REGAN

200 I pray you, father, being weak, seem so.
If till the expiration of your month
You will return and sojourn with my sister,
Dismissing half your train, come then to me.
204 I am now from home, and out of that provision
Which shall be needful for your entertainment.

LEAR

Return to her, and fifty men dismissed?
No, rather I abjure all roofs, and choose
To wage against the enmity o’ th’ air,
To be a comrade with the wolf and owl,
210 Necessity’s sharp pinch. Return with her?
Why, the hot-blooded France, that doweller took

Our youngest born, I could as well be brought
To kneel his throne, and, squirelike, pension beg
To keep base life afoot. Return with her?
Persuade me rather to be slave and sumpter
To this detested groom.

GONERIL

At your choice, sir.

LEAR

I prithee, daughter, do not make me mad.
I will not trouble thee, my child; farewell.
We’ll no more meet, no more see one another.
But yet thou art my flesh, my blood, my daughter;
Or rather a disease that’s in my flesh,
Which I must needs call mine. Thou art a boil,
A plague-sore, or embossed carbuncle
In my corrupted blood. But I’ll not chide thee.
Let shame come when it will, I do not call it.
I do not bid the thunder-bearer shoot,
Nor tell tales of thee to high-judging Jove.
Mend when thou canst, be better at thy leisure;
I can be patient, I can stay with Regan,
1 and my hundred knights.

REGAN

Not altogether so.
I looked not for you yet, nor am provided
For your fit welcome. Give ear, sir, to my sister;
For those that mingle reason with your passion
Must be content to think you old and so—
But she knows what she does.

LEAR

Is this well spoken?

REGAN

I dare avouch it, sir. What, fifty followers?
Is it not well? What should you need of more?
Yea, or so many, sith that both charge and danger

189-90 If... obedience if you permit gentle rule to be obeyed; 195... discretion; 196... breast (which should burst with grief); 199... advancement; 204... from, away from; 205... entertainment; reception; 208... wage, fight; 213... kneel to; 215... sumpter, packhorse; 223... carbuncle, tumor; 226... the thunder-bearer; 234... mingle... passion deal rationally with your intertemperate behavior; 237... moustach, sweat; 239... sith, since; charge, expense.