

GENTLEMAN

Ay, sir. She took them, read them in my presence,
And now and then an ample tear trilled down
Her delicate cheek. It seemed she was a queen
Over her passion, who, most rebel-like,
Sought to be king o'er her.

KENT

O, then it movèd her ?

GENTLEMAN

Not to a rage. Patience and sorrow strove
Who should express her goodliest. You have seen
Sunshine and rain at once – her smiles and tears
Were like, a better way : those happy smilets
That played on her ripe lip seemed not to know
What guests were in her eyes, which parted thence
As pearls from diamonds dropped. In brief,
Sorrow would be a rarity most belovèd,
If all could so become it.

(IV iii: 11-24)

KENT

A sovereign shame so elbows him ; his own unkindness,
That stripped her from his benediction, turned her
To foreign casualties, gave her dear rights
To his dog-hearted daughters – these things sting
His mind so venomously that burning shame
Detains him from Cordelia.

GENTLEMAN

Alack, poor gentleman.

(IV iii: 42-47)

CORDELIA

Alack, 'tis he ! Why, he was met even now
As mad as the vexed sea, singing aloud,
Crowned with rank fumiter and furrow weeds,
With hardocks, hemlock, nettles, cuckoo flow'rs,
Darnel, and all the idle weeds that grow
In our sustaining corn. A century send forth !
Search every acre in the high-grown field
And bring him to our eye. *[Exit an O.]*

What can man's wisdom

In the restoring his bereavèd sense ?

He that helps him take all my outward worth.

DOCTOR

There is means, madam. .
Our foster nurse of nature is repose,
The which he lacks. That to provoke in him
Are many simples operative, whose power
Will close the eye of anguish.

CORDELIA

All blessed secrets,

All you unpublished virtues of the earth,
Spring with my tears ; be aidant and remediate
In the good man's distress. Seek, seek for him,
Lest his ungoverned rage dissolve the life
That wants the means to lead it.

(IV iv: 1-20)