LEAR
My curses on her!

REGAN
O, sir, you are old;

145 Nature in you stands on the very verge
Of his confine. You should be ruled, and led
147 By some discretion that discerns your state
Better than you yourself. Therefore I pray you
150 That to our sister you do make return;

LEAR
Ask her forgiveness?

151 Do you but mark how this becomes the house:
"Dear daughter, I confess that I am old.
[Kneels.]

153 Age is unnecessary. On my knees I beg
That you'll vouchsafe me raiment, bed, and food."

REGAN
Good sir, no more. These are unsightly tricks.
Return you to my sister.

LEAR
[Rises.] Never, Regan.

157 She hath abated me of half my train,
Looked black upon me, struck me with her tongue
Most serpentlike upon the very heart.

160 All the stored vengeances of heaven fall
161 On her ingratitude! Strike her young bones,
162 You taking airs, with lameness.

CORNWALL
Fie, sir, fie!

LEAR
You nimble lightnings, dart your blinding flames
Into her scornful eyes! Infect her beauty,

165 You fen-sucked fogs drawn by the pow'rfoul sun
To fall and blister –

REGAN
O the blessed gods!
So will you wish on me when the rash mood is on.

LEAR
No, Regan, thou shalt never have my curse.
Thy tender-hefted nature shall not give
Thee o'er to harshness. Her eyes are fierce, but thine
Do comfort, and not burn. 'Tis not in thee
To grudge my pleasures, to cut off my train,
To bandy hasty words, to scant my sizes,
And, in conclusion, to oppose the bolt
Against my coming in. Thou better know'st
The offices of nature, bond of childhood,
Effects of courtesy, dues of gratitude.

Thy half o' th' kingdom hast thou not forgot,
Wherein I thee endowed.

169 tender-hefted gently disposed 173 sizes allowance 174 oppose the bolt
176 offices duties 177 Effects obligations 179 to... purpose get to the point 182 approves confirms 184 easy-borrowed impudently assumed 186 varlet scoundrel; one of it

145-46 Nature...confine your life stands at the very edge of its allotted space
147 discretion...state discerning person who understands your condition
151 house family 153 Age is old people are 157 abated deprived
161 top head 162 taking air infectious vapors 165 fen-sucked...sun (the sun was believed to draw infectious vapors from swamps)