

*Enter a Herald.*

Come hither, herald,—Let the trumpet sound,—  
And read out this.

*Offi.* Sound, trumpet! [A trumpet sounds.]

*Her.* [Reads.] *If any man of quality or degree within* 110  
*the lists of the army will maintain upon Edmund,*  
*supposed Earl of Gloucester, that he is a manifold*  
*traitor, let him appear by the thurd sound of the trumpet.*  
*He is bold in his defence.* 114

Sound! [First trumpet.]

Again! [Second trumpet.]

Again! [Third trumpet.]

[Trumpet answers within.]

*Enter EDGAR, armed, with a trumpet before him.*

*Alb.* Ask him his purposes, why he appears  
Upon this call o' th' trumpet.

*Her.* What are you?

Your name? your quality? and why you answer 120  
This present summons?

*Edg.* Know, my name is lost;

By treason's tooth bare-gnawn, and canker-bit:

Yet am I noble as the adversary

I come to cope.

*Alb.* Which is that adversary?

107. *trumpet*] *Trumper* F 1. 109. *Offi.*] *Capell*; *Cap. Q.* *Sound,*  
*trumpet!*] Q; *om. F.* S.D.] F; *om. Q.* 110. S.D.] F; *om. Q.* 110-11.  
within the lists] F; in the hoast Q. 112. *he is*] F; *he's Q.* 113. *by*] F;  
*at Q.* 115-17. *Sound . . . Again!*] *Jennens, Duthic*; *Bast. Sound? Againe? Q;*  
*Her. Againe. Her. Againe. F.* 116. S.D.] *om. Q.* 117. S.D. *Third . . .*  
*within*] F; *om. Q.* *Enter . . . him.*] *Enter Edgar at the third sound, a*  
*trumpet before him Q;* *Enter Edgar armed F.* 120. *your*] F; *and Q.*  
121. *Know*] F; *O know Q.* *lost;*] *Theobald*; *lost Q.* 122. *tooth*] *Theobald*;  
*tooth:* F, Qq 2, 3; *tooth. Q 1.* 123. *Yet . . . as*] F; *yet are I mou't where is Q 1;*  
*where is Qq 2, 3.* 124. *cope*] F; *cope with all Q.* *Which*] *What Qq 2, 3.*

112. *manifold*] cf. *Temp.* v. i. 295.  
115-17. *Sound . . . Again!*] It is  
better to give to the Herald all these  
instructions to the trumpeter, rather  
than to give the first to Edmund  
(as in Q). If the Herald calls for  
the second and third blasts, he should

also call for the first, as *Jennens*  
points out.

117. *S.D. with . . . him*] preceded  
by a trumpeter.

122. *canker-bit*] eaten by the cater-  
pillar, withered.

124. *cope*] encounter.

*Edg.* What's he that speaks for Edmund Earl of  
Gloucester? 125

*Edm.* Himself: what say'st thou to him?

*Edg.* Draw thy sword,

That, if my speech offend a noble heart,  
Thy arm may do thee justice; here is mine:  
Behold, it is the privilege of mine honours,  
My oath, and my profession: I protest, 130

Maugre thy strength, place, youth, and eminence,  
Despite thy victor sword and fire-new fortune,  
Thy valour and thy heart, thou art a traitor,  
False to thy gods, thy brother, and thy father,  
Conspirant 'gainst this high illustrious prince, 135

And, from th' extremest upward of thy head  
To the descent and dust below thy foot,  
A most toad-spotted traitor. Say thou "No,"  
This sword, this arm, and my best spirits are bent  
To prove upon thy heart, whereto I speak, 140  
Thou liest.

*Edm.* In wisdom I should ask thy name;

128. *Thy*] F; *thine Q.* 129. *the . . . honours*] *Pope*; *the privilege of my*  
*tongue Q;* *my privilege, The privilege of mine Honours F.* 130. *and my*] *and*  
*Qq 2, 3.* 131. *place, youth*] F; *youth, place Q.* 132. *Despite*] *Despise F.*  
*victor sword*] *Capell*; *victor-Sword F;* *victor, sword Q.* *fire-new*] *Hyphened*  
*Rowe.* *fortune*] F; *fortun'd Q.* 134. *thy gods*] *the gods Qq 2, 3.* 135.  
*Conspirant*] F; *Conspicuate Q.* 137. *below thy foot*] F; *beneath thy feet Q.*  
139. *are*] F; *As Q 1;* *Is Qq 2, 3.*

129. *behold . . . honours*] it is the  
privilege of my knighthood to draw  
my sword, as this which you now  
behold, for the purpose of challenging  
a traitor, and it is my privilege to  
have such a challenge accepted.

130. *My . . . profession*] of the oath  
I swore when I was made a knight,  
and of my knighthood itself.

131. *maugre*] in spite of. Cf. *T.N.*  
iii. i. 163.

132. *victor*] victorious.

132. *fire-new*] brand new, straight  
from the forge or mint. Cf. *T.N.*  
iii. ii. 23.

133. *heart*] courage. Cf. *Cor.* v.  
vi. 99.

135. *conspirant*] conspirator, or con-

spiring. The word is used as a  
substantive by *Harsnett, op. cit.*  
p. 18.

136. *upward*] top. Cf. *Temp.* i. ii.  
50 ("backward") and *Cymb.* iii. iv. 6  
("inward") for a similar use of  
adjectives as substantives.

137. *descent*] the lowest part, i.e.  
the sole.

138. *toad-spotted*] stained with in-  
famy, as a toad is spotted and  
venomous. Cf. *Rich. II.* iii. ii. 134  
and *A.Y.L.I.* ii. i. 13. *Cotgrave*  
defines *tache* as "spotted, stained  
. . . disgraced."

141. *In wisdom*] Because he was  
not bound to fight with a man of  
lower rank. Cf. v. iii. 152-3 *post.*

But since thy outside looks so fair and war-like,  
 And that thy tongue some say of breeding breathes,  
 What safe and nicely I might well delay  
 By rule of knighthood, I disdain and spurn; 145  
 Back do I toss these treasons to thy head,  
 With the hell-hated lie o'erwhelm thy heart,  
 Which, for they yet glance by and scarcely bruise,  
 This sword of mine shall give them instant way, 149  
 Where they shall rest for ever. Trumpets, speak.

[Alarums. They fight. Edmund falls.]

Alb. Save him! save him!

Gon. This is practice, Gloucester:  
 By th' law of war thou wast not bound to answer  
 An unknown opposite; thou art not vanquish'd,  
 But cozen'd and beguil'd.

Alb. Shut your mouth, dame,  
 Or with this paper shall I stople it. Hold, sir; 155

141. *should*] F; *sholud* Q 1. 143. *tongue*] F; *being* Q. 144. *What*  
*... delay*] F; om. Q. 145. *rule*] F; *right* Q. 146. *Back ... head*] om.  
 Qq 2, 3. *Back*] Heere Q 1. *these*] F; *those* Q 1. 147. *hell-hated lie*] F;  
*hell hatedly* Q. *o'erwhelm*] F; *oreturnd* Q. 148. *scarcely*] *scarely* F 1.  
 150. S.D.] Capell; Alarums. Fights. F; om. Q. 151. See note below.  
*practice*] F; *meere practise* Q. 152. *th'*] F; *the* Q. *war*] F; *arms* Q.  
*wast*] F; *art* Q. *answer*] offer Qq 2, 3. 154. *Shut*] F; *Stop* Q. 155. *stople*]  
 Q 1; *stop* Qq 2, 3, F. *Hold, sir*] F; om. Q.

143. *say*] smack, taste, proof.

144. *safe and nicely*] cautiously and  
 punctiliously, with the letter of the  
 law on my side.

144. *delay*] postpone; or 'refuse'  
 (Schmidt).

145. *I ... spurn*] i.e. I scorn to  
 insist on my legal rights under the  
 code of knighthood. Edmund  
 changes the construction in the  
 middle of the sentence.

147. *hell-hated*] hated as much as  
 hell.

148. *Which*] these treasons.

148. *for*] since.

148. *glance*] glide.

150. *Where ... ever*] His success  
 in the combat will prove that Edgar  
 is the traitor, and the treasons will  
 remain with the victim.

151. *Save him!*] "Albany desires  
 that Edmund's life might be spared  
 at present, only to obtain his con-  
 fession, and to convict him openly  
 by his own letter" (Johnson). Some  
 editors give the words to Goneril.  
 In some productions the words are  
 spoken of Edgar, when he is tem-  
 porarily disarmed.

151. *practice*] treachery.

155. *stople*] This is the reading of  
 Q 1; the F *stop* may be a sophistica-  
 tion, and perhaps "Hold, sir" was  
 added to fill out the line.

155. *Hold, sir*] Capell thought this  
 was addressed to Edgar, asking him  
 not to kill Edmund. Dyce thought  
 the words were spoken to Edmund,  
 'Hold' being commonly used when  
 anyone presented anything to another

Thou worse than any name, read thine own evil:  
 No tearing, lady; I perceive you know it.

Gon. Say, if I do, the laws are mine, not thine:  
 Who can arraign me for't?

Alb. Most monstrous! O! 159  
 Know'st thou this paper?

Gon. Ask me not what I know. [Exit.]

Alb. Go after her: she's desperate; govern her.

[Exit an Officer.]

Edm. What you have charg'd me with, that have I done,  
 And more, much more; the time will bring it out:  
 'Tis past, and so am I. But what art thou  
 That hast this fortune on me? If thou'rt noble, 165  
 I do forgive thee.

Edg. Let's exchange charity.

I am no less in blood than thou art, Edmund;  
 If more, the more th' hast wrong'd me.  
 My name is Edgar, and thy father's son.

156. *name*] F; *thing* Q. 157. *No*] F; *Nay no* Q. 159. *can*] F;  
*shal* Q. *o*] F; om. Q. 159-60. *Most ... Know'st*] F; *Monster,*  
*know'st* Qq 2, 3. 160. Gon.] Q; Bast. F. S.D.] Q; after *for't* (159) F.  
 161. S.D.] Capell; om. Q, F. 165. *thou'rt*] F; *thou bee'st* Q. 168. *th'*  
*hast*] F; *thou hast* Q.

(cf. *Mac.* II. i. 4). Kittredge takes  
 it to mean "Just a moment!"  
 Albany must attend to Goneril  
 before showing the paper to Edmund.  
 The letter was never delivered; and  
 we are not told whether Regan's  
 letter was also found on Oswald's  
 body. Edmund could have seen  
 neither, though Albany would not  
 know this for certain. See previous  
 note.

156. *Thou*] probably Goneril.  
 Kirschbaum thinks it is addressed  
 to Edmund. Bransom, *op. cit.* p. 161,  
 argues that the pronoun would not  
 have been used of Goneril by Albany.  
 But cf. IV. ii. 62.

157. *No tearing*] Based on an in-  
 cident in the source-play. See  
 Introduction, p. xxxi.

159-60. *Who ... know*] F puts  
 Goneril's exit after "for't" and

ascribes "Ask ... know" to the  
 Bastard. Kirschbaum supports F;  
 but Goneril needs an hysterical, not  
 a defiant, exit line; Albany would  
 not turn to Edmund to ask his  
 question about the letter, and then  
 belatedly give instructions about his  
 wife; and it is difficult to reconcile  
 Edmund's confession (162) with his  
 defiance two lines earlier. Knight  
 and Kirschbaum argue that as  
 Goneril has already admitted she  
 knows the letter it is unnecessary  
 for Albany to ask again "Know'st  
 thou this paper?" But Goneril  
 has only implied that she knows the  
 paper in the words "Say, if I do";  
 Albany wants a direct admission.

166. *Let's exchange charity*] Let me  
 forgive you for your crimes against  
 me, as you have forgiven me for  
 killing you.