Give me thy hand. Who's there?

FOOL A spirit, a spirit. He says his name's poor Tom.

KENT What are thou that dost grumble there? th' straw?
Come forth.

Enter Edgar [as Tom o' Bedlam].

EDGAR Away! the foul fiend follows me. Through the sharp hawthorn blow the winds. Hum! go to thy bed and warm thee.

LEAR Didst thou give all to thy daughters? And art thou come to this?

EDGAR Who gives anything to poor Tom? whom the foul fiend hath led through fire and through flame, through fford and whirlpool, o'er bog and quagmire; that hath laid knives under his pillow and halters in his pew, set ratsbane by his porridge, made him proud of heart, to ride on a bay trotting horse over four-inch bridges, to course his own shadow for a traitor. Bless thy five wits, Tom's acold. O, do, de, do, de, do, de.

BLESS thee from whirlwinds, star-blasting, and taking.

Do poor Tom some charity, whom the foul fiend vexes. There could I have him now — and there — and there again — and there —

Storm still.

LEAR Has his daughters brought him to this pass?
Couldst thou save nothing? Wouldst thou give 'em all?

FOOL Nay, he reserved a blanket, else we had been all shamed.

LEAR Now all the plagues that in the pendulous air
Hang fated o'er men's faults light on thy daughters!

KENT He hath no daughters, sir.

LEAR Death, traitor! Nothing could have subdued nature
To such a lowness but his unkind daughters.
Is it the fashion that discarded fathers
Should have thus little mercy on their flesh?
Judicious punishment — 'twas this flesh begot
Those pelican daughters.

EDGAR Pellicock sat on Pellicock Hill. Alow, alow, loo, loo!

FOOL This cold night will turn us all to fools and madmen.

EDGAR Take heed o' th' foul fiend; obey thy parents;
keep thy words' justice; swear not; commit not with
man's sworn spouse; set not thy sweet heart on proud
array. Tom's acold.

LEAR What hast thou been?

EDGAR A servingman, proud in heart and mind; that curled my hair, wore gloves in my cap; served the lust of my mistress' heart, and did the act of darkness with her; swore as many oaths as I spake words, and broke them in the sweet face of heaven. One that slept in the contriving of lust, and waked to do it. Wine loved I deeply, dice dearly; and in woman out-paramoured the

68 pendulous overhanging 69 fated ominously 76 pelican cannibalistic young pelicans were said to feed on their mother's blood 77 Pellicock loo a fragment of a nursery rhyme pellicock = both an endearment and baby talk for penis 81 Take heed beware; obey... parents this and the following injunctions are from the Ten Commandments 82 keep... justice, do not lie; commit not i.e., do not commit adultery 83–84 proud array luxurious clothing 87 wore... cap as courtly lovers did with tokens from their mistresses 90–91 slept... lust went to sleep planning acts of lechery 92–93 out-paramoured... Turk had more lovers than the Sultan has in his harem