

LEAR AND FOOL ACT I SCENE V

FOOL If a man's brains were in 's heels, were 't not in
danger of kibes?
LEAR Ay, boy. 10
FOOL Then, I prithee, be merry; thy wit shall not go
slipshod.
LEAR Ha, ha, ha!
FOOL Shalt see thy other daughter will use thee kindly,
for, though she's as like this as a crab's like an 15
apple, yet I can tell what I can tell.
LEAR What canst tell, boy?
FOOL She will taste as like this as a crab does to a crab.
Thou canst tell why one's nose stands i' th' middle 20
on 's face?
LEAR No.
FOOL Why, to keep one's eyes of either side 's nose,
that what a man cannot smell out he may spy into.
LEAR I did her wrong.
FOOL Canst tell how an oyster makes his shell? 25
LEAR No.
FOOL Nor I neither. But I can tell why a snail has a
house.
LEAR Why?
FOOL Why, to put 's head in, not to give it away to his 30
daughters and leave his horns without a case.
LEAR I will forget my nature. So kind a father!—Be
my horses ready? *Gentleman exits.*
FOOL Thy asses are gone about 'em. The reason why 35
the seven stars are no more than seven is a pretty
reason.
LEAR Because they are not eight.
FOOL Yes, indeed. Thou wouldst make a good Fool.
LEAR To take 't again perforce! Monster ingratitude!
FOOL If thou wert my Fool, nuncle, I'd have thee 40
beaten for being old before thy time.
LEAR How's that?
FOOL Thou shouldst not have been old till thou hadst
been wise.
LEAR 45
O, let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven!
Keep me in temper. I would not be mad!