

The Tragedy of King Lear

3.5

Enter the Duke of Cornwall and Edmond

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

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

CORNWALL I now perceive it was not altogether your 5 brother's evil disposition made him seek his death, but a provoking merit set a-work by a reprovable badness in himself.

EDMOND How malicious is my fortune, that I must repent to be just! This is the letter which he spoke of, which 10 approves him an intelligent party to the advantages of France. O heavens, that this treason were not, or not I the detector!

CORNWALL Go with me to the Duchess.

EDMOND If the matter of this paper be certain, you have 15 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.

EDMOND *[aside]* If I find him comforting the King, it will 20 stuff his suspicion more fully. *(To Cornwall)* I will persevere in my course of loyalty, though the conflict be sore between that and my blood.

CORNWALL I will lay trust upon thee, and thou shalt find a dearer father in my love. 25

Exeunt