sharp-toothed unkindness, like a vulture, here.

[Points to his heart.]

I can scarce speak to thee. Thou'lt not believe With how depraved a quality — O Regan!

133

Regan. I pray you, sir, take patience. I have hope You less know how to value her desert Than she to scant her duty.^o

Lear.

Say? how is that?

120 cockney Londoner (ignorant city dweller) 121 paste pastry pie
122 knapped rapped 122 coxcombs heads 123 wantons i.e., playful things (with a sexual implication) 125 buttered his hay i.e., the city dweller does from ignorance what the dishonest ostler does from craft: greases the hay the traveler has paid for, so that the horse will not eat 130-31 divorce . . . adultress i.e., repudiate your dead mother as having conceived you by another man 133 naught wicked 136 quality nature 137-39 I . . . duty (despite the double negative, the passage means, "I believe that you fail to give Goneril her due, rather than that she fails to fulfill her duty")

Not just renom on General
Learn - how more
attuned to
huge natural forces.
- 2 value interpretation
that the storm has
already started
in his head
He brings down on
her what he
himself has started

brief flicker of
lightning

140 *Regan.* I cannot think my sister in the least
 Would fail her obligation. If, sir, perchance
 She have restrained the riots of your followers,
 'Tis on such ground, and to such wholesome end,
 As clears her from all blame.

Lear. My curses on her.

145 *Regan.* O, sir, you are old,
 Nature in you stands on the very verge
 Of his confine.^o You should be ruled, and led
 By some discretion that discerns your state
 Better than you yourself.^o Therefore I pray you
 150 That to our sister you do make return,
 Say you have wronged her.

Lear. Ask her forgiveness?
 Do you but mark how this becomes the house?
 "Dear daughter, I confess that I am old;

[Kneeling.]

Age is unnecessary. On my knees I beg
 155 That you'll vouchsafe me raiment, bed, and food."

Regan. Good sir, no more. These are unsightly tricks.
 Return you to my sister.

Lear. [Rising] Never, Regan.

She hath abated me of half my train,
 Looked black upon me, struck me with her tongue,
 160 Most serpentlike, upon the very heart.
 All the stored vengeance of heaven fall
 On her ingrateful top! Strike her young bones,
 You fetid airs, with lameness!

Cornwall.

Fie, sir, fie!

165 *Lear.* You nimble lightnings, dart your blinding flames
 Into her scornful eyes! Infect her beauty,

146-47 *Nature . . . confine* i.e., you are nearing the end of your life
 148-49 *some . . . yourself* some discreet person who understands your
 condition more than you do 152 *becomes the house* suits my royal and
 paternal position 158 *abated* curtailed 162 *top* head 162 *young bones*
 (the reference may be to unborn children, rather than to Goneril her-
 self) 163 *taking* infecting

gentle, delicate

foot

that's why I gave
you your chore
(cunning still
a reminder)

the elephant in
the room

OK let's sort out that!!



You fen-sucked fogs, drawn by the pow'rful sun,
To fall and blister!

Regan.

O the blest gods!

So will you wish on me when the rash mood is on.

Lear. No, Regan, thou shalt never have my curse.

Thy tender-hefted nature shall not give
Thee o'er to harshness. Her eyes are fierce, but thine
Do comfort and not burn. 'Tis not in thee
To grudge my pleasures, to cut off my train,
To bandy hasty words, to scant my sizes,
And, in conclusion, to oppose the bolt
Against my coming in. Thou better know'st
The offices of nature, bond of childhood,
Effects of courtesy, dues of gratitude.
Thy half o' th' kingdom hast thou not forgot,
Wherein I thee endowed.

170

173

Regan.

Good sir, to th' purpose.° 180

Tucket within, an interruption

Lear. Who put my man i' th' stocks?

Cornwall.

What trumpet's that?

Regan. I know't—my sister's. This approves° her
letter,
That she would soon be here.

Enter Oswald.

Is your lady come?

Lear. This is ^{the} slave, whose easy borrowed pride
Dwells in the fickle grace of her he follows.
Out, varlet, from my sight.

183

Cornwall.

What means your Grace?

166 *fen-sucked* drawn up from swamps by the sun 167 *fall and blister*
fall upon and raise blisters 170 *tender-hefted* gently framed 174 *bandy*
volley (metaphor from tennis) 174 *scant my sizes* reduce my allow-
ances 175 *oppose the bolt* i.e., bar the door 177 *offices* . . . childhood
natural duties, a child's duty to its parent 178 *Effects* manifestations
180 *to th' purpose* come to the point 182 *approves* confirms 184 *easy*
borrowed (1) facile and taken from another (2) acquired without any-
thing to back it up (like money borrowed without security) 185 *grace*
favor 186 *varlet* base fellow

wait for god's
response!!

reference to "keep
holding my heart
down"
line 119

Lear. Who stocked my servant? Regan, I have good
hope
Thou didst not know on't.

Enter Goneril.

O heavens!

190 If you do love old men, if your sweet sway
Allow obedience, if you yourselves are old,
Make it your cause. Send down, and take my part!
[*To Goneril*] Art not ashamed to look upon
this face?

O Regan, will you take her by the hand?

Goneril. Why not by th' hand, sir? How have I
offended?

195 All's not offense that indiscretion finds^o
And dotage terms so.

Lear. O sides, you are too tough!
Will you yet hold? How came my man i' th' stocks?

Cornwall. I set him there, sir; but his own disorders^o
Deserved much less advancement.^o

Lear. You? Did you?

200 *Regan.* I pray you, father, being weak, seem so.^o
If till the expiration of your month
You will return and sojourn with my sister,
Dismissing half your train, come then to me.
I am now from home, and out of that provision
205 Which shall be needful for your entertainment.^o

Lear. Return to her, and fifty men dismissed?
No! Rather I abjure all roofs, and choose
To wage against the enmity o' th' air,
To be a comrade with the wolf and owl,
210 Necessity's sharp pinch!

190 Allow approve of 191 it i.e., my cause 195 finds judges 196 sides
breast 198 disorders misconduct 199 advancement promotion 200 seem
so i.e., act weak 205 entertainment maintenance 208 wage fight
210 Necessity's sharp pinch (a summing up of the hard choice he has
just announced) 211 hot-blooded passionate

215

Regan's
TJ line 145
you are old
(close to death)
Do you really
believe that?

Return with her?

Persuade me rather to be slave and sumpter
To this detested groom. [*Pointing at Oswald.*]

215

Goneril.

At your choice, sir.

Lear. I prithee, daughter, do not make me mad:

I will not trouble thee, my child. Farewell:

We'll no more meet, no more see one another.

But yet thou art my flesh, my blood, my daughter,

220

Or rather a disease that's in my flesh,

Which I must needs call mine. Thou art a boil,

A plague-sore, or embossèd carbuncle

In my corrupted blood. But I'll not chide thee:

Let shame come when it will; I do not call it,

225

I do not bid the Thunder-bearer shoot,

Nor tell tales of thee to high-judging Jove.

Mend when thou canst, be better at thy leisure,

I can be patient, I can stay with Regan,

I and my hundred knights.

Regan.

Not altogether so.

230

I looked not for you yet, nor am provided

For your fit welcome. Give ear, sir, to my sister,

For those that mingle reason with your passion^o

Must be content to think you old, and so—

But she knows what she does.

no need to go round in circles

Lear.

Wing fassion

Is this well spoken?

235

Regan. I dare avouch^o it, sir. What, fifty followers?

Is it not well? What should you need of more?

Yea, or so many, sith that^o both charge^o and
danger

Speak 'gainst so great a number? How in one house

213 knee kneel before 213 *squrelike* like a retainer 215 sumpter pack horse 223 embossèd carbuncle swollen boil 226 Thunder-bearer i.e., Jupiter 227 high-judging (1) supreme (2) judging from heaven 233 mingle . . . passion i.e., consider your turbulent behavior coolly and reasonably 236 avouch swear by 238 sith that since 238 charge expense

degrees of
wisdom GON
REG

240 Should many people, under two commands,
Hold° amity? 'Tis hard, almost impossible.

Goneril. Why might not you, my lord, receive
attendance

From those that she calls servants, or from mine?

Regan. Why not, my lord? If then they chanced to
slack° ye,

245 We could control them. If you will come to me
(For now I spy a danger), I entreat you
To bring but five-and-twenty. To no more
Will I give place or notice.°

Lear. I gave you all —

Regan. And in good time you gave it.

250 *Lear.* Made you my guardians, my depositaries,
But kept a reservation to be followed
With such a number. What, must I come to you
With five-and-twenty? *Regan,* said you so?

Regan. And speak't again, my lord. No more with me.

Lear. Those wicked creatures yet do look well-
255 favored
When others are more wicked;
[To *Goneril*] I'll
go with thee:
Thy fifty yet doth double five-and-twenty,
And thou art twice her love.

Goneril. Hear me, my lord.
260 What need you five-and-twenty? ten? or five?
To follow° in a house where twice so many
Have a command to tend you?

Regan. What need one?

Lear. O reason not the need! Our basest beggars

241 hold preserve 244 slack neglect 248 notice recognition 250 de-
positaries trustees 251 reservation condition 255 well-favored handsome
256-57 not . . . praise i.e., that *Goneril* is not so bad as *Regan* is one
thing in her favor 259 her love i.e., as loving as she 261 follow attend
on you 263 reason scrutinize

human
nature
natural kingdom
of man

animal
nature

gesture to
Self +
wider
nature

RECONNECT TO
GODS - who don't
seem to be listening
BIG!
Support me!

lean splits
in half 

I need 100 knights
i.e. my nature
Father/King

II, iv

KING LEAR

101

(-4-10-)

Are in the poorest thing superfluous;
Allow not nature more than nature needs,
Man's life is cheap as beast's. Thou art a lady: 263 addressed to
If only to go warm were gorgeous, either
Why, nature needs not what thou gorgeous wear'st,
Which scarcely keeps thee warm. But, for true
need—

You heavens, give me that patience, patience I
need!

I need
patience
270
What does love
give us

You see me here, you gods, a poor old man,
As full of grief as age, wretched in both:
If it be you that stir these daughters' hearts
Against their father, fool me not so much
To bear it tamely; touch me with noble anger, 275
And let not women's weapons, water drops,
Stain my man's cheeks. No, you unnatural hags!
I will have such revenges on you both
That all the world shall—I will do such things—
What they are, yet I know not, but they shall be 280
The terrors of the earth! You think I'll weep.
No, I'll not weep.

Storm and tempest.

I have full cause of weeping, but this heart
Shall break into a hundred thousand flaws
Or ere I'll weep. O Fool, I shall go mad. 285

Exeunt Lear, Gloucester, Kent, and Fool.

Cornwall. Let us withdraw, 'twill be a storm.

Regan. This house is little; the old man and's people
Cannot be well bestowed.°

Goneril. 'Tis his own blame; hath° put himself from
rest°

And must needs taste his folly. 290

284 *Are . . . superfluous* i.e., have some trifle not absolutely necessary
285 *needs* i.e., to sustain life 287-89 *If . . . warm* i.e., if to satisfy the
need for warmth were to be gorgeous, you would not need the cloth-
ing you wear, which is worn more for beauty than warmth 274 *fool*
humiliate 275 *To bear* as to make me bear 284 *flaws* (1) pieces (2)
cracks (3) gusts of passion 285 *Or ere* before 288 *bestowed* lodged
289 *hath* he hath 289 *rest* (1) place of residence (2) repose of mind

Regan. For his particular,^o I'll receive him gladly,
But not one follower.

Goneril. So am I purposed.^o
Where is my Lord of Gloucester?

Cornwall. Followed the old man forth.

Enter Gloucester.

He is returned.

Gloucester. The King is in high rage.

295 *Cornwall.* Whither is he going?

Gloucester. He calls to horse, but will I know not
whither.

Cornwall. 'Tis best to give him way, he leads himself.^o

Goneril. My lord, entreat him by no means to stay.

Gloucester. Alack, the night comes on, and the high
winds

300 Do sorely ruffle.^o For many miles about
There's scarce a bush.

Regan. O, sir, to willful men
The injuries that they themselves procure
Must be their schoolmasters. Shut up your doors.
He is attended with a desperate train,
305 And what they may incense^o him to, being apt
To have his ear abused,^o wisdom bids fear.

Cornwall. Shut up your doors, my lord; 'tis a wild
night.

My Regan counsels well. Come out o' th' storm.

Exeunt.

291 his particular himself personally 292 purposed determined 297 give
. . . himself let him go; he insists on his own way 300 ruffle rage
305 incense incite 305-06 being . . . abused he being inclined to harken
to bad counsel

ACT III

Scene I. [A heath.]

Storm still.° Enter Kent and a Gentleman severally.

Kent. Who's there besides foul weather?

Gentleman. One minded like the weather most unquietly.°

Kent. I know you. Where's the King?

Gentleman. Contending with the fretful elements;

~~Bids the wind blow the earth into the sea,~~ 5

~~Or swell the curled waters 'bove the main,°~~

~~That things might change,° or cease; tears his white hair,~~

~~Which the impetuous blasts, with eyeless° rage,~~

~~Catch in their fury, and make nothing of;~~

4 { ~~Strives in his little world of man° to outscorn~~ 10

~~The to-and-fro-conflicting wind and rain.~~

~~This night, wherein the cub-drawn° bear would couch,°~~

~~The lion, and the belly-pinched° wolf~~

~~Keep their fur dry, unbonneted° he runs,~~

III.i.s.d. still continually 2 minded . . . unquietly disturbed in mind, like the weather 3 main land 7 change (1) be destroyed (2) be exchanged (i.e., turned upside down) (3) change for the better 8 eyeless (1) blind (2) invisible 10 little world of man (the microcosm, as opposed to the universe or macrocosm, which it copies in little) 12 cub-drawn sucked dry by her cubs, and so ravenously hungry 12 couch take shelter in its lair 13 belly-pinched starved 14 unbonneted hatless

And bids what will take all.^o

15 *Kent.* But who is with him?
Gentleman. None but the Fool, ~~who labors to outjest~~
~~His heart-struck injuries.~~

Kent. Sir, I do know you,
 And dare upon the warrant of my note^o
 Commend a dear thing^o to you. There is division,
 20 Although as yet the face of it is covered
 With mutual cunning, 'twixt Albany and Cornwall;
~~Who have as who have not, that^o their great~~
~~stars~~
~~Throned^o and set high?—servants, who seem no~~
~~less,^o~~
~~Which are to France the spies and speculations~~
 25 ~~Intelligent^o of our state. What hath been seen,~~
~~Either in snuffs and packings^o of the Dukes,~~
~~Or the hard rein which both of them hath borne^o~~
~~Against the old kind King, or something deeper,~~
~~Whereof, perchance, these are but furnishings^o.~~
 30 ~~But, true it is, from France there comes a power^o~~
~~Into this scattered^o kingdom, who already,~~
~~Wise in our negligence, have secret feet~~
~~In some of our best ports, and are at point^o~~
~~To show their open banner. Now to you:~~
 35 ~~If on my credit you dare build^o so far~~
~~To make your speed to Dover, you shall find~~
~~Some that will thank you, making^o just^o report~~
~~Of how unnatural and bemadding^o sorrow~~
~~The King hath cause to plain^o.~~
 40 I am a gentleman of blood and breeding,^o

¹⁵ take all (like the reckless gambler, staking all he has left) ¹⁶ war-
 rant of my note strength of what I have taken note (of you) ¹⁹ Com-
 mend . . . thing entrust important business ²² that whom ²³⁻²⁴ stars
 /Throned destinies have throned ²⁵ seem no less seem to be so
²⁴⁻²⁵ speculations/Intelligent giving intelligence ²⁶ snuffs and packings
 quarrels and plots ²⁷ hard . . . borne close and cruel control they
 have exercised ²⁸ furnishings excuses ²⁹ power army ³⁰ scattered dis-
 united ³¹ at point ready ³² If . . . build if you can trust me, proceed
³³ To as to ³⁴ making for making ³⁵ just accurate ³⁶ bemadding mad-
 dening ³⁷ plain complain of ⁴⁰ blood and breeding noble family

And from some knowledge and assurance^o offer
This office^o to you.

Gentleman. I will talk further with you.

Kent.

No, do not.

For confirmation that I am much more
Than my out-wall,^o open this purse and take 45
What it contains. If you shall see Cordelia,
As fear not but you shall, show her this ring,
And she will tell you who that fellow^o is
That yet you do not know. Fie on this storm!
I will go seek the King. 50

Gentleman. Give me your hand. Have you no more to
say?

Kent. Few words, but, to effect,^o more than all yet:

That when we have found the King—in which your
pain^o

That way, I'll this—he that first lights on him,
Holla the other. *Exeunt [severally].* 55

Scene II. [*Another part of the heath.*]

Storm still.

Enter Lear and Fool.

Lear. Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks! Rage, blow!
You cataracts and hurricanoes, spout
Till you have drenched our steeples, drowned the
cocks!

⁴¹ knowledge and assurance sure and trustworthy information ⁴² office
service (i.e., the trip to Dover) ⁴⁵ out-wall superficial appearance
⁴⁸ fellow companion ⁵² to effect in their importance ⁵⁸ pain labor
III.ii. ² hurricanoes waterspouts ³ cocks weathercocks

3 You sulph'rous and thought-executing fires,
 Vaunt-couriers of oak-cleaving thunderbolts,
 Singe my white head! And thou, all-shaking thunder,
 Strike flat the thick rotundity o' th' world,
 Crack Nature's molds, all germ ins spill at once
 That make ingrateful man!

10 Fool. O Nuncle, court holy-water^o in a dry house is
 better than this rain water out o' door. Good
 Nuncle, in; ask thy daughters blessing. Here's a
 night pities neither wise man nor fools.

Lear. Rumble thy bellyful! Spit, fire. Spout, rain!
 15 Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire are my daughters;
 I tax not you, you elements, with unkindness.
 I never gave you kingdom, called you children;
 You owe me no subscription. Then let fall
 Your horrible pleasure. Here I stand your slave,
 20 A poor, infirm, weak, and despised old man.
 But yet I call you servile ministers
 That will with two pernicious daughters join
 Your high-engendered battles 'gainst a head
 So old and white as this. O, ho! 'tis foul.

25 Fool. He that has a house to put 's head in has a good
 head.

30

⁴ *thought-executing* (1) doing execution as quick as thought (2) executing or carrying out the thought of him who hurls the lightning
⁵ *Vaunt-couriers* heralds, scouts who range before the main body of the army ⁷ *rotundity* i.e., not only the sphere of the globe, but the roundness of gestation (Delius) ⁸ *Nature's molds* the molds or forms in which men are made ⁹ *all germains spill* destroy the basic seeds of life ⁹ *ingrateful* ungrateful ¹⁰ *court holy-water* flattery ¹⁶ *tax* accuse
¹⁸ *subscription* allegiance, submission ¹⁹ *pleasure* will ²¹ *ministers* agents ²³ *high-engendered battles* armies formed in the heavens
²⁶ *headpiece* (1) helmet (2) brain ²⁷ *codpiece* penis (lit., padding worn at the crotch of a man's hose) ²⁹ *he it* ³⁰ *many* i.e., lice
²⁷⁻³⁰ *The . . . many* i.e., the man who gratifies his sexual appetites before he has a roof over his head will end up a lousy beggar

challenge them!
Can learn trust their
power

85

Enter Kent.

Lear. No, I will be the pattern of all patience,
I will say nothing.

Kent. Who's there?

Fool. Marry,^o here's a
wise man and a fool - which is which - take² your⁴⁰ pick!

Kent. Alas, sir, are you here? Things that love night
Love not such nights as these.

43

Lear.

Let the great gods
That keep this dreadful pudder o'er our heads
Find out their enemies now. Tremble, thou wretch,
That hast within thee undivulged crimes
Unwhipped of justice.

30

31-34 *The . . . wake* i.e., the man who, ignoring the fit order of things, elevates what is base above what is noble, will suffer for it as Lear has, in banishing Cordelia and enriching her sisters 35-36 *made mouths in a glass* posed before a mirror (irrelevant nonsense, except that it calls to mind the general theme of vanity and folly) 40 *Marry* by the Virgin Mary 40-41 *here's . . . fool* (Kent's question is answered: The King ("grace") is here, and the Fool—who customarily wears an exaggerated codpiece. But which is which is left ambiguous, since Lear has previously been called a codpiece) 44 *Gallow* frighten 45 *keep* remain inside 46 *horrid* horrible 48 *carry* endure 50 *pudder* turmoil 51 *Find . . . now* i.e., discover sinners by the terror they reveal 54 *perjured* perjurer 54 *simular* counterfeiter

Learn Summons the sinners
but declares he is ^{not}
one of them

THUNDER

55

Close pent-up guilts,
 Rive your concealing continents and cry
 These dreadful summoners grace. I am a man
 More sinned against than sinning.

60 *Kent.*

Alack, bareheaded?

Gracious my lord,^o hard by here is a hovel;
 Some friendship will it lend you 'gainst the
 tempest.

Repose you there, while I to this hard house
 (More harder than the stones whereof 'tis raised,
 65 Which even but now, demanding after^o you,
 Denied me to come in) return, and force
 Their scant^o courtesy.

Lear.

My wits begin to turn.

Come on, my boy. How dost, my boy? Art cold?
 I am cold myself. Where is this straw, my fellow?
 70 The art of our necessities is strange,
 That can make vile things precious. Come, your
 hovel.

Poor Fool and knave, I have one part in my heart
 That's sorry yet for thee.

Fool. [Singing]

75

Exit [with Kent].

55 *Caitiff* wretch 56 *seeming* hypocrisy 57 *practiced on* plotted against
 57 *Close* hidden 58 *Rive* split open 58 *continents* containers 58-59 *cry*
 . . . *grace* beg mercy from the vengeful gods (here figured as officers
 who summoned a man charged with immorality before the ecclesiastical
 court) 61 *Gracious my lord* my gracious lord 65 *demanding after*
 asking for 67 *scanted* stinted 70 *art* magic powers of the alchemists,
 who sought to transmute base metals into precious 76 *Must* . . . *fit*
 must be satisfied with a fortune as tiny as his wit

Fool. This is a brave^o night to cool a courtesan. I'll
speak a prophecy ere I go: 80

When priests are more in word than matter;
When brewers mar their malt with water;
When nobles are their tailors' tutors,
No heretics burned, but wenches' suitors;^o } *utopia* 85
When every case in law is right,
No squire in debt nor no poor knight;
When slanders do not live in tongues;
Nor cutpurses come not to throngs;
When usurers tell their gold i' th' field,^o } 90
And bawds and whores do churches build,^o
Then shall the realm of Albion^o
Come to great confusion.
Then comes the time, who lives to see't,
That going shall be used with feet.^o

This prophecy Merlin^o shall make, for I live before 95
his time. *Exit.*

Scene III. [Gloucester's castle.]

Enter Gloucester and Edmund.

Gloucester. Alack, alack, Edmund, I like not this unnatural dealing. When I desired their leave that I might pity^o him, they took from me the use of mine

⁷⁹ brave fine ⁸¹⁻⁸⁴ When . . . suitors (the first four prophecies are fulfilled already, and hence "confusion" has come to England. The priest does not suit his action to his words. The brewer adulterates his beer. The nobleman is subservient to his tailor [i.e., cares only for fashion]. Religious heretics escape, and only those burn [i.e., suffer] who are afflicted with venereal disease) ⁸⁹ tell . . . field count their money in the open ⁸⁵⁻⁹⁰ When . . . build (the last six prophecies, as they are Utopian, are meant ironically. They will never be fulfilled) ⁹¹ Albion England ⁹⁴ going . . . feet people will walk on their feet ⁹⁵ Merlin King Arthur's great magician who, according to Holinshed's *Chronicles*, lived later than Lear III.iii. ³ pity show pity to

5 own house, charged me on pain of perpetual displeasure neither to speak of him, entreat for him, or any way sustain^o him.

Edmund. Most savage and unnatural.

Gloucester. Go to; say you nothing. There is division^o between the Dukes, and a worse^o matter than that.
 10 I have received a letter this night—'tis dangerous to be spoken^o—I have locked the letter in my closet.^o These injuries the King now bears will be revenged home;^o there is part of a power^o already footed;^o we must incline to^o the King. I will look^o
 15 him and privily^o relieve him. Go you and maintain talk with the Duke, that my charity be not of^o him perceived. If he ask for me, I am ill and gone to bed. If I die for it, as no less is threatened me, the King my old master must be relieved. There is
 20 strange things toward,^o Edmund; pray you be careful.
Exit.

Edmund. This courtesy forbid^o thee shall the Duke Instantly know, and of that letter too.
 This seems a fair deserving,^o and must draw me
 25 That which my father loses—no less than all.
 The younger rises when the old doth fall.

Exit.

III.iii. 6 *sustain* care for 8 *division* falling out 9 *worse* more serious (i.e., the French invasion) 11 *spoken* spoken of 12 *closet* room 13 *home* to the utmost 13 *power* army 14 *footed* landed 14 *incline* to take the side of 14 *look* search for 15 *privily* secretly 16 *of* by 20 *toward* impending 22 *courtesy* *forbid* kindness forbidden (i.e., to Lear) 24 *fair* *deserving* an action deserving reward

going into possible 'counthouse'
which means daughters (mistress)

leave gap



Scene IV. [The heath. Before a hovel.]

Enter Lear, Kent, and Fool.

Kent. Here is the place, my lord. Good my lord,
enter.

Lear. Let me alone.

Kent. Good my lord, enter here.

Lear. Wilt break my heart?

Kent. I had rather break mine own. Good my lord,
enter.

Lear. Thou think'st 'tis much that this contentious
storm

Invades us to the skin:

The tempest in my mind
Doth from my senses take all feeling else,
Save what beats there, Filial ingratitude!
Is it not as this mouth should tear this hand
For lifting food to't? But I will punish home.
No, I will weep no more. In such a night
To shut me out! Pour on, I will endure.

III.iv. 4 *break my heart* i.e., by shutting out the storm which distracts me from thinking 8 *fixed* lodged (in the mind) 11 *i' th' mouth* in the teeth 11 *free* i.e., from care 15 *as as if* 16 *home* to the utmost

throughout the
storm still. as well
as well
Hisses + cracks

THUNDER

10

15

both lean himself
AND Foot
OR everyone else.

kneels OR
(sits on edge
of stage)

it is his duty

20 In such a night as this! O Regan, Goneril,
Your old kind father, whose frank heart gave you
all—

O, that way madness lies, let me shun that,
No more of that.

Kent. Good my lord, enter here.

Lear. Prithee go in thyself; seek thine own ease.

25

[To the Fool] In, boy; go first. You houseless
poverty —

Nay, get thee in. I'll pray, and then I'll sleep. (resolution)
(cries of wretches) Exit [Fool].

30 Poor naked wretches, wheresoe'er you are,
That bide the pelting of this pitiless storm,
How shall your houseless heads and unfed sides,
Your looped and windowed raggedness, defend
you

35 From seasons such as these? O, I have ta'en
Too little care of this! Take physic, pomp;
Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel,
That thou mayst shake the superfluous to them,
And show the heavens more just.

goes from audience Edgar. [Within] Fathom and half, fathom and half!
Poor Tom!

Enter Fool.

40 Fool. Come not in here, Nuncle, here's a spirit. Help
me, help me!

Kent. Give me thy hand. Who's there?

Fool. A spirit, a spirit. He says his name's Poor Tom.

Kent. What art thou that dost grumble there i' th'
straw?

Come forth.

20 frank liberal (magnanimous) 26 houseless poverty (the unsheltered
poor, abstracted) 29 bide endure 31 looped and windowed full of
holes 33 Take physic, pomp take medicine to cure yourselves, you
great men 35 superfluous superfluity 37 Fathom and half (Edgar, be-
cause of the downpour, pretends to take soundings)

both Lear
Fool &
wretches

discovery

poor

Edgar avoids
Running the risk
of disguise being discovered

*

Learn gets closer

Learn drawn
in - insists
on whether
Learther
were responsible

Enter Edgar [disguised as a madman].

Edgar. Away! the foul fiend follows me. Through the
sharp hawthorn blows the cold wind.° Humh! Go
to thy cold bed, and warm thee.° 45

Lear. Didst thou give all to thy daughters? And art
thou come to this?

Edgar. Who gives anything to Poor Tom? Whom the
foul fiend hath led through fire and through flame,
through ford and whirlpool. o'er bog and quag-
mire: 50

set ratsbane° by his porridge,
made him proud of heart, to ride on a bay trotting
horse over four-inched bridges,° to course° his
own shadow for° a traitor. Bless thy five wits,°
Tom's a-cold. O, do, de, do, de, do, de. Bless thee
from whirlwinds, star-blasting,° and taking.° Do
Poor Tom some charity, whom the foul fiend vexes.
There could I have him now—and there—and
there again—and there. 60

*This is
the madness
(of daughters)
that Lear
feared*

Storm still.

Verse *Lear.* What, has his daughters brought him to this
pass? 65

Couldst thou save nothing? Wouldst thou give 'em
all?

*Lightning
Lear waits
for thunder*

Fool. Nay, he reserved a blanket,° else we had been
all shamed. 65

Lear. Now all the plagues that in the pendulous air
Hang fated o'er men's faults light on thy
daughters. 70

45-46 *Through . . . wind* (a line from the ballad of "The Friar of Orders Gray") 46-47 *go . . . thee* (a reminiscence of *The Taming of the Shrew*, Induction, 1.10) 53-54 *knives . . . halts . . . ratsbane* (the fiend tempts Poor Tom to suicide) 54 *pew* gallery or balcony outside a window 54 *porridge* broth 55-56 *ride . . . bridges* i.e., risk his life 56 *course* chase 57 *for* as 57 *five wits* i.e., common wit, imagination, fantasy, estimation, memory 59 *star-blasting* the evil caused by malignant stars 59 *taking* pernicious influences 63 *pass* wretched condition 65 *blanket* i.e., to cover his nakedness 67 *pendulous* overhanging 68 *fated o'er* destined to punish

Perhaps
are all families doomed to
be dysfunctional?
is this what's happening everywhere
to fathers now?
a cyclical dilemma?
not yet a fully formed redefinition

does Lear 'read' this
via his own sense of
"are they actually my legitimate
daughters - or were my
wives/my wife unfaithful?"

the cessant
& madness of
the "world"
of Jacobean

Kent. He hath no daughters, sir.

70 *Lear.* Death, traitor! Nothing could have subdued
nature

men's vital
powers

To such a lowness but his unkind daughters.
Is it the fashion that discarded fathers
Should have thus little mercy on their flesh?
75 Judicious punishment—'twas this flesh begot
Those pelican daughters.

2 + it is that he
is punished
because he begot
them

Edgar. Pillicock sat on Pillicock Hill.° Alow, alow,
loo, loo!°

Fool. This cold night will turn us all to fools and
madmen.

80 *Edgar.* Take heed o' th' foul fiend; obey thy parents;
keep thy word's justice;° swear not; commit not°
with man's sworn spouse; set not thy sweet heart
on proud array. Tom's a-cold.

Lear. What hast thou been?

85 *Edgar.* A servingman, proud in heart and mind; that
curled my hair, wore gloves in my cap;° served the
lust of my mistress' heart, and did the act of dark-
ness with her; swore as many oaths as I spake
words, and broke them in the sweet face of
90 heaven. One that slept in the contriving of lust,
and waked to do it. Wine loved I deeply, dice
dearly; and in woman out-paramoured the Turk.°
False of heart, light of ear,° bloody of hand; hog
in sloth, fox in stealth, wolf in greediness, dog in
95 madness, lion in prey.

Lear starts in
See Edgar
111/12 as
a creature
of which

70 *subdued* reduced 73 *on* i.e., shown to 75 *pelican* (supposed to feed on its parent's blood) 76 *Pillicock . . . Hill* (probably quoted from a nursery rhyme, and suggested by "pelican." *Pillicock* is a term of endearment and the phallus) 76-77 *Alow . . . loo* (? a hunting call, or the refrain of the song) 81 *keep . . . justice* i.e., do not break thy word 81 *commit not* i.e., adultery 86 *gloves in my cap* i.e., as a pledge from his mistress 92 *out-paramoured the Turk* had more concubines than the Sultan 93 *light of ear* ready to hear flattery and slander 95 *prey* preying 95 *creaking* (deliberately cultivated, as fashionable)

discovery
question

—

Helps the right way to be!
I'll disrobe & be a natural
man too!

Keep thy foot out of brothels,
thy hand out of plackets,⁹ thy pen from lenders'
books,⁹ and defy the foul fiend. Still through the
hawthorn blows the cold wind; says suum, mun,¹⁰⁰
nonny.⁹ Dolphin⁹ my boy, boy, sessa!⁹ let him trot
by.

Storm still.

Lear. Thou wert better in a grave than to answer
with thy uncovered body this extremity of the
skies. Is man no more than this? Consider him¹⁰⁵
well. Thou ow'st the worm no silk, the beast no
hide, the sheep no wool, the cat no perfume. Ha!
here's three of's are sophisticated. Thou art the
thing itself; unaccommodated man is no more
but such a poor, bare, forked animal as thou art.¹¹⁰
Off, off, you lendings! Come, unbutton here.

[*Tearing off his clothes.*]

Fool. Prithee, Nuncle, be contented, 'tis a naughty⁹
night to swim in.

115

Enter Gloucester, with a torch.

Edgar. This is the foul fiend Flibbertigibbet.⁹ He be-
gins at curfew,⁹ and walks till the first cock.

⁹⁸ plackets openings in skirts ⁹⁹⁻¹⁰⁰ pen . . . books i.e., do not enter
your name in the moneylender's account book ¹⁰⁰⁻⁰¹ suum, mun, nonny
the noise of the wind ¹⁰¹ Dolphin the French Dauphin (identified by
the English with the devil. Poor Tom is presumably quoting from a
ballad) ¹⁰² sessa an interjection: "Go on!" ¹⁰³ answer confront, bear
the brunt of ¹⁰⁴ extremity extreme severity ¹⁰⁵ ow'st have taken from
¹⁰⁷ cat civet cat, whose glands yield perfume ¹⁰⁸ on's of us ¹⁰⁹ sophis-
ticated adulterated, made artificial ¹¹⁰ unaccommodated uncivilized
¹¹⁰ forked i.e., two-legged ¹¹¹ lendings borrowed garments ¹¹² naughty
wicked ¹¹³ wild barren ¹¹⁴ Flibbertigibbet (a figure from Elizabethan
demonology) ¹¹⁵ curfew: 9 P.M. ¹¹⁶ first cock midnight ¹¹⁷ web and
the pin cataract ¹¹⁸ squints crosses ¹¹⁹ white ripening

revenge-seeking
2/10/68
a wild animal

125

aroint thee, witch, aroint thee!

Kent. How fares your Grace?

Lear. What's he? (Die PAUSE)

Kent. Who's there? What is't you seek?

130 *Gloucester.* What are you there?/Your names?

Edgar. Poor Tom. that

135

eats cow-dung for sallets,^o swallows the old
rat and the ditch-dog,^o drinks the green mantle^o
of the standing^o pool; who is whipped
and stocked, punished, and imprisoned;
who hath had three suits to his back, six shirts to
his body,

140

Horse to ride, and weapon to wear,
But mice and rats, and such small deer,^o
Have been Tom's food for seven long year.^o
Beware my follower!^o Peace, Smulkin,^o peace,
thou fiend!

145

Gloucester. What, hath your Grace no better com-
pany?

Edgar. The Prince of Darkness is a gentleman.
Modo^o he's called, and Mahu.^o

122 *Swithold* . . . old *Withold* (an Anglo-Saxon saint who subdued demons) walked three times across the open country 123 *nightmare* demon 123 *fold* offspring 124 *alight* i.e., from the horse she had possessed 125 *her troth plight* pledge her word 126 *aroint* be gone 132 *todpole* . . . water tadpole, wall lizard, water newt 134 *sallets* salads 135 *ditch-dog* dead dog in a ditch 135 *mantle* scum 136 *standing* stagnant 136 *tithing* a district comprising ten families 141-42 *But* . . . year (adapted from a popular romance, "Bevis of Hampton") 141 *deer* game 143 *follower* familiar 143, 147 *Smulkin, Modo, Mahu* (Elizabethan devils, from Samuel Harsnett's *Declaration* of 1603)

* of Horace

Irony in
Context of
Edgar's raves

Gloucester. Our flesh and blood, my Lord, is grown
so vile

That it doth hate what gets^o it.

Edgar. Poor Tom's a-cold.

150

Gloucester. Go in with me. My duty cannot suffer^o

T' obey in all your daughters' hard commands.

Though their injunction be to bar my doors

~~And let this tyrannous night take hold upon you,~~

Yet have I ventured to come seek you out

155

And bring you where both fire and food is ready.

Lear. First let me talk with this philosopher.

What is the cause of thunder?

prim nature vs my complex daughters.

Kent. Good my lord, take his offer; go into th' house.

Lear. I'll talk a word with this same learned Theban.

160

What is your study?

Edgar. How to prevent^o the fiend, and to kill vermin.

Lear. Let me ask you one word in private.

Song? do do do

Kent. Importune him once more to go, my lord.

His wits begin t' unsettle.

Gloucester.

Canst thou blame him?

165

Storm still.

His daughters seek his death. Ah, that good Kent,

He said it would be thus, poor banished man!

Thou say'st the King grows mad—I'll tell thee,
friend,

I am almost mad myself. I had a son,

Now outlawed from my blood;^o he sought my life

170

But lately, very late.^o I loved him, friend,

No father his son dearer. True to tell thee,

The grief hath crazed my wits. What a night's this!

149 gets begets 151 suffer permit me 160 Theban i.e., Greek philosopher 161 study particular scientific study 162 prevent balk 170 outlawed from my blood disowned and tainted, like a carbuncle in the corrupted blood 171 late recently

of Cynics who despised
wealth, chose to live
in rags, & sharp in
reproving vices

I do beseech your Grace——

Lear. O, cry you mercy, sir.

173 Noble philosopher, your company.

Edgar. Tom's a-cold.

Gloucester. In, fellow, there, into th' hovel; keep thee warm.

Lear. Come, let's in all.

Kent. This way, my lord.

Lear. With him!

I will keep still with my philosopher.

180 *Kent.* Good my lord, soothe^o him; let him take the fellow.

Gloucester. Take him you on.^o

Kent. Sirrah, come on; go along with us.

Lear. Come, good Athenian.

Gloucester. No words, no words! Hush.

185 *Edgar.* Child Rowland to the dark tower came;
His word was still,^o "Fie, foh, and fum,
I smell the blood of a British man."^o

Exeunt.

174 cry you mercy I beg your pardon 180 soothe humor 181 you on with you 183 Athenian i.e., philosopher (like "Theban") 185 Child . . . came (? from a lost ballad; "child"—a candidate for knighthood; Rowland was Charlemagne's nephew, the hero of *The Song of Roland*) 186 His . . . still his motto was always 186-87 Fie . . . man (a deliberately absurd linking of the chivalric hero with the nursery tale of Jack the Giant-Killer)

Scene V. [Gloucester's castle.]

Enter Cornwall and Edmund.

Cornwall. I will have my revenge ere I depart his house.

Edmund. How, my lord, I may be censured,⁸ that nature thus gives way to loyalty, something fears⁹ me to think of.

Cornwall. I now perceive it was not altogether your brother's evil disposition made him seek his death; but a provoking merit, set a-work by a reprobable badness in ~~himself~~.¹⁰ *the old man*

Edmund. How malicious is my fortune that I must repent to be just! This is the letter which he spoke of, which approves¹¹ him an intelligent party¹² to the advantages¹³ of France. O heavens, that his treason were not! or not I the detector!

Cornwall. Go with me to the Duchess.

Edmund. If the matter of this paper be certain, you have mighty business in hand.

Cornwall. True or false, it hath made thee Earl of Gloucester. Seek out where thy father is, that he may be ready for our apprehension.¹⁴

Edmund. [Aside] (If I find him comforting¹⁵ the King, it will stuff his suspicion more fully)—I will persevere¹⁶ in my course of loyalty, though the conflict be sore between that and my blood.¹⁷

III.v. ⁸ censured judged ⁹ something fears somewhat frightens ¹⁰⁻¹¹ a provoking . . . himself a stimulating goodness in Edgar, brought into play by a blamable badness in Gloucester ¹² approves proves ¹³ intelligent party (1) spy (2) well-informed person ¹⁴ to the advantages on behalf of ¹⁵ apprehension arrest ¹⁶ comforting supporting (a legalism) ¹⁷ persevere persevere ¹⁸ blood natural feelings

25 *Cornwall.* I will lay trust upon^o thee, and thou shalt find a dearer father in my love. *Exeunt.*

Go to NA version p~~58~~ 59.

Scene VI. [*A chamber in a farmhouse adjoining the castle.*]

Enter Kent and Gloucester. Fool, Lear, Edgar

Gloucester. Here is better than the open air; take it thankfully. I will piece out the comfort with what addition I can. I will not be long from you.

5 *Kent.* All the power of his wits have given way to his impatience.^o The gods reward your kindness.

Exit [Gloucester].

Lear: To have 2 thousand with red burning spits, come hissing in upon em —

Edgar. Frateretto^o calls me, and tells me Nero^o is an angler in the lake of darkness. Pray, innocent,^o and beware the foul fiend.

10 *Fool.* Prithce, Nuncle, tell me whether a madman be a wretch or a gentleman?

Lear. A king, a king.

Fool. No, he's a gentleman and a poor mad wretch

15

25 lay trust upon (1) trust (2) advance III.vi. ⁵impatience raging
⁶Frateretto Elizabethan devil, from Harsnett's *Declaration* ⁶Nero
 (who is mentioned by Harsnett, and whose angling is reported by
 Chaucer in "The Monk's Tale") ⁷innocent fool ¹⁰yeoman farmer
 (just below a gentleman in rank. The Fool asks what class of man has
 most indulged his children, and thus been driven mad) ¹⁶hissing
 hissing

Q Zig-Besse

20

25

Edgar. The foul fiend haunts me in the voice of a
 nightingale. ³⁰

Croak° not, black angel; I
 have no food for thee.

Kent. How do you, sir? Stand you not so amazed.°
 Will you lie down and rest upon the cushions?

Lear. I'll see their trial first. Bring in their evidence. ³⁵

40

²⁰ arraign bring to trial ²⁰ straight straightaway ²¹ justice justicer,
 judge ²² sapient wise ²³ he i.e., a fiend ²³⁻²⁴ Want'st . . . madam (to
 Goneril) i.e., do you want eyes to look at you during your trial?
 The fiend serves that purpose ²⁵ bourn brook (Edgar quotes from a
 popular ballad) ²⁶⁻²⁸ Her . . . thee (the Fool parodies the ballad)
³⁰ nightingale i.e., the Fool's singing ³⁰ Hoppedance Hoberdidance
 (another devil from Harsnett's *Declaration*) ³¹ white herring un-
 smoked (? as against the black and sulfurous devil) ³¹ Croak rumble
 (because his belly is empty) ³² amazed astonished ³⁵ evidence the
 evidence of witnesses against them ³⁷ yokefellow of equity partner in
 justice ³⁸ Bench sit on the bench ³⁸ commission those commissioned
 as king's justices

last line of Fool's
in Quarto

physical
OUTBURST

Tray Betray Goneril
Blind Fear Regan
Sweetheart - Cordelia

Fool sees
this!!
AAA

45

50

Lear. (cont'd)

55

Stop her there!
Arms, arms, sword, fire! Corruption in the place!
False justicer, why hast thou let her 'scape?

place of
justice
becomes hell
in Lear's
mind

Edgar. Bless thy five wits!

Kent. O pity! Sir, where is the patience now
That you so oft have boasted to retain?

60

Lear. The little dogs and all,
Tray, Blanch, and Sweetheart—see, they bark at
me.

Edgar.

Avaunt, you

curs.

41-44 *Sleepest* . . . *harm* (probably quoted or adapted from an Elizabethan song) 42 *corn wheat* 43 *minikin shrill* 45 *gray* (devils were thought to assume the shape of a gray cat) 51 *Cry* . . . *joint stool* (proverbial and deliberately impudent apology for overlooking a person. A joint stool was a low stool made by a joiner, perhaps here a stage property to represent Goneril and in line 52, Regan. "Joint stool" can also suggest the judicial bench; hence Goneril may be identified by the Fool, ironically, with those in power, who judge) 53 *store stuff* 54 *Corruption* . . . *place* bribery in the court 60 *counterfeiting* i.e., feigned madness 64 *or* . . . *or either* . . . *or*

Leah finds dogs being
subdued
to be calming

a year
~~another~~ violent
outburst

she seems more
RAGE burns
itself out

LEAH ~~was~~
straddler Foot
- takes out knife
- has to be seriously
restrained
by Kent

back to verse

all night
comforting vigil?
(helps Leah with
nightshift)

Tom
 with throwing thus his head,
 Dogs leap the hatch, and all are fled.
 Do. de, de, de. Sessa! Purr, the cat is grey.

lean-leaps looking at Edgar
 70 but he's run out of ideas
 (same direction as Regan went)

Lear. Then let them anatomize Regan. See what breeds
 about her heart. Is there any cause in nature that
 make these hard hearts? [To Edgar] You, sir,
 I entertain^{you} for one of my hundred;° only I do not
 like the fashion of your garments. You will say
 they are Persian, but let them be changed.

hand over her
 80 mouth - and
 take his
 blanket.

Kent. Now, good my lord, lie here and rest awhile.

Lear. Make no noise, make no noise, draw the
 curtains.

So, so. We'll go to supper i' th' morning.

Fool. And I'll go to bed at noon.

Enter Gloucester.

Gloucester. Come hither, friend. Where is the King
 my master?

85

Kent. Here, sir, but trouble him not; his wits are gone.

Gloucester. Good friend, I prithee take him in thy
 arms.

67 brach bitch 67 lym bloodhound (from the liam or leash with which he was led) 68 bobtail . . . trundle-tail short-tailed or long-tailed cur 70 throwing jerking (as a hound lifts its head from the ground, the scent having been lost) 71 leaped the hatch leaped over the lower half of a divided door (i.e., left in a hurry) 72 Sessa be off 72 wakes feasts attending the dedication of a church 73 horn horn bottle which the Bedlam used in begging a drink (Edgar is suggesting that he is unable to play his role any longer) 75-76 Then . . . heart i.e., if the Bedlam's horn is dry, let Regan, whose heart has become as hard as horn, be dissected 77 make (subjunctive) 78 entertain engage 78 hundred i.e., Lear's hundred knights 80 Persian gorgeous (ironically of Edgar's rags) 82 curtains (Lear imagines himself in bed) 84 And . . . noon (the Fool's last words)

They have to be
moved
unsettled

a 4 way split
from the focus
at the court

I have o'erheard a plot of death upon him.
 There is a litter ready; lay him in't
 And drive toward Dover, friend, where thou shalt
 90 meet
 Both welcome and protection. Take up thy master.
~~If thou shouldst dally half an hour, his life,~~
~~With thine and all that offer to defend him,~~
~~Stand in assured loss.~~ Take up, take up,
 95 And follow me, that will to some provision^o
 Give thee quick conduct.^o

Kent. Oppressèd nature sleeps.
 This rest might yet have balmed thy broken
 sinews,^o
 Which, if convenience^o will not allow,
 Stand in hard cure.^o [*To the Fool*] Come, help
 to bear thy master. *who's sneaking away*
 Thou must not stay behind.

100 *Gloucester.* Come, come, away!
his urgent gives *Exeunt [all but Edgar].*
fool chance to escape
Edgar.

103
start here? How light and portable my pain seems now,
 When that which makes me bend makes the
 King bow.
 He childed as I fathered. Tom, away.
 110

95 provision maintenance 96 conduct direction 97 balmed thy broken
 sinews soothed thy racked nerves 98 convenience fortunate occasion
 99 Stand . . . cure will be hard to cure 102 our foes enemies peculiar
 to ourselves 104 free carefree 104 shows scenes 105 sufferance suffering
 106 bearing fellowship suffering has company 107 portable able to
 be supported or endured 110 Mark the high noises observe the rumors
 of strife among those in power 110 bewray reveal 111 wrong thoughts
 misconceptions

What will hap more^o tonight, safe 'scape the King!
Lurk,^o lurk. [Exit.]

Scene VII. [Gloucester's castle.]

*Enter Cornwall, Regan, Goneril, Edmund, and
Servants.*

Cornwall. [To Goneril] Post speedily to my Lord
your husband; show him this letter. The army of
France is landed. [To Servants] Seek out the
traitor Gloucester. [Exeunt some of the Servants.]

Regan. Hang him instantly. 5

Goneril. Pluck out his eyes.

Cornwall. Leave him to my displeasure. Edmund, keep
you our sister company. The revenges we are
bound^o to take upon your traitorous father are not
fit for your beholding. Advise the Duke where you 10
are going, to a most festinate^o preparation. We are
bound to the like. Our posts^o shall be swift and
intelligent^o betwixt us. Farewell, dear sister; fare-
well, my Lord of Gloucester.^o

Enter Oswald.

How now? Where's the King? 15

Oswald. My Lord of Gloucester hath conveyed him
hence.

¹¹² In . . . thee on the manifesting of your innocence recalls you
from outlawry and restores amity between you and your father
¹¹³ What . . . more whatever else happens ¹¹⁴ Lurk hide III.vii.
⁹ bound (1) forced (2) purposing to ¹¹ festinate speedy ¹² posts
messengers ¹³ intelligent full of information ¹⁴ Lord of Gloucester
i.e., Edmund, now elevated to the title

Some five or six and thirty of his knights,
~~Hot questrists^o after him, met him at gate;~~
~~Who, with some other of the lords dependants,^o~~
 Are gone with him toward Dover, where they
 20 boast
 To have well-armed friends.

Cornwall. Get horses for your mistress.
 [Exit Oswald.]

Goneril. Farewell, sweet lord, and sister.

Cornwall. Edmund, farewell.
 [Exeunt Goneril and Edmund.]

Go seek the traitor Gloucester,
 Pinion him like a thief, bring him before us.
 [Exeunt other Servants.]

25 Though well we may not pass upon^o his life
 Without the form of justice, yet our power
 Shall do a court'sy to^o our wrath, which men
 May blame, but not control.

Enter Gloucester, brought in by two or three.

Who's there, the traitor?

Regan. Ingrateful fox, 'tis he.

80 Cornwall. Bind fast his corky^o arms.

Gloucester. What means your Graces? Good my
 friends, consider

You are my guests. Do me no foul play, friends.

Cornwall. Bind him, I say.

[Servants bind him.]

Regan. Hard, hard! O filthy traitor.

Gloucester. Unmerciful lady as you are, I'm none.

Cornwall. To this chair bind him. Villain, thou shalt
 85 find——

¹⁸ questrists searchers ¹⁹ lords dependants attendant lords (members of Lear's retinue) ²⁵ pass upon pass judgment on ²⁷ do a court'sy to indulge ³⁰ corky sapless (because old)

[Regan plucks his beard.^o]

Gloucester. By the kind gods, 'tis mostly ignobly done
To pluck me by the beard.

Regan. So white, and such a traitor?

Gloucester. Naughty^o lady,
These hairs which thou dost ravish from my chin
Will quicken^o and accuse thee. I am your host.
~~With robber's hands my hospitable favors^o~~
~~You should not ruffle^o thus. What will you do?~~

40

Cornwall. Come, sir, what letters had you late^o from
France?

Regan. Be simple-answered,^o for we know the truth.

Cornwall. And what confederacy have you with the
traitors
Late footed in the kingdom?

45

Regan. To whose hands you have sent the lunatic
King:
Speak.

Gloucester. I have a letter guessingly^o set down,
Which came from one that's of a neutral heart,
And not from one opposed.

Cornwall. Cunning.

Regan. And false.

50

Cornwall. Where hast thou sent the King?

Gloucester. To Dover.

Regan. Wherefore to Dover? Wast thou not charged
at peril^o——

Cornwall. Wherefore to Dover? Let him answer that.

Conflict
here between
Reg / Cornwall

³⁵ s.d. plucks his beard (a deadly insult) ³⁸ Naughty wicked ⁴⁰ quick-
en come to life ⁴¹ hospitable favors face of your host ⁴² ruffle tear
at violently ⁴³ late recently ⁴⁴ simple-answered straightforward in
answering ⁴⁸ guessingly without certain knowledge ⁵³ charged at
peril ordered under penalty

Gloucester. I am tied to th' stake, and I must stand
55 the course.^o

Regan. Wherefore to Dover?

Gloucester. Because I would not see thy cruel nails
Pluck out his poor old eyes; nor thy fierce sister
In his anointed^o flesh rash^o boarish fangs.
60 The sea, with such a storm as his bare head
In hell-black night endured, would have buoyed^o up
And quenched the stellèd^o fires.
Yet, poor old heart, he holp^o the heavens to rain.
If wolves had at thy gate howled that ~~dearn~~^{dearn}^o time,
Thou shouldst have said, "Good porter, turn the
65 key."^o

cut
most

All cruels else subscribe.^o But I shall see
The wingèd^o vengeance overtake such children.

Cornwall. See't shalt thou never. Fellows, hold the
chair.

Upon these eyes of thine I'll set my foot.

Gloucester. He that will think^o to live till he be
70 old,

Give me some help. —O cruel! O you gods!

Regan. One side will mock^o another. Th' other too.

Cornwall. If you see vengeance——

First Servant. Hold your hand, my lord!
I have served you ever since I was a child;
75 But better service have I never done you
Than now to bid you hold.

Regan. How now, you dog?

First Servant. If you did wear a beard upon your chin,

⁵⁵ *course* coursing (in which a relay of dogs baits a bull or bear tied in the pit) ⁵⁹ *anointed* holy (because king) ⁵⁹ *rash* strike with the tusk, like a boar ⁶¹ *buoyed* risen ⁶² *stellèd* (1) fixed (as opposed to the planets or wandering stars) (2) starry ⁶³ *holp* helped ⁶⁴ *dearn* dread ⁶⁵ *turn the key* i.e., unlock the gate ⁶⁶ *All cruels else subscribe* all cruel creatures but man are compassionate ⁶⁷ *wingèd* (1) heavenly (2) swift ⁷⁰ *will think* expects ⁷² *mock* make ridiculous (because of the contrast)

I'd shake it° on this quarrel. What do you mean!°

Cornwall. My villain!°

Draw and fight.

First Servant. Nay, then, come on, and take the
chance of anger. 80

Regan. Give me thy sword. A peasant stand up thus?

*She takes a sword and runs at him behind,
kills him.*

First Servant. O, I am slain! my lord, you have one
eye left

To see some mischief° on him. O!

Cornwall. Lest it see more, prevent it. Out, vile jelly.
Where is thy luster now? 85

Gloucester. All dark and comfortless. Where's my son
Edmund?

Edmund, enkindle all the sparks of nature°
To quit° this horrid act.

Regan. Out, treacherous villain,
Thou call'st on him that hates thee. It was he
That made the overture° of thy treasons to us; 90
Who is too good to pity thee.

Gloucester. O my follies! Then Edgar was abused.°
Kind gods, forgive me that, and prosper him.

Regan. Go thrust him out at gates, and let him smell
His way to Dover. *Exit [one] with Gloucester.* 95
How is't, my lord? How look you?°

*later end
of
Scene*

Cornwall. I have received a hurt. Follow me, lady.
Turn out that eyeless villain. Throw this slave
Upon the dunghill. Regan, I bleed apace.

⁷⁸ shake it (an insult comparable to Regan's plucking of Gloucester's beard) ⁷⁸ What . . . mean i.e., what terrible thing are you doing
⁷⁹ villain serf (with a suggestion of the modern meaning) ⁸⁰ mischief injury ⁸¹ enkindle . . . nature fan your natural feeling into flame ⁸² quit requite ⁹⁰ overture disclosure ⁹² abused wronged
⁹⁵ How look you how are you

intermediate after
"vile jelly"
then smell has way to
Dover

Untimely comes this hurt. Give me your arm.

Exeunt.

¹⁰⁰ ~~*Second Servant.* I'll never care what wickedness I do,
If this man come to good.~~

~~*Third Servant.* If she live long,
And in the end meet the old course of death,^o
Women will all turn monsters.~~

~~*Second Servant.* Let's follow the old Earl, and get the
Bedlam~~

¹⁰⁵ ~~*To lead him where he would. His roguish madness
Allows itself to anything.^o*~~

Third Servant. Go thou. I'll fetch some flax and
whites of eggs
To apply to his bleeding face. Now heaven help
him. *[Exeunt severally.]*

¹⁰² *meet . . . death* die the customary death of old age ¹⁰⁵⁻⁶ *His*
. . . *anything* his lack of all self-control leaves him open to any
suggestion

Old man
is anttable.

ACT IV

Scene I. [The heath.]

Enter Edgar.

Edgar. Yet better thus, and known to be contemned,^o
Than still contemned and flattered. To be worst,
The lowest and most dejected^o thing of fortune,
Stands still in esperance,^o lives not in fear:
~~The lamentable change is from the best;~~
~~The worst returns to laughter.~~^o Welcome then,
Thou unsubstantial air that I embrace!
The wretch that thou hast blown unto the worst
Owes^o nothing to thy blasts.

Enter Gloucester, led by an Old Man. Kind servant

But who comes here?
My father, poorly led?^o World, world, O world! 10
But that thy strange mutations make us hate thee,
Life would not yield to age.^o

~~*Old Man.* O, my good lord, I have been your tenant,
and your father's tenant, these fourscore years.~~

Gloucester. Away, get thee away; good friend, be
gone: 15

IV.i. 1 *known to be contemned* conscious of being despised 3 *dejected*
abased 4 *esperance* hope 6 *returns to laughter* changes for the better
9 *Owes* is in debt for 10 *poorly led* (1) led like a poor man, with
only one attendant (2) led by a poor man 11-12 *But . . . age* we
should not agree to grow old and hence die, except for the hateful
mutability of life

Thy comforts^o can do me no good at all;
Thee they may hurt.^o

Old Man. You cannot see your way.

Gloucester. I have no way and therefore want^o no eyes;

20 I stumbled when I saw. ~~Full oft 'tis seen,~~
~~Our means secure us, and our mere defects~~
~~Prove our commodities.~~^o Oh, dear son Edgar,
The food^o of thy abused^o father's wrath!
Might I but live to see thee in^o my touch,
I'd say I had eyes again!

Old Man. How now! Who's there?

25 *Edgar. [Aside]* O gods! Who is 't can say "I am at the worst"?

I am worse than e'er I was.

Old Man. 'Tis poor mad Tom.

Edgar. [Aside] And worse I may be yet: the worst is not

So long as we can say "This is the worst."^o

Old Man. Fellow, where goest?

Gloucester. Is it a beggar-man?

30 *Old Man.* Madman and beggar too.

Gloucester. ~~He has some reason,^o else he could not beg.~~

I' th' last night's storm I such a fellow saw,
Which made me think a man a worm. My son
Came then into my mind, and yet my mind
Was then scarce friends with him. I have heard
35 more since.

As flies to wanton^o boys, are we to th' gods,

16 comforts ministrations 17 hurt injure 18 want require 20-21 Our . . . commodities our resources make us overconfident, while our afflictions make for our advantage 22 food i.e., the object on which Gloucester's anger fed 22 abused deceived 23 in i.e., with, by means of 27-28 the . . . worst so long as a man continues to suffer (i.e., is still alive), even greater suffering may await him 31 reason faculty of reasoning 36 wanton (1) playful (2) reckless

cut?

They kill us for their sport.

Edgar. [Aside] How should this be?³⁷

Bad is the trade that must play fool to sorrow,
Ang'ring³⁸ itself and others. Bless thee, master!

Gloucester. Is that the naked fellow?

Old Man. Ay, my lord. 40

Gloucester. Then, prithee, get thee gone: if for my
sake

Thou wilt o'ertake us hence a mile or twain
I' th' way toward Dover, do it for ancient³⁹ love,
And bring some covering for this naked soul,
Which I'll entreat to lead me.

Old Man. Alack, sir, he is mad. 45

Gloucester. 'Tis the times' plague,⁴⁰ when madmen
lead the blind.

Do as I bid thee, or rather do thy pleasure;⁴¹
Above the rest,⁴² be gone.

Old Man. I'll bring him the best 'parel⁴³ that I have,
Come on 't what will. *Exit.* 50

Gloucester. Sirrah, naked fellow——

Edgar. Poor Tom's a-cold. [*Aside*] I cannot daub
it⁴⁴ further.

Gloucester. Come hither, fellow.

Edgar. [Aside] And yet I must. —Bless thy sweet
eyes, they bleed. 55

Gloucester. Know'st thou the way to Dover?

Edgar. Both stile and gate, horse-way and footpath.

Poor Tom hath been scared out of his good wits.

~~Bless thee, good man's son, from the foul fiend!~~

~~Five fiends have been in Poor Tom at once; of lust, 60~~

³⁷ *How should this be* i.e., how can this horror be? ³⁸ *Ang'ring* offending ³⁹ *ancient* (1) the love the Old Man feels, by virtue of his long tenancy (2) the love that formerly obtained between master and man ⁴⁰ *times' plague* characteristic disorder of this time ⁴¹ *thy pleasure* as you like ⁴² *the rest* all ⁴³ *'parel* apparel. ⁵²⁻⁵³ *daub it* lay it on (figure from plastering mortar)

as ~~Obidicut,° Hobbididence, prince of dumb-~~
~~ness;° Mahu, of stealing; Modo, of murder; Flib-~~
~~bertigibbet, of mopping and mowing,° who since~~
~~possesses chambermaids and waiting-women. So,~~
 65 bless thee, master!

Gloucester. Here, take this purse, thou whom the
 heavens' plagues
 Have humbled to all strokes:° that I am wretched
 Makes thee the happier. ~~Heavens, deal so still!~~
~~Let the superfluous° and lust-dieted° man,~~
 70 ~~That slaves° your ordinance,° that will not see~~
~~Because he does not feel, feel your pow'r quickly;~~
~~So distribution should undo excess,°~~
 And each man have enough. Dost thou know
 Dover?

Edgar. Ay, master.

Gloucester. There is a cliff whose high and bending°
 75 head
 Looks fearfully° in the confinèd deep:°
 Bring me but to the very brim of it,
 And I'll repair the misery thou dost bear
 With something rich about me: from that place
 I shall no leading need.

80 *Edgar.* Give me thy arm:
 Poor Tom shall lead thee. *Exeunt.*

⁶¹ *Obidicut* *Hoberdicut*, a devil (like the four that follow, from Harnett's *Declaration*) ⁶¹⁻⁶² *dumbness* muteness (like the crimes and afflictions in the next lines, the result of diabolic possession) ⁶³ *mopping and mowing* grimacing and making faces ⁶⁷ *humbled to all strokes* brought so low as to bear anything humbly ⁶⁹ *superfluous* possessed of superfluities ⁶⁹ *lust-dieted* whose lust is gratified (like Gloucester's) ⁷⁰ *slaves* (1) tramples, spurns like a slave (2) ? tears, rends (Old English *slaefan*) ⁷⁰ *ordinance* law ⁷² *So . . . excess* then the man with too much wealth would distribute it among those with too little ⁷⁵ *bending* overhanging ⁷⁶ *fearfully* occasioning fear ⁷⁶ *confinèd deep* the sea, hemmed in below

Scene II. [Before the Duke of Albany's
palace.]

Enter Goneril and Edmund.

Goneril. Welcome, my lord: I marvel our mild
husband
Not met^o us on the way.

Enter Oswald.

Now, where's your master?

Oswald. Madam, within; but never man so changed.
I told him of the army that was landed:
He smiled at it. I told him you were coming; 5
His answer was, "The worse." Of Gloucester's
treachery,
And of the loyal service of his son
When I informed him, then he called me sot,^o
And told me I had turned the wrong side out:
What most he should dislike seems pleasant to him; 10
What like,^o offensive.

Goneril. [To Edmund] Then shall you go no
further.

It is the cowish^o terror of his spirit,
That dares not undertake:^o ~~he'll not feel wrongs,~~
~~Which tie him to an answer. Our wishes on the~~
~~way~~

~~May prove effects.~~^o Back, Edmund, to my brother; 15
Hasten his musters^o and conduct his pow'rs.^o

IV.ii. 2 *Not met* did not meet 8 *sot* fool 11 *What like* what he
should like 12 *cowish* cowardly 13 *undertake* venture 14 *tie him to*
an answer oblige him to retaliate 14-15 *Our . . . effects* our desires
(that you might be my husband), as we journeyed here, may be
fulfilled 16 *musters* collecting of troops 18 *conduct his pow'rs* lead
his army

Q7ms² ?



I must change names¹⁷ at home and give the
distaff¹⁷

Into my husband's hands. This trusty servant
Shall pass between us: ere long you are like to hear,
20 If you dare venture in your own behalf,
A mistress's²¹ command. Wear this; spare speech;

[Giving a favor]

Decline your head.²² This kiss, if it durst speak,
Would stretch thy spirits up into the air:
Conceive,²⁴ and fare thee well.

Edmund. Yours in the ranks of death.

25 Goneril. My most dear Gloucester!
Exit [Edmund].

O, the difference of man and man!
To thee a woman's services are due:
My fool usurps my body.²⁸

Oswald. Madam, here comes my lord.
Exit.

Enter Albany.

Goneril. I have been worth the whistle.²⁹

Albany. O Goneril!
30 You are not worth the dust which the rude wind
Blows in your face. I fear your disposition:³¹
~~That nature which contemns³² its origin~~
~~Cannot be bordered certain in itself;³³~~
~~She that herself will sliver and disbranch³⁴~~

¹⁷ change names i.e., exchange the name of "mistress" for that of "master" ¹⁷ distaff spinning stick (wifely symbol) ²¹ mistress's lover's (and also, Albany having been disposed of, lady's or wife's) ²² Decline your head i.e., that Goneril may kiss him ²⁴ Conceive understand (with a sexual implication, that includes "stretch thy spirits," 1. 23; and "death," 1. 25: "to die," meaning "to experience sexual intercourse") ²⁸ My fool usurps body my husband wrongfully enjoys me ²⁹ I . . . whistle i.e., once you valued me (the proverb is implied, "It is a poor dog that is not worth the whistling") ³¹ disposition nature ³² contemns despises ³³ bordered . . . itself kept within its normal bounds ³⁴ sliver and disbranch cut off

~~From her material sap,° perforce must wither~~
~~And come to deadly use.°~~

35

Goneril. No more; the text° is foolish.

Albany. Wisdom and goodness to the vile seem vile:
 Filths savor but themselves.° What have you done?
 Tigers, not daughters, what have you performed?
~~A father, and a gracious aged man,~~
~~Whose reverence even the head-lugged bear°~~
~~would lick,~~

40

~~Most barbarous, most degenerate, have you~~
~~maddened.°~~

~~Could my good brother suffer you to do it?~~

~~A man, a prince, by him so benefited!~~

45

If that the heavens do not their visible spirits°
 Send quickly down to tame these vile offenses,
 It will come,
 Humanity must perforce prey on itself,
 Like monsters of the deep.

Goneril.

Milk-livered° man!

50

That bear'st a cheek for blows, a head for wrongs;
 Who hast not in thy brows an eye discerning
 Thine honor from thy suffering;° ~~that not know'st~~
~~Fools do those villains pity who are punished~~
~~Ere they have done their mischief.°~~ Where's thy
 drum?

55

France spreads his banners in our noiseless°
 land,

With plumèd helm° thy state begins to threat,°

³⁵ *material sap* essential and life-giving sustenance ³⁶ *come to deadly use* i.e., be as a dead branch for the burning ³⁷ *text* i.e., on which your sermon is based ³⁹ *Filths savor but themselves* the filthy relish only the taste of filth ⁴² *head-lugged bear* bear-baited by the dogs, and hence enraged ⁴³ *maddened* made mad ⁴⁶ *visible spirits* avenging spirits in material form ⁵⁰ *Milk-livered* lily-livered (hence cowardly, the liver being regarded as the seat of courage) ⁵²⁻⁵³ *discerning* . . . *suffering* able to distinguish between insults that ought to be resented, and ordinary pain that is to be borne ⁵⁴⁻⁵⁵ *Fools* . . . *mischief* only fools are sorry for criminals whose intended criminality is prevented by punishment ⁵⁶ *noiseless* i.e., the drum, signifying preparation for war, is silent ⁵⁷ *helm* helmet ⁵⁷ *thy* . . . *threat* France begins to threaten Albany's realm

Whilst thou, a moral^o fool, sits still and cries
 "Alack, why does he so?"

Albany. See thyself, devil!
 60 Proper^o deformity seems not in the fiend
 So horrid as in woman.

Goneril. O vain fool!

Albany. ~~Thou changed and self-covered^o thing,~~
~~for shame,~~

~~Be monster not thy feature.~~^o Were 't my fitness^o
 To let these hands obey my blood,^o
 65 They are apt enough to dislocate and tear
 Thy flesh and bones: howe'er^o thou art a fiend,
~~A woman's shape doth shield thee.~~

Goneril. Marry,^o your manhood mew^o——

Enter a Messenger.

Albany. What news?

Messenger. O, my good lord, the Duke of Cornwall's
 70 dead,
 Slain by his servant, going to^o put out
 The other eye of Gloucester.

Albany. Gloucester's eyes!

Messenger. A servant that he bred,^o thrilled with
 remorse,^o
 75 Opposed against the act, bending his sword
 To his great master, who thereat enraged
 Flew on him, and amongst them felled^o him dead,
 But not without that harmful stroke which since

⁵⁸ moral moralizing; but also with the implication that morality and folly are one ⁶⁰ Proper (1) natural (to a fiend) (2) fair-appearing ⁶² changed and self-covered i.e., transformed, by the contorting of her woman's face, on which appears the fiendish behavior she has allowed herself. (Goneril has disguised nature by wickedness) ⁶³ Be-monster not thy feature do not change your appearance into a fiend's ⁶³ my fitness appropriate for me ⁶⁴ blood passion ⁶⁶ howe'er but even if ⁶⁸ Marry by the Virgin Mary ⁶⁸ your manhood mew (1) coop up or confine your (pretended) manhood (2) molt or shed it, if that is what is supposed to "shield" me from you ⁷¹ going to as he was about to ⁷³ bred reared ⁷³ thrilled with remorse pierced by compassion ⁷⁶ amongst them felled others assisting, they felled

Edmund

Hath plucked him after.^o

Albany. This shows you are above,
You justicers,^o that these our nether^o crimes
So speedily can venge.^o But, O poor Gloucester! 80
Lost he his other eye?

Messenger. Both, both, my lord.
This letter, madam, craves^o a speedy answer;
'Tis from your sister.

Goneril. [*Aside*] One way I like this well;
But being widow, and my Gloucester with her,
May all the building in my fancy pluck 85
Upon my hateful life.^o Another way,^o
The news is not so tart.^o—I'll read, and answer.
Exit.

Albany. Where was his son when they did take his
eyes?

Messenger. Come with my lady hither.

Albany. He is not here.

Messenger. No, my good lord; I met him back^o again. 90

Albany. Knows he the wickedness?

Messenger. Ay, my good lord; 'twas he informed
against him,
And quit the house on purpose, that their punish-
ment
Might have the freer course.

Albany. Gloucester, I live
To thank thee for the love thou showed'st the
King, 95
And to revenge thine eyes. Come hither, friend:
Tell me what more thou know'st. *Exeunt.*

⁷⁸ plucked him after i.e., brought Cornwall to death with his ser-
vant ⁷⁹ justicers judges ⁷⁹ nether committed below (on earth)
⁸⁰ venge avenge ⁸² craves demands ⁸⁵⁻⁸⁶ May . . . life these things
(1.84) may send my future hopes, my castles in air, crashing down
upon the hateful (married) life I lead now ⁸⁶ Another way looked
at another way ⁸⁷ tart sour ⁹⁰ back going back

Cut some
for plot
bit for Concha

[Scene III. *The French camp near Dover.*]

Enter Kent and a Gentleman.

Kent. Why the King of France is so suddenly gone back, know you no reason?

Gentleman. Something he left imperfect in the state,^o which since his coming forth is thought of,
 5 which imports^o to the kingdom so much fear and danger that his personal return was most required and necessary.

Kent. Who hath he left behind him general?

Gentleman. The Marshal of France, Monsieur La Far.

10 **Kent.** Did your letters pierce^o the queen to any demonstration of grief?

Gentleman. Ay, sir; she took them, read them in my presence,

And now and then an ample tear trilled^o down
 Her delicate cheek: it seemed she was a queen
 15 Over her passion, who most rebel-like
 Sought to be king o'er her.

Kent. O, then it moved her.

Gentleman. Not to a rage: patience and sorrow strove

Who should express her goodliest.^o You have seen
 Sunshine and rain at once: her smiles and tears
 20 Were like a better way:^o those happy smilets^o
 That played on her ripe lip seemed not to know
 What guests were in her eyes, which parted thence

IV.iii. 3-4 *imperfect in the state* unsettled in his own kingdom 5 *im-*
ports portends 10 *pierce* impel 13 *trilled* trickled 18 *Who . . .*
goodliest which should give her the most becoming expression
 20 *Were like a better way* i.e., improved on that spectacle 20 *smilets*
 little smiles

IN ~~SEET~~
Cordelia & IV

LEAR moved to
safe zone



As pearls from diamonds dropped. In brief,
Sorrow would be a rarity most beloved,
If all could so become it.^o

Kent. Made she no verbal question? 25

Gentleman. Faith, once or twice she heaved^o the name
of "father"

Pantingly forth, as if it pressed her heart;
Cried "Sisters! Sisters! Shame of ladies! Sisters!
Kent! Father! Sisters! What, i' th' storm? i' th'
night?

Let pity not be believed!"^o There she shook 30
The holy water from her heavenly eyes,
And clamor moistened:^o then away she started
To deal with grief alone.

Kent. It is the stars,
The stars above us, govern our conditions;^o
Else one self mate and make could not beget 35
Such different issues.^o You spoke not with her
since?

Gentleman. No.

Kent. Was this before the King returned?

Gentleman. No, since.

Kent. Well, sir, the poor distressed Lear's i' th'
town;

Who sometime in his better tune^o remembers 40
What we are come about, and by no means
Will yield to see his daughter.

Gentleman. Why, good sir?

Kent. A sovereign^o shame so elbows^o him: his own
unkindness.

24-25 *Sorrow* . . . *it* sorrow would be a coveted jewel if it became
others as it does her 26 *heaved* expressed with difficulty 30 *Let pity*
not be believed let it not be believed for pity 32 *clamor moistened*
moistened clamor, i.e., mixed (and perhaps assuaged) her outcries
with tears 34 *govern our conditions* determine what we are
35-36 *Else* . . . *issues* otherwise the same husband and wife could
not produce such different children 40 *better tune* composed, less
jangled intervals 43 *sovereign* overpowering 43 *elbows* jogs his elbow
i.e., reminds him

That stripped her from his benediction, turned her
 45 To foreign casualties,^o gave her dear rights
 To his dog-hearted daughters: these things sting
 His mind so venomously that burning shame
 Detains him from Cordelia.

Gentleman. Alack, poor gentleman!

Kent. Of Albany's and Cornwall's powers you heard
 not?

50 *Gentleman.* 'Tis so;^o they are afoot.

Kent. Well, sir, I'll bring you to our master Lear,
 And leave you to attend him: some dear cause^o
 Will in concealment wrap me up awhile;
 When I am known aright, you shall not grieve
 55 Lending me this acquaintance. I pray you, go
 Along with me. [Exeunt.]

[Scene IV. *The same. A tent.*]

*Enter, with drum and colors, Cordelia, Doctor,
 and Soldiers.*

Cordelia. Alack, 'tis he: why, he was met even now
 As mad as the vexed sea; singing aloud;
 Crowned with rank femiter and furrow-weeds, *cuckoo-flow'rs*
 5 With hardocks, hemlock, nettles, cuckoo-flow'rs,
 Darnel,^o and all the idle weeds that grow
 In our sustaining corn.^o A century^o send forth;
 Search every acre in the high-grown field,

⁴⁵ casualties chances ⁵⁰ 'Tis so i.e., I have heard of them ⁵² dear
 cause important reason IV.iv. 3-5 femiter . . . Darnel: femiter fumitory,
 whose leaves and juice are bitter; furrow-weeds weeds that grow in the
 furrow; or plowed land; hardocks ? hoar or white docks, burdocks, har-
 locks; hemlock a poison; nettles plants which sting and burn; cuckoo-
 flow'rs identified with a plant employed to remedy diseases of the brain;
 Darnel tares, noisome weeds ⁶ sustaining corn life-maintaining wheat
⁶ century ? sentry; troop of a hundred soldiers

And bring him to our eye [*Exit an Officer.*] What
can man's wisdom⁸

In the restoring his bereaved⁹ sense?

He that helps him take all my outward¹⁰ worth. 10

Doctor. There is means, madam:

Our foster-nurse¹² of nature is repose,

The which he lacks: that to provoke¹³ in him,

Are many simples operative,¹⁴ whose power

Will close the eye of anguish.

Cordelia.

All blest secrets, 15

All you unpublished virtues¹⁶ of the earth,

Spring with my tears! be aidant and remediate¹⁷

In the good man's distress! ~~Seek, seek for him,~~

~~Lest his ungoverned rage dissolve the life~~

~~That wants the means to lead it.~~

Enter Messenger.

Messenger.

News, madam; 20

The British pow'rs are marching hitherward.

Cordelia. 'Tis known before. Our preparation stands

In expectation of them. O dear father,

It is thy business that I go about;

Therefore²⁵ great France 25

My mourning and importuned²⁶ tears hath pitied.

No blown²⁷ ambition doth our arms incite,

But love, dear love, and our aged father's right:

Soon may I hear and see him!

Exeunt.

⁸ *What can man's wisdom* what can science accomplish ⁹ *bereaved* impaired ¹⁰ *outward* material ¹² *foster-nurse* fostering nurse ¹³ *pro-*
voke induce ¹⁴ *simples operative* efficacious medicinal herbs ¹⁶ *un-*
published virtues i.e., secret remedial herbs ¹⁷ *remediate* remedial
²⁰ *wants* . . . it i.e., lacks the reason to control the rage ²⁵ *There-*
fore because of that ²⁶ *importuned* importunate ²⁷ *blown* puffed up

[Scene V. Gloucester's castle.]

*Enter Regan and Oswald.**Regan.* But are my brother's pow'rs set forth?*Oswald.*

Ay, madam.

Regan. Himself in person there?*Oswald.*Madam, with much ado:^o

Your sister is the better soldier.

Regan. Lord Edmund spake not with your lord at home?⁵ *Oswald.* No, madam.*Regan.* What might import^o my sister's letter to him?*Oswald.* I know not, lady.*Regan.* Faith, he is posted^o hence on serious matter.It was great ignorance,^o Gloucester's eyes being out,¹⁰ To let him live. Where he arrives he moves
All hearts against us: Edmund, I think, is gone,
In pity of his misery, to dispatch
His nighted^o life; moreover, to descry
The strength o' th' enemy.¹⁵ *Oswald.* I must needs after him, madam, with my letter.*Regan.* Our troops set forth tomorrow: stay with us;
The ways are dangerous.*Oswald.* I may not, madam:
My lady charged my duty^o in this business.

IV.v. ² *ado* bother and persuasion ⁶ *import* purport, carry as its message ⁸ *is posted* has ridden speedily ⁹ *ignorance* folly ¹³ *nighted*
(1) darkened, because blinded (2) benighted ¹⁸ *charged my duty*
ordered me as a solemn duty

Regan. Why should she write to Edmund? Might not
you

Transport her purposes^o by word? Belike,^o 20
Some things I know not what. I'll love thee much,
Let me unseal the letter.

Oswald. Madam, I had rather——

Regan. I know your lady does not love her husband;
I am sure of that: and at her late^o being here 25
She gave strange eliads^o and most speaking looks
To noble Edmund. I know you are of her bosom.^o

Oswald. I, madam?

Regan. I speak in understanding: y'are; I know 't:
Therefore I do advise you, take this note:^o
My lord is dead; Edmund and I have talked; 30
And more convenient^o is he for my hand
Than for your lady's: you may gather more.^o
If you do find him, pray you, give him this;^o
And when your mistress hears thus much from you,
I pray, desire her call^o her wisdom to her. 35
So, fare you well.
If you do chance to hear of that blind traitor,
Preferment^o falls on him that cuts him off.

Oswald. Would I could meet him, madam! I should
show
What party I do follow.

Regan. Fare thee well. 40

Exeunt.

²⁰ Transport her purposes convey her intentions ²⁰ Belike probably
²⁴ late recently ²⁵ eliads amorous looks ²⁸ of her bosom in her
confidence ²⁹ take this note take note of this ³¹ convenient fitting
³² gather more surmise more yourself ³³ this this advice ³⁵ call
recall ³⁸ Preferment promotion

[Scene VI. *Fields near Dover.*]*Enter Gloucester and Edgar.*

Gloucester. When shall I come to th' top of that same hill?

Edgar. You do climb up it now. Look, how we labor.

Gloucester. Methinks the ground is even.

Edgar. Horrible steep.

Hark, do you hear the sea?

Gloucester. No, truly.

5 *Edgar.* Why then your other senses grow imperfect
By your eyes' anguish.^o

Gloucester. So may it be indeed.

Methinks thy voice is altered, and thou speak'st
In better phrase and matter than thou didst.

Edgar. Y'are much deceived: in nothing am I changed
But in my garments.

10 *Gloucester.* Methinks y'are better spoken.

Edgar. Come on, sir; here's the place: stand still. How
fearful

And dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low!

~~The crows and choughs^o that wing the midway air^o
Show scarce so gross^o as beetles. Half way down~~

15 ~~Hangs one that gathers sampire,^o dreadful trade!
Methinks he seems no bigger than his head.~~

The fishermen that walk upon the beach

Appear like mice; and yond tall anchoring^o bark

Diminished to her cock;^o her cock, a buoy

IV.vi. ^o anguish pain ¹³ choughs a kind of crow ¹² midway air i.e., halfway down the cliff ¹⁴ gross large ¹⁵ sampire samphire, an aromatic herb associated with Dover Cliffs ¹⁶ anchoring anchored ¹⁷ cock cock-boat, a small boat usually towed behind the ship

~~Almost too small for sight.~~ The murmuring surge
That on th' unnumb' red idle pebble° chafes
Cannot be heard so high. I'll look no more,
Lest my brain turn and the deficient sight
Topple° down headlong.

20

Gloucester. Set me where you stand.

Edgar. Give me your hand: you are now within a foot
Of th' extreme verge: for all beneath the moon
Would I not leap upright.°

25

Gloucester. Let go my hand.
Here, friend, 's another purse; in it a jewel
Well worth a poor man's taking. Fairies° and gods
Prosper it with thee! Go thou further off;
Bid me farewell, and let me hear thee going.

30

Edgar. Now fare ye well, good sir.

Gloucester. ~~With all my heart.~~

Edgar. [*Aside*] ~~Why I do trifle thus with his despair~~
~~Is done to cure it.~~

Gloucester. O you mighty gods!

He kneels.

This world I do renounce, and in your sights
Shake patiently my great affliction off:
If I could bear it longer and not fall
To quarrel° with your great opposeless° wills,
My snuff° and loathed part of nature should
Burn itself out. If Edgar live, O bless him!
Now, fellow, fare thee well.

35

40

He falls.

Edgar. Gone, sir, farewell.

²¹ unnumb' red idle pebble innumerable pebbles, moved to and fro by the waves to no purpose ²³⁻²⁴ the deficient sight/Topple my failing sight topple me ²⁷ upright i.e., even up in the air, to say nothing of forward, over the cliff ²⁹ Fairies (who are supposed to guard and multiply hidden treasure) ³³⁻³⁴ Why . . . it I play on his despair in order to cure it ³⁷⁻³⁸ fall/To quarrel with rebel against ³⁸ opposeless not to be, and not capable of being, opposed ³⁹ snuff the guttering (and stinking) wick of a burnt-out candle

~~And yet I know not how^o conceit^o may rob~~
~~The treasury of life, when life itself~~
~~Yields to^o the theft. Had he been where he thought,~~
 45 ~~By this had thought been past. Alive or dead?~~
 Ho, you sir! friend! Hear you, sir! speak!
 Thus might he pass^o indeed: yet he revives.
 What are you, sir?

Gloucester. Away, and let me die.

Edgar. Hadst thou been aught but gossamer, feathers,
 air,
 50 So many fathom down precipitating,^o
 Thou'dst shivered like an egg: but thou dost
 breathe;
 Hast heavy substance; bleed'st not; speak'st; art
 sound.
~~Ten masts at each^o make not the altitude~~
~~Which thou hast perpendicularly fell.~~
 55 Thy life's^o a miracle. Speak yet again.

Gloucester. But have I fall'n, or no?

Edgar. From the dread summit of this chalky bourn.^o
 Look up a-height;^o the shrill-gorged^o lark so far
 Cannot be seen or heard: do but look up.

60 *Gloucester.* Alack, I have no eyes.
 Is wretchedness deprived that benefit,
 To end itself by death? ~~'Twas yet some comfort,~~
~~When misery could beguile^o the tyrant's rage~~
~~And frustrate his proud will.~~

Edgar. Give me your arm.
 65 Up, so. How is 't? Feel you^o your legs? You stand.

Gloucester. Too well, too well.

Edgar. This is above all strangeness.
 Upon the crown o' th' cliff, what thing was that

42 how but what 42 conceit imagination 44 Yields to allows 47 pass
 die 50 precipitating falling 53 at each one on top of the other
 55 life's survival 57 bourn boundary 58 a-height on high 58 gorged
 throated, voiced 63 beguile cheat (i.e., by suicide) 65 Feel you have
 you any feeling in

enters through auditorium
involving audience.

Which parted from you?

Gloucester.

A poor unfortunate beggar.

Edgar. As I stood here below, methought his eyes
Were two full moons; he had a thousand noses,
~~Horns whelked⁷¹ and waved like the enridgèd⁷² sea:~~
It was some fiend; therefore, thou happy father,⁷⁰
Think that the clearest⁷³ gods, who make them
honors
Of men's impossibilities,⁷⁴ have preserved thee.

Gloucester. I do remember now: henceforth I'll bear ⁷⁵
Affliction till it do cry out itself
"Enough, enough," and die. ~~That thing you speak~~
~~of,~~
I took it for a man; often 'twould say
"The fiend, the fiend"—he led me to that place.

Edgar. Bear free⁸⁰ and patient thoughts.

Enter Lear [*fantastically dressed with wild flowers*].

*to mock his
own recognition
of himself*

But who comes here? ⁸⁰

The safer⁸¹ sense will ne'er accommodate⁸²
His master thus.

Lear. No, they cannot touch me for coining. I am
the King himself.

Edgar. O thou side-piercing sight! ⁸³

Lear. Nature's above art in that respect. There's
your press-money. That fellow handles his bow

⁷¹ whelked twisted ⁷² enridgèd i.e., furrowed into waves ⁷³ happy
father fortunate old man ⁷⁴ clearest purest ⁷⁵⁻⁷⁶ who . . . impossi-
bilities who cause themselves to be honored and revered by per-
forming miracles of which men are incapable ⁸⁰ free i.e., emanci-
pated from grief and despair, which fetter the soul ⁸¹ safer sounder,
saner ⁸² accommodate dress, adorn ⁸³ touch me for coining arrest me
for minting coins (the king's prerogative) ⁸⁴ Nature's . . . respect
i.e., a born king is superior to legal (and hence artificial) inhibition.
There is also a glance here at the popular Renaissance debate, con-
cerning the relative importance of nature (inspiration) and art (train-
ing) ⁸⁵ press-money (paid to conscripted soldiers)

mouse offends
him - ^{lear}
demonstrates
his strength
& cunning.
mouse is 2 deities

no recognition
re his beauty:
of Art not ashamed to look upon this beast?
+ Pelican daughters
lear has been King
for maybe 60 yrs

of Iones I.
1609 - decree of
Divine Right of Kings

open
PROSE
rhythms
for
discovery

back to verse to audience

like a ~~scarecrow~~; draw me a clothier's yard.
 90 Look, look, a mouse! Peace, peace: this piece of
 toasted cheese will do 't. There's my gauntlet, I'll
 prove it on a giant. Bring up the brown bills. O,
 well flown, bird! i' th' clout, i' th' clout! hewgh!
 Give the word.

Edgar. Sweet marjoram.^o

95 Lear. Pass.

Gloucester. I know that voice.

Gloucester falls at his feet the court the people

Lear. Ha! Goneril, with a white beard! They flattered
 me like a dog, and told me I had ^{white} white hairs
 100 in my beard ere the black ones were there. To
 say "ay" and "no" to everything that I said "ay"
 and "no" to was no good divinity. When the *wrongful*
 rain came to wet me once and the wind to make
 me chatter; when the thunder would not peace at
 my bidding, there I found 'em, there I smelt 'em
 105 out. Go to, they are not men o' their words: they
 told me I was everything; 'tis a lie, I am not ague-
 proof.

(and I succumbed to that sickness)

Gloucester. The trick^o of that voice I do well remem-
 ber: Is't not the king?

Lear.

Ay, every inch a king.

110 When I do stare, see how the subject quakes.
 I pardon that man's life. What was thy cause?

⁸⁸ crow-keeper a farmer scaring away crows ⁸⁹ clothier's yard (the standard English arrow was a cloth-yard long. Here the injunction is to draw the arrow back, like a powerful archer, a full yard to the ear)
⁹⁰ gauntlet armored glove, thrown down as a challenge ⁹¹ prove it on maintain my challenge even against ⁹² brown bills halberds varnished to prevent rust (here the reference is to the soldiers who carry them)
⁹³ well flown (falconer's cry; and perhaps a reference to the flight of the arrow) ⁹⁴ clout the target shot at ⁹⁵ hewgh ? imitating the whizzing of the arrow ⁹⁶ word password ⁹⁷ Sweet marjoram herb, used as a remedy for brain disease ⁹⁸ like a dog as a dog flatters ⁹⁹⁻¹⁰⁰ I . . . there I was wise before I had even grown a beard ¹⁰¹ no good divinity (bad theology, because contrary to the Biblical saying [II Corinthians 1:18], "Our word toward you was not yea and nay." See also James 5:12 "But let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation"; and Matthew 5:36-37) ¹⁰²⁻⁰⁷ ague-proof secure against fever ¹⁰⁸ trick intonation ¹⁰⁹ cause offense

James 1st
drunkard, ~~idiot~~ ^{idiot}
bisexual

James brought in
divine right of Kings

because I can't stop
you

Verse vs
prose
chopped lines

→ apocalyptic
despair the deepest
pathos.

the single touch
from one human
being to
another

Adultery?

Thou shalt not die: die for adultery? No!

The wren goes to 't, and the small gilded fly

Does lecher in my sight.

113

Let copulation thrive for Gloucester's bastard son

Was kinder to his father than ^{were} my daughters

Got 'tween the lawful sheets.

To 't, luxury, pell-mell! for I lack soldiers.

Behold yond simp'ring dame,

Whose face between her forks presages snow,

That minces virtue and does shake the head

To hear of pleasure's name

The ~~polecat~~ nor the ~~pastur'd~~ horse, goes to 't

With a more riotous appetite.

Down from the waist they are Centaurs,

Though women all above:

But to the girdle do the gods inherit,

Beneath is all the fiend's:

There's hell, there's darkness, there is the

sulphurous pit,

Burning, scalding, stench, consumption; fie, fie, fie!

pah, pah! Give me an ounce of civet; good apothecary,

sweeten my imagination: there's money for thee.

Gloucester. O, let me kiss that hand!

Lear. Let me wipe it first; it smells of mortality.

Gloucester. O ruined piece of nature! This great world

Shall so wear out to nought. Dost thou know me?

115 lecher copulate 118 Got begot 119 luxury lechery 119 for . . . soldiers i.e., ? (1) whom copulation will supply (2) and am therefore powerless 121 Whose . . . snow whose cold demeanor seems to promise chaste behavior ("forks": legs) 122 minces squeamishly pretends to 123 pleasure's name the very name of sexual pleasure 124 fitchew polecat (and slang for "prostitute") 124 soiled put to pasture, and hence wanton with feeding 126 Centaurs lustful creatures, half man and half horse 128 girdle waist 128 inherit possess 132 civet perfume 135 mortality (1) death (2) existence 136-37 This . . . nought i.e., the universe (macrocosm) will decay to nothing in the same way as the little world of man (microcosm)

but 100 knights are gone! predicts (chastity) 120

since both men + women are tainted 133 and I'm one of them

The Timon most simple is profound connection the play so far

eg pale blue paper
from Lea's opening.
dot point

sha! so you're with me there!

open + available
to other people's
responses
of later w/ conditions
have I got there?

of Oswald
and King's
background
or who saw
authorities
in Lea's face

Lear. I remember thine eyes well enough. Dost thou
 squiny at me? No, do thy worst, blind Cupid, I'll
 140 not love. Read thou this challenge, mark but the
 penning of it.

Gloucester. Were all thy letters suns, I could not see.

Edgar. I would not ^{believe} take° this from report: it is,
 And my heart breaks at it.

145 *Lear.* Read.

Gloucester. What, with the case° of eyes?

Lear. O, ho, are you there with me?

150 in a heavy case,
 see how this world goes.

Your eyes are
 yet you

Gloucester. I see it feelingly.

Lear. What, art mad? A man may see how this world
 goes with no eyes. Look with thine ears: see how
 yond justice rails upon yond simple thief. Hark
 155 in thine ear: change places, and, handy-dandy,
 which is the justice, which is the thief? Thou hast
 seen a farmer's dog bark at a beggar?

Gloucester. Ay, sir.

160 *Lear.* And the creature run from the cur? There thou
 mightst behold the great image of authority: a
 dog's obeyed in office.

verse. Thou rascal beadle, hold thy bloody hand;
 Why dost thou lash that whore? Strip thine own
 back,

Thou hotly lusts to use her in that kind

the flattery
 gives it
 the charity

139 squiny squint, look sideways, like a prostitute 139 blind Cupid
 the sign hung before a brothel 140 challenge a reminiscence of
 ll. 89-90 143 take believe 146 case empty sockets 147 are . . . me is
 that what you tell me 149 heavy case sad plight (pun on l. 146)
 149 light i.e., empty 151 feelingly (1) by touch (2) by feeling pain
 (3) with emotion 154 simple common, of low estate 155 handy-dandy
 i.e., choose, guess (after the children's game—"Handy-dandy, prickly
 prandy"—of choosing the right hand) 160 image of authority sym-
 bol revealing the true meaning of authority 160-81 a . . . office i.e.,
 whoever has power is obeyed 162 beadle parish constable 164 kind
 i.e., sexual act

of looped + window raggedness

gives Gloucester
damp blue unpeeled
paper?

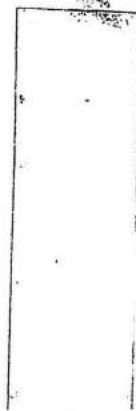
Imaginary? or real

Fools =
victims!

of Solomon

Lea removes crown
of flowers

LEAR FINALLY
GROUNDED



For which thou whip'st here:

163

Through tattered clothes small vices do appear;
Robes and furred gowns hide all. Plate sin with
gold,

And the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks;
Arm it in rags, a pygmy's straw does pierce it.
None does offend, none, I say, none.

doesn't touch the
sides
vouch for 'em

170

Take that of me, my friend, who have the power
To seal th' accuser's lips. Get thee glass eyes,
And, like a scurvy politician, seem
To see the things thou dost not. Now, now, now,
now.

pretense eyes

Pull off my boots: harder, harder: so.

173

Edgar. O, matter and impertinency^o mixed!
Reason in madness!

yes I am the
King

Lear. If thou wilt weep my fortunes, take my eyes.
I know thee well enough, thy name is Gloucester.
Thou must be patient: we came crying hither:
Thou know'st the first time that we smell the air
We wawl and cry. I will preach to thee: mark.

180

Gloucester. Alack, alack the day!

Lear. When we are born, we cry that we are come
To this great stage of fools. This' a good block.

from a good crown
strike it
put it on
Gloucester's
head

185

164-65 The usurer . . . cozeners i.e., the powerful moneylender, in his role as judge, puts to death the petty cheat 167 Robes and furred gowns (worn by a judge) 168 hurtless i.e., without hurting the sinner 170 able vouch for 171 that (the immunity just conferred) (l. 170) 172 glass eyes spectacles 173 scurvy politician vile politic man 176 matter and impertinency sense and nonsense 185 This' this is 185 block (various meanings have been suggested, for example, the stump of a tree, on which Lear is supposed to climb; a mounting-block, which suggests "horse" l. 187; a hat [which Lear or another must be made to wear], from the block on which a felt hat is molded, and which would suggest a "felt" l. 187. The proposal here is that "block" be taken to denote the quintain, whose function is to bear blows, "a mere lifeless block" [As You Like It, I.ii.263], an object shaped like a man and used for tilting practice. See also Much Ado, II.i.246-7, "she misused me past the endurance of a block!" and, in the same passage, the associated reference, "I stood like a man at a mark [target]" [l. 253])

by pleasure in his own brain?

it's been very balmy for Lear to realise
he doesn't need Kingship; he sees how
the world works BUT The Reality is
the Son-In-Laws
OR 2 mad might We must kill the cycle
into his former self

Seized by Gentlemen
Lear assumes he's
a prisoner

Lear panics
+ struggles

sa-sa
of friends there,
there Q2 Q2

crazy burst of energy
before collapse in upcoming
Cordelia
and a dramatic surprise
after the meditative clarity,
humour + insight w. Gloucester
AND actually escaping from
EVERYTHING

It were a delicate stratagem, to shoe
A troop of horse with felt. I'll put 't in proof,
And when I have stol'n upon these son-in-laws,
Then, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill!

Enter a Gentleman [with Attendants].

190 *Gentleman.* O, here he is: lay hand upon him. Sir,
Your most dear daughter——

Lear. No rescue? What, a prisoner? I am even (actually) of great rage
The natural fool of fortune. Use me well,
You shall have ransom. Let me have surgeons;
I am cut to th' brains. to an mentality
of born
2 complete
the way of
fake

195 *Gentleman.* You shall have anything.

Lear. No seconds? all myself?
Why, this would make a man a man of salt,
To use his eyes for garden water-pots,
Ay, and laying autumn's dust. and a season
and his new coat

of born
great stage
of fools

200 *Gentleman.* Good sir——

Lear. I will die bravely, like a smug bridegroom.
What!

then
with
stage

I will be jovial. Come, come; I am a king, my
masters, know you that?

Gentleman. You are a royal one, and we obey you.

205 *Lear.* Then there's life in 't. Come, and you get it,
you shall get it by running. Sa, sa, sa, sa.

Exit [running; Attendants follow].

Gentleman. A sight most pitiful in the meanest wretch,
Past speaking of in a king! Thou hast one daughter
Who redeems nature from the general curse
210 Which twain have brought her to.°

186 delicate subtle 187 put't in proof test it 193 natural fool born sport (with pun on "natural": "imbecile") 195 cut wounded 196 seconds supporters 197 man of salt i.e., all (salt) tears 201 bravely (1) smartly attired (2) courageously 201 smug spick and span 201 bridegroom whose "brave" sexual feats are picked up in the pun on "die" 205 there's life in't there's still hope 206 Sa . . . sa hunting and rallying cry; also an interjection of defiance 209-10 general . . . to (1) universal condemnation which Goneril and Regan have made for (2) damnation incurred by the original sin of Adam and Eve

Edgar. Hail, gentle° sir.

Gentleman. Sir, speed° you: what's your will?

Edgar. Do you hear aught, sir, of a battle toward?°

Gentleman. Most sure and vulgar:° every one hears
that,
Which can distinguish sound.

Edgar. But, by your favor,
How near's the other army?

Gentleman. Near and on speedy foot; the main
descry
Stands on the hourly thought.°

Edgar. I thank you, sir: that's all.

Gentleman. Though that the Queen on special cause
is here,
Her army is moved on.

Edgar. I thank you, sir.

Exit [Gentleman].

Gloucester. You ever-gentle gods, take my breath
from me;

Let not my worser spirit° tempt me again
To die before you please.

Edgar. Well pray you, father.

Gloucester. Now, good sir, what are you?

Edgar. A most poor man, made tame° to fortune's
blows;

Who, by the art of known and feeling sorrows,°
Am pregnant° to good pity. Give me your hand,
I'll lead you to some biding° *refuge*

Gloucester. Hearty thanks;

211 gentle noble 211 speed God speed 212 toward impending 213 vul-
gar common knowledge 216-17 the . . . thought we expect to see the
main body of the army any hour 221 worser spirit bad angel, evil
side of my nature 224 tame submissive 225 art . . . sorrows instruc-
tion of sorrows painfully experienced 226 pregnant disposed 227 bid-
ing place of refuge

The bounty and the benison° of heaven
To boot, and boot.°

Enter Oswald.

Oswald. A proclaimed prize°! Most happy!°
230 That eyeless head of thine was first framed° flesh
To raise my fortunes. Thou old unhappy traitor,
Briefly thyself remember:° the sword is out
That must destroy thee.

Gloucester. Now let thy friendly° hand
Put strength enough to 't.

[*Edgar interposes.*]

Oswald. Wherefore, bold peasant,
235 Dar'st thou support a published° traitor? Hence!
Lest that th' infection of his fortune take
Like hold on thee. Let go his arm.

Edgar. Chill° not let go, zir, without vurther 'casion.°

Oswald. Let go, slave, or thou diest!

240 *Edgar.* Good gentleman, go your gait,° and let poor
volk° pass. ~~And chud ha' bin zwaggered° out of my~~
~~life, 'twould not ha' bin so long as 'tis by a vort~~
~~night.~~ Nay, come not near th' old man; keep out,
che vor' ye,° or I'se° try whether your costard°
245 or my ballow° be the harder: chill be plain with
you.

Oswald. Out, dunghill!

They fight.

²²⁸ benison blessing ²²⁹ To boot, and boot also, and in the highest degree
²³⁰ proclaimed prize i.e., one with a price on his head ²³¹ happy fortune
nate (for Oswald) ²³² framed created ²³³ thyself remember i.e., pray,
think of your sins ²³⁴ friendly i.e., because it offers the death Gloucester
covets ²³⁵ published proclaimed ²³⁶ Chill . . . (Edgar speaks in rustic
dialect) ²³⁷ Chill I will ²³⁸ vurther 'casion further occasion ²⁴⁰ gait
way ²⁴¹ volk folk ²⁴² And chud ha' bin zwaggered if I could have been
swaggered ²⁴⁴ Che vor' ye I warrant you ²⁴⁴ I'se I shall ²⁴⁶ costard
head (literally, "apple") ²⁴⁵ ballow cudgel

Edgar. Chill pick your teeth,^o zir: come; no matter
vor your foins.^o

[Oswald falls.]

Oswald. Slave, thou hast slain me. Villain, take my
purse: 250

If ever thou wilt thrive, bury my body,
And give the letters which thou find'st about^o me
To Edmund Earl of Gloucester; seek him out
Upon the English party.^o O, untimely death!
Death! 255

He dies.

Edgar. I know thee well. A serviceable^o villain,
As duteous^o to the vices of thy mistress
As badness would desire.

Gloucester. What, is he dead?

Edgar. Sit you down, father; rest you.

~~Let's see these pockets: the letters that he speaks
of~~ 260

~~May be my friends. He's dead; I am only sorry
He had no other deathsman.^o Let us see:~~ 1 N

~~Leave,^o gentle wax;^o and, manners, blame us not:
To know our enemies' minds, we rip their hearts;
Their papers^o is more lawful.~~ 265

Reads the letter.

"Let our reciprocal vows be remembered. You
have many opportunities to cut him off: if your
will want not,^o time and place will be fruitfully
offered. There is nothing done, if he return the con-
queror: then am I the prisoner, and his bed my 270
jail; from the loathed warmth whereof deliver me,
and supply the place for your labor.

"Your—wife, so I would^o say—affectionate

²⁴⁸ Chill pick your teeth I will knock your teeth out ²⁴⁹ foins thrusts
²⁵² about upon ²⁵⁴ party side ²⁵⁶ serviceable ready to be used ²⁵⁷ du-
teous obedient ²⁶² deathsman executioner ²⁶³ Leave by your leave
²⁶⁸ wax (with which the letter is sealed) ²⁶⁵ Their papers i.e., to rip
their papers ²⁶⁷⁻⁶⁸ if . . . not if your desire (and lust) be not lacking
²⁷⁸ would would like to

servant, and for you her own for venture,^o
 275 'Goneril.' "

~~○ indistinguished space of woman's will!~~^o

A plot upon her virtuous husband's life;
 And the exchange^o my brother! Here in the sands
 Thee I'll rake up,^o the post unsanctified^o
 280 Of murderous lechers; and in the mature^o time,
 With this ungracious paper^o strike^o the sight
 Of the death-practiced^o Duke: for him 'tis well
 That of thy death and business I can tell.

Gloucester. The King is mad: how stiff^o is my vile
 sense,^o

285 That I stand up, and have ingenious^o feeling
 Of my huge sorrows! Better I were distract:^o
 So should my thoughts be severed from my griefs,
 And woes by wrong imaginations^o lose
 The knowledge of themselves.

Drum afar off.

Edgar. Give me your hand:
 290 Far off, methinks, I hear the beaten drum.
 Come, father, I'll bestow^o you with a friend.

Exeunt.

Scene VII. [A tent in the French camp.]

Enter Cordelia, Kent, Doctor, and Gentleman.

Cordelia. O thou good Kent, how shall I live and
 work,

²⁷⁴ and . . . venture i.e., and one who holds you her own for venturing (Edmund had earlier been promised union by Goneril, "If you dare venture in your own behalf," IV.ii.20). ²⁷⁶ indistinguished . . . will unlimited range of woman's lust ²⁷⁸ exchange substitute ²⁷⁹ rake up cover up, bury ²⁷⁹ post unsanctified unholy messenger ²⁸⁰ mature ripe ²⁸¹ ungracious paper wicked letter ²⁸¹ strike blast ²⁸² death-practiced whose death is plotted ²⁸⁴ stiff unbending ²⁸⁴ vile sense hateful capacity for feeling ²⁸⁵ ingenious conscious ²⁸⁶ distract distracted, mad ²⁸⁸ wrong imaginations delusions ²⁹¹ bestow lodge

To match thy goodness? My life will be too short,
And every measure fail me.

Kent. To be acknowledged, madam, is o'erpaid.
All my reports go^o with the modest truth,
Nor more nor clipped,^o but so.

5

Cordelia. Be better suited:^o
These weeds^o are memories^o of those worser
hours:
I prithee, put them off.

Kent. Pardon, dear madam;
Yet to be known shortens my made intent:^o
My boon I make it,^o that you know me not
Till time and I think meet.^o

10

Cordelia. Then be 't so, my good lord. [*To the Doctor.*] How does the King?

Doctor. Madam, sleeps still.

Cordelia. O you kind gods!
Cure this great breach in his abusèd^o nature.
Th' untuned and jarring senses, O, wind up^o
Of this child-changèd^o father.

15

Doctor. So please your Majesty
That we may wake the King: he hath slept long.

Cordelia. Be governed by your knowledge, and
proceed
I' th' sway of^o your own will. Is he arrayed?

20

Enter Lear in a chair carried by Servants.

IV.vii. ⁵go conform ⁶clipped curtailed ⁸suited attired ⁷weeds clothes ⁷memories reminders ⁹Yet . . . intent to reveal myself just yet interferes with the plan I have made ¹⁰My boon I make it I ask this reward ¹¹meet fitting ¹⁵abusèd disturbed ¹⁶wind up tune ¹⁷child-changèd changed, deranged (and also, reduced to a child) by the cruelty of his children ²⁰I' th' sway of according to

It's been 24 hrs from
now (I don't know)
(but I think it's a pure mystery)

LEAR
GROANS

Gentleman. Ay, madam; in the heaviness of sleep
We put fresh garments on him.

Doctor. Be by, good madam, when we do awake him;
I doubt not of his temperance.^o

Cordelia. Very well.

Doctor. Please you, draw near. Louder the music
25 there!

Cordelia. O my dear father, restoration hang
Thy medicine on my lips, and let this kiss
Repair those violent harms that my two sisters
Have in thy reverence^o made.

Kent. Kind and dear Princess.

Cordelia. Had you not been their father, these white
30 flakes^o

Did challenge^o pity of them. Was this a face
To be opposed against the warring winds?
To stand against the deep dread-bolted^o thunder?
In the most terrible and nimble stroke
Of quick, cross^o lightning to watch—poor
35 perdu!^o—

With this thin helm?^o Mine enemy's dog,
Though he had bit me, should have stood that night
Against my fire; ~~and wast thou fain,^o poor father,~~
~~To hovel thee with swine and rogues^o forlorn,~~
40 ~~In short^o and musty straw?~~ Alack, alack!
'Tis wonder that thy life and wits at once
Had not concluded all.^o He wakes; speak to him.

Doctor. Madam, do you; 'tis fittest.

24 *temperance* sanity 29 *reverence* revered person 30 *flakes* hairs (in long strands) 31 *challenge* claim 33 *deep dread-bolted* deep-voiced and furnished with the dreadful thunderbolt 35 *cross* zigzag 35 *perdu* (1) sentry in a forlorn position (2) lost one 36 *helm* helmet (his scanty hair) 38 *fain* pleased 39 *rogues* vagabonds 40 *short* (when straw is freshly cut, it is long, and suitable for bedding, given its flexibility and crispness. As it is used, it becomes musty, shreds into pieces, is "short." In contemporary Maine usage, "short manure" refers to dung mixed with straw that has been broken up; "long manure" to dung mixed with coarse new straw) 42 *concluded all* come to a complete end

Conkelia is sustaining Order
(if Gon + Ray have gone into
Chaos)

not just: "he's still mad!"
but "my experiences have
been enormous
on a road to maturity
& human understanding"

one of his former models

full of 'm's'

the most beautiful
apology EVER!

Cordelia. How does my royal lord? How fares your Majesty?

Lear. You do me wrong to take me out o' th' grave.
Thou art a soul in bliss, but I am bound
Upon a wheel of fire that mine own tears
Do scald like molten lead.

43 unresolved
in such pain

Cordelia. Sir, do you know me?

Lear. You are a spirit, I know; Where did you die?

Cordelia. Still, still, far wide.^o (paraded perhaps)

50
open eyes?

Doctor. He's scarce awake: let him alone awhile.

Lear. Where have I been? Where am I? Fair daylight?
I am mightily abused. I should ev'n die with pity
To see another thus. I know not what to say.
I will not swear these are my hands: let's see -
I feel this pin prick. Would I were assured
Of my condition. (tries to rise)

like me
now

53

Cordelia. (KNEELS) O, look upon me, sir,
And hold your hand in benediction o'er me. → LEAR KNEELS

No, sir, You must not kneel.

Lear. Pray do not mock me.

I am a very foolish fond old man,
Fourscore and upward, not an hour more nor less,
And, to deal plainly, (paine)
I fear I am not in my perfect mind.
Methinks I should know you and know this man,
Yet I am doubtful; for I am mainly ignorant
What place this is, and all the skill I have
Remembers not these garments; nor I know not
Where I did lodge last night. Do not laugh at me,
For, as I am a man, I think this lady
To be my child Cordelia.

60

63

Cordelia. And so I am, I am.

Lear. Be your tears wet? Yes, faith. I pray weep not.
If you have poison for me, I will drink it.

70
Garrick's over-
sight in 2,
moving from
"I am not in my perfect mind"
to "I am not in my perfect mind"
- ingesting her
feminine

⁴⁷ wheel of fire (torment associated by the Middle Ages with Hell, where Lear thinks he is) ⁵⁰ wide i.e., of the mark (of sanity)
⁵³ abused deluded ⁶⁰ fond in dotage ⁶⁵ mainly entirely

not a fault but part
of her

QUITE BIG
ENGLAND IS
HELL
or balanced

~~completely out of my
possible control over
the upcoming battle~~

I know you do not love me, for your sisters
Have, as I do remember, done me wrong.
You have some cause, they have not.

75 *Cordelia.*

No cause, no cause.

Lear. Am I in France? (doesn't know about the war) re-instate yourself (?)

Kent. In your own kingdom, sir.

Lear. Do not abuse me. that the truth?

why are
you in
England

Doctor. Be comforted, good madam: the great rage,^o

You see, is killed in him: and yet it is danger

80 To make him even o'er^o the time he has lost.

Desire him to go in; trouble him no more:

Till further settling.^o

Cordelia. Will 't please your Highness walk?^o

withdraw

83 *Lear.* You must bear with me. Pray you now, forget
and forgive; I am old and foolish. (GREAT ECHO to GR opening) to someone present

Exeunt. *Mane[n]t*^o *Kent* and *Gentleman*.

Gentleman. Holds it true, sir, that the Duke of Cornwall was so slain?

Kent. Most certain, sir.

Gentleman. Who is conductor of his people?

? keep

90 *Kent.* As 'tis said, the bastard son of Gloucester.

Gentleman. They say Edgar, his banished son, is with
the Earl of Kent in Germany.

Kent. Report is changeable.^o 'Tis time to look about;
the powers^o of the kingdom approach apace.

93 *Gentleman.* The arbitrement^o is like to be bloody.
Fare you well, sir. [Exit.]

Kent. My point and period will be thoroughly
wrought,^o

Or well or ill, as this day's battle's fought.

Exit.

77 abuse deceive 78 rage frenzy 80 even o'er smooth over by filling in; and hence, "recollect" 82 settling calming 83 walk (perhaps in the sense of "withdraw") 85 s.d. *Mane[n]t* remain 93 Report is changeable rumors are unreliable 94 powers armies 95 arbitrement deciding encounter 97 My . . . wrought the aim and end, the close of my life will be completely worked out

ACT V

Scene I. [The British camp near Dover.]

Enter, with drum and colors, Edmund, Regan, Gentlemen, and Soldiers.

Edmund. Know^o of the Duke if his last purpose hold,^o
Or whether since he is advised^o by aught
To change the course: he's full of alteration
And self-reproving: bring his constant pleasure.^o *purpose*
[To a Gentleman, who goes out.]

Regan. Our sister's man is certainly miscarried.^o 5

Edmund. 'Tis to be doubted,^o madam.

Regan. Now, sweet lord,
You know the goodness I intend upon you:
Tell me, but truly, but then speak the truth,
Do you not love my sister?

Edmund. In honored^o love.

Regan. But have you never found my brother's way 10
To the forfended^o place?

Edmund. ~~That thought abuses^o you.~~ *he means*

V.i. 1 Know learn 1 last purpose hold most recent intention (to fight)
be maintained 2 advised induced 4 constant pleasure fixed (final)
decision 5 miscarried come to grief 6 doubted feared 9 honored
honorable 11 forfended forbidden 11 abuses (1) deceives (2) de-
means, is unworthy of

Regan. ~~I am doubtful that you have been conjunct
And bosomed with her, as far as we call hers.°~~

Edmund. No, by mine honor, madam.

¹⁵ *Regan.* I shall never endure her: dear my lord,
Be not familiar with her.

Edmund. Fear° me not.—
She and the Duke her husband!

*Enter, with drum and colors, Albany, Goneril
[and] Soldiers.*

~~*Goneril.* [Aside] I had rather lose the battle than
that sister
Should loosen° him and me.~~

²⁰ *Albany.* Our very loving sister, well be-met.°
Sir, this I heard, the King is come to his daughter,
With others whom the rigor of our state°
Forced to cry out. ~~Where I could not be honest,°
I never yet was valiant: for this business,~~
²⁵ ~~It touches us, as° France invades our land,
Not holds the King, with others, whom, I fear,
Most just and heavy causes make oppose.°~~

~~*Edmund.* Sir, you speak nobly.~~

Regan. Why is this reasoned?°

³⁰ *Goneril.* Combine together 'gainst the enemy;
For these domestic and particular broils°
Are not the question° here.

Albany. Let's then determine
With th' ancient of war° on our proceeding.

Edmund. I shall attend you presently at your tent.

12-13 I . . . hers I fear that you have united with her intimately, in the fullest possible way 16 Fear distrust 19 loosen separate 20 be-met met 22 rigor . . . state tyranny of our government 23 honest honorable 25 touches us, as concerns me, only in that 26-27 Not . . . oppose and not in that France emboldens the King and others, who have been led, by real and serious grievances, to take up arms against us 28 reasoned argued 30 particular broils private quarrels 31 question issue 32 th' ancient of war experienced commanders

Regan. Sister, you'll go with us?^o

Goneril. No.

85

Regan. 'Tis most convenient;^o pray you, go with us.

Goneril. [*Aside*] O, ho, I know the riddle.^o—I
will go.

Exeunt both the Armies. Enter Edgar [*disguised*].

Edgar. If e'er your Grace had speech with man so
poor,
Hear me one word.

Albany. [*To those going out*] I'll overtake you. [*To
Edgar*] Speak.

Exeunt [*all but Albany and Edgar*].

Edgar. Before you fight the battle, ope this letter.

40

If you have victory, let the trumpet sound
For^o him that brought it: wretched though I seem,
I can produce a champion that will prove^o
What is avouchèd^o there. If you miscarry,
Your business of^o the world hath so an end,
And machination^o ceases. Fortune love you.

45

Albany. Stay till I have read the letter.

Edgar. I was forbid it.
When time shall serve, let but the herald cry,
And I'll appear again.

Albany. Why, fare thee well: I will o'erlook^o thy
paper.

Exit [*Edgar*]. 50

Enter Edmund.

Edmund. The enemy's in view: draw up your powers.
Here is the guess^o of their true strength and
forces
By diligent discovery;^o but your haste

³⁴ us me (rather than Edmund) ³⁶ convenient fitting, desirable ³⁷ riddle real reason (for Regan's curious request) ⁴¹⁻⁴² sound/For summon ⁴³ prove i.e., by trial of combat ⁴⁴ avouchèd maintained ⁴⁵ of in ⁴⁶ machination plotting ⁵⁰ o'erlook read over ⁵² guess estimate ⁵³ By diligent discovery obtained by careful reconnoitering

Is now urged on you.

Albany. We will greet^o the time. *Exit.*

⁵⁵ *Edmund.* To both these sisters have I sworn my love;
Each jealous^o of the other, as the stung
Are of the adder. Which of them shall I take?
Both? One? Or neither? Neither can be enjoyed,
If both remain alive: to take the widow
⁶⁰ Exasperates, makes mad her sister Goneril;
And hardly^o shall I carry out my side,^o
Her husband being alive. Now then, we'll use
His countenance^o for the battle; which being done,
Let her who would be rid of him devise
⁶⁵ His speedy taking off. As for the mercy
Which he intends to Lear and to Cordelia,
The battle done, and they within our power,
Shall never see his pardon; for my state
Stands on me to defend, not to debate.^o *Exit.*

Scene II. [*A field between the two camps.*]

*Alarum^o within. Enter, with drum and colors,
Lear, Cordelia, and Soldiers, over the stage; and
exeunt.*

Enter Edgar and Gloucester.

Edgar. Here, father,^o take the shadow of this tree
For your good host; pray that the right may thrive.
If ever I return to you again,
I'll bring you comfort.

Gloucester. Grace go with you, sir.

Exit [Edgar].

⁵⁴ greet i.e., meet the demands of ⁵⁶ jealous suspicious ⁶¹ hardly with difficulty ⁶¹ carry . . . side (1) satisfy my ambition (2) fulfill my bargain (with Goneril) ⁶³ countenance authority ⁶⁸⁻⁶⁹ for . . . debate my position requires me to act, not to reason about right and wrong V.ii. s.d. *Alarum* a trumpet call to battle ¹ father i.e., venerable old man (Edgar has not yet revealed his identity)

pleasers

Alarum and retreat^o *within*. [Re-]enter Edgar.

Edgar. Away, old man; give me thy hand; away! 5

King Lear hath lost, he and his daughter ta'en:^o

Give me thy hand; come on.

Gloucester. No further, sir; a man may rot even here.

Edgar. What, in ill thoughts again? Men must endure

Their going hence, even as their coming hither: 10

Ripeness^o is all. Come on.

Gloucester.

And that's true too.

Exeunt.

Scene III. [The British camp near Dover.]

Enter, in conquest, with drum and colors, Edmund; Lear and Cordelia, as prisoners; Soldiers, Captain.

Edmund. Some officers take them away: good guard,^o

Until their greater pleasures^o first be known

That are to censure^o them.

Cordelia.

We are not the first

Who with best meaning^o have incurred the worst.

For thee, oppressèd King, I am cast down; 5

Myself could else out-frown false fortune's frown.

Shall we not see these daughters and these sisters?

Lear. No, no, no, no! Come, let's away to prison:

We two alone will sing like birds i' th' cage.

When thou dost ask me blessing, I'll kneel down 10

And ask of thee forgiveness. So we'll live,

And pray, and sing, and tell old tales, and laugh

⁴ s.d. *retreat* (signaled by a trumpet) ⁶ *ta'en* captured ¹¹ *Ripeness* maturity, as of fruit that is ready to fall V.iii. ¹ *good guard* let there be good guard ² *their greater pleasures* the will of those in command, the great ones ³ *censure* pass judgment on ⁴ *meaning* intentions

gods'

a spiritual sacred
environment

great warrior

Samson brought brand from heaven - felled a temple
smoking foxes out of their holes

* Lear embraces her hand -
a finally ^{regained} look up to her
indifferent gods.

ref to a connected childhood
experience

At gilded butterflies, and hear poor rogues
 Talk of court news; and we'll talk with them too —
 15 Who loses and who wins, who's in, who's out —
 And take upon's the mystery of things. *hidden workings of the world*
 As if we were God's spies: And we'll wear out
 In a walled prison packs and sects of great ones
 That ebb and flow by th' moon.

Edmund.

Take them away.

20 Lear. Upon such sacrifices, my Cordelia,
 The gods themselves throw incense. Have I caught
 thee?

He that parts us shall bring a brand from heaven,
 And fire us hence like foxes. Wipe thine eyes;
 The good years shall devour them, flesh and fell, *skin i.e. devour them entirely*
 Ere they shall make us weep! We'll see 'em starved
 first:

Come. [Exeunt Lear and Cordelia, guarded.]*

Edmund. Come hither, captain; hark.

Take thou this note: go follow them to prison:
 One step I have advanced thee; if thou dost
 30 As this instructs thee, thou dost make thy way
 To noble fortunes: know thou this, that men
 Are as the time is:° to be tender-minded
 Does not become a sword:° thy great employment
 Will not bear question;° either say thou'lt do 't,
 Or thrive by other means.

35 Captain.

I'll do 't, my lord.

13 *gilded butterflies* i.e., gorgeously attired courtiers, fluttering after nothing 16-17 *take . . . spies* profess to read the riddle of existence, as if endowed with divine omniscience 17 *wear out* outlast 18-19 *packs* . . . *moon* intriguing and partisan cliques of those in high station, whose fortunes change every month 20-21 *Upon . . . incense* i.e., the gods approve our renunciation of the world 22-23 *He . . . foxes* no human agency can separate us, but only divine interposition, as of a heavenly torch parting us like foxes who are driven from their place of refuge by fire and smoke 24 *good years* plague and pestilence ("undefined malefic power or agency," *N.E.D.*) 24 *them* i.e., the enemies of Lear and Cordelia 24 *fell skin* 32 *as the time is* i.e., absolutely determined by the exigencies of the moment 33 *become a sword* befit a soldier 34 *bear question* admit of discussion

2 toast?
here

Edmund. About it; and write happy^o when th' hast done.

Mark; I say, instantly, and carry it so^o
As I have set it down.

~~**Captain.** I cannot draw a cart, nor eat dried oats;~~

~~If it be man's work, I'll do 't.~~

Exit Captain. 40

Flourish. Enter Albany, Goneril, Regan [another
Captain, and] Soldiers.

the victors

Albany. Sir, you have showed today your valiant strain,^o

And fortune led you well: you have the captives
Who were the opposites of^o this day's strife:
I do require them of you, so to use them
As we shall find their merits^o and our safety
May equally determine. 45

Edmund.

Sir, I thought it fit

To send the old and miserable King
To some retention and appointed guard;^o
Whose^o age had charms in it, whose title more,
To pluck the common bosom on his side,^o 50
And turn our impressed lances in our eyes^o
Which do command them. With him I sent the
Queen:

My reason all the same; and they are ready
Tomorrow, or at further space,^o t' appear
Where you shall hold your session.^o At this time 55
We sweat and bleed: the friend hath lost his friend;
And the best quarrels, in the heat, are cursed
By those that feel their sharpness.^o
The question of Cordelia and her father

³⁶ write happy style yourself fortunate ³⁷ carry it so manage the affair in exactly that manner (as if Cordelia had taken her own life)
⁴¹ strain (1) stock (2) character ⁴³ opposites of opponents in ⁴⁵ merits
deserts ⁴⁸ retention . . . guard confinement under duly appointed
guard ⁴⁹ Whose i.e., Lear's ⁵⁰ pluck . . . side win the sympathy of
the people to himself ⁵¹ turn . . . eyes turn our conscripted lancers
against us ⁵⁴ further space a later time ⁵⁵ session trial ⁵⁷⁻⁵⁸ the . . .
sharpness the worthiest causes may be judged badly by those who have
been affected painfully by them, and whose passion has not yet cooled

Requires a fitter place.

⁶⁰ *Albany.* Sir, by your patience,
I hold you but a subject of^o this war,
Not as a brother.

Regan. That's as we list to grace^o him.
Methinks our pleasure might have been demanded,
Ere you had spoke so far. He led our powers,
⁶⁵ Bore the commission of my place and person;
The which immediacy may well stand up
And call itself your brother.^o

Goneril. Not so hot:
In his own grace he doth exalt himself
More than in your addition.^o

Regan. In my rights,
⁷⁰ By me invested, he compeers^o the best.

Goneril. That were the most,^o if he should husband
you.^o

Regan. Jesters do oft prove prophets.

Goneril. Holla, holla!
That eye that told you so looked but a-squint.^o

Regan. Lady, I am not well; else I should answer
⁷⁵ From a full-flowing stomach.^o General,
Take thou my soldiers, prisoners, patrimony;^o
Dispose of them, of me; the walls is thine:^o
Witness the world, that I create thee here
My lord, and master.

Goneril. Mean you to enjoy him?

⁸⁰ *Albany.* The let-alone^o lies not in your good will.

⁶¹ *subject of* subordinate in ⁶² *list to grace* wish to honor ⁶⁵⁻⁶⁷ *Bore*
. . . *brother* was authorized, as my deputy, to take command; his
present status, as my immediate representative, entitles him to be con-
sidered your equal ⁶⁹ *your addition* honors you have bestowed on
him ⁷⁰ *compeers* equals ⁷¹ *most* most complete investing in your
rights ⁷² *husband* you become your husband ⁷³ *a-squint* cross-eyed
⁷⁵ *From* . . . *stomach* angrily ⁷⁶ *patrimony* inheritance ⁷⁷ *walls is*
thine i.e., Regan's person, which Edmund has stormed and won
⁸⁰ *let-alone* power to prevent

Edmund. Nor in thine, lord.

Albany. Half-blooded^o fellow, yes.

Regan. [*To Edmund*] Let the drum strike, and prove my title thine.^o

Albany. Stay yet; hear reason. Edmund, I arrest thee
On capital treason; and in thy attaint^o

This gilded serpent [*pointing to Goneril*]. For
your claim, fair sister,

85

I bar it in the interest of my wife.

'Tis she is subcontracted^o to this lord,

And I, her husband, contradict your banes.^o

If you will marry, make your loves^o to me;

My Lady is bespoke.^o

Goneril. An interlude!^o

90

Albany. Thou art armed, Gloucester: let the trumpet
sound:

If none appear to prove upon thy person

Thy heinous, manifest, and many treasons,

There is my pledge^o [*throwing down a glove*]:

I'll make^o it on thy heart,

Ere I taste bread, thou art in nothing less

95

Than I have here proclaimed thee.

Regan. Sick, O, sick!

Goneril. [*Aside*] If not, I'll ne'er trust medicine.^o

Edmund. [*Throwing down a glove*] There's my
exchange:^o what in the world he is

That names me traitor, villain-like he lies:^o

Call by the trumpet:^o he that dares approach,

100

⁸¹ *Half-blooded* bastard, and so only half noble ⁸² *prove . . . thine*
prove by combat your entitlement to my rights ⁸⁴ *in thy attaint* as a
sharer in the treason for which you are impeached ⁸⁷ *subcontracted*
pledged by a contract which is called into question by the existence
of a previous contract (Goneril's marriage) ⁸⁸ *contradict your banes*
forbid your announced intention to marry (by citing the precontract)
⁸⁹ *loves* love-suits ⁹⁰ *bespoke* already pledged ⁹⁰ *interlude* play
⁹⁴ *pledge* gage ⁹⁴ *make* prove ⁹⁷ *medicine* poison ⁹⁸ *exchange* (tech-
nical term, denoting the glove Edmund throws down) ⁹⁹ *villain-like he*
lies (the lie direct, a challenge to mortal combat) ¹⁰⁰ *trumpet* trumpe-
ter

On him, on you—who not?—I will maintain
My truth and honor firmly.

Albany. A herald, ho!

Edmund. A herald, ho, a herald!

Albany. Trust to thy single virtue;¹⁰⁴ for thy soldiers,
105 All levied in my name, have in my name
Took their discharge.

Regan. My sickness grows upon me.

Albany. She is not well; convey her to my tent.

[*Exit Regan, led.*]

Enter a Herald.

Come hither, herald. Let the trumpet sound—
And read out this.

110 *Captain.* Sound, trumpet!

A trumpet sounds.

~~*Herald.*~~ (*Reads.*) "If any man of quality or degree¹¹¹
within the lists¹¹² of the army will maintain upon Ed-
mund, supposed Earl of Gloucester, that he is a
manifold traitor, let him appear by the third sound
115 of the trumpet: he is bold in his defense."

Edmund. Sound!

Alb

First trumpet.

~~*Herald.*~~ Again!

Second trumpet.

Alb

~~*Herald.*~~ Again!

Third trumpet.

*Trumpet answers within. Enter Edgar, at the
third sound, armed, a trumpet before him.¹¹³*

Albany. Ask him his purposes, why he appears
Upon this call o' th' trumpet.

120 ~~*Herald.*~~

What are you?

104 single virtue unaided valor 111 quality or degree rank or position
112 lists rolls 113 s.d. trumpet before him trumpeter preceding him

Your name, your quality,^o and why you answer
This present summons?

Edgar. Know, my name is lost;
By treason's tooth bare-gnawn and canker-bit:^o
Yet am I noble as the adversary
I come to cope.^o

Albany. Which is that adversary? 125

Edgar. What's he that speaks for Edmund, Earl of
Gloucester?

Edmund. Himself: what say'st thou to him?

Edgar. Draw thy sword,
That if my speech offend a noble heart,
Thy arm may do thee justice: here is mine. 130
Behold it is my privilege,
The privilege of mine honors,
My oath, and my profession.^o I protest,
Maugre^o thy strength, place, youth, and eminence,
Despite thy victor sword and fire-new^o fortune,
Thy valor and thy heart,^o thou art a traitor, 135
False to thy gods, thy brother, and thy father,
Conspirant^o 'gainst this high illustrious prince,
And from th' extremest upward^o of thy head
To the descent and dust below thy foot,^o
A most toad-spotted traitor.^o Say thou "No," 140
This sword, this arm and my best spirits are bent^o
To prove upon thy heart, whereto I speak,^o
Thou liest.

Edmund. In wisdom^o I should ask thy name,
But since thy outside looks so fair and warlike,

¹²¹ *quality* rank ¹²³ *canker-bit* eaten by the caterpillar ¹²⁵ *cope* encounter ¹³⁰⁻³² *it . . . profession* my knighthood entitles me to challenge you, and to have my challenge accepted ¹³³ *Maugre* despite ¹³⁴ *fire-new* fresh from the forge or mint ¹³⁵ *heart* courage ¹³⁷ *Conspirant* conspiring, a conspirator ¹³⁸ *extremest upward* the very top ¹³⁹ *the . . . foot* your lowest part (sole) and the dust beneath it ¹⁴⁰ *toad-spotted traitor* spotted with treason (and hence venomous, as the toad is allegedly marked with spots that exude venom) ¹⁴¹ *bent* directed ¹⁴² *whereto I speak* (Edgar speaks from the heart, and speaks to the heart of Edmund) ¹⁴³ *wisdom* prudence (since he is not obliged to fight with one of lesser rank)

And that thy tongue some say^o of breeding
 145 breathes,
 What safe and nicely^o I might well delay^o
 By rule of knighthood, I disdain and spurn:
 Back do I toss these treasons^o to thy head;
 With the hell-hated^o lie o'erwhelm thy heart;
 150 Which for they yet glance by and scarcely bruise,
 This sword of mine shall give them instant way,
 Where they shall rest for ever.^o Trumpets, speak!

Alarums. [They] fight. [Edmund falls.]

Albany. Save^o him, save him!

Goneril. This is practice,^o Gloucester:
 By th' law of war thou wast not bound to answer
 155 An unknown opposite;^o thou art not vanquished,
 But cozened and beguiled.

Albany. Shut your mouth, dame,
 Or with this paper shall I stop it. Hold, sir;^o
 Thou^o worse than any name, read thine own evil.
 No tearing, lady; I perceive you know it.

160 *Goneril.* Say, if I do, the laws are mine, not thine:
 Who can arraign me for 't?

Albany. Most monstrous! O!
 Know'st thou this paper?

Goneril. Ask me not what I know.

Exit.

Albany. Go after her; she's desperate; govern^o her.

Edmund. What you have charged me with, that have
 I done;
 165 And more, much more; the time will bring it out.
 'Tis past, and so am I. But what art thou

145 *say* assay (i.e., touch, sign) 146 *safe and nicely* cautiously and
 punctiliously 146 *delay* i.e., avoid 148 *treasons* accusations of treason
 149 *hell-hated* hated like hell 150-52 *Which . . . ever* which accusations
 of treason, since as yet they do no harm, even though I have hurled
 them back, I now thrust upon you still more forcibly, with my sword,
 so that they may remain with you permanently 153 *Save* spare
 153 *practice* trickery 155 *opposite* opponent 157 *Hold, sir* (to Edmund:
 "Just a moment!") 158 *Thou* (probably Goneril) 163 *govern* control

That hast this fortune on° me? If thou 'rt noble,
I do forgive thee.

Edgar. Let's exchange charity.°
I am no less in blood° than thou art, Edmund;
If more,° the more th' hast wronged me. 170
My name is Edgar, and thy father's son.
The gods are just, and of our pleasant° vices
Make instruments to plague us:
The dark and vicious place° where thee he got°
Cost him his eyes.

Edmund. Th' hast spoken right, 'tis true; 175
The wheel is come full circle; I am here.°

Albany. Methought thy very gait did prophesy°
A royal nobleness: I must embrace thee:
Let sorrow split my heart, if ever I
Did hate thee or thy father!

Edgar. Worthy° Prince, I know 't. 180

Albany. Where have you hid yourself?

How have you known the miseries of your father?

Edgar. By nursing them, my lord. List a brief tale;
And when 'tis told, O, that my heart would burst!
The bloody proclamation to escape° 185
That followed me so near—O, our lives' sweetness,
That we the pain of death would hourly die
Rather than die at once!°—taught me to shift
Into a madman's rags, t' assume a semblance
That very dogs disdained: and in this habit° 190
Met I my father with his bleeding rings,°
Their precious stones new lost; became his guide,
Led him, begged for him, saved him from despair;

167 *fortune* on victory over 168 *charity* forgiveness and love 169 *blood* lineage 170 *If more* if I am more noble (since legitimate) 172 *of our pleasant* out of our pleasurable 174 *place* i.e., the adulterous bed 174 *got* begot 176 *Wheel . . . here* i.e., Fortune's wheel, on which Edmund ascended, has now, in its downward turning, deposited him at the bottom, whence he began 177 *gait did prophesy* carriage did promise 180 *Worthy* honorable 185 *to escape* (my wish) to escape the sentence of death 186-88 *O . . . once* how sweet is life, that we choose to suffer death every hour rather than make an end at once 190 *habit* attire 191 *rings* sockets

Never—O fault!—revealed myself unto him,
 195 Until some half-hour past, when I was armed,
 Not sure, though hoping, of this good success,
 I asked his blessing, and from first to last
 Told him our pilgrimage.^o But his flawed^o heart—
 Alack, too weak the conflict to support—
 200 'Twixt two extremes of passion, joy and grief,
 Burst smilingly.

Edmund. This speech of yours hath moved me,
 And shall perchance do good: but speak you on;
 (~~You look as you had something more to say~~)

Albany. If there be more, more woeful, hold it in;
 205 For I am almost ready to dissolve,^o
 Hearing of this.)

~~Edgar. This would have seemed a period^o
 To such as love not sorrow; but another,
 To amplify too much, would make much more,
 And top extremity.^o~~

210 Whilst I was big in clamor,^o came there in a man,
 Who, having seen me in my worst estate,^o
 Shunned my abhorred^o society; but then, finding
 Who 'twas that so endured, with his strong arms
 He fastened on my neck, and bellowed out
 215 As he'd burst heaven; threw him on my father;
 Told the most piteous tale of Lear and him
 That ever ear received: which in recounting
 His grief grew puissant,^o and the strings of life
 Began to crack: twice then the trumpets sounded,
 And there I left him tranced.^o

220 Albany But who was this?

Edgar. Kent, sir, the banished Kent; who in disguise
 Followed his enemy^o king, and did him service
 Improper for a slave.

198 our pilgrimage of our (purgatorial) journey 198 flawed cracked
 205 dissolve i.e., into tears 206 period limit 207-09 but . . . extremity
 just one woe more, described too fully, would go beyond the extreme
 limit 210 big in clamor loud in lamentation 211 estate condition
 212 abhorred abhorrent 218 puissant overmastering 220 tranced insensi-
 ble 222 enemy hostile

the reins of govt
-facing the harsh realities

Enter a Gentleman, with a bloody knife.

Gentleman. Help, help, O, help!

Edgar. What kind of help?

Albany. Speak, man.

Edgar. What means this bloody knife?

Gentleman. 'Tis hot, it smokes;^o 225

It came even from the heart of—O, she's dead!

Albany. Who dead? Speak, man.

Gentleman. Your lady, sir, your lady: and her
sister

By her is poisoned; she confesses it.

Edmund. I was contracted^o to them both: all three 230

Now marry^o in an instant.

Edgar. Here comes Kent.

Albany. Produce the bodies, be they alive or dead.

[Exit Gentleman.]

This judgment of the heavens, that makes us
tremble,

Touches us not with pity.

Enter Kent.

O, is this he?

The time will not allow the compliment^o 235

Which very manners^o urges.

Kent. I am come

To bid my king and master aye^o good night:

Is he not here?

Albany. Great thing of^o us forgot!

Speak, Edmund, where's the King? and where's

Cordelia?

Seest thou this object,^o Kent? 240

The bodies of Goneril and Regan are brought in.

Kent. Alack, why thus?

225 *smokes* steams 230 *contracted* betrothed 231 *marry* i.e., unite in
death 235 *compliment* ceremony 236 *very manners* ordinary civility
237 *aye* forever 238 *thing of matter by* 240 *object* sight (the bodies
of Goneril and Regan)

who's in charge

Edmund. Yet^o Edmund was beloved:
The one the other poisoned for my sake,
And after slew herself.

Albany. Even so. Cover their faces.

245 *Edmund.* I pant for life:^o ~~some good I mean to do;~~
~~Despite of mine own nature.~~ Quickly send,
Be brief in it, to th' castle; for my writ^o
Is on the life of Lear and on Cordelia:
Nay, send in time.

Albany. Run, run, O, run!

250 *Edgar.* ~~To who, my lord? Who has the office?~~^o Send
Thy token of reprieve.^o

Edmund. Well thought on: take my sword,
Give it the captain.

Edgar. Haste thee, for thy life.

[Exit Messenger.]

Edmund. He hath commission from thy wife and me
255 To hang Cordelia in the prison, and
To lay the blame upon her own despair,
That she fordid^o herself.

Albany. The gods defend her! Bear him hence awhile.

[Edmund is borne off.]

*Enter Lear, with Cordelia in his arms [Gentle-
man, and others following].*

Lear. Howl, howl, howl, howl! O, you are men of
stones!

260 Had I your tongues and eyes, I'd use them so
That heaven's vault should crack. She's gone for
ever.

I know when one is dead and when one lives;
She's dead as earth. Lend me a looking-glass;
If that her breath will mist or stain the stone,
Why then she lives.

241 Yet in spite of all 245 pant for life gasp for breath 247 writ con-
mand (ordering the execution) 250 office commission 251 token of
reprieve sign that they are reprieved 257 fordid destroyed 264 stone
i.e., the surface of the crystal looking glass

of
1st meeting
with Ginner
on him
re the killer

Kent. Is this the promised end?^o

265

Edgar. Or image^o of that horror?

Albany. Fall and cease.^o

Lear. This feather stirs; she lives. If it be so,
It is a chance which does redeem all sorrows
That ever I have felt.

Kent. O my good master.

Lear. Prithee, away!

Edgar. 'Tis noble Kent, your friend.

270

Lear. A plague upon you, murderers, traitors all!
I might have saved her; now she's gone for ever,
Cordelia, Cordelia, stay a little. Ha,
What is 't thou say'st? Her voice was ever soft,
Gentle and low, an excellent thing in woman.
I killed the slave that was a-hanging thee.

275

Gentleman. 'Tis true, my lords, he did.

Lear. Did I not, fellow?

I have seen the day, with my good biting falchion
I would have made him skip. I am old now,
And these same crosses spoil me. Who are you?
Mine eyes are not o' th' best: I'll tell you straight.

280

Kent. If Fortune brag of two^o she loved and hated,
One of them we behold.

Lear. This is a dull sight. Are you not Kent?

Kent. The same,

Your servant Kent. Where is your servant Caius?^o

285

Lear. He's a good fellow, I can tell you that;
He'll strike, and quickly too. He's dead and rotten.

Kent. No, my good lord; I am the very man.

265 *promised end* Doomsday 266 *image* exact likeness 268 *Fall and cease* i.e., let the heavens fall, and all things finish 268 *redeem* make good 273 *falchion* small curved sword 280 *crosses* troubles 280 *spoil me* i.e., my prowess as a swordsman 281 *tell you straight* recognize you straightway 282 *two* i.e., Lear, and some hypothetical second, who is also a prime example of Fortune's inconstancy ("loved and hated") 284 *dull sight* (1) melancholy spectacle (2) faulty eyesight (Lear's own, clouded by weeping) 285 *Caius* (Kent's name, in disguise)

Cordelia and
your fortunes

lean can 'see'
the dead bodies

Edmund
→ vertical

TABLEAU of
dead.

most likely to Cordelia
but if Fool - has least
seen

Lear. I'll see that straight.° *I'll look into it*

²⁹⁰ *Kent.* That from your first of difference and decay°
Have followed your sad steps.

Lear. You are welcome hither. *I welcome you*

Kent. Nor no man else:° all's cheerless, dark and
deadly. *ref. I have a*

Your eldest daughters have fordone° themselves,
And desperately° are dead. *journey.*

Lear. Ay, so I think.°

²⁹⁵ *Albany.* He knows not what he says, and vain is it
That we present us to him.

Edgar. Very bootless.°

Enter a Messenger.

Messenger. Edmund is dead, my lord.

Albany. That's but a trifle here.

You lords and noble friends, know our intent.

What comfort to this great decay may come°

³⁰⁰ Shall be applied. For us, we° will resign,

During the life of this old majesty,

To him our absolute power: [*To Edgar and Kent*]
you, to your rights;

With boot,° and such addition° as your honors

Have more than merited. All friends shall taste

³⁰⁵ The wages of their virtue, and all foes

The cup of their deservings. O, see, see!

Lear. And my poor fool is hanged: no, no, no
life

Why should a dog, a horse, a rat, have life,

²⁸⁹ see that straight attend to that in a moment ²⁹⁰ your . . . decay
beginning of your decline in fortune ²⁹² Nor no man else no, I am
not welcome, nor is anyone else ²⁹³ fordone destroyed ²⁹⁴ desper-
ately in despair ²⁹⁶ bootless fruitless ²⁹⁹ What . . . come whatever
aid may present itself to this great ruined man ³⁰⁰ us, we (the royal
"we") ³⁰³ boot good measure ³⁰³ addition additional titles and rights
³⁰⁷ fool Cordelia ("fool" being a term of endearment. But it is per-
fectly possible to take the word as referring also to the Fool)

4 hysteria?
passio.

And thou no breath at all? Thou'lt come no more,
 Never, never, never, never, never. 310
 Pray you, undo this button. Thank you, sir.
 Do you see this? Look on her. Look, her lips,
 Look there, look there.

He dies.

Edgar. He faints. My lord, my lord!

Kent. Break, heart; I prithee, break.

Edgar. Look up, my lord.

Kent. Vex not his ghost:° O, let him pass! He hates
 him 315

That would upon the rack° of this tough world
 Stretch him out longer.°

Edgar. He is gone indeed.

Kent. The wonder is he hath endured so long:
 He but usurped° his life.

Albany. Bear them from hence. Our present business 320
 Is general woe. [*To Kent and Edgar*] Friends of
 my soul, you twain,
 Rule in this realm and the gored state sustain.

Kent. I have a journey, sir, shortly to go;
 My master calls me, I must not say no.

Edgar. The weight of this sad time we must obey,° 325
 Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.
 The oldest hath borne most: we that are young
 Shall never see so much, nor live so long.

Exeunt, with a dead march.

FINIS

311 *undo this button* i.e., to ease the suffocation Lear feels 315 *Vex*
 . . . *ghost* do not trouble his departing spirit 316 *rack* instrument of
 torture, stretching the victim's joints to dislocation 317 *longer* (1) in
 time (2) in bodily length 319 *usurped* possessed beyond the allotted
 term 325 *obey* submit to