

FOOL Dost thou know the difference, my boy, between a bitter fool and a sweet one?

LEAR No, lad; teach me.

FOOL [That lord that counselled thee  
To give away thy land,  
Come place him here by me –  
Do thou for him stand.  
The sweet and bitter fool  
Will presently appear;  
The one in motley here,  
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.

KENT This is not altogether fool, my lord.

FOOL No, faith; lords and great men will not let me. If I had a monopoly out, they would have part on't. And ladies too, they will not let me have all the fool to myself; they'll be snatching.] Nuncle, give me an egg, and I'll give thee two crowns.

LEAR What two crowns shall they be?

FOOL Why, after I have cut the egg i' th' middle and eat up the meat, the two crowns of the egg. When thou clovest thy crown i' th' middle and gav'st away both parts, thou bor'st thine ass on thy back o'er the dirt. Thou hadst little wit in thy bald crown when thou gav'st thy golden one away.

[I iv : 130-156]

LEAR How now, daughter? What makes that frontlet on?  
You are too much of late i' th' frown.

FOOL Thou wast a pretty fellow when thou hadst no need to care for her frowning. Now thou art an O without a figure. I am better than thou art now: I am a fool, thou art nothing. [to Goneril] Yes, forsooth, I will hold my tongue. So your face bids me, though you say nothing.  
Mum, mum,

He that keeps nor crust nor crum,  
Weary of all, shall want some. –

[I iv : 180-189]

GONERIL

This admiration, sir, is much o' th' savor  
Of other your new pranks. I do beseech you  
To understand my purposes aright.  
As you are old and reverend, should be wise.  
Here do you keep a hundred knights and squires,  
Men so disordered, so deboshed and bold  
That this our court, infected with their manners,  
Shows like a riotous inn. Epicurism and lust  
Makes it more like a tavern or a brothel  
Than a graced palace. The shame itself doth speak  
For instant remedy. Be then desired  
By her that else will take the thing she begs –  
A little to disquantity your train,  
And the remainders that shall still depend

[I iv : 227-240]

FOOL May not an ass know when the cart draws the horse?  
Whoop, Jug, I love thee!

LEAR  
Does any here know me? This is not Lear.  
Does Lear walk thus? speak thus? Where are his eyes?  
Either his notion weakens, his discernings  
Are lethargied – Ha! Waking? 'Tis not so.  
Who is it that can tell me who I am?

FOOL Lear's shadow.

[LEAR  
I would learn that; for, by the marks of sovereignty,  
Knowledge, and reason, I should be false persuaded  
I had daughters.

FOOL Which they will make an obedient father.]

[I iv : 214-225]