

## King Lear abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 3

### Introspection

**Situation:** Good-guy Edgar runs from his father when his devious brother Edmund tells him to “Fly, brother.” Edgar soon re-enters the play disguised as a madman-beggar.

Edgar to himself, No. 1

By hiding in the hollow of a tree  
I escaped them, hearing they after me.  
Though all places are guarded well I can  
Preserve myself if I do disguise in  
Human’s basest shape in contempt of man  
Taking me near to a beast. I’ll begin  
By twisting my hair in knots, griming my  
Face and protecting my nakedness by  
Covering my loins with a cloth, shielding  
Me from persecutions of the sky. This  
Country provides me precedent, proving  
Low-lying beggars from weak farms don’t miss  
Poor paltry villages in poverty,  
And with their prayers, enforce their charity.

EDGAR: “Edgar” I nothing am.