

The History of King Lear

Sc.10

Enter the Duke of Gloucester and Edmund the bastard, with lights

GLOUCESTER

Alack, alack, Edmund, 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 their displeasure neither to speak of him, 5
Entreat for him, nor any way sustain him.

EDMUND Most savage and unnatural!

GLOUCESTER Go to, say you nothing. There's a division
betwixt 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's part of a power already landed. We must incline
to the King. I will seek 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. Though I die for't±±as no less is threatened
me±±the King my old master must be relieved. There
is some strange thing toward. Edmund, pray you be
careful. 20

Exit

EDMUND

This courtesy, forbid thee, shall the Duke
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 do fall. 25

Exit