

## King Lear abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 4

### Anger

**Situation:** Goneril banished her father and his hundred followers from her home, and the king is upset with being treated like a regular person. Goneril and her father argue over the issue of Kent, his “man i’ th’ stocks.” Regan agrees to take her father into her home, but with conditions.

LEAR: O heavens, if you do love old men, make it your cause. Art not ashamed to look upon this beard?

GONERIL: How have I offended?

LEAR: How came my man i’ th’ stocks?

CORNWALL: I set him there, sir.

LEAR: You? Did you?

REGAN: If till the expiration of your month you will return and sojourn with my sister dismissing half your train, come then to me.

LEAR: Return to her? And fifty men dismissed? No!

### Lear to Regan and Goneril, No. 1

**Rather than return to her with fifty  
Less men I’ll with the wolf, and owl and thee  
Elements live in the open air. Why  
I’d as soon kneel at the throne of the hot-  
Blooded France, begging hand-outs to keep my  
Base life afoot than return there. My lot  
A slave to detested Oswald? Prithee,  
Goneril, my daughter, we’ll no more see  
Each other; yet thou art my flesh, rather  
A disease that’s in my flesh, a boil still  
Unpierced in my corrupted blood. Further,  
I’ll not chide thee; shame come when it will.  
I’ll not bid the gods to exhort their might.  
I’ll stay with Regan with 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. She knows what she does.

LEAR: Is this well spoken?

REGAN: I dare avouch it, sir. What, fifty followers? What should you need of more?