

The Tragedy of King Lear

3.3

Enter the Duke of Gloucester and Edmond

GLOUCESTER Alack, alack, Edmond, I like not this unnatural dealing. When I desired their leave that I might pity him, they took from me the use of mine own house, charged me on pain of perpetual displeasure neither to speak of him, entreat for him, or any way 5 sustain him.

EDMOND Most savage and unnatural!

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

Exit

EDMOND

This courtesy, forbid thee, shall the Duke 20 Instantly know, and of that letter too. This seems a fair deserving, and must draw me That which my father loses: no less than all. The younger rises when the old doth fall.

Exit