



For many miles about there was scarce a bush; and there upon a heath, exposed to the fury of the storm in a dark night, did King Lear wander out, and defy⁸⁸ the winds and the thunder; and he bid the winds to blow the earth into the sea, or swell the waves of the sea till they drowned the earth, that no token might remain of any such ungrateful animal as man.

The old king was now left with no other companion than the poor fool, who still abided with him, with his merry conceits⁸⁹ striving to outjest misfortune, saying it was but a naughty night to swim in, and truly the king had better go in and ask his daughter's blessing—

*But he that has a little tiny wit—
With heigh ho, the wind and the rain!
Must make content with his fortunes fit.
Though the rain it raineth every day:*

and swearing it was a brave night to cool a lady's pride.

⁸⁸ defy [di'faɪ] (v.) 公然反抗；聲言不惜訴諸武力

⁸⁹ conceit [kən'si:t] (n.) 詼諧機智的思想或語句

FOOL

(sings)

He that has and a little tiny wit—
With heigh-ho, the wind and the rain—
Must make content with his fortunes fit,
For the rain it raineth every day.

Act 3. Scene 2.



165

Thus poorly accompanied, this once great monarch was found by his ever-faithful servant the good Earl of Kent, now transformed to Caius, who ever followed close at his side, though the king did not know him to be the earl; and he said, “Alas! sir, are you here? creatures that love night, love not such nights as these. This dreadful storm has driven the beasts to their hiding places. Man’s nature cannot endure the affliction⁹⁰ or the fear.”

And Lear rebuked⁹¹ him and said, these lesser evils were not felt, where a greater malady⁹² was fixed. When the mind is at ease, the body has leisure to be delicate, but the tempest in his mind did take all feeling else from his senses, but of that which beat at his heart.

And he spoke of filial ingratitude, and said it was all one as if the mouth should tear the hand for lifting food to it; for parents were hands and food and everything to children.

90 affliction [ə'flɪkʃən] (n.) 痛苦

91 rebuke [rɪ'bjʊ:k] (v.) 指責

92 malady ['mælədi] (n.) 疾病



66 But the good Caius still persisting in his entreaties that the king would not stay out in the open air, at last persuaded him to enter a little wretched hovel⁹³ which stood upon the heath, where the fool first entering, suddenly ran back terrified, saying that he had seen a spirit.

⁹³ hovel [ˈhʌvəl] (n.) 棚子；不適合居住的小屋