

EDMUND

Never, my lord.

But I have heard him oft maintain it to be fit that, sons at perfect age, and fathers declining, the father should be as ward to the son, and the son manage his revenue.

GLOUCESTER

O villain, villain! His very opinion in the letter! I'll apprehend him. Where is he?

EDMUND

I do not well know, my lord.

I dare pawn down my life for him that he hath writ this to feel my affection to your honor, and to no further pretence of danger.

GLOUCESTER

Think you so?

EDMUND

If your honor judge it meet,* I will place you where you shall hear us confer of this, and by an auricular assurance* have your satisfaction; and that without any further delay than this very evening.

GLOUCESTER

He cannot be such a monster—

EDMUND

Nor is not, sure.

GLOUCESTER

To his father, that so tenderly and entirely loves him. Heaven and earth! Edmund, seek him out. I would unstate myself, to be in a due resolution.

EDMUND

I will seek him, sir, presently; convey the business as I shall find means and acquaint you withal.

GLOUCESTER

These late eclipses in the sun and moon portend no good to us.

Though the wisdom of nature can reason it thus and thus,

yet nature finds itself scourged by the sequent effects.

Love cools, friendship falls off, brothers divide. In cities, mutinies; in countries, discord; in palaces, treason; and the bond cracked 'twixt son and father.

This villain of mine comes under the prediction,* there's son against father.

The King falls from bias of nature, there's father against child.

We have seen the best of our time.

Machinations, hollowness, treachery, and all ruinous disorders follow us disquietly to our graves.

Find out this villain, Edmund; it shall lose thee nothing; do it carefully.

And the noble and true hearted Kent banished! His offence, honesty! 'Tis strange.

(Exit GLOUCESTER.)

meet - appropriate, *auricular assurance* - proof heard with your own ears, *under the prediction* - included in these ill omens