

LEAR AND FOOL ACT I SCENE IV

LEAR Now, my friendly knave, I thank thee. There's
earnest of thy service. *He gives Kent a purse.* 95

Enter Fool. Weaving a Crown

FOOL Let me hire him too. *To Kent.* Here's my
coxcomb. *He offers Kent his cap.*

LEAR How now, my pretty knave, how dost thou?

FOOL, *to Kent* Sirrah, you were best take my
coxcomb. 100

LEAR Why, my boy?

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

LEAR Why, my boy? 110

FOOL If I gave them all my living, I'd keep my coxcombs
myself. There's mine. Beg another of thy
daughters.

LEAR Take heed, sirrah—the whip.

FOOL Truth's a dog must to kennel; he must be 115
whipped out, when the Lady Brach 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,
Ride more than thou goest, 125
Learn more than thou trowest,
Set less than thou throwest;
Leave thy drink and thy whore
And keep in-a-door,
And thou shalt have more 130
Than two tens to a score.

KENT This is nothing, Fool.

FOOL Then 'tis like the breath of an unfee'd lawyer.
You gave me nothing for 't.—Can you make no use

of nothing, nuncle? 135
LEAR Why no, boy. Nothing can be made out of
nothing.
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 know the difference, my boy, between a
bitter fool and a sweet one?
LEAR No, lad, teach me.
FOOL That lord that counseled thee
Come place him here by me;
Do thou for him stand.
The sweet and bitter fool
Will presently appear: fegg
The one in motley here, 150
The other found out there.
LEAR Dost thou call me "fool," boy?
FOOL All thy other titles thou hast given away. That
thou wast born with.