

The History of King Lear

Sc.12

Enter the Duke of Cornwall and Edmund the bastard

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

EDMUND 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.

EDMUND How malicious is my fortune, that I must repent
to be just! This is the letter he spoke of, which approves 10
him an intelligent party to the advantages 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 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.

EDMUND *[aside]* If I find him comforting the King, it will 20
stuff his suspicion more fully. *(To Cornwall)* I will
persever 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